

## Meet Wrentham's New Veterans' Agent

By GRACE ALLEN

In August, Scott M. Smith was named the new veterans' agent for North Attleboro, Plainville, and Wrentham. The 59-year-old retired U.S. Marine served for 30 years, attaining the rank of Sergeant Major and serving in leadership and instructor positions. Smith was stationed in numerous locations, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Australia, Thailand, Guam, and Cuba. He retired from active duty in September of 2013 and was then the Marine instructor at Tollman High School in Pawtucket, R.I. until August 2024. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Hawaii Pacific University and is a graduate of the Keystone Leadership Course from the National Defense University.

As the new District Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Smith is dedicated to supporting veterans and their families in the tri-district. He recently agreed to answer some



**Scott Smith in 2009, reuniting with his children for the first time in 7 months. Smith had just returned from his last combat deployment to Iraq/Afghanistan. Courtesy photo.**

questions for readers of Local Town Pages. His answers have been condensed and lightly edited.

### VETERANS' AGENT

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## Norfolk to Vote on Freeman-Kennedy Expansion at Town Meeting

By JOE STEWART

On November 12, Norfolk residents will decide at Special Town Meeting whether to fund design services to expand the Freeman-Kennedy School. Town Meeting will be held at the King Philip Middle School, beginning at 7 p.m.

Since 2018, the School Committee has been studying what to do about ongoing enrollment growth, which is now projected to grow by more than 200 students by 2035. The H. Olive Day school is already out of space for current enrollment and the Freeman-Kennedy School will be out of space by 2026. Construction is expected to take three years, so if voters approve, new classrooms would be ready in the fall of 2027.

Rather than pay for temporary modular classrooms or other short-term fixes, the School Committee plans a permanent expansion of the Freeman-Kennedy School to add new classrooms and related instructional space.

To educate voters on the proposal, the School Committee

has held community forums in March, April, and October which were recorded and are available online, <https://bit.ly/4hib33A>. The next and last forum before Town Meeting will be November 6 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Freeman-Kennedy School library.

In the most recent forum, held on October 9, Superintendent Ingrid Allardi, Ph.D. provided a thorough review of the district's assessment and planning efforts. Allardi highlighted the full-scale feasibility study that was undertaken by Ai3 Architects, a Framingham-based firm specializing in sustainable architecture and healthy school design. Following a year's work, the results of the study were published in 2021.

Due to rising construction costs, the scope of the feasibility study was expanded to take a second look at assumptions, to explore the feasibility of a modular solution and to select another demographer to conduct a new demographic study of Norfolk. The

### EXPANSION

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**VETERANS' AGENT**

*continued from page 1*

**What motivated you to take on this role?**

My father was a WWII veteran and was in the initial landing in Okinawa on April 1, 1945--his 20th birthday. My oldest brother served in the Army, my nephew is in the Marines, and in May my son will be commissioned in the United States Navy. So when I work with veterans, I look at them as family members: my brother, my sister, my father, my son. It's my passion and honor to help them, just like I hope someone would help my family members.

**How have your military experiences influenced you?**

As I progressed in the military, my role encompassed the care and well-being of enlisted Marines. I was often the most senior leader for the unit, so teach-

ing has been a part of me for the better part of 30 years. I shared my own experiences while helping the Marines I worked with advance their careers, either in the military or if they left, using their GI benefits to go to college or technical school. And now I can use that knowledge to help veterans learn about and access benefits, which unfortunately many are unaware of.

**What would you like to accomplish as the new Veterans' Agent?**

My goal is to get information out to the veterans, their families, and the community. Some of the younger veterans from the Gulf Wars might not be aware of all the benefits they are eligible for. They might not know, for example, that their children may have access to free college tuition through the Post-9/11 GI Bill. My GI bill benefits paid for some college for two of my kids. I am working with the principals of King Philip, Bishop Feehan, and North Attleboro high schools to help get that information out.

I'm also hoping the schools will utilize veterans in special programs leading up to Veterans Day, to maybe teach a few history classes while discussing their own experiences in the military. I've done this myself, at my kids' high school, and it's well-received.

Surviving spouses of veterans who have passed away may also be eligible for benefits. They are encouraged to contact us to find out how we can help them access those benefits.

**Are there unique challenges for younger and older veterans?**

The older veterans, in general, lack computer skills and have a harder time accessing their benefits, which are all available online. The younger veterans are more tech-savvy. But any veteran can come in or call us, and we can help them. Another challenge is that we can't provide transportation for medical appointments. We'll get requests from the older veterans, in particular, or their families, and while there are some provisions in the state's benefits for veterans, in general it's difficult to get those rides.

For the younger veterans, there's often a sense they've done their time and moved on. But they are unaware that there are still resources and benefits for them. Who knows if 10, 15 years down the line, they'll need a knee replacement, or some other medical or mental health issue comes up. But they haven't thought about the VA maybe helping them. I tell the older veterans, you've served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam and earned those benefits, even when they say to save it for the ones who really need help. And I tell the younger veterans, the government took out a loan on you when you put your hand in the air and swore to defend the Constitution. The government can't return you back to your 18- or 19-year-old body, but there was interest accrued on that loan and that interest is your VA benefits.

**How do you plan to engage with the community?**

I am trying to show up to as many events as possible. I had a table at Wrentham Day and I will run in the Wrentham Turkeywacker 5K Trail Race on Thanksgiving morning. My office has also started a monthly tri-district newsletter, available at wrentham.gov and nattleboro.com. It has contact information, helpful websites, and upcoming programs for veterans in the three towns.

I've also proposed to the schools, in addition to more actively involving veterans in their programs, to offer the ASVAB Career Exploration Program. The ASVAB test is similar to the ACT or SAT test, but in addition to testing math, reading, and writing, it helps students determine possible careers suggested by their skills and interests. It's a broader test that's used for anyone entering the military, but it's also a helpful tool for students that have no idea what they want to do after high school.

**How can the community better support veterans and their families?**

People often say "Thank you for your service" when they learn someone is a veteran, but I would ask them to take it a step further. Ask the veteran where they served and about their experiences in the military. I would also ask them to recognize the sacrifice of the veterans' fami-

lies. Often someone is deployed suddenly, and the spouse is left behind with little kids in a community far from family support. I tell people, I had it easier than my wife. I had a helmet, body armor, and a weapon. She didn't. And the kids—every two or three years, it's a new school, new friends, new town. That's hard on them, too.

**Do you have any final message you'd like to share with veterans and other community members?**

For veterans and their families: utilize us to find out what benefits you might be eligible for. If we don't know the answer, we will find out who does.

I would also ask your readers to remember the sacrifices made by veterans, and their families, so that all can enjoy the freedoms in this country. When you look at the American flag, a symbol of freedom recognized throughout the world, please think of the inscription on the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C.: "Freedom Is Not Free."

To contact Smith, call 508-699-0100 ext. 2582. Or send an email through the contact form at [www.nattleboro.com/304/Veterans-Services](http://www.nattleboro.com/304/Veterans-Services).

The Veterans' Services office is located in N. Attleboro Town Hall, 43 South Washington St., N. Attleboro.



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

**Creative Design & Layout**  
Michelle McSherry  
Kim Vasseur  
Wendy Watkins

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# Norfolk Lions Hold Annual Christmas Tree Sale

The Norfolk Lions Club's annual Christmas Tree Sale is in full swing. Located in the lot next to Dunkin' on Main Street in downtown Norfolk, the sale is open from 3 to 9 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends until the trees sell out. Shop early for best selection!

The Lions accept cash and checks only, and will trim the bottom of the tree, wrap it, and secure it to a car. (Pickup trucks are encouraged.)

Tree selections include the popular Balsam and Fraser Firs, which come from northern Maine and are fresh and beautiful. It takes 10 to 12 years of growing time and professional care to bring a Christmas tree to harvest.

There will also be a selection of wreaths, as well as tree bags and tree life preservative to promote needle retention and help keep the tree fresh.

This annual event is one of the Lions Club's most important fundraisers and a great opportunity for the Lions to connect with members of the community during the holidays. "Monies that the Lions generate go to seed such research as blindness prevention, diabetes prevention, juvenile cancer and numerous other causes," says Jack Campbell, this year's President and King Lion.

Also on site is a collection bin for Coats for Kids. Coats in good condition for men, women, and children will be dry-cleaned courtesy of Anton's Cleaners and then distributed to needy area families.

The Lions will also accept non-perishable food donations for the Norfolk Food Pantry at the tree sale.

The Boy Scouts of Norfolk will be offering a tree pick-up service after the holidays. Scouts will pick up your tree at any



home in Norfolk and bring it to the transfer station for recycling. The fee for this service is \$15 (\$5 for senior citizens). Register for this service on-line at [www.troop80norfolk.com](http://www.troop80norfolk.com). Trees will be collected on the morning of January 4, 2025, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The Boy Scouts will

also be on-site at the lot during tree sales to answer questions and hand out information flyers with all the details. **New this year: Tree Delivery!** For an additional \$15, the Scouts will deliver your tree to an outdoor location only, i.e. a driveway or porch. This service is available for Norfolk resi-

dents on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

For more information or to get involved with the Norfolk Lions Club, visit [www.Norfolk-MALions.org](http://www.Norfolk-MALions.org), email [norfolkions-membership@gmail.com](mailto:norfolkions-membership@gmail.com), or talk to any Lions member.

# Norfolk Police Report Uptick in Fraudulent Activity

An increase in reports of Norfolk residents being victims of scams and theft has been reported by the Norfolk Police Department. Chief Timothy Heinz shared the following safety information for residents:

## Package Theft

On Sept. 23, at approximately 4 p.m., a resident witnessed a man allegedly steal a package from her porch and get onto a moped. Officers responded and searched the area, ultimately finding the individual with the package, which contained an iPhone, and placing him under arrest.

The Norfolk Police Department strongly encourages residents to have high-value items, like iPhones, delivered to a store for pickup rather than delivery to their homes or require that such packages be signed for upon delivery to avoid package theft.

## Property Theft

Additionally, police remind community members to never allow easy access to valuable property following a theft.

On Sept. 28, a trailer was stolen from a construction site on



Boardman Street that has not yet been recovered. The trailer is custom painted white with "Commonwealth Construction" written on the side.

