

Something for Everyone at the Family Fest & Home Show

Tri-County Regional Chamber Event to Be Held March 23rd at Tri-County HS

By J.D. O'GARA

Looking for something fun to do for the whole family? Join the Tri-County Regional Chamber on Saturday, March 23rd, for the Family Fest & Home Show, to take place at Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School (TCRVTHS), 147 Pond St., Franklin, from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

The event will feature over 100 local vendors as well as activities for the entire family. For admission, choose between a \$5 all-day pass or contribute an item to the Franklin Food Pantry for each guest.

"We've held this event for many years at Blackstone Valley Tech in Upton," says Tri-County Regional Chamber



President and CEO Laura O'Callaghan, who says the Chamber, after putting the event on hiatus after COVID, decided to change up the location and hold it at Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School (RVTHS) gym in Franklin this year, to be inclusive of its wide reach of 10 towns, including Bellingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Medway, Mendon, Milford, and Millis. "Planning this large event has been a breeze. Lori Villemaire, Executive Assistant to Superintendent Maguire, is a pleasure to work with," says O'Callaghan, referring to the



Four pie-eating contests will be part of the fun of the Tri-County Regional Chamber's Family Fest & Home Show, to be held Saturday, March 23rd, from 10-2, at Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School. Photos used courtesy of Tri-County Regional Chamber.

HOME SHOW

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Shown are tutors who volunteer at the Franklin Public Library's ESL program. With the number of students growing to 159 from 46 just 10 months ago, the program is in need of more volunteer tutors. From left to right: Cyra Hathaway, Roseline Estriplet, Heather Russell, Leslie Wardrop, Amy Stark. Photo by Cliff Winters.

Franklin Library's ESL Program Sees Sharp Rise in Need, Seeks Volunteer Tutors

Franklin Local Town Pages is putting a spotlight on the Franklin Public Library's free ESL program. Felicia Oti, Franklin Public Library Director, was kind enough to answer our questions. See below:

How long has FPL run the ESL program? How did it come about?

The Franklin Public Library had an established ESL and Literacy program that ran for 12 years. In 2009, faced with deep budget cuts, the library had to eliminate this program. Even though Franklin's ESL program went away, the need did not. Calls from residents looking for English language

learning assistance continued. With planning, creative programming and unparalleled dedication from volunteers, the library restarted the ESL program again in April, 2023 to respond to urgent community request.

How has the program been received?

Feedback from the tutors and students has been overwhelming positive. For the students, this program is a lifeline to a better job, the confidence and ability to commu-

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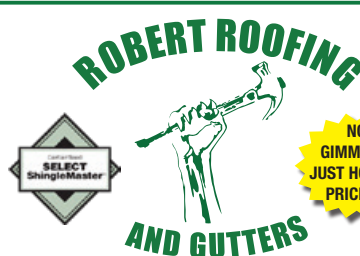
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HOME SHOW

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warm welcome the school gave the Chamber.

“Anytime we can open our doors and partner with a great community organization such as the Tri-County Regional Chamber, we jump at the opportunity. We are excited to host the 2024 Family Fest and Home Show and have no doubt the day will be a great success for not only the vendors but all attendees,” says Tri-County RVTHS Superintendent Dr. Karen Maguire.

O’Callaghan says it’s a Chamber tradition to hold the event on the 4th Saturday in March each year. “People are looking for fun things to do before the kids’ activities begin, before families start gearing up for the sports season,” says O’Callaghan. “We want to have an interactive day for the whole family, where it won’t cost an arm and a leg to have fun,” says the Chamber President and CEO.

In addition to a wide array of vendors and great bargains, family friendly events continue to be added to the Family Fest & Home Show, including:



“If your product caters to families and homeowners, this is where you should be,” says Chamber President and CEO Laura O’Callaghan. Reardon HVAC is a long-time participant.

- Face painting
- A visit with Peter Cottontail (aka The Easter Bunny), with free photographs families can take home that day and a small gift
- A demonstration from a local martial arts school
- Smokey the Bear
- Tik Tok personality – Jack Hill
- Magician Ed the Wizard, who will not only perform but will mingle with the crowd
- A good old-fashioned pie-eating contest, with competitions at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. (up to 12 participants per round, drop by and sign up)
- A chance to vote for the “People’s Choice” in the Mac-n-Cheese Cookoff from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., with five local restaurateurs putting

forth their best creamy combo in hopes of winning one of two trophies – one judged by attendees and the other by sponsors of the event

The Chamber’s Family Fest & Home Show will also, importantly, give local businesses a chance to network with potential new customers.

“People do business with people they know and like,” says O’Callaghan, adding, “There’s so much in the power of conversation, and there’s great potential to get new leads.”

Tom Reardon, of Reardon HVAC, is one of those proprietors. He’s participated in the Family Fest & Home Show for a number of years.

“I think it’s good public exposure,” says Reardon, whose heating and air conditioning company has been in business 68 years. While he’d be unlikely to sell heating and air-condition-



The Family Fest & Home Show welcomes all sorts of vendors, many of whom will offer bargains that day.

ing systems on the spot, he welcomes the opportunity to make first contact with homeowners, who, down the road, may need such services.

On-the-spot contracts have been known to happen, however. “One year, we had a veteran that started a franchise building retainer walls through a Veteran’s program,” says O’Callaghan, “He got a job for \$100k at the show.”

While over 100 vendors are expected, there’s still time to sign up. Deadline for registering is March 15th. The cost for booths varies by size, business, and membership, with discounts for members, and access to electricity is first come/first served.

“Any type of business can get join us,” says O’Callaghan, “If your product and service caters to homeowners and families, this is where you should be.”

For this event, the Tri-County Regional Chamber is offering a promotion of an annual membership plus a single booth for \$650. Members have access to networking events, business education and training, free start-up resources and workshops, leadership opportunities, access to business referrals and other resources. Learn more about vendor booths or sign up at <https://www.tricountychamberma.org/vendor-registration>.

For an added business opportunity, companies can choose to sponsor the show. Those interested in ramping up their brand’s promotional efforts and customer base can choose from five different levels of sponsorship. Deadline for sponsoring the event is March 15th Visit the sponsorship page for more details at <https://www.tricountychamberma.org/family-fest-sponsors>.

Volunteers are still needed for the event.

“Volunteers will make it go a lot smoother for everyone. The vendors have quite a bit to set up, and we’re hoping to get some enthusiastic students to jump in and help them unload/load their vehicles, help with the Easter Bunny pictures, help vendors find their spaces, and such. They’ll get their needed volunteer hours, and we’ll make sure there’s plenty of pizza so that they don’t go hungry during the day!” says O’Callaghan.

Anyone interested in helping can visit the volunteer page at <https://www.tricountychamberma.org/volunteer>. High school students looking to earn credit toward their volunteer service should reach out to Sherri Hannon at sherri@tricountychamberma.org.

For more information about the Tri-County Regional Chamber’s Family Fest & Home Show on March 23rd, visit

<https://www.tricountychamberma.org/family-fest>.

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ESL

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nicate well with their children, teachers, doctors and socially. For the tutors, the ESL program provides an opportunity to learn about other cultures, build community and change lives.

One tutor says, “I have gained so much from my getting to know my student and will always be grateful for the opportunity. Thank you and the Franklin Library ESL program for the training you provided and for the opportunity to meet my student and have an impact on her life. It has been a wonderful experience for me.”

How is the program funded? (Does it require funding?)

This program is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

How many students would you say you have now?

There are currently 159 students, up from 46 in May, 2023.

What languages are prevalent among the students?

Our students speak 19 different languages with Spanish, Russian, French, Hangui-Korea, Mandarin, Hindi, Portuguese, Farsi, Arabic and Creole being the most prevalent.

How about tutors? How many are there, and what does it take to be a tutor in terms of training and time commitment?

The library owes the successful launch of this program to 42 invaluable, resourceful, patient, and outstanding volunteers, most of whom are retired teachers with experience teaching ESL. Their commitment and brilliant insights have made this program possible.

Do you have to be an adult to be a tutor?

Could students teach ESL and use it toward the graduation requirement?

There are no current provisions to accommodate this, but it is worth looking into in the future.

With the increase in students, do you have enough ESL tutors?

Volunteers are needed. To continue with the program and fulfill the increasing demands, the library needs more volunteers. Please consider volunteering! Requirements are as follows:

To Volunteer:

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Speak English clearly
- Have patience
- No teaching experience is necessary
- Volunteers do not need to be Franklin residents

Commitment:

- One orientation session
- 18 Hours of training
- Meet with your student 2 hours per week for one year

Xaverian Brothers Announces 2nd Quarter Honor Roll

Dr. Jacob Conca, Head of School at Xaverian Brothers High School, is pleased to announce that 657 have been named to the honor roll for the second marking period of the 2023-2024 school year.

The following students from Franklin have achieved 2nd Quarter honors:

Liam Hauser, Ryken Honors, 8
Kevin Murphy, Ryken Honors, 8
Aidan Arnold, Ryken Honors, 9
Connor Kotwicki, Ryken Honors, 9
Maxwell Bullen, Ryken Honors, 10
Alexander Hall, Ryken Honors, 11
Christopher Theodorou, Ryken Honors, 11
Colin Clark, Ryken Honors, 12
Sebastian Caggiano, First Honors, 7
Devin Fanning, First Honors, 7
Ryan Connelly, First Honors, 8
Theodore Papadopoulos, First Honors, 8
Braedan Levine, First Honors, 9
Ryan Verrette, First Honors, 9
Thomas Constantine, First Honors, 10
Timothy Murphy, First Honors, 10
John O'Connor, First Honors, 11
Samuel Verrette, First Honors, 11
Michael O'Connor, First Honors, 12
Samuel Quick, First Honors, 12
Domenic Izzo, Second Honors, 9
Justin Mosher, Second Honors, 9
Jack Scullin, Second Honors, 10
Connor Follett, Second Honors, 11
Michael Hogan, Second Honors, 11



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Sober Softball Builds Connections and Community

By DAVID DUNBAR

Options for those in the national drug/alcohol addiction and recovery field are huge. These days, some of the best stories are coming from the local baseball field.

Which is precisely where something called “Sober Softball” is preparing to open its new season for 2024.

“Anyone can join the team, as long as they are sober,” explains Lisa Trusas, a Senior Recovery Coach with Chris’ Corner in Milford. “We are looking for people in recovery and those who are allies. The practices are usually held in Upton or Milford and games are on Sundays in Worcester. We are ordering new jerseys, so the sooner the better to join. April 27th is the kickoff, and it starts with a single pitch tournament. May 5th is when the regular season starts. Come join the summer Sober Softball team!”

Chris’ Corner, located at 12 Main Street in Milford, is a

newly established location, currently providing virtual recovery-oriented care and support to help individuals, children, and families, with mental health and substance use disorders to improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential, according to its website.

Sober softball players come from surrounding towns, including Bellingham and Franklin. For \$60 which includes a jersey, you can join and it’s open to men and women. More information is available at www.chriscornermilford.com or by calling (508) 552-8080.

Matt Dickie is from Bellingham and learned about sober softball from a friend last March. “He was talking about softball, and I told him I used to play years ago and was interested in playing again. So, he asked me to join the team at Chris’ Corner. I decided I wanted to participate, because I hadn’t played in such a long time, and I missed



Sober softball team Chris’ Corner from last fall. Coach Nick Pinto is kneeling and on the left. Regular season play will begin May 5.

it. I missed the bond you have with your teammates the excitement of the game and the competition.”

Nick Pinto is the coach of the team. “I’ve been coaching going on three years... I used to play in the sober softball league for a different team and wanted to get my community into it, because sobriety made me scared at first because I didn’t know if I could have fun or what life was going to be like and I wanted to build connections and support for the people in my community.”

“I found a group of people,” adds Pinto, “that I call family, and we’re here for everybody to help everyone and build everyone up, come together for a common cause of just having a

better day than yesterday without using drugs or alcohol. It’s my favorite support system to show that you’re not alone out there, the opposite of addiction is connection... alone I can’t, but together we can!”

And from the Chris’ Corner website: “Our leadership team and staff bring years of experience, both working with substance abuse as well as facing our own demons and coming out the other side. We know change is possible, and we’re here to give you the tools to create your own success story.”

“I’m not sure who came up with the idea of sober softball,” adds Trusas. “We are in a league with other sober facilities whether they are sober houses,

other recovery centers and detoxes.”

She continues, “Nick runs the Sunday night AA meeting in Worcester, and he is the one who approached us with sponsoring a softball team. He has more than three years in recovery and has played and coached our team. We joined the league in the summer of 2022. So, the team is named after our recovery center, but the sponsors are the Regional Substance Navigation Program, Christopher W. Swindell Foundation, and the Law Offices of Melanie Solomon.”

