

## Franklin Robotics Team Wins at State, Advances to Worlds



Sense and Sound Robotics, a community-based FIRST Tech Challenge robotics team, won the Massachusetts State Championship on March 9th, and is advancing to the World Championship in Houston next month to represent the Commonwealth. The team is made up of 8th through 12th graders from surrounding communities who compete in the FIRST Tech Challenge, a robotics competition where students learn to think like engineers. Teams design, build, and code robots to compete in an alliance format against other teams. Robots are built from a reusable platform, powered by Android technology, and can be coded using Java. A new challenge is presented annually, requiring a new robot build and hours of testing and problem solving. Team members build 2-3 times per week



Shown is the Sense and Sound Robotics team, which meets in Franklin. The FIRST Tech Challenge robotics team won the State Championship March 9th and will advance to the World Championship in Houston next month.

in a lab in Franklin, Mass., where they are mentored by local engineers. The students are responsible for all aspects of the robot build and coding, including tracking their efforts in an engineering design notebook. Older students also mentor younger students in physics, math, computer pro-

gramming, and engineering to create a successful design.

Each match is three minutes in length and includes a 30-second autonomous period where the robot must be preprogrammed to complete certain

### ROBOTICS

continued on page 2

## 2nd Annual Disability Expo in Franklin

Sometimes, finding the right services to meet the needs of you or your family member can be daunting. Cue the 2nd Annual Franklin Disability Expo, slated to take place at the Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill Street, Franklin, on Saturday, May 4th, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

“(The Disability Expo) is super valuable to the community, because it puts everyone in the same room, so you’re not trying to go to different places to get the resources you need,” says Assistant Franklin Senior Center Director Sarah Amaral, who says she’s grateful the Franklin Commission on Persons with Disabilities organized this event.

“We were very happy with the turnout last year. It poured, but we had a steady flow of people, probably over 100,” says Mary O’Neill, Chair of the Franklin Commission on Persons with Disabilities, who organizes the event with other members of the group. They include O’Neill, Debbie Bean, Randy Jay, Alison Rheame, Martha Murray, Michael Furilla, Vicky



Volunteers and members of Franklin's Commission on Persons with Disabilities at the first annual Disability Expo. This year's event will be held at the Franklin Senior Center on May 4th, from 10-2.

Trant, and Lorraine McLaughlin. O’Neill expects this year to get even more visitors, especially if the weather cooperates.

“We’re gathering people who

### DISABILITY

continued on page 5

- Free Estimates
- Licensed & Insured
- Roofing
- Gutters
- Siding
- Windows
- Residential
- Rubber
- Flat Roofs

**NO GIMMICKS JUST HONEST PRICING!**

www.robertroofingandgutters.com

Serving the South Shore and Surrounding Areas  
Robert Greene - 857-247-8709

**One Call Sends a Roofer Not a Salesman**

## NASR Jewelers

1092 SOUTH ST • WRENTHAM • 774-847-5780  
On the Left Side of the Outlet Entrance

*New Open*

- Specialize in Custom Designed Jewelry, Diamonds & Gems
- Remounts While you Wait
- Largest Selection of Fine Jewelry
- We buy Gold, Platinum, Silver & Diamonds

SERVING OVER 56 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH A MASTER JEWELER ON SITE

**Bring in this AD to receive your 2<sup>nd</sup> Jewelry Repair Service FREE!**

## April Showings Bring the Closings!

Call today for a no obligation consultation on your value in today's market!

**Lorraine Kuney**  
508-380-9938  
Lorrainekuney@gmail.com

## Authentic Landscapes

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Let us point you in the right direction for your next hardscape/landscape project

Hardscapes • Patios • Walkways • Stone Walls • Landscape Maintenance & Design  
Plantings • Backhoe/Excavator/Bobcat Service • Outdoor Kitchens & Showers • Firepits

**508-528-7114**  
www.authenticlandscapes-ma.com

Insured Licensed

Serving our communities for 30 years!

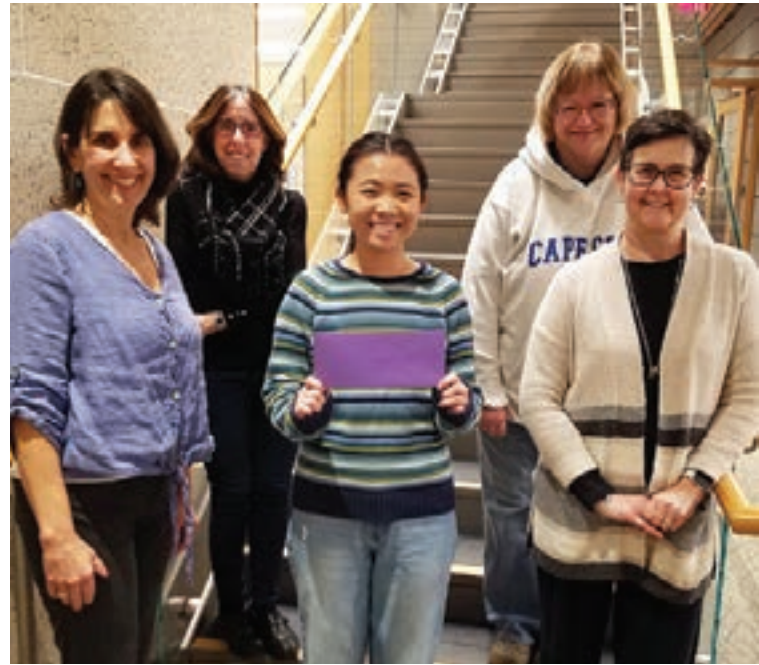
## Franklin School for the Performing Arts

MUSIC • DANCE • DRAMA

Register for Summer!  
New Families Welcome



# Friends of Franklin Library Award Scholarship to Ji-Yann Chin



Members of the Friends of Franklin Library's board recently presented Ji-Yann Chin with a check for winning the Friends' annual essay contest.

Ji-Yann Chin has won The Friends of Franklin Library Scholarship in Memory of Wilma Winters. A 2023 graduate of Franklin High School, Ji-Yann recently received \$1,000 toward the cost of a college education.

Students were asked to write an essay about what gives them hope for the future. In her essay, Ji-Yann wrote about some of the frustrations she felt growing up in Franklin. "Nobody pronounced my name right. ... and Lunar New Year was never acknowledged. But over time, this all changed."

At Franklin High, for example, several teachers asked

Ji-Yann to email them voice memos so that they could learn to properly pronounce her name. "The fact that so many teachers are using technology as a tool to pronounce their students' names correctly gives me hope for the future," Ji-Yann wrote in the winning essay.

Ji-Yann, a first-year student at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, is studying both microbiology and public health.

The Friends of Franklin Library, an independent, non-profit organization committed to supporting the Franklin Public Library, established its scholarship program in 2014. The annual scholarship is part of several efforts undertaken to honor the late Wilma Winters, a longtime Franklin resident and library supporter. Winters, who had a long career in higher education, worked for many years as a librarian, including at Boston University Medical School and Harvard's School of Public Health. She spent her retirement years volunteering at the Franklin Public Library.

The scholarship will be awarded again this year to a member of the Class of 2024.



Sense and Sound's winning robot.

## ROBOTICS

*continued from page 1*

tasks, followed by a two and half minute driver-controlled period. In this year's challenge, robots had to pick up and stack different colored multi-sided pixels in various patterns on a backboard. During the last 30 seconds of the match, the robot had to launch a paper airplane into a landing zone and then suspend themselves from rigging on the playing field.

As a community-based team, the Sense and Sound Robotics does not receive any funding

from the school or town, and so they have launched a fund-raising campaign to raise the \$33,000 necessary to compete at Worlds. Expenses include team registration, travel for the team, transport for the robot and supplies, and additional robot parts needed to compete. Both corporate sponsorship and individual donations are welcome. Sense and Sound Robotics is a 501c3 organization. You can donate to the team or learn more about sponsorship at [www.senseand-soundrobotics.org](http://www.senseand-soundrobotics.org). You can read more about FIRST Tech Challenge at [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org).

**localtownpages**

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

**Publisher**  
Chuck Tashjian

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

**Send Editorial to:**  
[editor@franklintownnews.com](mailto:editor@franklintownnews.com)

**Advertising Director**  
Jen Schofield  
508-570-6544  
[jenschofield@localtownpages.com](mailto: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.*

© Copyright 2024 LocalTownPages

**Call Jen Schofield at 508-570-6544  
to run in our Newspaper!**

**CHARRON**  
**Tree Service**  
*Quality Timely Service!*  
**BELLINGHAM, MA**  
**508-883-8823**  
FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL**

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

**KEVIN LEMIRE, OWNER**  
All employees are covered under Workers' Comp Ins.

**CharronTreeService.com**

Free quotes and appraisals  
By appointment sales  
Paying 80% of spot for silver coins

**I Have Coins**  
Buying and selling coins  
[www.iHaveCoins.com](http://www.iHaveCoins.com)

**Rod**  
(781) 962-0329  
[Rod@ihavecoins.com](mailto:Rod@ihavecoins.com)  
15 Main St. Franklin

**Mother's Day Special!**  
Make your appointment today

**20% OFF**  
a FULL SET of Lashes  
Expires 4/30/2024

**SERVICES OFFERED:**

- Lash Extensions
- Lash Lifts
- Brown Laminations
- Tinting of Eyelashes & Brows

Call Felicia: **781-856-5271**  
or Email: [feesh59@yahoo.com](mailto:feesh59@yahoo.com)

Gift Cards Available through Text

**Just Felicia**  
[www.justfeliciawi.com](http://www.justfeliciawi.com)

**SPARTAN**  
Car Service  
**508-733-1356**  
FRANKLIN, MA

**AIRPORT SHUTTLE**  
RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION  
to: **(BOS) (PVD) (ORH)**  
VISIT US & BOOK ONLINE ➔  
[spartancarservice.com](http://spartancarservice.com)





**\$1.4 Billion Dollars - total sales volume, 2850 home sales - 2023**

**43 Offices | 750+ Agents - Serving MA, NH, ME, CT, RI & FL**

**Attention Real Estate Agents - JOIN the LAER Community**

*We're partners.* Together, we're dedicated to excellence. Please book an appointment with our CEO, Stacey Alcorn, today by texting 978-479-4053 or by visiting us at [www.LAERrealty.com/careers](http://www.LAERrealty.com/careers)

**NEW LISTING**



**EXTRAORDINARY**

35 Macdougald Drive, Wrentham  
\$1,245,500

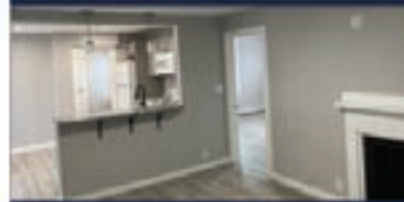
**NEW LISTING**



**SPACIOUS & METICULOUS**

124 Anawan Road, North Attleboro  
\$649,900

**NEW LISTING - RENTAL**



**GORGEOUS, 3 BEDROOM**

47 Bay State Road, Rehoboth  
Unit: A \$2,400/mo

**NEW LISTING**



**NEW CONSTRUCTION**

Lot #1, Ruggiero Way, Stoughton  
\$989,900

**UNDER AGREEMENT**



**BEAUTIFUL COLONIAL**

19 Short Street, Franklin  
\$649,900

**UNDER AGREEMENT**



**GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY**

1 Old Orchard, Wilbraham  
\$299,900

**UNDER AGREEMENT**



**CHARMING BUNGALOW**

12 Roosevelt Ave., North Attleboro  
\$299,900

**SOLD**



**NEW CONSTRUCTION**

85 Downy, Hopkinton  
\$899,900

**UNDER AGREEMENT**



**TWO-FAMILY HOME**

441 Summer, East Bridgewater  
\$719,900

**RENTED**



**SPACIOUS WITH LUX STYLE**

1321 Worcester Road, Framingham  
Unit: 501 \$2,000/mo

**UNDER AGREEMENT**



**BUYER REPRESENTATION**

71 Dudley Hill Road, Dudley  
\$579,900

**NEW LISTING**



**FURNISHED OFFICE SPACE**

3 School Street, Taunton  
\$20 per sq. ft. Rental



Karen Jewett



Julie Ochs



Jessica Azzi



Lisa Biggar



Leah Gibson



Brian Cavanaugh



Anthony Balzarini



Sharon Apou Prybyla



Nancy Adams



Matt Kelly



Eric Buliang



Dawn Oliveira



Brenda Landers



Drew Hattberg



Judy Hattberg



Deb Beccaria



Paul Accettullo



Karen Vaillancourt



Bob Ochs

**Local Agents Extraordinary Results. 508-520-1600**

55 West Central Street, Franklin, MA 01824 | 508-520-1600 | [LAERrealty.com](http://LAERrealty.com)





# Byrne Financial Freedom: Top Half Percent of 23,000 LPL Advisors Located in Franklin

Byrne Financial Freedom LLC, a Registered Investment Advisory Firm and trusted name in financial planning in Franklin for over a quarter-century, remains dedicated to its path of education and financial empowerment. Led by CEO and owner Joe Byrne, who you might spot enjoying a round of golf at Franklin Country Club or catching a show at the Black Box theater. His two sons, Brian, and Chris have made it their mission to spread financial literacy and understanding to the next generation of investors.