## Payment Scam

Police also urge residents to exercise caution if they receive messages demanding cryptocurrency or PayPal payments. Detectives are currently investigating a scam that occurred on Sept. 30, in which a Norfolk resident was defrauded out of nearly \$10,000 after depositing the funds into a Bitcoin ATM. Scammers told the victim that he would be charged for a purchase if he didn't contact the customer service number provided. He was ordered to withdraw money from

his bank account and deposit the funds into a Bitcoin ATM.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) offers the following information about cryptocurrency and blackmail scams:

- Only scammers demand payment in cryptocurrency. Businesses or government entities will never demand you send cryptocurrency.
- Scammers often impersonate well-known companies, or familiar phone numbers to build trust and deceive individuals. They might use a real name, such as the Social Security Administration, the IRS, Medicare, or make up a name that sounds official. Some pretend to be from a business you know, like a utility company, a tech company, or even a charity asking for donations.
- Scammers pressure you to act immediately. They might tell you not to hang up so you can't check out their story. They might threaten to arrest you, sue

## FRAUD

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**EXPANSION**

*continued from page 1*

Town of Norfolk also created a School Building Committee to provide guidance and oversight of the expanded study.

Among other conclusions from this study was the enrollment projections. Allardi noted that the results of the latest demographic study were consistent with the previous demographic study, with enrollment projected to grow by 200 students in 10 years.

Justin Thibeault, principal project architect from Ai3, summarized the options that were assessed: a permanent addition and three modular options (a connected 2-story structure, a standalone 2-story structure, and a standalone 1-story structure). Costs for the modular options were further organized into A and B categories which relate to the expected lifespan of the materials used, with B expected to be about 15-20 years and A about 20 years.

One of the Building Committee's considerations related to the future costs of replacing the temporary modular structures, the

lifespan of which is expected to be about 15 years, versus that of the permanent addition, which is about 30 years. Allardi shared that one way of thinking about those costs is that in 15 years the town will need to spend a similar amount again, effectively doubling the cost of the permanent structure. Furthermore, operational costs are somewhat higher with the modular structures (e.g. heating and cooling in particular).

Aside from replacement costs, other concerns with the modular structures include increased security risks (the detached temporary structures would impose new security risks), increased student transit times and related logistical issues as students cannot travel from building to building independently, and the loss of field and play space (in the case of Modular Option 3).

As the town has studied how to address rising enrollment, cost estimates have increased substantially, from \$13M in 2019 to this year's estimate of more than \$30M. Allardi remarked that voters should expect construction costs to increase in future years.

Regarding the timeline, the vote in November would autho-

rize design, a vote in January 2025 would authorize project bidding, and then a vote in the fall of 2025 would authorize construction to ultimately deliver the new classrooms by the end of August 2027.

One of the questions discussed, raised by former selectman and current candidate for State Representative, Kevin Kalkut, was the impact of enrollment at H. Olive Day school. Allardi listed the adaptations the district has taken, including the conversion of the music room to a classroom (so music education has changed considerably); partitioning the library to enable a former office to serve the technology team; and the conversion of the teachers' workroom to support guidance (so the copiers and related equipment are now in the hallway). Importantly, if nothing is done, the district anticipates needing modulars to house the new students.

For more information, visit the project's website at <https://bit.ly/4hib33A>, which includes photos illustrating conditions at H. Olive Day and Freeman-Kennedy as well as meeting recordings and related materials.

# Apathy

BY G. GREGORY TOOKER

It creeps into our lives like a silent serpent,  
Possessing our being with little fanfare,  
Strangling our intellectual curiosity,  
Deadening our environmental antennae.

When events give ample cause to examine,  
Dissecting errant logic, prodding conscience,  
Only to discover deeply flawed decisions,  
Uncomfortable remedy courts procrastination.

Enter now the fog-bound world of apathy,  
Beckoning blissful realm of sweet ignorance,  
Seeming buffer from all that is painful,  
Cruising peacefully on the lazy river of life.

Until that inevitable day when actions not taken,  
Allow societal disease to reach terminal stage,  
The obvious point of no return long ignored,  
Now crystal clear to eyes viewing the final frame.

Author's Comment: As the nation again approaches the critical crossroads of another national election, it is wise to reconsider the disastrous effects of electorate apathy and how a repeat of this widespread weakness may serve to destroy what remains of our democracy.

## Knights of Columbus 5K Set for Nov. 3

The 7th Annual Wrentham Knights of Columbus 5K will be held on Sunday, November 3 at 9 a.m. The 5K run/walk will start and end at Parker's Pub, 303 Shears Street, Wrentham.

The USATF-certified flat course will loop around scenic country roads. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers, and other valuable prizes will be awarded

for the top finishers in each age group. There will be a DJ, sponsor tents, and fun for the entire family.

Register for the event at <http://wrenthamkofc.racewire.com>. The council has raised over \$25,000 to date from the annual 5K race, all of which has been donated back to the community's charitable causes.

## Wrentham Cultural Council to hold Poetry Night on Nov. 19

The Wrentham Cultural Council invites poetry fans to a Poetry Night, scheduled for Tuesday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Old Fiske Library Museum, 55 East St., Wrentham.

Attendees are invited to read two favorite works as well as an

optional haiku, or to just relax and enjoy the evening. There is no charge to attend.

Please contact Jeanie Mattila, host and event coordinator, at [jean.matte6@gmail.com](mailto:jean.matte6@gmail.com) if interested in participating.

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# Dogtopia – A Tail-Wagging Good Time for Your Precious Pups

By JENNIFER RUSSO

According to a recent study published by Forbes, over 65 million US households own a dog. What's more, almost all pet owners consider their pet to be a true part of their family, because... well, they really are. From making sure they get the best in vet care to researching what is in the food we give them, and even replacing a favorite toy again and again when it is chewed beyond recognition, the love we have for them goes beyond words. So, when it comes to making sure they are cared for while we are at work or on a trip, we only want the absolute best.

The good news is that there is a new home away from home for those canine companions that exemplifies the ideal in dog care. It combines a state-of-the-art facility, impeccable safety standards, certified animal-loving team members that are trained to meet the needs of your pup, and a true commitment to the happiness and welfare of your furry, four-legged relatives.

Dogtopia, located in the Franklin Village shopping area, aims to be a haven for dogs by creating a fun and engaging environment for them while their owners are busy with work, errands, vacations, or other responsibilities.

"We treat your pup to fun-filled days of safe socialization with other dogs while they are interacting with our caring team, with exercising and burning off their pent-up energy, as well as basic education to help them improve behavior both inside and outside of your home. We believe daycare and overnight stays should be more than just a place to leave your dog when you are unable to be with them. It should be a place where your dog feels safe and loved while learning valuable socialization skills," says Dogtopia manager Keri Saccoia-Beggs.

Keri is no stranger to the world of canines, coming from a family which bred, raised, and showed Boxers and spending much of her teen years traveling to dog shows.

"You learn a lot about dogs when you are seeing hundreds a day! Now at Dogtopia, I get to

meet and play with all breeds of dogs in our playrooms," shares Keri.

That said, Dogtopia understands that not all dogs are the same and they have organized their facility in such a way that they can meet the needs of different dogs. Each dog needs to be fit for an open play environment, and they conduct a thorough temperament test during the first visit (called a Meet & Greet). Once they are ready for a fun-filled day, they are separated into one of three spacious playrooms based on similar size, temperament and play style. There is even a dedicated area called the "Wee Pen" for dogs under 8 pounds.

"Safety is always our number one priority," shares Keri. "Our team is certified by two nationally recognized associations in canine behavior and each member has 80+ hours of training. All dogs need to be at least 12 weeks of age and must be up to date on all required vaccinations (Rabies, Canine Influenza, DHPP, and Bordetella). Dogs 7 months old and up must also be spayed/neutered. If you don't have the records on hand, we can even call your vet for you!"

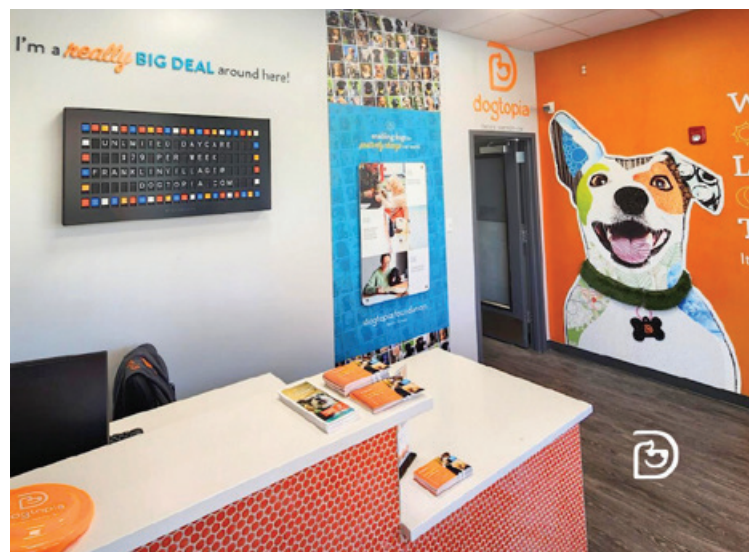
The innovative facility is climate-controlled, with compressed rubber flooring to minimize impact on your dog's joints.

Leaving a pet in the care of someone else can be stressful for some owners, but Dogtopia promises true peace of mind. With live webcams in every playroom, owners can check in on their furry family members and watch them play at anytime throughout the day. Owners will also receive periodic report cards to keep them in the loop.

In addition to day care, boarding and spa services are also available. Boarding crates are set up comfortably for rest and that feeling of "home away from home" and pups can even be pampered with a bath, nail trim and blueberry facial!

"We create a safe environment to give owners a trusted second home for their dogs. We can't wait to meet more dogs in the Franklin area! We have some great events happening in November, including a Dia de los

## Business spotlight



with the community to sponsor a service dog for a veteran, aiming to raise \$6,000 by the end of the year and truly enable dogs to positively impact the world.

Have a pup that could benefit from a place that brings socialization, exercise, love, and all-day fun? Learn more about Dogto-

pia of Franklin Village and their amazing services by visiting [www.dogtopia.com/FranklinVillage](http://www.dogtopia.com/FranklinVillage) and for more information on the Dogtopia Foundation, visit [www.DogtopiaFoundation.org](http://www.DogtopiaFoundation.org).

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# FPAC to present David Auburn's Pulitzer Prize-winning play Proof

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) is excited to continue the 2024-25 Season with David Auburn's Pulitzer Prize-winning play Proof November 15-17 at THE BLACK BOX. The four person play features New York actors Ali Funkhouser as Catherine, Robbie Rescigno as Hal, Lindsey White as Claire, and FPAC's Nick Paone as Robert.

