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Postal Customer Local

Vol. 15 No. 3

Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

June 2024

Third Annual Franklin Pride Day June 22nd

By J.D. O'GARA

Franklin's LGBTQ Pride is growing! In its third year, Franklin Pride, which will take place this year on Franklin Town Common

This year's Franklin Pride Day will take place on Franklin Town Common from 12-4 on June 22nd, with a rain date of June 23rd. The Franklin LGBTQ Alliance will begin the month with the first Pride flag raising at Franklin Municipal Building on June first. Photos used courtesy of Fox & Crow Photos.





on June 22nd, from 12-4 p.m., with a rain date of June 23rd, promises to be bigger and better than ever, and it's preceded by a couple pride-filled celebrations. A week ahead of time, members of the LGBTQ community and their allies in town will

PRIDE DAY

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Franklin Special Olympics Basketball Wins Gold

By Christopher Tremblay, STAFF SPORTS WRITER

While there are many sports that Special Olympians participate in, basketball seems to be one of the games where more players gravitate to, leaving it as one of the tops sports played by its athletes. Representing Franklin, 'The Franklin Legends' coached

by Rick Cleary and Mark Conley were recently able to guide the local team to bring home gold in their division.

For the most part, the team has been composed of the same players over the years, but this sea-

WINS GOLD

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PRIDE DAY

continued from page 1

plant Pride flags on the Town Common, see the Franklin LGBTQ Alliance on Facebook and Instagram (@franklinlgbtqalliance) for the time, as it had not been set at press time.

To start the month, right before PorchFest, the town of Franklin will welcome the first Pride flag raisingon June 1st, at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central St., Franklin at 10 a.m. The event will include remarks from elected officials, performance by Electric Youth and Sioo, and children's activities.

20-year Franklin resident Jen Rossing is among those members of the Franklin LGBTQ Alliance planning the Franklin Pride Day event.

"The whole month is Pride Month. We have our one Pride event on the Town Common, but we celebrate all month long. This will be our third Franklin Pride Day, and we're looking for volunteers!" says Rossing. Volunteers are sought for:

- setup and takedown of tents
- Helping vendors set up their tents
- Help at the craft booth to supervise and help people who might need assistance
- Floaters during the festival who monitor if attendees or vendors need help
- Passport booth
- Information booth

Anyone interested in helping can email franklinlgbtqalliance@gmail.com.

Musical entertainment at this year's event will be a return of Sioo and Second Sun, says Rossing, adding the bands were happy to come back. "Performers think they've got a good crowd, a happy crowd!" she says.

This year will again feature a very popular Passport game, in which attendees can get a passport and visit various booths for a stamp. Once they fill the book, they can submit it for a prize.

"We have new prizes we didn't have last year. Even if you played it last year you're going to want to play it again," says Rossing.

New this year is a t-shirt tie-dying booth, "so if you buy a shirt from us, you can tie-dye it," says Rossing. You can also bring your own t-shirt to tie dye, and all shirts will cost \$5 to tie dye. In fact, this year's Franklin Pride logo is a modified design, with a waving flag of black and white, so that it works better with this activity, she says.

"We will also be making tshirts available for pre-order and for sale all through the month at the Franklin Farmers Market and at The Strawberry Stroll," says Rossing.

Franklin Pride Day will feature craft booths, including fabric markers (free) and a return of the interactive community mandala, as well as food trucks including hot dogs, Asian fusion and possible a few more.

While you can make your own crafts, you can peruse the offerings of jewelry and arts and crafts vendors, including upcycled clothing, crystals, crotchet and metaphysical items, and some members of the Franklin Art Association. The Association itself will have a booth as well.

Other booths you might want to visit include Tarot and facepainting booths, as well as several nonprofits, including, but not limited to:

- OUT MetroWest
- Bellforge Arts Center (which will have its own Pride Day June 9)
- Franklin Senior Center
- Franklin Public Library (tentative at press time)
- St. John's Episcopal
- First Universalist society of Franklin
- Kennedy Community Health Center
- SAFE Coalition

"We're on track, and we're really excited," says Rossing.

The Franklin LGBTQ Alliance is still active monthly, with

social meetings from 6-8 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. In June, this will feature BINGO at the Franklin Public Library, but following that, social meetings will move to Franklin TV, at 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin. The group's book club will also move to that location on the first Tuesday of every month, again from 6-8 p.m.

"Every three months or so we have a bigger social gathering. We recently went bowling at Pinz, and before that a Halloween party and a Friendsgiving (turkey dinner with vegan options, too)," says Rossing. "We also have a brunch that we cohost with the Boston Non-Scene Friends meetup group once a quarter at Mac's Roast Beef. A large group of people show up to that. It's a roast beef place, but the brunch is very good!"

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

If interested in signing up for the newsletter, just email franklinlgbtqalliance@gmail.com

Important information Regarding the Special Election, June 11, 2024

With the formal approval of our Town Council members by

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Resolution 24- 21 for the purpose of a Special Election to be held on June 11, 2024 @ the Franklin High School from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

The question reads:

Shall the Town of Franklin be allowed to assess an additional 6.8 million dollars in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of the operating budget for which monies from this assessment will be used for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024?

"The above question will be the only question on the ballot, it is a Yes or No question."

Immediately after receiving ballots, the Town Clerk's Office will be hosting in-person early voting during normal business hours which are Mon., Tues., Thurs. from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will also be one (1) weekend day scheduled for Saturday, June 1st from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Clerk's Office Only.

For Voters who have requested a vote by mail ballot for the State Election (11/5) by completing the card sent by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, you will also be receiving a ballot for this Special Election. If you are unsure that your request was received please contact the town clerks office at (508) 520-

4900 or townclerk@franklinma. gov and we will be happy to assist you. If you would like to receive a Vote-by-Mail application please contact my office or click on the following link: https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/languages/vote-by-mail-applications.htm

Special Election June 11, 2024

6 a.m. to 8 p.m. @ FHS

All mail in ballots must be received in the Clerk's Office by 8 p.m. in order to be counted.

Further info available at https://www.franklinma.gov/town-budget/webforms/fy25-override-information



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91 Oakland, Brockton \$359,000



77 DeerTrack Drive, Taunton \$649,000

SOLD



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82 Main Street, Foxboro \$509,900



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Just Felicia - Boosting Confidence, Lash by Lash

By: Jennifer Russo

Though there is some debate about who said it first, we have all heard that famous saying that "the eyes are the window to the soul." When we make eye contact with others, we instantly have established a connection with that other person. In fact, it is possible to have an entire conversation just with our eyes alone.

Felicia Bleakney, better known as Just Felicia, believes that she was destined to help people look and feel beautiful. Growing up in Massachusetts with a mother that worked as a hair stylist, she knew she also wanted to do something that had the power to create that confidence.

She started by becoming a nail technician and, when eyelash extensions started becoming a popular trend, was really drawn to the art of it and knew it was a path she wanted to venture down. She soon became certified, built up her clientelle, and has since become a true expert in the techniques of the trade. She has won several awards for her

services and has been featured in Gladys Magazine, Lash Magazine and Expert Lashes.

This passion turned into success, and when she opened her own lashing business, it was consistently booked solid within a year. Now, with forty years in the beauty industry and nearly a decade of lashing expertise, she has decided to open a new location in the beautiful Medway Mills.

Felicia believes strongly that when you feel good about how you look, you exude not only confidence, but positivity, and that this has a ripple effect that is so needed in the world today.

There are many reasons why people get eyelash extensions — they give you a brighter, more youthful look that requires less daily maintence. You don't need to wear mascara or curl them, it saves a ton of time, and when done properly they last for weeks. Felicia takes into consideration each client's lifestyle, job, skin care routine, and more.

"I am an absolute perfectionist - lash extensions are not a

Just Felicia Business

one-size-fits-all kind of service and not everyone wants the same look," shares Felicia.

"I personalize every single lash individually, ensuring it is the proper weight. If someone wants more volume, I can do that. If someone wants a wispy look, I strategically apply different sizes. Most people have 2-5 layers of natural lashes and placing the extensions just right is important. I want it to be perfect, every time."

Felicia is also a big advocate for continued learning, educating her clients as well as herself in the latest advancements and trends.

"I am always taking classes because the industry is always changing and adding new things. I like to be on top of it, even sometimes taking the same class with different instructors because everyone can offer unique persectives and ideas.It's such a fun industry and a really great community of people," she says.

Those who would like to have lash extensions done first come in for a consultation, and then an appointment is booked. The first extension application can take around 2-3 hours and prices vary.



The Medway Mills location is now open. With a grand opening event, planned later in the month.

"Clients can expect to walk in to a cool, laid back atmosphere with a glamorous, feminine, victorian vibe. My boyfriend is an artist and is working on a gorgeous wall mural and there will be some fun elements like apple blossoms and a chandelier," Felicia shares.

In addition to eyelash extensions, Felicia offers lash lifts and tinting, brow lamination and tinting, and dermaplaning. She is also a trained makeup artist and looking forward to offering

makeup services in her new studio.

"I want people to instantly feel welcomed, comfortable, and relaxed when they come in and bursting with confidence on their way out. I love what I do and consider it a gift to be able to help people radiate their inner beauty outward."

Felicia books appointments in her own studio and also offers services at Lash L'Amour in Newton. Appointments can be made via her website at www. justfeliciawi.com or by phone/text to (781) 856-5271.

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Amazing Earth Solar Where Electricity Savings Can Truly Be Amazing!

When Jose Rivera's electric bill skyrocketed a few years ago, he knew he had to do something about it. He had been thinking about adding solar energy to his home, but he had heard horror stories, along with great stories, about the process.

Today, Rivera - who lives in Milford with his wife and family - not only has SunPower solar panels and is saving money with them, but he also is an authorized dealer for SunPower.

"We offer a solution to the gamble of the electric company," says Rivera. "The grid is a monopoly, you can't control it, they can increase their prices at any time, and they've already told customers they'll be doing that over the next few years. Amazing Earth Solar offers energy solutions to lower their energy bills."

Why SunPower/Amazing Earth Solar?

Rivera acknowledges there are other solar companies in the market, but SunPower/Amazing Earth Solar is unique in that all solar panels are made in the United States, and the company has one designated phone number for all customer service issues should they arise - customers aren't transferred or told to call other numbers, which Rivera knows can be frustrating.

"The difference between other solar companies and us is that we have '1 Number, 1 Warranty.' We have a 25-year warranty and if you have any problems, you call one number for assistance," says Rivera. "We offer one point of contact and the peace of mind that comes with that."

Also, Rivera says, SunPower has been in business for almost 40 years and is the only solar energy company that has been in business beyond the industry's standard 25-year warranty. "We're the only company that has outlived the 25-year warranty, we have a proven track record of success."

Amazing Earth Solar is based in Peabody and services all New England states.

What's the process?

Rivera said his job is twofold: To sell solar panels, sure; and also to provide education to people just starting to think about solar and beginning to learn about their options.

Customers interested in learning about solar panels can contact Amazing Earth Solar for a no-obligation consultation. The in-person meeting takes about 30 minutes, Rivera reviews the house position, discusses options, and will create a diagram of what the panels would look like on your roof.

"Let me teach you how it works, and you decide for yourself if it makes sense for you," says Rivera.



Business sp⊗tlight

Once you sign a contract, it typically takes 8-12 weeks to get the panels installed and be up and running, says Rivera. And now, with hot and sunny weather right around the corner, is a great time to get solar. "If they call now, the panels could be installed in the summer and start contributing to the grid; the best months to generate sun power are June to October."