Byrne specializes in retirement and college planning; the firm's primary goal is to help clients feel secure in their financial future. Their approach is hands-on, with advisors taking the time to understand each client's unique financial situation, risk tolerance, and long-term objectives. Partnering with LPL Financial, the largest independent broker-dealer in the nation, ensures clients have access to unbiased investment options tailored to their needs.

Education is a cornerstone of their service. Whether through informative seminars, user-

friendly website tools, or personalized meetings, the team strives to simplify complex financial topics and keep clients informed every step of the way. Check out the Byrne Financial Freedom Facebook page for updates on their annual educational events at Franklin Country Club.

The objective of this family-run company is to assist individuals across all phases of life. Whether you're in your 20s or 30s embarking on your career journey, nearing retirement, or anywhere in between, Byrne Financial offers tailored services to address your needs. Brian Byrne highlights, "Many individuals are stumped when they receive their first job and are tasked with setting up their 401k; they're unsure about how much to contribute and where to begin selecting investments." To support newcomers to the workforce, Byrne Financial has curated a webpage dedicated to the next generation of young investors. Visit [byrnefinancialfreedom.com](http://byrnefinancialfreedom.com).

Joe Byrne takes pride in his active involvement within the local community. Having raised his three sons in Norfolk, he values the importance of networking,



Throughout the years, Joe has served on the board of directors for Dean College, the Home for Little Wanderers, and has been a member of St. Mary's Church in Franklin. Additionally, he has contributed his time to the board of the Franklin Country Club.

Byrne Financial is a pivotal resource for a diverse range of clients, offering comprehensive financial solutions tailored to their unique needs and circumstances. For those approaching retirement, families saving for future educational purposes, or those undertaking estate planning, and tax strategies, we have a network of experts to guide our clients.

We work with local businesses and employees of both small and large companies, who can engage with the wealth advisors



at Byrne Financial for comprehensive financial assistance, optimizing 401(k) plans, strategically leveraging tax savings for retirement, and establishing IRAs. The expertise in investment management provided by Byrne Financial is equally crucial for business owners, not just their employees. For business owners to contemplate retirement confidently, they must feel assured about their financial standing.

As a part of their family-run business model, Brian explains how they are always available for their clients: "We always answer the phones, and we are always available. Ensuring exceptional customer service is our highest priority."

The first step to clarity in your financial future is to pick up the phone and ask questions. As a fiduciary firm, Byrne Financial is required to always put the needs of the clients first. Whether it's a question of what type of investment account is right for you OR what to do with excess cash in your bank account, Byrne Financial is here to help. Call (508) 528-9366 or stop in the office in downtown Franklin at 11 East Street.

April 2024 marks the two-year anniversary of their second office, located in the Gulf Coast Town Center, Fort Myers, Florida.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Herbert F Hunter, CPA

Taxes | Accounting | Auditing

9 Summer Street - Suite 305, Franklin, MA 02038

(508) 530-3089 | [www.hfhuntercpa.com](http://www.hfhuntercpa.com)

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)

30A Home Improvement Contractor #119085 - MA Construction Supervisor #111260 - CT Home Improvement Contractor #565903 - CT New Home Construction Contractor #169

REMODEL - NEW CONSTRUCTION - KITCHENS & BATHS - ADDITIONS

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

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

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



# Franklin Joint Budget Subcommittee Meeting Projects Large Deficit for Town

By J.D. O’GARA

Preliminary figures revealed at the March 6, 2024, Franklin Joint Budget Subcommittee Meeting reveal that the town of Franklin’s budget is and will be stretched in the coming year, coming up short by just over \$10 million. Town Administrator Jamie Hellen and Superintendent Lucas, Giguere, supported offered detailed overviews of funds coming in and funds going out, as well as what their needs were to maintain levels of services.

Hellen pointed out that Franklin, at about \$3.2 million in revenue, will be stretched by increases in fixed costs such as pension assessments, municipal cost-of-living adjustments, facilities, OPEB and DPW. Following the town-level presentation, Hellen transitioned to the schools, handing the presentation over to Giguere, saying, “I believe the Superintendent made the correct decision to put in a request; we jointly recommended to the Committee to put forth the 12.29 percent, which would be level services with the restoration of some programs.”

Giguere explained the budget being considered is one considered a “Level Service +” budget.

“It’s not about (the schools) having a bigger slice of pie, but a bigger pie. If we can make the pie bigger, I think we can solve some of these issues,” said Giguere at the meeting.

Dave Callaghan, Chair of Franklin School Committee, responded to the meeting.

“I thought it was a fantastic meeting,” says Callahan, “Town Administrator Jamie Hellen and Superintendent Giguere just knocked it out of the park with the presentations. It was also widely attended, standing room only in the Council Chambers

... it’s difficult conversation and topics, but it’s great that there’s so many people that are invested and asking the right questions. Jeff Roy said it best, ‘the people will decide.’”

One Franklin volunteers, who have been pushing for a permanent tax override to help support schools, and they say, by default, all town services, felt the presentation clearly illustrated the challenges the town faces, where Franklin voters will either pass an override, or cuts will have to be made.

“I thought (the meeting) couldn’t have gone better, and I wish every resident in Franklin would watch this and understand what we’re up against,” says Ruthann O’Sullivan, of One Franklin. “The meeting was a full room with standing room only, and the deficit that the schools are facing will impact the whole town, and that’s why we need Franklin to come together.”

To view the meeting and learn more, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D33RO5xYoUg&t=474s> or use the QR Code accompanying this article.

To view the presentation by Hellen and Giguere, visit

[https://www.franklinma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif10036/f/uploads/2024-03-06\\_fy25\\_budget\\_slides\\_jbsc.pdf](https://www.franklinma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif10036/f/uploads/2024-03-06_fy25_budget_slides_jbsc.pdf)

Franklin residents can also learn more at upcoming meetings, but at the March 6 meeting Franklin Town Council Chair Tom Mercer stressed that numbers were still preliminary.

“On April 9th, (the School Committee) is expected to have the vote,” says Callaghan, adding, “April 12th, the Town Administrator releases his budget recommendations. Once that’s been asked, the schools reach out to the Town Council to state the

amount we’d like to see.” Callahan explains that is when, if an override was needed, the School Committee would request that.

“But that is with the Town Council to make a determination to move, for the dollar amount and the date,” says Callahan.”

The Joint Meeting of Town Council and School Committee is set for April 24 at 7 p.m. at Franklin High School. The agenda will include information about the override vote.

The Franklin School Committee will also hold a legislative forum with Senator Becca Rausch and Representative Jeff Roy on April 29 @ 7 p.m. at Franklin High School’s lecture hall (enter by gym, the down the left hall). The school committee will prepare questions around topics impacting Franklin Public Schools, as well as hear from these leaders on legislative initiatives they want to bring to the town’s attention.



## DISABILITY

*continued from page 1*

work with and people who advocate for persons with disabilities. We’ll have fun stuff, like gift baskets, free prizes and gift certificates,” says O’Neill. Some local restaurants will provide the gift certificates, says O’Neill, adding, “We’re trying to keep them local and at locations that have access for people with disabilities.”

Tickets handed out for the door prizes will allow the Commission to gauge attendance.

Although at press time, O’Neill expected most of the participating groups and businesses to return for the second year, she was still waiting on confirmation. Visitors can expect to be able to learn more from the following, and more and the Disability Expo:

- Vendors with information on accessibility products
- First Responders-Police and Fire
- Our first repsondrs the police and the fire
- Norfolk County Sheriff’s Office
- Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
- Autism-related organiza-

tions

- Mobility – companies providing and repairing mobility aides
- HMEA
- Mental Health advocates

O’Neill says visitors expressed a lot of positive feedback last year regarding the event and were happy to be able to talk with the Commission members. She hopes this year will be an even better experience.

“We wanted to do something to reach out to the community and the surrounding towns because a lo of people aren’t aware of all the services that are available to them. We thought it was important to provide this for them. It enriches their lives. It’s wonderful if they can get something they might not have been aware of to help. It’s a lot of work, but we’re very excited about it, and we’re looking forward to it.

O’Neill adds, “If someone has a concern about a disability not represented, please reach out to any of the Commission members with your concerns, and we will do our best to assist in getting them appropriate information.”

For rates and info on advertising your business, please call Jen at 508-570-6544 or email: [jenschofield@localtownpages.com](mailto:jenschofield@localtownpages.com)



Apricot Lane BOUTIQUE Franklin

Shop local for current trends & styles  
Personally selected women’s fashion clothing & accessories from trade shows across the country.



Follow us for updates on current inventory, photos & videos



342 East Central St. Suite B (Next to Big Y)  
Franklin, MA 02038

(508) 440-5004

Email: [franklin@apricotlaneusa.com](mailto:franklin@apricotlaneusa.com)





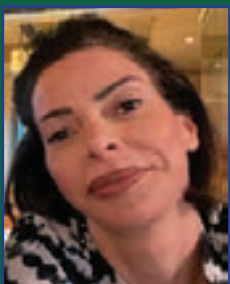
# Give A Great Gift to Yourself or Loved Ones for the New Year



The Mini Dental Implant Center  
**Plainville Dental Care | 508-699-4822**

13 Taunton Street, Plainville, MA 02762

www.theplainvilledentist.com | pvdentalcare@yahoo.com



**DR. PEYMAN BEIGI IS A PIONEER IN THE FIELD OF MINI IMPLANTS!**

Are You Tired of

## LOOSE TEETH or MISSING TEETH?

- A fast, affordable and permanent way to replace missing teeth or stabilize dentures in just **ONE OFFICE VISIT!**
- Placing mini dental implants is quick with a minimal invasive procedure.
- Half the cost (and size!) of conventional implants.
- Less discomfort and less healing time needed.



## SAME-DAY EXTRACTIONS, MINI IMPLANTS, CROWNS & DENTURES



**Dr. Peyman Beigi**, a graduate of Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, and a proud member of the Massachusetts Dental Society and American Dental Association.



### Cleaning & Tooth Whitening

Dental Cleaning, Check up,  
X Rays, Treatment Planning,  
Tooth Whitening (Home Kit)

NEW PATIENT  
OFFER  
**\$88\***  
SELF PAID AT THE  
TIME OF SERVICE

\*Expires 3/31/24. Value of over \$400. Paid at the time of service. You must present the coupon at the time of service to receive the special offer. May not be used more than once and may not be combined with other offers or discounted plans. Paid at the time of service. Requires payment at the first visit. No Cash Value.

**Evening and Saturday Appointments Available**  
**Credit Cards and Most Insurance Accepted**





# Advantage Appliance, Where ‘Our Service Is Your Advantage’

Advantage Appliance has been in business for 25 years, where they specialize in repairing, not replacing, all major appliance brands.

“We are local people helping local families to keep their daily routines with little to no disruption with appliance functioning needs,” says owner Brian Kowal. “That is why our motto is ‘Our service is your advantage.’”

Many of the staff have been with the company for decades and are considered part of the ‘Team Advantage Family,’ says Kowal. “Family-owned means that everyone here is family (Team Advantage Family) and not just a number. We invest in good people to get the job done right the first time.”

Advantage Appliance’s ‘typical’ customer is someone who does not want to go shopping for new appliances but wants to repair the appliances they have.

“Someone who cares about Mother Nature and our landfills, someone who wants to save some money because repairs are cheaper than replacements,” says Kowal. “The cost of new appliances has gone through the roof, and we like to keep the old appliances running as long as possible.”

They service all makes and all brand appliances right in the customer’s home. And the Advantage Appliance Parts Department can get any part (that is still available) quickly and at the best possible price. Their parts are original and not after-market parts.

Customer service is a key focus at Advantage Appliance.

- When a customer calls, they’ll speak to a real person.