Catherine has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, Robert. When he dies she has more than grief to deal with: there's her estranged sister, Claire, and Hal, a former student of her father's who hopes to find valuable work in the 103 notebooks that Robert left behind. And a further problem: how much of her father's madness - or genius - will Catherine inherit? Directed by Nick Paone.

Patrons are advised: Proof deals heavily with themes of grief, death, and dying and contains strong language and some mature themes.

Proof won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play. A 2005 film adaptation was directed by John

## Business spotlight

Madden, starring Gwyneth Paltrow as Catherine, along with Anthony Hopkins, Hope Davis, and Jake Gyllenhaal.

FPAC is an Actors' Equity Small Professional Theater company based at THE BLACK BOX in downtown Franklin. Each season, FPAC produces musicals, plays, ballets, and more featuring Broadway stars, professional actors, local artists, and students of the arts. Follow Franklin Performing Arts Company and THE BLACK BOX on Facebook and Instagram for updates on programming.

Proof runs November 15-17 at THE BLACK BOX at 15 W. Central Street in downtown Franklin, MA. Tickets are available at FPAConline.com or by calling the box office at 508-528-3370.

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# New Coordinator Named for Healthy KP Substance Use Prevention Coalition

By GRACE ALLEN

The Healthy KP Substance Use Prevention Coalition has a new coordinator. Karen Becker, a Wrentham resident, brings over 20 years of educational experience to the role.

“I am passionate about cultivating relationships, fostering healthy communities and empowering students, and I am very eager to jump into this dynamic role,” Becker said. “I’m committed to nurturing the well-being, growth and connection of our community’s youth and families. I’m excited to join Healthy KP and to do my part to help reduce substance abuse among our youth.”

Formed in 2018, Healthy KP is a coalition of volunteers from various sectors of the community involved in reducing youth substance use among the communities of Plainville, Wrentham and Norfolk through youth leadership, training, policy and support.

Becker has worked with nu-

merous health-focused nonprofit organizations and coalitions throughout her career, bringing to the role a wealth of experience in grant writing, event planning and training, program development, and creative communication strategies.

She holds a master’s degree in education and has taught science to grades K-12. She most recently served as the transition program coordinator at Walpole High School, supporting students’ successful reintegration into school following extended absences. The parent of two children who attended King Philip schools, Becker has been active in many volunteer organizations in Wrentham: King Philip Music Association, Cultural Council, Wrentham 350, Landscape Committee, and Girl Scouts.

Her immediate goals for the role include:

- Building coalition capacity through recruitment, engagement, and training.

- Engaging all sectors of the three communities through branding Healthy KP’s message and cultivating partnerships.
- Increasing programming and campaigns to students and families at all grade levels.

“The most effective prevention programs not only provide education and information but also provide opportunities for connection,” said Becker. “Since its inception, KP has offered programming that not only educates but also connects students, families, and community.”

She points to the Family Meals Matter campaign, which highlights the positive impact of connecting with children over family dinners, as well as the Fifth Quarter event, which provided a safe, substance-free space for students to have fun with friends after a high school football game. Most recently, Healthy KP



Healthy KP Substance Use Prevention Coalition welcomes new coordinator Karen Becker. (Photo courtesy King Philip Regional School District)

them with information and resources to talk to their children about substance use.

“These are difficult conversations to have but we know that parents have a significant influence in their children’s decisions to experiment with alcohol and other drugs,” she said. “Feeling prepared with questions, sample answers and facts can help to make these conversations less difficult.”

King Philip is in the fifth year of a grant from the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program and will apply for another grant in the spring of 2025 to earn another five years.

To learn more about the Healthy KP Substance Use Prevention Coalition, or how to talk to your children about vaping, alcohol, and other drugs, visit [healthykp.org](http://healthykp.org). To get involved with the coalition, send an email to [info@healthykp.org](mailto:info@healthykp.org).

“Together we can make a difference,” said Becker.

hosted a back-to-school dance at KP Middle School.

Becker says Healthy KP will continue to offer speakers and “Hidden in Plain Site” exhibits throughout the school year. The coalition is committed to supporting parents by providing

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Your Money, Your Independence

# Use November to Finalize Year-End Success and Plan for 2025

**Glenn Brown, CFP**

November is a pivotal month for financial planning. An opportunity to measure against financial goals, make final strategic decisions for tax year 2024, and prepare for the upcoming year.

Wait until December, you risk falling into the apathy and distractions common from Thanksgiving to the New Year. Do you want that for your finances?

Here are key financial planning topics to consider now.

**Review Your Planning Goals.**

Take stock of your progress: have you met your savings targets? Made headway on debt repayments? Improve upon experience spending? Expand investing to asset allocation? This review can help identify areas to accelerate efforts before the year ends or be of greater priority in 2025.

**Tax Planning Strategies.**

Does Roth Conversion or switching 401(k) contributions to Roth make sense?

If doing Roth Conversion, what's your expected Federal tax bracket and how much to convert to ensure you're not bumping up a level or two?

Do you or a grandparent want to gift more than \$18,000 to a child's 529 Plan?

If self-employed and want to open a Solo 401(k) plan, it must be done by December 31. Know that isn't required until April tax filing deadline.

Recall 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act lowering federal tax brackets will expire end of 2025. Current % will revert back (%): 12% (15%), 22% (25%), 24% (28%), 32% (33%), 35% (35%) and 37% (39.6%). Furthermore, the Standard Deduction \$ amount for tax returns nearly doubled, it too reverts. Are there circumstances to plan for splitting realized gains over 2024 and 2025?

**Open Enrollment for Work Benefits.**

Does your current health plan meet you and/or your family's health and financial well-being? Does FSA or HSA make sense? If so, how much to contribute?

Should you utilize supplemental Life or AD&D insurance? Are you opting into long-term disability insurance?

Are you enrolling in dependent care and/or transportation flex spending accounts?

**Use your Medical Flex Spending Account (FSA).**

Unlike Health Savings Accounts (HSA) that rollover each year to accumulate, FSA is a "use it or lose it" benefit program. Some allow ~\$500 carried the following year, others \$0. If you're low on qualified medical expenses, schedule elective appointments, renew prescriptions and/or spend on wellness. Don't spend New Year's Eve panic shopping in CVS.

**Evaluate Investment Portfolios.**

Assess your asset allocation, then rebalance and/or tax-loss harvest, if necessary. Remember, asset allocation is different from diversification. Owning a S&P 500 Index fund is diversification, as it owns 500 largest U.S. companies, but it's not an asset allocation model. Ensure asset classes are near their targets.

Nearing retirement or have major life changes requiring funds? Identify source of funds, develop a tax-efficient distribution strategy and allocate remaining long-term assets to grow over time relative to need, not greed or fear. Meaning your asset allocation may (and likely should be) different within taxable accounts versus 401(k), 403(b), pre-tax IRA accounts versus Roth IRA, HSA accounts.

**Don't Forget Your RMD.**

For 2024, the age for Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from retirement accounts is 73, up from 72 due to changes enacted by the SECURE 2.0 Act.

Also new, per finalized IRS regulations, Inherited IRAs from a non-spouse (i.e. parent) in 2020 or later where the deceased was taking RMDs, then you must also take RMDs within the 10-Year Rule. If previous years were missed, the IRS will not penalize, however they will after December 31, 2025.

**Conclusion.**

November is a month of reflection, giving thanks and preparation in the realm of financial planning. If feeling overwhelmed, connect with your Certified Financial Planner to finish the year strong and set a solid foundation for a prosperous 2025.

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

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

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**CITATION ON GENERAL PROBATE PETITION**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court  
Norfolk Probate and Family Court 35 Shawmut Road  
Canton, MA 02021 | (781) 830-1200

**Docket No. N022P2823EA**

**Estate of: Jane A Oliverio**

**Date of Death: 09/28/2021**

To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by **Steven J. Oliverio of Plainville MA** requesting instructions and Relief more fully stated in said petition files **August 27, 2024**.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on 11/13/2024**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**WITNESS, Hon. Patricia Gorman, First Justice of this Court.**

Date: October 10, 2024

Colleen M Brierley, Register of Probate

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## Two Dates Left for Wrentham Textiles Exhibit

“Living in A Material World: The Fabric of Wrentham Lives” museum exhibit will be open two more days this fall: Sunday, November 3 from 1 to 4 p.m., and Wednesday, November 13, from 5 to 9 p.m. The exhibit is held at the Old Fiske Museum, 55 East St., Wrentham. Admission is free.

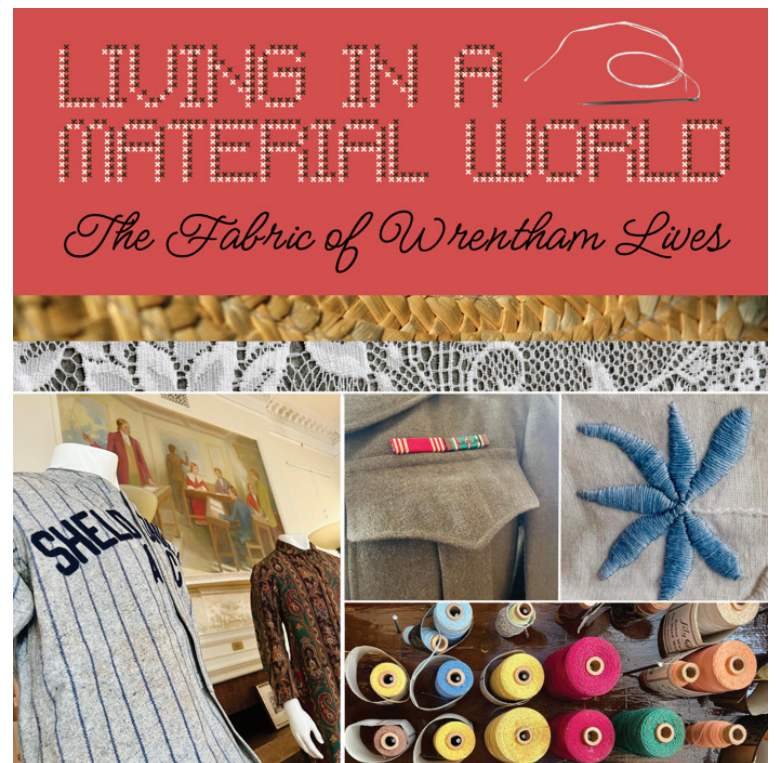
The Wrentham Historical Commission holds an archive of Wrentham artifacts, which includes clothing and other textiles that have been featured since June in the exhibit. More than twenty clothed mannequins and

a loom form the centerpieces of the exhibition. Curated by Wrentham’s Cultural Council and Historical Commission, this exhibit investigates how people living in Wrentham obtained materials and created fabrics and clothing. It highlights fashion trends and what people in Wrentham wore, and how and where they wore it. From uniforms to swimsuits to wedding gowns to accessories, this collection tells the story of daily life in Wrentham.

