



The Franklin Rod & Gun Club will celebrate its 90th anniversary this month with a celebration on August 24th. Here's an image from their 50th celebration, taken in 1984.  
Photos used courtesy of Franklin Rod & Gun Club

## Franklin Rod & Gun Club Turns 90!

By J.D. O'GARA

On Saturday, August 24th, the Franklin Rod & Gun Club will be celebrating its 90th year. The club was begun in 1934, when 58 members met at the shop of Urban C. Holmes, and the group unanimously elected James A. Supple its first President, along with John Stults as

VP, Basil M. Parsons as Secretary and Urban C. Holmes as Treasurer. Franklin Rod & Gun still operates its club house on land purchased in 1938. In fact, the club house took original members almost three years to build, finally getting electricity in October 1940, says Jim Gianotti, current club President, adding,

"They used picks and shovels; they even had to build the road, with horses just to get down there." Members stay true to the clubhouse's original design. "There have been some updates over the years," says Gianotti, "but we try to keep its

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## 4H ALARM Robotics Builds Leaders as Well as Robots

By J.D. O'GARA

The 23 young members of the 4H ALARM FRC Robotics Team 2079, who meet regularly at Franklin's Red Brick Schoolhouse, had a momentous year building their 120 lb. robot, "Hydra," and entering it into several First Robotics Competitions this year. This group certainly earns their name, an acronym for "A Lot of Awesome Robot Makers." Participating in First Robotics Competitions (FRC) run by FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), the team of students from 8th to 12th grade from 11 local towns, first became second place finalist and winner of the Team Spirit Award at the New England District BSU Event 2024, and later won the prestigious Engineering Inspiration Award at both the New England District Championship in West Springfield and WPI. The latter earned them a spot at the World Championship at Houston, Texas.

Local Town Pages met with some members of the 4H ALARM FRC Robotics Team 2079, learning about the process of building the robot and taking it to competition. After a game kick-off in January, the students and mentors worked for over 9 weeks, sometimes putting in over 20-30 hours every week to design, build and program Hydra for the specific tasks of the challenge.

"Basically, we CAD the whole robot, and then we send it to our sponsor, Bauer, and they laser cut all the plates. All the metal that's not plates, we get from onlinemetals.com and cut them to size to fit our design," said Ishan Kasam.

Team members originally split off into subgroups to come up with various robot designs, later merging ideas into one CAD design.

"The faster we can do the CAD, the faster we can get the

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ROD & GUN

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original design. The most prominent and original is the huge fireplace that was the source of heat for a long time.”

The Franklin Rod & Gun Club was created “to promote the interest of legitimate sport with rod and gun, to enforce the laws for protecting and propagation of fish and game within the state, and to secure such further legislation in this direction may be needed, and to effect the opening if possible of posted land and waters.”

“We have stayed true to the original mission of the club. Although there is no more hunting on club land, we make available the only access for the public to enjoy Uncas Pond. We work with the State to make sure the pond is stocked multiple times and of course, host the annual Fishing Derby,” says Gianotti, pleased that well over half of the 300 who attended this year’s family event were young children.

At 238 members, the group has seen a lot of growth in the past year, with a record-breaking number joining this past June. Some members even built a new kayak rack this year. About half of the memberships joins to fish the pond, another 15% are in-



Back in the day, says Jim Gianotti, the whole town came out for celebrations on Franklin Rod & Gun Club’s grounds, located on Uncas Pond.

terested in the downstairs pistol range (Gianotti and another six members are NRA-certified and teach classes once a month), and, says Gianotti, “The other 35% is really (joining) for the social aspect. We have game nights and things like that, horseshoes and pool, darts, cornhole and lots of activities Monday and Wednesday nights.”

First year membership is \$125, with a \$75 initiation fee. For senior and junior members, the cost is \$75. All members are allowed to take their significant other and children down as well, says Gianotti, so a family membership isn’t necessary, and he’s happy families are together enjoying the outdoors.

In preparation for the anniversary event on August 24th, Gianotti has been going through club records and photos. “Awhile back, we came across fifteen 7”, 16MM film reels dating back to 1936. We hope to have them digitized and available for the August party.”

With this historical research, however, some questions arise.

“We are finding it challenging

to find decedents of the original members. I have not seen much of the old reels, but I am assuming there are going to be a lot of faces we won’t recognize. Soon, we will get some more information on our Facebook page, but for now, if anyone is a descendent or friend of the following original members, please contact us:”

1. James A. Supple
2. John Stults
3. Basil M Parsons
4. Urban C. Holmes
5. Lloyd (Bill) Whittaker
6. William McGonchie or MacConachie
7. Winfield Gehman
8. George Farrar
9. Willis Chase
10. Joe Willert
11. George Ardill
12. Bill Goodwin
13. Harvey Legee
14. Nilo Geromini

You can find the Franklin Rod & Gun Club on Facebook or visit them at their website, <https://www.franklinrodandgun.org>. 50th anniversary cover.jpg

# Auchincloss Urges Mass Dept. of Education to Use Biden Admin’s Safe Firearm Storage Resources

In July, Congressman Jake Auchincloss (MA-04) sent a letter to the Massachusetts Department of Education encouraging school districts to share resources available under President Biden’s administration to parents, guardians and families on the importance of safe firearm storage.

Gun violence is the leading cause of death for children in the United States. These safe storage resources for school officials ensure that parents are educated on safe storage, to prevent weapons from being accessed by children. As the U.S. Department of Education has not yet required school principals and administrators to share these resources, Auchincloss’ letter advocates that school districts reach as many Bay State families as possible with this potentially life-saving information.

“Today, 4.6 million American children live in homes with access to an unlocked or unsupervised gun, and every year, thousands of kids are injured or killed as a result. These tragedies are devastating but preventable. Proper storage of a firearm has been proven to reduce uninten-

tional shootings,” said Mark Collins, Director of Federal Policy, Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence. “The Biden administration has taken bold action to promote the safe storage of firearms, but now our communities must implement these actions. Brady commends Congressman Auchincloss for urging the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to promote safe firearm storage, and we hope to see this initiative continue to be adopted across the country.”

“The research on safe storage is clear - securely storing firearms saves lives. Massachusetts has long been a leader in requiring gun owners to store their firearms safely, but there is a lack of public education and awareness about these laws,” said Ruth Zakarin, CEO, Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. “Ensuring that the Department of Education provides resources to parents and guardians about safely storing their firearms and the dangers of unsecured firearms will save lives and prevent future trauma.”

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ROBOTICS

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plates sent to Bauer," added teammate Siddharth Prabhu. "Once we have a very detailed CAD model ... we can look at the CAD and know exactly where it goes on the robot."

After the design was complete, various members of the team worked on multiple parts of the robot simultaneously.

The young engineers explain some of the challenges they faced and how they dealt with them, improving the robot after each competition.

"It was a learning process," said Prabhu, "(at one point) we had to glue all the screws in, because they kept falling out due to hard hits. Later, our drive train fell apart. Each competition elicited improvements to the model."

Programmers also played an essential role. Using JAVA, the programmers had about a week before the competition to work with the robot once it was built. "A lot of the things we program are driver assistances that help the driver drive the robot better or smarter," adds Vansh Mookim. For example, since the

robot had to pick up a circular "note", a program was created to help the robot better align to it.

Team mentor Erica Payne, an electrical engineer who also mentors Girls Who Code, believes the robotics team is getting a leg up in the professional world. "This is real engineering ... (the kids) are learning mechanical engineering skills with the CAD, they're learning electrical engineering skills with the wiring, they're learning computer engineering skills with the software programming, they're learning manufacturing engineering skills, because they have to understand that you don't just invent it and it magically appears, they have to understand schedule and production, they're learning project management, because we're a whole team, and they have to understand that you have to one piece done before another piece can be done, and communication skills..."

At the World competition, Hydra was operated a "drivers," who make a game play. The Franklin team was randomly paired with two other teams for a 3:3 match.



Shown is the 4H ALARM FRC Robotics Team after winning the First "Engineering Inspiration Award" at the New England District Championship.

Although going to the World Championship required a lot of coordination, the experience in Houston inspired a sense of belonging to the team.

"We were worried how we'd stack up. We almost thought the kids would be disappointed with

the amount of stiff competition, but we were pleasantly surprised when the final matches began," says mentor Pallavi Naravane, an electronic engineer who teaches programming and robotics.

"You could be talking to someone outside (who speaks) a different language, but you (both) know the language of robotics. There's a community there that understands you," noted teammate Ishika Kumar.

Winning First Robotics' Engineering Inspiration Award this

year speaks to 4H ALARM Robotics' commitment to inspiring younger children to appreciate engineering. The award "celebrates outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering within a team's school or organization and community."

In fact, the 4H ALARM Robotics Team has taken younger members of the community

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under its wing, with a host of outreach events geared toward teaching younger kids. The team held a TinkerCAD workshop at the Franklin Public Library,

in which they taught younger children CAD basics, The high schoolers also held a five-hour Scratch Hackathon in October for elementary and middle school kids, and they created and coached two elementary-aged FLL Explore teams, bring-

ing those teams to First Robotics competitions.

The mentoring opportunities instilled a sense of leadership. "One thing I learned is you have to be really patient, and you should not confront someone who is a little shy," says Mookim, "You should slowly learn and engage, and then they won't be shy anymore."

Other mentors of the team this year include Ajit Naravane, Arnold Kalmbach, Steve Dunbar, Erica Schweighoffer, Steven

Schweighoffer, James Minihane, Nick Mosher, and Jon Miller.

4H ALARM Robotics is supported by generous sponsors- Dassault Systemes, Pratt & Whitney, TE Connectivity, Gene Haas Foundation, General Dynamics-Mission Systems, Mathworks, Natural Resources Management, Tib Family and partners 4H and the Franklin Public Library.

Hydra has a little life left in it, still, before it's taken apart and salvaged for next year's

robot. The team will take it to the "Mayhem in Merrimack" competition at Merrimack High School on September 14th and later to the New England Robotics Derby (NERD) on October 12th.

Those interested in connecting with 4H ALARM Robotics can find them at [www.alarm-robotics.com](http://www.alarm-robotics.com), on Facebook (AlarmRobotics2079), on X @4-H Alarm Robotics and on Instagram at 4h\_alarm\_robotics.



4H Alarm FRC Robotic's 2024 robot, "Hydra," in action.

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# Run, Roll and Raise:

## Space2Thrive 5K to Support VOLT Hockey on September 14th!

By JENNIFER RUSSO

Coming up on Saturday, September 14th at the West Hill Dam in Uxbridge is an opportunity to be surrounded by nature's beauty, hang out with friends, and get those steps in, all while making it possible for people with disabilities to thrive.

The 5K, organized by Space2Thrive founder Helena Liedtke, raises money for VOLT Hockey, an adaptive team sport that enables people with physical disabilities to engage in a competitive and fun environment, learn the value of teamwork and sportsmanship, and connect with others.

"In contrast to traditional wheelchair hockey, a Volt Hockey wheelchair is equipped with a fixed stick of flexible material, which is mounted directly at the tip of the electric hockey chair's fender bracket. The chairs can be customized to adapt to an individual's needs and to offer additional physical support. Therefore, Volt Hockey especially opens the world of participating in a team sport to an underserved population of people living with physical disabilities, who have limited upper

and lower body mobility," explains Helena.

The sport, which originated in Denmark 40 years ago, is very popular in Scandinavian countries, but is rather new to the United States. This month, VOLT is running a camp in Oslo, Norway and Helena is excited to bring that knowledge back to the states to apply it here.

"As a parent, for the first time in my daughter's life I was able to cheer her on when she competed with her team at the North American Championship in Canada or the World Cup in Sweden. When you've spent 15 years supporting your child while they are going through and recovering from countless medical procedures, having the opportunity to support her in such a positive way was exhilarating," shares Helena.

The goal for the upcoming 5K is to raise \$20,000 to enable more people to be able to play VOLT Hockey, support attendance at camps, and enable families to attend tournaments. Each chair costs between \$6K-10K and can be adapted to each person and their unique needs. The playing rink and accessories have addi-

tional costs associated. Helena hopes for 100-200 participants in the race this year, which is on a trail where one can easily run, walk, or use a wheelchair to participate in. There will be raffles and prizes, activities for kids, and a lemonade stand.

Her passion for bringing VOLT Hockey to the area and founding Space2Thrive comes from a personal understanding of how important it is to have equitable environments. One of her daughters was born with a genetic condition that changed their lives and opened her eyes to the fact that there were less opportunities for her daughter to engage in activities with her sister or her friends.

