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Vol. 14 No. 8

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The town of Franklin celebrated the restoration **November 2023** 

# **Franklin Celebrates Brick School Renovations**

By J.D. O'GARA

On Friday, October 13th, the Town of Franklin held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of renovations to the red Brick School, one of the oldest continuously operating one-room schoolhouses in the nation. Franklin Town Counselor Tom Mercer welcomed the group, which included teachers and students from the school. Mercer pointed out that the site, formerly known as the Meetinghouse School, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. The building is currently being leased by the 4H ALARM (A Lot of Amazing Robot Makers) Robotics Club and was more recently used as a school by the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School. Mercer introduced one of the



# **TOPSoccer: A Special Program for Kids** with Special Needs

By Grace Allen

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

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

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

John Rainone, the director of the TOPS program, says the move to the high school is significant because the turf field will make it

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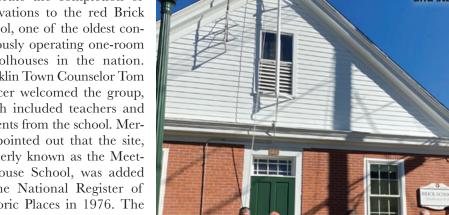


**TOPS Director John Rainone and** his daughter Kelsie, with TOPS athlete Jonathan Love.

easier for kids with disabilities to play, without the worry of uneven terrain.

**TOPSOCCER** 

continued on page 2





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**BRICK** 

continued on page 2

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### **TOPSOCCER**

continued from page 1

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

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

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

to just sit and watch while volunteers take over.

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

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

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

Another parent, Lauren Love, says TOPS has provided her son Jonathan with the opportunity to practice the fundamentals of soccer at a level appropriate for him.

Love says her son has participated in TOPS for close to ten years, and calls the experience rewarding for everyone involved in the program: players, parents, and volunteers.

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

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

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

Kayla Swedits is yet another parent who speaks highly of the TOPS program. Her 7-year-old daughter Riley has a rare genetic disorder and subsequent develop-



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

mental delays. An attempt to play in her town's recreational soccer program was disheartening for Riley

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

While anyone can volunteer with the program, the biggest group of volunteers are high school athletes, primarily from King Philip. The boys soccer team has been the backbone of the program, especially during the height of COVID, but this year all the fall sports teams have stepped up to help, says Gwen Prater, president of the King Philip Soccer Association (KPSA), which offers the local TOPS program. She expects all the spring sports teams also to volunteer when the program moves to the high school in 2024.

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

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

"When I first started volunteering, some of the TOPS kids were my age," Kelsie said. "And they were doing the same things I was. I play soccer, they're playing soccer. Yes, they play a bit differently but they're still doing the same things I'm doing."

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

TOPS Director Rainone, who sits on the board of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association and serves as liaison for the state's 27 TOPS programs, hopes to grow the program in new directions. He'd like to have enough participants so they can hold real scrimmages each week. This past fall session, he invited the Norfolk, Plainville, and Wrentham Police resource officers and their community resource dogs to a TOPS session, enriching the experience even more for the kids. Rainone also envisions having therapists in the program, working with the volunteers to better serve the TOPS athletes, and also engaging with the parents on the sidelines.

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

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

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

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

### **BRICK**

 $continued \ from \ page \ 1$ 

biggest advocates for the school's renovation, Town Counselor Deborah Pellegri.

"I think that the townspeople should be very happy, whether they went to this school or not, their money, from the CPA and the states helped to do these

## **localtownpages**

Published Monthly Mailed FREE to the Community of Franklin Circulation: 13,164 households & businesses

> **Publisher** Chuck Tashjian

**Editor** J.D. O'Gara

**Send Editorial to:** editor@franklintownnews.com

Advertising Director

Jen Schofield 508-570-6544 jenschofield@localtownpages.com

### Creative Design & Layout

Michelle McSherry Kim Vasseur Wendy Watkins

Ad Deadline is the 15th of each month.

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renovations," said Pellegri, who thanked the townspeople, adding a plug for a history of Franklin book housed at the Franklin Historical Museum. Pellegri's own daughter attended Kindergarten at the tiny school, and Pellegri, speaking on behalf of the town counsel, promised to "take care" of the beloved building.

Mike D'Angelo, Director of Public Facilities, discussed renovations, noting the building was "covered in lead paint," and that his team had replaced boards, windows, gutters and was finishing up on roof venting. He thanked Signs by Cam, for donating the new sign, as well as recognized Steve Dunbar, who heads up the robotics club leasing the building.

Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator, reiterated thanks for the new sign, also thanking members of the Community Preservation Committee, who "made it clear from the start that this was project number one, and now we move from there to the Franklin Historical Museum, restoring the cupola on top." Hellen also thanked the Franklin DPW, the Town Counsel, Town of Franklin staff, and the Franklin School Committee. He lauded the power of the Community Preservation Act in making projects like this possible.

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# Franklin Schools Take Recycling a Step Further

# Partnership Utilizes Food Waste for **Electricity and Other Uses**

By J.D. O'GARA

November is World Recycling Month, and Franklin is doing its part, starting with its youngest residents. Since 2011, Franklin Public Schools have been working with Agri-Cycle, a food waste hauler, to recycle even those leftover lunches. This past year, in fact, those efforts, at six schools in town, have ramped up.

"We use an anaerobic digester, up in Exeter, Maine," says Gunnar Heckler, of Agri-Cycle, "It looks like giant hot tub with a lid. Inside that is all the food waste brought to our facility. It's getting spun around, with giant fan blades in the bottom of the digester whipping food waste around, releasing natural gas like methane. We capture all that, and because it's internally sealed in the digesters, that gas isn't being released. We destroy those gases in the process of making electricity."

Heckler explains that Agri-Cycle partners with Stonyvale Farm, in Maine, supplying its

energy needs, with leftover liquid is used as a crop additive on the farm and dried-out pulpy material used as bedding for dairy cows. The company also sells power back to the ISO New England electrical grid (https:// www.iso-ne.com/).

"The process is zero waste," says Heckler. Any packaging is separated out in a de-packager

"The program was a good collaboration between facilities, food service and the DPW," says Colin Boisvert, Director of Food Services for Franklin Public Schools, who credits Derek Adams, Franklin's Environmental Affairs Coordinator, with initiating the program. "It was a very easy program to get going, but it's an intimidating one. A lot is based on student behavior and student sorting and all that, but students have been very receptive, and administration at each school has been supportive as well. It's making a difference; it really is."

According to Agri-Cycle, each 64-gallon tote per school yields about 200 pounds, and the company has calculated the tonnage per school since December 1, 2022, noting that some of the schools didn't start participating until the end of the school year last year. Here's how much food waste has been recycled per school since that time:

- Keller: 92 totes, or an estimated 9.2 Tons
- Remington: 153 Totes, or an estimated 15.3 tons
- Franklin High School: 81 totes, or an estimated 8.1 tons
- Parmenter: 2 totes, or an estimated 400 lbs.
- Horace Mann: 73 totes, or an estimated 7.3 tons
- JFK Memorial: 11 Totes, or an estimated 2,200 lbs.

Boisvert explains that recycling is a little different at each site, but, where trash used to be in the cafeteria, "now there's a series of bins, so students are actually sorting their trash when they dispose of it. Some of them do it really well; some don't. As part of the operational side, we thought of training them. Some sites also do a liquid disposal, where there's a bucket."

Boisvert adds that his department also purchases a lot of compostable food products and packaging. "Not all, but a good amount," he says.

Franklin will continue to keep such green initiatives at the fore-

"By end of decade, we're planning on designing and constructing a state-of-the-art recycling center for the entire community," says Town Administrator Jamie Hellen. "We hope

to have a composting center, and we hope to have a variety of options for leaves and yard waste. We hope to combine, at some point the recycling center and curbside leaf pickup, not only to protect our drinking water, but preserve the Charles River and be better stewards of the earth.

We're trying to be progressive and use cutting edge ideas."

Hellen adds that Senator Spilka, Rep. Roy, and Sen. Rausch worked together a few years ago to get a \$1 million appropriation in a previous bond bill to help with that effort as





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# 20th Annual Harvest Festival Was a Great Success

After the rain, came a fresh new day. And that's what thousands of people enjoyed at the Harvest Festival. It was a sunny and splendid afternoon even though the festival had been moved from its original date to the October 1st rain date the next day.

It was a great day reports Scott Martin, Harvest Festival Chair and President of the Franklin Downtown Partnership. "We had an excellent turnout. People were excited. Businesses were ready with lots of interesting and engaging activities. It was a nice way for people to get to know business owners, and owners get better acquainted with their customers. A win-win!"

People strolled around Main Street and the parking lots where more than one hundred vendor booths showcased their services and wares. Many community groups and clubs were there as well to talk about their activities and their organization mission. The Franklin Fire Department truck was busy with kids sitting in the front seat.

At Escape Into Fiction, a steady stream of visitors came through the doors all day. Owner April Rock said it was more even successful this year from last year. "I was keeping track of the number of visitors and lost count of people walking in and out, after a while!" she said.

Dom DeBaggis played classic tunes on his guitar near Dean Bank, while at the other end of Main Street, near Little Shop

Pool

Surrounds

of Oils, MvFM did their radio broadcast and played lots of fun popular songs. A group of teens started dancing in unison on Main Street.

The Franklin Downtown Partnership extends its gratitude to everyone for all their support that made this year's event a success. The partnership sends a final big thank you to all the sponsors of the Harvest Festival to fund and support it.

A special thank you to vendor coordinators Roberta Trahan and Pandora Carlucci who did a great job keeping the vendors informed about the weather change and throughout the planning process.

Another special thank you to Dean Bank. All the proceeds from their sold-out cider and donut sales went to the Downtown Partnership to help fund

Finally, thank you to all the student and adult volunteers who helped make the day run smoothly. They were a terrific group of high school and college students who were friendly and helpful and stepped right in to make it a successful event.

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 can join the Downtown Partnership for only \$25. The Partnership manages events like the Strawberry Stroll and the Harvest Festival, and



Many hands make light work as Harvest Festival volunteers worked with Lisa Piana, of the Franklin Downtown Partnership (shown center) to pull off a great event. Photo used courtesy of Franklin Downtown



Dom Debaggis entertained the crowd outside Dean Bank.



Children enjoyed exploring Franklin Fire engines.



Tri-County representatives spoke to attendees about the upcoming vote to fund a new vocational school. An override question will be on the November 7th ballot. Information at www.tricountybuilding.com.

initiatives such as beautification, streetscape design, greenspace, alley murals, and sculpture projects. For more information go to www.franklindowntownpartner-



Franklin's Harvest Festival offered fun for all ages.



Haasini Sabbella, of Franklin High School's Robotics team, demonstrates robot 2079A for



Sandy Tracy and Ann Parker pair up to teach neighbors about Franklin Newcomers.



These Franklin residents say they want increased funding for Franklin Public Schools, For more information, find One Franklin on Facebook.



