

# Annual Franklin Bellingham Rail Trail 5K May 18th

13th Annual Road Race and Walk Begins at 9 a.m.

By ANGIE FITTON

If you're looking for something fun, physical and fulfilling to do on Saturday, May 18th, take a ride or walk to 210 Grove Street in Franklin for the 13th Annual FBRTC 5K Road Race and Walk. A good time will be had by all, and there will be refreshments and even a raffle!

The Franklin Bellingham Rail Trail Committee (FBRTC), along with the Tri-Valley Front Runners (TVFR), is once again hosting this 5K in order to showcase how much the rail trail has to offer. For years they have been working to develop the Southern New England Trunkline Trail



**FRANKLIN & BELLINGHAM RAIL TRAIL COMMITTEE**  
13th Annual  
**RAIL TRAIL 5K**  
MAY 18, 2024  
SNETT Grove St Trailhead  
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bit.ly/fbrtc5k\_2024

**RAIL TRAIL**  
continued on page 2



Shown is the K9 Unit demonstration from last year's Franklin Police Leadership Camp, which will welcome 6th, 7th, and 8th graders from July 15-19 this year.

# Growing Community at Franklin Police Leadership Camp

By J.D. O'GARA

Franklin Police Leadership Camp continues this year, from July 15th-19th, 2024, set to create a unique camp experience for kids going into 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

"The goal of the camp is to create a fun experience for the children, but also to show the kids that we're just normal people and build some relationships and break

down some barriers with it," says Officer Amanda Ayer, one of Franklin's School Resource Officers (SRO's) and one of the officers in the Community Service Unit (CSU).

Campers, she says, get an insight into policing and the different units, says Ayers, who adds Police Camp wouldn't be a success with-

**CAMP**

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**RAIL TRAIL**

*continued from page 1*

(SNETT) and soon it will be one unbroken trail from Franklin through Douglas to the Connecticut line.

The SNETT is popular for many reasons, one of which is it's open and available 365 days a year. The FBRTC has worked hard over the years to make it a usable resource for Massachusetts residents. They have resurfaced the track to crushed stone instead of dirt so there's no wash-out and no one requires waders when it's raining. Because of this change, the weather doesn't inhibit your ability to walk, run or bike the path as much as prior to the enhancement.

The Rail Trail Committee is all about promoting and being an asset to the community. Not only are they working on the 5K, but they are also advocating for changes to the industrial track in Franklin. If things go as planned, folks will be able to ride the train into the heart of Franklin, get out and get to the state forest off of Grove Street without ever having to use a vehicle. And with all the sidewalks going up on Grove Street, this makes for even safer foot travel. This will make being in nature even more accessible than ever!

The FBRTC is an all-volunteer committee. "These volunteers are really top notch," states committee member Cliff Winters. "If I was in charge of a volunteer committee outside of this one, I would head hunt them personally," he continues emphatically. Winters is also a Teaching Pastor at the New England Chapel in Franklin, as well as a Professor. He goes on to explain that the 5K isn't the only event held on the Rail Trail. They also have things such as Story Walks where you can bring your kids for exercise and a story. They also put up a trail camera last year and discovered the trail is used by 75,000 people annually.

For anyone interested in joining the 5K, Registration the day of begins at 7:30 a.m. The race itself begins at 9 a.m. You can also get more information and sign up at [www.tri-valleyfront-runners.com](http://www.tri-valleyfront-runners.com) or [www.franklin-bellinghamrailtrail.org](http://www.franklin-bellinghamrailtrail.org).

For those that want to be involved but cannot walk or run the 5K, The FBRTC is also looking for volunteers. They need people to help with parking, greeting and giving directions, the raffle tent, registration/bib pick-up/check-in, road crew, water stop/turn around spot and timing/start/finish/results/awards. If you wish to volunteer, the link for this is at [www.franklin-bellinghamrailtrail.org](http://www.franklin-bellinghamrailtrail.org).

# Beautification Day Set for May 18

Volunteers are needed on May 18 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. for the annual Beautification Day, organized by the Franklin Downtown Partnership and the Franklin Garden Club. Many hands are needed to plant flowers in the downtown area.

Volunteers with trucks: meet at 7:30 at Fairmount Fruit Farm at 887 Lincoln St. to pick up trays of flowers and deliver downtown. If you don't have a truck, arrive by 8 a.m. at the municipal parking lot near The Rome restaurant and Ferrera's Market. Bring work gloves, rakes and garden tools, if you can.

Students: This is the ideal opportunity to earn community service hours. You will get a note documenting your service.

Volunteers are also needed this summer to water plants. There are 18 weeks of watering needed over the summer, said Eileen Mason, Beautification Day Chairperson. Pick weeks that work for you.

"I hear from many people around the area about how beautiful our downtown looks each summer. It's exactly why we do it, to make the downtown area look inviting," Mason said. "We couldn't do it without all of our resident volunteers, the FHS baseball team, and sponsors who make this possible each year. Thank you to all and enjoy the plantings!"

Email Eileen Mason at [emason4234@gmail.com](mailto:emason4234@gmail.com) to volunteer to plant on May 18th or water this summer.

"We are very grateful for Eileen Mason, the Garden Club, DPW and all who volunteer every year to plant and water the flowers. We also appreciate the sponsors who support the beautification of our downtown," said

Lisa Piana, Executive Director of the Franklin Downtown Partnership.

The Downtown Partnership is very grateful for the following sponsors of Beautification Day. Platinum sponsors: Camford Property Group, Inc.; Doherty, Dugan, Cannon, Raymond & Weil, P.C.; Eileen Mason, REMAX; Glen Meadow Apartments; and Middlesex Savings Bank. Gold sponsors: Dean Bank; Elizabeth's Bagels; D.G. Ranieri Real Estate; and Notturmo Home Services. Silver sponsors: Fenton Financial Group.

Stay up to date info and follow the Franklin Downtown Partnership at:

<https://www.instagram.com/franklindowntownpartnership/> and

<https://www.facebook.com/franklindowntownpartnership.org/>

# Fallen Franklin Veteran to Be Honored May 11th

This month, on May 11th, Charles Christakes who lost his life in World War II, will be honored in a brief program by Franklin's Veterans' 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.

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.

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# Invited! Teachers, Community, Alumni & Admins.

## Community Side by Side Performance with the Franklin Public Schools Music Department

Franklin Public Schools Music Department is inviting community musicians to join the performance of "God Bless America" at the Franklin PorchFest. "Whether you have not performed since High School or you are a professional musician, come perform side by side with our talented FHS Symphony Orchestra, Band and Chorus." Visit <https://tinyurl.com/FranklinCommunityPerformance> for more information about rehearsals and the PorchFest performance. Rehearsals will be May 15 and May 29 from 6 to 7 p.m. in Room 131 at FHS.

The PorchFest Performances are set for June 1 on the Town Common, at the following approximate times:

- 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. - Jazz Bands
- 2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. - Choruses
- 2:45 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. - Orchestras
- 3:20 p.m. - Side by Side performance of "God Bless America"

Community Members ... Teachers ... Alumni ... Administrators ... Be a part of this community music performance with the Franklin Public Schools Music Department!

### CAMP

*continued from page 1*

out all the input from the whole department.

"We really get a lot of involvement from everyone, not just the CSU, and that's really why we can do it. That helps creates bonds within all the departments." The children, she says, also learn "that's another face. Oh, I know who that is. I can ask for help from them."

Police Department members in addition to the CSU who take part include the Patrol Division, who will teach about traffic stops, the Detective Unit, which teaches fingerprinting, and the Canine Unit and Drone officer, who come to the camp to do demonstrations.

Ayer explains the campers "can come together as a community themselves and learn more respect, discipline, and leadership skills together. Some of these kids have known each other for years, some just changed to middle school, so (camp) is an opportunity for them to engage with each other and build a community that's town wide, not just schoolwide. It connects them to

all the middle schoolers in town."

The camp will run Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., Thursday 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., and Friday, from 8 a.m.- 1 p.m., with a maximum number of campers set at 75. The \$175 cost for the camp covers its expenses.

Each day begins with physical exercise, strength training and conditioning, team building exercises, field games and drilling ceremonies. Different days of the week have scheduled events that focus on team building and leadership, and on Thursday, the group will take a field trip to Water Wizz. On the final day, campers welcome their families to the fun with a graduation ceremony and barbecue.

Last year, Franklin Police created awards for campers, with awards recognizing those participants who showed the most discipline or dedication as campers, for example.

"We take note of the kids the whole week," says Ayer, adding awards not only recognize those who win games or are most visible, but include "happiest camper," and "best attitude" among them.

In addition to learning about the different facets of policing, campers learn Drill and Ceremony, (D&C). On the final day, with families present, the campers are given shirts, and they assemble into formation and march into their graduation.

"You see the difference from day one, when you're teaching them, when they're not sure how to get in the right spot, and then, at the end, where they know where to go and are helping each other get where they need to be. It's fun to see," says Ayer. She adds that the camp enhances her mission as an SRO and as part of the CSU.

"Now, when I go to other schools to cover something, I have kids coming up to me that know me. It's great to see that I can continue to affect kids in multiple schools and know we are a good and helpful presence for them," she says.

For more information on Franklin Police Leadership Camp, visit the town website at <https://www.franklinma.gov/police-department/pages/franklin-police-leadership-camp>, or scan the QR code accompanying this article.

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# Spring Cleaning is Greener with Affordable Junk Removal

There are plenty of reasons to call a junk removal service. Maybe walking through your basement has gotten difficult or there is no more room in the attic? Perhaps you are planning to move, and you need to declutter before your open house?

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

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

Jay Schadler started his business in 2005. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer

service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with eight trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

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

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

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

Working with Affordable

## Business spotlight

Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for what you don't use.

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

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you



aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

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

Affordable Junk Removal is fully licensed and fully insured, and they'll treat your property with care and respect.

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

tial emergencies with same-day service.

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

Contact Affordable Junk Removal and let a local small business take care of everything for you. Call Jay Schadler at (774) 287-1133 or visit us online at [www.affordablejunkremoval.com](http://www.affordablejunkremoval.com).

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# An Educational Tour of Quebec City – BFCCPS says Oui!

By JENNIFER RUSSO

It has been a tradition for the seventh-grade students at Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School to go on a field trip as a class to Quebec City in April. Taking classes in the French language during their tenure at the school, students are given the opportunity to be immersed in a French speaking culture and learn more about its history. Unfortunately, when the COVID epidemic broke out in 2020, there was a pause put on the travel.

For the first time since then, the school was able to bring back the trip, with about 80 students, loaded onto two tour buses to make the 4-day journey to Quebec recently, along with some of the teachers, nurses, and volunteer parent chaperones.

All attendees on the trip were treated to a wonderfully organized tour through Jumpstreet, that included walking tours, where guides told the students about major historical events and buildings. They went on a visit to Montmorency Falls and crossed the bridge at its peak, had an immersive learning about the battles on the Plains of Abraham, walked along the beautiful exterior of the Parliament Building, and went to the top of an observatory, where they had an entire view of the city.

There were visits to the Civilization Museum, the Shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre, the indigenous reservation of Wendake and the Village Huron, and a traditional Sugar Shack where they enjoyed a 17th century meal and made their own maple butter and candy. They took a ferry ride across the Saint Lawrence



Students look out over the Montmorency Falls from the suspension bridge.



Students make their way through Old Quebec in a walking tour.

River, competed in a scavenger hunt, and had time to explore Old Quebec for lunch and souvenirs.

“It was amazing to watch our students venture outside of their comfort zone to embrace the unique opportunities a trip to a foreign country provides,” shared Christopher Heater, Director of Co-Curricular Education.

While the seventh graders took this trip, the eighth grad-

ers also ventured to Washington D.C. to learn more about American History.

To learn more about Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School, visit their website at [www.bfccps.org](http://www.bfccps.org)



BFCCPS 7th graders pose in front of the Chateau Frontenac, the most photographed hotel in the world.



BFCCPS 7th grade students learn about how maple syrup is made from Jean-Paul Tardif, whose family has been in the business for 12 generations.

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# Which Way to Apricot Lane? This Charming Boutique Is Ready for Spring!

