



Franklin High School boys' basketball winning the Division I State Championship Final was "a win is for all of us; everyone who has ever played for us," said Coach CJ Neely. *Supplied photo.*

First State Championship for Franklin Boys' Basketball

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The Franklin boys' basketball team had ventured into the State Championship Final three times in the last decade, only to come away shorthanded each time. The Panthers endured heartbreak on the biggest stage in back-to-back years in 2017 and 2018, and then again, last year, Franklin once again made it to the State Final, putting together a

21-1 regular season that earned them the right to go up against the top seed in North High. North High would deprive the Panthers for the third time with a 59-53 loss.

Losing eight seniors that made it to last year's Division I State Championship game, Coach CJ Neely had no idea what to expect coming into this season. The Franklin coach was looking just to be competitive night in and night out.

"We have a one-game-at-a-time mentality; we are never thinking of long-term goals, we are just looking to get better each and every day," the Franklin Coach said. "We're looking for singles, not homeruns. After losing the amount of guys we did after last year's success, to get back to the State Final was something that we were not thinking about."

CHAMPIONSHIP

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A Message of Hope

Franklin Artist Shines Light on Brain Injury with Library Exhibit

By J.D. O'GARA

Last month, on March 7th, Franklin artist Ali Rheume opened her exhibit, "Look Up," at the Franklin Public Library. The series of colorful painted clouds shone a light Rheume's path back from sustained brain injury. Rheume was joined by Miss Blackstone Valley, Hunter Schulz, who, too, rebuilt her own life after sustained brain injury. The presentation talked of journey, hope, and faith.

"Part of this journey for me, sustaining a brain injury, has been just having hope and believing that God still has a purpose and plan for this life," said Rheume, who felt spiritually led to create the series. "I call this 'Look Up,' because with everything I've been through, God's been with me every step of the way. Every painting has a scripture associated with it. Clouds are God's creations."

The artist explained that she was barely able to pick up a paintbrush the first time she ever painted, during her inpatient rehabilitation from her brain injury,

which happened in 2016 and was exacerbated by later events. The then-schoolteacher and high school coach was accidentally struck in the face by a commercial door.

"I was told, 'You have a concussion, go home, and you'll be fine,'" said Rheume, "But I went to bed and woke up a completely different person. I had delayed speech, stuttered speech, dizziness, headaches, a whole gamut of concussion symptoms." Although she took the summer off and tried to teach that fall, she found the routine difficult. Then, at the end of 2016, Rheume sustained an additional brain injury simply standing up too quickly and hitting her head on a shelf.

"It hit the top of my head and cut it, and then I experienced a severe medication reaction at the same time, a whole perfect storm of events, I ended up in the hospital at a 10% functioning level, unable to talk, walk, eat, do anything myself," Rheume explained.

HOPE

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CHAMPIONSHIP

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Getting back-to-back play the Division State Final takes a lot of work and preparation and some luck as well. Franklin has now done it twice within 8 years. Midway through this year, Neely was excited about the way the Panthers were playing. The team was doing just what the coach was looking for; they were improving on a daily basis and the players were getting comfortable with their roles. Neely knew the best was still to come.

“We were competitive, and I saw that there wasn’t one dominant team out there,” Neely said. “There were about 10 or 12 teams that could have won it all, and we were in that mix. We

knew that we could compete with just about anyone, win or lose.”

Franklin would go 21-1 during the regular season once again and this year found themselves as the number one seed entering the Division 1 State Tournament. The Panthers won all four of their games in getting to the Finals, outscoring their opponents (Shrewsbury, North Andover, Bridgewater-Raynham and Central Catholic) by an average of 17.5 points a game. While last winter, Franklin was the third seed going up against the number one seed, things were reversed this year. Newton North found themselves as the three seed and Franklin the one.

The opening quarter found the two teams notched at 17, and by the half, Franklin went into the

locker room up by a mere three points. With an entire half yet to be played, the Panthers opened the second half with an 8-point run to extend their lead and held a five-point lead going into the final stanza. Newton North was not ready to give up on its dream, either. Although they had captured back-to-back titles in 2005 and 2006, the Tigers had felt the same heartbreak that Franklin had endured in 2022 when BC High took home the Championship.

Senior Caden Sullivan would hit one of his two free-throws, giving Franklin a one-point lead, and with 6.1 seconds remaining on the clock, the senior was sent back to the line to sink both shots this time. The Panthers were now up by three. Newton North

would get one final chance to tie the score, but their last shot was off the mark as time expired, and the Franklin Panthers would finally take home the boys’ basketball State Championship.

Sullivan would score 31 points and 8 rebounds in the victory and scored 11 of Franklin’s 13 points in the fourth quarter.

“Caden was something special throughout the entire tournament. He and Jake (Olmstead) had an outstanding finals,” Neely said. “It all starts with Caden and how he competes and sets the tone. He builds everyone up around him.”

After getting to the top of the mountain for the fourth time, the Franklin coach was ecstatic about the team finally being able to plant the Franklin flag on the top

in victory.

“It was super emotional to win this one; we’ve been here three times before with no championships to show for,” Neely said. “This was great for the guys on this year’s team, but it is a win is for all of us; everyone who has ever played for us. It’s a special brotherhood, and they put in a lot of hard work to not only get back here after last year, but to win it.”

In addition to Sullivan and Olmstead, the rest of the team that gave Franklin their first-ever boys basketball state championship included Justice Samuels, Joe Conlan, Seth O’Donnell, Wyatt Herndon, Zach Allen, Flynn Baker, Drew Greer, Ryan Wilson, Colin O’Leary, Hayden Morandi, Jack Sullivan, James Crowley, Nas Johnson and Danny Santos.

HOPE

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After a week in the hospital and a month at Spaulding Rehab, lack of insurance coverage forced her home with 24/7 family care, but a month later, she was back at the Neuro ICU.

“From that point forward, I spent nine years rehabbing. I had to relearn how to walk, to talk, to dress,” says Rheume, who says she “refused to listen”

to doctors’ talk of limitations. Believing God can heal anyone, Rheume said, “I’m here to embrace hope and to share the vibrancy of what life can be even after going through something so traumatic.”

Rheume introduced Hunter Schulz, Miss Blackstone Valley, as sharing the experience of “having our lives completely flipped upside down and having to figure out what life looks like again and what you can do again,” said Rheume.

Schulz was recently crowned Miss Blackstone Valley through



Artist Ali Rheume, left, with Miss Blackstone Valley Hunter Schulz, right.

the Miss America organization and will represent the brain injury community at the Miss Massachusetts competition in June.

“My initiative is called ‘Let’s Talk Beauty and Brains; Brain Injury Advocacy,’” Schulz told

attendees. Schulz’s own brain injury happened by a freak accident. After she released a bee trapped inside the car, “I hit my head on the way back in, and then, later in the day, I hit it again on the same side.” I had to re-learn how to walk and speak again. It’s the most challenging thing that’s ever happened in my life, and I’ve met such wonderful people through the brain injury community, like Ali,” said Schulz.

Rheume’s silver lining?

“I feel so much more present in the world and appreciate every little detail of it,” says the artist, “Sustaining a brain injury has led me to slow down, so I see the beauty in things that I just used to pass by.”

In addition to her exhibit at the Franklin Public Library last month, Rheume was keynote speaker at The Brain Injury Alliance of CT, and she will also be keynote speaker at the Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire on May 14th. She will be also presenting a guest lecture series for the Brain Injury Association of MA, with “Embracing a Growth Mindset” virtually on June 12th at 10 a.m. Rheume is a member of the Franklin Commission on Persons with Disabilities, and she facilitates Rise Up, a monthly social hour meetup for individuals living with disabilities. For more information on Rheume, her artwork and advocacy, visit at <https://alirheume.com>.

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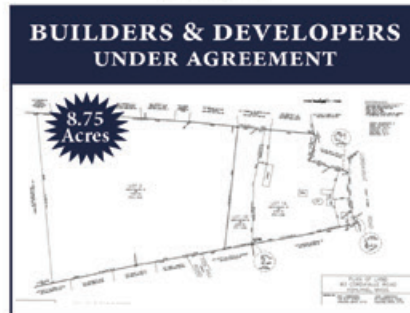
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Franklin Celebrates Arts Award Recipients

On Thursday, March 13th, the Town of Franklin honored the FY2025 Grant Recipients of both the Franklin Cultural District and the Franklin Cultural Council, as well as the volunteers that help make these grants possible. The event took place at Dean College's Guidrey Center. John Ristaino, Franklin Cultural Council's Chair, emceed the event, highlighting cultural events and welcoming honorees to the stage, as well as Cori Shea, Franklin's Director of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy, who further highlighted the contributions of the arts community in town.

In addition to accolades for the continued work of the members of the Franklin Cultural Council and the Franklin Cultural District Committee, the event placed special recognition on the following:

- Amy Adams, for her work for the Franklin Cultural District
- Sarah Cronin, for her work on the Franklin Cultural Council
- Lauren Kloos & Roger Trahan, for their work on the Franklin Farmers' Market
- Brenna Johnson, Franklin HS Ceramics instructor and Empty Bowls Coordinator with Franklin Food Pantry

Attendees were treated to a drumming exercise led by Cultural Council grant recipient Kymberlee O'Brien, as well as musical performance by Jamie Barrett.

Cultural District Investment Grants through the Mass Cultural Council, Franklin Cultural District and the Town of Franklin.

Mary MacMurray - Franklin Public Schools (JFK and Parmenter) Support music programs at the two schools in May 2025.

Mitzi Gousie - Franklin Public Library Host a concert by the Boston Typewriter Orchestra at Public Library, Saturday, April 12, 2025.

Lauren Kloos - Farmers Market Provide entertainment at the weekly Farmers Market on Fridays, from June through October on the Town Common.

Sue Sheridan - FAA and FHM creating an exhibit "Fakes and Forgeries" for the Historical Museum June 7 to June 22, 2025.

Diane Plouffe - Franklin High School Music Student Access to quality string Instruments, future date.

Caleigh Keating - Franklin Public Library Funding for the Blackstone Valley quartet performing music of Taylor Swift, Saturday, May 3, 2025 at Public Library.

Meg Hagen - Children's Museum of Franklin, Supporting



Musician Jamie Barrett performed a set of original and cover tunes at the award ceremony.

Mural Project in their new space; future date.

Alan Earls/Franklin Historical Museum - Historic Museum Ben Franklin Month celebration January 2025

Franklin School for the Performing Arts - Support funds for programs.

LGBTQ Alliance, Outdoor Festival, Celebrating Pride month, June 2025

All grantees received a portion of funding made possible by the generous *Cultural District Investment Grant* from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



FHS ceramics teacher Brenna Johnson (left) was honored for her work with FHS Empty Bowls program, which benefits the Franklin Food Pantry. This year marks the 10th Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser, to take place on May 22, 2025. Johnson is shown with Cori Shea, Franklin's Director of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy.

2025 Franklin Cultural Council Grants/LCC Grants

Children's Museum of Franklin, MakerSpace Exhibit Area - Tables and Stools

Franklin Art Association, Inc., Guest Artist Demonstration

Franklin Farmers Market, Farmers Market Performances

Franklin July 4th Coalition Inc., 2025 Franklin July 4th Celebration

Franklin Performing Arts Company, Inc., FPAC Family Concert Series

Franklin Public Library, Ben Franklin Book Week Kickoff Concert

Franklin Public Library, Irish in America

Franklin Public Library, Holi Celebration

Homebrewed Theatre Company, Homebrewed Theatre Company Winter Strange Shorts

Horace Mann Middle School, Visiting Author

Brenna Johnson, The Empty Bowls - A 10 Year Celebration!

LiveARTS, The 2024-25 LiveARTS Concert Series

MUSIC Dance.edu, Hip Hop Chair Dance for Seniors! - a dance series

Kymberlee O'Brien, Brain Fitness Across Multiple Domains

Southeastern Massachusetts Community Wind Symphony, Inc., Band Concert

Temple Beth Torah, Lily Henley and Duncan Wickel in Concert

Town of Franklin, "Where's The Toast" Memory Café

Zammarchi, Robert, Elijah T. Grasshopper & Friends

Alan Earls, Second Annual Ben Franklin Book Week

Swati Rao, Navratri/Garba/Dandiya Raas

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Glow for It: The Glow Factory Delivers Lasting Beauty with Permanent Makeup Solutions

By JENNIFER RUSSO

There are moments when it just doesn't feel like we have enough time for things. With all of life's "to-do lists", perhaps work, kids, school, errands, appointments, getting workouts in, and other extracurricular activities, many will throw their hair up in a messy bun, dab on some lip gloss or mascara, and call it a day – if they even have time for that.

Imagine not having to think about putting on makeup but already having it on when you roll out of bed in the morning. At one point, the very idea of this would seem absolutely unthinkable, but with revolutionary advancements today, the impossible is real. The perfect brows every day, eyeliner that doesn't smear in the rain or after a run, lip color that doesn't fade or end up on a drinking glass...all easily within reach.

The Glow Factory in Medway specializes in permanent makeup solutions that enhance the natural beauty of their clients. Their goal is to make life simpler, helping people to save time in their daily routines and boost their confidence as they go about their busy lives.

Permanent makeup is a technique where cosmetic tattooing is done to enhance and define features using subtle color. For example, for someone who has thinning eyebrows due to age, alopecia or chemotherapy, matching color can be used to create fine hair-like lines and make the brows look fuller. Someone with pale-colored lips can have a boost of color and more defined lip border, making their mouth more noticeable.