- When they schedule a repair, they’ll receive a confirmation email and text the night before.
- Customers receive a photograph of their technician, so they know who will arrive at their home.
- Customers can track their technician’s route on the day of service to better gauge when they’ll arrive.
- All employees are background checked and drug screened.
- They service Whirlpool, Maytag, JennAir, Kitchen Aid, Roper, Kirkland, and Ingles brands.
- Customers can visit or call the store for help ordering appliance parts which can be delivered to their home.
- All parts and labor are guaranteed for one year.

Community service is also important to this local business.

“We have given away several washing machines and dryers in the past,” says Kowal. “In the past, we donated a washer to a needy family that couldn’t afford one, a dryer to a single mom who couldn’t afford to repair it, and a washer to a retired veteran who used to go to the laundromat to wash his clothes.”



We are now open! For more info or to service your appliance, please call (888) 532-9355.  
447 E. Central St. in Franklin  
[www.advantageappliance.biz](http://www.advantageappliance.biz)



ADVANTAGE

APPLIANCE REPAIR

NEW

Appliance Repair

NOW OPEN

In Franklin!

Same Day Service if Needed

No Trip Charge with Repair Service

Our Certified Technicians can service the following:

✓ Washing Machines

✓ Dryers

✓ Refrigerators

✓ Cooktops

✓ Ranges

✓ Wall Ovens

✓ Microwaves

✓ Dishwashers

✓ Freezers

Our Service is Your Advantage!

888 532-9355

[www.advantageappliance.biz](http://www.advantageappliance.biz)

447 E. Central St • Franklin, MA 02038



# James Montgomery Returns to THE BLACK BOX Outdoors Under the Tent

THE BLACK BOX will welcome back The James Montgomery Band on Friday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. with opening act The Daybreakers.

In 1970, while attending Boston University, Montgomery formed The James Montgomery Band. His inimitable harmonica playing combined with his incredibly energetic live shows led to the band's quick ascension on the New England music scene. Within two years, The James Montgomery band was among the hottest acts in Boston along with J. Geils and Aerosmith, and they were quickly signed to a multi-album deal with Capricorn Records.

Since that time, James has recorded six albums. His first, "First Time Out" has been remastered and re-released by MRG/Capricorn. Other include "James Montgomery Band" on Island Records which was number nine on Billboard's national playlist, "Duck Fever" with members of the David Letterman Band, "Live Trax," with the Uptown Horns (the Rolling Stones' horn section), and his release on Tone-Cool, "The Oven Is On."



Montgomery has toured with many major artists, including Aerosmith, Bonnie Raitt, Bruce Springsteen, the Allman Brothers, Steve Miller, and others. He has jammed on stage with B.B.King, Buddy Guy, John Lee Hooker, Jr. Wells, James Cotton, Charlie Daniels, Bonnie Raitt, Greg Allman, Laverne Baker, Patti LaBelle, and Peter Wolf among others, including an impromptu session with Mick Jagger at New York's "Trax."

Over the years, Montgomery's band has been a springboard for many musicians. Members of his band have included Billy Squire, Wayne

Kramer (MC-5), Jeff Golub (Rod Stewart), Jim McCarty (Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels), Nunzio Signore (Bo Diddley), Jeff Pevar (Ray Charles Orchestra, Crosby, Stills & Nash), Bobby Chouinard (drummer with Ted Nugent, Squire and Robert Gordon), Jeff Levine (Joe Cocker), Aerosmith's Tom Gambel, and many others.

Tickets are available at [www.THEBLACKBOXonline.com](http://www.THEBLACKBOXonline.com) or by calling the box office at (508) 528-3370. Follow THE BLACK BOX on social media to stay updated on the venue's offerings.

# 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 Local Town Pages. To view the original filing and plans, visit <https://www.bellinghamma.org/planning-board/pages/prospect-hill-village>.

## RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Edward Jones

> [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com) | Member SIPC

Compare our CD Rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

6-Month	9-Month	1-Year
5.30 % APY*	5.20 % APY*	5.15 % APY*

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.

Kevin L Johnson  
Financial Advisor  
205 E Central St Suite 10  
Franklin, MA 02038  
508-346-3750

\*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 03/26/24. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit [www.fdic.gov](http://www.fdic.gov) or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change, CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

FDI-1867M-A AECSPAD 21723669

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...



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:

**Zillow, RedFin, Realtor** - Scroll beyond pictures and into details of when built, sqft, interior fea-



Glenn Brown, CFP

tures, 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 pay 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](http://www.PlanDynamic.com). Glenn is a fee-only Certified Financial Planner™ helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents, and financial independence.

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




**ANYTIME PAINTING SERVICES INC.**  
Dedicated to Quality  
*All Trades of Home Services*



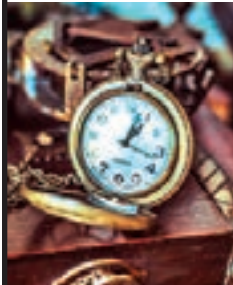
**508-308-6285**  
[www.anytimepaintingservices.com](http://www.anytimepaintingservices.com)



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



**Vallee's**  
Fine Jewelers since 1936



WE RESTORE VINTAGE MECHANICAL WRIST AND POCKET WATCHES

**68 Main Street, Franklin, MA**  
**508-528-2300**  
[valleesjewelers.com](http://valleesjewelers.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



# 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 pro-

gram'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 life-

time 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 heart-



break. 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 Yawkey 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](mailto:lisabxyz@versizon.net).

## Checking that gives and gives.



### GET REWARDED ✓

Every one of our Dean Bank checking accounts earns points<sup>1</sup> 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.™

[deanbank.com](https://deanbank.com) • (508) 528-0088



<sup>1</sup> 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.

Member FDIC Member DIF



# Coming Up at Franklin Senior Center

*The Franklin Senior Center is located at 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin. Reach them at (508) 520-4945.*

**The Friends of the Franklin Elders Presents an Evening with Cathy Ripley Greene, Psychic Medium,** Friday, April 26, Doors open 6 p.m., Readings start 6:30 p.m., \$25

**Home Safety & Fall Prevention:** April 11, 18 & 25, 1p.m.

**People Pleasing, Re-wiring Your Brain:** April 19, 1 p.m.

**50s Sock Hop:** Friday, April 26, 11 a.m., live entertainment, \$6,must sign up

**Thriving!** Solo ager program, April 17, 2 p.m., for adults 55+ without children or close family members

**Cooking & Nutrition:** Tuesday, April 30, 1:30 p.m., Join Chef Anne and learn to make delicious omelets, April 9, 1 p.m., “Let’s Talk about Fad Diets”

**Medicare:** Wednesday, April 10, 2 p.m., How to spot errors, fraud, and abuse.

- Mindful Moments for Relaxation:** April 17, 1 p.m.
- Technology Corner (Sign up now!)**
- Mondays at 2:30 p.m., Let’s Talk Apps
  - Thursdays, 2:30 p.m., Beginner Android
  - Let’s Talk Instagram, April 5, 10 a.m.
  - Google Bootcamp-Google Calendar April 25, 10 a.m.
  - Scam Prevention Talk, April 23, 2:30 p.m.
  - 1:1 Technology Help-work with Tech Guru Ryan
- International & Domestic Travel 2025:** April 17, 9:30 a.m., Join Colette Travel to learn about upcoming travel opportunities (Iceland, Grand Canyon, Europe) Rainbow café
- Long Term Care and Irrevocable Trusts:** with Michael Kasberg, April 29, 11 a.m. Memory Café, April 17, 1 p.m., RSVP to Ariel: adoggett@franklinma.gov or (508) 520-4945

# April 2024 at Franklin Public Library

**Franklin Public Library’s 2024 Reading Challenge!**

**April: A book set in a place you want to visit/ vacation!**

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

**ESL & Adult Literacy Program**

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

**Special Events for Kids**

**Kids Take & Make:** Cherry Blossom Windsocks! Available Monday, April 1st

**Earth Day Bingo!** Starting Monday, April 1st

**Animals in the Spring!** Friday, April 12th @ 1 p.m. Ages 5+

**Animal Affair!** Saturday April 13th @ 10 a.m. Traveling Petting Zoo

**Toe Jam Puppet Band!** Tuesday April 16th @10:30 a.m.

**Ed Popielarczyk Magic Show!** Wednesday April 17th @ 10:30 a.m.

**The BenAnna Band!** Thursday, April 18th @ 10:30 a.m.

**Fairytale Fun!** Saturday, April 20th @10:30 a.m.

**Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals:** A Stuffed Animal Storytime! Saturday, April 27th @10:30 a.m. Calling all future veterinarians! Bring along your stuffed animal for a special Storytime with author, Jennifer Welborn, and illustrator Rozillia MH! Ages 5+. Registration Required!

**Teen Wire Wrapping Jewelry!** Wednesday April 17th @ 5:30 p.m.

**Special Events for Adults**

**How to Steal a Masterpiece** Thursday April 18th @ 6:30 p.m., Hybrid program

**April Fool’s Concert,** Saturday April 13th @ 3 p.m.

**Tracy Kidder’s Rough Sleepers Community Discussion,** April 4th @ 6:30 p.m. & April 27th @ 2 p.m.

**Tax Preparation Help with VITA Site** Open Saturdays 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.m.

Taxes are due by April 15th! The last day the site will be open is April 13th!

VITA sites offer free tax help to people who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns, including: People who generally make \$60,000 or less, Persons with disabilities; and Limited English-speaking taxpayers

**Special Events for All Ages**

**Solar Eclipse Celebration!** Saturday April 6th @ 1 p.m.

**Holi Color Throw!** April 13th @ 2 p.m. with Dean College, Rain Date: Saturday, 4/27.

**Eid Celebration!** Sunday April 14th @ 2 p.m.

**Mobile Mini Golf!** Friday, April 19th @ 1-4 p.m. Children under the age of 14 MUST be accompanied by an adult.

**Stephen Green First Lego League Explore Showcase** Saturday April 27th @ 9 a.m.

Learn about Local FLL Explore and FIRST Robotics Programs and the opportunities available!

There will be 12 robotics teams exhibiting their projects for the FIRST LEGO League Masterpiece 2023-2024 season!

**Franklin Library Book Sale** Friday, April 19th, 1-5 p.m., Saturday, April 20th, 9 a.m. to Noon, All Books \$1, Bag Sale - \$5 A Bag—Saturday, April 20th, from 1-4 p.m.

# 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.**



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.

**TheYankeeXpress**  
BLACKSTONE VALLEYXpress

**localtownpages**

**FREE PRESS**



## 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](mailto:dasilvao25@student.mursd.org).



## 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
  - 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

### 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

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](http://www.franklin4th.com).

A stylized letter 'A' logo for Azza Law.

### 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.

A portrait of Amy Azza, Esq.

Discover the Azza Difference  
and call Amy Azza at 508 517 4310  
or email [azzalaw@outlook.com](mailto:azzalaw@outlook.com)

51 Whitehall Way, Bellingham, MA 02019

## The Norfolk Community Federal Credit Union

### AUTO LOANS

Our rates are low  
**NEW and USED is 5.99% APR**

A row of cars (black, white, red, silver, blue) with daffodils on either side.

Call our office for more details (508) 528-3360  
Or go to our website [www.norfolkcommunityfcu.org](http://www.norfolkcommunityfcu.org)

The logo for Norfolk Community Federal Credit Union, featuring a stylized 'C' and a tree.

**(508) 528-3360**  
18 Union Street, Suite 104  
Norfolk, MA 02056



# Franklin High School Students Showcase Artistic Talent

BY LYN MACLEAN

Never underestimate the talents of our local youth. The Franklin Art Association collaborated with the Franklin High School Art Department to provide a first-time all-encompassed art exhibit. This event would provide a personal experience for students to publicly display their work.

February 17 through March 16 the exhibit was on display at the Escape to Fiction bookstore on Main St. in Franklin. A community-packed room evening reception was held on February 29 to highlight mostly Senior and highly advanced art students' work.

The exhibit represented various art mediums such as Graphic & Architectural Computer Design, Ceramics, Chalk Pastel, Pen & Ink, Digital Photography, Symbolic Portraits, Mixed Media, Linocut prints, and Paintings.

When Franklin Art Association President Sue Sheridan was asked what strikes her most about the art on display, she replied, "I am impressed with how talented these students are and how diverse the work is. They all work in different mediums and are so expressive and personal. During the teen years, of course, there are lots of feelings and emotions involved, and they use art to express those emotions. The results are wonderful."

AP Studio art student Bryanna Harwood shared how proud she was of her displayed self-portrait using graphic powders. She declared, "It is very exciting!" Bryanna appreciates the art education received and said, "It has taught me a lot of techniques that try to push beyond my preferred methods." She has gained many friendships within the art community and wants to major in Special Education so she may consider Art Therapy to incorporate her love of art.