“It’s just about us coming together and building relationships and support and building each other up and having fun and showing people that sobriety doesn’t have to be boring,” says Pinto. “We can all come together and have a great time – win or lose, it’s for fun. It’s a great opportunity for people to feel part of something.”

“Sober softball,” says Bellingham’s Matt Dickie, “offers amazing support especially for those who are struggling. You don’t have to go through sobriety alone. You know why? Because you can’t. Trust me, I know. So, c’mon out and join the team. It will be the best decision you’ve made in a while.”

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The 12th annual Culinary Cabaret spotlights this region’s outstanding culinary talent, showcasing fine wines, craft beer, delectable spirits, flavorful dishes, and mouth-watering

desserts by culinary partners. This special evening has been a celebrated part of FPAC’s yearly performance calendar for over a decade.

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artists of the Franklin Performing Arts Company, Culinary Cabaret supports Electric Youth’s 2024 European tour. Franklin Performing Arts Company is Franklin’s own professional theater company.

THE BLACK BOX is located at 15 W. Central St. in downtown Franklin, MA. For tickets and more information on Culinary Cabaret, visit FPA-Online.com or call the box office at (508) 528-3370. Follow Franklin Performing Arts Company and THE BLACK BOX on Facebook and Instagram for updates on programming.

Hiking Ruins of Southern New England

By MARJORIE TURNER HOLLMAN

Are you interested in history, archeology, geology or simply enjoy getting outside for a walk? If so, *Hiking Ruins of Southern New England* is the book for you (available for pre-order, to be published April 2, 2024). The first section of the book offers basic practices for safely spending time outside walking trails. The guide documents in total forty locations in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Detailed maps and directions make this a really useful tool for discovering places to walk that you may never have heard of.

You will find detailed histories of the various destinations included. Both authors are academics, located in Connecticut. Not surprisingly, that is where the majority of the listed trails are found. Several trails are also identified in Rhode Island and the remainder are in Massachusetts.

Terms I had never heard of, like firebacks (the back of stone fireplaces), are explained. Color photos help readers understand what to look for when visiting specific areas. Reading each chapter is not just an archeological education. The authors include historical information about each area, with explanations of the significance of these sites. An unspoken but clear point is that history and archeology are inextricably intertwined.

Helpful details in each chapter include an address, information about trail surfaces, whether dogs are welcome and how to get there. The work required to accumulate all this information is considerable and difficult to obtain without actually visiting each trail. If you are looking for information to help make educated decisions about visiting outdoor destinations, this book is a great place to start. Understanding what is not obvious, yet in plain sight, will add to the simple enjoyment of exploring the outdoors.

If locals in the Bellingham area are interested in exploring ruins nearby, you need only venture to the High Street athletic fields in Franklin. Head to the back of the field. Look for the trail kiosk and follow the red



Triad bridge abutment

arrows to the Upper Charles River. (Yes, the mighty Charles does flow through Bellingham, although it is of modest size as it passes by us.) Next to the river you will find stone foundations partially buried by brushy plants. Bellingham's first place of worship (the Baptists) was on High Street. The stone foundations next to the river could be what remain of an early Bellingham home, perhaps a Baptist congregation member? The Charles River at this same spot hosts remnants of a dam that was most likely a seasonal power source for inhabitants.

Stone remnants of a mill race remain just off a trail behind Stall Brook Elementary School. Water power was essential to operating mills throughout New England. The Stall Brook in Bellingham was a seasonal source of power, but the mill is long gone. The remnants of the dam squeeze the Stall Brook into an impressive steep cascade that then flows into the Charles River, not far downstream.

West Hill dam, in Uxbridge, Massachusetts, has foundation walls that appear to have been a barn or house structure. The ruins are quite near the swimming area, next to a trail in the Army Corps of Engineers' flood control area.

Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Norfolk hosts stone structures that once were essential to the operation of the various mills that were constructed at the site over the centuries. The picturesque dam and cascade are visible remains of the mill infrastructure that was an essential part of the local economy in days gone by.

An impressive stone structure can be found at the Mowry Conservation area in Smithfield, Rhode Island. A part of the Woonquatucket watershed, this area also hosts stunning rock overhangs, carved out by the swiftly flowing river that bisects the property.

A treasured town landmark, War Memorial Park, in Bridgewater, features an intricate network of canals and sluiceways. The channeled water powered multiple industries located at the site over several hundred years.

Stone walls are found almost exclusively in New England and New York State, (in the U.S.) and are reminders of the strenuous labor expended by farmers to create boundaries, mark the edges of roads, and enclose grazing animals. Walls meandering through woodland were built on the edges of open farm fields. Once the land ceased being farmed, shrubs, then trees soon filled in the open spaces.

Triad bridge bridge abutment
The more you get outside, the more of these nearly forgotten ruins you will discover. Keep your eyes open. Look alongside streams where dry laid stone structures tell the story of power sources erected in a bygone era. You may be surprised at the quantity of ruins that remain in your own community.



War Memorial Park, West Bridgewater

The variety of ruins included in *Hiking Ruins of Southern New England* will expand your understanding of life in New England in earlier times. The detailed maps of the sometimes rugged trails included are worth the cost of the book. The multiple color photos with explanations of what each structure reveals is eye-opening. After seeing the distinct

characteristics of these stone structures, you will get better at recognizing the various types of ruins that remain in plain sight. Sometimes you may discover that they are right around the corner from where you live.

Spring is coming. Make plans to get outside and start exploring and have fun!



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PULSE Connects Young Professionals

By ANGIE FITTON

Are you a professional aged 45 and under? Then PULSE Young Professionals Group is definitely where you want to be! PULSE is hosted by the Tri-County Regional Chamber of Commerce and was founded by Chairperson Alycia McCallum in 2017. McCallum initiates and runs each monthly event with her co-chair Ariane Morais.

The Chamber of Commerce is based in Milford, but covers ten different towns: Bellingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Medway, Mendon, Milford, Millis and Upton. They recently celebrated a huge milestone-100 years of service as of 2022!

So, what exactly is PULSE and what does it entail? PULSE is a young professionals networking group that meets once a

month in one of the towns that the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce oversees.

"It is a place where young professionals can meet like-minded young professionals," says McCallum. "The people who attend these events build long term connections and relationships with one another." This month, on Tuesday, March 12th at 9:30 a.m., visit King St. Cafe at 390 King Street in Franklin to find out what PULSE is all about! The link to register is at www.tri-countychamberma.org.

Upon the start of the meeting, because it is considered speed-networking, each individual in the group gives a 60-second Introduction, which is a great way to share your professional background and interests, and also break the ice. The attendees are broken up into small groups where they can interact about



things such as common interests and pain points in business. They discuss upcoming sales or events for their business and oftentimes give one another referrals. In order to get the most of the opportunities presented while taking part in these PULSE meetings, it is encouraged that each person schedules at least two follow-up one on one meetings with those they connect with in the group.

This month's event is what is known as a "coffee connection", where young professionals meet and partake in discussions over coffee and breakfast. McCallum and Morais like to mix it up and alternate between coffee connections and "after hours events".

In February, the event was vis-

iting a brewery after hours. There have also been trivia nights, and the members of PULSE work on thinking of different ways to engage and be proactive with social/professional development activities. Unlike many professional networking programs, PULSE does not limit one seat per profession, keeping the group open to anyone who wants to attend, not relying on a "first come first served" policy.

PULSE also prides itself on being passionate about volunteering. In the early fall, they always have an event designed to give back to the community. Last fall they visited Gilly's House in Wrentham, where they had a barbeque and potluck dinner. While there, they had the opportunity to get to know the residents and toured the house.

The Tri-County Chamber of Commerce is also very big on

empowering women and connecting women leaders. They recently hosted an after-hours event at Dean College in Franklin to discuss the importance of networking. On Saturday, March 23rd, they will hold the Family Fest and Home Show at the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School.

Alycia is grateful for the work she does with the Chamber of Commerce, alongside its members. Currently the committee members are Gregg Katz, Ryan Bradley, Kenyhton Burton and Eric Munoz, along with Sherri Hannon who is the Director of Programs and Events. "We want to grow the Chamber and hope in the future that young professionals who attend the PULSE events will become members," she states.

Franklin Food Pantry Distributes Record # of Holiday Meal Kits

Demand for Food Assistance Growing in Franklin Community

The Franklin Food Pantry, which provides supplemental food assistance and programs in Franklin, Massachusetts, distributed 275 holiday meal kits to coincide with the Thanksgiving

holiday, and 333 holiday meal kits for December holiday celebrations. The meal kits were distributed curbside by volunteers and staff. Many of the meal kit items, including the reusable

shopping bags, were donated by community groups, local business partners, and supporters of The Pantry.

This year's demand for holiday meal kits echoes the overall increase for food and services at The Pantry. Visits to The Pantry from September to December 2023 increased 42 percent vs. the same period last year. The Pantry attributes the growing need to continued high cost of food and housing, the end of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Emergency Allotments, and The Pantry's increased visibility on Rt. 140 in Franklin.


"We are grateful for the opportunity to provide hunger relief to our neighbors in need especially during the holiday season, but the growing need underscores that there is more work to be done," said Tina Powderly, Executive Director, of the Franklin Food Pantry. "Fighting hunger is an ongoing battle and with the community's support we can get food into the hand of those who are experiencing food insecurity throughout the year."

Individuals, community groups, and businesses can get involved by hosting a food or fund drive, making a tax-deductible

donation, or volunteering. More opportunities to get involved are listed on The Pantry's website, <https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/get-involved>.

For more information on the Franklin Food Pantry, or if you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please call (508) 528-3115 or email info@franklinfoodpantry.org.

The Franklin Food Pantry, Inc. is located at 341 W. Central St. in Franklin, MA on Route 140. Please visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org for more information.



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.

WHY YOU NEED A TRUST

A trust will help you avoid probate and appoint a trustee to manage assets for family members or beneficiaries who are unable to manage their assets.

WHY YOU NEED A WILL


Wills can distribute your property, name an executor, name guardians for children, forgive debts and more. Having a will also means that you, rather than your state's laws, decide who gets your property when you die.

WHY YOU NEED A HEALTH CARE PROXY

A health care proxy is a document that names someone you trust as your proxy, or agent, to express your wishes and make health care decisions for you if you are unable to speak for yourself.

WHY YOU NEED A DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY

A Durable Power of Attorney provides extensive power to the individual who is assigned that role. Absent an appointed Agent in a Durable Power of Attorney, it would be necessary for a family member or loved one to petition the court to become the guardian over the incapacitated person.

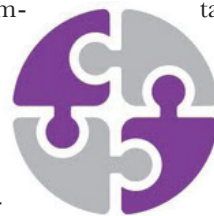


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Party for The Pantry to Take Place March 29 at GlenPharmer Distillery

Join local bands The Pub Kings and South Street Six for Party for The Pantry - a night of celebration, community, and making a positive impact. The fundraising event will take place on Friday, March 29 from 7 pm to 11 pm at GlenPharmer Distillery 860 W. Central Street in Franklin, MA. Dance the night away with sensational performances from local bands and take part in silent auctions, and raffles.



All proceeds from the event will support the Franklin Food Pantry, which offers supplemental food assistance, household necessities, and resource referral programs to individuals and families throughout the Franklin community. Since July 2023, The Pantry has experienced a 41% increase in demand for supplemental food assistance vs. the same time last year. Proceeds from the event will help The Pantry purchase much-needed items

and pay for daily operations.

Tickets to the event are \$40 each and can be purchased at www.franklinfoodpantry.org. Please note this is a 21+ event.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for \$350 and include a listing on the event banner, mention on Myfm 101.3, social media posts on Myfm 101.3 and Franklin Food Pantry, and two tickets to the event. For more information, visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org/happenings/events.



Advantage Appliance, where ‘Our service is your advantage’

Advantage Appliance has been in business for 25 years, where they specialize in repairing, not replacing, all major appliance brands.

“We are local people helping local families to keep their daily routines with little to no disruption with appliance functioning needs,” says owner Brian Kowal. “That is why our motto is ‘Our service is your advantage.’”

Many of the staff have been with the company for decades and are considered part of the ‘Team Advantage Family,’ says Kowal. “Family-owned means that everyone here is family (Team Advantage Family) and not just a number. We invest in good people to get the job done right the first time.”

Advantage Appliance’s ‘typical’ customer is someone who does not want to go shopping for new appliances but wants to repair the appliances they have.