"Through my daughter I realized how many social and environmental barriers still are prevalent in our communities. However, there was a moment when I attempted to sign my daughter up at a dance school where her younger sister was dancing. Wide-eyed, and with a bewildered expression on her face, the owner replied with a long drawn-out "no". It sounded like a rhetorical question, to which I, of course, should have known the answer. I think that was the moment when the idea to "just do it myself" started to form," shares Helena.



The Space2Thrive 5K supports adaptive team sport VOLT Hockey, and this year's event will take place on September 14th at the West Hill Dam in Uxbridge.

Space2Thrive started almost ten years ago with music and movement classes and events where all were welcome, and where families caring for children with disabilities invited peers with or without disabilities, and other friends and family members. Families were able to interact, and children learned the lesson that everyone can be a part of a community if they choose to.

"Every single person has the choice to create inclusive and equitable social and physical environments," says Liedtke.

"People with disabilities are people first and should be treated as such. Don't make assumptions. Believe people's experiences. In the end, we all just want to belong, be heard, and be loved regardless of the attributes accompanying our appearances. The more social and physical barriers we break down, the more we will focus on the person and not their impairment," says Helena.

If you would like to participate in the Space2Thrive 5K,

you can sign up through the Space2Thrive website at <https://www.space2thrive.org/5k-come-out-and-revive> - it is \$20 per entry (or \$25 the day of the race). If you would like to help in other ways, you can sign up to volunteer, donate funds or raffle baskets, help them connect with potential sponsors or share on social media channels.

Learn more about Space2Thrive and their VOLT Hockey team at: [www.space2thrive.org](http://www.space2thrive.org) or follow them on Facebook or Instagram @Space2Thrive.

Sign-ups are open for the VOLT session starting in September at the Hockomock Area YMCA in North Attleboro. Sign up is open to participants with physical disabilities ages 13+. Children 8-12 years with physical disabilities are encouraged to reach out if interested as consideration will be made for offering an additional practice time for this age group. If interested, please reach out to [helena@space2thrive.org](mailto:helena@space2thrive.org)



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In addition to academic assessments in music theory, harmony, analysis and history, students perform practical assessments on their instrument of choice. Instruments represented include piano, voice, classical guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone, drums, violin, and viola. In May, students from all over the northeast traveled to Encore to take their assessments.

The Royal Conservatory of Music Certificate Program provides a recognized national standard of success in music study from beginner to advanced levels. It inspires excellence through individual student assessments that are central to the program, while also supporting teachers with high-quality and innovative resources. The RCM allows students to measure and celebrate accomplishment and track their progress throughout the country. All students and teachers across the United States are invited to participate, and Encore Music Academy is proud to offer these opportunities at the school and through outreach to the surrounding communities.

Levels of achievement are determined by the following scale:

- **First Class Honors with Distinction:** An assessment score of 90 to 100.
- **First Class Honors:** An assessment score of 80 to 89.

- **Honors:** An assessment score of 70 to 79.
- **Pass:** An assessment score of 60 to 69.

Students are graded on proficiency in the following areas: performance; technical requirements; aural skills; rhythm; and, sight-reading ability. This year, Encore is very proud to recognize the following Encore students for their outstanding achievement in Royal Conservatory of Music assessments in May:

### First Class Honors with Distinction

Arnav Gujjar, age 12, Hopkinton, PrepB piano

Aagam Shah, age 11, Franklin, PrepB piano

Ananya Sharma, age 11, Franklin, Level 1 voice

Alice Val, age 9, Franklin, Preparatory Voice

Sunehri Verma, age 16, Franklin, Level 7 voice

Anisha Vipul, age 11, Hopkinton, Level 2 voice

### First Class Honors

Alexandra Courtright-Lim, age 13, Franklin, Level 7 piano

Adrian Gonzalez, age 12, Franklin, Level 1 voice

Michelle Gonzalez, age 9, Franklin, Level 1 piano

Ananya Gorre, age 17, Franklin, Level 4 clarinet

Mahathi Gorre, age 17, Franklin, Level 4 clarinet

Nathaniel Hinds, age 9, Franklin, Level 2 piano

Cora Jackson, age 10, Franklin, Level 3 piano

Alyssa McGuirl, age 16, Millis, Level 7 voice

Rishita Phanse, age 17, Mansfield, Level 6 voice

Serene Sun, age 7, Hopkinton, Level 2 piano

Sunehri Verma, age 16, Franklin, Level 6 piano

Anisha Vipul, age 11, Hopkinton, Level 1 piano

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Anagha Balagurumoorthy, age 12, Franklin, Level 1 piano

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Aneesha Pathangay, age 16, Hopkinton, Level 8 piano

Ryan Qi, age 10, Franklin, Level 4 piano

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## Solar Project to Increase Food Pantry’s Sustainability, Free Up Funds

By J.D. O’GARA

The Franklin Food Pantry is going solar! AND...it’s paid for!

“We actually received two grants,” says Franklin Food Pantry Executive Director Tina Powderly, who explains that a key feature of the new building design was increasing storage capacity for perishables. This took the form of two walk-in freezers and one walk-in refrigerator.

“That drastically changed our ability not just to hold more pounds in our space, which meant more choices for our clients, but it vastly improves efficiency. According to our fiscal year 24 numbers, our pounds in went up 60%.”

Powderly explains that, since the Franklin Food Pantry gets most of its food from the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB), before it had the capacity to store as much, “when we’d see something at low cost, we couldn’t always take it, because we didn’t have

the capacity. The GBFB has free pallets of food we never would have been able to take in the old space.”

The new space allows the pantry to take advantage of low-cost opportunities not only for dry goods, but also for perishables.

More cold storage, however, does mean an increase in electricity needs.

“It was a strategic decision to invest in the walk-ins, because we knew it would allow us to be more cost efficient in our purchasing and securing donated items,” says Powderly, “but these items are huge consumers of electrical power.” Solar panel construction, then, was a wish list item. “We decided we’d keep our eye out for grant opportunities,” she adds.

One of those grant opportunities was the Citizens Bank “Champions in Action” program, for which the Franklin Food Pantry applied and was awarded \$50K.

Simultaneously, the pantry vetted solar companies, choosing Resonant Energy, which specializes in working on solar projects for nonprofits. The cost of the project altogether was projected to be about \$76K.

“As part of our capital campaign, we were prepared to pay for the balance,” says Powderly, “but we applied to a second grant, Hammond Climate Solutions’ Moonshot Grant, and received \$25K.” Powderly credits the food pantry’s Laura Doherty for managing this program, and Marsha Tait for securing the grants.

Not only will the project essentially be paid for, but Powderly adds that “the other reason we really liked Resonant Energy is there is a new federal rebate project specifically for nonprofits pursuing solar energy. There is

### PANTRY

*continued on page 9*



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# Love to Sing? Join the Greater Milford Community Chorus!

By JENNIFER RUSSO

Do you love singing? The Greater Milford Community Chorus (GMCC) is excited to begin its fall/winter season and extends a warm invitation to singers in the community to join them as they prepare for their upcoming annual holiday program, which is always a wonderful success!

Founded in 1973, the GMCC has been entertaining the community in many ways throughout the years. From their flagship Spring and Winter programs, performing with the Claffin Hill Symphony, their Melody & Harmony volunteer outreach group that performs at community locations throughout the year, and being asked to perform in a local opera this year, there is no shortage of opportunities to showcase talented voices!

The chorus is directed by Mark Schiappucci, a graduate of New England Conservatory and an active singer throughout the Boston and central Massachusetts area. He is a talented conductor who makes the ex-



perience fun, with his quick wit and humor, and unique ability to make some of the more complicated pieces much easier to understand.

Personally speaking, I have been involved with the chorus myself for the last couple of years and, as someone who has been singing my whole life, it has been a great creative outlet for me. More than that, I am a better sight-reader of music than I ever was before, and I've had the pleasure of meeting truly amazing people along the way.

The winter performances combine both traditional and contemporary works, from holiday favorites to 16th century carols, songs in English and other languages, theater-based compositions, thoughtful Hannukah folk pieces and even songs from movies most of us have seen.

This season, the chorus is looking for all voices, but has a particular need to grow the tenor and bass sections. Men are strongly encouraged to join, as most songs are in harmonies of four or more parts.

"I came into the choir not really knowing what to expect...I just lied to sing a variety of music. The group welcomed me and guided me toward the right section (I didn't know I was a tenor)...it's been great for the past 10 years, as both my wife and I are involved. I learn more about music theory, reading, singing the 'parts you don't know' and making beautiful harmony. The best part is at the concerts you feel that the audience is all happy at the same time, something you just don't get in the rest of the world," says Ray Kuhl.

Ray encourages men to "be a part of a group that appreciates you for you, not the job you do or any status, not the money you make or anything like that - bring a voice and create smiles in the audience. Nothing makes you feel as good as being there for your group and making everyone happy."

Show dates this year are Saturday December 7th and Sunday December 8th, as well as with the Claffin Hill Symphony on Saturday December 14th.

Rehearsals for this season begin on August 26th and are held at the Milford Memorial Hall with registration beginning at 6:30 PM. Rehearsals are held weekly on Mondays from 7-9:30 p.m. The chorus welcomes singers of all abilities (no audition necessary) who are 18+ years of age. Prospective singers can attend the first three rehearsals before deciding if it is a good fit for them. Those who join will pay a membership fee of \$25 and a refundable \$20 fee for sheet music that will be refunded once music is returned at the end of the season.

For more information, please visit the GMCC website at [www.greatermilfordcommunitychorus.org](http://www.greatermilfordcommunitychorus.org)

The GMCC is sponsored by the Milford Community Use Program and Milford Cultural Council, funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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# Teaching Kids Financial Responsibility: Summer Jobs and Roth IRAs

Have a teenager working this summer?

Did they earn money babysitting or mowing lawns?

How about a W-2 from selling ice cream or as a camp counselor?

You can open a Roth IRA for your child to evolve their financial knowledge while helping invest for retirement, a first house and/or qualified educational expenses.

### Kids establishing Roth IRAs.

There is no age minimum, as long as they earn income. It's up to the parent to document to IRS that their kids had income earned from work, either W-2 or self-employment taxable wages.

If under 18, an adult opens and maintains control of a Custodial Roth IRA with the child as beneficiary. Once an adult, usually 18 in most states, the account is transferred to a Roth IRA in their ownership.

After a Custodial Roth IRA is opened for 5 years, the advantages of tax-free earnings and

withdrawals are same as Roth IRA. Recall a Roth IRA's tax treatment is most valuable when time horizons are long and current tax rates are low, both true for kids.

**What if your teen spent all their earnings?** After a talk about budgeting (i.e. 3 Jars - Spend, Save, Gift), a parent or grandparent could fund a Roth IRA up to the amount of the child's reported earned income on tax returns.

Some parents will make 'match' contributions based on money earned in a summer job. If a teen earned \$3,800 for 2024, a parent will fund \$3,800.

Remember, these contributions count against the \$18,000 tax-free gifts per individual for 2024. So, if you've funded \$18,000 for child's 529 Plan, find another individual (i.e. spouse, relative) who can make the Roth IRA contribution.

**Introduction to personal investing.** Have fun by letting your teen research an ETF or

company to invest in, have them explain reasoning behind their choice and teach how they can follow. The next year, have them choose a different investment with the new contribution. Over time, they have a mix of investments, outcomes and lessons learned. This hands-on experience lays a foundation for making informed financial decisions of greater magnitude later in life.

**Taxation of withdrawals before age 59 ½.** A Roth IRA allows for 100% of contributions to be taken out for any reason, with no taxes or penalties. Furthermore, if a Roth IRA withdrawal is for qualified education expenses, you avoid the 10% penalty on earnings but still pay income tax on the earnings at the kid's tax rate. Thus, Roth IRA could supplement educational savings. Later, they could also withdraw up to a \$10,000 to pay for a first-time home purchase.

**Impact to financial aid?** Yes, in a good way. The "expected family contribution" or "EFC"

formula has student owned assets assessed at 20% with two notable exceptions. First is 529's owned by parent's is 5.6% and retirement accounts owned by parent or child counts as 0%. However, if a child takes money from a Roth IRA, even to pay for college, up to 50% of the withdrawal may be assessed.

In conclusion, opening a Roth IRA for kids is a proactive way for parents to teach financial responsibility and secure their children's financial future. It's not just about saving money; it's about cultivating a mindset of financial discipline and planning that will benefit them throughout their lives. By harnessing the power of investing, compounding and leveraging tax advantages, parents can give their children a head start towards financial independence and security.

Not all institutions offer Custodial Roth IRAs, but many do with no minimums and low fees. Consult your Certified Financial Planner to learn more.



Glenn Brown, CFP

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

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

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## PANTRY

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a 30% rebate that Resonant will help us apply for, which will basically be cash back."