Let's not forget about the cost savings - especially now that beauty products are becoming increasingly expensive. The average American woman spends between \$300 and \$500 per year on makeup products alone. In-

vesting in permanent makeup removes the need for constant replacement.

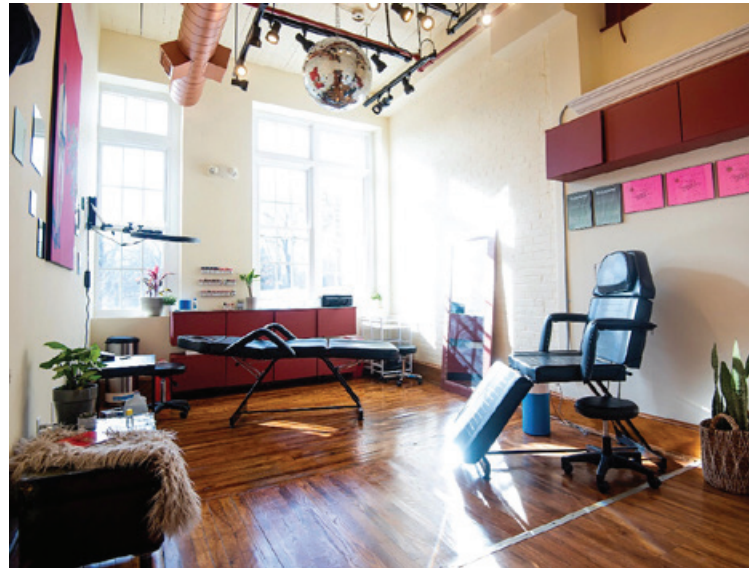
Jessie Dillon, The Glow Factory's owner and lead artist, became a licensed cosmetologist in 2013 and worked for a big-box beauty retailer for several years, working with almost all the major beauty brands and managing the education of a large team of artists. In 2017, she pivoted back toward her passion for cosmetology and focused on learning how to do permanent makeup, earning multiple licenses, and going into business for herself.

Invested in continuous learning for herself and the artists on her team, always staying on top of innovations in procedures and latest trends and holding to their commitment of the strictest safety standards, The Glow Factory has been enormously successful. They even won the 2024 MyFM Quest for the Best Award for permanent makeup.

"Permanent makeup benefits not only active people who want to simplify their routine but is also great for those who want to correct a symmetry issue, someone who has a difficult time applying makeup due to any number of reasons, or someone who may have skin allergies to certain kinds of makeup products. It can even help fill in some scarring in the brows or lip line," shares Jessie.

For those worried about any pain associated with their service, numbing products are used to greatly reduce discomfort, and many clients are surprised that it is more comfortable than they had expected.

In addition to offering permanent brows and eyeliner, ombre lip color and permanent freckles, The Glow Factory is also the only studio locally that offers what is called a "frozen lip" which creates a unique dia-



Business spotlight

mond like sparkle. They also provide microneedling, which helps to prevent and treat signs of aging, and some paramedical tattooing including radiation mark camouflaging (a free service to recolor the marks to look like natural freckles). They also offer areola re-pigmentation for clients who may have had a mastectomy or who have undergone gender-affirming surgeries, a service that some insurance companies will reimburse.

"We know that making the decision to have permanent makeup done is a big one, so we highly encourage anyone that is on the fence to come in for a \$50 consultation (put toward the cost of a service once complete).



These can be booked right on our website and can be done in-studio or virtually," says Jessie.

"We are highly committed to listening to our clients and fully customizing their looks, being there for them throughout the healing process, and making sure the end results are perfect. We offer a 100% satisfaction guarantee and a 6-week, interest free pay later option to make the decision even easier."

The Glow Factory is located at 165 Main St in Medway, MA. For a free informational e-book and to get more details on their services, artists, and current specials, check out their website at www.TheGlowFactoryMA.net. You can also follow them on Instagram at @jessiedillon_ and on Facebook at facebook.com/theglowfactoryma.

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A Winning Addition – Dr. Kylee Eagles Brings Sports Medicine and Nutrition Expertise to Medway

By JENNIFER RUSSO

If you have ever experienced muscle or joint pain, you know that it greatly impacts quality of life. It can limit mobility, make daily tasks seem almost impossible to complete, and cause an incredible amount of frustration and stress. Maybe it was a rotator cuff tear in a baseball game or a pulled hamstring while out on your morning jog. Perhaps it was a strained back muscle caused by shoveling snow, knee pain caused by something you aren't sure of, or a case of tendonitis or arthritis. Whatever the malady, it is important to seek the care of a specialist to analyze the root cause so that further damage is avoided.

Dr. Kylee Eagles, renowned for her expert and compassionate care on the South Shore, has recently moved her practice to Medway, offering a welcoming space nearby for those looking to heal, regain their mobility, or achieve their personal health goals. She is looking forward to

Business spotlight

continuing along the path that she believes she was born to follow.

“I grew up in the healthcare world, with both of my parents being chiropractors. I remember when I was twelve, I was helping my dad over the summer and one of his high school patients had some shoulder pain during a personal training session. He took him aside and adjusted his rib since it had misaligned, and I remember looking at him and telling him that this was what I wanted to do. I thought it was awesome that the patient was able to continue with his workout and not cause any additional injuries because of a doctor having that knowledge and fixing it right away. Every decision I have made since that moment has



been toward becoming the best sports medicine doctor I can be,” shares Dr. Eagles.

And she truly loves what she does, believing that medicine isn't just about treatment, but build-

ing strong and meaningful relationships with her patients. With everything she learned in school, her residency and fellowship, she still credits patients with teaching her new things every day.

“I believe in lifelong learning. You need to constantly learn new things in order to be great at what you do. In medicine, there are always advancements being innovated every day. Sometimes I will have patients come in with a unique issue and I'll investigate treatment options. If there is a new procedure that I think would be beneficial to them, I will do everything to learn that procedure so I can help. I want to fix their problem, that is my ultimate goal,” says Dr. Eagles.

Dr. Eagles is triple board certified in family medicine, sports medicine, and obesity medicine, and has an additional certification in sports nutrition, so comprehensive care is the main focus of her practice.

“If an athlete has an injury or finds that there are repetitive injuries, it is critical to get to the root cause of the problem. Sometimes there is a nutrition deficiency, or they are not fueling themselves properly, or another issue that needs to be addressed. So, factoring in the nutritional conversations are just as important,” shares Dr. Eagles.

As a runner, weightlifter, and former competitive swimmer herself, she genuinely strives to ensure that her patients have all

the tools they need to remain strong and healthy. Understanding what her patients are going through, she will try to find ways to help them (both athletes and non-athletes) stay active so that they don't become sedentary and find themselves injured again.

“We aren't meant to sit still. Not being active throughout our lives causes all of the side effects of that. Obesity, depression, diabetes, heart disease, joint pain, and even anxiety can all be caused by not moving our bodies. And injuries often happen when someone isn't being consistent in their movement,” says Dr. Eagles.

When might you seek treatment for pain? Here's what to pay attention to.

“Any sharp pains, stiffness, weakness or limitations to being able to move around easily are red flags,” she says. “Early care can ensure the ability to stay strong and active, enjoying all of life's moments as they come.”

Dr. Eagles is now accepting patients of all ages at her new office, located at 68A Main Street in Medway. The building also includes a lab, x-ray, and urgent care so patients don't need to travel to multiple locations for treatment. Call to schedule an appointment at (508) 321-2844 or visit <https://www.milfordregionalphysicians.org/doctors/eagles-kylee-do> for more information.

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Board-certified in family medicine, sports medicine, and obesity medicine, Dr. Eagles offers a unique blend of expertise. She is certified in sports nutrition and has advanced training in exercise physiology, osteopathic manual therapy, trigger point therapy, nerve blocks, and ultrasound-guided diagnosis and treatment.

Whether you're an athlete looking to return to peak performance or someone seeking relief from chronic pain, Dr. Eagles provides personalized care and empowers you with the tools to stay active and feel your best.



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Franklin Earth Day Cleanup Saturday, April 19th

By J.D. O'GARA

Franklin's Earth Day Cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 19, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., with volunteers meeting at the Beaver Pond parking lot, where they'll receive trash bags, gloves and a map of cleanup areas. The first 100 people who sign up will receive a free t-shirt and a tree sapling, and bagels and coffee will be available that morning.

"This will be our 24th year running Franklin Earth Day. We will be cleaning up over 35 sites using volunteers, businesses and youth sports participants," says Franklin Recreation Director Ryan Jette, who hopes for a few hundred participants, depending on the weather. "We first started this initiative on April 21, 2001, in an effort to educate the public on recycling and conservation in Franklin," adds Jette.

At press time, the Conservation Commission was also in the process of planning Earth Day related events at the Delcorte Playground and Conservation area for April 27th. Further details will be posted online at the town website



Shown at a past cleanup is Recreation Deputy Director Kim Carney, Ryan Jette, Senator Becca Rausch and her family.



Franklin's Earth Day cleanup has been taking place for nearly 24 years. Shown here, (right to left) a PCI representative whose business helped clean Beaver Pond, (center) Ryan Jette, (left) Rick Ciccone, Chestnut Street resident who attends every year. Photos courtesy of Ryan Jette.

FRANKLIN EARTH DAY

BEAVER POND, APRIL 19
9:00AM -12:00PM

For over 20 years the Town of Franklin has conducted this event in an effort to educate the public on recycling, beautification and perform a general clean up. Help us clean our local parks, roads, schools and town greenery! Meet at Beaver Pond parking lot on Saturday April 19th, 9:00am where we will distribute trash bags, gloves and maps with over 35 clean up sites. Free saplings will be distributed and tee shirts for the first 100 people. Bagels and coffee will be available during registration. Register at franklinma.myrec.com.

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The Sun will Come Out Tomorrow:

Annie Takes Center Stage at BFCCPS

By JENNIFER RUSSO

Most people are familiar with the red-headed spitfire of an orphan named Annie, whether it be from the comic book series, the old radio show, the well-loved 1982 movie starring Aileen Quinn, or from a Broadway production. The story follows the poor, fiery, yet charming ten-year-old during the time of the Great Depression, as she dares to escape a New York City orphanage run by a cruel woman who doesn't like kids, tries to find her parents, and accidentally ends up in the care of one of the wealthiest men in the country.

The students at the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School (BFCCPS) chose the heartwarming story for their annual musical this year and delivered a wonderful performance that had the audience on the edge of their seats and humming along to songs like "It's the Hard-Knock Life" and "The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow."

Charlotte Mantilla did a wonderful job capturing the independent and caring Annie, and Lila Branson nailed the part of Miss Hannigan, who we all have a love/hate relationship with. Mr. Warbucks was played by Jack Renaud, who went from gruff businessman to tender father. Sophia Bourgeois, who played his assistant Grace Farrell, did well at showing a patient and elegant air. Petty criminals Rooster and Lily, played by James Jaeggli and Violet MacDonald, had the crowd chuckling with their great facial expressions and bumbling antics.

The rest of the cast played a number of characters, including the orphans, housekeepers, the butler Drake, Officer Ward, Mr. Bundles the laundry man, radio personality Bert Healy, a variety of radio station acts, produce peddlers, a want-to-be New York star, the judge, Sandy the dog, and of course President Franklin D. Roosevelt.



Orphanage matron Miss Hannigan, played by Lila Branson, brought lots of comedy to the show.

All of the handmade set pieces and props were very well done, and BFCCPS students played in the orchestra pit, as well as running the lighting and sound, creating digital art for the backdrop screen, helping to direct, and swapping out scenes during the show.

Overall, *Annie the Musical* was a remarkable success, and audience members were already commenting that they are looking forward to seeing what show the school chooses to do next



Jack Renaud as billionaire Mr. Warbucks and Charlotte Mantilla as orphan Annie, had great chemistry on stage.



A happy ending for all in Ben Franklin Charter's production of Annie.

Spring. Its happy ending left everyone feeling positive, with the message of being hopeful and resilient despite challenges. to

the students, staff, and crew of the production for delivering another fantastic show!




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Your Money, Your Independence

Portfolios Care About Asset Allocation, Not Your Emotions.



Glenn Brown, CFP

Investing is a journey with greed, fear and uncertainty creating market fluctuations and volatility to portfolio values. While the cause always changes, one thing remains constant - portfolios don't care about your emotions.

Sounds harsh? Maybe.

Consider the last time your investments performed based on how you feel? This isn't the chicken or the egg. Investments don't react based on how you feel, they react to your actions and choice of asset allocation or lack thereof.

What is Asset Allocation?

Asset allocation is a foundational strategy of dividing an investment portfolio across different domestic and international asset classes—such as stocks, bonds, real estate, hard assets, and cash equivalents—to balance risk/reward and reduce volatility. This allows investors to participate in returns over time by staying invested throughout market, macroeconomic and geopolitical cycles.

This Time is Different!

Really? Let's take a trip down memory lane the past 25 years.

Recall Y2K, Four Horse-

men, Dot.com Bubble, 9/11 Recession, Iraq, No Income Verification Mortgages, \$150 Oil, Housing Bubble, Financial Crisis, 0.1% Cash, Great Recession, Quantitative Easing (QE), Flash Crash, QE2, Debt Ceiling, Government Shutdown, Greece, Taper Tantrum, QE3 - Shock & Awe, FANG, Brexit, 2016 Election, Tax Cuts, China Trade War, 9 Fed Rate Hikes, COVID Shutdown, 3X Stimulus, 9% Inflation, Ukraine, 10 Fed Rate Hikes, 2022 Non-Recession, Magnificent 7, Trump II. Throughout all these events, asset allocation ensures not all investments in a portfolio are moving in unison.