Rayna Popovic, also an AP Studio art student, displayed a 3-piece painting "The Platform." The inspiration emerged from the Red Line subway as explained from her viewpoint. "I wanted to explore physical texture more, so I used this painting medium called modeling paste mixed in the acrylic paint to give it a raised texture. Subways are super cool as they are heavily traveled and also worn, so I wanted to depict that within the paint," she explained.



**Bryanna Harwood - Graphite**

When asked if she had a favorite piece on display, it was clear she appreciated all the work. As an artist, she swiftly listed out characteristics such as color, geometric patterns, strong storytelling, and applauded the perspective drawings. Rayna plans to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Fine Art with a painting major, then hopes to continue with a Masters in Art.

Mia Dewsnap displayed a piece from an AP 3D class. When asked about what she enjoys most about this class she shared, "I like how everyone is doing their own project. With AP-3D, I love it because you get to express your creative thinking."

I asked Mia to share more with me on her ceramic piece. "My piece is named 'Transcendence.' My focus is on balance and the natural world, and within humanity. I wanted to create something that was somewhat like meditation and how you can connect your mind to the earth as well as the spiritual mind."

President of the Art Association Sue Sheridan also shared that the Franklin Art Association is enthusiastic about the thought of continuing this event in the future. They embrace collaboration with the students as the group's mission is to encourage art production and appreciation of art. Each year, the association offers a \$1,000 scholarship granted to a high school graduating student planning to major or minor in art or design.



**Mia Dewsnap "Transcendence"**

There is no doubt that whether art is a personal passion or to evolve into a life-long career, these students have extraordinary talent that can remain an outlet to be shared and used to make this world a more beautiful, expressive place.



**Rayna Popovic's "The Platform"**

Franklin High School will host another upcoming art event, Create Art Around the World, on April 24th, 5:30-7:30 pm. This event is sponsored by a grant from the Franklin Cultural Council and organized by the FHS National Art Honor Society. There will be several rooms representing different countries' music along with craft-making related to that country. Participants obtain a passport that can be stamped after visiting each room. This event is FREE, open to the public, and designed for grade school children.





# FRANKLIN GLASS COMPANY

SINCE 1963

**Showroom Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## INSULATED GLASS!

Fogged Windows?  
See What You've Been Missing!  
**INSULATED GLASS REPLACEMENT**




**Manufactured In House.**  
**Same or Next Day Turnaround**  
NOTE: TEMPERED GLASS WILL REQUIRE LONGER LEAD TIMES.

**Call: 508-528-9550**  
**273 Beaver Street, Franklin MA**  
Email: [franklinglasscompany@gmail.com](mailto:franklinglasscompany@gmail.com) | [www.franklinglasscompany.com](http://www.franklinglasscompany.com)

**For rates and info on advertising your business,  
please call Jen at 508-570-6544  
or email: [jenschofield@localtownpages.com](mailto:jenschofield@localtownpages.com)**



# The b.LUXE beauty beat

## b.LUXE Gives Back

By GINA WOELFEL

It’s officially spring, a busy time for many businesses, particularly those deeply connected to their communities and who believe in giving back. As a responsible local business, we focus on our own goals while also considering the needs and aspirations of our neighbors.

b.LUXE is fortunate to be surrounded by like-minded businesses that believe in their community and actively promote and sustain each other.

Though neighbors are typically thought of as the people who live next door or down the street, at b.LUXE, our bonds extend beyond physical proximity. Since 2016, our studio has maintained a special connection with our “neighbors” from The Martello Instituto de Belleza, our sister school in Cancun, Mexico.

The Martello Institute, led by Cinthia Martello, is a hub of creativity and talent where students who share our love and dedication to beauty come to learn and grow. Our team travels to Cancun yearly to award scholarships to two deserving and hardworking students. We also provide educational resources and the necessary supplies to support the students’ studies.

This year, we gave a handheld microscope to the school. The microscope provides a magnified view of the scalp. It’s an essential device for beauty professionals that helps detect scalp and hair follicle problems. Additionally, each student received all the tools

and products required to offer a scalp spa treatment. Many of you have already enjoyed this service at b.LUXE. The treatment is incredibly relaxing and includes a scalp health diagnosis, an exfoliating scrub, a scalp massage, and a complete wash, condition, and blowout.

Our trips to Cancun are inspiring, and we owe those positive vibes to Cinthia. Following our class, she hosts a luncheon where we mingle with the students and catch up with how their year has been going. On our last trip, our wedding manager, Eva Mongie, expressed her love for tamales, and this year, Cinthia’s students surprised us with a huge plate of homemade tamales, which we promptly devoured. This thoughtful and delicious gesture perfectly embodies who they are and why we’re so close. At b.LUXE, we always try to act without expectation. In return, we’ve received a gift from the Martello family that feels like sisterhood.

April is an important month at b.LUXE, where we focus on giving back.

We look forward to working each year supporting The Franklin Food Pantry, Paws New England, The Medway House, The Franklin Senior Center, The Hummingbird Walk, The Special Olympics, and The Medway Food Pantry.

This month, our salon is partnering with The Mahan Circle Medway Food Pantry, a division of The Medway Housing Authority, on a tampon drive.

b.LUXE  
hair • makeup • skincare • editorial



SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Why specifically a tampon drive?

Millions of people across the United States are suffering the consequences of not being able to afford period products. SNAP & WIC programs that help provide healthy food to women and children do NOT cover access to hygiene items like period products, with many states still taxing menstrual hygiene products as luxury items. Access to these products should not be a privilege. The lack of access to menstrual health products, specifically tampons, for people in need can be devastating and a complex problem that many have to face each month.

But we can do something to help!

We’re accepting tampon donations at b.LUXE for the month of April. Please bring a regular-sized, sealed package of tampons to b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio (variety packs are perfect.) Our team is also making a large donation and hopes we can support this cause together. (Note: regular-sized boxes are



St. Josephs Parish  
Website



Medway Mahan Circle  
Food Pantry Venmo

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO  
THE MEDWAY FOOD PANTRY AT MAHAN CIRCLE

Interested in installing central AC?

COAN  
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

CALL TODAY!

Beat the rush and long supply lines.  
Tax Credits and Mass Save Rebates  
available for Heat Pumps!



Specialists in Home Comfort & Energy Conservation

Coan Bioheat® Fuel Delivery

With significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions & lower carbon footprint, it's the most environmentally friendly heat fuel, and the safest.

196 West Central St., Natick • 508-653-5050 • 800-262-6462 • coanoil.com



preferred as the food pantry can not open or break up large, bulk packaging) You can also drop off donations directly at The Mahan Circle Medway Food Pantry at the address below.

If you can't stop by the studio, please consider donating to the Medway Food Pantry. Any amount is appreciated. Donations can be made through the St. Joseph Parish website, The Mahan Food Pantry Venmo, or by mailing a check to the address below.

The Medway Food Pantry  
600 Mahan Circle,  
Medway, MA 02053  
(617) 763-5655

Thank you for joining us in supporting The Medway Food Pantry. As always, we're so proud of our community's ability to help those in need.

The b.LUXE Beauty Team

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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



# Wrentham Cooperative Bank Ribbon Cutting



From Left to Right in the front row: Charlie Miller, Business Solution Advisory Group; Sarah Giovannucci, VP/Treasurer, Wrentham Cooperative Bank; Doug Mure, Director Wrentham Cooperative Bank; State Rep. Marcus Vaughn; Jason Hawkes, Primerica; Scott Terrien, President, Wrentham Cooperative Bank; Wrentham Selectman Kevin Kalkut, Andrea DiLorenzo, Universal Banker, Wrentham Cooperative Bank; Charlene Nevins, Loan Servicing, Wrentham Cooperative Bank; Amy Linehan, Branch Manager, Wrentham Cooperative Bank; Justin Casanova-Davis, Norfolk Town Manager; Tammy Sarkis, Wrentham Cooperative Bank; Scott MacLeod, President MacLeod General Contractors; Craig Fishman NES Group; Jack Lank, President, United Regional Chamber of Commerce.

On February 9th, the ribbon was cut at the new location of Wrentham Cooperative Bank at 144 Main Street, Norfolk. This is the bank’s third location with the other two at 102 South Street and 1005 South Street in Wrentham.

Branch Manager Amy Linehan offered all a warm welcome. State Representative Marcus Vaughn presented Bank President Scott Terrien and Amy Linehan with a citation from the State House welcoming the bank to Norfolk.

Wrentham Cooperative Bank offers a range of business and personal products and services. The bank provides checking, money market, individual retirement, and savings accounts. The bank specializes in Residential Lending with local decision making and all loans are kept in-house. The bank is an active participant in the Mass Save HEAT Loan program.

More than just a bank, Wrentham Cooperative has been a place people can trust for all of their personal and business financial needs since 1901. Unlike most banks, they provide you with the services you actually want and need, not the services they want you to buy. They work quietly and steadily every day to improve their services and offices to ensure that their customers receive the best banking experience possible.



**FREE ESTIMATES**

**COMPLETE BATHROOM REMODELING**

**FRANKLIN BATH & TILING**

Gary - 508-528-7245  
Jim - 508-294-1130



**FREE:** 100 gallons of home heating oil or propane\*

**FREE:** \$100 Account credit towards your first tune-up or service plan\*

**Give us a call today!**  
**800-649-5949**  
[info@medwayoilpropane.com](mailto:info@medwayoilpropane.com)

**Be Sure to Ask About our New Customer Program**

**Your neighbors have voted us GOLD MEDAL WINNERS!**

Call today to learn more about our services!



**Fuels**

- Heating Oil
- Propane
- Diesel
- Bagged Coal

**Installations**

- Oil & propane heating systems and water heaters
- Oil to propane conversions

**Service**

- Emergency service 24-7
- Oil & propane fired equipment

**Programs**

- Flexible pricing and budget programs
- Ask about our Veteran, Military, Police and Fire discount

**MEDWAY OIL & PROPANE**

"Your Total Home Comfort Company"

**Family owned and operated since 1954**

\*APPLIES TO WHOLE HOUSE HEAT CUSTOMERS ONLY. ASK FOR DETAILS. \*New automatic delivery customers only. Offer ends the last day of the month.



# Living Healthy

## 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 pa-



tients 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 compli-

cations. 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 ex-

tended 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



Saturday & After Hours Available


MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

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

GET NOTICED!

For rates and info on advertising your business, please call Jen at 508-570-6544 or email at jenschofield@localtownpages.com



# Plainville Dental Care – Creating Beautiful Smiles

By JENNIFER RUSSO

A smile is one of the greatest tools we have. We smile when we meet someone, when we are happy, when we are excited and when we are proud. A smile can comfort someone and make them feel more accepted and welcomed. A smile makes us more approachable and inspires confidence when we see one. So, making our smiles a top priority is really something we should all be doing each day.

Dr. Peyman Beigi and Dr. Nina Raeisian believe in creating beautiful smiles at Plainville Dental Care, which has been a go-to place for both medical and cosmetic dentistry since 2010.

“It’s funny because I had intended to go to medical school and become a physician,” says Dr. Beigi. “Then one day I went to my dentist for a tooth concern, and he convinced me to look at dentistry as an option. In his words, there is more flexibility with your lifestyle as a dentist – you have more time to do great work and still enjoy your personal life. So, I decided to go that route.”

Dr. Beigi graduated from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in 1995, followed by a residency at New England Medical Center. His focus is on oral and gum surgery, dental implants, and he is certified in Invisalign® treatments. Dr. Raeisian earned her doctorate from Tufts University as well, and is certified in implant dentistry, Invisalign® and cosmetic dentistry. Both are also FBI-trained forensic dentists.

Dental care is important, and Dr. Beigi stresses that it isn’t just about looking good, but making sure we are at our optimal health as well.

“Our teeth are connected to the rest of our body. They aren’t just bone – there are blood vessels that go through the gums, and everything is connected to the rest of our organs. If you have a dental disease, that will go through the system and impact the heart and brain, as well as other parts of the body. Nerve tissues also run through your gums, so if bacteria finds its way to the nervous system, it also can cause detrimental impacts to your system. Caring for teeth is absolutely vital,” he shares.

A unique offering that the practice provides are same-day implants, where compromised teeth can be extracted, and an implant put right in. This option is perfect for patients who have an important event coming up, such as a wedding or business presentation, and don’t have time to wait for treatment. The doctors will expertly implant the prosthetics using a computer-guided system. They also offer mini implants for those who want a less invasive procedure or have less bone volume where they are better suited.