What happens after installation?

After installation, you remain connected to the grid, but you only receive a bill if your solar power does not cover the electricity you consume, says Rivera. If customers generate more power than they use (like in the summer months), it rolls forward and becomes a credit in

their account which they can use during the cloudier (like winter) months.

Finally, customers should rest assured that, if they ever have any trouble with the system, or the roof on which the panels sit, they can call SunPower's "1 number" for assistance.

"We need electricity, it's true, but we don't need the high

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prices," says Rivera. "Let Amazing Earth Solar help you get what you need so you can use the money you save for something you want."

For more information, contact Jose Rivera at (978) 761-9844 or email at Jose@ amazingearthsolar.com

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WINS GOLD

continued from page 1

son, the Legends added a piece in the form of Elvis Lynn that pushed them over the threshold to capture the gold medal. Franklin went undefeated during the regular season but during the Regionals were beat up by Springfield for their one and only loss. Luckily, Franklin didn't have to square off against the Western Massachusetts team in the State Championship Round.

Although Franklin was able to avoid the Springfield representative, they almost didn't get a chance to even take part in the Gold Medal Match. Facing Warham in a first round State matchup Franklin found themselves down by nine points at the half with no sign of their top player in sight.

"Elvis and his roommate (Korey Myers) were running late because of their ride to the game and missed the entire first half. Luckily, they made the game and things changed in our favor during the second half and we won the game," Assistant Coach Conley said. "His ability makes a lot

of difference to this team, and the success we've had this year; he's a tall lanky kid that never seems to tire out, much like the Energizer Bunny."

Thankfully, Lynn was able to make it to the game to provide the spark the Legends needed to move onto the Gold Medal game, where they ran amok against the NEARC Magic to take home the gold.

Franklin is made up of eight athletes ranging in age from 22-42 years of age. Johnny Dantona, the team's captain, is the point guard who not only can score when needed, but he knows how to find the open man for the

"He brings the enthusiasm to the court and absolutely loves the game, while some of the other players are happy as clams just to be on the court," Conley said. "In addition to being the selfappointed captain he is also the Enthusiasm King who likes to get everyone on the team involved, along with Elvis they guided the team to victory."

Other players on the team are Scott Conley, a power forward who can score and rebound inside and Mark McCarthy, the hustler of the team – a tenacious defender who is usually found on the floor diving for balls. Also representing Franklin are brothers Kevin (big inside rebounding presence and power forward) and Keith (outside shooter who can knock down the 3-point shot) Cleary and Korey Myers, a big passionate kid who is a great defender.

Rounding out the team is Doug McNulty, the team's elder statesman and cheerleader. According to Conley, McNulty can also score, and when he does, it's always nothing but net.

When Franklin originally joined the Special Olympics, they began as a unified team with helpers on the court. Unfortunately, according to the Assistant Coach, it is very tough to keep helpers because there are very strict rules about them being at every practice as well as the games and it becomes a very high priority commitment.

A few years back, Franklin decided to make the transition from a unified team to a traditional team. Traditional teams are based on the squad's abilities and wide spectrum of capabilities and are then placed in one of five divisions. Last season, Franklin found themselves in a division that was well above their capabilities and did not compete that well.

"We shouldn't have been in the division we were in last year and got crushed on a regular basis. There were a lot of really good teams that just ran over us," Conley said. "This year, they dropped us to a lower division, and with the success that we had, we may have to move up next year as we beat a lot of our competition handily."

Although Franklin may find themselves a victim of that success next year, Conley noted, you can only get better if you play better teams.

One of the most important facets of Franklin being able to win basketball gold at the Special Olympics was everyone on the team not only got to participate, but each and every athlete was able to score, not an easy feat.

Now that they've had a taste of being on top, the Legends are already looking to repeat next season, no matter what division they happen to be playing in.

6th Annual Taste of Tri-County to **Benefit Millis Lions**

The Tri-County Regional Chamber, in collaboration with its MetroWest Networking Group, is delighted to announce the 6th Annual Taste of Tri-County June 11, 2024, 5:30-7:30 p.m. We are heading to a new location this vear the event will take place at Tangerini's Spring Street Farm in Millis. As always, guests can look forward to an array of delectable samples from local restaurants, along with beer, wine, and liquor tastings. Adding to the evening's enjoyment, Mike Tarara from Music Matters will provide live entertainment.

The event is open to the public with \$20 admission tickets being sold at https://www.tricountychamberma.org/store/Tasteof-Millis-2021-p394895218 and at the door.

The goal of hosting this event is to give back to the community. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Millis Lions Club.

Contact Sherri (sherri@tricountychamberma.org) at the Chamber with any questions.

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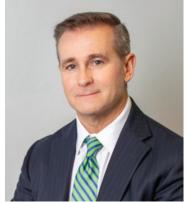
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David M. Gresham

more

The law firm of Wood & Gresham, P.C. in Wrentham is celebrating its 20th anniversary this month.

"We opened in Wrentham in the middle of June in 2004 and have been proudly serving the people of Wrentham and the surrounding communities over the past 20 years," said Attor-

"We empty - the Junk Bag" (3 cubic yards) Call for Price

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ney Daniel J. Wood who, along with his law partner David M. Gresham, run the practice.

"We are a local law firm, conveniently located in Wrentham Center, where clients can actually come to our office, meet with us, and speak to us," says Wood. "We have raised our families in Wrentham and have given back

dent claims. "If I could give them 10 stars, I would. Top notch service, extremely pleasant to work with, always kept me informed, and gave great advice. Whatever your needs are, you will be in great hands!!" - Gina

W., client

Wood said, "When we opened our own firm in 2004, we began representing individuals who were injured in motor vehicle accidents, slip and falls, and workrelated accidents. We found this work particularly rewarding because we were helping injured people 'get back on their feet' and recover fair compensation for their injuries and economic losses...When it comes to personal injury cases, we have the distinct advantage over other law firms of having practiced law on the other side (the defense side), so we know how insurance companies think. We know what elements of a personal injury claim insurance companies look for when evaluating a claim's value, so this helps us maximize the financial recovery for our clients."

"We know how insurance companies think. We know what elements of a personal injury claim insurance companies look



Wood & Gresham examples of success

Case 1 - The Bicyclist

One of the firm's most recent successes was a jury verdict obtained in Norfolk Superior Court last year where Wood represented a bicyclist who was injured in an automobile accident. He was knocked unconscious and sustained a cerebral concussion which lasted approximately 6-8 weeks, a significant laceration to the back of his head requiring 13 staples, and suffered from

The insurance company vehemently disputed who was at fault for the accident and the nature, extent, and causation of the Plaintiff's vertigo. The Defendants' insurer's highest offer prior to trial was \$100,000. After a week-long jury trial, the jury returned a verdict which amounted to over \$413,000 including interest and statutory costs.

Case 2 - The Dream House

After many months of frustrating legal hurdles, the firm recently helped a young couple purchase their dream home. The firm obtained a settlement for a client who was involved in a minor motor vehicle accident that some people may have considered a small settlement, but to this particular client, the settlement was enough to put a down payment on a house for him and his family.

for when evaluating a claim's value, so this helps us maximize the financial recovery for our clients."

In addition to personal injury cases, the firm offers services in estate planning and real estate. When the firm opened in 2004, the partners noticed there was a "real need in the community to help people with estate planning (wills and trusts), probate, and real estate purchases and sales" - a need they have filled for two decades.

"We began concentrating in those areas and have found this to be very rewarding because we are helping people in the community deal with important aspects or events in their lives. Everyone needs an attorney to help them create a customized estate plan. Everyone needs help probating a family member's Will at some point; and most people eventually need help buying or selling a home. For these reasons,

we want people in the community to know that we offer these services, as well as personal injury representation."

And if they don't offer a particular service, they can refer people to an attorney who does.

"We always tell people that, if they have any legal problem at all, just give us a call, because even if we don't handle those kinds of issues, we usually can refer them to another attorney who specializes in that area," says Wood.

How to start

If you need legal advice, Wood & Gresham, P.C. is available 24/7 and they offer in-person and virtual meetings. For a free consultation, contact them by phone (508) 503-1137 or (508) 384-2008), email (dwood@ woodgresham.com) or through their website (www.woodgresham.com/contact).

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Thanks, Dad - For Showing How to Lead, then Trusting to Follow



Glenn Brown, CFP

Fatherhood isn't just about providing; it's about leading by example, imparting wisdom, and instilling values that echo through generations. As Father's Day approaches, it's time to pause and express gratitude for these silent architects of our lives.

This will be my first without my dad, who passed last month at 94. He had a great run as he lived an active lifestyle with emphasis on volunteerism, a farmer's work ethic and humility.

Growing up on a dairy farm in Hampton Falls, NH, he attended nearby UNH to study agriculture and worked on the farm through his late 20's. As with many farms in the 1950's, financials and scale would impact their ability to operate, so he took a job as a rural mail career

He'd retire 34 years later in this same capacity, never seeking to climb the corporate ladder nor amass great sums of money. He, along with my mom who left teaching high school to stay at home, found more value in being present for my childhood and creating an environment to provide better opportunities than

I experienced his leadership through my involvement in team sports, Cub Scouts, and school activities. But what awe-struck this kid was his being in the Volunteer Fire Department (including Fire Warden) for 20-plus years. The visits to the firehouse with guys greeting "Forrest!", his gear ready to go in our hallway, fire scanner in the bedroom and of course, seeing him come home. Sometimes it would be in the middle of the night or in the early morning where he'd shower, eat breakfast, and go to work as the only mailman in town because "someone's gotta deliver the mail".

As my dad led by example in work ethic and volunteerism, he also learned to trust in my expertise and insights as an adult. This reciprocal exchange of trust signifies the evolving nature of the parent-child relationship. Fathers trust their children to carry forward their legacy and ensure trust with my dad was nurtured through open dialogue, shared decision-making, and a mutual commitment to the family's collective goals.

Let me be clear, it wasn't always easy. It can be a humbling realization – to see the roles reversed, to witness the wisdom and innovation of the next generation, and to have the courage to follow their lead. There were times he'd feel anxiety towards change, whether all proper precautions were being taken and he'd reference others who were doing something different.

From a financial planning perspective, some examples of actions taken (with his initial reaction) included: establishing a revocable trust ("Why, we're not loaded"), maintaining long-term care insurance ("It's getting so expensive, I might never use it"), and converting his modest IRA to Roth in January 2009 plus switch to growth investments ("I'm too old for that").

And of course, the greatest combination of financial and well-being in old age planning - knowing when it's time to get

support for elder care ("Your mother and I are going to sell our home, move to Mass and live with you, your wife, and young kids - are you crazy?!").

As I look back on the last 5 1/2 years since that decision, his ability to trust and follow plans made for some of the most relaxed experiences together as a father and son. We could both focus on developing fond memories and instilled values with our girls, his granddaughters. For this, and many other reasons, I say thanks Dad and Happy Father's Day.

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

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

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> > top L to R: Melissa . Baratta, Hallie Wetzell. Kellie Stamp, Casey Harkness Andrade, Bottom L to R: Michael Baratta, Nick Paone, Robbie Rescigno, **April Lisette**

ily 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 nearapocalyptic meltdown. Fiercely funny and bitingly sad...[a] turbo-charged tragicomedy... The New York Times. August: Osage County con-

tains 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 FPAConline.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.

Gary Hoey is Coming to Franklin!

