



Bellingham BULLETIN

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 142
SPRINGFIELD, MA

Postal Customer
Local

Vol. 30 No. 5

Bellingham's Favorite Hometown Newspaper

April 2024

Whiting's 100th Birthday Right around the Corner



Lifelong Bellingham resident George Whiting continues to live an active and fruitful life as he approaches 100.

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

George Whiting often quotes Ben Franklin's saying: "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."

The 99-year-old Whiting, who was born in Bellingham in 1924, turns 100 on April 12 and there's no doubt that the soon-to-be centenarian has lived a life that personifies health and wisdom. His honorable, compassionate nature, his relentless work ethic and his family and friends are what he calls "his wealth."

"The keys to my longevity are eating the right food, a minimum of eight hours of sleep every day and staying active," Whiting said. "Since I grew up on a farm, the right food for me is eggs, beef, chicken, vegetables, and fruits. I don't drink alcohol or smoke."

BIRTHDAY
continued on page 2



"Great to be with the folks from Bellingham Senior Center," says Representative Soter. "After their meetings, we took them on a tour of the State House including the Grand Staircase." Pictured, from left, are Mike Soter, Josie Dutil, Wendy Wright, Brenda Griffin, and Dave Dunbar.

Bellingham Represented at Older Adult Lobby Day

By DAVID DUNBAR

Some 500 people from across Massachusetts – including a delegation from Bellingham – attended "Older Adult Lobby Day" last month at the State House in Boston.

It was an opportunity to hear the latest news about legislation aimed at improving the lives of older adults. They filled the

LOBBY DAY
continued on page 4

ADC SEPTIC

Chris Lanoue
Founder and Owner

508-883-9000
ADCSeptic@gmail.com

SEPTIC PUMPING • TITLE 5 INSPECTIONS
INSTALLATION • EXCAVATION • REPAIRS
PORTABLE TOILET RENTALS

www.ADCSeptic.com

The Spring Real Estate Market is here!

Call us today!



Kelley Byrnes-Benkart
Broker Associate, CBR, GRI
Costello Realty - (508)245-2336
Kelley@costellore.com



Poli
MORTGAGE GROUP



Sarah Joy
NMLS 1914862 - Branch Manager
100 River Ridge Drive Ste 304
Norwood, MA 02062
774-291-6481

Poli Mortgage Group NMLS# 1979 is a Division of Radius financial group inc. Corp. NMLS #1846. Equal Housing Lender. www.radiusgrp.com/licenses www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org

Piette JEWELERS

WHERE QUALITY & SERVICE ALWAYS COME FIRST!

429 Pulaski Blvd
Bellingham, MA 02019
(508) 876-0010

www.piettejewelers.com

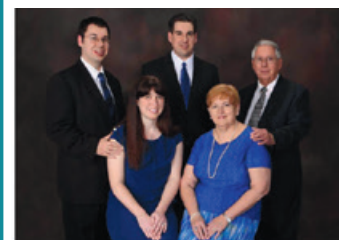
Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday 10:00am - 2:00pm
Closed Sunday and Monday



Wedding Bands and Engagement Rings of all styles. Stop by and see our collection!

COME IN AND VIEW OUR COLLECTION

- Gemologist
- Watchmaker
- Engraver
- Jewelry Repairs
- Custom Remounting
- Gifts & Collectibles
- Overseas Diamond Buyers
- We Buy Gold



RJO MASTER JEWELER
EXCELLENCE YOU DESERVE!

The Piette Family
Back Row: Ross, Ryan, Roland
Front Row: Jennifer, Rita

Serving the community for over 65 years

BIRTHDAY

continued from page 1

Whiting lives on Scott Street in the same house where he was born. There's a room in the farmhouse that he's labeled "the birth/death room."

"Family members have been born in it and died in it," he said. "I use it as my bedroom, and it's where my wife Kathryn passed away in 2021. We were married for 76 years."

The Whitings had two children (Dale and Kathy) and three grandchildren. "Dale lives nearby, and he and his wife (Helen) have helped me with household things," Whiting said. "I've been blessed with good health, wonderful children and a great church family."

Whiting's health has played a major role in what's been an active life. He chopped wood and drove a tractor into his mid-90s, and he still mows his lawn on a sit-down mower.

"My one big health issue occurred when I was 17," he said. "I had rheumatic fever, and that condition prevented me to serve in the military when World War II began."

A 1941 graduate of Bellingham High, Whiting was a straight-A student. When he was a sixth-grader, his principal told him his last two weeks in Grade 6 would be spent in Grade 7, then he would advance to Grade 8.

Whiting's parents (Warren and Elizabeth) owned a chicken farm that started small then grew to include 15,000 chickens and a multitude of buildings over 61 acres. "At one point, we were selling eggs and up to 100 chickens a week," Whiting recalled. "We had five employees and two trucks for deliveries."

The farm was prosperous, but the hurricane of 1938 demolished much of it. "We had help from people in town to rebuild it," Whiting said. "Later on, at age 40, I went to hairdresser school, got my license and joined Kathryn in that business. I liked to say that I went from chicks to chicks when we gave up the poultry business."

Over time, some of the land was sold, and Whiting's house and barn currently sit on 15 acres.

Still attending the First Baptist Church in Bellingham, Whiting has been an active member there for 83 years. He still serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and is the church's patriarch. His wife was also active in church ministries and was revered as its matriarch.

The couple traveled extensively, especially to the west where their daughter resides in Colorado. "We bought a motor home and visited 47 states," Whiting said. "The three we didn't visit are Hawaii, Alaska and Idaho."

To put Whiting's life in perspective, he was five years old when the stock market crashed in 1929, he was 17 when World

War II began, Calvin Coolidge was president when he was born, and he was 39 when John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

When Babe Ruth hit 60 home runs in 1927, a record that stood for 34 years, Whiting was only three. But, he has a distant connection to Ruth. "My wife's mother was a nurse who moved to New York," Whiting noted. "She worked at a hospital in New York City and took care of Ruth when he was dying of cancer."

Whiting experienced The Great Depression in the early 1930s, and although he was still a child, he knew people were suffering. "My father was on the Board of Welfare in town," he said. "He was in charge of handing out coupons for coal and food."

What keeps Whiting busy are cooking and other chores. He enjoys photography, is an avid reader and although he never learned to read music, he's proficient playing the organ, harmonica, and accordion. No longer tending to vegetable gardens, he still grows African violets.

"I've always loved Bellingham for being a country town," he said. "Cities aren't for me. I wish Bellingham's leaders would slow down growth and maintain open space. The warehouses and apartment complexes are too much," observing, "Life is in the fast lane and people aren't as socially friendly. People are in too much of a hurry."

After a physical last month, Whiting's doctor gave him a clean bill of health, but also offered some advice. "Whatever you're doing, don't change the routine," she said.

George Whiting is a remarkable man who's lived a fruitful life. And, he's still going strong.

Tri-County Regional Chamber's O'Callaghan Receives Award



Photo by Paul Vicario, used courtesy of the Tri-County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

On Thursday, March 14th, the TriCounty Regional Chamber of Commerce celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a St. Paddy's Day Business After Hours, co-hosted with MyFM 101.3. Chamber President & CEO Laura O'Callaghan, shown here with members of her family, was presented with the MyFM 2024 Butch Moore "You Touched

Upon My Life" Award. MYFM created the award in memory of local singer Butch Moore, in the name of his signature song.

Tom McAuliffe President of MyFM Media, noted that O'Callaghan's commitment to local business and the nonprofit community "simply goes above and beyond the call of duty."

Seattle YA Author to Visit Bellingham Library

On Saturday, April 6th, author Parisa Akhbari will visit the Bellingham Public Library to talk about her debut novel, *Just Another Epic Love Poem*, followed by a Q&A session, and book signing. The event is co-sponsored by the Bellingham Public Library, Queer Youth Project, Northwest

Youth Services, Whatcom Youth Pride, and is for anyone high school age and above. No registration required.

Link: <https://bellingshampubliclibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=58020>

localtownpages

**Founded by
Pamela Johnson**

Published Monthly
Mailed FREE to the
Community of Bellingham
Circulation: 7,500
households & businesses

Publisher
Chuck Tashjian

Editor
J.D. O'Gara

Send Editorial to:
bellingshambulletineditor@gmail.com

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

Creative Design & Layout
Michelle McSherry
Kim Vasseur
Wendy Watkins

Ad Deadline is the
15th of each month.

*Localtownpages assumes
no financial liability for errors
or omissions in printed
advertising and reserves the
right to reject/edit advertising
or editorial submissions.*

**To ADVERTISE in THIS PAPER
Call Jen Schofield at 508-570-6544**

Cleanups • Mowing
Mulching • Planting
Tree Work



Brush Chipping • Firewood
Rototilling • Snowplowing
Stump Grinding

OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE CO.

508-883-3564 (Office)
508-498-7297 (Cell)

RUSS ANZIVINO
OWNER

RYAN ANZIVINO
CERTIFIED ARBORIST

HEAT
is just a phone call away!



EASTCO OIL: 508-883-9371

From the Town Clerk.....

Local Election Calendar

As you may know, the date for our Local Town Election has changed as prescribed by a bylaw change approved by Town Meeting. Beginning in 2024, our local election will take place on the first Tuesday in June. This year, it falls on June 4th.

On March 18, 2024, the Bellingham Select Board voted to opt out of Voting by Mail (VBM) and In-Person Early Voting for the Local Town Election. Absentee voting is available. Absentee ballot applications are available online at mass.gov, as well as by mail or in person at the Town Clerk's office. In-office voting will be available once the ballots are received.

NOTE: If you applied for a ballot by way of the State's "I WANT TO VOTE" card and checked

"All Ballots this Year", you will not automatically receive a local election ballot. You must fill out an absentee application in order to receive a local ballot at home. You will, however, automatically receive State Primary and General Election ballots in September and November.

The calendar for the Local Election is as follows:

March 13, 2024	8:30 a.m.	Obtain Blank Nomination Papers from Town Clerk, FIRST DAY
April 17, 2024	5:00 p.m.	LAST DAY to Obtain Nomination Papers ALL Nomination Papers Must be
April 24, 2024	4:30 p.m.	Nomination Papers Submitted to Board Registrars (by Town Clerk)
April 29, 2024	4:30 p.m.	Nomination Papers Filed with Town Clerk
May 1, 2024	5:00 p.m.	Withdrawal of, and/or objections to, Nominations, LAST DAY
	7:30 p.m.	Special Town Meeting (by Citizen Petition), BHS
May 17, 2024	4:40 p.m.	1st OCPF Report Due Covering March 13 through May 16, 2024
May 28, 2024	8:00 p.m.	Last Day to Register to Vote Prior to Local Town Election.
June 4, 2024	7 a.m. - 8 p.m.	Annual Town Election (BHS Gym)
July 1, 2024	4:30 PM	Final OCPF Report Due Covering May 16 Through June 30, 2024.

OTHER 2024 ELECTIONS

More information to follow on the two other elections scheduled to be held in 2024. Dates below:

September 3, 2024	State Primary
November 5, 2024	State/Presidential Election

DOG LICENSES

A reminder: Dog Licenses are due for renewal on April 1, 2024. Please be aware that, per Massachusetts General Law and Bellingham Town Bylaw, late fees of \$25 (per household) may be assessed on May 1st. If payment still hasn't been received by June 1st, an additional fine of \$50 (per household) may be levied. Beginning in August, any unpaid dog license will be referred to Milford District Court for adjudication. So.....please apply for your dog license as soon as possible to avoid any late fees or fines!

TOWN OFFICES TO BE ELECTED

Select Board (for 3 years) Michael J. Connor (I) Ann L. Odabashian (I)	Two (2) to be Elected
Select Board (for 2 years) Open Seat	One (1) to be Elected
Library Trustee (for 3 years) Carol Bird (I) Suzanne Garten (I)	Two (2) to be Elected
Planning Board (for 3 years) Brian Salisbury (I) Dennis J. Trebino (I)	Two (2) to be Elected
School Committee (for 3 years) Mark J. Flannery (I) Erik Ormberg (I)	Two (2) to be Elected
Housing Authority (for 5 years) Linda Cartier (I) Christopher Remillard (I)	Two (2) to be Elected

Richard (Rick) Lamothe Electrical Contractor

Electrician — Master License in MA & RI



CELL: (508) 397-1916

Small jobs, service upgrades, fire alarms
All phases of old and new construction

Franklin Town News

now has its own
Facebook page!



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



TAXES



WHY RISK IT? HIRE A TAX PROFESSIONAL!

Don't take a gamble!
We can take the "risk" out of your taxes.
Call soon to schedule an appointment.

Laura J. Smith, E.A.
Bayberry Accounting & Tax Service
508-966-1685

Reasonable Rates ♦ Quality Service
Accurate Tax Returns ♦ Confidentiality ♦ Electronic Filing

CLIP & SAVE!

NEW CLIENT SPECIAL
SAVE 20%

Laura J. Smith, E.A.
508-966-1685
LSmith33@aol.com

Celebrating 30 years in business!



from the Collision &
Towing Experts at



Bellingham, MA
46 NO. MAIN ST./RTE. 126
Visit Us for All Your Collision Repairs!

TOWING: 508-966-1008

LOBBY DAY

continued from page 1

Great Hall and heard reports from sponsors of the event, including AARP, The Older Adult Behavioral Health Network, Mass Home Care, Massachusetts Councils on Aging, Alzheimer's Association, and MA Senior Action.

Attendees, after the presentations, were released to hunt down their state legislators for some verbal arm-twisting (lobbying).

"Speaking with Massachusetts legislators," says Bellingham Senior Center Director Josie Dutil, "is something that I'm learning to be more comfortable with, and something that is necessary if our elected officials are to understand what older adults are facing in day-to-day living."

"This is the year we make real progress on the things we care about," explained Senator Patricia Jehlen, one of the featured speakers. "And we need your help." She mentioned home

care, assisted living, and housing as services that need particular attention.

Another speaker, Representative Thomas Stanley, added that, "We need more funding for all programs that serve older adults including adequate wages for home healthcare workers, elder nutrition, and affordable housing."

The Massachusetts Councils on Aging is looking for an increase in the funding distributed to each Council on Aging in every city and town in the state based on the number of elders living in each municipality.

"For me," says Bellingham COA board member Brenda Griffin, "the most impactful presentation was by the Massachusetts Councils on Aging to increase the COA Formula Grant by \$1/elder (from \$14 to \$15/elder). Their supporting document highlighted two individuals and the COA services and programs that they received in one year. One man had 272 interactions and a woman had 429 interactions which based on the \$14, resulted in a reimbursement of \$.05 and \$.03 per interaction."

Griffin continues, "I have emailed our Senator Becca Rausch and Representative Mike Soter requesting their support of

this bill [9110-9022 Elder Affairs FY25]."

Mass Home Care provided attendees with a script to use to contact their legislators. It urged increased support for the Senior Nutrition Program, SHINE's Health Benefits Counseling Program, the Elder Mental Health Outreach Team (EMHOT), and the Elder Supportive Housing Program.

According to Mass Home Care, 23% of the state's population is aged 60 or older, and it expects that number to grow to 26% by the year 2030. It says that among these older adult households, approximately 25% have annual incomes below \$20,000.

"Attending Older Adult Lobby Day had a tremendous impact on me and left me with a better understanding of all the legislative action that is taking place behind the scenes in Massachusetts," notes Senior Center Director Dutil. "I left there feeling comforted that there are many agencies and organizations that are identifying the needs and communicating with lawmakers, and I was thrilled to be there representing one of those agencies that is doing this work."

The Bellingham delegation included Dutil, three members of the COA board, and State Representative Mike Soter who

gave the group a tour of the State House.

COA board member Wendy Wright noted, "It was obvious Mike loves the State House, so knowledgeable in all his stories. He made us all smile with the fact President Taft was such an enormous man they had to widen the front doors of the building so he could visit, and they are still the same wide doors today although seldom opened except for state functions."

She continues, "The history is deep in the bones of this amazing building, you can feel it as you walk the mosaic tiled halls, marble stairways, brooding portraits of long past presidents and governors. I learned that artists charged by the number of limbs that are shown in their finished works (who knew?)."

"I highly recommend a trip to our State House," concludes Wright, "to soak up the 'magic,' stare at the stain glass windows, glorious ceilings, and the Great Hall with all the Massachusetts' cities and town flags. It's magical!"

If you have ideas about how older adults in Massachusetts can be supported, then please contact State Rep Mike Soter at (617) 722-2305 or Michael.soter@mahouse.gov

NEW EDGE
LAWN & LANDSCAPING
401.999.5236
Call to schedule your service!

Spring Clean Ups • Maintenance Services • Mulching • Sod Installation
Planting Project • Trim & Shape • Walkways • Patios
Retaining Walls • In Ground Drains • and Much More...

A+ Plus
TIRE AND AUTO CARE
aplustireandautocare.com

Get your MA Inspection HERE!

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS

MA State Inspections	Mufflers
Oil & Filter Change	Shocks & Struts
Tires—All Brands	Brakes & Tune-ups
Computer Engine Analysis	Axles & CV Joints

633 Rathbun St.
Blackstone, MA 01504
508-883-8881
OPEN SATURDAYS, 8AM-NOON

HERCULES TIRES

LiftMaster
POWERED BY myQ

Download the FREE myQ app
Download on the App Store
GET IT ON Google Play

See clearly. Close securely.

Kids make it home from school? Did you close the garage door? Give yourself peace of mind that your family and home are safe and secure with the LiftMaster Secure View™ 84505R. The built-in camera lets you stream video, record it, and offers 2-way communication through the myQ app — which also allows you to remotely open and close your garage door from anywhere, at anytime.

