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October 2024

## Santa Foundation Finds a New, Larger Home

*New Space Will Allow for More Volunteers to Meet Growing Need*

By J.D. O'GARA

The Santa Foundation might have outgrown its location on Joy Street in Franklin, but the charitable organization will continue to spread joy to needy neighbors out of its new, larger, 1800 square-foot location at 275 Washington St., Ste. 6, in Franklin.

Dick Timmons, President, and Cindy Timmons, Treasurer, of the Santa Foundation, were happy to find a space that allowed the nonprofit to get set up in time for their hectic holiday gift collection and distribution.

"They gave us a decent rate and they did it based on our time frame" says Dick Timmons, and the organization, which visited several different locations, doesn't have to



Members of the Santa Foundation board left to right bottom row: Manisone Bounsavath, Karla Boudreau, Cindy Timmons, Back Row: Joe Formosa, Pam Formosa, Richard Timmons. Not shown, Mike Polenski.

**SANTA FOUNDATION**  
*continued on page 2*

## Goblins, Ghouls & "Nice" Villains Called to Franklin Police Halloween Haunt

By LYN MACLEAN

*Quiver shiver* and quake into your haunted attire to attend the Franklin Police Department's annual Halloween party! The event will be held on Saturday, October 26 from 2-6 p.m. at 911 Panther Way, Franklin. (Rain date Oct.27)

This free event is organized by the Patrol Officers and Seargent Officers Associations and is a well-attended community event.

Enjoy pumpkin and face painting, and bounce houses overseen by the Franklin High School Community Service Club. In addition, little goblin cuisine such as hot dogs, cotton candy, and popcorn will be served by the Tri-County High School Culinary Arts students. Don't forget to bring a bag to collect an eerie amount of candy to be passed around by a few not-so-frightful friends. No black cats will be in sight but our canine friends Ben Franklin and

Frankie may be disguised during your visit.

Enter into the Halls of Justice if you DARE!

Walk through the haunted booking and cell area in the Police Station. This is where you can see the prisoners and villains up close. Do not worry, heroes are lurking everywhere to help your little ravens feel safe.

Be on the lookout for QR codes around the event. Look at tents, doors, fences, and buildings. When you scan the barcode you will view tips on Halloween safety to keep your family secure.

With the support of the entire FPD staff and many volunteers, this event is a spooktacular opportunity for the youth elementary school community to be welcomed to the station.

**HAUNT**


*continued on page 4*

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SANTA FOUNDATION

continued from page 1

“worry about volunteers moving up and down steep stairs or going outside to workshop or storage pod., We wanted to get set up before September really start(ed) getting busy,” adds Cindy, noting, “We’ll be in good shape for that. It’s an efficient space.”

The space includes a large storage area with lots of vertical potential, as well as a large garage door, allowing easier pickups and drop-offs. The space, with a sizeable front office in addition to the storage area, will accommodate more volunteers, and according to Dick Timmons, “means we’ll be able to address more family needs.” Dick Timmons notes that Jan Prentice and Leah Thomas, longtime volunteers, have officially retired.

“We want to thank them, officially,” says Timmons, who is excited to welcome the next team of volunteers to help continue the mission. We always need more help, and there have

been a lot of people who want to help, but it’s just been hard in that (small) space we previously occupied,” he says

The Santa Foundation leadership team, which has recently expanded, will be able to alternate leaders to direct volunteers on weekends, thus alleviating the burnout that can come with a busy season of holiday needs. Timmons encourages community volunteer groups, such as Boy and Girl Scouts and other community-minded organizations, to come and volunteer in the new space.

“We’re looking forward to that actually; it’s fun for them, and it’s fun for us,” says Cindy.

In the new location, Dick Timmons, who assumed the role of leading the organization as President in 2013, will continue his role, and Cindy, recently retired, will be picking up more of the load in her role as treasurer. The Santa Foundation has added five new directors in the past year and a half who will help keep the organization going beyond 2024: Joe Formosa (Owner of



iLoveKickboxing), Pam Formosa (Owner of Brain Fit Academy), Mike Polenski (Social Worker, Commonwealth of Massachusetts), and Manisone Bounsavath, Assistant Branch Manager of Middlesex Bank, and Karla Boudreau, a longtime volunteer for the Santa Foundation

The Santa Foundation was established 38 years ago to provide gifts for families in need at Christmas time, with the hope that, at least on Christmas Day,

these families should feel like other families, receiving presents and maybe a little hope. Since 2004, the organization has operated on a year-round basis, helping needy families with housing, utility, fuel and other bills as emergency situations arise. The organization became a 501 (c-3) federally approved charitable organization in 2006. With help covering overhead costs by Greenwood industries inc. and the Sola Family, 100% of all contributions and net fundraising money helps local families in need.

Last month, on September 20th, the Santa Foundation held an annual fundraising event at La Cantina Winery’s new location. This month, starting October first, the Santa Foundation’s annual calendar sale fundraiser will take place. The \$20 purchase of a calendar enters the buyer into a daily raffle each day of November. These calendars will be available on the Santa Foundation website at www.sfjoy.org, as well as at a few brick-and-mortar locations around Franklin.

As the holidays approach, the Santa Foundation seeks new volunteers for their growing list of needy families. Community groups, families, and those looking for volunteer hours are encouraged to reach out to volunteer, purchase a holiday gift for someone in need, or even sponsor a family struggling during the holiday season. As December approaches, the Santa Foundation, in cooperation with local sponsors, places several “giving trees” in various locations. Folks may take a tag that lists a gift wish from a family member in need from one of these trees, purchase the gift, and return it to the tree location.

The Santa Foundation works with local food pantries, The Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, and local housing authorities, assisting well over 500 families each year.

The Santa Foundation assisted 604 local families during 2023 and will be able to provide help for more families as needed in 2024.

# Meme’s Stocking Fundraiser Merges with The Santa Foundation

Four years ago, Karla Boudreau was looking for a way to help needy children at Christmastime.

“In 2020, a lot of local charities were not open because of the health conditions and parameters (of the pandemic),” says Boudreau. Although her family had regularly donated to Adopt a Family, in Woonsocket, that charity shut down during the pandemic.

“That was devastating to me,” says Boudreau, “It was something that was a mean-

ingful tradition. My sister (Keri Bigness) understood how significant that was, and she suggested we do something on our own. She was the spark.”

The sisters decided to create “Meme’s Stockings,” named for their grandmother.

“Our Meme often spent Christmas mornings with us, because she was a widow,” says Boudreau, “and she absolutely

adored a stocking. To her, that was the best gift.”

“With (Keri’s) inspiration, we basically decided that in order for us to help and to make it easy for others to participate, that we would fundraise between friends, family and neighbors and donate to a local charity still operating during the pandemic,” says Boudreau. The sisters’ goal was to create stockings with a few small essential items, some cold weather items and a toy. The two reached out to several local organizations, and the Santa Foundation took the

most interest in the idea. That first year, Keri, who had lots of fabric left over from making homemade masks, sewed 47 stockings.

“We donated those to the Santa Foundation, and they were super appreciative,” says Boudreau. The following year, after a volunteer from the Santa Foundation recognized Boudreau as “the stocking lady,” Karla asked if there was a need. The answer: yes.

**MEME’S**

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**MEME'S**

*continued from page 2*

Boudreau went into action, beginning to fundraise once again. "With very minimal time to organize, I think we more than doubled the collection in the second year," she says. From that point on, she says, she built a friendship with the Santa Foundation. "Within the last two years, I started engaging more with the community, because I realized I couldn't sew, and I needed help," says Boudreau, "So now, this is the awesome part, we not only have local community members here in our town who are sewing, but it has now become a common story that there is a mother-in-law or a friend up in Maine or somebody up on the North Shore or someone all year round who is sewing for me, and there are a few dozen more people cutting out stockings. This year alone, over 1,000

stockings have been cut and created, and I am just one tiny piece of it," says Boudreau.

Boudreau is excited to have planted this seed, and up until this year, has stuffed nearly every stocking, but now admits she needs a bit of help. She gets student volunteers to help her hand-write notes to the recipients of the stockings, which usually contain a warm hat, gloves, a small toy and usually some sort of educational workbook or craft.

"I feel like I've built so many connections and a whole new network of new friends who feel like family members at this point," says Boudreau, who has officially merged her effort with the Santa Foundation.

"In the end of the day, my passion and mission align with Mr. Sullivan's passion and mission. Every child deserves to have a stocking on Christmas, no matter what their circumstances are," says Boudreau, who says donations for the stockings can

be brought directly to the Santa Foundation. At the Santa Foundation's new location, Boudreau can hold stocking stuffing parties, as well.

Those interested in donating items for stockings can go to [www.sfjoy.org](http://www.sfjoy.org) and look at the wish list for gifts to find needs for stockings. Boudreau notes that items for kids aged 10-18 are very needed, and items such as decks of cards and origami work well for that group. Boudreau current goal is for every child helped by the Santa Foundation to receive a stocking. Her second goal, someday, is to offer one to Mom or Dad.

And how would her Meme feel about the effort?

"My Dad said this today, 'Your Meme would be really happy and excited.' My grandmother didn't get overly excited about too many things, but I just have to imagine, if she was sitting in a room with a few dozen children opening up a Meme's stocking, I think it would really touch her heart."



Shown, Karla Boudreau, who created Meme's Stockings with her sister, Keri. The stockings are now part of the Santa Foundation, and Boudreau is a new member of The Santa Foundation's board.




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**HAUNT**

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"The event allows us to give back to the community and build relationships. The experience breaks down barriers between Patrol Officers and the younger kids. We feel it is important to have the kids view the Police as friendly and helpful and not be afraid of us. We want them to know they can look to us for guidance and help at any time." said Paul Guarino, a Patrol Officer working for the Community Service Unit.

For updated information on this event you can visit Instagram @franklinmapolice, Facebook at franklinmapolice or the Franklin Police Department website at <https://www.franklinma.gov/policedepartment>.

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# Tri-County High School Building Project Community Update

By LYN MACLEAN

This summer, extensive prep work started at the new Tri-County High School building project as heavy equipment arrived, fencing was put in place and digging began. The construction team set up preliminary work on drainage, re-building utilities, removal of the solar field, tree removal and received approval from the Conservation Commission.

In early to mid-October, ground blasting will take place. The noise will be significantly softened by using 30 tons of mats. The blast efforts help break up the rocks quickly, minimizing the use of jackhammers that could last for months. A public and individual invitation was sent to each abutter to attend meetings to obtain updates on what to expect during the blast portion of the project. In addition, abutters were offered a free home survey evaluation of the inside of their home before the blast dates.

Sixty percent of the Architectural drawings were approved at the end of September by the Massachusetts School Building Authority. MSBA is a state agency tasked with monitoring the building costs of all Massachusetts schools and providing recommendations to lessen expenses. In addition, a financial reimbursement rate is applied to the project when completed. The hope is to be 100 % approved with the full design by next year.

Some exciting new design features are:

- Fully ADA Compliant
- Leed Silver Certified Design
- Landscaped courtyard to include a playground for the Early Education Department
- A new multi-purpose sports field
- Solar panels and geothermal heating

- 3-story building allowing classrooms to be located near the shop workrooms.

The community will be in awe of these and other features. Brian Mushnick the Tri-County School Building Committee Chairman and Town of Norfolk School Committee Representative shared, "Reminder, this is a public school owned by 11 towns that pay into it. This is everyone's building. It will be a great community property that anyone can use. It is currently an under-utilized public space. Whenever the school is not using the spaces, the public should be using it."

Since the school teaches technical skills such as Electrical, Plumbing, Carpentry, HVAC, and others, this project provides the perfect opportunity to learn firsthand.

"Part of the agreement with the contractor is that we can involve students weekly in observation although we cannot



Brian Mushnick, of the Tri-County Building Project Committee, notes that the new building will be a public space owned by 11 towns that put into it. "Whenever the school is not using the spaces, the public should be using it."

allow them to work due to age. Watching the ground-up process of construction provides a living classroom for students to learn by observing the simultaneous phases of construction." These students may not get a chance to use the new building as students but will get their footprint on it and see how this amazing structure gets built" praised Brian.

Consigli Construction, the contractor based in Milford, MA is fully engaged in involving the students. Many of the employees on this project have students in the area and or attending the

school. This project is akin to a family project, vast as it is.

Moving forward, a brief, non-comprehensive timetable for project completion is as follows:

- **Fall 2024:** Leveling backfield, blasting process, requesting bids for the materials needed
- **Spring 2025:** Set up a concrete foundation; steel erection to follow

## TRI-COUNTY

continued on page 7

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# Local Author Debuts High-Octane Thriller *Pay for Play*



By J.D. O'GARA

Franklin author, Bill Gannon, released his debut novel, *Pay for Play*, on September 18th.

After retiring from "30 years in the tech space," Gannon finally got around to writing a book, he says, "I had been kicking around for over 10 years, starting and stopping ... I tried to make it a story that was gripping and tied to a world that was going on today."