By JENNIFER RUSSO

A boutique with a flair for both fashion and building community? Yes please!

With spring springing up, it's time to pack away those dark sweaters, leggings and boots and refresh your wardrobe with some new, lighter, and brighter styles. This season's trends are bringing forth bright whites, cobalt blues and Kelly greens, bold fuchsias, and "Girlcore" – a modernized feminine look that includes open crochet, florals, shades of pink, a little ruffle action, and can be as bold or as subtle as you want it to be.

The great news is that we don't need to haul ourselves into the city to get our hands on these latest styles, since there is a new boutique right in our own backyard that sources from the best designers. Stroll down to Apricot Lane and walk into a world pulled straight from the pages of your favorite fashion magazines. The spring stock is breathtaking, with something for everyone – dresses, tops, bottoms, accessories, and even biodegradable paraben-free face masks and body wash infused sponges (perfect for your gym bag or travel).

After receiving her Business and Marketing degree in her native Poland, working in the United States as a visual merchandiser for well-known shops like H&M and Bloomingdales,

and expanding her creativity during the "retail break" that Covid brought about – Marta McNulty thought it was time to venture out on her own fashion retail journey. Opening Apricot Lane was a great way to marry her love of fashion with creating something truly special for the community.

Marta attends a number of trade shows throughout the year to check out the latest fashions and vendors that come from across the globe. She selects styles she believes would be a great fit for women who live in our neighboring communities.

"Getting to know my customers and understanding their different fashion needs and preferences is one of the best parts of what I do," shares Marta. "I am always looking for trendy, quality items that can be versatile – with the small details that make it really unique," she says. "Sustainability is also very important to me, so I offer brands that are not only fashionable, but are also eco-friendly."

Marta's philosophy is the idea of wearing what you want, what you feel good in, and what speaks to who you are as an individual. She and her super-friendly staff are ready to help you find just what you're looking for.

"I believe in choosing what you wear because YOU love it and feel good in it. You aren't like

## Business spotlight

anyone else, and that's a beautiful thing. So, dress to reflect that. We each have distinctive styles, different things that make us happy, and accepting who we are is so important."

Balancing business ownership and family, Marta knows what it means to want to feel good about yourself while juggling multiple responsibilities. Striving to provide what our families need – like getting dinner on the table and helping our kids with their homework AND working long hours to ensure a successful venture – are all things she understands firsthand. The great thing is that we can still have our individual style and look amazing while doing it. The perfect top or accessory can sometimes boost our confidence and outlook as we tackle everything that we need to accomplish.

Apricot Lane is truly a hidden gem. It's an eye for fashion and a heart for the community, that provides a wonderful opportunity for shoppers to support a local, growing business. And not only this one, but others too. Marta loves to collaborate with local artisans and small businesses, independent wellness product owners and more, with popups and sip &



shop events to enable people to get to know each other and network with others.

From brands like Good American Jeans, GILLI, Wanakome, Molly Bracken, French Connection and Skies are Blue, Apricot Lane brings to Franklin domestic and international brands that can't usually be found in other stores, so clients will always be at the forefront of today's hottest looks, whether they are looking for something casual-chic for a trip, something to wear to a special event, a "notice me" top, or a unique gift.

Visit Apricot Lane and check out their newest fashions for spring! They are located at 342 East Central Street in Franklin, just behind Starbucks and next to The SHED. Check them out online at <https://apricotlaneboutique.com/store/franklin> and give them a follow on Facebook and Instagram at @ApricotLaneFranklin

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# Fundraiser a Fun Time in Memory of a Fun Lady

## May 18 Cornhole Tournament to Raise Funds for Dana Farber

By PEGGY MILL

Franklin resident Peter Bower wanted to do something that is a celebration of life to honor his wife. Instead of hosting a walk or a run as a fundraiser, Bower wanted to host a good party. As he describes her, "she just loved to have fun."

Anyone who knew Stacey knows that she loved a good party. That is exactly why Bower chose to do a cornhole tournament. "Everyone has fun, and that's what she would want."

On May 18 at noon, Bower is hosting the second annual Kick Cancer in the Cornhole Tournament to raise funds for Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Looking back at how Dana Farber was so good to his family during his wife's battle with Stage 4 Melanoma, all the funds from Bower's fundraiser event go to adult cancer research at Dana Farber. Bower wants to pay it forward. "It's my way of giving back so it will maybe help the next family

that goes through this," he says.

There will be games, raffle prizes, silent auction, food, and cornhole boards. Last year, there were two games, but this year the one game will be a bottle toss.

If you get the ring toss on the bottle, you win a prize. Along with the one game and the different teams for cornhole, there will be a silent auction for an outdoor pizza oven.

Under one of the tents, there will be a table of raffle baskets. Some of the raffle prizes will be beach theme or barbecue theme.

At the time of publication, 10 baskets had been donated for the cornhole tournament, but Bower estimates that there will be up to 40 raffle baskets on the day of the event.

Polar soda and Coca Cola are donating raffle baskets to Bower, who works at Roche Bros. in Millis, where he will purchase food for the event. Members of Stacey's family will do the cooking.

Last year, word of the fundraiser was spread mostly through text or Facebook or email. Bower explains that those interested in the event have been friends of friends or friends of the Bower family. Keeping this in mind, Bower thought his house was the best place to host the cornhole tournament.

"When they come to the house, they can feel her presence like she's there," Bower explains. Having the cornhole tournament at Bower's house on Pond Street in Franklin is important to him, so that Stacey can be included as part of the event.

The number of people attending the cornhole tournament is not a concern, he says. With a third of an acre at his house, he also has neighbors who are willing to help out. Knowing that the fundraiser is for Stacey, his neighbors on Pond Street are supportive.

Although Bower can get 1 or 2 more cornhole boards, he needs to have a final count of teams by May 6 so that he can know how many more cornhole boards he may need. If you want



Shown is last year's Kick Cancer in the Cornhole Tournament, a fun home-based fundraiser for Dana Farber held by Peter Bower in his wife Stacey's memory. This year's event will be held May 18th. Photos used courtesy of Peter Bower.



to support the Bower family and are not interested in playing cornhole, you are still welcome.

Bower encourages people to come say hello and buy raffles. Last year, over 100 people came to Bower's yard for the cornhole tournament and didn't leave until 6 p.m. – even in the pouring rain. This year, he is hoping to exceed that number.

At press time, twenty teams had signed up for cornhole, but there is still time to sign up. To register teams for the cornhole tournament, email Peter Bower at pbower41@verizon.net. Entry is \$10 per person and \$50 per cornhole team, with kids free. The cornhole tournament will take place at the Bower home, 453 Pond Street in Franklin, MA.



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Kick Cancer in the

# CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT 2

**Saturday, May 18, 2024 12PM**

Our House, 453 Pond St. Franklin, MA  
All Proceeds go to Dana Farber  
*In Loving Memory of: Stacey Bower*

1st Place - \$200  
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**\$50 Per team of two**  
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Your Money, Your Independence

# Empower New Graduates with Gifts of Independence



Glenn Brown, CFP

With graduation season approaching, many friends and family members seek meaningful ways to celebrate the achievement.

While traditional gifts are always appreciated, consider something with lasting value that can help launch graduates towards financial independence.

Aside from cash or gift cards, here are some thoughtful financial gift ideas and tips to empower high school and college graduates as they embark on their next chapter.

**Investment Account.** Open a brokerage account in their name and purchase one or two foundational low-cost index exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Even better, establish small automatic monthly contributions from their and your checking accounts. Even at \$25-\$50 a month, it's a consistent reminder that demon-

strates the value of saving, compounding, and choosing to invest over time.

Furthermore, encourage graduates to explore different investment options and asset classes in these taxable investment accounts. And if they make investment mistakes, good. It is better to do it at a young age with less money and responsibilities than in their mid-40's, with a family and inside their retirement accounts.

**Parental IRA Contributions.** Parents can contribute to their child's Individual Retirement Account (IRA) up to the child's earned income. Consider Roth IRA and its unique advantages including being funded with after-tax dollars, meaning withdrawals in retirement are tax-free. This can be incredibly beneficial for young graduates, as their income and tax rates are likely lower now than they will be in the future. By starting a Roth IRA early, graduates can maximize their tax-free growth potential over the long term.

**Financial Literacy Books.** Equip graduates with essential financial knowledge by gifting them books on personal finance and investing. Consider *The Total Money Makeover* by Dave Ramsey, *Poor Charlie's Almanack* by Charles Munger and Peter Kaufman or *The Millionaire Next Door* by Thomas Stanley and William Danko.

I wish I'd read *Millionaire* in my 20's, instead of early 30's, as it provides insights into the habits and behaviors of wealthy individuals, offering valuable lessons on living below one's means, budgeting, and accumulating wealth.

**Financial Planning and Investing Tools.** Don't let Tik Tok or free "you-are-the-product" apps be their source of financial knowledge. Consider gifting a subscription to a financial planning app that can help track spending, set savings goals, and create budgets. These tools provide valuable insights into their financial habits and empower them to make informed decisions about their money and avoid unnecessary debt.

And for those who want to invest beyond their low-cost index ETFs, consider *Investor's Business Daily* or gift a year access to Seeking Alpha Premium.

**Financial Advisory Services.** Last year a client set up two

Zoom meetings for their son, a college graduate moving to North Carolina. For the first meeting, the four of us met on an agenda mom and dad wanted covered. For the next meeting, the parents bowed out, leaving the agenda and conversation up to their son. This worked well, as he was much more engaged and has stayed connected by sending questions as they arise and sharing updates.

**Entrepreneurial Resources.** If the graduate has ambitions of starting their own business, even a side hustle, consider gifting business books, online courses, or membership to entrepreneurial communities. As a parent, consider the legal benefits ensuring a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) is established by paying for the initial state registration.

**Building an Emergency Fund.** Encourage graduates to establish an emergency fund by contributing to it yourself. Life is unpredictable, and having savings set

aside for unexpected expenses can provide peace of mind and prevent them from going into debt during emergencies.

Graduates who receive these gifts will not only appreciate the gesture but also benefit from the financial stability they provide as they navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

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.

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# Franklin Celebrates Life with the Vibrant Colors of HOLI

By JENNIFER RUSSO

HOLI is a joyous Indian holiday recognized annually, which is observed with bonfires, music, dancing, and by throwing bright colors of chalk powder, signifying the triumph of good over evil. It also symbolizes transition from the lazy lack of energy that winter can bring into a more vibrant way of living with the seasonal change. It is a celebration of life and vitality - a festival of color that seeks to reassure the values of living a life marked by honesty and integrity.

Though this is a holiday with roots in Indian culture, everyone is always welcomed to participate in the fun. In April, the Cultural Council of Franklin and the Franklin Library collaborated to organize a HOLI celebration. A few raindrops threatened, but ultimately the sun prevailed for

the event. The field behind the library came alive with music, smiles and color as people came to celebrate life in this unique and beautiful way, with bright clouds of color in the air, smeared on faces, clothing and hair. Participants became quick friends as they joined in dances to modern Indian music (spun by two teens who volunteered to deejay the celebration) and laughed hysterically as they covered each other in chalk.

Caleigh Keating, Franklin Library's Youth Services Librarian, shared that she was so excited to plan the event with Pushpa Latha Jangareddi of the Cultural Council. After hosting several successful Diwali events over the last few years, they really wanted to come together again to recognize HOLI. She was thrilled to be able to bring such a beauti-



ful tradition to Franklin for all to enjoy.

To see more about upcoming events at the Franklin Library, please visit <https://www.franklinma.gov/franklin-public-library> and to learn more about the Franklin Cultural Council, please check out their town page at: <https://www.franklinma.gov/cultural-council>.




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# Futzy Farm Bird & Barn, Where You Can Find Food, Products, and Advice Related to Backyard Animals

Futzy Farm Bird & Barn in Plainville is more than just a retail store, it is a place to get just about anything related to caring for barnyard animals, including advice.

The store, located at 416 South Street, opened on March 2 and is in the plaza with South Street Pizza.