Model 84505R

UNMATCHED REPUTATION, OVER 30 YEARS IN BUSINESS
Your trusted local professional service & installer.

LiftMaster

Jolicoeur
OVERHEAD DOORS
Professionally Installed by

Call or visit our website today
JOLICOEUR OVERHEAD DOORS
745 South Main St., Bellingham, MA 02019
508-883-4522 • www.mygaragedoor.com

*View a live-stream of your garage for free. 7-day and 30-day video storage options are available via a monthly or yearly subscription. Apple, the Apple logo, iPhone, and iPad are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries and regions. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google LLC. © 2022 The Chamberlain Group LLC. All Rights Reserved. LiftMaster, the LiftMaster logo, myQ and the myQ logo are registered trademarks of The Chamberlain Group LLC, 300 Windsor Drive, Oak Brook, IL 60523 | LiftMaster.com | Wi-Fi is a registered trademark of Wi-Fi Alliance 18967801

20 Years of Dragon-Riding:

Bestselling Author Christopher Paolini Discusses His Work

By JENNIFER RUSSO

The latest event in the Library Speakers Consortium series, Author Talks, was an exciting journey into the magical and misunderstood world of dragons. Christopher Paolini, bestselling author of young adult literature series favorite “The Inheritance Cycle” (*Eragon*, *Eldest*, *Brisings*, *Inheritance*) and now its sequel, *Murtagh*, delighted webinar viewers with answers to questions regarding the world of dragons he has developed over the last 20+ years.

Paolini started working on the first book in the series, *Eragon*, when he was only fifteen. He credits hard work and luck for its publication. He shared the story about how after self-publishing the novel initially and going into libraries and schools to sell them, Carl Hiaasen (author of *Hoot* and other works) happened to be in Montana and purchased a copy for his then 12-year-old son, who loved it. Carl then recommended the book to Random House and things unfurled from there. Though Scholastic also offered to pick up the book, he did elect to sign with Random House.

“It was the right choice. I had found out after the fact that Chip Gibson, who was the head of the Children’s department at the time, basically chose to use

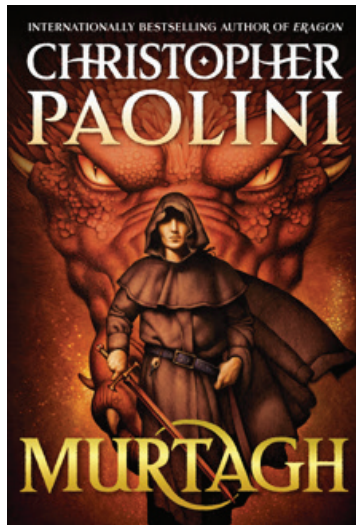
Eragon as something to rally the troops, and I was the very fortunate recipient of that love and attention,” he shares.

Paolini also creates all of the maps and interior art for all of his books and discussed that he spends a lot of time on “world building” so that everything in the story ties together in a cohesive and seamless way, to better help the reader understand all of the elements of the characters and surroundings.

When asked how he keeps the many details of his worlds, languages and characters straight when he is writing, Paolini shared that he has a team of assistants that he hired to develop a private Wikipedia page that houses everything to make it easier for him, but he also advises new writers to keep things straight using databases and spreadsheets if they are complex enough.

When asked by an audience member what the archetype of dragon means to him and how it plays out in the story line, his response was two-fold.

“Dragons represent both a creative and destructive force – and mythologically they are linked to the creation, destruction or even the health of the land,” he shares. “Also, you know things are about to get serious in any story when a dragon shows up.”



Discussing his latest book, *Murtagh*, the author shares the reason behind giving the character his own story.

“Murtagh is one of the main characters of the “Inheritance Cycle” series, but we don’t see a lot of him after the first book – we really only see him appearing as a villain and I felt that there was an opportunity to rectify that and show what was happening at that time. Plus, with 2023 being the 20th anniversary of the release of the first book, I really



wanted to have it done as a part of that.”

To learn more about Christopher, his new book and the rest of his works, visit his website at

www.paolini.net and for more information on upcoming Author Talks events, go to <https://libraryc.org/bellingham/upcoming>.

250 PULASKI BLVD.

Bellingham Electric
Since 1953

APPLIANCES

BOSCH	Electrolux
	LG Life's Good
SAMSUNG	KitchenAid

APPLIANCE SALES & REPAIRS
(508) 883-7235
WWW.BELLINGHAMELECTRIC.COM

SALMON
HEALTH & RETIREMENT
THE WILLOWS | WHITNEY PLACE

OVER 50 YEARS of EXPERIENCE
ADDED TO SALMON AT MEDWAY

Meet the team!

NIC ESTRELA Engagement Director	JOELY-ANN BIENKOWSKI Tapestry Director	RICK REISSFELDER Resident Care Director

508.533.3300 | 44 WILLOW POND CIRCLE, MEDWAY, MA 02053

A Call for Volunteers!

Celebrate Earth Day & Keep Bellingham Beautiful

By JENNIFER RUSSO

Mark your calendars for April 27th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., when Bellingham residents will gather to do a bit of Spring cleaning by coming together as a community to pick up trash from the public areas where we live, work and play. This annual tradition of giving back and keeping our town beautiful has been successful each year, but many hands make light work, as the saying goes – so the more volunteers who give their time to help, the better (and faster) the effort.

“With new infrastructure being built in town these last couple of years, we realize that there is impact to different traffic patterns, more trash in certain areas, and some frustration about it,” says Dylan Labonte, Health Agent for Bellingham.

“I really think that one of the best ways you can show that you feel strongly about the commu-

nity remaining a beautiful and healthy place to live is by participating in efforts like this; putting your face forward and showing decision-makers that you care and want to be involved.”

Individuals and groups will meet at Town Hall and be assigned to cleanup sites where transportation is also available. Trash bags, handheld trash pickers, and gloves will be provided. Volunteers are encouraged to pick up plastic bottles, paper items, cans, pieces of plastic and other general trash, but are not expected to pick up broken glass, needles, sizable items, or anything that might be dangerous or sharp. Those items will be cleaned up by the DPW using special receptacles. Community members are asked to wear closed-toe shoes, long pants, and attire suitable for the activity. Participants should be 12 years of age or older.

Volunteers are welcome to participate in a post-cleanup reception with free activities and refreshments and check out some eco-friendly products and vendors to help keep our environment the best it can be. It’s a terrific way to come together for a worthy cause, not just to improve our own town, but to contribute to global sustainability - being a part of the greater solution to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in the wrong places.

If you’d like to volunteer yourself or as a group, please reach out to the Board of Health at (508) 657-2852, or email Laura at LRenaud@BellinghamMa.org by April 13th so that there is an accurate headcount for the event.

Note: *The rain date for the Earth Day cleanup is May 4th. Bellingham also has a household hazardous waste day scheduled separately, on July 27th, where residents can safely dispose of things like motor oil, batteries, gasoline, and things of that nature.*



Bellingham native Dylan Labonte, Bellingham’s new Health Agent, wants to keep this town beautiful, and healthy.

Meet Dylan Labonte, Bellingham’s New Health Agent

By JENNIFER RUSSO

There is an old adage that goes, “Be the change you want to see in the world.” For Dylan Labonte, this is also a personal philosophy. Growing up right here in Bellingham, he knew what he wanted to do pretty early on – to be the vehicle for health improvement in the place that he called home.

There is something to be said about coming into a new position full of big ideas and a true, can-do attitude. Labonte is helping to lead our Earth Day town cleanup efforts and looks forward to other ways he can make and keep Bellingham beautiful, welcoming, and safe.

Responsible for enforcing policies of the MA Department of Public Health and the Bellingham Board of Health and conducting inspections of local businesses to ensure health safety, Labonte also hopes to bring forth a lot of education around the policies to the town.

A recent Public Health graduate of UMass Lowell, Labonte threw his hat in the ring right away. He is excited to bring his knowledge and expertise to protect residents and make the town an even better place.

“I want people to love it here and want to live here,” says Dylan. “A lot of concerns about potential health issues, such as clean drinking water or sanitary restaurant practices, are all super avoidable with the right protocols and research in place.”

“One big thing I am really excited to dive into is reducing the amount of food insecurity we have here in town. A lot of people don’t realize that there is a percentage of people who struggle with putting healthy meals on the table. Making sure everyone is fed, reducing food waste, and getting ahead of this crisis is one of the first things I am looking to tackle,” he shares.

This, along with helping people who aren’t in livable housing situations, staying on top of communicable disease prevention, educating students on health impacts of drug use, having classes come to town hall to learn about how the government works in town, along with other great initiatives Labonte champions.

“I am a big believer in not necessarily reinventing the wheel or fixing something that isn’t broken; however, I do think that there are many things that can be improved for even more efficiency or even revolutionized with the resources we have available,” he says.

“I want to get to a place where people in other towns across the state see ours as a community that is involved and health conscious, how good health regulations can bring about change, and really mark Bellingham as a true example of what a healthy town looks like.”

For more information about our town’s Board of Health, visit <https://www.bellinghamma.org/board-health> or call (508) 966-5820.

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Docket No. N024P0648EA

Norfolk Probate and Family Court
35 Shawmut Road, Canton, MA 02021
(781) 830-1200

Estate of: John Joseph Hayes, Also known as: John Hayes, John J Hayes
Date of Death: 03/01/2023

To all interested persons, A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Nicole Cook of Medfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Nicole Cook of Medfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before **10:00 a.m.** on the return day of **4/24/2024**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Patricia Gorman, First Justice of the Court
Date: March 20, 2024

Colleen McBrierley
Register of Probate

Community Steps Up for Beloved Coach

By DAVID DUNBAR

“A February 7th we will never forget. It started as a typical day of calls and meetings. Later in the evening, several of us were meeting in Boston to have dinner with Ed Fraine, a colleague and friend. One phone call from Ed’s wife, Tricia, instantly changed the day. Ed asked her to call and let us know he was not able to meet for dinner. After experiencing some memory lapses and balance issues, Tricia, like any good spouse, demanded he seek medical attention.”

And so it began. Matt Marchbanks, a family friend and organizer of a GoFundMe campaign to raise money to help with all the expenses associated with being diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer, wrote the above on the GoFundMe website. Fraine, 58, lives with his family in Bellingham.

The good news is that doctors at Tufts Medical Center say that 75% of the tumors will respond to treatment.

“Ed was a fixture on the sidelines of Youth Soccer fields for years, and the outpouring of well wishes from the girls he coached, and their families is truly rewarding,” says Ed’s brother, Denis Frane who is also Bellingham’s Town Manager. “Ed’s coaching began with youth basketball running the ‘Swish Kids’ program and continued right up through coaching Girl’s U16 Soccer. Ed’s quick wit and light-heartedness



Ed Fraine, his wife Patricia, and three daughters, Danielle, Lauren, and Erin. (From Fraine’s GoFundMe page.)

made the experience what it was supposed to be; a lot of fun.”

Marchbanks continues, “Anyone who has met Ed Fraine can’t help but smile, laugh and walk away thinking about what a kind, gentle giant he is. Ed is a great family man -- adoring wife Tricia, and their daughters: Danielle, Lauren and Erin. The Fraines open their home to family and friends on any occasion. And a word to the wise, don’t EVER bet against Ed when it comes to his beloved Boston sports teams! He can recall players, stats, and games like an encyclopedia. On a professional level, Ed has worn many hats in the healthcare industry and has influenced hundreds of colleagues, clients, and employees along the way.”

“To enable them to focus all their attention on Ed, his friends and colleagues,” adds Marchbanks, “would like to help defray some of the expenses they will be faced with: modifications to their

home, drives to Boston, accommodations, treatment and recovery. If you are inclined and able to help, the Fraine family would be so appreciative.”

You can go to www.gofundme.com and search for Ed Fraine to contribute.

The community has shown its support. As of this writing, more than \$56,000 has been contributed. The biggest donation was \$2,000 and the total of donations (258) averaged \$217 so far and many were \$1,000 or more. The campaign started on February 7 and is very active today.

Some of the GoFundMe posts from donors:

“You got this Coach!!! ❤️”

“Wishing you and your family all the best!”

“Keeping you all in our prayers! Ed, you have always been there for everyone and now you have a village behind you! You’ve got this!”

“Love you, big guy!”

“Fight hard, big Ed. The love from God, family and friends will get you through this. Get well!”

“A good friend of mine recently beat this; sending prayers and positivity for your recovery.”

“Ed is ready for the fight of his life,” says Marchbanks, “and will lead the way, his family and friends will be his guides, leaning posts, care takers and cheerleaders.”

Cartier’s Funeral Home

Complete Pre-Need Funeral Planning

Family Owned & Operated Since 1957

Serving Bellingham and the Surrounding Communities

151 South Main Street, Bellingham, MA 02019

508-883-8383

www.cartiersfuneralhome.com

Francis E. Cartier

Leslie A. Cartier

DEATH NOTICE



David L. Tuttle, Jr., 94, of Bellingham, Mass., died Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at the Milford Regional Medical Center after a period of declining health. Born in Woonsocket, R.I., on July 3, 1929, he was the son of David L. Tuttle, Sr. and Margaret Keegan Tuttle. His beloved wife Margaret died in 2016, after more than 63 years of marriage.

He is survived by three sons: David L. Tuttle III, Timothy J. Tuttle and his wife Bernadette, Thomas T. Tuttle, Esq., and two daughters: Mary T. Cembrola and her husband Robert and Ellen M. Tuttle. He leaves four grandchildren: Katherine Wrenn, MD and her husband Patrick, Anna Sangalang and her husband Michael, Matthew Cembrola and Shannon Tuttle. He also leaves five great-grandchildren: Maia, James, Daniel, Jack and Connor. David is survived by his brother Alan M. Tuttle and his wife Barbara and was preceded in death by his sister Jane Darling and his brothers John, Robert, Richard and Howard. He also leaves his sisters-in-law Alice Tuttle and Julia Tuttle, numerous cousins, nephews, nieces and many dear friends. His large family was a joy and comfort throughout his long life.

Dave was educated in Bellingham Public Schools, graduating from Bellingham High School in 1947. He worked numerous jobs on and off campus to support himself through to graduation from Saint Anselm College, Manchester, N.H. in 1953.

He joined the United States Marine Corps in 1953, trained at Quantico and Manassas, Virginia, and at Camp Lejeune, N.C., serving on active duty as a communications officer for two years, and remaining in the USMC reserves until 1961, when he was honorably discharged with the rank of captain.

A return to New England led to an offer to join R.P. Smith and Son Insurance, the oldest insurance agency in Rhode Island. He spent his entire career there, expanded the agency into Massachusetts, and ultimately became the sole owner of the business.

Dave was honored to serve his community as well as his country; he was the Bellingham town treasurer for several years in the early 1960’s, then served as selectman for six years. He also was a long-time member of the United Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Bellingham Lions Club, with one term as president in each organization. He also served with dedication on the board of the Medway Co-operative Bank, now the Charles River Bank, for more than 36 years, serving as chairman of the board for six years, from 1991-1997. Devoted to his alma mater, he was long active in the Saint Anselm College Alumni Association, serving as its president for three years, from 1987-1989.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at St. Blaise Church in Bellingham. Burial with military honors followed at St. Mary’s Cemetery in Uxbridge. To read the full obituary, please visit www.cartiersfuneralhome.com.

Cartier’s Funeral Home, Inc.

151 South Main Street • Bellingham, MA 02019

508-883-8383

Residential & Commercial Roofing Contractor

40 years in Business
Family Owned and Operated

COOKS Roofing

Bellingham’s #1 Choice in Roofers

508-966-0306

Visit our website at:
www.cooksroofing.com



MA Lic. #116815



The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Get To Know The b.LUXE Experience

By GINA WOELFEL

Hello Bellingham! We're The b.LUXE Beauty Beat, a monthly column dedicated to keeping you in the loop about the latest beauty, style, and self-care trends. We take pride in creating engaging and informative content for our readers, and we love connecting with you to discuss the hottest topics in our industry.

But what many of you may not know is that we often find ourselves inspired by our client conversations at our salon. When you're in our chair, we love chatting about your beauty routines, challenges, and goals and use those insights for our monthly topics.

That's why, this month, we'd love for you to get to know the studio behind The Beauty Beat!

We're your one-stop beauty destination and take pride in being Massachusetts' most highly-rated beauty salon. Check us out on Google.

Our Specialties:

- Precision Haircutting
- Curly Haircuts
- Coloring, Highlighting & Balayage
- Hair Smoothing Treatments
- Hair Extensions
- Superior Skincare
- Special-Occasion Makeup
- Lash Extensions & Tinting
- Organic Spray Tanning
- On-Site & In-Studio Wed-

ding Beauty

Our studio has a bright, vibrant feel, with passionate stylists who genuinely enjoy their clients. Your appointment should be more than just a task to check off your to-do list. We want every visit to our studio to be a luxury experience.

The "b.LUXE Experience" is our unique approach to beauty and wellness and guarantees your visit will be exceptional. We understand your time is valuable and we respect that. The b.LUXE Experience helps you reset, revive, and leave our studio feeling better than when you walked through our door.

Upon arrival, our friendly front desk staff will check you in and invite you to relax in our comfy waiting area. You can also grab a refreshment from our deluxe coffee bar, where we have a wide variety of refreshments including coffee, teas, seltzers, and snacks.

Your stylist or esthetician will then accompany you to their station or private skin care room for a thorough consultation where you can discuss your beauty goals and budget. They'll evaluate the whole picture to create an individual plan that delivers your desired look and feel.