The use of Platelet-Rich Fibrin (PRF) is also a stand-out part of implant procedures at the office. PRF is made from your own blood and DNA, which, when used as part of your treatment, can help your healing and growth be more effective.

For people who have a fear of going to the dentist, Dr. Beigi believes humor is the best medicine.

“I love people and I love to laugh. Authentic humor can put people at ease. No one wants to be sitting in a dentist’s chair – we know that – so even though we are serious about our treatment, we do not act 100% serious and



stern. Who wants a dentist that doesn’t smile? Your comfort is always our number one priority,” says Dr. Beigi.

In addition to offering standard cleanings and preventative treatments, Invisalign®, dental implants, veneers and other cosmetic options, the practice also offers orthodontics, as well as oral and maxillofacial surgeries for those who are experiencing conditions like TMJ, misaligned jaws, cleft lip, and palate, and more.

“We believe in going the extra mile,” says Dr. Beigi. “In fact, all my patients have my cell phone number so they can contact me directly. I don’t believe in an answering service – especially when someone is in any pain or discomfort. I believe in compassion and putting myself in their shoes. I wouldn’t want to be sitting on hold with someone. They can get a hold of me



Dr. Nina Raeisian



Dr. Peyman Beigi

anytime.”  
To learn more about Plainville Dental Care and the treatments they offer, and view current specials, visit their website at [www.theplainvilledentist.com](http://www.theplainvilledentist.com) or call (508) 406-9590. Plainville Den-

tal Care is located at 13 Taunton Street in Plainville, MA.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Instant cash paid for your valuable firearms.

Call today for a confidential consultation  
508-381-0230 • [www.neballistic.com](http://www.neballistic.com)

CELEBRATING 7 YEARS

We're so excited to share our gourmet store with you! Thank you, Franklin, MA for making us your favorite Little Shop!

5 Main Street, Franklin, MA  
Visit our store in downtown Franklin or shop online at [SHOPEVOO.COM](http://SHOPEVOO.COM)

GOURMET DELIGHTS • WINE • GIFTS • TASTING BAR • EVENTS



## Sports

# Hoping For a Healthy Senior Season

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Keira Kucich was looking forward to laying her first full season the Franklin girls' lacrosse team last spring as a defender for the Panthers. However, things didn't go as planned, and before she could literally get her season beginning, it was over.

The junior, who began playing lacrosse in second grade because of her older brother by two years, was looking forward to her first full season with the varsity squad. She had picked up her first lacrosse stick, because she wanted to do what her older brother was doing, as he was an aspiration to her.

Kucich recalls that during her second game of the season, she remembers exactly how her season went from promising to sitting on the bench in a blink of an eye.

"I was so excited to finally being able to start that year. During the second game of the season, I had gotten the ball and was running along the endline-behind the goal when a girl from the other team pushed into me," she said. "I fell to the ground awkwardly, twisting my leg and hearing a pop, but it didn't hurt, so I got up and started walking to the bench. The pain was so much I sat out the rest of the game."

Kucich, who had seen ACL tears, didn't think that was her situation, but she knew something was off. Two days later

she had an MRI, and a few days after that, she was told that her season was over. Coming into the season with high expectations, her season was over just like that.

In her early years playing lacrosse, the Franklin native would join the Gold Star Lacrosse club team, where she would play up until her junior season, the last that she could play with them. Through her Gold Star years, Kucich realized that she was a good player, but not an elite player.

"I didn't think that I had the talent as some of the others, but continued to play the game because I enjoyed it," she said. "The more that I played, the more that I fell in love with it."

It was with that skepticism that she arrived at Franklin High School and decided that varsity would be too much for her and her talents. Instead, she opted to try out for the junior varsity team.

"That varsity team was super strong, so I was scared to try out," Kucich said. "I had no problem playing for the JV team. In fact, I think it helped me in the long run. For the JV team, I played midfield, doing things that I had never done before as a defender. Making offensive plays and shooting also gave me the confidence to play the game, while defensively it helped me to understand the perception of those playing attack and what they were looking to do."

Franklin once again had a strong squad her sophomore



**FHS senior and girls' lacrosse captain Keira Kucich has worked hard to be on the field after her ACL injury. She's hoping that hard work will pay off for the team.**

*Photos used courtesy of Keira Kucich*

year, and although she was on the varsity team, she didn't see the field all that much. According to Kucich, it was a different kind of season primarily watching from the sidelines, but by doing so, it definitely motivated her to work harder in the off-season to earn herself a starting position with the Panthers.

"As a sophomore reserve, she really worked hard to earn that starting position as a junior," Franklin girls' lacrosse Coach Kristin Igoe said. "She worked her way up, and I was so excited that we had such a strong defender back there, then the ACL."

Igoe continue to say that Kucich was a leader that she could keep on the field the whole game if she needed to.

Despite tearing her ACL, the then junior wanted to still be with her teammates as much as she could. She found herself going to practices and games to cheer her team on. Once she had the surgery, she found that she really couldn't be with the rest of her teammates all that much.

"I couldn't really do too much after the surgery except go to physical therapy, which was an involved process," she said. "At the end of January, nine months later, I was cleared to get back

onto the field. The process is different for everyone, but I was just glad that I was at the shorter end of the therapy."

In addition to her PT, the now senior, had a lot of work to do on her own to get back onto the field prior to her final lacrosse season beginning. Kucich found herself working out pretty much every day to build her muscle; ran for endurance and did some agility work.

"I know that it was a long time going through everything, but it seems like just yesterday that I got hurt. The time sure did fly by," she said. "I feel really good; played in some scrimmages and pre-season tournaments to build my confidence back, but the injury still gets in my head, and I don't want to go through that again."

Now that her senior season is on the horizon, she is not only excited to be back on the field with her teammates, but she is also very hesitant about the game she loves.

"Hopefully, this will be my first full year on the varsity team. My goal is to stay healthy, while working hard and stepping into that leadership role as a captain," she said. "I want to motivate this team from the field instead of the sideline this year, while also en-

joying my senior season."

Her coach also hopes her senior defender can stay on the field as she has big plans for her.

"This year, I am hoping to install her in some big roles for us," Igoe said. "We know that although she is ready to go. It's going to be a slow process at first, and we'll have to wait and see how things go; eventually she'll be comfortable and grow into her role."

As she gets ready to take the field as a varsity athlete for the first time in many months Kucich is looking forward to a successful Franklin season, although it is going to be very different than in the past.

"This team has an interesting dynamic to it, I'm not too worried about how we'll do despite losing a lot of talent," she said. "The younger players are stepping up, and we have a new opportunity. It's scary to me that all the girls that I've played with for so long are all off doing their own things in college."

As long as the senior defender can stay healthy, she firmly believes that this Panther team can have a very fruitful campaign and that she can not only get to play an entire season, but do so with success.



One wreck  
**won't wreck  
your rates.**

**Benjamin Insurance Agency**  
401-767-2061  
Bellingham, MA  
401-765-5000  
North Smithfield, RI

Serving MA & RI  
Se Habla Espanol

  
**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



Sports

Franklin Youth Wrestlers Take 2nd as Team in NE Championship

Nine Franklin Wrestlers Placed in Top Six of their Weight Class



Pictured with all their team trophies they’ve earned this year Left to Right: John Woodall, Jacob Bramson, Jackson Mahoney, Ryan Briggs, Tony Woodall, Coen Hosford, Kayden Healy and Nick Woodall.

On March 16th & 17th at the Youth New England Championships in Fitchburg, Mass., wrestlers from Franklin Youth Wrestling took home a second-place team trophy. Nine Franklin wrestlers placed in the top six

of their weight classes for all of New England, falling short only to Newtown Connecticut. This tournament is particularly difficult, because only wrestlers that place at their state tournament qualify to compete. This year’s

finish is an improvement from last year’s 3rd place finish. The future for Franklin high wrestling looks great.

Our Individual Champions were Jackson Mahoney, who also won the “Most Dominant Wrestler” award for his age group. This award goes to the wrestler that has beaten all of his opponents by significant margins. Mahoney caps off a stand-out

season, as he placed 5th in the country at the prestigious Tulsa Nationals back on January 18th.

Ryan Briggs won his weight class making him a two-time New England champion. Ryan last won this tournament in 2022.

John Woodall championed his weight class, avenging a loss from earlier this year to Lucas Boxely in the finals. This win makes John a two-time New England Champion.

Our last champion on the day was David McNally, who not only is now another Franklin two-time New England Champion, but also David was awarded “Most Outstanding

Wrestler” for his age group. This award goes to the wrestler with the most impressive wins against quality opponents.

Franklin wrestlers who placed in their respective weight classes were Tony Woodall, 2nd place, Nick Woodall, 3rd place, Kayden Healy, 3rd place, Jacob Bramson, 5th place and Coen Hosford, 5th place.

All of these wrestlers train year round at New England Gold Wrestling Club in Franklin under coaches Cam Kelly, Frank Mahoney and legendary Coach Colace.

# EARTH DAY

## BEAVER POND, APRIL 20

9:00AM -12:00PM

For over 20 years the Town of Franklin has conducted this event in an effort to educate the public on recycling, beautification and general clean up. Help us clean our local parks, roads, schools and town greenery! Meet at Beaver Pond parking lot on Saturday April 20, 9:00am where we will distribute trash bags, gloves and maps with clean up sites. Free saplings will be distributed. Register at [franklinma.myrec.com](http://franklinma.myrec.com).

"BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED."

## 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](http://uppercharlesah.com)

116 Mechanic Street, Bellingham MA 02019

# WENZEL

*Inc.*

- Patios
- Walkways
- Walls
- Fire Pits
- Outdoor Kitchens
- Pool Surrounds
- Landscape Design & Installation
- Lawn Installation
- Grading
- Excavation
- Drainage

**508-376-2815**

Free Estimates • Fully Insured  
[www.WenzelLandscaping.com](http://www.WenzelLandscaping.com)



# The Culinary and Performing Arts Come Together for “Culinary Cabaret”

Friday, April 5 at 7 p.m., the Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will unite the culinary and performing arts for an inspired evening of fabulous food, drink, and entertainment. The all-inclusive ticket delivers a delicious and entertaining evening at THE BLACK BOX, Franklin’s premier entertainment venue.

The 12th annual Culinary Cabaret spotlights this region’s outstanding culinary talent, showcasing fine wines, craft beer, delectable spirits, flavorful dishes, and mouth-watering desserts by culinary partners. This special evening has been a celebrated part of FPAC’s yearly performance calendar for over a decade.

This year’s growing list of partners includes Parker’s Pub, 3, The Shed, Curry House, JK Catering, Carribean Press, Si-



erra’s, Applause, Pour Richard’s and more.

Featuring entertainment by Electric Youth and special guest artists of the Franklin Performing Arts Company, Culinary Cabaret supports Electric Youth’s 2024 European tour. Franklin Performing Arts Company is Franklin’s own professional theater company.

THE BLACK BOX is located at 15 W. Central St. in downtown Franklin, MA. For tickets and more information on Culinary Cabaret, visit FPAConline.com or call the box office at (508) 528-3370. Follow Franklin Performing Arts Company and THE BLACK BOX on Facebook and Instagram for updates on programming.

# Franklin Issues REI for Former Davis Thayer Property

*Offers Site Tours April 17th & May 1st*

## Request for Expressions of Interest for the Purchase/Lease & Redevelopment of the Former Davis Thayer Elementary School at 137 West Central St. in Franklin

The Town of Franklin is pleased to present this Request for Expressions of Interest (REI) in an effort to generate ideas for reuse of the former Davis Thayer Elementary School building and land, located at 137 West Central St.

**Deadline:** Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the Purchasing Office by May 31, 2024 at 1 p.m.

**Information Sessions and Site Tours:** The Town offers you the opportunity to learn more about the site through participation in an Information Session and Site Tour scheduled for April 17, 2024 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and May 1, 2024 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Those interested in submitting a proposal can access the full REI – at:

<https://www.franklinma.gov/purchasing/bids/request-expressions-interest-davis-thayer-elementary-school> or  
<https://tinyurl.com/DavisThayerREI>

## 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

## Lifetime Roof Guarantee

Get a FREE Upgrade to a

## Lifetime Guarantee

Exp. April 30, 2024

Offers May Not be Combined

5 STAR



# Calendar

## April 2

**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

**Franklin Newcomers Meeting, 7 p.m.,** Escape Info Fiction, 12 Main St., Franklin, final meeting of the year welcomes TA Jamie Hellen and FPS Superintendent Lucas Giguere, all Franklin residents & neighbors of nearby towns without a newcomer group welcome

## April 4

**Tracy Kidder's Rough Sleepers Community Discussion, 6:30 p.m.,** Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

## 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 or call (508) 528-3370.

## April 6

**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.

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

**Coffee Haus, 8** Exchange St., Millis, <https://tinyurl.com/SmackDabsNiagaraCH>

## April 11

**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.childrensmuseumfranklin.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 or call (508) 528-3370.