The Old Fiske Museum is

jointly assigned to the Wrentham Cultural Council and the Wrentham Historical Commission. Each group has their own mission. The Historical Commission is primarily focused on collecting and preserving town history. The Cultural Council’s primary focus is administering state grants for arts and humanities-related programs and is currently accepting applications for new committee members.

Questions about the exhibition or the Cultural Council? Email [contactwcc@wrentham.gov](mailto:contactwcc@wrentham.gov).



## Holiday Events in Norfolk Kick Off on December 1

The holiday season will be here before you know it, so save the dates for these upcoming festive events in Norfolk, sponsored by the Norfolk Lions Club and the Norfolk Recreation Department, with the cooperation of numerous town departments, including Fire, Police and Highway Departments and the staff of the Norfolk Public Library.

### Norfolk Lions Santa Parade--December 1

Santa Claus will roll into Norfolk on Sunday, December 1 and a host of groups will turn out to celebrate his arrival with a variety of activities.

Santa and his entourage will be ushered into town by the highly acclaimed King Philip High School Marching Band, under the direction of Mr. Mi-



chael Keough. Prior to the parade, Santa stops in at Hillcrest Village on Rockwood Rd., where his elves will hand out cookies and treats.

Santa’s parade will then begin at 3:30 p.m. from Hillcrest Village. Mrs. Claus, Rudolph, Santa’s elves, Frosty the Snowman, the Grinch, Buddy the Elf, Norfolk Police and Fire Departments, area Scouts, Color Guard, Varsity Cheerleaders, Chief Cheerleaders, Town Select Board and others will join Santa along Route 115, through the center of town, turning right onto Liberty Lane and ending at the Norfolk library.

At 4 p.m., residents can visit with Santa in the community room inside of the library. Please bring your own smart phone or camera to take pictures with Santa. Santa’s elves will be bustling around assisting all. Refreshments will be provided by the Norfolk Recreation Department.



Children are invited to bring their homemade ornaments to help the adults decorate the town Christmas tree.

### Tree and Menorah Lighting—December 1

After photos with Santa, residents are invited to gather on Town Hill for the annual lighting of the Christmas tree and Menorah, scheduled for 4:30 p.m. All are welcome to enjoy hot chocolate, festive treats, and entertainment, and celebrate the start of the holiday season together.

### Holiday on the Hill—December 1 to January 2

Take a stroll after the parade and tree lighting, and enjoy the display of themed, decorated trees on Town Hill. The third annual Holiday on the Hill contest begins on December 1. Participating groups pick a theme and decorate a tree on Saturday, November 30 or Sunday, December



1 by 3 p.m. Parade-goers and the community can vote for their favorite tree on the day of the Santa Parade and in the library through December 10. The winners receive a prize! The trees will remain on display throughout the Christmas season for the whole town to enjoy. Businesses can incorporate advertising into their tree, also. Go to [norfolkmlions.org](http://norfolkmlions.org) for more information and to register.



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FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED



# Family-run Affordable Junk Removal takes the stress out of cleanups

By CHRISTIE VOGT  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible, properly disposes of non-recyclables and resells many items at the Schadlers' secondhand store, Resellables. "We opened that store in Bellingham because we hated to see things thrown away," Schadler says. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"



Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the back-end while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 17 years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place, The Corner Market in Holliston."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

As for Norfolk and Wrentham in particular, Schadler says they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area. Christine spent her childhood holidays in Norfolk, where her aunt and uncle live, and she learned to blow glass at Luke Adams Glass Blowing in nearby Norwood. The Schadler family also frequents Supercharged in Wrentham, one of her son's favorite spots.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat

## Business spotlight

business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

To receive a free junk removal estimate, call 774-287-1133 or visit [affordablejunkremoval.com](http://affordablejunkremoval.com).

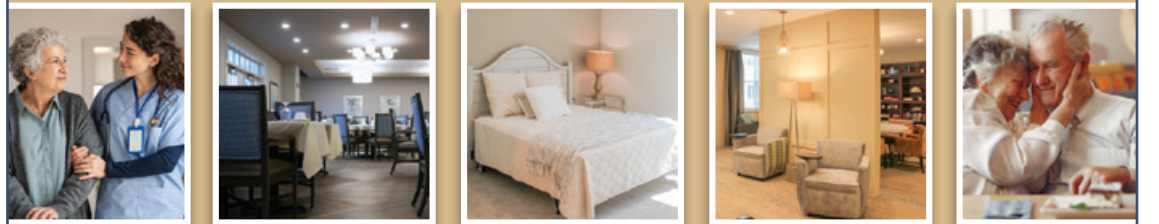
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Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children and dog, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.

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# The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

## b.LUXE is Celebrating with Special Holiday Offers, and Your Chance to Win a \$100 Spa Gift Card!

BY GINA WOELFEL

The holiday season is approaching, and there's excitement in the air at the b.LUXE Studio in Medway. We're thrilled to celebrate this festive time of year with you. Whether you're preparing for a holiday party, looking for the perfect gift, or just need a moment of pampering amid the holiday rush, we have something special to make this season even more memorable!

This year, from November 1st through December 23rd, we're thrilled to bring back some of our most popular holiday offers! It's the perfect time to treat someone special on your holiday shopping list or indulge yourself with a gift of beauty, relaxation, and self-care!

### HOLIDAY GIVEAWAY!

For every gift card purchased in-store or online, from 11/1 to 12/23, your name will be entered to win a \$100 SPA GIFT CARD!

### Holiday Gift Card Specials: The Perfect Gift for Everyone!

Finding the perfect gift just got easier! Our Holiday Gift Card Specials offer a variety of luxurious services that will make anyone feel pampered. From

hair treatments to spa facials, b.LUXE has you covered with incredible holiday packages:

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• **Spa Facial Package** – Relaxation at its finest! This client-favorite package features a b.LUXURY Facial, a complimentary lip rescue and under-eye collagen treatment, along with your choice of a robust scalp massage or Gua Sha lymphatic facial sculpt. Priced at \$195, it's an indulgent treat designed to refresh and rejuvenate.

• **Scalp Spa Package** – Treat your scalp and soul with this luxurious offer! It includes a scalp buff and treatment, a scalp & hand massage, a wash and deep conditioning treatment, a full blow-out, and a full bottle of b.LUXE BEFORE OIL to take home. This complete pampering experience is

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### Buy 3 Retail Products, Get 1 FREE!

'Tis the season to stock up and save! That's right! It's the promo you've been waiting for all year! BUY 3 GET 1 FREE— Looking to spread some holiday cheer? This offer is perfect for those who want to give the gift of beauty or replenish their own supplies. \*Free products must be of equal or lesser value.



### Celebrate the Holidays in Style

At b.LUXE, we're so excited to share the joy of the holidays with you! We specialize in event hairstyling, special event makeup and spa services like tanning, brows and facials that will have you party-ready in no time! We're here to make sure you shine bright this holiday season.

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## Christmas Fair Set for Nov. 16

The Original Congregational Church in Wrentham will hold its annual "Christmas Tree Church Fair" on Saturday, November 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All are welcome!

The fair will feature local craft vendors, plants, gifts, books, jewelry, baked goods, craft and sewing items, and Christmas decorations. Beautifully decorated Christmas trees will also be for sale.

Browse in the "Attic Treasures" section, stocked full of

gently used items. There will also be a silent auction, and fair visitors can bid on gift certificates, themed gift baskets and more.

Brunch will be served all day and the children's area will host a scavenger hunt, games, crafts, and Santa Claus.

The Original Congregational Church is located at 1 East St., Wrentham. For more information, visit [www.occhurch.net](http://www.occhurch.net) or call 508-384-3110.



# Toy and Children's Book Swap Set for Nov. 30

Donations Accepted Nov. 26 and 27

By GRACE ALLEN

A Wrentham family is hosting a toy and children's book swap on Saturday, November 30 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fiske Public Library. This is the third year for the popular event, which encourages families to "shop" gently used donated items instead of buying new.

Alexander Cassie and his wife Krista Andberg have three children, and like a lot of parents found themselves drowning in the toys and books their kids outgrew. They decided to hold a toy and book swap as a way to tame the excess before the upcoming holiday season.

"We wanted a way to shop better and be more mindful of waste and all the packaging that comes with new stuff," said Cassie. "The idea was that people could drop off toys that are still in good shape, things that their kids don't use anymore, or have aged out of, or lost interest in. And then they could shop other people's things so all this cool stuff stays in the community."

The swap works best if people donate things they'd want to get, he said.

"The first year was a little rocky," said Cassie, laughing. "We got the doll with one eye and the bike with one wheel—



Alexander Cassie in 2023, with donated toys.



The Sweatt Room ready for shoppers in 2023.

stuff like that. But if you don't want that stuff around, probably no one else wants it either. If you look at the toys you have and think, this is great and I wish we could share it with some kid, that's the kind of stuff that works for a swap."

Everything at the swap is free, and donating a toy or book isn't required to take items home. Children are encouraged to shop, too, for their siblings and friends.

Cassie asks that donations for this year's swap be dropped off at the Fiske Library's Sweatt Room

on Tuesday, November 26 from 4 to 8 p.m., or on Wednesday, November 27 from 10 a.m. to noon. Items should be in good condition, and please no bicycles or clothing. Shoppers are asked to bring their own bags on the day of the swap.

Any toys left at the end of the swap are donated to the St. Vincent De Paul Society. Leftover books are donated to the Friends of the Fiske Library for their book sales.

A self-proclaimed "big kid at heart," the 40-year-old Cassie

enjoys finding toys for his kids, ages 7, 9, and 11. The swap, he says, is a fun way to do that while being good for the planet and good for the pocket.

"I'm always out there looking for cool toys and books for my kids, whether it's stuff I played with as a kid myself or something that catches my eye that's neat," he said. "The fact that we can share all this stuff and memories with our neighbors and friends, and they can do the same, is pretty great, I think. And that's part of what this is all about."

## Norfolk Adopts New Master Plan

Last month, the Select Board and the Master Plan Steering Committee announced the adoption of the Town of Norfolk's new comprehensive master plan, which will guide growth and development over the next 10 years.