“Someone who cares about Mother Nature and our landfills, someone who wants to save some money because repairs are cheaper than replacements,” says Kowal. “The cost of new appliances has gone through the roof, and we like to keep the old appliances running as long as possible.”

They service all makes and all brand appliances right in the customer’s home. And the Advantage Appliance Parts Department can get any part (that is still available) quickly and at the best possible price. Their parts are original and not after-market parts.

Customer service is a key focus at Advantage Appliance.

- When a customer calls, they’ll speak to a real person.



- When they schedule a repair, they’ll receive a confirmation email and text the night before
- Customers receive a photograph of their technician, so they know who will arrive at their home.
- Customers can track their technician’s route on the day of service to better gauge when they’ll arrive.
- All employees are background checked and drug screened.
- They service Whirlpool, Maytag, JennAir, Kitchen Aid, Roper, Kirkland, and Ingles brands.
- Customers can visit or call the store for help ordering appliance parts which can be delivered to their home.
- All parts and labor are guaranteed for one year.

Community service is also important to this local business.

“We have given away several washing machines and dryers in the past,” says Kowal. “In the past, we donated a washer to a needy family that couldn’t afford one, a dryer to a single mom who couldn’t afford to repair it, and a washer to a retired veteran who used to go to the



laundromat to wash his clothes.”

For more information, visit www.advantageappliance.biz (where you can also schedule a service call), call/text 888-532-9355, or watch for the opening of their new location at 447 E. Central St. in Franklin.



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Children's Museum Mobile Exhibits a Hit; Gala Planned

By J.D. O'GARA

Momentum is growing for the Children's Museum of Franklin, as over 1,000 people attended the 501 c(3) nonprofit's first couple of Mobile Pop-Up exhibits.

The museum's organizers continue to plan mobile exhibits as well as its first major community awareness and fundraising event, Night at the Museum Gala, a 21+ event from 7-10 p.m. on Thursday, April 11th at THE BLACK BOX, 15 West Central Street, Franklin.

"We have been thrilled with the excitement and the number of people coming in. It's been amazing," says Erin Gallagher, co-founder of the Children's Museum, along with Meg Hagen, "One person who attended said it was like walking into a kids' paradise."

The two are still working on securing a location in downtown Franklin.

"That's not totally ironed out, yet," says Gallagher, "Hopefully, we'll be able to announce a spot in the not-too-distant future."

In the meantime, the organization is going strong planning its mobile events. The following



Pop-Up Indoor Mobile Museum events were planned for this month as of press time, with more to come in Franklin and in neighboring towns:

- March 5, 2024, Franklin Public Library, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 118 Main St., Franklin
- March 16, 2024, Franklin Public Library, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 118 Main St., Franklin

To stay apprised of upcoming mobile exhibits, visit <https://www.childrensmuseumfranklin.org/events>.

"The audience for a children's museum drives up to an hour to visit the museum," says Gallagher. "(It's) going to be a benefit for the community around

Franklin and much further, too. We'll be popping up into neighboring communities to get some exposure, to let people know we're coming, we're here, and we're growing in the surrounding region."

So, far, Gallagher says Nor-folk, Medway and Holliston are locations the museum is considering, but the two are open to suggestions.

"We would, of course, welcome anybody who has ideas for other locations in other communities, too," says Gallagher. "We really do need quite a bit of space to bring the whole museum with us." To illustrate this, Gallagher points out that the mobile Children's Museum pop-ups will take up all three community room spaces when they're held at Franklin Public Library. She also points out that the museum's pop-ups at Franklin's Downtown Sports were a hit.

"We were excited for the opportunity to partner with them, because they've done some really great programming for the community, so our values certainly align," says Gallagher.

The Children's Museum of Franklin is still welcoming sponsors for its gala on April 11th. The event will feature Dean College President Kenn Elmore as emcee, mobile exhibits grown-ups can play with, live entertainment, fun food and a drink ticket, and an online silent auction (launched later this month), the winners of which will be announced at the event.

To get your ticket for a night of fun in support of the Children's Museum of Franklin, visit <https://www.childrensmuseum-franklin.org/gala>.



Shown are members of Rotary Club of Franklin, MA, with some of the tasty brunch items they provided to local seniors. From left Bob Host, Rick Power, John Power, Judy Alfred, Joe Collins, Mary Grace Duffy, Dr. Bill Koplin, and Jennifer Collins

Rotary Valentine's Brunch a Hit for Local Seniors

Group Plans Comedy Fundraiser April 20th.

By J.D. O'GARA

February 10th was the date of this year's Valentine Brunch for Franklin seniors, an annual event hosted at 1000 Central Park Terrace by Rotary Club of Franklin, MA. This year's event was a packed house, with over 70 seniors enjoying delicious breakfast items cooked by Rotarians, including broccoli and cheese frittata, delicious hash browns and pecan French toast along with other breakfast standards. Young men from the Lion's Heart or-

ganization helped the Rotarians serve the seniors.

The Rotary can provide events like these for folks in Franklin with funds from various fundraisers. In fact, they have a fundraiser coming up next month.

The Rotary Club of Franklin MA's 2nd Annual Comedy Night Fundraiser will take place at the Franklin Elks, 1077 Pond St., Franklin, MA 02038, on April 20th. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., where guests can enjoy a buffet dinner, cash bar, a FREE door prize chance, raffles and the comedic stylings Jody Sloane, Harrison Stebbins, and the return of Mark Scalia.

Tickets are only \$50/pp and may be purchased by calling (508) 284-9598, or online (+ \$2 processing fee that covers dinner and the show) are available at: <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35936/production/1190666>

For more information about Rotary, visit <https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary>



The annual Franklin Rotary Valentine's brunch saw a full house of local, full, and happy seniors.



Volunteers from Lions Heart helped at the brunch. From left, Justin Bosley, William Best, Syed Azhar, AJ Trull, Jack Outchunis, Owen Lewis, Drake Dolby, James Reader



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Your Money, Your Independence

At or Near Retirement? Time to Say Bucket!.

Those at or near retirement face many decisions.

Transitioning from a paycheck that builds savings to taking distributions from a lifetime of investing is a top challenge.

Retirees view risks differently, including market volatility, sequence of returns, interest rates, inflation, health, and longevity to outlive money. Still, the greatest risk is behavioral as gone are the days of throwing new money at poor planning and decision making.

Some retirees completely change strategies. Others attempt to align investments to high yields (and unintended risks) to meet income needs. Many overcompensate to a feel-good cash amount.

While noble, these “retirement strategies” lack in spending expectations, aspirational goals, variables, and opportunity costs. When market, economic or political turmoil depresses portfolios, fear drives many to react irrationally. This leaves them without a strategy and no new money to throw at poor planning and decision making.

How to approach a sustainable retirement income strategy?

The Bucket Strategy. In its simplest form, it’s a retirement income strategy based on segmenting assets to when they’re being spent. This creates a cash cushion to cover income gaps early in retirement years, while maximizing remaining assets over longer periods.



Glenn Brown, CFP

Time horizons and number of buckets are flexible, to start I propose 3 buckets.

Bucket #1 needed in 1-3 years is cash, money market and CDs in a taxable account. Liquidity, safety, and low taxation to access funds are key.

Bucket #2 needed in 4-6 years is a mix of investment grade bonds, low-volatility stocks and hard assets diversified across ETFs (exchange-traded funds) in taxable accounts and traditional IRAs.

Bucket #3 needed in 7+ years is a mix of diversified growth investments and if applicable, real estate, concentrated stock, and legacy investments across taxable, traditional and Roth IRAs. Given Roth IRA’s tax-free benefits, these are the last funds to access.

As time moves forward, buckets are replenished in a tax efficient manner by either selling,

transferring, and/or distributing (i.e. RMDs) assets from Bucket #3 to #2 and Bucket #2 to #1.

Easy? Let’s discuss critical prerequisites.

Know your income gap. “We spend \$8K a month, so we need \$96K income a year.” No, spending doesn’t equal income needs. Say a spouse receives \$20K in social security and other gets \$35K starting next year. So Year 1 income gap is \$76K (\$96K - \$20K) while Year 2 is \$41K.

All work and no play... What of your aspirational goals in retirement? Don’t wait until 75 to start, instead spend ahead and under control by planning a block of years and \$ amount. For example, “From ages 62-72, add \$20K extra per year for more travel.”

What of future liabilities? A mortgage ending? New vehicles needed? A remodel or home repair? Moving to reduce costs and taxes? Assisted living? Gifting to help adult kids?

Build your cash flow analysis. By factoring income sources, assets, growth rates, planned distributions, living expenses, one-off expenses, liabilities, inflation, and taxes, we see positive or negative cash flows this year and in future years.

Negative cash flow, a.k.a. your income gap, varies each year.

Consider:

- 2024 -\$52K
- 2025 -\$44K
- 2026 -\$65K
- 2027 -\$34K
- 2028 -\$21K
- 2029 -\$24K

Bucket #1 is \$161K, #2 has \$79K and #3 is remaining assets seeking long-term growth.

Come June 2024, review and confirm your spending rate, rerun cash flow with updated values, then raise 50% of 2027 (~\$17K) from Bucket #2 to #1. In most tax efficient manner, move 50% of 2029 (~\$12K) from Bucket #3 to #2.

Rinse/Repeat every 6 months for ongoing 2.5 to 3 years of cash to cover income gaps. This reduces fear and large withdrawals,

provides lifestyle confidence, and participates in long-term investment growth over market cycles.

More to consider than space allows, so speak with your Certified Financial Planner.

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

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of 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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Broadway's Ruby Lewis and More Join Josh Strickland in FPAC's Reimagined Tarzan

Further casting has been announced for the Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC)'s reimagined production of *Tarzan* the Broadway musical starring Broadway's original *Tarzan* Josh Strickland March 8-17 at THE BLACK BOX in Franklin, MA. Ruby Lewis (*Paramour*) will star as Jane alongside Tyrick Wiltez Jones (*Hairspray*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *Bat Out of Hell*) as Terk. Maria Sylvia Norris and P.T. Mahoney will appear as Kala and Kerchak, with Nick Paone as Clayton and Liam Kerrigan as Young Tarzan. Katie Gray and Andrew Scott Holmes will be featured vocalists with the show's band.

The ensemble, comprised of NYC and Boston/Providence talent as well as collegiate actors from programs like Dean College, includes Casey Harkness Andrade, April Ball, Gia Chessa, Heather Dorler, Takaaki Matsumoto, Emiliano Morales, DJ Ormond, Julia Ormond, Myranda Rose Silva, Kellie Stamp, Johanna Stipetic, Lindsay Tomas, and Isis Wilson. The cast will be joined by Student Apprentice Perform-

ers from the Franklin School for the Performing Arts Elena Baker, Helena Cornwell, Devin Curley, Finley Doherty, Emmett Eastman, John Fitzhenry, Anya Fox, Macie Hoben, Matthew Packard, Ashley Pepin, Mason Sanford, Kate Settle, Angelina Willey, Owen Charles, Grayson Kerrigan, and Colette Lelievre.

FPAC's flexible theater space, THE BLACK BOX, will be transformed into a multi-stage rock concert centering the iconic Phil Collins music, while telling the classic story by blending Broadway and concert experience. Conceptualized and directed by Raye Lynn Mercer and Ali Funkhouser, the show will feature choreography by Broadway's Clay Rice-Thomson (*Moulin Rouge!*, *King Kong*, *Newsies*, *Matilda*) and music direction by Hallie Wetzell. Based on Disney's epic animated musical adventure and Edgar Rice Burrough's *Tarzan of the Apes*, *Tarzan* features heart-pumping music by rock legend, Phil Collins, and a book by Tony Award-winning playwright, David Henry Hwang. High-flying excitement and hits, like the Acad-



emy Award winning "*You'll Be in My Heart*," as well as "Son of Man," and "Two Worlds," make *Tarzan* an unforgettable theatrical experience. In 2006, Josh Strickland created the leading role of *Tarzan* in Disney's musical *Tarzan* on Broadway. In 2009, he made his starring Las Vegas debut in

Peepshow at Planet Hollywood Casino & Resort while concurrently co-starring in the hit E! reality show *Holly's World*. Strickland debuted his first single "Report to the Floor," which skyrocketed to the top-five on the iTunes Dance Charts the first week of its release, followed by "Last Dance." Ruby Lewis

starred as Indigo in Cirque du Soleil's premiere Broadway show, *Paramour*. She specializes in biographical roles, having played Betty Hutton & Peggy Lee in *Lights Out: Nat 'King' Cole* at the Geffen Playhouse (Ovation Nomination) and Marilyn Monroe in *Marilyn! The New Musical* (Best Broadway Performer Las Vegas) at the Paris Theatre in Las Vegas, backed by the Marilyn Monroe Estate. Tyrick Wiltez Jones led the U.S. Tour and Off-Broadway productions of *Bat Out of Hell* as Jagwire. His Broadway credits include Howard in *Finian's Rainbow* and *Hairspray* as well as the Broadway National Tours of *Miss Saigon*, *Seussical*, *Fosse*, and *Show Boat*.