Renowned Blues Guitarist to Close Out 42nd Annual Franklin July 4th Celebration, July 3-7th

World-renowned blues rock guitarist Gary Hoey, named one of the top 100 guitarists of all time, will be playing on the town common on Sunday, July 7th at 4 p.m. Gary will be the last musical act during the 42nd Annual Franklin July 4th Celebration, which will take place from Wednesday, July 3rd through Sunday, July 7th.

Gary thrills his audiences with action-packed shows that draw on his 22 albums, extensive touring, and mastery of the electric guitar. Gary and his band weave a tight set list of originals and covers that mix rock tunes with aching blues ballads played on his resonator guitar, and the fan requests like the Billboard hit that kicked off his career, Hocus Pocus. Gary's ability to combine heartfelt storytelling with his amazing guitar skills is a masterclass in enjoyable music.

A driven songwriter, player, producer and teacher, Gary has worked with great artists across all generations, like Ted Nugent, Joe Satriani, Kenny Wayne



Shepard, Joe Bonamassa, Steve Vai, Peter Frampton, Johnny Winter, Ally Venable, Quinn Sullivan, Robben Ford, Jeff Beck, Lita Ford, Roger Daltrey and many more.

There is no cover charge to see Gary perform in Franklin. Just bring your lawn chair and your appetite as local non-profit organizations will be on site to offer a variety of food items. For more details visit www. franklin4th.com.

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Franklin Food Pantry Thanks Volunteers with Luncheon

28 Receive President's Volunteer Service Award for Exemplary Service

The Franklin Food Pantry, which provides supplemental food assistance and essential service programs, held a volunteer luncheon to recognize and celebrate pantry volunteers who collectively gave more than 10,000 hours in 2023 to help end food insecurity. Held on April 24, 2024, the event took place during National Volunteer Appreciation Month and included special guests Franklin Town Administrator Jamie Hellen, Deputy Town Administrator Amy Frigulietti, and Franklin Town Board Members Cobi Frongillo and Mel Hamblen. New England Chapel of Franklin donated space for the luncheon, East Central Starbucks and Twist Bakery donated refreshments and food, and Shaw's Supermarkets and The Chateau provided items at a discounted cost.

The celebration included presentation of the 2023 President's Volunteer Service Award to 28 volunteers whose service positively impacts the Franklin Community and inspires others to act. The Gold Award, for 500+ volunteer hours in a calendar year, was presented to Amber Baur and Community Garden volunteers. The Silver Award, for 250 to 499 volunteer hours, was presented to Diane Daddario, Suzanne Gendreau, Joseph O'Koren, Kym Pruitt, and Maureen Sabolinski. The Bronze Award, for 100 to 174 volunteer hours, was presented to Dominic Agostino, David Bascom, Chris Bond, Colleen Bond, Teresa Burr, Vicki Coates, Erika Cummings, David Custer, Mary Anne Dean, Kim DeCrescenzo, Robert Doyle, Angela Draper, Rachel Flum, Karen Guiliano, Richard Guiliano, Pat Llewellyn, Carol Malachowski, Donna O'Neill, Scott Pond, Nancy Schoen, and Roberta Trahan.

"Frankin Food Pantry volunteers are extraordinary individuals who have dedicated their time, effort, and compassion to serve our community," said Tina Powderly, Executive Director Franklin Food Pantry. "Their commitment alleviates hunger and plants the seeds of empow-



Franklin Town Administrator
Jamie Hellen (R) presents
David Bascom (L) with the 2023
President's Volunteer Service
Award at the Franklin Food
Pantry's annual volunteer lunch.
Photos by Lynn Ann Falvey and David
Marshak, Stony Brook Camera Club

erment, dignity, and resilience within our community."

Each week, more than 100 individuals volunteer at The Pantry, which strives to make the volunteer experience both welcoming and rewarding. The Pantry recently conducted a volunteer survey with 99 percent of respondents stating they enjoyed working with other volunteers, felt appreciated, found staff help-



Pantry volunteers Erika Cummings (L) and Maureen Sabolinski (R), both awarded the 2023 President's Volunteer Service Award, spend time together at the Franklin Food Pantry's annual volunteer lunch.



ful, and are very satisfied with their volunteer experience. In 2022 and 2023, The Pantry was voted as Best Place to Volunteer by MyFM 101.3's Quest for the Best contest.

For more information, or to submit a volunteer application, please visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org.

Police Therapy Dog Benjamin Franklin is hopeful for some of Officer Amanda Ayer's lunch at the Franklin Food Pantry's annual volunteer lunch.



Franklin Composer's 1st Chamber Opera to Be Performed June 9th

Dr. Jon Ceander Mitchell's "Mary Anning, Fossil Hunter" to Feature Greater Milford Community Chorus, Others at First Universalist Society

By Angie Fitton

Not everyone gets to live a life dedicated to the thing they're most passionate about. That is not true for Dr. Jon Ceander Mitchell. He's a Chicago native, but has lived in Franklin for over twenty years.

Dr. Mitchell holds the title "Professor Emeritus of Music" at University of Massachusetts Boston, where he served as Conductor of the Chamber Orchestra and Coordinator of Music Education for nearly a quarter of a century. He has over one hundred publications to his credit. This includes ten CDs, with professional orchestras, and eight books. He was the 2019 recipient of the College Orchestra Directors Association (CODA) Lifetime Achievement Award and currently serves on the boards of the International Conductors Guild and IGEB.

In 2019, Dr. Mitchell and his adult son visited England, where they saw iconic treasures such as Stonehenge. They also visited the

shoreline village of Lyme Regis, where Mitchell became inspired to write his very first opera about "Mary Anning: Fossil Hunter." The characters in the opera are based on real-life people that Mitchell researched while in England. "I spent hours reading about Mary Anning," Mitchell explains.

Born in 1799, Mary is actually quite the miracle; as a baby, she was in the arms of a woman who was standing under a tree, and that tree got struck by lightning, and because the woman was standing on a root, she was electrocuted, as was Mary. Mary's father rushed his daughter home where he and his wife put her into a warm bath and somehow resuscitated her.

As a teenager, she and the love of her life, Henry de la Beche, would scour the shores searching for seashells and fossils, though their being together caused conflict, because, unlike Mary, Henry was part of the upper class, and his family believed Mary wasn't good enough for him. This is only one of the conflicts taking place in the opera.

The other conflict is that, as a woman, Mary and her works were often discredited or stolen by men as their own. Mary was a self-taught geologist who carved out a life for herself, but it was believed that she had no right to be involved with sciences because they were dominated by British gentlemen, and in the 1800's, women were nowhere near equal to men. It is also believed that Mary was the source of the tongue twister "She sells seashells by the seashore," which will be sung in the opera.

"Mary Anning: Fossil Hunter" took Dr. Mitchell two years to write, and then another two years to refine. He began with the idea of doing something small to honor Mary and the finished product is an opera that lasts over an hour. Once he finished the opera, he started on his path to bringing it to the stage.

Dr. Mitchell's first call was to Jessica Cooper, head of the Henry Purcell Society of Boston, because she has been curating and directing programs for over



Shown, principal cast members, from left, Mark Schiappucci (Richard Owen), Frank Walker (William Conybeare), Daniel Fridley (William Buckland), Aurora Martin (Mary Anning), Emily Bieber-Harris (Elizabeth), and Luis Viquez, conductor.

a decade at the University of Massachusetts. Upon reaching out, Cooper gave Mitchell many names of people he could contact in regard to putting on his opera. He decided to partner with the Greater Milford Community Chorus, as well as five very talented opera singers, conductor Richard Owen, and eight instrumentalists to present the show.

"I'm not conducting the opera myself, because I am too close to the material," Dr. Mitchell states while emphatically discussing his piece and the people who will take part in it. He then looked into numerous venues for live arts, ultimately deciding upon The First Universalist Society of Franklin, who are highly enthused about the performance taking place. The opera will be performed at the Meeting House on June 9th at 3 p.m.

"This opera was such a joy to create," Dr. Mitchell says while talking about how his retirement years have been good to him. The Franklin Cable TV station will be videoing the performance and Mitchell will be interviewed on Franklin Public Radio, wfpr.fm, after the opera takes place.



The b.LUXE **beauty beat**

An Interview With a Very Special b.LUXE Client

By GINA WOELFEL

Beauty and cancer are two words that, for most people, don't naturally go together. Going through something as traumatizing as a cancer diagnosis can disconnect you from your relationship with yourself and shatter your beauty ideals. In short, cancer is ugly.

At b.LUXE, we see clients daily for all their hair, makeup and skincare needs. We help them feel stylish, trendy, and confident. Most days, giving beauty advice comes easily, but some days, it tugs at our heartstrings and redefines what it means to feel beautiful.

Kathy Curran first met Heather, the owner of b.LUXE Hair and Makeup, over 15 years ago when Heather was working at The Sherborn Day Spa. Kathy booked with Heather when her stylist changed her hours, and they "instantly clicked." When Heather opened b.LUXE in 2011, Kathy followed and has been a loyal client and friend ever since. "While I was sitting at Heather's new salon having my hair done and absorbing the whole atmosphere, I thought, this feels like family, and this is where I want to be. Heather cracks me up," says Kathy. "We laugh and laugh every time I see her, but she has also helped me through some rough times.'

"In August of 2021, I found a lump in my breast. I had an echocardiogram a few weeks earlier, and I remember thinking that the technician was rough and the area hurt like I'd been bruised. I took a short trip with my husband, and I was still hurting when I returned," explained Kathy. "I called my doctor, and she saw me right away. She scheduled a mammogram and ultrasound that afternoon. They confirmed the mass and immediately sent me for a biopsy."

"While waiting for my results, I didn't let myself get too nervous or down. I was diagnosed during COVID-19, and processing times for pathology were delayed," Kathy shared. "I read everything I could about breast cancer and genuinely believed that the mass would be benign. On Friday evening, while having supper with my family, my primary care physician called to tell me I had cancer."

When Kathy met with her treatment team in Boston, they explained to her that she had a very aggressive kind of cancer that could not be treated with conventional drugs. She was handed a mountainous stack of paperwork and release forms that detailed her grueling treatment process and its problematic side effects. After reading through everything once, she set it aside. She knew she would have to endure severe nausea, stomach upset, total body hair loss, and extreme exhaustion, but this was her only chance. "I remember thinking this is what soldiers must feel like going into battle. You don't know what will happen or if you'll come out on the other side, but you do it anyway



because it's the price you pay to be alive."

"Heather was one of the first people I called to help me prepare for my hair loss," Kathy remembered. "It was an emotional phone call. I remember saying I needed to see her and told her why. It was like telling a sister, if you know what I mean. We both cried. She was so sweet and apologized for the tears. She told me she'd get me in, and we'd figure out what to do. I remember sitting in her chair telling her to chop it really, really short. I didn't want big clumps of hair falling out all at once. She looked at me with all sincerity and said something so inappropriate and yet so funny, we both burst out laughing." Kathy remembers that laugh felt like "a breath of fresh air" in the darkness of a cancer diagnosis. "Honestly, she's done that more than once over the course of our relationship, but that particular time was very poignant. Heather has this crazy, quirky sense of humor. That's her gift. She makes people



laugh and feel better. She cut my hair really short and sassy and I looked great for the couple of weeks I still had my hair."