## April 13

**Animal Affair! Traveling Petting Zoo, 10 a.m.,** Franklin Public

Library, 118 Main St., Franklin  
**Holi Color Throw!, 2 p.m.** with Dean College, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Rain Date: Saturday, 4/27.

**April Fool's Concert, 3 p.m.,** Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

**`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

**Eid Celebration! 2 p.m.,** Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

## April 16

**Toe Jam Puppet Band, 10:30 a.m.,** Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

## April 17

**Ed Popielarczyk Magic Show! 10:30 a.m.,** Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

## April 18

**The BenAnna Band! 10:30 a.m.,** Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

**Mobile Mini Golf! 1-4 p.m.** Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Children under the age of 14 MUST be accompanied by an adult.

## April 19

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

## April 20

**2nd Annual Ladybug Trail Walk, best place to start 9 a.m.** at Franklin Historical Museum to get a map and explore ladybug featured presentations, with Jeff Roy speaking at 11 a.m.,

**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

**Earth Day Franklin, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.,** Beaver Pond, Franklin, register at [franklinma.myrec.com](http://franklinma.myrec.com).

**Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the "Ladybug", 1-4 p.m.,** Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, a stop on Ladybug trail walk, 11 a.m. State

# Hiring all techs, all trades!



FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE



TECH SUPPORT



MODERN TRUCKS



EXPERIENCE & GROWTH

Extensive Benefit Package including health and 401k plans



## PLUMBING • HEATING • A/C • ELECTRIC • REMODELING

# RODENHISER

HOME SERVICES

Enjoy your career!  
To learn more, scan the code or visit  
[Rodenhiser.com/Careers](http://Rodenhiser.com/Careers)



Master Plumber: #10961 | Corporate Plumbing: #2288 | Master Electrician: #21982A  
Master Sheet Metal (Unrestricted): #5867 | Corporate Sheet Metal: #641  
Home Improvement Contractor: #188806

Rep. Jeff Roy will speak about the Ladybug kids and about the legislative process then and now, sale of hand-crafted ladybug items by artist Rhondy Rosita to benefit museum, screening of Chronicle segment, newspaper clippings from 1974, releasing of ladybugs at Methodist Church later afternoon

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

**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

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

**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.

## April 24

**Art around the World, 5:30-7:30 p.m.,** Franklin High School, 218 Oak St., Franklin, designed for school-age children, various rooms will feature a craft from a specific country in the world, sponsored by a grant from the Franklin Cultural Council and organized by the FHS National Art Honor Society. Free.

**Joint Meeting of Franklin Town Council and Franklin School Committee, 7 p.m.,** Franklin High School, agenda to include information on override.

## April 25

**Pop Up Art Gallery, Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St.,** Franklin

## April 27

**Stephen Green First Lego League Explore Showcase, 9 a.m.,** Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, learn about Local FLL Explore and FIRST Robotics Programs and the opportunities available.

**Tracy Kidder's Rough Sleepers Community Discussion, 2 p.m.,** Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

**`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 29

**The Franklin School Committee legislative forum with Senator Becca Rausch and Representative Jeff Roy, 7 p.m.** at Franklin High School's lecture hall (enter by gym, the down the left hall). Questions to focus on topics impacting Franklin Public Schools and legislative initiatives.

## May 4

**2nd Annual Franklin Disability Expo, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.,** Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, resources, businesses geared toward accessibility all under the same roof, presented by the Franklin Commission on Persons with Disabilities

116 Main Street, Medway  
(508) 533-6655

32 Hasting Street, Rte 16, Mendon  
(508) 381-0249

43 Main Street, Hopkinton  
(508) 625-8100

325 N. Main Street, Natick  
(508) 647-0500

296 Washington Street, Westwood  
(508) 533-6655

Don't stand in line!  
**ONLINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE!**  
[muffinhousecafe.com](http://muffinhousecafe.com)



Open Daily  
Bakery with Fresh Muffins/Pastries

Receive 10% off any cake  
with this coupon  
All our cakes are made from scratch on the premises  
Expires 4-30-2024



FREE SMALL COFFEE  
with a purchase of a muffin with this coupon  
Expires 4-30-2024



# Spring & Summer Advice for High School Sophomores

Junior and senior year of high school is commonly thought of as “the” time to prepare for college; however, sophomore year is equally important. Initiating the process earlier provides students with a head start, enabling them to tackle some tasks before the busy fall of junior year. Here are a few suggestions that students can focus on during the spring of their sophomore year:

- **Focus on Academics:** Prioritize studies, finish the year with determination, and remember, every grade point counts! If a course poses a challenge, reach out to the instructor or an advisor for help. Ultimately, the academic transcript is the most important factor in college admissions.
- **Demonstrate Academic Rigor:** Encourage students to develop a strong academic transcript through thoughtful course selection. Colleges value a trajectory of growth, where students exhibit academic strength, embrace challenges, and explore interests. For example, consider a student who enjoys the humanities and begins high school with College Prep English-9, earning a

B+; sophomore year they advance to Honors English-10 achieving an A. The following two years, the student further challenges themselves by enrolling in AP Language and Composition and AP Literature. This progression showcases the student’s proactive approach to better develop their strengths and interests.

- **Plan for Standardized Tests:** Standardized testing can be valuable, and students are encouraged to prepare for either the ACT or SAT exam by following a planned test prep schedule. The summer before junior year is often the ideal time to begin test prep. Summer tends to be less hectic and allows the student to focus attention on the upcoming tests scheduled in the fall of junior year. Understanding the difference between the SAT and ACT exam, determining which test may be a better fit, and knowing the free or affordable test prep options are important- email [tracy@mycollege101.com](mailto:tracy@mycollege101.com) for a FREE resource.
- **Engage in Extracurricular Involvement:** Participation

in activities and demonstrating impact is a key element in developing a meaningful activity resume. When students engage in activities that they genuinely enjoy, commitment tends to deepen organically. As an example, consider a student with a passion for writing, sports, who also subscribes to a monthly online magazine to keep up on the news. The student may choose to join the high school newspaper as a general member and contribute short articles about sports. Their enthusiasm and talent shine through, leading the student to be appointed as the feature editor for the high school sports the following year. As they embrace the additional responsibilities, their commitment, skills, and leadership flourish. By senior year they are offered the editor -in-chief - a testament to their dedication and growth.

- **Hit the Road:** Schedule a local college road tour during spring break to visit campuses. An ideal trip consists of various sizes and school settings- like rural, suburban, and city campuses. There is



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

no need to travel far, since at this stage it is about identifying what college criteria matters most to the student - and not where the student will ultimately apply.

- **Cultivate Relationships with Teachers and Counselors:** Start to develop genuine connections with teachers and counselors. These relationships will prove invaluable when college recommendation letters need to be requested during junior year. Prioritizing teachers

who have significantly influenced the student’s academic and personal development will be excellent choices for writing impactful letters.

- **Embrace Summer:** While students absolutely need time to recharge, there are plenty of fun ways to keep learning during the summer heading into junior year. Explore activities like reading (magazines are fine too), journaling, drawing, learning a new water sport, working at the local ice cream shop with your friends, exploring various volunteer opportunities, interning at a local business, and/or attending an interesting 2-week college camp. Email [tracy@mycollege101.com](mailto:tracy@mycollege101.com) for a FREE Volunteer resource.

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

College 101 Admissions Consultants LLC.  
Website: [www.mycollege101.com](http://www.mycollege101.com).  
Email: [tracy@mycollege101.com](mailto:tracy@mycollege101.com).  
Phone: (508) 380-3845.

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

# Woodforms

Fine Cherry Furniture

*Made in Massachusetts*

**NOW OPEN!**  
Saturdays  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Come visit our FACTORY and FACTORY SHOWROOM!**

**131 Morse Street | Foxboro | 508-543-9417 | woodforms.net**

**Hours: Monday - Thursday: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Friday: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. CLOSED Sunday**



# 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!)



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.

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.

“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 re-

quirement 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 be-

come 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 wlddd.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.

# Tri-County Regional Chamber’s O’Callaghan Receives Award

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.”



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





**Mr. Handyman**  
HOME IMPROVEMENT PROFESSIONALS™  
a neighborly company

**Proudly Serving You Since 1996**

All Types of Home Repair & Remodeling  
Odd Jobs, Maintenance & Much More!

**(508) 203-6191**  
[www.mrhandyman.com](http://www.mrhandyman.com)



Licensed ♦ Bonded ♦ Insured      MA CS #107504 | MA HIC #146014



# Registration Extended through April 30th for Franklin Porch-Fest

Franklin PorchFest ... the momentum is building and we are thrilled with the initial response! We are up to 24 bands and counting. Local businesses are getting in on the excitement; for example, Intermission will be open during the entire event for anyone looking for a bite to eat between performances. Other eateries are hosting musicians and extending service to outside areas. There has also been tremendous interest in hosting musicians.

To accommodate so many requests, we are extending our registration through April 30th for both porch hosts and performers. If you are interested in participating you still have time to sign up.

If you would like to host a band or performer on your Porch or if you have a band



or are a performer and would be interested in performing at Franklin PorchFest, go to our website <https://franklin.porchfest.info> and register for the event. All the information you need to register is on our website. Also on our website you will find links so you can follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Franklin PorchFest is made

possible with funds granted from the Mass Cultural Council through the Franklin Cultural District Committee. The Franklin PorchFest Committee is thankful for the support it has received from the Cultural Council, the Cultural District and the Town of Franklin.

Franklin PorchFest will be held Saturday, June 1st from 12-6 p.m. with a rain date of June 2nd. Save the date ... we look forward to seeing you!

## Bellingham/Franklin Animal Control Rabies Clinic

**Date:** April 20, 2024

**Time:** 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Location:** Bellingham DPW, 26 Blackstone St., Bellingham, MA

**Fee:** \$25

If you do not have paperwork regarding your pet's rabies vaccination history, your pet is eligible for a 1-year vaccination.

If you DO have up-to-date paperwork, your pet is eligible for a 3-year vaccination.

All cats MUST be brought in a carrier, while all dogs MUST be on a leash.

# Franklin Vets Welcome Legislators

On March 6th, Franklin veterans were able to interact with local lawmakers at their monthly Veterans Coffee Social, held at Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin. State Rep. Jeff Roy, Secretary of Veterans Services Jon Santiago, and State Senator Rebecca Rausch joined veterans at the monthly event. These photos were provided by the Veterans Services Office.

This month, the Veterans Coffee Social will take place on Wednesday, April 3rd, at 10 a.m.

In addition, on April 9th, both Joseph R. Paulette and Russel W. Shaw, who lost their lives in Vietnam, will be honored in a program by Franklin's Vet-

erans' organizations, the Edward L. Grant American Legion Post 75, and the Veteran's of Foreign Wars Post 3402, under the auspices of the Town's Veterans Council, at the Veterans Memorial at Franklin Town Common. Later in the month, on April 17th, John J. Kell, who perished in World War II, will be honored, and on April 30th, John E. Pasquantonio, who was killed in Vietnam, will be honored.

This program will include the placing of a Memorial Wreath for the day, the playing of Taps, a salute from those present, and a reading of whatever history we may have on that veteran. This is a way of keeping the memory of that veteran alive.



# Be a leader in your Community ...

Sponsor your hometown news sources and receive permanent placement on your chosen town site for 12 months! Tie in your corporate profile, company branding and social media feed into one neat place and reach your target audience with our local service directory. We also include Sponsored Content and Digital Advertising year round. No better way of keeping your company branding top of mind throughout the year!

For more package info and to reserve your spot, please contact Jen Schofield at 508-570-6544 or by email at [jenschofield@localtownpages.com](mailto:jenschofield@localtownpages.com). Only 10 available per site! They will go quick!

**localtownpages**

Ashland | Bellingham | Franklin | Holliston | Hopedale | Medway/Millis  
Natick | Norwood | Norfolk/Wrentham

A young man and woman are smiling and posing for a photo. The woman is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and the man is wearing a white shirt and a grey tie.



# Franklin to Celebrate 2nd Annual Ladybug Trail Spring Walk April 20

Come to Downtown Franklin on Saturday, April 20th when the town kicks off its 2nd Annual Ladybug Trail Spring Walk. The town will also celebrate 50 years of the ladybug as the State’s official insect.