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

By Judith Dorato O'Gara

The Annual Franklin New-comers & Friends Craft Fair is back to its original location at Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School, 147 Pond St., Franklin, on November 18, 2023, from 9 am to 3 pm. The event, the group's largest fundraiser, will be the organization's 48th.

"We're excited to be back in our original space and to have a great event," says Franklin Newcomers Craft Fair chair Terri Attinello. "Everything is hand-made, and we require crafters to show photographs of them making things as well as the person making them to be there. So, people can talk to the person who's making (the item). It's more personal."

The unique gifts items include jewelry, home and holiday décor, hand-knit, sewn, and embroidered items, soaps, and food, and they're just in time for the holidays. Admission is \$3 for anyone 12 and older, and the group will also be accepting donations of nonperishable food items for Franklin Food Pantry.

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

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

"Members organize a variety of things," says Attinello. "We've met for coffee and muffins, have gone to plays. They're events anyone can come to." Community service is also an integral aspect of the club. Proceeds from the Newcomers' Craft Fair funds donations to local Franklin organizations as well as club events and outings.

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

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

# Franklin Veterans' Services November Happenings

(508) 613-1315

November 1 – Monthly Coffee Social – 10 a.m. New England Center and Home for Veterans will make a presentation about their new program, "MA Veteran Connect," which offers housing, health navigation, case management, food and transportation assistance and outreach services for Massachusetts Veterans.

## November 10 – Marine Corps 248th Birthday

November 10 - Veterans' Day Luncheon – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Elks Lodge #2136 at 1077 Pond Street. Franklin Resident and U.S. Marine Corps Major (ret.) Travis Bowser, Senior Marine Instructor, JROTC, Assabet Valley Regional Technical School will be the featured speaker. The event will be videotaped and shown on Franklin TV. Check their program guide for dates and times. THANK YOU to the Elks for sponsoring the annual luncheon. THANK YOU to all who have served in the U.S. Military! We are the Land of the Free because of the Brave!

### November 11 – Veterans' Day

- Is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice treaty which ended WWI and the day to thank military Veterans for their service and sacrifices.

November 16 - Veterans' Council Meeting – 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. All members of the Franklin community interested in Veterans' activities are welcome to join us!

The next brick installation on the Veterans Memorial Walk-

way is scheduled to coincide with Veterans' Day. Brick orders are now being accepted for the Memorial Day 2024 installation.

The *Tune It Out* guitar lessons program for Veterans meets on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Call the Veterans'

Services office for details.

Holiday cards for Veterans who are deployed are available to sign in the Senior Center lobby.

Please visit our webpage at: https://www.franklinma.gov/ veterans-services

# Santa Foundation Calendar Raffle Now Underway

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

# Fall Health Fair November 8th

The Franklin Health Department will sponsor a Fall Health Fair on Wednesday, November 8th, from 3-6 p.m., at Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin. The event will include

local vendors, health services, refreshments, free health screenings, face painting, activities, raffles and giveaways, a kids' zone and more. Bring the whole family!

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# Community Ties and a Commitment to Customer Service: Affordable Junk Removal

There are plenty of reasons to call a junk removal service. Maybe you're planning to move and need to clear out the basement and attic before your open house. Maybe you've spent way too much time at home lately and are feeling the need to declutter.

But figuring out who to call can be a pain. If you contact one of the big haulers, they route you to a phone center where they've never even heard of your town, plus their pricing seems vague and full of extra fees. No wonder you've let the stuff pile up—it's too much of a hassle to get rid of it!

Or you can call Affordable Junk Removal and let a local small business with deep community roots take care of everything.

Jay Schadler started his busi-

# Business sp⊗tlight

ness in 2003. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with ten trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

Affordable Junk Removal specializes in house and estate cleanouts. If your garage, attic, or office is overflowing with stuff, take back your space and let the



pros do the heavy lifting.

Jay and his team have handled it all. They've dismantled above-ground pools, hauled away ancient hot tubs, taken down old fencing, and stripped away worn carpeting. They'll come for a single item, or they'll clean out an entire house. And they can take almost anything. They can't accept hazardous materials, brush, dirt, or concrete, but everything else is fair game for them to take away.

Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it. He first tries to either recycle or donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

Working with Affordable Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for

what you don't use.

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've also got a driveway special where they'll take away a truckload of your unwanted things if you pile it up. Or if you don't want to lift a finger, then you can point at the items, and the team will fill up their truck and haul away your unwanted things. However you do it, you're left with more space and more peace of mind.

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

And speaking of pricing, Jay is upfront about it. His website shows the truck sizes and prices, so you can save time knowing your costs before you call for an appointment. There aren't any hidden costs or surprise fees with Affordable Junk Removal.

Affordable Junk Removal is

fully licensed and fully insured, and they'll treat your property with care and respect.

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston as well as Resellables, a thrift store in Bellingham. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

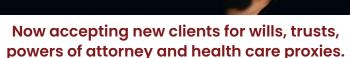
For more information, contact Jay Schadler at (774) 287-1133 or visit Affordable Junk Removal online at www.takeawayjunk.com.

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# **Encore Students to Receive Regional Gold Medals in New York City**

Encore Music Academy and Recording Studios, located in Franklin, MA, is proud to announce that two students have been awarded Regional Gold Medals of Excellence for academic year 20022-2023 from the Royal Conservatory of Music Certificate Program. To achieve this award, students must have attained the single highest score for their level on their instrument in the region which includes the

following states: MA, RI, CT, ME, VT, NH, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, and WV.

Congratulations to the following students and their instructors for the talent, hard work, dedication, and perseverance it takes to achieve such a tremendous honor:

Amelia Piercy, 16, Franklin, student of Carl Scheinman, Level 4 saxophone Sunehri Verma, 15, Franklin, student of Lisa Ostrow, Level 6 voice

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

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# **Franklin History Uncovered**

# A Misfortune Reveals Treasure for One Franklin Resident

By Lyn MacLean

### **Serendipity?**

A wave of serendipity falls upon us in the most unexpected of ways. February 3, 2023, weather was forecast for unprecedented freezing temperatures. I prepared by opening the sink cabinets and kept the faucets running with a slight drip.

The next morning, I came downstairs to see my Golden's wet paw prints shining in a straight line beckoning me to follow them to the kitchen. Then, I saw it, water everywhere! Our 50+-year-old home caught up with us. The pipes had burst. I proceeded to the basement to find water everywhere, including boxed mementos from my deceased parent's home that I thought were placed in a "water-safe-space."

### **The Find**

For 13 days I worked to discard damaged items. This process began an emotional journey for which I was not prepared. Keeping their boxes seemed to be the only way I could really honor my mother, or at least respect what was important to her. Unpacking the last boxes, I discovered a plastic bag that uncovered a memory I had tucked away in my ten-year-old mind.

The contents included chintz fabric and a hand sketch that I witnessed my mother drawing, erasing, and perfecting – sewing materials for a quilt square that my mother had volunteered to make for Franklin's bi-centennial celebration 45 years ago in 1978. I could not believe that it was dry, almost like she gave me this gift. I conducted research about this quilt to satisfy my own curiosities and now share with you.

### **Quilt: Woven Legacy**

The Franklin bi-centennial celebration was a grassroots effort by local residents to celebrate the 200th year from when Franklin was incorporated on March 2, 1778. This was a chance to remind town residents of Franklin's deep-rooted history. The celebration that year included a Bi-Centennial parade. In addition, a com-

memoration coin was created to highlight the origins of the town name and displayed the Little Red Brick Schoolhouse honoring this as the hometown of the American education reformer Horace Mann. Another legacy project for this event was the creation of a bicentennial quilt. This project was directed by Mrs. Loretta DeBaggis, the Franklin Youth Services Bicentennial Quilt Committee chair. Thirty-three volunteers asked to sew two replica applique squares to incorporate into two 116" x 72" quilts representing 40 historic and landmark locations within the town. Example sites included were the Ray Memorial Library, Little Brick School, and others, like my mother's assignment, the Wittrup House. One quilt was to be auctioned off to raise funds for the Franklin Youth Services group. The second was to be on display for the town to commemorate the

I was fortunate to interview Mrs. Loretta DeBaggis, who now resides in Florida. Her heartwarming love for the project shined through with comments such as "We had a great time, we laughed and had so much fun doing it." She made clear that the vast scale of this undertaking was time she happily served. Mrs. DeBaggis donated the fabric and notions for the quilt from her decorator shop above the Mill Store, where she sewed drapery, costumes, and tablecloths. Upon reflection, this quilt is a swatch kaleidoscope representing many Franklin families far beyond the actual sewers.

Mrs. DeBaggis selected the various historic sites she wanted to be represented in the quilt. She drew many of the patterns for sewers who were not comfortable with the sketch component of the process, and her mother spent countless hours hand-quilting each square into the entire quilt. When I asked Mrs. DeBaggis which was her favorite square she replied "The town dump!" She shared that her husband had built the quilt frame and also a sewer, he asked if he could make a square. She suggested he represent the Town dump, since he



Bicentennial Quilt on display at the Franklin Historical Museum:

enjoyed scavenging the dump weekly for treasures. Since "Sesame Street" was quite popular at that time, he chose to have Oscar the Grouch emerging from a trash can, providing a touch of whimsy to an intentionally primitive style quilt. Oscar provided a nod to our youth, helping them connect to this project.

### What's Next?

We have five years before we reach Franklin's 250th anniversary, a remarkable milestone. If our town wishes to highlight its amazing history once again, then it will be individuals stepping up to volunteer, initiate ideas, and implement action to keep the heart of Franklin's heritage beating. Will you be one of those trailblazers? Time will only tell how many individuals



The discovery of these materials led the author to research more about Franklin's bicentennial quilt. How will Franklin's 250th birthday be commemorated?

have the time to help decide how to best embrace the 250year mark. As much my pipes bursting was a hardship to my family, deep down I like to think that my mother led me to find her hidden treasure. I am honored that her effort and stitched signature are on display for her grandchildren to view in that very notable quilt.



This quilt square depicting The Wittrup House was made by the author's mother.

Thank you to the volunteer sewers for sharing their skills with our town. Many have since passed away. However, their extended families can view their artistic work on continuous display in the Franklin Historical Museum located at 80 West Central Street, Franklin.

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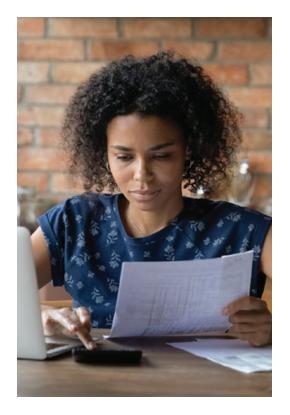
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# RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Are you looking for a job with school hours and the school schedule?

We have the job for you!

The Medfield Foodservice Department is now hiring! Substitute worker positions available with flexible hours, as well as full time, benefited positions.