Kathy started her treatment in September 2021. She underwent two surgeries in April and June of 2022: a partial mastectomy with a bilateral reduction and another surgery to address an infection. Kathy began radiation treatment in June 2022 and continued to receive infusions until December. She still gets a bone-strengthening infusion every six months until next summer. Kathy has been in remission since April 2022.

I asked her if her beauty ideals had changed at all after going through such an ordeal.

"I bought a book on makeup and how to look your best during chemo. I'm not makeup crazy, but I was very scared about my appearance," she explained. "When my hair started to come back it was coming back curly and I thought, oh my. Heather loved it and thought it was great! I thought I looked like my mother and my siblings were kind of freaked out!"

When Kathy's hair grew back curly, there were still patches that grew straight. She joked with me, "I didn't know what to do! I didn't want to look like Albert Einstein!" Heather told her she could do a smoothing treatment, but Kathy opted to embrace her curls. "I had gotten so comfortable with being lazy about my appearance. I don't mean lazy in the sense of letting it go, I mean taking the easy route. I just do a little bit of mascara, a little bit of blush and I stick my head under

the sink in the morning and wet my hair and it's done."

When I asked Kathy if perhaps she was focusing more on different things, she told me, "Well, that's just it. It became less of a priority. There were so many other things that were more important. I cared about my appearance, but I didn't want to spend a lot of time on it now. I just kind of changed my beauty routine and Heather has really helped me do that because she's like a cheerleader. When I see her, she always says, 'OK, how's your hair? I want you to love it!' And I say, Heather, I'm not sure I'm ever gonna love it, but, you know, I'm in a place now where I can look at it, and it's my victory crown."

While preparing for the Beauty Beat last month, I asked Heather for five client names to contact for our June column titled "Getting to Know You." We planned to interview customers from nearby towns and write about their experiences at b.LUXE. However, Kathy was my first call, and after our initial talk, I realized there was a much bigger story to tell.

Hers...

Thank you for sharing your story with us, Kathy. Beauty and cancer are two words that don't naturally belong together, but you showed us that you can find beauty despite cancer, and that strength, bravery, and grace all come from within.

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FSPA Summer 2024 and Fall 2024-25 Enrollment Open

Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) is now enrolling for Summer 2024 and Fall 2024-25. The school encourages new families to explore their options for both Summer and Fall.

Proudly serving more than 500 students annually from 45 communities in Massachusetts' Metro West region, the Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) is committed to quality education in the arts with exceptional curriculum, outstanding professional faculty, and unwavering dedication to each and every student enrolled. Founded in 1985 by Director Raye Lynn Mercer, FSPA is a unique place where students of all ages and levels of ability participate in an array of music, dance, and drama programs with professional instruction and extraordinary performing opportunities. With broad-based and varied curricula, FSPA guides students in the development of technique, creativity, and artistic expression to last a lifetime. FSPA's faculty boasts outstanding professional artists, performers, and teachers. Their impressive credentials are indicative of the excellent instruction available in all programs. FSPA instructors strive to meet the individual needs of each student, working to develop



Current FSPA Senior Finley Doherty in an FSPA vocal performance

each student's abilities to his or her own potential.

In addition to the Summer Session weekly classes, FSPA will hold one week camps including Creative Kids, Acting, Broadway, Little Music School Experience, Rock Out!, and Voice. FSPA will also offer 5 weeks of Summer Theater. Students can sign up for one or more of the offerings. The more students participate, the more they save. July 29-August 2 is a one week intensive for grades 4-8 and 8-12 that will focus on the rehearsal and preparation of a play that will be performed at THE BLACK BOX. The plays will be selected for each age group based on enrollment. August 5-9 for grades 4-8 and 8-12 culminates with the production of Musical Theater Scenes staged at THE BLACK BOX. August 12-13 is Broadway Boot Camp. Broadway Boot Camp brings Broadway's brightest talents to FSPA for song and dance master classes and coaching on individual performance skills. August 14-16 is the Cabaret Show for grades 5-12. Students will hone their skills and tap into their potential with a focus on performance skills, including repertoire choices, song interpretation, and presentation. The week concludes with a cabaret-style revue at THE BLACK BOX, showcasing solo and small ensemble pieces that have been workshopped during the week.

Ballet Franklin, the ballet conservatory at FSPA, will offer their Young Intensive July 8-25. This three-week program is designed to challenge and motivate the young dancer. Instruction in classical ballet technique, pre-pointe, modern, and dance history is offered. Additional disciplines may vary depending upon enrollment and teacher availability. Students will have the opportunity to learn choreography in all the disciplines, take Master Classes with FSPA Faculty and Guest Artists, receive individualized instruction, experience camaraderie in a friendly environment, and participate in a professional dance photo shoot.

FSPA is located at 38 Main Street, Franklin MA. To register or learn more, visit www.FSPAonline.com or call (508) 528-8668.

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Living Healthy

Over 40 and Tired of Wearing Reading Glasses?

Refractive Lens Exchange May Be for You

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

Refractive Lens Exchange (RLE) stands as a transformative solution for those grappling with vision impairments and hate wearing glasses. This intricate surgical procedure replaces the natural lens of the eye with an artificial one, offering a path to clearer sight and reduced dependence on corrective lenses. In this article, we delve into the depths of RLE, exploring its intricacies, indications, benefits, potential risks, and alternative options.

Understanding Refractive Lens Exchange

RLE, often referred to as lens replacement surgery, is primarily utilized to rectify refractive errors such as severe nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism. Moreover, it effectively addresses age-related vision issues like presbyopia, which typically affects individuals over 40. Unlike LASIK or PRK, which reshape the cornea, RLE involves substituting the eye's natural lens with an artificial one, often termed an intraocular lens (IOL).

Indications for Refractive Lens Exchange

The ideal candidates for RLE are individuals experiencing progressive vision deterioration due to refractive errors or age-related changes in the lens. Candidates typically exhibit:

Significant refractive errors, including severe nearsightedness, farsightedness, or astigmatism.

Age-related vision issues, particularly presbyopia, resulting in difficulty focusing on close ob-

Ineligibility for LASIK or PRK due to factors like thin corneas, high refractive errors, or unstable vision.

Desire for decreased dependence on glasses or contact lenses for clear vision.

Best Candidates for RLE

The most suitable candidates for RLE often meet the following

Age: Candidates are typically over 40 years old, experiencing age-related changes in vision.

Stable Prescription: Their refractive error should have stabilized, ensuring accurate preoperative measurements.

Good Eve Health: Candidates should have healthy eyes without conditions such as glaucoma, macular degeneration, or severe dry eye syndrome.

Realistic Expectations: They should possess a clear understanding of the procedure's goals, benefits, and potential risks.

Benefits of Refractive Lens Exchange

RLE offers a plethora of benefits, making it an attractive option for those seeking vision correction:

Permanent Vision Improvement: RLE provides long-lasting vision correction, potentially eliminating the need for glasses





or contact lenses.

Enhanced Visual Quality: The use of premium IOLs can enhance contrast sensitivity and reduce glare, improving overall visual quality.

Addressing Age-related Vision Issues: RLE effectively treats presbyopia, allowing individuals to regain near and distance vision without relying on bifocals or reading glasses.

Predictable Outcomes: With advanced preoperative testing and surgical techniques, RLE offers predictable and precise re-

Lifestyle Enhancement: Improved vision can enhance daily activities such as driving, reading, and participating in sports or hobbies.

No future cataract: Since RLE involves removing and replacing the natural lens, there will never be a cataract in your future because the lens that can cause a cataract and require cataract surgery will be removed.

Risks Associated with Refractive Lens Exchange

While RLE is generally safe and effective, there are potential risks and complications to con-

Infection: As with any surgical procedure, there is a risk of infection, although it is rare with

Glaucoma: Some individuals may develop increased intraocular pressure following surgery, potentially leading to glaucoma.

Retinal Detachment: In rare cases, RLE may increase the risk of retinal detachment, particularly in individuals predisposed to the condition.

Posterior Capsule Opacification: This common complication involves clouding of the capsule behind the IOL, which can be treated with a simple laser procedure.

Refractive Error: While precise measurements are taken preoperatively, there is a possibility of residual refractive error necessitating additional procedures or corrective lenses.

Alternatives to Refractive Lens Exchange

While RLE offers significant advantages, alternative options may be considered based on individual preferences and circum-

LASIK (Laser-Assisted In Situ Keratomileusis): LASIK reshapes the cornea using a laser to correct refractive errors, making it suitable for individuals with relatively stable vision and healthy corneas. LASIK does not correct reading vision after 40.

PRK (Photorefractive Keratectomy): PRK involves removing the corneal epithelium and reshaping the cornea to correct refractive errors, making it an option for individuals with thin corneas or irregular corneal surfaces. PRK does not correct reading vision after 40.

Implantable Contact Lenses (ICLs): ICLs are surgically implanted lenses that work with the eye's natural lens to correct





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Stamp Out Hunger Brings 11,000 Lbs. of Food to Franklin Food Pantry

On Saturday, May 11, 2024, Franklin, Massachusetts letter carriers participated in the annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive to benefit the Franklin Food Pantry. More than 11,000 pounds of food was collected from Franklin residents, which equates to more than 9,000 meals.

The Pantry extends its gratitude to the letter carriers who filled their truck with the much-needed food. Thank you to the generous residents of Franklin, the committed volunteers who sorted and restocked the food, Stop & Shop in Franklin for lending grocery carts to easily transport the food, the extra support from Jim Sierra, and the Franklin Senior Center for providing the



These U.S. Postal workers are all smiles bringing in their donations.

extra space to collect, check, and sort the food.

Photos used courtesy of Franklin Food Pantry.



Working together to make a difference.



Franklin Food Pantry volunteers happily open donation bags.



Lots of donations make for lots of unpacking!



Volunteers carefully check expiration dates of donated items.

EYES

continued from page 16

refractive errors, offering a reversible alternative to RLE for younger individuals. ICLs will not correct reading vision after 40.

Monovision: This approach corrects one eye for distance vision and the other for near vision, providing an alternative for individuals with presbyopia who prefer to maintain some degree of natural vision. Monovision can cause a loss of depth perception. Your brain may or may not get used to monovision.

Conclusion

Refractive Lens Exchange emerges as a revolutionary solution for individuals seeking lasting vision correction. By replacing the eye's natural lens with an artificial one, RLE offers a path to clearer vision and reduced dependence on corrective lenses. It is amazing to be able to reduce dependency on glasses, both for distance and near. While it presents numerous benefits, candidates should carefully consider the potential risks and alternatives before undergoing surgery. With advancements in surgical techniques and intraocular lens technology, RLE continues to redefine the landscape of vision correction, providing hope and clarity to countless individuals worldwide.

RLE is all about better precision, freedom from glasses for far and near and excellent outcomes. At Milford Franklin Eye Center, our surgeons have performed tens of thousands of intraocular surgeries and are happy to offer the RLE procedure to our communities. We implant high quality premium lenses, with correction for distance, near and everything in between. Our percentage of posterior capsule complications and infections is one of the lowest in the US and is measured by independent sources. 100% of the surgeries are performed under topical anesthesia, so only drops, no need for shots and their risks and no need for stitches. Our surgery center is state-ofthe-art and staffed by anesthesia full time. We treat our patients like family and ethically: we do not charge you fees for using our OR as another practice in Milford is doing. Our surgeries are performed in a certified and accredited surgery center, not in an office. World class outcomes closer to home.

For more details, see our ad on page 16.

