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January 2024

Children's Museum of Franklin to Foster Fun, Learning & Connection

By J.D. O'GARA

A place children can discover, imagine, and grow, through play and exploration – closer to home. The Children's Museum of Franklin, an idea sparked by Franklin Moms Erin Gallagher and Meg Hagen, is gaining momentum. The newly approved 501 c3 nonprofit aims to, eventually, secure a permanent location in downtown Franklin. Even without a location, however, the children's museum is planning a pop-up museum to be held on a bi-weekly basis in the new year in Franklin and surrounding towns.

"Once we acquire a permanent space, we'll build exhibits for children aged 10 and under, with classroom and lab space for additional programming, STEM programming for elementary and middle school-aged kids, and leadership/internship opportunities for high school and college students," says Hagen.



Franklin Moms, professionals, volunteers, and visionaries Meg Hagan, left, and Erin Gallagher, right, shown with their little ones, have created the Children's Museum of Franklin, a new 501 c3 organization that will hold pop-up Indoor Mobile Museums around Franklin until it raises funds to land a permanent location in downtown Franklin. Photo by Kyle Daudelin Photography.

The idea for the children's museum began, say the founders, as a shared dream.

"Meg and I were at a mutual friend's house for brunch in June, talking about the Davis Thayer location as our original dream location," says Gallagher; "We laughed about it, but

when we left, we said, 'Let's really do this.' Between us, Meg and I have five young kids, all seven years and younger. We are pursuing this with the goal of creating a common space for kids to learn and

MUSEUM

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Despite Low Poverty Statistics, Area Food Insecurity on the Rise

By J.D. O'GARA

January is National Poverty Awareness Month. Although compared to the national average of U.S. residents living in poverty in 2022, (11.5% according to the U.S. Census), just around one in 20 in local towns such as Bellingham (5.1%) and Franklin (4.6%) live in poverty.

One might assume that these low-income residents are the ones accessing local food pantries, but according to Tina Powderly, Executive Director of the Franklin Food Pantry, food insecurity, which is on the rise, isn't solely tied to income.

Although the sheer number of registered households accessing the Franklin Food Pantry has risen (for example, 523 registered Franklin families in FY22 to 534 so far this year, and 29 registered Bellingham families in FY22 compared to 45 so far this year) a good indicator food insecurity is rising is that folks are visiting the food pantry more often, with a 27% increase in visits from November 2022 to November 2023.

This year's MetroWest Health Foundation's 2023 Metrowest

Community Health Assessment, in fact, lists "Food Insecurity" and "Housing Insecurity and Homelessness" among the top five reported community concerns for the first time in the past decade.

"Shelter is, on the average, a household's biggest expense, and that's true wherever you fall on the income bracket. Housing inflation is a real struggle folks face, as well as a rising cost of groceries, say Powderly." Families, she says, must decide between paying for housing and paying for groceries.

"Food insecurity is just not an issue simply faced by folks that have economic insecurity," says Powderly. "It's really one social determinant of health. There's a whole host of non-medical factors, including housing, job security, education, and income." Although combatting food insecurity is the pantry's mission, it also can connect its users to resources aimed at improving other factors.

In fact, the Metrowest survey listed Mental Health as this year's

POVERTY

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MUSEUM

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play both for our children and their peers—a spot where people can build community and foster connections, and really grow together. Having raised kids, especially through the pandemic, so many of our kids lost out on connection. This is an opportunity to bring that back.”

The closest children’s museums, about 45 minutes away, routinely draw patrons from an hour away. A Children’s Museum in the heart of town “would increase the vitality of the downtown and the pull of the community,” says Hagen. Drawing families to “the downtown space would support the local economy and local businesses. We want to give back to the town.”

Both women, who’ve previously worked together as founding members of local support group Franklin Area Moms, already make supporting the town a priority.

Erin, a mom of three young children with a marketing and communications background, is currently Franklin Area Moms President. She also serves on the Franklin School Committee, is a member of the Franklin Master

Plan Committee and is a volunteer foster care case reviewer for the Department of Children and Families.

Meg, a native of Raynham with a doctorate in pharmacy who lived five years abroad in Australia before settling in Franklin, holds a seat on the Franklin Conservation Commission and the Franklin Master Plan Committee. In the last several years, Meg has also taught preschool at the Franklin Children’s School on top of being a mom to two young sons.

Facilitating Franklin Area Moms “gave us a sense of running a nonprofit, working with boards, building a network, and building a community,” says Meg, “A lot of our mission and vision includes working in partnership and collaboration throughout the community.” The two have enlisted elementary and early childhood education consultants for their board to design what the children’s museum will look like, as well as an occupational therapist to ensure that space is inclusive for children of all abilities and sensory needs. In their planning process, they’ve sought feedback from various members of Town Council and officials from the Town, Dean College, and Franklin Public Schools.

Although exhibit space will be designed for 10 and under, The Children’s Museum of Franklin plans to offer clubs and programming through middle school, perhaps even supplementing an area of need. “School budget issues have come up in one of the

areas they had to cut for the time being – the funding for middle school clubs. We would love to be able to offer some programming for those gaps,” says Erin. One of the first programs they’re planning to roll out will be “Lean in Girls,” which aims to empower young girls as they transition from middle school years into high school.

A lack of space isn’t stopping the two. The partners have looked to Tri-county Regional Vocational Technical High School carpentry students to build mobile exhibits for their pop-up Indoor Mobile Museum at different venues around town.

“They’re building these really cool car ramps,” says Erin, “The students are really excited that what they’re building is going to make a lasting impact on the community.”

The Children’s Museum of Franklin has the following Pop-Up Indoor Mobile Museum events planned, with more to come:

- January 21, 2023, Franklin Elks, 1-4 p.m., 1077 Pond St., Franklin
- February 10, 2023, Downtown Sports, 3-6 p.m., 240 Cottage St, Franklin
- February 19, 2023, Downtown Sports, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., 240 Cottage St., Franklin

Of course, fundraising will be essential to making this dream happen, and the duo have a four-part strategy that includes:



Students in the carpentry program at Tri-County have worked on mobile exhibits for the Children’s Museum of Franklin.

- A Founding Families program: Those local families that provide a minimum \$1,000 donation will be featured permanently on Children’s Museum of Franklin website and later, in the future permanent space.
- Grassroots fundraising: The Children’s Museum will host various fundraising events, such as a gala dinner coming up in late February, early March.
- Corporate Fundraising: Hagen and Gallagher will reach out to potential corporate funders.
- Grants: Now that the Children’s Museum of Franklin is an official 501 c3 nonprofit, the founders can apply for grants on the state and federal level, as well as to various foundations, depending on the space it finds.

To learn more or to become involved, visit the Children’s Museum of Franklin’s website, Childrensmuseumoffranklin.org, as well as their Facebook and Instagram pages.

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top community concern, a problem exacerbated by instability.

“An individual who’s food insecure is much more likely to experience mental health stressors,” she points out, and these folks face larger barriers to expensive mental health services. “It’s not necessarily that you’re hungry at any hour of the day. It’s a lack of consistent access to enough food for the people in your house to live a healthy life. That’s how the USDA defines food insecurity. One of the things we try to do in this space is reduce the stigma and anxiety that comes with experiencing food insecurity with an atmosphere that feels very warm, like a grocery store.”

The Franklin Food Pantry can connect patrons to other resources, she says, but “part of the job is getting them in the door, so they feel safe. It takes time to convince them to try the resources that help them. It could be a social worker at Franklin Public School for a child, the weekend backpack program, or the SHINE counselor at the Senior Center. We can be a point of reference, and all of these issues are so interconnected. Certainly, economic insecurity is a factor in food insecurity, but we see the whole breadth of humanity here ... Chances are high if you volunteer here for any period of time, you’ll come across someone you know.”

For information on the Franklin Food Pantry, visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org.

For more information on the Metrowest Health Foundation and its recent 2023 Metrowest Community Health Assessment, visit <https://mwhealth.org>.

12th Annual Franklin Turkey Trot Raises \$48,000 for the Franklin Food Pantry



The Franklin Food Pantry, which provides supplemental food assistance and programs, announces that a record-breaking \$48,000 was raised by more than 1,000 runners and 60 sponsors at this year’s annual Turkey Trot held on Thanksgiving Morning, Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023. The fundraising supports programs and services that assist more than 1,300 individuals and families and surpasses last year’s fundraising effort of \$37,000. Organized in conjunction with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Franklin, this is the twelfth year for the family-friendly fun run, which welcomed participants of all levels and abilities.

“Fundraising events like the Turkey Trot help provide The Pantry with much-needed funds to purchase nutritious food and essential goods for neighbors in need,” said Tina Powderly, Executive Director of the Franklin Food Pantry. “We are grateful to all who participated in this year’s fun run and our wonderful sponsors who raised nearly \$18,000 to benefit the Franklin Food Pantry.”

The Franklin Food Pantry is grateful for the following organizations and individuals who served as this year’s race sponsors:

Platinum Sponsors: MyFM 101.3, LDS Church Franklin, Next9Up, Physician One, bLuxe, G&C Plumbing and Heating, Notturo Plumbing and Heating, Terrazza, Raillery Public House, Middlesex Bank.

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of Columbus, Mount Street Farm, Eagle Stainless Tube, Dean Bank, Spiffy Designs, Vet-Med Pet Supplies, Franklin Pizza and Deli.

Silver Sponsors: Franklin Matters, The Baur Family, Mint Dental, Keefe Insurance, Simons, Vendetti Motors, Emmons St. LLC, Starr and Glick Orthodontics, The Adirondack Club, Hilltop Auto, The Sabolinski Family, Grove Street Auto Repair, Nutfy Performance Nutrition for Women, LLC, Custom Kitchens, Gloria Meredith Photography, Xpressions Print, Accurate Baker Elman.

Friends Sponsors: Donahue Family, Chestnut Dental, Bradosky Family, DRR Contracting, Pool Pals, Lobo Family, Campbell Family, Tait/Shimer/Shanks Family, Fitzgerald Family, Schmitt Family, Whitmore Family, O’Neill Family, Franklin Interfaith Council, Van Roon Chiropractic, Johnson Family, Zicherman Family, Powderly Family, Bergen Family, Normandin Family, Wicked Fitness Franklin,



Sompally Family, and Sancher Family.

The Franklin Food Pantry thanks the following local businesses and partners who provided food for race day morning: BJ’s Wholesale Club, Elizabeth’s Bagels, Garelick Farms, Shaw’s Supermarket, Stop & Shop Supermarket.

The Franklin Food Pantry thanks the following local businesses and partners who provided door prizes for the event: Franklin Honey, Allegra Marketing, Aubrey Greene Photography, Julie Arace Photography, Learning Express Toys, Showcase Dance Photography, Luna’s Flower Shop, The Rome Restaurant, PT Color Market, Wicked Fitness, Target, Elizabeth’s Bagels, K Cooks, 3 Restaurant, Mama Barba’s Bake Shop, The Chateau, Fiori & Fern, Altitude Trampoline Park, Level 99, Muffin House, Kevin Holmes, Molly’s Apothecary, Robert Wadley, and The Stott Family.

For more information on the Franklin Food Pantry, to receive food assistance, or to donate funds and food, please visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org.



About the Franklin Food Pantry, Inc.

The Franklin Food Pantry, Inc. offers supplemental food assistance and household necessities to more than 1,300 individuals per year. The Franklin Food Pantry is not funded by the Town of Franklin. The Pantry partners with several organizations including the Greater Boston Food Bank to achieve greater buying power and lower costs. Donations and grants fund food purchases, keep lights on, and put gas in the Pantry truck. Programs include home delivery, a weekend backpack program for Franklin school children, mobile pantries, emergency food bags, and holiday meal packages. The Pantry is located at 341 W. Central St. in Franklin, Massachusetts on Route 140. Visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org for more information.

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BFCCPS Celebrates Foreign Language Week

By JENNIFER RUSSO

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School (BFC-CPS) in Franklin prides itself on enabling students to have an education that is well rounded, incorporating not only standard academic classes, but also a strong focus on visual arts, music, athletics, and foreign languages. Students begin learning French in Kindergarten and by the time they reach high school, have received the equivalent of a French I high school level course. In sixth grade, students also begin learning Latin, which gives them a sturdy base for upper-level grammar and prepares them, should they choose, for Latin II when entering ninth grade.