Powderly explains that the solar panels will align with the food pantry's aim to be a "responsible community member and reduce our environmental footprint and contribute to environmental sustainability." To that end, the Franklin Food Pantry has also contracted with Black Earth to do composting. In addition, she says, "we've always participated in food rescue programs with local grocery stores."

The pantry achieves the latter by working with Spoonfuls (formerly Lovin Spoonfuls), a food rescue organization.

Ashley Stanley, founder and CEO of Spoonfuls (<https://spoonfuls.org/>), says Franklin Food Pantry's sustainability initiative falls in line with her organization's mission. Spoonfuls has delivered about 65,000 lbs. of food to the Franklin Food Pantry since it began partnering with them in 2022, and in fact, the

organization planned its expansion with Franklin's food pantry in mind.

"I think for us, it's so important that our partners are committed to sustainability, because food recovery is in itself a sustainable activity. We're talking about keeping food out of landfills. Uneaten food generally constitutes 6% of greenhouse gases in the United States, with food waste the number one material in landfills, and 76% of that is perishable food. So, for a partner of ours to be able to commit to sustainability in that way, that's something we feel extremely good about. Not only are they committing to their own sustainability, but to a larger sustainable movement, not only locally, but for the planet. This is truly acting locally and thinking globally."

Powderly notes that in the old food pantry building, Spoonfuls would come once a week with a few hundred pounds of food, and now, in the new building, they come twice a week, "so it's a huge increase."

The increase in delivery and capacity is welcome, because the need for food has increased,

says Powderly. "If you compare the first six months of last year to the first six months of this year, the need is up 40%," she says. Demographically, she says, "there's always a contingent of folks on fixed incomes, but we are seeing a significant number of families with two working parents." In fact, the pantry recently requested donations of diapers from the Franklin community—and the community responded generously. When asked, Powderly noted that the increase was not driven by migrant families housed in Franklin.

The new 47-panel solar project at Franklin Food Pantry is estimated to cover about 40% of the pantry's utility costs, a savings that can be redirected to purchase pantry client food and goods.

"With the installation of this new solar array, Franklin Food Pantry's electricity bills will be cut in half," says Madeleine Barr, Resonant's VP of Outreach and Sales. "Producing power on site will help make the food pantry more resilient to increasing electricity costs and allow them to invest more funds in their vital community programming."

## PLEASE RECYCLE



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# August 2024 at Franklin Public Library

## Franklin Public Library's 2024 Reading Challenge!

August: A book that features a road trip!

For complete details and to sign-up, visit <https://www.franklinma.gov/franklin-public-library/pages/2024-reading-challenge>. Grand prizes made possible by the Friends of the Franklin Library!

## Special Events for Kids

Toddler & Kids Yoga! Thursdays, August 1st & 15th @ 10:30 a.m.

Come join Katie from Sprouting Tree Yoga for a fun, interactive toddler & kids yoga class. Please bring a yoga mat or towel. Parents welcome to participate!

Elijah T. Grasshopper Concert! Saturday, August 3rd @ 10:30 a.m.

Join Elijah T. Grasshopper, Emma "Go-Go Green" Bean, and their puppet pals for some super-duper interactive music and a hopping good time! Ideal for kids ages 2-8!

Rolie Polie Guacamole! Wednesday, August 7th @ 10:30 a.m.

Holy Guacamole! The award-winning kiddie music titans of Brooklyn raise the roof with a rocking, all-ages show!

Petite Picassos! Wednesday, August 7th @ 1 p.m.

Join Miss Lily and create your very own step-by-step painting of flip flops on the beach!! Great fit for children ages 6-12! All materials provided, and REGISTRATION is required!

Bryson Lang! Thursday, August 8th @ 10 a.m.

Bryson Lang's show mixes comedy, audience participation, ball spinning, ball bouncing, juggling, well-crafted timing, giant Beach Balls, improv, and more!

Playful Engineers! Friday, August 9th @ 1 p.m.

Fun, hands-on, STEM-focused workshop. Design, build, test, and play with different chain reactions and creative contraptions!

Ed Popielarczyk Magic Show! Saturday, August 10th @ 10:30 a.m.

Ed Popielarczyk's one-of-a-kind magic show, guaranteed to impress the whole family!

Mr. Vinny Bubble Show! Monday, August 12th @ 4 p.m.

Mr. Vinny transfixes and excites kids using giant bubble wands he designed and constructed!

Fairytales Fun! Wednesday, August 14th @ 10:30 a.m.

Don your royal attire and join us for a Royal Ball fit for a princess (and her Fairy Godmother)! Includes singing, dancing, interactive storytelling, and a photo opportunity!

Petite Picassos! Wednesday, August 14th @ 1 p.m.

Join Miss Lily and create your very own step-by-step painting of flip flops on the beach!! Great fit for children ages 6-12! All materials provided, and REGISTRATION is required!

Music at the Blissful! Monday, August 19th @ 4 p.m.

Musician Evan Haller brings the energy to get the whole crowd up and dancing!

Poop Museum! Wednesday, August 21st @ 10:30 a.m.

The serious science of poop and pooping delivered with the silliness you might imagine accompanying a program about poop for young kids!

Read with Riley! Friday, August 23rd @ 4 p.m.

Special story time with therapy dog Riley and her human, Ally! We'll read Riley's favorite books, sing some of her favorite songs, and enjoy lots of puppy snuggles.

Baby Sensory! Saturday, August 24th @ 9:30 a.m.

45-minute baby sensory program for babies under 2! (Older siblings can bring along a stuffed toy or baby and play along!)

## Special Events for Teens

Paint-Teens! Monday, August 12th @ 5 p.m.

Teens! Join Miss Lily and create your very own step-by-step painting of a summer popsicle! Great for teens ages 12+! All materials provided. Registration is Required!

## Special Events for Adults

Painting For Adults! Saturday August 3rd @ 1 p.m.

Join Miss Lily to create your very own step-by-step painting of piping plovers on the beach! All materials provided. Registration Required!

Chess Group! Saturday, August 10th @ 2 p.m.

Chess - The Game of Kings has resumed play! All ages and ability levels are welcomed. Learn an opening, develop strategic & tactic abilities, improve endgame skills. Sets will be available.

## LIBRARY

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LIBRARY

continued from page 10

Silk Scarf Painting with Kulina Folk Art! Saturday, August 10th @ 3 p.m.

Unleash your inner artist! Registration Required!

Movie & Music Event: Dark Side of Oz! Thursday, August 15th @ 6 p.m.

Enjoy the uncanny mashup of two classics: The Wizard of Oz and Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon!

Granny Square Class Friday August 16th @ 1 p.m.

A granny square seems not very exciting, until you use it as an integral part of your creative process. This two-hour class will explore the basic structure of a granny square as we make one traditional style square using a basic worsted weight wool. You will leave with a new respect for the humble Granny square. All class materials provided. Program supported in part by a grant from the Bellingham and Franklin Cultural Councils, local agencies, which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Pre-requisites: Ability to chain, single crochet, double crochet, knowledge of how to count stitches

Special Events for All Ages

Cool Off & Color! Friday, August 2nd @ 1 p.m.

Beat the heat with a refreshing drink and a coloring sheet! All ages!

Farmer's Market Fun! Friday, August 16th @ 2 p.m.

Franklin Public Library will visit the Franklin Farmer's Market! Crafts & Activities for kids! Summer Reading Signups & Info.! Learn about our programs for all ages!

The Moonbellies Concert! Wednesday, August 21st @ 6 p.m.

Join the Moonbellies for a foot stomping, entertaining mix of original music, Americana, Old-time, Quebecois, Irish and Cajun music!

Summer Reading Wrap-Up: Mobile Mini Golf! Saturday, August 24th @ 1 p.m.

The library will be transformed into a Mini Golf course! Features balloons, snacks, prizes, and more! Children under 14 MUST be accompanied by an adult.

Franklin Library Book Sale

Friday, August 16th, 1-5 p.m., Saturday, August 17th, 9 a.m. to Noon, all books \$1.

Bag Sale - \$5 A Bag—Saturday, August 17th, from 1-4 p.m.

Concerts on the Common Continues into August

By MADDIE MIGA

Franklin's Concerts on the Common continue into August with more Friday fun on Franklin Town Common. Below are the concert dates coming up for this month, as well as what bands and movies will be featured:

August 2

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., David Rak 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Electric Youth

8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., Movie: Wonka

August 9

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., KENDO 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Paradise Flyer

August 16

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Matt Zajak

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Pub Kings

8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., Movie: Super Mario Bros.

In addition to Concerts on the Common, the following musical acts will take place at the Friday Franklin Farmers Market on the Town Common:

August 23

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Heather Deary

August 30

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Beni Brosch

September 6

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Alex Cohen

September 13

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., David Penza

September 20

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Sioo

September 27

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Heath Nisbett

October 4

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Dom DeBaggis

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# Franklin School for the Performing Arts Welcomes New Families

The Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) is excited to welcome new families for the 2024-25 school year. 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 each student's abilities to his or her own potential.



The community is invited to stop by 38 Main Street to tour the facilities, observe classes, speak with faculty and staff, and learn more about FSPA programs in music, dance, and drama, whether for recreational enjoyment or serious study. Additionally, interested families are always welcome to call 508-528-8668, check out FSPA on social media, or visit FSPAonline.com.

Performance is an integral part of an FSPA education and the school offers unrivaled performing opportunities for students throughout the year. On the calendar annually are student recitals, concerts by faculty and guest artists, master classes, student showcases, holiday shows, the school's signature Spring Concert, and summer camps and intensives. In addition, for students whose level of interest is more focused, there are special performing ensemble opportunities available by audition. THE BLACK BOX, home of the Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC), a 200-seat flexible theater located behind FSPA, provides a professional venue for FSPA student productions, while FPAC offers professional opportunities by audition for student performers.

For more information about FSPA and its programs, visit [www.FSPAonline.com](http://www.FSPAonline.com), call 508-528-8668, or stop by 38 Main St. in Franklin. You can follow FSPA on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

# Keep It Fresh and Local with Farmers Markets

By ANGIE FITTON

Farmer's Markets are an integral part of our society. They provide fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables that are essential to healthier eating, and most also have local artisans selling their goods. Many towns in Massachusetts have Farmers Markets. I've included a list of some in this vicinity open for the season.

- Franklin - 200 Main Street
  - Fridays from 2-6 p.m.
  - [www.franklinfarmersmarketma.com](http://www.franklinfarmersmarketma.com)
- Holliston - Holliston Farmers Market - 24 Water Street
  - Tuesdays from 3-7 p.m.
- Medway – Farmers Market, VFW, 123 Holliston Street
  - Thursdays 3-7 p.m.
 Medway Community Farm Farmstand - 50 Winthrop Street
  - Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, 2-6 p.m.
  - Saturdays 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Millis - Farmer's Market at Millis Church of Christ -142 Exchange Street
  - Wednesdays from 2-6 p.m.
  - (508) 376-5034
- Natick - Natick Common on Common Street - [www.natick-farmersmarket.org](http://www.natick-farmersmarket.org)
  - Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Norfolk- Norfolk Town Common - [www.norfolkfarmersmarket.com](http://www.norfolkfarmersmarket.com)
  - Wednesdays from 3 p.m.-7 p.m.
- Norwood Farmers Market – Norwood Town Common - <https://linktr.ee/norwoodmafarmersmarket>
  - Tuesdays, 2-6 p.m.
- North Attleboro Farmers Market – [www.northattleborough-farmersmarket.com](http://www.northattleborough-farmersmarket.com) - 43 S. Washington St.
  - Wednesdays, 5-8 p.m.
- Walpole Farmers Market <https://www.facebook.com/walpolefarmersmarketma/> - 938 East St.
  - Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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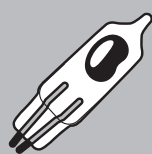
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# Millis Saturday Cruise Nights a Continuing Tradition

Got a stock or mod car you love to work on and show off? Join other car enthusiasts on Saturday nights, while the weather is good, for the longtime running Cruise Night at Encompass Fitness' parking lot in Millis. Shown here are some recent attendees.



Millis' Saturday night cruise has been taking place for many years. These gentlemen enjoy the informal get together and sharing a love of cars.



Edward Sicotte, of Franklin, shown here with his 1950 Ford.