For more information please contact: Caitlin Fahy at cfahy@email.medfield.net or 508-242-8897



# Celebrate the Holidays with FPAC Holiday Productions

FPAC Holiday Productions will present two shows as part of its annual holiday season. December kicks off with the holiday classic: The Nutcracker, presented December 2 and 3 at the Franklin High School Auditorium. Experience all the festive magic and colorful splendor of The Nutcracker as FPAC stages its cherished annual production of the holiday classic with live orchestra conducted by Austin Davy, special guest artists and more than 100 area dancers. The Nutcracker remains a highly anticipated and treasured part of the FPAC season - a popular holiday tradition for more than 20 years. The world-famous ballet, set to Tchaikovsky's beloved score, delights the imaginations of audiences young and old with a professional production at a reasonable price. The production is staged by Cheryl Madeux of American Ballet Theatre, Hartford Ballet, and Joffrey Ballet. Madeux is currently director of BalletFranklin- the ballet conservatory at the Franklin School for the Performing Arts.

Lucy Stewart of Complexions Contemporary Ballet will appear as The Sugar Plum Fairy. Stewart grew up in a suburb of Denver, Colorado, where she spent her early years dancing at a small studio in the mountains and then at Colorado Ballet. Originally training in all forms of dance, her primary areas of study included ballet, contemporary and jazz. She spent her summers training with American Ballet Theatre, The Joffrey Ballet, COMPLEXIONS, and Colorado Ballet. Lucy has studied the last two years at The Juilliard School in the dance division where she had the opportunity to study with various leading artists in the dance world, including Ohad Naharin, Tiler Peck, Rena Butler, and James Whiteside, as well as the opportunity to perform Set and Reset by Trisha Brown. For the last several years, Lucy studied regularly with John Gardner and Amanda McKerrow from ABT.

Jacopo Calvo, also of Complexions Contemporary Ballet, will join Stewart as her Cavalier. Calvo was born in Asti, Italy. He began his dance training at the age of 11 at his hometown school,

Ritmo Danza. At 18, he moved to NYC where he attended The Ailey School on scholarship. He has worked with choreographers such as Marcus Jarrell Willis,







Brice Mousset, Ray Mercer, Earl Mosley, Francesca Harper, and artist Nick Cave in The Let Go at the Park Avenue Armory. He has attended summer intensives with American Ballet Theater and Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and RESET 2021 with Studio Wayne McGregor. Jacopo has performed with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for their 60th Anniversary Season

in Memoria at New York City Center and for the Ailey Spirit Gala. This is his 2nd season with Complexions.

FPAC Holiday Productions are presented at the Franklin High School Auditorium. For tickets and more information, visit www. FPAConline.com or call the box office at (508) 528-3370.

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Your Money, Your Independence

# Stop Making Sense: Massachusetts Updates Estate Tax Laws



Glenn Brown, CFP

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

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

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

### **Key facts on MA update:**

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

## **This Must Be The Place** (Naive Melody).

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

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

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

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

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

Consider actions of other states since 2018 per taxfounda-

New Jersey and Delaware eliminated their estate tax.

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

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

## Take Me To The River (or another state)?

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

Consider the median single-family home sale price in Middlesex County is \$845,000. Add savings, 401(k), 403(b), any

insurance proceeds, value of a small business, maybe a generations Maine lake house... it can add up.

Connect with an estate planning attorney. New laws and life events are opportune times to connect as well as provide an updated net worth and review your process. Remember, revocable living trusts bypass probate, not estate tax laws.

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

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

At \$10M net value, does one

put \$1M towards a new or 2nd home in another state, declare residency so heirs receive this value? Or stay in Massachusetts to pay ~\$1M in estate tax?

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

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

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

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# **Franklin Town** News

now has its own Facebook page!



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









# Franklin Senior Expo Well Attended

On Friday, October 6th, the Franklin Senior Center held a Franklin Senior Expo, designed at connecting Franklin seniors with services and vendors useful to them. The event featured flu shots, hearing tests, vendors, and a special award ceremony.



Paula Lombardi, left, was honored with this year's Stella Jeon Silver Spirit Award for her volunteer efforts. She is shown here with Danielle Hopkins, director of the Franklin Senior Center.



The first 200 seniors attending the expo got free lunch!





Franklin Police and Fire were onhand to talk with seniors at the expo.



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# **Dean College Football to Join MASCAC in 2025**

Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Council of Presidents and Commissioner Angela Baumann are excited to announce the addition of Dean College as a football affiliate beginning during the 2025 season.

Dean will join Anna Maria College, Bridgewater State University, Fitchburg State University, Framingham State University, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Plymouth State University, UMass Dartmouth, Vermont State University-Castleton, Western Connecticut, Westfield State University and Worcester State University as football programs in the MAS-CAC.

"The MASCAC and the Council of Presidents are delighted to welcome Dean College to the conference in football." MASCAC Council of Presidents Chair and Salem

The Massachusetts State State University President John Keenan said. "It strengthens our conference footprint and the conference brand. We look forward to enhancing studentathlete opportunities."

> "This is a momentous time for the MASCAC as we further solidify our competing teams in the sport of football," Commissioner Baumann said. "We are excited to welcome a Massachusetts team like Dean to the MASCAC and look forward to the kickoff of a long-term football partnership with us beginning in 2025."

> The Dean College football program is led by 2007 alumnus Andrae Murphy who is in his second year at the helm. The team last won a conference championship in 2019 and played in the New England Bowl. The program, along with the rest of Dean's athletic teams, officially joined the NCAA in

the fall of 2020 as a full member.

"While we have cherished our time in the ECFC, joining the MASCAC represents a great opportunity for the next phase of our football program," said Dean College President Kenneth Elmore, J.D. "With its deep-rooted traditions, storied history, and competitive landscape, this is an ideal union for our student-athletes."

"Dean College is thrilled to become an affiliate member in the MASCAC for the sport of Football," said Dean College Director of Athletics George Martin. "We would like to thank the MASCAC President's Council and Commissioner Baumann for the invitation to join this group of outstanding institutions, and we are honored to accept. Beginning in the fall of 2025, our student-athletes will benefit from this new partnership, and we will look forward to joining in the spirited competition this conference has exhibited for many years."

Dean College is a private, residential New England college grounded in a culture and tradition that all students deserve the opportunity for academic and personal success. A uniquely supportive community for more than 150 years, Dean has woven together extensive student support and engagement with exceptional teaching and innovative campus activities. Our graduates are lifetime learners who thrive in their careers, embrace social responsibility and demonstrate leadership. This is The Dean Difference.

The Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, the nation's oldest Division III men's and women's playing conference, has a rich and storied tradition of competitive success while celebrating excellence in

the classroom. MASCAC member schools include Bridgewater State University, Fitchburg State University, Framingham State University, MCLA, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Salem State University, Westfield State University and Worcester State University. Two other institutions, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and Plymouth State University, are affiliate members of the conference in the sports of football and men's ice hockey, while Western Connecticut State University joined the conference as a football affiliate member in 2013 and Vermont State University-Castleton in 2024. Springfield College joined as a men's golf affiliate in 2019. Anna Maria College will join the conference as the ninth core member in

# 6th Annual Thanksgiving Day Pie Sale - Knights of Columbus, Franklin

## Why Bake When the Knights Can Do It for You?

The Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council 1847 St. Mary Parish Franklin MA is running their 6th Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale.

We have a new bakery this year, we are proud to announce we are working with LYMAN ORCHARDS. Lyman Orchards is a quality orchard that produces an EPIC Pie. The flavors we will be offering this year are - Apple, Pecan, Pumpkin and Blueberry. These Pies are fantastic outstanding flavor, aroma, and taste.

It is no secret prices have increased everywhere and we worked hard to find a Quality product at a reasonable price. We have done our BEST to bring you a great product at the best possible price. As was last year you will be able to DONATE a pie. All donations will be donated to the Franklin Senior Center and Franklin Food Pantry for distribution at Thanksgiving time.

This year there will be two means by which you may purchase your Thanksgiving Day pies. Please visit our website www.kofc1847.org or on Facebook..... Knights of ColumbusCouncil1847. You will find a link to purchase and pay for your order. The site is open now till MA 02038 November 5th.

We will also be taking Pie orders in the back of church the weekend of November 4th and 5th, after all the Masses at St. Mary. Cash, Check or Credit Card will be accepted. ALL online orders will accept Credit Card only.

You will be able to Pick Up your order of Thanksgiving Pies on Tuesday, November 21st from 3-6 p.m. at the CCD Offices at the old St. Mary's School on the 1st floor. You will see our signs.

We are excited again this year to bring this quality product to St. Mary Parish community and all our Franklin neighbors. Please support this most worthy cause, help a senior and make your Thanksgiving Day special with a Pie (or 2) from Lyman Orchards on your dinner table this year.

Any questions, please call Jim Campbell at (508) 848-8681, Jim Lane at (774) 571-9804, or Mike Swan (508) 404-4792.

Thank You for your generosity and "giving back" ...

Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council 1847 Franklin,





# **College-Prep: To-Do List for High School Juniors**

Junior year in high school sneaks up on families quickly. Students are now at the halfway point and in less than 2 years, many students will be heading off on a new adventure - college! Junior year is a critical time to put a college prep plan in place. Creating a timeline now, versus waiting until senior year, will definitely alleviate some of the college stress, and will set your student up for a successful college admissions experience their senior year.

Robert D. McCaig, Monmouth University Vice President for Enrollment Management, sums it up perfectly when he said, "The most important thing students should do when applying to college is pace themselves and prioritize. Starting early certainly helps students with the pacing, and knowing when to put time into SAT prep versus studying for an exam versus visiting another college, for instance, is an important part of prioritizing."

@Students: Here are some helpful tips to get you moving in the right direction this fall:

1. The #1 question an admission rep will be thinking when they are reviewing your college application: "Did you take the most rigorous courses you could,

- and did you earn good grades?" GPA and course rigor, without question, are the 2 most important factors. Make your studies a top priority. Other factors like leadership activities, strong SAT scores, and athletic prowess are secondary considerations. They will help- but you still need good grades!
- 2. If your grades start to slide, don't wait until you are drowning. Raise the red flag immediately and meet with your teacher or tutor and ask what can be done to help. Asking for help is not a sign of failure but of strength.
- Visit your guidance counselor early junior year. Determine the courses you should take to put you on the right track for college admission. Course selection is important. Colleges like to see growth in a student's transcript. If you have 2 years of A's in College Prep Math - think about taking Honor's Math the following semester or year. A good question to ask- "How much can I push myself without being shoved."

- 4. Plan early for the PSAT, ACT, and SAT. You'll need to register 5 weeks before the exam. Many students opt to take the test more than once and a student should plan accordingly.
- 5. Start building your activity resume and update it throughout the year. Make a list of your extracurricular activities, accomplishments and work experience with a short description. It's never too late to begin an activity or join an organization. Colleges are looking to build a well-rounded class with students that show depth and commitment in a few activities that interest them. My advice: Do what you love and do the work (engage and create impact).
- 6. Begin visiting colleges as early as possible and definitely by the fall of your junior year. I recommend touring local colleges first, even if you think you may want to attend college out-of-state. It will help determine the factors that are important to you in selecting a future college. A few factors to consider: rural, urban, or



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

- a suburban setting; small or large student body; public or private school.
- Create a college list that includes affordable choices. As a family, determine early your available finances and what/if any loans will be necessary. It is important that your family is all on the same page. Research the availability of merit or need-based aid that will support the student throughout their four college years. Excellent financial aid resource: studentaid.gov. And It is never too late to start saving - 529 plans!
- 8. As a family, determine early on if you need assistance from an outside source.

