



Bellingham BULLETIN

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Vol. 31 No. 6

Bellingham's Favorite Hometown Newspaper

May 2025

BHS Cheerleading Team Wins National Championship

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

Bellingham High's winter cheerleading team is a national champion.

Coach Tracey Elliott's squad captured first place in the Small Advanced Co-ed Division of the AmeriCheer International Competition by beating teams primarily from New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. The Blackhawks competed at Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla., in March.

The BHS contingent participated in the two-day event by performing a 2½-minute routine each day. The routines included motion, dancing, pyramids, stunts and tumbling.

"The keys to our first-place finish were our energy and execution," Elliott emphasized. "Our routine was difficult, but the squad performed very well in front of a panel of six judges. They were a bit nervous but did a great job supporting one another."



Bellingham High's cheerleading team that won a national championship in Florida.

The team's two-day performances earned them a large, first-place trophy."

Another accolade included Elliott winning Coach of the Year honors. "I was humbled to be selected," she said. "All the coaches at the event are an

amazing group. Selection was based on my history as a coach (10 years at BHS), and letters of recommendation by current team members, former Belling-

CHAMPIONSHIP
continued on page 2



Bellingham High School Concert Band Wins Gold at MICCA 2025

By JENNIFER RUSSO

The Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association (MICCA) recently held statewide festivals for school bands and choral groups. MICCA's mission is to promote music education by offering several festival opportunities, promoting educator clinics, and granting scholarships annually to students pursuing careers in music education.

Each group is evaluated and scored by a panel of professionals on tone quality, balance and blend, technical facility, articulation, dynamics, and more. The group is also provided with a 25-minute clinic from one of the adjudicators with recorded comments and the performance recording, to help the group understand what it did well and

MICCA
continued on page 2

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Don't Miss BBA's State of the State Meeting May 14th

Bellingham-area businesses and organizations—mark your calendars for May 14th, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Arigna's Irish Pub and Coal Fire Kitchen at 798 Main St., Bellingham, when the Bellingham Business Association will hold its annual State of the State meeting.

Massachusetts State Representatives and State Senators are invited to attend and can give you important updates on what is happening from a legislative viewpoint in the Commonwealth.

The cost for members is \$25. RSVP by May 12th to Sue at contact@BellinghamBusinessAssociation.org.

To find out more about the BBA, visit www.bellinghambusinessassociation.org, email

contact@BellinghamBusinessAssociation.org, or find the group on Facebook: [@BellinghamBusinessAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/BellinghamBusinessAssociation).



VFW Post 7272 recently posted this photo of Kerry Pickering of Bellingham Business Association presenting a \$500 donation to VFW Post Commander Kevin Calnan on its Facebook page.

From the Town Clerk's Office...

Papers for the June 3rd Local Election have been certified, and the following candidates and positions will be on the ballot. The last day to object or withdraw is May 1st, and the last day to register to vote for the Local Election is May 23rd.

Mail in Ballot applications will be accepted until May 27th, and please note you must *fill out an application to receive a ballot through the mail*. There's a rigorous check and balance process to ensure fairness and accuracy. Applications will be accepted through the Secretary of State's online portal or printed and returned to the Town Clerk's office. More information can be found on our website at <https://www.bellinghamma.org/384/Town-Clerk>. Last year, our office received almost 4,000 Mail in Ballot applications for November's election, each application signed and tracked. With a 90% return rate, this means 33% of our population successfully Voted by Mail in that election.

Our "Meet the Candidate" forum will be held at the Senior Center on May 20th from 9 to 11 am. Please stop by to meet the candidates running for office and hear their platforms and motivations. There will be time for questions and light refreshments will be provided.

We look forward to a smooth election and as always, please give us a call with any questions!

Amy Bartelloni
Interim Town Clerk
(508) 657-2833

CONSTABLE – 4 positions. 3-year term.

William H. Paine (I)
William L. Roberts, Sr. (I)

HOUSING AUTHORITY – 1 position. 5-year term.

Christopher P. Remillard (I)
Lauren N. Cartier

LIBRARY TRUSTEE – 1 position. 3-year term.

Lindsey N. Resto

PLANNING BOARD – 2 positions. 3-year term.

Philip M. Devine (I)
Bryan E. Hall
Martin David Roche, Jr.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE – 2 positions. 3-year term

Jennifer L. Altomonte (I)
Michael J. Reed, Jr (I)

TOWN CLERK – 1 position. 3-year term

Amy Bartelloni
Suzanne Garten

TOWN MODERATOR – 1 position. 3-year term

John Michael Keeler

SELECT BOARD – 1 position. 3-year term

Michael J. Connor
Cody N. Spencer

BVT Golf Tourney June 9th Supports Tech Ed Foundation, Athletic Programs

You'll want to mark your calendar for BVT's 26th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, June 9th, at Highfields Golf & Country Club in Grafton. Hit the links, show off your skills, and help raise money for a good

cause to benefit the Valley Tech Education Foundation and Athletic Department activities and programs.

For more information, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/golf-tournament.

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT):

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas,

Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning com-

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1600-Unit Development Proposed at New England Country Club

Next Meeting on 55+ District Overlay Plan May 22, 7 p.m. at BHS

By JUDITH DORATO O’GARA

A new development is being proposed in South Bellingham, at the site of the New England Country Club. Bellingham resident Greg Houghton lives about a quarter mile away from there. He wants the residents of Bellingham to be, “aware of what’s going on, and let them be a part of the conversation.

“Back in 2017, the owner wanted to build 55+ housing, 200-300 units, and part of that required a petition to the town for a Zoning overlay. The Town voted to grant this overlay district. Pretty much, we were sold on this relatively small 55+ community where a couple hundred houses would be built,” says Houghton, who adds that now, “They’re trying to cram 1600 units in there.”

Indeed, the 2017 concept proposed by Ron Bonvie, principal of Bonvie Homes, initially proposed 172 units at a density of about six units an acre (<https://>

tinyurl.com/WickedLocal-2017NECC).

At that time, Bellingham voters approved Article 19 at the Annual Town Meeting, amending Zoning Bylaws entitled “Establishment of districts 240-28A (2), creating a 55+ Active Adult Overlay District (AAOD)”. Wording of the article noted an aim “to foster the development of a range of housing types and to provide the flexibility to encourage development that will allow for context-sensitive design and creative site planning. The processes developed hereunder will ensure that the development within the AAOD will be balanced with public health, safety and welfare. All projects proposed within this bylaw shall employ development principles that take into consideration the existing landscape, scenic vistas, passive and recreational opportunities and conservation of open spaces.”

The AAOD, available to view within Bellingham’s Zoning Bylaws at <https://ecode360.com/15958366>, allows for single-, two-, and multi-family dwellings with a maximum density of 8 residential units per acre and maximum building height of 37-60 feet, depending on the type of dwelling. Applicants are charged with ensuring projects are safe, with no adverse impacts on traffic, adequate emergency access, with a substantial portion reserved for open space.

On March 27th, at Bellingham High School, NECC Holdings, LCC, presented its proposal to the Bellingham Planning Board for a 1,600 development on the 330 acres at 180 Paine Street, where the district overlay exists. Many residents, from Bellingham and nearby Woonsocket, voiced opposition, with concerns over traffic, safety, impact of construction, environment, stretched public and municipal services, and the area’s historical connection to the Pokanoket Indian Tribe. Rep. Mike Soter, at the meeting, called the newer proposal a “bait and switch.”

“When this project came to my attention, I was shocked at what they were proposing,” Rep. Soter told the *Bulletin*, “This is not what the select board did previously with the overlay. These overlays take a lot of time and commitment. When I was chair of select board, we had multiple public meetings weighing numerous proposals on how the overlays would work including mitigating traffic plans. This preposterous proposal does not fit for that overlay or that neighborhood period. We had multiple proposals like this before the overlay was presented. I told them then and say it again now, apartment towers here in this location do not work. The overlay clearly outlines what this should be and that is simply a gated community for residents over 55 as per the overlay.”

Andrew Flynn, speaking for NECC, in fact, addressed public wariness for the project in his introduction at the Planning Board meeting. “I understand that we need to earn the trust and credibility of this community. We understand inherent skepticism on a project like this...” said Flynn,

continuing, “... what we are going to present tonight is not perfect, is not final...we want it ultimately to be in line with the overlay, the town’s housing production goals and the goals of all residents in Bellingham, Woonsocket and the surrounding area...”

Maintaining the 18-hole golf course, the project proposed aims for an east and west “campus” on either end of the course, each consisting of 800 housing units in six multi-unit residential buildings. The east campus would be on Wrentham Road, the west campus would be on Paine Street, with a total of 2,431 parking spaces on site. Readers can view the proposed plans at the Town website at <https://www.bellinghamma.org/799/NECC-Holdings-LLC-180-Paine-Street---Spe>, or find the page under “Proposed Projects” at the Planning Board’s page.

“I’m passionately opposed to this,” says Houghton, who be-

DEVELOPMENT

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PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

32-YEAR RESIDENT

LIFELONG DEDICATION TO OUR COMMUNITY

VOTE MARTY ROCHE

JUNE 03

PLANNING BOARD

As someone who grew up in Medway and has spent over three decades in our town of Bellingham, I’ve seen firsthand how small towns grow with the times — and how important it is to preserve that hometown feel while managing progress responsibly.

WHY I’M RUNNING. I’m a project manager, a neighbor, and a proud community member. I’m running for Planning Board to ensure every development in Bellingham meets our bylaws, respects our values, and aligns with our future.