The Master Plan, adopted on Sept. 10 by the Master Plan Committee, is the result of a collaborative effort between the town government, local businesses and residents. It includes a vision for Norfolk's future, strategies to improve the quality of life, and a roadmap for implementing community-driven initiatives.

The plan provides the framework for regulations and is meant to be implemented using

zoning bylaws, budget plans, and capital improvement programs.

"I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone who contributed to the development of our Town's new Master Plan," said Town Administrator Justin Casanova-Davis in a statement. "I am thrilled to see the plan officially adopted, and I look forward to the positive impact it will have on our community's future. Multiple listening sessions, community engagement efforts and a lot of work went into shaping this plan. Together, we are shaping a brighter tomorrow for the community."

Massachusetts Area Planning Council members have assisted the Steering Committee in this

effort. The process, which began in January 2023, has engaged more than 1,100 residents and

business owners in Norfolk via dozens of forums, surveys, focus groups, interviews and other

community-based events.

View the Master Plan on [norfolk.ma.us](http://norfolk.ma.us).

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# College-Prep: To-Do List for High School Juniors

Junior year in high school sneaks up on families quickly. Students are now at the halfway point and in less than 2 years, many students will be heading off on a new adventure - college! Junior year is a critical time to put a college prep plan in place. Creating a timeline now, versus waiting until senior year, will definitely alleviate some of the college stress, and will set your student up for a successful college admissions experience their senior year.

Robert D. McCaig, Monmouth University Vice President for Enrollment Management, sums it up perfectly when he said, "The most important thing students should do when applying to college is pace themselves and prioritize. Starting early certainly helps students with the pacing, and knowing when to put time into SAT prep versus studying for an exam versus visiting another college, for instance, is an important part of prioritizing."

@Students: Here are some helpful tips to get you moving in the right direction this fall:

1. GPA and course rigor are the 2 most important factors when an application is reviewed - without question. Make studies a top priority. Other factors like leadership roles, activities,



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

strong test scores, and athletic prowess are secondary considerations. They will help- but you still need good grades!

2. Course selection is important. Colleges like to see growth in a student's transcript. If you have 2 years of A's in College Prep Math - think about taking Honor's Math the following semester or year. A good question to ask- "How much can I push myself without being shoved."
3. If your grades start to slide, don't wait until you are drowning. Immediate-

ly meet with your teacher or tutor and ask what can be done to help. Asking for help is not a sign of failure - but of strength.

4. Visit your guidance counselor early junior year - they are there to help and have a wealth of knowledge and experience. Inquire into what college platform your high school uses, like Naviance or Scoir - excellent resource throughout the college process.
5. Plan early for standardized testing. Consider your school and activity schedule, and plan to prep and take the exam when you

have the most time. Prep for 8 weeks prior to the exam.

6. Start building an activity resume and update it throughout the year. Make a list with your activities, accomplishments and work experience with a short description. It's never too late to begin an activity or join an organization. Colleges are looking to build a well-rounded class with students that show depth and commitment in a few activities that interest them. My advice: Do what you love and create an impact.
7. Begin visiting colleges as early as possible. Tour local colleges first, even if you may want to attend college out-of-state. It will help determine college criteria that are important to you before you visit out-of-state campuses- save time and money. A few factors to consider: rural, urban, or a suburban setting; small or large student body; public or private school; major or interest.
8. Create a college list that includes affordable choices - always include a state university. As a family, determine your available finances early on. It is im-

portant that your family is all on the same page. Research the availability of merit or need-based aid that will support the student throughout their four college years. Excellent financial aid resource: studentaid.gov. And It is never too late to start saving - 529 plans!

9. As a family, determine if you need assistance from an outside source. Independent Educational Consultants (IEC) have broad experience in navigating the many aspects of the college admissions process. Some consultants offer comprehensive packages beginning sophomore and junior years as well as hourly work for specific pieces of the application process.

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

College 101 Admissions Consultants LLC. Website: www.my-college101.com. Email: tracy@mycollege101.com. Phone: 508-380-3845.

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## Free Veteran's Day Dinner

The Norfolk Post 335 of the American Legion will host a Veteran's Day dinner for all Norfolk veterans and a guest on Saturday, November 9 at 6 p.m. The dinner will be held at the Norfolk Grange, 28 Rockwood Road.

Attendees are asked to sign up by emailing sailorjim32@gmail.com by October 31 or call 508-740-0818. The dinner is sponsored by the Norfolk Grange, the Norfolk Lions and the American Legion Post.

Norfolk Post 335 is the local American Legion outlet of the largest wartime veterans' or-

ganization in the nation. The American Legion was established in March of 1919 in Paris, France by veterans from WWI. The national organization has more than two million members. The local post is 79 years old and has existed to serve veterans from every recent conflict: WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf Wars.

Current Post Commander, MS Lori Scholl, who began her tenure in June of this year, is the first female commander of Post 335.

"Much is done to honor the memory of those fallen he-

roes of our military, and that is as it should be," said Commander Scholl in a statement. "But we should also remember those who put on their uniform, served the country and returned to build and operate our communities. The lessons those veterans learned in service, they put into practice in their daily lives, serving their families, their communities and making our nation stronger for their efforts."

For more information, contact Frank Zolli at fczolli@gmail.com or 508-520-2751.

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# Wrentham Engagement to Hold MBTA Communities Act Focus Group Panel Discussion

Panel Discussion Set for Dec. 5

SUBMITTED BY  
WRENTHAM ENGAGEMENT

Wrentham will hold a Special Town Meeting on December 16 to vote on zoning changes proposed to meet the requirements of the MBTA Communities Act. In advance of the Special Town Meeting, Wrentham Engagement, a local, grass-roots non-partisan effort, plans on hosting an MBTA Communities Act Focus Group Panel Discussion on Thursday, December 5 at 7 p.m. The panel discussion will be held in the Fiske Library's Sweatt Room.

The MBTA Communities Act is a new Massachusetts law that requires cities and towns to allow more multi-family housing near transit stations. The law applies to 177 cities and towns in the Greater Boston area that have or are near MBTA transit stations. For the purposes of the

law, Wrentham is considered an MBTA community. The law requires that each MBTA Community establish a zoning district where multi-family housing is permitted as of right.

MBTA communities have until December 31, 2024, to make appropriate zoning changes to be in compliance with the law. The Wrentham Planning Board has been developing zoning recommendations to comply with the law. The Board is currently finalizing the proposed changes through an on-going public hearing process.

Wrentham Engagement formed last year to encourage greater voter awareness and engagement in the events that shape Wrentham's governance and future. The purpose of the Focus Group Panel is to provide registered voters a chance before Town Meeting to discuss

the requirements for the zoning proposal, bring forth questions about the proposals, and discuss whether or not they are in favor of the proposed zoning changes.

Voters at the Special Town meeting will be asked to approve or reject the proposed zoning changes. The requirements of the law are complex and the vote, either way, will likely have significant impacts on Wrentham's future.

Wrentham Engagement is looking for participants to volunteer ahead of time to be on the December 5 panel. This is not a presentation but a moderated discussion of the issues. Panelists can be for or against the new law or may be undecided and looking for more information. A facilitator will ask questions designed to elicit concerns and questions. Registered voters not on the panel are also invited to attend.

To be on the panel, complete the form found at <https://bit.ly/WEFocusGroup>. All registered voters are also invited to join the Wrentham Engagement email list for notifications about Town Meetings and local elections

by signing up at <https://bit.ly/joinWEemail>. More information about the MBTA Communities Act can be found on the Town website at <https://bit.ly/MBTA-Communities>.

## Save the Dates for Norfolk and Wrentham Town Meetings

Both Norfolk and Wrentham have upcoming Town Meetings.

Norfolk's is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12 at King Philip Middle School, beginning at 7 p.m. The warrant is available at [norfolk.ma.us](http://norfolk.ma.us).

Wrentham will hold a Town Meeting on Monday, December 16 to address zoning changes in relation to the MBTA Communities Act. The Town Meeting will take place at King Philip High School, beginning at 7 p.m.

### FRAUD

*continued from page 3*

you, take away your driver's or business license, or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.

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The Norfolk Police Department urges residents who believe they are a victim of any scams to report them to the police by calling 508-528-3206.

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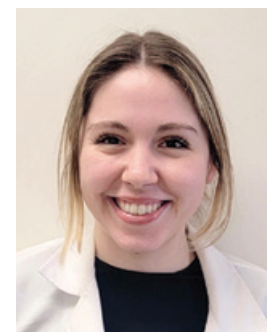
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# Living Healthy

## Glaucoma Treatment: iDose TR

### Commonly Asked Questions

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

Glaucoma is a condition that can damage our field of vision. It occurs when the pressure inside the eye is higher than what the eye can tolerate. Glaucoma is treatable with drops aimed at lowering eye pressure, but many patients find it challenging to use these drops consistently due to irritation, side effects, or simply forgetting. In these cases, iDose TR, a new sustained-release implant, can offer an innovative solution for managing intraocular pressure without the need for daily eye drops.

#### What is iDose TR?

iDose TR is an FDA-approved prescription medication and drug delivery system for patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension. The implant contains travoprost, a prostaglandin analog that has long

been used in eye drops to lower intraocular pressure by increasing the outflow of fluid from the eye. However, unlike traditional drops, iDose TR is gently implanted directly inside the eye, where it releases the drug slowly over time, reducing the need for frequent applications.

#### How does iDose TR work?

iDose TR delivers a sustained release of travoprost, which helps reduce and maintain healthy eye pressure levels. The tiny implant is placed in the eye's trabecular meshwork during a minimally invasive procedure performed under local anesthesia at our state-of-the-art surgery center. Once in place, iDose TR continuously delivers the medication for an extended period, reducing the need for daily drops while effectively managing eye pressure.

The implant does not need to be removed, as it is designed

to remain in the eye for many months. In some cases, patients may benefit from the iDose TR implant for up to a year or longer before a replacement is needed.

#### Benefits of iDose TR

iDose TR offers several key advantages over traditional glaucoma treatments:

- **Long-lasting effect:** Reduces the need for frequent eye drops, improving adherence and convenience.
- **Minimally invasive:** The implant is inserted via a simple surgical procedure, often performed under local anesthesia.
- **Reduced side effects:** May result in fewer side effects, such as redness, irritation, and blurry vision, compared to traditional eye drops.
- **Improved quality of life:** By eliminating the need for daily drops, iDose TR enhances patient comfort and convenience.