Independent Educational Consultants (IEC) have broad experience in navigating the many aspects of the college admissions process. Some consultants offer comprehensive packages beginning sophomore and junior years as well as hourly work for specific pieces of the application process.

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

College 101 Admissions Consultants LLC

Website: www.mycollege101.com. Email: tracy@mycollege101.com. Phone: (508) 380-3845.

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# **Police Pledge to Enhance Trust**

The Franklin Police Department is pleased to announce that they have completed a pledge to enhance trust and collaboration between police and the communities served. The pledge is part of an initiative called the Trust Building Campaign, which was started by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the world's largest and most influential professional association for police leaders.

To join the Trust Building Campaign, law enforcement agencies must pledge to implement 25 key policies and leading practices within a 36-month period. Chief Thomas Lynch made the decision to join the Trust Building Campaign as a means to enhance the trust and partnership the department has with the community.

By completing the Trust Building Campaign Pledge, the Franklin Police Department established policies and trainings, conducted assessments, and developed strategies within six focused areas (bias-free policing; use of force; leadership and culture; recruitment, hiring, and retention; victim services; and community relations) designed to encourage positive community-police partnerships that promote safe, effective interactions, create strategies to prevent and reduce crime, and improve the wellbeing and quality of life for all.

The IACP is encouraged by the efforts of agencies as they incorporate the pledge's concepts into their everyday operations. When trust building is prioritized, community members and the police benefit from relationships focused on unified visions, goals, and values. Building and rebuilding trust in the community and around the world is critical and must remain a primary objective.

The greatest benefit in taking the Trust Building Campaign Pledge has been reinforcing the policies and procedures that the department has established through the accreditation process and looking at them through the lens of community trust building and partnerships.

Chief Lynch states, "I feel the police department has a great relationship with the community, but we are always trying to do better, to do a little more. The Franklin Police Department is constantly looking for ways to connect with and enhance those partnerships. The IACP Trust Building Campaign gave us a mechanism to review and improve our policies, procedures, and training with the goal of increasing the community's trust and create additional positive relationships".

For more information about the Trust Building Campaign, visit the IACP's website at

https://www.theiacp.org/iacp-trust-building-campaign.

# **Celebratory Luncheon Hosted for Franklin Food Pantry**

# **Volunteers**

The Franklin Food Pantry held its annual volunteer luncheon to recognize and celebrate the more than 140 pantry volunteers who gave over 7,000 hours of time and talent in 2022 to help address food insecurity. The event was held at Mount Street Farm in Franklin and attended by special guests Representative Jeff Roy (D), Franklin Town Council Chair Tom Mercer. Franklin Town Board Member Cobi Frongillo, and Deputy Town Administrator Amy Frigulietti. Shaw's Supermarket, East Central Starbucks, The Big Apple, and 3 Restaurant provided refreshments and food for the luncheon.

During the celebration, Rep. Roy presented the 2022 President's Volunteer Service Award to 18 volunteers whose service positively impacts the Franklin Community and inspires others to act. The Gold Award, for 500+ volunteer hours in a

calendar year, was presented to Community Gardens and Diane Daddario. The Silver Award, for 250 to 499 volunteer hours, was presented to Suzanne Gendreau, Chris Kilburn and Maureen Kilburn. The Bronze Award, for 100 to 174 volunteer hours, was presented to Amber Baur, Mary Anne Dean, Vicki Coates, David Custer, Rachel Flum, Donna Hines, Carol Malachowski, Donna O'Neill, Kym Pruitt, Jim Roche, Maureen Sobolewski, Nancy Schoen, and Roberta Trahan.

"As a non-profit with limited resources and staff, we rely on committed volunteers to keep our warehouse full, our shelves stocked, and our daily operations running," said Tina Powderly, Executive Director, Franklin Food Pantry. "Our volunteers are the very heart of The Pantry and we are eternally grateful for their dedication and service to our community."



Franklin Food Pantry honors those who give of their time and talents at the annual volunteer luncheon.

The Pantry offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups of all ages and abilities, is named Best Place to Volunteer by MyFM 101.3 in 2023 and 2022, and certified as an Al!VE Service Enterprise Organization. For more information, or to submit a volunteer application, please visit www. franklinfoodpantry.org.



Tina Powderly, Executive Director of the Franklin Food Pantry, addresses and thanks attendees at the annual Pantry volunteer luncheon.



State Representative Jeff Roy (D) presents Franklin Food Pantry volunteer Carol Malachowski with the 2022 President's Volunteer Service Award, Bronze, in recognition of more than 106 hours of service.



Franklin Town Council Member Tom Mercer, Chair, speaks at the Franklin Food Pantry's annual volunteer luncheon.



# The b.LUXE **beauty beat**

# **Big Thanks...**

By Gina Woelfel

I recently sat down with Heather Cohen, the owner of b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio in Medway. We had a chance to catch up and reflect on 2023 and what a crazy, wonderful year it's been, with so much to be grateful for!

During our talk, Heather shared that one of her favorite things to do in the fall is to take long walks with her dogs. "I hike my dogs most mornings, but our autumn hikes are my favorite. The air is crisp, and my pups love playing in the crunchy leaves." She also shared that it's her time to disconnect from her "salon" brain and focus on other aspects of her life beyond the day-to-day operations of her studio. The beginning of November is the calm before the busy holiday season, and Heather likes to take this time to reflect on how grateful she is for everything in her life. "Well, I'm blessed with my family, friends, and dogs. I have a tight-knit group of people who really support and love me, and that's allowed me to work as hard as I have."

As a child, Heather's family sometimes depended on their local church and community services to make ends meet. Despite their financial struggles, she never went without or felt ashamed of needing assistance. "In hindsight," she explains, "that helping hand was a blessing in disguise because it taught me the importance of taking an active role in my community and giving back. I didn't know the

significance of it at the time, but now, those acts of kindness speak volumes, and I'm extremely grateful for them. We organize volunteer opportunities at the salon for our staff to participate in, cutting hair for the Franklin Senior Center, packing food and raising money for The Franklin Food Pantry, working with PAWS New England, and donating yearly beauty scholarships to our sister school in Cancun, Mexico, who we visit each year to bring new supplies and teach classes. I'm really impressed with how our staff always joins in. If it's important to our community, it's important to b.LUXE."

During our conversation, we discussed the keys to running a successful beauty salon with over 30 talented and influential women. Heather expressed her gratitude towards her employees: "They're the backbone and heart of b.LUXE. I'm fortunate to have the creative and management teams that I do! They are the best in the business, and their incredible talent and work ethic inspire me to set the bar higher and consistently exceed expectations. We didn't become Massachusetts' most highly-rated salon just by chance! We made that happen together."

Heather also expressed her gratitude towards John Green, the owner of Medway Mills, where her salon is located. This historic, eight-acre complex is surrounded by wooded grounds, with Chicken Brook flowing directly underneath the salon. "John has done an excellent job

b.LUXE hair-makeup-skincare-tanning



preserving the property's natural charm while incorporating beautifully landscaped grounds, stone walls, and flower gardens to welcome visitors to the Mill. This year, he added an upper parking lot to accommodate the overflow. Our customers love the timeless atmosphere here."

Heather has great affection for the whole Medway Mills family. "The businesses here work well together, and it's a great place to work." Three beauty and wellness businesses located at the Mill have provided Heather with an enormous amount of support and inspiration - Chat Noir Nails, whose owner is Jillian Lustgarten Cohen, Molly's Apothecary, owned by Ann Fisher, and Drift and Oak Yoga, whose owner is Bianca Fantoni. "We share many of the same customers and work together to grow each other's clientele." She praises these businesses for helping women understand their worth and enhancing





the community. "To me, they define Girl Power, and I'm so proud of that. I couldn't ask for better women to work alongside."

"The Local Town Pages" deserves a HUGE shoutout, too!" exclaims Heather. "We love our BEAUTY BEAT column, and without this community paper, we'd lose our direct line to our customers. "We've really enjoyed these conversations with existing and potential clients, especially those who've never visited our studio. It's been a friendly opportunity to introduce ourselves and connect with so many wonderful people."

Happy Thanksgiving from our family to yours.

The b.LUXE Team

Visit our website at bLUXE. com or scan the QR code to see our specially-priced, holiday gift card specials and our BUY 3, GET 1 FREE Retail Sale!

"I need a book to list how many people I'm grateful for!" says Heather. "But I guess it really just boils down to community. I'm really very, very grateful to this community for bringing b.LUXE into the fold and embracing it the way that they have. Thank you..."

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RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

# Test Your Trivia Knowledge & Support Franklin Odd Fellows Nov. 12th

The command of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows is to improve and elevate the character of mankind by promoting the principles of friendship, love, truth. We believe that we can make the world a better place by aiding each other, the community, the less fortunate,

the youth, the elderly and the environment in every way possible. The Odd Fellows are worldwide in 26 countries.

The Franklin Odd Fellows, William F. Ray Lodge #71, is located at 330 West Central St. and works to provide support to Franklin and surrounding communities

On November 12, 2023, The Franklin Odd Fellows will be hosting a Trivia Tournament at the Bellingham Sportsman Club as a fundraiser to help us maintain our lodge building. Members have been remaking the entire outer structure of the 98-year-old building and the garage for the past 7 years. The cost of materials is very high and continuous fundraising is the order of the day.

The Franklin Odd Fellows are the founding organization of the Franklin & Bellingham Rail Trail Committee that has done so much for our community for the past 15 years in improving an abandoned rail line called the Southern New England Trunkline Trail; and our members continue to hold key positions on the Committee. We donate annually to the rail trail fundraiser road races, and we support the Mass Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation by sponsoring an Annual Fundraiser Cornhole Tournament. Through various events and donations, we also support the Odd Fellows



Full Care Nursing Home, the Odd Fellows Children's Summer Camp, and other local and national foundations. We are currently the Chartering non-profit for a Boy Scout group called Venture Crew 129, and we are working to take on a Cub Scout Pack soon. The hope is that these youth will continue the ideas and practices of the Odd Fellows and continue serving in our communities.

The Fraternal Order has attracted many notable names throughout our country's rich history. The following have all been Odd Fellows: William Jennings Bryan, Sec of State; Wyatt Earp, Law Officer from the Old Wild West; Robert C. Byrd, U.S. Senator; Charlie Chaplin, Comedic Actor & Film Director; Ulysses S. Grant, 18th U.S. President; Rutherford B. Hayes, 19th U.S. President; Warren G. Harding, 29th U.S. President; Charles Lindbergh, American aviator, author, inventor and social activist; William McKinley, 25th U.S. President; Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd U.S. President. Since 2001, the IOOF fraternity has been fully co-ed and all genders can join Odd Fellows Lodges.