Asset allocation is not influenced by emotions; it is a strategically, diversified portfolio spread across different asset classes to help smooth out market fluctuations and reduce overall risk. For example, if stocks are down, then bonds or real estate or gold may be performing well to help offset.

S&P 500 Index ≠ Asset Allocation.

Many believe investing in the S&P 500 index is the same asset allocation. It's not.

Being broadly diversified across U.S. large companies represents one asset class. Due to an average annualized return of ~13.9% over the past 15 years, recency bias has investors "setting it and forgetting it".

Asset Allocation at Work.

Most under age 45 (and some older) don't recall "The Lost Decade" when the S&P 500 index total return including dividends from 2000-2010 was -9.1%. Correct, \$1 million invested on Y2K was ~\$910,000 ten years later.

Elsewhere from 2000-2010, positive returns and outperformance was captured in index funds of developed international stocks, emerging market stocks, U.S. small cap stocks, U.S. high-yield bonds, U.S. REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts), commodities, gold, cash and U.S. bonds.

Speaking of the U.S. Aggregate Bond index, \$1 million invested became ~\$1,840,000. Because of this divergence, the S&P 500 index didn't catch up to the U.S. Aggregate Bond index until 2017, or 17 years later. If you're in the distribution stage of your life (i.e. retirement), that's not good.

Asset allocation models vary and ideally are based on timelines for the need of funds in a financial plan, not your age. How one invests a Roth IRA, Traditional IRA or taxable brokerage account could be different and should align with "when" and "how much" the plan projects to draw from each account.

Ignore at Your Own Risk.

When investors ignore asset allocation, they risk making decisions based on emotion. During

market highs, greed sells lagging asset classes. During downturns, fear sells into panic without a plan back into the long-term strategy. These emotional responses create market timing and remove your foundation.

So remember, during times like these, your portfolio cares about asset allocation — a foundational strategy to help you manage risk, smooth out market volatility, and stay on track to meet timelines of your financial goals.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general informa-

tion only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of PlanDynamic, LLC, www.PlanDynamic.com. Glenn is a fee-only Certified Financial 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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Clafin Hill Symphony Orchestra to Perform Franklin Resident's Chamber Opera

Mary Anning: Fossil Hunter, by Jon Mitchell, to Be Season Finale April 5th

By J.D. O'GARA

The local Clafin Hill Symphony Orchestra will perform Franklin resident Jon Ceander Mitchell's chamber opera, *Mary Anning: Fossil Hunter*, as the finale of its Clafin Hill Symphony Orchestra Apple Tree Arts Chamber Series on Saturday, April 5 at Apple Tree Arts in Grafton. Dr. Mitchell is "Professor Emeritus of Music" at University of Massachusetts Boston, and this work, his first chamber opera, was first performed last June at the First Universalist Society of Franklin Meetinghouse by the Greater Milford Community Chorus and FUSF members.

The opera itself deals with pioneer paleontologist Mary Anning. She faced two centers of conflict in the English society of the early 1800's: class stratification and gender discrimina-

tion. The opera and has been expanded since last year, with the inclusion of three new brief movements: two instrumental interludes and an aria, "Whither, Mary?", sung by Mary's friend Elizabeth at the beginning of Act II.

The male lead (role of Dr. William Buckland) is being sung by Timothy-Ayers-Kerr, Franklin resident and full-time faculty member at Dean College. He is conductor of the Dean College Vocal Ensemble, which will be the featured chorus within the opera. Tim's wife, Elizabeth Clutts Ayers-Kerr will sing the role of Molly Anning, Mary Anning's mother, in the Prologue. Four of the five original cast members, all professionals as well, are returning. Seven of the eight original professional instrumentalists are also returning, and



Principal cast members for *Mary Anning: Fossil Hunter* are shown here, left to right: Frank Walker (Dr. William Conybeare), Mark Schiappucci (Dr. Richard Owen), Timothy Ayers-Kerr (Dr. William Buckland), Aurora Martin (Mary Anning), and Emily Bieber-Harris (Elizabeth Philpott). The chamber opera by Franklin resident Dr. Jon Ceander Mitchell, will be performed by the Clafin Hill Symphony Orchestra on April 5th.

Luis Viquez, conductor of the orchestra at University of Rhode Island and current president of the College Orchestra Directors Association, will conduct.

For more information on the event or tickets, visit <https://www.clafinhill.org/clafin-hill-apple-tree-arts-chamber-series> or scan the QR code here.



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Swirl Into Spring with Apricot Lane

Dresses, Sets, and a Variety of Accessories are Waiting for You!

By JANE LEBAK

With spring around the corner and days getting longer, it's time to brighten up the wardrobe with lighter colors, breathable fabrics, and plans for warmer weather.

"Springtime means dresses," says Marta McNulty, owner of Franklin's Apricot Lane Boutique. "Last year, we became the town's dress destination, and it's easy to see why."

Apricot Lane is a sweet little boutique tucked behind the Starbucks on Route 140. Stocked with hand-selected fashions, the shop hits the sweet spot between fashionable and practical, keeping costs down and always targeted toward local tastes and needs.

This spring's dress selection covers all the bases, from formal to semi formal to casual events. Apricot Lane can outfit you for an evening wedding in Boston Common or a mid-afternoon wedding in a countryside barn. They can get you set up with a sundress for the beach or even just a t-shirt dress to run errands.

Colors this season are mostly lighter, shades of beige, pink and baby blue, and Marta's personal favorite, the combo dresses. "It's a dress which has a crochet top, tank or cap sleeves, and airy cotton from the waist down."

Another trend this season is the denim dress. "These aren't GenX denim dresses. Blended with Tencel, today's denim dresses are light and flowy, beautifully tailored, and flattering for any figure." Marta says, "We're used to denim being bulky, but these have to be seen to be believed. Seen, touched, worn, and then loved."

For cooler evenings, you can pair the dresses with the perfect cover-up. "We have adorable shrug sweaters and little jackets. Because they're cruelty-free, vegan leather jackets are the current status quo, and we have many of those," Marta adds.

Last year, many of Apricot Lane's customers wanted outfits for country music concerts. Marta says. "We'd combine glittery tops and denim skirts, or we'd pair an airy cotton dress with a light jacket, a coordinating pair of sunglasses, and statement jewelry pieces."

Coordinating separates is Marta's specialty. Her initial experience as a visual merchandiser for both H&M and Bloomingdales taught her how to quickly pair not only colors that work together, but also interesting texture combinations and different styles. These blends create a person's own signature look. "You can come in and build an entire capsule wardrobe with several carefully-selected pieces," she says.

In choosing this spring's lineup, Marta continues Apricot Lane's commitment to charitable causes. Beaded bracelets by Noble Venture are made by survivors of human trafficking in Nepal, Haiti, and Guatemala, and sales help them rescue other victims. Clothing from Vero Moda, a Denmark brand, is made from 100% recycled materials, and their manufacturing process is certified eco-friendly. ESW face masks are cruelty-free and also biodegradable, so after you use one, you can compost it in your yard...or even in a house plant.

"We just brought in WMP, Wear Me Pro, a line of sunglasses that makes a donation for every pair sold to the Arizona Humane Society – the state's largest no kill shelter," says Marta. "They look great, and you feel great wearing them."

The current season features Molly Bracken, Elan, Another Love, Vero Moda, Good American, Hidden, Vervet Denim, Kinsey Designs and Kendra Scott jewelry collection. "I source from all over the world," says Marta. "This year, a number of Canadian brands stood



Business spotlight

out as very high quality, and strikingly different, so I'm introducing Franklin to new brands, like DEX, R.D. Style, and B.Young. I think they're going to love them."

Stop over at Apricot Lane, at 342 East Central Street in Franklin, to pick up a summer-accented necklace, and maybe spend an hour in the spacious changing rooms trying on every piece of your brand new capsule wardrobe. Or, just visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/apricotlane-franklin>.

Let Apricot Lane get you ready. Ready for spring, ready for concerts, ready for drinks with friends...ready for anything.

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The b.LUXE beauty beat

Gray-Blending for Women: Embracing Your Gray Hair in 2025

BY GINA WOELFEL

You may remember our “Gray-Blending” article from last March. Since then, a growing interest in blending gray hair has been all over social media. You’ve got questions, and we’ve got the answers! Here’s your updated guide to gray-blending, with everything you need to refresh your look in 2025.

The world of hair color is undergoing a significant shift, with more women opting for gray-blending techniques instead of fully covering their gray hair. While gray-blending has been around for years, a surge in demand for low-maintenance hair color has brought this innovative technique into the spotlight. By seamlessly blending natural grays with soft highlights and translucent color, gray-blending creates a fresh, modern look that feels soft and natural. Unlike traditional hair dyes that often leave a harsh line of regrowth, gray-blending offers a lived-in style that celebrates the beauty of aging, giving women more freedom and flexibility with their hair coloring routines. Women aren’t just accepting their gray hair—they’re embracing it as a symbol of strength, confidence, and individuality!

The Classic Approach to Gray Coverage

For years, there were three basic levels of gray coverage:

- **Full Coverage:** This all-over, one-process coloring technique provides 100% gray coverage. Imagine wearing opaque wool tights. This application creates a uniform color that matches either your natural shade or your desired color but often results in a noticeable line of regrowth at the roots.
- **Demi-Permanent Coverage:** This method uses less pigmented dye to offer about 80% gray coverage. It provides a softer approach, allowing some natural gray tones to show through, similar to wearing sheer, colored pantyhose.
- **No Coverage:** This approach is a full gray embrace that leaves your natural gray and silver hair to take center stage. Using a clear gloss and brightening shampoo can eliminate brassiness and add shine. It’s like wearing sheer, nude pantyhose—subtle, simple, and naturally beautiful.

Modern hair dyes offer a broader spectrum of colors and a more vibrant finish than their predecessors but still require salon visits every 4 to 6 weeks. Many women continue to use the same hair color for years, believing that their natural shade remains unchanged, even though their original hair color has likely shifted significantly.



It’s easy to fall into a routine with hair coloring. While full coverage may have worked in the past, it’s important to consider whether it remains the best option for you today.

Why is Gray-Blending For Women So Popular?

Embracing natural gray hair can be challenging for many women. Transitioning from a solid hair color to gray is often a significant emotional commitment. The rising popularity of gray blending offers a modern way to integrate gray hair with your natural or chosen color. It’s an excellent option for those looking for a low-maintenance way to incorporate more gray into their style without immediately making a complete silver commitment.

How To Transition To Gray-Blending

For clients who’ve been coloring their hair for years but want to gray-blend or transition back to their natural color, there are several options available:

1. **Highlights and Lowlights:** If you’re looking to minimize the appearance of gray roots, a stylist can strategically apply highlights or lowlights around your face, which softens the look of regrowth and adds dimension without creating a stark line of demarcation. Additionally, incorporating a few carefully placed highlights near your part can lift gray strands closer to your silver color. At the same time, a toner (used after bleaching or coloring to help neutralize brassiness and unwanted undertones, resulting in a more desired and customized color) can help unify the overall appearance.



2. **The Big Chop:** If you’re ready to take the plunge, cutting your hair short and allowing it to grow out naturally is a great option. It typically takes about 1.5 years for your hair to reach shoulder length, but regular trims can help eliminate any unwanted color.
3. **Complete Silver Transformation:** For many, the desire to go completely silver in one sitting is tempting. While some can achieve this in one session, it’s a lengthy and costly process that can take up to 12 hours and may not always provide the results you expect.

Regardless of your method, a toner or tinted gloss is always recommended to ensure maximum brightness and a beautiful finish.

The Timeline for Gray Blending

The timeline for transitioning to gray hair varies for each individual. Factors such as your hair’s health, the coloring method you choose, and the rate at which your hair grows will all influence your journey. Your stylist will typically want to see at least three to four months of hair regrowth to assess your gray pattern. While this timeline can differ from person to person, it serves as a general guideline that helps your stylist

create the most effective color plan for you moving forward.

Once you start the transition process, you can expect your maintenance and upkeep to be about eight to twelve weeks apart, depending on your chosen method. Typically, it takes about 3 to 4 salon visits to complete the process and get your hair to the desired state.

The best part? Nothing is permanent! If gray blending isn’t your style, you can always return to your traditional color. Your stylist supports you every step of the way and ensures you look and feel your best.

Curious How Gray-Blending Can Work For You?

Visit b.LUXE Hair & Makeup Studio for a complimentary color consultation. Our expert stylists will help you navigate the world of gray-blending and find the perfect solution for all your needs.

2025 is the year for you to embrace your gray hair with style and confidence!

Scan the QR code for more information about gray-blending, including before-and-after photos of real clients. To book a consultation, go to bLUXE.com.

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Surprises & Activities at Franklin's Ladybug Trail Spring Walk April 26

Lots of surprises will be popping up at the Ladybug Trail Spring Walk on April 26. As the town of Franklin gets ready to welcome Spring with the 3rd annual spring walk, shops will be there to welcome you and offer fun activities. The rain date is April 27.