We offer complimentary "LUXE For Everyone" add-ons to surprise and delight our guests because who doesn't love surprise luxury? We work these mini pop-up services right into your appointment for an extra touch of relaxation.

b.LUXE
hair • makeup • skincare • editorial



SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

LUXE FOR EVERYONE

- Our signature BEFORE Oil Treatment is rich in essential nutrients that promote healthier hair and scalp. It's a client favorite and offered to all haircut and blowout clients. We apply this right at the sink with a zen-like massage.
- For our color and smoothing clients, we offer our NUTRIR OIL Hand Treatment during your processing time. This therapeutic hand scrub and massage leave your hands feeling soft and supple.
- Our clients who receive luxury facials enjoy a Hot Stone Foot Treatment to alleviate stress and tension.

b.LUXE is a team-based salon. We don't use the words "my client" or "your client," only "our clients." We want you to feel relaxed and at ease with



every appointment, and we'll never make you feel uncomfortable if, for any reason, you need to book with another stylist. Because of this shared client base, we can typically accommodate you with a different hairdresser if your preferred stylist is unavailable or if your beauty budget changes.

We carry many popular hair care products, including Oribe, Kerasilk, DualSenses, and Ouidad. Additionally, our award-winning skincare line from G.M. Collin is an undisputed industry favorite. Our knowledgeable team members are always here to provide product education and helpful recommendations.

For extra convenience, b.LUXE offers complimentary consultations, a private service

room for clients requiring social distance, online booking, as well as Monday and evening hours.

Thanks for taking the time to get to know us a little better!

We invite you to visit our studio located in the historic Medway Mills. It's not just a space; it's a vibrant community of artists where you can connect with like-minded individuals, exchange ideas, unwind, and learn from our seasoned experts. We aim to help you achieve your beauty aspirations because that's who we are. Beauty is our business!

We can't wait to meet you!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Sponsored articles are submitted by our advertisers. The advertiser is solely responsible for the content of this article.

HOPEDALE PIZZA MARKET

\$5 OFF
Dine-in/Take-out orders on purchase \$20 or more
VALID ON FOOD ONLY

15% OFF
Sun. thru Thurs. 4-9pm
Dine-in Only
VALID ON FOOD ONLY

NEAPOLITAN PIZZA!
Beer & Wine Now Available (DINE-IN ONLY)

1 Menfi Way, Hopedale • 508-381-3292 • myhopedalepizza.com

Your Money, Your Independence

Ready Homebuyers? Things Are About to Change.

It's been a perfect storm the last 3+ years against first and second-time homebuyers.

But a change is coming, starting with anticipation of mortgage rates falling from 7%.

Morningstar, echoing other analysts, in March shared current Fed Funds rate of 5.25-5.50% will be 4.00 to 4.25% at end of 2024. Furthermore, expect the Fed to continue to "cut through end of 2025, ultimately bringing the federal funds rate down by over 300 points".

Talk to realtors and lenders, they're seeing activity pick up.

Why? Wait until mortgage rates fall to 5%, then homes in certain price points will have inversely increased in value. Whereas, if one can purchase now with expectation to lower ongoing expenses via refinancing later, you've capped initial co2006sts and participated in appreciation.

Thus, first time buyers and those looking to move up, it's time to plan.

This means prioritizing your needs, wants, locations and budget for after you've moved into your new home. This last one is critical as lenders base your pre-approval on this moment in time, not the fact you plan to do X a year from now which requires more money in your budget.

Due diligence should also include:



Glenn Brown, CFP

Zillow, RedFin, Realtor - Scroll beyond pictures and into details of when built, sqft, interior features, acreage, adjacent home values and price/tax history. With price history, see when last sold, amount, then account for pictures or better yet when you visit, to see what's been done since to determine value.

Tax Assessments and Property Taxes - Regardless of Realtor views on tax assessments relative to asking price, know a \$890K listing with town tax assessment of \$620K for \$9,300 property taxes, will get reassessed the following year. If bought for \$900K, town likely comes in at \$820K (or higher) for \$12,300 property taxes or \$250 extra a month on your budget.

Financing Options - Explore beyond 30-year fixed rates. Understand directional interest rate

landscape and how long you expect to stay in your home. Does a 7-year adjustable rate mortgage (ARM) make sense if the plan is to move in 5-7 years or refinance as rates come down 50-75bps?

Mortgage and Cash Flow Calculations - The more variables, the better. Same with ability compare refinancing scenarios and contrast amortization tables. With clients, I'll share calculator.net, use links to save scenarios and then run these inside eMoney cash flow analysis. Together, we see impact on their future budget, cash flow 1-3 years out as well as long-term impact.

For example, say one refinanced \$600K in Sept 2020 at 2.75% on 30-year for \$2,449 a month.

In April 2024, decides to move with current mortgage balance ~\$550K, using equity and additional savings, to add \$150K to a new \$700K mortgage at 7%. New monthly payment is \$4,657, or \$2,208 more. In 5 years (April 2029), outstanding balance is ~\$658K without refinancing.

Conversely, if able to pay \$4,657 a month, decide to stay put with Sept 2020 mortgage and make \$2,208 additional payments starting April 2024, the balance is \$322K by 2029. Beyond the \$336K spread after 5 years to move and borrow \$150K, the Sept 2020 is now paid off in August 2035 and not 2050.

But wait, there's more to consider.

What if the 7% mortgage is refinanced down to 5% by April 2026? New monthly is \$3,634, or \$1,023 less. Add this as extra payment starting 2026, what do you have?

Understand money is a tool, not the only consideration.

There is great value in doing what's best for your family, educational or work opportunities and/or your personal choice of belonging to a community.

You should know this value going into a decision, not after it.

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

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

Sponsored articles are submitted by our advertisers. The advertiser is solely responsible for the content of this article.

Defying Physical Challenges and Uniting for Cancer Prevention

This June, three extraordinary girls will swim to raise money for breast cancer prevention at Against the Tide, an annual event hosted by Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC). Despite facing physical challenges, Jordan, Jasmine, and Chloe participate in Against the Tide not only with the hope that others will join their passionate support of cancer prevention, but to honor their loved ones who have been affected by breast cancer.

Every year participants from all over New England and beyond are drawn to Against the Tide and to MBCC's unique mission. These swimmers, runners, and walkers share the belief that there are environmental links to cancer and other ill-health. Against the Tide not only raises funds for MBCC's work to prevent exposures to environmental toxins, the event also raises spirits and empowers people to unite under a common cause.

Among the participants at this year's Against the Tide are three courageous girls whose determination and unwavering spirit embody the true essence of this event.

Jordan Marquis, a thirteen-year-old from Bedford with a below-knee amputation, is challenging herself to compete in the one-mile swim. Jordan shares, "I hate being underestimated. People with disabilities can do anything! Goal setting – the full mile is the next step for me." Jordan took on the half-mile swim last year and, in an effort to honor her grandmother who is a breast cancer survivor, she wants to swim even further this year.

Jasmine "Jazzy" Gillespie, an eleven-year-old girl from Bedford with minor spastic diplegia, is participating in solidarity of the daily challenges that are faced by those with health conditions like cancer. Jazzy says: "Sometimes I feel like people who don't have conditions that

affect their daily lives don't understand what it's like. So instead of having empathy for these people, they make fun of them or make them think that they can't do anything. Doing this breaks the person down and they start to believe that they can't do anything. I could imagine that this happens to people with breast cancer, too." Jazzy is swimming in Against the Tide to honor her two grandmothers as well as her aunt, all of whom were touched by breast cancer.

Like Jordan and Jazzy, Chloe Smagula, a fourteen-year-old girl from Westford with hemiplegia, is swimming in Against the Tide to pay tribute to her aunt and to help those touched by cancer through supporting MBCC's mission. Chloe, who participated in Against the Tide last year, said, "I did the open water swim because I've never done it before and I wanted to try something new."



2023 Hopkinton Against the Tide Event on June 17, 2023.
From Left to Right: Jasmine Gillespie, Laura Diamond, Chloe Smagula, Megan Cohen, and Jordan Marquis

Against the Tide is a truly inviting event where all are welcome and everyone can get together in support of cancer prevention. It offers participants of any age or ability the chance to take part in one or more of the event's athletic components.

The special 25th Anniversary Cape Cod Against the Tide event will take place on June 8th at DCR's Nickerson State Park in Brewster, MA. The 32nd

Annual Hopkinton Against the Tide event will take place on June 15th at DCR's Hopkinton State Park in Hopkinton, MA. Against the Tide will also be held virtually from June 8th to June 15th.

To learn more about Against the Tide and all of the registration options, to join or create a team and to donate or fundraise, please visit the event website at mbcc.org/swim.

CHARRON

Tree Service

Quality Timely Service!

508-883-8823

FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

- Tree Removal
- Pruning/Trimming • Storm Damage
- Land Clearing • Stump Grinding

CharronTreeService.com

KEVIN LEMIRE - OWNER

All Employees Are Covered Under Workers' Comp Insurance

1060 Pulaski Blvd

Bellingham, MA 02019

Bellingham Kenpo Karate

ONE MONTH FREE TRIAL!

Traditional Values & Training
Family-Oriented Environment
Karate & Aikido
Cardio Kickboxing 1-hour class for \$5.00

A place where kids can learn discipline, respect, self-control, and focus, and gain confidence.

Adults can get in shape, relieve stress, and learn self-defense. A place that is affordable and offers discounts to families so that they can bond and share experiences as they learn and progress through the ranks of martial arts together.

Bellingham Kenpo Karate

116 Mechanic St., Bellingham MA
(directly across from post office)

781-856-5914

KarateBellingham.com

Ham Radio a Thing of the Past? No Way!

BY ANGIE FITTON

Amateur Radio, also known as Ham radio, is believed to be a dying fad by many. That cannot be further from the truth, according to the Head of the Board of Directors for Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC), Mickey Callahan. "People think that since we have the Internet and cell phones now, that amateur radio is obsolete, but the hobby has actually grown," the enthusiast states.

Mickey built his first radio in the eighth grade and appreciated the project so much that he eventually went on to graduate college with a degree in Electronic Engineering.

Founded in 1953, the BVARC has approximately seventy members, one of whom was a founding member and carries a lot of history under his belt. The members of the club come from all over Blackstone Valley, from Woonsocket, Lincoln, Smithfield and Burrillville, RI to Blackstone, MA and its surrounding towns. Mickey lives in Bellingham, Mass. and says a few other members come from town as well.

April is International Amateur Radio Month. Rain or Shine, on Saturday, April 6th from 9 a.m. until noon, the BVARC will be hosting an educational (and fun!) event at the Bellingham Library located at 100 Blackstone Street. Last year's event had a great turnout, and one teenaged boy was fortunate enough to speak with a resident of Slovenia in Europe, while others spoke with people in Spain, and of course many throughout the United States.



On the morning of April 6th, 2024, the Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) will hold a Ham radio demonstration at Bellingham Public Library. Photos used courtesy of BVARC.

"You never know who in the world you'll be speaking with when you sign on," Callahan states of amateur radio.

Most folks think that investing in this hobby is pricey. "You don't need to spend a lot of money to get involved with amateur radio," Callahan emphasizes.

You also no longer need to know Morse Code to become involved in the hobby. That requirement was eliminated about twenty years ago. However, using Morse Code has proven to be more beneficial at times than voice communications. Because of the propagation of radio waves, and the way Morse is transmitted, it is actually more accurate and more likely to go through than speaking directly to another person.

Morse Code was invented in the 19th Century by inventor and painter Samuel Morse. "It is simple and easy to learn," Callahan says. At the event on the 6th, there will be a continuous demonstration of how to use Morse Code, a telegraph key to show how the code is sent as well

as a display showing the alphabet and its corresponding codes.

Should you decide to become involved in the Amateur Radio hobby, there are a few things to know. Amateur radio, just like any radio station you'd hear in the car or on a stereo, is regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC administers tests to gauge your proficiency in radio operations. An Entry Level person is known as a Technician, then you can test to become a General

Operator and finally, to earn all the privileges an amateur radio operator can have, you'd take a test to become Extra. Callahan himself is at the highest level possible.

BVARC is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL.org), which is an organization that represents all amateur radio clubs in the United States. The website for BVARC is w1ddd.org and holds a plethora of information and insight into the world of amateur radio. If

you find you are interested, the club meets at 7 p.m. the last Monday of each month at Our Saviour's Parish in Woonsocket, RI.



JENNIFER DELUCA
REALTOR®

SPRING THE PERFECT TIME TO GET YOUR HOME READY FOR SALE OR TO FIND YOUR NEXT FOREVER HOME.

CONTACT ME TODAY!

508-951-2178
jenniferdeluca@bhhspace.com

LICENSED IN MA & RI

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES PAGE REALTY

©2023 BHHS Affiliates, LLC. An independently owned and operated franchisee of BHHS Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Equal Housing Opportunity.

OSTRANDER INSURANCE
Established in 1979

Spring Quiz

1. Jen & Nick are cleaning out their basement and notice some water damage. The water came across the ground surface and through a basement window. Their walls and carpet are damaged. Would their home insurance cover the claim?
2. Brooks & Katie discovered some staining on their ceiling from ice dams during the winter. Would their home insurance help cover the repairs?
3. Emma & Noel left their bedroom window open during a rain storm. The rain stained and warped the floor. Would their home insurance cover the claim?

Answers:
1: No, water coming across the 'ground surface' is consider flooding. Jen & Nick would need a flood policy to cover the damage.
2: Yes, water coming through the ceiling caused by an ice dam is covered.
3: Yes, rain water coming through the window and causing damage is covered.

Calling Bellingham home for 35+ years!
Paul@OstranderInsurance.com 508.966.1116
OSTRANDERINSURANCE.COM

The Vital Role of Anesthesiologists in Eye Surgery

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

In the realm of surgical procedures, eye surgeries stand out for their delicacy and precision. From cataract removals to glaucoma procedures, these surgeries require meticulous attention to detail and specialized care. Among the crucial team members in the operating room, anesthesiologists play a vital role in ensuring the safety and comfort of patients undergoing eye surgery.

During eye surgery, patients often need to remain still and relaxed, which can be challenging, especially when they are conscious. This is where the expertise of anesthesiologists becomes indispensable. Anesthesiologists are trained professionals who specialize in administering anesthesia and monitoring patients' vital signs throughout the surgical process. By carefully selecting and administering the appropriate type and dosage of anesthesia, they ensure that patients are adequately sedated, pain-free, and stable during the procedure.



One of the primary concerns during eye surgery is maintaining optimal conditions for the surgeon to work effectively. Any sudden movement or reflex from the patient could compromise the precision of the procedure and potentially lead to complications. Anesthesiologists play a crucial role in achieving and maintaining the desired level of sedation or anesthesia, keeping the patient still and comfortable throughout the surgery.

Moreover, certain eye surgeries, such as retinal detachment repair or corneal transplantation, may require the patient to be completely still for an extended period. In such cases, the expertise of anesthesiologists in administering regional anesthesia techniques like retrobulbar or peribulbar blocks can be invaluable. These techniques involve injecting anesthetic agents around the eye to numb the surrounding area while keeping the

patient awake but pain-free. By effectively blocking the sensation of pain and minimizing involuntary movements, anesthesiologists facilitate a smooth and successful surgical outcome.

Additionally, anesthesiologists play a crucial role in managing patients with pre-existing medical conditions or factors that may increase the risks associated with anesthesia, such as cardiovascular diseases, chronic pulmonary conditions, diabetes, or allergies. Through comprehensive pre-operative assessments and personalized anesthesia plans, they ensure that patients receive safe and optimal care tailored to their individual needs.

You can easily conclude that the presence of anesthesiologists in the operating room is essential for the success and safety of eye surgeries. Their expertise in administering anesthesia, monitoring patients' vital signs, and managing anesthesia-related complications is instrumental in ensuring a smooth and comfortable surgical experience. Unfortunately, some practices are advocating for performing cataract surgery in their office. Unapproved by Medicare and major ophthalmology professional societies, this office-based surgery is based on giving you the patient a sedative pill by mouth and then they want you to be going to surgery with just that. No IV line in case of an emergency, no anesthesia presence, and the surgeon who is overwhelmingly busy operating on your eye will be the only physician in the room. Furthermore, if the sedative pill is not enough to keep you sedated or comfortable, there is nothing else they can do to relieve your anxiety and make you comfortable because you have no IV line. This raises significant concerns about patient safety and comfort. Furthermore, performing cataract surgery in an

office setting may lack the rigorous standards, staff training 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. You should always ask "Will an anesthesiologist be present during my surgery?" and "What do you do to make me comfortable if the pill you gave me outside the surgery room is not enough?" At the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford, a dedicated MD anesthesiologist is present full-time for all procedures, no exception, and your comfort and safety are titrated by using an IV line, which is lacking in the office-based surgery model.

As advancements in surgical techniques continue to evolve, the collaboration between surgeons and anesthesiologists remains paramount in achieving the best possible outcomes for patients undergoing eye surgery. 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 an accredited and licensed surgery center facility, not in an office. Four decades serving our communities and going strong.

For more details, see our ad on this page.

Sponsored articles are submitted by our advertisers. The advertiser is solely responsible for the content of this article.

Optical Shop On-Site

MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

Saturday & After Hours Available

WORLD- CLASS SURGICAL FACILITY

ANESTHESIOLOGISTS ARE PRESENT FOR ALL SURGERIES

Comprehensive Eye Exams • Full Optical Shop • Eye Glasses - Contacts

NEW PATIENTS RECEIVE A FREE PAIR OF SELECT GLASSES

Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D.

Jorge G. Arroyo, M.D.