So, join us for an afternoon of trivia, fun and good cheer from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the Bellingham Sportsman Club at 360 Lake St., Bellingham, MA 02019. The event will consist of teams of up to ten players with a registration cost of just \$10 per person, and \$15 at the door. Team pre-registration and payment is encouraged. Thanks to the Bellingham Sportsman Club, which has worked closely with the Odd Fellows over several past fundraiser projects and continues to be an important partner with our organization. Get your team of trivia pundits together and register today. There will be raffle prizes available during the event. To pre-register:

https://www.franklinmassoddfellows.org/ odd-fellows-third-annual-triviaextravaganza/.

# Franklin Art Presents New Artwork November 9th

The Franklin Art Association will hold an opening reception of new artwork at the association gallery at Escape into Fiction Bookstore on Thursday, November 9th, 6-8 p.m., 12 Main Street, Franklin. The event is free and open to the public.

Please join us in support of local artists and their creative work!







# Living Healthy

# **DURYSTA - A Game-Changer in Glaucoma Treatment**

By: Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D. Milford Franklin Eye Center

### Introduction

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

# Understanding Glaucoma

Glaucoma is a group of eye conditions that can lead to damage of the optic nerve, ultimately resulting in vision loss. It is often referred to as the "silent thief of sight" because it typically progresses slowly and without noticeable symptoms until significant damage has occurred. The most common type of glaucoma is open-angle glaucoma, which accounts for around 90% of all glaucoma cases. In open-angle glaucoma, the drainage system within the eye becomes inefficient, leading to increased intraocular pressure (IOP). Elevated IOP is a major risk factor for optic nerve damage and vision loss.

### Traditional Glaucoma Treatments

Traditionally, the primary approach to managing glaucoma has been to lower intraocular pressure. Several methods are used to achieve this, including eye drops, laser therapy, and surgical interventions. While these treatments can be effective, they often require frequent administration, leading to compliance issues.

Additionally, surgical procedures carry certain risks and may not be suitable for all patients.

### **Enter DURYSTA**

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

### **How DURYSTA Works**

DURYSTA is a tiny implant that is placed directly into the anterior chamber of the eye through a minimally invasive procedure. This implant releases a medication called bimatoprost, which is a prostaglandin analog. Prostaglandin analogs are known to be effective in reducing intraocular pressure by increasing the



outflow of aqueous humor from the eye. What sets DURYSTA apart is its sustained release mechanism, providing consistent IOP reduction for an extended period.

## **Advantages of DURYSTA**

Long-Lasting Efficacy: DURYSTA is designed to provide sustained IOP reduction for up to twelve months after a single implantation. This means fewer office visits and a reduced need for daily eye drops, improving patient compliance and quality of life.

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

Efficacy Across Glaucoma Types: DURYSTA has shown efficacy in reducing IOP across various glaucoma types, including open-angle and angle-closure glaucoma, making it a versatile option for a wide range of patients. Reduced Side Effects: Unlike eye drops, which can cause side effects such as stinging, redness, and allergies, DURYSTA is delivered directly to the eye's target site, minimizing systemic side effects.

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

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

### **Clinical Trials and Results**

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

**EYES** 

continued on page 17

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# Dean College Brings AIDS Quilt to Campus in Conjunction with Rent

# Display is Part of Thoughtful New Programming Around Theatre Shows

Dean College is proud to display a section of the AIDS Memorial Quilt on campus from November 14-15, 2023, leading up to the premiere of the School of the Arts production of *Rent* on November 15.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is a living memorial to a generation lost to AIDS, an important HIV prevention education tool and the largest community arts project in history. Individuals and groups create Quilt panels to honor, remember and celebrate the stories and lives of those lost to HIV/AIDS. Displayed for the first time during the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights on October 11, 1987, today the Quilt is an epic 54-ton tapestry that includes

nearly 50,000 panels dedicated to more than 110,000 individuals.

The Quilt display will provide powerful context to the College's production of *Rent*, Jonathan Larson's iconic musical that follows a group of impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York's Lower East Side, under the shadow of HIV/

"In moments of crisis, at times of great conflict and trauma, people turn to art as a way to share their love and their fear and their anger," said Patsy Collins Bandes, dean of the School of the Arts. "The AIDS Memorial Quilt was built out of one of these moments of protest and demand for those lost to be remembered. We at Dean College are honored to display this work of art in parallel with our students lifting their own voices to create a story of survival, hope and love onstage in our production of *Rent*.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display to the public on Tuesday, November 14 and Wednesday, November 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the Dr. Paula M. Rooney Student Center Concourse. Dean students will also be tabling with



interactive educational materials during the display. The School of the Arts at Dean will present *Rent* from November 15-19, 2023.

The display is part of the College's thoughtful new programming series to create more context around each of the theatre shows this season. Titled "Continuing the Conversation," the College will hold post-show discussions with the creative teams and experts in the field about the performance and the themes, context or history it explores. The series is co-sponsored by the Franklin Public Library and will offer library patrons a discount on tickets if they would like to attend the show prior to the discussion.

The post-show discussion for *Rent* will take place on Saturday, November 18. Continuing the conversation from the Quilt display earlier in the week, this event will discuss the legacy of the AIDS epidemic 40 years later and its influence on queer

identity in the 21st century. Guests will include Dr. Kristin Holster, professor of sociology at Dean College, and Dr. Helen Lewis-Michelson, associate professor of theatre at The Boston Con-

servatory at Berklee.

"Continuing the Conversation allows us to deepen the exploration of the shows we are producing, and it is thrilling to be able to partner with the Franklin Public Library on this project," said Collins Bandes, who oversees the College's performing arts programs in arts and entertainment management, performance, production and design, theatre studies, and new BFA programs in acting and musical theatre. "It gives us an opportunity to explore with both our students and the community what impact our art has on the world, and how theatre is a powerful tool for cultural engagement."

For more information about the AIDS Memorial Quilt, visit www.aidsmemorial.org. For more information about *Rent* and the Continuing the Conversation series, visit www.dean.edu/box-

### **EYES**

continued from page 16

### **Real-World Impact**

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

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

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

# Challenges and Considerations

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

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

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

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

### **Conclusion**

DURYSTA represents a significant advancement in the field of glaucoma treatment. Its sustained release mechanism, minimal invasiveness, and potential to improve patient adherence make it a game-changer for glaucoma patients. As further research and real-world experience accumulate, DURYSTA's role in preserving vision and enhancing the quality of life for those with glaucoma is likely to become even more pronounced. While challenges and considerations remain, DURYSTA offers new hope and a brighter future for individuals living with this sight-threatening condition. Our center and ophthalmologists have state of the art equipment to diagnose and treat many eye problems, including glaucoma. We offer DURYSTA in our state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford. 7 dedicated eve care providers here to help you in 3 facilities in Franklin, Milford and Millis. We are available and have Saturday and after-hours appointments. From the basic eye exam to the high-tech surgeries performed locally in Milford, our center is now able to better recognize glaucoma and manage this disease with many interventions including DURYSTA. We continue to provide world class eye care for the entire family.

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# Discussion and Variety Show in the Mix at FUSF this Month

The First Universalist Society in Franklin is pleased to invite the public for two special events in November:

# November 5, 2023 – 10 a.m.

# Unexpected Changes: An Existentialist Perspective

Existentialism is the philosophy that life is what we make of it. Life, however, has a way of changing our plans when we least expect it. FUSF lay member Ann Parsley will talk about what it's like to be an existentialist atheist, how that philosophy can help when things go wrong, and why an existentialist atheist might choose to join a UU church.

# November 11. 2023, from 7 to 9 p.m.

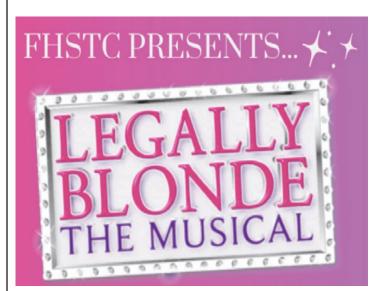
# The Chestnut Street Review Variety

The Chestnut Street Review is back after a two-year hiatus. The FUSF Community prides itself on its musical and artistic talent. Don't miss this jam-packed evening of music, singing, storytelling and more! Something for all families and the young at heart to enjoy. Sample delicious treats at Intermission from the Bake Sale Table. \$10/person and \$25/family.

The First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) is located at 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin. For more information, please contact us at info@fusf.org or call (508) 528-5348. FUSF is a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation.



# Franklin High School Students to Present Legally Blonde, the Musical



On November 17th, 18th and 19th, the Franklin High School Theater Company will present *Legally Blonde, the Musical* at Franklin High School. Visit https://www.onthestage.tickets/show/franklin-high-school-theatre-company/65159fad8d5da50e5ac80656/, or visit https://onthestage.com/, select "shows" and then search for "Franklin" under "Current Production Search."



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# **Calendar**

### **November 1**

Franklin Art Association meeting, 6:30 business followed by 7 p.m. presentation by artist, Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin

### November 5

Unexpected Changes: An Existentialist Perspective, 10 a.m., Franklin's First Universalist Society, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin, Ann Parsley will talk about why an existentialist atheist might choose to join a UU church.

### **November 7**

Franklin Biennial Town Election, 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.

### **November 8**

Fall Health Fair, 3-6 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, sponsored by Franklin Health Dept., will feature local vendors, health services, refreshments, free health screenings, face painting, activities, raffles and giveaways, and a kids' zone.