FPAC is an Actors' Equity Small Professional Theater company based at THE BLACK BOX in downtown Franklin, MA. Each season, FPAC produces musicals, plays, ballets, and more featuring Broadway stars, professional actors, local performers, and emerging artists. Tickets for *Tarzan* are available at FPAConline.com or by calling the box office at (508) 528-3370.

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Cantoreggi Suspended, Must Pay Fine

Maglio Named Acting Director

On February 9, 2024, Franklin Town Administrator Jamie Hellen issued a statement noting that Robert “Brutus” Cantoreggi had been placed on unpaid administrative leave, indefinitely, for a personnel-related matter and that, in Mr. Cantoreggi’s absence, Town Engineer, Mike Maglio, would be named Acting Director of Public Works for the Town of Franklin until further notice.

According to information from the docket regarding this case, published on February 18, 2024 in The Franklin Observer (<https://franklinobserver.town.news/>), a matter was brought before the State Ethics Commission regarding Cantoreggi’s acceptance of the gift of ski trips and some related expenses of substantial value [1] from a vendor.

This case, docket number 24-0003, appeared to violate G.L. c. 268A, the Conflict of Interest Law, as Amended by c. 194, Acts of 2011.

As published in *The Franklin Observer*, the Ethics Committee ordered the following:

“Disposition

In view of the foregoing violations of G.L. c. 268A by Cantoreggi, the Commission has determined that the public interest would be served by the disposition of this matter without further enforcement proceedings, on the following terms and conditions agreed to by Cantoreggi:

(1) that Cantoreggi pay to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with such payment to be delivered to the Commission, the sum of \$15,000 as a civil penalty for repeatedly violating G.L. c. 268A, § 23(b)(2)(i); and

(2) that Cantoreggi waive all rights to contest, in this or any other administrative or judicial proceeding to which the Commission is or may be a party, the findings of fact, conclusions of law and terms and conditions contained in this Agreement.

By signing below, Cantoreggi acknowledges that he has personally read this Disposition Agreement, that it is a public document, and that he agrees to its terms and conditions.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

[1] Substantial value is \$50 or more. 930 CMR 5.05.”

As of LTP press time, Town Administrator Hellen had not yet responded to inquiries from *Local Town Pages* or *The Franklin Observer*.

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A Lesson in Standardized Testing

We receive many questions about standardized testing from our students - Do I need to take the ACT or SAT test? Do I have to submit my test scores to all of the colleges? How do I prepare for the test? Being knowledgeable about test options, college test policies, and the benefits of testing can help to simplify the process.

The ACT and SAT are the most commonly used standardized tests in the United States. Colleges that consider test scores will accept either exam. Colleges will have one of the following test policies: “testing-required” where applicants are required to submit either an ACT or SAT score; “test-blind” does not consider applicant test scores, even if the scores are submitted; and “test-optional” where applicants can decide whether or not to submit their test scores. In the case of test-optional, students need to consider if the test score is a true representation of their academic ability.

At College 101, we do not believe that a student’s standardized test score is a reliable measure of the student’s future success. Test scores provide an additional piece of information in the student’s application review. However, we do believe that standardized testing can be valuable,

and we recommend that our students prepare for either the ACT or SAT exam through a planned test prep schedule. Students should also register for the junior year spring test exam (SAT or ACT), and then assess whether to submit their test scores or not, and to which colleges.

Benefits of Test Prep and Taking the Exam:

1. Preparing for standardized exams can also enhance a student’s high school performance. Our colleagues, Jeanne and Jeanine, co-owners of JeaniusPrep.com, tell their students “we do not teach tricks—we focus on skills: reading comprehension, grammar, a solid math review, and logic via charts, graphs, and data representation. All of this knowledge is useful not only for standardized testing but also for high school and college courses.”
2. If a student does not submit their test scores, greater weight is placed on other factors of their application that include grades, course rigor, essay, extracurricular activities and letters of recommendation. A test score

can be helpful if one part of the student’s application is not as strong.

3. Approximately 80% of colleges have test-optional policies, but taking the ACT or SAT exam can prepare a student if one of the college applications requires a test score.
4. In recent months, there has been an ongoing conversation about grade inflation. Providing a strong test score can serve as a confirmation of the student’s academic performance.
5. Several scholarship opportunities will use standardized test scores for eligibility. One example is the PSAT National Merit competition which recognizes the top test scoring students in each state with a \$2500 merit scholarship.
6. Submitting test scores can also assist students from underprivileged backgrounds. In a recent conversation with Mike Bergin, President of Chariot Learning, he stated “The Dean of Admissions at Dartmouth College recently commented about the undesirable data deficit when scores are held back; while



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

the school’s President commented that diversity actually went down because students held back scores that would have helped them stand out, even if those scores were below the college’s average scores”.

7. The average test score has increased in recent years at test-optional colleges as students usually only submit strong test scores. When should a student submit test scores? According to Mike Bergin, “any score at the 25th percentile of the school’s middle 50% average is probably worth submitting. If an applicant has

doubts about whether to submit a score to a test optional school, reaching out to the college’s admissions department with specific questions often leads to a clarifying conversation.”

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

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Touching Base with the TA

Franklin Ridge Funding

In January, the Town of Franklin was awarded \$8.5 million in grant funding for the Franklin Ridge Senior Housing project, which will be funded by \$2.5 million from the Low-Income Federal Tax Credit (LIFTC) and \$6 million from other state Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities' subsidies, according to Town Administrator Jamie Hellen. The project was one of 26 housing projects in 19 Massachusetts communities slated to receive the affordable housing funding.

"Generally speaking, it's kind of a potpourri of funding sources, including a variety of state programs, federal subsidies and additional tax credits and breaks," says Hellen. "It's not like we're going to get a check in the mail; it's a reimbursement-based system. As those costs accrue over the next several years. The state is committing that money through a variety of sources."

Hellen explains that a lot needs to be coordinated for a municipal housing project like Franklin Ridge.

"Unlike the private sector, projects sponsored by the government are, generally speaking, relying on a whole series of grants and tax subsidies to be able to fund them. There's a lot to be coordinated. It takes years," says the Town Administrator.

Hellen has some praise for Healey's administration streamlining access to federal funds for towns.

"I think Governor Healey has done a great job setting up a federal liaison in her office, Quentin Palfrey (Director of Federal Funds and Infrastructure) to try to leverage strategies to access federal funds. I thought it was a great strategy – what can the state invest in to get more federal dollars. It takes a lot of work. It's thankless, and it's uncertain. In this case ... obviously, the return

on investment was there. If they had not created this office to try to strategize on how to maximize federal dollars, we would not be in this position to access that money," says Hellen.

Franklin has a consultant, John Juhl, working to coordinate the paperwork that comes with the various sources of these funds, says Hellen.

Hellen explains that roads and sewers will lay the foundation for Franklin Ridge, and Juhl will lay groundwork with paperwork this year to access specific grants for that, as well.

"We have enough funding now to build the road, the drainage, and the infrastructure," says Hellen, "We're doing that this year, and then we would hope that grant money we just received would go to build some of that (Franklin Ridge) structure in 2025 and 2026."

"We will have more details as they become available. I suspect when we have a Franklin Ridge presentation update later this spring, we will get a better un-

derstanding of how this all works and the timeline," says Hellen.

March 6 Joint Budget Subcommittee Meeting

Hellen urges anyone interested in the town budget and school finance to tune in to this meeting.

"That will start a three-month budget process," says Hellen. Attendees, he says, are "going to see some pretty extreme numbers relating to the school district and what they need to maintain services. That's just the preliminary budget model, not the budget that will be proposed, but where the wish list is at."

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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Gray Blending: A New Way to Embrace Your Gray

By GINA WOELFEL

Once upon a time, spotting your first gray hair felt like the beginning of the end, especially for women. In an age-obsessed society, women have felt the need to maintain a youthful appearance, and aging was often considered taboo.

However, nowadays, women are pushing back and embracing their gray hairs and the number of years it took to earn them! Accepting your gray has become synonymous with self-love and a more natural approach to beauty. We all age, so let's celebrate it!

Women, in particular, are often judged based on their appearance. Interestingly, the pandemic sparked the modern gray hair movement, prompting women to embrace their natural hair color. When salons closed, women had to skip their monthly color retouches. It was a challenging time, but we were resilient and adapted. With no end in sight, our roots grew in, and when one inch turned to three, many women saw their natural color for the first time and loved it. Their gray hair was beautiful, and the time spent away from judgment and scrutiny allowed them to reconnect with their natural selves.

We understand that not everyone will give up hair coloring and accept their gray hair. It's a big commitment that requires both emotional and aesthetic considerations. For many women, to stop coloring their hair altogether would be difficult. Unlike pandemic times, we're out in the world each day, and having half our hair without color could be quite an adjustment.

Here's an analogy of the three levels of basic gray coverage.

1. Full coverage covers 100% of the gray with a one-process color. Think of this as wearing colored wool tights.
2. Demi-permanent coverage covers about 80% of your gray using a less pigmented dye. This process lets some of your natural tone and

gray hair show through. Think of this like wearing sheer, colored pantyhose.

3. No coverage, allowing your natural gray and silver color to come through completely, but glossing the hair to add shine, tone and eliminate yellow and brassy tones. Think of this like wearing sheer, nude pantyhose.

For decades, these three techniques were the standards for covering your gray, with most women opting for full coverage. This all-over, one-dimensional color application can be as light or dark as your natural or current color allows, but it will leave a hard line of regrowth at your roots. Modern formulas offer a wider range of hues and are more prismatic than their predecessors, but this technique still requires an appointment every 4-6 weeks. Many women, believing they still match their natural color, have dyed their hair this way for years. So many years, in fact, their original hair color has completely changed. But it's easy to get stuck in a rut. One process coverage works, but is it the best coverage for you now?

Gray, silver, and platinum hair is all the buzz, with more and more women ditching high-maintenance, monochromatic tones for more lived-in looks. Now, more than ever, you've got options.

Have you heard about "Gray Blending?"

Gray blending is an umbrella term that describes the many techniques used to disguise and incorporate your gray hair. Without a hard line of regrowth, it's a more natural-looking alternative.

Gray blending techniques incorporate foil highlights and lowlights that vary in weight and placement to provide a highly customized color unique to you. There's gray blending for blonde hair and gray blending for dark hair, as well as auburn and red hair. Gray blending uses multiple shades of hair color to create a gradual transition that incorpo-

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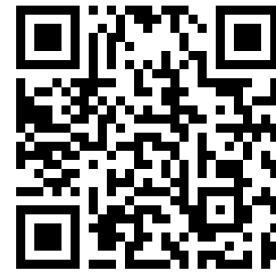


rates your gray hair with your natural color (or chosen base color.) With this multi-tonal technique, gray hairs aren't covered; they're enveloped within the pattern of color, resulting in a softer, more natural look that needs less maintenance than one-process color. You can choose to maintain your gray-blended look or use this process to slowly transition towards all gray.

For clients who've been dying their hair a darker shade for years and want to grow out their natural color, you have a few options:

1. Using your previous color as a guide, your stylist can highlight or lowlight just around your face. Lowlights use the same technique as highlighting to apply color but use darker tones for depth and dimension. This method breaks up your gray regrowth and avoids a hard line of demarcation. It also allows clients with longer hair to pull it back in a ponytail, disguising their gray in the back.
2. Your stylist can also select a few areas where your gray hair is growing in, like through your part and around your face, and place a few strategically painted highlights they'll lift close to the color of your silver hair. A toner should then be applied to unify color, tone brassiness, and add shine.
3. Choosing to stop dyeing

Visit Our Gray
Blending Page For
More Info



Visit Our Website at
bLUXE.com to Book
an Appointment



Scan for more info

your hair altogether is another option. Your hair grows about 1/2" to 3/4" per month, so growing your hair to a manageable, shoulder-length bob takes approximately a year and a half without intervention. Many people cut their hair short to remove most of the dyed hair and then let it grow out while getting regular trims to remove the remaining colored portions. Once the dyed hair is gone, your natural hair color can grow as long as desired.