Walk the Ladybug Cultural and Historical Trail any time throughout the day. Best place to start: 9 a.m. at Franklin Historical Museum at 80 West Central Street (Route 140) to get your free trail map to start exploring. While you’re at the museum, and before you walk, stay for the ladybug presentation and activities.

State Representative Jeff Roy will speak about ladybugs and lawmaking at 11 a.m at the museum. Franklin’s ladybug story was covered on the news show Chronicle a few years ago. This short news video will be shown throughout the day. Fun ladybug items will be sold at the Historical Museum. Other activities include a short slide show detailing the ladybug story, and the release of native live ladybugs around 3 p.m.

**Why celebrate the 7-spotted ladybug?**

This year marks the 50th anniversary since the ladybug was adopted as the official insect of Massachusetts. And, the town of Franklin is where it started.

How did this happen? In 1974, a group of second-grade students and their teacher, Palma Johnson, at Franklin’s Kennedy School, petitioned a bill to name the ladybug the state’s official in-

sect. The students learned about the law-making process in class and at the State House. In April 1974 then-governor Francis Sargent signed the bill making the ladybug the official state insect of Mass.

The town celebrated this special designation with its Ladybug project on the 40th anniversary of the accomplishment. The Franklin Cultural Council and the Rotary Club initiated the public art project to honor Mrs. Johnson, her students, and the ladybug. The project invited artists and businesses to create and paint 2-foot tall fiberglass ladybugs.

By 2022 the ladybug sculptures were installed throughout downtown Franklin’s Cultural District – when it officially became known as the Ladybug Cultural and Historical Trail.

The trail uses the ladybug sculptures to tie together approximately 25 historical, cultural and business sites in downtown. Plus, the walk is an opportunity to view more than 10 art murals painted by members of the Franklin Art Association located in the alleys and the daffodils that pop up along the trail in spring.

“The fact that this year is the 50th anniversary of a Franklin educator and her students making history with their ladybug legislation makes this year’s walk extra special. We are happy to be the starting point for the walk, and for families picking up a map,” said Alan Earls, chair of the Franklin Historical Com-

mission. “We are keeping longer hours, too, from 9 to 3, and hope families and individuals will stop in,” he added. For more details, visit the Historical Museum website at <https://www.franklinmuseum1778.com>

**Enjoy the shops along the trail**

People can walk any time during the day. “The Ladybug Trail Spring Walk is the chance to celebrate spring and walk the trail in downtown Franklin in search of the ladybugs tucked among the storefronts. We invite walkers and visitors to stop at one of the many restaurants along the trail for lunch or dinner,” said Lisa Piana, Franklin Downtown Partnership’s Executive Director.

The free trail map is also available at Escape Into Fiction where kids can get a ladybug surprise. Escape Into Fiction is an independent bookstore at 12 Main Street. They are open Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 12 to 4 p.m. The regular hours include Tuesdays through Fridays 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Historical Museum regular hours are Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sundays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Ladybug Cultural and Historical Trail committee includes: Pandora Carlucci, Jane Curran, Claire Griffin, Melanie Hamblen, Eileen Mason, Mary Olsson, Lisa Piana, Beth Simon, and Roberta Trahan.

The Franklin Downtown Partnership is a non-profit 501©3 organization made up



## 2nd Annual Ladybug Trail Spring Walk

Saturday April 20th, raindate April 21st

Stop by the Franklin Historical Museum and Escape Into Fiction for your free map and ladybug surprise!

Special Museum Hours: Sat 9-3, Sun 1-4  
Bookstore Hours: Tues-Sat 10-4, Sun 12-4  
Visit our website at [www.franklindowntownpartnership.org](http://www.franklindowntownpartnership.org)  
Follow us   

**The Ladybug Cultural & Historical Trail**  
Located in the center of the Cultural District

of more than 350 business owners, residents, and community leaders working to revitalize downtown Franklin. Residents can join the Downtown Partnership for only \$25. The Partnership manages events like the Strawberry Stroll, the Harvest Festival, the Ladybug Historical & Cultural Trail, and initiatives such as beautification, streetscape design, greenspace, alley murals, and sculpture projects. For more information go to [www.franklindowntownpartnership.org](http://www.franklindowntownpartnership.org).

\$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  
toll free • Fully Insured • Call Tom Cassidy

\$20 OFF

**1-855-533-JUNK (5865)**

**1-508-308-2279** Call only [www.junkitnow.us](http://www.junkitnow.us)

OFF



# “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

**MINIBUS**  
*continued on page 29*

## PROFESSIONAL TREE SERVICE

Shade Tree Pruning • Tree Removal  
Ornamental Tree Pruning  
Bucket Truck Service

Call the certified arborists at  
**Destito Tree Services for an evaluation.**

The name you have trusted since 1984.  
Massachusetts Certified Arborist - Fully Insured

**DESTITO**  
TREE SERVICES  
Quality Tree Care  
[www.destitotreeservices.com](http://www.destitotreeservices.com)

**Nicholas Destito**  
📞 781-551-0266  
📞 508-699-4532

**FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED**

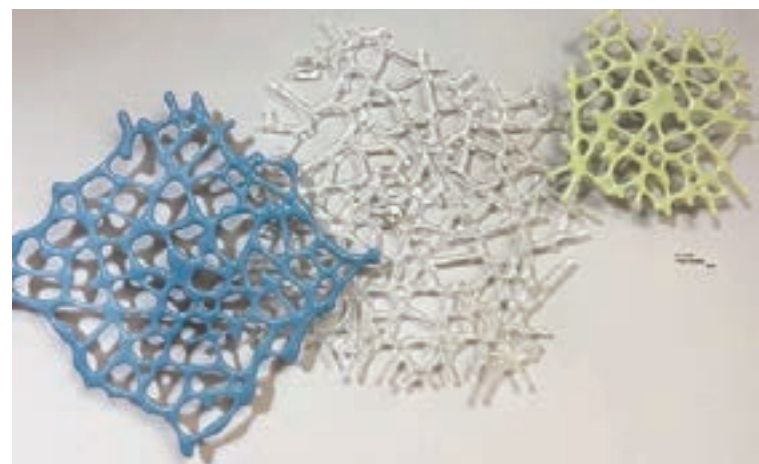


## Franklin Art Welcomes Glass Artist Pariseau to April 3rd Meeting

The Franklin Art Association invites the public to our Wednesday, April 3, meeting. We will warmly greet Guest Demo-Artist, Phil Pariseau; glass artist for this month's public demonstration. The free to the public meetings are held at the Franklin Senior Center at 6:30 p.m. He



PHIL PARISEAU  
Ocean State of Mind, Feb. 12, 2024



will show our audience his approach to glass heat slumping and his unique approach to glass utensil making.

Phil's early interest in glass began with a glass blowing class more than 20 years ago and has developed into a new passion for creating kiln-formed pieces of art and unique glass gifts. Combining various techniques of fusing, raking, temperature ma-

nipulation, and slumping glass, his pieces often produce a flow that results in a unique design to capture the light beautifully. He uses the warmth and the beautiful color palette of Cape Cod to create distinctive works of art glass including votive candle holders, plates, sculptures, wall hangings, wine coasters, and business card holders. Many pieces are one of a kind.

Phil currently has pieces at Creative Hands Gallery in Osterville, Mass. <https://www.creativehandsgallery.com> and also, <http://www.etsy.com/shop/coastalglassinfusion>.

## FHS Jazz Band Receives Gold in MA Assoc. for Jazz Education Finals

Superintendent Lucas Giguere, Principal Joshua Hanna and Assistant Principal Michael Walsh are excited to share that Franklin High School's jazz band competed in the Massachusetts Association for Jazz Education (MAJE) finals at Norwood High School on Saturday, March 16.

Franklin High School's Jazz Band of 30 students played three songs; Tito Puente's "Ran Kan Kan," Charles Mingus' "Good-

bye Pork Pie Hat," and "Better Get Hit in Your Soul." The band played alongside 19 other bands from Massachusetts and performed for a panel of college professors and professional performing jazz artists for medal awards. They received a Superior Gold Medal for their performance and will advance to the Gold Medal Showcase on May 5 at the Hatch Memorial Shell at the Charles River Esplanade in Boston.



From left to right: Franklin High School Jazz Band members Weylan O'Connell, Aidan Padula, and Anton Sackley at Algonquin Regional High School in Northboro.

(Photos courtesy Franklin Public Schools)



Franklin High School Jazz Band students at Algonquin Regional High School in Northboro.



Franklin High School Jazz Band students at Algonquin Regional High School in Northboro.

**HEY FRANKLIN!**  
**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!**

That's right,  
**Franklin Town News**  
has its own Facebook page!

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

localtownpages   
**Franklin**

And as always, find us online at [franklintownnews.com](http://www.franklintownnews.com)



## FUSF Special Lay Service to be Led by Professor Rob A. Lawson, Dean College

### Reflections on Our Shared Past – Dr. Oliver Dean, Dean Academy, and the First Universalist Society in Franklin

Sunday April 14, 2024 – 10 a.m.

First Universalist Society in Franklin  
262 Chestnut Street, Franklin MA

April is a meaningful month in American history—it marks the season of the year when the American Civil War both began and ended, and Lincoln was slain. Those were the years when the First Universalist Society in Franklin was in its infancy and its leading light, Dr. Oliver Dean, founded Dean Academy (now Dean College). It was a divided



and wounded country then, and the backdrop of the Civil War provides us with the opportunity to reflect on our shared past of struggle, and to pray for and imagine a hopeful future.

Dr. Rob A. Lawson is a cultural historian who has written on musical, visual, and theatrical arts and now works in documen-

tary filmmaking, co-producing two series: The Boatbuilders and History in Your Backyard. His signature work, Jim Crow's Counterculture: The Blues and Black Southerners, 1890-1945 (LSU Press), won the Thoma-son Prize for book of the year in 2011. He is the managing editor of the New England Journal of History and is professor of History and Director of the Honors Program at Dean College in Franklin, Massachusetts.

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

## Franklin High School Mock Trial Team Competes in Elite 8 Trial

Franklin High School's Mock Trial Team competed in the state's Elite 8 trial at the Moakley Courthouse in Boston. The team of about 30 students is led by team captains Anton Sackley, Jacob Bowser, Carolina Rawan, Ahan Shetty and Liana Warnakulasooriya.

Street Law and AP Government teacher Johnna MacLean serves as the club's faculty advisor with help from Franklin native Andrew Kepple, who is the Assistant Clerk Magistrate at the Southeast Housing Court.

The team secured a spot at the Regional Trials after winning three trials in a row. Then, the team advanced to the Fab14 and secured eighth place, advancing the team to the Elite 8 trial on Tuesday, March 12.

Franklin High School competed in this trial against Dover-Sherborn High School, Newton South High School, The Winsor School, Gann Academy, Malden Catholic High School, St. John's Preparatory High School, and Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School.

This year's case is Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. Maiyer Wahl, which is a criminal trial, and the team had to prepare both prosecution and



The 2023-2024 Franklin High School Mock Trial Team outside of the Third District Court of Southern Worcester in Milford. (Photo Courtesy Franklin Public Schools)

defense roles. Their side of the case was only revealed on the day of the trial. The team performed outstandingly but lost by one point to Pioneer Valley, with a score of 101-100.

In addition to their successes this season, the Franklin Hill School Mock Trial team has had a history of impressive wins. Franklin High School has been to

the Final Four round three times in the team's history and to the State Finals in 2019.

"The students have thoroughly prepared for their trials, and their hard work has paid off," MacLean said. "We made it to the top eight out of 111 teams this season and I'm incredibly proud!"

## Not just for Newcomers ...



**Join us at our next bi-monthly gathering on Wed., April 3, 2024!**

Please join us as we host Franklin's Town Administrator, Jamie Helen, and Franklin's School District Superintendent, Lucas Giguere. They'll be updating us on what's going on in our town and in our schools. Take advantage of this great opportunity to get answers firsthand ... bring your questions! We're meeting a week earlier than usual to accommodate our speakers. This is one of our favorite events of the year!

Join us to learn new things, meet new friends and have fun in our community. We meet at Escape Into Fiction from 7-9 p.m. The bookstore is in downtown Franklin, 12 Main Street. Arrive early to take advantage of their

wonderful selection of books, puzzles, games, and gifts for all ages. Light refreshments will be served.