EXPERIENCE THAT DELIVERS:

- 25+ years as a Project Manager
- Projects ranging from \$50K to \$400M
- 31-year President of a successful local townhouse association — all while maintaining the lowest condo fee in town
- No infrastructure older than 11 years in a 35+ year-old development
- Proven track record of strategic planning and smart growth

WHAT I STAND FOR:

- Zoning compliance
- Conservation Commission approval
- Safety/fire and DPW department sign-offs
- Proper easements & building compliance
- And above all — input from you, the townspeople

I’m here to ensure that development respects Bellingham’s bylaws, charter, and codes that benefits growth for us all.

LET’S KEEP OUR TOWN OF BELLINGHAM THRIVING, TOGETHER.
VOTE MARTY ROCHE FOR PLANNING BOARD

Municipal Spotlight

154th Memorial Day Ceremony Scheduled for May 18

BY KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

Bellingham's 154th Memorial Day ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 18, starting with a parade that will begin at 1 p.m. at the Memorial School.

Both the parade and the ceremony at the Town Common will focus on the holiday's theme — the significant anniversaries of major military engagements that included Bellingham residents during the last 250 years. They include the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington; the 250th birthdays of the Army, Marine Corps and Navy; the 80th anniversary of VE and VJ Day; the 75th anniversary of the start of the Korean Conflict; the 50th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon; and the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Bellingham War Memorial at the Town Common.

The keynote speaker and grand marshal had yet to be determined at the Bulletin's deadline.

The parade route will start at the Memorial School and continue along Route 126 to Bellingham center. Jim Hastings, the chairman of the Memorial

and Veterans Day Committee, is requesting that parade participants refrain from parking at the school's lot. "It will help if people are dropped off so there'll be room for parade participants to line up and form the marching order," he said.

Those marching in the parade include the Army and Marine Color Guards, the Bellingham High School Band, the Bellingham Memorial School Band, the Blackstone-Millville Middle School Band, the Assabet Valley Marine Corps Junior ROTC, the Henry Knox Color Guard, Mass. State Police Pipe and Drum Band, military vehicles from the Plymouth area, the Old Colony Bagpipe Band, and the Douglas High School Band.

Also, the Colonial Navy Fife and Drum Corps of Fall River, Greater Rhode Island Fire Pipe Band, the Bellingham Library staff, members of Bellingham's Police and Fire Departments, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Bellingham High student-athletes, Bellingham youth football and cheerleaders, Thanks to Yanks, and Milford veterans will participate.

Floats in the parade will include the Bellingham DPW, Milford veterans, the Bellingham Women of Today, the Bellingham Senior Center, the Bellingham VFW and its Auxiliary. Also, a dozen classic cars and trucks, PJ's Smokehouse, Chevy's Ice Cream, Bellingham Parts Plus, Charron Tree Service and a town officials float.

Lori Fafard, retired educator and member of the Memorial and Veterans Day Committee, and Bellingham Memorial School library aid, Sheila Elliot, have worked with Grade 4 students during their library classes in April and May to prepare them for marching in the parade.

Fafard and Elliot read books to the students about Memorial Day and taught them about veterans in the armed forces. Books that are read will be donated to the Memorial School's library by the Veterans Committee, which welcomes the students to march in the parade.



The Civil War Memorial at Bellingham's Town Common is dedicated to all the Civil War servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The ceremony at the common will begin at 2 p.m. with a wreath-laying to honor Bellingham servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice from the Civil War to the

CEREMONY
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DEVELOPMENT

continued from page 4

believes neither Paine Street nor Wrentham Road can handle 300-400 more cars. "It puts a strain on emergency services, the water supply, on schools. I want the town involved in the conversation, showing up, hearing it, and asking questions," he continued.

Houghton is not alone in his apprehension to the project. Other dissenters have created a website and Facebook page voicing that opposition called Stop NECC 2025 (<https://stopnecc2025.com>) and were circulating a petition against the project that had garnered 945 signatures at press time.

The project will next be discussed at a meeting on May 22nd at 7 p.m. at the Bellingham High School Auditorium.

For ongoing updates, please refer to the official Bellingham Planning Board page: <https://www.bellinghamma.org/507/Planning-Board>

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How to Control the Deadliest Animal on the Planet!

Mosquito and tick populations are on the rise again as the country transitions to the Spring season. While these pests are certainly nuisances, they can also transmit harmful diseases like Zika virus, West Nile

virus, Lyme disease, and more, which is why WPC Pest Control is helping to advocate for increased awareness of mosquito and tick prevention this season. "One of the best ways to fight off mosquito and tick bites and

subsequent disease transmission is to apply insect repellent before going outside," said Jim Mazzuchelli, owner of WPC Pest Control.

Yet, many people don't make it a priority to protect against these biting pests by taking this simple action. Those who do may not realize that there is a correct way to use repellent for it to be effective.

To properly apply insect repellent for maximum protection against mosquitoes and ticks, follow this five-step method from the National Pest Management Association (NPMA):

1. Look for a product containing an active EPA-registered ingredient, such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon-eucalyptus or IR3535.
2. Read the product label and follow the instructions carefully. If sunscreen is also being worn, repellent should be used over top of

sunscreen.

3. Shake the product well. Then, hold it about 6-8 inches away from exposed skin and spray evenly in a sweeping motion.
4. Spray the palms of hands to apply the repellent to the face and ears, being sure to avoid eye and nostril contact.
5. Apply the repellent over clothing, which should completely cover feet and ankles.

"Another great way to avoid contact with mosquitoes specifically is to remove any standing water around the yard to deter mosquito breeding," said, Jim Mazzuchelli of WPC Pest Control.

A licensed pest control professional can work with a homeowner to help identify these hot spots. The ultimate protection would be to have your yard treated by a professional pest



Jim Mazzuchelli, owner of WPC Pest Control

control operator. You will get the knowledge and protection needed to combat these dangerous threats. Your loved ones deserve it.

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CEREMONY

continued from page 5

Vietnam War. A prayer will be offered at the War Memorial near the Route 140 entrance.

An invocation will start the program at the gazebo followed by the National Anthem (sung by Joe and Robbie Oliver), and the Pledge of Allegiance. A reading of the "Gettysburg Address" will follow the pledge.

Hastings, who was awarded a Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam, will deliver opening remarks that will focus on the solemn nature of the holiday.

"Memorial Day is a time to pause and honor the memory of our servicemen and women for protecting us," Hastings said. "If it weren't for those who made the ultimate sacrifice, we'd be living in a different type of United States. They're the ones who've enabled us to enjoy the freedoms we have today."

The ceremony will continue with the reading of the names of Bellingham veterans who passed away during the last year.

Closing ceremonies will include the reading of names by Bellingham High students of all Bellingham residents who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service to their country during the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. After all the names are read, the 191-year-old bell at the nearby First Baptist Church will be rung.

The Old Colony Bagpipe Band will perform "Amazing Grace" followed by a rifle volley, Taps and a closing prayer.

The Memorial and Veterans Day Committee encourages those attending the parade to remain for the ceremony at the Town Common.

"The purpose of the holiday is to honor the memory of all servicemen and women who gave their lives while serving their country and their community," Hastings emphasized. "It's a solemn time to remember their sacrifices."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, transportation to the Memorial School will be provided by Vendetti Bus Company, which will be located across from the Town Common.

NCK Bellingham Partners with Thanks To Yanks to Support Veterans

At NCK Bellingham, martial arts is about more than punches and kicks—it's about heart, community, and showing up for others. This past month, the dojo wrapped up a successful donation drive supporting Thanks To Yanks, a local nonprofit dedicated to honoring and assisting veterans, military members, and their families.

To mark the occasion, Michael Shain, President of Thanks To Yanks, and Jared Ontiveros, Vice President, joined Mindy Ruddock, co-owner of NCK Bellingham, to celebrate the dojo's ongoing commitment to service.

"Our NCK Bellingham Family never stops giving," said Ruddock. "Whether it's supporting veterans, raising awareness for breast cancer in October with our Pink Belt campaign, or adopting a local family in need during the holidays, we believe in creating strong martial artists and strong communities."

To learn more about Thanks To Yanks, visit: www.thankstoyanks.org

For more about NCK Bellingham's programs and community outreach, contact: nckbellingham@gmail.com or visit www.nckbellingham.com.

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To learn more about Thanks To Yanks, visit: www.thankstoyanks.org

For more about NCK Bellingham's programs and community outreach, contact: nckbellingham@gmail.com or visit www.nckbellingham.com.

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Sue Garten Candidate for Town Clerk



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 - Create short educational videos for on demand viewing
- Partner with Bellingham organizations:
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 - Bellingham School programs to promote civics education and voter registration
- Be the people's Town Clerk for all of Bellingham

A New Voice

A New Vision

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Vote Sue Garten on June 3



Sue Garten for Bellingham Town Clerk

Paid for by Committee to Elect Sue Garten

Bellingham Resident Gary Bastarache Honored with 'Extra Mile Award'

BY JIMMY FUND WALK

Bellingham, MA, resident Gary Bastarache was honored with the Extra Mile Award for his outstanding efforts for the Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Bastarache was among a select group of awardees recognized for their fundraising and commitment to the 36th Jimmy Fund Walk, held last October. 2024 was another exceptional year, with nearly \$9.4 million raised for adult and pediatric cancer care and research at Dana-Farber.



More than 8,400 walkers and 1,000 volunteers came together for the event. Among them was Gary Bastarache, a devoted fundraiser and the team captain of Team Defeat Cancer. Bastarache has walked for 32 years and has individually raised more than \$71,000. Over the course of his tenure as a team captain, Gary's teams have cumulatively raised nearly \$200,000. Team Defeat Cancer is a Hero Match Team

and Gary is passionate about making a difference for their Hero every year, always walking in their honor. Gary is creative with his fundraising and hosts a bottle and can recycling drive every year. Gary's commitment and dedication to the Jimmy Fund Walk is unwavering.