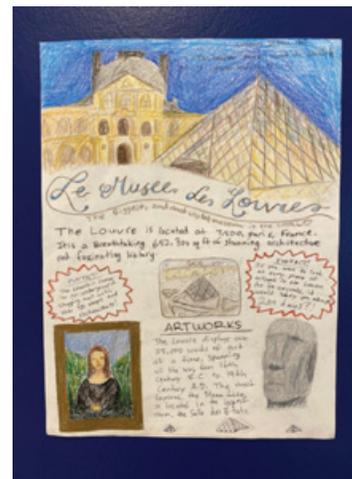
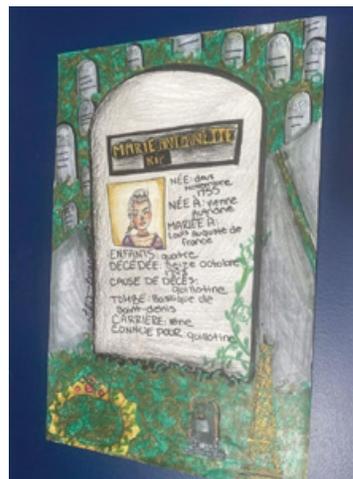
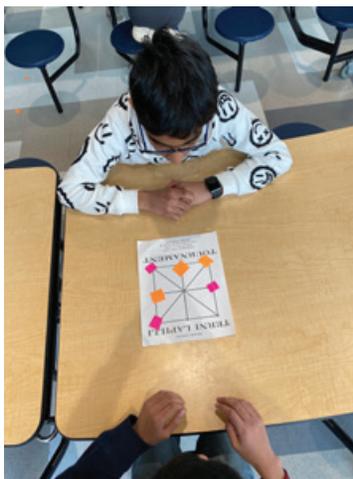
To solidify the languages and culture even more, the school celebrated Language Week during the month of December. This includes a Language Night, where French and Latin teachers organized a cultural celebration with live music and tasty treats, and where younger

students were able to participate in language learning strategies led by the eighth-grade students. There were also French themed school lunches, a language question of the day, A Terni Lapilli (an ancient strategy board game) tournament for the upper grades and students were encouraged to wear clothing in the colors of the French flag.

Additionally, sixth through eighth grade students created visual projects highlighting French monuments and tombstones, and posters featuring cultural French facts, Latin etymology, and classical mythology for the school to enjoy and learn from.

In April, the school's seventh grade class will be taking a group field trip to Quebec, where they will be able to actively use their language skills and immerse themselves in the French culture even more.

To learn more about BFC-CPS, its Language Arts curriculum and events, visit their website at www.bfccps.org.



Last month, Language Night at BFCCPS celebrated French culture and gave younger students the opportunity to practice language skills with older students. At the charter school, children begin learning French in Kindergarten, and in sixth grade, Latin.



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Dean College Announces New Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

Dean College is pleased to announce Thomas Pistorino as Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. Pistorino will oversee all financial operations and strategies to support the College's academic mission.

With over 30 years of experience in financial leadership roles in both the nonprofit and corporate sectors, Pistorino has deep knowledge of all aspects of higher education finance and administration. He joins Dean from CBIZ & MHM, LLC, where he created an advisory practice dedicated to improving financial operations of higher education clients throughout the northeast. Previously, Pistorino held chief financial officer positions with Lesley University and Regis Col-

lege. In those roles, he led innovative processes to both diversify revenue and reduce operating expenses.

"Tom is highly regarded for his expertise in transformative change, strategic planning, complex financial modeling, process improvement, enterprise risk management, and particularly around shared services and system implementation," said Mark D. Boyce, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "We are looking forward to working with him as he brings his perspective to Dean College."

Pistorino is replacing Kathleen McGuire who is retiring from a 30-year career at Dean College. During her time at the College, McGuire held a variety

of financial positions. Most recently serving as vice president of financial services and treasurer, she has led continuous improvements to Dean College's financial operations.

"I am grateful for Kathy's work during her transition toward retirement," added Dean College President Kenneth Elmore. "Tom will be able to hit the ground running with us in the new year, and his background will add immeasurably to the College's strategic operations."

Pistorino began his career as an accountant for a small computer company where he was responsible for implementing accounting applications for clients. This work led to a move to Canam Steel Corporation

in 1988, where he rose from regional controller to vice president and general manager for the northeast to vice president of business development for North America. Pistorino left Canam in 1995 and provided management consultant services through the Gerard Group. While at Gerard, he created growth strategies and technology solutions for clients across diverse industries. In 1997, Pistorino made the shift to higher education, joining Fisher College as its comptroller. While at Fisher, he helped drive the transformation of the school from a two-year women's college to a four-year co-educational university. In 2001, Pistorino joined Regis College and created a five-part strategy to move Regis from

an undergraduate women's college to a co-educational university. Pistorino became CFO of Lesley University in 2019, focusing on process reengineering and system integration. In early 2020, he successfully pivoted to ensure the college could overcome the challenges of the pandemic.

Pistorino will join the Dean College community in January 2024.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to join Dean College and for the trust placed in me by the Board of Trustees and the hiring committee," Pistorino said. "I am looking forward to working with President Kenneth Elmore and his leadership team and to becoming part of The Dean Difference."

First Universalist Society to Present Talk on Power of Words

What We Say Matters: A Timely Conversation Exploring the Power of Words to Shape Others and a Person's Own Behavior

January 7, 2024 - 10 a.m.

First Universalist Society in Franklin
262 Chestnut Street, Franklin MA

Dr. Drew Bogner, President Emeritus of Molloy University, and a lay member of the First Universalist Society in Franklin, will speak about the power of words and phrases to shape the behavior of others and ourselves. He will incorporate the research of Dr. Masuru Emoto on the impact of negative and positive words, and share conversations he has had on this topic with individuals ranging from Buddhist monks to Paul Rusesabagina of Hotel Rwanda. In the second part of the service, Drew will focus on how what we say to ourselves can influence how we experience the world. This includes how we can respond to caustic, hateful, and demeaning language that others use.

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

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January is National Blood Donor Month

By J.D. O'GARA

The first month of the year marks a national awareness month for blood donation. According to the American Red Cross, someone in the United States needs blood every two seconds, with over 29,000 units of red blood cell donations needed every day. Blood and platelets cannot be manufactured, but nearly 5,000 units of platelets and 6,500 units of plasma are needed daily in the U.S. January is a critical time for blood donations, which often decline in November and December as people become busy with the holiday season.

On August 7, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) modified blood donor eligibility guidelines. For the first time in 40 years, blood donor eligibility will be evaluated independent of sex, gender, or sexual orientation, allowing more people will have the opportunity to donate blood. Screening questions on sexual orientation, which prevented gay and bisexual men from donating blood, have been eliminated.

The American Red Cross notes that in most states, donors must be at least 17 years old in most states (16 with parental consent), healthy, and weigh at least 110 lbs. In fact, less than 38% of the U.S. population is eligible to give blood. Some may be turned away due to illness such as the common cold, being on a particular medication, low iron or having recently traveled outside the United States.

Type O-negative blood and Type AB positive plasma can be transfused to patients of all blood types. Both are always in demand and often in short supply. Donors must wait 56 days before each whole blood donation, although they can donate platelets every seven days, up to 24 times a year.

Want to give blood? Here are some local blood drives this month.

• Saturday, January 6, 2024

20th Annual Gary Mirliss Memorial Blood Drive, in participation with Brigham, Women's Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Children's Hospital Boston, and Massachusetts General Hospital, King Philip Middle School, 18 King Street, Norfolk, Mass., 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Appointments at https://donor.kraftfamilyblood-donorcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/3371

• Thursday, January 11, 2024

Franklin Elks, 1077 Pond Street, Franklin, MA 02038

1-6 p.m., www.redcrossblood.org

• Friday, January 12, 2024

The Adirondack Club, 800 Chestnut St., Franklin, MA 02038

1-6 p.m., www.redcrossblood.org

• Monday, January 15, 2024

Blake Middle School, 24 Pound Street, Medfield, MA 02052

8 a.m. – 2 p.m., www.redcrossblood.org

• Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Milford Regional Medical Ctr., 14 Prospect Street, Milford, MA 01757

9 a.m. – 2 p.m., www.redcrossblood.org

• Friday, January 19, 2024

Encompass Fitness, 27 Milliston Road, Millis, MA 02054

1-6 p.m., www.redcrossblood.org

• Saturday, January 20, 2024

Saint Mary's Parish, 8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746

8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., www.redcrossblood.org

• Tuesday, January 23, 2024

The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, 91 Jordan Road, Franklin, MA 02038

1-6 p.m., www.redcrossblood.org

• Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Milford Regional Medical Center, 14 Prospect Street, Milford, MA 01757

1-6 p.m., www.redcrossblood.org

• Thursday, January 25, 2024

Franklin Elks, 1077 Pond Street, Franklin, MA 02038

1-6 p.m., www.redcrossblood.org

• Sunday, January 28, 2024

Milford Regional Medical Ctr., 14 Prospect Street, Milford, MA 01757

8 a.m. – 1 p.m., www.redcrossblood.org

The above is just a sampling of local blood drives, but you can also donate blood or platelets blood or platelets at Boston Children's Hospital Blood Donor Center at 333 Longwood Ave. in Boston, as well as the Blood Donor Center at Massachusetts General Hospital, 55 Fruit Street, Boston.

You can also visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's "Giving=Living" website to find a local blood drive at <https://www.hhs.gov/givingequalsliving/giveblood/start-donating>.

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Not Just for Newcomers . . .

Save the date the Franklin Newcomers and Friends Club welcomes you to join us at our next bi-monthly gathering on Wednesday, February 7th. Our speaker Owen Folsom, a financial advisor, will share his expertise on topics like Long Term Care, 529 college funds, the importance of life insurance and more.

The Franklin Newcomers and Friends meet at Escape Into Fiction Book Store, 12 Main Street in Franklin at 7 p.m. Come early and shop at this gem of a bookstore . . . in addition, you'll meet new friends, learn new things and have fun. We provide light refreshments from Franklin restaurants. We are a multi-generational, member-driven organization and are always excited to welcome new faces and

new ideas. Residents of Franklin, or any surrounding town that doesn't have a Newcomers Club, are welcome to join us. In addition to our bi-monthly meetings, we hold fun and varied events to stay connected throughout the year. Look for us on social media for more information: <https://www.meetup.com/franklin-newcomers-friends/> <https://www.facebook.com/Franklin-NewcomersFriendsClub>.



Model Train Exhibit Continues through Mid-January

If you haven't had a chance to see the H-O Scale model train exhibit at the Franklin Historical Museum, you have until Sunday, January 14th. Don't miss your chance to experience a look back at what life on the rails looked like in Franklin circa 1932.

Our Second Sunday Speaker Series will feature a double header. Joe Landry will present a talk on the history of the Thomson Press Building and the companies that previously occupied the building. The building is one of the meticulously reproduced structures in the diorama presently on display at the museum. A follow up presentation will be

given by commission member and creator of the train exhibit, Scott Mason, on the process of producing his historically accurate display. The presentations will be followed by a Q&A session. If you love the hobby and the craft, this is a great opportunity to speak with a local master.

The museum is open Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. Our Second Sunday Speaker Series, on Sunday January 14, will begin at 1:15. Admission and events are always free and open to the public. When visiting the museum, please consider a donation of a

non-perishable food item for the Franklin Food Pantry.



Ben Franklin Book Week Kicks Off at Franklin Historical Museum

The Town of Franklin's great claim to fame is that it is the first town named for the great 18th century polymath, Benjamin Franklin, born January 17, 1706. Ben Franklin, in his wisdom, repaid the compliment of the town with a generous gift of books which the town's people turned into the first free public lending library in North America. The town's relationships to books and education was further cemented by Horace Mann, the "father" of American Public education, who educated himself in large part through the books donated by Ben. The library's future was sustained by people like Oliver Dean, who also founded Dean Academy (now Dean College). In addition, thanks to this 'learned core' of people and books, a number of important authors and writers have called Franklin home.



Today, with the town's growth and a renewed focus on arts and culture, our literary and library past should be celebrated and our embrace of and support for those who write, whether they be poets, novelists, essayists, historians, or humorists – and those who appreciate their words, whether through reading, listening, or performance, needs to be emphasized.