*Pay for Play*, which follows the story of Marcus Shea, a brilliant technologist with a dangerous edge and a violent past, was already a best-selling novel in its category (thriller/drama), based on Amazon and IngramSpark pre-sales. This high-energy thriller promises to captivate readers with its gripping narrative, exploring the dark side of loyalty, corruption, and the thin line between right and wrong.

"I wanted the protagonist to have a unique skill set," says

Gannon, "His background is one of someone who's always been a protector, who has stood up for himself and the people around him, an honorable person always trying to do the right thing, but he gets trapped in a scenario that becomes really enticing because of some evil influences. He starts moving down the path of dilemma, one small uncertain step, then another and another." Eventually, he says, "There's no clear line of sight on how to get back."

Gannon's book is available in both paperback and ebook formats on Amazon.

Gannon, a married author with three children all raised in town, has lived in Franklin for 38 years.

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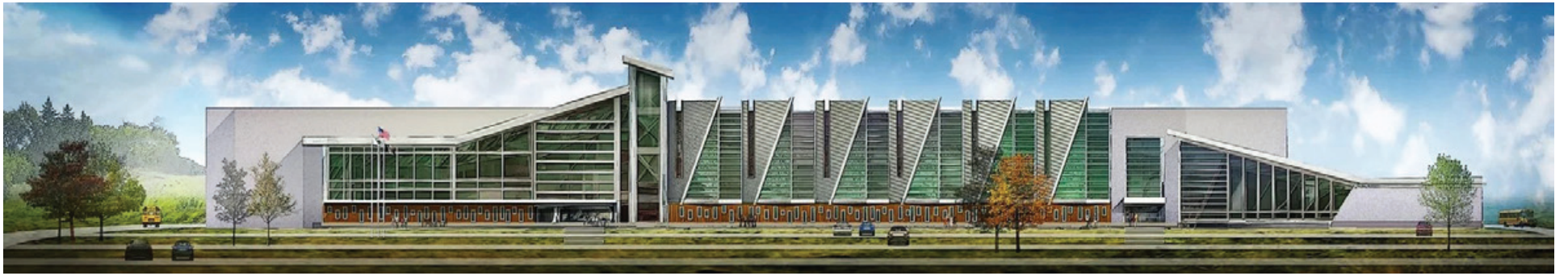
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Blasting for the new school will begin this month.

**TRI-COUNTY**

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- **Spring & Fall 2026:** All phases of construction active

- **June 2027:** Move in furnishings when school is out for summer, demolish old building
- **Fall 2027:** New school opens
- **Fall 2028:** Sports Fields developed (some fields could be done before this date)

The community can remain informed by viewing a comprehensive project website at [www.tri-countybuilding.com](http://www.tri-countybuilding.com). The site offers a "Frequently Asked Questions" tab, and the public has an open invitation to attend Zoom meetings posted on the first page of the website.

# Presentation on Status of Housing in Franklin October 16

According to Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator, the Town of Franklin is working on pulling together a Comprehensive Update on the Status of Housing in Franklin to present to the Franklin Town Council at its meeting on Wednesday, October 16th in Council Chambers at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central St., Franklin.

Residents interested in learning more are encouraged to attend.

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**Utilizing all our fuel sources to become energy independent is important. I believe we should consider all that is available including solar and wind. However, my opponents share the same vision as our national leadership in that they want us to spend beyond what we can sustain to convert completely in an un-realistic time frame. This will cause further hardship for the people and their ability to heat their homes heading into the winter.**

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**I am Charles Bailey, and I am of the people for the people, not above. I have spent a lifetime serving my country, community, and family. I have been in many of your homes and cared for your loved ones in their time of need. I care about the things that you care about and not furthering anyone else's political agenda. I am committed to representing YOU on Beacon Hill for two years, not my own political aspirations. Can my opponents commit to the same?**

**I am asking for your VOTE so that I can represent YOU on Beacon Hill...thank you**

*Charles Bailey*

[www.charlesbaileyforstaterep.com](http://www.charlesbaileyforstaterep.com)

Paid for by Committee to Elect Charles Bailey



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RE-ELECT

# A proven record of delivering local aid and constituent services.



Since 2013 Jeff Roy has helped thousands of Franklin and Medway constituents solve problems concerning unemployment, healthcare, human services, and other issues involving state agencies. In addition he has been part of a legislative team that has tackled the issues of education, economic development, the coronavirus pandemic, healthcare, substance use disorder, criminal justice, civil rights and social equity, gun safety, energy, and the environment.

### Delivering results on our shared concerns:

<p><b>MANUFACTURING</b> Promote economic development by bringing manufacturing back to Massachusetts. ✓</p>	<p><b>ENVIRONMENT</b> Lead efforts to fight global warming and climate change. ✓</p>	<p><b>HEALTHCARE</b> Increase access to healthcare statewide, while lowering costs. ✓</p>	<p><b>EDUCATION</b> Continue current efforts to increase education funding and enhance programs. ✓</p>	<p><b>CIVILITY</b> Further the commitment to work across party lines and maintain civility in state government. ✓</p>
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### Legislative accomplishments:

- Drafted and passed bill accelerating a responsible, innovative and equitable clean energy transition.
- Drafted and passed the clean energy and offshore wind bill.
- Finalized the Roadmap Bill on climate change.
- Drafted and passed the Genocide Education Act.
- Drafted and passed an Act to prevent online abuse and exploitation.
- Drafted and passed an Act concerning step therapy and patient safety.
- Drafted and passed legislation on sexual violence on higher education campuses.
- Helped seniors with Housing, Tax Relief and state funding for Senior Centers.

- Drafted and passed bill that increased transparency and civic engagement by creating a searchable online database of legal notices.
- Drafted and passed legislation lowering thresholds on specialty license plates, making them available to smaller charities.
- Supported Veterans through the HERO and Valor Acts and funding for memorial walkway.
- Brought civics education back to our public schools so young people will understand the importance of participating in government

### Local achievements:

- Worked to maintain high quality of the school systems in our communities.
- Aided in re-opening a closed factory in Franklin to manufacture PPE.

- Helped families coping with substance use disorder by co-founding the SAFE Coalition and delivered \$350,000 in state funds.
- Led legislative effort to create a Regional Dispatch Center for Franklin, Norfolk, Wrentham and Plainville.
- Delivered local aid for schools, roads, infrastructure, public safety, arts and recreation.
- Delivered improvements to Commuter Rail Service and infrastructure.
- Secured funding for local food bank efforts.
- Delivered funding for SNETT tunnel and parking at Franklin State Forest, and upgrades to recreational spaces in Medway.
- Advocated for Cultural District in Franklin and supported the arts in our district.



ELECTION DAY  
**VOTE!**  
November 5th

### An history of delivering impactful local aid for Franklin and Medway:

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p><b>\$29,717,993</b> - Chapter 70 (Franklin)<br/> <b>\$11,042,877</b> - Chapter 70 (Medway)<br/> <b>\$10 million</b> - Reconstruction of intersection at Pleasant &amp; Chestnut Streets, Franklin<br/> <b>\$3 million</b> - Franklin Ridge Senior Housing Development<br/> <b>\$3 million</b> - Genocide Education Trust Fund<br/> <b>\$2.42 million</b> - Improvements to the MBTA commuter rail station in downtown Franklin<br/> <b>\$2.2 million</b> - Intersection and roadway improvements along Grove Street in Franklin<br/> <b>\$1.3 million</b> - Environmental Bond Bill for improvements to SNETT trail tunnel<br/> <b>\$1 million</b> - Sidewalk and pedestrian safety improvements in Medway<br/> <b>\$1 million</b> - Franklin Housing Authority<br/> <b>\$917,261</b> - Chapter 90 road funding for Franklin<br/> <b>\$700,000</b> - expand the SNETT trail from Grove Street to Union Street<br/> <b>\$700,000</b> - Franklin Food Pantry Building Project<br/> <b>\$525,000</b> - Grants for Black Box Theatre</p> | <p><b>\$500,000</b> - Route 109 access improvements at Choate Park<br/> <b>\$395,749</b> - Chapter 90 road funding for Medway<br/> <b>\$350,000</b> - Grant for improvements to Medway parks<br/> <b>\$350,000</b> - Opioid epidemic funds for SAFE Coalition<br/> <b>\$200,000</b> - King Street Park improvements in Franklin<br/> <b>\$200,000</b> - Medway THRIVE program<br/> <b>\$183,000</b> - Franklin Green Community grant<br/> <b>\$170,000</b> - Medway public safety equipment<br/> <b>\$135,000</b> - Accessibility and safety improvements at the Lovering Heights Senior Citizens Complex in Medway<br/> <b>\$100,000</b> - Dept. of Public Services building in Medway<br/> <b>\$100,000</b> - Parking lot at Franklin State Forest<br/> <b>\$150,000</b> - Medway Community Farm<br/> <b>\$100,000</b> - Franklin Downtown Partnership</p> | <p><b>\$100,000</b> - NE Center for Children Program at Parmenter Elementary in Franklin<br/> <b>\$75,000</b> - Zoning audit and bylaws modernization grant<br/> <b>\$70,000</b> - Quiet Zone study for Franklin commuter line<br/> <b>\$70,000</b> - Mental health screenings in the Franklin public schools<br/> <b>\$65,000</b> - New firefighter headsets to help prevent hearing loss<br/> <b>\$60,000</b> - Solar lighting and traffic controls<br/> <b>\$58,500</b> - Development of outdoor fitness programming at the Medway senior center<br/> <b>\$58,000</b> - Franklin schools substance abuse task force<br/> <b>\$50,000</b> - Medway Food Pantry<br/> <b>\$50,000</b> - Veteran's Memorial pathway<br/> <b>\$50,000</b> - MetroWest Veterans District<br/> <b>\$50,000</b> - Replacement of the playground at Fletcher Field in Franklin<br/> <b>\$50,000</b> - Vaping prevention program in the Franklin public schools</p> | <p><b>\$50,000</b> - Tri-County School accessible van<br/> <b>\$50,000</b> - Horace Mann statue in Franklin<br/> <b>\$35,000</b> - Medway historical document preservation<br/> <b>\$25,000</b> - Moving Vietnam Wall in Medway<br/> <b>\$25,000</b> - Charles River Meadowlands<br/> <b>\$22,000</b> - Upgraded communications technology for Medway Fire<br/> <b>\$21,000</b> - Senior citizen health program in Medway</p> |
|---|--|--|---|

SCAN THE CODE TO WATCH:

"Making the Case for Re-Election"



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Your Money, Your Independence

# Open Enrollment: Medical Plans & Health Savings Accounts (HSA)



Glenn Brown, CFP

Open enrollment is a pivotal time to reassess and select the benefits that best suit your needs.

Among the key benefits you'll choose are insurances (i.e. medical, dental/vision, life, AD&D, disability), services (i.e. legal), tax benefit programs (i.e. dependent care, commuter) and retirement plan participation (i.e. 401k).

An area perplexing many is analyzing High Deductible Health Plans (HDHP) and their tax savings counterpart, Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). Understanding these options can help you make informed decisions.

### Choosing the right medical plan.

When it comes to selecting a medical plan, a few ground rules take precedence.

First, a medical plan is a personal choice, and you need to be comfortable with the care

received "in-network". Second, need to understand of your historical annual medical bills and expect consistency moving forward.

### Case for High Deductible Health Plans (HDHPs).

**Cost Structure:** HDHPs feature lower monthly premiums but higher deductibles. You pay all costs up to the deductible before your plan starts covering expenses.

**Financial Management:** While HDHPs can have higher out-of-pocket costs, the lower premiums and tax advantages of an HSA can offset these costs.

**Health Savings Account (HSA) Eligibility:** Selecting a HDHP is required to participate in a HSA.

HDHPs are often beneficial if you are healthy, don't anticipate high medical expenses, and want to take advantage of the HSA's tax benefits.

### Health Savings Account (HSA).

Only during Open Enrollment or Life Event can you Opt-In to an HSA with a HDHP and \$ amount to contribute. You can change the \$ amount later, but not the ability to Opt-In.

### Key HSA facts:

- In 2025, an individual can contribute \$4,300 and a family up to \$8,550.
- If over 55, contribute an ad-

ditional \$1,000.

- All contributions are tax-free - federal, state, and FICA (Social Security and Medicare).
- No federal taxes on HSA funds spent on qualified health care expenses.
- Excess HSA funds can be invested for tax-free growth to compound for years.

Thus, unlike any other tax-advantaged savings plan, HSA can offer "triple tax benefits": tax-free contributions, tax-free earnings, and tax-free distributions.

### Free money.

Shockingly, over 50% of eligible Americans decline to participate in an HSA. Unbelievable considering most employers put \$500-\$2,000 each year into an HSA. In theory, \$1 per pay period could return \$500-\$2,000 per year from your employer - take it!