Dan Liu, M.D.

Michael R. Adams, O.D.

Shalin Zia, O.D.

Donald L. Conn, O.D.

Dr. Purvi Patel, O.D.

SMILEFORVISION.COM

FRANKLIN OFFICE 750 Union St. 508-528-3344	MILFORD OFFICE 160 South Main St. 508-473-7939	MILLIS OFFICE 730 Main St. 508-528-3344	SURGERY CENTER MILFORD 145 West St. 508-381-6040
---	---	--	---

Herbert F Hunter, CPA

Taxes | Accounting | Auditing

9 Summer Street - Suite 305, Franklin, MA 02038

(508) 530-3089 | www.hfhuntercpa.com

Ladies Plan Baby Shower for Abundant Hope April 11

The March 14 Ladies of St. Anne meeting had members playing games, such as Hues and Cues (pictured), after the business meeting. During that meeting the Ladies voted to help the Millicie Woodman Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry with the Adopt-a-Child program in December by providing help with the col-

lection, sorting and distribution of gifts. The program provides Christmas gifts for children in approximately 100 families every year, in addition to food for the family.

The Scholarship committee has announced that applications for LoSA 2024 Scholarships are available. The scholarship is of-

fered to students who are active parishioners of St. Blaise parish graduating high school or attending a college or technical school full time and working towards a degree. Applications can be found on the St. Blaise Parish website or at the entrances of the church and are due no later than April 28.

Our next meeting will be held on April 11, at 7 p.m. in the parish hall. It will be a Baby Shower and all members are asked to bring items, such as diapers, baby clothes, toys, shampoo, baby wash, etc., for infants up to 24 months, to be donated to Abundant Hope, in Attleboro, MA. A representative of Abundant Hope will talk about the types of assistance they provide in their programs.



Potential Prospect Hill Developer Holds Meeting

On February 28, 2024, Wall Street Development Corp. held an informational meeting at Bellingham Senior Center for residents regarding their proposed project, a 156-unit residential townhouse development, Prospect Hill Village, to be located on 72 +/- acres off Prospect St. Residents expressed concern over flooding, traffic backup and safety, environmental concerns as well as affordability of the units.

At the time of the meeting, Bellingham's Conservation Commission had denied the project, which was appealed to the DEP. View more on that here at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/wire/189640> and look for more coverage on this project in the next issue of Bellingham Bulletin. To view the original filing and plans, visit <https://www.bellinghamma.org/planning-board/pages/prospect-hill-village>.

Bellingham Lions
2024
Spring Golf Classic
Blissful Meadows Golf Club
801 Chocolog Rd, Uxbridge, MA 01569
June 10th, 2024
Shotgun Start 8am
NEW DATE **NEW LOCATION**
 Visit us on our facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/BellinghamMALions/>
Event Registration Page
<https://bellingham-lions-golf-tournament.perfectgolfevent.com/>

Municipal Spotlight

Campbell, Milot Are Devoted Veterans Service Officers

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

When military veterans in Bellingham need assistance or advice, Warren “Art” Campbell and Ana Milot are the go-to individuals to see at the town’s Veterans Service office at the Municipal Center.

The 70-year-old Campbell served as a sergeant in the Marine Corps as a radar technician for six years and the 58-year-old Milot, who’s an Army veteran, served in the Reserves for 21½ years before retiring in 2004 as a Staff Sergeant. She was a personnel records specialist and a flight medic.

The tandem is ready, willing, and able to provide help for veterans, whether the assistance is about Chapter 115 benefits or about federal Veterans Administration (VA) claims.

Chapter 115 benefits provide financial aid for food, shelter/housing, clothing, fuel and medical assistance for veterans and their dependents who have limited incomes. The program

is overseen by the Mass. Department of Veterans Services (DVS) in partnership with local Veterans Service Officers (VSO).

“The DVS pays 75 percent, and the town pays for 25 percent,” said Milot, who also works in the finance department for the Bellingham school district. “For fiscal year 2023, the total benefits paid out to recipients was \$74,215, and the reimbursements received from the DVS was \$48,019.”

Campbell and Milot are Bellingham’s Veterans Agents, trained to provide assistance not only for federal and state benefits, but also to provide information on resources, such as compensation and pensions, health care, education and training, employment, burial and survival issues, transportation and military records.

“When a veteran needs VA help, we do an intake interview and assist in getting the claim completed,” Campbell said. “If the VA requires a physical exam, for example, then it will make



Ana Milot and “Art” Campbell are always ready to assist military veterans.

the necessary arrangements and inform the veteran where and when his/her appointment will be held.”

Campbell and Milot, who attend two seminars annually that focus on updates on current services, are well-equipped to assist veterans with issue linked to the PACT Act, which expands and extends the scope of VA health care.

“That legislation enables vet-

erans who experienced toxic exposures to be eligible for VA health care,” Campbell said. “That includes veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and post-9/11 era. The conditions include exposure to agent orange, burn pits, and asbestos. Other situations covered are PTSD, military sexual trauma (abuse) and other service-related injuries. We can definitely assist veterans with these issues.”

The VA indicates that since the act was signed into law in August 2022, it has conducted more than 4.5 million toxic exposure screenings and approved more than 400,000 benefit claims at a 78 percent approval rate.

Milot became a Veterans Agent in September 2022, and Campbell joined the office in July 2023. “Our goal is to help as many veterans as possible in whatever ways we can,” they said.

Campbell, on duty at the office Monday through Thursday, says he assists 10 veterans a day at the office, takes about a dozen phone calls daily and makes three or four house calls a month.

Veterans Service Officers continually have to deal with excessive paperwork and regulatory procedures and must stay ahead of what seems like a never-ending

learning curve. So, why are Milot and Campbell attracted to the task?

Campbell, who also is the Veterans Agent for Millville, considers his work a mandatory outreach. “For 27 years I’ve been involved with VA health care for my own service-connected disabilities,” he said. “It’s about giving back. It’s my desire to give back and help out fellow veterans.”

Milot says her role is to ensure that veterans are respected and get access to what they need. “As a veteran, I am committed and passionate about serving our veterans,” she noted. “Every veteran deserves to be respected and I want to make sure veterans have access to the support and resources they need. Even if it’s just to stop in and chat.”

Both agents emphasized that what they do gives them “a great deal of satisfaction.”

Campbell, who worked in electronics for defense contractors before turning his full attention to veterans, is troubled by the low number of people who provide services for veterans.

“In all my years of handling veteran affairs, I’m amazed at the large number of veterans who need vital services, and the low number of people who provide services,” he said. “My suggestion to Bellingham residents is to consider what you can do in whatever way to help and assist those who made huge sacrifices to serve and preserve our freedoms.”

Milot added: “See a Vet, thank a Vet.”

Military veterans Art Campbell and Ana Milot, devoted to the needs of those veterans who courageously chose to defend America, are the right people at the right time to occupy the seats at Bellingham’s Veterans Service office.

421 Pulaski Blv
Bellingham, MA 02019
774-460-6084

375 Putnam Pike
Smithfield, RI 02917
401-757-6872

CBD
ReLeaf Center

ReleafCenter1@gmail.com

www.myCBDreleafcenter.com

CURBSIDE PICKUP OR YOU CAN COME IN!

Try our new CBG tinctures

Visit Today!

Discounts Available for
Seniors & Veterans

HOURS:
MON-SAT,
10AM-7PM;
SUNDAY,
11AM-4PM

“CBD” stands for cannabidiol. It is a non-intoxicating cannabinoid found in cannabis.
<https://weedmaps.com/learn/dictionary/cbd>

MONEY-SAVING COUPON!

MENTION THIS AD & RECEIVE

10% OFF

YOUR NEXT PURCHASE!

Limited time offer; not valid with any other offers.

421 Pulaski Blvd,
Bellingham, MA 02019
774-460-6084

DALPE'S P&M SVCS., LTD.
DBA

JOE THE PLUMBER

508-962-5225

JothePlumber314@aol.com

MA Lic.# 11226
RI Lic.# 1719

Repairs • Installations
Kitchen & Bath Remodels • Gas Piping
Gas & Oil Heating System
Installations • Conversions

Joe Corriveau
Master Plumber

42nd Annual Franklin 4th of July Celebration in the Works

Festival July 3rd-7th, 2024, Blues Festival & Fireworks July 6th

Mark your calendars now for the 42nd annual Franklin 4th of July celebration! This year's event will take place from July 3rd-7th, 2024, with the popular Blues Festival, followed by fireworks, to take place on July 6th.

The tentative schedule as follows, is still being solidified, and as such is subject to some change, but at press time volunteer organizers had planned the following festivities:

Wednesday, July 3

- 6-10 p.m.: Rides and food booths open
- 6-7 p.m.: Smoke n Whiskey
- 7:30-10 p.m.: Backyard Swagger

Thursday, July 4

- 12-10 p.m.: Rides and food booths open
- 12-1 p.m.: Matt Zajac
- 1:15-2:30 p.m.: Jamie Barrett
- 3-4 p.m.: Ken Freeman & The Sunset Brothers
- 4:30-6pm: Jesse Liam Band
- 7-10 p.m.: Neon Lighthouse

Friday, July 5

- 2-10 p.m.: Rides and food booths open
- 2-3 p.m.: Padula Trio Plus One
- 2:30-3:30 p.m.: Two Guys Who Like Sharks
- 4:30-6 p.m.: Attleboro School of Rock
- 7-10 p.m.: Duppy Conquerors (Testimonial to Bob Marley)

Saturday, July 6

- 12-10 p.m.: Rides and food booths open
- 4th Annual Mike Crandall Franklin Blues Festival:
 - 12-1:15 p.m.: Junior Krauss & The Shakes

Sunday, July 7

- 12-6 p.m.: Rides and food booths open
- 12-1:30 p.m.: Zajac Brothers Band
- 2-3:30 p.m.: Brandt Taylor Band
- 4-6 p.m.: Gary Hoey

- 1:45-3 p.m.: Neal & The Vipers
- 3:30-4:45 p.m.: Professor Harp
- 5:15-6:30 p.m.: Mike Crandall Tribute Band
- 7-8:15 p.m.: Bruce Katz
- 8:45-10 p.m.: Delta Generators
- 10 p.m.: FIREWORKS / FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

In addition to the entertainment, local nonprofit groups will be operating food booths for the celebration.

From its start, this event is 100% funded by donations, and sponsors and volunteers are still sought for the festival, which drew 10,000 in 2023. For updated information, ticket information, or to volunteer or donate, visit the event website at www.franklin4th.com.



First Universalist Society in Franklin Hosts

What's Your Story? An Evening of Storytelling

April 6, 2024
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Inspired by *The Moth Radio Hour*, the theme of the night is "Surprises." Join us for an evening of fun as amateur storytellers dare to share their personal stories about surprises they have experienced. Snacks and beverages will be provided during intermission but feel to bring your own.

What's Your Story? is a family-friendly event hosted by the First

Universalist Society in Franklin in our beautiful meetinghouse. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12-18. Tickets can be purchased in advance at FUSE.org/upcoming events. Cash or checks are also accepted.

The First Universalist Society in Franklin (fusf.org) is a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation located at 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin MA. For more information about the Society please contact Interim Minister Beverly Waring at 508-528-5348 or minister@fusf.org.



FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1980

**Fully Insured including Workers Compensation
Residential & Commercial**

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Tree Removals & Pruning
- Ornamental Tree Pruning Is Our Specialty
- Natural Hand Pruning of Shrubs
- Cabling & Bracing

*** FREE ESTIMATES ***

~ FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ~

- Climber/Driver Wanted
- Ground Person/Driver Wanted



**Email: butlertree80@yahoo.com • Find us on Facebook
Visit us online at www.butlerandsonstreeservice.com**

Bellingham Business Association Updates for April

In March the Bellingham Business Association presented the Bellingham VFW Post 7272 with a \$500 donation check raised in part from our dough raiser fundraiser trivia night at Uno's in January. Upcoming events discussed at the meeting included:

2nd Annual Bellingham Business Expo: to take place April 6th, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Bellingham Public Library, 100

Blackstone St., Bellingham. Visitors can learn about local business owners, who in turn, can discuss what they offer.

Saturday Night Live in Bellingham: a celebrity impersonation fundraiser, including dinner dessert and entertainment, to take place on Friday, May 10th and Saturday, May 11th at Coachmen's Lodge, Bellingham. Contact Tony Khoury for tickets at (508) 380-5709.

Bellingham Pride Fest: to take place Saturday, June 29th, starting at 10 a.m. on the Bellingham Town Common, for vendor information visit <https://tinyurl.com/BellinghamPrideFestVendor>.

Myfm 101.3 Quest for the Best: a contest is a community driven voting contest to discover the best businesses in the Milford, MA area. Details at myfmquestforthbest.com.

Bellingham Business Association Membership: New members pay \$75 for the rest of this year and all of next year, details at <https://www.bellinghambusinessassociation.org/page-7743>

Also coming up this month for

the Bellingham Business Association:

April 10: State of the Town / Elections: Our April BBA meeting is at Liz's Tavern, 15 N. Main St., Bellingham 4/10 6-8 p.m. Nominations are in, and we will have our election to vote on the new board. Town Clerk, Larry Sposato, will be counting ballots and swearing in the new BBA board. One vote per membership.

The group will also be given updates of the comings and goings around town, always a great meeting to attend to find out what's going on in Bellingham.

BBA Scholarship Application Deadline - April 15th: All Belling-

ham graduating Class of '24 students are encouraged to apply no matter what school you attend as long as you're a Bellingham town resident. We award two \$1500 scholarships after the recipients attend college and submits their first semester grades. The application can be found on our website www.BellinghamBusinessAssociation.org

Unsung Hero Award Application is also open and available online. To nominate a citizen for this award download and complete the Unsung Hero Form at BBAUnsungHeroNomination.pdf and email it to Contact@BellinghamBusinessAssociation.org.



One wreck
won't wreck
your rates.

Benjamin Insurance Agency Serving MA & RI
Se Habla Espanol

401-767-2061
Bellingham, MA
401-765-5000
North Smithfield, RI

Allstate
You're in good hands.

NOT AVAILABLE IN EVERY STATE. Feature optional. Subject to terms & conditions. Allstate Insurance Co. © 2018 Allstate Insurance Co. 18679368

Joint Base Cape Cod Welcomes First Fully Electric Airplane

Members of the Massachusetts Army and Air National Guard, United States Coast Guard Base Cape Cod, and local leaders welcomed the first fully electric airplane to land on Joint Base Cape Cod on Friday, March 8, 2024. The all-electric flight was conducted by BETA Technologies, an electric aerospace company based in Burlington, Vermont. After touching down, the team from BETA gave attendees a walk-through of the ALIA aircraft, briefing them on the battery-powered aircraft.

"We see this as an opportunity not just for JBCC, but for the entire region," said Brig Gen. (Ret.) Christopher Faux, JBCC Executive Director. "Finding airfield partners helps reduce the cost of airfield oper-

ations for our military partners while simultaneously bringing the innovation associated with Advanced Air Mobility to the Cape. If this concept takes root at JBCC, it will bring STEM-related employment opportunities as well as the workforce development required in their support..."

Prior to ALIA's fly-in and on-site display, on March 7, 2024, BETA test pilot and former Air Force Commander, Chris Caputo briefed the local community, including local and state officials, about BETA Technologies and potential applications of the technology.

This visit, which was arranged with help from AFW-ERX's Agility Prime program, follows the completion of BE-

TA's first deployment with the U.S. Air Force. From October 26, 2023, to January 27, 2024, the company was based at Duke Field on Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., where they conducted operational experimentation flights with the 413th Flight Test Squadron.

"Developing military use cases for Advanced Air Mobility technologies, such as BETA's electric

Vertical Takeoff and Landing aircraft, will create opportunities to improve civilian transportation in the Commonwealth, across New England, and throughout the nation," said Mass DOT Aeronautics Administrator Jeff DeCarlo, who attended the meeting.



Don't let April Showers,
get the best of your tires!

Spring is brake season, come in now for your FREE brake and suspension check!

Foreign and Domestic, tune ups, brakes. Exhaust, struts, shocks, wheel alignments, batteries, front end work, water pumps, alternators, starters, transmission and radiator flush services....etc

BFGoodrich **UNIROYAL** **MICHELIN**
Most tire brands available

CHARLIE'S TIRE & SERVICE CENTER

Now in our 47th Year!

825 So. Main St., Rte. 126, Bellingham, MA 02019
508-883-1211 • www.CharliesTires.com

MA House Passes \$245M More for Migrant Shelter Despite No Vote from Soter

State Rep. Michael J. Soter (R-Bellingham) recently opposed a supplemental budget proposal that would commit an additional \$245 million in state funding to cover the ongoing costs of providing emergency housing to migrants, saying the bill does nothing but throw more taxpayer money at the problem without addressing the underlying causes driving up the program's costs.

In voting against House Bill 4460, Representative Soter also expressed concerns that many longtime Massachusetts residents who are citizens and in need of services, including veterans, could be frozen out of receiving housing assistance as more individuals and families continue to arrive from out-of-state. Although he supported several amendments to reform

the state's Right to Shelter law to ensure that long-term residents are given priority when accessing these services, those amendments were ultimately unsuccessful.

House Bill 4460 was passed by the House of Representatives on March 6 by 121-33. The bill will now move to the Senate for its consideration.

Franklin PMC Kids Ride Fights Cancer with Local Fundraiser

Sunday, June 9, 2024

This June, the Franklin PMC Kids Ride will be one of more than 20 PMC Kids Rides hosted throughout New England in 2024. PMC Kids Rides engage local youth in philanthropy in a safe and athletic way, giving them the opportunity to join over 6,500 adult Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) cyclists in their mission to fund lifesaving cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Since the program's inception, PMC Kids Rides have raised more than \$11 million towards the fight against cancer.