The Franklin Historical Museum is a lead sponsor of the new Ben Franklin Book Week, which will include a full public reading of Ben Franklin's autobiography, featuring volunteer readers on his birthday, Wednesday, January 17th. Many other events are planned that week at the museum and at our partners, the Franklin Public Library and Escape into Fiction Book Store. Watch the event website for details at www.benfranklinbookweek.com as well as the museum's Facebook page.

This inaugural BFBW is made possible by a grant from the Franklin Cultural District Committee. This will be the first of an annual event geared towards honoring our town's namesake and educating our community and students of the many contributions Ben Franklin made to our country as an ambassador and to the world as a printer, publisher and scientist.

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Franklin Cultural District Gets \$15k of \$810k State "Pie"

This article first appeared in and is used courtesy of The Franklin Observer, (<https://franklinobserver.town.news>)

By ALAN EARLS

At Gloucester Stage Company, Mass Cultural Council hosted an event with local and state officials and cultural partners to announce and celebrate \$810,000 in new grant funding to 54 state-designated cultural districts. These districts, located in host communities in every region of the Commonwealth, will receive awards from the Fiscal Year 2024 Cultural District Investment Grant Program. The grants are intended to encourage the development and success of the cultural districts and foster local cultural preservation.

Speakers and attendees at today's event celebrating \$810,000 in new grant funding to 54 state-designated cultural districts at Gloucester Stage Company.

"Using creativity as a foundation, our cultural districts have proven themselves as drivers of economic activity within communities," said Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director,

Mass Cultural Council. "With this investment, we're not only supporting the creative and cultural sector, but the communities that host cultural districts as they continue to leverage their unique character to attract visitors and support economic growth."

As the Commonwealth's independent state arts agency, Mass Cultural Council is charged with bolstering the creative and cultural sector; thereby advancing economic vitality, supporting transformational change, and celebrating, preserving, and inspiring creativity across all Massachusetts communities. The Agency pursues this mission through a broad range of programs, services, advocacy, and the equitable investment of public resources.

In this round, 54 cultural districts received \$15,000 each to support activities and goals such as marketing and promotion; capacity building; artist or vendor fees; the development or implementation of creative community placemaking or public art; collaborative cultural policy or



strategic planning processes; and community-engaged and informed data collection and/or reporting.

Established in 2011 by an act of the state Legislature, state-designated cultural districts drive economic growth, strengthen our communities' distinctive local character, and improve the quality of life for families across Massachusetts. By supporting cultural and creative experiences, cultural districts attract tourists and entrepreneurs, which in turn help cities and towns develop their cultural sector and expand their tax base. Cultural districts are navigable areas with a density of cultural facilities, activities, and assets. They act as hubs of cultural, artistic, and economic activity, and offer a place-based identity to collaborative community initiatives.

Representatives of Gloucester's two state-designated cultural districts, Rocky Neck and Harbortown, spoke at the event to detail the impact the grant will have in the community.

"Mass Cultural Council's Cultural District initiative has been a catalyst for collaboration among nonprofit arts organizations, individual artists and art makers, small businesses, and municipal leadership," said Christopher Griffith of the Rocky Neck Cultural District. "This investment has allowed Rocky Neck and Harbortown Cultural Districts to collectively invite residents and visitors from afar to join local artists in celebrating the culture surrounding Gloucester's harbor."

"As one of the few municipalities blessed to host two cultural districts in the Commonwealth, Gloucester has a unique and intimate understanding of the power of culture within our community," said Michael De Koster of the Harbortown Cultural District. "Whether in iconic Harbortown or historic Rocky Neck, our cultural dis-

tricts create economic stability and raise the quality of life for local residents, all while celebrating the creatives, artists, and cultural institutions that define Gloucester. The investment in the Massachusetts Cultural Districts is the driving force in our placemaking strategy, enabling a weekly summer Culture Splash community event that highlights our district to visitors and locals alike."

Mass Cultural Council was also joined by Gloucester Mayor Greg Verga and staff representatives for the offices of State Senator Bruce E. Tarr (R-Gloucester) and State Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D-Gloucester) to celebrate today's awards.

"Cultural programs, activities, initiatives and businesses not only enhance our quality of life, they are engines of our economy, driving it toward growth, economic development, and jobs," said Senator Bruce E. Tarr (R-Gloucester). "These

CULTURAL

continued on page 11

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Glenn Brown, CFP

Making New Year's resolutions to improve your financial wellness in 2024?

Do they look familiar to last year's?

As Ben Franklin repeatedly said, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail".

Let's help you start by recognizing questionable resolutions, including three destined for failure plus what should be considered for successful planning outcomes.

Bad Resolution: *Need to start buying "X" to grow my money.*

Before buying "X", how does fit into your investment strategy within your financial plan?

Over the last 4 years, crypto, I bonds, meme stocks and cash have had their shiny object moments with investors chasing

If to start 2023 one moved their investment strategy to cash based on 2022 performance of stocks and bonds, well... past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Yes, interest rates rose, and one could find ~4-5% CD's. Yet, through December 15, 2023 on Year-To Date returns, several equity indices have significantly outpaced, and certain bond indices have done as well or better.

Recall as treasury yields fall in anticipation of Federal Reserve action and/or economic outlook, bond funds and ETFs participate in this inverse relationship - interest rates fall, bond prices rise. When bond prices rise, this increases the value of bond funds/ETFs. Just like in 2022, when rates rose, value of bond funds/ETFs fell.

Better Resolution: *Need to save ___% and take ___ risk with investments to reach ___ goal.*

To truly build assets, you need to save a specific percentage each year, take opportunistic or measured (less) risks AND invest towards your established goal(s), not performance that occurred the year before or one market benchmark.

Bad Resolution: *Pay down debt.*

Sounds important, but is it? It depends. Tax deductions, interest rates, duration, fixed or

variable, inflation, deflation, depreciation, and impact to your future cash flow ensure all debt is not equal.

Better Resolution: *Execute a debt reduction plan.*

Access all debt, then prioritize on high-interest debt, variable rates, and unsecured. If down to a 3% or lower mortgage, 2% auto loans, and a MassSave at 0%, then maintain required payments, reap benefits of low, fixed rates in an inflationary environment and allocate towards investments outpacing those rates over time.

An exception, if not at ~40% home equity ownership, can make a case to get there and open a HELOC. Beyond flexibility to access equity built and lower total interest paid, can eliminate the opportunity costs of a large cash position for the "what ifs" in life.

Bad Resolution: *Do more for my retirement.*

Buy a lottery ticket, as greater chance of success than this vague "lose weight" resolution tossed by January 10th.

Better Resolution: *How do I retire at 55 or semi-retire in 5 years.*

Now you're analyzing cash flows, balance sheet, contribution rates, investment allocations, taxation, work benefits, college funding, planning for

the unexpected and desired lifestyle with expenses in retirement. You'll establish a set of base facts, allowing to then create scenarios, see projections, reverse engineer action steps, and track goals within timelines.

Aggressive timelines create urgency, leading to actions that bring you closer the ultimate retirement accomplishment - choice.

Now ask yourself, are your resolutions the same as last year?

What different actions are you going to take to make a difference?

Know what Einstein said about doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

Maybe it's time to socialize your goals, set monthly action items to create fresh start mo-

ments and leverage an accountability partner (i.e. Certified Financial Planner) to make your 2024 resolutions happen.

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™ helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.

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The Franklin Rotary Club of Franklin MA Plans 5th Annual Valentine's Brunch

Event Slated for February 10, 2024

The Rotary Club of Franklin MA is proud to announce that their annual Valentine's Brunch is slated for February 10, 2024.

All Franklin Senior's and residents of Franklin Housing Authority are welcome to join The Franklin Rotary Club as their special guests, for their 4th Annual Senior Valentine Brunch where seniors will be treated to a delicious, homemade Valentine's brunch.

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

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

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

If you would like more information about our organization or interested in attending a meeting, please contact Diane Padula at padularotary@gmail.com, and she will make arrangements for you to be a guest at one of Rotary's upcoming meetings. Rotary members meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at The Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central Street (Rte. 140), Franklin, MA. You may also visit our website: <http://portal.clubrunner.ca/3689>.

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CULTURAL

continued from page 8

grants are investments that will pay enormous dividends in the days ahead, and spur even more interest in this sector.”

“Cape Ann has a long history of cultural contributions to the Commonwealth, country, and world, especially from Rocky Neck, one of the oldest continuously operating art colonies in the United States. Our communities have inspired and trained many homegrown artists into the nation’s collective of American impressionists. At the same time, some of the nation’s best impressionists were drawn to Cape Ann because of the special illumination that its natural light had on Cape Ann’s land and seascapes,” said Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D-Gloucester). “Our artistic and cultural communities continue to offer tremendous potential to foster economic growth and preserve our unique cultural assets and traditions. With these grants, the Massachusetts

Cultural Council recognizes and celebrates the power of culture here on Cape Ann and across the Commonwealth.”

“Gloucester’s cultural districts, Harbortown and Rocky Neck, reflect our City’s celebrated arts community, rich heritage, and unique identity,” said Gloucester Mayor Greg Verga. “I am grateful for Mass Cultural Council’s continued support of Gloucester’s lively cultural districts. These hubs of culture and community play an important role in highlighting our character while attracting residents and visitors alike to attend cultural events or visit our local businesses.”

In the dozen years since the Massachusetts Cultural District Initiative was signed into law, the Agency’s governing Council has approved 55 cultural districts in communities statewide.

Working with staff dedicated to Mass Cultural Council’s Community Initiative, last year (FY23) our vibrant network of state-designated cultural districts reported on their economic impact, including:

- More than 1.3 million attendees to their programs and events
- More than 200 new businesses and/or organizations opened within their boundaries
- An increase in overall visitation
- Paying more than \$600,000 directly to local artists

The success of the Initiative is being noticed. In September the Massachusetts Cultural District Initiative received the 2023 Urbanism Award from the New England Chapter of the Congress for New Urbanism (CNU New England).

Mass Cultural Council is proud to partner with, celebrate, and support Massachusetts’ cultural districts. Cities or towns interested in learning more about the Initiative are encouraged to connect with their assigned Community Initiative staff member.

Charges Filed in Case of “Missing” 15-Year-Old

This article first appeared in and is used courtesy of The Franklin Observer, (<https://franklinobserver.town.news>)

When a 15-year-old Franklin, Mass. resident who had been missing since October 10th was found safe on October 21st, Franklin Police warned that there might be charges filed in the matter, and now that has happened, according to Deputy Police Chief James West.

Based upon the Police investigation, it appears the girl left her residence on October 10, of her own free will as a run-away. Eventually, after a tip reached the police, she was found at a residence in Hopkinton on October 21. While it appears she was not coerced, adults helped her and a juvenile apparently misled police.

The following charges were submitted this week relative to the case:

Alison Caruso (8/23/1975)
8 Independence Way, Apartment #124, Franklin, MA

- > C119 S63a/b Conceal/Harbor a Fleeing Child (Dedham Juvenile Court)
- > C119 S62-1 Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor (Dedham Juvenile Court)
- > C265 S13B Witness/Juror/Police/Court Official, Intimidate (Wrentham District Court)
- > C265 S13L Reckless Endangerment of Child (Wrentham District Court)

Andrew Conway 1/1/1966
5 Constitution Ct, Apt #410
Hopkinton, MA

- > C119 S63a/b Harbor/Conceal a Fleeing Child (Dedham Juvenile Court)
- > C119 S62-1 Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor (Dedham Juvenile Court)

An unnamed juvenile was charged with: C265 S13B Witness/Juror/Police/Court Official, Intimidate (Dedham Juvenile Court)

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College Application Decisions

This is the time of year when students start to hear back from their colleges. Congratulations to all the students who have received acceptances! Students are also receiving decisions where they have either been deferred, waitlisted, or denied, which is hard to not take personally, but think of it in this way, in 2023 UCLA received 145,900 applications and only accepted 12,780. So, focus on what can be done.

If you are ACCEPTED:

- If you have been accepted at your Early Decision college, which is a binding agreement, your decision has been made. You will need to withdraw all other applications immediately.
- For Early Action, Regular Decision, and Rolling Admission acceptances, you do not need to commit immediately. Carefully weigh the pros and cons of each college before you make your final decision.
- May 1st is National Decision Day, the final day that you can submit a non-refundable deposit to a college (except for early decision and transfer students).