4. Dying your entire head silver in one session is definitely an option, but one that comes with a few caveats. Many clients are curious about how long this process takes because they've seen incredible mega-transformation on social media. While it's technically possible for some people's hair to lift enough artificial color in one session, this level of alteration is uncommon. Despite online videos that seem to show quick and easy solutions, the truth is that these types of color appointments are costly and can take 10 to 12 hours in your stylist's chair, with no guarantee of the desired results.

5. We recommend a toner or tinted gloss for all gray-blending methods and existing gray clients. Natural gray hair can be yellow, brassy, or even mousy-brown. A toner will brighten and balance those undesirable tints, adding a mirror-like shine.

6. The timeline for hair regrowth varies from person to person and depends on factors such as the health and length of your hair, the coloring technique you and your stylist choose, and how quickly you want to achieve your desired transformation. Your stylist will likely want at least three to four months of regrowth to see your gray pattern. This time is not 100% necessary, but it allows your stylist to create the most effective color plan for you.

Once you start the transition process, you can expect your maintenance and upkeep to be about 8 to 12 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.

And remember, nothing is ever permanent! If gray blending isn't your thing, you can always go back. Your stylist is here for your aesthetic and whatever makes you feel most beautiful!

If you're curious about gray blending and would like more information, scan the QR code above to visit b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio's Gray Blending page that features before and after transformations.

b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio also offers complimentary color consultations.

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Honoring Our Franklin Veterans Who Died In Service to Our Country

The Town of Franklin has one of the most beautiful Veteran's Memorial areas in the state. If you haven't been there recently, it is worth a visit. There are monuments for all wars centered in front of the WWI "Doughboy" monument. At the rear of the monument area is the Veterans' Memorial Walkway, which currently honors 1866 veterans who have served America.

Perhaps the most moving part of the Memorial area are the 45 granite posts which line the Veterans' Walkway. Each one of these posts is dedicated to a Franklin veteran who gave his life, defending our freedom. These columns are beautifully done, marked with bronze plaques and a flag. During the holidays, each is also decorated with a beautiful wreath.

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

In January, the first of ceremonies honoring the 45 soldiers took place at the column of William O. Martello, Ensign, U.S. Navy who died on that date off Anzio beach in Italy, when his landing craft struck a mine.

In February, four more veterans honored on their KIA dates, February 18 – Air Force SSgt Alan Willard, Vietnam; February 22 – Navy Oiler James P. Mur-



On Friday, January 26th, the Edward L. Grant American Legion Post 75, and the Veteran's of Foreign Wars Post 3402, under the auspices of the Town's Veterans Council, began the first of individual ceremonies to be held this year to honor the 45 fallen soldiers from Franklin, who are memorialized with stone pillars along the Franklin Veterans Walkway.

ray, WWI; February 24 - Marine Corporal David Laughlan III, WWII, and February 26 – Marine Lance Corporal Richard L. Desper, Vietnam.

For the month of March, we will honor the following veterans: On March 10, a dual ceremony will be held for Army 2nd LT John A. Schur, WWII and Army PFC Marshall E. Rollins, both who lost their lives on the same day; March 18 - Army PFC Elton E. Ekstrom, WWII, and on March 30 – W. Franklin Lynch WWI.

On April 9th, both Joseph R. Paulette and Russel W. Shaw, who lost their lives in Vietnam, will be honored. Later in the month, on April 17th, John J. Kell, who perished in World War II, will be honored, and on April 30th, John E. Pasquantonio, who was killed in Vietnam, will be honored.

This program will include the placing of a Memorial Wreath

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

This event will happen 45 times during the coming year. Some months, like January, only one ceremony will be held. Other months will have multiple ceremonies, such as February with 4 and June with 7. On March 10, April 9, July 18, and September 21, there will be dual ceremonies as we lost two veterans on the same day.

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

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

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

Porchfest Planned in Franklin June 1st

Porchfest is coming to Franklin, MA!! It is an outdoor music event that will be held on Saturday, June 1st from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. with a rain date of June 2nd. Come spend the day in Franklin's beautiful Cultural District while listening to live music. Musicians and bands of all genres will be performing on porches and patios throughout the district.

This walkable event is also the perfect opportunity to check out our local shops and restaurants. Public bathrooms will be available. If you would like to host a band or performer on your Porch or if you have a band or are a performer and would be interested in performing at Franklin PorchFest, go to our website <https://franklin.porchfest.info> and register for the event. All the information you need to register is on our website. Also, on our

website you will find links so you can follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Porchfest is made possible with funds granted from the Mass Cultural Council through the Franklin Cultural District Committee. The Franklin PorchFest Committee is thankful for the support it has received from the Cultural Council, the Cultural District and the Town of Franklin. Save the date! We look forward to seeing you June 1st!



FHS Theatre to Present *Flowers for Algernon*

The Franklin High School Theatre Company will present the one-act play *Flowers for Algernon*, as its submission to the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild (METG) Drama Festival preliminary competition. Tickets for the show are available for March 1st, 2024, at 7 p.m. and March 8th, 2024, at 7 p.m. Visit <http://our.show/lpi252lj> for more information.

The production is about the compelling story of Charlie, an intellectually disabled man, and the strange interweaving of his life with that of Algernon, a mouse. Experimental surgery has been performed on Algernon increasing his intelligence fourfold. The operation is then conducted on Charlie, whose intelligence rapidly increases

to that of a genius, far more intelligent than his teacher, Alice Kinnian, or the doctors who created the operating technique.

As Charlie approaches the peak of his brilliance, Algernon shows frightening symptoms of regression. The play becomes a race against time in which Charlie attempts to keep his new intelligence long enough to save himself and thus continue what he and Alice have found. Featuring students Reece Lorenzo, Bella Nuckolls, Colin Joyce, Brandi Dumas and many others!

Follow the Franklin High School Theatre Company on Instagram for information about upcoming events and activities @fhstc.



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Living Healthy

iStent Inject and Microgoniotomy for Glaucoma

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

What is glaucoma and how is it treated?

Glaucoma is a chronic disease defined by characteristic optic nerve damage. It is a multi-factorial disease with over 300 different anatomic variations and affects over 40,000,000 people worldwide. Glaucoma is a slowly progressive and irreversible disease and, in most cases, causes a painless loss of eyesight. It is, in short, “the silent sneak thief of sight”. The damage to the optic nerve is commonly caused by a fluid imbalance, or pressure, in the eye, as well as possible alterations in the blood flow to the optic nerve. It is well established that lowering the intraocular pressure can slow the process of optic nerve damage. The degree of pressure lowering necessary to prevent optic nerve damage is individualized for each person and each optic nerve. The greater

the optic nerve damage, the lower the intraocular pressure is needed to achieve stability and prevent further optic nerve damage and further visual field loss.

If glaucoma is left untreated you may experience vision loss and eventual blindness. Treatment strategies for glaucoma are individualized to achieve the greatest lowering of the intraocular pressure with the least amount of risk to the individual’s eyesight and well-being. Commonly, in the United States, topical medications are used as a first line of treatment. In many situations, multiple medications are tried to achieve the desired pressure level. Unfortunately, there can be difficulties with compliance, cost and side effects with many of these medications and laser therapy is commonly substituted as a first line of therapy.

What is the iStent® trabecular micro-bypass stent?

Minimally invasive glaucoma surgical procedures, so-called

MIGS involve alterations of the drainage area that are performed inside the eye. The iStent® trabecular micro-bypass stent is a surgical therapy for patients who have mild to moderate open angle glaucoma and have been tried possibly on topical medications or laser therapy. It is designed to improve the aqueous outflow to better lower the intraocular pressure and reduce the need for medications. The iStent® is the smallest medical device approved by the FDA to date. It is placed in the eye into the drainage area, so-called Schlemm’s Canal through the trabecular meshwork. The iStent® is an elective procedure. The iStent® is potentially beneficial in helping to reduce the number of glaucoma medications and drops needed to control this condition.

What is microgoniotomy surgery?

Microgoniotomy surgery (using the iAccess trabecular trephine device from Glaukos) is another type of MIGS. This



complications that do not appear in the early post operative period but may develop days, months or years later. Further treatment or surgery to treat those complications may be needed. As with any intraocular surgery, there may be loss of vision, blindness, loss of the eye, as well as bleeding, infection and injury to the eye or nearby body parts.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we use state-of-the-art technology and lasers to diagnose and treat a variety of eye problems, including glaucoma. We offer high-definition optic coherence tomography testing (OCT) that can predict glaucoma before it even happens. We also offer laser treatment when medications alone are not enough. All our offices are equipped with OCT and state-of-the-art computerized visual field testing. We operate in a state-of-the-art surgery center close to home, here at the Cataract and Laser Surgery Center of Milford. All our surgeries are performed with an anesthesiologist in the room and an IV lane, in case of an emergency. No office-based surgery! We were among the first surgeons in New England to introduce this new technology and we offer stellar outcomes closer to home. With 22 years of established experience and tens of thousands of procedures performed, we are happy to offer state-of-the-art medical and surgical eye care and now the iStent inject /microgoniotomy for treatment of glaucoma closer to home than ever before.

procedure provides control of the eye pressure at lower risk than more traditional glaucoma surgeries. It alters the eye’s drainage system to lower the eye pressure and reduce the need for medications. Microgoniotomy can be done standalone or combined with iStents during cataract surgery in a tissue sparing fashion to improve resistance to outflow in glaucoma. This tissue-sparing procedure can help lower the pressure even more compared to implanting iStent alone. During this procedure and ophthalmologist (Eye MD/ surgeon) will make 3 trephination cuts in a part of the eye’s drainage system called the trabecular meshwork. This will allow fluid to leave the eye much easier.

Benefits (how the surgery can help)

The goal of the iStent and microgoniotomy surgery is to lower your eye pressure and help preserve vision. It will not bring back vision already lost from glaucoma. After implantation, many patients are able to better control their eye pressure with fewer medications.

Risks

As with any surgery, there are risks with the iStent and microgoniotomy procedure. The surgery may not lower the eye pressure or control the glaucoma even when it is properly performed. In addition, sometimes there can be

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Twenty Tri-County Students Join Ranks of National Honor Society

Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School wishes to congratulate the 20 students who were inducted into the Peter Rickard chapter of the National Honor Society in a recently-completed ceremony in the company of their peers, family, friends and school faculty, staff and administrators. The inspirational keynote address was delivered by Mr. John Becker, a member of the TC staff, the faculty leader of the new cornhole club, and a former regional sales manager.

Election to the National Honor Society requires the demonstration of four personal characteristics: scholarship, leadership, character, and service. Candidates' applications are reviewed and evaluated by a panel of six Faculty members who recommend NHS membership to the Principal, Mrs. Dana M. Walsh, for approval.

The new NHS Members were sworn-in and promised to uphold the four pillars of the National Honor Society. As part of the ceremony, each new member acknowledged a teacher who has made a strong impact upon them.

Chapter leadership was introduced and sworn-in as officers for the class of 2024 including:

President: Ivy Young, Vice President: Nicholas Ewanchuk, Secretary: Carol Abdel Alrhim, Treasurer: Matthew Noonan, Social Media manager: Ryan



Zagrodny, Ambassadors: Kaylee Chouinard (Administration), Savannah Nosek (Design), Emma Jameson (Culture)

In addition, the accomplishments of the current NHS seniors were recognized.

Spearheaded many new traditions that I hope to see remain in future years, including

- Senior Sunrise on the first day of school,
- A school-wide awareness initiative and fundraiser for suicide prevention
- A well-executed fundraiser with Panera,
- a fall Dodgeball tournament in collaboration with Student Council,
- a student and faculty art gallery evening that raised over \$200 to donate to the Maui Strong fund,

- targeted support for TC teachers,
 - an effort to begin a student boosters program to market and support existing efforts of student clubs and sports
 - and the continuation of our longstanding tradition of a spring Speedball tournament and fundraiser.
- Together, the groups of 38 NHS seniors have contributed over 624 hours of community

service this year. The types of service they have provided range from school-related events such as open houses, freshmen orientation, athletic leadership, and School Committee meetings, to support of our wider communities through religious groups, Scouting, local food pantries, specialty camps, blood drives, youth sports, police department community events, public library initiatives, animal shelters, and hospital or health-

care settings. Four seniors were acknowledged for each documenting more than 40 hours of community service this year: Dylan Sullivan, Alexis Hubert, Emma Latham, Savana Martinsen

The following students from Franklin gained induction into NHS:

Conor Cadorette '25, Sunny Dion '25, Nicholas Harootunian '25, Brendan Purvis '25, Eric Talamini '25

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Sports

Hockey from an Unlikely Source

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Franklin’s Julia Flynn came from a basketball family, but around the age of 7, she started to play street hockey with her new stepfather. Not too long after being introduced to the sport, she joined the Franklin Youth Hockey Program, and eventually would lace up her skates for the Spitfires, a club team out of Foxboro.