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

### **November 9**

Franklin Art Association opening reception of new artwork, 6-8 p.m., Franklin Art Association gallery, Escape into Fiction Bookstore, 12 Main St., Franklin

Bee-ginner Bee Keeping, 6 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Join MDAR Apiary Inspector Paul Tessier

Winter Sing-Along with the Dean College Vocal Ensemble, 12:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Families! Join us for a musical afternoon after a half-day of school with the Dean College Vocal Ensemble

### November 10

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

### November 11

The Chestnut Street Review Variety Show, 7-9 p.m., The First Universalist Society in

Franklin (FUSF), 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin. info@fusf.org or (508) 528-5348, \$10 pp, \$25 family with bake sale table at intermission

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

### **November 12**

Franklin Historical Museum 2nd Sunday Speaker Series presents Ed Goddard, of the Celebrate Wrentham 350 committee, 1:15 p.m. (doors open 1 p.m.), Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin

Franklin Oddfellows Trivia Tournament, 2 to 4:30 p.m., Bellingham Sportsman Club, 360 Lake St., Bellingham. Teams of up to ten players with a registration cost of \$10 per person, and \$15 at the door. Raffle prizes. Pre-register:

https://www.franklinmassoddfellows.org/ odd-fellows-third-annual-triviaextravaganza/

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

### **November 15**

**Dean College presents** *Rent,* **7:30 p.m.,** Tickets can be purchased at (508) 541-1605 or via boxoffice@dean.edu

## November 16

**Dean College presents** *Rent*, **7:30 p.m.**, 99 Main St., Franklin, Tickets can be purchased at (508) 541-1605 or via boxoffice@dean.edu

### **November 17**

FHS Theatre Company presents Legally Blonde, the Musical, 7:30 p.m., Franklin High School, 218 Oak St., Franklin, https://www.onthestage.tickets/show/franklin-high-school-theatre-company/65159fad8d5da50e5ac80656

**Dean College presents** *Rent,* **7:30 p.m.,** 99 Main St., Franklin, Tickets can be purchased at (508) 541-1605 or via boxoffice@dean.edu

Franklin Library Book Sale, 1-5 p.m. 118 Main St., Franklin

## November 18

Franklin Library Book Sale, 9 a.m. – noon, 118 Main St., Franklin

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Franklin Newcomers Craft Fair, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School, 147 Pond St., Franklin, \$3 ages 12+, also collecting for Franklin Food Pantry, all juried hand-crafted wares

**Dean College presents** *Rent***, 2 & 7:30 p.m.**, 99 Main St., Franklin, Tickets can be purchased at (508) 541-1605 or via boxoffice@dean.edu

FHS Theatre Company presents Legally Blonde, the Musical, 7:30 p.m., Franklin High School, 218 Oak St., Franklin, https://www.onthestage.tickets/show/franklin-high-schooltheatre-company/65159fad8d5da50e5ac80656

Seth Giler, 8 p.m., Circle of Friends Coffeehouse, Meetinghouse of the Franklin's First Universalist Society, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin, visit www.circlefolk.org for more info.

### November 19

FHS Theatre Company presents *Legally Blonde, the Musical,* **2 p.m.,** Franklin High School, 218 Oak St., Franklin, https://www.onthestage.tickets/show/franklin-high-school-theatre-company/65159fad8d5da50e 5ac80656

**Dean College presents** *Rent,* **2 p.m.,** 99 Main St., Franklin, Tickets can be purchased at (508) 541-1605 or via boxoffice@dean.edu

**Diwali Celebration! Sunday, 2-3:30 p.m.,** Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Join us for a special Diwali celebration for the whole family, including crafts, music, color, henna, and more!

### November 23

12th Annual Franklin Turkey Trot, 8 a.m., Family Fun Run 5K supports Franklin Food Pantry, 91 Jordan Road, Franklin, \$25 per person, visit www. franklinturkeytrot.org to register up to November 21st, or register in-person at race location Nov. 22, from 7-9 p.m., or morning of race between 6:30-7:30 a.m.

### **November 25**

Santa StoryWalk! 10:30 a.m., DelCarte Park, Franklin Recreation and the Franklin Public Library team up for a cozy winter walk with our favorite Man in Red! Special story walk followed by cookies and cocoa!

### **November 28**

Lotus Lantern Craft Tuesday, 6 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, A Member of *Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project* will show us, step by step, how to make a lovely lotus flower lantern using colored paper and wire frames followed by a documentary film!

Adults and Teens please RSVP on the Library Calendar of Events.

# **Biennial Town Election**

The Biennial Town Election is set for Nov. 7, 2023 at Franklin High School from 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.

For additional Election information, please visit the Town Clerk's webpage at https://www.franklinma.gov/town-clerkelection-administrator.



You can access the official candidacy list for the upcoming election at

https://www.franklinma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif10036/f/news/nom\_in\_out\_november\_7\_2023\_17.pdf

# Update of Missing Person – Jazlyn Rodrigues

## October 21, 2023

Jazlyn Rodrigues, a 15-yearold Franklin, MA resident who has been missing since October 10th was found safe this afternoon. She is being reunited with her family. No further information is available at this time. The investigation remains ongoing.

# Manufacturing Caucus Hosts 8th Annual Manufacturing Awards Ceremony at Polar Park

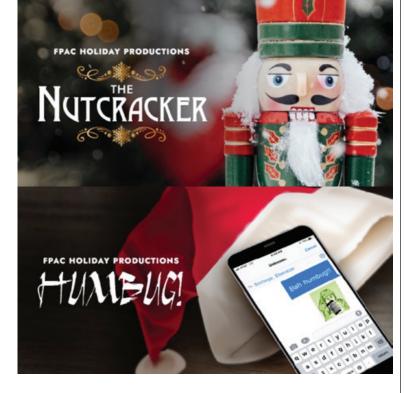
Xpression Prints, Inc. of Franklin, Massachusetts received the Manufacturer of the Year Award for the 10th Norfolk District at the 8th Annual Manufacturing Awards Ceremony held in the DCU Club at Polar Park in Worcester. Xpression Prints, Inc. was nominated by State Representative Jeffrey N. Roy (D-Franklin), House Chair of the Legislature's

# Celebrate the Holidays with FPAC Holiday Productions

FPAC Holiday Productions will present two shows as part of its annual holiday season.

December kicks off with the holiday classic: The Nutcracker, presented December 2 and 3 at the Franklin High School Auditorium. Experience all the festive magic and colorful splendor of The Nutcracker as FPAC stages its cherished annual production of the holiday classic with live orchestra, special guest artists and more than 100 area dancers. The Nutcracker remains a highly anticipated and treasured part of the FPAC season - a popular holiday tradition for more than 20 years. The world-famous ballet, set to Tchaikovsky's beloved score, delights the imaginations of audiences young and old with a professional production at a reasonable price. The production is staged by Cheryl Madeux of American Ballet Theatre, Hartford Ballet, and Joffrey Ballet. Madeux is currently director of BalletFranklin- the ballet conservatory at the Franklin School for the Performing Arts.

The FPAC Holiday Productions December season continues as *Humbug!* returns December 16 and 17. A family favorite since debuting as part of FPAC's 2008 season, *Humbug!* is an original



musical retelling of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, starring the script's writer, Nick Paone, as Ebenezer Scrooge. With musical hits of every genre and live accompaniment by a 10-piece band of professional musicians, Humbug! transports audiences from Dickensian England to contemporary America as the novel's iconic characters and storyline are cleverly reimagined with

modern setting and dialogue. *Humbug!* delivers a holiday gift of hilarity with a timely – and timeless – message.

FPAC Holiday Productions are presented at the Franklin High School Auditorium. For tickets and more information, visit www.FPAConline. com or call the box office at (508) 528-3370.





Manufacturing Caucus. Xpression Prints, Inc. was built from the ground up by dedicated and enthusiastic professionals and is driven to offer customers access to any type of custom printed items they need. And the company delivers these products quickly, efficiently and at a fair price.

The Legislature, under the leadership of Speaker Ron Mariano and Senate President Karen E. Spilka, has spearheaded several major economic development packages which focus on improving the renaissance of manufacturing, with the goal of making Massachusetts the best place to build things.

During his open remarks Representative Roy observed, "manufacturing provides high-paying jobs, contributes significantly to the state's economy, and plays a vital role in driving innovation and technological advancements. The state's manufacturing industry is also known for its focus on innovation and sustainability, with many companies investing in research and development to create new products and processes that reduce waste, conserve resources, and improve energy efficiency."

The event was the state's 8th Annual Manufacturing Award Ceremony hosted by the Legislature's Manufacturing Caucus and sponsored by MassMEP and MassTech Collaborative.

Christine Nolan, Director for the Center of Advanced Manufacturing and Kathie Mahoney, President and CEO of Mass-MEP offered remarks at the ceremony along with Brooke Thomson, President of AIM. Senate President Karen E. Spilka



and Secretary of Housing & Economic Development Yvonne Hao addressed the audience via pre-recorded video.

After the successful event, Representative Roy added, "Manufacturing output here is at its highest level in history and accounts for about 10 percent of the state's economy and employs about 7% of the workforce with \$56 billion in manufactured goods exported from the Commonwealth each year. During the 8th Annual Manufacturing Awards Ceremony, we celebrated 68 manufacturing awardees from across the state of Massachusetts. These are truly great companies who make our economy soar and contribute to these statistics. These manufacturers are examples of what is means to Make it in Massachusetts."

Formed in August 2014, the Manufacturing Caucus includes 71 legislators from around the Commonwealth. Lawmakers focus on training for manufacturing employees; encouraging innovation by helping start-ups access resources; and expanding apprenticeship opportunities in key manufacturing sectors.

# **Sports**

# **Atwood Continues to Excel on the Next Level**

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY, STAFE SPORTS WRITER

Franklin's Breanna Atwood was a superb 3-sport athlete (basketball, softball, and soccer) for the Panthers during her four-year high school career. However, it was soccer that really stole her heart at a very young age, and today, she is competing in her senior season with the University of Southern Maine (USM) at a very high level.

Just recently, the Huskies' goalie was named the Little East Conference Goalkeeper of the Week for the second straight week with a pair of shutouts. The Franklin alum now has 18 career shutouts (3 so far this season) and is nearing the program record. She also currently has a 0.52 goals against average and a .922 save percentage.

Although she is performing at a very high level for the Huskies, Atwood almost didn't attend USM, because she was not all that impressed with the campus.

"I originally hated it; the campus was not aesthetically pleasing, and the buildings were old, and I wasn't thrilled with having to move 2 ½ hours to Maine." Atwood said. "But after my overnight, things changed. During my overnight visit, I had just about met with everyone on the team, and the coaches were amazing and very helpful. It was something that I really appreciated."

Atwood first stepped onto the soccer field around the age of three and was immediately fascinated with the sport.

"Soccer is an unpredictable sport where you really can't set plays, and the game is determined by the players and how they perform," she said.

Until sixth grade, Atwood found herself playing the field as an outside winger, but that year, her team was short a goalie. Atwood, being one of the taller girls, was assumed a natural fit for the position. She picked things up relatively quickly, with the help of her father, a seasoned player, teaching her the basics of the game on the back line. Her teammates began to feel comfortable with Atwood playing in the net.

As a freshman, she made the junior varsity team and was el-



Soccer goaltender Breanna Atwood, of Franklin, has impressed fans and teammates at the University of Southern Maine (USM).



evated to the varsity squad the following year.

"My sophomore year was definitely interesting — I was hoping to make the team even if it was a back-up goalie," Atwood recalled. "Being that there were no real tryouts for goalies, I was doing all the basic skills with everyone else. I prided myself on my footwork that I learned from my younger years playing the field."

Longtime Franklin Coach Tom Geyson placed Atwood in the position of center back. She was ok with the position, happy to be on the team.

"It was different and weird to be learning a new position," the goal keeper said. "In my mind, I felt that I didn't deserve to be a starter in this position, but it meant a lot to me that Coach Geyson thought that I could play it. It eventually helped me to understand the game on a different level"

Although playing a position other than goalie, Atwood would reclaim the net minding duties as a junior and senior for the Panthers. Over her final two seasons with Franklin, she helped backbone the team to a 22-6-6 overall record (10-2-5 as a junior and 12-4-1 as senior) playing in a very

tough Division 1.