"Every year, we witness the profound commitment, passion, and dedication from individuals who unite against cancer to

support this event. Their efforts raise funds that advance critical research and exceptional patient care at Dana-Farber," said Caitlin Fink, vice president of the Jimmy Fund. "Gary has demonstrated a strong commitment to defying cancer and exemplifies the spirit of this event. We are proud to honor Gary with the Extra Mile Award to recognize all he has done for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund."

In 2024, participants had the option to choose from four distances along the Boston Marathon@course: a 5K walk from Dana-Farber, a 10K walk from Newton, a Half Marathon walk from Wellesley, or the full Boston Marathon route starting in Hopkinton. Walkers could also participate virtually in their own communities.

Over its 36-year history, the Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$185 million for Dana-Farber. Funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the Institute. Hyundai has proudly served as the presenting sponsor for more than 20 years.

The 2025 Jimmy Fund Walk will be held on Sunday, October 5. To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers

will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

About the Jimmy Fund

The Jimmy Fund is comprised of community-based fundraising events and other programs that, solely and directly, benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's lifesaving mission to provide compassionate patient care and groundbreaking cancer research for children and adults. Follow the Jimmy Fund on Facebook, X, and Instagram: @TheJimmyFund.

About Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is one of the world's leading centers of cancer research and treatment.

We provide the latest treatments in cancer for adults through Dana-Farber Brigham Cancer Center and for children through Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center.

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AMY BARTELLONI: THE ONLY EXPERIENCED CHOICE FOR BELLINGHAM'S TOWN CLERK



ABOUT AMY BARTELLONI

Amy Bartelloni is running for Town Clerk to put her five years of experience as Assistant Town Clerk to use. A Bellingham resident for 25 years, Amy raised her three children in the community while actively contributing as an author, library trustee, PTO volunteer, and reporter for the Bellingham Bulletin. Since joining the Clerk's Office in 2019, she has significantly contributed to election administration, notably managing mail-in voting during the 2020 and 2024 elections.

Amy possesses extensive training and expertise in elections systems, licensing, and vital records, and consistently demonstrates fairness, professionalism and unwavering commitment to public service. Her Justice of the Peace and notary licenses are invaluable in the Clerk's office. During her time in the Town Clerk's office, she has upheld the integrity and efficiency of the office and seeks the community's support this June to continue her service to the town of Bellingham.

ENDORSED BY: STATE SEN. RYAN FATTMAN

"Amy Bartelloni is an active Bellingham resident with a strong commitment to service who I came to know when I first ran for public office. She is kind, approachable, and committed to her community to make it better. We have been friends for over a decade and I am proud to support her candidacy as Town Clerk."

ENDORSED BY: STATE REP. MIKE SOTER

"As a fellow Bellingham resident, I'm proud to endorse Amy Bartelloni for Town Clerk. Amidst challenges during the pandemic, Amy stepped up with professionalism and adaptability, ensuring every vote was counted with integrity. Her dedication and steady leadership make her the right choice for Bellingham Town Clerk."



HAVE A QUESTION? ASK AMY

✉ abartelloni@gmail.com

f [AmyForBellingham](https://www.facebook.com/AmyForBellingham)

🌐 AmyForBellingham.com

TUESDAY, JUNE 3rd

PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT AMY BARTELLONI

Your Money, Your Independence

Battle of The Ages: Wealth Effect vs. Experience Spending



Glenn Brown, CFP

The First To Go, But Should It?

When people react to a market downturn or economic uncertainty, one of the first things they scale back on is experience spending—travel, events, concerts, dining out, hobbies, and other non-essential but fulfilling activities.

For many, these aren't reckless purchases; they're often the things that create memories, deepen relationships, and improve well-being. Yet the negative wealth effect convinces people that now isn't the time.

"We'll go next year."

"Let's wait and host a big celebration on your ___th birthday."

"I'll take that art class when things feel more stable."

Here's the rub: markets are never stable but do come back, while specific opportunities don't.

Timing of Experiences Are Critical

Consider the family vacation to Disney, it is a different shared experience for all going when kids are 6 & 8 versus their late teens.

Or the family trip with your HS senior you're planning to do. What's their availability (and desire) once in college to go on a family trip with mom and dad? That window's closing.

Saving money to invest is smart.

Planning for the future is essential.

But there's a fine line between being financially responsible and letting portfolio values drive your decisions.

One of the most subtle yet impactful traps in financial planning is the negative wealth effect.

This occurs when a sudden drop in your perceived net worth (like a dip in your 401k or home value) causes you to feel poorer, even if your actual income and financial stability haven't changed. This psychological shift often leads people to cut back on spending—not just on luxuries, but on the very experiences that bring meaning, connection, and joy to their lives.

And that's when internal and external conflicts begin.

You might delay a trip only to find your health, schedule, or relationships have changed.

A Psychological Toll

There's a hidden cost to delaying experience spending, and it's not just about missing out on fun. It can lead to a sense of stagnation, disconnection, and even regret. As humans, we are wired for novelty, connection, and purpose. When we constantly suppress those desires due to financial fear, even when we can afford it, we shrink our lives unnecessarily.

Over time, this pattern will increase stress and negativity which creeps into your work and relationships. What's worse, these delays rarely improve your financial picture meaningfully. Even after skipping a few celebrations or delaying a vacation, it's not going to make your 401k come back.

Don't Let Perception Steal Reality

The key is recognizing that

the negative wealth effect is largely psychological. Your net worth on paper will fluctuate, but if your income, emergency savings, and long-term plans are still intact, then cutting off all experience-based spending will do more harm than good.

Ask yourself: "Is my fear based on the actual numbers—or how I feel about them?"

If it's the numbers, then review your historical net worth data and if it's close to 12-24 months ago, know this happens and will happen again. Move on.

Now if it's how you feel, then consider the sources driving your fear. If you're doom-scrolling politics, maybe it's time to put the phone down, go for a walk, listen to some music and think how to move forward with your planned experience spending.

Now if your budget doesn't have planned experience spending, that's another topic for another day.

Life Moves Pretty Fast...

To paraphrase Ferris Bueller, "Life moves pretty fast, if you stop until everything feels financially perfect, you could miss it". Spending mindfully on experiences that matter isn't wasteful—it's often the best investment you can make. Oh Yeeeah!

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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Green Lawns Without Green Waters!

Applying more fertilizer than the label recommends or your soil needs won't improve your lawn, and instead the extra fertilizer may wash off into nearby waterways. Just as fertilizer helps plants grow on the land, it encourages algae and other aquatic plants to grow in water. Dense weeds and algae reduce oxygen in the water, which in turn harms fish and other aquatic life. "Green water" is also much less attractive for boating, swimming and other human uses.

Please help keep our local waters clean:

- Test your lawn soil and calibrate your spreader.
- Use fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides sparingly. Sweep any overspray back onto the lawn.
- Mow 2.5 to 3 inches high with a sharp blade to encourage dense growth and deter weeds.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn to lessen the need for fertilizer.
- Never discard yard waste down storm drains or into waterways.
- Water deeply and infrequently, and time watering to avoid evaporation and runoff.
- Reseed bare areas with drought-tolerant varieties of lawn grass.

For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

Over-feeding our lawns may also green our rivers and ponds!

Garden Club of Bellingham to Hold Food Insecurity Fundraiser

PLANT Sale & Clothing Drive Saturday, May 17th, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Garden Club of Bellingham, MA is excited again to help out many residents and communities with its Food Insecurity Fundraiser Plant Sale & Clothing Drive, to take place May 17th, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., with the location generously hosted by Double Tree Hotel, Milford, Mass.

Thanks to our FOOD SECURITY SPONSORS and FRIENDS, some food insecure families can get a season of FREE healthy Produce. See one

of our Vendor Tables at the Fundraiser to find out the details & to apply as an applicant. *(Limited quantities avail.)

This Fundraiser also includes a Garden Skill Workshop, Vendor Tables & Vendor Coupons, FREE select plants & a chance to enter a Drawing to win a season of FREE produce

Many thanks to our 2025 FUNDRAISER SPONSORS: Silver Sponsor- Dean Bank, Bronze Sponsors-RJD Construction, Madison Farm, Chili's Bar



& Grill, Bellingham and friends like Garden Pizza and more. You too can join our sponsor or vendor by emailing us at: bellinghamgardenclubofma@gmail.com today.

Please check out our website for a listing of our sponsors, FULL event details, our Garden Skill Workshop, FREE Seasonal Produce Drawing for needy families and more events and activities. Vendors are welcome to register & contact us via email or visiting our website at: bellinghamgardenclubofma.com.

Rep. Soter Announces IT Grant Funding for Bellingham & Uxbridge

Representative Soter is pleased to announce that the towns of Bellingham and Uxbridge have each been awarded funding through the Commonwealth's Community Compact IT Grant Program. This competitive grant program supports municipalities in driving innovation, increasing efficiency, and improving service delivery through technology investments.

Bellingham has been awarded a \$130,000 grant to support its migration to a cloud-based service, a critical upgrade that will enhance the town's IT infrastructure and streamline operations. The project will help Bellingham deliver improved services to residents while ensuring long-term cost savings and sustainability.

Uxbridge will receive \$100,000 to implement a new financial management system, which will modernize the town's financial operations. This new system will allow for better financial tracking, increased transparency, and improved interaction between the town and its residents.

"I'm thrilled to see Bellingham and Uxbridge receive this important funding," said Representative Soter. "Investing in technology is key to improving the efficiency and accessibility of local government services. These grants will help both towns modernize their operations, save taxpayer dollars, and make it easier for residents to engage with their local government."

The Community Compact IT Grant Program provides grants of up to \$200,000 to help municipalities implement innovative IT projects. These grants cover one-time capital needs such as technology infrastructure, software, and associated costs such as planning, installation, and training.

Both Bellingham and Uxbridge are excited about the opportunities this funding will create to enhance their local government operations and improve service delivery for residents.