- Many universities grant early priority status in housing and roommate selection for students who commit early.

If you are DEFERRED:

- A deferral means the college wants to review your application again with the regular decision pool of applicants. A deferral is not a rejection, and it does not mean there is something wrong with your application.
- There are generally 2 main reasons why a college issues a deferral. For some students, their senior year academic performance is critical in the college's decision, so 1st semester grades are needed. Second, the student falls in the middle of the pack academically and the college wants to compare the student's application to the overall applicant pool.
- The deferral letter will include the protocol for your next steps in the application process. The deferral letter may state that no further action is needed; however, some schools will allow additional materials to be submitted, such as a new

recommendation letter, an updated resume, test scores, or a Letter of Continued Interest (LOCI). When writing the LOCI be very college specific by citing exact reasons why you and XYZ University are a good match.

- Meet with your guidance counselor and ask for feedback. They often have good relationships with the college admission representatives and will be able to provide insight on how to best move forward.
- Finally, assess your current college list to determine if there are colleges on your list where you can already achieve your goals.

If you are WAITLISTED:

- If you are waitlisted, you have met the college criteria for acceptance, but the college is limited in spaces.
- If you are still interested in the college, accept the college's waitlist offer.
- You can also email your college admissions representative and express your interest in the college. Consider providing

additional recommendation letters or any new academic achievements to support your application review.

- Consider: According to NACAC (National Association for College Admission Counseling) 20% of all students who chose to remain on waitlists were ultimately admitted.

If you are DENIED:

- Give yourself time to grieve, especially if it was your dream school.
- You are still in the game. Review your college list and determine if you want to apply to additional colleges. Several colleges have Regular Decision deadlines on January 15, February 1 and 15. Additionally, ED II and EA II are options.
- Many schools would be thrilled to have you as a student, so review what college criteria are important to you and where you feel like you would genuinely fit in academically, socially, and financially. Collegeboard.org, Niche.com, and your high school's college platform are 3 useful resources to research



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

additional colleges.

- Be certain that the new additions are balanced with likely and probable admit schools. Remember, it is important to focus on what can be done, instead of dwelling on the "what ifs." The goal of the college process is to find and attend a college that is a right-fit for YOU where you will be happy- and with a little extra work you can accomplish this goal.

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

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Franklin Family Donates Hundreds of Books to Brigham & Women's Early Literacy Program



Franklin, MA residents Adrianna and Joe Costanzo know firsthand how to handle the unexpected curveballs that life can throw at you. Their son Anthony, now a healthy three-year old boy, spent four months in the NICU after he was born three months premature - just months after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic's safety precautions added another layer of complexity to baby Anthony's NICU stay at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Adrianna and Joe couldn't visit him at the same time, they had to be masked, and their family couldn't meet the baby yet.

"It was tough, but everyone made us feel comfortable and were so caring, all the way from the nurses and doctors to the security guards at the front desk," said Adrianna. The experience was tough for them, but the care from the staff helped them to feel more comfortable.

During that time, the new parents found that regularly reading aloud to Anthony helped them bond as a family and offered a reprieve from the uncertainty that accompanies having a baby in the NICU.

"Early on, when we couldn't hold him because he was so tiny, the nurses suggested opening up the sides of the incubator so he could hear our voices," Adrianna said. "I would adjust the chair, so I was right next to him and read. If he was having a bad day, I swear, hearing our voice or reading a book, helped calm him down; and it calmed us down too." Anthony's favorite book, then and now, is Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site



Adrianna and Joe Costanzo, of Franklin, shown here with their son, Anthony, born three months early, have given back to Brigham & Women's NICU by donating 332 books to an early literacy and reading initiative known as the Brigham Baby Academy (BBA).

With the holidays around the corner, the family wanted to do something to support families who are in the NICU now. Joe and Adrianna invited their friends and families to purchase children's books and recently donated 332 books, each with a special message on the back, for parents to read to their newborns. Anthony, who is still an enthusiastic reader, was there to help his parents drop off the books.

This was their first gift, but the family hopes to make the drive an annual event and aims to double the number of books donated next year. The donation is a critical contribution to the hospital's early literacy and reading initiative at Brigham's NICU known as the Brigham Baby Academy (BBA).

"With the specific book that they get, I hope the parents will always remember reading that book to them just like we did with Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site. Whenever I read that to him now, I'll think back to when he was in the NICU. It makes you feel so grateful to be able to look at your child, no matter what the situation is, and be able to say 'Hey, my son or daughter is home with me right now and I'm reading to him.'" The donation is a critical contribution to the hospital's early literacy and reading initiative at Brigham's NICU known as the Brigham Baby Academy (BBA), founded by neonatologist Dr. Carmina Erdei. For more information about the initiative, visit <https://www.longwoodcollective.org/news/brigham-baby-academy>.

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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

“Can you squeeze me in?” Sure we can!

BY GINA WOELFEL

Even though “squeeze” is not our preferred term at b.LUXE to describe how we work your appointment into our schedule; it is what we do. “Squeeze” may imply that your appointment is rushed or lacks attention to detail, but that’s never the case. We understand how important your hair is to your self-confidence and know that you want to look and feel your best.

Clients often wait to book an appointment because they’re uncertain about their schedules or when their hair needs servicing. These are entirely valid reasons to delay booking. However, if you need a last-minute appointment, stylists often book out weeks in advance, and it can be challenging to find larger blocks of time for colors and cuts.

As much as we’d like to wave a magic wand and create your desired appointment, it may not be possible with your regular hair stylist. But fret not! With our creative scheduling, we can slide you into our rotation with the same high-quality service, regardless of your last-minute booking.

At b.LUXE, our stylists are categorized into four levels: training stylists, junior stylists, stylists, and senior stylists. If you’re unable to book an appointment with your regular provider, there’s no need to worry. You can always choose to receive services from another stylist without feeling uncomfortable. In fact, we encourage it! We believe in working together as a team and never refer to clients as “mine” or “yours,” only “ours.” If you have to book with someone else or even a hairdresser who’s at a different level, our junior staff works under the supervision of our senior stylists. They’ll have all the details from your last visit, which we meticulously record every time you have your hair done. So, if you’re flexible with whose chair you sit in, we can easily fit you in.

b.LUXE offers the most comprehensive educational experience to graduates and students close to completing their cosmetology studies in Massachusetts. Every Monday, we provide hands-on education in the salon to ensure that our assistants receive practical training to get them on the floor as soon as possible.

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We can also offer you two separate appointments with two different stylists on the same day or, if needed, on two separate days. This flexibility is particularly helpful for important occasions when two mini-appointments are the perfect solution. We maintain an active waitlist and cancellation list that are updated daily, so it’s essential that we have your most up-to-date contact information on file.

What we hope you take away from this month’s Beauty Beat is that with a little bit of communication and some flexibility, we can help you get your hair done and love how it looks!

We are delighted to share that our studio has had its most successful year to date in 2023, and we cannot wait to reveal what we have in store for you in next month’s Beauty Beat (It’s Galentine’s Day!!!) We owe our success to our amazing clients and readers who have always supported us, and we hope to give back to you even more in 2024!

Happy New Year!
The b.LUXE Beauty Team

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Tri-County Seniors Receive John and Abigail Adams Scholarships

Fifty-nine members of the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical HS Class of 2024 recently were notified that they are recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. The prestigious award provides tuition assistance to those attending four and two-year Massachusetts colleges and universities.

Adams Scholarship eligibility is determined on MCAS performance. Nearly 27% of the Class of 2024 received the honor meaning in Grade 10 they attained “advanced” performance in at least one of the three major categories (English Language Arts, Math, STE: Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics or Technology/Engineering.

In addition, the recipients must have attained proficient status in the remaining two assessments.

“The entire Tri-County community is proud of these students for attaining this prestigious honor,” Superintendent Dr. Karen Maguire said. “It is a testament not only to them and their hard work but our faculty and staff for putting them in a position to succeed.”

Tri-County proudly services the communities of Franklin, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Norfolk, North Attleboro, Plainville, Seekonk, Sherborn, Walpole and Wrentham. For more, visit the school online at www.tri-county.us or any of our social media platforms.

Class of 2024 Adams Scholar Recipients Listed by Community

Attleboro

Dayrin Cardona, Amiyah Kincey, Ashley Umanzor-Martinez.

Bellingham

Eduarda Defigueiredo

Franklin

Samuel Bernheart, Seth Canzano, Ava Cossette, Shawn Dignan, Eden Dumas, Nicholas Ewanchuk, Camden Lallier, Torin McCarthy, Aiven Nichols, Savannah Nosek, Lino Pirrotta.

Medway

Sinead Bergeron, Zachary Davis, Zachary Lawrence

Milford

Destiny Carroll

Millis

Samuel Noonan

North Attleboro

Carol Abdel Alrhim, Shaelyn Caffrey, Kaylee Chouinard, Samuel DeForest, Kaitlynn DiChiara, Caroline Fontanez, Samantha Geddry, Alexis Hubert, Benjamin Kaluzny, Devin, Leber, Samantha McCarthy, Rebekah Paine, Isabelle Plante, Raiana Willis, Jonah Yeaton, Ivy Young.

Norfolk

Noah Renner

Plainville

Dominic Crisafi, Alkfonso Gomez, Cameron Jones, Matthew Noonan, Andrew Pavidis, Ashley Sedam.

Seekonk

Peyton Griffin, Samuel Marcotte, Hope Thibault, Travis Turner.

Walpole

James Hazeldine, Sophia Holbrook, Erik Larson, Logan Loconto, Ethan Roco, Rose Tripp, Alexander Vasilyev, Lucas Volpe, Diana Yanes.

Wrentham

Molly McDermott, Hailey McLeod, Callie Schweitzer.

Senators Markey, Paul Celebrate Bipartisan Committee Passage of Lifesaving Methadone Expansion Legislation

MOTAA Would Allow Doctors Outside Opioid Treatment Programs to Prescribe Methadone that Could Be Picked Up at a Pharmacy

Washington, D.C. (December 12, 2023) – Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), chair of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security, and Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) issued the following statement after the Senate HELP Committee passed the *Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act* (MOTAA), legislation to allow board certified addiction medicine and addiction psychiatry doctors registered with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to prescribe methadone that patients could pick up at a pharmacy. The bipartisan legislation would represent the first major reform to methadone in half a century and is supported by hundreds of clinicians and medical organizations.

“Methadone for opioid use disorder is locked behind arcane laws that criminalize and stigmatize people in recovery. The experts and evidence are clear: this outdated system is costing lives, and we should no longer stand by as outdated federal law keeps

people from treatment they need no matter where they live. We are pleased that my colleagues are joining with me in passing the *Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act*. Together, we took an essential step toward reducing stigma, expanding access, and saving lives in communities all across the country. We will keep fighting until the *Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act* is signed into law.”

In March, Senators Markey and Paul, along with Representatives Donald Norcross (NJ-01) and Don Bacon (NE-02) introduced their bipartisan and bicameral MOTAA. In December 2022, Senator Markey secured his bipartisan *Opioid Treatment Access Act* (OTAA)—legislation that reduces wait times for patients qualifying for methadone medication treatment and expands access to methadone clinics—into the end-of-year omnibus spending package. That same month, Senator Markey also applauded proposed changes by the Department of Health and Human Services to remove barriers to OUD treatment, such as allowing people to take home doses of methadone medication, which are key provisions included in the OTAA.

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Living Healthy

The Cataract Surgery Center of Milford

The Gold Standard for Surgical Eyecare

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

The Milford-Franklin Eye Center - Cataract Surgery Center of Milford is pleased to announce our recertification by the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (QUADA). This accreditation authority sets the Gold Standard and certifies thousands of facilities worldwide. We received no deficiencies, achieved full compliance, and earned a perfect score.

An accreditation certification by QUADA provides peace of mind, indicating our surgery center's highest standards in patient safety, surgical results, infectious disease control, and healthcare quality. We take pride in our staff's success in navigating this extremely strict and tedious pro-

cess.