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Internship Program Gives Local Students Management Experience

By J.D. O'GARA

Neo Paradis has big dreams. The Marketing major at the Isenberg School of Management (Class of 2027), who grew up in Bellingham, is starting a summer business running a local branch of Student Painters as an internship through a program called Young Entrepreneurs Across America.

"I am especially excited to be serving people from my hometown and the surrounding area," says Paradis, who's looking to employ his peers from the area - "go-getters over 18, happy to be working under the sun.'

Neo's friend, Parham Danial, is from Franklin. The two met while working at GlenPharmer Distillery, but were pleased to discover they had both been accepted to the same program as undergrads.

"So, I moved to America about 6-7 years ago, and when I just came here, my cousin was looking at a lot of colleges. One of the first colleges she went to was UMass Amherst, and

Quality Tree Care

I thought, I want to go here." When he was ready, Parham, who's interested in a career in Real Estate, searched for colleges and discovered Isenberg was a good program for management.

Both students are ambitious in their career hopes.

"I kind of have the entrepreneurship bug," says Paradis, who had a taste of entrepreneurship with his friend, Joshua Klien, who moved to Colorado from Bellingham.

"Fresh out of COVID, going into our junior year, we started a clothing brand, Peacekeeper, LLC," says Paradis. That line, however, didn't see the profits the two wanted, and Paradis says there was no real management or human resources. "The only person we really had to hire was one-off fiber artists," he says. With Student Painters, he says, "I can not only make money over the summer, but also fill in the gaps on what my clothing brand hadn't taught me, yet," says Neo.

This summer program provides Neo with a mentor, seed money to start out, and flyers. At press time, he had, so far, five employees and four potential employees awaiting interview, and all the training for Student Painters is provided, says Neo.

Parham was one of his first

"Parham is the closest friend I have," says Neo, who attended elementary and middle school in Bellingham and high school in Holliston, "I won't always be able to be onsite, so if I can make Parham my production manager and just set him up to have that managerial experience and have that great resume builder, again, that's super rewarding."

Parham gained a small amount of painting experience working at a concert area in Mansfield, but he's looking forward to gaining experience with houses, since he'll be working in real estate. He's also looking forward to helping Neo manage the summer employees.

"I'm going to be able to get experience managing students and also making money will also be great," says Parham.

Neo is happy the Student Painters group handles liability insurance, worker's compensation, and EPA certification. "OSHA also runs health and safety codes we have to adhere to," he adds. Although the company is not part of UMass, he says, "My mentor was a UMass



Shown, on right, is Bellingham resident Neo Paradis, with his friend, Parham Danial, from Franklin, on the left, both students at UMass Amherst's Isenberg School of Management. Paradis is participating in an internship through a program called Young Entrepreneurs Across America running a branch of Student Painters, and Parham will be his assistant manager.

alum, Parham goes to UMass, they market at UMass, professors let them come into their lectures and give opportunities there."

Neo has gained marketing experience for the group up to this point, going door-to-door to get a client list and scheduling estimates. He hopes to have earned \$18K by the end of the summer and see a revenue of

"If I can do that, that would crazily set me up for my future, because I've been saving and

investing since I've (had) a job," says the enthusiastic young entrepreneur.

What will he do with those earnings and investments?

"Assuming the average price for a home is \$450K, with a down payment I could get a home in college, and that would be a massive steppingstone, especially if I could rent it out to college kids," says Paradis.

Any local college students interested in working with Paradis can reach him by cell at (508) 808-0564.





SAFE Coalition Holds Fundraising Gala

On Wednesday, May 15, 2024, the SAFE Coalition hosted a fundraising gala at the Lakeview Pavilion in Foxboro. The night featured former New

Millis Fire Department received the "Jeffrey N. Roy Excellence in Public Service Award," awarded annually to person(s) who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to prevention and/or treatment of Substance Use Disorder.





England Patriots linebacker Rob Ninkovitch, presentations of awards, testimonials, and remarks from elected officials, as well as a live auction.

Norfolk County Commissioner Richard Staiti presented SAFE CEO Jennifer Levine with a \$100,000 check in Norfolk County ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds.



SAFE Gala Honored speaker former New England Patriots Rob Ninkovitch, center, flanked by Rep. Jeff Roy, left, and Sen. Becca Rausch, right.

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Disability Expo Offered One-Stop Resource for Residents

the Franklin Commission for Persons with Disabilities held its second Disability Expo at the Franklin Senior Center. The event drew many attendees and included vendors and resources

On Saturday, May 4th, 2024, for folks with disabilities. To reach the Commission, visit https://www.franklinma.gov/ commission-persons-disabilities or call (508) 440-1265 or email dignityrespectmary@yahoo.





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Tree Planting Ceremony at Franklin's Dacey Field Park



Left to Right - Tony Brunetta (Assistant Highway & Grounds Superintendent), Amy M. Frigulietti (Deputy Town Administrator) Ted Cormier-Leger (Town Councilor), Cobi Frongillo (Town Councilor), Carlos Rebelo (Highway & Grounds Superintendent), Jeffrey N. Roy (State Representative), David Leonhard (TruGreen Region Director) and Michael Reed, (TruGreen Market General Manager) Photo by James Gay.

On May 2nd, the Town of Franklin, in partnership with TruGreen accepted 100 trees through their "TruNeighbor" program. The donation of Black Gum, October Morning Glory, Kousa Dogwood, and Grenspire Linden trees, coordinated by State Rep. Jeffery N. Roy (D-Franklin). The trees are part of a partnership between TruGreen and the National Arbor Day Foundation.

To commemorate, a treeplanting ceremony was held at Dacey Field in Franklin, in which one of the first trees received was planted.

"On the heels of Earth Day and Arbor Day, we would like to extend our gratitude to both TruGreen Lawn Care in Franklin for their donation of 100 trees and Representative Roy for coordinating this gift to the Town", stated Amy Frigulietti, Franklin's Deputy Town Administrator. "Franklin has made significant strides in recent years towards protecting and enhancing our green infrastructure through open space acquisition, conservation efforts and sustainable practices..."

Representative Roy stated, "From the perspective of climate change and global warming, these trees are actually carboncapture devices, and I'm thrilled that TruGreen made them available to us..." Between savings in electricity, fuel, and stormwater, CO2 and air value, he pointed out these trees will provide an estimated \$43,614.87 in savings for Franklin residents.

Carlos Rebelo, Town of Franklin Highway and Grounds Superintendent also thanked TruGreen and Roy, adding Franklin is a 'Tree City USA Member.' As such, "We take pride in planting trees around town and understand the many benefits trees provide ... At the Dacey Community Park located on Lincoln Street we will be planting 25 trees at this park which will provide many benefits like shade, support wildlife, add

curb appeal, oxygen for the environment and helping to combat global warming. The other trees will be given away through a Street Tree Lottery for residents to plant and also to other environmental justice areas like the Franklin Housing Author-

Town Council member Cobi Frongillo added his thanks on behalf of the town for helping "save Franklin money, beautify the Town, and reduce our carbon footprint," and Michael Reed, TruGreen's Market General Manager was happy "to be able to partner with State Representative Jeff Roy and The National Arbor Day Foundation with the donation of 100 trees to our hometown of Franklin."

The upcoming "street tree lottery" with will be advertised throughout the Town and social media. The one condition will be that the tree must be planted along the roadside in front of their property.

Free Alzheimer's Educational Conference June 12

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) will host a free Alzheimer's & Caregiving Educational Conference on Wednesday, June 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wyndham Boston

Beacon Hill (5 Blossom Street, Boston) as part of its 2024 national Educating America Tour. The free conference is open to everyone and will allow participants to learn from experts in

the field of Alzheimer's disease, brain health, caregiving, and research. To register, go to www. alzfdn.org/tour.

Franklin First Universalist Society to Hold Special Pride Month Service

June 2, 2024, 10 a.m., 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin

On June 2, 2024 the First Universalist Society of Franklin (FUSF), a Welcoming Congregation, will celebrate Pride Month at our 10 a.m. service. The Welcoming Congregation designation of the Unitarian Universalist Association means we intentionally include LGBTQIA individuals in all aspects of congregational life and provide safe spaces that honor every part of our identities, backgrounds, and

experiences.

This service will focus on the importance of allies in the lives of LGBTQIA individuals and what it means for people of all ages, gender expressions and sexual orientations to have a Welcoming Congregation such as FUSF welcome them fully into our community.

The First Universalist Society in Franklin is a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congrega-



tion located at 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin MA. For further information, explore our website



(fusf.org) or contact our Interim Minister, the Reverend Beverly

Waring, at (508) 528- 5348 or minister@fusf.org

June 7th Strawberry Stroll: a Great Start to Summer!

The 20th Annual Strawberry Stroll is ready to go. This town favorite is set for Friday, June 7 from 4 to 8 pm. The rain date is Saturday the 8th from 4 to 8 p.m.. The stroll is on Main Street which will be closed to traffic so visitors can easily and safely walk. Come to downtown Franklin to start your summer!

Dean Bank's staff will be serving the signature strawberry shortcakes under tents in front of the bank. Fresh strawberries donated and cut by Dean College will top hundreds of shortcakes and be completed with whipped cream. Proceeds from strawberry shortcake sales are allocated to the Downtown Partnership to help fund the event.

Here's what else you can ex-

Booths will have fun activities for children, a variety of giveaways, delicious food, information about organizations and businesses, and fabulous strawberry shortcake.

Musical entertainment by Heath Nisbett playing acoustic guitar, 4 to 6 p.m.; Dom DeBaggis playing acoustic guitar, 6 to 8 p.m.; Feet in Motion Dance Studio offering two performances during the afternoon/evening. Radio station MyFM 101.3 will broadcast from 4 to 8 p.m. Franklin Fire Department will have Touch A Truck, Sparky, and fire safety information; and Franklin Historical Museum will be open.

"Year after year this event attracts more visitors and vendors. It's always an exciting day to see so many people enjoying themselves and some strawberry cake," said Kevin Johnson, Strawberry Stroll Chairman. "What better way to kick off the summer than joining others and listening to live music on Main

Event organizer Franklin Downtown Partnership is grateful for the financial support from community businesses. This



by the support of the follow-Dean College. Gold Sponsors: Camford Property Group, Inc., Dean Bank, The Enclave of Franklin Senior Living, Glen Meadows Apartments, Middlesex Savings Bank. Silver Sponsor: Notturno Home Services. Bronze Sponsors: Beaux Regards Photographic Art, Chestnut Dental, DCU, Eagle Stainless Tube & Fabrication, Fenton Financial Group, LeafFilter Gutter Protection, Peel Microspa.

Follow the Franklin Downtown Partnership on:

https://www.instagram.com/ franklindowntownpartnership/

https://www.facebook.com/ franklindowntownpartnership.

The Franklin Downtown Partnership is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization made up of more than 350 business owners, residents, and community leaders working to revitalize downtown Franklin. Residents are welcome to join the Downtown Partnership for only \$25. The Partnership manages events like the Strawberry Stroll and the Harvest Festival, and initiatives such as beautification, streetscape design, greenspace, alley murals, and sculpture projects. For more information go to www.franklindowntownpartner-







FHS Athletics Recognizes Winter Team Achievements

Franklin High School's athletic teams completed a successful 2023-24 winter athletics season.

"All of our winter athletes have shown grit and determination this season, putting countless hours of work into their sports every week," Athletic Director Ellis said. "I am extremely proud of all of our teams."