Owner Gretchen Munafo - affectionately known by many as "The Crazy Chicken Lady" - opened the multifaceted store in just 47 days with the help of family and friends. "Everybody pitched in; this place is a labor of love," she said.

Jennifer Scanlon is one of those helpful friends. "You started out as my chicken lady, and now you're my friend," Scanlon said to Munafo on a Saturday morning in April.

Customer Caitlin Bankowski has also been going to Munafo for advice for many years. On that same Saturday, she was sharing concerns about her pig, Piper.

"Every single time I've had a question or was worried or didn't know what to do, I could call Gretchen, and she's always there to help. She's super super caring, she's great," said Bankowski. "She has pretty much anything you need all the time, and she's like a 'chicken encyclopedia.'"

Munafo says the store 'is like if Etsy met Tractor Supply.'

"My store is an experience. I have a high energy upbeat personality and love to share my knowledge on wild birds, nature and chickens," noting that some people, many people in fact, affectionately call her 'The Crazy Chicken Lady.'

*"Futzy" is a nickname given to Gretchen by her mother Kathryn Bowers, an avid bird lover who passed away in 2020 and whose photo hangs in the store. She used to say Gretchen was always 'futzing around' and the nickname stuck.*

She said she was working in the industry for more than 14 years and was laid off just a few days before Christmas 2023. In December, she thought she would retire and spend more time on her personal farm in Cumberland, but she soon learned she missed the customer interaction.

"I'm a people-person and I missed my customers," she said. "I have been wanting to open my own store, it's been my dream and my dream came true."

Her husband, master carpenter Steve Munafo, made all of the display cases (and several pieces of furniture for sale in the store), and her sister, Melissa Bowers, helps with technology.

In addition to the merchandise and advice Munafo offers her customers, she also offers poultry workshops, and often serves as an expert on chickens for the media.

For more information about this fun and informative shop, visit Futzy Farm Bird & Barn at 416 South Street, Suite 2, in Plainville, or [www.futzyfarm.com/](http://www.futzyfarm.com/).

Store hours are Tuesday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Sunday and Monday.



## Business spotlight



Futzy Farm Bird & Barn owner Gretchen Munafo (right) and her sister Melissa Bowers stand behind the wooden counter constructed by Gretchen's master carpenter husband Steve Munafo. The new store at 416 South Street in Plainville opened in March.

### Some of the many items you'll find at Futzy Farm Bird & Barn are:

- Bird houses and bird baths
- Candles, American-made
- Goat milk soaps and lotions
- Handbags and satchels crafted from recycled military tents
- Home decor
- Honey, local
- Humorous signs and apparel
- Jewelry, nature-themed (florals, animals, etc.)
- Pet supplies, food, treats
- Stationery, greeting cards, etc.
- Windchimes
- Wooden furniture, wishing wells, chicken coops
- Bird seed, high-quality, reasonably priced
- Grains for chickens, goats, sheep, pigs, turkeys, etc.
- Live chicks (minimum of 6 birds if starting out, 3 if you have an existing flock)
- And much, much more...



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# Introducing BEN 4 Franklin!

*Building Equitable Neighborhoods for Franklin (BEN 4 Franklin) Advocates for a Vibrant, Affordable Franklin*

On August 24, 2023, 32 Franklin residents gathered to share their memories of home and to dream, play and build their future visions for Franklin, using a variety of creative, thought-provoking exercises. At this inaugural event, participants realized they collectively valued community, accessibility, affordability, and safety, as well as envisioned an inviting, diverse, environmentally sustainable, and fiscally strong Franklin where all can be engaged and find a home. After a series of follow-up conversations, the group decided to



form a new organization called Building Equitable Neighborhoods for Franklin (BEN 4 Franklin).

BEN 4 Franklin will advocate for a Franklin with abundant, affordable housing for all, a walkable, economically vibrant downtown and neighborhoods that evolve in a fiscally-responsible manner. Mark Minnichelli (co-chair), Emma Snellings (co-chair), Cobi Frongillo, Pandora and Gino Carlucci, Max Morrongiello, Ndoumbe Ndoye, Francis Olsson, and Lisa Oxford stepped up as the first BEN 4 Franklin leadership team.

BEN 4 Franklin is pleased to invite anyone who lives or works in Franklin to our two public launch events:

On Friday, May 10, 2024, Ben 4 Franklin will host a launch party at 7 p.m. at the Frank-

lin TV Studio, 23 Hutchinson Street. In addition to a short speaking program with featured speaker Jesse Kanson-Benanav, Executive Director of Abundant Housing Massachusetts, this interactive event will be a place where attendees can share memories of Franklin from the past and envision Franklin in the future through discussion, storytelling and artistic expression. Light refreshments will be provided.

On Saturday, May 11, 2024, there will be a second BEN 4 Franklin launch event: Cobi Frongillo and Franklin Matters' Steve Sherlock will be leading a 90-minute Jane Jacobs Walk (rain or shine!) at 10:30 a.m. starting from the Franklin TV Studio,

to explore the history, physical structure and architecture of Franklin's built downtown environment. The community walk-and-talk will be one of thousands of Jane Jacobs Walks that take place every May in honor of the late social activist and placemaker. The walk will be accessible to wheels and paws, and participants are invited to gather afterwards at La Cantina Winery to share thoughts and observations.

For more information and to RSVP for either or both of the two launch events, or to sign up for BEN 4 Franklin's mailing list, please visit: [www.tinyurl.com/ben4franklin](http://www.tinyurl.com/ben4franklin).

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## Franklin High School Student Competes in Poetry Out Loud State Final

Franklin High School student Maria Zaki advanced to the Poetry Out Loud state final in Boston on Sunday, March 10.

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of poetry by hosting a recitation competition for high school students. Students must memorize and recite poems from the Poetry Out Loud database accurately and compellingly to advance in the competition. While promoting poetry appreciation, Poetry Out Loud also instills confidence in public speaking.

Maria Zaki, a senior, was one of three finalists from twelve schools at the regional semifinals at the Hopkinton Center for the Arts on Saturday, March 2. She recited "Rondeau" by Leigh Hunt and "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus from memory.

At the state finals, which were held at the Old South Meeting House in Boston, Maria competed against 17 other students. In addition to her two poems recited at the semifinals, she also recited "Hysteria" by Dionisio D. Martinez.

The winner of the state final advanced to the national competition.



Senior Maria Zaki and Poetry Out Loud high school coordinator Erin Auger at the regional semifinal in Hopkinton.  
(Photo courtesy Franklin Public Schools)

# Tickets On Sale for 9th Annual Empty Bowls Dinner to Support the Franklin Food Pantry

Tickets for the 9th Annual Empty Bowls Dinner are on sale now! The event will be held on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at the Franklin High School cafeteria from 6 to 8 p.m. The Empty Bowls Club students have been hard at work making hundreds of bowls for this upcoming community event. There will be a simple dinner of soup and bread, music from FHS students, a ceramic bowl for each attendee, a silent auction, and more. All proceeds from the event will support the Franklin Food Pantry. Online tickets are \$22 for adults and \$12 for students/children 18 years old and younger. Prices increase to \$25/\$15 respectively at the door on the day of the event. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/9thEmptyBowls> or visit [www.franklinfoodpantry.org](http://www.franklinfoodpantry.org).

The Empty Bowls Club is also selling t-shirts as a fundraiser for the Club. All proceeds will directly benefit the Empty Bowls Club to help with the costs of clay and glaze. Shirts will be distributed at the event. If you would like to purchase a t-shirt,



Rep. Jeff Roy (D-Franklin) works with members of the Franklin High School Empty Bowls Club to create a ceramic piece to be auctioned at the 9th Annual Empty Bowls Dinner on May 23, 2024.

please visit <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/transactioninfo.aspx?TID=32256>

Show support for the community by becoming an Empty Bowls sponsor. Sponsorship opportunities start at

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# Franklin Art Welcomes Painter Dianne Panarelli Miller

On May 1, 2024, the Franklin Art Association will welcome painter Dianne Panarelli Miller as its guest. Panarelli Miller will do a landscape demonstration. The meeting, which will take place at 6:30 p.m., will be held at the Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin.



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# The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

## We're Celebrating This May! Awards, Moms & You!

By GINA WOELFEL

We're proud to announce that b.LUXE has received its second honor from Salon Today Official and named a top honoree in this year's prestigious SALON TODAY 200 Awards. This industry recognition is a testament to our team's collective efforts, dedication and customer loyalty.

Now in its 27th year, Salon Today is a national publication that gathers data to establish vital salon business benchmarks. It recognizes owners and their teams for their business acumen and creates a forum for sharing proven business strategies.

This is our second win with Salon Today. In 2021, we were recognized as one of the top 20 salons in the US in their "SALONS OF THE YEAR" competition, held post-pandemic as a check-in to measure the beauty industry's response and recovery from COVID-19.

To be recognized in this year's competition, a salon or spa must demonstrate several best practices that propelled the business's overall trajectory. As winners in the 2024 SALON TODAY 200 "GROWTH" category, we grew our company remarkably between 2022 and 2023. This success is a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence and continuous improvements, ensuring that we always deliver the best to our clients, whose trust and support have been the cornerstone of our success.

This accomplishment would not have been possible without our community, our team, and the support of our fabulous clients. Your unwavering loyalty has made us the most lucky, appreciative, badass group of women in the beauty business!

But what does this recognition mean for you, and why is this your sign to make us your new salon?

b.LUXE offers a luxurious experience that sets us apart from other salons. We provide a wide range of beauty services, including hair cutting, coloring, smoothing, extensions, styling, skincare, spa treatments, spray tanning, waxing, and lash extensions.

To ensure that your visit is nothing short of amazing, our team follows a comprehensive set of standards called the "b.LUXE Service Cycle." This guideline provides a detailed itinerary for each guest and guarantees consistent, exceptional care from check-in to checkout. We always anticipate your needs so you can relax and enjoy your visit. We offer five separate seating areas where you can enjoy refreshments from our custom coffee bar. We also provide complimentary "Luxury for Everyone" services, such as moisturizing glove treatments, BEFORE OIL scalp services, and hot stone foot treatments for our facial guests. Our extra amenities promise to make your appointment unforgettable.

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# Franklin Police Honored with FBI-LEEDA Agency Trilogy Award

## Award Is Presented for Exceptional Demonstration of Leadership

FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (FBI-LEEDA) announced that the Franklin Police Department has been awarded the FBI-LEEDA Agency Trilogy Award. The award honors the department's achievement in completing a cutting-edge leadership development program designed to strengthen law enforcement leadership on a global scale. The Franklin Police Department is the ninth law enforcement agency in Massachusetts to earn this award.

The Franklin Police Department's entire Command Staff completed an engaging three-part leadership series that trains officers on topics such as diversity and inclusion, bias, public trust, transformational leadership, social and emotional intelligence and more. FBI-LEEDA's President Chief Donna McNamara, who serves as the Chief of Police for the Stoughton Police Department in Stoughton, Massachusetts, presented the Frank-

lin Police Department with the award.

"Earning the Agency Trilogy Award is a testament to the Franklin Police Department's dedication to leadership development," said Chief Donna McNamara, President of FBI-LEEDA. "FBI-LEEDA is extremely impressed by the Franklin Police Department staff's mastery of leadership skills. We are pleased to present this award to the department's entire command staff and the residents of Franklin."

FBI-LEEDA's specially designed courses cultivate strong leadership skills in law enforcement commanders at all levels, empowering them to better serve their agencies and the communities they protect. Using a "cops talking to cops" approach, the seminar is instructed by seasoned law enforcement leaders from across the country who bring unique expertise to each class.

"Our department is proud of the Command Staff's hard work

in earning the Agency Trilogy Award," said Chief Thomas J. Lynch, Franklin Police Department. "We prioritize the continuous training of our officers, and we look forward to applying these courses in our day-to-day service in the Franklin community."

Since the inception of the Agency Trilogy Award, 130 law enforcement organizations have been recognized for excellence in leadership and completion of FBI-LEEDA's flagship courses. In 2024 thus far, 16 agencies have completed the courses.