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# Remembering Harry Bedirian

By DAVE LABONTE, FRANKLIN ODDFELLOWS

I joined the Franklin Odd Fellows fraternal organization in 1978 when Harry Bedirian had already been a member for over 42 years. I remember Harry as a quiet and reserved gentleman. You would never hear an angry word from Harry, about anybody or anything - and he always had a smile on his face. I'm sorry I didn't get to know him better while I had the opportunity. Harry should be remembered and his story is worth reading - - -

Harry (Haroutune) Bedirian was born in Kayseri, Turkey in 1895 and was part of the minority population of poor farming Armenians. At the beginning of World War I in 1913, the Rus-

sian Armenians were forced to side with Great Britain, France & Russia and this split caused fear and suspicion among the majority Ottoman society in Turkey. Many basic rights were taken away from the Armenians. When they tried to organize and demonstrate, the Ottoman "Young Turks" in power brought troops in and several massacres followed. No longer was there anyplace safe to live in Turkey and Harry had to flee the country. The persecution and mass killings of 1913 & 1914 in Turkey turned into a full genocide in 1915 during WWI. Indeed, one of Harry's cousins, Zachios Tozian, at the young age of 14, was killed by the Turks during the height of the genocide.



Harry grilling chicken September of 1963.

Harry travelled with his Uncle Khachig and they had many harrowing experiences including a train ride fleeing central Turkey and heading west toward Istanbul. Harry and others were desperate to get on an already overloaded train and had to ride on the roof through the biting cold night air, and a man near Harry froze to death. From Istanbul, Harry and Khachig crossed the Aegean Sea and landed in Athens, Greece for a while and then went on to Barcelona, Spain. They worked for funds for passage across the Atlantic to New York City.

An interesting fact about Harry's Atlantic crossing is that his Naturalization paper notes that his passage was on the Carpathia Passenger Steamship. In April 1912, the Carpathia became famous for rescuing 705 survivors of the rival White Star Line's RMS Titanic after it struck an iceberg and sank in the North Atlantic.

From New York City, Harry made his way to Quincy, Mass where he lived for a time and found work in the shipyards as a riveter. Parinaz Ouzounian came to America in 1921 and, after an arranged meeting, they married on March 31st of that same year. Harry & Parinaz



moved to Franklin and started a poultry farm on West Central St. in Franklin with 7 acres of land. In the early days of Garelick Farms Dairy, they used to pasture some of their cows on Harry's land to take advantage of a lower tax rate.

In January of 1936, Harry joined the Franklin Odd Fellows lodge and soon realized that the lodge was a great place to hold public suppers as his chicken farm business was perfect as the supplier of the main dish. Harry quickly mastered the art of cooking dozens of chicken halves over charcoal briquettes and turning them over all at the same time so he could serve large numbers of people. Harry also joined the Aleppo Shriners and the Montgomery Lodge of the Masons and found himself in big demand for these outings. Despite having

no formal education, Harry was a good supporter to his wife and four daughters and numerous nieces and nephews and grandchildren. Harry died peacefully at the age of 91 surrounded by his family on Christmas Eve in 1986.

Many thanks to Zabel (Beatrice) Postian of Ardsley, NY and Lucy Semerjian of Franklin, MA for their significant contributions to this article. Beatrice and Lucy are cousins and Lucy is the only surviving daughter of the four daughters that Harry fathered. Also, thanks to Jeff Lovell of Milford for providing genealogy information on the Bederian and Tozian families. In 1976 & 1977, I worked for Archie Tozian at the Franklin DPW and, as it turns out, Archie and Harry were first cousins. Small world!

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## 6th Annual Franklin Oddfellows Cornhole Tournament September 8th

On September 8, 2024, the public is invited to join the Franklin Odd Fellows for an afternoon of fun and good cheer starting at 1 p.m. at the Bellingham Sportsman Club at 360 Lake St., Bellingham, MA 02019. This will be a fundraiser event with profits going to the Massachusetts Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation. Teams will consist of two players each with a registration cost of \$25 per player. Team pre-registration is encouraged, but not necessary to be able to participate as cash payment will be collected at the door. Tourna-

ment formatting will be round robin play to establish seeding for a double elimination tournament. Last year's event went well, but we're looking for more teams this year. Get your teams together and register today! The Sportsman Club is an outdoor venue with an indoor lounge, cash bar and TV. The Odd Fellows will provide a buffet lunch and a cash payout to the winning team/teams. Many thanks to the Sportsman Club for use of their facility for this event. Register and prepay at: <https://franklinmassoddfellows.org/cornhole2024/>

# Exsultet! A Celebration of Voices Holds Auditions this August

By MADDIE MIGA

Exsultet! A Celebration of Voices is an all-female chorus group that's been sharing their love of music since 2013. As they begin to prepare for their 2024-2025 season, the chorus will be holding auditions for new singers to perform in their annual showcases.

Exsultet! was founded by Richard Larraga, the Artistic Director and Conductor of the chorus. Larraga also happens to be the Minister of Music at the First Congregational Church in Holliston, where the chorus often goes to perform and rehearse. Tania Carosi, one of the original members of Exsultet!, described how the chorus "brings a lot of happiness to the girls that participate in the group." The chorus values being an outlet for talented singers to share their love of music with one another and their audiences.

The chorus holds two annual performances every year. This includes their Holiday Concert in early December and their Spring Concert in early May. Unlike other choral groups, Exsultet! "tells a story" during their performances by incorporating a mixture of songs, poetry, and readings.

Each concert is typically built around a certain theme and fol-



Members of Exsultet! A Celebration of Voices pose during a dress rehearsal of one of their annual concerts.

lows a storyline written by the conductor. These performances also feature actors and actresses, making it "a mix between a play and a concert." Carosi goes on to explain how the audience is able to "see and hear about a story" through the actors, while the chorus "performs songs that go along with those same emotions and feelings found in the plot. By doing this, we try to illustrate the theme that's being conveyed in the story with both music and acting."

For their Holiday Concerts, the chorus features various Christmas songs, Hanukkah songs, and other musical pieces

that "bring in other cultures and traditions that people might not have exposure to." And this past spring, Exsultet! performed a variety of romantic songs in their concert titled "You Are The One." The performance followed the love story of one of the choir members and her husband, and became one of Carosi's favorite Exsultet! concerts due to its authenticity and originality.

Carosi first joined Exsultet! after graduating college, when she was in search of a musical outlet for herself. She "always had a passion for singing and was in three performing choirs in high school." Carosi had also begun



A Celebration of Voices performing at the First Congregational Church in Holliston.

working in Holliston around this time and wished to meet more people who shared her interest in chorus. After looking at nearby choirs and auditioning for Exsultet!, Carosi has been a part of the choral group ever since.

From 2013 to now, Exsultet! has continued to "expand and welcome educated and devoted singers." While the chorus began with "around six to seven members," it has grown into a much larger family of singers, percussionists, actors, and stage crew members. Carosi stated how these people have truly "helped put on our productions and have greatly contributed to our performances." Throughout the years, though, Exsultet! has kept the same mission of "allowing and welcoming other females who are interested in and devoted

to music." Looking ahead, the chorus wishes to keep growing by "branching out to new locations." While they usually have performances in Holliston and Dedham, Exsultet! has begun extending its talents by holding one of their latest concerts in Amherst.

This month, the chorus will continue expanding by holding auditions on Monday, August 26. The chorus has two openings for Soprano singers who are interested in performing for their 2024-2025 season. Auditions will be taking place at 7 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Holliston. Those who are interested should come prepared to perform one of the pieces from the Exsultet! website: [www.exsultet.us](http://www.exsultet.us).

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## THE BLACK BOX Sings... Concert Series Continues Under the Stars This August

THE BLACK BOX, the region's premier music, theater, and event venue, is thrilled to bring back THE BLACK BOX Sings... Concert Series outside under the stars this summer. Modeled after the popular cabaret series "54 Sings" at 54 Below in NYC, THE BLACK BOX continues THE BLACK BOX Sings... Series this August. The series celebrates the music of musicals, composers, and artists sung by Franklin Performing Arts Company favorites. Table seating and general seating are available. In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved inside.

On August 3rd at 7 p.m., THE BLACK BOX Sings... *Frozen*. TBB will present a concert celebrating the music of the highest-grossing animated film of all time: Disney's *Frozen*. The concert will feature a narrated telling of Elsa and Anna's story with live performances of the film's songs as well as new music written for the Broadway production. Enjoy the memorable songs of Kristen and

Robert Lopez in concert outside at THE BLACK BOX!

THE BLACK BOX Sings... TAYLOR SWIFT on August 11th at 7 p.m. A cast of Franklin Performing Arts Company favorites will pay tribute to the most-streamed artist on Spotify: Grammy Award-winner Taylor Swift.

Closing out the 2024 series will be the return of THE BLACK BOX Sings... *Wicked* on August 17th at 8 p.m. Pianist Austin Davy from the *Wicked* tour accompanies an FPAC all-star cast featuring Katie Gray, Ali Funkhouser, Nick Paone, Hallie Wetzell, and Tim Ayres-Kerr. Join THE BLACK BOX for a celebration of the music of *Wicked* and the story of the Witches of Oz.

Tickets and more information are available at THEBLACKBOXonline.com or by calling the box office at (508) 528-3370. THE BLACK BOX is located at 15 W. Central Street in downtown Franklin, MA.



## Historic Happenings at the Franklin Historical Museum for August 2024

**Franklin Historical Museum Bridal Exhibit continues until to Sunday 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, includ-

ing our stunning World War II wedding gown from 1946 sewn from a capture Japanese military parachute! The exhibit is open during regular hours, Saturdays 10-1 and Sundays 1-4, closed July 4 weekend. FREE (donations encouraged).

**Beyond Just Hollywood OR Bollywood – A look at the shared elements and differences between two great democratic nations.**

In recent decades, Massachusetts, and Franklin in particular, have seen a significant influx of residents with roots in India. Yet despite numerous shared values and aspirations many non-Indian people are only vaguely aware of Indian history and culture – and something similar is often true for immigrant Indians with regard to many aspects of America (and Franklin!). On Saturday and Sunday, August 17 and 18, the Franklin Historical Museum will share programming that builds on history, honors India's Independence Day, (celebrated officially every August 15), and will provide a chance for visitors to learn about what unites India and the USA with plenty of opportunities to learn about India and the



Indian-American community in the area. This program is different from many of our museum offerings and offers a chance to celebrate history while building community connections for today. Details will be posted on the museum Website as they become available. FREE (Donations encouraged)

**Coming in September**, a return of 'Cinema 80' 'Silent Saturday' films and a new musi-

cal performance series will also debut. Chris Leverone, a videographer and graphics artist from Franklin, has developed a new program of silent films in cooperation with the Franklin Senior Center. Also, a newly rebuilt, Franklin-made Trowbridge Piano will be at center stage as we explore music with a historic touch.

The Franklin Historical Museum is located at 80 West Central Street, Franklin. The museum is open Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. - 1p.m. and Sunday afternoons from 1-4:00 p.m. The museum will be closed Independence Day weekend, July 6 and 7.

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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# “Warrior Family” to Collect Books for Boston NICUs at Farmers Market

By J.D. O’GARA

Four-year-old Anthony Francis Costanzo, of Franklin, began a love for reading early.

Born as a preemie on May 7th, 2020, at just one pound, 9 ounces, at Brigham & Women’s Hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Anthony had to spend a lot of time – four months – in an incubator at the start of his life. Despite not being able to hold their tiny baby, his Mom, Adrianna, and Dad, Joe, at the suggestion of doctors and nurses, would read baby books to him as a way to bond.

“In the NICU with Anthony being in the incubator, we couldn’t pick him up all the time. He was connected to a breathing tube and IV’s. It was a process to get him out of there, so we would sit by the incubator and talk with him,” says Joe.

“The nurses suggested opening up the sides of the incubator so he could hear our voices,” Adrianna explained. “I would adjust the chair, so I was right next to him and read. If he was having a bad day, I swear, hearing our voice or reading a book, helped calm him down; and it calmed us down too.”

“My family sent me books we would read to him,” says Joe, “It helped him, we believe, and it helped us bond with him more.”

Last year, the couple began collecting books for the Brigham & Women’s Hospital NICU as a way to help other parents going through similar circumstances connect with their babies.

“The Brigham’s NICU has a literacy reading program, and when Anthony got out of the NICU and he was doing so well, we wanted to give back to Brigham, so we did that collection. Because of the generosity of everyone, we kept getting more books. We made another donation, and that’s when Tufts’ (NICU literacy program) contacted us asking us to do the same thing (for them).”

Since then, says Joe, “We’ve donated 1,228 books – to Brigham & Women’s three times, and once to Tufts.”

The family isn’t stopping there. In fact, on August 2nd, they’ll set up their “Warrior Family Books For NICU” tent at the Franklin Farmers Market, where they’ll be collecting new and gently used baby books once again for Boston NICU’s. Little Anthony, who, at 34 lbs., is a student at Franklin’s ECDC preschool and now enjoys his construction toys, bubbles and water play, will be helping out. “He’s “going to be our tattoo man, giving out fake tattoos,” says Joe, adding that, while his parents are work-

ing on him getting heavier, Anthony is “doing great with his motor skills,” playing soccer and T-Ball this year” and enjoying his construction toys, bubbles and water play.