Milford-Franklin Eye Center has been delivering excellent eye care to the community for four decades. With offices in Milford, Franklin, and Millis, along with our award-winning surgery center in Milford and a support staff of 60, we stand as the leading medical and surgical eye care center in the area and one of the major eye care centers in the State. We are also one of the rare ophthalmology practices to own and operate our surgical center, the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford. No longer do you need to travel miles and hours for cataract surgery! Our experienced eye physicians/surgeons, along with four optometrists, provide comprehensive and excellent eye care for the entire family.

Milford-Franklin Eye Center acknowledges that you have

choices when it comes to eye care. We set ourselves apart by focusing on excellent and advanced eye care and treating our patients as if each one is family. Our surgical results rival those of major centers in Boston, and we can prove it. We are deeply rooted in the community, most of us living here, and our primary focus is to serve the community. While some competing 'franchise' practices have a satellite office in the area with an occasional ophthalmologist, we are here full-time, five days a week, with an eye surgeon ready to see you in case of an emergency. Did you know that seeing a surgeon from a 'franchise' practice means you are outside their referral network and your expenses may be higher? We are local and in the network of your local primary care physicians. In case there is a surgical emergency after cataract surgery, we see you immediately.

With other practices, you may have to go to Boston to be seen. We are the only dedicated practice taking emergency call responsibilities at Milford Regional Hospital and have been doing the same for decades.

Our surgery center is Medicare-certified, State-licensed, and QUADA accredited. This center stands as a beacon of excellence in ophthalmic care, showcasing a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to restoring vision with precision and innovation. Equipped with cutting-edge technology and staffed by a team of highly skilled and experienced professionals, the center is at the forefront of cataract and glaucoma surgery. From advanced laser systems that enhance surgical accuracy to personalized treatment plans tailored to each patient's unique needs, the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford prioritizes both efficacy and patient comfort. The facility's commitment to staying abreast of the latest developments in the field ensures that individuals seeking cataract surgery receive the highest standard of care, making it a trusted destination for those looking to regain clarity of vision in a modern and sophisticated setting.

What about office-based cataract surgery? Some franchise practices are advocating for performing cataract surgery in their office. Unapproved by Medicare

and major ophthalmology professional societies, this office-based surgery raises significant concerns about patient safety and the quality of care provided. Performing cataract surgery in an office setting may lack the rigorous standards and sterile environments maintained in dedicated surgical centers. The absence of dedicated anesthesia professionals and comprehensive medical support can compromise patient comfort and safety during surgery. Patients are advised to prioritize their well-being and consider established surgical centers with experienced medical teams and top-notch facilities to ensure optimal outcomes for cataract surgery. For instance, at the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford, a dedicated MD anesthesiologist is present full-time for all procedures, and your comfort and safety are titrated by using an IV line, which is lacking in the office-based surgery model.

With the new year 2024, we are proud to continue to serve our communities as we did for four decades.

Dr. Roger Kaldawy is an experienced eye physician and surgeon. Dr. Kaldawy, trained at the University of Rochester and the University of Iowa. As Assistant Professor at Boston University, he

EYES

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University of Southern Maine Soccer Goalkeeper Breanna Atwood Becomes First All-American in Women's Soccer Program History

After another record-setting season, two-time Little East Conference Goalkeeper of the Year (2022, 2023) senior Breanna Atwood (Franklin, Mass.) of the University of Southern Maine Huskies' women's soccer team can another accolade to her resume becoming the first United Soccer Coaches (USC) All-American in Huskies' women's soccer program history.

Earning a spot on the USC

All-American second team, Atwood is the 20th individual from the Little East Conference to earn USC/NSCAA All-America honors since the conference's sponsorship of women's soccer in 1990. One of five members of the 2023 Little East Conference Champion Huskies' women's soccer team to earn CSC All-Region honors, Atwood along with teammates Catriona Gould (Freeport, Maine) and

Mia Sargent (Portland, Maine/Deering) were named first team All-Region. Atwood is now one of three individuals to earn first team All-Region honors in program history.

Named the LEC's Goalkeeper of the Week five times in 2023, Atwood broke her own single-season shut out record (12), and established a new career mark for shutouts amassing 27 in 59 career games. Atwood earned her record-setting 12th shutout of the 2023 season, backstopping the Huskies to their first-ever NCAA tournament win, a 2-0 victory over No. 10 Rowan University, making seven saves - including a penalty stop.

During the 2023 season, Atwood established a career-high for saves in a game, making 16 on the road in a 2-1 win over Colby College on September 12. Seven days later, Atwood

followed up that performance with a 10-save effort in a 1-0 win over Bowdoin College, marking the Huskies first win over the Polar Bears in series history (30 games.). During the semifinals and championship game of the Little East Conference tournament, Atwood combined for 11 saves for two shutouts in consecutive 3-0 wins over UMass Boston and Western Connecticut, respectively.

Making a career-high 102 saves during the season, Atwood established a career-best mark in goals against average finishing the 2023 season with an outstanding 0.709 GAA, and an equally as strong .872 save percentage. At the conclusion of her season, Atwood was ranked in NCAA Division III Women's Soccer as 10th in shutouts (12), 13th in total saves (102), 23rd in saves per game (6.5), 31st in save

percentage (.872) and 44th in goals against average (.709).

Owning a career record of 42-10-6, Atwood has a remarkable 0.840 career goals against average and an 85.4 career save percentage. She is on pace to be the program's all-time leader in career goals against average. A two-time first team All-Little East Conference goalkeeper, Atwood is a two-time Academic All-District student-athlete and is working towards a degree in Exercise Science.

The Huskies finished the 2023 season with a record of 16-2-4 and an undefeated mark of 6-0-2 in the Little East Conference. Claiming the LEC's regular season title for the second consecutive season (2022, 2023), Southern Maine is the back-to-back Little East Conference Tournament Champions (2022, 2023).

EYES

continued from page 16

directed the Cornea and External Disease program, influencing physicians worldwide. A pioneer in DSAEK corneal transplantation, he performed over 30,000 cataract surgeries, introducing advanced implants and bladeless laser assisted Femto cataract surgery at the Cataract and Laser Surgery Center of Milford, where he also serves as Medical Director.

Dr. Dan Liu earned her medical degree from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in 2016. She was elected to the medical honor society, Alpha Omega Alpha. Completing her ophthalmology residency at Albany Medical Center, Dr. Liu received multiple accolades. She pursued fellowship training in Cornea, External Diseases, and Anterior Segment Surgery at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Liu specializes in Cataract surgery, ORA technology, Cornea transplants, and various eye disorders. She is affiliated with several medical associations.

Dr. Arroyo, our vitreoretinal specialist, earned his degrees from Amherst College, Yale, and Duke. With 20+ years of experience, he's published extensively and held leadership roles, including past president of the New England Ophthalmological Society.

Dr. Shalin Zia, O.D., a Purdue and Indiana University graduate, brings extensive private practice experience, excel-

ling in routine eye care, contact lenses, and disease diagnosis.

Dr. Adams, a John Carroll University graduate, has advanced training in corneal pathology, specialty contact lenses, ocular disease, and laser refractive surgery.

Dr. Purvi Patel, OD, a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, brings teaching and leadership experience from the New England College of Optometry. Her clinical interests include diabetes, glaucoma, and community-based eye care.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center and The Cataract Surgery Center of Milford, our focus is on you, your vision, excellent surgical results without compromising your safety or comfort. You come first. We are available in your backyard and proud to offer world-class cataract surgery closer to home: Here in Milford! In a surgery center facility, not in an office. Our optical shop has its own dedicated lab and can cut and finish your glasses while you wait. All new patients receive a free pair of select glasses. We offer after-hours, same-day emergency appointments and Saturday appointments. We have great management focused on quality customer care. Four decades serving our communities and going strong. In 2024, we remain dedicated to the best in eye medicine and surgery closer to home.

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Sports

Logan Marchand: Hockey Is in the Family

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Franklin's Logan Marchand watched as his father got his older brother, Dylan, into skates and onto the ice to play hockey. It was here that the youngster decided that he too wanted to lace up the skates and get onto the ice.

"I saw my brother playing hockey, and I wanted to be just like him, so around four I started to play the sport too," Marchand said. "It's not that I wanted to be like him, I wanted to compete against him. That's a big thing in our household – competition between one another."

Growing up Marchand found himself primarily playing forward, but right before he entered high school he transitioned to defense.

"I used to play goalie as well, so I figured that protecting the net would be a good place for me to play," he said. "As a defenseman I could also use my size and physicality on the ice; I like to throw my body around. Besides, I don't have the hands to be a scorer."

While Marchand may not think of himself as an offensive threat, his coach believes he has the knack to put the puck in the net on a regular basis.

"He's an offensive defenseman, who likes to jump into the play and has the ability to score some goals and make things happen," Franklin Coach Chris Spillane said. "He loves to play physical hockey and is one of our big hitters. He's got that offensive ability while also bringing a bit of

nastiness to the ice."

Spillane continues that the defenseman is also a good skater with size, has vision and can move the puck well.

"As the Coach, I sometimes like to rein him in about jumping into the offense, but when he does good things usually happen," the coach said. "Last year he recorded 6 goals and 8 assists, and I will be expecting a lot more this year. I've been watching him play this fall team, and he's been averaging 1 or 2 goals a game and I'm hoping that it carries over."

Regarding his physicality on the ice, Marchand knows that he has to be careful as to not get into too much trouble.

"You can only hit so hard in high school hockey. I've gotten called a couple of times for hitting too hard, but I try to keep my hands down and use my shoulder, he said. "Coach Spillane likes my physical play on the ice, he just doesn't like me sitting in the box as much. When I get in trouble for my hitting, it's usually my dad (forwards coach on the high school team) who gives it to me after the game."

Entering the season, Marchand will do so once again as one of the team's captains. As a second-year captain, something that Spillane usually doesn't do, he believed that Marchand displayed the penchant to lead as a sophomore and was well respected by his teammates, so he was more than willing to give him the C as a junior.

"As a captain, I am hoping that I can go out and lead this team, giving them the confidence to get ready to go out and have a good season," Marchand said. "Since I've been playing for Franklin, we've made the State Tournament, but haven't been able to get out of the second round. I would love to change that this year."

Two years ago, Franklin was the 19th seed and defeated Wellesley in the first round but fell to Hingham in the second round. Last year, being the 12 seed, the Panthers crushed Andover in the first round but then again fell in the second round to Marshfield.

Following high school, Marchand is planning on attending Merrimack College in Andover where his brother Dylan is currently studying.

"I'm hoping that I can play club hockey there with my brother," he said. "I really didn't get a chance to play with him as much at Franklin, so I am really hoping I can do it there."

This past year, Marchand decided to join the Walpole Express, a club hockey team that for the first time in their history advanced to the National Tournament in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



A second-year FHS Hockey captain and physical player, junior Logan Marchand hopes to inspire confidence in teammates and lead them to the tourney. Photos used courtesy of Logan Marchand



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New Members Welcome to Charles River Chorale Open Rehearsals in January

The Charles River Chorale will begin rehearsals for its Spring 2024 season and is actively recruiting new members who are seeking a new community and musical opportunity. Anyone who enjoys singing is encouraged to come and join in the fun and experience of singing with a chorus.

The non-audition chorale group will begin open rehearsals on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis. Two additional open rehearsals will take place on January 30th and February 6th to allow interested new members an opportunity to explore the chorale opportunity.

Under the leadership of director Ashley Nelson-Oneschuk, the Charles River Chorale is in its 40th year as a non-profit 501(c)3 chorale. Nelson-Oneschuk, a music professional in her 9th year with the Charles River Chorale, is also the choral director for Medway High School. Her goal for the chorale is "focused on cultivating a joyful community first, with excellent musical experiences as the vessel to achieve this."

Charles River Chorale members hail from many area communities, and they range in age from teenagers to octogenarians. The group typically holds winter and spring concerts, with the Spring 2024 concert planned for Saturday, May 11, 2024, 7 p.m., at Medway High School. The theme of the Spring 2024 con-

cert is **Road Trip Across America**. This program will feature music that spans time, place, and genre, assuring that both the chorus and audience will be in for a memorable musical journey.

The Charles River Chorale rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ, in Millis. Membership dues for the non-profit organization support operating costs. There are no dues for high school students, and scholarships based on need are available. There is also a separate children's choir for children in Grades 2 through 6.