Look for events and activities at public places like Dean College, the Franklin Library, and the Historical Museum. At least 15 retailers will welcome visitors with treats, discounts and promotions.

The goal is to search for where ladybug sculptures are in the downtown area. Along the way, walkers will enjoy ladybug-themed cupcakes, food samples, discounts on products and services, meal deals and photo opportunities.

Get your map at the Historical Museum, the library and participating businesses. The trail map shows walkers where the ladybug sculptures are located.

People can walk the trail any time of the day or evening. You can start as early as 9 am at the Historical Museum, where you can get the trail map, learn about the ladybug cultural trail, the story behind the ladybug and its



connection with Franklin.

Go shopping or take a break for coffee, gelato, lunch or dinner as you walk along the trail.

Trail visitors will also love the colorful art gallery in the open space next to Birchwood Bakery. This formerly uninviting alleyway has become a canvas for many local artists who painted colorful murals.

The Ladybug Cultural & Historical Trail is located in downtown Franklin in the heart of Franklin's Cultural District. Walkers search for 2-foot-wide



fiberglass ladybug sculptures tucked among buildings, businesses and residences, tying together approximately 25 historical and cultural sites. Visitors should note that the ladybug that is usually found at 157 Cottage Street will not be at this location until May when the new Children's Museum of Franklin opens their doors.

The trail is open year-round. Walk it at your leisure any time of the week.

"The Ladybug Trail Spring Walk is the perfect time to celebrate spring and see all that downtown Franklin has to offer," said Lisa Piana, Franklin Downtown Partnership's Executive



Director. "There are many new shops in addition to the established shops. There's a lot of culture and history too. It's a great way to learn about our community."

The Downtown Partnership would like to thank Middlesex Savings Bank and Eileen Mason at RE/MAX Executive Realty, who sponsored the trail map for the Ladybug Trail Spring Walk.

For more information about the Ladybug Historical & Cultural Trail, follow the Downtown Partnership at:

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

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

The Franklin Downtown Partnership is a non-profit 501c3 organization made up of more than 350 business owners, residents, and community leaders working to revitalize downtown Franklin. Residents can join the Downtown Partnership for only \$25. The Partnership manages events like the Strawberry Stroll, the Harvest Festival, the Ladybug Historical & Cultural Trail, and initiatives such as beautification, streetscape design, greenspace, alley murals, and sculpture projects. For more information go to www.franklindowntownpartnership.org.

Tickets Available for 10th Annual Empty Bowls Club FHS Fundraiser for Franklin Food Pantry

The Franklin High School Empty Bowls Club is partnering with the Franklin Food Pantry for the 10th Annual Empty Bowls Club Fundraiser to bring awareness to food insecurity and hunger in the community. The event will take place on Thursday, May 22, 2025, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Franklin High School Cafeteria, 218 Oak Street, Franklin, Massachusetts.

Attendees will receive a simple supper of warm soup and fresh bread and take home a hand-crafted ceramic bowl—a tangible reminder that many in our community face empty bowls every day. Enjoy live music, exciting raffle prizes, and enticing silent auction items, all while support-

ing the Franklin Food Pantry's important work of providing food, personal care items, and essential programs to those experiencing hunger.

Make a real difference and secure your tickets in advance starting April 1, 2025, at www.franklinfoodpantry.org. Pre-sale tickets are \$22 for adults and \$12 for children. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$25 (adults) and \$15 (children), payable by cash or check.

For more information or to sponsor or donate to this event, please contact Jen Johnson, Development Associate, Franklin Food Pantry, at jjohnson@franklinfoodpantry.org



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April @ The Community @ Franklin UMC

The Community @Franklin UMC provides opportunities for neighbors to meet, serve, and share with one another; opportunities to experience, build, and strengthen community. Here's what's happening in April:

Community Closet

The Community Closet @ FranklinUMC is expanding its hours! To better serve the community and create less confusion, the Closet will be open for shopping every Tuesday in April from 11 a.m.-1p.m. To make this expansion of hours possible, we are in need of additional volunteers

to host shoppers on Tuesdays and help sort on other days.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

The Franklin UMC will host its 4th Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 20. Children ages 0-10 are invited to hunt eggs in designated areas separated by age-group. This event is FREE. Participants are asked to bring their own basket or bag. Participants will be released to find eggs at 11:15a. Light refreshments and coffee will be served inside the church.

Community Concert

The Franklin UMC is excited to announce that Michael Rivelis will be performing a FREE concert on Saturday, April 26, at 7 p.m. Originally from Plainview, NY, Michael moved to the Boston area after graduating from Northeastern University in 1984. For over 15 years, he's been performing Folk Rock and Classic Rock hits from the '60s to the '90s, including songs by Bob Dylan, John Prine, The Beatles, Bruce Springsteen, and more. Michael has played at numerous venues and has hosted open mics throughout the Metro West area.

The Franklin United Methodist Church (UMC) is located at 82 W. Central St., Franklin. You can learn more about the Community @FranklinUMC by going to franklinumc.org/community. If you have questions, would like to volunteer, or have ideas for ways we can gather and build the community together, email the office@franklinumc.org.

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Seeking artists to create interpretations of masters' artworks.

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Franklin Operational Override Vote of \$3.86M on Ballot

*Special Town Election
June 3, 2025*

On March 19th, the Franklin Town Council voted to adopt the Joint Budget Subcommittee (JBSC) recommendations issued March 12th for a \$3,862,672 operational override ballot question to the registered voters of the Town of Franklin in a **Special Local Election on Tuesday, June 3, 2025.**

To pass, the override will require a majority “yes” vote.

To learn more details about the proposed override, Franklin voters can go to:

[https://ma-franklin.civicplus.com/1089/Fiscal-Year-2026-Override-Information.](https://ma-franklin.civicplus.com/1089/Fiscal-Year-2026-Override-Information)

3rd Annual Franklin Disability Expo

Saturday, April 26th, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.

**Franklin Senior Center,
10 Daniel McCahill St.,
Franklin**

On April 26th, from 11 a.m.–2 p.m., the Franklin Commission on Persons with Disabilities will present the 3rd Annual Franklin Disability Expo. The event is designed to inform members of the Franklin community who have disabilities and their families of local resources.

The fun event includes a variety of nonprofit groups and vendors, as well as some free prizes and gift certificates.

“The Disability Expo been a wonderful success, and we’re delighted to have all these vendors here,” says Mary O’Neill, Chair of the Franklin Commission on Persons with Disabilities. Past attendees, she says, “were very happy – they’re aware of new

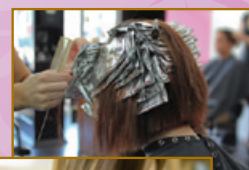
things they weren’t aware of before, all kinds of things and services to help them.”

The Franklin Commission on Persons with Disabilities meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Club House

Meeting Room, Central Park Terrace Apartments, (off Wachusetts Street) in Franklin. If you would like to contact the Franklin Disability Commission, contact Chair Mary O’Neill at (508) 440-1265. All calls are confidential.

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American Revolution 250th Gets Local Boost in Wrentham & “Daughter” Towns

Reenactment Planned of Wrentham-Area Militia Muster, April 19, 1775

250 years ago, Wrentham (which then also included the modern towns of Franklin, Norfolk, and Plainville), was a quiet farming town, but one in which local Patriots were well aware of the tensions building with the mother country, Great Britain. Most were determined to protect what they saw as their most basic rights.

On the morning of April 19, 1775, news began to filter in about the British Army’s march to Lexington and Concord and then the feared news that fighting had broken out. Locals were ready, and, according to historians, two groups of local Wrentham-area soldiers were soon on the march to support their fellow Minutemen and militia members.



To commemorate that important local historical event, groups and individuals are pooling resources.

On April 19, 2025, at about 10 a.m., the Gavel Restaurant in Wrentham, 36 South Street

Wrentham, will play the role of the Colonial-era, Man Tavern with a brief pageant commemorating the arrival of THE news and the mustering of the first area Minutemen.

Weather permitting, the event will continue outside, on the Common until approximately 11:30 a.m. Seating in the Gavel is very limited. For updated information, visit <https://alanrearls.wixsite.com/mysite-1>



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Eye-Opening Surgery: Corneal Transplant Gives Patients a Clearer Outlook on Life

DAN LIU, MD
MILFORD FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

In May 2023, a landmark surgery was performed at NYU Langone Health: a whole eye transplant. During this surgery, the entire eye – in addition to a portion of the face – was transplanted from a donor into a living human recipient for the purposes of facial reconstruction. While we are likely decades away from performing eye transplants that can restore vision, there are more than 49,000 transplants of a different kind performed in the United States annually which can successfully improve vision and save sight: corneal transplants.

What is the cornea?

The cornea is the transparent, dome shaped surface that acts as the front window to the eye. It plays a crucial role in focusing light rays entering the eye in order to allow us to see clearly.

When the cornea is damaged, it can become scarred, swollen, or opaque. In these cases, the visual effects can vary from increased light sensitivity, blurry vision, or even impaired vision to the point of blindness. Fortunately, for many individuals experiencing corneal damage, a corneal transplant, also known as a keratoplasty, may offer the opportunity to restore vision.

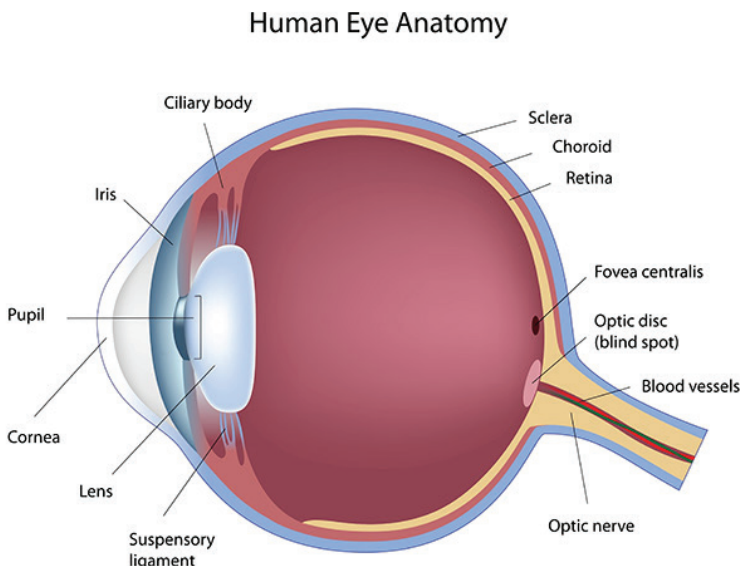
Who needs a corneal transplant?

There are various conditions, both genetic and acquired, that can affect the cornea and necessitate a corneal transplant. Common conditions include:

- Corneal dystrophies: These are inherited conditions that cause progressive clouding or scarring of the cornea. Fuchs' dystrophy is the most common of these dystrophies, which often runs in

families. This is a condition in which the innermost layer of cells in the cornea, the endothelial cells, no longer function in keeping the cornea clear. As a result, fluid can build up in the cornea, causing it to be swollen and cloudy. Some patients with Fuchs' dystrophy experience debilitating glare, whereas other patients can experience significant loss of vision.

- Keratoconus is a common condition for which corneal transplants are performed. In patients with keratoconus, the cornea becomes increasingly cone shaped over time rather than remaining dome shaped. This can lead to loss of vision as light rays bend or refract aberrantly off the irregularly shaped cornea. Individuals with keratoconus may experience



progressive astigmatism and a decrease in vision.

- Other acquired conditions that may affect the health and clarity of the cornea include eye infections which can cause significant scarring, or even previous eye surgeries that can result in damage to the cornea.

Are there different kinds of corneal transplants?

Since the introduction of corneal transplants in the 1900s, these surgeries have evolved to become more efficient with faster healing times and better visual outcomes. Corneal transplants can be full thickness or partial thickness transplants.

- **Penetrating keratoplasty (PK):** Also known as a full thickness corneal transplant, this is the most traditional form of corneal transplant. In PK, the diseased cornea is removed by the surgeon, the donor cornea is sized to fit the patient's eye, and stitches are used to place the donor cornea in the eye. The surgery is performed when the cornea is severely scarred or damaged, affecting all of its layers.
- **Descemet's Stripping Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSEK):** In DSEK, only the innermost layer of the cornea, called the endothelium, is replaced. The rest of the corneal layers remain intact. This surgery is often used to treat conditions that affect the endothelium, such as Fuchs' dystrophy.
- **Descemet's Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMEK):** DMEK is a more advanced version of DSEK and is

What is a corneal transplant?

In diseases in which the cornea cannot be repaired with medications alone, an ophthalmologist who specializes in performing corneal transplants can restore the clarity and health of the cornea, as well as vision. In these sight saving surgeries, the diseased cornea is replaced with a clear, healthy cornea from a human donor who has generously chosen to donate their organs after death. Luckily, in the United States, there is a well established infrastructure for tissue procurement such that people who require corneal transplants do not need to be on a prolonged waiting list in order to have surgery. By replacing the damaged tissue, a corneal transplant can significantly improve a person's vision, enhance their quality of life, and reduce symptoms like pain or sensitivity to light. In this era of modern medicine, corneal transplants are very successful and last up to 10 to 15 years, with many lasting more than 30 years.

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Student Volunteers Foster Learning with Preschoolers at Franklin ECDC

Franklin - Older student volunteers in Franklin are making meaningful connections to help foster learning with preschoolers at the F.X. O'Regan Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC).