Furthermore, "health rewards" programs can earn deposits into HSA by doing preventative care activities. Examples like \$400 deposited when each spouse had an annual physical.

### Get the tax savings.

Consider a family in 24% tax bracket averaging \$4,000 in out-of-pocket medical expenses. HSA tax-free contributions would provide them tax savings of \$1,466 (\$960 federal 24% + \$200 state

MA 5% + \$306 FICA 7.65%). A family in 32% bracket can max out 2025 contributions and gain tax savings of ~\$3,817.

### Leverage tax-free growth for retirement.

Gaining momentum is a financial planning strategy of avoiding withdrawals from HSAs and pay medical expenses from free cash flow. This allows for investment in funds/ETFs to grow tax-free for years before using in retirement for eligible expenses like Medicare premiums, vision, dental, hearing aids, nursing services, long-term care premiums, and medical expenses.

Retire Early crowd please note, while HSAs cannot be used to pay private health insurance premiums, they can pay for health care coverage purchased through an employer-sponsored plan under COBRA, which

may be a desired option leaving a company and maintaining 18 months until reaching Medicare eligibility.

Learn more by connecting with your benefits coordinator or Certified Financial Planner.

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 Plan-Dynamic, 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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# Mak's Roast Beef and Breakfast: Fresh Flavors and Homemade Values

At Mak's Roast Beef and Breakfast Restaurant, three things are always in full supply: roast beef, delicious homemade food, and family.

More than just a restaurant, **Mak's Roast Beef and Breakfast** is a labor of love for owner Maksim "Maks" Xhengo. Maks, his wife Tisa, and their four children are the heart and soul behind this establishment, with a restaurant that reflects their hard work and family values.

Located at **451 W Central St in Franklin**, Mak's offers more than just a meal. This family-owned eatery is a local favorite known for its exceptional homemade dishes, inviting atmosphere, and spotless interior.

Maks Xhengo's path to becoming a successful restaurateur is a testament to his unwavering work ethic and determination to provide for his family. Hailing from Albania, Xhengo pursued his passion for cooking by attending culinary school in Greece before immigrating to

the United States with dreams of opening his own restaurant. Upon arrival, he dedicated five years to honing his culinary skills at the renowned Mike's Roast Beef in Gloucester, MA, a beloved family-owned establishment that would serve as the model for Maks' future restaurants. Working tirelessly seven days a week, Xhengo laid the groundwork for his future success. At the age of 24, he opened his first restaurant, Mak's Roast Beef and Pizza, in Revere.

After opening their Bellingham location, Maks and Tisa moved to Franklin. "We love Franklin," Tisa explains. "When we moved, we only had our daughter and were thinking of growing our family. Franklin is such a good, homey type of town."

With four kids now and three Mak's restaurants under the Xhengo name, Maks' whole family is pitching in. "We're not a franchise. This is a family-owned business. We have three

## Business spotlight

locations: one in Revere and one in Bellingham. We sold Norwood in 2018 before opening the restaurant in Franklin."

"It's a lot of work," says Tisa, "but we have a great team behind us! Our family members help tremendously! Maks' older sister, Marjana, works at the Revere location. His other older sister Alketa, along with his older brother Feridon, works at the Bellingham location, and both of our parents help out watching the kids when we both have to be at the restaurant."

Best known for their tender, homemade North-style roast beef, Mak's in Franklin is also making quite a name for their all-day breakfast service! While their other two locations focus on roast beef, pizza, subs, pasta, and salads, the Franklin spot offers a unique breakfast menu featuring unexpected items like the breakfast pizza, steak tips and eggs, cheese blintzes with homemade raspberry sauce and the ever-popular cornbread French toast. They've won Franklin's Business Hall of Fame' Best Breakfast Restaurant' award three years in a row, and to top it off, Mak's serves beer, wine, and mimosas, making it the perfect spot for any meal of the day.

Tisa explains what sets Mak's apart from other restaurants: "The homemade roast beef is slow-cooked to perfection right here on the premises. We serve it hot, unlike other places that use cold deli beef." Mak's takes pride in using the freshest ingredients; everything is made from scratch, from pizza dough to calzones and salads.

"All the police officers and firefighters eat here," Maks said, smiling. "So you know it's good! We appreciate our first responders and offer a **20% discount to our local veterans, police, and fire departments.**"

For customers with dietary restrictions, Mak's offers a variety of gluten-free and vegetarian options. "Our menu includes gluten-free buns, subs, wraps,



pasta, and breadcrumbs," explains Maks and Tisa. "Guests can enjoy popular dishes like chicken ziti and broccoli with gluten-free pasta. Additionally, our breakfast menu features gluten-free toast, pancakes, waffles, and French toast to accompany eggs and omelets. To ensure the safety and satisfaction of customers with gluten allergies and vegetarian preferences, we prepare their meals on a separate grill to prevent cross-contamination."

Mak's restaurant stands out for its family-friendly atmosphere, boasting a spacious setting with large booths that provide ample space for families to dine comfortably and a newly renovated patio seating area complete with cozy bistro umbrellas. Parents can unwind with a glass of wine or beer while the kids are entertained by the large-screen TVs on the wall. Tisa, a mother of four, knows the challenges of dining out with kids. She's quick to hand parents the remote, saying, "Put on whatever makes the kids happy," making it a relaxed and welcoming spot for families to dine together.

Mak's Roast Beef and Breakfast keeps things fresh, especially with the changing seasons. "For the fall and holiday season, pumpkin-spiced pancakes will sometimes pop up on the menu," Tisa hints.

When asked about the most rewarding part of running the business, Tisa reflects on their bond with the community: "Our customers are our number one priority. When they step into Mak's, we show them our love for food on every plate we make. Maks always says that when a customer trusts us to come in and eat at our place, it's in our hands to show them what we've got! We both love food and, honestly, enjoy cooking, which makes our job easy."

Mak's Roast Beef and Breakfast is open Monday through Friday 10-8 PM, Saturday 9-8 p.m., Sunday 9-7 p.m. Enjoy their newly renovated patio seating area with comfortable bistro umbrellas. During operating hours, they also offer local delivery, making it easy to enjoy their homemade meals from the comfort of your home. You're sure to love all they have to offer!

**For October, Maks, Tisa, and the kids would like to say "Thank You" to the surrounding communities by offering 10% OFF food orders. Mention this article with the code MAKSGIVESBACK for a 10% discount on all in-house and delivery orders. (Please enter the code for online orders in the comments section.)**

Check them out online at [maksroastbeef.com](http://maksroastbeef.com) to see what's cooking!

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# Online Betting Brings Some Teens to Problem Gambling

By J.D. O'GARA

Online betting became an entity in Massachusetts in March of 2023. And in Franklin, it seems to be becoming an issue – for teens.

“We’re seeing a rise in youth gambling,” says Jennifer Levine, President of the SAFE Coalition. Teens she works with, she says, “highlight that they don’t gamble, but they do bet on sports. They have a vision that gambling is associated with an older person at a slot machine, not a younger person using their phone and betting on sporting events.”

Levine admits that most teens who come to the SAFE Coalition ([www.safecoalitionma.org](http://www.safecoalitionma.org)) do so for a primary issue, like substance abuse, so she is unable to quantify how extensive the problem is outside that demographic.

Levine explains many teens who gamble begin to do so without realizing they are gambling.

“Most of the kids that we work with are getting gift cards for programs like Draft Kings,

and that’s how they start the betting process. They’re buying them at the store, and they’re using someone else’s ID to make an account,” she says. Most will admit that “Yes they bet on sports, but no they don’t gamble,” says Levine.

State figures at [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) show gambling disorders can begin in children as young as 10 years old, and by high school, 60-80% of students report that they had gambled. Also, a larger share of kids (4-8%) than adults (1%) are at risk to have a problem with it, and those teens who gamble are more likely to use illegal drugs. Worrisome is that among all addictions, gambling is linked to the highest suicide rate.

Parents can look out for some warning signs that their teen might be gambling, says the state, including “

- Changes in attitude around school, missed classes, incomplete assignments, lower grades and less interest in activities

- Behavior changes like more aggression, defensiveness or signs of anxiety/depression

- Noticeable interest in competition, winning or “being right”

- Missing household cash or new “stash” of money your child may keep

- Increased time spent online, especially in secret”

They’ve come up with a toolkit for parents on talking about the risk of gambling with their child. Find it at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/youth-risk-a-problem-gambling-toolkit/download>.

According to the state of Massachusetts Department of Public Health, calls to the Commonwealth’s Problem Gambling Helpline have risen to 3,050 calls in Fiscal Year 2023, up from 1,378 calls in Fiscal Year 2022. Calls from those seeking support and information increased by 41 percent and calls resulting in referrals specifically for outpatient treatment increased by

96 percent. After sports wagering launched in Massachusetts in January of 2023 and online sports gambling began in the state in March of 2023, calls regarding sports wagering increased 1,117 percent increase from FY22 to FY23.

Back in April, Franklin High School welcomed Mark Potter, of Epic Global Solutions ([www.epicglobalsolutions.com](http://www.epicglobalsolutions.com)) who spoke to students about his own gambling experience. Potter had never participated in addictive behavior before he broke his neck at 19 playing professional rugby. When he had his spine fused and needed to stay out of the game for 12 months, he discovered the rush of online betting, which quickly developed into a problem. He’d open online betting accounts, depositing \$10-\$20 a month. After two big wins created an adrenaline rush, he upped the amount he was betting, using his winnings, until they ran out. Because he now couldn’t sustain his betting off his \$1,500 a month salary,

Potter began to borrow money from teammates and friends and began gambling on credit. Potter ended up \$70K in debt, beginning to lie to loved ones, trying to hide his problem and later even stealing from his employer. Things got worse, coupled with legal problems and suicidal ideation.

Potter explained to Franklin teens that athletes are six times more likely to gamble than their peers, and Massachusetts Problem Gambling statistics note that since 5% of all people 12-17 have a gambling problem, translating to over 40,000 adolescents in Massachusetts. Some gamblers who have accrued debt are even threatening athletes that they bet on, says Potter, and social media is making this harassment worse. Potter notes 15% of college athletes are getting abused online by gamblers who have faced losses.

## GAMBLING

*continued on page 15*

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Exp. 12/31/2024





Massachusetts Firefighting Academy  
Career Recruit Class #BW31 Graduation • September 20, 2024

Christopher Rose, of the Franklin Fire Department, was one of 14 recent graduates of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.

# 14 Local Firefighters Graduate from State Fire Academy

## Career Recruit Firefighter Class #BW31 Graduate in Bridgewater

On Friday, September 20th, 2024, State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy leadership presented certificates of completion to 14 graduating recruits at the Department of Fire Services' Bridgewater campus. This included Franklin Fire Department's Christopher Rose.

The recruits of MFA Career Recruit Firefighter Training Class #BW31 represent the fire departments of Canton, Frank-

lin, Hopedale, Hull, Kingston, Mansfield, Norton, Norwell, Seekonk, West Bridgewater, and Wrentham.

The ceremony will be posted to the Department of Fire Services' YouTube channel.

The MFA provides recruit and in-service training for Massachusetts firefighters at three separate campuses and on-site at local fire departments. It has graduated about 14,000 firefighters in more than 450 classes.

# Early Bird Registration for the 13th Annual Franklin Turkey Trot Now Open

Register for the 13th Annual Franklin Turkey Trot taking place on Thanksgiving Morning, Thursday, November 28, 2024, at 8 a.m. The family-friendly event starts and ends at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 91 Jordan Rd., Franklin, Massachusetts and is for individuals of all ages and abilities. Category medals will be awarded, and there are raffle prize and free breakfast for race participants.

Early bird registration is \$25/person and lasts through October 12, 2024. Registration increases to \$30/person starting October 13, 2024. Children aged 5 and under run/walk/ride in a stroller for free (but do not receive a bib). Race shirt available for purchase online through October 30, 2024, or in-person at bib pick-up and on race day (while supplies last).

To register, visit [www.franklinturkeytrot.org](http://www.franklinturkeytrot.org) or visit Franklin Food Pantry's website at

Sponsorships opportunities are available starting at \$100 and available by visiting the Franklin Food Pantry website-[www.franklinfoodpantry.org/turkeytrot](http://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/turkeytrot).



Elizabeth Griffin of Seattle, WA, and Mark Griffin of Franklin, MA get set to run the Franklin Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Morning, 2023.