### About FBI-LEEDA

FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (FBI-LEEDA) is a 501(c)(3) private nonprofit organization with 60,000+ members in the United States and internationally that serves the training needs of law enforcement officers and improves law enforcement management practices. Learn more at FBILEEDA.org and follow us on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and X @FBILEEDA



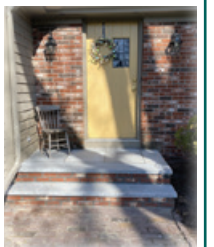
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# Living Healthy

## The Truth about Cataract Surgery Performed in an Office: A Cautionary Tale

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

Cataract surgery is a common, safe, and highly successful procedure traditionally performed in hospital settings or specialized ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs). However, some considerations including greed and financial bias have led some surgeons to advocate for performing cataract surgeries in office-based settings. This is while there is plenty of availability for performing the same surgery in the safety and comfort of an ASC just a few minutes from these surgeons' offices. There are inherent risks and considerations that patients must be aware of before undergoing such procedures outside of a hospital environment or an ASC. If they ask you to have your cataract surgery in their office, think again.

### Lack of Emergency Resources:

One of the primary concerns associated with cataract surgery in an office setting is the potential lack of immediate access to emergency medical resources. Unlike hospitals or surgical centers, where anesthesia emergency teams and specialized equipment are readily available, office-based facilities may not have the same level of preparedness to handle unforeseen complications during surgery. In fact, those offices have no anesthesia presence at all. In the event of a medical emergency such as sudden changes in vital signs or cardiac arrest, delays in accessing emergency care could have serious consequences for the patient's health and well-being. Although it may sound hard to believe, those office surgeons want to call 911 if you have a medical emergency while you are having your cataract surgery. And good luck if the emergency crew is too busy or inaccessible!

### Infection Control Challenges:

Maintaining strict infection control measures is essential in any surgical setting to minimize the risk of postoperative infections. However, office-based facilities may face challenges in upholding the same standards of sterility as hospital operating rooms or ASCs. Factors such as limited space, inadequate ventilation, and insufficient sterilization equipment could compromise the cleanliness of the surgical environment, increasing the likelihood of surgical site infections and other complications. Furthermore, an ASC performing thousands of cataract surgeries every year has way more infection control personnel and training compared to an office performing the same surgery occasionally.

### Lack of Anesthesia Monitoring:

Another critical aspect of cataract surgery is the administration of anesthesia to ensure



patient comfort and safety during the procedure. While local anesthesia is commonly used for cataract surgery, monitoring the patient's response to anesthesia is crucial to prevent adverse reactions or complications. In office-based settings, the availability of trained anesthesia personnel and monitoring equipment may be limited and often nonexistent, potentially putting patients at risk of anesthesia-related complications such as respiratory depression or allergic reactions.

### Lack of Anesthetic Titration:

Sedation titration allows for the adjustment of sedation levels during the procedure, thereby mitigating the risk of patient awareness during the surgery. Titration involves the ability to administer varying levels of anesthesia, as deemed appropriate. When your surgery is in an office, you will have no IV and no ability to titrate the anesthetics. They give you some sedatives by mouth before you go to the OR. That's it. The absence of the capability to titrate anesthesia in the office poses a significant risk. You may not be able to hold still for safe surgery. You may remember the entire experience afterward. This, in turn, can cause you significant traumatic stress because of this experience.

### Limited Surgical Expertise in an Office:

Cataract surgery requires precision and expertise to achieve optimal outcomes and minimize the risk of complications. Surgeons who perform these pro-

cedures in hospital settings or ASCs often have extensive training and experience in ophthalmic surgery, backed by the resources and infrastructure of a specialized surgical environment. In contrast, office-based setting may not have the same level of track record or access to advanced surgical techniques and equipment. In fact, the entire state of Massachusetts has only 2 offices performing cataract surgery in the office. Compare this to hundreds of well-equipped ASCs and hospitals performing this surgery successfully for decades.

### Patient Selection and Follow-Up Challenges:

Proper patient selection and thorough preoperative evaluation are crucial to identifying individuals who are suitable candidates for cataract surgery and assessing their risk factors for complications. Additionally, postoperative care and follow-up are essential for monitoring the patient's recovery and addressing any concerns or complications that may arise. In office-based settings, there may be limitations in conducting comprehensive preoperative assessments and providing adequate follow-up care. Even if this selection is perfectly planned and the patient is deemed "low risk for office-based surgery", unforeseen surprises can happen when no emergency services exist. This can potentially compromise patient safety and satisfaction.

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**EYES**

*continued from page 16*

**Lack of Approval by Professional Societies:**

Cataract surgery in an office setting is not covered by Medicare and not approved by all major ophthalmology professional societies. In fact, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery refuse to approve office-based surgery, citing concerns about patient safety.

**Legal and Ethical Considerations:**

The decision to perform cataract surgery in an office setting raises important legal and ethical considerations for both patients and healthcare providers. Patients must be fully informed about the potential risks and limitations of office-based surgery, as well as their rights to alternative treatment options and access to emergency care. The surgeon's choices to perform the surgery in an office based on financial bias should be clearly explained to the patient, more so when a safe surgery center exists and is available minutes away, and when the surgeons are charging patients fees for this office-based surgery.

In conclusion, office-based cataract surgery is not without its risks and limitations. Patients considering this option should carefully weigh the potential benefits and drawbacks. If your surgeon recommends you have cataract surgery in an office, you are advised to seek a second opinion to make an informed decision. 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. 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.

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# This Old Thing?

## An Antique Appraisal Adventure with Jim Johnston

**Sunday, May 5, 2024  
from 1-5 p.m.**

**Franklin Historical  
Museum**

**80 West Central Street,  
Franklin**

Who hasn't been intrigued by something old... and who hasn't stopped to wonder, 'what's it worth'? On Sunday, May 5, 2024 from 1-5 p.m. local expert, James C. "Jim" Johnston, will dazzle and inform the audience and those seeking knowledge about family heirlooms and garage sale finds alike with *An Antique Appraisal Adventure with Jim Johnston*.

Johnston, who has been in the antique and appraisal business for more than six decades, has a nearly limitless store of knowledge about all things old, with particular emphasis on Americana, Porcelain, Glass, Rare Books, Coins, Stamps and Pottery. His appraisals often come with the kind of fascinating context and anecdotes that make him much sought after, whether to please an auditorium audience or for the evaluation of a private collection.

Appraisals are 'on-the-spot' and oral and are \$5 for the first appraisal and \$3 for additional items, up to an event maximum of three items and \$11. The event sponsored by the Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum, a 501(c) 3 non-profit that raises funds to benefit the Historical Museum. All proceeds benefit the museum.

The Friends can accept cash or check. There will also be an option to "watch at home" via Google Meets. To learn about payment options, how to participate virtually, or to reserve a contact alan.r.earls@gmail.com. Handicapped Access Available.



Mr. Johnston will preface the appraisal-day program with a discussion of what constitutes "Value", or more appropriately "Range of Value," when appraising an item of any sort. He will also discuss various factors

reflected in an evaluation such as: the sociological factors, condition issues, rarity, and Adam Smith's Rule of Supply and Demand as it effects the value of art, antiques, and collectibles in any time period. He will also discuss "Purpose" of evaluation such as: probate, inheritance, divorce, and insurance, as well as insurance evaluation and re-

placement value, with the idea of choosing a fearless appraiser with experience in dealing with insurance companies, and with "Court Experience" and experience in delivering "Expert Testimony."

Mr. Johnston performs written appraisals by arrangement, starting at \$125.





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# Getting It Done, with a Little Help from Mom

It was to be the final piece.

Flower Alley, on East Central St. in Franklin, the brainchild of Roberta Trahan and a collaboration between the Franklin Downtown Partnership (FDP) and five members of the Franklin Art Association, transformed an unlively brick alley downtown into something beautiful at its reveal in 2021. The artwork (now part of the FDP's 25-stop Ladybug Trail) added life and a splash of color sorely needed after a pandemic darkened the world, but something was missing.

"During COVID, I started to paint more," says Lisa Piana, Executive Director of the Franklin Downtown Partnership, "A lot of my friends said they didn't know I was an artist; it kind of made me sad."

In fact, Piana studied art in college, receiving her BFA in design. "When I started to work on the mural project for the Partnership, my friends in the Franklin Art Association, especially Sue Sheridan, were really encouraging me to paint more, so I said, 'I'll paint the last one. I'll do the metal door,' but we unveiled it without my doing the door, because I knew I was going to drag my feet." Piana felt the murals by Franklin artists Peg Munson, Amy Adams, Hannah Liverant Close, Susan Plume, and AnneMarie Tracey made a strong presentation, even if she wasn't finished.

Lisa put the painting off. "In 2022, I thought I'd do it and got very busy with other projects,



**Piana's mural, the final one of 8, makes its mark on a beautiful asset to the town.**

and I really just wasn't satisfied with it," she says.

By summer of 2023, it still wasn't done. "I was kind of stuck; I had this probably about 90% done, but that 10% just kind of keeps you stuck," says Piana, who, finally, enlisted her 87-year-old Mom, Dottie Mickush, to help her.

"I needed someone to hold me accountable," says Piana, a middle child, who had been keeping Dottie apprised of the progress (or lack thereof). Mickush, herself a self-taught artist, decorator and gardener who designed and built her dream house with her husband, had long advised her daughter on composition and color.

And Dottie wasn't having Lisa's excuse that she didn't have time.

"She wasn't hearing it," says Piana, "She told me I needed to get it done."

"My own life my has been fast paced. I told Lisa that," explains Dottie. She had always planned to get back to acrylic painting after traveling with her husband for 10 of her retirement years. Parkinson's Disease hampered that plan. "I ran out of time. Life is very short," she says, adding, "(Lisa) said she was unhappy with (the painting) and was going to start over. She's very particular about her work, like I was."

The painting turned into a project Lisa and her Mom could work on together.

"It sort of turned a negative into a positive," says Piana, "She can no longer paint, but she can paint through me. So, I would take this, and every week, ask her to critique it, for color and composition, and she would ask me to change it."

On Dottie's advice, Lisa incorporated color from flowers she had painted into the sky and added other closeup elements of



**Shown is artist Lisa Piana, right, Executive Director of the Franklin Downtown Partnership, with her Mom and muse, Dottie Mickush, who helped her finally finish Flower Alley. At inset, Lisa's dedication of the work to Dottie. Photos used courtesy of Lisa Piana**

interest, including a rabbit such as the those that once fed on her Mom's flower gardens. Each week, Lisa's Mom would help her refine the painting a little more.

"I went back and forth, and then it was pretty much done, but as an artist you're never satisfied," Piana says.

November came, and Dottie came down with pneumonia. "Doctors told the family her condition looked really bleak, but Dottie proved the doctors wrong and made a full recovery in time for Thanksgiving," says Piana, "And then, I thought, I really need to finish this mural!"

Finish she finally did, and Lisa dedicated the artwork to her

Mom.

"I took her to see it, and she was beyond thrilled just to see it enlarged like that," says Lisa.

"I felt appreciative of her talent, and said, see? Now it's recorded on the canvas," says Dottie. "I see my girl as beautiful, and it's passed on through the art. The beauty that we have is passed on through the talent."

Dottie, who says her deepest pride is her three children, is hopeful that this isn't the last we see of Lisa's art. Looking at her daughter, the grandmother of seven, says, "Your talent is untapped. You have a lot more in you, but you haven't brought it to the surface."



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## Charles River Chorale to Perform at Medway High School

The Charles River Chorale and the Charles River Children's Choir are excited to present their Spring Concert on Saturday, May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Medway High School Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Please visit our website at [www.charlesriverchorale.com](http://www.charlesriverchorale.com) for details or use the attached QR code. The theme of this season's concert is Road Trip Across America.

Under the leadership of director Ashley Nelson-Oneschuk, the Charles River Chorale is in its 40th year as a non-profit 501(c)3 chorale. Membership now finds itself at an all-time high. Along with the younger children's choir, the chorale is excited and grateful to be back on stage to present their music to the greater community. We hope you can join us!