For more information about the organization and the upcoming open rehearsals, visit <https://www.charlesriverchorale.com>. Those who are interested in joining the chorale for the start of the season on January 23rd are asked to complete a short sign-up document via the attached QR code (or via this link: <https://forms.gle/6d5iNSvPUqqFx9ubA>). Sponsorships and advertising opportunities are also available and very much appreciated.



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Calendar

January 2

Franklin Rotary Club Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central St., Franklin, if interested in attending, email padularotary@gmail.com

January 3

Veterans Monthly Coffee Social, 10 a.m. Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, All vets welcome, refreshments by Starbucks

January 5

FPAC presents *Bright Star*, featuring Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's Tony-award-winning score, 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 West Central St., Franklin, FPAConline.com or call (508) 528-3370.

January 6

FPAC presents *Bright Star*, featuring Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's Tony-award-winning score, 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 West Central St., Franklin, FPAConline.com or call (508) 528-3370.

January 7

"What We Say Matters: A Timely Conversation Exploring the Power of Words to Shape Others and a Person's Own Behavior," First Universalist Society in Franklin, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin, features Dr. Drew Bomaner, Molloy University, info@fusf.org or (508) 528-5348.

FPAC presents *Bright Star*, featuring Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's Tony-award-winning score, 2 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 West Central St., Franklin, FPAConline.com or call (508) 528-3370.

January 11

Tricky Trivia, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

January 12

Electric Youth 2024, 7:30 p.m.,

THE BLACK BOX, 15 West Central St., Franklin, www.the-blackboxonline.com or call (508) 528-3370

January 13

Joe Jencks, 8 p.m., Circle of Friends Coffeehouse, Franklin First Universalist Society Meetinghouse, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin, doors open 7:30 p.m., refreshments available, <https://circlefolk.org/>.

January 14

Joe Jencks Leads First Universalist Society MLK Service, 10 a.m., First Universalist Society in Franklin, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin, info@fusf.org or call (508) 528-5348.

January 16

Franklin Rotary Club Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central St., Franklin, if interested in attending, email padularotary@gmail.com

January 18

"The Boatbuilders" Pre-release Screening & Discussion, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, *No Registration Required!* Join Director Gregg Seibert and Producer & Historian R. A. Lawson for a Pre-release screening of the first episode and discussion of their new documentary Series, "The Boatbuilders."

January 19

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

Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament and Sale, 6-8 p.m., First Universalist Society of Franklin, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin, \$10 pp for teams up to 4 people, register at FUSE.org. Questions to Vicki (508) 654-6740

January 20

Tu B'Shevat! 12 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, join us for a special celebration of the Jewish Holiday also known as "New Year of the

Trees!" Presented in partnership with Temple Etz Chaim!

Tax Preparation Help, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, walk-in program

Franklin Public Library Book Sale, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin.

Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament and Sale, 6-8 p.m., First Universalist Society of Franklin, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin, \$10 pp for teams up to 4 people, register at FUSE.org. Questions to Vicki (508) 654-6740

January 24

Family Literacy Night! 5:30-7:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Join us for an evening celebration of reading for the whole family! Presented in partnership with the Franklin Public schools!

January 27

Live Music & CD Release by Second Son Band, 7-9 p.m., First Universalist Society in Franklin, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin, tickets \$10, \$25 max per family, treats for sale, folk, folk-rock, Americana.

January 31

Narcarn Training for the Community with the SAFE Coalition! 6:30 p.m., No Registration Required! Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, 20-minute training in the implementation of Narcarn.

February 2

Movies with a Meaning, Celebrate Groundhog Day, 7 p.m., First Universalist Society in Franklin, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin, Free. RSVP to davegerlits@gmail.com

February 7

Franklin Newcomers & Friends meeting, 7 p.m., Escape Into Fiction, 12 Main Street, Franklin, <https://www.meetup.com/franklin-newcomers-friends/> <https://www.facebook.com/Franklin-NewcomersFriendsClub>.

January 2024 at Franklin Public Library

Library Hours

The Library's hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Library will be closed January 1st & 15th.

Franklin Public Library's 2024 Reading Challenge!

January: An author's debut book!

Welcome to the Franklin Public Library's first Annual Reading Challenge! For each monthly prompt that you complete and submit on time you will receive a Free Book Coupon that's good at the library's Book Sale. Submissions MUST be submitted by the last day of each month in order to qualify for that month's Free Book Coupon. For complete details and to sign-up, visit our website! Grand prizes made possible by the Friends of the Franklin Library!

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 information please email Site Coordinator Mitzi Gousie at mgousie@franklinma.gov!

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.

Special Events for Kids

Science Series! Saturday January 6th @ 1 p.m.

No Registration Required!

Join us for a special science workshop, brought to you by volunteers from the Franklin High School Science department! Ideal for kids ages 7+!

Petite Picassos! Tuesday January 16th @ 3 p.m.

Join Miss Lily and create your very own step-by-step painting of a winter-themed kitty! This paint party is a great fit for children ages 6-12! All materials will be provided! **REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

Tu B'Shevat! Saturday January 20th @ 12 p.m.

Join us for a special celebration of the Jewish Holiday also known as "New Year of the Trees!" Celebrate with games, crafts, snacks, activities and more! Presented in partnership with Temple Etz Chaim!

Penguin Scavenger Hunt! Saturday, January 20th – Saturday, February 3rd

We're celebrating National Penguin Day! Can you find all the penguins hiding throughout the library?!

Family Literacy Night! Wednesday January 24th, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Join us for an evening celebration of reading for the whole family! Presented in partnership with the Franklin Public schools! Browse our curated tables of family read-alouds, get tips, tricks, and free resources to make reading fun at home, and visit with Franklin's favorite police dogs for some fun independent reading practice!

Special Events for Teens

Teen Vision Board Making! Wednesday January 10th @ 5:30 p.m.

No Registration Required!

Teens! Set your intentions for 2024! Join us as we get crafty, creating vision board collages for the new year!

Teen Paint Party! Wednesday, January 17th @ 6 p.m.

For Teens Ages 12+!! Join local instructor Denise Palmieri for this step-by-step paint party for teens! All materials will be provided and you'll get to take home your very own cozy winter painting! **REGISTRATION REQUIRED!!**

Special Events for Adults

"The Boatbuilders" Pre-release Screening & Discussion Thursday January 18th @ 6:30 PM

No Registration Required!

Join Director Gregg Seibert and Producer & Historian R. A. Lawson for a Pre-release screening of the first episode and Discussion of their new Documentary Series, "The Boatbuilders"! The docuseries uncovers the historical legacy and present-day impact of the boat building community, showcasing boatbuilders, sailors, and owners who speak to the realities of boat building today, along with the challenges and rewards of maintaining the legacy and beauty of historic sailing vessels. The first episode focuses on Rhode Island.

Tax Preparation Help with VITA Registration Day Jan. 20th 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Come to the library January 20th and get your appointment for Tax preparation help. This is a walk in event where volunteers will help you assess your needs, double check paperwork, and get you an appointment to file your taxes in February, March, or April.

The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program



offers free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals. VITA sites offer free tax help to people who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns, including:

- People who generally make \$60,000 or less
- Persons with disabilities; and
- Limited English-speaking taxpayers

Special Events for All Ages

New Program: Tricky Trivia Thursday January 11th @ 6:30 p.m.

No Registration Required!

Are you ready to prove your trivia knowledge is more than trivial? Do you have the facts to fight for the title of Franklin's Trivia Master? Join us for snacks and a Family Trivia Challenge at the Library!

Play as a team or go solo for ultimate bragging rights!

Narcan Training for the Community with the SAFE Coalition! Wednesday January 31st @ 6:30 p.m.

No Registration Required!

Join the SAFE Coalition for a 20 minute training in the implementation of Narcan and be better prepared to save a life. During this training the SAFE Coalition will bring in their CPR dummies, discuss what an opioid and an overdose is, learn how to access for a medical emergency like an overdose, and walk through the steps of administering Narcan.

Franklin Library Book Sale

Friday, January 19th, 1:00-5:00 p.m. Saturday, January 20th, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

All books are just one dollar!

Bag Sale - \$5 A Bag—Saturday, January 20th, from 1-4 p.m.

Come fill a brown bag with all the books you can!

Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament and Sale

Friday, January 19, 2024 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. OR

Saturday, January 20, 2024 10 a.m. to Noon

First Universalist Society in Franklin

262 Chestnut Street, Franklin MA

Team Tournament: Enter your team to puzzle against other teams in a friendly and fun competition on either Friday night or Saturday morning. Each team receives the same 500-piece puzzle and races to finish first. Prizes given for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place. It's only \$10/person for teams of up to four people and

your team goes home with the completed puzzle. Team registration and puzzle tournament rules can be found at FUSF.org. For questions call Vicki @ (508) 654-6740. Cash, check or electronic payment accepted.

Puzzle Sale: Hundreds of Jigsaw puzzles will also be for sale both Friday and Saturday.

You do not need to enter a tournament to shop. Most puzzles are priced between \$3 and \$5 - Some are brand new! Be sure to stock up for all those puzzlers in your life (or yourself). Cash, check or electronic payment accepted.

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

Joe Jencks Returns to Circle of Friends

Joe Jencks returns to the Circle of Friends Coffeehouse in Franklin on Saturday, January 13th. Joe is an international touring musician, award-winning songwriter, and celebrated vocalist known for his performances of musical beauty, social consciousness and spiritual exploration. Joe has released fifteen CDs over a twenty-year musical career that includes his time as part of the Brother Sun trio. Merging conservatory training with his Irish roots and working-class upbringing, Joe delivers engaged musical narratives filled with heart, soul, groove and grit. Blending well-crafted instrumentals and vivid songwriting, Jencks serves it all up with a lyric baritone voice that has the edgy richness of a good sea-salt caramel.



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://circlefolk.org/> for more information.

House Passes Legislation to Lower Prescription Drug Prices for Medicaid Patients

The House of Representatives passed a bill co-lead by Congressman Jake Auchincloss (D, MA-04), the *Drug Price Transparency in Medicaid Act*, to lower prescription drug prices for Medicaid patients, as part of the broader *Lower Costs, More Transparency Act*. The bipartisan legislation takes important steps to rein in Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) – the middlemen of drug pricing – by prohibiting the use of spread pricing in Medicaid programs. The package will now be sent to the Senate for consideration.

The bill was introduced by Congressman Earl L. “Buddy”

Carter (R, GA-01), and co-led by Congressman Vicente Gonzalez (D, TX-34), Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (R, NY-21), Congresswoman Deborah Ross (D, NC-02), and Congressman Rick Allen (R, GA-12).

“For far too long, PBMs have been allowed to collect taxpayer dollars without reducing the costs of drugs for Medicaid patients. Increasing transparency in pricing and cracking down on PBMs will put money back where it belongs – into the pockets of patients dependent on life-saving medication. This bill builds on the work done last Congress to

lower the cost of drugs and finally holds PBMs accountable,” said Congressman Auchincloss.

Throughout his time in office, Auchincloss has made lowering prescription drug prices a top priority. He has supported efforts to cap out-of-pocket costs for seniors, continue Medicare negotiation of drug prices, and increase access to cutting-edge gene therapies for individuals with rare diseases. The Congressman is also a cosponsor of the *HELP Copays Act* and the *Protecting Patients Against PBM Abuses Act* to ensure cost is not a barrier to patients receiving the medications they need.

Movies with A Meaning - Celebrate Groundhog Day

**Movie followed by a Discussion (plus snacks!)
February 2, 2024
7 p.m. - Free admission
First Universalist Society in Franklin
262 Chestnut Street, Franklin**

Please join us for our first “Movies with a Meaning.” Groundhog Day shows us that if we lived long enough, all of us would eventually choose to

live more morally. In Groundhog Day, we learn that there’s no point worrying about the past or future. We should worry most about the present and how we treat other people in the moment. Join us - Come for the comedy and stay for the discussion! Please RSVP to davegerlits@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Learn more about FUSF at info@fusf.org or (508) 528-5348.

January 2024 – Franklin Veterans Services Office Notes

(508) 613-1315

January 3 – Veterans’ Monthly Coffee Social – 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. All Veterans are invited for coffee and conversation. Refreshments will be provided by our wonderful friends at Starbucks!

January 18 - Veterans’ Council Meeting – 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. All Franklin residents interested in Veterans’ activities and events are welcome to join us!