Boys Basketball

- Record: 25-2
- State Finalist Division 1 Boys Basketball MIAA State Tourna-
- Hockomock League Kelly Rex
- Hockomock League MVP: Sean O'Leary
- Hockomock League All-Stars: Caden Sullivan, Bradley Herndon, Henry Digiorgio
- Hockomock All-Star Honorable Mention: Andrew O'Neill
- Boston Globe All-Scholastic Team: Sean O'Leary
- Boston Globe Division 1 Coach of the Year: Coach CJ Neely
- Head Coach: CJ Neely

Girls Basketball

• Record 10-11

- Hockomock League All-Stars: Wrestling Sasah Tracey, Choloe Fales
- The team qualified for the Division 1 MIAA State Tournament
- Hockomock All-Star Honorable Mention: Olena Malymina
- Head Coach: John Leighton

Cheer

- Nationals Divisional Winners and Grand Champions
- Hockomock League Champions
- MSAA Division 1 Regional Champions
- MSAA Division 1 State Champions
- Head Coach: Doni Akers

Boys Ice Hockey

- Record 15-9
- Hockomock League Kelly Rex Co-Champions
- MIAA Division 1 State Tournament Elite 8 Round
- Hockomock League MVP: Ben Paterson
- Boston Globe All-Scholastic Team: Ben Paterson
- Hockomock All-Stars/MetroWest All-Stars: Anthony Lampasona, Dylan McEvoy, Logan
- Hockomock All-Star Honorable Mention: Dan Dacey
- Head Coach: Chris Spillane

- Record 13-15-1
- The team placed third at the MIAA Division 1 West Sectionals
- The team placed third at the Hockomock League Tourna-
- · Two team members recognized as Division 1 West Sectional Champions: Riley Carlucci and Jack Rosenberger
- · Hockomock All-Stars: Riley Carlucci and Jack Sauer
- Hockomock All-Star Honorable Mention: Wayland O'Connell
- Head Coach: Carmine Colace

Boys Indoor Track

- Record 5-0
- Hockomock League Kelly Rex Champions
- Hockomock League All-Stars: Quinn Hardt and Jonathan Pink
- · Hardt also came in fourth in the state pentathlon and qualified for the New Balance Nationals meet for the 55m hurdles
- The 4x200m relay squad and shuttle hurdle relay also qualified for the Nationals meet in Boston
- Hockomock All-Star Honorable Mention: Sephon Reed, Theo Yetman, Bryce Dragsbaek
- Head Coach: Nick Bailey

Girls Swim

- Record 5-0
- Hockomock Meet Champions
- Hockomock League Kelly Rex
- The team placed third at the MIAA Division 1 South Section-
- Hockomock All-Stars: Harika Birali, Christine Tang, Emma Ferreria, Sydney Bourgeois, Ashley Desroches, Caroline Clifford, Keegan Wright
- Hockomock All-Star Honorable Mention: Ava Pecora
- Head Coach: Jessica Pridham

Boys Swim

- Record 2-3
- Hockomock All-Star Honorable Mention: Oliver McCarthy
- Head Coach: Jessica Pridham

Girls Indoor Track

- Hockomock League Kelley-Rex Division Champions
- Hockomock League Meet Champions
- Hockomock League All Stars: Sarah Dumas, Gwen Holland, Sophia Cuneo, Ella Chandaria, Liz Hopkins, Lily DeForge
- Hockomock League MVP: Sar-

- Hockomock League Honorable Mention: Darby Nicholson, Olivia Costa
- MSTCA Division 1 Relay Champions
- · New Balance All-American: Sarah Dumas
- MIAA Divisional Champions: Sarah Dumas (Hurdles), Lily De-Forge (Shot Put)
- Boston Globe All-Scholastic Team: Sarah Dumas
- Boston Globe All-Scholastic Team: Lily Deforge
- MSTCA Indoor Track Coach of the Year: Coach Paul Trovato
- Head Coach: Paul Trovato

Gymnastics

- Record 1-7
- Hockomock All-Star Honorable Mention: Molly Chandler
- Head Coach: Paula Lupien

Girls Ice Hockey

- Record 7-13-0
- The team qualified for the MIAA Division 1 State Tournament
- Hockomock League All-Stars: Julia Flynn, Nina Iannuzzi, Lindsey
- Hockomock All-Star Honorable Mention: Hannah Averr
- Head Coach: Mike Lubin



Franklin High Lauds Students for Recent Art & Writing Achievements

Superintendent Lucas Giguere is pleased to congratulate the Franklin High School students who have been recognized recently for achievements in art and writing.

"Each of these achievements represents our students' skill, dedication and hard work, as well as their unique perspectives and interests," Superintendent Giguere said. "It's amazing to see their creativity and passions come to life and we're excited to recognize their success."

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the nation's longest-running recognition program for creative teens. Students in grades 7-12 can apply in 28 categories of art and writing. All entries are considered for Gold Key, Silver Key, Honorable Mention and other recognitions. The Massachusetts region of the program is presented by The Boston Globe and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University (SMFA).

Franklin High School students received 15 placements, with one Gold Key, two Silver Keys and 12 Honorable Mention awards.

Gold Key: Hunter Smith, grade 10, for "Determination" (photography)

Silver Key:

- Christine Tang, grade 12, for a portfolio entitled "Drawing Portfolio" (Art Portfolio)
- Mia Dewsnap, grade 12, (Ceramics)

Honorable Mention Works:

- John Fitzhenry, grade 12, for "Side By Side" (Film & Animation)
- Lillian Skinner, grade 12, for a portfolio entitled "Welcome to My World" (Art Portfolio)
- Anjli Rachwal, grade 12, for a portfolio entitled "Sapphire Dreams" (Art Portfolio)
- Annika Swalley, grade 12, for a portfolio entitled "Breakable Takeable Body" (Art Portfolio)



Maria College's New England Secondary School Virtual Art & Design Competition for 2024 for his piece entitled "Sleeping Skys."

- Cailyn Bruno, grade 12, for a portfolio entitled "An Ironic Duality" (Art Portfolio)
- Julia Atwood, grade 12, (Ceramics)
- Ashley Pepin, grade 12, (Ceramics)
- Jenna Cheuvront, grade 12, (Ceramics)
- Taylor O'Neil, grade 11, (Ceramics)
- Lily Avitable, grade 12, (Ceramics)
- Ella Kabat, grade 11, (Ceramics)
- Cleo St. Vrain Lary, grade 11, (Ceramics)

Each student recognized at any of the three levels receives a certificate, and Gold and Silver Key recipients also receive a pin.

Massachusetts Amazing Emerging Artist Recognitions Exhibit

The Massachusetts Amazing Emerging Artist Recognitions Exhibit is a juried show for grade 9-12 students of Massachusetts Art Education Association (MAEA) members. Work can be submitted in 10 categories ranging from drawing to fashion. Student entries are selected for inclusion in the year's exhibit through a blind judging process by a panel of art educators. Each submission is also considered for various monetary awards.

The following Franklin High School Ceramics students were recognized:

- Ella Kabat, grade 11, Blick Art Award (\$100)
- Mia Dewsnap, grade 12, Davis Publications Media Award (\$25)



Hunter Smith's piece, 'Determination,' received a Gold Key in Photography in this year's Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. (Photos courtesy Franklin Public Schools)'



John Fitzhenry's piece, 'Side By Side,' received Honorable Mention recognition in Film & Animation in this year's Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

- Allie Maccalous, grade 12,
- Kat Rosenberg, grade 11,
- Cleo St. Vrain Lary, grade 11,

Other Recognitions

- Grace Tucceri, grade 12, was named one of 12 All-State High School Journalists for 2024 by the Massachusetts Scholastic Press Association. Students submitted portfolios of their work, resumes and reflective essays as part of their applications, which were reviewed by a four-member judging panel.
- Ryan Jackson, grade 10, received an Honorable Mention in Anna Maria College's New England Secondary School Virtual Art & Design Competitionfor

- 2024 for his piece entitled "Sleeping Skys."
- The Graphic Design I class has partnered with school administration to create a magnet of the Franklin Public Schools calendar for the 2024-2025 school year to be handed out at upcoming town events. Selected works were created by Athena Watts, grade 10, and Brannon Barba and Yosef Esayas, grade 9.
- The Digital Photography class is partnering with the Town's Department of Public Works to take photographs to be featured on informational signs around the sculpture park, highlighting the nature and wildlife of the area.

Franklin Celebrates Ladybug Legacy at Historical Museum

By J.D. O'GARA

On Saturday, April 20th, the Franklin Historical Museum celebrated the 50th anniversary of the date Massachusetts Governor Francis W. Sargent signed the bill that made the ladybug Massachusetts' state insect. One second-grade class from Franklin's John F. Kennedy Elementary School, students of Ms. Palma DeBaggis Johnson, started the bug in 1974 to make the legislation happen. A number of the students, Ms. Johnson's family and Rep. Jeff Roy joined the Franklin Historical Commission



Jan Prentice set the mood for the day in her ladybug regalia.



Alan Earls, Chair of the Franklin Historical Commission, welcomes speaker Rep. Jeff Roy.

members and other Franklin residents to celebrate the day, which also marked the Franklin Downtown Partnership's 2nd Annual Ladybug Trail Spring Walk.

Roy applauded the members of Johnson's class for their efforts, noting that the ladybug bill, such as the Act Concerning Genocide Education which more recently passed, begins with a conversation.

"Every single bill gets a hearing in the legislature, and I can tell you about 7,000 bills are filed each legislative session and of those 7,000, 300 end up becoming the law," said Roy, who went on to cheer "an idea that started in a third grade (sic) classroom at the JFK Elementary School and



The anniversary celebration included an exhibit of the ladybug's history in Franklin.

brought up to the statehouse, what an amazing story...And to me the most amazing fact was that one of the kids in that classroom, Jim Vallee, went on to be the State Representative for Franklin for 19 years. You can't make this stuff up."

The retired principal of the Kennedy School who was there when Ms. Johnson and her class when they met Governor Sargent, came up from Florida to attend the event. He recalled, "If you met Governor Sargent, he





The family of Palma DeBaggis Johnson attended the event.

was a real outdoorsy guy ... He said, 'You children did a helluva job on this,' and Palma, being who she was, said, 'Governor, you should not use that language in front of the children."

Palma's daughter, Martha Polachi, noted that Palma's "passion was teaching and educating the people of this community...

It is no surprise that she and her 2nd grade class took on the task of passing legislature to make the ladybug the Massachusetts state bug, and forever left an imprint on the history of this town and state. Palma DeBaggis Johnson has gifted a lasting and meaningful legacy to this town and to all of the students of the Franklin Public Schools, but especially those at the JFK school. The Kennedy school mascot is the ladybug, the school colors black and red, the school sign includes ladybugs, and even the boulders in front of the school are painted ladybugs. Each time I see a ladybug in nature, on a greeting card, on clothing or any item, I think of my mother and her ladybug legacy. I hope you will, too."



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Calendar

June 1

Porchfest, various performances at porches around town, including Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin, Jamie Barrett 12-1 followed by Metrowest Symphony Orchestra 2-3:30, Greenwich Bay Brass 4 p.m., Raindate June 2 (Annual Bridal Gown exhibit to open this day through August 4th)

First Pride flag raising at Franklin Municipal Building, 10 a.m., 355 East Central St., Franklin, coloring sheets for kids, music by Electric Youth and Sioo, remarks by Rep. Jeff Roy, Councilperson Ted Cormier Ledger

June 2

Special Pride Month Sunday Service, 10 a.m., First Universalist Society of Franklin, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin

June 5

Proposition 2 ½ Override Information Session, 1:30 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, TA Jamie Hellen and FPS Superintendent to attend.