Books collected at the Franklin Farmers Market will be added to the next delivery to Brigham & Women’s on August 9th.

The Costanzos also have a Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/WarriorFamilyBooksForNICU>, and an Amazon link [www.amazon.com/registries/guest-view/2A62Y300QSQBJ](https://www.amazon.com/registries/guest-view/2A62Y300QSQBJ). They’ve also recently begun working with local book shop Love Your Shelf, of Bellingham, <https://bookshop.org/wishlists/62aa153bad195c71b5fe4a55c638077b1f10d786>

“They’re so nice, and they told me about this store called bookshop.org, and we made a gift registry there,” says Joe. “If people buy a book from our registry there, part of our proceeds goes to the local bookstore.”

The Costanzos, who had also worked with Escape Into Fiction prior to the location’s closing, are eager to participate in the Farmers Market.

“We’re so excited for the Farmers Market,” says Joe, “This will be our first big event, and my whole family’s going to be there.”



Adrianna and Joe Costanzo are happy to say that their “miracle baby” Anthony is now a healthy, happy 4-year-old. The family will be collecting new and used books (in good condition) for Boston-area NICU’s at the August 2nd Franklin Farmers Market.



Donate Books

Visit here to donate books via Amazon.



Scan to Donate

Visit this site to donate books through Bellingham’s Love Your Shelf bookstore.



The award-winning Delta Generators was the highlight of this year’s Mike Crandall Franklin Blues Festival, part of the Franklin July 4th Coalition festivities. For more photos from the event, visit [www.franklinlocaltownpages.com](http://www.franklinlocaltownpages.com).

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BY GINA WOELFEL

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Our senior staff enthusiastically share their experience and knowledge, providing unhindered access to their skills. We encourage the growth of our fellow artists and actively seek opportunities to help our co-workers grow and achieve great things.

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Our cutting, coloring, and event styling specialists hold Monday education sessions, allowing our junior stylists and assistants to learn techniques in a warm and supportive environment with the people they work with daily. In addition to our in-house education, b.LUXE regularly hosts Goldwell sponsored

events with well-known educators like Jacob Kahn, Johnny Kelly, and Kylie Bussing. Our aesthetics team attends seminars and collaborates with guest educators from our skincare line, G.M. Collin, an undisputed leader in dermo-corrective skincare solutions.

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- **Corinn Bradford, Esthetician**

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# Sports

## Rising Junior Dylan Maw an Asset to Tri-County Baseball

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

As a young baseball player, Dylan Maw found himself playing third base, but when he was introduced to pitching, it changed his entire outlook on the sport. He has never looked back.

“I played third and had a good arm; one day my coach asked me if I wanted to try pitching, and I did really good, so I stuck with it,” Maw said. “I came to love the position, because everything revolves around me; I am in control of the game – if I do good, the team does good.”

When he was in eighth grade, Dylan began to see his pitching excel. His velocity was getting better, and he was working with pitching coach Roy Blakely, as well as taking part in RBI Baseball clinics.

Prior to entering high school, Maw had played AAU baseball with the Cannons, but when the team ran out of money and was forced to fold, Maw was recruited by the Crush, a team he is still playing for today. When it came time to go to high school, the incoming freshman decided that Tri-County was where he wanted to go.

“Being in the classroom bored me, and I would prefer working with my hands, so I chose Tri-County, where I could do shop,” he said. “I originally got into electrical, but now it’s just not my thing anymore. I’m just looking to play baseball and get better, so that I can play in college.”

Maw’s college dreams began as a freshman taking part in a nerve-racking tryout for the Cougars baseball team.

“Coming to Tri-County, I didn’t know anyone,” he said. “It took me a couple of months after making the team to get to know the other players, but once I did, things were ok.”

It was around the third or fourth game of his freshman season when TC Coach Ryan Hippert gave him the ball to start a game on the mound for the Cougars.

“They let me pitch against Uxbridge. I knew I was only going to be in the game for one or two innings (Maw pitched 2),” he said. “I did alright besides plunking one kid; I didn’t allow any runs.”

Tri-County went 8-10 that year, and Maw didn’t lose a single game when he got to take to the hill for the Cougars. He was also named to the Mayflower League All-Star team, something that he did not expect, especially as a freshman.

“Being named to the All-Star team was definitely a good moment, but it was a surprise,” he said. “They announced it at the banquet, and I was very nervous walking up in front of everyone; I was happy but nervous.”

That award motivated the young pitcher to not only prove he deserved the award, but made him want to work harder to become better during his second season with the team.

To improve his pitching, Maw once again turned to a coach. This time, he worked with an online pitching coach who gave him drills to not only make him stronger, but to also get his mechanics down. With his training, he increased his speed by 6 mph over five months.

According to the TC Coach, Maw is by far the team’s MVP this past season and was once again named to the All-Star team for the second year in a row. He pitched the most innings for the Cougars and averaged 1 strikeout per inning. He also batted in the 300’s with 11 singles, 5 doubles and 12 RBI as the cleanup hitter.

Being named to the All-Star team for a second time has put even more pressure on the young pitcher, but Dylan insists it will not interfere with his game, as he has to be a role model and leader for the team come next season.

“Being one of the best players does put pressure on you,” he said. “But once I step onto the mound, it doesn’t affect me. I get into a zone, and the only thing that I am thinking about is doing my job to help this team win.”



**Named twice to the All-Star team, Dylan Maw has worked even harder to live up to expectations and to be a role model for other players. He’s happy to play another season with his older brother Owen this coming year.** Photo provided by Dylan Maw.

Maw found himself on the mound against West Bridgewater during the regular season with a tournament berth on the line. The sophomore went 7 innings allowing only a single run as the Cougars won the game and clinched a spot in the Division 3 State Tournament. The sophomore would once again find himself as the starting pitcher in the tournament against Tewksbury Memorial, where he would only allow one earned run keeping Tri-County’s chances alive, but the Cougars would eventually fall 3-0.

As he departs his sophomore season with TC, Maw knows that he wants to once again keep working on his game so that he is totally ready for his junior

campaign, which will also be his brother Owen’s (an outfielder on the team) last year.

“Next year will be Owen’s senior year, and I want it to be a good year, while having fun playing one last time with him,” the younger Maw said. “Playing with him pushes me, without a doubt, and I really want to have another good season with him.”

In addition to playing well in his brother’s final season, Maw has realized that baseball is more than just playing for his high school team; he is eventually hoping to get recruited to play baseball on the collegiate level. Although it is still early, he is hoping to continue to play baseball somewhere in the south. He is currently looking at the University of Miami and Coastal Carolina University in Conway South Carolina.

“I know that I need to keep working hard and dedicate more time to baseball,” he said. “I plan on playing basketball one more season with my brother, it’s his top sport, before he graduates. After that, my basketball career will be over, and I’ll be concentrating more on baseball.”

Maw continued to say that he wants to work extremely hard at becoming one of the best in the league and would love nothing more than taking the Cougars deep into the tournament.

“This team has a lot of potential to get back to the states and hopefully go further each year,” he said.



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# Living Healthy

## Back to School Eye Health and Computer Vision Syndrome

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

As the back-to-school season approaches, parents are busy preparing their children for the academic year ahead. From buying new clothes to stocking up on school supplies, the checklist can seem endless. However, one crucial aspect that often gets overlooked is eye health. Ensuring that children have optimal vision is essential for their academic performance and overall well-being. Additionally, with the increasing use of digital devices in education, understanding and addressing Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS) is more important than ever.

### The Importance of Regular Eye Exams

Regular vision screening using evidence-based tools and procedures is essential to iden-

tify children with possible vision impairments. These screenings educate parents and caregivers about the importance of vision care, ensure referrals to eye care professionals for comprehensive exams, and help parents understand the significance of following treatment plans.

However, the availability of appropriate vision screening varies depending on location and the specific schools or programs children attend. These discrepancies can lead to inequalities in children's vision care in the United States. Notably, 1 in 17 young children and 1 in 4 school-aged children have undetected and untreated vision disorders that can interfere with learning and development.

Untreated vision disorders can cause children to fall behind in school, exhibit behavioral problems, miss developmental

milestones, and even suffer permanent vision loss. Therefore, a continuum of eye care that includes both vision screenings and comprehensive eye examinations is recommended. All children, even those with no signs of trouble, should have their eyes and vision screened at regular intervals.

### Five Steps to Eye Health

- 1. Understanding the Importance:** Parents and caregivers need to understand the importance of vision screening and arrange eye exams if screening suggests a possible vision disorder.
- 2. Routine Screening:** Children should participate in routine vision screening conducted by trained and certified screeners using evidence-based tools and procedures.



### 3. Referral for Examination:

Children who do not pass vision screening should be referred to their medical home or an eye care professional for a comprehensive eye examination.

### 4. Eye Examination:

Eye exams should be conducted by eye doctors trained and experienced in treating young children.

### 5. Follow-up and Treatment:

Parents and caregivers should follow the treatment plan, ensure ongoing care, and share eye examination results with school nurses or other relevant personnel.

### Understanding Computer Vision Syndrome

Computer Vision Syndrome, also known as Digital Eye Strain, refers to a group of eye and vision-related problems resulting from prolonged use of digital devices. Symptoms of CVS include:

- Decreased or blurred vision
- Burning or stinging eyes
- Sensitivity to light
- Headaches
- Neck and back pain

CVS is more common if there are more than two hours of continuous computer screen time a day. The most common causes include improper viewing angle or distance from the screen, glare, extended use, staring without blinking, and uncorrected vision problems.

### Preventing Computer Vision Syndrome

While it may not be possible to eliminate digital device use, these measures can help prevent CVS:

- **Adjust Viewing Angle:** The center of the monitor should be 20 to 28 inches from your eyes and 4 to 5 inches below eye level. Position reference materials so they can be seen without moving your head.
- **Reduce Glare:** Position your screen to avoid glare from lights or windows. Use glare filters if necessary.
- **Rest Your Eyes:** Follow the 20-20-20 rule: every 20 minutes, look away from your screen at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds. After two hours of continuous screen use, rest your eyes for 15 minutes.

### Signs Your Child May Need an Eye Exam

While annual eye exams are crucial, specific signs indicate a child may need to see an eye doctor sooner. These include:

- Squinting or tilting the head to see better
- Complaints of headaches or eye strain
- Difficulty reading or doing close-up work
- Sitting too close to the television or holding digital devices close to the eyes
- Excessive tearing or sensitivity to light

If any of these symptoms are present, it's essential to schedule an eye exam as soon as possible. As always... "Moms know better". In doubt, schedule a comprehensive eye exam.

### The Rise of Digital Device Use in Education

In recent years, digital devices have become integral to the educational experience. Research shows that 25 to 93 percent of computer users experience a problem so common there's a name for it: Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS).

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# Local Democrats to Host Governor's Council Candidate Forum

In a cooperative effort to involve the voters in our communities in the Governor's Council District 2 race, the Democratic Committees of Bellingham, Dover, Franklin, Medfield, Milford, Millis, Needham, Norfolk, Plainville and Wrentham will host a forum for the Democratic candidates for the Governor's Council District 2 race on Wednesday, August 7th at 7 p.m.

The forum will take place at Norfolk Public Library). It will also air live on Norfolk Public Library and available on their YouTube Channel.

The Governor's Council records advice and consent on state treasury warrants, pardons, commutations, and gubernatorial appointments. Appointments include judges, clerk-magistrates, public administrators, and members of the Parole Board, Appellate Tax Board and Industrial Accident Reviewing Board, as well as notaries and justices of the peace.

## EYES

*continued from page 20*

- **Blink Often:** Blink frequently and use lubricating eye drops to prevent dry eye.
- **Get Your Eyes Checked:** Ensure your prescription is correct, especially for computer use.

If symptoms persist, consult an ophthalmologist for a comprehensive evaluation and treatment plan.

## Choosing the Right Eyewear

For children who need corrective lenses, selecting the right eyewear is crucial:

- **Durability:** Choose sturdy frames that can withstand daily activities.
- **Comfort:** Ensure the frames fit well and are comfortable.
- **UV Protection:** Consider lenses with UV protection for outdoor activities.
- **Blue Light Filters:** Several studies suggest that blue light-blocking glasses do not improve symptoms of digital eye strain. The American Academy of Ophthalmology does not recommend blue light-blocking glasses because of the lack of scientific evidence that blue light is damaging to the eyes.

## Conclusion

As children head back to

school, ensuring their eye health should be a top priority. Regular eye exams, attention to symptoms of vision problems, and strategies to prevent Computer Vision Syndrome can help safeguard their vision and support their academic success. By taking these steps, parents can ensure their children have the visual tools they need to thrive in and out of the classroom.