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# Touching Base with the TA

Local Town Pages took a few minutes to chat with Jamie Hellen, Franklin Town Administrator, who noted

- September 11th was the first meeting of the Joint Budget Subcommittee, which is starting the budget process four months earlier than it usually does, notes Hellen. The meeting looked at a roughly \$3 million deficit, and those numbers are still preliminary. View the packet at [https://www.franklinma.gov/sites/g/files/vyh1f10036/f/uploads/3\\_0.pdf](https://www.franklinma.gov/sites/g/files/vyh1f10036/f/uploads/3_0.pdf) . Find the meeting at Franklin Town Hall TV at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp4\\_sDQGHNa9MKpqfmXGZrg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp4_sDQGHNa9MKpqfmXGZrg) .
- Franklin DPW staff presented a comprehensive presentation of the Infrastructure and costs and street sign policy, available on the DPW page of the town website, at the September 18th meeting of the Town Council. View the meeting at Franklin Town Hall TV at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp4\\_sDQGHNa9MKpqfmXGZrg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp4_sDQGHNa9MKpqfmXGZrg) .
- On October 16, community members can look for a Comprehensive Housing Update on the Status of Housing in Franklin, including the status of Franklin Ridge, at Town Council Chambers.

# Franklin Art Association Welcomes Beecher to October Meeting



Christina Beecher "Light Rain" Tonal

The Franklin Art Association invites the public to our Wednesday, October 2 meeting. We will warmly greet Guest Demo-Artist, Christina Beecher, our fine art painter for this month's public demonstration. She will be giving a fine art Tonals, step by step demonstration. Our free to the public meetings are held at the Franklin Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.

Christina Beecher works in oils and artist sketch mediums. She was on the Board of Trustees at The Attleboro Arts Museum. She's had a retrospective at Wheaton College. She was



Christina Beecher "Morning's Whisper"

represented at the first Inness Landscape Invitational at the Zullo Gallery, Medfield. And she is represented by The Next Door

Gallery in Mansfield, True Grit Gallery in Middleboro and at the Galatea fine Arts Gallery in Boston.

For more examples of her work see [www.christinabeecher.com](http://www.christinabeecher.com).

FAA welcomes the public and its members to attend. Refreshments are served at the break.

The FAA is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Franklin Cultural Council, Franklin Cultural District and [www.franklinart.org](http://www.franklinart.org). And we're viewed on Facebook and Instagram.

# Sen. Rausch to Hold Office Hours Monday, October 28

Sen. Becca Rausch will hold office hours Monday, October 28, 5-6 p.m. (virtual). Her constituents who have an issue they'd

like to discuss are encouraged to sign up for a time slot at <https://www.beccarauschma.com/office-hours>.

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## Franklin Needs Change

Since 2010, Franklin has been my home. I've led grassroots campaigns like **VoteNO Override** and served on the boards of local non-profits dedicated to fostering growth and supporting families across our region.

As a proud Franklin resident, I see the challenges we're facing every day: overdevelopment, declining school enrollment, rising taxes, and a lack of transparency. Our current leaders have let us down—we deserve better.

I'm focused on **unity**, working across party lines to bring balance to the legislature. By creating **opportunity** through responsible growth, supporting local businesses, and improving schools, I will ensure our town thrives. With a commitment to **accountability**, I will fight for a transparent and responsible government, delivering the leadership Franklin deserves.

**Vote for Dashe Videira this November 5th!**

Have questions or thoughts? I'd love to hear from you!



*Dashe Videira*  
Candidate for State Senator  
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# Franklin Garden Club, Franklin Public Library Partner to Present Free Program

The Franklin Garden Club, in partnership with the Franklin Public Library, invites community residents to a unique, free program, "Fantastical Folktales of Flowers," a delightful weave of storytelling, music and song. The program, created for an adult audience, will take place on Tuesday October 1, at 7 p.m. at the Franklin Library located at 118 Main Street, Franklin, MA. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Franklin Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. The program is open to the public at no charge.

Retold by award-winning storyteller and theatre art-



ist, Diane Edgecomb, along with long-time collaborator and Celtic harper, Margot Chamberlain, these stories conjure a magical world bringing new meaning to favorite garden flowers. The centerpiece of the performance is the Persian legend of Nightingale and Rose. Diane's original adaptation weaves together myths from many lands that tell how the rose got its special powers of beauty and scent. The program captures the hearts and minds of the audience. As an attendee at another performance stated, "You brought my garden alive to me in the most unusual and delightful way. I will never see a rose in the same way again!"



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## Celebrating Two Franklin Centenarians

We are so happy that The Enclave of Franklin is home to Frances Bouchard (102) and George Whiting (100). Their unique experiences, from Frances's large family who visits daily and her warm spirit to George's farm-

ing and musical skills, undoubtedly enrich the lives of everyone around them. Celebrating National Centenarian's Day on September 22 with them will surely be a memorable and honorable day for everyone around them!



Photo by Lauren Ezovski



# SAFE Raises Awareness about Overdose, Provides Community Support

On August 31, SAFE Coalition hosted candlelight vigils in Franklin and Wrentham as part of International Overdose Awareness Day. Earlier in the week, SAFE also worked with community members to place 10,625 memorial flags across Franklin, Wrentham, Millis, Norfolk, and Plainville—2,125 in each town to represent the number of people in Massachusetts who died from overdose in 2023.

“Years ago, when I lost my son, I was isolated and alienated,” said one volunteer. “I had no one, and today, all of these people are here, and I don’t know their story, but they care.”

In addition to community volunteers, members of each town’s Fire and Police departments attended the flag placings and vigils.

“To be here, arm in arm with the emergency responders who NARCAN’d my child six times, takes my breath away,” said another volunteer. “We are all impacted.”



SAFE cofounders Jim Derick and Jen Levine light candles at an Overdose Awareness Day vigil in Franklin on August 31. Photo courtesy of SAFE

International Overdose Awareness Day memorializes those lost to overdose while working to reduce stigma while increasing education on opioid use, in effort to end overdose. SAFE continues this work year-round by offering support groups, prevention and suspension diversion youth programs, and awareness-

raising special events.

Each week, the coalition offers a range of free family recovery support groups, providing community, connection, and resources for those impacted by

SAFE

continued on page 16

## GAMBLING

continued from page 11

Teens Levine has spoken with “are losing lots and lots of money,” she says. Levine believes part of the solution is education. “I think the big piece is educating kids on the impact of gambling and sports betting and what that is ... Quite often those who struggle with gamble don’t know there’s a problem until they’ve lost something significant,” she says.

To that end, Franklin TV will be presenting educational PSAs

on the risks of youth gambling as part of an upcoming focus on adolescent wellness. Franklin residents can tune in. For information on how to view, visit <http://www.franklin.tv>.

To contact the Massachusetts Problem Gambling Helpline, call (800) 327-5050. For more information, visit <https://gamblinghelpline.ma.org>.

Massachusetts offers an informational page on teens and gambling for parents. Visit it here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/teens-gambling-its-a-risk>



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# Franklin Fallen Heroes' Upcoming Remembrance Ceremonies

In honor of the 45 Franklin Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, remembrance ceremonies are held on the anniversary of their KIA date. The ceremonies are led by members of the American Legion Post 75 and VFW Post 3402 and are held at 9:00 a.m. on the Veterans Memorial Walkway on the Franklin Town Common. Family members, friends and members of the community are all welcome to attend.

The Edward L. Grant American Legion Post 75 was named in honor of Fallen Hero Edward L. Grant, who was born and raised in Franklin. Grant attended Dean Academy (now Dean College) for one year and received undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard University. He was an attorney and major league baseball player, and one of the first men to enlist in the Army in WWI. American Legion Post 75 members are invited to attend Edward Grant's remembrance ceremony on Saturday, October 5.

### October

- October 5 – Edward L. Grant – WWI
- October 6 – Shane Cabino – Iraq
- October 10 – Emilio Daddario – WWI

### November

- November 6 – Jay Stone Davis – WWI
- November 7 – Lawrence J. Clark – WWI
- November 11 – Daniel E. McCahill - WWII
- November 30 – Robert L. Cummings – WWII

### December

- December 6 – Harry R. Bean – Korea
- December 28 – Charles E. Mason - WWII

# Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild to Award Scholarship

The Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild is pleased to announce that they will again be awarding a scholarship to a graduating senior who is pursuing a course of study in the field of visual arts, design, or textiles. This year's scholarship award

will be \$2,000. Applications for the scholarship are available in the Guidance Office of their local high school or available to download at <http://www.thimblepleasures.org>. The deadline for submission of the application is May 1, 2025.

### SAFE

*continued from page 15*

loved ones' substance use disorder and mental health concerns. These include sibling support group The Ripple Effect, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, and Families Anonymous. This October, they will also lead a 4-part workshop that introduces loved ones impacted by others' substance use and mental health to the 12-step program and how this program can support them.

In addition to support groups, SAFE works with local schools to host a suite of proven programs for substance use education, prevention, and recovery support for adolescents. These two programs, "Up in Smoke" and "Why Try," are compassionate, student-centered, and backed by the latest social-emotional learning pedagogies and youth recovery tools.

"Up in Smoke" serves as an alternative to traditional suspension for students caught with substances, focusing on re-engaging students in learning. "Why Try" builds social-emotional tools proven to prevent vulnerabilities that lead to harmful behaviors.

SAFE also hosts special events to further their mission. On November 7, they will present a



**With volunteers from each town, including from the Fire and Police departments, SAFE placed over 10,000 purple memorial flags across the regions, 2,125 per town to represent the number of those lost to overdose in Massachusetts last year.**

*Photo courtesy of Jake Jacobson.*

screening of Lisa Olivieri's documentary, Recovery City. The screening will be followed by discussion with Olivieri and the four women featured in the film who share their substance use recovery journeys.

To learn more about SAFE's offerings this fall, visit [tinyurl.com/safefallevents](http://tinyurl.com/safefallevents), email [info@safecoalitionma.org](mailto:info@safecoalitionma.org), or call (508) 488-8105.

SAFE is a Franklin-based nonprofit that provides a whole-person, whole-family, whole-community approach to addiction, prevention, and recovery. Visit [safecoalitionma.org](http://safecoalitionma.org) to learn about additional substance use recovery and mental health resources they provide.

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# Money-Saving Energy Tips for Fall from Energize Franklin

October in New England usually brings cool, crisp days, colorful fall foliage, and celebrations involving carved pumpkins, ghosts and goblins! It also often means the beginning of the winter heating season.

Many of us live in older, under-insulated, leaky homes. There's a lot of air blowing into and through our homes, making them uncomfortable and expensive to heat and cool! (For perspective, an older home probably has at least 250% more air infiltration than a new construction home today.) Many of us feel the financial pinch of this, especially in the winter.

How can you tell if your walls and ceilings are properly insulated and air-sealed? Start with a no-cost home energy assessment using a Mass Save contractor.

Take advantage of available reimbursements. Mass Save, a state sponsored energy efficiency program, will reimburse all customers for any needed insulation at 75%. There are also significant federal tax credits for 30% off the costs of heat pumps, heat



pump hot water heaters, insulation, solar, windows, and more. You can find more details and information from the United States Department of Energy and the IRS.

There are other simple and inexpensive changes which homeowners and renters can make to save money while saving energy:

- Install temporary insulation measures: Clear plastic window treatments can cover windows in the winter and help keep your heat in and make your home more comfortable and energy-efficient. Flexible gap-fillers can be used to reduce leaks around windows. Simple draft stoppers can be placed

on the floor in front of old drafty doors. Install electrical outlet and switchplate insulators on exterior walls. Place covers over drafty A/C vents. Close fireplace dampers when not in use.

- Wash your laundry with cold water. This will save energy on heating, and most detergents are designed to clean just as well with cold water as with hot water. It will also help expand the lifespan of your clothes. If possible, use a longer spin cycle to cut down on drying time. Alternatively, air dry your clothes!
- If you have a dishwasher, stop it after the wash cycle and let the dishes air dry.

Your dishwasher may have a feature that allows you to turn off heated drying.

- Change your light bulbs to LEDs. Even if you just pick the bulbs that are on more than an hour a day, it will help cut down on your energy use. You can even take the bulbs with you when you move to save money.
- Avoid overfilling your refrigerator, as blocked airflow decreases the unit's efficiency and uses more energy.

Visit the Energize Franklin website, [www.energizefranklin.org](http://www.energizefranklin.org), to find inspiration and see

what others in their community are doing. Having a free account also allows you to track your carbon reductions and leave a testimonial. For easy access or more information, use the QR code here!



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# The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

## Jumpstart Your Cosmetology Career with b.LUXE Hair and Makeup's Premier Apprenticeship Program

By GINA WOELFEL

Are you an aspiring beauty professional eager to establish yourself in the field of cosmetology? Consider the exceptional apprenticeship opportunities offered by b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio in Medway, MA. As the state's top Google-rated salon and a two-time Salon Today 200 Honoree, b.LUXE is renowned for its commitment to excellence in the beauty industry. They're now opening their doors in collaboration with the Massachusetts State Board of Cosmetology to the next generation of beauty experts through their apprenticeship program, designed to provide hands-on experience, top-tier education, and an accelerated path to licensure.