“I’ve always seemed to be competitive and picked the game up rather quickly,” Flynn said. “It was a fun, fast paced game that I really enjoyed being part of.”

A few years later, she joined

a club team. where the adjustment from youth to club hockey was a bit intimidating at first for the Franklin native, but with the help of her Spitfire Coach, she was able to make the necessary modifications to bring her game to the next level.

“Playing on the Spitfires was totally different, and it forced me to improve my game to keep up,” she said. “Effort is key, and if you’re losing, you still need to put forth the effort.”

Tryouts for the Franklin High School team brought nervousness going in, as she really didn’t know what to expect, but found that there was no reason to worry as all the girls were welcoming. Upon the completion of the tryouts, not only did Flynn find herself on the varsity squad, but she also found herself playing on the second line.

“I really thought that I was going to doing a lot of watching that year, but I was a big part of

the team playing on that second line,” Flynn said. “I think our line that year led the team in points.”

According to Coach Mike Lubin, Flynn has been one of the team’s best players since her freshman campaign. During that initial campaign, Flynn scored 16 goals and 7 assists for the Panthers.

“She has everything; brings a high skill and talent to the ice with a hard work ethic,” the Panther Coach said. “She also has had complete confidence in herself and her game since day one.”

Having such a successful first season, Flynn knew coming into her second year that she had a role to fulfill, but she wasn’t ready for all the attention that other teams were going to throw at her on the ice. However, while teams were aware of her presence on the ice, she was still able to net 16 goals and add 7 assists.

“Other teams were now focusing on me more, as they knew who I was, and what I could do. It was definitely different with players matching up on me and playing me tough,” she said. “It’s easy to get rattled, and I wanted to retaliate, but I had to learn to



Junior captain Julia Flynn, having moved from wing to center this year, will play a key role if the Panthers are to get to the Division 2 State Tournament again this year.



keep my composure. I began to use it as motivation: I am a better player on the ice than in the penalty box.”

Coming into this year, Flynn found herself named a junior captain of a young team.

“There was a lot put on me as I had to be a leader on the ice as well as off it,” she said. “I had never been put into this type of position before; it was an honor, but an adjustment. As a captain I want this team to play as one with chemistry.”

In addition to being named a captain, Flynn also found that she was going to be moved off her normal wing position and placed at center, a position she was not looking forward to playing.

“It was not my choice, and at first, I was really against it, as I was much more comfortable playing wing,” Flynn said. “I thought that the transition was going to be worse than it was, but two or three games in, it seemed to click, and now I am happy with the position.”

Although Flynn was against the move at first, it was something that Coach Lubin needed to do.

“She’s a natural winger, but we needed to move her to center this year,” the Coach said. Although Flynn had never played the position before, “the coaching staff knew that she was good enough to take over the position,” he said.

With the movement, another issue was brought to the forefront of Flynn’s game – she had never

really taken a faceoff. However, she is now feeling pretty good at the dot, although she is not super confident in her ability just yet. At the time of this writing, it looks as though things have not really changed for Flynn, as the junior has already found the back of the net 17 times while dishing out 11 assists for Franklin.

Prior to entering her junior year, Flynn wanted to focus more on the team – not only spreading out the assists amongst the players, but beating neighboring rival, King Philip (the two teams split this year). Individually, the junior center wanted to notch a 20 goal and 10 assist this season. At the time of this writing, she already had found the back of the net 15 times, while adding 8 assists enroute to her goal.

Following her high school career, which still has a year and a half remaining, Flynn would like to take her hockey skills to the next level.

“I would like to continue playing hockey if given the chance after high school,” she said. “I would love to pursue hockey further, but right now it’s a ways away so we’ll see where it goes when the time comes.”

Lubin believes that collegiate hockey is something that Flynn can definitely play, but for right now she is fully concentrated on getting the Panthers to the Division 2 State Tournament once again, only this year they would love to get out of the first round, unlike the previous two seasons.

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Calendar

March 1

Flowers for Algernon, 7 p.m., Franklin High School Auditorium, 218 Oak St., Franklin, <http://tinyurl.com/FHSFlowers-forAlgernon>
Dean College presents *She Loves Me*, Main Stage, 99 Main St., Franklin, 7:30 p.m.,
www.dean.edu/box-office

March 2

Introduction to Vegetable Gardening, 1 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Led by Ali Coakley of Night Owl Farm, program designed for absolute beginners but all welcome
Cinema 80 Feature Films at Franklin Historical Museum, *A Trip to the Moon* and other short films by Georges Méliès, 6 p.m., 80 West Central St., Franklin, free

Happy Birthday, Franklin! 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, cake, coffee

New England Country Dance, 7-9 p.m., all ages, First Universalist Society of Franklin, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin, under 12 free, students 13-18, \$5, adults \$10, <https://fusf.org/worship/upcoming-services>

Dean College presents *She Loves Me*, Main Stage, 99 Main St., Franklin, 2& 7:30 p.m.,
www.dean.edu/box-office

Illuminate: Lantern Parade & Festival, 5:30-7 p.m., Bellforge Arts Center

March 3

Dean College presents *She Loves Me*, Main Stage, 99 Main St., Franklin, 2 p.m.,
www.dean.edu/box-office

March 5

2024 Presidential Primary, 6 a.m.- 8 p.m., Franklin High School
Children's Museum of Franklin Pop-Up Museum, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Franklin Elks, 118 Main St., Franklin

March 5

Healthy Soil for Healthy Plants, 7 p.m., Franklin Public Library, hosted by FPL and Franklin Garden Club, Join Donald Demers of Buxton Hollow Farm to discuss Soil Health.

March 6

Veterans Coffee Social, 10 a.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, featured speakers include MA Rep. Jeff Roy, Secretary of Veterans Services Jon Santiago and

MA Sen. Rebecca Rausch, all veterans welcome.
Todd Brodeur Frisbee Demonstration! 1 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin
Franklin Joint Budget Subcommittee meeting

March 8

Connecting Women Leaders Luncheon, presented by Tri-County Regional Chamber, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Cornerstone, Milford, <http://tinyurl.com/connectingwomenleaders>

Flowers for Algernon, 7 p.m., Franklin High School Auditorium, 218 Oak St., Franklin, <http://tinyurl.com/FHSFlowers-forAlgernon>

FPAC presents *Tarzan*, 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, <https://www.fpaonline.com/events.php?id=1696>

March 9

Cinema 80 Feature Films at Franklin Historical Museum, *Charlie Chaplin's The Kid*, 6 p.m., 80 West Central St., Franklin, free

FPAC presents *Tarzan*, 2 & 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, <https://www.fpaonline.com/events.php?id=1696>

March 10

Second Sunday Speaker Series presents Joe Landry discussing the Thomson Press Building and its history, doors open 1 p.m., presentation 1:15 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin

FPAC presents *Tarzan*, 2 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, <https://www.fpaonline.com/events.php?id=1696>

March 12

All Town Chorus and Orchestra concert, 6 p.m., Franklin High School, 218 Oak St., Franklin, \$5 admission supports Franklin Music Boosters

March 13

All Town Band concert Franklin High School, 6 p.m., 218 Oak St., Franklin, \$5 admission supports Franklin Music Boosters

March 15

FPAC presents *Tarzan*, 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, <https://www.fpaonline.com/events.php?id=1696>

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

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March 16

Franklin Public Library Book Sale, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., 118 Main St., Franklin, bag sale 1-4 p.m.

Calligraphy Workshop, 11-12:30, Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin

FPAC presents *Tarzan*, 2 & 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, <https://www.fpaonline.com/events.php?id=1696>

Irish in America Concert, 3 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin. This program is supported in part by the Franklin Cultural Council, supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Children's Museum of Franklin Pop-Up Museum, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Cinema 80 Feature Films at Franklin Historical Museum, *Hitchcock's The Lodger*, 6 p.m., 80 West Central St., Franklin, free

March 17

Does Food Count as a Basic Human Right? 10 a.m. service with guest speaker Tina Powderly, Executive Director of the Franklin Food Pantry, First Universalist Society in Franklin, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin, fusf.org

FPAC presents *Tarzan*, 2 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, <https://www.fpaonline.com/events.php?id=1696>

March 21

Bringing the Stars Indoors, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Presentation will explore Stellarium; an open-source project showing a realistic sky in 3 dimensions. We'll be distributing glasses for the solar eclipse on April 8th!

March 22

Dean College presents Choroographers' Concert, 7:30 p.m., Main Stage, 99 Main St., Franklin, 2 p.m., www.dean.edu/box-office

March 23

Family Fest & Home Show, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., presented by TriCounty Regional Chamber, Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School, 147 Pond St., Franklin, over 100 home-related vendors, mac n cheese cook-off, Ed the Wizard, pie-eating contest, Smokey the Bear, pictures with Easter Bunny to take home, and more. Admission \$5 or an item for the Franklin Food Pantry.

Easter Bunny, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Porch of Franklin Historical Society, 80 West Central St., Franklin

Calligraphy Workshop, 11-12:30, Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin

Dean College presents Choroographers' Concert, 7:30 p.m., Main Stage, 99 Main St., Franklin, 2 p.m., www.dean.edu/box-office

Cinema 80 Feature Films at Franklin Historical Museum, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, 6 p.m., 80 West Central St., Franklin, free

March 29

Mike Bent's AbraKIDabra Show! 1 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Party for the Pantry, a Musical Fundraiser for the Franklin Food Pantry, 7 p.m., featuring The Pub Kings, South Street Six and 3 others,

GlenPharmer Distiller, 7 p.m., To benefit the Franklin Food Pantry! 21+ event, tickets \$40 at <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/webink/webink.aspx?name=E188424&id=82>

March 30

Egg Hunt on the Library Lawn! 10:30 a.m., Franklin Public Library Lawn and Dean College Grove, bring your own basket, and enjoy crafts and activities!

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32 Hasting Street, Rte 16. Mendon
(508) 381-0249

43 Main Street, Hopkinton
(508) 625-8100

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296 Washington Street, Westwood
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Franklin Public Schools Announce Upcoming Musical Performances

The FHS music program provides a variety of musical and theatrical opportunities to all students in grades K-12. Students gain a strong foundation through singing and playing recorders and ukuleles beginning in fourth and fifth grade. Beginning in the sixth grade, all students are offered the opportunity to learn to play a band or orchestra instrument, or sing in the chorus.

Students participating in a school ensemble have three performance cycles per year: December, March and May/June. Students are currently preparing for the upcoming Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association (MICCA) State Music Festival.

“The MICCA Concert Festival encourages the improvement of an ensemble’s musical standards by providing musical adjudication by highly qualified judges,” said Plouffe. “Atten-



FHS students performing in a jazz combo at a recent concert. (Photo courtesy Franklin Public Schools)

dance at a festival also affords organizations an opportunity to hear performances by other groups and experience the presentation of a wide variety of musical literature.”

Prior to the festival, on Tuesday, March 12, 200 students will perform in the upcoming All Town Chorus and Orches-

tra concert. On the following Wednesday, March 13, the All-Town Band concert will take place, featuring over 250 students. Both concerts begin at 6 p.m. at the FHS Auditorium. Admission for both shows is \$5 at the door and all proceeds will go to Franklin Music Boosters.

FHS students also recently

auditioned for the Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA). There were 17 FHS students in the music program who were accepted into the Central District Honor Ensembles and 21 middle school students accepted into the Junior Festival.

Music students attend one state festival per year, consistently earning silver and gold medals. Additionally, students who are looking for more performance opportunities may elect to perform in chamber music recitals, jazz band concerts, community service performances, musical theatre performances or audition for honor ensembles such as the Central District and All State Music Festivals.

In addition to in-school classes, the tuition based Lifelong Music Academy is an after school music program offering private lessons and jazz band at each middle school and the

“Footlighters,” which is a middle school musical theater club.

FHS has a full schedule of performance and non-performance musical opportunities for students throughout the year. Non-performance classes include: Music Production I, II, III, Podcasting, Music Theory I, AP Music Theory, Guitar, Piano, History of Rock and Rock Band. All students who elect to participate in the wind ensemble, concert band, orchestra or chorus perform in three main concert cycles; one in December, March and May.

“Our schools’ music program is a journey of exploration and expression for our students.” Plouffe said. “Through engaging lessons, ensemble rehearsals, and community performances, we are fostering a love for music and nurturing the next generation of musicians.”