January 27 - Vietnam Peace Day – On this day in 1973, the Paris Peace Accords agreement arranged a ceasefire which officially ended America’s involvement in the 20-year Vietnam War.

The Tune It Out guitar lessons program for Veterans meets on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. There is no charge for lessons and no guitar experience is required.

The Warrior Within Yoga Classes for Veterans and First Responders meets Thursdays at 6 p.m. at the Franklin Senior Center. There is no charge for classes. Call the Veterans’ Services Office to sign up for guitar or yoga classes.

The next engraved brick installation on the Veterans Memorial Walkway will be in May. Bricks are installed in May and November to coincide with Memorial Day and Veterans’ Day. Brick order forms are available in the Senior Center and Town Hall lobbies and on the Veterans’ Services web page at: <https://www.franklinma.gov/veterans-services>

Thank you to all who have supported this project!

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■ **WHY YOU NEED A HEALTH CARE PROXY**

A health care proxy names someone you trust as your agent to express your wishes and make health care decisions for you, if you are unable.

■ **WHY YOU NEED A DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY**

A durable power of attorney gives extensive power to your chosen agent to act on your behalf, in case you are incapacitated. Without it, a family member or loved one would have to petition the court for that right.



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Norfolk Probate & Family Court Celebrates National Adoption Day

On Friday, November 17th, the Norfolk Probate and Family Court hosted its first annual celebration of National Adoption Day. The day was a hit with ten families traveling from as far as New York state to take part in the event. Hosted by Register Colleen Brierley and First Justice Patricia Gorman, the goal is to make the event an annual part of the Trial Court's calendar. The families left with various gifts and refreshments provided by Register Brierley, the Judges, Boston Post Adoption Resources, and Ursuline Academy of Dedham.

The event involved all departments of the Norfolk Probate and Family Court and was made possible by everyone's commitment to help.

As a former DCF social worker, family law attorney and foster mom, this day was of special meaning to Register Brierley, who is an adoptive mother of three.

We would like to issue a special thanks to: Register Colleen Brierley, First Justice Patricia Gorman, Tricia Loughman-West, Jocelyne Welsh, Tyler Hurley, Deborah Collins, Patrick Janas,



Register Colleen Brierley addressing families in attendance.



Friday, November 17, 2023 marked the first year Norfolk Probate and Family Court celebrated National Adoption Day. Shown, First Justice Patricia Gorman holds an adorable adoptee.



Pictured left to right: Patrick Janas, Jocelyne Welsh, Deborah Collins, Tyler Hurley

and all the families involved who made this special day possible.

The Norfolk Probate and Family Court serves Avon, Bellingham, Braintree, Brookline, Canton, Cohasset, Dedham, Dover, Foxborough, Franklin, Holbrook, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Milton, Needham, Norfolk, Norwood, Plainville, Quincy, Randolph, Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole, Wellesley, Westwood, Weymouth, and Wrentham. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/locations/norfolk-probate-and-family-court> for more information.

US Lt. General Braga Speaks at Bishop Feehan, His Alma Mater

It's not every day that a double-rotor, Chinook helicopter touches down at Bishop Feehan High School. But that was the vehicle of choice for Feehan graduate, Lt. Gen. Jonathan P. Braga – Commanding General, United States Army Special Operations Command at his Alma Mater, Bishop Feehan High School when he came to share his perspective on living a life of purpose with the school's 1090 students, staff and invited guests.

Braga advised the students to “find their why” and to pursue that why with passion. For him, that why is “making a difference in people's lives.” And he has “loved every step of the journey.”



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Mass. Awards Local Businesses \$19 Million to Upskill Current Workers, Increase Workforce Competitiveness

The Healey-Driscoll Administration recently announced \$19.4 million in Workforce Training Fund Program (WTFP) Awards serving 187 businesses statewide. The grants, distributed by the Commonwealth Corporation, aims to address business productivity and competitiveness by providing funding to Massachusetts businesses to train current and newly hired employees.

Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Lauren Jones made the announcement during remarks at the Worcester Chamber of Commerce. Locally:

- Franklin-based Tegra Medical was awarded \$82,000 to train 110 workers.
- Attleboro-based Comtran was awarded \$162,300 to train 80 workers.
- Dedham-based Synterex was awarded \$112,720 to train 25 workers.
- Foxboro-based Walpole Outdoors was awarded \$29,224 to train 12 workers.
- Holliston-based businesses, Harvard Bioscience was awarded \$202,700 to

train 42 workers; Iwaki America was awarded \$109,200 to train 60 workers; and OX Industries was awarded \$50,380 to train 10 workers.

- Hopedale-based Marguerite Concrete Contractors was awarded \$58,907 to train 49 workers.
- Mansfield-based Paragon Medical was awarded \$145,600 to train 106 workers.
- In North Attleboro, Star Engineering was awarded \$69,858 to train 39 workers and
- Distron Corp. was awarded \$68,665 to train 34 workers.
- Norwood-based Remtec was awarded \$150,000 to train 52 workers.
- Whitinsville's Omni Control Technology was awarded \$228,800 to train 34 workers. *

"Massachusetts is a great place to live, work, and innovate. Our workforce and our business community are the heartbeat of our communities and economy," said Governor Maura Healey. "These grants support both workers and businesses by providing the resources needed to help build a pipeline of skilled workers,

allowing our businesses to remain competitive and to grow and expand."

"Investing in organizations that want to retain their current workers and provide them with the skills they need to succeed is a recipe for success," said Lieutenant Governor Driscoll. "These grants help expand our skilled talent pool for employers, strengthens our competitiveness, and allows our economy to prosper."

The Workforce Training Fund Program grants are part of the Healey-Driscoll Administration's strategic investment to retain and upskill existing talent in Massachusetts' current workforce. Grants announced today have served as a resource awarded by Commonwealth Corporation to businesses in regions statewide throughout the calendar year.

"As we drive economic competitiveness throughout Massachusetts, we need to invest in our workforce to promoting existing workers to build the skills to grow a career and for employers to thrive," said Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Lauren Jones. "Workforce training fund grants are a critical tool in our toolbox for employers to upskill their

workforce in vital areas such as ESOL, technology, DEI training, management, and many other areas that supports professional development and training for Massachusetts workers."

Workforce Training Fund Program grants are available for businesses of all sizes, with the greatest use applied by small to medium-sized businesses. The grants provide instruction on a variety of skills, including ESOL, project management, software and IT, and machine set-up and operation. Businesses can apply for two types of grants through the Workforce Training Fund Program: 1) Express program, which provides fast and flexible access to grant-funded training so businesses can respond quickly to change and emerging needs; and 2) General Program, which are typically used for large-scale training. Since fiscal year 2022, the Express and General programs have served more than 23,300 trainees and supported more than 1,300 businesses.

*The full list of the grant recipients, totaling \$19,474,544 to train 12,010 individuals can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2023-workforce-training-fund-program-awards-2023>.

MA Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Now Open

Applications Accepted for Eligible Households through April 30, 2024

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) is pleased to announce the start of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) 2023-2024 winter heating season. LIHEAP is a free, statewide service funded by the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program that helps eligible households stay warm during the winter months by paying a portion of winter heating bills.

Applications for home energy assistance are currently being accepted online at www.toapply.org/massliheap, and income-eligible households may receive financial help to offset heating bills from November 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024.

Both homeowners and renters can apply online or through local administering agencies for LIHEAP assistance. Households must meet specific eligibility requirements to qualify for aid, which will be paid directly to their heating vendor.

Eligibility is based on several factors, including household size and combined gross annual income of residents 18 and older. Qualifying households – including those with the cost of heat included in the rent – can receive assistance for all sources of heat, including oil, electricity, natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood and coal.

"The Massachusetts home energy assistance program is free, because no resident should have to worry about heating

their home during the winter-time," said Ed Augustus Jr., Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities. "High fuel costs can have a devastating effect on household budgets and can even endanger Massachusetts' most vulnerable residents. We en-

courage anyone who needs heating assistance to explore their eligibility by applying online or visiting the nearest administering agency. And to please share the information with loved ones or neighbors who could benefit from this free resource."

For more information, or to find your local LIHEAP agency, visit www.toapply.org/MassLIHEAP.

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FPAC to present Steve Martin & Edie Brickell's *Bright Star*

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) is excited to present the musical *Bright Star* January 5-7 at THE BLACK BOX. Featuring the Tony-nominated bluegrass score by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, Broadway's *Bright Star* tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set against the rich backdrop of the American South in the 1920s and '40s. When literary editor Alice Murphy meets a young soldier just home from World War II, he awakens her longing for the child she once lost. Alice sets out on a journey to understand her past.

The production stars NYC actors Ali Funkhouser as Alice Murphy, Robbie Rescigno as Jimmy Ray, Kyle Dalsimer as Billy Cane,



and University of Tampa Musical Theatre Junior Kelsey Breslin as Margo. Boston Conservatory Voice Professor Dan Callaway (*The Phantom of the Opera*) appears as Daddy Cane/Dr. Norquist. The cast also

features Shenandoah Conservatory Musical Theatre student Tzintli Cerda as Lucy, NYC's Brennan Stefanik as Daryl, and FPAC's Nick Paone as Mayor Dobbs, Kellie Stamp as Mama Murphy, Tim Ayres-Kerr as Daddy Murphy, and DJ Ormond as Stanford.

Rounding out the cast are Emiliano Morales (NYC), Gia Chessa (Dean College), Blas Cerda (Ballet Teatro del Espacio, The National Classical Dance Company of Mexico, Ohio Ballet), Xochitl Tejada-Cerda (Mexico National Ballet, Ohio Ballet), Takaaki Matsumoto (Boston), Julia Ormond (Dean College), Hannah Rezendes (Salve Regina University), and Lindsay Tomas (FPAC). Joining

them are FPAC Student Apprentice performers from the Franklin School for the Performing Arts Elena Baker, Hannah Connors, Devin Curley, Devin DeAngelis, and Mason Sanford.

With beautiful Bluegrass melodies and powerfully moving characters, the story unfolds as a rich tapestry of deep emotion. An uplifting theatrical journey that holds audiences tightly in its grasp, *Bright Star* is as refreshingly genuine as it is daringly hopeful. Directed by FPAC Artistic Director Raye Lynn Mercer, with music direction by Hallie Wetzell, and choreography by Hannah Rezendes.

FPAC is an Actors' Equity Small Professional Theater com-

pany based at THE BLACK BOX in downtown Franklin. Ali Funkhouser, Robbie Rescigno, Kyle Dalsimer, and Dan Callaway are all members of Actors' Equity. Each season, FPAC produces musicals, plays, ballets, and more featuring Broadway stars, professional actors, local artists, and students of the arts. Follow Franklin Performing Arts Company and THE BLACK BOX on Facebook and Instagram for updates on programming.

Tickets for FPAC's *Bright Star* and other shows are available at FPAConline.com or by calling the box office at (508) 528-3370.

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Electric Youth 2024 to Debut at THE BLACK BOX

Electric Youth 2024 will debut at THE BLACK BOX on January 12 at 7:30 p.m. The 2024 group of talented young singers and dancers includes Devin DeAngelis, Finley Doherty, Anya Fox, Ashley Pepin, Hannah Connors, Macie Hoben, Mason Sanford, Ella Roth, Elena Baker, Devin Curley, Liam Nolan-Hayun, Katherine LeBlanc, Ani Corkran, and Hailey Hulbig. Electric Youth is scheduled to tour again this summer bringing timeless hits and non-stop entertainment to venues across Europe.

Electric Youth delivers high-energy, fully choreographed performances of classic rock, contemporary pop, Broadway, and country hits for audiences of all ages. The American touring ensemble of talented singer-dancers, ages 14-18, is backed by the eight-piece Boston Show Band — world class musicians who've worked with music legends Tony Bennett, Aretha Franklin, Dizzy Gillespie, B.B. King, Diana Ross, The Temptations, Van Morrison and more. Electric Youth is trained at the Franklin School for the Performing Arts. The group has toured Europe performing in such renowned venues as Vienna's Konzerthaus, Musikverein and



Schonbrunn Palace; Sanremo's Ariston Theatre; England's Arundel Festival; Disneyland Paris; and professional theatres in Bristol, London and Windsor. EY has also headlined Fourth of July shows for U.S. troops stationed in Italy at Camp Ederle, Camp Darby, and Aviano Air Force Base. The ensemble has performed on Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Seas, on WBZ Radio, and at Fenway Park, Gillette Stadium, the Smithsonian Museum Theater, the United Nations and the U.S. Embassy in Vienna. Electric Youth has released six albums, including 2014's *Power Chord*, available on iTunes. EY has recorded and released three a cappella singles arranged and edited by Jim Hogan of a cappella sensation T.3 (avail-

able on all streaming platforms).