Several ongoing partnerships are providing opportunities for student volunteers, from Horace Mann Middle School, Franklin High School, and Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School, to engage with preschool students by assisting with classroom activities, reading stories and playing games.

During the first half of the school year, five students from the Horace Mann Middle School Best Buddies program made weekly visits to PK1 classrooms. These visits provided opportunities for the four-year-old preschoolers to engage in fun, hands-on activities, offering them the chance to learn, relate and communicate with older students.

The Best Buddies program will continue in the second half of the school year. The program has been ongoing for several years, but it was brought back this school year after being discontinued since the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a new initiative this year, students from Franklin High School have been visiting the ECDC classrooms as part of teacher Ashley Foster's Early



Student volunteers from the Franklin High School Early Childhood Class read to preschoolers at the at the F.X. O'Regan Early Childhood Development Center. (Photos courtesy Franklin Public Schools

Childhood class. These high schoolers prepare for their visits by learning about preschool education and child development, with ECDC Principal Kim Taylor even visiting their class to provide insights about the ECDC. Foster's class is making these visits twice per semester.

"It has been wonderful to collaborate with Ms. Foster in order to develop this meaningful connection between the ECDC and Franklin High School," Principal Taylor said. "We look forward to continuing this partnership in the months and years to come."

The ECDC has also welcomed students from Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School's Early Childhood

Career Program. These students participate in a semester-long experience, attending each school day every other week to gain hands-on exposure to an integrated preschool program. They assist in classrooms, support curriculum activities, and engage with preschoolers during playtime — both inside the classroom and on the playground.

With approximately 72 students across five PK1 classrooms, these collaborative efforts continue to help establish a strong sense of community and connection within Franklin Public Schools.

"These partnerships create incredible learning experiences for both our older and younger



Horace Mann Middle School students from the Best Buddies program spend time reading and playing with preschoolers at the F.X. O'Regan Early Childhood Development Center.

students," said Superintendent Lucas Giguere. "Our preschoolers benefit from engaging with positive role models, while our student volunteers gain valuable skills in leadership, education, and mentorship."

The ECDC is an inclusive, integrated preschool, with a 15-student maximum per classroom. The staff there includes educational support professionals and specialists who provide direct service to qualifying children together with their teachers, such as an occupational therapist, a physical therapist, a speech and language pathologist and a board-certified behavioral analyst.

The ECDC uses Pre-K On My Way, a comprehensive, research-based curriculum that honors the developmental level of each student and fosters skill development in time for the student's arrival in kindergarten.

Children who reside in Franklin may be enrolled in the ECDC for next school year if they are at least 3 years old and are not yet 5 years old by Aug. 31. A lottery is held each February to randomly select admissions due to limited seats for the following school year. Spots that become open during the school year are filled through rolling admission.

For more information, visit <https://www.franklinps.net/o/ecdc> or call (508)541-8166.

EYES

continued from page 16

considered one of the most effective corneal transplant procedures for treating endothelial dysfunction. In DMEK, only the thinnest layer of tissue with endothelial cells are transplanted. Because of its precision, DMEK has a faster recovery time and better visual outcomes than traditional PK or DSEK procedures.

Do I need a corneal transplant?

To determine whether you would benefit from a corneal transplant, a thorough evalu-

ation by an ophthalmologist is necessary to determine whether a transplant is appropriate. At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we have corneal transplant surgeons who perform additional testing to evaluate the patient's eye health, including measurements of corneal thickness and imaging scans. We also have established relationships with eye banks, which are organizations that procure donated tissue and screen for quality.

For more details, see our ad on page 16.

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Milford Church to Hold Electronics Recycling Day April 26th

The First Congregational Church of Milford is sponsoring an Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The church will ensure that 99% of dropped off items will be reused and recycled.

All computer monitors, computers, parts and accessories, faxes, copiers, printers, scanners and TV's can be recycled. Recycling fees range from \$5 to \$40 per item. Cell phones can be re-

cycled at no charge and will be donated to charities that recycle and reuse them. The recycling vendor will erase and shred all hard drives at no additional cost.

This event is an easy and fun way to dispose of the old electronics in your garage, basement, attic and offices. So start setting them aside now and bring them to the church parking lot on Saturday, April 26th. A drive through process will allow those

donating to quickly drop off their items where help will be available.

Drop off in the church parking lot at 4 Congress St., Milford. (Opposite Draper Park, next to the Post Office). Please enter the lot from the Church St. entrance, cash only payments, please.

For more information contact the church office at (508) 473-5259.

For rates and info on advertising your business, please call Jen at 508-570-6544 or email: jenschofield@locaaltownpages.com

Franklin & Bellingham Rail Trail 5K Run and Walk on May 17th

By J.D. O'GARA

Lace up your sneakers and come outdoors for the Franklin & Bellingham Rail Trail's 14th annual 5K Run and Walk on Saturday, May 17th at 9 a.m. Enjoy the outdoors while supporting the continued development of the Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT). The Run and Walk will begin at Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT) Grove St. Trailhead, with parking available at 210 Grove Street, Franklin (Waters Corporation parking lot).

This event is open to participants of all ages and fitness levels, making it a great outdoor

activity for families and community members. Plenty of water and refreshments will be available during and after the race. Whether you're running, walking, or simply enjoying a scenic stroll along the trail, the 5K offers an opportunity to reconnect with nature and support a great local cause.

All proceeds will go towards the committee efforts to advocate for trail improvements.

Sue Fleurette, chair of this year's 5K, explains the 30 members who comprise the

The Franklin & Bellingham Rail Trail Committee (FBRTC) have been busy continuing to advocate for improved trail safety.



Franklin & Bellingham Rail Trail's 14th Annual 5K Walk and Run will take place on May 17th this year, a fundraiser for all ability levels aimed at improvements to the trail.

Photo used courtesy of the Franklin & Bellingham Rail Trail Committee



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The group oversaw grading improvements last year, and about four months ago, the installation of rapid flashing signs, paid for by a grant, on Lake Street. The FBRTC also recently applied for a DCR grant for four new benches on the trail, two in Franklin and two in Bellingham, from Grove to Center Street.

"It's a Mass Trails grant, and it's an 80/20, so they would cover 80% of it, and we would, as a committee, cover 20%. Our fingers are crossed, and we think it will all go through. We should know by June," says Fleurette.

Future plans for the SNETT include work to be performed by the town of Franklin to extend the trail into downtown Franklin, and work to be performed by DCR to rehabilitate the trail in West Bellingham and Blackstone.

Fleurette explains that the work toward downtown Franklin encompasses about a mile and half of the rail trail.

"That's a huge undertaking," says Fleurette, of Bellingham, adding, "We acquired the land through CSX, so there's a lot going on there, and it will be a big boost to small businesses, but that's pretty far out. It takes a long time and may take years to complete it." The town of Franklin expressed its intent to



FRANKLIN & BELLINGHAM
RAIL TRAIL COMMITTEE

purchase approximately 19.51 acres of unimproved land from Grove Street to Union Railroad line, Franklin from CSX Transportation, Inc. last November.

The SNETT, which stretches from Franklin through Douglas to the Connecticut border, continues to be a valuable resource for the community. Fleurette notes that the trail has seen an all-time high daily average of 189 people.

And you can join them on May 17th, at 9 a.m., supporting this open space.

Registration is now open, with an early registration fee of \$30 for adults, \$25 for kids and free for seniors 70 years and older. To secure your spot, sign up early. Participants who sign up prior to midnight April 30 will receive a commemorative race gift. Learn more and register at <https://www.trivalleyfrontrunners.com/fbrtc/FBRTC5K.php>.

In addition to the 5K, Fleurette explains that events will take place this spring on the Rail Trail. She advises to check the website for some planned story walks and other events.

The Franklin Bellingham Rail Trail Committee is always looking for volunteers, and Fleurette would personally love for more folks from her neighborhood of Bellingham to take part. For information, visit www.franklinbellinghamrailtrail.org.



Franklin Art Assoc. Meeting April 2nd, Art Show at Norfolk Library through April 25th

The Franklin Art Association invites the public to our Wednesday, April 2 meeting. We will greet Guest Demo-Artist, Kristina Occhino, our painter for this month's public demonstration. She will be giving a talk about her work and a demonstration of her watercolor technique.

She has a Bachelor's degree in Studio Art from Skidmore College and a MFA degree from Rhode Island School of Design. She has membership in Foxboro Art Association, the New England Watercolor Society and the American Watercolor Society. She is an Artist Member of Cape Cod Art

Center, Northeast Watercolor Society and the RI Watercolor Society.

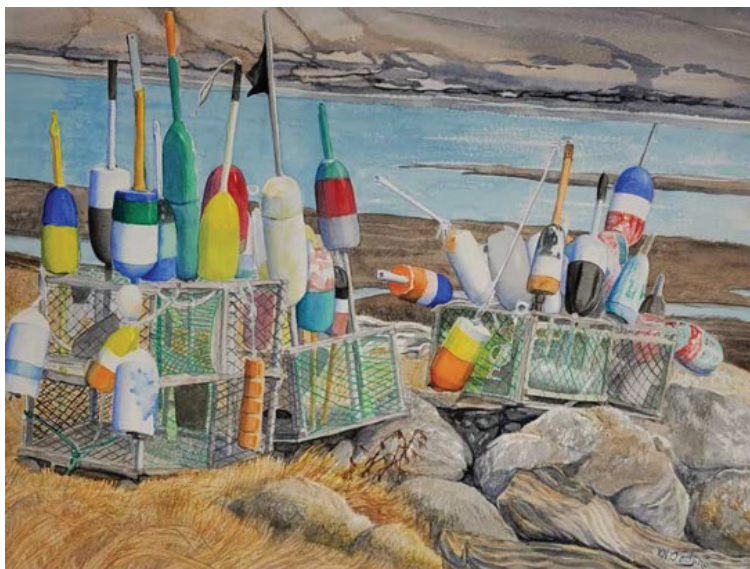
A much sought after instructor, Kris currently teaches painting at the Attleboro Arts Museum and in her Treetop Studio in Attleboro. Her work can be seen at True Grit Art Gallery in Middleboro, MA.

As a painter, she feels constantly drawn to the beauty of seascapes, landscapes, marine life and scenes of working boats and harbor life.

The free-to-the-public-meetings are held at the Franklin Senior Center at 6:30 p.m. FAA welcomes the public to attend. Refreshments are served at the break. We have an on-going FAA Scholarship Fund supporting young artists' school careers in art to which attendees are invited to contribute.



Kristina Occhino, Seascape



Kristina Occhino, Beach Buoys

The FAA is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Franklin Cultural Council, Franklin Cultural District and www.franklinart.org. And we can be viewed on Facebook and Instagram.

Through April 25, Franklin Art Association members will hold an Art Show and Sale, with an opening reception on Thursday, April 10, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Norfolk Public Library, 2 Liberty Lane, Norfolk, MA.

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Looking to Go from Obscure to Champion

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Jack Sauer grew up in a family atmosphere where his father as well as his two uncles wrestled on the high school level, and it was only inevitable that the blood line would eventually come forward and he, too, would take to the mats. His father would take him to Carmine Colace's New England Gold Wrestling Club, and instantaneously, the younger Sauer would become enamored by the sport of wrestling.

Originally, wrestling was something that did not come easy to the Franklin native as he was going up against much older wrestlers with a lot more experience. Eventually, he would begin to find himself comfortable on the mat, so much so that he decided to forgo playing basketball and focus solely on wrestling.

"It was around seventh grade when I really started to get into the sport and having success in tournaments," Sauer said. "That year, I finished second in the States and realized that all my hard work had started to pay off – it was a good feeling."

When it was time to enter high school in Franklin, the incoming freshman was not at all intimidated by the numerous wrestlers that had gone through FHS to become perennial wrestlers. Sauer had already been introduced to Coach Colace and his coaches at New England Gold, so he was more than ready to don the Franklin uniform and hopefully following in the steps of so many other wrestlers.

That inaugural year wrestling for the Panthers, Sauer came out

like gangbusters, wrestling at 120 lbs. He went 22-11 that season, finishing second in the Sectionals and eighth in the Division 1 State Tournament.

"The confidence was there that year, and I knew that I could only get better after beating the older kids," he said. "I did need to improve on my neutral game, so after the high school season, I worked on that with my club team learning new techniques and asking the coaches for advice."

As a sophomore, Sauer moved up two weight classes to 132 pounds and once again put forth a decent season posting a 34-5 record for the Panthers. Unfortunately, although he had another impressive regular season, the post-season was far from what he expected.

"In the Sectionals I was not there mentally; I was overthinking things, and I psyched myself out," Sauer said. "My first match was close, but I lost to a kid that I had beaten during the regular season; I underestimated him and lost."

Sauer would come back and win his second match but lost his third match and therefore didn't qualify to continue onto the State Tournament. He was definitely disappointed in his performance, but he knew that it was his own fault.

"It was all on myself, and it gave me the motivation to get better for my junior season," he said. "Once again, I worked hard in the off-season with my club team to get better."

Coming into this year, his tenth overall as a wrestler and his junior year at Franklin,



Through perseverance and hard work, as well as making sure not to overthink his matches, FHS wrestler Jack Sauer aims, ultimately, to be a State Champion.

Sauer took each match individually. He would enter each match with a more relaxed demeanor and stayed far away from overthinking things while believing in his ability and hard work.

As a junior, Sauer took another step up and recorded a 43-13 season wrestling at 144 lbs. He would go on to capture second place at the Sectionals and third in the States and believed that he was definitely back. It was a really good feeling.