#### Who is a candidate for iDose TR?

iDose TR is approved for patients with open-angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension. However, not every patient is an ideal candidate. Contraindications include:

- Infection or suspected infection in the eye or surrounding area
- Corneal endothelial cell dystrophy or prior corneal transplant
- Narrow angles, where the iris and cornea are too close together
- Allergies to any of the ingredients in the implant

If you meet the criteria, iDose TR may be a great option to help manage your glaucoma and reduce the need for daily eye drops.

#### Risks of iDose TR

Like any medical treatment, iDose TR comes with some potential risks. While generally well-tolerated, clinical trials have shown the following possible side effects:

- Increased eye pressure
- Eye pain, irritation, or redness
- Inflammation of the iris (iritis)
- Dislocation of the implant (rare)
- Macular edema, a swelling of the retina
- Possible permanent brown pigmentation of the iris

It's important to discuss any concerns with your ophthalmologist to determine if iDose TR is right for you.

#### Alternatives to iDose TR

There are several other effective treatments for open-angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension. These include:

- **Eye Drops:** Prostaglandin analogs (like latanoprost), beta-blockers (timolol), alpha-2 agonists (brimonidine), and carbonic anhydrase inhibitors (dorzolamide) are common options.
- **Laser Surgery:** Selective laser trabeculoplasty (SLT) and cyclophotocoagulation are minimally invasive procedures to improve fluid drainage or reduce fluid production.



- **Surgical Implants:** Devices such as the Ahmed glaucoma valve and Ex-PRESS glaucoma implant help drain excess fluid from the eye.

Each treatment has its own set of benefits and risks, and the choice depends on the severity of glaucoma, overall health, and patient preferences. Discuss your options with your ophthalmologist to determine the most appropriate treatment.

#### Is iDose TR for me?

If you've found daily eye drops challenging, or if they haven't effectively controlled your glaucoma, iDose TR might be the solution you're looking for. It offers long-lasting pressure control, fewer side effects, and greater convenience, allowing you to focus on living your life without the constant worry of administering drops.

The iDose TR implant helps reduce the burden of daily drops, improving patient compliance and quality of life. At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we are committed to offering the latest advancements in glaucoma care, including iDose TR. We are proud to have performed one of the first iDose TR procedures in New England at our Cataract and Surgery Center of Milford. As a leader in advanced eye care technology, we are thrilled to be among the pioneers of this groundbreaking treatment. Our surgery and surgeon were featured in a segment broadcasted on Channel 5 TV. We are available for second opinions and dedicated to providing world-class outcomes. Here's to pushing the boundaries of eye care!

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# Living Healthy

## Tri-Town Police Departments Welcome New Co-Response Mental Health Clinician

On October 10, Norfolk Police Chief Timothy Heinz, Plainville Police Chief James Floyd and Wrentham Police Chief William McGrath announced a new co-response mental health clinician.

Janelle Emmanuel began working as the co-response clinician for all three departments on Sept. 4. Emmanuel, who has a master's degree in social work from the University of Southern California, has experience as a crisis counselor, clinical social worker and case worker and group counselor for correctional facilities. She has worked as a crisis counselor at the Alcott Center and a domestic violence advocate for Second Step in Newton.

The position is fully grant-funded through the Co-Response Jail Diversion Program (JDP). The program aims to redirect individuals committing nonviolent offenses from the criminal justice system to more appropriate community-based behavioral health services. It is funded through a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health.

Co-response clinicians provide residents facing mental health crises and trauma with an immediate, on-scene support system and follow-up resources.

"Our officers frequently encounter individuals facing mental health crises, even when responding to routine calls," Chief Heinz said in a statement. "Adding a dedicated co-response mental health clinician to our team is a vital step in enhancing our approach to public safety. This will allow us to respond with the care and expertise these situations demand and ensure people receive the appropriate support rather than being funneled into the criminal justice system. We are thrilled to have Janelle on board to provide an additional avenue for community members to access vital resources."

Due to a statewide shortage of clinicians interested in this type of work, the departments initially had difficulty filling the role, even



Janelle Emmanuel, center, is the new co-response clinician for the Norfolk, Plainville and Wrentham Police Departments. (Photo courtesy Norfolk Police Department)

when utilizing an agency they were contracted with.

Through innovative thinking, the departments received approval to make the clinician a Town of Norfolk employee while still being fully grant-funded. This allowed the departments to offer a higher salary and competitive municipal benefits package. The departments received a \$99,999 grant covering the co-response clinician's salary, benefits, training and equipment.

"We couldn't be more excited to welcome Janelle to this role," Chief Floyd said. "It was important to us to have a full-time, dedicated co-response clinician to allow them to become familiar with our communities and build strong relationships with the people we serve."

Emmanuel was selected as the standout candidate following an interview process with Norfolk Chief Heinz, Norfolk Deputy Chief Michelle Palladini, Plainville Chief Floyd, Wrentham Chief McGrath and Wrentham Sgt. Derek Cassidy.

Emmanuel is currently enrolled in William James College's Graduate Certificate Program in Crisis Response and Behavioral Health. It is a first-of-its-kind credentialing tool for arrest diversion, offering cutting-edge education and training for law enforcement and mental health clinicians working in partnership.

"I'm thrilled to begin my role as a co-response clinician and to collaborate with law enforcement in providing compassionate and timely support to individuals in crisis," Emmanuel said. "This unique partnership allows us to bridge the gap between mental health care and public safety, offering a more holistic approach in addressing the needs of our community members."

The co-response mental health clinician is shared equally between Norfolk, Plainville and Wrentham via an intermunicipal agreement. The clinician works Monday through Thursday to cover portions of the day and evening shifts and rotates through each of the three communities as needed.

## Food Dyes: Harmless or Harmful?



Dr. Rochelle Bien & Dr. Michael Goldstein

Artificial food dye consumption has increased by 500 % over the last 50 years. They are used in almost all foods including cereals, candy, baked goods, salad dressing, beverages, pet food and even meat and fish. Artificial food dyes are made from petroleum and can be neurotoxic. Studies have shown that a number of side effects including behavioral issues such as hyperactivity, inattention as seen in ADHD, restlessness, moodiness, irritability and or anxiety and depression and migraines are just a few.


Tanya L brought her 5 year old daughter into our office with many of the symptoms listed above. Medical doctors wanted to use medications to treat the symptoms but Tanya wanted to take a more natural route to help her child. Upon taking a history it was noted that her daughter had a very limited diet and most of it was processed foods that contain artificial food dyes. Changing her diet and put-

ting her on a homeopathic detox plan helped to remove the toxins and restore more normal nervous system function. Many of the symptoms disappeared in a few weeks and a lot of her health challenges did as well. With the holidays quickly approaching I hope you will look at labels and choose healthier versions of candy and baked goods without food dyes. They do exist especially in supermarkets that offer healthier choices.

If you or your children are suffering from any of these symptoms, I challenge you to remove the food dyes and see what happens. If the symptoms persist call (508) 660-2722 to make an appointment with one of our Doctors. The Holistic Center at Bristol Square is located at 1426 Main Street, Walpole.

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# Benjamin Franklin Charter School Opens Application Process

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School (BFCCPS), located in Franklin, has begun accepting applications for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year.

BFCCPS is a regional public charter school for students in kindergarten through Grade Eight. This year BFCCPS celebrates its 30th year of operation. The school was founded in 1995 and is one of the oldest and most successful charter schools in the state of Massachusetts.

Siblings of currently enrolled students will have priority enrollment status; thereafter applicants from communities in the school's district will have a chance at securing a spot for their child through the annual enrollment lottery to be held on February 24, 2025. Applicants from outside the region (who reside within the state of Massachusetts) will be eligible for enrollment should additional spaces remain after all sibling and regional applicants have been placed.

For the 2025-2026 school year, 100 spaces will be offered

for kindergarten and students at all other grade levels will receive a waiting list number. Offers for Grades One through Eight would be contingent upon currently enrolled students electing not to return next year.

The school provides a well-rounded, rigorous academic program designed to educate the whole child, providing courses in art, music, languages, technology, and physical education. In addition to our core academic and co-curricular classes, students in Grade Six through Eight participate in weekly classical enrichment courses and start Latin studies in Grade Six. Middle schoolers are also eligible to participate in our spring musical. Students in Grades 5-8 also have the opportunity to participate in overnight field trips each spring.

Round trip bus transportation is available with bus stops currently in Bellingham, Blackstone, Franklin, Mendon, Medway, Milford, Millis, Norfolk, and Wrentham.

BFCCPS alumni continue to excel during their attendance at



local public high schools as well as at independent high schools.

Visit the school's website at [www.bfccps.org](http://www.bfccps.org) for enrollment details, including applications. Enrollment information sessions and building tours will be held on January 11 and February 8 from 10 a.m. to noon. Please note that the enrollment period will come to a close on February 14, 2025, at 4 p.m.

To learn more about the educational mission of the school, or if you have enrollment-related questions, contact the school's



Communication Coordinator, Joanne Basile, at [jbasile@bfccps.org](mailto:jbasile@bfccps.org) or 508-541-3434 x104.

## About the Benjamin Franklin Charter School

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School's mission is to assist parents in their role as primary educators of their children by providing students with a classical academic education coupled with sound character development and community service. Our mission



is supported by four distinct, yet interconnected pillars that provide for a collaborative, rigorous education for all students. These pillars guide, direct and define the school in all it does.

# Milford Regional, UMass Memorial Health Formalize Affiliation

UMass Memorial Health (UMMH) announced that as of October 1, Milford Regional Medical Center, inclusive of Milford Regional Physician Group and its employees, are now formally part of the UMMH system. Milford Regional Medical Center's name is now officially UMass Memorial Health – Milford Regional Medical Center.

"We welcome Milford Regional caregivers to the UMass Memorial Health family and look forward to supporting Milford Regional as it advances its commitment to providing exceptional healthcare services to the greater Milford community," said Eric Dickson, MD, President and CEO of UMass Memorial Health.

UMass Memorial welcomes approximately 2,500 Milford Regional employees and providers, which grows the system to more than 20,000 caregivers. Ed Kelly, President of Milford Regional, will continue his role and will join

UMass Memorial Health's senior leadership team.

Some positive benefits offered by this new affiliation are:

- Preserving Milford Regional Medical Center as an acute care hospital offering inpatient and outpatient services
- Supporting strategic capital investment in facilities, equipment and other infrastructure to support clinical care and the local community
- Future integration of Milford Regional into the Epic electronic medical record system
- Maintaining Milford Regional's role as an employer of choice in the local/regional market, and enhancing Milford Regional's ability to address workforce challenges
- Retaining a local community board of trustees,

with Milford Regional having representation on the UMass Memorial parent board

"Since first clinically partnering more than thirty years ago, our two organizations have realized much success through multiple points of patient-centered collaboration. Taking our longstanding partnership with Milford Regional to this next level allows UMass Memorial Health to meaningfully expand our continued work to provide high-quality, accessible, and affordable care to the communities of Central Massachusetts," Dickson said.