Computer Vision Syndrome is very common, and more eye strain can be expected as screen work increases. Our center and optometrists have state-of-the-art equipment to diagnose and treat many eye problems, including CVS. With in-house ophthalmologists available, there is no need to seek outside referrals. Our seven dedicated eye care providers across three state-of-the-art facilities in Franklin, Milford, and Millis offer convenient Saturday and after-hours appointments. This back-to-school season, all new patients, children, and adults, receive a new pair of select eyeglasses. Our quality in-house optical shop has its own lab and experienced opticians ready to help. From basic eye exams to high-tech surgeries, we provide comprehensive eye care for returning scholars and the entire family.

For more details, see our ad on page 20.

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# Dean College Awards \$39,000 in Scholarships to 3 Local Students

Dean College is pleased to announce that three local high school students have been awarded \$39,000 scholarships. This year's scholarship winners are:

- **Emma Degregorio** who received the Tri-County Regional Technical High School Scholarship
- **Molly Devine** who received the Hockomock YMCA Scholarship (Foxborough High School)
- **Ginnifer Loftin** who received the Franklin High School Scholarship

These scholarships are awarded annually by the College to deserving high school seniors and are renewable each year, provided they maintain a 2.7 GPA or higher.

All scholarship finalists met with a selection committee for an interview before the winners were determined. To be considered for the Hockomock YMCA and Franklin High School scholarships, applicants were also required to submit an essay and a letter of recommendation.

Emma Degregorio is the recipient of the Tri-County Regional Technical High School Scholarship and chose Dean for its close-knit community, smaller class sizes and support services. She will be majoring in Psychology.

"I chose this major because I want to help people and to be able to do that, I need to understand why they are behaving in certain ways," said Degregorio. "I'm really looking forward to the education I will be receiving at Dean and all the new people I will meet. This scholarship is helping me so much financially to make my dreams a reality."

Molly Devine is this year's Hockomock YMCA Scholarship recipient and is a Foxborough High School graduate. She has worked part-time at the YMCA since 2022 where she has led youth fitness classes and served as summer camp counselor. She will be majoring in Business Management at Dean. A former teacher of Devine's said, "Molly has proven she is ready to take on all the challenges that college will present and she will be a tremendous addition to Dean."

Franklin High School Scholarship recipient Ginnifer Loftin

chose Dean for the opportunities the College provides, including internships, experiential learning, and the plethora of clubs/organizations available. She will be majoring in Early Childhood Education.

"This scholarship allows me to join the Dean community, which is so embracing of different backgrounds, cultures and learning styles," said Loftin. "I know attending Dean will help me continue to grow as an individual and learn how to be an effective educator."

Congratulations to these newest Dean College Bulldogs on their achievements. If you are a current high school senior eligible and interested in one of Dean's local scholarships, contact your high school guidance office for more information. Learn more about all of Dean's scholarship opportunities here: [www.dean.edu/cost-aid/scholarships/](http://www.dean.edu/cost-aid/scholarships/).



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# Save the Date: September 28th Franklin's Harvest Festival

The 21st Annual Harvest Festival is set for Sat., Sept. 28, with a rain date of Sun. Sept. 29, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. It will take place on Main Street and the surrounding streets in downtown Franklin. Put it on your calendar!

Organized by the Franklin Downtown Partnership, more than 150 vendors will display their specialties. Look forward to music, food, kids' activities, special items from local merchants, artwork and crafts.

"The Harvest Festival is a great time to socialize, relax, and enjoy the community spirit. There are many shopping and dining opportunities in downtown Franklin," said Scott Martin, President of the Franklin Downtown Partnership and Harvest Festival Chair.

The Partnership welcomes business owners to sponsor the Harvest Festival. Please email the FDP office at [downtown.franklin@yahoo.com](mailto:downtown.franklin@yahoo.com) to learn about sponsorship opportunities.

This year's festival sponsors, to date:

**Platinum** – Dean Bank

**Gold** – Hockomock YMCA

**Silver** – The Enclave of Franklin, Glenn Meadow Apartments, Notturmo Home Services

**Bronze** – Eagle Stainless Tube & Fabrication, Fenton Financial Group, Keefe Insurance, LeafFilter For festival, booth registration or sponsorship info, visit the FDP website at [www.franklindowntownpartnership.org](http://www.franklindowntownpartnership.org).

Follow the Partnership at:

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

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

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 can 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, green space, alley murals, and sculpture projects. For more information go to [www.franklindowntownpartnership.org](http://www.franklindowntownpartnership.org).

## Fallen Veterans to Be Honored in August

Over the past few months, Franklin's Veterans' organizations, the Edward L. Grant American Legion Post 75, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3402, under the auspices of the Town's Veterans Council, have developed a program to further honor those who died for our nation, to ensure they are remembered, and their stories are kept alive.

On August 15th, a dual ceremony honoring Jules Perret, who passed on that day during

World War II, and Robert R. Pirelli, who was lost many years later in Iraq, will be held. Later, on August 20th, Edward C. Dailey, killed in World War II will be remembered, and another ceremony two days later on August 22nd will honor John W. Wylie, Jr., who was also lost during World War II.

This program will include the placing of a Memorial Wreath for the day at the town's Veterans Memorial on the Franklin Town Common, the playing of Taps, a

salute from those present, and a reading of whatever history we may have on that veteran. This is a way of keeping the memory of that veteran alive.

Families of the veterans, if known, will be invited to attend the 9 a.m. ceremony.

The public is invited to attend these ceremonies to honor those who gave their lives.

Franklin's military organizations support numerous veterans' activities and encourage all veterans in town to join them.

## Temple Etz Chaim Names Rabbi Rachel Putterman as New Spiritual Leader



Temple Etz Chaim, a vibrant Reform Jewish congregation in Franklin, Massachusetts, is pleased to announce the election of Rabbi Rachel Putterman as its new spiritual leader, effective August 1, 2024.



TEMPLE ETZ CHAIM

Rabbi Rachel, as she prefers to be called, brings a wealth of experience in Jewish leadership, education, and community building to her new role. She most recently served as the Director of Hillel and Associate Chaplain at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, where she oversaw religious, cultural, and educational programming while providing pastoral care to the campus community.

"We are thrilled to welcome Rabbi Putterman to our Temple Etz Chaim family," said Dr. Michael Rubin, President of Temple Etz Chaim. "Her diverse background in Jewish education, pastoral care, and community engagement aligns perfectly with our congregation's commitment to spiritual fulfillment, lifelong learning, and Tikkun Olam, or the repair of the world."

Rabbi Rachel's extensive experience includes serving as an adjunct faculty member in Hebrew College's adult education program and two units of chaplaincy training at Boston area hospitals. She also created an innovative series of tefillin videos - "All Genders Wrap" - which is

widely used in Jewish education programs around the country.

"I am honored and overjoyed to step into this role as the next spiritual leader of the Temple Etz Chaim community," said Rabbi Rachel. "I have been impressed by the warmth, commitment, and thoughtfulness of all of the community members I have met so far. I can't wait to get to know everyone and look forward to being present with congregants during times of joys and oys - and everything in between."

Rabbi Rachel received her rabbinic ordination and Master's degree in Jewish Studies from Hebrew College in 2020. She also holds a J.D. from American University's Washington College of Law and brings a unique perspective from her previous career as an attorney advocating for veterans and domestic violence survivors. She takes over for longtime Rabbi Tom Alpert, who retired from the pulpit in June 2024 after more than a decade of service and who remains connected to the community as a rabbi emeritus.

Temple Etz Chaim, founded in 1990, is a Reform Jewish congregation serving Franklin and its surrounding communities. The Temple is committed to providing a welcoming space for spiritual fulfillment, Jewish education, and community engagement for members of all ages.

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# MA Bill Banning Revenge Porn Now Law

On June 20th, Governor Maura T. Healey today signed into law An Act to prevent abuse and exploitation, which seeks to prevent abuse and exploitation, strengthen protections for survivors, and enhance education for young people about the dangers of sexting and deepfakes.

The law adds Massachusetts to the states that have acted to prohibit image-based sexual assault – sometimes referred to as “revenge porn,” which is the non-consensual sharing of explicit images. The law extends to “computer-generated images,” such as “deepfakes,” which have recently caused alarm. It will also expand the criminal harassment statute to prohibit the distribution of sexual images without consent and increase the maximum fines for criminal harassment convictions.

The new law also addresses teen sexting provisions from a bill filed by State Representative Jeffrey N. Roy (D-Franklin). Rep. Roy worked with Franklin Police Lt. Jason Reilly for several years to make these changes to the



law. Currently, minors who possess, purchase, or share explicit photos of themselves or other minors are charged with violating Massachusetts child pornography laws and are required to register as sex offenders. The legislation signed today instead authorizes commitment to the Department of Youth Services (DYS), but also allows minors to be diverted to an educational program in lieu of criminal punishment. A district attorney, however, is allowed to petition the court to bring criminal charges in extreme cases.

The educational diversion program, to be created by the Attorney General, would pro-



vide teenagers with information about the legal and nonlegal consequences of sexting, which would be made available to school districts. DESE should also encourage districts to implement media literacy programs in their schools as a prevention measure.

“This legislation represents a coordinated effort and a holistic approach to address an increas-

ingly prevalent behavior and provides mechanisms to protect individuals victimized by those who threaten, intimidate, and harass the subjects of these images,” said Roy, a lead sponsor of the bill. “The sexting provisions provide law enforcement officers with a middle ground that will allow them to educate kids about the consequences of their actions without ruin-

ing their lives. It will have a tremendous impact on people who have become entangled in the web and transmittal of images that can cause traumatic and lifetime harm through a diversion program that will educate them about the legal and personal consequences of this behavior.”

Representative Michael S. Day (D-Stoneham), House Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and House Chair of the conference committee noted: “The House has heard the urgent call of survivors to enhance protections and ensure that our laws keep up with technology. But the House does not just listen, we act. This law will provide essential protections to survivors of predatory acts while, at the same time, intelligently addressing risky adolescent behavior through education and not necessarily only criminalization.”

Lt. Reilly was present for the bill signing along with Rep. Roy and a host of state leaders and advocates.



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# Discovering Justice Annual Gala Honors MA State Senator Becca Rausch with 2024 “Partner for Justice” Award

Celebrating the importance of partnerships in supporting their impactful programs, Discovering Justice recognized Massachusetts State Senator Becca Rausch (D-Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex) as a “Partner for Justice” at its Annual Gala last month.

Held at the Artists for Humanity EpiCenter on June 26th, gratitude and appreciation were the focus of the night at Discovering Justice’s Annual Gala 2024: “Partners for Justice,” which raised \$325,000 for the organization’s statewide programs.

Introducing Senator Rausch during the evening’s speaking program, Discovering Justice Executive Director Matt Wilson commended her “tireless and dedicated work” as the civic education sector’s champion for civics in the Massachusetts legislature – particularly for her ongoing support on the Senate Floor for Massachusetts’ landmark Civic Education Law since it was passed in 2018. “Through

her passion for civic engagement and her persistence,” Wilson said, “Senator Rausch has emerged as a leader on Beacon Hill to bring robust civic education to every student in Massachusetts.”

Based in the John J. Moakley U.S. Courthouse in Boston’s Seaport District, Discovering Justice is a civics education nonprofit that brings students and communities together to examine the workings of the justice system, explore the ideals of justice, and prepare to engage as active citizens. This year, its programs served 27,000 students of all ages in classrooms across the Commonwealth.

Alongside Rausch, Discovering Justice’s Gala honored five additional “Partners for Justice” Awardees for their long-term collaboration with, and exceptional commitment to, the organization’s programs and civics education for students across Massachusetts: Springfield Public Schools Director of Humanities Thomas Rachele; Jones Day



Massachusetts State Senator Becca Rausch addresses the audience at Discovering Justice’s Annual Gala on June 26th. Photo © Meredith Nierman.

Associate Hannah Essquenazi; Boston Public School Educators Christy Nelson and Tracy Coutts; and the law firm Goodwin Procter.

Each “Partner for Justice” Awardee spoke on their work in partnership with Discovering Justice and the impact of that work on students and commu-

nities. Awardees were then presented with customized award plaques created by Artists for Humanity’s teen program participants.

In her address, Senator Rausch extolled the importance of “bring[ing] civic education to our students, and bring[ing] those students into the rooms where policy is made, democracy lives, and equity advances, inspiring them to envision themselves there in the future.”

Reflecting on the Gala, Senator Rausch would later remark: “I am so deeply proud to partner with Discovering Justice. I absolutely loved gathering with others who share our collective passion for civic education, from students and educators to

attorneys and policymakers, as we learn from and inspire one another.”