"He overcame a disastrous post-season last year after winning 35 matches and bowing out in the Sectionals," Colace said. "All that after placing in the States a year earlier as a freshman. He didn't stop working after his downfall and although he doesn't find himself in the limelight, Jack has become a leader as an underclassman; leading by example."

By finishing third at the States, Sauer can compete at the New England Tournament, where his goals are to finish in the top eight in his weight class while employing the same mindset he's used all season long.

Coming into his junior season, Sauer was looking to eclipse 100 career wins (he is currently one shy at the time of this writing) and place at the States doing the best that he could possibly do. He finished third but was looking to be number one.

When the season eventually concludes, he is going to get back to work with his club team looking to improve even more.

"I still need to get better and need to improve some of my techniques," Sauer said. "I've got to make sure my opponents are not keeping me from getting out of their holds."

Colace noted that the junior is continually working hard, and his dedication is coming to fruition.

"Next year, I will be looking for more leadership from him while promoting wrestling in and out of season," the Coach said. "He is one of the hardest workers in the room, and his examples will spread amongst the other wrestlers."

Next year as a senior, Sauer is looking to become a State Champion for Franklin and the first in his family.

"It would really be cool to get my name up there with the other State Champions that have passed through Franklin," he said. "Every day we walk by the list of the past Sectional and State Champions and New England finalists; it would be really huge honor to be part of that group. It's definitely motivation."

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Sports

Franklin High Star Athlete Nally Takes Helm of Millis Baseball

By KEN HAMWEY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Jack Nally, who's been hired as Millis High's new baseball coach, knows he's facing a Herculean task but he's ready to revive and rebuild the Mohawks' program.

Millis hasn't had a winning program since 2013 and its records from 2022-2024 indicate it needs help. The Mohawks were winless during the 2022 campaign (0-18) but still managed to get a playoff invitation, beating Nashoba Valley Tech before losing to Bourne. The 2023 squad was 6-16 and last year Millis finished 4-17.

A native of Franklin, Nally is only 23, but his youth could be a prime asset in leading the Mohawks to greener pastures. His athletic background as a player

is phenomenal and although his coaching experience is limited, he excelled in his first year as an assistant for Franklin's successful football team last year.

Nally played football and baseball at Franklin High and at Wesleyan University where he majored in economics and graduated with a 3.5 GPA. As a wide receiver at Franklin, the 5-foot-10 Nally had 127 receptions in 26 games. That career number was a school record for three years.

"I'm pleased and excited for the opportunity to coach baseball at Millis High," Nally said. "There'll be challenges but I look forward to great moments that our players will create."

Nally's athletic philosophy is that "true competitors play to win but on a day-to-day basis

it's more about reaching one's potential and enjoying an athletic journey." He also believes that life lessons can be learned in sports. "Players learn to overcome adversity, to be resilient, to lead and to accept responsibility," he offered.

Opening day for Millis' baseball team is a home game against Norton on March 31. Win or lose, it's the start of a coaching career that should involve lots of success.



Jack Nally, left, coached wide receivers and defensive backs last fall for Franklin football coach Todd Kiley. He now takes his skills to lead Millis.

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IF YOU ARE A FRANKLIN RESIDENT WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT VETERANS' BENEFITS, CALL 508-613-1315

LIVE IN ANOTHER TOWN? FIND YOUR VSO HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.MASS.GOV/INFO-DETAILS/FIND-A-VETERANS-SERVICE-OFFICER-NEAR-YOU](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-veterans-service-officer-near-you)

Veterans' Services Office Notes

(508) 613-1315

April 2 – Veterans' Coffee Social – 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. Please join us for a celebration of the Starbucks team this month. All Veterans are welcome!

April 14 – Air Force Reserve's 77th Birthday

April 17 – Veterans' Council/Memorial Day Parade Planning Meeting – 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. All members of the community are invited.

April 23 – Army Reserve's 117th Birthday

The next brick installation on the Veterans Memorial Walkway will be in May. Engraved bricks

make great birthday, Mother's or Father's Day gifts for your special Veteran or current military service member. The deadline for ordering for this installation is April 11. Brick order forms are available in the Town Hall and Senior Center lobbies or online at: franklinma.gov/335/Veterans-Services

Please return orders to the Veterans' Services Office. Thank you to those who have supported the Walkway project!

The *Tune It Out* guitar lessons program for Veterans meets on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. There is no charge

for lessons, and no guitar experience is required. Call Veterans' Services for details.

The *Warrior Within Yoga* class for Veterans and First Responders meets on Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. at the Senior Center. There is no charge for classes. Call Veterans' Services to register.

SAVE-THE-DATES – Friday, May 23 – Memorial Day Breakfast at the Senior Center – Monday, May 26 – Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on the Town Common. Stay tuned for details!

Please visit franklinma.gov/335/Veterans-Services to learn more about Franklin Veterans' Services.

Franklin Fallen Heroes' Remembrance Ceremonies

In honor of the 45 Franklin Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, remembrance ceremonies are held on the anniversary of their KIA date. The ceremonies are led by members of the American Legion Post 75 and VFW Post

3402 and are held at 9 a.m. on the Veterans Memorial Walkway on the Franklin Town Common. Family members, friends and members of the community are all welcome to attend. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be postponed to the following day.

APRIL

April 9 – Joseph R. Paulette – Vietnam

April 9 – Russell W. Shaw – Vietnam

April 17 – John J. Kell – WWII

April 30 – John E. Pasquantonio – Vietnam

Circle of Friends to Welcome The Kennedys April 5th

The Kennedys return to the Circle of Friends Coffeehouse in Franklin on Saturday, April 5th, as part of their 30th anniversary tour. They will be celebrating 30 years of recording albums with a specially curated tour featuring songs drawn from the full spectrum of their 17 releases.

The Kennedys are an American folk-rock band, consisting of husband and wife, Pete and Maura Kennedy. They are recognized for their harmonies and instrumental prowess, blending elements of country music, bluegrass, Western swing and jangle-pop.

The Circle of Friends Coffeehouse is a non-profit organization affiliated with Franklin's First Universalist Society. Concerts are presented in a smoke free and alcohol-free environment at the Society's handicapped accessible Meetinghouse, 262 Chest-

nut St. in Franklin, and begin at 7:30 p.m.; doors open at 7:00 PM. Beverages and gourmet desserts will be available. Admission is \$25. Please visit <http://www.circlefolk.org/> to purchase tickets or for more information.



Upcoming Show: May 17 John Gorka

RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER



Azza Law Amy Azza, Esq

Amy N. Azza, experienced attorney of 24 years, is accepting new clients for their estate planning needs for wills, trusts, powers of attorney and health care proxies.

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Calendar

April 2

Franklin Art Association meeting, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, guest artist Kristina Occhino will describe and demonstrate her watercolor technique

Virtual Author Talk with Jodi Picoult, 7-8 p.m., through Bellingham Public Library, a chat with the highly acclaimed New York Times bestselling author Jodi Picoult about her newest novel, *By Any Other Name*. To register for the Zoom link, <https://libraryc.org/bellinghamma/70728>

April 5

Eid Celebration! 3 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, family program

Friends of Millis Library book sale, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., Millis Public Library, 961 Main St., Millis

Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club Demonstration, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, MA. Questions to Mickey Callahan, K1WMC, at mickc@comcast.net

Circle of Friends presents The Kennedys, 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7), Circle of Friends Coffeehouse, Franklin's First Universalist Society handicapped accessible Meetinghouse, 262 Chestnut St. in Franklin, Beverages and gourmet desserts available. Tickets at <http://www.circlefolk.org/>

April 6

Friends of Millis Library bag sale, 1-3 p.m., Millis Public Library, 961 Main St., Millis, fill a brown bag with books for \$5

April 8

PULSE (Tri-County Regional Chamber Young Professionals) after Hours, 5:30-7:30 p.m., PINZ, 110 S. Main St., Milford, info. at <https://www.tricountychamberma.org/pulse-young-professionals-networking>

April 9

Spring Health Fair, 3:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, presented by Franklin Public Library and Franklin Health Department. Includes local vendors, health services, refreshments, face painting, health screenings, kids' zone and more.

April 11

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

April 12

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

Boston Typewriter Orchestra Free Concert! 3 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Funding for this program is provided by The Franklin Cultural District, a local agency funded by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

PETTY – Celebrating the Music of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, 1-2 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, presented by Blackstone Valley Music

April 19

Franklin Earth Day Cleanup, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., behind Beaver Pond

Wrentham 1775 Muster Reenactment, 10 a.m., Gavel Restaurant, 36 South Street

Wrentham, which will continue outside on the Common until approximately 11:30 a.m. Seating in the Gavel limited. For updated information, visit <https://alanrears.wixsite.com/mysite-1>

Second Annual Honey Tasting, 2 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, brief talk on honey making and history in Massachusetts followed by a tasting of local & flavored honeys, with prize drawing at end. Made possible by the support of The Friends of the Franklin Library!

Tax Talk: Personal & Entrepreneur Workshop, 3:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

April 20

Franklin UMC 4th Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt, 11:15 a.m., Children ages 0-10 are invited to hunt eggs in designated areas separated by age-group. FREE. Participants asked to bring their own basket or bag. Light refreshments and coffee will be served inside church.

April 22

Dean Vocal Ensemble Concert: "Folk Princess," 1 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Is the Future of Humanities and Libraries Digital?, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, with guest speaker Dr. John Woitkowitz, Head of the Digital Labs at the Germany's Berlin State Library (SBB)

April 24

An Evening of Conversation Regarding Food Sovereignty and Access with special guest speaker Sister Anna Gilbert-Muhammad, 7-8:30 p.m., First Universalist Society of Franklin, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin, Hosted by the FUSF Food Justice Team

JUNTO Non-Fiction Book Club, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin.

Six days of War by Michael B. Oren

April 25

Flower Slime, 2 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, make your own slime

Annual Earth Day Charles River Cleanup, volunteer for a location at <https://www.charlesrivercleanup.org/>

April 26

Franklin Ladybug Trail 3rd Annual Spring Walk, presented by Franklin Downtown Part-

nership, search for Franklin's ladybug sculptures and find activities or treats at public places like Dean College, Franklin Library, Historical Museum, and at least 15 retailers. Rain date: April 27, For more information, visit

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

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

Spring Carnival, 1 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

3rd Annual Franklin Disability Expo, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, presented by the Franklin Disability Commission. Discover services available to you as well as connect with disability vendors.

Free concert: Michael Rivelis, 7 p.m., Franklin United Methodist Church (UMC), 82 West Central St., Franklin, Folk Rock and Classic Rock hits from the '60s to the '90s

Electronics Recycling Day, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., First Congregational Church of Milford, 4 Congress St., Milford (please enter lot from Church St.), items \$5-\$20 to recycle, cell phones donated to charity at no cost

Charles River Chorale Celebrates 40 Years with Magical Spring Concert

Medway, MA – The Charles River Chorale is excited to present its Spring Concert, **If You Can Dream It, You Can Do It: 40 Years of Making Music Magical**, on May 3rd at 5 p.m. at the Medway High School Auditorium. This special event marks the chorale's 40th anniversary, celebrating four decades of community and song.

Under the direction of Ashley Nelson-Oneschuk, the 100-member chorale will perform a powerful mix of Disney classics, traditional choral pieces, and pop songs that highlight the themes of hope, dreams, and the power

of believing.

The concert will also feature Grammy-nominated Recording Artist and NBC's The Voice Finalist Michelle Brooks-Thompson, whose soulful renditions will elevate the evening, and a performance by the Children's Choir, adding a vibrant, intergenerational touch.

"This concert celebrates 40 years of sharing the power of music with our community," said Nelson-Oneschuk. "We're thrilled to mark this milestone with a performance that highlights the strength of hopes and dreams."

For more information and ticket details, visit our link: <https://www.charlesriverchorale.com/tickets> or access the QR code provided.



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Franklin PorchFest Returns, June 7th

We are excited to announce the return of Franklin PorchFest in 2025. PorchFest is an outdoor music event that will be held on Saturday, June 7th from 12 to 6 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, June 8th.

Musicians and bands of all genres will be performing on porches and patios throughout Franklin's Cultural District. This walkable event is also the perfect opportunity to check out our local shops and restaurants.

All the information you need is on our website <https://franklin.porchfest.info/>.

If you have a band or are a performer and would be interested in performing at Franklin PorchFest, click the tab up top on our website; "Band" and register for the event. Porch owners interested in hosting a band can also register by clicking the tab "Porch". Franklin PorchFest is made possible with investment funds granted from the Mass Cultural Council through the



Franklin Cultural District Committee and the Town of Franklin.

You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

As this event nears, we'll post volunteer opportunities on our website. We'll be looking for Porch Managers (responsible for working with Porch Hosts and Bands to ensure that performances go off as planned) and PorchFest Information Booth Volunteers (they'll provide event information and maps on the day of the event).



Want Fresh Vegetables? No Garden Necessary!

By MARISSA BOVIE, FOUNDING MEMBER - ENERGIZE FRANKLIN

As we inch closer and closer to spring, I find myself planning ahead for the summer, and my January 1st resolution to grow my own vegetables this year. I wanted to have access to fresh vegetables and herbs, and growing my own seemed like a good way to connect to nature and boost my mental health. Having grown up with parents that were avid gardeners, I know that this is the time of year to do my research and get things started. My apartment may not allow me to grow things in the shared yard space or have raised beds, but I know there are lots of options for container gardening. Plants like lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, strawberries, basil, various herbs, and even cucumbers can all be grown in containers.