### The Apprenticeship Advantage

b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio, owned by industry veteran Heather Cohen, is more than just a salon. It's a training ground for future beauty professionals. "I work closely with our apprentices to ensure they receive a complete education that builds off what they've learned from cosmetology school. We employ a director of cutting, Sandra Wilkey, and a director of color education, Andrea Rees, to further mentor our apprentices and junior stylists. Our staff is also incredibly supportive, and work as a team

to bring the next generation through successfully," Heather explains. "Early in my career, a well-known Boston salon owner took me under their wing and shared their talent and business knowledge. I received such well-rounded training. I love sharing what I learned." The studio offers comprehensive apprenticeship programs in collaboration with the Massachusetts State Board of Cosmetology. These programs allow participants to gain real-world experience, refine their skills, and earn up to 400 hours towards their 1,000-hour licensure requirements while still in school.

The b.LUXE Apprenticeship Program caters to the education and career of future cosmetologists, providing three distinct paths to success.

### 1. MA Cosmetology Apprenticeship Program

For current students enrolled in a Massachusetts State Board of Cosmetology accredited beauty school, this program is a game-changer. By working at b.LUXE, students can earn up to 400 hours towards their licensure, bridging the gap between classroom learning and professional practice. This time-saving opportunity not only accelerates the journey to becoming a licensed cosmetologist but also ensures that students gain invaluable hands-on experience in



a real salon environment.

### 2. The Shop Employed Student Program

Balancing school and work can be challenging, but b.LUXE makes it easier for students to do both. This program allows students to work at the salon after school, offering real-time client interactions, ongoing education, and hands-on training. It's the perfect way for students to apply what they've learned in school while continuing their formal education.

### 3. b.LUXE Apprenticeship Program

Designed for recent graduates, this program offers a seamless transition from the classroom to the salon floor. Participants can build on the knowledge they've gained in school by working at b.LUXE in a structured, supportive environment. With one-on-one training from industry leaders and access to the best educational resources available,



graduates can elevate their skills and grow their careers in a setting that nurtures creativity and expertise.

### Why Choose b.LUXE?

b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio stands out not only for its accolades but also for its dedication to fostering the next generation of beauty professionals. The studio's commitment to education is evident in its weekly training sessions, hosted by leading experts in the industry. Apprentices at b.LUXE benefit from personalized guidance and a comprehensive training program that prepares them for success in the competitive world of cosmetology.

As Heather Cohen, the owner of b.LUXE, explains, "Our unique learning opportunities are designed to help students thrive during their school years, after school, or post-graduation. We're excited to collaborate with cosmetology schools and help shape the future of talented cosmetologists."

### Take the Next Step in Your Beauty Career

If you're currently enrolled in a board-accredited cosmetology school in Massachusetts, or if you've recently graduated, the b.LUXE apprenticeship program is your chance to gain the experience and education you need to succeed. With a reputation as the best in the state, b.LUXE offers an unparalleled environment for aspiring cosmetologists to grow, learn, and excel.

Whether you're still in school or just starting your career, b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio is the place where passion meets professionalism. Embrace this opportunity to transform your cosmetology dreams into reality with the guidance and support of the best in the business.

Visit bLUXE.com to learn more about the program and take the first step towards a bright future in the beauty industry.

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# Sports

## New Coach Looking to Get Franklin Golfers to the States

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Dan “Bo” Botelho has been around the game of golf for many years and has been in the golf business since 1993. He has played the sport in high school, college and on the professional level as a PGA member. He coached the Dover High School team in New Hampshire some time ago and was recently an assistant for the Brown University program in Rhode Island. Botelho also teaches golf at the John F. Parker Municipal Golf Course in Taunton.

At this stage in his life, he was looking to continue doing only two things: continue teaching golf and coaching golf. When Botelho took the Assistant Golf Coach position with Brown, he knew that the Head Coach at the time only had a few years left before he was going to retire, and when that time came, things drastically changed in Botelho’s life.

“When the Head Coach left, they replaced him with a new coach, which I stayed with, but my hours changed and I wasn’t able to teach as much as I needed to, so we parted ways,” he said. “After not being around

the college kids for ten months, I was missing it, so I started poking around.”

While looking for coaching jobs, one of the Franklin High School golfers who Botelho gave lessons to in Taunton told his father, who in turn notified Botelho, that the Panthers Coach was leaving. He quickly applied and was named the new Coach for this fall’s season. Being a Franklin resident since 2009, getting a job coaching job so close to home was perfect.

As the new Franklin golf Coach, Botelho was looking for his team to be very competitive within the Hockomock League, and through the first 5 league contests, the Panthers are perfect. They only have one loss outside the league, and it was to St. Johns of Shrewsbury, the defending State Champions.

Franklin is top heavy with senior golfers in the top four spots. Liam Lewandowski (shooting an average of 36.75 through six matches), Caden Sullivan (36.83) and Jack Nelson (36.66) are currently battling it out for that number one position for the Panthers. Cam LaBrie (38.00) is closely behind the top three a mere stroke and a quarter back. The top three golfers all found

themselves in the top five golfers for Franklin last fall with LaBrie the only one not in the top five.

While all four are relatively close to another in terms of their averages on the golf course they all seem to have a similar concept to their approach to the game. Lewandowski is more of a tactician on the course compared to the rest of his teammates.

“It’s kind of funny, I have a good beat on how they all play, and they are all very similar,” The Panther Coach said. “They are all aggressive and love to use their drivers whenever possible, sometimes to the dismay of their coach. They occasionally will pay the price, but they know the consequences.”

The Franklin golfers know what Botelho brings to the golf course and his experiences hold a lot of weight. With that knowledge, his golfers take what he tells them to heart, but they also want to use their drivers.

As a teacher, Botelho more times than not will go with a student’s thoughts if they are confident and comfortable with a specific club. However, while he allows them this privilege, he also make them understand the risk reward with their decisions.

Right outside the top 4 are two sophomores looking to bang on the door: Ben Burgess at #5 with an average score of 40.35, and behind him Tyler Perlman at 41.5. Burgess is a transfer student from a private school in Rhode Island where both golf and baseball were played in the spring. According to the Franklin Coach, Burgess wanted to be able to play both sports, and on the golf course he will be a player to watch as he develops his game.

Perlman, like his sophomore counterpart, is a full stroke higher than the four seniors, but the Franklin Coach sees consistency with the young golfer day in and day out.

“I challenged them both. They know that this team will be theirs in the near future,” Botelho said. “I told them to watch the big dogs in front of them and see what they are doing and what you are not: practice, take less bad shots, read your puts on both sides of the hole and be patient on the greens.”

The final two spots playing in the matches are a flip of the coin on any given day. There are many golfers fighting for those two spots, the Coach noted.

Prior to the season, Botelho’s goals were to 1) win the Hockomock League, and if they happen to go undefeated, that would be a bonus and 2) play well at the South Sectionals and move onto the State Tournament.

To capture the Hockomock League, Franklin will have to outperform neighboring King Philip. The two teams tee off twice a season, one home and one away match, and over the years, they’ve matched up very well.

“The matches against King Philip should decide who wins the league,” the Franklin Coach said. “They are a formidable team, and right now, the two teams are 1 overall stroke or .25 of a stroke per player difference. It will be an absolute battle.”

The Warriors will be in Franklin on September 25 and the Panthers will travel to King Philip on October 7 where the Hockomock Leaguer Title will most likely be decided.

Last fall, the Franklin golfers did not play well enough at the South Sectionals to advance into the State Tournament. The Coach wants his players to improve upon that performance and move into the States this season.

## 7th Annual Thanksgiving Day Pie Fundraiser –Knights Of Columbus, Franklin

Why bake when the Knights can do it for you?

The Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council 1847 St. Mary Parish Franklin MA is running their 7th Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale. We are proud to announce we are working with Lyman Orchards, that produces an EPIC Pie. Flavors we will be offering this year are - Apple, Pecan, Pumpkin and Blueberry. We have held the price and again this year are offering a quality pie for \$18 per pie, and we have done our best to bring you a great product at the best possible price.

As was last year you will be able to DONATE a pie. All donations will be donated to the Franklin Senior Center and Franklin Food Pantry for distribution at Thanksgiving time.

Through November 3rd, please visit our website [www.kofc1847.org](http://www.kofc1847.org) or *Knights of Columbus Council 1847* on Facebook. We will also be taking Pie orders in the back of church two weeks ends October 26,27 and November 2,3, after all the Masses at St Mary.

You will be able to Pick Up your order of Thanksgiving Pies on Tuesday, November 26th

from 3pm – 6 p.m. at the CCD Offices at the old St. Mary’s School on the 1st floor. You will see our signs.

Any questions, please call Jim Campbell at (508) 848-8681 or Jim Lane at (774) 571-9804 or Mike Swan (508) 404-4792.

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# Living Healthy

## The Future of Eye Care: A Revolution in Ophthalmology

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

Ophthalmology, the medical field dedicated to eye health, has witnessed remarkable advancements in recent years. These innovations are reshaping the landscape of eye care, offering patients improved outcomes and more accessible treatment options. With the increasing prevalence of eye disease driven by factors such as aging populations, lifestyle changes, and technological advancements. These breakthroughs are also crucial for addressing global eye health challenges.

### Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

One of the most significant developments in ophthalmology has been the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning. These technologies are

revolutionizing eye diagnosis by providing faster, more accurate, and often more objective assessments. AI algorithms can analyze vast amounts of data, such as retinal images, to detect early signs of diseases like diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration. This early detection allows for timely intervention, potentially preventing vision loss. For instance, Google's DeepMind has developed an AI system capable of diagnosing over 50 different eye diseases from a single OCT scan.

### Gene Therapy for Inherited Retinal Diseases

Gene therapy, a technique that involves introducing functional genes into cells to treat genetic disorders, has shown great promise in ophthalmology, particularly for inherited retinal

diseases. These conditions, often caused by genetic mutations, were once considered incurable. However, advancements in gene therapy have opened new possibilities for restoring vision or halting disease progression. Luxturna, approved by the FDA in 2017, was the first gene therapy for an inherited retinal disease, offering hope to patients with Leber's congenital amaurosis. Researchers are now exploring gene therapies for other retinal diseases, such as retinitis pigmentosa and choroideremia, expanding the potential benefits of this technology.

### Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS)

Glaucoma, a leading cause of blindness, is characterized by increased intraocular pressure. Traditional surgical treatments



for glaucoma often involve invasive procedures with long recovery times. Minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS) has emerged as a less invasive alternative, offering quicker recovery, fewer complications, and improved patient satisfaction. MIGS devices, such as the iStent and Hydrus Microstent, are designed to enhance the eye's natural drainage pathways, reducing intraocular pressure without the need for large incisions. MIGS can often be performed in conjunction with cataract surgery, providing a comprehensive solution for patients with both conditions.

### Advanced Intraocular Lenses (IOLs)

Cataract surgery, a common procedure to remove a cloudy lens and replace it with an artificial lens, has been transformed by advancements in intraocular lens (IOL) technology. Modern IOLs can now address a variety of vision problems, including astigmatism, presbyopia, and myopia. Multifocal and extended-depth-of-focus (EDOF) lenses allow patients to achieve clear vision at multiple distances without relying on glasses. Toric IOLs can correct astigmatism, reducing the need for corrective eyewear.

### Corneal Cross-Linking for Keratoconus

Keratoconus, a progressive eye condition that causes the cornea to thin and bulge, can

lead to significant vision impairment. Corneal cross-linking, a procedure that strengthens the cornea using ultraviolet light and riboflavin, has been a game-changer for patients with keratoconus. By halting the progression of the disease, corneal cross-linking can help prevent vision loss and reduce the need for corneal transplants.

### Teleophthalmology: Remote Eye Care Delivery

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of telemedicine, including in ophthalmology. Teleophthalmology, which allows for remote eye care consultations and follow-ups, has become an essential tool for ensuring access to care, especially in underserved areas. Remote eye exams, coupled with home-based diagnostic tools, enable patients to monitor their eye health without frequent in-person visits. Teleophthalmology platforms, equipped with AI-driven diagnostic tools, can triage patients and prioritize those who require urgent in-person care, optimizing clinic resources and improving patient outcomes.

### Conclusion

The future of ophthalmology is bright, with ongoing advancements in technology and treatment options. These innovations

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# 49th Annual Franklin Newcomers and Friends Craft Fair

## Volunteers Sought for November 9th Event at Tri-County

The Franklin Newcomers & Friends are excited to announce that our 49th annual Craft Fair is set for Saturday, November 9th at Tri-County High School in Franklin. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are again back in our original location in the lobby, hallways and cafeteria. Tri-County High School is located at 147 Pond Street.

This popular and well-established juried craft fair features hand-crafted items from artists throughout New England. You'll find a great selection of items for

your home, for gift-giving, specialty foods, and more.

The entry fee is \$3 for people 12 years of age and older. The funds raised allow us to give back generously to the local community. We were able to donate \$6,000 from funds raised at last year's Craft Fair to 10 different organizations. In addition, we also accept donations for the Franklin Food Pantry at the entrance to the Craft Fair.