Once Atwood got to Portland to play for the Huskies, however, the season would be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the team would still practice, the Franklin goalie was heartbroken. Here she was in a new school for the first time in a different state, and all by herself.,

As a sophomore, Atwood found herself on the sidelines most of the year while her team was now playing in a different conference. While in transition, USM played well enough to advance into the tournament for the first time in many years. Although the Huskies would eventually lose in the semi finals, Atwood noted, that season motivated the team, allowing it to grow.

As a junior, the Franklin native finally played goalie at USM, and although the squad was playing a tougher schedule, they hit the ground running that fall and never looked back, capturing their first ever regular season championship. USM went 17-4 (7-1 in the league) earning a position in the NCAA Division 3 national Championship for the first time in school history. The squad would also set records with the longest winning streak, most

goals, and most shutouts (Atwood would post 11) during a season.

Atwood would receive All Little East Conference accolades. She would also be named Conference Goalkeeper of the year posting a 28-8 record with a .922 goals against average and an .844 save percentage.

"That season was insane. The schedule was difficult, but as a team, we were clicking as a unit, we scored a ton of goals and were defending well," she said. "We just tore it apart last year, it was unbelievable. I, personally, didn't think that I made much of an impact, but I guess I was wrong after earning the honors I received."

Outside of her personal accolades, Atwood and the rest of the team were extremely proud of finally getting the best of Western Connecticut College, the team that the Huskies always found themselves on the short end of the score. In the Little East Championship, the players were not about to back down.

"They were intimidating, but we were not having it this year. The team was confident in my ability if the ball happened to get through our defense," Atwood said. "We all trusted one another, and that goes a long way on the field. We knew what we had to do and went out and took home a 3-1 win."

As she enters her senior season, Atwood, and the rest of the USM team obviously want a repeat of last year's performance. The Huskies, says Atwood, want to prove to all those people that last year wasn't a fluke and they deserved what they accomplished. With so many people looking down on the Huskies, the team is coming into the season with high expectations, and nothing is going to stop them.

Atwood has once again been named captain and is hoping that the other young women can come to her for support at any time. She is looking to lead them confidently on and off the field, and she's also building her own confidence with a goalie coach.

"I was happy with the way that I played last year but felt that having a coach can only help grow my skills," she said. "I am also eyeing the school's shutout record. (At the time of this writing Atwood found herself with 18 shutouts on her illustrious career at USM – the record sits at 19)."

Following the season, the senior plans to attend graduate school. Having gone through COVID, she still has one more year in which she could suit up for the Huskies, but after that, she wants to continue playing soccer in some fashion.

"I don't think that I can't stay away from soccer too long, so I'll probably end up joining some woman's league to give me a way to circle back," she said.

Before that happens, Atwood still has the remainder of the season and is a mere shutout away from tying the school record, and two away from owning it. She has not only impressed Huskies fans, but she has also done her hometown proud. After September, she was named the University of Southern Maine Student Athlete of the Month; currently has been named the Little East Conference goalkeeper of the month for three times so far and has led the Huskies to a 9-0-2 start (3-0 in the conference) while posting a .919 save percentage and a 0.47 goals against average. Atwood has also recorded her fifth shutout this season, giving her a career total of 20, breaking the 23-year-old record at the university.



# **November 2023 at the Franklin Public Library**

### **Library Hours**

The Library's hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. The Library will be closed November 11th for Veteran's Day. For the Thanksgiving Holiday, the library will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on November 22nd and closed on November 23rd.

# ESL & Adult Literacy Program

The Franklin Public Library has started an English as a Second Language and Adult Literacy Program to serve Franklin and its surrounding communities. Volunteers and students do not need to be Franklin residents. If interested, fill out the registration form on the library's website.

### Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

In our second year of providing free tax preparation assistance through the VITA IRS program the Franklin Public Library is looking for volunteers! While tax season starts in February; planning, training, and scheduling can begin today! To sign up or to find more informa-

tion please email Site Coordinator Mitzi Gousie at mgousie@minlib.net!

## **Special Events for Kids**

### Kids Take & Makes: Coffee Filter Turkeys! Available Wednesday, November 1st

SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED! Kits will be distributed on a first come first serve basis!

### Miss Bree's Bookopoly! Wednesday, November 1st – Saturday, December 30th

Roll the dice, move your piece on our giant board, and have fun with a variety of reading and creative challenges, and chances to win prizes galore!

### Hidden Mickey's Scavenger Hunt! Monday, November 13th – Saturday, November 18th

We're kicking off Mickey Mouse's Birthday Week with a special scavenger hunt!

### Mickey Mouse Birthday Bash! Saturday November 18th @ 1 p.m.

Mickey Mouse is turning 95! Join us for games, crafts, snacks, and more!

### Diwali Celebration! Sunday, November 19th, 2-3:30 p.m.

Join us for a special Diwali celebration for the whole family, including crafts, music, color, henna, and more!

### Santa StoryWalk! Saturday November 25th @ 10:30 a.m.

The Franklin Recreation Department and the Franklin Public Library are teaming up again for a cozy winter walk with our favorite Man in Red! Bundle up and meet us at DelCarte Park for a special story walk, followed by cookies and cocoa!

### Tween Jewelry Gift Workshop with PT Color Market! Wednesday Nov 29 @5:30 p.m. (Grades 3-5)

For kids in grades 3-5! Join Paulina Teng of PT Color Market for a special workshop! REG-ISTRATION REQUIRED!

### **Special Events for Teens**

### Teen Take & Makes: Chunky Knit Planter! Available Wednesday, November 1st

Kits will be distributed on a first come first serve basis! SUP-PLIES ARE LIMITED!

\*To keep things equitable teens must be present when picking up this craft.

### Miss Bree's Bookopoly! Wednesday, November 1st – Saturday, December 30th

Roll the dice, move your piece on our giant board, and have fun with a variety of reading and creative challenges, and chances to win prizes galore!

Musical Bingo: Movie Edition! Wednesday, November 15th @ 6:30 p.m. Join us for our new monthly Musical Bingo series! Part Bingo, part trivia, participants will listen to the music as it plays and fill in their bingo cards! This month's Bingo theme: Movie Soundtracks!

### Diwali Celebration! Sunday, November 19th, 2-3:30 p.m. (see listing above)

Teensgiving! Wednesday, November 22nd @11 a.m.

Teens! Join us in the teen room for a potluck celebration of thanksgiving!

## **Special Events for Adults**

### Bee-ginner Bee Keeping, Thursday November 9th 6 p.m.

No registration required.

Join MDAR Apiary Inspector Paul Tessier and learn all the steps to set up a hive at home in Massachusetts. Now is the time to start getting your supplies ready for the spring!

### Lotus Lantern Craft Tuesday, November 28th @ 6 p.m.

A Member of Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project will show us, step by step, how to make a lovely lotus flower lantern using colored paper and wire frames followed by a documentary film!

Adults and Teens please RSVP on the Library Calendar of Events.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Franklin

Celebrate Wrentham 350 at the

Franklin Historical Museum.

cultural council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

### **All Ages Events**

# Health Fair Wednesday November 8th @ 3 p.m.

Come join us for the Franklin Health Department's annual fall health fair from 3-6 p.m.! The event will include local vendors, health screenings, refreshments, kids' activities, raffles & freebies, and more!

# Winter Sing-Along with the Dean College Vocal Ensemble November 9th 12:30 p.m.

Families! Join us for a musical afternoon after a half-day of school! The Dean College Vocal Ensemble will perform a wide variety of musical selections at the Franklin Public Library! The program will feature winter carols you know and love with many more eclectic song choices from throughout history.

### Franklin Library Book Sale

Friday, November 17th, 1-5 p.m. Saturday, November 18th, 9 a.m. to Noon. All books are just one dollar!

Bag Sale - \$5 A Bag—Saturday, November 18th, from 1-4 p.m.

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We are pleased to host our neighbors and friends from Wrentham for our Second Sunday Speaker Series, November 12.

Wrentham has had a year-long celebration of the incorporation of the town in 1673. Ed Goddard, head of the Wrentham 350 Committee will share information on the committee formation, fundraising, merchandising and events over the past year.

Events throughout the year have included a Brunch at the Senior Center, St. Patrick's Day Celebration, William Sweatt Day, the town's Birthday Party on the common, their Grand Parade, the Time Capsule Burial and their upcoming Gala Ball sched-



uled for December at Lake Pearl Ballroom.

Ed will present photos of their various events, the ins and outs of planning, and hopefully share lessons learned.

Historians will know Franklin was once part of Wrentham, known as Wrentham's Western Precinct, before breaking off and establishing our own town in 1778. This event will be of interest to all who want to wish our neighbors a Happy Birthday and specifically to any civic minded folks from Franklin interested in learning more about Wrentham's celebration as we look ahead to our 250th in 5 years' time.

Help us give a warm welcome to our neighbors and join us Sunday November 12. Doors open 1 p.m. and presentation starts at 1:15. Admission is always free.

When attending a museum event, please consider donating a non-perishable food item to be collected at the museum and donated to the Franklin Food Pantry.

# 12th Annual Franklin Turkey Trot to Benefit Franklin Food Pantry

The Franklin Food Pantry is pleased to announce the 12th annual Franklin Turkey Trot, a 5K fun run to benefit The Pantry, will take place on Nov. 23, 2023, at 8 a.m. Walkers and runners of all ages and abilities are invited to register for the Thanksgiving morning tradition which begins and ends at 91 Jordan Rd., Franklin, Massachusetts. Runners will receive a light breakfast, and category medals and door prizes will be awarded following the race. Registration fees are \$25, with a family cap of \$100. Food donations are no longer accepted at the event. Proceeds from the race help provide supplemental food assistance and programs to those facing food insecurity. To register, visit www. franklinturkeytrot.org through Nov. 21, or register in-person at the race location on Nov. 22, between 7 and 9 p.m., or the morning of the race between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m.



Race day sponsors are needed to make this year's event a success. Funds received from sponsorships support The Pantry and cover costs associated with the event including the race registration company, timing technology, insurance, and security details. Sponsorship levels are:

- Presenting Sponsor \$2,000
- Platinum Sponsor \$750
- Gold Sponsor \$500
- Silver Sponsor \$250
- Friend Sponsor \$100
- Door Prize Sponsor



Runners take part in the 2021 Franklin Turkey Trot.

A complete list of sponsorship benefits is listed on The Pantry's website www.franklinfoodpantry. org. Potential sponsors are encouraged to sign up prior to Nov.

To date, the following organizations and individuals have graciously committed to sponsoring the event:

Platinum Sponsors: MyFM101.3, Next9Up, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Gold Sponsorship: Franklin Knights of Columbus #1847, Paul A. Longobardi & Sons Trucking

Silver Sponsorship: Franklin Matters, Vendetti Motors, Emmons LLC, Starr and Glick Orthodontists, Mike and Maureen Sabolinski, Nutrify Performance Nutrition for Women, LLC

For more information on the 12th annual Franklin Turkey Trot, please visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org.



Race participant Julia DiMarino dresses as a turkey at the 2021 Franklin Turkey Trot.