Health Fair, 2 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, presented by Franklin Health Department, includes vendors, health services exhibitors, resources, food trucks, kids' activities, petting zoo, giveaways

June 6

"Traveling School of Fish" installation, 5-6 p.m., Franklin Sculpture Park, Panther Way, Franklin, features new wooden fish crafted by Tri-County RVTHS students, freshly painted by Parmenter Elementary School students.

Songwriter Circle, Niagara Coffee Haus, 7-9 p.m., Features up to six singer songwriters for each show, with a few sharing the stage at the same time, sharing songs and swapping stories. Coffee, water, seltzers and bakery products provided. Admission FREE, but donations gladly accepted.

June 7

Annual Strawberry Stroll, 4-8 p.m., Franklin Downtown Partnership event features vendors, entertainment (Health Nisbett, 4-6, Dom DeBaggis, 6-8), MyFM broadcast, toucha-truck and Sparky at Franklin Fire, strawberry shortcake at Dean Bank (money raised supports FDP events), free popcorn (to eat outside) at Franklin Historical Museum, www.franklindowntownpartnership.org, raindate: June 8

FPAC presents August: Osage County, 7:30 p.m.; The BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, www.theblackboxonline.com

June 8

Our Playability Touch-a-Truck, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (10 a.m.-11 a.m. sensory friendly hour), Bellingham Memorial School parking lot, 130 Blackstone St., Bellingham, DJ, trackless train, vehicles from several businesses to climb aboard, local demonstrations, games, raffles for family fun, great food, \$5 pp helps raise money for an inclusive and accessible playground at Stallbrook Elementary School in Bellingham.

June 9

Second Sunday Speaker Series, 1 p.m. doors open, 1:15 talk by Alan Earls on "Parachute Dress" —wedding dress made from a World War II parachute with a spectacular 15-foot train, Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central Street, Franklin, MA, FREE

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June 11

Franklin Special Town Election, 6 a.m.-8 p.m., Franklin High School, 218 Oak St., Franklin

Painting with Thread on Fabric, with award-winning quilter Betsy Habich, 7 p.m., Emma's Quilt Cupboard, Horace Mann Plaza, Franklin, open to all, \$5 nonmembers of Yankee Quilters Guild

6th Annual Taste of Tri-County, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Tangerini's Spring Street Farm, 139 Spring St., Millis, \$20 for samples of local restaurants and brewers, entertainment, https://www.tricountychamberma.org/store/Taste-of-Millis-2021-p394895218

June 12

Free webinar: Opening Doors to Youth Mental Health: How Parents Can Best Support Their LGBTQ+ Child." 7 p.m., register by June 11, visit milfordregional.org, select "Classes and Events" on the homepage, then "Webinars." A link will be sent 24 hours prior to the webinar to complete registrations.

June 14

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

June 15

Pride Flag planting, Franklin Town Common, visit Franklin LGBTQ Alliance on Facebook and Instagram (@franklinlgbtgalliance) for specifics.

Franklin Public Library Book Sale, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Books \$1

Juneteenth Tribute Concert, 3 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Rodney Mashia to perform jazz, gospel, soul, folk, and pop celebrating great African American musi-

Scottish Highland Games, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Fino Field, Milford, over 100 athletes from all over NE to compete

June 22

Summer Reading Kickoff Carnival, 10:30 a.m., Franklin Public Library, Children's Museum of Franklin Pop-Up Exhibits, mini golf, Game Stations, Crafts, Balloons, Temporary Tattoos, AND MORE

Franklin Pride Day, 12-4 p.m., Franklin Town Common, raindate: June 23, includes booths, entertainment, crafts, games, find Franklin LGBTQ Alliance on Facebook and Instagram for more details, rain date June 23

June 23

HMEA incredABLE Day, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., King St. Memorial Park, fun activities for all ages and abilities, www.hmea.org

June 24

Mr. Vinny Bubble Show, 4 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

June 25

Tri-County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours: 5-7 p.m., The Rail Trail Flatbread Company, 223 Main St., Milford, \$10 future members, members free, https://www.tricountychamberma.org/events#!event/register/2024/6/25/business-after-hours-the-rail-trail-flatbread-company

June 28

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

Concerts on the Common, 3-5 p.m. AKCody, 6-8 p.m. Dallas Corbin, Franklin Town Common

Franklin PorchFest! Almost Here

The Franklin PorchFest schedule is live! There you will find the list of performers and the times and locations of their performances on June 1st. Go to https://franklin.porchfest.info/map/#schedule for all the information you need to enjoy this community event.

PorchFest runs from 12 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 1st with a June 2nd rain date.

Together let's keep Porchfest



Positive! Please be respectful of our generous porch owners and our performers. PorchFest is a free event. Also, PorchFest is a walkable event. Please follow all pedestrian and traffic rules. Parking locations are listed on our website. Bathroom locations are also listed. Please obey our PorchFest Code of Conduct, applicable to all participants and performers.

- Public consumption of alcohol and marijuana is PRO-HIBITED. Massachusetts has a No Open Container law.
- Dispose of trash properly ... if trash cans are not available it is carry in/carry out.



If you're not a porch owner or a musician and would still like to be involved, we invite you to sign up as a volunteer on our website. 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!

Transitioning to College

Preparing for the college journey is an exciting time - meeting new friends, experiencing fun adventures, and enjoying a busy schedule that the students have created on their own. Although adapting to college life might seem daunting at first, students begin to learn how to best juggle their new-found independence while focusing on their studies. The summer before freshman year is an ideal opportunity to organize, prepare, and ensure a smooth transition to college life.

Here are a few helpful steps for parents and students to review this summer.

- 1. Consider the legal documents needed, such as, FERPA, Health Care Proxy, HIPAA, Durable Power of Attorney, and if needed, the Psychiatric Advance Directive.
- 2. If the student has an Independent Educational Plan (IEP) in place during high school, it does not automatically transfer to college. The college may require additional testing and/or documentation.
- **3.** The student should continue to check the college portal and their email frequently throughout the summer for any impor-

- tant updates. The student should inform the college of their personal email contact information before their HS graduation.
- 4. Be aware of the deadlines for tuition bills and any additional requirements. If the student did not apply for need based financial aid through the CSS and FAFSA, the Bursar's office may need the student to sign a waiver before they release the student's scholarship award.
- 5. Notify the Guidance Counselor of the student's final college decision and request a final transcript to be sent to college. The student should also request a copy of their transcript for future records.
- **6.** Sign up for the summer student orientation & register for classes at the first opportunity. Tip when registering for classes, if the student is not an early bird, do not sign up for an 8 am class!
- **7.** Some colleges will require placement exams for math, science, English, and foreign language check the college website and deadlines.

- **8.** Complete the housing & roommate surveys. It is essential that students are clear about their preferences— it will help the college identify well-matched roommates.
- **9.** Make summer appointments for medical physicals and dental check-ups.
- 10. Register for pre-orientation activities. These programs allow new students to move-in early and connect with a small cohort of peers- great 1st bonding experience.
- 11. Coordinate the shopping list for the dorm room with roommates. Ship any items that can be mailed prior to arrival on campus or purchase locally. Check the college website as schools often offer their own services to purchase common items such as sheets, blankets, fans, etc..
- **12.** Establish a bank account on campus or a nearby town; and establish a fund transfer account such as Zelle/Venmo/PayPal.
- **13.** Reach out to your academic advisor and schedule your first appointment.



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

- **14.** Students should visit their professor's "Office Hours" early don't wait until the day before a test!
- **15.** Visit campus club events to find favorite activities a great way to stay involved and meet your "people".
- **16.** Parents should plan for the fall Parents Weekend. Prearrange a nearby hotel and dinner reservations maybe even with your child's new friends.

Message to students: The first few months of college requires flexibility, resilience, and time management. Part of the process is learning to advocate for yourself and figuring out where to get the help you need. Get your sleep, exercise, and eat well! Take care of your physical and mental health as you expand your network of friends and resources. Give it time and try new experiences. Before long, your campus will be your new home. And nothing in life is permanent! If it is truly the wrong fit campus for you, transferring is always an option. But first give yourself time for the adjustments! Just bring your best self and enjoy!

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

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

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Franklin Robotics Team Wins Award at World Championship

Sense & Sound Robotics, a community based FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) robotics team in Franklin, competed at the FIRST World Championship in Houston April 17-20. Only 224 out of the approximately 8,000 FTC teams worldwide compete at Worlds. Sense & Sound won 8 out of their 10 qualifying matches, finishing in 5th place. The performance drives this FTC robot into the top 1% in the world. Judges also evaluate the robots from all aspects to find the best in many prestigious categories. Sense & Sound was awarded the 2nd place Control Award for software design.

"The Control Award celebrates a team that uses sensors and software to increase the robot's functionality in the field. This award is given to the team that demonstrates innovative thinking to solve game challenges such as autonomous operation, improving mechanical systems with intelligent control, or using sensors to achieve better results," says the FIRST organization.

Each FIRST competition season, a different challenge



is presented based on a new theme. This year's challenge was STEAM-based, called Center-Stage, highlighting theater arts. The robots were designed to complete a variety of tasks including moving multi-colored 6-sided pixels, which were picked up in the wings, then delivered to a mark, backstage, and backdrop, where they were placed in patterns. Other tasks included launching a paper airplane into a designated landing zone and suspending the entire robot from rigging on the playing field. The first thirty seconds of the match is an autonomous period, where the robots are programmed to complete these tasks without driver intervention, using only previously programmed code and sensors, followed by two minutes of driver control.

Adi Sharma, Lead Program-



mer for the team and a Senior at Franklin High School, explains the software design that led to their Control Award, saying "we built our own original code library that allows us to define a variety of Java robot classes to control the drive, pixel intake, airplane launcher, and other mechanisms. Each of these classes have their own hardware and settings, which let us run complex, dynamic motions, such as driving to a specific position utilizing distance sensors and odometry to accurately localize position, while simultaneously running the pixel intake and checking sensors for the number of pixels held."

"The software was also designed to control our unique pixel placement system," says

Anna David, Drive Team Coach and Lead Hardware Engineer for the team, another Franklin High School Senior. "We designed and 3-D printed a unique plunger that picks up the pixels from the intake and accurately places them on the backdrop. A variety of sensors detect the color and quantity of pixels the intake has picked up and indicate this to the drivers, as well as sense how far the robot is from the backdrop for intelligent-controlled movement and automatic, accurate placement, among other things. In total, we utilized 16 sensors and a camera in our design, and I think the judges were impressed with how they worked in concert to make our robot both accurate and consistent."

The team was very pleased with how well they did at Worlds. Sense & Sound is made up of 7th through 12th graders from Franklin, Medway, and Milford, and also includes Zach Beaupre, Ajay Gulati, Tanish Asu, Jaswanth Bandaru, Akash Vootla, Anjan Lakkadi, Elliott Knowlton, and Maxx Duffy. Team members built 2-3 days per week in a lab in

Franklin, MA, where they were mentored by local engineers Tom Kroon, Leigh Knowlton, and Suresh Vootla. The students are responsible for all aspects of the robot design, build, and coding, including tracking their efforts in an engineering design notebook that is submitted for judging.