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

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

This event is open to participants of all ages and fitness levels, making it a great outdoor activity for families and community members. Plenty of water and refreshments will be available during and after the race. Whether you're running, walking, or simply enjoying a scenic stroll along the trail, the 5K offers an opportunity to reconnect

with nature and support a great local cause.

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

Learn more at <https://www.tri-valleyfrontrunners.com/fbrtc/FBRTC5K.php>.

The Franklin Bellingham Rail Trail Committee is always looking for volunteers. For information, visit www.franklinbellinghamrailtrail.org.



Healey-Driscoll Administration Announces \$3.2 Million in Fire Safety Grants

STOW—Bellingham is one of more than 300 Massachusetts fire departments that will receive over \$3 million dollars in grants to support safety equipment for firefighters and life safety education for kids and older adults, according to the Healey-Driscoll administration.

“Massachusetts firefighters do much more than fight fires – they’re our first line of defense in any emergency,” said Governor Maura Healey. “These grants will help firefighters protect themselves from injury and illness, rescue people in danger, and keep our most vulnerable residents safe from fires and other hazards at home. We are proud to be able to support these vital first responders who never hesitate to answer a call for help.”

The awards are drawn from three grant programs coordinated by the Department of Fire Services.

The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program reimburses local fire departments for purchases of turnout gear, hazardous

gas meters, SCBA components, accountability systems, thermal imaging cameras, and more. This round of grants will provide \$1.63 million in funding to fire departments in 266 communities. In many cases, the reimbursed purchases will help them attain compliance with Occupational Safety & Health Administration or National Fire Protection Association safety standards. Bellingham will receive \$3,700 for Firefighter Safety Equipment.

The Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) Grant Program funds firefighter-educators who deliver age-appropriate fire and life safety education to school-age children. Since the grants’ inception in 1995, the number of Massachusetts children who die in fires has dropped to historically low levels, from two dozen or more per year to zero for nearly three consecutive years. This year’s awards will deliver more than \$1.1 million to 204 local fire departments. Bellingham will receive \$5,674 of these funds.

“For 30 years, the SAFE grants have delivered life-saving lessons to Massachusetts’ kids and teens through our local firefighters,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy. “This is just one of the powerful local-state partnerships that make Massachusetts one of the safest places in the nation to live, work, and raise a family.”

In 2014, DFS launched the Senior SAFE Grant Program, which is geared toward another vulnerable population – older adults, who face a disproportionate risk of death or serious injury in a fire. Nearly \$485,000 will support alarm installation, fire safety education, fall prevention strategies, and other resources delivered by 203 local fire departments in partnership with local senior centers, councils on aging, and other community partners.

The state has awarded Bellingham a Senior SAFE grant of \$2,378.88.

“People aged 65 and older are at greatest risk of death or serious injury in a fire at home,” said

State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “The Senior SAFE grants make a difference by sending trained firefighters to conduct home safety assessments, install

or replace smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and help our seniors age in place safely and independently.”



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“Like you, I want our elected officials to listen to the concerns of our families and address them head on. *I was born in this town and I am invested in the future of Bellingham.* On the Select Board, I promise to be your voice and vote for common sense.”

INVESTING IN SCHOOLS & SERVICES

Cody is committed to strengthening Bellingham by investing in quality education, supporting teachers, and ensuring students have the resources to succeed. He will also prioritize essential services like public safety, infrastructure, and senior support to keep our town strong and thriving.

A BETTER BELLINGHAM FOR EVERYONE

Cody is committed to building a better Bellingham for everyone. Cody knows we need real solutions for Bellingham, not empty promises. Cody will be a strong leader who understands his role in bringing the community together by communicating, not hiding behind the walls of Town Hall.

KEEPING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE

Cody will ensure transparency, fiscal responsibility, and common-sense leadership in Bellingham's government. He'll work for the residents to keep taxes fair, spending smart, and decisions open to the community.



HAVE A QUESTION? ASK CODY SPENCER

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TUESDAY, JUNE 3rd

PAID FOR BY THE SPENCER FOR SELECT BOARD COMMITTEE

Ladies of St. Anne Plant Sale May 17th & 18th

Three Different Annuals to Be Sold before and after Mass

This month, the Ladies' Annual Plant Sale will take place on May 17 and 18 before and after each Mass at St. Blaise. Each 6-inch pot contains three different annuals.

April was a busy month for the Ladies of St. Anne. With Mother's Day, graduations and summer entertaining just around the corner, Kim Hughes, a representative of Tastefully Simple, displayed several samples of easy to prepare and delicious foods to make entertaining so much easier.

Also at this meeting, the Ladies hosted a baby shower for Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center. Abundant Hope has been a trusted source of educational, medical and material resources since 2009. Located in Attleboro, Mass., they serve women and families in over 40 surrounding communities with grace, honesty and love. They are the first step for women in an unplanned pregnancy to

consider their choices and receive accurate information from Board-certified and licensed medical staff. Grace Small from the Center, spoke of the free support and services offered, including the Diaper Bank which provides baby clothing, diapers and wipes, formula, baby food, blankets, etc. Since Abundant Hope is wholly sustained by the support of the church community and individuals, all donations are most gratefully accepted.

During the business meeting, the Ladies voted to increase the Scholarship amount to \$750. The scholarship applications will be available at St. Blaise church and on the parish website. Applicants can be graduating high school seniors or full-time college or technical school students who are working towards a degree and are active participants of St. Blaise parish.

The Ladies assembled 13 Mother's Day gift baskets with



Pictured on the table is the clothing, baby wipes, baby shampoo and wash, diaper bags, etc., donated by the members of the LoSA. Several cases of diapers were also donated.

various items, such as spa and bath products, chocolates, wine, snacks, donated by all the Ladies. Raffle tickets for these baskets will be sold before and after each Mass. For \$5 you receive seven tickets, \$2 for three tickets or \$1 for one ticket. All baskets will be on display during weekend Masses. Drawing will

be on May 4 following the 10 a.m. Mass.

On June 1, the LoSA Sodality will celebrate a Memorial Mass at 10 a.m., honoring ten Ladies who have died in the past year. They are Therese M. Trottier, Alice M. Sutherland, Eileen Spear, Louise H. Frappier, Linda A. Beaulieu, Sandra

E."Sandy" Paine-Rust, Simone B. Picard, Noella M. Theroux, Rolande A. Dubois, and Jeannine M. Godbout. Family members have been invited to participate in this memorial for their loved ones. Following the Memorial Mass, there will be a gathering in the church hall for all families and friends.

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

VOTE! TUESDAY, JUNE 3RD! MICHAEL CONNOR FOR SELECT BOARD

Time flies ... or so it seems, but thirty years have passed since I first called Bellingham HOME and for fifteen of those years (2009-2024), I had the pleasure of serving on the Bellingham Select Board.

Professional – private sector experience ... while many in Town know me today as the Director of Athletics for the School Department, I spent more than 25 years in Corporate Financial Services, working in multiple roles including Managing Director of Relationship Management & SVP National Sales, specializing in equity programs, initial public offerings, and handling merger and acquisition events for publicly traded companies. Skills that have served me well on the Board.

Experienced – public sector experience ... a great many things have come before the Board during my tenure and looking back on more than 400+ meetings the most common theme is that it all comes down to money.

SO HOW HAVE WE DONE?

Bellingham continues to have the lowest tax rate in Norfolk County and regionally, year-in and year-out ... for more than 30 years.

Our bond rating (a measure of our Town's financial health) was AA- in 2009, rose to AA through 2013, and since 2014 has remained at AA+; the only higher rating is AAA plus; held by the Federal Government.

Our Seniors, age 65+, are the beneficiaries of a robust Property Tax Work off program and dramatic discounts for water, sewer, and trash.

Over the past few years, we have welcomed several new department heads including our CFO, Chiefs of Fire & Police, as well as a DPW Director.

WHAT'S AHEAD?

The Town will welcome a new Town Administrator in the months ahead.

A 12–18-month comprehensive review of water, sewer, and trash costs will come before the Board for a reset of rates. The last reset was roughly 10 years ago.

Ensuring that these costs are spread over the "big box" community is paramount.

Recently signed contracts with AFSCME, public safety, and the school department unions will pose financial challenges that must be addressed head on.



PAID FOR BY MICHAEL CONNOR

DEALING WITH ISSUES WHERE EXPERIENCE WILL MATTER!

B.H.S Athletic Hall of Fame - Class of 2025

The Bellingham Athletic Booster Club "B.A.B.C.", in conjunction with the Bellingham Athletic Department is pleased to announce the Class of 2025 inductees into the BHS Athletic Hall of Fame.

The inductees include three contributors, five student-athletes, and the Super Bowl Champion 1998 Football team; Roger Guillemette (Hockey Coach 79-83), the father-son duo of Harold Maines (Contributor 60's-70's) and Kevin Maines (Football, Base-ball, & Basketball, Class of 1974), Lisa Motroni (Field Hockey, Track, Class of 1995), Lisa Payne (Field Hockey, Softball, Class of 1987), John Simpson (Basketball Con-tributor), Greg Smith (Baseball, Football,

Class of 1993), Michael Trudeau (Baseball, Basketball, Class of 1985), and the 1998 Football Team captained by (alphabetically) Shawn Koulopoulos, Jon McGettrick, Sonny Milani, and Justin Prophet.

This will be the 5th induction class with the prior 4 coming in 2018, 2019, 2021, & 2023; showcased on bellinghamk12.com (see athletics * hall of fame). The Class of 2025 induction will be held on Friday, November 21 at the Bellingham Coachmen's Lodge. Tickets will go on sale beginning August 1 and traditionally sell out quickly.