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

## 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**



# Historic Happenings at Franklin Historical Museum in April

April at the Franklin Historical Museum comes with a panoply of silent films, lady bugs, remembrances of epic storms, local connections to the Armenian Genocide Remembrance, and more.

## The Second Sunday Speaker Series

The Second Sunday Speaker Series at the museum continues on April 14, 2024 with a look back at 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. Doors open at 1 and the presentation begins at 1:15 p.m. at Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central Street, Franklin, MA. The presenter will be Eamon McCarthy Earls, a local author and former town councilor. FREE



## April 20 – Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the "Ladybug"

In 1974, a contingent of Franklin elementary school students, led by beloved teacher Parma Johnson, convinced the Massachusetts legislature to name the useful and attractive ladybug, as the state insect. Fifty years later, in coordination with the Franklin Downtown Partnership's Ladybug Trail walk, the museum will be open for extended Saturday hours, from 9-3 and will feature:

- Convenient access to restrooms and trail maps for trail walkers
- Sale of special hand-crafted



ladybug items (key chains and book marks) created by local crafter, Rhondy Rosita, with all sales benefiting the museum.

- At 11 a.m., State Rep. Jeff Roy will speak about the Ladybug kids and about the legislative process then and now – an informative topic for kids and adults!
- The Museum will also be showing throughout the day, a short Chronicle segment about the Ladybug Trail and a presentation about

the 1974 ladybug kids and the 1984 Kennedy School kids that went to the statehouse in 1984, for the 10th anniversary.

- Vintage newspaper clips and ladybug outfits used by Franklin children in their 1974 'lobbying' effort.
- And, late in the afternoon, we plan to release live native ladybugs at the nearby Methodist Church garden as a finale for the celebration.

- All Saturday events are rain or shine (the Downtown Partnership's Trail Walk, however, has a rain date of Sunday, April 21). The museum will only be open for regular hours, 1-4 pm, on that day.

**April 25** – A special afternoon pop up art gallery event is scheduled for the main gallery of the museum. Details are still being finalized.

The Franklin Historical Museum is located at 80 West Central Street, Franklin. The museum is open Saturday mornings from 10AM-1PM and Sunday afternoons from 1:00PM-4:00PM. When visiting the museum, please consider donating a non-perishable item for the Franklin Food Pantry.

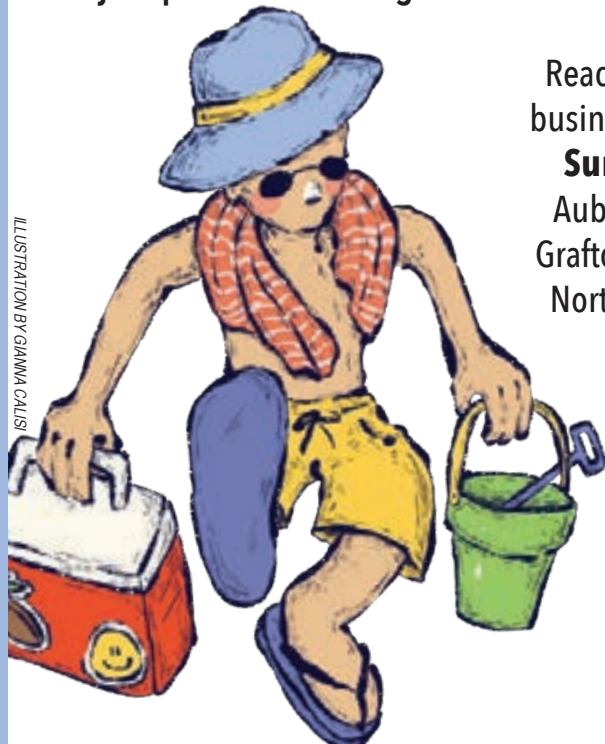
Questions? Contact Alan Earls at (508) 560 3786.

Visit us online at <https://www.franklinmuseum1778.com>

## "Cinema 80" Feature Films Continue (Free)

### SUMMER GUIDE!

Think Summer! Warm weather. Beaches. Golfing. Hiking. Outdoor dining. Are you looking forward to it as much as we are? Then promote your business and events with our annual **SUMMER GUIDE** – jam-packed with things to do this summer. Just add warm weather!



Reach more than 73,000 homes and businesses this **June** with our **Annual Summer Guide**. Direct mailed to Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Millbury, Northbridge, Oxford, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge and Webster!

**Reservation Deadline is May 10th!**  
Contact Jen Schofield  
at 508-570-6544 or by email at [jenschofield@localtownpages.com](mailto:jenschofield@localtownpages.com)  
to book your space today!

TheYankeeXpress  
BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress

localtownpages

FREE PRESS

Silent Saturdays start at 6 p.m. at the Franklin Historical Museum on four Saturdays of the month: Chris. Leverone, a videographer and graphics artist from Franklin, has directed promotional and fundraising videos, and is currently a producer at Franklin TV. He developed this program of films in cooperation with the Franklin Senior Center.

- **April 6** – *The Thief of Baghdad*, a Douglas Fairbanks classic with marvelous stunts and production design that brings the audience into a fanciful 'Thousand and One Nights' landscape of mischief, mystery, and intrigue.
- **April 13** – *Metropolis*, is a formative film in the science fiction genre by Fritz Lang. It portrays a convincing, futuristic and totalitarian city complete with creepy robots.
- **April 20** – *Early Animation Shorts*, including Steamboat Willie, The Dinosaur and The Missing Link, and other gems.
- **April 27** – *Ravished Armenia*, a portion of a 1919 drama about the then contempo-



rary Armenian genocide as well as other period shorts. Ravished Armenia is being shown in connection with the museum's other Armenian Genocide Remembrance activities.



# Historical Museum to Honor Armenian Genocide Remembrance

The Franklin Historical Museum will present special programs this year in honor of Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day (April 24), which marks the beginning of the organized killing of Armenians within the Ottoman empire in 1915. This event was responsible for many survivors fleeing to America, many of whom established a vibrant local community in Franklin, including Camp Haiastan, still located on Summer St.

**Saturday, April 27** – During regular museum hours, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., we expect to share items from Franklin’s Armenian past as well as short films about the Armenian Genocide plus the Silent Saturday showing of *Ravished Armenia* (6 p.m.)

**Sunday April 28**, 1:15 p.m., 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.



# Dean College Announces 158th Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree Recipients

Dean College is honored to announce that the keynote speaker at its 158th Commencement Ceremony on May 18, 2024 will be Michael J. Bobbitt, the Executive Director of the Mass Cultural Council, who will also be receiving an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts, *honoris causa*. Additionally, Dean College will be presenting Former U.S. Ambassador to Croatia and Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations in Afghanistan, Peter W. Galbraith, with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

“This will be the second year in Dean College’s history to award honorary degrees to individuals who epitomize The Dean Difference, by caring for their community and making a positive impact in this world,” said President Kenneth Elmore. “We are so honored to bestow this distinction upon Mr. Bobbitt and Ambassador Galbraith, who have demonstrated a passionate commitment to the arts and public service throughout their illustrious careers.”

Bobbitt and Galbraith will be presented with their honor-

ary degrees at Dean College’s 158th Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at Dean College, 99 Main Street, Franklin, MA.

The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. on the front lawn of Dean Hall, along Awpie Way, and will occur rain or shine. Livestream options will be available for graduates, family, and friends who are unable to attend in person.

For more information about Dean College Commencement, visit [www.dean.edu/commencement](http://www.dean.edu/commencement).

## MINIBUS

continued from page 25

- 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

# Real Estate Corner



**Eileen Mason**  
508-330-4234  
[emason4234@gmail.com](mailto:emason4234@gmail.com)

“We asked for aggressive representation and Eileen came through selling our home in 4 days, above asking price. Couldn’t ask for a better agent!”  
~Paul L.

**April Showers bring May Buyers!**  
**Now is a great time to sell!**  
*Call us for your complimentary market analysis.*



**Susan Morrison**  
617-686-8178  
[susan.morrison1@comcast.net](mailto:susan.morrison1@comcast.net)

“If you are looking for a real estate expert, with excellent interpersonal skills, who is hardworking, has the best business connections in the area, and truly cares about her clients, don’t hesitate, call Susan!”  
~Amber

<p>11 East Street Franklin</p>  <p><b>COMMERCIAL UAG</b></p> <p>Eileen Mason</p>	<p>5 Ashbury Drive Franklin \$875,000</p>  <p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p>Susan Morrison</p>	<p>391 E Central Street Franklin</p>  <p><b>COMMERCIAL LEASED</b></p> <p>Eileen Mason</p>
<p>5 Madison Avenue Franklin</p>  <p><b>UAG</b></p> <p>Eileen Mason</p>	<p>2 Stone Ridge Road Franklin</p>  <p><b>UAG</b></p> <p>Susan Morrison</p>	<p>26 Russet Hill Road Franklin</p>  <p><b>UAG</b></p> <p>Susan Morrison</p>



# RE/MAX Executive Realty

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





# Real Estate Corner



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



### WE'VE MOVED! VISIT OUR NEW WRENTHAM MORTGAGE OFFICE

Jim Hanewich is here to assist with First-Time homebuyer, FHA, VA, portfolio, conventional and jumbo loans.

Set up an appointment at our **new location** at 667 South Street, Suite 2 Wrentham, MA 02093. Located right next door to Cafe Assisi!

 Equal Housing Lender. Member FDIC. Member DIF. NMLS #525575



## Four Franklin Properties among Norfolk County's Top Twenty 2023 Real Estate Sales

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reported that during 2023, twenty properties, a mix of commercial and residential, sold for more than \$18,000,000, with an average price of \$50,868,490.

The prices on the properties listed in this article relate to real estate sales during the period of January 1st, 2023, through December 31st, 2023 that occurred in the 28 communities that make up Norfolk County.

- Among the twenty real estate properties, the following four were Franklin properties with their rankings among the 20:
- 19. 210 Grove Street, Franklin, a 167,000-square-foot warehouse and distribution facility, sold in July for \$19,500,000;
  - 16. 206 Grove Street, Franklin, a 150,000-square-foot warehouse and distribution facility, sold in July for \$28,000,000;

- 14. 176 Grove Street, Franklin, a 171,000-square-foot freight transportation center and warehouse, was sold in May for \$29,500,000;
- 13. 25 & 40 Kenwood Circle, Franklin, A multi-building storage and distribution center with a combined 200,000 square feet of space was sold in July to Boston Infill LLC for \$37,500,000;

"The industrial and commercial nature of these developments bodes well for the Norfolk County economy, both in terms of employment and revenue," stated Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell. "This also indicates that Norfolk County is not only a desirable place to both live and work but is also a magnet for business, industry, and trade."

Excise taxes mandated by state law from these 20 real estate sales totaled more than \$4,639,206 for the state and county.

"Despite a slowdown in overall real estate activity throughout Norfolk County in 2023, there were still pockets of the market that saw significant growth and development, particularly in commercial real estate and rental property," noted Register O'Donnell.

In 2023, there were 8,192 property sales recorded in Norfolk County, down 20% compared to 2022. The average real estate sales price, which include commercial and residential property, was \$1,083,609, down 8% from last year.

"With many observers of the market predicting mortgage interest rates to decrease in the first half of the upcoming year in 2024, we hope to see more robust real estate activity in 2024, with continued growth in commercial real estate, rental, and residential properties," said Register O'Donnell.

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 is located at 649 High St., Dedham. Reach them at (781) 461-6101 or email registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.

## 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.

looking for a  
**REAL ESTATE AGENT?**

AS A RESIDENT OF FRANKLIN, I AM YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE EXPERT!

ARE YOU CONSIDERING BUYING, SELLING, OR INVESTING IN REAL ESTATE? LOOK NO FURTHER! WITH A PASSION FOR COMMUNITY AND A WEALTH OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, I CAN GUIDE YOU THROUGH YOUR REAL ESTATE JOURNEY.

CONTACT ME TODAY FOR YOUR FREE MARKET ANALYSIS!

**ANNE MCGREAL, REALTOR®**  
CUSTOM HOME REALTY  
508-479-2766  
ANNE@CUSTOMHOMEREALTY.COM









# *April Showings Bring the Closings!*

*If you are considering a move or just curious about what's happening in Real Estate today, rely on Lorraine for her seasoned, no-nonsense expertise!*



*Call today for a no obligation consultation on your value in today's market!*

*Experience. Service. Trust.*



**Lorraine Kuney 508-380-9938**

lorrainekuney@gmail.com

"The Franklin Area's Most Frequently Hired Agent"

#1 Market Share In Franklin 2023



*Proud to be recognized by Boston Magazine  
& Real Trends as a 2024 Top Producer*