Donation Funds Outdoor Tree-Climbing Elements at Hockomock YMCA

The Bernon Family Branch of the Hockomock Area YMCA has installed new outdoor tree-climbing elements as an enhancement to its outdoor challenge course in Franklin. The new climbing elements were funded by a generous donation from longtime Y supporters Paula Rooney and Gerry Shaw, and will be used extensively in spring and summer

2024 with youth participating in the Y’s Before & After School Care and Summer Camp programs, as well as local school groups visiting the Y.

In late August, the Franklin Y installed Monkey Hardware systems on trees on its property, each providing a different climbing level of accessibility. These kits effectively turn the trees into

climbing walls and are paired with the TRUBLUE iQ auto belay system. The TRUBLUE auto belays allow climbers of all ages and skill levels to climb heights safely. Rather than pulling the young climber upwards, they allow climbers to ascend the tree on their own power, while providing rest as needed during the climb with its catch and hold



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technology. Once the climber has reached the top of the climb they have chosen, the auto belays use magnetic braking technology to lower the climber back down slowly and safely to the ground.

“These new elements have brought the kids together in a new way that I have not seen in a long time. When a camper was climbing their whole group would be watching and cheering them on to reach the top,” said Ashley Dumas, Youth Program Director at the Bernon Family Branch. “It gave the kids something to work towards and accomplish.”

The Hockomock Y is grateful for this generous donation. The Franklin Y’s camp and playing fields also feature Grandma’s Place, an outdoor pavilion with

weatherproof tables and seating, which was also built with funds donated by the Rooney & Shaw family.

“From their decades in leadership at Dean College in Franklin to their contributions as Board members of our Hockomock Area YMCA, Paula Rooney and Gerry Shaw have a long history of supporting youth and families in the Franklin community,” said Jim Downs, Hockomock Area YMCA CEO. “Our Y staff and members are so appreciative that they continue to find new ways to enhance operations at our Y and help us provide an even better experience for the youth we serve.”

For more information on the Hockomock Area YMCA, including camp, visit www.hockymca.org.

Bi-County Collaborative Students Knit Wigs for Children Battling Cancer in Magic Yarn Project

Executive Director Jeanne Sullivan and Bi-County Collaborative are pleased to share that students in the Life Roles Education Program (LREP) have been participating in the Magic Yarn Project.

Under the direction of Physical Therapist Dawn Rice-Norton and LREP Classroom Teacher Rebecca Blackburn students in Bi-County Collaborative's LREP program created yarn wigs for children with medical hair loss in an effort to spread kindness. Rice-Norton learned about the Magic Yarn Project through her involvement as the Global Service Team Chair for the Lions of Massachusetts

"Service is something even the most challenged can take part in," said Rice-Norton. "These students can be proud to do something for other kids in need. Everyone is capable of creating and displaying empathy and kindness."

In September, the LREP program received 5 skeins of yarn, donated by the Medway Lions Club, and began working to create a wig modeled after Disney Princess Rapunzel. The LREP program also received yarn to be used for a Jack Sparrow wig, an Ariel wig and others.

Students wrapped yarn on a longboard with large dowels. The yarn is then cut to the required length and attached to crocheted beanies to make the wigs. Tactile symbols were used to help students learn new vocabulary associated with the project, and students were able to practice using their fine motor skills

To ensure students of all abilities enjoyed the process, Rice-Norton and Blackburn added tactile pieces to the long boards so students with visual impairments could more easily locate the correct posts as they wound the yarn.

Chemotherapy treatments often leave young scalps too sensitive for scratchy traditional wigs, but yarn wigs are comfy, soft and warm. Founded by Holly Christensen and Bree Hitchcock, Magic Yarn wigs are inspired by beloved Disney characters and invite children back to the world of play and daydreaming

"I would like to thank both Dawn and Rebecca for spearheading this project," said Executive Director Sullivan. "This project emphasizes the values we hold close at Bi-County Collaborative. Everyone is capable of kindness. I am proud of each student and staff member who took part in this project."

To learn more about the Magic Yarn Project, visit <https://themagicyarnproject.com/>

About Life Roles Education Program

The Life Roles Education Program (LREP) provides educational and therapeutic services to middle school students (ages 10-15) who may have intellectual and/or neurological disabilities, including Autism Spectrum Disorder.

To learn about LREP, visit bicounty.org/special-education-programs/middle-school-programs/life-roles-education-programs.



In addition to spreading kindness, the Magic Yarn Project allows students to practice using their fine motor skills.



Tactile symbols were used to help students learn new vocabulary associated with the project.



Students in the Life Roles Education Program (LREP) have been participating in the Magic Yarn Project. (Photo Courtesy Bi-County Collaborative)

About Bi-County Collaborative

Bi-County's mission is to provide high-quality educational programming, making it possible for all students to become responsible and contributing members of society. Bi-County provides specialized educational programs for students ages 3-22. The programs address the needs of students with Autism, Communication, Emotional, Health, Intellectual, Neurological, Physical Impairments, and Specific Learning Disabilities.

The Bi-County Collaborative (BICO) is a multi-purpose educational collaborative formed under the provisions of Mass. Gen. Laws c. 40, section 4E. It is a public entity, governed by a Board of Directors, with each school committee appointing a representative to the Board. The Operating Committee, which acts in an advisory capacity, consists of each member district's designated Special Education Administrator.



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State Representative



Jon Santiago
Secretary of Veterans' Services



Becca Rausch
Massachusetts State Senator



March 6th, 2024



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Franklin's Middle Schools Receive Grant for STEM Career Learning

Remington Middle School, Horace Mann Middle School and Annie Sullivan Middle School recently received grant funds from the One8 Foundation to offer an expanded curricular program from Project Lead the Way (PLTW) to support STEM career learning.

The One8 Foundation collaborates with partners to identify, support and scale high impact programs, like PLTW, to help schools and teachers prepare students for success.

PLTW is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for PreK-12 students and teachers through coursework in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. Franklin's three middle schools join more than 12,000 schools across the country offering PLTW programs to millions of students.

"Receiving these grants gives us the opportunity to realize what we imagine for our students," said Director of Curriculum STEM Eric Stark. "By expanding our partnership with the One8 Foundation, our computer science and STEM teachers will join a nationwide community of

educators, and our students will gain access to an engaging and rigorous curriculum and high-quality instructional materials."

The grant funds will be used to implement three PLTW Gateway units for the first time in Franklin Public Schools. In the first unit offered, Design and Modeling, students will discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They will be challenged to use and apply what they have learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

The second unit that will be offered is Computer Science for Innovators and Makers. Students will discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible and shareable projects. Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation or wearable, and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life.

The third unit that will be offered is called App Creators. This unit will expose students to computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society. Students will customize their experience by choosing a problem that interests them in the areas of health, environment, emergency preparedness, education, community service and school culture.

Funds from the grant will also support teacher professional development and the purchase of materials and equipment that will be used in PLTW courses. In addition, as a school with PLTW programming in Massachusetts, each 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.

Franklin High School DECA Members Qualify for Upcoming State Career Development Conference

Superintendent Lucas Giguere and High School Principal Joshua Hanna are pleased to share that Franklin High School DECA members have qualified for the State Career Development Conference.

Approximately 200 Franklin High DECA members competed at the Massachusetts DECA District Two Conference, which was held on Jan. 4-5 at the Mansfield Envision Hotel. A total of 91 students are now moving on to compete at the State Career Development Conference in Boston this March.

Students competing at the district conference had to place in the top five in their respective categories in order to qualify for the state conference. Students were recognized for their hard work and efforts in the areas of marketing, community service, finance, hospitality and tourism.

FHS DECA students that were recognized at the district conference include:

First Place Winners: Tanya Kumar, Jaret Schmidt, Sabrina Tierney, Adithya Balagurumoorthy, Weylan O'Connell, Ajay Gulati, Dheeraaj Prasanna, Jacob St. Amand, Brayden Trask, Shravan Dev

Second Place Winners: Jordan Gaspar, Tyler Murphy, Seth O'Donnell, Aanya Goel, Victoria Oliveria, Georgia Pellegri, Neha Shah, Tuhina Pal, Siddharth Chandra, Jay Gorgas, Aayush Srinivas, Leena Alshawabkeh, Liana Warnakulasooriya, Ashmita Boopathy, Isabella Trull, Nathan Schlieman, Ritika Gandla, Colin O'Leary, Garrett Scagliarini, Nathan Marinelli, Benjamin Ryan, Ahmad Alkhalaf

Third Place Winners: Brendan Collins, Braeden Loomis, Jack Yeulinski, Madhav Menon, Brad Morin, Ahan Shetty, Keaton Cooper, Gavin Warnakulasooriya, Hannah Auerr, Samuel



Students Adithya Balagurumoorthy and Weylan O'Connell were among first place winners at the District Competition.
(Photo courtesy Franklin Public Schools)

Shoneman, Steven Li, Jake Lorenzo, Ciaran Walshe, Meghan Archung, Abi Cheng, Jake Olmstead, Gianni Pazvakavambwa, Josie Drucker, Emma Pruitt, Connor Houghton

Fourth Place Winners: Ava Davies, Jenna Simone, Vikram Chakrabhavi, Srinath Dadireddy, Manuel Romero, Owen Munichello, Aodhionn Downs, Pranava Ponvinayagan, Rex Cinelli, Ryan Wilson, Zeina Alshawabkeh, Kavya Dave, Haasini Sabbella

Fifth Place Winners: Maya Abiramia, Samantha Eagerman, Abigail Robillard, Callie Verhaegen, Colton Flaherty, Luke Trinanes, Grace Tucceri, Grace Lacerda, Taylor Lacerda, Ella Mahoney, Richie Popovic, Joe Risi, Liam Lewandowski, Finn Mitchell, Elizabeth Mulvey, Zachary Winer, Katie Dowley, Nina Iannuzzi, Lily Depoto

"I am incredibly proud of all FHS students who have excelled in DECA, earning several awards," said Superintendent Giguere. "Their dedication and achievements reflect the high standards of our school. We wish them the best as they move onto SCDC in March."

Coming Up at Franklin Senior Center

What's happening at the Franklin Senior center this month?

Start off by getting your walker, cane or wheelchair decorated with Blanche's Bling 3/1. Home safety tips for fall prevention on 3/5 then join us for a trip to Mozambique on the 8th! Our Drum circle has us feeling the beat on 3/11, and our very own Chef Anne will go over the bases of soup making on the 12th.

Hand, foot and neck pain getting you down? Join us on the 13th for an evidence-based exercise class to guide you through movements to help you feel better.

Learn about the power of home equity on the 13th, then join us as the Franklin Fire Department serves up a corned beef and cabbage dinner on the 15th! Everyone's Irish on St. Patrick's Day right?!

Mindful moments, dating your device, craft corner, scam prevention and thriving solo are on the agenda the week on 3/18. To wrap up our special events, the last week of March features Basic Estate Planning, understanding nutritional labels and a planting party!

For a full list of all of our daily programs please stop by and pick up a calendar or check out our website at www.franklinma.gov/fsc.

What You Need to Know About Antisemitism: A Brief Introduction Presented by Rabbi Tom Alpert

A Three-Class Session on Antisemitism open to the Franklin-area Community

Classes will be held at Temple Etz Chaim
900 Washington St., Franklin
Tuesdays March 5th, 19th, and 26th
7:30 p.m.
(pre-registration available starting next week)

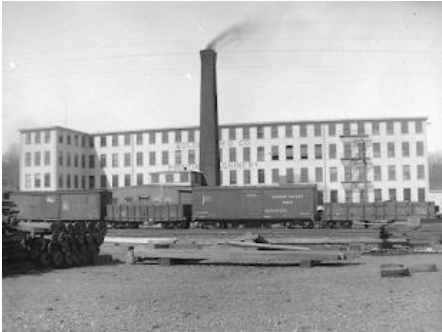
Historic Happenings at the Franklin Historical Museum, March 2024

Happy Birthday Franklin! Mar.2, 2024

Join us to celebrate our town’s incorporation as a municipal entity and those who share this birthday (and others) to join us for sociability, cake, coffee, and some fun stories of other Mass. towns’ names at the Franklin Historical Museum, 10-1, on Saturday, Mar. 2.