[www.charlesriverchorale.com/tickets](http://www.charlesriverchorale.com/tickets)

# Sports

## Sullivan an Asset to Tri-County LAX

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Tri-County's Dylan Sullivan first picked up a lacrosse stick when he was in the third grade, all because his older brother Tim, who was three years older than he was, was playing the sport. Now almost a decade later, he has found the sport to be something that not only is he good at, but enjoys playing.

"I used to watch my older brother playing, and it looked like a lot of fun, so I wanted to try it out," Sullivan said. "I soon found out that I was good at the sport, and I enjoyed all the people that I played with."

Growing up playing lacrosse in the youth leagues, Sullivan got a chance to take face-offs, and it was here that he realized that he had a knack for winning those draws.

Sullivan decided to attend Tri-County Regional Vocational High School over the traditional high school, as he couldn't envision himself sitting in academic classes. Having shop classes, he originally got involved with electrical, but found that he enjoyed engineering more and made the switch.

With those engineering skills, he was part of a six (3 engineering students and 3 health care students) were invited to take part in NASA Hunch, a program working with trade schools having them work out challenges. The TC team was to find a way to administer an IV fluid in space. The students did so well that they were asked to come to the Johnston Space Center in Houston to present their findings.

Prior to entering Tri-County, Dylan was set on playing the sport for the Cougars, and, as a freshman, he soon found out that high school lacrosse was nothing like the public lacrosse he had been playing the past five years.

"This was much different, as I as playing with seniors, who were three years older than I was and the game, the coaches and the atmosphere were all on a completely different level," he said. "The tryouts were not scary, as I had already played football for the school, and I knew a lot of the kids and coaches."

Making the varsity squad was something that didn't surprise the incoming freshman.

"There was not a whole lot of kids, so I felt that my chances were good," he said. "It was not easy, but if you have the skill, work hard, you can become a part of the team, and that's what I did."

Although he was able to earn a spot on the varsity team, he didn't start until his sophomore year. Being proficient in taking face-offs, he felt a bit slighted, but understood.



"I felt that I was better at taking face-offs and should have been the starter, but the other player was an upperclassman, so it didn't bother me," Sullivan said. "About mid-way through my sophomore year, I took over as the starter."

During his freshman campaign, Sullivan was only able to score two goals, as there was a powerhouse goal scorer in front of him, but he didn't let it bother him and continued to do his job in the face-off circle whenever he got the chance. That year, he won 69 of his 80 face-offs according to Coach Brian Kelly.

As he continued to do his job winning face-offs, he was also working on improving his goal scoring. After only netting 2 goals that first year he would notch 31 goals and 22 assists during his sophomore year and upped that total in his junior season to 49 goals and 20 assists giving him 124 points in his three seasons with the Cougars.

Playing for the football team in the off-season, Kelly didn't

really do anything different to improve his offensive numbers. He attributes his success to being that, during that first year, he was an underclassman with a new team trying to find his way.

"I was not a bad player, but I really wasn't much of a shooter back then and needed to get use to my teammates," he said.

Coach Kelly noted that, although Sullivan was a phenomenal athlete when he arrived at Tri-County, he did not have a developed shot, but that has changed over the years. Now, as

he enters his senior season, Sullivan is looked upon as the star of the team. Kelly has high expectations.

"He's got to be our leading goal scorer this year. He could easily surpass 60 goals," Kelly said. "If he goes out and plays his game, there is a very good opportunity that he could be in consideration for league MVP as well."

As he enters his senior season Sullivan brings with him a 79.4%-win ratio on his face-offs, and one of his goals this season is to get that number above 80%. Sullivan is also hoping to get his point total to over 200 by the time that he leaves Tri-County, while improving upon his goals and assists.

"I don't feel that I do anything special to win face-offs; I'm just very aggressive and use numerous ways to get the ball out and pass it to my teammates," he said. "If the opposition gets it first, there are always ways to get it back. You get a feel for their skill, and after a few face-offs,



A varsity lacrosse player since his freshman year, Dylan Sullivan has a knack for face-offs. Photos by Flexitphotography submitted D. Sullivan

you know their habits and what they're looking to do."

Having already been named a two-time Mayflower league All-Star, Sullivan would like to add one more to that total and feels that it would be an amazing

career if he were to be named league MVP.

"If it happens, it happens," he said. "I'm just looking to go out and play my best and help the team make it to the tournament."

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# FHS Senior Lola R. Richardson Selected as Finalist

## 13 Commended by National Merit Scholarship Program

FHS Senior Lola R. Richardson has been selected as a finalist for the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program, with an additional 13 seniors named Commended Students.

As a finalist, Richardson will receive a Certificate of Merit attesting to her distinguished performance in the competition. Approximately 7,140 of the over 15,000 finalists will earn scholarships between March and June.

Teachers recognize Richardson as an essential member of their classrooms. She has taken many Advanced Placement courses and is heavily involved in school activities and programs. Richardson is a member of the 40% Club, works as a mentor and counselor at Franklin Summer Music Camp, plays the accordion, flute and piano, and holds a first-degree black belt in Taekwondo.

"I am excited to be a finalist because I have worked very hard and put in consistent effort towards my studies throughout my life," said Richardson. "Being



Franklin High School senior Lola R. Richardson has been selected as a finalist for the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program.

selected as a finalist feels like all of that hard work is being recognized, which is a rewarding feeling, regardless of whether or not I win a scholarship."

Richardson's most meaningful high school experience was her participation in the All-State music festival during the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. Outside of school, she

works as a pianist at the Franklin United Methodist Church.

Although she has not finalized her decision, Richardson was accepted into Berklee College of Music and received a full tuition scholarship.

The 13 Commended Students are recognized for their exceptional academic promise demonstrated by scoring



Thirteen Franklin High School seniors named Commended Students by the National Merit Scholarship Program. (Photos courtesy Franklin Public Schools)

among the 50,000 highest scorers nationwide on the 2022 Preliminary/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. They will receive letters of commendation from the district, and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

The Commended Students include: Aayush Srinivas, Adithya Balagurumoorthy, Aditya Sharma, Andrew Van Marter, Anna David, Anton Sackley, Arnav Deshpande, Ava

Reijmers, Brady Flynn, Charles Call, Christopher Bartlett, Jennifer Soohoo and Liana Warnakulasooriya.

"We are incredibly proud of Lola for becoming a finalist for the scholarship, as well as each of the Commended Students for this prestigious achievement," Superintendent Giguere said. "All of these students have worked incredibly hard to accomplish this, and they are very deserving of the recognition."

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# Calendar

## May 1

**Virtual Author Talk, Genius, Power & Deception on the Eve of WW1 – Author Talk with Douglas Brunt, 3 p.m.,** presented by Bellingham Public Library, visit <https://libraryc.org/bellinghamma>.

**Second Annual SAFE Coalition Gala, Lakeview Pavilion, dinner, live auction, speakers, keynote speaker Rob Ninkovich. <https://www.safecoalitionma.org/gala-tickets>**

**CONNECTING WOMEN LEADERS Women in Business Pop-Up Shop, 5-7 p.m.,** The Willows at Medway, 44 Willow Pond Circle, Medway MA

## May 2

**Best Graduation Photos! 6:30 p.m.,** with professional photographer Steve McGrath, Franklin Public Library

## May 3

**Adults Only Casino Night, 7:30-11 p.m.,** Franklin Elks Lodge #2136, Franklin, MA, fundraiser for Clyde Brown Home School Association, Millis, \$75 pp includes dinner, dancing, gaming chips, raffles, prizes, [bit.ly/CFBCasinoNight](http://bit.ly/CFBCasinoNight)

## May 4

**Franklin Disability Expo, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.,** Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill. St., Franklin

**Horace Mann Birthday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.,** Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, cake, coffee, a short documentary, and a Mann-inspired episode of The Twilight Zone are some festivities planned.

**Exsultet presents “You Are the One,” choral concert, 7 p.m.,** First Congregational Church, 725 Washington St., Holliston, [www.exsultet.us](http://www.exsultet.us)

**Pen to Picture: A Graphic Novelist Panel! 1 p.m.,** teen program, Franklin Public Library, In partnership with the Franklin Public Middle Schools. Writer, illustrator, and graphic novelist Jarrett J. Krosoczka will talk about his creative process and participate in interactive breakout sessions. Photo ops and book signings too! Possible by a grant from the Mass Cultural Council.

## May 5

**This Old Thing? An Antique Appraisal Adventure with Jim Johnston, 1-5 p.m.,** Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central Street, Franklin, Ap-

praisals are ‘on-the-spot’ and oral and are \$5 for the first appraisal and \$3 for additional items, up to an event maximum of three items and \$11.

**My Mother’s Eyes, Book Talk and Presentation by Miriam Ornstein, 2 p.m.,** Franklin Public Library, Franklin

## May 7

**Norfolk County Register of Deeds Office Hours, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.,** Franklin Town Hall Council Chambers, 355 East Central St., Franklin

## May 8

**Virtual Author Talk, Murder Mystery, Family Story, and Love Story – Author Talk with Nina Simon, 7 p.m.,** presented by Bellingham Public Library, visit <https://libraryc.org/bellinghamma>.

**Metal Stamping for Teens, 2:45 p.m.,** Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, learn to hammer initials or a word onto metal. Make a friendship tag, pendant or keychain. Drop in! Funded by a grant from the Bellingham Cultural Council, a local agency, supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

## May 9

**PULSE Young Professionals Coffee & Connections, BINGO Networking, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.** Cote’s Kitchen, 3 Farm Street | Upton, Members: Free, Future Members: \$10, <https://www.tricountychamberma.org/events#!event/2024/5/9/pulse-coffee-conenctions>

## May 10

**BEN 4 Franklin launch party, 7 p.m.,** Franklin TV Studio, 23 Hutchinson Street. short speaking program with featured speaker Jesse Kanson-Benanav, Executive Director of Abundant Housing Massachusetts, this interactive event includes discussion of Franklin past and hopes for future, storytelling, and artistic expression. Light refreshments

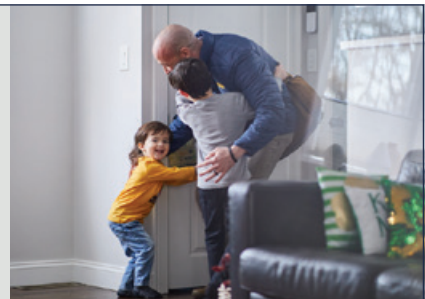
## May 11

**BEN 4 Franklin Community Walk-and-Talk (accessible to wheels and paws), 10:30 a.m.** starting at Franklin TV, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, 90-minute Jane Jacobs Walk (rain or shine) led by Cobi Frongillo and Franklin Matters’ Steve Sherlock to explore history, physical structure and architec-

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ture of Franklin’s built downtown environment. Participants invited to gather afterwards at La Cantina Winery to share thoughts.

**Charles River Chorale and the Charles River Children’s Choir present their Spring Concert, Road Trip across America, 7 p.m.** Medway High School Auditorium. Doors open 6:30 p.m. [www.charlesriverchorale.com](http://www.charlesriverchorale.com)

## May 12

**Second Sunday Speaker Series, 1:15 p.m.,** (doors open 1 p.m.), Franklin Historical Commission Vice Chair Mary Olson looks at Franklin early in the 20th century through the exquisite ‘glass negative’ images of homes, businesses and people taken between about 1910 and 1920. Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central Street, Franklin, MA. FREE

## May 16

**Art on the Table Collage Workshop with Jenny Brown, 6-8 p.m.,** free collage making workshop by instructor Jenny Brown presented by the Town of Franklin Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy, Birchwood Bakery & Kitchen (with Franklin Historical Museum). Visit <https://tinyurl.com/franklincollage> for information and registration.

## May 17

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

## May 18

**Franklin Beautification Day, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.,** volunteers with trucks meet at 7:30 a.m. at Fairmount Fruit Farm, 887 Lincoln St. Those without trucks meet at 8 a.m. at the municipal parking lot near The Rome restaurant and Ferrera’s Market. Email Eileen Mason at [emason4234@gmail.com](mailto:emason4234@gmail.com) to volunteer.