# Franklin Art November Meeting **Features Artist Brittany Haynes**



The Franklin Art Association welcomes Brittany Haynes to be the featured artist on November 1 at 6:30 p.m., at the Franklin Senior Center. Brittany is home from an artist in residence position in Europe. Inspired by Buddism and theater and influenced by John Singer Sargent, Johannes Vermeer and Japanese Painting, she endeavors to develop a style that combines impressionistic handling of paint with the detail of Classical Realism.

Haynes will be demonstrating her approach to oil painting in this style and will be open to





questions during her featured presentation. Meetings are free and open to the public at 6:30 p.m. The Franklin Art Associa-



tion is sponsored in part by the Franklin Cultural Council.



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# Franklin Food Pantry to Hold Annual Food Elves Campaign

# Middle and High School Students Encouraged to Volunteer

The Franklin Food Pantry, which provides supplemental food assistance and programs to more than 1,300 individuals each year, will hold the 18th annual Food Elves Campaign. This holiday season, middle and high school students will volunteer as Food Elves and solicit monetary donations for The Pantry in their neighborhoods and online.

The need for assistance is particularly high this year as The Pantry has seen a sharp increase in client registrations and visits since moving to its new location in the summer of 2023. In September, average weekly visits to The Pantry increased by 36 percent compared to the same month last year. By participating in the Food Elves Campaign, the community can help alleviate the rising demand and provide relief for individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

"The Food Elves Campaign was launched in 2005, and thanks to the dedication and volunteerism of hundreds of young adults and the generosity of Franklin residents, the program has grown into The Pantry's largest fundraiser of the year," said Tina Powderly, Executive Director, Franklin Food Pantry.

"Last year, more than 240 students raised over \$93,000, and we hope to exceed last year's number to meet the growing demand in Franklin and beyond."

In addition to helping address hunger, the Food Elves Campaign provides valuable opportunities for youth. Volunteering can help improve self-esteem, develop career skills and interests, build relationships, and educate teens on issues affecting their community. Individuals who are interested in becoming a Food Elf can register online and re-



ceive a detailed toolkit with instructions and guidance from a parent in their assigned district. Volunteers receive up to 12 community service hours. The deadline to sign up as an in-person Food Elf is Nov. 8, and Nov. 30 for an online-only Food Elf.

Franklin residents can expect to receive a purple Franklin Food Pantry donation envelope and collection instructions from their neighborhood Food Elf following the Thanksgiving holiday. Donations can also be mailed to The Pantry or made online. For more information about becoming a Food Elf or supporting the Franklin Food Pantry, please visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org.

# Camy 5K Run November 11th

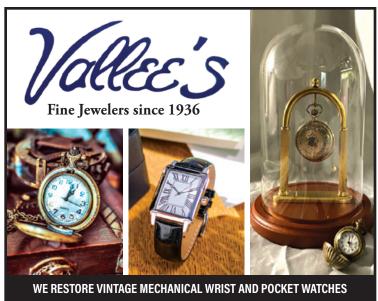
annual in-person USATFcertified Camy 5K Run & David 5K Walk will be held on Veterans Day Sat., Nov. 11, 2023, at the Walpole Italian-American Club, 109 Stone St., Walpole. The fundraising event benefits the Walpole Community Food Pantry, I-A Club/Society and the Carol Hunt-Clerici Chamber Music Series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

The 23rd consecutive nual in-person USATFrtified Camy 5K Run & athlete autographed items, avid 5K Walk will be held two raffles of gift certificates, athlete autographed items, clothing, gifts, etc.

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

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# FPAC to Present Hilarious Comedy Buyer & Cellar Starring Paul Rescigno

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will continue their 2023-24 season with the hilarious comedy *Buyer & Cellar* starring Paul Rescigno November 17-19 at THE BLACK BOX. Directed by Nick Paone.

Alex Moore has a story to tell. A struggling actor in L.A., he takes a job working in the Malibu basement of a beloved megastar. One day, the Lady Herself comes downstairs to play. It feels like real bonding in the basement, but will their relationship ever make it upstairs? Buyer & Cellar is an outrageous comedy about the price of fame, the cost of things, and the oddest of odd jobs. Winner of the 2014–2015 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Solo Show.

Paul Rescigno is a Los Angeles based actor who has previously performed on the FPAC stage in *Something Rotten!* (Nigel), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Gangster 2), and *Sweeney Todd* (Pirelli). He has written for *The Late Show with* 



David Letterman and appeared on TV in The Resident (FOX), The Other Two (HBO Max), Odd Mom Out (Bravo), Late Show with David Letterman (CBS), Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt (Netflix), Mozart in the Jungle (Amazon), Black Box (ABC). His theater credits include Boats And..., The Boys From Syracuse, and The Comedy of Errors. Rescigno studied at Shake-

speare's Globe in London and holds a BFA in Acting from Syracuse University. Along with his twin brother Robbie, he writes and performs their award-winning comedy show The Rescignos

FPAC is an Actors' Equity Small Professional Theater company based at THE BLACK BOX in downtown Franklin. Each season, FPAC produces musicals, plays, ballets, and more featuring Broadway stars, professional actors, local artists, and students of the arts. Later this season, FPAC will present *Bright Star*, an immersive *Tarzan* starring Broadway's original Tarzan Josh Strickland, and *August: Osage County*.

Content Warning: Buyer & Cellar contains some strong language. Buyer & Cellar runs November 17-19 at THE BLACK BOX. For tickets and more information, visit FPAConline.com or call the box office at 508-528-3370.

# **Franklin Senior Center Events for November**

- Lights, Camera, Action. Our Senior Players have their Fall Performance on Tuesday, November 7th and 14th at 11 a.m. They will be performing three short stories. Must Sign Up to Attend Free Performance!
- The Tri-County Legal and Protective Students will be presenting on how to prevent falling victim to scams on Wednesday, November 8th at 10:15 a.m.
- Join us as we partner with the Franklin Food Pantry and the YMCA for our MOBILE FOOD PANTRY on Wednesday, November 8th at 11 a.m.
- Alan Ames Thinks He's Funny and is coming to provide an hour of comedy. Be Prepared to Laugh on Wednesday, November 8th at 2 p.m.
- Interested in volunteerism?
   Come learn about Franklin's

- preschool (ECDC) Ambassador program with new Principal Andy Bernabei. Opportunities to volunteer in a classroom reading to children, helping with centers, or on the playground. Flexible schedule! A great opportunity to connect with young children and be a role model. Tuesday, November 14th at 9:45 a.m.
- Allies and Members of the LGBTQIA+ community are welcome to join us for an ice cream tasting with puzzles and games on Wednesday, November 15th at 6 p.m. Build connections and forge new friendships in a welcoming space designed to celebrate diversity!
- Join Suzanne Wamsley, Director of Youth and Community Engagement at the BAA, for an informal round table discussion on the Boston Marathon on Thursday, November 16th at 11 a.m.

- Monthly Party: Friendsgiving with live entertainment! Enjoy a delicious turkey meal, friendship, and music on Friday, November 17th at 11 a.m. \$6/person. Must Sign Up!
- Feel the beat, learn some new rhythms, and make friends at our Drum Circle. Drums and Percussions supplied or you can bring your own. Monday, November 20th at 11 a.m. \$3/ person. Must Sign Up!

SAVE THE DATE - Winter Wonderland: A Community Holiday Light Event on Thursday, December 14th 4:30-7 p.m. Come out for an evening of holiday cheer to see a display of beautifully decorated Holiday Trees and decor while enjoying live entertainment, hot cocoa & cookies, and a visit from Santa & Mrs. Clause! Fun for the whole family!

# Next Friends of Franklin Elders Meeting November 17th

The Friends of Franklin Elders, Inc. (FOFE) is a private, non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide funds for programs, services, and equipment for the Franklin Senior Center that cannot be provided by state or local government. The Friends raise funds through membership fees, donations, and special events to promote activities and services that benefit elders in Franklin and to purchase needed accessories, equipment or furnishings for the Senior Center. You can support the Franklin Senior Center by joining the Friends of Franklin Elders, Inc. (FOFE) at \$10 for Franklin seniors and \$20 for Franklin non-seniors or out-of-town seniors. To join, just mail

your donation to: FOFE, 10 Daniel McCahill Street, Franklin, MA 02038.

All are invited to join in FOFE meetings at 9:30 a.m. at the Franklin Senior Center. Upcoming meetings are planned for: November 17, 2023, December 15, 2023, January 26, 2024, February 23, 2024, March 22, 2024, April 26, 2024, and May 24, 2024.

The Friends of Franklin Elders will be planning their Second Annual Winter Wonderland for December 14th, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin. (snow date: Dec. 18th)

For more information, call (508) 520-4945.

# Real Estate Corner



# Real Estate Corner



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# Franklin Knights to Hold Christmas Card Drive

The Knights of Columbus (Sacred Heart Council, Franklin MA) is holding our annual Christmas Fundraiser at St. Mary Church in Franklin, MA for those who are "in need". All proceeds will benefit the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The

Knights will have a table set up outside the church after Mass on Saturday, December 10th and Sunday, December 11th. They will be selling Stop & Shop gift cards (5% of sale benefits St. Vincent).

In recognition of significant

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

ONLINE GIVING OP-TION: If people would prefer to contribute online, please visit our Website https://kofc1847. org/food-card-drive-donations. Online orders will accept Credit Cards. On the website there will be a link(s) to Donate Food Cards

- Christmas Food Card Drive. (Please note that the website will accept donations for this food card drive from November 15th until December 15th.)

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

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# **Seth Giler Returns to** Franklin's Circle of **Friends**

Seth Glier returns to the Circle of Friends Coffeehouse on Saturday, November 18th. He is a seasoned troubadour, a singer-songwriter, producer and multi-instrumentalist who averages over 250 live performances annually. He's shared the stage with artists as diverse as James Taylor, Ani DiFranco, Edwin McCain, Martin Sexton, Emmylou Harris and Ryan Adams, and has quickly become known for his passionate live sets and powerful command of both piano and guitar.

His new album Everything is a collection of eight songs inviting us to imagine a future in which humans and the planet are re-aligned into mutual restoration. The album is an acknowledgement of the sacred connections that exist between all living things and is an active questioning of what might be possible collectively. Everything is a reminder that the future is something we always have an influence over.



The Circle of Friends Coffeehouse is a non-profit organization affiliated with Franklin's First Universalist Society. Concerts are presented in a smoke free and alcohol-free environment at the Society's handicapped accessible Meetinghouse, 262 Chestnut St. in Franklin, and begin at 8 p.m.; doors open at 7:30 p.m. Beverages and gourmet desserts will be available. Please visit https:// www.circlefolk.org/ for more information.



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**Hot Chocolate Mix** • Toothpaste



For more information on high priority needs, please contact me at lorrainekuney@gmail.com or check the Franklin Food Pantry website: www.franklinfoodpantry.org

# Everyone Have a Safe & Happy Thanksgiving!



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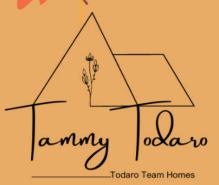
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