“Discovering Justice’s partners are essential to our work,” said Executive Director Matt Wilson. “It was inspiring to hear directly from partners like Senator Rausch and to celebrate all the collaboration that makes this work possible. The night was a reminder of the importance of civics education not only for each of us and our students as individuals, but also for our schools, cities and towns, and communities.”

To learn more about Discovering Justice’s innovative civic education programs for students across the Commonwealth, visit [www.discoveringjustice.org](http://www.discoveringjustice.org)

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## Elected MA Officials Celebrate \$1.72 Billion in Federal Funding for Cape Cod Bridges

In mid-July, Sens. Markey and Warren (D-Mass.), Governor Maura Healey, and Congressman Bill Keating (MA-09) held a press conference to celebrate that Massachusetts has secured a total of \$1.72 billion for the replacement of the Cape Cod bridges. A week prior, the Healey-Driscoll administration won nearly \$1 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’s Bridge Investment Program (BIP). The administration previously secured \$372 million from the Federal Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program, in addition to \$350 million secured by the Congressional delegation from FY24 appropriations. Governor Healey has also committed \$700 million in state funds to the project.



# Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation Awards \$133,750 in Grants to 14 Nonprofits in Taunton-Attleboro

Bristol County Savings Bank's Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation (BCSCF) awarded grants totaling \$133,750 to 14 non-profit organizations in the Taunton/Attleboro region during a ceremony recently at White's of Westport in Westport, Massachusetts.

The local organizations that received grants from the Foundation are as follows:

**Taunton/Attleboro area, \$133,750** – American Credit Counseling Services (\$2,500), Applause Academy (\$2,500),

Franklin Food Pantry Incorporated (\$10,000), Grit & Grace Sober Living (\$5,000), Horizons For Homeless Children (\$5,000), Junior Achievement of Southern MA (\$10,000), Manet Community Health Center (\$10,000), Old Colony Habitat for Humanity (\$50,000), Pave Your Path, Inc. (\$5,000), Pride, Inc. (\$10,000), Reach Out & Read (\$2,500), Rehoboth Antiquarian Society (\$7,500), SMARTS Collaborative (\$2,000) and Triumph, Inc. (\$11,750).

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# First Universalist Society in Franklin – August Summer Services

First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) is pleased to announce our Summer Sunday Worship Series for **August 4, 2024 through August 25, 2024**. Please join us each Sunday as we explore the Unitarian Universalist (UU) values of Equity, Transformation, Generosity, Interdependence, Justice, Pluralism and Love. All services start at 10 a.m. Afterwards, we invite you to stay for cookies and conversation.

*The First Universalist Society in Franklin is a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation located at 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin MA. For further information about FUSF please explore our website at [fusf.org](http://fusf.org) or contact our Interim Minister, the Reverend Beverly Waring at (508) 528- 5348 or [minister@fusf.org](mailto:minister@fusf.org)*

### August 4, 2024: Embracing Differences and Commonalities

The Unitarian Universalist Value of Pluralism encourages us to “embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.” Bobbi

Gerlits, one of FUSF’s lay leaders, has been reflecting on this value for the past few months. Her journey toward a better understanding of pluralism has been shaped by the Sunday before Thanksgiving, three libraries, Henry David Thoreau, rules, Norman Rockwell, and a housewarming gift.

### August 11, 2024: Winds of Change

Change can be a whirlwind. Some see transformation as an exciting new chapter in life and accept it freely like a breath of fresh air. Others may find change frightening and difficult to embrace. In considering the range of emotions we all experience on this topic, where would you place yourself when you reflect on transformations you’ve made throughout life? How many times have you freely chosen change and how many times has personal change been driven by life’s circumstances? Please join FUSF Lay Leader, Deb Prudhomme in the explo-

ration, reflection, and embrace of the winds of change.

### August 18, 2024: An Expression of Love

FUSF Lay leaders, Stirling and Brian Cousins, believe our shared UU Value of Transformation calls on each of us to collectively transform ourselves and to grow spiritually and ethically. In this sermon they will explore how the personal choices we all make enable us to undergo ethical transformation related to our relationship with the interdependent web of life (Value of Interdependence). They will further discuss how transformation applied to the ethics of our personal choices is a full expression of Love.

### August 25, 2024: Minister Rev. Bev

FUSF Interim Minister, the Rev. Beverly Waring (Rev. Bev.) is back in the pulpit and looks forward to seeing you.

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# Dealing with Stress in the College Search

"I am nervous about going to college, it's such a big change", "I'm not happy with my SAT scores", and "I haven't experienced anything exciting in my life- I have no essay material." This time of year can be stressful for rising juniors and seniors. The college application process can feel overwhelming, especially when teens compare themselves to others on social media. They are definitely not alone in feeling this way!

It is a good time to keep your eye on your teen. Anxiety, depression, and stress are real, especially in the aftermath of COVID. Keeping communication lines open consistently is helpful; simply ask how your teen is doing - don't worry about sounding awkward. They will understand that you are trying to support them. It can be a relief for them to share what is bottling up inside. Inevitably - you will need to talk with your teen about the college nitty-gritty, we recommend compiling all your questions and talking at a pre-planned time once per week for updates. It is less stressful and preserves strong family relationships!

## Students - a few more stress-reducing tips:

- **Put a stake in the ground:** Essay analysis-paralysis is quite common; overthinking can prevent taking the first step. Just put a stake in the ground - make an outline and start writing. It is better to make a choice and adjust later than to remain stuck.
- **Discover a stress buster:** Take breaks and engage in an activity that helps blow off steam! One of our students plays basketball in his yard every night at 10 pm. It provides him with the energy and focus to complete his work.
- **Celebrate the small victories:** There are a lot of college application to-dos. When you get something done, no matter how small - take a break and celebrate!
- **Get organized:** this means with your space and your time. A clutter free environment increases productivity and decreases stress. Creating a simple to-do list with

due dates will help you stay on task, and you will feel good about yourself - it really works!

- **Scroll social media with a grain of salt:** No one is going to post their worst grades on social media. It is not a complete picture of anyone's life. Consider filtering your social media accounts to feeds that are positive and real. Take a proactive step by unfollowing accounts or people who make you feel "not quite good enough". You control your mindset - not others.

## Parents - Advice on how to respond to some of those common college worries

"I am nervous about going to college, it's such a big change". Probe more. What part of college is making your teen nervous - is it leaving home, do they feel like they won't make friends, is it that they have no idea what they want to major in, or is it the expense of college? Just getting to the bottom of their concern

will help lessen the isolation and anxiety.

"I'm not happy with my SAT scores, If I don't send my test scores in, I won't get accepted". Not true. For the 2025 admission cycle, over 80% of 4-year colleges will remain test optional. Applicants can choose whether to submit their scores or not. In addition, standardized testing has been a topic of debate for years in its ability to predict success. Just have your teen focus on showcasing their strengths through other aspects of their application - grades, course rigor, activities, essays, and recommendation letters.

"Nothing has ever happened to me - I have no essay material!". Absolutely not true! You don't need to climb Mount Everest to write a good essay. Sometimes the smallest moments lead us to the biggest breakthroughs. How to uncover these topics? In a nutshell, brainstorm, create a strong list of details of your life, ask yourself "why" are these so important, and then dig deeper and identify which fact will tell the most unique story about you!



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

Good luck and enjoy the journey - all will be OK!

College 101 Admissions Consultants LLC.  
Website: [www.mycollege101.com](http://www.mycollege101.com).  
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## August 2024 at Bellforge Arts Center: Locally Grown

Locally Grown represents Bellforge Arts Center's mission to support artists, enhance cultural opportunities, and foster the creative community. It highlights the finest in locally sourced food, drink, and music, creating connections for all ages. Bellforge plans to convert two buildings at the former Medfield State Hospital into a performing arts and education center, with phase two

introducing a culinary arts center and revitalized agricultural fields. In August, Locally Grown will feature intimate weeknight events every Wednesday, showcasing local musicians and performers, leading up to a larger day festival in September. This series provides a glimpse into the future of the multi-arts center, emphasizing its artistic and culinary ambitions.

**August 7, 5-8 p.m.:** Locally Grown with Tiny The Bear and Superpink

**August 14, 5-8 p.m.:** Locally Grown with Miranda Rae and Notebook P

**August 21, 5-8 p.m.:** Locally Grown with Dan Decristofaro and Lainey Dionne

**August 28, 5-8p.m.:** Locally Grown with Coco Smith and Sweet Petunia

### To Get to Bellforge Arts Center:

Take Rt. 27 to Hospital Road. Make a left on Hospital Road, then a left on Service Drive.

If using Google Maps or Waze: Use 1 Service Drive, Medfield in your GPS

If using Apple Maps: Use 45 Hospital Road, Medfield in your GPS

You will turn in to the hospital grounds when you see the school buses. Drive up the hill, where you will find several available parking lots on your left. Bellforge is on the right (walk between the brick buildings) with events located outside on the grounds of the former Chapel.

For more information, visit [bellforge.org/events](http://bellforge.org/events).

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## Town of Franklin Launches Creative Networking Survey

Franklin is building a comprehensive database of our creative community. The goals of this database is to help tailor future opportunities to meet the needs and interests of our local artists, writers, and creative community members; ensuring that Franklin remains a thriving hub for artistic expression and cultural engagement.

Creatives have the option of being listed on the Franklin Culture website; By participating on the website, it offers another platform to showcase art-

ists/creatives work and continue to build their diverse artistic network. Cory Shea, the Director of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy will be reviewing this information bi-weekly to add to website/database. If you have questions, please email her [[c Shea@franklinma.gov](mailto:c Shea@franklinma.gov)].

Artists, writers and other creatives can find the survey at:

<https://tinyurl.com/Franklincreativesurvey>

# Calendar

## August 2

**Warrior Family Books for NICU collection, Franklin Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m.**, Franklin Town Common, donate new or gently used children's books to help new parents bond with their babies at Mass. NICU's

**Franklin Concerts on the Common, 3-5 p.m.** David Rak, 6-8 p.m. Electric Youth, 8:30 p.m. movie: Wonka

## August 3

**The BLACK BOX Sings ... Frozen, 7 p.m.**, outside at THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, tickets at THEBLACKBOXonline.com or by calling the box office (508) 528-3370

## August 7

**Forum for the Democratic candidates for the Governor's Council District 2 race, 7 p.m.**, Norfolk Public Library. Will also air live on Norfolk Public Library and available on their YouTube Channel.

## August 9

**Franklin Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m.**, Franklin Town Common  
**Franklin Concerts on the Common, 3-5 p.m.**, KENDO, 6-8 p.m. Paradise Flyer

## August 10

**Chess Group! 2 p.m.** Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, all levels, sets will be

available.

**Silk Scarf Painting with Kulina Folk Art! Saturday, 3 p.m.**, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Registration Required

## August 11

**The BLACK BOX Sings ... Taylor Swift, 7 p.m.**, outside at THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, tickets at THEBLACKBOXonline.com or by calling the box office (508) 528-3370

**Movie & Music Event: Dark Side of Oz! Thursday, August 15th @ 6 p.m.**, uncanny mashup of two classics; *The Wizard of Oz* and Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon!*

## August 16

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

**Granny Square Class Friday 1 p.m.** All class materials provided. Program supported in part by a grant from the Bellingham and Franklin Cultural Councils, local agencies, which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

**Pre-requisites:** Ability to chain, single crochet, double crochet, knowledge of how to count stitches

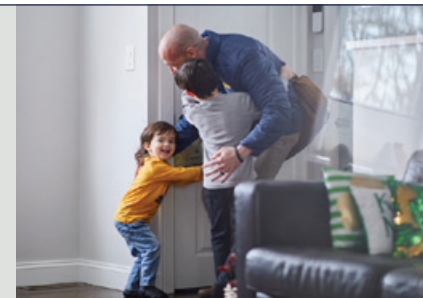
**Franklin Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m.**, Franklin Town Common

**Franklin Concerts on the Common, 3-5 p.m.** Matt Zajack, 6-8 p.m. Pub Kings, 8:30 p.m. movie: Super Mario Bros.

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## August 17

**Beyond Just Hollywood OR Bollywood – A look at the shared elements and differences between two great democratic nations, programming in honor of India's independence day, details at <https://www.franklinmuseum1778.com>**

**Franklin Library Book Sale, 9 a.m. to Noon**, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, all books \$1.

**The BLACK BOX Sings ... Wicked, 7 p.m.**, outside at THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, tickets at THEBLACKBOXonline.com or by calling the box office (508) 528-3370

**Beyond Just Hollywood OR Bollywood – A look at the shared elements and differences between two great democratic nations, programming in honor of India's independence day, details at <https://www.franklinmuseum1778.com>**

## August 19

**Music at the Blissful! 4 p.m.**, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, family program by musician Evan Haller.