Bellingham Director of Ath-

letics, Michael Connor, noted that the Hall of Fame remains in its infancy with only five teams being previously inducted, 11 contributors/coaches, and 23 student-athletes. Comparatively, Bellingham has seen more than 85 graduat-ing classes, and tens of thousands of Blackhawk student-athletes have represented the community, making induction into the hall of fame ... rarified air.

Quick note from the Athletic Director's desk ...

Registration for all sports - all seasons for the upcoming 2025-26 school year is open at

[https://students.arbitersports.com/search/Bellingham MA](https://students.arbitersports.com/search/Bellingham%20MA). Bellingham High School & Middle School offers up to 16 sports encompassing 55+ teams annually. During the 2024-25 school year, there were more than 875

seasonal registrations. To learn more about our programs, check out www.bellinghamk12.org and click on "athletics," and to learn more about the Hall of Fame, visit the High School any day after school.



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Introducing the PanOptix® Pro IOL: A Breakthrough in Cataract Surgery – and a First for Massachusetts

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

Cataract surgery has evolved dramatically over the past few decades, moving from a simple removal of the clouded natural lens to a transformative procedure that can restore full-spectrum vision. The introduction of advanced intraocular lenses (IOLs) has redefined the standard of care, allowing many patients to regain sharp vision at multiple distances without the ongoing need for glasses.

Now, a new generation of lens technology is poised to elevate outcomes even further: the Clareon® PanOptix® Pro Trifocal IOL. Alcon recently announced the official U.S. launch of this lens, with commercial availability starting in May 2025. I'm honored to share that I will be performing the first PanOptix Pro implantation in Massachusetts, bringing this groundbreaking innovation to our community.

What Is the Clareon® PanOptix® Pro IOL?

The Clareon PanOptix Pro is Alcon's latest trifocal intraocular lens designed for use during cataract surgery. It builds on the success of the original PanOptix® IOL, which was the first trifocal lens approved by the FDA in the United States. This new version offers enhanced optics, improved light management, and a more seamless range of vision.

This lens features ENLIGHTEN® NXT optical technology, a refinement that allows for 94% light utilization — the highest reported light transmission of any trifocal IOL on the market today. Compared to its predecessor, PanOptix Pro also boasts a 16% increase in contrast between intermediate and distance vision, delivering a sharper, more comfortable visual experience across the entire range.

Additionally, targeted diffractive refinements help redirect 50% of light previously lost to

scatter toward useful focal points, greatly enhancing image clarity and reducing glare.

Why It's Better Than the Original PanOptix

The original PanOptix lens already offered excellent outcomes, allowing patients to see clearly at near (reading), intermediate (computer), and distance (driving) ranges. However, some patients experienced visual disturbances like halos or glare, especially in low-light settings. The Clareon PanOptix Pro addresses these concerns with:

- Improved contrast sensitivity
- Reduced light scatter
- More uninterrupted light distribution
- Enhanced optical image sharpness

These refinements translate to better night vision, clearer contrast, and greater patient satisfaction, especially in visually demanding environments.



Another major improvement is the Clareon AutonoMe® pre-loaded delivery system, which allows for more precise, consistent lens placement during surgery — a benefit for both surgeons and patients.

Key Benefits for Patients

- Seamless vision across distances — from reading a phone to driving at night
- Reduced dependence on glasses
- Brighter, sharper vision
- Low-light confidence, such as in restaurants or while driving at night
- Built-in UV and blue light filtering for retinal protection

- Multifocal IOLs: Offer multiple focal points, though with a more limited range than trifocals
- Extended Depth of Focus (EDOF) IOLs: Improve intermediate and distance vision with reduced halos, though near vision may still need support

Choosing the right IOL is highly individualized and should be guided by lifestyle, eye health, and visual expectations.

A First for Massachusetts

Bringing the Clareon PanOptix Pro to Massachusetts is a milestone I'm proud to be part of. Our practice has always embraced cutting-edge technology to enhance patient outcomes, and this next-generation lens is no exception. Performing the first PanOptix Pro implant in the Commonwealth underscores our ongoing commitment to innovation, excellence, and personalized care.

We believe our patients deserve access to the latest proven technologies — not just to restore vision, but to improve how they live, work, and experience the world.

Why Milford Franklin Eye Center?

Cataract surgery is all about better precision, more safety, and excellent outcomes. At Milford Franklin Eye Center, I am proud to have been the first surgeon in the area and among the first in Massachusetts to offer bladeless laser-assisted cataract surgery — and the first in Greater Boston to implant the original PanOptix lens. We are now excited to bring the PanOptix Pro to our community.

The top five teaching hospitals in the nation offer bladeless laser cataract surgery — and

Risks and Considerations

While the PanOptix Pro IOL offers impressive advantages, it's important to remember that no intraocular lens is perfect for every patient. Some individuals may still experience mild visual disturbances such as glare or halos, particularly in the first weeks after surgery. The brain also requires time to adapt to trifocal optics, and some patients may need a short adjustment period.

The lens is not recommended for those with significant macular disease, irregular astigmatism, or certain other ocular conditions. A comprehensive preoperative consultation is critical to determine candidacy.

Alternatives to the PanOptix Pro

For patients not suited to trifocal lenses, several other IOL options exist:

- Monofocal IOLs: Provide clear vision at one distance, typically requiring glasses for near or intermediate tasks

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EYE

continued from page 14

so do we. All surgeries are performed at our state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford using advanced laser technology and premium lenses that correct for distance, near, and everything in between. Many cases of astigmatism are now fully correctable with these modern lens implants.

Our complication rates are among the lowest in the nation. One hundred percent of surgeries are performed under topical anesthesia — meaning no needles, no shots around or behind the eye, no stitches, and no scalpels. It's truly no knife, no shots, no stitch surgery.

We have anesthesiologists present for all cases and we never perform surgery in an office space, unlike some other practices. We also do not charge additional fees for use of the operating room — another key difference. There is no longer

any need to travel hours for your cataract surgery. The most advanced care is already here, close to home.

It's Time to Be Pro Panoptimistic!

The Clareon PanOptix Pro IOL is more than just an upgrade — it's a significant leap forward in cataract surgery outcomes. With its groundbreaking light utilization, refined optics, and proven range of vision, it stands to become the new gold standard for patients seeking independence from glasses and sharp, vibrant vision at all distances. Experience cataract surgery results second to none — here, closer to home, at the Milford Franklin Eye Center.

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Bellingham Public Library News & Events for May

For updates about library programs and services, please see the library website, www.bellinghamlibrary.org.

Additional details about library programs are available on the library calendar at <https://bit.ly/4eJRLSh>

Holiday Closing

Closed Monday, May 26th (Memorial Day Holiday)

Highlighted Programs

Spring Sugar Cookie Decorating – Wednesday, May 14th from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Getting out of school early?! Come decorate some Spring sugar cookies with us! Registration required.

Red Cross Blood Drive – Saturday, May 17th from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. Register at redcrossblood.org

Great - Great Grandfather, Tell Me a Story! – Monday, May 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Author Janis Robinson Daly will share how a unique discovery made during genealogy research inspired her to write a historical novel, *The Unlocked Path*, #1 New

Release of US Historical Fiction on Amazon in August 2022, with a sequel, *The Path Beneath Her Feet*, capturing the same honor in September 2024. Please register. *This program is made possible by funding from the Friends of the Bellingham Library.*

KMA Student Art Show – Thursday, May 22nd from 6-7:45 p.m. Join us for the Annual KMA Student Art Show. This is a joint program between the Bellingham Public Library and Keough Memorial Academy. Refreshments courtesy of the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library.

Popular Music & Veterans – Bellingham Town Common, Saturday, May 24th from 4-5 p.m.

In “Popular Music and Veterans,” Jon and Li Waterman explore some experiences and sacrifices of veterans throughout American history, including World War I, World War II, the Civil War and other conflicts alongside the history of popular music in America. This program is performed by Jon and Li Waterman as a duo. **In case of rain, the concert will be held at**

the Bellingham Library. *This program is supported by a grant from the Bellingham Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.*

Ongoing Children’s Programs

The Baby Bunch – Mondays at 9:30 a.m., for infants 0-18 months and their caregivers.

Ring a Ding – Mondays & Thursdays at 10:15 a.m.

Read to Freedom the Reading Dog – Mondays from 5:30-7 p.m. Check the calendar for details and to sign up for a 15-minute time slot!

Sensory Story Time – Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. For children ages 2-5 of all abilities (younger siblings always welcome). Please register for each session.

Lego Builders – May 12th at 4:30 p.m. (only one session this month!) An open hour to build with Legos - use a design or your imagination! We will save and display your creations for two weeks. For Grades K to 3 – Drop in, no registration!

Adult/Child Book Clubs – For

kids in grades 1-3, 4-6 or 7-10 and an adult in their life who loves to read. Meets monthly. Grades 1-3 should contact Melissa Denham, mdenham@cwmar.org, grades 4-6 should contact Amanda Maclure, amaclure@cwmar.org, and grades 7-10 should contact Diane Nelson, dnelson@cwmar.org.

After School Programs

Registration is mandatory for children in grades 4-6 to attend the ASK program. Registration takes place each day after school between 2:30 and 4:45 p.m. Hours vary for both programs on early release days, so please check the library calendar for schedule changes.

- ASK Program hours 2:30-4:45 p.m.
- The Teen Room is open for grades 7-12 from 2-4:45 p.m.

For ASK: <https://www.bellinghamma.org/288/Elementary-Middle-School>

For Teen Room: <https://www.bellinghamma.org/354/Programs>

Adult Programs

Yoga for the Seasons – Spring into Yoga: Renew & Energize

Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. Check the library calendar for details.