In 2023, 19 PMC Kids Rides attracted 1,400 young cyclists and 563 volunteers to raise more than \$400,000 as part of the PMC's record-breaking \$72 million gift to Dana-Farber. 2024 is particularly special as it marks the 20th anniversary of the PMC Kids Rides program! This year, the PMC is also positioned to cross a monumental \$1 billion in lifetime fundraising for Dana-Farber – and 100 percent of every dollar



raised through the Franklin Kids Ride will contribute to this milestone.

The Franklin PMC Kids Ride is in its 18th year and expects 100 children, ages 3 to 14. Kids can choose from a 3, 6, or 10-mile course. Younger riders, not yet on two wheels, can take part in the Tikes and Trikes course in a contained area. There will be several fun stations and activities for the little ones. The Franklin PMC Kids Ride will hold a party after the ride with music, food, games and more to celebrate rider achievements. The ride

hopes to raise \$50,000 this year. The Franklin PMC Kids Ride was started by Lisa Marchioni, a Franklin resident. "I started the Franklin ride in honor of one of my closest friends who passed away from lung cancer. She left 3 small children, and I truly didn't want to see other families go through the pain and heartbreak. I rode the adult PMC in 1991, and I was going to ride again until I saw the kids' rides had started. So, I had two of my children ride the Medfield ride in her honor and they really understood why they were riding. I



thought that this was so important to teach the younger generation how to give back and be a force for making a difference. My daughter was so touched by what she accomplished that she wanted her friends to be involved and ride with her. She asked me if she could start a ride in our town and that's how the Franklin Ride began."

The Franklin PMC Kids Ride will be held on Sunday, June 9, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Jefferson Elementary School, located at 628 Washington Street

in Franklin. All towns are welcome! There is a \$20 registration fee and a \$40 fundraising minimum. The PMC Kids Rides program is presented by Yankee Foundations; program sponsors include Yasso, 105.7 WROR, and Landry's Bicycles. The PMC is co-presented by the Red Sox® Foundation and M&T Bank. For more information, to register or to make a contribution, please visit <https://kids.pmc.org/franklin> or contact Lisa Marchioni at lisabxyz@versizon.net.

SOUTHWICK'S ZOO PHOTO CONTEST

ILLUSTRATION BY ROWAN KAPLAN/MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN



In 2025, Southwick's Zoo will be celebrating 60 years of family fun! Share a photo of your favorite memories at Southwick's Zoo for a chance to win a family four-pack of general admission passes for the 2024 season and make some new memories!

Contest begins April 1, 2024.



Scan to Enter

By entering this contest, you are providing consent for Southwick's Zoo and Our Town Publishing (the publishers of The Yankee Xpress/Blackstone Valley Xpress, Free Press and the newspapers of Local Town Pages) to use your photo(s) for print, digital and social media purposes, and allowing Southwick's Zoo and Our Town Publishing to contact you via email for this promotion or upcoming promotions. Only one winner per household. Cannot be an employee or family member of Southwick's Zoo or Our Town Publishing to win.



**VALUED SERVICE AWARD
FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE**



Joan Fantini
508-446-3073



Leo Fantini
508-446-3538



Kayla Normand
508-488-7371



Erin Herrick
508-523-6782



Michelle O'Mara
508-254-2819



Rene A. Rua*
508-488-6617
*English/Spanish



Abbi Normand
508-488-0373

**Contact us 24/7
for help with**

- Real Estate Marketing & Sales
- Buyer/Seller Representation
- Rentals
- Short Sales
- Foreclosures
- Staging Property for Sale



Request your **FREE CMA**

CORPORATE OFFICE:

24 North Main Street,
Bellingham, MA 02019

508-966-2424

www.MARealEstateGroup.com

HOURS: by Appointment
At Your Convenience

24/7 EMAIL:

MainOffice@MARealEstateGroup.com



Brian Sequin
774-266-6291



Lynne Roberts
508-982-3086



Bob Wilson
508-361-9539



Val Flores
774-804-2263



Francesca Casasanta
508-654-4592



Save the Date!

Blackstone Valley Tech Annual Golf Tourney June 10th

You'll want to mark your calendar for BVT's 25th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, June 10th, at Highfields Golf & Country Club in Grafton. Hit the links, show off your skills, and help raise money for a good cause to benefit the Valley Tech Education Foundation and Athletic Department activities and programs.

For all tournament details, to view sponsorship opportunities, donate a raffle item, or access the online golfer registration and payment portal, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/golftournament.

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT):

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.

"Minibus" Funding Includes Auchincloss Community Project Funding Requests

Last month, Congress passed a partial government funding bill that was signed by President Biden and includes key wins for the Fourth District. The bill provides funding for 15 Community Project Funding (CPF) requests sponsored by Congressman Auchincloss.

Local Projects Included in Passage:

- **Danforth St. Bridge Reconstruction Project, Taunton** - Amount Received: \$1,000,000
- **Weir Bridge Reconstruction Project, Taunton** - Amount Received: \$1,000,000
- **Cleaning and Lining Large Water Main near Wading River Water Treatment Plan, Attleboro** - Amount Received: \$959,752
- **PFAS Treatment Project, Bellingham** - Amount Received: \$959,752
- **Walnut Street Sewer Project, Foxborough** - Amount Received: \$959,752
- **Town Center Package Sewer Plant, Norfolk** - Amount Received: \$959,752
- **McKeon PFAS Treatment Facility, North Attleborough** - Amount Received: \$959,752
- **Water Quality Improvements, Wrentham** - Amount Received: \$959,752
- **Blackstone Valley Boys and Girls Club Stone House Renovation Project, Blackstone** - Amount Received: \$850,000
- **Franklin Ridge Senior Affordable Housing Project, Franklin** - Amount Received: \$850,000
- **Pleasant Street Infrastructure Improvements, Medfield** - Amount Received: \$500,000

GROW YOUR BUSINESS

with Local Town Pages! Call Today! Jen 508-570-6544

17 Nursing Students Pinned in BVT Pinning Ceremony



The PN Class of 2024. Back (L-R): Megan Brosnahan, Tiffany Huth, Jadahlis Rosario, Diana Fiaklou, Elizabeth Siaw, and Olamide Sophia Alabi. Middle (L-R): Rachel Minney, Meaghan George, Meredith Mogren, Meghan Bolotin, and Cayleigh Harris. Front (L-R): Ikechukwu (Wilson) Asinobi, Cristiane Padilha, Elizabeth Lobo, Rachel Vachon, Wendy Harper, and Amanda Wright. Photo/Courtesy of Blackstone Valley Tech

The Moonlight Program in Practical Nursing at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) recently recognized the achievements of the Class of 2024 during a pinning ceremony held at the school. Seventeen proud graduates were pinned and received their nursing certificates, marking the cul-

mination of one and a half years and over 1,090 hours of instruction balanced with work and family obligations. Faculty, staff, and guests joined the students, as well as a guest speaker from the healthcare industry, to share words of inspiration.

The Practical Nursing program accepts in-district, out-

of-district, and out-of-state applicants. For more information, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/practicalnursing.

Night at the Museum April 11th

Join Children's Museum of Franklin founders, Erin Gallagher & Meg Hagen, on Thursday, April 11th, from 7-10 p.m. for an evening at THE BLACK BOX filled with fun friends, community connections, live entertainment, exhibit play and more.

- Our online silent auction, launching ahead of the Gala, will close out at the end of the night.
- Exhibits are coming! Our giant green blocks, dinosaur bones, wind tunnel and more make for some great grown-up fun, too!
- Fun food and cash bar (one drink ticket included in your registration)
- Attire: Playful Fancy (you decide what that means to you!)

This is a 21+ event.

<https://www.childrensmuseumfranklin.org/gala>



- Interior & Exterior
- Wallpaper Removal
- Water Damage Repair
- Carpentry
- Cabinet Painting
- Pressure Wash
- Gutter Cleaning

508-308-6285
www.anytimepaintingservices.com



THE SPRING MARKET IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

IF YOU are thinking of buying or selling a home this year, call a professional who knows your town and the real estate market, someone who knows how to handle the process as quickly and smoothly as possible...



Suzanne Ranieri
cell: 508-380-1643

Email: suzanne.ranieri@nemoves.com

Call someone who genuinely cares about your needs & dreams!

Bellingham's #1 Realtor!



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

Vice President, Bellingham Business Association

EVERYTHING SUE TOUCHES TURNS TO SOLD!

GLADU DISPOSAL and SELF STORAGE

Storage Units
5x10 • 10x10 • 10x15 • 10x20

401-769-9125 www.GladuSelfStorage.com

Store Your Stuff With Us. You'll Be GLAD U Did!

Best Prices & Great Service

Servicing Southern MA & RI

10 - 15 - 20 - 25 yd. Dumpster Rentals



165 Poplar St., Woonsocket, RI

www.GladuWrecking.com

Library Resources of the Month – Genealogy

The Bellingham Public Library subscribes to three online resources to help with your genealogy research: Ancestry.com, HeritageQuest, and Fold 3. All three of these resources can be accessed in the library on the library computers and on our WiFi network using your own device.

Ancestry.com is the world's largest online family history resource. It gives access to hundreds of years of history in billions of historical documents and millions of historical photos from all over the world. Access vital records, census lists, immigration records such as passenger lists, military records, directories, African American and Native American records, and more!

HeritageQuest contains census records, family histories, military and bank records, and city directories, just to name a few! Access to census records includes U.S. Federal Census Records from 1790 to 1950, Canadian Census Collection 1825-1931, and the U.S. Indian

Census Rolls 1885-1940. Military records contain a premier collection of Revolutionary War records. Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1874, is a great source for genealogists researching their African American heritage.

Fold 3 features premier collections of original military records. These records include the stories, photos, and personal documents of the men and women who served in the military. Many of the records come from the U.S. National Archives, the National Archives of the U.K., and other international records.

The library's website also provides links to a number of other genealogy resources, and most can be accessed from any location with an Internet connection. They are the American-French Genealogical Society, Boston Public Library's Newspaper Databases, FamilySearch.org, FindaGrave.com, National Archives, New England Historic Genealogical Society's AmericanAncestor's.org,

New England State Archives, and the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Genealogy Resources. The American-French Genealogical Society is physically located in Woonsocket, RI. It contains one of the largest collections of French Canadian genealogical and historical research. The Society has access to birth, marriage, burial, and in some cases, real estate records from over 130 countries.

Boston Public Library's Newspaper Databases allow you to search some newspapers dating back to the 18th century! Any resident of Massachusetts can apply for a Boston Public Library ecard, which will allow you to access many of their databases from home.

FamilySearch.org contains millions of digitized records from around the globe, along with a Research Wiki to help you find other online sources for records. You do have to register for an account with an email address to use FamilySearch.

FindaGrave.com is a community created record of gravesites

and cemeteries from all around the world. Find your own relatives, or help by adding photographs of headstones and memorials!

National Archives is the nation's record keeper. Here you may find records that contain clues about your family's history, a veteran's military service, or material to help you research a historical topic. The website and email contact for the National Archives at Boston, located in Waltham, is also linked on the library's website.

New England Historic Genealogical Society's AmericanAncestors.org provides access to over 1.4 billion records spanning the United States, British Isles, continental Europe, and beyond, including: one of the most extensive online collections of early American genealogical records, the largest searchable collection of published genealogical research journals and magazines, and the only online source for records from Boston's Catholic Archdiocese.

New England State Archives – Provides links to websites and email contacts for the Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Maine State Archives.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Genealogy Resources consist of land documents dating back to 1793, deeds, mortgages, death certificates, plans of land, old city/town atlases, along with other documents that are useful in examining the past.

To access these resources, go to the Bellingham Library's website at www.bellinghamlibrary.org. Click on the Online Resources tab, and then click Genealogy/Ancestry.com.

In addition, we are offering 2 workshops this month on genealogy topics, one on Ancestry.com Library Edition and a second on Familysearch.org. Check the library calendar for details.

Checking that gives and gives.



GET REWARDED

Every one of our Dean Bank checking accounts earns points¹ redeemable for merchandise, travel, and more. Now, with more reward options, your points can add up even faster!

Learn more and open an account online today!



DEAN BANK
It's my bank.SM

deanbank.com • (508) 528-0088



¹ You are responsible for any personal tax liability related to participation in the Program or as a result of points earned or redeemed. Dean Bank is not responsible for managing or administering the Program or providing services under the Program. Program Administrator reserves the right to change these rules at any time, for any reason, and without notice. Customers with questions or concerns regarding the Dean Bank Debit Card Rewards program are invited to call (508) 528-0088 or visit any branch and speak with Customer Service during normal business hours.

Hockomock YMCA Holds Reach Out Annual Campaign at Gillette

The Hockomock Area YMCA held its annual Campaign Breakfast, a long-standing tradition held at Gillette Stadium's Putnam Club in Foxborough. The Y's annual fundraising campaign, known as Reach Out, ensures this non-profit organization continues to address emerging and critical human needs across the 15 communities they serve.

Farzin Karim, chair of the Board of Directors at the Hockomock Area YMCA provided welcoming remarks and shared her personal story of receiving a scholarship to attend the Y as a young girl.

Board of Director Angela Davis shared the Hockomock Y's community impact noting, "Last year, this YMCA provided \$3.3 million in confidential financial assistance, providing opportunities for people in need to

participate at our Hockomock Y. Additionally, 40,000 meals and 25,000 bags of groceries were distributed. These numbers are incredible, but we must never lose sight of the fact that behind every one of these numbers is a person, a life, a story."

The event's guest speaker was Congressman Jake Auchincloss, who remarked, "The Hockomock Area YMCA serves as a cornerstone of our community, enriching the lives of individuals and families and contributing to the overall well-being and vitality of this area."

YMCA members receiving financial assistance shared their stories of how the Y has impacted their lives.

The Hockomock Y's Board of Directors issued a \$50,000 challenge to event attendees, matching all leadership gifts of \$500 or more at the event.

Jim Downs, Hockomock Area YMCA CEO thanked attendees for being at this event,

believing in and supporting the Y's mission saying, "Reach Out is the centerpiece of how we provide for our YMCA mission every day and helps make it possible to deliver so many important, vital programs and services. My commitment to you and our 15 area communities is that our YMCA will continue to be here when the need is greatest to serve our communities and to serve them with compassion."

The Hockomock Y's goal is to raise \$1.5 million for this year's campaign. The Breakfast event raised \$224,000, bringing the total raised to date to \$451,000 for this year's campaign. To learn more, visit www.hockymca.org/give.



Congressman Auchincloss was the Y's special guest speaker at the Hockomock Y's Reach Out Campaign Breakfast held March 15th at Gillette Stadium. The Y's annual fundraising campaign, Reach Out, ensures the Y's addressing critical human needs across its 15 communities.

Family Fun Fishing Day to be held May 4 in Uxbridge

Open Sky Community Services and the Blackstone River Watershed Association are excited to co-host the 9th Annual Family Fun Fishing Day at Riverbend Farm in Uxbridge along with our partner organizations, the Blackstone River National Heritage Corridor Volunteers-in-Parks Program, Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife.

This year's event will be held on Saturday May 4th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, May 5th. Prizes offered in four different age groups will be awarded at 1:15 p.m. There will be activities for the whole family, as well as food and ice cream for purchase, free face

painting and raffles. All ages and ability levels are welcome.

Fishing poles, bait and instruction will be available with pre-registration and participants are welcome to bring their own. This is a catch and release event for everyone from first time fishers to experienced anglers. Adults must accompany children under 12.

Volunteer opportunities are available at openskycs.org/fishingvolunteers.

Pre-Registration will open starting April 5th at thebrwa.org/familyfishing2024. This is a FREE event, but pre-registration is required. Please contact Joanne Holahan at (508) 278-5200 with any questions.

Looking for a Veterinarian?

Services we offer:

- Wellness care
- Preventative medicine
- Routine & specialty surgery
- Ultrasounds & echocardiograms
- Massage therapy
- Laser therapy
- Same day appointments



Privately owned full-service veterinary clinic.

508-966-7605
uppercharlesah.com

116 Mechanic Street, Bellingham MA 02019



Clean Solar Energy

\$0 DOWN!
You Own the System

GROUND MOUNT • ROOF MOUNT • PRODUCTION GUARANTEE
Based in Bellingham • Installing Solar in Bellingham since 2009
References Available

MIKE KELLEY
508-657-1116 or mkelley@massrenewables.net
www.MassRenewables.net



CALL NOW FOR MORE INFO!

Bellingham Public Library News & Events for April

For updates about library programs and services, please see the library website, www.bellingham-library.org.

Closed Monday April 15th for the Patriots' Day Holiday

Please note: The library will be open from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30th. We will be closed in the morning for a staff development program.

Important: The library is scheduled to have our boilers replaced sometime soon and will close for a time while the work is being done. Updates about the project will be posted on our website and Facebook pages.

Your input to our Strategic Plan is needed! Please complete our survey!

Highlighted Programs

The Second Annual Bellingham Business Expo - April 6th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon

The library is continuing its partnership with the Bellingham Business Association to sponsor a Business Expo where the community can come to the library to meet representatives of local businesses to learn more about

their products and services in a non-sales environment. There will be food, fun and prizes. This is your chance to talk to a variety of local businesses, from financial services (banks, real estate agents, insurance agents and financial planners) to home services (waste management, cleaning services, property maintenance) and more! Check the library website for details!