**Franklin Library Book Sale, 9 a.m.-noon,** Franklin Public Library

**Franklin Bellingham Rail Trail Committee & Tri-Valley Event Runners 5K, 9 a.m.,** Franklin Bellingham Rail Trail head on Grove St., Franklin, <https://www.franklinbellinghamrail-trail.org/2024/02/19/1165/>

**Kick Cancer in the Cornhole Tournament, 12 p.m.,** Fundraiser for Dana Farber in memory of Stacey Bower, 453 Pond St., Franklin, \$50 per team of two, \$10 per spectator, includes food, water, soda and 1 raffle ticket, kids free, silent auction raffles, games, register by May6, contact [pbower41@verizon.net](mailto:pbower41@verizon.net)

**Laughter is the Best Medicine: Comedy Mime Show! 1 p.m.,** Franklin Public Library

## May 19

**Israeli Dance Class taught by Rina Wegman of Israeli Folk-dance Festival, 1:30-3:30 p.m.,** Bernon Family YMCA, Franklin, funded by Franklin Cultural Council, free.

**The Seven New Unitarian Universalist Values, 10 a.m.,** The First Universalist Society in Franklin, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin

## May 20

**Planning for Medicare, 6:30 p.m.,** Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham

## May 21

**Tricounty Regional Chamber Business After Hours, 5-7 p.m.,** Pinz Bowling, 110 S. Main St., Milford, free for chamber members; \$10 others; includes Axe Throwing (must sign waiver), visit [www.tricountychamberma.org](http://www.tricountychamberma.org) and find on event calendar.

**Virtual Author Talk, Asian American Representation in Literature – Author Talk with Rebecca Kuang, 7 p.m.,** presented by Bellingham Public Library, visit <https://libraryc.org/bellinghamma>.

## May 23

**9th Annual Empty Bowls Dinner, 6-8 p.m.,** Franklin High School Cafeteria, 218 Oak St., Franklin, Online tickets \$22 adults; \$12 for students/children 18 years old and younger. Prices increase to \$25/\$15 respectively at the door the day of the event. <https://tinyurl.com/9thEmptyBowls>

**Craft Night: Paper Flowers, 6:30 p.m.,** adult class on making paper flowers with examples of ways to use them in decoration, Franklin Public Library

## May 25

**Music at the Blissful Concert! Children’s concert, 10:30 a.m.,** Franklin Public Library, musician, for children and their grownups

**Honey Tasting, 1 p.m.,** open tasting of five local honeys and grocery store bear, Franklin Public Library

Bee-lieve it or not, there are HUNDREDS of varieties of honey! This sweet treat is a cornerstone of Local agriculture and we’re going to taste the difference! We’ll start with a brief talk on honey making and history in Massachusetts followed by an open tasting of 5 local honeys and the grocery store bear. Mark your tasting sheet and bring it to the Circulation desk for a chance to win a sweet treat!

## May 28

**“Monsters, Memes, and Moments,” work of artist Joseph Fontinha opens through June 28, with reception open to public June 15, 1 p.m.,** Lotvin Family Gallery, Hopkinton Center for the Arts, 98 Hayden Rowe St., Hopkinton

# The Value of Teen Volunteering

Giving back to the community is a great way for teenagers to develop career and life skills, in addition to experiencing a mental health boost. Teenagers face academic and social pressures, and research indicates that focusing on others can enhance happiness and emotional well-being; while fostering qualities that will serve them well in their education and professional pursuits.

## Good things happen to those who volunteer!

- 1. Build confidence & self-esteem:** Doing good things for others can help create a feeling of greater self-worth because it can provide a sense of pride in one's accomplishments. Students can see first-hand how their actions have an impact.
- 2. Increase empathy:** When teens volunteer, they learn that other people's lives can be very different from their own. By helping others with different life experiences, teens not only gain a deeper understanding of others but also learn to respect them, fostering a heightened sense of social awareness.
- 3. Identify your sense of purpose:** Volunteering can help teens develop a sense of purpose. As an example, a teen volunteers to help a

local official run for election, they learn first-hand how a team effort can create positive change, which then fuels their motivation to major in a similar area of study.

- 4. Earn stronger grades:** Volunteering can help a teenager achieve stronger grades. According to the United Way, "There is a positive correlation between students who earn good grades and those who participate in community service. Volunteering also helps teens gain new skills necessary for the job market such as leadership, communication skills, dependability, time management, and decision making."
- 5. Strengthen your college application:** Volunteer experience promotes collaboration, resourcefulness, and initiative. Studies show that teen volunteers have a higher level of maturity and compassion than their peers who do not volunteer. Colleges love to see a student engage in their community and show impact. So, whatever you do, do it consistently and do something you are enthusiastic about - it shows.

## Ways to get involved!

- 1. Ask yourself one question:** If you could help solve one problem, what would you choose, and how could you help? The problem could pertain to global issues, high school concerns, or local community matters. This simple question has prompted such insightful and mature answers among my students. The act of volunteering becomes significantly more fulfilling when driven by a genuine passion for a cause - which can often extend its influence into other aspects of life.
- 2. Volunteer Resources:**
  - a. Teenlife.com:** a great website to find a broad range of volunteer opportunities.
  - b. Dosomething.org:** created in 1993 with the vision that volunteerism can be as cool as sports.
  - c. People making a difference:** Their vision is for everyone to be able to volunteer productively a few times a year so that together people can make a real difference.
  - d. VolunteerMatch.org:** matches inspired people with inspiring causes.



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

- e. Volunteer Match Quiz:** <https://www.yourfreecareertest.com/career-tests/volunteer-match-test>. It will analyze the student's answers and identify potential volunteer opportunities that match their interests.

### 3. Do-it-yourself activities:

Create a list of local volunteer activities that could be done with a friend. Suggestions include caring for a neighbor's pet, grocery shopping for an elderly neighbor or sick friend, tutoring classmates or young children, running a mini summer camp offering an activity you love to do, volunteering for a cause that's dear to your heart, collecting items for the local food pantry, or visiting with a family member that lives alone. Email [tracy@mycollege101.com](mailto:tracy@mycollege101.com) for a FREE resource.

- 4. Get approval:** It is important to always ask permission from a parent or guardian before you start any volunteer activity.

One of my favorite quotes is from Margeret Mead, Anthropologist, who was truly ahead of her time: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

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.

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## Exsultet! Presents 'You Are The One'

Sweet romantic harmony will fill the air at Exsultet's spring concert series. Exsultet!, a premier women's chorus comprised of women from the local area, will perform "You Are The One" on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 7 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 725 Washington Street, Holliston, MA. Relive the excitement of dating and finding "The One" with our concert of Broadway and movie hits! Travel Over the Rainbow and through the Seasons of Love while enjoying familiar songs from past and present.

Founded in 2013, Exsultet! A Celebration of Voices is an audi-

tioned women's chamber ensemble combining great music and poetry to inspire audiences with adventurous and innovative concerts. Exsultet's mission is to give women an opportunity to join together to make music, to showcase the works of up-and-coming composers and arrangers, feature the talents of local musicians and actors, and combine performance and advocacy by focusing on important community issues and partnering with other local organizations.

For more information visit [www.exsultet.us](http://www.exsultet.us). (Performances not suitable for children under 5.)

# Call for Artists!

**Franklin Dept. of Arts, Culture & the Creative Economy Relaunches 'Call for Artists' for Public Sculpture Park**

Calling all artists and creatives! The Town of Franklin Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy Department is excited to announce the opening wave of our Spring 2024 'Call to Artists' for the Franklin Sculpture Park.

This exhibiting opportunity aims to transform our town's public space into vibrant expressions of art, showcasing the talent and creativity of local artists. Whether you're an established artist or emerging talent, we invite you to be part of this exciting opportunity.

Selected artworks will become integral parts of our town's cultural landscape, enriching the lives of residents and visitors alike. This is a chance to leave a lasting impact on the community and contribute to its cultural vibrancy.

Artists interested in submitting their work can find more

information and access the application process on the website [FranklinCulture.org]. The submission deadline is [June 1st, 2024 at 9 p.m.].

Join us in making Franklin a canvas of creativity! For inquiries or further information, please contact Cory Shea, Director of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy.

About The Town of Franklin Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy Department: The arts and culture sector plays a vital role in enriching the fabric of the Franklin community as we strive to build a vibrant and inclusive municipality. Investing in arts and culture initiatives is essential for driving economic development, strengthening social cohesion, and nurturing a sense of identity among community members.

# Franklin Performing Arts Company to Host Annual Golf Tournament

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will host its Annual Golf Tournament at New England Country Club in Bellingham, MA on Monday June 10th. Golfers and their families are invited for this unique event that offers a day on the course, an awards ceremony, dinner, raffle, and entertainment.

New England Country Club is an 18 hole championship golf course located in Bellingham, Massachusetts. The scenic New England Country Club is one of the best conditioned public courses in the area. This enjoyable 18 hole championship golf course, designed by Hale Irwin, has the look and feel of a private

golf course. The rolling hills, tree lined fairways, and multiple tee boxes give each hole a unique character and provide a fair challenge for all ability levels. Breathtaking New England scenery can be viewed from the dining room, tent facility, and throughout the golf course.

Nestled in the metrowest region of Massachusetts, the Franklin Performing Arts Company is a not-for-profit institution producing musicals, plays, ballets, and more featuring Broadway stars, professional and regional performers, and emerging artists. Proceeds of the Golf Tournament fundraiser support the professional development of emerging artists and enable world-class talent to perform in downtown Franklin, amplifying the cultural fabric of MetroWest Boston.

For registration and more information, visit [www.FPAConline.com](http://www.FPAConline.com) or call (508) 528-3370.



# Rotary Club of Franklin MA Plan 32nd Annual Pasta Supper, June 20, 2024

The Rotary Club of Franklin is happy to announce that we will host our 32nd Annual Pasta Supper on June 20, 2024, at 5 p.m., at 1000 Central Park Terrace, Franklin MA. All Senior Citizens and residents of the Franklin Housing Authority are welcome to attend this event and as always, it is completely free of charge.

"This Rotary Service project is close to me and my sisters' hearts" said former Rotary President Diane Padula, of the project started 32 years ago by her father John Padula back in 1991. "I'd also like to mention, that we will have some special guest helpers again this year and urge folks to sign up, so that they don't miss out!"

Taking over for longtime Rotarian Dan Gentile as Head Chef, will be Rotary's Incoming President Joseph "Joe" Collins, who will lead fellow Rotarians in preparing the homemade meal of homemade tomato sauce and

500 hand rolled meatballs. "We Rotarians look forward to providing this home cooked meal each year and we work together to make this a special and memorable event for our Franklin's Senior Citizens and Residents of the Franklin Housing Authority".

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

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

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

If you would like more information about our organization or Memberships, please contact Rotary Club of Franklin MA at

[rotaryclubfranklinma@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclubfranklinma@gmail.com) and they will make arrangements for you to be their guest at one of the upcoming meet-

ings. Rotary members meet the first and third Tuesday of each month at Box Seats, 391 E. Central Street, Franklin, MA.

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# May 2024 at Franklin Public Library

The Library will be closed Monday May 27th for Memorial Day.

## Franklin Public Library's 2024 Reading Challenge!

May: A book by an author whose first or last name begins with the letter "M"!

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 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 (<https://www.franklinma.gov/franklin-public-library/pages/2024-reading-challenge>) 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 Sec-

ond 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!** Available Wednesday, May 1st First come, first serve!

**Pen to Picture: A Graphic Novelist Panel!** Saturday, May 4th @ 1 p.m. with writer, illustrator, and graphic novelist Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Event made possible by a grant from the Mass Cultural Council.

**My Lady & Me Jewelry Workshop!** Wednesday May 8 @ 5:30 p.m. with Paulina Teng, of PT Color Market Register on our website to reserve your spot.