Book Discussion Group – Generally meets the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Attend in person or on Zoom. Contact Cecily Christensen, cchriste@cwmar.org, for information. Upcoming titles and dates are:

May 5: *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by Victoria Schwab

June 2: *This Other Eden* by Paul Harding

July 7: *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom

A Novel Idea: A New Book Club for Adults – Tuesday, May 6th from 6:30-8 p.m. Read a book every month and discuss it with others while enjoying light refreshments. This month’s title is *Project Hail Mary*, by Andy Weir. Contact Diane Nelson at dnelson@cwmar.org.

English Conversation Groups

Practice speaking English with

LIBRARY

continued on page 17

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Middlesex County 4-H Fife & Drum Corps in Bellingham May 18th

Young Musician Group to Take Part in Memorial Day Parade, Seeks Members

The Middlesex County 4-H Fife and Drum Corps was founded in 1972 in order to pass

on New England's fife and drum tradition to young musicians. The group's repertoire consists of fife and drum music dating from the American Colonial Period to modern pieces written in

the traditional style. Comprised of youth aged 8 to 18, the corps is led by its members, who elect their leaders and determine their own events and repertoire each season. The corps performs in

parades and at historical commemorations throughout New England during the year. April and May are busy months with several upcoming events:

Saturday, April 19: Concord Patriot's Day Parade. This event includes a parade through Concord, MA and a ceremony at North Bridge. The parade steps off at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 27: Lincoln Salute. This is a "Muster" where fife & drum groups from all over New England come to perform. The event takes place at Pierce Park, 17 Weston Road, Lincoln, MA and starts at 1 p.m.

Saturday, May 3: William Diamond Junior Fife & Drum Corps' Muster. This event includes a brief parade and performances of fife and drum corps and marching units. There will also be colonial crafts people displaying their wares. Activities begin at 12 p.m. at Hastings Park, Lexington, MA.

Sunday, May 18: Bellingham Memorial Day Parade. The parade steps off at 1 p.m. from the Bellingham Memorial Middle School and ends at the Town



Common.

Monday, May 26: Andover Memorial Day Parade. The parade steps off at 10 a.m. from the intersection of Elm Street and Florence Street.

The corps provides music lessons during weekly Sunday afternoon rehearsals at Bemis Hall, 15 Bedford Road, Lincoln, Mass.

The corps is happy to welcome anyone, including those who do not yet play an instrument. Instruments, instruction and most uniform parts are provided without charge. The participation fee is just \$40 per year. For more information, reach out at mc4hfd@gmail.com or mc4hfd.org.

LIBRARY

continued from page 16

other adult English language learners in a relaxed, comfortable place, and meet new friends as we learn by talking together. Drop-in classes offered weekly on the following dates/times.

Monday, May 5th from 1-1:45 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13th from 6-6:45 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21st from 11-11:45 a.m.

Thursday, May 22nd from 5-5:45 p.m.

Needlecraft Night - Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. All skill levels are welcome, including beginners. Please bring your own materials. No registration.

Writing Group for Adults - Tuesday, May 13th at 6:30 p.m. Writers, readers, listeners -

come join us! Group is led by local area writers Amy Barteloni and Marjorie Turner Hollman. Hear what local writers are working on and share what you are working on. Reading limit is 9 minutes per reader, with a brief opportunity for positive, personal comments only. To participate contact Marjorie Turner Hollman atmarjorie@marjorie-turner.com.

Library Board of Trustees Meeting - Thursday, May 8th at 7 p.m., Conference Room

Friends of the Library Meeting - Tuesday, May 13th at 7 p.m. Email library@bellingham-library.org for Zoom link.

Bellingham Genealogy Club - no meeting this month, stay tuned for updates on the future of this club!

Virtual Author Talks - to register for these talks, go to: https://libraryc.org/bellingham. Re-

cordings of these talks will be available on the library website in days following the event.

Wednesday, May 7th at 2 p.m. - How to Use Anxiety to Thrive with Dr. David H. Rosmarin

Wednesday, May 14th at 7 p.m. - On Writing a Brilliant, Dark, and Diabolical Thriller with Author Liann Zhang

Wednesday, May 21st at 2 p.m. - How Judy Blume Rewrote Childhood for All of Us with Author Rachelle Bergstein

New Online Resource!

The library is now subscribing to **Fiero Code**, a learn-to-code platform that uses gamification to teach coding skills to people of all ages. Patrons with a Bellingham Library card can access Fiero Code at: https://app.fiero-code.com/sign-in?club=1450.

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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Tame the Mane—We've Got The Secret to Smooth Summer Hair

BY GINA WOELFEL

Has your frizzy hair gone rogue with a mind of its own? Don't sweat it! When the humidity hits, **The Saphira Mineral DeFrizz Treatment** will have you smooth sailing all summer long.

Frizz and lack of definition are common struggles, especially in the summer heat for people with curly, wavy and textured hair. But now, you can say “Buh-bye” to frizz and hello to the most smooth, defined curls with the Saphira Mineral DeFrizz Treatment, **available at b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio in Medway, MA.** “My curls have never looked this good—soft, defined, and totally frizz-free,” says one happy b.LUXE client, Linda Picard. “It's a total game-changer for summer.

Beach days and warm summer nights are calling—and

we're here to help you look your best—effortlessly. Managing frizzy hair can feel like a full-time job, but what if we told you that you could say goodbye to frizz without losing your hair's natural texture or integrity? Imagine a summer where your hair stays smooth and hydrated—even in the muggy heat. We're talking about a **quick, easy, and effective solution** for everyone—from those with tough curls to fine, damaged hair.

Ready to learn more? Let's dive into why the Saphira Treatment is the must-have summer service for you!

Frizz-Free Hair Without the Fuss

The magic behind this treatment is in the ingredients! Its mineral-based DeFrizz technol-

ogy is composed of **26 Dead Sea Minerals, Lily Flower and Essential Oils.** These ingredients work together to soothe and refresh your scalp, promoting a healthy foundation for your hair. The treatment also includes **hyaluronic acid**, which is a humectant that helps seal in moisture to keep your hair hydrated, preventing dryness and minimizing frizz. It's like a spa day for your hair!

And did we mention the diamond powder? We're talking the fancy stuff here, folks—because diamonds are a girl's best friend, right? The Saphira Mineral Treatment infuses your hair with **diamond powder** for an extra dose of luxe, leaving it smoother, more radiant, and shining with a healthy, head-turning glow.

The Difference is in the Texture

Love your waves, curls and coils? Keep them! Not to be confused with traditional smoothing or keratin treatments that relax and straighten the hair. The Saphira Mineral DeFrizz Treatment retains your natural texture while eliminating frizz, healing the hair and adding strength. A thermodynamic process occurs when the treatment is applied. One of the key ingredients, **Hyaluronic Acid** is a humectant which hydrates the hair and seals in moisture, eliminating protein bonds that create frizz. This new technology is unlike anything else on the market.

Quick, No-Hassle Treatment

One of the best things about the Saphira Mineral DeFrizz Treatment is how easy and fast it is—no hours spent in the salon or sitting under a hooded dryer. In fact, this treatment can be done in under **60 minutes**, with **no processing time required.** So, you can get an effortless, frizz-free look during your lunch break and be ready to take on the rest of your day! Plus, it's **formulated without harsh chemicals**, so no strong smells or waiting for the treat-



SAPHIRA MINERAL DEFRIZZ SMOOTHING TREATMENT

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ment to “process.” Another bonus! Air drying and blowouts are so much easier! By reducing frizz, your curls and waves dry smoother and sleeker.

Lasting Results That Will Keep You Frizz-Free for Months

Now, let's talk about longevity. After just one treatment, the Saphira Mineral DeFrizz Treatment will leave your hair **smooth, hydrated, and frizz-free for up to five months.** That means you can enjoy beautiful hair all summer long!

The Best Part? It Works on All Hair Types.

Tough curls, damaged strands, fine hair—you name it, this treatment's got it covered. It's the go-to solution for anyone looking to keep their hair healthy, shiny, and frizz-free.

Book Your Saphira Mineral DeFrizz Treatment Today!

Go on—you deserve it! Skip the daily frizz battle and spend

more time enjoying your summer. The weather's heating up, and it's the perfect time to level up your hair game. With the Saphira Treatment, you can finally say goodbye to frizz and hello to smooth, shiny hair—perfect for summer, and just as amazing year-round.

The Saphira DeFrizz Treatment is **priced at \$275** and **includes a full-sized Prep & Maintain Shampoo and Mineral Mist** for you to take home.

So, why wait? Book your appointment today and give your hair the **luxury treatment** it deserves.

To schedule a Saphira Mineral DeFrizz Healing Treatment, you can scan the QR code above, call us at (508) 321-1624 or go to **bluxe.com** to see all we have to offer.

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Franklin PMC Kids Ride Returns June 8, 2025

Young Riders Rally to Crush Cancer

Get ready to ride for a cause! On Sunday, June 8, 2025, the Franklin PMC Kids Ride returns as one of 25 youth cycling events taking place across New England this year. These rides are part of the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) Kids Rides program, which inspires children to get involved in philanthropy by riding their bikes and raising money for cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Since its start, the program has raised over \$12 million to support the fight against cancer.



Children not quite ready for a full course, there's a "Tikes and Trikes" area that offers a safe, enclosed space to ride. The day is filled with fun activities, interactive stations, and a festive post-ride celebration with games, food, music, and more. In 2024, Franklin saw 126 kids take part, raising over \$42,000. This year, organizers are aiming to hit \$50,000 — with every single rider-raised dollar going directly to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Top fundraisers will be honored with special recognition. Kids who raise \$500 or more earn the title of "PMC Kids Heavy Hitter," while those who raise over \$1,000 will be celebrated as "PMC Kids Breakaway Fundraisers." Both groups will receive a commemorative item and certificate for their incredible efforts.