"This is the right time and UMass Memorial Health is the right partner to pave the path for our promising future," said Kelly, who explained further that UMMH and Milford Regional began their collaboration in 1991 when Milford Regional Medical Center became the first hospital to clinically affiliate

with UMass Memorial Medical Center. "Since then, many additional clinical and educational programs have been created with UMMH to bolster the level of care offered to the greater Milford community."

The affiliation will preserve Milford Regional's existing clinical relationships with other academic medical centers, noted Kelly.

To learn more about the corporate affiliation between UMass Memorial Health and Milford Regional, visit <https://www.milfordregional.org/about-us/umass-memorial-health-affiliation/>.

## Too Much Halloween Candy? Share with the Troops!

The Norfolk Community League will hold its annual Halloween candy give-back event on Wednesday November 6 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Freeman-Kennedy School's loop road, 70 Boardman St. in Norfolk.

Candy will be donated to U.S. Troops, with overflow going to Gilly's House in Wrentham.



# Sports

## KP's Bubluski Personifies Accountability on Gridiron

### Warriors' Captain a Three-year Starter

BY KEN HAMWEY  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

To be considered a phenomenal, top-notch football player, one would have to be a breed apart and check a plethora of boxes.

King Philip's Will Bubluski isn't perfect by any means but on a scale of 1-10, he's flirting with double digits.

The day after the Warriors won last year's Division 2 Super Bowl, 42-14, over Marshfield speaks volumes about Bubluski's work ethic. "There's a steep hill near my house in Norfolk," he said, "and I ran up and down that hill for 30 minutes. My neighbors were curious why I wasn't relaxing after such a great Super Bowl victory."

Consider these other attributes:

- The 6-foot, 205-pound Bubluski is a three-year starter who plays multiple positions — strong safety, outside linebacker, tight end and fullback.
- \*A captain, Bubluski leads by example but strives to be supportive and inspiring, especially with underclassmen.

\*When the pressure was on for KP to snap a two-game, Super Bowl losing streak in last year's appearance at Gillette Stadium, Bubluski rose to the occasion. Playing outside linebacker, he made six tackles, four of which were unassisted, and had one sack. One of his tackles came on special teams when he pursued a Marshfield kickoff returner, preventing a late-game touchdown.

- A National Honor Society student, Bubluski yearns to be an airline pilot. He might major in aviation in college but he's also mulling a business management major, perhaps at Bryant or Bentley.

- Bubluski isn't afraid to set lofty team goals. "My prime objective this season is to return to Gillette Stadium for another Super Bowl appearance," he said. "I also want us to win the Kelly-Rex Division title and also to improve every day by at least one percent." His goals are all in sight. At Local Town Pages deadline, KP was 5-0 and he had 17 tackles, 5 of which were for losses, and one interception.

- A native of St. Petersburg (Russia), Bubluski has a variety of key attributes that are essential for success. His coach, Brian Lee, says Bubluski is "a workout animal." Lee likes "his instinctive ability, his high football IQ, his skills, and his speed, strength and quickness."
- Football can teach players valuable life lessons and Bubluski certainly has learned his share. "I've learned how to overcome adversity and to be resilient," he noted. "I've also learned how to be an effective leader and teammate and to be accountable. And, I know that hard work creates luck."

Lee also admires Bubluski's all-out commitment and his penchant to work out.



Will Bubluski can play four positions.

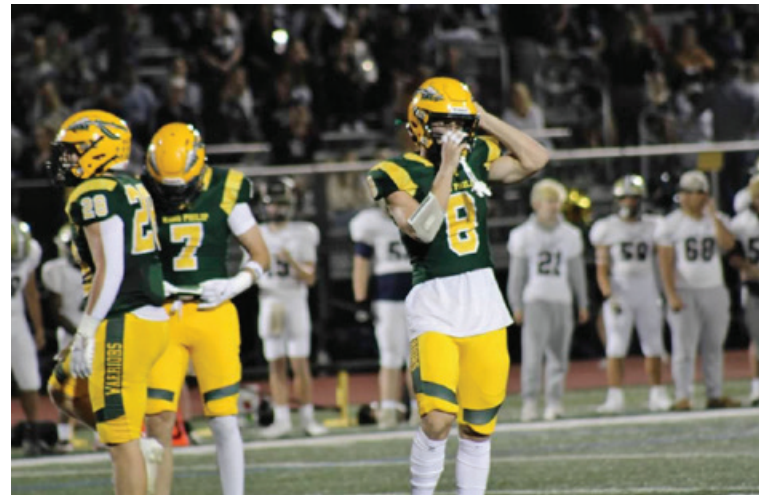
"Will is such a pleasure to coach," Lee said. "He has the attribute all coaches look for — accountability. He never misses a team workout and once there he's the hardest worker, making sure to follow the workout precisely, never skipping a set or even a rep. As a result, he added so much muscle mass we moved him from safety to outside linebacker. He's remained at linebacker but also gets time at tight end and fullback. His work ethic on and off the field is contagious. He inspires his teammates to maximize their potential the way he has. Every practice Will goes 100 percent and is hard to slow down. He's a good student and always represents his family, KP, and the football program with class."

\*\*\*\*\*

Brian and Jennifer Bubluski visited Russia several times to adopt Will at the age of four. An older brother (Andre), also from Russia, is adopted.

The younger Bubluski watched football on TV often and fell in love with the sport. At age six, he was playing Pop Warner football.

"When I played on KP's freshman team, I was a strong safety," Bubluski recalled. "I started at safety as a sophomore, then was moved to outside linebacker as a junior but also got



Adjusting his helmet after a tackle, Will Bubluski says that being instinctive is "the key to playing linebacker."

some time at fullback. This season I've competed at linebacker and tight end."

Bubluski, who relies on being aggressive and instinctive, prefers playing linebacker. "It's a read-and-react role and I like the pursuit involved," he said. "There's lots of blitzing and lateral pursuit is important. It's challenging, especially when assessing an opponent's run-pass option. Being instinctive is the key to playing linebacker."

As the Warriors prepare for their playoff opponents, Bubluski is confident that his No. 1 team goal — a Super Bowl return engagement — will be fulfilled.

"We've got the talent and the mindset to achieve that goal," he emphasized. "What's needed is for everyone to be on the same page, to embrace the objective and the journey, to maintain good health and keep our skills sharp. No one should take their foot off the gas."

Bubluski's personal goals include becoming a Hockomock League all-star selection, an inspiring captain, and compile a high rank on KP's defensive productivity chart by increasing his tackles, interceptions and sacks. "Being chosen a captain is my top thrill in football," he said. "It's a tribute to my work ethic and it shows that my teammates, who vote for captain, respect me."

Bubluski is quick to acknowledge teammates who go the

extra mile and contribute to KP's success. And, it's not surprising he lists the Warriors' other captains — seniors Aiden Astorino (linebacker/running back), Luke Gunning (tight end/defensive end), and Tommy Kilroy (safety/receiver).

"They're quality leaders who work hard and have passion for the game," he offered. "They're also excellent in their roles and all of them have a high football IQ."

Bubluski also has high praise for his coach. "It's great to have a coach who's a great motivator," he emphasized. "Coach Lee is inspiring, everyone works hard for him and he employs terrific strategy. He truly cares about his players."

Relying on a competitive philosophy that focuses on winning, reaching one's potential and having fun, Bubluski says "if you're not winning, then there's no fun."

Lee labels him as "a workout animal" and it's obvious that Bubluski embraces that phrase.

"Tough workouts build confidence and self-esteem," he said. "They also sharpen one's mental ability, get you prepared for games and help you to deal with adversity."

Will Bubluski is indeed a rare breed football player. And there's no doubt that he'll be a key cog in KP's drive to win its second consecutive Super Bowl championship.

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## FPAC to Host Annual Gala

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will hold their annual Gala hosted by Broadway's Ben Cameron (original cast of Wicked) on Saturday, November 9 at 6:00 pm at THE BLACK BOX.

Attendees are invited to walk the red carpet in their sneakers or stilettos for an evening at THE BLACK BOX, celebrating the stars of FPAC with Tony Award® winner Beth Leavel and Broadway's Ben Cameron. The evening offers a vibrant fundraising extravaganza of cocktails, dinner by 3 Restaurant, live and online auctions, interactive raffles, and performances by Broadway, NYC, and FPAC artists. Gala proceeds support FPAC programming and THE BLACK BOX while encouraging the development of emerging artists. The Gala helps FPAC bring world-class talent to perform in downtown Franklin, amplifying the cultural fabric of MetroWest Boston.



From the beginning, FPAC has followed a mission dedicated to promoting the performing arts with an emphasis on youth development. Through FPAC, THE BLACK BOX stage is graced by Broadway stars, professional artists, local performers, and students of the arts. Their performances feature live orchestras and professional artists, and they often provide a first glimpse into the world of

theater for local youth.

Gala host, and long-time FPAC friend, Ben Cameron has appeared on Broadway in Aida and the original casts of Wicked and Footloose. He has toured with Sweet Charity, Fame, Tommy, Footloose, and State Fair and is currently the creator/host of Broadway Sessions at The Green Room 42 in New York City.

FPAC is an Actors' Equity Small Professional Theater company based at THE BLACK BOX in downtown Franklin. Each season, FPAC produces musicals, plays, ballets, and more featuring Broadway stars, professional actors, local artists, and students of the arts. This season at THE BLACK BOX, FPAC will present School of Rock, Proof, To Tell a Story About the Earth, The Producers, and Little Women.

For tickets and more information, visit [www.FPAConline.com](http://www.FPAConline.com) or call the box office at 508-528-3370.

## Local Firefighter Graduates from Firefighting Academy



Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

Career Recruit Class #BW31 Graduation • September 20, 2024

### Wrentham Firefighter James McAvoy.

On September 20, thirteen firefighters graduated from the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program.

Wrentham Firefighter James McAvoy was one of the graduates.

"Massachusetts firefighters are on the frontlines protecting their communities every day, and today's graduates are needed now more than ever," said State Fire Marshal Jon M.

Davine. "The hundreds of hours of foundational training they've received will provide them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely."

The graduating firefighters of Class #BW31 represent the fire departments of Canton, Franklin, Hull, Kingston, Mansfield, Norton, Norwell, Seekonk, West Bridgewater, and Wrentham.