As a community-based team, Sense & Sound Robotics does not receive any funding from the school or town, and the team is grateful to the sponsors who helped make their bid for a world title possible, including Cold Chain Technologies, Carpe Diem Technologies, Hologic, Kumon of Franklin, MassMEP, Kelmar Associates, Nerds to Go, Blue Hills Plumbing, Representative Jeff Roy, Medway Cultural Council, Middlesex Savings Bank, The Curry House, and Combe Incorporated, as well as various private donations.

You can learn more about Sense & Sound Robotics at www. senseandsoundrobotics.org. You can read more about FIRST Tech Challenge at www.firstinspires.org.





Coming Up at Franklin Senior Center

The Franklin Senior Center is located at 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin. Reach them at (508) 966-0398.

2024 Special Election Proposition 2 ½ Override Information Session, 1:30 p.m.,

Join the Town Administrator and the Superintendent for an informational session on Proposition 2 1/2 - Override. Get informed for the June 11 vote.

Sing-a-Long with George McPherson, Monday, June 3, 2 p.m.

Movie Matinee, On the first Thursday of each month, the Senior Center presents a popular movie. Next movie to be shown on June 6 at noon is sure to appeal to Barbies and Kens!

JUNETEENTH! Freedom finally came on June 19, 1856, when some 2,000 Union

troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas and announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state were free by executive decree. Our Senior Center will be closed on Wednesday, June 19, which is a federal holiday.

June 10-21 Senior Olympics, \$5 unlimited events & t-shirt, \$6 party ticket only, \$10 unlimited events, party & t-shirt

Pizza & Movie Night: June 11th, 4:30 p.m., \$3, Tom Hanks in *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*

Mobile Food Pantry, Wednesday, June 12 at 11 a.m., Receive a bag of pantry goods, dairy items, and choice of protein

Guided Meditation, Thursdays, June 6, 13, 20 & 27, 10 a.m., with Vika Whitted

Drum Circle, Monday, June 10, 11 a.m.

Bishop Feehan Announces Third Quarter Honor Roll 2023-2024

Vice Principal for Academics, Charlotte Lourenco, is proud to announce the Honor Roll students for the third quarter. Honor Roll is a recognition of high-performing students based on the student's overall average in any given quarter, regardless of the levels of their classes. Bishop Feehan has three levels of Honor Roll. First Honors is awarded to

students whose overall average in that quarter is grade 93.00 or higher, Second Honors is grade 90.00 or higher, and Third Honors is 85.00 or higher, with no individual grade below 80.

To see the list, visit: https://www.bishop-feehan.com/apps/news/article/1920259

TriCounty Announces 2024 Valedictorian and Salutatorian





Peyton Griffin

Callie Schweitzer

Peyton Griffin is honored with the title of Valedictorian, maintaining the highest grade point average in the graduating class of 2024. Peyton will be attending Bryant University in the Fall, where she will continue her education as a Health Sciences major.

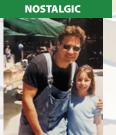
Callie Schweitzer is honored with the title of Salutatorian, maintaining the second highest grade point average in the graduating class of 2024. Callie plans on studying Civil Engineering at Wentworth Institute of Technology, where she undoubtedly will be an asset to her university community.

SOUTHWICK'S ZOO PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!

Thanks to all those who entered! These 12 entries will receive a family four-pack of GA passes to Southwick's Zoo for the 2024 season!



"MACAW!"
Submitted by Nate H.



"My daughter meeting Jeff Corwin, 1999" Submitted by Lora D.



Submitted by Bobbie G.



"We are so goated"
Submitted by Agatha D.



"Family time at the zoo"
Submitted by Nancy M.



"Fun for all ages" Submitted by Misty W.



favorite zoo!"

Submitted by Rachel R.



"Having a roaring good time!"
Submitted by Jillian R.



"A couple of cuties at the zoo" Submitted by Christine H.



"No matter the season ..."
Submitted by Emily T.

RUNNER UP



"Yikes! What are these?"
Submitted by Brooke M.

ANIMAL

"Oh, Hay There"
Submitted by Emily S.

Southwick's
The Yankee Xpress
BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress

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FREE PRESS

ILLUSTRATION BY ROWAN KAPLAN/MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

Happenings at Franklin Historical Museum June 2024

June 1, Porchfest, noon to 6 pm

Porchfest events have been growing in popularity and this inaugural event is Franklin's contribution to the trend. Dozens of porches around town will play host to a variety of musical performers, and it's all free. The Historical Museum porch at 80 West Central is no exception and will include three musical acts. From noon to 1, popular local educator and entertainer, Jamie Barrett will perform in his unique style. From Approximately 2-to 3 or 3:30 an ensemble of the Metrowest Symphony Orchestra will perform and will help us kick off our Bridal Exhibit at 2:30 (see below). Then, at 4 p.m., Greenwich Bay Brass will bring their lively and, well, BRASSY sounds to our steps. Porchfest has a rain date of Sunday, June 2. However, Metrowest Symphony and Greenwich Brass will both perform rain



or shine on Saturday. For those walking the Porchfest locations, the museum will be open with restrooms available. FREE

Franklin Historical Museum Bridal Exhibit, June 1 to Aug. 4

Back by popular demand, the Franklin Historical Museum provides a glimpse of bridal styles from the late 19th century to the recent past, including our stunning "parachute dress" from 1946. The exhibit opens officially at 2:30 p.m., June 1, in conjunction with Porchfest, with Metrowest Symphony contributing a brief musical accompaniment. On June 1, the museum and exhibit are open from noon to 6 and then regular museum hours thereafter. Starting at noon, the exhibit will be 'unofficially open' for those who just can't wait! FREE

Strawberry Stroll, June 7 (rain date, June 8)

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 annual 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 museum will be open (come for our spectacular Bridal Exhibit!) and we also offer complimentary fresh popcorn served on the porch (for consumption outside, please).

The Second Sunday Speaker Series – Sun, June 9

The Second Sunday Speaker Series at the museum continues on June 9, 2024 with a focus on our famous Parachute Dress – a wedding dress made from a World War II parachute with a spectacular 15-foot train. Historical Commission Chair Alan Earls will talk about the social history and war time pressures that brought tens of thousands

of parachutes into service, some of which eventually found their way back into the civilian economy. Doors open at 1 and the presentation begins at 1:15 at Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central Street, Franklin, MA. FREE

`Cinema 80' Films in the 'Silent Saturday' (Free) are on hiatus until September

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 1-4p.m. When visiting the museum, please consider donating a non-perishable item for the Franklin Food Pantry.

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

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

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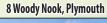


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Franklin 8th Grader a "Promising Young Writer"

Franklin 8th grader Molly McKinnon has been recognized as a 2024 Promising Young Writer by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

McKinnon, who attends Annie Sullivan Middle School, was one of 177 students nominated to participate in the Promising Young Writers Program.

Her submission was a short story that captures the devastating results of teen depression when it is not addressed, according to Middle School English Language Arts teacher Jackye Hughes, who submitted McKinnon's work to the program. Written from the first-person point of view, the tone and mood of the story pull the reader in immediately, Hughes said.

Judges gave McKinnon's short story a "Superior" rating.

"Writing is an important skill and art form that needs to be nourished and encouraged," Superintendent Giguere said. "Congratulations to Molly for this recognition, and I look forward to reading what she writes next."

The Promising Young Writers Program is part of NCTE's commitment

to stimulating and recognizing the writing talents of 8th-grade students across the country. The school-based writing program was established in 1985 to stimulate and recognize talented 8th-grade writers, as well as to emphasize the importance of writing skills among all 8th-grade students.

Schools in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, Canada, and American schools abroad are eligible to nominate students. This year, students were nominated from 33 states and Puerto Rico, as well as Canada and South Africa. Each submission is evaluated holistically by two to three independent judges who consider content, purpose, audience, tone, word choice, organization, development, and style.

In the past five years, seven students from Annie Sullivan Middle School have been recognized through the Promising Young Writers Program, according to Hughes.

For more information about the Promising Young Writers Program, see http://www.ncte.org/awards/promising-young-writers/.

Painting with Thread on Fabric, June 11th in Franklin

Massachusetts quilt artist Betsy Habich will be the guest speaker at Yankee Quilters Guild, on Tuesday June 11th in Franklin. The program will begin at 7 p.m. at Emma's Quilt Cupboard in the Horace Mann Shopping Center, East Central Street.

Her slide program and trunk show will tell her fascination with "thread painting" a style of machine sewing in which thread becomes the medium for a realistic artwork in quilts and other textiles. Habich creates her works using her own photographs transferred to fabric, including landscapes, flowers and her much loved cats.

Habich also enjoys sharing her artwork with others and says, "I love the moment when my students 'get it' and start to fly on their own!"

Her work has been awarded at regional quilt shows including the Vermont Quilt Festival, The Gathering, and Machine Quilters Expo (MQX), and juried into national and regional shows, including International Quilt Association (IQA/Houston), American Quilters Society (AQS/Paducah). Habich has taught at Fiber College of Maine, Connections Quilt Festival, and at guilds, and has had solo shows at local shows, shops, and libraries. She lives with her husband, three cats, and a studio full of fabric and thread in Beverly Farms. Examples of her work can be seen on her personal website: https://betsyhabich.

Becky Sherman, president of the quilt group said, "Our members – and quilters in general - are always interested in exploring new techniques to extend their creativity. This program will offer many new ideas to our members and others who sew."

The program is open to the public; there is a \$5.00 charge for non-members.

Yankee Quilters is a small guild of quilters who support each other's craft. As a charitable organization, the Guild provides quilts to families or individuals facing challenges, both in the local area and through international aid groups such as "Cover the World with Quilts."

Yankee Quilters Guild is a 501-c-3 charitable organization based in Franklin with members throughout the region. The Guild meets on the second Tuesday each month at Emma's Quilt Cupboard in Franklin, Horace Mann Plaza, East Central Street, Franklin in space generously donated by the store. Donations to the Guild are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by current law. For more information, see Yankee Quilters' Facebook page

Dean College Announces Departure of President Kenn Elmore

It is with a blend of gratitude and well wishes that the Board of Trustees announces President Kenn Elmore will be stepping down from his position at Dean College. Since taking the helm after the tenure of our long-serving prior President, President Elmore has been guiding the institution through a crucial transition period.

Under President Elmore's stewardship, Dean College has not only navigated this period of change successfully but has also made significant strides toward becoming a more integrated partner within the Franklin community. His efforts have led to enhanced community engagement initiatives and a strengthened bond between the College and the area it proudly calls home.

Furthermore, President Elmore's enthusiastic advocacy for Dean College has been instrumental in promoting the institution to a wider audience. His passionate commitment to enhancing the College's profile and reach has introduced Dean to new horizons, drawing students, faculty, and partnerships that enrich our diverse and vibrant community.

The Board of Trustees extends its deepest gratitude to President Elmore for his service, commitment, and leadership.

While we prepare to navigate this transition, the Board

is committed to ensuring a seamless and thoughtful process to identify a successor who will continue to advance the mission and values of Dean College. In the interim, we remain dedicated to our students, alumni, faculty, staff, and the Franklin community, upholding the standards of excellence that have been significantly bolstered under President Elmore's guidance.

Please join us in expressing our heartfelt thanks to President Elmore for his contributions and in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors. In the interim, the College will be led by an Office of the President consisting of Board Chair Mark Boyce, Executive Vice-President Sandra Cain, and Chief Financial Officer Tom Pistorino. Further announcements regarding the search for a new President will be made in due course.



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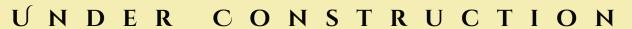






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