Bellingham Library Community Solar Eclipse Watch Party - Monday, April 8th from 2:45-4:30 p.m. See library website for details.

Virtual Lotus Flower Lantern Craft - Monday, April 8th from 6:30-7:45 p.m.

The Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project (KSCPP) will teach participants step-by-step through Zoom to make a lovely lotus flower lantern using colored paper and a pre-made wireframe via live stream. At the same time, participants will learn about Korea's unique history and culture. There will be a PowerPoint presentation about the lotus and lantern festival in Korea, and a short document-

tary on Korea at the end of the class. For ages 10+. Watch the class from home or in the Community Room with others at the library. Once you register, you will be notified when your kit is ready to be picked up at the library. This program is supported by the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library.

Virtual Author Talks

The library will now host up to three virtual author talks each month! Register to attend the live talk, but if you miss it, you can still view the talk in the archive on our website. Go to: <https://libraryc.org/bellingham> to see the list of upcoming and archived talks, and to register to attend. The April events include:

- The Foods, People and Innovations That Feed Us – A Sweeping History of Food and Culture with Smithsonian Curator Paula J. Johnson – Tuesday, April 2nd at 2 p.m.
- From Murder to Atonement-Confronting My Son's Killer with Diane Foley & Colum McCann – Tuesday, April 9th at 2 p.m.
- A Literary Examination of Power, Love and Art with Xochitl Gonzalez, Wednesday, April 17th at 8 p.m.

Saturday Family Fun, Earth Day Edition - Saturday, April 20th at 11 a.m. to 12 noon

Monday 4/22 is Earth Day! Drop in to celebrate our planet with some Earth-themed crafts.

Parenting in the 21st Century: Balancing Work & Family Life – Tuesday, April 9th from 6-7 p.m., presented by Dr. Ankita Jain and Michelle Gaudet, both parents themselves. Ankita Jain, M.D. is Co-Founder of Sukoon Direct Primary Care in Franklin and is one of the Direct Primary Care Physicians. She is Board Certified in Family Medicine and also specializes in Addiction Medicine. Please register. This is a hybrid program, so you can attend virtually through Zoom or in person. The Zoom link will be sent out close to the event date.

Genealogy Workshops – Join us for two workshops in April on Genealogy Research

These workshops will be led by Catherine Perreault, Library Assistant, and former genealogical researcher.

• **Introduction to Ancestry.com** - Saturday, April 13th 10 a.m. to 12 noon

This workshop will focus on Ancestry.com Library Edition, however, it will also contain helpful information for Ancestry users at any membership level. This program will demonstrate what records are available through Library Edition, how to optimize your searches for best results, how to read records, and how to keep track of sources for your future use. Hybrid program. Register at library website.

• **Genealogy Research Using Familysearch.org** – Saturday, April 20th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This virtual two-hour workshop will demonstrate what records are available and how to get the most out of your searches in familysearch.org. This website, founded and run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, only requires an email to make an account. It allows users to create a family tree, save records, and communicate with other family historians. Please register.

Musical Baseball Show - Tuesday, April 30th at 6:30 p.m.

It's baseball season! Join local singer-songwriter (and former sportswriter) Howie Newman as he performs a unique, interactive and highly entertaining program of baseball songs, offers up baseball trivia, and tells stories about his days on the Red Sox beat. Howie covered baseball for the Patriot Ledger, Lowell Sun, Boston Globe, Lynn Item and others. The show includes a free raffle for a baseball CD and a display of his personal baseball memorabilia. For additional information visit: www.howienewman.com/baseball-show.

Please register. This program is supported by a grant from the Bellingham Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

After School Programs

Registration is mandatory for children in grades 4-6 to attend the ASK program.

• ASK Program hours 2:30-4:45 p.m.

• The Teen Room is open for grades 7-12 from 2-4:45 p.m.

• Check the library website for details on the programs. <https://bit.ly/3QzITpI>

Crazy 8s Math Club - Starts April 24th at 4:30 p.m.

Crazy 8s is an after-school math club unlike any other! Each week offers a different set of hands-on math activities that appeal to kids of all math abilities. This program will meet once-a-week for 8 weeks. Registration is required and registering signs you up for the whole 8-week program. This session is for elementary school-aged children (grades K-3) and will run from 4:30-5:15 p.m. each week.

Ongoing Children's Programs

Ring a Ding – Mondays & Thursdays, 10:15 a.m. Drop in! No sessions school vacation week.

Read to Freedom the Reading Dog – Mondays, 5:30-7 p.m. Sign up for 15-minute time slot!

Sensory Story Time – Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. Please register for each session. No sessions school vacation week or on Tuesday, April 30th.

Adult/Child Book Club – For kids in grades 4-6 or 6-9 and the adult in their life who loves to read. Meets monthly. If you are interested in joining, those in Grades 4-6 should contact Amanda Maclure, amaclure@cwmares.org; grades 6-9 contact Diane Nelson, dnelson@cwmares.org. Check the library calendar for details on April meeting times.

Adult Programs

Book Discussion Group – Generally meets the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Attend in person or on Zoom. Contact Cecily Christensen, cchriste@cwmares.org for more information.

Our upcoming titles are:

April: *My Friend Anne Frank* by Hannah Pick-Goslar

May: *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams

June: *The Maid* by Nita Prose

Hey Ladies ... looking for **wide** shoes?

Sizes 6.5ww - 11ww, also 12m

Come See All the New Spring Shoes

**TAKE \$15 OFF
YOUR PURCHASE**
When You Mention This Ad
EXPIRES 4/30/2024



The Forgotten Foot

"It's Worth the Trip!"

1255 Worcester Road, Framingham
Hours: Mon. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sun. 12 - 4 p.m.

508-879-3290

Coming Up at the Bellingham Senior Center

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

Volunteer Appreciation:

The Appreciation Dinner is for volunteers who have worked 100+ hours over the past year and does not include Tax Work Off participants. If you are a qualifying volunteer who has not yet received an invitation to the Dinner, please contact: tgraham@bellinghamma.org or call the Center at (508) 966-0398.

The Caregiver Assistance for Respite Expenses (C.A.R.E.) program: Learn about this program for grandparents raising grandchildren under 18 and caregivers caring for adults over age 65 or a loved one with a disability or a dementia-related diagnosis. Tuesday, April 30, at 11:30 a.m. or contact Dawn Salkiewicz at dsalkiewicz@tves.org

Saturday Coffee at the VFW: On the last Saturday of each month, from 9-11 a.m., visit the Bellingham VFW on South Main Street for free coffee and assorted goodies including bagels.

Ladies' Tea Party: Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 7, at 1pm! Enjoy tea sandwiches, hors d'oeuvres, petite delicacies, and some of the fanciest hats you've ever seen! (Oh, and there'll be surprise entertainment as well.) Bring a hat! New, old, store-bought, whatever. Bring your favorite tea cup or

use one of ours. And bring a friend! Kindly reserve by May 1. \$5 per person.

Coffee & Conversation: Join us every Tuesday for a popular free-wheeling discussion beginning at 9:30 a.m. And on the second Tuesday of every month, a Select Board member will be in attendance. This month, on April 23rd, Stephanie Gray from Congresswoman Jake Auchincloss' office will be there.

BESG Cookouts: These popular events will resume this month on Thursday, April 11, at 4pm and include one-time entertainment from folk singers Creeque Alley at 5 p.m. thanks to a Bellingham Cultural Council grant. Sausage, peppers, and onions are on the menu.

BESG Birthday Party: This month, we'll celebrate folks with birthdays in March and April. Enjoy American Chop Suey! And please call ahead to let us know you'll be coming Thursday, April 25, at noon.

Quaker Girl in Washington: The Influence of Dolley Madison: Join us for this Historical Portrayal by Janet Parnes on Friday, April 26, at 1 p.m. Call the Senior Center to reserve your seat. This presentation is made possible by a grant from the Bellingham Cultural Council.

Jordan Marsh, Boston's First Department Store: Join presenter Anthony Sam-marco on Friday, April 19, at 1 p.m. to hear the full story!

Ultimate Presentation for Red Sox Nation: Author Marty Gitlin

will have autographed and personalized copies of his book for sale after the presentation. Friday, April 12, at 1 p.m.

Grab-and-Go Lunches: They return this month. Mickey G's will be supplying the lunches. The same price at \$5 for Bellingham seniors (\$10 for non-residents). Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. Lunches are limited to 35, so please call a week prior to pick up. Special thanks to Wall Street Development Corp. and Dean Bank for supporting our lunch program.

2024 Pride Fest: The second annual Pride Festival will be held at the Town Common on Saturday, June 29, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Josie Dutil, chair of the Bellingham Pride Fest Committee, is also the Director of the Senior Center, and you can reach her by calling (508) 966-0398. And you can visit the Facebook page, Be You Bellingham, for more information.

LIBRARY

continued from page 22

Library Board of Trustees Meeting – Thursday, April 11 at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Writing Group for Adults – Tuesday, April 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Writers, readers, listeners – come join us! Local area writers Amy Bartelloni and Marjorie Turner Hollman welcome the public to an evening of reading and listening. Works of fiction or non-fiction, all are welcome. Reading limit is 9 minutes per reader, with a brief opportunity for positive, personal comments only. To participate contact Marjorie Turner Hollman at marjorie@marjorieturner.com.

Friends of the Library Monthly Meeting – Tuesday, April 16th at 7 pm.

Email library@bellinghamlibrary.org for the Zoom link

Virtual Ask-A-Lawyer Program with Attorney Brian T. Salisbury – Monday, April 22nd 5-7:30 p.m. Local attorney Brian T. Salisbury of the law firm Doherty, Dugan, Cannon, Raymond & Weil, PC

will meet with you individually through Zoom to discuss any legal questions you may have. Appointments are 20 minutes long and are free. Register for an appointment and you will receive the Zoom link close to the appointment date. Note: Your registration with your email address will go to Attorney Salisbury so he can send you the Zoom link. Please note: The Bellingham Library Ask-A-Lawyer Program is a limited pro bono legal service provided by Attorney Brian T. Salisbury and is strictly limited to 20-minute consultations regarding legal questions that you may have. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, Attorney Salisbury will not provide legal representation in any legal matter discussed.

Yoga for the Seasons

Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. Check the library calendar for details and to register.

Bellingham Skein Artists – Wednesdays at 6 p.m., All skill levels are welcome, including beginners. Please bring your own materials. No registration required.

Becca's Closet/Nipmuc Seeks Used Prom Dress Donations

Becca's Closet is a non-profit organization that collects prom/homecoming dresses and accessories and distributes them to those in need in our community. Please support by donating any dresses you may have to Nipmuc Regional High School, 90 Pleasant St., Upton, on the first Friday of every month 7 a.m.- 3 p.m. Dresses may be dropped off in the main lobby

on the dress rack and accessories placed in bins.

Tax donation receipts are available.

If you need a dress, there will be events in the future where dresses will be distributed. Please follow our Instagram and Facebook account.

For more information, contact: dasilvao25@student.mursd.org.

A Paving Company that Lasts

R. BRIEN Paving

MA 508.509.9967

Serving our Community for Over 50 Years

www.rbrienpaving.net

Sports

BHS Girls' Five Ends TVL Losing Streak, Gets to Tourney

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

The Bellingham High girls' basketball team finished its 2023-24 season with an overall record of 4-20. Those numbers may sound demoralizing, but in terms of achievement, they're actually positive.

Coach Bob Pingeton's squad qualified for the state tournament, and it also ended a four-year drought of failing to beat a Tri Valley League opponent. The Blackhawks defeated Ashland and Dedham for a pair of TVL triumphs that finally put their league losing record in their rear-view mirror.

The girls finished the 2023-24 season at No. 32 in the final power rankings, enabling it to grab the final slot for the Division 3 playoffs.

Their stay in the tourney, however, was brief. The girls defeated Advanced Math & Science Academy (AMSA), 36-31, in a thrilling play-in game in

Bellingham, then faced a Herculean task against top-seeded Foxboro in the first round. The Warriors, who won the Division 2 State title last year, walloped the Blackhawks, 75-37, in a contest that was decided before the first quarter ended.

"We knew the matchup would be a huge challenge, and it turned out to be a tsunami," said Pingeton. "Foxboro started hot, jumping out to a 20-0 lead by hitting its first eight shots. They had six three-pointers in the first quarter and led, 34-2."

The Blackhawks, who had only four points at halftime, outscored Foxboro in the second half by a 33-24 margin as both teams played their reserves.

Pingeton told his players at halftime that "this isn't who we are, so go out and keep battling." The coach was pleased with his players' efforts and said: "I was proud of the way we battled back."

Eighth-grader Liz Glynn led

the Blackhawks with 14 points, all of them coming in the third quarter. Calleigh Elder and Maya Jackson each had eight points. Foxboro was led by Kailey Sullivan's 18 points and Addie Ruter had 10.

The play-in victory over AMSA looked like a blowout triumph for BHS after the first quarter when the Blackhawks jumped out to an 11-1 lead. The Eagles, however, cut their deficit to four at halftime and led, 28-27, to start the final stanza.

Pingeton's first-quarter press worked wonders early on, but a BHS scoring drought forced him to change his defensive alignment. The Blackhawks regrouped by outscoring AMSA by an 8-3 margin in the final quarter and escaped with a five-point win.

"Our defense was the difference," Pingeton emphasized. "On two occasions, AMSA failed to beat the shot clock. On offense, Deb Kalemi got us going in the



Calleigh Elder, left, and Anabella Barasso were selected as co-MVPs at the Bellingham High girls' basketball post-season banquet. They also will be co-captains next season.

third quarter sinking a key three-pointer. And, in the final period, Calleigh clinched the outcome with a clutch three-pointer with three minutes to go and she converted two big free throws with 30 seconds left."

Anabella Barasso led the Blackhawks with 12 points. Elder followed with 10, and Kalemi had eight. Glynn contributed two

BHS BASKETBALL
continued on page 26

MULLALY MATERIALS

Monday - Friday
7:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday 8:00 AM - 12 PM
Sunday Closed

671 Quaker Highway • RT. 146A, Uxbridge, MA • Call Us Today 508-883-0977



Now Carrying ...
SRW Products
Weed fabrics
Geotextiles & Fabrics
Erosion Control
Silt Fence
Straw Wattle
Cut Off Diamond Blades



- Hemlock Mulch \$48
- Black Mulch \$42
- Brown Pine Mulch \$40
- Red Cedar Mulch \$42
- Playground Safety Fiber \$42
- Forest Chips \$12
- Screened Loam \$28
- 50/50 Compost/Loam \$32
- Compost \$38
- 3/8", 3/4" & 1 1/2" Grey Stone .. \$38
- 3" Grey Stone \$35
- 3/8", 3/4" Multi-Color Round ... \$85
- 1 1/2", 2 1/2"
- Multi-Color River Stone \$85
- Multi-Color River Stone \$85
- 3/8", 3/4" Blue Stone \$50
- 3/4" Processed Gravel \$35
- 3" Processed Gravel \$35
- Recycled Asphalt \$25
- 1" Dense Grade Gravel \$28
- 3/4" Crusher Run \$38
- Washed Sand \$35
- Mason/Pool Sand \$60
- Stone Dust \$35
- Blue Stone Dust \$50
- Rip Rap \$35
- Fill Clay/General \$10
- Trench Sand \$28

PRICED PER YARD

FIREWOOD

Seasoned Hard Wood	Green Hard Wood	OUTDOOR WOOD
\$350	\$300	Upon Request
Full Cord	Full Cord	

FOR ALL YOUR MATERIAL NEEDS
PICK UP & DELIVERY

Cobble Stone
4" x 4" x 8"
& Jumbos

Follow us on Facebook @ Mullaly Materials and Firewood

Visit: www.mullalymaterials.com

Free Delivery on Most Bulk Loads

Visa/MasterCard/Cash/Check Materials are subject to 6.25% Sales Tax

Sports

BHS Boys Hoop — Lots of Effort but No Playoff Berth

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

The Bellingham High boys' basketball team finished its season by getting high marks for effort and its relentless defensive pressure, but it missed qualifying for the Division 3 State Tournament because of an inability to score points.

Coach TJ Chiappone's squad posted a 6-14 overall record and was slotted at No. 48 in the power rankings, which determine whether a team qualifies for the playoffs. Teams that advance to post-season play are ranked in the top 32.

The power rankings reward teams for losses if the defeats are less than 10 points. The Blackhawks lost 10 of 14 games by 10 points or more. "Our inability to keep games close hurt us in the end," Chiappone said.

There's no doubt that the 2023-24 team made defensive intensity and effort its calling card. Chiappone praised his team's

work ethic, but he also emphasized that more work, especially on offense, needs to get done in the off-season.

"Our kids gave it everything they had during the season, but we need more commitment in the off-season if we're going to take a step forward," he noted. "The off-season is where players develop their basketball skills, and the regular season is where those skills get fine-tuned and where players work on team concepts."

The coach emphasized that both the players and the coaches have to do a better job, and he concluded with a thank-you to his senior players. "The coaching staff would like to thank the team's 10 seniors for their effort and commitment," he said. "We're proud of the quality of student-athletes in the program."

Naming a captain for next season and handing out awards officially concluded the season. Junior Max Gamble, whose

scrappy play in the backcourt was a plus, will be next year's captain. "Max plays hard and practices hard," Chiappone said. "All of the coaches were impressed with his leadership."

Twelve awards were presented and senior point guard Ross Priscella captured three of them.