Some things I've been considering include the location for my various pots and containers. Experts recommend locations with at least five hours of sunlight, whether that's outside or through a window. I'm also planning to reuse as many con-

tainers as possible that I already have. As long as they didn't contain anything toxic or harmful, you can upcycle a variety of containers for your gardening. Old milk jugs, yogurt containers, etc., are all good options, especially for starting out seedlings. Of course, I'll have to drill some holes in the bottom for drainage, but if I don't have a drill, I can borrow one from the neighbors. There are also a variety of local sources for seeds, and many of those locations would be happy to provide folks with recommendations.

I've done some container gardening in the past, sometimes with mixed results, but I'm excited to try my hand at it again this year. Besides having an easy source of fresh fruits and vegetables once I get my containers going, I also know that growing some of my own food will help lower the total energy cost of my diet. This, along with trying to purchase more of my



Mint is an herb that does well in containers.

other items from local farmers or producers, helps make a difference for our planet, which is especially poignant as we come up on Earth Day.

If you want more ideas for climate-friendly actions you can take, please visit Energizefranklin.org.

Franklin LGBTQ Alliance Plans Upcoming Events

Rock Painting, April 3rd, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Franklin TV and Radio 23 Hutchinson St.

Join us as we get ready for the Ladybug Trail Spring Walk. We will be making friendship rocks painted like ladybugs. We are making them for our friend Pete who owns Pete's Nerd Emporium here in town, where our book clubs are held. While painting, we will be discussing the different LGBTQ+ days in April: International Asexuality day which is on April 6th, International Day of Pink which is the second Wednesday in April, and Lesbian Visibility Day which is April 26th.

Brunch with Non-Scene Friends, April 5th, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Mak's Roast Beef, 451 W. Central St.

Join us as we make some new friends while eating some great food! A relatively cheap but delicious place to eat with a variety of menu options, including

vegan options! Just ask for the reservation under Max.

LGBTQ Book Club, April 9th, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Pete's Nerd Emporium 10 Main St.

Join us as we discuss Gideon the Ninth by Tamsyn Muir. Brought up by unfriendly, ossifying nuns, ancient retainers, and countless skeletons, Gideon is ready to abandon a life of servitude and an afterlife as a re-animated corpse. She packs up her sword, her shoes, and her dirty magazines, and prepares to launch her daring escape.

Celebrate with Pride is coming up quick!

On June 21st with a rain date of June 22nd from 12-4 pm, it will be on the Franklin Town Common. We are looking for volunteers and vendors/exhibitors. For more information and to sign up, visit our website www.franklinlgbtqalliance.com

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The College Essay - Let the Student's Voice be Heard!

My favorite pastime is reading students' college essays and essay tips from the masters - Admissions Officers. Does this make me a college nerd? Probably! But it certainly is why I do what I do!

Selecting a college essay topic can become the most challenging aspect of the application process. Students tend to search for the perfect topic that is not cliché, layered with the pressure to create a fascinating story that has never been told before. The truth is, all stories have been told before: the comeback story after a basketball injury, the mission trip that changed your life, the patience you showed after vacationing with 30 family members in a small cabin with one bathroom. The lesson is that there is no one unique topic - they have all been done.

Does this mean that you settle for mediocrity? No, but it does mean that you need to differentiate yourself by finding YOUR voice, make sure it is heard, and unveil the fantastic and authentic YOU in your story. Here are a few tips from the masters. **FREE RESOURCE:** email me for the full list of tips.

1. Just make sure that the story you're telling is uniquely YOURS.

"I believe everyone has a story worth telling. Don't feel like you have to have had a huge, life-changing, drama-filled experience. Sometimes the seemingly smallest moments lead us to the biggest breakthroughs." *Maggie Schuh, high school English teacher in St. Louis.*

2. We want to learn about growth.

"Some students spend a lot of time summarizing the plot or describing their work and the "in what way" part of the essay winds up being one sentence. The part that is about you is the most important part. The majority of the essay should be about your response and reaction to the work. How did it affect or change you?" *Dean J. admissions officer and blogger from University of Virginia.*

3. Tell a good story.

"Most people prefer reading a good story over anything else. So... tell a great story in your essay. Worry less about providing as many details about you as possible and more about captivating the reader's attention inside of a great narrative. I read a great essay this year where an applicant walked me through the steps of meditation and how your body responds to it. Loved it." *Jeff Schiffman, Director of Admissions at Tulane University*

4. Write like a journalist.

"The first few sentences must capture the reader's attention, provide a gist of the story, and give a sense of where the essay is heading. Think about any article you've read—how do you decide to read it? You read the first few sentences and then decide. The same goes for college essays. A strong lead will place your reader in



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

the "accept" mindset from the beginning of the essay. A weak lead will have your reader thinking "reject"—a mindset from which it's nearly impossible to recover." *Brad Schiller, MIT graduate and CEO of Prompt*

5. Write like you speak.

"You should use words and phrases that you would actually use in everyday conver-

sation. The most meaningful essays are those where I feel like the student is sitting next to me, just talking to me". *Kim Struglinski, admissions counselor from Vanderbilt University.*

6. Read it aloud.

"Reading your essay aloud is the best way to corroborate that your essay is revealing your voice. Do you feel

the emotions? Is it a good story? Is the reader learning something valuable about you? And, will the admission reader say 'yes, I can see this student making a difference at our college?'" *Tracy Sullivan & Maryline Michel Kulewicz, College 101 Admission Consultants*

There are so many admission resources out there. I really enjoy reading Rick Clark's Georgia Tech Admission Blog. He is knowledgeable, honest, and tells an engaging story. Hint: elements of a good essay!

The college tips were paraphrased from College Essay Guys's "35+ Best College Essay Tips from College Application Experts". College 101 Admissions Consultants LLC. Website: www.mycollege101.com. Email: tracy@mycollege101.com. Phone: (508) 380-3845.

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FISH of Franklin Seeks Volunteers

Nonprofit Offers Rides to Medical Appointments for Franklin Residents

FISH of Franklin's mission is helping Franklin residents get to their medical appointments – and volunteers are needed. FISH, which began at the Franklin Federated Church in 1973, is a non-profit organization run completely by volunteers. People give their time to either drive or answer telephone calls. They schedule and arrange for drivers to transport clients to and from appointments. They have driven as far as Boston and Providence,

and locations in between such as Milford, Upton, Walpole, Wellesley and Norwood.

Those requesting rides can request up to two rides to medical appointments per month, and the names of all those requesting rides are kept confidential.

If you are interested in volunteering for FISH or are a Franklin resident in need of a ride to a medical appointment, call (508) 528-2121.



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SAFE Coalition Announces 3rd Annual Gala for May 8

SAFE Coalition has announced their 3rd Annual Gala for May 8, 2025, at the Lakeview Pavilion in Foxborough. Titled "An Evening of Giving," the event will raise funds to advance SAFE's mission of offering compassionate, judgement-free support to those affected by substance use disorder and mental health challenges.

Guests of SAFE's gala will enjoy a gourmet dinner, live music, silent and live auctions, and inspirational guest speakers.

Jake Haendel will be the keynote speaker, whose podcast Blink is currently at the top of the Apple Podcast charts. Haendel, a Boston native, struggled with substance misuse in early adulthood. He is the only known survivor of a rare brain disease that caused him to develop "locked-in syndrome," a condition causing complete, coma-like body paralysis.

"All kids are good kids," says Haendel, "and substance use dis-

order does not discriminate."

Struggles like depression, anxiety, and trauma affect all kids, regardless of background, he says. These stressors can result in harmful coping mechanisms regardless of a person's outward appearance or perceived privileges.

Businesses and individuals across New England show their support of SAFE's work to reduce stigma and raise awareness by sponsoring the gala, such as Direct Federal Credit Union, who secured a champion sponsorship for the 2025 gala.

"Direct Federal Credit Union is committed to supporting organizations like SAFE that make a difference in our community," says Kristen Johnson, DCFU Senior Vice President, Employee & Brand Experience.

SAFE serves over 50 communities in Massachusetts with programs for teens, support groups for loved one's impacted by others' substance use, harm reduc-



SAFE

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tion education, and resources for families in need.

"At the gala we bring together stakeholders, community partners, and members of the public, without whom we would not exist," says SAFE Co-founder and Director of Family Recovery Jim Derick. "This event provides a platform to highlight our services and successes, report on impacts we have made, and chart our course for the year to come."

Purchase tickets, secure a sponsorship, donate to the live and silent auctions, and learn more about SAFE's work at www.safecoalitionma.org/2025-safe-gala

Learn more about SAFE Coalition at (508) 488-8105 or info@safecoalitionma.org

SAFE Responds to WCVB Story on Opioid Abatement Fund

SAFE is thankful to Mike Beaudet and WCVB for highlighting the opioid abatement fund expenditure concerns in a recent news segment (<https://www.wcvb.com/article/opioid-fighting-windfall-sitting-unspent-massachusetts-municipal-coffers/63854693>).

SAFE Coalition has worked with over a dozen communities in Massachusetts to advise, coordinate, and deliver community services related to opioid abatement funds. "Families and individuals who have been impacted by the opioid epidemic deserve these funds to go to support and recovery," says SAFE CEO and co-founder Jen Levine. "We want to help make that process as quick and seamless as possible."

Founded in 2015, SAFE is the only nonprofit in southeast Massachusetts offering wrap-around, zero-cost substance use and mental health services to individuals and families. We have close, first-hand knowledge of the opioid crisis's impact today and the complex landscape of municipal abatement funds.

Opioid fund expenditure plans are incredibly specific, seeking impact through seven key strategies including supporting people in treatment and recovery, building greater connections to care, offering harm reduction (like Narcan, fentanyl test strips, and safe syringe programs), supporting parents and families, and preventing misuse through prevention education.

SAFE has a team dedicated to understanding this expenditure strategy and working with mu-

nicipalities to get it right the first time. "We can appreciate how this unique funding source can create gaps in municipal knowledge related to spending," Levine says. "Our hope is to bridge that knowledge gap so funds can be allocated according to set timelines and expectations."

Families and individuals have been impacted by the opioid epidemic for over 20 years. "By utilizing these funds, we honor all those who have struggled or are currently struggling and encourage people to get care before crisis" says Levine.

SAFE works directly with communities to deliver targeted services based on their highest needs. SAFE's services are designed to support individuals at every stage of their recovery journey, from individual and family support groups to youth education initiatives, peer-led programs, mediation, and counseling services.

We also provide practical resources such as diaper and car seat banks, medication take-back events, Narcan training, trauma-centered yoga, and CPR instruction – all designed to address the broader social and environmental determinants of substance misuse and mental health.

Through a trauma-informed, culturally responsive approach, we ensure that individuals in the community can readily access the critical services they need to improve their overall health, safety, and well-being.

For more information on the SAFE Coalition, visit www.safecoalitionma.org



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April 2025 at First Universalist Society in Franklin

Climate: What will you do?
Sunday, April 6, 2025 @ 10 a.m.

The issue of climate change is an immense problem which can seem overwhelming. The Unitarian Universalist values of Justice, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Interdependence, Generosity and Love remind us of our responsibility to protect the earth and all beings from exploitation and to respect the interdependent web of existence.

Please join us for this Lay Led service as several members of FUSF's Climate Justice Team share personal perspectives and

the steps they are taking to put UU Values and their faith into action! They will also share examples of relatively simple steps one can take to make a difference.

You are cordially invited to continue the discussion after service over coffee and treats in our Fellowship Café.

An Evening of Conversation Regarding Food Sovereignty and Access With special guest speaker Sister Anna Gilbert-Muhammad

Hosted by: the FUSF Food Justice Team

Thursday, April 24, 2025, 7-8:30 p.m.

The FUSF Food Justice team invites you to share an evening

of thoughtful discussion with our special guest, Sister Anna Gilbert-Muhammad. Sister Anna will focus on the current state of food justice, access and sovereignty issues in Massachusetts. This is a particularly timely topic given the current pressures on our food system from climate change and the rapidly changing policies at the federal level. Her discussion will include actions we can take to make an impact.

A reception with light snacks will follow. Donations to FUSF will be gratefully accepted but are not required to attend.

Sister Anna Gilbert-Muhammad currently serves as the Equity Director and Food Access/Webinar Coordinator for Northeast Organic Farmer's Association - MASS Chapter (NOFA/MA). Anna is responsible for the alliances of NOFA/Ma, with groups working on food access issues, food policy and food sovereignty efforts. In her home town of Springfield, MA, Anna works with the "Youth Leader Organic Gardening/Cooking Program" at Home City Housing, "The Open Pantry Community Garden Project" and smaller projects

in the Boston and Springfield Area. Sister Anna wants to see all residents in all communities in Massachusetts have the access they deserve to fresh, wholesome food and to assist all that wish to grow food in their homes.

The First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) is a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation located at 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin. Our Interim Minister is Reverend Beverly Waring. For more information about FUSF please visit fusf.org; or contact us at info@fusf.org; call (508) 528-5348.