## August 21

**Moonbellies Concert, 6 p.m.**, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

## August 23

**Franklin Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m.**, Franklin Town Common, music by Heather Deary 3-6 p.m.

## August 24

**Summer Reading Wrap-Up: Mobile Mini Golf! 1 p.m.**, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

## August 25

**Franklin Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m.**, Franklin Town Common

## August 26

**Exsultet! auditions, (sopranos needed for elite women's chorus), 7 p.m.**, 1st Congregational Church, Holliston, come prepared to sing a piece from website <https://exsultet.us>

## August 28

**Franklin Public Schools First Day grades 1-12**

## August 29

**Franklin Public Schools Kindergarten First Day**

## August 30

**Franklin Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m.**, Franklin Town Common, music by Beni Brosch 3-6 p.m.



## TRI-COUNTY CONTINUING EDUCATION HVAC CAREER FAIR

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# SAVE THE DATE

## Friends of the Poor Walk

**Saturday, September 28, 2024**

### Franklin Town Common

St. Mary Parish, St. Vincent de Paul Conference is sponsoring its annual fund raiser on Saturday, September 28, on Franklin's Town Common. Registration begins at 8:30 am. The Walk begins with a Blessing for the Walk at 9:00 am.

Participants can collect donations and walk with us. Additionally, donations are accepted online at:

[fopwalk.org](https://fopwalk.org)

All money raised will stay in Franklin to assist those in need. Thank you.



## 1st Confirmed MA Measles Case since 2020 Linked to International Travel

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has confirmed that an adult resident from Worcester County who recently traveled internationally was diagnosed with measles in early July 2024. This is the first confirmed case of measles in a Massachusetts resident since early 2020.

People who may have been exposed to measles from this case have already been contacted and provided appropriate public health recommendations.

“Measles is a highly contagious, airborne disease, which has increased worldwide, including here in the United States and in neighboring states in New England,” said Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. “Cases of measles have been reported in 30 states since the beginning of

last year, mostly in people and communities who are unvaccinated. Vaccination is the best way to protect against measles.”

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as of July 11, a total of 167 measles cases have been reported in 24 jurisdictions across the United States in 2024. The majority were unvaccinated or had unknown vaccination status (84 percent), 11 percent had one dose of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine, and 5 percent had two doses. Nearly half of all reported cases (46 percent) were under 5 years of age. Among reported cases, 53 percent were hospitalized.

Currently, large measles outbreaks are occurring in Europe and elsewhere internationally. Many of the cases reported in the United States are associated

with recent travel. Last month, DPH alerted residents about a potential exposure to measles tied to an international visitor who traveled through Boston to Amsterdam while infectious.

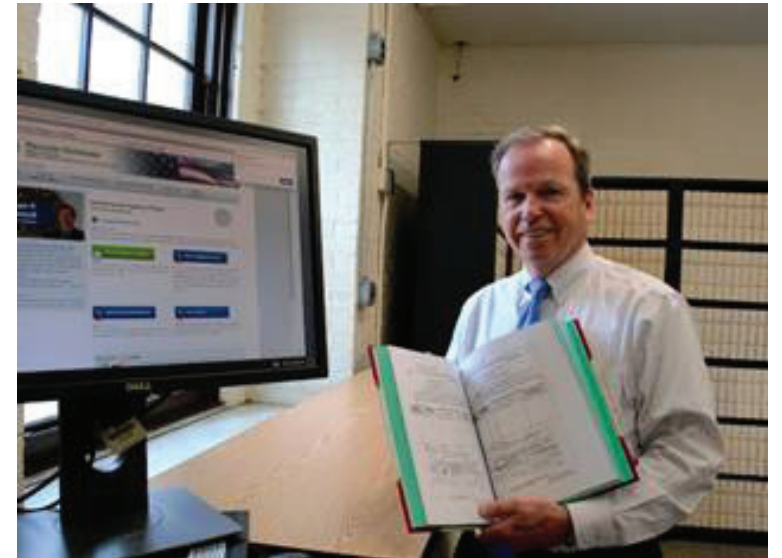
DPH urges anyone who does not know their measles immunization status to contact their healthcare provider to get vaccinated with at least one dose of the MMR vaccine. Healthcare providers who suspect measles should call DPH at (617) 983-6800 immediately for recommendations and testing guidance. Providers in Boston should call the Boston Public Health Commission at (617) 534-5611.

Learn more about measles at the DPH website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/measles>.

## Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell Announces Reelection Campaign

William P. O'Donnell announced his intention to seek reelection to the office of Register of

Deeds in Norfolk County, a position he has held since 2002. For more information, visit [www.registerbillodonnell.org](http://www.registerbillodonnell.org).



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# Register O'Donnell Announces Finding Your Roots Program

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell announced in July that under the Registry of Deeds' History Comes Alive program, a new service has been recently created where a dedicated bank of computers is available for free genealogical use to the public. The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds is pleased to announce the opening of its Genealogy Research and Resource Center.

"The Registry is excited to offer this research service. As we all know, interest in genealogy is growing by leaps and bounds. According to an ABC News report it is now ranked the second most popular hobby. Another survey indicated that approximately 4 out of 5 people want to explore their genealogical roots," according to Register O'Donnell.

The Register noted that the genealogical workstations at the



**Foxborough resident Dan Maloof, aka DJ Dan, does some historical research at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds' new Genealogy Research and Resource Center in preparation for an upcoming trivia night.**

Registry contain the popular database Ancestry.com, American Ancestors, and the digital records from the Massachusetts Archives.

"In the future, we hope to add other research databases," noted Register O'Donnell.

"Besides this wealth of infor-

mation, the Registry has more than 13 million land-related documents to explore dating back to 1793 when Norfolk County was created through an act of the legislature and signed into law by Governor John Hancock. These records include deeds, liens, foreclosures, mortgages, conveyances, trusts, and mortgage discharges.

"Today thanks to cutting-edge technology, we have taken genealogical research one step further. Our transcription program, the first of any Registry of Deeds in New England, has taken Registry documents written in hard-to-read cursive penmanship by quivers from 1793 to 1900 and transcribed them into clearly readable print," stated O'Donnell.

This transcription project of over 4500,000 recorded legal land documents was part of the

"History Comes Alive" Program started at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds.

"It is the Registry's vision," noted O'Donnell, "that we will continue to take steps in building up our Genealogy program including holding public seminars, publishing articles of note on social media, and adding to our database. After all, learning more about ourselves can just be a few clicks away."

If you would like to use the free genealogy database, please drop by the Registry of Deeds located at 649 High Street, Dedham, or call (781) 234-3305 to reserve a time.

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

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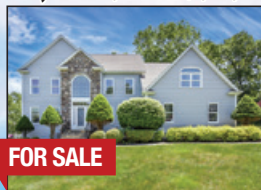
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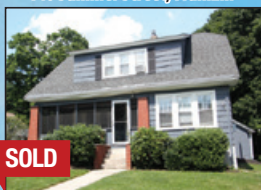
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## Dean College a "2024-2025 College of Distinction"

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Dean College, in Franklin, has once again been recognized as a College of Distinction for its commitment to providing a high-quality undergraduate education. This prestigious honor reflects Dean's dedication to fostering hands-on learning, strong student-faculty relationships, a vibrant campus life and successful student outcomes. This is the ninth consecutive year that the College has earned this honor.

This year, Dean is also one of a limited number of schools selected as an Affordable College of Distinction for its commitment to affordability and return on investment. In addition, Dean received Colleges of Distinction badges for Business (eighth consecutive year) and Career Development (fifth consecutive year).

"The Dean Difference isn't just one thing, it's everything. It's the way our community cares for and commits to each other and how we meet our students where they are, inspire them and tirelessly work to help them achieve unimagined heights," said Paul Vaccaro, Vice President of Enrollment Services and Marketing for Dean.

"Being recognized by Colleges of Distinction for our quality education, the unrivaled value we provide, and our dedication to career development is an honor, and we commit to continuing to deliver excellence to our students," Vaccaro added.

Colleges of Distinction award schools for successfully implementing high-impact educational practices and experiential

learning. Unlike traditional ranking systems based on numerical data, its rigorous selection process involves extensive research and detailed interviews with the institutions, accepting only those that adhere to the Four Distinctions: Engaged Students, Great Teaching, Vibrant Community and Successful Outcomes.

As a College of Distinction, Dean has shown excellence in each of these areas, providing its students with a well-rounded, practical education that prepares them for successful careers and lives. This evaluation process differs from popular college ranking publications with formulas that grade institutions based on factors such as faculty salaries, endowment size and peer opinion.

"We've never ranked our schools," said Tyson Schritter, Chief Operating Officer at Colleges of Distinction. "No student is alike, so there can't be a No. 1 school for everyone. We are much more focused on the innovative ways that colleges are offering their own brands of a truly rich undergraduate education."

Schritter continued, "We are so impressed to see how Dean brings to life the traditional undergraduate experience. With a welcoming community, an immersive curriculum, and strong support networks, Dean is undoubtedly nurturing the growth of tomorrow's leaders."

To learn more about Dean College, visit [www.dean.edu](http://www.dean.edu). To learn more about Colleges of Distinction, visit <https://collegesofdistinction.com/>.

## Big Y Investigates Skimmer Incident

On June 29th, 2024, Big Y discovered an unknown individual attached a skimming device to one single terminal in each of their Naugatuck and Plainville Connecticut locations. "The security and privacy of our customers is of utmost importance to us at Big Y," said Jade Rivera-McFarlin, Manager of Communications at Big Y Foods. "As such, we take our daily security protocols to protect our customers and business very seriously. It was during one of those regular security checks when they were discovered, she added.

The company is actively investigating the circumstances surrounding this incident and have notified and are working with law enforcement. The company has inspected all of the terminals and continues to do so. If they learn that any particular customer's information was compromised, they will promptly notify them and provide them with additional information so that they can take steps to protect themselves.

As a best practice, customers should always review their bank and credit card statements for any signs of fraudulent activity and, if they have any questions or concerns, contact their bank or credit card company directly.

If any Big Y customers have questions or concerns about this matter, please call 1-800-828-2688 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

In February, Big Y also discovered skimmers in a number of western Mass. stores, as well as locally, in Milford.

According to [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov), "Skimming occurs when devices illegally installed on or inside ATMs, point-of-sale (POS) terminals, or fuel pumps capture card data and record cardholders' PIN entries, if applicable.

Criminals use the data to create fake payment cards and then make unauthorized purchases or steal from victims' accounts. It is estimated that skimming costs financial institutions and consumers more than \$1 billion each year.

The FBI offers the following tips for consumers:

### Tips When Using an ATM or POS Terminal, Including for EBT

- Inspect ATMs, POS terminals, and other card readers before using. Look for anything loose, crooked, damaged, or scratched. Don't use any card reader if you notice anything unusual.
- Pull at the edges of the keypad before entering your PIN. Then, cover the keypad as fully as possible when you enter your PIN to prevent cameras from recording your entry. Keep in mind that a pinhole camera may be present anywhere on or around the terminal.
- If possible, use ATMs in a well-lit, indoor location. These may still be compromised, but are less-vulnerable targets.
- Be especially alert for skimming devices in tourist areas, since these are popular targets.

- When possible, use debit and credit cards with chip technology. There are fewer devices in the U.S. that steal chip data than magnetic strip data. However, the mag-stripe data on the backs of these cards is still vulnerable.
- Avoid using your debit card when you have linked accounts, since the card's compromise will give criminals access to all of the accounts. Use a credit card instead.
- Routinely monitor your credit card, bank, and EBT or other benefits accounts to promptly identify any unauthorized transactions. If possible, set email or text-message alerts to notify you of card or account transactions.
- Proactively review the account-security options available for any payment cards you use. These options can include multi-factor authentication of transactions or freezing an account between your own transactions. Such steps may seem inconvenient, but they significantly reduce the risk of financial losses.
- Contact your financial institution immediately if the ATM doesn't return your card after you end or cancel a transaction. This may suggest the presence of a foreign device in the card reader.



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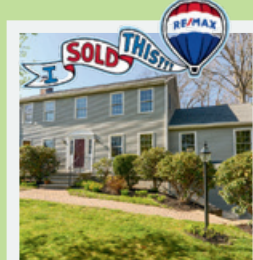
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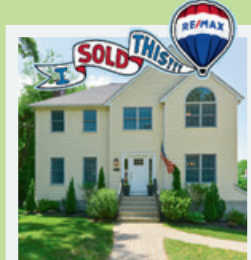
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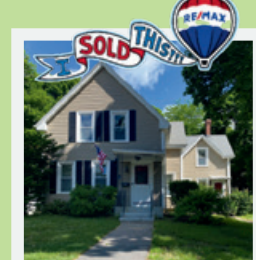
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