The Franklin ride was founded by local resident Lisa Marchioni. "I launched the Franklin ride to honor a dear friend who passed away from lung cancer, leaving behind three young children. I wanted to help other families avoid that heartbreak," she shares. "After riding the adult PMC myself in 1991, I was inspired to get kids



involved. My daughter rode in the Medfield event and was so moved by the experience that she wanted to bring it to our town. That's how the Franklin ride was born."

The event takes place at Jefferson Elementary School (628 Washington Street) from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on June 8, 2025. Registration is open to families from any town. There is a \$20 sign-up fee and a minimum fundraising goal of \$40 per rider.

The PMC Kids Rides program is made possible by Yawkey Foundations, with support from Yasso, 105.7 WROR,

and Landry's Bicycles. The PMC is co-presented by the Red Sox® Foundation and M&T Bank.

To register, donate, or learn more, visit kids.pmc.org/franklin or reach out to Lisa Marchioni at lisabxyz@verizon.net.

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GOOD DEEDS: The Community Preservation Act

BY WILLIAM P. O'DONNELL,
NORFOLK COUNTY REGISTER OF
DEEDS

Dear Friends of the Registry, Registry Stakeholders, and Norfolk County Residents, Spring is here, and as many of us take this opportunity to enjoy the wonderful public spaces that the communities in Norfolk County have to offer, I wanted to take a moment and share with you some history and information about the Community Preservation Act.

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is the result of more than two decades of work to create legislation that would provide all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns with a tool to preserve their most unique natural, community, and physical infrastructures in the face of rapid expansion and development.

The CPA allows cities and

towns to establish a Community Preservation Fund to preserve open space, historic preservation, affordable housing, and outdoor recreation. Additionally, the CPA establishes a statewide Community Preservation Trust Fund which the Department of Revenue (DOR) oversees and which contributes annually to municipalities that have ratified the CPA.

The Community Preservation Act was signed into law on September 14, 2000. Today, with the addition of Sheffield, Swampscott, Townsend and Winchester, MA in 2024 there are 200 Massachusetts communities that have adopted this act. 19 of the 28 communities that make up Norfolk County have adopted the law since it was signed back in 2000. As of December 31, 2019, fees collected for the Community Pres-

ervation Act were increased to \$50 for most land documents recorded and \$25 for municipal lien certificates. The Registry of Deeds, at no additional cost to the Commonwealth or local communities, collects these revenues once a land document is recorded and forwards the monies to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue each month. The funds forwarded to the Commonwealth are then redistributed back to CPA communities.

The fees for the CPA are set by the State Legislature on land documents recorded here at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds. The following chart provides an illustration of the funds generated by the CPA in your community based on recorded real estate filings for that community during the 2024 calendar year.

Community Preservation Act (CPA) Surcharges by Town for Calendar Year 2024

TOWN	TOTAL
AVON	\$29,925.00
BELLINGHAM	\$141,225.00
BRAINTREE	\$214,975.00
BROOKLINE	\$300,150.00
CANTON	\$164,200.00
COHASSET	\$71,500.00
DEDHAM	\$151,850.00
DOVER	\$51,450.00
FOXBOROUGH	\$117,200.00
FRANKLIN	\$215,600.00
HOLBROOK	\$81,350.00
MEDFIELD	\$95,800.00
MEDWAY	\$95,900.00
MILLIS	\$84,875.00
MILTON	\$165,375.00
NEEDHAM	\$194,600.00
NORFOLK	\$82,675.00
NORWOOD	\$148,075.00
PLAINVILLE	\$55,300.00
QUINCY	\$452,650.00
RANDOLPH	\$191,300.00
SHARON	\$106,175.00
STOUGHTON	\$193,925.00
WALPOLE	\$171,900.00
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BVT Students Earn 82 SkillsUSA Medals at District V Competition

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) students put the systems voc-tech mission on full display. During the first of three SkillsUSA competitions, students test their vocational-technical competency by competing with other trained career and technical education students from six vocational high schools. On March 12th, 220 BVT students competed in the annual SkillsUSA Massachusetts District V Competition with outstanding outcomes.

The competition allows students to demonstrate their vocational-technical education, skills, and knowledge with SkillsUSA employment and trade tests. Successfully demonstrating their expertise in their career technical area of study, employability skills, and safety. Student competitors from BVT proudly claimed 31 gold, 28 silver, and 23 bronze medals, and swept eight categories.

After press time in late April, Sixty-six students were set to advance from districts to compete amongst the most talented vocational-technical students in the Commonwealth at the SkillsUSA Massachusetts State competition. The two qualifying State Officer Candidates, Emily Kee and Maria Clara De Oliveira, were headed to move forward joined by 44 leadership competitors and 20 student delegates who will represent BVT. The complete list of medalists is available at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/skillsusa.

Bellingham BVT students who earned medals at the SkillsUSA Massachusetts District V Leadership Conference include:
Gold: Tan Tran, Restaurant Service.
Silver: Kiele Sarnie, Carpentry; and Matthew Skarin, Welding.

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Party for the Pantry Raises Over \$31,000 for Franklin Food Pantry

The Franklin Food Pantry, which provides food assistance and programs in Franklin, Massachusetts, is pleased to announce it raised over \$31,000 at this year's Party for The Pantry which took place on Saturday, March 29, 2025. The ticketed party, which took place at THE BLACK BOX, featured live music from The Pub Kings, J.P. Royer, and Matt Zajac and Friends, as well as a silent auction and numerous raffle prizes.

Sponsors for the event included: Allegra Marketing Print Mail, THE BLACK BOX, Direct Federal Credit Union, Laura and Kyle Juszczyszyn, Middlesex Savings Bank, Raydio, CR Schmall Building and Remodeling, The Baur Family, The Gendreau Family, Colonial Fence, Eagle Stainless Tube and Fabrication, Mike and Maureen Sabolinski, Elemen-Tree House, K Cooks, and Upfront Guitars.



New this year, the event featured a travel auction from AmFund Foundation, which provides fundraising travel programs to non-profit organizations, helping raise crucial funds through unique and memorable travel experiences. Party for The Pantry attendees had the opportunity to bid on eight once-in-a-lifetime vacations, including trips to Africa, Florence, Paris, Ireland, Sedona, Greece, Scotland, and Portugal. Those who were unable to attend the event but still wish to support The Pantry by purchasing travel packages can contact Julie Manninen from AmFund Foundation at julie@amfund.org.

"We are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support from our community at this year's Party for The Pantry," said Tina Powderly, Executive Director of the Franklin Food Pantry. "The generosity shown by our attend-



ees, sponsors, and volunteers will enable us to continue providing vital resources to our neighbors in need."

Fundraising events are an essential operating revenue source for The Pantry. Money raised will purchase food and personal care items, pay for the cost of programs and services, and support daily operations.

For more information on supporting the Franklin Food Pantry, or to attend an upcoming fundraising event, please visit the Franklin Food Pantry website at www.franklinfoodpantry.org.

About the Franklin Food Pantry, Inc.

The Franklin Food Pantry, Inc., which offers supplemental

food assistance, household necessities, and resource referrals to more than 1,800 individuals per year, is located at 341 W Central St. in Franklin, MA on Route 140. Please visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org for more information.

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SAFE Coalition Receives \$25K from Community Health Systems



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Funds to Be Used to Build Regional Adolescent Wellness Center

SAFE Coalition has received a \$25,000 grant from Community Health Systems Foundation to break ground on its Adolescent Wellness Center. The Center will be a central space for teens across southeastern Massachusetts to access resources that combat substance use and mental illness.

Built inside SAFE HQ in Franklin, the space will offer a fully dedicated spot for teens-only support, hosting drop-in hours, referral services, mentorships, peer groups and classes as well as educational nights for area caregivers.

The Center is designed to directly address the high rates of mental illness and substance use among teens. Events like drama therapy, sobriety nights, and trauma-informed yoga will offer more ways to play, cope, and grow.

Supports will also be available for education, prevention and recovery from substance use. The Center will offer programs to help students build resiliency tools that combat the perceived need for substance use, while support groups and peer mentorship will give teens added ways to be heard, gain advice, and belong. Recovery plans, referral services, and accountability check-ins will offer additional touchpoints.

Research shows that offering teens neutral social spaces is essential to maintaining a sense of wellbeing. Such spaces decrease social isolation and build a psychological sense of belonging. Regular visitors to these places report better overall mental health. Neutral social spaces are associated with higher levels of community cohesion and wider social networks, too.

The need for teen mental health and substance use support is greater than ever. Rates of teen depression and anxiety

have remained high since 2020 and remain one of the Surgeon General's top priorities. And teen overdose is at an all-time high, while the prevalence of vaping and other substance use persists.

Yet in-school and extracurricular programs across the region have shuttered due to cuts in school spending despite their success in preventing teen isolation, increasing touchpoints with supportive adults, and building self-esteem. Community-led programs are helping to close a critical gap in support by offering judgement-free, compassionate care to teens who need it most.

Community Health Systems (CHS) was established in 1994 to support nonprofit organizations that enhance the community's capacity to achieve optimal health, wellness, and quality of life.

SAFE serves over 55 communities in Massachusetts with programs for teens, support groups for loved one's impacted by others' substance use, harm reduction education, resources for families in need like a community diaper bank, housing support, and more. SAFE's services are free to recipients and no insurance is needed.

SAFE began in 2015 after a community discussion on the increasing deaths from opioid use and what could be done to combat the rising epidemic. Today, the nonprofit works with first responders, local and state politicians, municipalities, schools, other nonprofits, and concerned citizens across southeastern Massachusetts to fill gaps in substance use prevention and education, harm reduction, recovery, and mental health support.