If any High School students in our surrounding area are in need of community service

hours, reach out to us for information. We need volunteers to assist crafters before and after the craft fair with the set up and take down of their booths. Email us at [franklincraftfair@gmail.com](mailto:franklincraftfair@gmail.com).

For more info, find us on Facebook and Meetup for club information and activities: Franklin Newcomers & Friends Club.

<https://www.facebook.com/franklinNewcomersCraftFair/>  
<https://www.meetup.com/franklin-Newcomers-Friends>

# Pumpkin Patch Fun All through October 31 at St. John's Church

The pumpkins are here! Come visit the 5th Annual Pumpkin Patch at St. John's Episcopal Church at 237 Pleasant Street, Franklin. It's open all month through Thursday, Oct. 31

A huge selection of pumpkins, gourds and colorful mum plants will fill the front lawn at St. John's Church. Kids will have fun picking out their favorites. It's a cute photo opportunity for families and a good time to start decorating for autumn.

Open 7 days a week, here's the schedule: Monday-Friday 4-6 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., Sundays, Noon-4 p.m.

The pumpkins are grown using sustainable agricultural practices that help benefit the environment. They are grown in a region of New Mexico with 42% unemployment, providing jobs for Navajo people. Proceeds from pumpkin & plant sales benefit the Navajo Nation in New Mexico as well as St.

John's Church and its service in the Franklin community.

For more information on St. John's, call (508) 528-2387, email [Admin@StJohnsFranklinMA.org](mailto:Admin@StJohnsFranklinMA.org), visit [www.stjohnsfranklinma.org](http://www.stjohnsfranklinma.org) or find them on Facebook.



## EYES

*continued from page 20*

are not only improving the quality of care but also making it more accessible and affordable for patients worldwide. As the field continues to evolve, we can expect to see even more groundbreaking developments that will revolutionize eye care and preserve vision for generations to come.

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For more details, see our ad on page 20.

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# New England Chapel to Hold "Faith and Blue" Fall Fest

New England Chapel and the Franklin Police Department will hold a free event on October 12th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to celebrate "Faith and Blue", a nationwide effort to align law enforcement and houses of worship. We will have a "Touch a Truck" with various police and fire vehicles, crafts, bounce house, face painting, and more fun! The Franklin Police will

also be conducting free car seat installations, and they will be collecting 12-15 oz. cereal boxes to donate to the Franklin Food Pantry.

If interested in volunteering, please email [joy@nechapel.org](mailto:joy@nechapel.org). We hope you can stop by!

New England Chapel  
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# Historic Happenings at Franklin Historical Museum for October 2024

## Sat. Oct. 5 – Display begins honoring the 90th anniversary of Franklin Rod & Gun Club

Local historian, Betsy Whitney (see our Second Sunday Speaker, below), worked with the R&G Club to assemble exhibits of photos and memorabilia relating to the history of this organization. Also included will be an ongoing showing of vintage R & G films recently rediscovered and digitized. Display will continue through Oct. 27.

## Sat. Oct 5 – Celebrate Archaeology at F. Gilbert Hills State Forest with Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation

Last year, for Archaeology Month, DCR came to Franklin and led an exploration of the former CCC Camp in Franklin State Forest. This year, we are encouraging those interested in something similar to join DCR in Foxborough!

- Where: F. Gilbert Hills State Forest Headquarters, Mill Street, Foxborough
- When: Saturday October 5, 2024, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Inclement weather will cancel
- What: Learn about Archaeology and the history of F.G. Hills. See DCR's archaeological collection from F.G. Hills and participate in hands-on archaeology activities.

- Who: Everyone is welcome. The event is free. Anyone from Franklin interested in carpooling, contact alan.earls@gmail.com

## Sun. Oct. 13 – Second Sunday Speaker Series: 90 Years of the Franklin Rod & Gun Club

Local historian Betsy Whitney (who wrote a massive history of the Pondville section of Norfolk) will be speaking about the people and activities of the Franklin Rod & Gun Club since its inception in 1934 on Sunday, Oct. 13 at the Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin. Doors open at 1 and the presentation begins at 1:15. The formal presentation will be about 20 minutes but members, former members, and those with any connection to the The event is FREE, but donations welcome. The related exhibit of R&G photos and ephemera is on display through Oct. 27.

## Weds. Oct 16 – Ghosts and Legends with Jeff Belanger at the Franklin Historical Museum

LIVE and IN-PERSON! This ghostly multi-media program will take you on a journey through the haunts in your backyard, and around the world. Pulling from Jeff's 25 years of research for his books, podcasts, adventures, and the various television shows

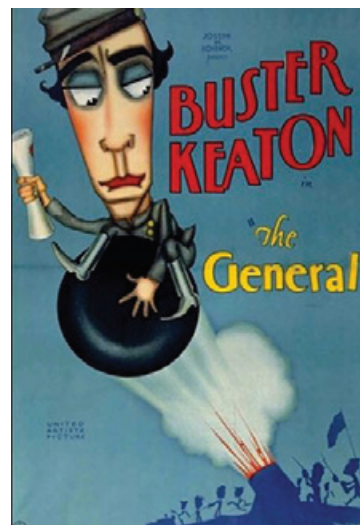


Jeff Belanger

he's worked on, join one of the nation's premiere storytellers for a trip through the unusual and the unexplained. This program changes every time it's given. The event is free, but donations are appreciated. Seating limited. The event starts at 7 p.m.

## Sun. Oct. 20 – "Third Sunday" Music at the Museum program features Mary Anning: Fossil Hunter

The world premiere of *Mary Anning: Fossil Hunter*, a chamber orchestra, was performed in June by a mixed ensemble of professionals and amateurs, with financial support from the Franklin Cultural District Committee, at the First Universalist Society, Franklin. On Oct. 20, the museum will show a video of that performance on the big screen. The opera was the brainchild of



Franklin resident Dr. Jon Candler Mitchell, a retired music professor and orchestral conductor, who will be present to introduce the showing and answer questions. The opera tells the story of self-educated 19th century Englishwoman, Mary Anning, who became one of the world's first paleontologists. The museum opens at 1 and the program will start at about 1:15. The event is FREE, but donations always welcomed.

## 'CINEMA 80'

Cinema 80, captained by videographer and cinephile Chris Leverone, is back for another season of amazing free 'Silent Saturday' silent film entertainment on Saturdays at 6 p.m. The

program is free, but donations are encouraged. The lineup for October includes:

- 10/5, *The Black Pirate* – Starring that sure-fire action-hero, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., in a tale of pirates, vengeance, and love...
- 10/12, *The General* – Buster Keaton outdoes himself with non-stop action and comedy, loosely based on a real incident in the American Civil War. It has insane chase scenes involving lots of trains, horses, and soldiers and timings that keep audiences on the edge of their seats.
- 10/26, *Nosferatu* – a timeless classic that tells the tale of a vampire in extra-creepy black and white.

The Franklin Historical Museum is located at 80 West Central Street, Franklin. The museum is open Saturday mornings from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m..

When visiting the museum, please consider donating a non-perishable item for the Franklin Food Pantry. Questions? Contact Alan Earls at (508) 560 3786.

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

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## Franklin Residents to Participate in Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk

### Hyundai Presenting October 6th Event

70 residents from Franklin will participate in the Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai on Sunday, October 6.

Deborah Cohen, Ana Vozzella, Stella Griffin, Pamela

Vickery, Melissa Ross, Brock Leiendoeker, Ellie Cleary, Lisa Costa, Karly Griffin, Loretta

#### MARATHON/WALK

*continued on page 28*

# FUSF Appoints Sara Allegretti Acting Director of Religious Education

Please join the First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) in welcoming Sara Allegretti as our new Acting Director of Religious Education (DRE).

“We are delighted to have Sara join FUSF as our Acting DRE. Sara is a highly-qualified professional who values collaboration and creativity in her work, and cares deeply about the children of our congregation. In this role she will provide age-appropriate curriculum and experiences which emphasize our UU values of justice, equity, transformation, pluralism, interdependence, generosity and love.” said Caitlin MacDonald, President of the Board.

Ms. Allegretti has been a UU for her adult life, a member of FUSF for 4 years and a licensed educator of children, aged 1.5 to 15 for 14 years. She most recently served as an Educational



Interventionist in the Franklin School system and, prior to that, led a Tinkergarten program in Franklin from 2019 to 2022. (Tinkergarten was a program designed to provide joyful, play-based outdoor classes for

children and their caregivers.) Ms. Allegretti holds her Master’s of Education from Lesley University and Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Mathematics from Stonehill College.

In addition to her professional experience, Ms. Allegretti served as Chair of the FUSF Welcoming Congregation Initiative and secretary of the Franklin LGBTQ Alliance. Ms. Allegretti resides in Franklin with her family.

The First Universalist Society in Franklin is a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation located at 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin MA. For further information about FUSF and its religious education program please explore our website at [fusf.org](http://fusf.org) or contact Sara Allegretti, Acting DRE at (508) 528-5348 or [dre@fusf.org](mailto:dre@fusf.org).

## HOSPITALITY & CHARM LIVE HERE.

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# October at the Franklin Senior Center

What's Happening at the Franklin Senior Center in October?

- We kick off the month with our Expo on Oct. 4th. Over 28 vendors will be here from 10-1. The first 200 guests receive a free lunch!
- Let's talk dogs on the 10th at 10:30. Learn tips and tricks to help you improve your relationship with your dog. Then stay for our Hospice: Debunking the myth at 11 followed by Pizza and a Creature Double Feature at 4 p.m.
- Eat around the World is on the 11th, and we are featuring ITALY. Medicare and You is right after at 1.
- Join us as the Tri-County Medical Assisting Sophomore Class presents on the Skeletal System on the 16th at 11:30 p.m. followed by our Monthly "Where's The Toast" Memory Cafe at 1. Memory Cafes are safe spaces for social engagement and friendship for those with memory loss, their families, friends and caretakers.
- The Health Department is holding a kids' flu clinic from 3-5 on the 16th. Call (508) 613-1334 to register.
- Forgetfulness vs. memory loss, how is your memory affected as you age? Presented on the 17th at 10:30.
- Our monthly party, featuring Magician Chris Herrick is on the 18th. You won't want to miss that!
- How to spot a scam and stay safe is on the 23rd at 1 and Irrevocable Trusts on the 24th.
- Sing-A-Long with George on the 28th at 1!
- On the 29th meet the Author: Alice Judge as she discusses her book *Murder is Bad Press* and inspires you with a writing exercise.
- Learn about what Health Plan Options are available to you through Medicare on the 30th at 11:30 then stay for Karaoke and Mocktails at 4!
- Halloween brings us a dramatic reading of *The Raven* at 12:30, then *Fears and Phobias: Why the Brain Likes Spooky Things* is at 1!

# Saturday Sessions Among FSPA's Instrumental Programs

Step inside the Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) on a Saturday afternoon and you're likely to find music students of all ages and instruments jamming to varied genres of music with Rich Labeledz and Jeffrey DiIorio—in-demand New England musicians and educators. Faculty members Labeledz and DiIorio lead Saturday Sessions at FSPA, providing young instrumentalists with a unique opportunity to play alongside the two and other special guest musicians throughout the year.

In addition to Saturday Sessions, Labeledz (saxophone) and DiIorio (guitar, ukulele, and bass) are private instructors at FSPA. DiIorio's popular ukulele program offers both private and group instruction.

Saturday Sessions are just one of the many ways to explore instrumental music at FSPA. Violinist Irina Fainkichen and pianist Ida Zelman bring international training, teaching and performance experience to equip FSPA students with a strong foundation in classical technique. For the youngest music students, FSPA features the innovative Little



Music School, teaching children as early as 18 months to play the piano, as well as programs, geared to children ages 1 through 5.

Private lessons are available on all instruments and at any level, whether for recreational interest or serious study. Small ensemble coaching, theory classes and ear training enhance musicality and support students' interests in music genres ranging from classical

and jazz to contemporary pop and rock. Student recitals enable young musicians to apply what's learned in the studio or classroom and gain increased confidence and enjoyment performing.

Registration is ongoing. For more information or to receive a course catalogue, call (508) 528-8668 or visit [www.fspaonline.com](http://www.fspaonline.com). The Franklin School for the Performing Arts is located at 38 Main Street in Franklin, MA.

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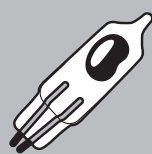
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# Look, Smell, Taste...Don't Waste!

## Franklin Food Pantry Welcomes Spoonfuls for Educational Presentation on Food Waste & Recovery

By J.D. O'GARA

“Thirty-eight percent of available food in the United States goes unsold or uneaten,” Liz Miller, Senior Community Relations Manager of food-recovery organization Spoonfuls told the community members at a recent educational presented by the Franklin Food Pantry and hosted by the Food Justice Team at the First Universalist Society in Franklin. “That is a value of \$473 billion dollars, and 90% of that goes directly to waste,” said Miller, adding, “Meanwhile one in six households in Massachusetts are facing food insecurity.” She also pointed out that food waste is the number one material in landfills, which produces about 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions. New Englanders, in particular, “waste enough food annually to fill Fenway Park every 11 days,” she said.