Collectively, the members of Electric Youth 2024 have performed with Broadway stars, sung the National Anthem for Boston sports teams, been selected to perform at "Broadway Sessions" in NYC, worked with choreographers from *So You Think You Can Dance*, and more. Alumni of Electric Youth have gone on to appear on Broadway, in national and international tours, television, regional theater, feature film, professional dance companies, cruise ships, and more.

Tickets for the January 12 Debut show are available at www.theblackboxonline.com or by calling the box office at (508) 528-3370. You can follow Electric Youth on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

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Franklin Commission on Disabilities Advocates for Inclusion

By J.D. O'GARA

"We're all whole people, and we need to be treated with respect."

That's why Mary O'Neill, Chair of the Franklin Commission on Disabilities, has been a member of the Commission for about a decade, driven by a desire, she says, for all citizens of Franklin to be included in everything in town. "Even people who are nonverbal," she says, "they understand the tone and manner. They may not be able to respond verbally, but your kindness and manner of speaking affects them. We might be missing a limb, but don't look at me as what I don't have, see me as what I do have."

The Franklin Commission on Persons with Disabilities advocates for people with disabilities under the guidance of the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD), helping the Town to adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits its discrimination against indi-

viduals with disabilities in many areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and many public and private places open to the public.

The Commission also acts as a resource for residents with disabilities, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), that's a lot of folks. Over one in four (27%) of U.S. adults have some sort of disability, with issues of cognition (12.8%), mobility (12.1%), difficulty with independent living (7.2%), hearing (6.1%), vision (4.8%) and difficulty with personal care (3.6%). In addition, 4.3% of U.S. children have a disability.

Residents can contact the Commission if they encounter systemic disability-related barriers to accessing municipal programs and services, architectural barriers in municipal buildings, streets, and sidewalks, have suggestions for policies to address disability-related issues in town, and if they would like to get involved with the COD's work.

"Franklin is doing well," says O'Neill, "It's a work in progress, but they're doing well." Of late, the Commission has encountered issues of handicap-accessible parking spots being used at the Dean College commuter rail station and at some of the schools. For habitual offenders, the Commission involves law enforcement, "especially if it's a repeat offender in some places, and they can be seriously fined for that," says O'Neill.

"Presently, we're working with the MBTA on the Dean College Station to make it wheelchair accessible," says O'Neill. "Forge Park is accessible, but that's across town and doesn't benefit the people who live near Dean Station."

O'Neill explains that residents have contacted the Commission on large or small issues, all kept confidential. The Commission has successfully advocated for a handicapped accessible button on Main Street at Rockland trust, an accessible swing installed at Fletcher Feld, a streetlight sound

added to the crosswalk by the Senior Center, created a Wheelchair accessible restaurant guide a few years ago, and helped to get ramps and railings installed for folks. This past year, the Commission held its first Disability Expo, a big success, and it's planning on the next one for May 4th, 2024, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

"We have a lot of vendors coming with some pertinent information for people. We want to reach out to the community and let them be aware of all the services out there that are available to them," says O'Neill.

Recently, members of the Franklin Commission on Disabilities joined Franklin Recreation Director Ryan Jette and Franklin Building Inspector Gus Brown on its mandatory self-evaluation for the 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

"As part of that a self-evaluation and transition plan, we basically were going to public parks and playgrounds, doing measuring of sink heights and door handles and ramps, just checking

on accessibility," says Jette, noting that Gus Brown is the town's ADA Coordinator. He and Gus must make sure there are not only parking spaces for drivers with disabilities, but that spacing, curb cuts, grade and distance ensure usability of the space for those residents.

"I'm actually working on a playground right now," says Jette, "We put in a beautiful handicap accessible playground at Nason Street, and we're working on the design for one at Fletcher Field." Jette points out that Mary and the other six members of the Commission do a great job advocating for people with disabilities in town.

The Franklin COD meets at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Club House meeting room in Central Park Terrace Apartments (off Wachusett St.) Find them online at <https://www.franklinma.gov/commission-persons-disabilities>, or to reach Mary O'Neill directly, call (508) 440-1265.

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Real Estate Corner



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



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Register O'Donnell Wraps Up 16th Annual Toys for Tots Drive

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell and Registry Staff distributed donations from the Registry's 16th Annual Toys for Tots Drive to Cpl. Christopher Todd of Franklin, Lance Cpl. Madison Flynn of Foxborough, Pfc. Brayon Quinche, and Pfc. Jeffery Manna, all with the 1st Battalion, 25th Marines,



representing Toys for Tots, during a pickup event on Dec. 7.

With the help of the local community, business owners, and staff, the Registry of Deeds collected nearly 100 gifts during the drive. "I would like to thank everyone who generously donated to the Registry's 16th Annual Toys for Tots Drive. We are grateful for the service of all veterans past and present and are, as

always, honored to partner with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in their annual toy drive, which helps make the holiday brighter for so many," said Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell.

Since 2007, the Registry of Deeds has collected over 1,700 toy donations for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program.

This year marks the 76th anniversary of Toys for Tots. The program was established in 1947 when the wife of a Marine major wanted to donate a Raggedy Ann doll for Christmas but couldn't find an organization to accept it.

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program's mission is to help less fortunate children experience the joy and happiness associated with Christmas.

The program operates in more than 800 cities and towns throughout all 50 states. Since its start, the national program has delivered over 652 million toys.

To learn more about Registry of Deed's events and initiatives, like us on Facebook® at facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds or follow us on Twitter® at twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds and Instagram® at Instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds is located at 649 High Street in Dedham. The Registry is a resource for homeowners, title examiners, mortgage lenders, municipalities and others with a need for secure, accurate, accessible land record information. All land record research information can be found on the Registry's website www.norfolkdeeds.org. Residents in need of assistance can contact the Registry of Deeds Customer Service Center via telephone at (781) 461-6101 or email us at registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.

2024 Metrowest Student Film Festival Seeks Submissions

Event Presented by The Center for Arts in Natick

The Center for Arts in Natick is pleased to present the MetroWest Student Film Festival, featuring the work of talented students from the cities and towns of Boston MetroWest.

Now in its 6th year, MWSFF cordially invites high school age residents between the ages of 14 and 19 who are current high school students and live in the following 39 cities and towns of MetroWest Massachusetts: Acton, Ashland, Bedford, Bellingham, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Dedham, Dover, Framingham, Franklin, Gorton, Harvard, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Marlborough, Maynard, Medfield, Medway, Milford, Millis, Natick, Needham, Sherborn, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Walpole, Waltham, Wayland, Wellesley, Westborough, Westford, Weston, and Westwood.

The Center for Arts in Natick is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organization dedicated to presenting arts programs of the highest standard that are available to everyone.

The MWSFF is a student film festival dedicated to showcasing the talents and creativity of the region's youth by providing an opportunity for young filmmakers and production teams to explore and create stories through motion pictures. Finalists among these student-created films will be shared with friends, families and the community at-large in TCAN's state-of-the-art screening room.

We envision the MWSFF as the largest student film festival of its kind in the region. Being part of this festival provides entrants the opportunity to:

- Share films with the regional community
- Screen films in an independent, state-of-the-art cinema
- Network with a jury of judges from the industry, and other film makers in the region
- Attend the festival premiere showcase

*** Please be sure to fully read the Festival rules and eligibility for submissions. Entries that do not meet requirements will be automatically disqualified. ***

Rules and terms can be found on the submission website: <https://filmfreeway.com/MetrowestStudentFilmFestival>

Bringing You Home in 2024



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Jessica Azzi,
 REALTOR® SFR®
 Licensed in MA and RI
(508) 517-4594
 jazz@laerrealty.com
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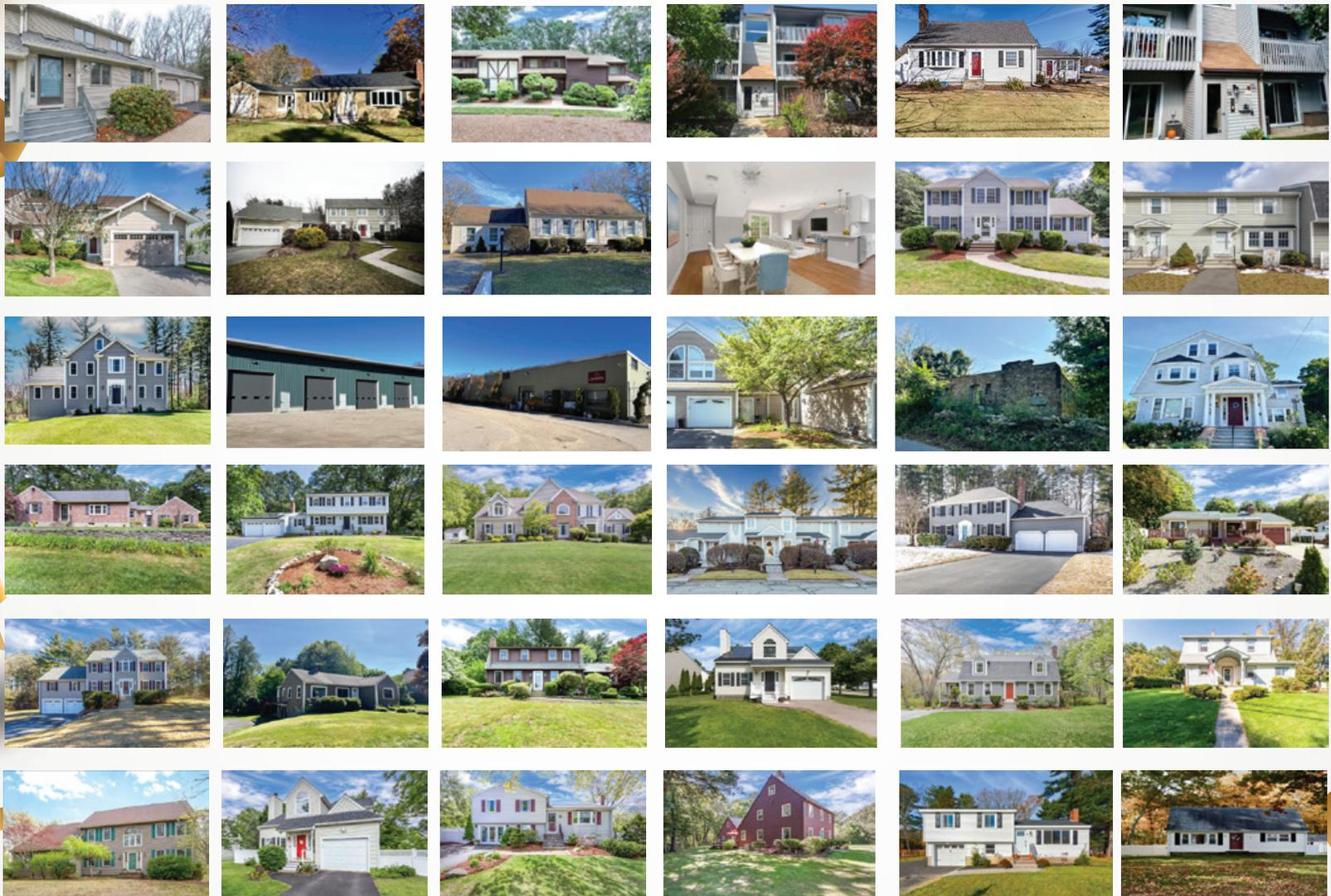
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New Year – New Home? Welcome 2024!

Call Lorraine today to see if this is your year for a move!

Many Grateful Thanks to all my 2023 Clients and Customers!



Wishing everyone a Safe and Happy New Year!



Lorraine Kuney

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2023 Success Stories: Homes Sold, Dreams Realized!

Congratulations to our 2023 home buyers & sellers.



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508-277-2977
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