The Second Sunday Speaker Series

The Second Sunday Speaker Series at the museum continues on March, 10, 2024 with popular local historian Joe Landry, discussing the Thomson Press



Building and its history (a structure recently added to the miniature Franklin exhibit, on display in December and January). Doors open at 1 and the presentation begins at 1:15 at Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central Street, Franklin, MA. FREE

‘Cinema 80’ Feature Films Continue (Free)

Silent Saturdays start at 6 p.m. on each Saturday of the month (except the last): Chris. Leverone, a videographer and graphics artist from Franklin, has directed promotional and fundraising videos, and is currently a producer at Franklin TV. He developed this program of films in cooperation with the Franklin Senior Center.

- March 2 *A Trip to the Moon* and other short films by Georges Méliès

Méliès was a pioneer of special effects, using elaborately painted sets and “trick” photographic techniques to entertain some of the first movie audiences at the turn of the twentieth century.



- March 9 *The Kid*

The Kid is Charlie Chaplin’s crowning achievement, using pantomime humor to tell a memorable and heartfelt story.



- March 16 *The Lodger*



In one of his first thrillers, Alfred Hitchcock paints a picture of paranoia and suspicion with clever camera-work and editing, as a killer stalks the streets of London.

- March 23 *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*

Caligari is the first great film in the horror canon, and an excellent specimen of German Expressionism, with warped images and warped characters that hypnotized Weimar Germany.



- March 30 No program.

Easter Bunny – Sat Mar. 23, 10-1

The Easter Bunny will make a kid-friendly appearance on the “front porch” of the museum Saturday March 23 during the museum’s open hours, 10-1.

Beyond the Palmer Method – Learn about calligraphy, Sat. Mar 16 and Sat Mar. 23 from 11-12:30

Learn about this useful artform and get an introduction to creating calligraphy. Meet our resident expert in penmanship, cursive writing methods, and calligraphy, Krishna Swain! “Words written in calligraphy have defined thousands of years of our history. In this program, we will dive into the history of the art form, particularly in America, and learn how to create beautiful calligraphy.”



The Franklin Historical Museum is located at 80 West Central Street, Franklin. The museum is open Saturday mornings from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. When visiting the museum, please consider donating a non-perishable item for the Franklin Food Pantry.

Questions? Contact Alan Earls at (508) 560 3786. Visit us online at <https://www.franklinmuseum1778.com>

Does Food Count as a Basic Human Right?

March 17, 2024, 10 a.m., First Universalist Society in Franklin

Join us for worship on March 17, as the First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) Food Insecurity Team, and their special guest, Tina Powderly, the Executive Director of the Franklin Food Pantry, explore their collective and personal journeys from focusing on alleviating food insecurity to that of Food Justice.

Food Justice is the belief that access to food is a basic human right which can only be achieved if one advocates for structural change across the entire food system. Unfortunately, our current food system rests upon many inherent, deeply entrenched barriers to equity.

This worship service will be interactive; if you have one, please bring your phone to voice your opinion on-line during the service. All are welcome to attend, we look forward to meeting you.

The First Universalist Society in Franklin is a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation located at 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin MA. For further information about FUSF please explore our website at fusf.org

or contact our Interim Minister, the Reverend Beverly Waring at (508) 528- 5348 or minister@fusf.org

Haidri Promoted to AVP/Branch Manager at Franklin BCSB

Bristol County Savings Bank (BCSB), headquartered in Taunton, Massachusetts, announces the promotion of Amman A. Haidri to the position of Assistant Vice President/Branch Manager at its Franklin, Massachusetts office located at 375 W Central Street. Haidri is responsible for the management of branch operations, customer relations and new business development.

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Cinema 80 Brings Big Screen Treats to Franklin Museum

With well over a century of film history around the world, it is safe to say that most people alive today have missed some of the great cinema experiences of the past.

With that in mind, two local film buffs have teamed up with the Franklin Historical Museum and Franklin Senior Center to make comedy, drama and documentary films of the past available and accessible. Chris Leverone is a videographer, 3D graphic artist, and producer at Franklin TV. He received a BFA in film studies from MassArt, and has directed promotional and fundraising videos. Will Lee, a history educator and graduate student at the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy at Tufts University, loves film and especially appreciates showcasing the global perspectives provided by



films created beyond Hollywood.

“Films tell us a lot about the world of the past and the present. I am currently especially interested in the huge body of work created in the silent film era that is often stunningly creative and relevant to us today,” said Leverone. In fact, often the limits imposed by being silent, made for more insightful and imaginative storytelling,” he said.

“Films created historically, beyond Hollywood, vary widely in the topics they cover and in their structure,” noted Lee. “Some were and are structured in unusual ways or highlight people and experiences rarely looked at by American films,” Lee added.

What makes them interesting for “Cinema 80,” which is a program of the Historical Museum, is they can tell us so much about the past as experienced here in Franklin and elsewhere, they agreed.

“And the comedy films, whether from the Silent Era, or from other parts of the world, are really funny, even today, and the feature and documentary films are likewise really engaging, and entertaining,” Leverone added.

Voices United Chorus to Present Third Annual Spring Concert

Voices United Chorus, a barbershop a cappella chorus based in Walpole Mass., is thrilled to announce their highly anticipated Annual Spring Concert, scheduled to take place on March 9 at 2 p.m. at the Hopedale Jr.- Sr.- High School.

Voices United, known for their dedication to delivering exceptional vocal performances and their guiding principle that “Every Voice Matters,” has curated a program that showcases a diverse range of musical genres sung, ensuring a delightful experience for all attendees.

Adding to the excitement, Voices United is proud to welcome the acclaimed Smoke Ring Quartet as special guests for the evening.

About Voices United: Voices United provides a welcoming, fun, and high-quality a cappella singing experience. Under the direction of Elyssa Hurley and Chad Putka, Voices United is the current 2023 Northeastern District Second Place Chorus. Everything they do is motivated by the love of music, love of others, and love of self. For sponsorship opportunities or further information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/vuadguide2024>

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January 2024 Property Sales Increase in Norfolk County

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reports that Norfolk County recordings in January 2024 show a slight increase in the total number of documents recorded, which also includes an increase in property sales compared to January 2023 recordings. This slight increase in property sales may indicate that some buyers have an optimistic outlook on mortgage interest rates.

The Registry of Deeds recorded 7,529 documents in January 2024. This was 1% more than in January 2023 and a 6% decrease compared to December 2023.

"It is too early to draw any definitive conclusions, but it is good to see a positive start to 2024, and it is worth noting that the real estate market in Norfolk County seems to be holding steady. These trends will need to be monitored in the coming months to determine if they are a sign of a larger trend or simply a temporary fluctuation," stated Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell.

The total number of deeds recorded for January 2024, which reflects both commercial and residential real estate sales and transfers, was 1,125, up 9% from January 2023 and down 9% from December of last month.

The average sale price of commercial and residential properties for January 2024 rose to \$1,013,999, a 19% increase compared to January 2023 and an increase of 16% from December 2023. The total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales is up, increasing 21% from last year but down 12% from last month.

For the month of January, lending activity overall showed the smallest decline in months,

with a total of 957 mortgages recorded, down only 4% from January of last year and 15% less than last month.

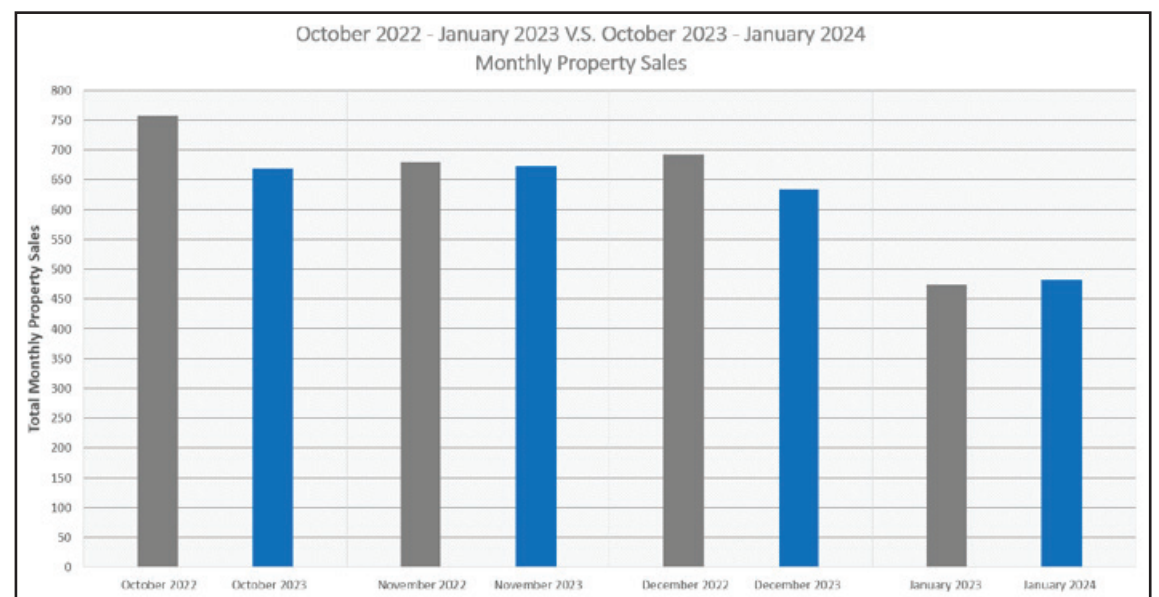
The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds continues to closely monitor the foreclosure market. In January 2024, there were 11 foreclosure deeds recorded as a result of mortgage foreclosures taking place in Norfolk County, whereas in January 2023, there were 9 recorded. The total number of notices to foreclose, the first step in the foreclosure process, increased from last year, going from 30 notices in January 2023 to 36 in January 2024.

For the past several years, the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has partnered with Quincy Community Action Programs (617-479-8181 x376) and NeighborWorks Housing Solutions (617-770-2227) to help anyone facing challenges paying their mortgage. Another option for homeowners is to contact the Massachusetts Attorney General's Consumer Advocacy and Response Division (CARD) at 617-727-8400.

O'Donnell concluded, "It is good to see that January 2024 has started out on a positive trajectory for the real estate market in Norfolk County. We will need to wait and see if this trend continues in the coming months, but it is certainly a promising start."

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

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, located at 649 High St., Dedham, is the principal office for real property in Norfolk County. The Registry is a resource for homeowners, title examiners, mortgage lenders, municipalities,



and others with a need for secure, accurate, and accessible land record information. All land record research information can be

found on the Registry's website, www.norfolkdeeds.org. Residents in need of assistance can contact the Registry of Deeds Customer

Service Center at (781) 461-6101 or email us at registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.

Winter Weather Advisory: Check CO Alarms and Keep Vents Clear of Snow

State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine is reminding residents to test their carbon monoxide (CO) alarms and keep dryer, furnace, and other exhaust vents clear of snow.

"Carbon monoxide is a leading cause of fatal poisoning, and home heating equipment is the primary source of carbon monoxide in the home," State Fire Marshal Davine said. "As part of your storm planning, check your CO alarms to be sure they're working properly, and if an alarm is past the manufacturer's recommended lifespan, replace it."

Residents should also be sure to keep outside vents clear of falling, drifting, or shoveled snow. In January 2005, 7-year-old Nicole Garofalo died when a heating vent was blocked by snow drifts

outside, allowing carbon monoxide to accumulate inside her Plymouth home. This tragedy led to Nicole's Law, which requires CO alarms on every habitable level of a Massachusetts residence.

"Fuel-fired heating appliances like dryers, furnaces, boilers, and fireplaces are all sources of carbon monoxide," State Fire Marshal Davine said. "If the vent or flue is blocked, this poisonous gas can reach deadly levels inside the home. Know where the vents on your home are, be sure to clear them when shoveling, and be careful not to blow snow onto them if using a snowblower."

Massachusetts fire departments detected nearly CO at nearly 5,000 incidents in 2022, officials said, and 90% of these

calls were at residential settings. The poison gas can cause headache, fatigue, dizziness, and/or nausea at lower concentrations and death at higher concentrations. Exposure while asleep is particularly dangerous. Children, older adults, and people with lung or heart disease are especially vulnerable.

"We can't see, smell, or taste carbon monoxide, but we can detect it with working CO alarms," State Fire Marshal Davine said. "If your alarm sounds, get outside and call 9-1-1."

For more information on carbon monoxide and CO alarms, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/smoke-and-carbon-monoxide-alarms>.



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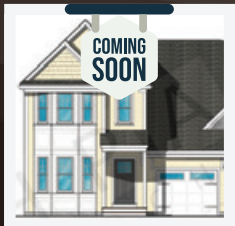
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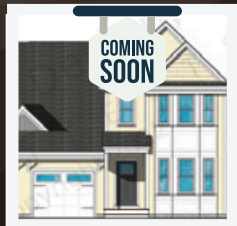
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