## Norfolk Police Receive \$19,430 State Grant to Improve Road Safety

The Norfolk Police Department has been awarded \$19,430.48 in state grant funding to improve road safety.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration awarded more than \$12.4 million in funding through the Municipal Road Safety, State Agency Traffic Safety and Underserved Communities Traffic Safety Grant Programs.

The Norfolk Police Department received funding through the Municipal Road Grant Safety Program. The funding will allow departments to afford road safety initiatives such as traffic safety enforcement, bicyclist and pedestrian safety enforcement, non-enforcement activities such as training or community events,

and the purchase of traffic safety equipment or other community safety items.

Norfolk Police plan to use the grant to run multiple traffic enforcement campaigns during the year — winter impaired driving, distracted driving, seat belt enforcement, speeding, and summer impaired driving. A portion of the grant will also be used for traffic control equipment and training.

"This grant money will allow Norfolk Police to conduct important additional traffic enforcement," Chief Timothy Heinz said in a statement. "These initiatives will have a positive impact on the safety of our roads for all users."



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# November Program Highlights at the Norfolk Senior Center

RSVP to 508-528-4430 or register for programs in person at the Norfolk Senior Center, 28 Medway Branch Road. For a full list of activities and trips, visit the Council on Aging page on the town's website: [norfolk.ma.us](http://norfolk.ma.us).

Tuesday, November 5 at 10 a.m. **Why So Famous?** This lecture will look at the work of Da Vinci, Monet, Van Gogh, Picasso, O'Keeffe, Warhol, and others. Discover how artworks have become famous, and how their examples of innovation and technique have changed our sense of what art can be. Join local art historian Jill Sanford of Art For Your Mind for an enjoyable hour of challenging yourself to see in new ways! Programs are for people of all backgrounds –artists and non-artists alike. RSVP requested.

Tuesday, November 5 at 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Wayside Inn Lunch** Step back in time and

experience more than 300 years of history and hospitality at the Wayside Inn in Sudbury. We'll have lunch at the inn, visit the barn with its carriages, and stop by the gift shop. Also, drive to the grist mill, a working water mill. RSVP required.

Thursday, November 7 at 12:30 p.m. **Norfolk Sheriff's Office Scam Prevention** Learn ways to identify and protect yourself against the newest and most popular frauds and scams. Presented by Deputy Sheriff Cheryl Bambery of the Norfolk Sheriff's Office. RSVP requested.

Monday, November 11 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **American Heritage Museum & Lunch** In honor of Veterans Day, we will visit the American Heritage Museum in Hudson, where the story of U.S. veterans is told through a series of compelling exhibits. Enjoy the largest and

finest museum of armed vehicles in North America--many one-of-a-kind and in running condition. Elevator, wheelchairs, and benches available for visitors. Cost: \$18 online at: [www.americanheritagemuseum.org/purchase-tickets-online](http://www.americanheritagemuseum.org/purchase-tickets-online) or \$20 in-person. We will stop for lunch first at Horse Shoe Pub in Hudson, a family-run American food restaurant. RSVP by November 6.

Wednesday, November 13 at noon **Thanksgiving and Veterans Day Celebration** There will be a Friends Lunch at noon of roasted turkey dinner with fixings and sides as well as dessert. Cost: \$2 members, \$5 non-members. In addition, at 1 p.m. there will be a live musical performance by Greg Peters of Rain Drop Avenue Music. A singer and acoustic guitar/harmonica player, Peters plays various songs by John Denver,

Johnny Cash, James Taylor, The Beatles, The Everly Brothers, and Jim Croce. Everyone is welcome at the concert; you do not need to attend lunch. RSVP required for the lunch.

Thursday, November 14 at 1 p.m. **Movie Screening: "Thelma"** To bring awareness to scams, DA Morrissey is inviting seniors to watch the critically acclaimed feature film "Thelma." In Thelma, 94-year-old Hollywood box office star June Squibb plays the victim of the grandparent scam. Thelma receives a call from a scammer claiming to be her grandson and, after falling victim to it, she takes matters in her own hands. A comedy-action movie based on the real-life experience of director Josh Margolin's own grandmother, the film uses humor to address the global epidemic of scams. Online reviews give this film a near-perfect score of 99%. Parker

Posey, Clark Gregg, Richard Roundtree and Fred Hechinger round out this all-star cast. Popcorn and refreshments will be available. RSVP required.

Friday, November 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. **Ames Mansion Tour & Lunch** We will visit the Ames Mansion in North Easton, exploring the history of the building and the family who lived there. Lunch afterwards at Olive Garden in Patriot Place. RSVP required.

Tuesday, November 26 at 12:30 p.m. **National Cake Day Celebration with Comedian David Shikes** On National Cake Day, cake will be served at 12:30 p.m., followed by a performance at 1 p.m. by storyteller-comedian David Shikes. The performance will include New England-based humor, culled from Shikes' many years as an independent bookseller. RSVP requested.

## November Events at the First Universalist Society in Franklin

The First Universalist Society (FUSF) is located at 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin. For information about FUSF and their events and services, visit [fusf.org](http://fusf.org) or contact the Reverend Beverly Waring, Interim Minister, at 508-528-5348 or [minister@fusf.org](mailto:minister@fusf.org).

### Chestnut Street Revue Variety Show

The "Chestnut Street Revue Variety Show" returns for an-

other jam-packed evening of music, singing, and dancing on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. FUSF's musical and artistic talent will be on display for families and the young-at-heart to enjoy.

Ticket prices are \$10/person or \$25/family. There will be a bake sale at intermission. For tickets and more information, visit [FUSF.org](http://FUSF.org) and click on "Upcoming Events."

### Special Sunday Service: Re-Grounding Ourselves

On Sunday, Nov. 17 at 10 a.m., the FUSF Worship Committee will offer a lay-led worship service. Nature-based poetry and music will help those feeling unmoored by a divisive election season re-ground and reconnect to the mystery and beauty of the world.

## Sweatt Park Improvement Project Begins

The Town of Wrentham has officially accepted a bid from Argus Construction to begin work on the long-anticipated renovation of Sweatt Park.

This project marks a significant milestone in the Town's ongoing efforts to enhance the beauty and functionality of its public spaces, such as the recently renovated Center School parking lot that added over 100 parking spaces.

Sweatt Park, located in the heart of Wrentham's downtown, serves as a vital community hub, offering a vast open space for recreation and relaxation, along

with popular tennis courts.

The planned park improvements will include much-needed updates such as demolition and grading, site preparation and the installation of area drains, benches, concrete walkways, newly renovated stairs, renovated tennis courts, four new pickleball courts, added parking spaces and a variety of other park amenities.

Improvements will also include the reconfiguration of pathways to preserve the roots of 100-year-old trees in the area. These upgrades will create a more accessible, inviting and

enjoyable environment for residents and visitors.

The project's construction began Sept. 26. Work is expected to reach completion within 12 weeks.

"We are excited to see this vision become a reality, and we look forward to the positive impact this project will have on our community," said Town Manager Kevin Sweet. "Construction has begun, and we will keep the public updated as the project progresses."

To learn more about the project, visit [wrentham.gov](http://wrentham.gov).

## MA Home Energy Assistance Program Enrollment Now Open

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities' Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) enrollment period for the 2024-2025 winter heating season opened on October 1. This critical program provides financial relief to eligible households to help them pay their winter heating bills, ensuring they can keep their homes safe and warm during the colder months.

HEAP is a free, statewide resource that assists eligible renters and homeowners by paying a portion of their winter heating bills directly to their heating companies. Starting Oct. 1, homeowners and renters can apply online or through local administering agencies across the state. The assistance period runs from Nov. 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025. HEAP offers grants that do not need to be repaid; however, households must meet specific eligibility requirements to qualify.

"No resident should have to worry about heating their home during the winter," said Secretary of Housing and Livable Commu-

nities Ed Augustus. "With high costs continuing to strain household finances, the Home Energy Assistance Program is more critical than ever. We urge anyone in need of heating assistance to explore their eligibility by applying online or visiting the nearest administering agency. Please share this valuable information with loved ones or neighbors who could benefit from this support during the colder months."

Eligibility is determined by several factors, including household size and the combined gross annual income of residents 18 and older. Qualifying households, including those with the cost of heat included in the rent, can receive assistance for all heating sources, including oil, electricity, natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood and coal. Households do not need to be on public assistance or have unpaid heating bills to qualify.

For more information, find your local HEAP agency (<https://hedfuel.azurewebsites.net/>) or apply here: <https://toapply.org/MassHEAP>.



# Real Estate Corner



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# Real Estate Corner

## Craft Fair Set for Nov. 9

The 49th Annual Franklin Newcomers and Friends Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, November 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tri-County High School in Franklin.

This popular and well-established juried craft fair features hand-crafted items by artisans from throughout New England. Browse and shop a great selection of items for the home and gift-giving, including specialty foods and more.

The entry fee is \$3 for 12 years of age and older, and funds raised go back into the community. Over \$6,000 from last year's

event was donated to ten different organizations in the area.

Donations to the Franklin Food Pantry are welcome, and a collection bin will be located at the entrance to the craft fair.

Volunteers are needed to assist crafters set up and break down their booths. High school students in Franklin and surrounding towns in need of community service hours are asked to email organizers at franklincraftfair@gmail.com.

For more information about the Franklin Newcomers and Friends, find the group on Facebook and Meetup.

### CITATION ON GENERAL PROBATE PETITION

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court  
Norfolk Probate and Family Court 35 Shawmut Road  
Canton, MA 02021 | (781) 830-1200

Docket No. N022P2823EA

Estate of: Jane A Oliverio

Date of Death: 09/28/2021

To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by **Steven J. Oliverio** of **Plainville MA** requesting instructions and Relief more fully stated in said petition files **August 27, 2024**.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on 11/13/2024**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Patricia Gorman, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 10, 2024

Colleen M Brierley, Register of Probate

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**For more information please contact: Caitlin Fahy at cfahy@email.medfield.net or 508-242-8897**



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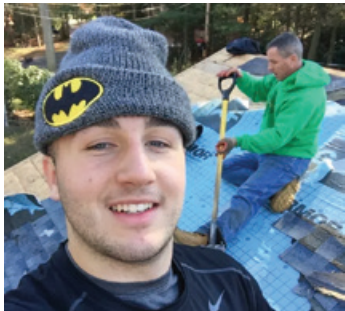
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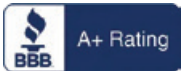
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