The award-winners included: Priscella (Mr. Rebound); Haroun Mafhoum (Most Improved Player); CJ Fama and Latrey Barche (Outstanding Teammate); Max Gamble (Rookie of the Year); Gamble, Mafhoum and Jerry Domercant (Defensive Player of the Year); Ryan Nolan (Who's In Charge Award); Dasha Domercant (Three-point King); Priscella (MVP), Alex Hughes (Senior Academic Award); Tyler Ladouceur (John Simpson Award, for hard work and dedication); Joe Corsi (Coach Grupos "Unsung Hero" Award); and Priscella (Barry Hutchinson Leadership Award).



Senior point guard Ross Priscella captured three season-ending awards.

Azza Law

Amy Azza, Esq

Amy N. Azza, experienced attorney of 24 years, is accepting new clients for their estate planning needs for wills, trusts, powers of attorney and health care proxies.

WHY YOU NEED A TRUST
A trust will help you avoid probate and appoint a trustee to manage assets for family members or beneficiaries who are unable to manage their assets.

WHY YOU NEED A WILL
Wills can distribute your property, name an executor, name guardians for children, forgive debts and more. Having a will also means that you, rather than your state's laws, decide who gets your property when you die.

WHY YOU NEED A HEALTH CARE PROXY
A health care proxy is a document that names someone you trust as your proxy, or agent, to express your wishes and make health care decisions for you if you are unable to speak for yourself.

WHY YOU NEED A DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY
A Durable Power of Attorney provides extensive power to the individual who is assigned that role. Absent an appointed Agent in a Durable Power of Attorney, it would be necessary for a family member or loved one to petition the court to become the guardian over the incapacitated person.

Discover the Azza Difference
and call Amy Azza at 508 517 4310
or email azzalaw@outlook.com

51 Whitehall Way, Bellingham, MA 02019

WOODSTOCK BUILDING ASSOCIATES, LLC

The Leader in Design-Build

WOODSTOCK, CT
3 Route 171, Suite 1
860-928-0897

FRANKLIN, MA
15 Main Street, Suite 11A
508-570-4853

Residential Carpenter to join the team in Franklin, MA!

If you want to work in a supportive team environment and collaborate on some amazing residential projects, then you should join the Woodstock Building Associates team. Our company is focused on continuously improving our processes and elevating our business. Our mission is to have a positive sustainable impact in the communities we build in. We are a residential design-build firm that is 21 members strong, a family focused organization, passionate about our mutual success, and looking to create happy clients.

[Learn more here: wbahomes.com](http://wbahomes.com)
[Emails at: careers@wbahomes.com](mailto:careers@wbahomes.com)

MA Home Improvement Contractor #119085 - MA Construction Supervisor #111269 - CT Home Improvement Contractor #565903 - CT New Home Construction Contractor #160

REMODEL - NEW CONSTRUCTION - KITCHENS & BATHS - ADDITIONS

Sports

BHS Baseball Team Aiming to Achieve Four Goals

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

Coach Andy Nolan and his Bellingham High baseball team have four goals they'll be striving to achieve for the 2024 season.

The Blackhawks want to qualify for the state tourney, advance deep into the playoffs, defend their Tri Valley League Small Division championship, and aim for daily improvement.

"We've got a strong group of pitchers whose control is good," said Nolan who's beginning his third year at the helm. Our baseball IQ is high, we're skilled and have speed, especially in the outfield. We also have talent, experience, depth and a team-first attitude."

The Blackhawks, whose 16-man roster includes eight seniors, are also motivated. Those seniors have competed in the Division 4 playoffs for the last two years, but their journey ended in the second round both times.

"Getting past the second round is an unspoken objective," Nolan emphasized. "That's not something we talk about early on. The key to any season is to win the day. The players know what we want to achieve."

The 48-year-old Nolan has coached all his seniors since they played youth baseball. "The seniors have been together for a long time, and they promote team chemistry," said Nolan.

Nolan can count on nine experienced returnees.

Bellingham's captains are all seniors — Tyler Ladouceur (pitcher, first base, right fielder), Ryan Nolan (second base) and CJ Fama (pitcher, shortstop).

Ladouceur, who plans to play for Nichols College next year, hit .313 on average for the last two years. "Tyler will bat third," Nolan said. "He's a powerful gap hitter who'll be in the mix to be a starting pitcher. A left-hander, he's got good control and his change-up is his best pitch."

Ryan Nolan, the coach's son, who averaged .275 for the last two years, will play second base. "Ryan is an excellent fielder who's got a high baseball IQ," Nolan said. "He's a good contract hitter who relies on consistency."

Fama is a right-hander who compiled a 1.50 earned-run average last year. He also struck out 25 batters in 28 innings. "CJ could start, close or handle middle-inning relief," Nolan noted. "His slider and curve ball are his bread-and-butter pitches. A TVL honorable mention all-star last year, he's solid at shortstop. He's got a strong arm and makes the tough play."

Senior right-hander Alex Hughes led the Blackhawks in innings pitched (38 2/3) last year. He struck out 44 and had an E.R.A. of 2.90. "A starter, Alex throws a fastball, curve, change-up and a sinker," Nolan said. "His control is good, his ve-

locity has improved every year, and he's fearless on the mound."

Senior lefty Jack Hildred, who plans to play for Worcester State next spring, "has the best stuff on our team," Nolan said. "His E.R.A. was 0.68 for 10 1/3 innings. He was on our injured list last year but he'll be our closer this season. Jack throws a curve and a change-up and his fastball moves. He has some power at the plate and could get time in right field."

Senior centerfielder Ross Priscella hit .292 last year. "Ross is a gold-glove caliber outfielder," Nolan said. "He's got great range and gets a really good jump on the ball. Relying on speed and quickness, he's a spray hitter who's got patience at the plate."

Senior Joe Corsi will bat cleanup or fifth and play either first or third base. "We're counting on Joe to be solid at the plate and in the field," said Nolan who was a three-sport athlete (baseball, hockey, soccer) at Winchester High. "He's a big strong kid with potential."

Senior right-hander Sean Brown will pitch and also play shortstop. "Sean is smooth and has a strong arm," Nolan said. "Relying on a curve ball, we can utilize Sean as a starter or a reliever. A gamer who's always eager to compete, his uniform is always dirty."

Sophomore Josh Bouchard, who'll play left field, led the



Bellingham's captains are, from left, Tyler Ladouceur, Ryan Nolan, and CJ Fama.

team last year in hitting (.364) and total bases (37). "Josh swings hard, always combining speed and power," Nolan said. "His grand slam against Grafton last year was the key to an 8-7 victory."

Junior Colin Sherman has lots of versatility, able to play shortstop, third base or catcher. "We'll take advantage of Colin's versatility," Nolan said. "A right-handed hitter, he's got grit, a strong arm and is a gap-to-gap hitter. If we need him behind the plate, he's willing to handle the catching chores."

Sophomore right-hander Ben Maiorano likely will be utilized as a reliever and an infielder.

"Ben's best pitches are a fastball and a curve," Nolan offered. "He had a good year playing for the junior-varsity team. Relying on a very strong arm, Ben's mix (assortment) is exciting to watch."

Nolan's coaching staff includes TJ Chiappone and Mark Rebello (varsity aides), Tom Forbes (jayvee coach) and Dan Sylvia (freshmen coach).

Starting April 1 against Blackstone Valley Tech, Nolan expects his squad to compete at a high level, improve daily and focus on the game at hand to achieve its goals.

BHS BASKETBALL

continued from page 24

free throws but grabbed some big rebounds for the Blackhawks.

"Liz has a big future ahead of

her," Pingeton offered. "That's why she was playing when the game was on the line."

AMSA, which competes in the Colonial League and had a 14-6 record, was No. 34 in the power rankings but earned a

playoff berth by finishing above .500.

Coach Bob Manzello praised his forces for their resilience and lauded the Blackhawks for their clutch play and defense, which held the Eagles to only three points in the final quarter.

"We're proud of our girls," he said. "They played hard and bounced back from a 10-point deficit early on. We held a good, well-coached Bellingham team to 36 points."

In spite of the Foxboro rout, Pingeton firmly believes his program is starting to jell.

"Our season had some definite plusses," he said. "Of

course, we would have liked to have won more games, but we feel like we're turning the program around."

Pingeton hopes the two tourney appearances will lead to a string of playoff berths in the future.

"We've got the program stepping up and going in the right direction," he said. "It's all about hard work and commitment."

Captains Elder and Barasso for next season were announced at the team's annual banquet at Savini's in Blackstone. For Elder, it will be her second stint as a captain. "They're respected

by their teammates," Pingeton said. "Calleigh and Anabella started as sophomores, and they have top-notch leadership ability."

Winners of team awards were Elder and Barasso (co-MVPs); Kalemi ((Defensive MVP); and Montana Bergland (Coaches Award).

Pingeton emphasized that his second season as head coach "had a different feel" compared to his rookie campaign. "We were more talented and had great team chemistry," he said. "We're looking forward to next year."

\$20
OFF

CLEANOUT COUPON

ONE COUPON PER CLEANOUT. *\$100 MINIMUM.

JUNK it NOW!

PRO-JUNK-REMOVAL

"We empty - the Junk Bag"

(3 cubic yards) Call for Price

Buy at store - Fill it - We empty & Leave it

Homes • Apartments • Businesses • Yard waste
Pools • Boilers • Hot Tubs • Sheds Removed • Appliances
Call Tom Cassidy

toll free * Fully Insured *

\$20
OFF

\$20
OFF

1-855-533-JUNK (5865)

1-508-308-2279 Call-only www.junkitnow.us

Sports

Sports Roundup: Fitzgerald Earns Wrestling Laurels For BHS, BVT

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

Landry Fitzgerald, who lives in Upton and is enrolled at Blackstone Valley Tech, became a state wrestling champion, representing Bellingham High's co-op team at the Division 2 State Meet in February.

The 6-foot-1, 285-pound Fitzgerald became the first wrestler from Blackstone Valley Tech and Bellingham High to win a state championship.

Wrestling in the heavyweight class, Fitzgerald won three bouts at the state tourney by pins. He defeated Plymouth South's Brendan Nunley in 1:45 to capture the title.

Before competing at the state tourney in Northboro, Fitzgerald won all four matches at the sectional in Bellingham, enabling him to advance to the states. He later placed seventh at the all-state meet in Salem, and at the New England tourney in Providence he injured his right shoulder at the five-minute mark of his first match and was unable to continue.

"I've got no regrets," Fitzgerald said after the New England meet. "My goal for the post-season was to win the state meet, and I accomplished that. It was gratifying and humbling to become a state champ, and I was on cloud nine for a long time."

Last year, Fitzgerald placed seventh at the states and the Blackhawks finished 24th. This year showed vast improvement. Fitzgerald was crowned a champion, and Bellingham's squad finished ninth.

"Bellingham is one of the best schools I've been associated with," he said. "Wrestling for its co-op team has been great. The coaches care about their athletes, the kids all respect each other, and the environment is so good."

Fitzgerald, who's wrestled for Bellingham for three years, said he's honored that both BVT and Bellingham High will be placing two banners on their gymnasium walls with his name on both — one for the sectional and the other for the state title.



Landry Fitzgerald stands tall on the podium holding his bracket sheet after winning the Division 2 State wrestling championship in the heavyweight class.

"That kind of recognition really makes me happy," he said.

A guard on offense and a nose guard on defense, Fitzgerald was a captain for BVT's football team. The BVT plumbing student plans on attending Coker College in Hartsville, S.C., where he's been offered an academic scholarship and additional aid for wrestling.

"My dad (Dwayne) discovered that BVT offered wrestling as a co-op sport with Bellingham," he said, "and I'm indebted to my dad and the program."

TVL Realignment

When Bellingham High's sports teams check their schedules for the 2024-25 school year, there'll be a slight change, because Dedham has moved to the Tri Valley League's Large Division, and Medfield has moved into the circuit's Small Division.

Therefore, excepting football, the Blackhawks' squads will be facing Medfield twice and Dedham will compete against Bellingham teams once.

The change is dictated by school enrollment, and as of Oct. 1, 2023, Dedham's enrollment increased and Medfield's decreased. The TVL realigns every two years, if necessary.

"Medfield's athletic participation is well above the league average," said Bellingham Ath-

letic Director Michael Connor. "The opt-out process is still in play, but we'd only utilize it if it's appropriate. Opt-outs can only

occur if both schools' athletic directors agree."

Two years ago, when realignment could have taken place, there was no change.

"Bellingham moved from 11th place in school enrollment to ninth," Connor noted. "That's because Medway and Dover-Sherborn's enrollment decreased slightly."

Considered one of the state's most competitive leagues, the TVL's Large Division lineup beginning in the fall will include Hopkinton, Holliston, Dedham, Norwood, Ashland and Westwood. The Small Division will be comprised of Bellingham, Millis, Medway, Medfield, Dover-Sherborn and Norton.

Varsity Softball Returns

Bellingham High will field a varsity softball team this season after taking a year off in 2023.

Athletic Director Michael Connor said that last year's season was canceled "because of low numbers and an overall lack of upperclassmen. At the Bulletin's deadline (March 15), softball signups were in the 22-25 range."

Courtney Parker, who's been the Blackhawks' junior varsity coach for three years, will direct the varsity squad and Nikki Sandell, who works as the high school's resource officer, will coach the jayvees. Parker played softball at BHS and later pitched for Merrimack College.

Connor noted that the varsity team will be young, likely having only one senior on the roster. "I anticipate that this year's varsity team will have success as they mature as a group," he said.

The Blackhawks will still be competing in the Tri Valley League's Small Division.




When it Rains... You Save

The Great American Rain Barrel Company

Bellingham 2024 Rain Barrel Program

Another Year of Record Flooding and Drought

This past summer, many communities reported several inches of rain within just a few hours.

Rain Barrels Can Be Part of the Solution

- Rain water is an alternate source of water during droughts
- Decrease your water bill by up to 40%

About The Great American Rain Barrel

- 100% re-purposed, food grade, UV protected and BPA free barrels.
- Produced in Massachusetts.**
- Available Colors: Forest Green, Earth Brown, and Nantucket Grey. Also available unpainted.

How to Purchase Your Rain Barrel

Rain Barrels are available for purchase by residents at the discounted price of \$89.

How to Order: <https://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/>, Select Town and State

Pick-Up: Thursday, April 25th 4:00-6:00pm at the Bellingham DPW 26 Blackstone St, Bellingham MA 02019

Deadline:
April 14
MIDNIGHT

Sports

2023-2024 Bellingham Youth Basketball Champions!

Bellingham Youth Basketball Association would like to thank all parents, players, coaches and volunteers that participated this season! Congratulations, Champions!



The 3rd /4th grade boys in-town basketball gold team, known as the Vikings, had every reason to celebrate as they emerged victorious a thrilling championship game against the fierce competitors, the green Gators. These teams split their in-season matchups making for a highly anticipated final match. The Vikings hard work, determination, and teamwork paid off as they clinched the title in a closely contested match that had spectators on the edge of their seat.



The BlackHawk Pizza 5th and 6th grade basketball team won the BYBA championship after a strong regular season. Lead offensively by Jace Jacobson and Dylan Harris, the team played its best when it counted. The team defense was led by Nate Johnson,

Jamie Marcogliese, Logan Villorio, Aidan Keating and Johnny McGauley, and when the team needed an offensive spark, they could always count on Keegan Dugas. Great season and team.

From left, Johnny McGauley, Jamie Marcogliese, Keegan Dugas, Jace Jacobson, Logan Villorio, Nate Johnson, Dylan Harris Not Pictured: Aidan Keating



“Coaching these kids this season, seeing the way they improved. – the smiles on their faces – was nothing short of a miracle. I look forward to teaching them and encouraging them teamwork in the skills on basketball each year. Coach Mellissa and Coach Jim help make this team possible. Thank you Brian M.MacNeil CPA firm for sponsoring this team,” says Coach Kate, “We start as a team and end as a team.”

Challengers, left to right, Bernadette -hard court helper, Coach Kate, McKenzie, Mellisa & Omar, Armene, Shirese, Premier, Jaycob, Colin, Junior, Declan, Lucien -Hard court helper, (his brother Oliver not pictured), Coach Jim & Braydon



Says Coach Parmenter, “I’m proud to get the opportunity to congratulate my Bellingham Youth Basketball 7th/8th grade team for taking this 2023/2024 season all the way. Our Championship team was sponsored by Grumpy’s Pub. The confidence in our team grew quickly as we started the season 7-0. I knew right away we had some able boys on the offensive side of the ball ,but it was our defensive prowess that impressed me the most. We finished the regular season 9-1. Come playoff time, a team-wide stomach bug nearly derailed our efforts. With some lucky timing and some strong will, the boys fought off a fired-up squad to advance to the final. The atmosphere at the final game was electric with many of their classmates and families watching in the stands. Our opponent came out ready and played a very strong game. Every one of the kids showed improvement throughout the season, and I would like to thank them for working hard at practice and taking the hard work to the court on Saturday mornings. I am very grateful that our town has such a great basketball program. Thank you to all my players and their parents. It was an honor to be your coach.”

From left, Grady Henshaw, James Moses, Jayden Ward, Tyler Hayward, Michael Bartucca, Zachary Anemaet, Nate Parmentier Not pictured: Sid
Also in the photo are coaches Jeff Henshaw and Dan Parmentier



A big shout out to the Owls, our fantastic 3rd/4th/5th grade girls’ basketball team, for winning the Town League championship! Their hard work throughout the season, from mastering plays to building strong teamwork, really paid off. They showed tremendous improvement all year and finished strong as champions. Congratulations, girls! Keep up the hard work, and we can’t wait to see you all next year!