New Hope, Inc. Opens Emergency Shelter – House of Hope

On February 27, 2025, Massachusetts State Senator Paul Feeney, Massachusetts State Rep. Jim Hawkins, donors, project staff, and honored guests gathered together to celebrate the completion of New Hope, Inc.'s brand new emergency shelter, House of Hope. House of Hope combines two of New Hope's existing shelters into this state-of-the-art facility, which will house up to 14 individuals and families, as well as pets. Each individual living area is fully furnished and offers a private bathroom, with climate control capabilities.

"Today, is a very, very special occasion for New Hope, for the shelter participants, for survi-

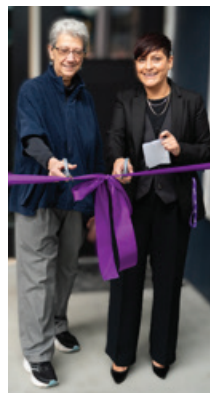
vors across Massachusetts and our neighboring states, for the anti-violence movement, for the community, for our donors and supporters, for New Hope's staff, and for the legacy we are all making today," stated Diana Mancera, New Hope CEO.

"This new shelter is not just a building – it is a sanctuary of hope, a place where safety and new beginnings are possible for those who need it the most. Our mission has always been to be a safe haven for survivors," added Zoryana Djula, Senior Director of Residential Services at New Hope.

Video messages were also shared from US Representative

Jake Auchincloss and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll.

The \$7.5 million project to build House of Hope started in 2019 by New Hope's then-CEO Marcia Szymanski, and the capital campaign continued through the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding for House of Hope's construction came from a federal community project grant secured by Congressman Jake Auchincloss; state funding through the Massachusetts Department of Housing and



Community Development, state budget, and American Rescue Plan Act funds; and private donations.

The highlight of the ceremony was hearing from one of New Hope's current shelter participants, "Lee": "New Hope has given me the most help I've ever received. I am grateful to the staff that show up every single day to put in the work to help all of us obtain our goals. With the help of New Hope, I know I am set up for success [for when I transition out of shelter]."

New Hope, Inc. is a sexual and domestic violence agency serving 41 communities in southeastern and south central Massachusetts. Its comprehensive services include a 24-hour hotline, 800-323-HOPE (4673); emergency shelter; counseling and community-based advocacy services; SAFEPLAN court advocacy; civilian police advocacy; supervised visitation services; RESPECT, an intimate partner abuse education and prevention program; and prevention education and outreach services. All survivor services are free and confidential and are available to everyone affected by sexual and domestic violence.

For more information about New Hope, visit www.new-hope.org.

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**Hours: Monday - Thursday: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Friday: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Saturday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. CLOSED Sunday**

April 2025 at Franklin Public Library

Franklin Public Library's 2025 Reading Challenge!

April: Lend a Hand!

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

Franklin Public Library VITA: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Open Saturdays from 9:30 to 4 p.m.

The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax return preparation to qualified individuals. Qualified individuals generally include: People who generally make \$68,000 or less, persons with disabilities; and limited English-speaking taxpayers. This is a walk-in site with potential wait times.

We can also help you file an extension if you need more time to finalize your taxes.

Learn more at the Library Web Page under adult services or email site coordinator Mitzi Gousie at mgousie@minlib.net

ESL & Adult Literacy Program

The Franklin Public Library has started an English as a Sec-

ond Language and Adult Literacy Program to serve Franklin and its surrounding communities. Volunteers and students do not need to be Franklin residents. If interested, fill out the registration form on the library's website.

Special Events for Kids

Parody Playhouse Concert!
Saturday, April 5th @ 10:30 a.m.

Ed Popielarczyk Magic Show!
Monday, April 7th @ 1 p.m.

Teddy Bear Workshop! Friday,
February 21st @ 1 p.m. AND 2 p.m.
Registration Required!

All materials will be provided!
Limit 1 bear per child Please note - we will be making the same teddy bear that was made at our February Teddy Bear Workshop.

Fairytale Fun! Saturday, April 19th
@ 10:30 a.m.

Local Hero Storytime! Tuesday,
April 22nd @ 10:30 a.m.

Join our friends from the Franklin Fire Department and Franklin Police Department for a special storytime!

The BenAnna Band! Wednesday,
April 23rd @ 10:30 a.m.

Petting Zoo with Records and Burpee! Wednesday, April 23rd @
1 p.m.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover!
Wednesday, April 23rd @ 6 p.m.

Animal Affair! Thursday, April 24th
@ 10 a.m.

Toe Jam Puppet Band! Friday,
April 25th @ 10:30 a.m.

Special Events for Teens

Afterschool Studios! Tuesday,
April 22nd @ 4 p.m. Registration Required!

Join Miss Lily in painting your very own Mirrorball while listening to some Taylor Swift tunes! For ages 10 through 18. All materials provided.

Special Events for Adults

Tax Talk: Personal & Entrepreneur Workshop, Saturday April 19th @
3:30 p.m.

Benjamin Franklin is quoted as saying, "In this world, nothing can be certain except death and taxes." This is the perfect opportunity for anyone who has thought, "why don't they teach taxes in school?!" Please check the library calendar for updates.

Is the Future of Humanities and Libraries Digital?, Tuesday April
22nd @ 6:30 p.m.

Join us in welcoming guest speaker Dr. John Woitkowitz, Head of the Digital Labs at the Germany's Berlin State Library (SBB).

JUNTO Non Fiction Book Club,
Thursday, April 24th @ 6:30 p.m.

In recognition of Arab-American Heritage Month, the April book is Six days of War by Michael B. Oren! Get a physical or digital copy through the Library Catalog!

Special Events for All Ages

Eid Celebration! Saturday, April
5th @ 3 p.m.

Families! Join us for a special celebration of Eid, complete with crafts, music, snacks, and more! For questions/to get involved, email Caleigh at ckeating@minlib.net!

Spring Health Fair, Wednesday,
April 9th @ 3:30 p.m.

The Franklin Public Library and Franklin Health Department invite everyone to enjoy Local Vendors, Health Services, Refreshments, Face Painting, Health Screenings, Activities, Kids Zone, & Much More!

Boston Typewriter Orchestra Free Concert! Saturday, April 12th @ 3
p.m.

It's time for different type of music in a whole new key! The Boston Typewriter Orchestra (BTO) is a collective performance of rhythmic typewriter manipulation. Funding for this program is provided by The Franklin Cultural District, a local agency funded by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Second Annual Honey Tasting,
April 19th @ 2 p.m.

Bee-lieve it or not, there are HUNDREDS of varieties of honey! This buzz worthy treat is a cornerstone of Local agri-

culture. We'll start with a brief talk on honey making and history in Massachusetts followed by a tasting of local & flavored honeys and the grocery store bear. Bee sure to stay for a prize drawing!

This event is supported by The Friends of the Franklin Library!

Dean Vocal Ensemble Concert: "Folk Princess" Tuesday, April 22
@ 1 p.m.

Your favorite Disney hits paired with choruses and folk songs of the real (and unreal) cultures they come from. This includes a spinning song originally published in Lowell MA in 1841, the oldest Secular song ever written (sung by real Viking reenactor Elyssa Björkman), and Sea Shanties galore! Our 7 dwarves might even sing Tolkien poetry.

Flower Slime Friday, April 25th @
2 p.m.

Spring Carnival! Saturday, April
26th @ 1 p.m.

Enjoy a variety of carnival games, crafts, snacks, and more!

Franklin Library Book Sale

Friday, April 11th, 1-5. Saturday, April 12th, 9 a.m. – noon, Books \$1

Bag Sale - \$5 A Bag—Saturday, April 12th, 1-4 p.m.

Franklin residents running for the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team

On April 21, five Franklin, Massachusetts residents are running to defy cancer as a member of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team in the 129th Boston Marathon®.

Along with more than 500 Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge teammates from across the United States and around the world, Craig Brooks, Paul Fazio, Mark Hummel, Shannon Kelley and Tiffany O'Connor will run Massachusetts' historic marathon route from Hopkinton to Boston to collectively raise \$8.5 million for cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

This year marks the 36th annual running of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge (DFMC).

100% of the money raised by the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team benefits Dana-Farber's Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research, which supports promising science research in its earliest stages. The Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge has raised more than \$132 million for the Barr Program to date.

To contribute to the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge, visit RunDFMC.org or contact the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge office at (617) 632-1970 or dfmc@dfci.harvard.edu. Follow DFMC on Facebook: www.facebook.com/marathonchallenge. On Twitter: #RunDFMC.



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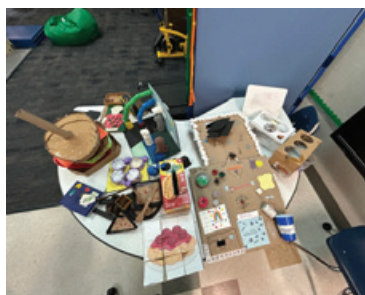



Franklin Public Schools Receives Grant to Further STEM Career Learning

Superintendent Lucas Giguere, High School Principal Dr. Maria Weber, and Franklin Middle School Principal Craig Williams are excited to announce Franklin Public Schools will expand its Project Lead The Way (PLTW) programs to provide hands-on, applied learning and in-depth teacher professional development.

Franklin Public Schools have received additional grant funds from the One8 Foundation to offer new applied learning curricular programming from PLTW that will better prepare students for school and career success. PLTW is a nonprofit organization providing a transformative learning experience for PreK-12 students and teachers through computer science, engineering, and biomedical science coursework. With the PLTW curriculum, students apply their knowledge to solve real-world problems.

“Expanding the Project Lead The Way curriculum resources and instructional materials available to our teachers will strengthen our students’ STEM futures,”



Students worked their way through the design process and created toys and games for other students, such as a tabletop cornhole game, a build-your-own burger set, assorted blocks, a puzzle, fidget boards, teacups, and an operation-style game.
(Photo Courtesy Franklin Public Schools)

said Eric Stark, Franklin Public Schools Director of Curriculum STEM. “I am proud of the real-world connections students are making and the challenges they are tackling.”

Franklin joins more than 12,000 schools across the country offering PLTW programs to millions of students.

“We are thrilled to bring more high-quality applied learning op-

portunities to our students and look forward to the impact this expansion will have on our school community,” said Principal Williams.

Since 2017, the One8 Foundation, the Massachusetts STEM Advisory Council, the Workforce Skill Cabinet, and the Massachusetts Life Science Center have supported expanding PLTW programming for students across the Commonwealth to better prepare them for a rapidly changing, data-rich world. PLTW coursework in biomedical science, engineering, and computer science provides students the skills to access opportunities in sectors that power the state economy.

“Students are hungry for experiences that allow them to apply what they are learning to solve real-world, meaningful problems,” said Joanna Jacobson, President of the One8 Foundation. “Providing equitable access to hands-on applied learning programs that deliver academic gains while building critical thinking and complex problem-solving skills

ensures students are engaged and interested in school and prepared for success in this ever-changing world.”

Franklin Middle School will use grant funds to expand its PLTW Gateway program. Specifically, students will experience Computer Science for Innovators and Makers, Design and Modeling, and Medical Detectives units.

In one class this year, students worked their way through the design process and created a toy or game for other students.

“To ensure these toys were not just another STEM project but truly functional for occupational therapy, I collaborated with the occupational therapists (OTs) from Annie Sullivan Middle School and Helen Keller Elementary School for feedback and guidance,” said STEM Teacher Emily Carens. “I had the privilege of delivering the completed projects to the Occupational Therapy (OT) room, and the OTs were beyond grateful and impressed by the creativity, effort, and thoughtfulness students put into their work. Students dem-

onstrated empathy and problem-solving skills, creating toys that will make a real difference in their school community. PLTW helped make this possible by creating the curriculum to show students that they can make an impact on their community.”

Franklin High School will use grant funds to start its PLTW Biomedical Science program. Students may take Principles of Biomedical Science and Human Body Systems as part of its developing Innovation Career Pathway. Funds from the grant will support teacher professional development and the purchase of materials and equipment for PLTW courses.

In addition, as a school with PLTW programming in Massachusetts, Franklin Middle and High School will have access to a regular set of teacher professional learning opportunities, student project showcases, and connections to industry professionals offered by the Mass Learning Project and the One8 Applied Learning Hub.

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Local Realtor® Rallies Community to Support Troops, Vets



In a heartfelt effort to give back to those currently serving, or have served, our country, Kellie Dow, a dedicated real estate professional with REMAX Executive, organized a successful drive to collect essential supplies needed. The February "Show Your Love" initiative yielded a generous outpouring of goods from community members.

Recognizing the sacrifices made by service members, Kellie Dow partnered with Thanks to Yanks to ensure that the items collected, such as hygiene products, non-perishable snacks, coffee, playing cards and more, will be delivered directly to those overseas, and our veterans at home.

"The response from our community and my fellow REMAX Executive agents was truly incredible. I'm honored to have played a part in making a difference for our troops and veterans." said Kellie Dow. "REMAX Executive is proud to support initiatives that strengthen our community and help those in need. The supply drive is just one of the many ways we give back to the community. I'm also President of the REMAX Executive Charitable Foundation, 501c(3). We have thirteen wonderful volunteer board members that help raise funds all year that directly helps local families. Since inception in 2009, the RCF has helped over

200 families by granting out over \$400,000." said Dow.

Thanks To Yanks, is a non-political 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to support military members, veterans, and their families. You can learn more at www.thankstoyanks.org Like and follow them on Facebook!

For more information about the drive or the REMAX Executive Charitable Foundation, please contact Kellie Dow at (617) 922-1552 or kelliedow-homes@gmail.com.

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