**Caravan Puppets!** Saturday May 11 @ 10:30 a.m.

**Poop Museum!** Saturday May 11 @ 1 p.m.

**Laughter is the Best Medicine: Comedy Mime Show!** Saturday, May 18th @ 1 p.m.

**Music at the Blissful Concert!** Saturday May 25 @ 10:30 a.m.

## Special Events for Teens

**Teen Regency Era Tea Party!** Wednesday May 15 @ 5:30 p.m.

**College Life Panel Discussion for Teens!** Wednesday May 22 @ 5:30 p.m.

## Special Events for Adults

**Adult Take & Make: Spring Bird Sign!** Available Wednesday, May 1st \*LIMIT 1 PER PERSON\*

**Best Graduation Photos!** Thursday, May 2 @ 6:30 p.m. with professional photographer Steve McGrath

**Craft Night : Paper Flowers** Thursday May 23 @ 6:30 p.m.

## Special Events for All Ages

**Honey Tasting** Saturday May 25 @ 1 p.m., try 5 local honies

## Franklin Library Book Sale

Friday, May 17th, 1-5 p.m. Saturday, May 18th, 9 a.m.-noon, All books \$1

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

# The Seven New Unitarian Universalist Values

May 19, 2024 10 a.m.

## The First Universalist Society in Franklin

262 Chestnut Street Franklin

In June 2024, at the UU General Assembly, the UU Association of Congregations will be voting to replace our current UU Principles with seven new values. Come learn about these new UU values!

On May 19, 2024 this 10 a.m. service will be led by the FUSF Worship Committee Co-Chairs, Mary Dennis and Louise Marcoux. We hope you join us.

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.



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# Tri-County Announces Second Trimester Honor Roll

Below is a full listing of the Franklin students by grade who made the High or Regular Honor Roll for the second trimester of the 2023-24 academic year. For students to make the High Honor Roll they must have A's in each of their academic offerings, and for the regular Honor Roll must have A's and B's in all of their academic subjects:

## Grade 9 – High Honors

Franklin - Erin Anagnos, Sabrina Gaul, Gracie Healy, Aiden Nashawaty, Madeline Plausse

## Grade 9 - Honors

Franklin - Joseph Bassignani, Yasmin Botelho, Travis Bourque, Andrew Campagna, Ernest Caruthers,

Aiden Chew, Chrislani Colon, Matthew David, Justin Gard, Emmalyn Hess, Jaira Jenks, Victoria Kruse, Nolan Laliberte, Matthew Laughman, Brandon O'Connor, Annais Perez-Rivera, Gavin Roche, Bella Souza,

Kevin Tenore, Hailee Wenger, Cole Ziegler

## Grade 10 – High Honors

Franklin - Francis Gallo, James Gallo, Rebecca Hall, Grayson Lennon, Molly Luccini, Noah Salvesen

## Grade 10 – Honors

Franklin - Christopher Cobb, Sean Gill, Colleen Kennally, Lilith Kriz, Hayden Lafountain, Brady Liberman,

Kylie MacDonald, Isabella Poulin, Makenzy Quigley, Morgan Ross, Desirae Rutledge

## Grade 11 – High Honors

Franklin - Conor Cadorette, Sunny Dion, Nicholas Harootunian, Clancy Harrington, Brendan Purvis, Alden Welch-Tyree

## Grade 11 – Honors

Franklin - Sydnie Anagnos, Lucy Collins, William Hines, Jefferson Nixon Israel, Logan Keszycki, Mateo

Kiessling, Jacob Levitt, Gabriella Pirrotta, Ayden Shea, Eric Talamini

## Grade 12 – High Honors

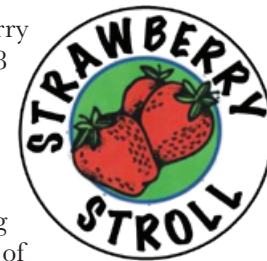
Franklin - Ava Cossette, Shawn Dignan, Eden Dumas, Caeden Parisi, Lino Pirrotta

## Grade 12 – Honors

Franklin - Hailey Antonitis, Nora Cieszkowski, Savanna Cusson, Maggie David, Nicholas Ewan-chuk, Dylan Gonzalez, Savannah Nosek, Danielle Viola

# Save the Date for June 7 Strawberry Stroll

Save the date for the annual Strawberry Stroll, set for Friday, June 7, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in downtown Franklin. The rain date will be Saturday, June 8 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.



The stroll is a popular tradition in Franklin every year. "Don't miss this great evening of music, food, and vendors of all kinds of products and services," said Kevin Johnson of Edward Jones, and Strawberry Stroll Committee Chairman.

The strawberry shortcakes will be supplied by Dean Bank and Dean College. Crafts and activities will be offered for kids and adults. "It is a terrific community event. A fun time to visit shops and restaurants downtown and catch up with friends," said Roberta Trahan, Vice President of the Franklin Downtown Partnership.

The Downtown Partnership appreciates the support of its sponsors. This year, our support comes from these organizations: Platinum Sponsors: Dean College. Gold Sponsors: Camford Property Group, Inc.; Dean Bank. Silver Sponsors: Notturmo Home Services. Bronze Sponsors: Beaux Regards Photographic Art; Chestnut Dental; DCU; Fenton Financial Group; LeafFilter Gutter Protection.

Sponsorship opportunities for the stroll are still open and filling up quickly. If you are interested in being a sponsor, contact the Franklin Downtown Partnership at [downtown.franklin@yahoo.com](mailto:downtown.franklin@yahoo.com).

Get up to date info and follow the Franklin Downtown Partnership at <https://www.instagram.com/franklindowntownpartnership/> and <https://www.facebook.com/franklindowntownpartnership.org/>

# Register of Deeds O'Donnell to Hold Office Hours in Franklin May 7th

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell and his outreach team will hold office hours Tuesday, May 7th, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Franklin Town Hall in the Council Chambers as part of his ongoing efforts to bring the Registry of Deeds directly to the residents of Norfolk County.

By offering office hours in Franklin, the Register aims to make it more convenient for residents to access and inquire about real property records. This initiative reflects the Register's commitment to providing

efficient and accessible services to the citizens of Norfolk County.

Registry staff are able to provide local residents with certified copies of land documents, such as deeds and mortgage discharges. They can also bring original land documents for residents back to the Registry for recording.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds is located at 649 High St., Dedham. Find them at [www.norfolkdeeds.org](http://www.norfolkdeeds.org), on Facebook, and on Twitter. Reach them at (781) 461-6101 or [registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org](mailto:registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org).



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# Need for Social & Skill-Building Support Spurs New Program at Dean College

By J.D. O'GARA

“At Dean College, we really pride ourselves on taking a holistic approach to education and servicing our students,” says Lynne DaSilva, Director of the school’s Arch Learning Community. It made sense for the college to offer its new students with diagnosed learning disabilities and differences tailored programs through the Arch Learning Community, but of late, Arch was drawing interest from students outside the defined scope of challenges. These students were looking for social emotional and skill building support. Thus, the school created its new En-

gage Program, a comprehensive social support and skill-building initiative for incoming students. After an extremely successful pilot program of 10 students, the enrollment for Fall 2024 is now open.

“We started to see a niche of students that were looking for specialized support, and they were applying to the Arch Learning Community. We were seeing that not all of them were really fitting the mold of students that need the level of what Arch supports,” says DaSilva, “We felt an obligation to meet that need, the social emotional support to make that transition to college successful for them.”

Nationally, three out of four high school graduates say they don’t feel prepared for college. Recognizing this need, Dean created the Engage Program to meet the social and emotional challenges faced by so many young adults learning to adapt to college.

“What we’re seeing is this transition to college – it’s a big change. It’s a new environment, it’s new responsibilities. It’s hard for some students to manage the challenges of academics, to integrate social and to balance at the same time ... we’re seeing a group of students struggling to make connections, anxious about talking to classmates, about talking to professors. This is a group of students who spend so much of their time online. A lot of their connections are of virtual nature and the face-to-face can be challenging,” says DaSilva, “The Engage Program has been designed to support students with social, communication, and adjustment challenges in order to make their transition to Dean as successful as possible.”

The evidence-based Engage Program will help students learn effective communication skills, including reading and reacting to

social cues and building healthy relationships through peer socialization. The program will also focus on learning self-care and balance, and effective academic planning and organization.

As part of the Engage Program, students will receive the following benefits:

- Early campus move-in opportunity
- A “Prep for Success” orientation program
- Access to specialized Living and Learning Community housing and residential staff
- Low sensory group meeting space
- Peer mentoring
- Weekly social skills groups and regularly planned social events
- One-on-one academic coaching tailored to individual learning styles
- Study labs with monitoring
- Health and wellness initiatives in collaboration with campus partners

“I think you’re going to see it nationwide. Transition to college is just crucial to (students) staying in college,” says DaSilva, adding, “A few colleges in the area are starting to pilot programs now. You can’t just provide academics. (Students) need to feel supported

and successful across the gamut. It’s higher education becoming aware of the needs of the students beyond the classroom, and I think we’re seeing a little more diversity in the applicants coming to college versus 20 years ago. When you see more diversity, you need to adapt.”

The Engage Program team has specialized expertise, drawing on the more than 25 years of leading-edge support available to Dean College students. Faculty and staff have backgrounds and certifications in autism spectrum disorder, neurodiversity, and social skills training and can effectively help students achieve their full potential. In fact, the Fall 2023 Engage pilot program boasted a 100 percent retention rate from the Fall to Spring semesters; an average GPA of 3.2; and more than 50 percent of participants made the Dean’s list, underscoring the program’s positive impact on academic achievement.

Incoming first-year Dean students for the Fall 2024 semester are invited to visit <https://www.dean.edu/support-success/engage-program/> for more information and to enroll in the program. The cost for the 2024-2025 academic year is \$6,500.

“That would be worked into the total cost and the financial aid would be applied,” notes DaSilva.

## Save The Date! Franklin Pride June 22nd!

Franklin’s next Pride Day celebration will take place this year at Franklin Town Common on June 22nd, from 12-4 p.m., with a rain date of June 23rd.

Prior to the Pride celebration, Franklin will celebrate its LGBTQ community with the first Pride flag raising at the Franklin Municipal Building on Saturday, June 1st at 10 a.m.

To stay on top of these events, find the Franklin LGBTQ Alliance on Facebook and Instagram (@franklinlgbtqalliance).

## MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

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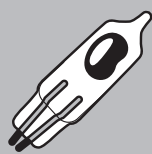
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## Memorial Day May 27

**Memorial Day** honors the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. Military.

- The Franklin, Mass. Memorial Day Parade will begin at 10:30 a.m., starting with a ceremony at Dean College.
- Parade proceeds down School Street, turns right onto West Central Street
- Honor Guard performs a ceremony at Union Street Cemetery
- Parade proceeds down West Central Street and turns right onto Beaver Street and stops for a ceremony at St. Mary’s Cemetery
- Parade continues up Beaver Street and ends at the corner of Union and Beaver Streets

Spectators cannot view the parade from the Town Common or St. Mary’s Church.

A **Memorial Day Ceremony** will be held at 12 p.m. If any Veteran would like to walk or ride in the parade, please contact the Veterans’ Services Office.

For inclement weather updates, visit: <https://www.franklinma.gov/veterans-services>.

# Franklin Husband and Wife Teach Dance for a Good Cause

## Dance4Dreams Benefits Boston Children's Hospital

With Spring in full bloom, Kevin and Anna Balcom are teaching dance to benefit Boston Children's Hospital. Dance4Dreams, an 8-week introductory West Coast Swing dance Series. The course began in April but is accepting students anytime through June 4th at the Franklin Elks Lodge at 1077 Pond Street, Franklin, MA 02038. 100% of proceeds

will benefit Boston Children's Hospital.

Anna Balcom and Kevin Balcom have been dancing collectively for over 40 years. Anna, a Franklin resident, dances Classical, Contemporary Ballet, Salsa, Latin Ballroom, Modern Jive, and West Coast Swing. Kevin, a lifelong MA resident, started his dance journey in Country Line Dancing, and rapidly be-

came exposed to many other styles, with a competitive and educational focus on West Coast Swing. This event combines their passion for dance with their deep appreciation for Boston Children's Hospital.

Anna encourages all to join "whether you are a beginner or an expert, swing on over for a good cause!"

Ages 16+ are welcome. No prior dance experience or partner required. \$15/person per

class. Cash preferred. No advance registration required.