From left, Peyton Frost, Claudia Goncalves, Emma Drainville, Tawny Adams, Kenzie McKeon, Ella Petrie, Hannah Holden, Aria Esty, Ariella Chapman



Says Coach Jill MacNeil, “As the 6th/7th/8th grade girls Pink Hawks took the court for our final game, they had nothing but determination in their eyes! With a back-and -orth season of wins and losses, it was anyone’s game to win. Those girls left all that they had on that court for the Championship game. Words will never express how proud I am as their coach of their hard work and efforts in bringing home the championship win! It was an honor and a pleasure to watch them all grow this season!”

From left, Coach Jill MacNeil, Sadie Melvin, Elizabeth Glynn, Shannon Marino, Katie Hall, Assistant Coach Elleigh MacNeil, Brooke Hale,

Cadence Glynn, Alexa Hebert, Kaylee Drainville. Not pictured: Safiye Sezen

Calendar

April 1

Book Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., *My Friend Anne Frank* by Hannah Pick-Goslar

April 2

Virtual Author Talk: The Foods, People, and Innovations That Feed Us – A Sweeping History of Food and Culture with Smithsonian Curator Paula J. Johnson, 2 p.m., presented by Bellingham Public Library, register at <https://libraryc.org/bellinghamma>

Ergonomic Tips for Healthier Gardening, presented by Franklin Garden Club, 6:30– 8:30 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin

April 3

Franklin Art Association meeting, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, artist demonstration by Phil Pariseau

April 5

12th Annual Culinary Cabaret, 7 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, Franklin Performing Arts Company showcases local culinary talent along with performance by Electric Youth and FPAC. For tickets and more information on Culinary Cabaret, visit [FPACOnline.com](https://www.fpaconline.com) or call (508) 528-3370.

April 6

The Second Annual Bellingham Business Expo, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, in partnership with the Bellingham Business Association, community can come to the library to meet representatives of local businesses to learn more about their products and services in a non-sales environment. There will be food, fun and prizes. Check the library website, <https://www.bellinghamma.org/library> for details!

Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club demonstration, 9 a.m.- noon, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, contact Mickey Callahan, K1WMC, at mickc@comcast.net for additional info.

The Smack Dabs (1930's jazz swing blues), 7:30 p.m., Niagara Coffee Haus, 8 Exchange St., Millis, <https://tinyurl.com/SmackDabsNiagaraCH>

Cinema 80' Feature Films: The Thief of Baghdad, 6 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin, silent film, free

What's Your Story?, an evening of storytelling, 7-8:30 p.m., First Universalist Society in Franklin, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin, \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12-18.

April 8

Bellingham Library Community Solar Eclipse Watch Party, 2:45-4:30, Check the library website, <https://www.bellinghamma.org/library> for details!

Virtual Lotus Flower Lantern Craft, 6:30-7:45 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, ages 10+, presented livestream (at library or by Zoom) by the Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project (KSCPP), registration required, sponsored by Friends of the Bellingham Public Library

April 9

Virtual Author Talk: From Murder to Atonement-Confronting My Son's Killer with Diane Foley & Colum McCann, 2 p.m., presented by Bellingham Public Library, register at <https://libraryc.org/bellinghamma>

Parenting in the 21st Century: Balancing Work & Family Life, 6-7 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, 3rd presentation in Parenting in the 21st Century Series. Dr. Ankita Jain and Michelle Gaudet will present workshop. Hybrid program. Register at <https://www.bellinghamma.org/library>

Writing Group for Adults, 6:30 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, 9 minutes per reader, contact marjorie@marjorieturner.com.

April 10

Bellingham Business Association Meeting, 6-8 p.m., Liz's Tavern, 15 N. Main St., Bellingham, Town Clerk, Larry Sposato, will be counting ballots and swearing in the new BBA board.

April 11

Ladies of St. Anne Meeting, 7 p.m., baby shower for Abundant Hope of Attleboro, Mass., all Bellingham women over 18 welcome, St. Blaise Parish Hall, 1158 S. Main St., Bellingham

Night at the Museum Gala for Franklin Children's Museum, 7-10 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, 21+ event, <https://www.childrensmuseum-franklin.org/gala>

April 12

The James Montgomery Band, 7:30 p.m., with opening act The Daybreakers, THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin. For tickets and more information visit [FPACOnline.com](https://www.fpaconline.com) or call (508) 528-3370.

April 13

Deadline to volunteer for Bellingham Earth Day Cleanup. See April 27 below.

Introduction to Ancestry.com, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham

Cinema 80' Feature Films: Metropolis, 6 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin, silent film, free

April 14

Second Sunday Speaker Series, 1:15 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, Eamon McCarthy Earls discusses the 'twisted sisters' – the four devastating hurricanes that hit New England (and Franklin) 70 years ago, starting in the summer of 1954 and continuing through the summer of 1955. Free

April 17

Virtual Author Talk: A Literary Examination of Power, Love and Art with Xochitl Gonzalez, 8 p.m., presented by Bellingham Public Library, register at <https://www.bellinghamma.org/library>

April 20

Bellingham/Franklin Animal Control Rabies Clinic, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Bellingham DPW, 26 Blackstone St., Bellingham, MA, \$25, dogs must be leashed, cats must be in carriers, 3-year vaccine with updated paperwork, 1-year vaccine without

Saturday Family Fun, Earth Day Edition, 11 a.m. to 12 noon, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham

Genealogy Research Using Familysearch.org, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, virtual program through Bellingham Public Library, register at <https://www.bellinghamma.org/library>

Rotary Club of Franklin MA 2nd Annual Comedy Night, 5:30 p.m., Franklin Elks, 1077 Pond St., Franklin, includes buffet dinner, cash bar, free door prize chance, raffles, and headliners Jody Sloane, Harrison Stebbins and Mark Scalia, more info. and tickets at <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35936/production/1190666>

Cinema 80' Feature Films: Early Animation Shorts, 6 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin, silent film, free

Electronics Recycling Day, 8 a.m.-12 noon, The First Congregational Church of Milford, 4 Congress St., Milford, \$5-\$40 per item, no charge for cell phones which will be donated to charity for reuse, vendor to erase and shred hard drives no extra cost, cash only.

Friends of Norfolk Library 2024 Annual Book Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Freeman-Kennedy School, 70 Boardman St., Norfolk

April 22

Virtual Ask-A-Lawyer Program with Attorney Brian T. Salisbury, 5-7:30 p.m., 20-minute Zoom time slot, register at <https://www.bellinghamma.org/library>

April 27

Bellingham Annual Earth Day, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., to volunteer yourself or a group, call Board of Health (508) 657-2852, or email Laura at LRenaud@BellinghamMa.org by April 13th.

Cinema 80' Feature Films: Ravished Armenia, 6 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin, silent film, free

April 28

Franklin Historical Museum, 1:15 p.m., 80 W. Central St., Franklin, Franklin's Mark Minichelli will discuss the history of the genocide and the local community and will share video of his grandmother, Helen Boghosian, a genocide survivor who lived most of her life in Franklin.

April 30

Musical Baseball Show, 6:30 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, local singer-songwriter (and former sportswriter) Howie Newman performs a unique, interactive, and highly entertaining program of baseball songs, offers up baseball trivia, and tells stories about his days on the Red Sox beat. Show includes free raffle for a baseball CD and a display of his personal baseball memorabilia. For additional information visit: www.howienewman.com/baseball-show. Please register at <https://www.bellinghamma.org/library>. Program supported by Bellingham Cultural Council, supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Spring into Runways

Experience the Difference!

Runways Salon

Since 1997

66 MENDON ST. • RTE. 140 BELLINGHAM, MA 02019
www.RunwaysSalon.com
 508-966-2809
 Gift Cards Always Available

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Elect Stephen Goyette for Planning Board on June 4th!

Advocating For Smart Development and a Better Bellingham
Voting is on June 4th at the High School from 7am-8pm

Dear Fellow Bellingham Residents,

My name is Stephen Goyette, and I will be running for a seat on the Planning Board this year. As a proud resident of our town for over 35 years, I am reaching out to you with a pressing concern that affects us all. As we witness the evolving landscape of Bellingham, it is evident that certain developments, notably the surge in warehouse constructions, are profoundly impacting our community. The changes, though some beneficial, have brought about detrimental consequences for those of us who call Bellingham home.

Warehouse mania has struck, resulting in industrial zones infiltrating our residential and agricultural areas with warehouse after warehouse. These changes have led to a landscape that highlights the mismanagement of town development and inflicts irreparable harm upon us, the residents.

I passionately believe that warehouses and distribution centers belong in designated industrial parks, such as Forge Park in Franklin, where they are appropriately separated from residential homes and pose no negative impact on residents. In contrast, the warehouses in Bellingham are situated on secondary roads, dangerously close to homes, some without sidewalks, creating safety hazards for pedestrians and school bus stops.

What deeply concerns me is the term "mitigation" thrown around during warehouse planning discussions. Mitigation implies the action of reducing the severity of something. It is disheartening to know that, from the onset, the planning board already acknowledges that these projects will have negative impacts; no mitigation can truly compensate for the burdens placed on the residents. These burdens include safety concerns, increased noise, accelerated wear on our roads, erosion of our community character, negative effects on home values, and pollution, often in the form of plastic bottles filled with urine found on roads near warehouses and residential homes.

In response to this pressing matter, I've taken the lead in proposing a halt on all new warehouses and distribution centers in our town. A special town meeting vote is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st, at 7:30 p.m. at Bellingham High School.

It is crucial to recognize two pivotal factors in gauging a community's prosperity or decline: home values and crime rates—regrettably, our home values in eastern Massachusetts rank lowest among 153 surveyed communities by Boston Magazine. Regarding crime, while our neighboring town, Franklin, stands as the 7th safest community in the state, Bellingham's ranking drops to 178th, according to USA.com. These statistics are stark indicators that our development decisions are yielding undesirable outcomes.

It is my sincere hope that we can halt further irresponsible development that is harming our community. We must show that our voices matter and can make a significant difference. It is essential to remember that while tax revenue is crucial, industrializing our town and destroying its community character is not the only solution. Many towns nationwide are examples of well-thought-out community planning with a favorable tax base.

If elected to the Bellingham Planning Board, I commit to evaluating all proposed projects within the town's requirements and with a keen understanding of the concerns voiced by our residents. The Planning Board can deny or modify proposals that unreasonably and adversely affect town residents. I am determined to ensure that our concerns are heard and acted upon.

Let us come together as a community and protect Bellingham's unique character. Your support is crucial, and together, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,
Stephen Goyette



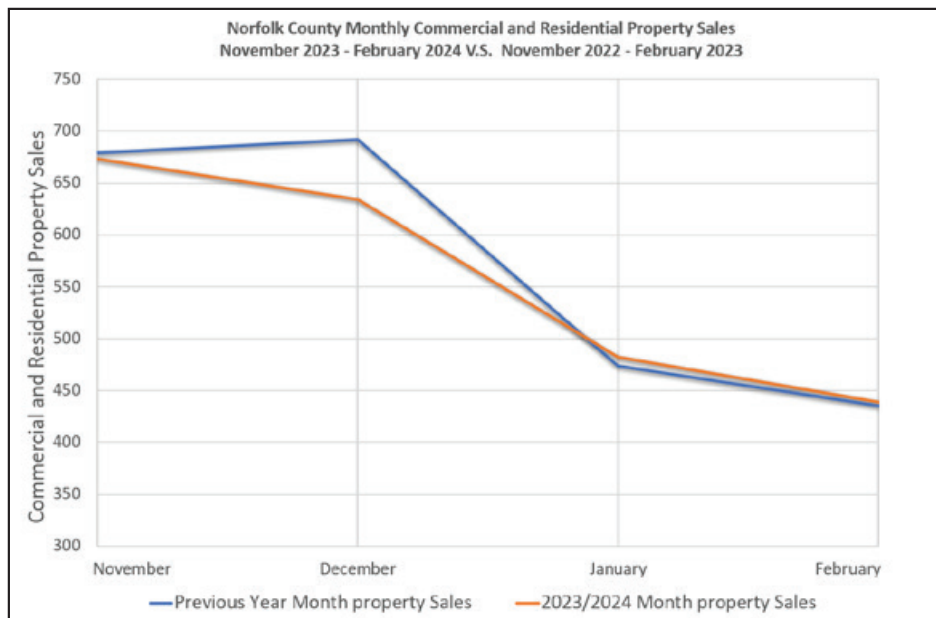
Paid for by Candidate Stephen Goyette

Norfolk County Monthly Property Sales Increase for 2nd Month

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reports that Norfolk County recordings in February 2024 show a slight increase in the total number of documents recorded, which includes an increase in property sales and mortgage recordings compared to February 2023. This marks the second month in a row that year over year property sales have increased.

The Registry of Deeds recorded 6,787 documents in February 2024. This was 1% more than in February 2023 and a 10% decrease compared to January 2024.

"Looking at the recordings from the past few months indicates that real estate activity in Norfolk County seems to be holding steady with some increases in property sales," stated Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell. "It is still very early in the year, and with the traditional home buying season yet to begin, it will be important to continue monitoring these trends and to see how



external factors, such as interest rates, may impact the real estate market in the coming months to see if this positive momentum will be sustained throughout the year."

The average sale price of commercial and residential properties for February 2024 rose to \$994,236, a 5% increase compared to February 2023 but a decrease of 2% from January 2024. The

total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales is up, increasing 6% from last year but down 11% from last month.

O'Donnell noted, "With a limited supply of available properties on the market, any increase in demand is likely to cause an increase in the average property sales price. Unfortunately, when prices rise without a corresponding rise in inventory, it may result in increased competition among buyers. This makes it harder for homebuyers in general, but especially for first-time homebuyers."

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

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, located at 649 High St., Dedham, is the principal office for real property in Norfolk County. Contact them at (781) 461-6101 or email registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.

Special Town Meeting (By Citizen Petition)

May 1st, 7:30 p.m.

Bellingham High School Auditorium

On Wednesday, May 1st, the Town of Bellingham will hold a Special Town Meeting, called by Citizen Petition. Voters at this meeting will vote "yes" or "no" to the following:

To add the following definition to the provisions of Section 240-32.

Warehouse: a building or facility with the primary function is to provide for the commercial storage and/or distribution of a wide variety of merchandise, goods, and/or other products. This shall include those facilities designed to store products in preparation for shipping and where those products are generally not made available for retail sale at the facility. Warehouses shall include those facilities for short or long-term storage, and, in this manner shall also include fulfillment or "last mile" facilities

for the short-term storage and distribution of items made available through online or similar sales. The storage or parking of tractor - trailers, trucks or trailers used in moving goods to or from warehouses is also included within this definition.

The term warehouses shall not include retail self-storage facilities where members of the public can lease portions of a building for storage of household or personal goods or other items not intended for distribution or sale.

To Amend Section 240-31, the Use Regulation table, by changing "Yes" to "No" for Warehouses in the Industrial Zone, thereby making Warehouses a prohibited use in all zoning districts within the Town of Bellingham.

Bellingham resident Steve Goyette gathered the 200 signatures for this petition. The married Bellingham native, with two grown children, believes the town is going in the wrong direction.

"From my perspective, the warehouses have been approved

irresponsibly, because the industrial parcels are right next to residential areas. Next to residential areas, we should be looking at different types of industrial buildings. I've spoken to a handful of residents who've actually moved out of town specifically

because of this." Goyette cites problems with groundwater, traffic backup, and trash from truckers, including plastic bottles of urine, as some of the complaints he's heard from neighborhoods next to warehouses in town.

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court
 Probate and Family Court
 Norfolk Probate and Family Court
 35 Shawmut Road, Canton, MA 02021
 (781) 830-1200

Docket No. N024P0667EA

Estate of: Ethelyn Mae Armstrong, Also known as: Ehtelyn M. Armstrong

Date of Death: 12/26/2023

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **George T. Armstrong of Bellingham, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **George T. Armstrong of Bellingham, MA** be appointed as **Personal Representative(s)** of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/17/2024**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Patricia Gorman, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 14, 2024

Colleen M Brierley, Register of Probate

Contact Jen to find out how you can use this space to reach more than 153,000 homes and businesses each month!

508-570-6544 (call or text) or

jenschofield@localtownpages.com

FINANCING AVAILABLE

- 12 Months
- No Interest
- No Payments
- Free Estimates
- Get Instant Estimate Online @ <https://robertevansjrinc.com/>

Or Call

508-877-3500

Millis, MA 02054

Fully Licensed & Insured

CSL 056746

HIC 108807

\$500 OFF Full Roof Replacement

On 28 Square Feet or More

Exp. April 30, 2024 • Offers May Not be Combined

ROOFING • SIDING • WINDOWS

OVER 30 YEARS OF BUSINESS

ROBERT EVANS JR CONTRACTOR

ROOFING, SIDING, WINDOWS & MORE

EST. 1992

5 STAR

Lifetime Roof Guarantee

Get a FREE Upgrade to a

CertainTeed

SAINT-GOBAIN

Lifetime Guarantee

Exp. April 30, 2024

Offers May Not be Combined



Here Today. Here to Stay.

While "big banks" sure like to talk about their commitment to the community, at the end of the day they are the first to bail out and close branches.

Our customers know they can count on Charles River Bank for not just the powerful solutions they need, but the personal connections that make the difference.

Personal Connections. Powerful Solutions.

Visit CharlesRiverBank.com or visit one of our convenient locations to open a new account today.



Charles River Bank

Personal Connections. Powerful Solutions.

CharlesRiverBank.com

70 Main Street • Medway • 508.533.8661

2 South Maple Street • Bellingham • 508.966.2857

1 Hastings Street • Mendon • 508.422.9792



Member FDIC
Member DIF