The presentation, “Wasted Food, Hunger, and the Climate Emergency: How Food Re-

covery Helps,” explained how Spoonfuls, coincided with Hunger Action Month, a nationwide campaign to raise hunger awareness during the month of September, and the release of The Pantry’s 2024-2027 Strategic Plan.

Miller explained that Spoonfuls partners with retailers and recover food they’d otherwise throw out and gets it to those who need it, such as people who use the Franklin Food Pantry.

The amount of food The Pantry receives from Spoonfuls has multiplied over the past two years. In 2022, The Pantry received 100 pounds of food from Spoonfuls each week. In 2023, deliveries steadily increased, and now stands at 2,000 pounds each week. The increase is due in part to The Pantry’s new location and ability to accept more food, but also is a deliberate response to the increasing need for food assistance and leveraging food suppliers who are utilizing sustainable

solutions to reduce food waste.

Although Spoonfuls recovers food at the retail level, Miller noted that a large study of 10,000 households by the organization ReFED found 48% of food waste is happening at the household level, across income levels. In fact, the average household of four wastes \$1,500 in discarded food each year. The top three ways households can reduce food waste is by:

- Using leftovers, not only from restaurants, but from food cooked at home
- Rethinking date labels, many of which are arbitrary. “Look, smell, taste ... don’t waste,” is a good rule to follow for consumers rather than relying on the date.
- Making a grocery shopping list and sticking to it.

“I think this presentation was a great first step in the Franklin



Shown is Liz Miller, Senior Community Relations Manager of food-recovery organization Spoonfuls, left, with Tina Powderley, Executive Director, Franklin Food Pantry, right.

Food Pantry’s and Spoonfuls’ commitment to raising awareness around the issues of food waste,” Tina Powderley, Executive Director, Franklin Food Pantry, told Local Town Pages, “I hope everyone in this room leaves here and makes a little bit of a difference, later adding, “The Pantry is empowering the community by providing knowledge and actionable steps to fight food insecurity,” said Powderley. “By sharing information and working with Spoonfuls, The Pantry is demonstrating our commitment to reducing food waste, serving as responsible stewards

of environmental resources, and influencing long term changes that improve outcomes for those we serve.”

About the Franklin Food Pantry, Inc.

The Franklin Food Pantry, Inc. offers supplemental food assistance, household necessities, and resource referral programs to more than 1,800 individuals per year. The Pantry, located at 341 W. Central St. in Franklin, MA on Route 140. Please visit [www.franklinfoodpantry.org](http://www.franklinfoodpantry.org) for more information.

Learn more about Spoonfuls at [spoonfuls.org](http://spoonfuls.org).

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# What is College Demonstrated Interest?

As students begin to narrow down their college list to their top 8-12 choices, the question of what is demonstrated interest frequently arises. The best analogy we've heard is that it's similar to social media - colleges love getting likes! When a student shows demonstrated interest, it helps college admission counselors identify those who are genuinely interested in attending their school. If the student fits the school's academic profile, demonstrating interest in a college can increase their chances of acceptance and often lead to higher merit scholarship awards. Demonstrated Interest can help the student stand out in a crowded applicant pool.

Another way of understanding demonstrated interest which is a bit more relatable is to imagine you're a new student at school and in your history class. You meet Rachel and Tom - both are nice and bright. Rachel has gone out of her way to introduce herself, inviting you to join her study group, and sharing her notes with you. Tom, on the other hand, hasn't made any effort to connect with you. Naturally, you would most likely choose Rachel as your study partner because she has shown more "demonstrated interest" in you!

**Here are a few ways for students to show demonstrated interest:**

- 1. Attend an in-person College Information Session and Tour:** Taking the time to visit the campus shows real commitment and helps you determine if the college is the right fit for you.
- 2. Participate in a Virtual Info Session and Tour:** If the college is too far from home, virtual sessions are just as valuable in demonstrating your interest.
- 3. Participate in Virtual Events:** Colleges offer various informative webinar events focusing on majors, academic programs, financial aid, and admission details. Make sure to register!
- 4. Be Strategic with the "Why Essay":** This essay is often ranked above the personal statement in importance. Treat it as a love letter to the school by doing your homework and being very specific.
- 5. Attend Local College Fairs:** Sign up for college fairs at your high school or in your community. Introduce yourself, ask thoughtful

questions, and follow up with a thank-you email if you engage in a conversation with a representative.

- 6. Contact Your Regional Admission Counselor:** Reach out with questions that aren't easily answered on the college's website. This will ensure the conversation is productive.
- 7. Plan Ahead with Questions:** Prepare questions to ask during a tour, at a college fair, or when speaking with a college admissions representative. For sample questions, email [tracy@mycollege101.com](mailto:tracy@mycollege101.com) for a free resource.
- 8. Sign Up for Optional Interviews:** If the college offers optional interviews, make sure to sign up!
- 9. Submit Online Request Forms:** Request information from colleges you are interested in by searching the college name along with the phrase "request for information."
- 10. Open Emails:** Colleges often track which emails are opened, the links clicked, and the time spent on their website.



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

## 11. Connect on Social Media:

Following a college on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter shows interest and helps you learn more about their activities.

## 12. Apply Early:

If possible, apply early to show your top colleges that you are serious about attending.

## 13. Use a Consistent Email Address:

Using the same email address throughout the college search process makes it easier for colleges to track your interest.

There are several ways to determine if the college places importance on demonstrated interest in their application review process. One effective method is to consult the college's *Common Data Set*. To do this, search the specific college name along with the phrase "Common Data Set." Once you find it, locate section C7 which lists all the factors the college considers important when making admission decisions.

Remember that showing demonstrated interest in a college has a dual purpose - it not only shows your top colleges that you are seriously interested in them, but it also helps you gather valuable information about the college to determine if it is the right fit for you!

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

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

**Attention:** If you are interested in a free information session about the college admission process, I will be speaking at The Original Congregational Church of Wrentham on October 9th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

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# Calendar

## October 1

Fantastical Folklores of Flowers, 7 p.m., Franklin Public Library, in collaboration with Franklin Garden Club, supported by Franklin Cultural Council, local agency supported by MA Cultural Council, Franklin Public Library 118 Main St., Franklin

Voice of Franklin Toastmasters, 7:30 p.m., hybrid meeting, Franklin TV, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, more at <https://voiceoffranklin.toastmastersclubs.org/>

## October 2

Franklin Art Association meeting, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St.

## October 5

Display begins honoring the 90th anniversary of Franklin Rod & Gun Club, Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, through October 27

Spooky Slime! 1 p.m., Franklin Public Library 118 Main St., Franklin, all-age program

Celebrate Archaeology at F. Gilbert Hills State Forest with Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Join Franklin Historical Museum members and DCR for an exploration of F. Gilbert Hills State Forest Headquarters and DCR's archaeological collection, Mill Street, Foxborough, all welcome, free, for carpooling, contact [alan.earls@gmail.com](mailto:alan.earls@gmail.com)

Cinema 80 presents *The Black Pirate-Silent* film Starring Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., in a tale of pirates, vengeance, and love, 6 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin

Jewelry City Steampunk Festival's Steampunktoberfest! 2024, Balfour Riverwalk Park in Attleboro, Massachusetts, more at [jewelrycitysteampunk.com](http://jewelrycitysteampunk.com)

## October 6

Jewelry City Steampunk Festival's Steampunktoberfest! 2024, Balfour Riverwalk Park in Attleboro, Massachusetts, more at [jewelrycitysteampunk.com](http://jewelrycitysteampunk.com)

"Portraits in RED: Missing & Murdered Indigenous Peoples Painting Project" Exhibit Opens (through Nov. 21), featuring work from artist Nayana Lafond, HCA's Lotvin Family, 98 Haydn Rowe, Hopkinton. Free public

reception to meet the artist November 1st at 6 p.m.

## October 12

Fall Fest, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., New England Chapel, Faith & Blue event with Franklin PD, children's activities, car seat fittings

Cinema 80 presents *The General* - Buster Keaton outdoes himself with non-stop action and comedy, loosely based on a real incident in the American Civil War, 6 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin

## October 13

Second Sunday Speaker Series presents Betsey Whitney: "90 Years of the Franklin Rod & Gun Club," local historian Whitney will speak about the people and activities of the Franklin Rod & Gun Club since its inception in 1934, Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin.

## October 15

Voice of Franklin Toastmasters, 7:30 p.m., hybrid meeting, Franklin TV, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, more at <https://voiceoffranklin.toastmastersclubs.org/>

## October 16

Ghosts and Legends with Jeff Belanger at the Franklin Historical Commission Jeff Belanger, 7 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin, ghostly multi-media program will take you on a journey through the haunts in your backyard, and around the world, free

Fight the Flu Youth Clinic, 3-5:30 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, sign up at [https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/franklin?site=2024-kids-clinic\\_franklin-senior-center](https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/franklin?site=2024-kids-clinic_franklin-senior-center)

## October 18

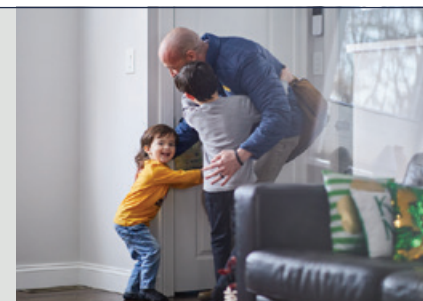
Franklin Public Library Book Sale, 1-5 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will open their 2024-25 Season with *School of Rock - The Musical* starring Broadway's Liam Fennecken, 7:30 p.m., THE

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## October 19

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

Trunk or Treat! 3:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Paranormal Investigations, 2 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Paranormal New England specializes in the research and investigation of paranormal claims utilizing strict scientific methodologies, specialized custom equipment and over 50 years combined experience

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will open their 2024-25 Season with *School of Rock - The Musical* starring Broadway's Liam Fennecken, 2 & 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, FPAOnline.com or (508) 528-3370

## October 20

LGBTQIA+ Service, First Universalist Society of Franklin, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin, [www.fusf.org](http://www.fusf.org)

Third Sunday Music at the Museum, "Mary Anning: Fossil Hunter," chamber opera by Franklin resident Jon Ceander Mitchell which was performed in June will be shown on video, 1:15 p.m., doors open 1 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, free

BEF 2nd Annual Halloween Dash 5K, 9 a.m., 70 Harpin St., Bellingham, benefits educational programs in Bellingham schools, <https://www.racewire.com/register.php?id=14068>

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will open their 2024-25 Season with *School of Rock - The Musical* starring

Broadway's Liam Fennecken, 2 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, FPAOnline.com or (508) 528-3370

## October 25

Halloween Sock Hop, 1 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, all ages program

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will open their 2024-25 Season with *School of Rock - The Musical* starring Broadway's Liam Fennecken, 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, FPAOnline.com or (508) 528-3370

## October 26

Franklin DPW Touch a Truck, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., 25 Public Works Way, Franklin, hydrant painting winners announced at noon, open house at Fisher St. Treatment Plant, food trucks

Franklin Police Halloween Haunt, 2-6 p.m., 911 Panther Way, Franklin. (Rain date Oct.27), organized by the Patrol Officers and Sergeant Officers Associations, pumpkin and face painting, bounce houses overseen by the Franklin High School Community Service Club hot dogs, cotton candy, and popcorn served by Tri-County High School Culinary Arts students, trick-or-treating with candy

Cinema 80 presents *Nosferatu* - a timeless classic that tells the tale of a vampire in extra-creepy black and white, 6 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin

*The Belle of Amherst*, by William Luce, A Tony Award Winning One Woman Play Based on the Life of Emily Dickinson, starring Kathleen Mary Mulligan, 7 p.m. (An Artist Talk-back will follow the performance.), First Universalist Society of Franklin, 262 Chestnut St.,

Franklin, [www.fusf.org](http://www.fusf.org) Tickets \$20 adults; \$10 students and those 18 and under

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will open their 2024-25 Season with *School of Rock - The Musical* starring Broadway's Liam Fennecken, 2 & 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, FPAOnline.com or (508) 528-3370

## October 27

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will open their 2024-25 Season with *School of Rock - The Musical* starring Broadway's Liam Fennecken, 2 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, FPAOnline.com or (508) 528-3370

## October 28

Sen. Becca Rausch Office Hours (virtual), 5-6 p.m., sign up at <https://www.beccarauschma.com/office-hours>

## October 31

# HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

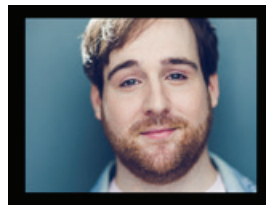


## November 2

The Mélange Gala and Live Auction, 5:30 p.m. 208 Fortune Boulevard, <https://foundation.milfordregional.org/> or call (508) 422-2228. Fundraiser for Milford Regional



# Broadway's Liam Fennecken to Star in *School of Rock* at FPAC



The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will open their 2024-25 Season with *School of Rock - The Musical* starring Broadway's Liam Fennecken October 18-27 at THE BLACK BOX in downtown Franklin, MA. Fennecken will play Dewey Finn, a role he played on the Broadway Tour of *School of Rock*. The production will be directed by FPAC Artistic Director Raye Lynn Mercer, choreographed by Broadway's Clay Rice-Thomson (*Moulin Rouge*, *Matilda*, *Newsies*, *King Kong*), with music direction by FPAC's Resident Music Director Hallie Wetzell.