For questions, contact Anna Balcom at (508) 808-4675 or visit [www.dance4dreams.com](http://www.dance4dreams.com).




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# TABS Matter: Shriners' Year of Impact in 2024

So far in 2024, the Shriners have made a significant impact by assisting 28 children through their TABS program. The program, which collects aluminum tabs from cans, receives immense support from individuals, organizations, like local Masonic Lodge and companies such as Medway Oil and owner Jeffrey Mushnick, a 20+ year Shriner as well as his brothers and cousins.

The Shriners' efforts translated into tangible help, with \$426,000 spent on the medical needs of these children. One of the key initiatives is the collection of tabs at Medway Oil, lo-

cated at 37 Broad St in Medway, MA, **aiming to fill five 55-gallon drums!!**

The Aleppo Transportation Fund, a crucial arm of the Shriners, also had a remarkable year, assisting hospitals with the cost of transporting patients. Approvals were granted for various cases, including a 3-year-old boy from Guatemala with severe flame burns, a 1-year-old from Mexico with extensive burn injuries, and two siblings from Mexico injured in a house explosion.

In addition to these cases, Aleppo approved funding for sponsorships, covering costs like

food, air transportation, ground transportation, lodging, visas, passports, and miscellaneous expenses for patients requiring repetitive treatments.

The fund also supported patients requiring surgery and specialized medical care, including a 7-year-old boy from the Dominican Republic needing elbow surgery in Philadelphia, an 8-year-old boy from Colombia needing three orthopedic surgeries, and an 11-year-old girl from Ecuador requiring a below-knee amputation and fitting with a prosthesis.

The Aleppo Nobility's suc-

cessful fundraising efforts allowed for substantial donations to both the Boston and Springfield hospitals, further enhancing their impact in the community. Overall, well over \$500,000 was approved in funding, highlighting the significant contributions of the Shriners and their supporters in making a difference in the lives of children in need.

To drop off your collected TABS and support The Aleppo Transportation Fund, please visit your local drop off site: Medway Oil, 37 Broad St., Medway MA. To learn more about The Aleppo Transportation Fund, please see:

The Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund Travels - Nobles - Aleppo Shriners.)

**Drink more, SAVE TABS, it's for the Kids!!**



# FPAC to present August: Osage County

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will conclude its 2023-24 season with *August: Osage County*. June 7-9 at THE BLACK BOX.

Directed by FPAC's Nick Paone, Tracy Letts's Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning play *August: Osage County* is a family drama. A vanished father. A pill-popping mother.

Three sisters harboring shady little secrets. When the large Weston family unexpectedly reunites after Dad disappears, their Oklahoman family homestead explodes in a maelstrom of repressed truths and unsettling secrets. Mix in Violet, the drugged-up, scathingly acidic matriarch, and you've got a major play that unflinchingly—

and uproariously—exposes the dark side of the Midwestern American family.

"I'd bet the farm that no family has ever been as unhappy in as many ways—and to such sensationally entertaining effect—as the Westons of AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY, a fraught, densely plotted saga of an Oklahoma clan in a state of near-apocalyptic meltdown. Fiercely funny and biting sad...[a] turbo-charged tragicomedy..." —The New York Times.

*August: Osage County* contains strong language and adult themes.

FPAC is an Actors' Equity Small Professional Theater company based at THE BLACK BOX in downtown Franklin.



Each season, FPAC produces musicals, plays, ballets, and more featuring Broadway stars, professional actors, local artists, and students of the arts.

Tickets for August: Osage County are available at FPACon-

line.com or by calling the box office at (508) 528-3370. Follow Franklin Performing Arts Company and THE BLACK BOX on Facebook and Instagram for updates on programming.



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# Party for The Pantry Raises \$19,000 for Franklin Food Pantry

The Franklin Food Pantry, which provides supplemental food assistance and programs in Franklin, Massachusetts, is grateful to be the recipient of the Party for The Pantry fundraising event organized by Ray Auger and Bill Donovan. The ticketed party, which took place on Friday, March 29, 2024, at GlenPhamer Distillery in Franklin raised more than \$19,000 to benefit The Pantry. The evening's entertainment included music from The Pub Kings, South Street Six, and J.P. Royer, a silent auction, and numerous raffle prizes.

Sponsors for the event included: Allegra Marketing Print Mail, Coastal Closets New England, Colonial Fence Co., Core Chiropractic & Physical Therapy, Eagle Stainless Steel, Elemen-Tree House, Franklin LGBTQ Alliance, Franklin Matters, Tim Rice Photo, UpFront

Guitars, J.M. Aldrich, The Baur Family, The Chouinard Family, The Gendreau Family, and Laura and Kyle Juszczyzyn.

"Coming together for a night of music, fun, and friendship is a great way to bring awareness to a growing need and support those experiencing hunger," said Ray Auger, co-organizer of Party for The Pantry. "The Franklin Food Pantry positively impacts thousands of lives, and we love giving back to this organization that assists so many."

Independent fundraising events are an essential operating revenue source for The Pantry. Funds raised allow The Pantry to purchase food and personal care items, offer programs and services, and support daily operations.

"We are extremely grateful to Ray Auger and Bill Donovan for organizing this year's amaz-



Photo by Tim Rice Photo.

ing Party for The Pantry, and the event sponsors, raffle donors, and attendees for their generosity and support," said Tina Powderly, Executive Director, Franklin Food Pantry. "The proceeds from this year's Party for The Pantry will go directly to feeding people, make a difference in the fight against food insecurity, and help strengthen our community."

The Franklin Food Pantry is located at 341 W. Central St. in Franklin, MA on Route 140. Please visit [www.franklinfoodpantry.org](http://www.franklinfoodpantry.org) for more information.

# Franklin PorchFest Continues to Grow

Franklin's PorchFest Committee is pleased to share that the number of participants and hosts has exceeded our expectations and the numbers continue to grow. We are up to 40 bands and over 26 porch locations, including many throughout the Dean College campus.

No band? No porch? NO PROBLEM!!! Get in on the fun by signing up on our website to volunteer. There are numerous ways you can help. Anyone interested can go to our website and select the tab for Volunteer Signup and fill out the form. Go to [Franklin.PorchFest.Info](http://Franklin.PorchFest.Info).

Another way to help out is by supporting our local merchants as you enjoy Franklin



PorchFest on June 1st, 12 to 6 p.m. Between band performances, you can shop our independent Franklin businesses. Also, enjoy a lunch from one of Franklin's food venues and have a picnic while enjoying some great music.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to listen to great music and connect with Franklin's cultural community!

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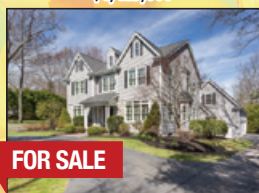
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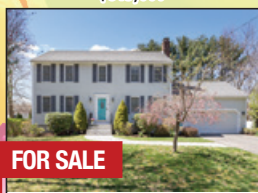
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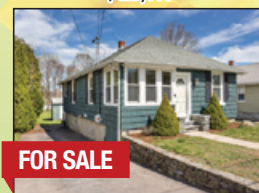
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## Historic Happenings at Franklin Historical Museum in May

### Horace Mann Birthday Celebration – Sat. May. 4

An annual tradition at the Franklin Historical Museum is a celebration of the birthday of Franklin-born Horace Mann – a key figure in 19th century reform movements, including abolition, and as the architect of America’s public education movement. On Saturday May 4, during our regular 10-1 hours, we will be showing a short classic documentary about Horace Mann as well as a Twilight Zone episode inspired by Horace Mann. Of course, there will be cake and coffee – and a participatory reading from one of Horace Mann’s more no-

table works at noon. (And be sure to come back for Silent Saturday in the evening – see below.)

### THIS OLD THING?-An Antique Appraisal Adventure – Sun. May 5

Sponsored by the Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Sunday from 1-5, the museum is dedicated to a fun, educational, and informative antique appraisal event with James C. “Jim” Johnston. Appraisals are ‘on-the-spot’ and oral and are \$5 for the first appraisal and \$3 for additional items, up to a maximum of three items and \$11. Jim will open with a brief introduction about antiques and appraising.

### The Second Sunday Speaker Series – Sun, May 12

The Second Sunday Speaker Series at the museum continues on May 12, 2024 with an intimate look at Franklin early in the 20th century through the exquisite ‘glass negative’ images of homes, businesses and people taken between about 1910 and 1920. Historical Commission Vice Chair Mary Olsson will be your tour guide to yesteryear. Doors open at 1 and the presentation begins at 1:15 at Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central Street, Franklin, MA. FREE

### Dean College Commencement Exhibit and Hours – Sat. May 18

In honor of Commencement Day at Dean College, the museum is hosting a small exhibit of memorabilia and continuous showings of Dean’s 1965 Centennial film (with lots of shots of mid-century Franklin) throughout the day. Hours are extended from 9 am to 3 pm.

### Memorial Day Weekend – May 25-27

In honor of Memorial Day Weekend, the museum will be showing film and videos related to local veterans during regular hours, Sat 10-1 and Sun 1-4. There will also be a small informational display about the Army Air Corps pilot killed in a training incident in Franklin in 1943. On Monday, May 27, the museum will also have special hours. Watch the website for updates.

### ‘Cinema 80’ Films in the ‘Silent Saturday’ Series Continue (Free)

Silent Saturdays start at 6 pm 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.

- **May 4 -- Wings, a 1927 WWI epic, and the first Oscar winner for Best Picture.**

A romantic action-war picture, starring Clara Bow, Paramount’s biggest star at the time. The film was shot on location on a budget of \$2 million (equivalent to \$34.42 million in 2023) at Kelly Field in San Antonio. Hundreds of extras

and some 300 pilots were involved in the filming, including pilots and planes of the United States Army Air Corps.

- **May 11** – Short Films from Oz - a collection of short films produced by L. Frank Baum in the 1910s, based on his own famous 1900 childrens’ book, ‘The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.Oz.’ (L. Frank Baum pictured, below)

- **May 18 – (not yet scheduled)**

- **May 25 – (Tentative) The Lost Battalion** – a 1919 American silent war film about units of the 77th Infantry Division (the “Lost Battalion”) penetrating deep into the Argonne Forest of France during World War I. The film was directed by Burton L. King and features Major Charles W. Whittlesey and a number of actual soldiers from the 77th who portrayed themselves in the film. It was released July 2, 1919 in North America. The film was remade in 2001 by Russell Mulcahy.

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

Questions? Contact Alan Earls at (50) 560 3786.

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



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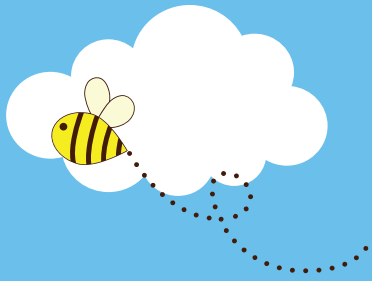


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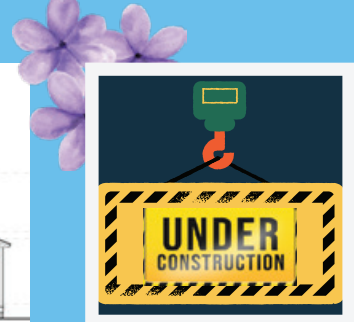
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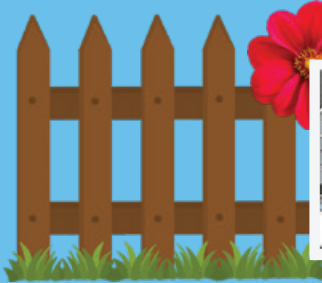
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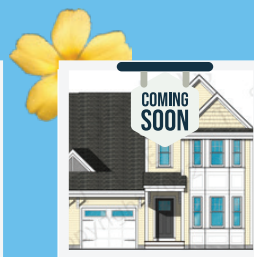
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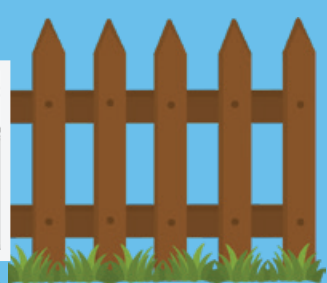
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