Based on the hit movie, *School of Rock* follows Dewey Finn, a failed, wannabe rock star who decides to earn an extra bit of cash by posing as a substitute teacher at a prestigious prep school. There he turns a class of straight-A pupils into a guitar-shredding, bass-slapping, mind-blowing rock band. But can he get them to the Battle of the Bands without their parents and the school's headmistress finding out? With its sensa-

tional live kids' rock band, *School of Rock - The Musical* is a loving testimony to the transforming power of music.

Liam Fennecken recently starred in Broadway's *Chicago* as Amos Hart. He recently toured the US and South Korea in *School of Rock*, and has toured North America with *Once*, *American Idiot*, and *Peter Pan 360*. He is a member of the viral a cappella sensation "T.3" with whom he performed on America's Got Talent.

Fennecken is joined by NYC actress Ali Funkhouser as Principal Rosalie Mullins and Boston's David Livingston and Anissa Perona as Ned and Patty. A cast of talented young local actor-musicians have been selected to play Dewey's "band": Scotty Kippenhan as Zack on guitar, Colette Lelievre as Katie on bass, Owen Charles as Freddy on drums, Grayson Kerrigan as Lawrence on keys, and Aida DiChiara as Summer the band manager. Portraying the other musical students of Horace Green in *School of Rock* are Hayley Pezza, Matthew

McGuirl, Helena Cornwell, Barea Frigon, Hailey Hulbig, Ani Corkran, Liam Kerrigan, Whitney Williams, Bella Pereira, and Rowan Vadenais.

Rounding out the adult cast are NYC, Boston, and local performers as well as Musical Theater majors from Dean College: P.T. Mahoney, Melissa Baratta, Michael Baratta, Elijah Bondar, Jessica Cain, Kim Frigon, April Lisette, Connor Meehan, Nick Paone, Kylie Parsons, Kellie Stamp, and Isis Wilson.

Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) is an Actors' Equity Association Small Professional Theater. Each season, FPAC produces musicals, plays, ballets, and more featuring Broadway stars, professional and regional performers, and emerging artists. Tickets for *School of Rock* and FPAC's entire 2024-25 Season are available now at FPAConline.com or by calling the box office at (508) 528-3370.

## MARATHON/WALK'

*continued from page 23*

Brightman, and 60 other Franklin residents, along with thousands of other walkers, will participate in the iconic annual event that unites the community to raise funds and support all forms of adult and pediatric care and research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$176 million for Dana-Farber in its 35-year history, raising a record-breaking \$9.4 million in 2023.

Mark Lewis will participate as a Walk Hero for the Jimmy Fund Walk. Heroes are Dana-Farber patients, the heart of the event, who provide inspiration and motivation to walkers along the course. Heroes are matched with Jimmy Fund Walk teams who walk in their honor. Mark was diagnosed with Stage IV GI cancer. Mark walks on his match team, The Rak Pack.

"Be good to people!" Mark writes "People will always remember how you made them feel. Enjoy the small things in life. Take the trip and eat the cake. Most importantly, tell the people closest to you that you love them."

"For 35 years, the Jimmy Fund Walk has continuously supported lifesaving research and cancer care at Dana-Farber. Our goal is to build off of the momentum we've established throughout that history, and in 2024, aim to surpass our total from last year by raising \$9.5 million," said Caitlin Fink, assistant vice president of event fundraising. "Fighting cancer is what we do. The Walk unites our community under a common goal—to defy cancer together."

To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit [www.JimmyFundWalk.org](http://www.JimmyFundWalk.org) or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

## Opinion:

# Public, Education, Government (PEG) TV: Relic of the Past? Think Again. It's the Key to Our Future.

*An Educated Citizenry Is a Vital Requisite for Our Survival as a Free People!*  
— Thomas Jefferson

An informed electorate looks beyond the bias of media pundits or gaslighting polemicists who promote THEIR views, THEIR opinions, THEIR agendas. We are best served when we can assess objective facts and issues with OUR OWN EYES and think for ourselves. Every vote, every issue, every vital decision impacting life in our community is brought forward for open consideration by the folks at Franklin.TV, Franklin Public Radio (102.9 wfpr.fm) and Franklin Matters;

the "Franklin Citizen Media Center."

At every Town Council, School Committee, Finance Committee, Conservation Committee, Planning Board meeting, Master Plan meeting (etc.) Frank-

lin TV is there. Steve Sherlock, Community Information Director (Volunteer), attends a great many key town meetings, and reports on the votes and discussion items through Franklin Matters and [www.Franklin.News](http://www.Franklin.News). It's democracy at its best!

Relic of the past???? Think again!!

If that's not enough, consider how Franklin TV forges bonds of social connection by bringing us important civic events that define us a community (The Memorial Day parade, FHS and Tri County Graduations, The Harvest Festival, Concerts on the Common, Franklin Pride, Strawberry Stroll, PorchFest, just to name a few.)

Relic???

How about live-streaming of Franklin High School varsity sports? Parents, family members, residents who cherish competition, sportsmanship, grit and the sheer joy of watching young people representing their school and community can watch from their living rooms. That relic — Franklin.TV brings it all into our homes! How about FHS theatre productions, orchestra, band and chorus programs... Yes, it's true. It's that relic that brings us the beauty of music, and the arts, and showcases the incredible talents of our young people.

And now as more and more people cut the cord, and the fees collected from Comcast and Verizon customers decrease, the funding from Comcast and Verizon that supports our local PEG channels is also decreasing.

As our Massachusetts state legislators consider supporting more funding, there are

some who promise to vote NO, claiming cable tv is a relic of the past! How sad. As other state legislatures across the country enact laws to support local public media and programming, we hope that our legislature will think about what Jefferson said and why more than ever we need all that our Franklin Citizen Media Center brings to its residents.

Franklin TV, Franklin Public Radio, and Franklin Matters are working together to advance the greater good, bringing us together as a community so that our focus is not on what divides us, but what brings us together.

• **Watch:** the standard PEG channels or our three PEG YouTube Channels.

• **Listen:** Stream Franklin Public Radio anywhere, anytime online at [wfpr.fm](http://wfpr.fm), or tune in to our local Franklin public radio station

[wfpr](http://wfpr) on 102.9 FM.

• **Read:** Franklin Matters to find the daily TV, Radio, and community event schedule along with the news that matters published to the internet, a daily newsletter, and then to key social media channels.

Find all that matters at: [www.franklin.news](http://www.franklin.news)

-From the Board of Directors, Franklin Community Cable Access, Inc.

*Editors' Note: On September 18, 2024, the Franklin Town Council voted unanimously to support pending State legislation entitled "An Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media Programming"*



# Register O'Donnell Talks about Genealogy Research and Resource Center

Needham Channel's Municipal Affairs Producer Yuxiao Yuan Recently stopped by the Registry of Deeds to interview Register William P. O'Donnell on the Genealogy Research and Resource Center.

Register O'Donnell discussed how 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 genealogical workstations at the Registry contain the popular databases Ancestry.com, and AmericanAncestors.org

Follow this link to watch the video on the Register of Deeds website: <https://www.norfolkdeeds.org/news-event/registry-free-genealogy-research-program>

To learn more about Registry of Deed's events and initiatives, like us on Facebook® at facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds or follow us on Twitter® at twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds and Instagram® at instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds is located at 649 High Street in Dedham. Reach them at (781) 461-6101 or email us at registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.

# First Universalist Society in Franklin October Events

**Sunday, October 20, 2024 – LGBTQIA+ Service**

Please join the Welcoming Congregation Initiative Team for their annual Fall Service which explores timely and important LGBTQIA+ topics.

**Saturday, October 26, 2024 @ 7 p.m.**

*The Belle of Amherst*, by William Luce

**A Tony Award Winning One Woman Play Based on the Life of Emily Dickinson**

**Starring Kathleen Mary Mulligan, Noted Actor, Director, and Ithaca College Professor (An Artist Talk-back will follow the performance.)**

"The Belle of Amherst," a Tony Award Winning play by William Luce, and directed by Norman Johnson, brings the



poet Emily Dickinson to life for modern audiences. "Based on Dickinson's life from 1830 to 1886, the play is set in her Amherst, Massachusetts home and makes use of her work, diaries, and letters to explore both the agony of her infamous seclusion with moments of joy amid the people closest to her."

Kathleen Mary Mulligan (Actor and Producer) is a Professor of Voice and Speech at Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY. She is a proud member of Ac-

tors' Equity Association, the union of professional stage actors. Acting credits include The Acting Company (national tour), American Repertory Theater, The Huntington Theatre Company, and PCPA Theatrefest in Santa Maria, CA. She has performed *The Belle of Amherst* in Lebanon, Laos, and across northern India while on a Fulbright-Nehru grant in 2023.

Tickets will also be sold at the door.

The First Universalist Society in Franklin is a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation located at 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin. 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).

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## October 2024 at Franklin Public Library

The Library will be closed Monday October 14th for Indigenous People's Day.

### Franklin Public Library's 2024 Reading Challenge!

**October: A book with a supernatural element!**

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

### ESL & Adult Literacy Program

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

### Special Events for Kids

**Hula Hoop Hoopla! Wednesday, October 2nd @ 1 p.m.**

**Ole Flamenco! Thursday, October 3rd @ 1 p.m.**

Eve Costarelli, of Always Be Dancing, will lead this interactive, highly engaging program for families.

**Trunk or Treat! Saturday, October 19th @ 3:30 p.m.**

Families! Dress up and join us in the library parking lot for a safe, little-kid friendly bout of trick-or-treating in the daylight!

**Creepy Crawlers! Saturday, October 26th @ 1 p.m.**

It's spooky season and what better way to celebrate than with some of the creepiest and crawl-iest critters around! YES! There will be real live bugs and more!

### Special Events for Teens

**Teen Spooky Painting! Wednesday October 9 @ 5:30p.m.**

Teens! Join us as we take on the fun TikTok trend of spookifying a perfectly normal painting and making it creepy, just in time for Halloween! No registration required!

**Disney Musical Bingo! Wednesday, October 23rd @ 5 p.m.**

Join us for Musical Bingo! Part Bingo, part trivia, participants will listen to the music as it plays and fill in their bingo cards! This month's Bingo theme: Disney Movies!

### Special Events for Adults

**Fantastical Folktales of Flowers Tuesday October 1 @ 7 p.m.**

*Hosted by The Franklin Public Library & Franklin Garden Club*

Retold by award-winning storyteller and theatre artist, Diane Edgecomb, along with longtime collaborator and Celtic harper, Margot Chamberlain, these stories conjure a magical world bringing new meaning to favorite garden flowers. This program is supported in full by a grant from the Franklin Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

**Painting for Adults Saturday October 12 @ 1 p.m.**

Grown-ups! Are you feeling creative? Join Miss Lily to create your very own step-by-step painting of a covered bridge! All materials will be provided. Registration is required!

**Paranormal Investigations Saturday October 19 @ 2 p.m.**

Join us in welcoming Paranormal New England! They specialize in the research and investigation of paranormal claims utilizing strict scientific methodologies, specialized custom equipment and over 50 years of combined research experience.

### Special Events for All Ages

**Spooky Slime! Saturday October 5 @ 1 p.m.**

Every creepy cook is invited to conduct some ghoulish alchemy making slime at Franklin Public Library!

**Halloween Sock Hop Friday October 25 @ 1:00PM**

We are thrilled to invite you to a monster mash of tricks and treats for all ages!

### Franklin Library Book Sale

Friday, October 18th, 1-5 p.m., Saturday, October 19th, 9 a.m. to Noon, Books \$1

**Bag Sale - \$5 A Bag—Saturday, October 19th, 1-4 p.m.**

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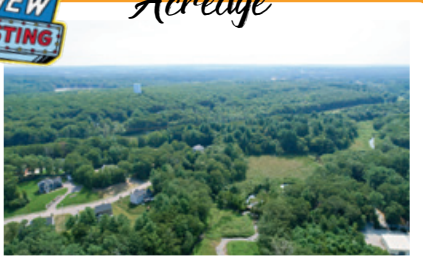
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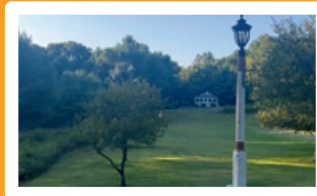


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**55 A Street  
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