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

Franklin Art Association Welcomes Painter Shilpa Adduri May 7th



Shilpa Adduri, Acrylic, "One Stroke" example



Shilpa Adduri demonstrating 'One Stroke' approach to painting

The Franklin Art Association invites you to our Wednesday, May 7 meeting. We will warmly greet Guest Demo-Artist, Shilpa Adduri, fine art painter, who will give a step-by-step, water-based media demonstration. Our free-to-the-public meetings are held at the Franklin Senior Center at 6:30 p.m. first Wednesdays each month.

Shilpa Adduri works in the technique called, "One Stroke."

She is a Master Elite Director of this style, which combines shading, blending and highlighting in a single brushstroke, central

to her teaching. She gives lessons helping others to uncover their art potential while fostering joy and connection. Her approach offers creativity and moments of tranquility. She offers lessons locally.

Wanting to be inspirational, Adduri says, "My art captures the beauty and serenity I find in the world, expressed through acrylics and watercolors."

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

There will be an ongoing sale of raffle tickets for our art raffle

to raise money for our annual art scholarship which goes to a student choosing to continue their education in the study of the arts. Members are requested to donate work to be raffled. Please come by to see the wonderful creativity of local artists as they demonstrate their skills and support our scholarship fund.

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

Youth Wind Ensemble Announces Auditions, Concert Tour

The Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Wind Ensembles (RIPYWE) is holding auditions for membership in the 2025-26 concert season which will culminate with the RIPYWE Symphonic Winds doing a 12-day concert tour of northern Europe. The finest student musicians entering grades 7 through 12 in the area are strongly encouraged to audition for this once in a lifetime opportunity. RIPYWE Alumni are also invited to join the European concert tour.

RIPYWE was created to give advanced woodwind, brass and percussion grade 7-12 students from Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts and Connecticut an opportunity to rehearse and perform high quality wind ensemble repertoire. Auditions will be held at the RI Philharmonic's Carter Center for Music Education & Performance in East Providence. Audition details are available online by going to the RI Philharmonic Music School

website www.riphil.org and by emailing RIPYWE ensemble manager Elliott Eastman at eeastman@riphil.org or director Neves at dneves@riphil.org.

"Participating in RIPYWE gives our region's finest woodwind, brass and percussion students an opportunity to have a nearly professional level musical experience every week. Each and every member is constantly challenged to achieve their best while also being nurtured in a student-centered positive uplifting atmosphere," said David Neves, Music Director of Youth Wind Ensembles for the Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School. "The music being performed is the finest available for wind bands. RIPYWE members are usually accepted into their states' All-State/District honors groups, and have a head start on future music participation in college and beyond. If a student is serious about being the best possible player on their instrument, RIPYWE is the place to be."

Founded in 2002, the RIPYWE ensembles rehearse once per week on Wednesday evenings from September through May. In addition to the June/July 2026 European Concert Tour, RIPYWE performs three major concerts each season. Advanced students interested in auditioning and being selected to the advanced RIPYWE Symphonic Winds which will be touring Europe should sign up to audition soon maximize their opportunity to secure a spot in the group. Any alumni of RIPYWE from previous years who are interested in the European trip should contact Dr. Neves at dneves@riphil.org as soon as possible for more information.

For more information about RIPYWE, contact RI Philharmonic Music School Ensemble Manager Elliott Eastman at (401) 248-7038 or via email at eeastman@riphil.org.

Register O'Donnell Promotes Consumer Notification Service

As home transactions pick up speed as spring continues and in light of recent publicity from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (F.B.I.) Boston Division relating to quit claim deed fraud, or "deed theft," Norfolk County Register of Deeds, William P. O'Donnell, today, reminds residents about the Registry's Consumer Notification Program.

The F.B.I. Boston division has reported that from 2019 through 2023, 58,141 victims nationwide reported \$1.3 billion in losses relating to real estate fraud. In the Boston Division alone, 2,301 victims reported losing more than \$61.5 million during the same period.

Deed theft can take different forms. The most common type of fraud preys on people who

are in danger of losing their property through foreclosure. The owners are told that they qualify for a "short sale," a process where the foreclosing lender settles for less than the amount owed on the mortgage, and that if they sign the deed over to a third party, they can avoid the foreclosure. The owner signs a deed over to the third-party scammer, not realizing they are still responsible for the debt, and the scammer, rather than negotiating the short sale, collects and keeps the rental payments until the lender eventually forecloses.

Another type of deed theft targets elderly people who sign over their property without realizing what they are doing. This is often done by a family member. Deed theft is a serious crime that

can result in the loss of one's home and equity. Homeowners should be aware of these scams and talk to a lawyer before signing any papers that have to do with their property.

A growing concern is forgery, where a scammer fakes a homeowner's signature on a deed and records it in the registry of deeds. A forged deed is not valid and conveys nothing. If a buyer or a lender rely on a forged deed and don't do their due diligence on a property's title, they are out of luck. They, not the legitimate property owner, will ultimately lose any money paid to the thief. Forgery is a felony in all fifty states, punishable by jail time and heavy fines. The court may also require restitution for damages caused by the forgery, such

as the costs of clearing the title.

F.B.I. Boston is working with property owners, realtors, county registers, title companies, and insurance companies to thwart the fraud schemes.

"Our mission at the Registry of Deeds is the safety and security of all property records. We recognize that there are unscrupulous individuals who may try to take advantage of the property rights of others," says Register O'Donnell, "In 2015, we at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds initiated a Consumer Notification Service, a free service whereby subscribers sign up to be notified when any document is recorded under their name. This initiative came about in response to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (F.B.I.) indicating

property and mortgage fraud was one of the fastest growing white-collar crimes in America."

At the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, one can sign up for notification if a document is recorded in one's name at the Registry.

Information on "Consumer Notification" can be found on the Registry website, www.norfolkdeeds.org under the heading "Services." The Registry Customer Service Department can assist anyone who would like to set up the notification for their property.

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BVT Superintendent's Scholars Named

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High

School (BVT) seniors Dylan Leeds of Northbridge and Jayden Quang of Millbury were recently honored as BVT's 2025 Worcester County Superintendents' Association (WCSA) Scholar Award recipients at the WCSA Annual Scholars' Recog-

niton Luncheon. Each received the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award of Academic Excellence. They will graduate in May from BVT's Engineering & Robotics program.



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Sports

BHS Nine's Primary Goal — Strive to Improve

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

Before Bellingham High's baseball season got underway, coach TJ Chiappone offered some very telling comments about the makeup of his squad.

"We lack experience and depth," he said, "and none of our pitchers threw any varsity innings last year. But, in spite of being a very young team, I'm excited about the players' future. They're coachable and willing to learn. They just need game experience."

The Blackhawks' 1-3 record at the Bulletin's deadline no doubt reflects Chiappone's words. Two of the three setbacks, however, were one-run losses. Chiappone, nevertheless, is hopeful that "as the season moves along our team improves and the chemistry meshes."

Nine seniors graduated from last year's contingent that fin-

ished their season with a date in the playoffs.

"Our goal for this season is to improve daily in practice and in games," Chiappone noted. "And, hopefully, that improvement will lead to a tournament berth."

The Blackhawks' infield features two seniors — Colin Sherman, who can play first base, second and third, and catcher John Sullivan. "We'll rely on them to hit consistently and produce offense," Chiappone said. "They're versatile and provide quality leadership. And they bring experience to the infield group."

Three sophomores and a junior round out the infield. The sophs are Brock Barry (shortstop), Eric Johnston (second base) and Doug Walton (shortstop, third base, outfield) and junior Sam Elliott (first base). "They're coachable and will improve," Chiappone emphasized.



Coach TJ Chiappone has a young team whose competitive nature is admirable.

The outfield includes seniors Ryan Visconti (center field) and Jackson Fantini, junior Conor Reilly (left field), freshman Brady Iarussi (right field, third base and catcher), and eighth-grader Colin Hughes.

"Ryan is the cornerstone of the outfield," said Chiappone, who's in his second stint as head coach. "He's solid in all aspects. "Brady has lots of versatility, and Jackson and Colin provide depth."

Freshman Nick Fantini is the Blackhawks' designated-hitter. "Nick shows lots of promise at the plate," Chiappone noted. After four games, Fantini was hitting .429.

Junior right-hander Payton Young is the squad's top starter, relying on a fastball and a curve. "He's a power pitcher who's got good velocity," Chiappone said. At the Bulletin's deadline, Young had chalked up 19 innings that produced a 1-1 record, an E.R.A of 1.11, and 26 strikeouts.

When Sherman and Visconti aren't in the field, they'll be on the mound. Sherman is a right-hander and Visconti is a southpaw. "They're off-

speed pitchers," Chiappone said. "Sherman has an effective curve ball and will get significant innings. Visconti relies on a change-up."

The bullpen will include right-handers Barry and Elliott, sophomore right-hander Julian Ames, and freshman left-hander Noah Sylvia. "They'll all be utilized as relief pitchers," Chiappone offered.

Andy Nolan, who coached the varsity for the last three years, is back as a varsity assistant. He's working with the pitchers. Mark Rebello is coaching the infielders, and Corey Chiappone is working with the outfielders.

As far as style goes, the Blackhawks likely will play more small ball than go for the fences. "We'll need to manufacture runs," Chiappone said.

Bunting, stealing and situational hitting will no doubt be prevalent in Bellingham's future.

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Sports

Lacrosse Roundup

BHS Girls Team Still Battling after Major Injuries

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

“Injuries are part of the game” is an often-used phrase in sports, and coaches usually don’t dwell on them or use them as an excuse.

The Bellingham High girls’ lacrosse team encountered some major setbacks early on that clouded their season by sidelining all three captains and a top-notch defender. But, Sarah Saillant, in her second year as head coach, is handling the adversity in a classy and admirable way.

“We’re making huge adjustments, and I’m truly proud of the girls for overcoming this huge impact,” Saillant said. “I’m hoping a strong showing late in the season will make the tourney a possibility. But even if we don’t qualify, a lot of our jayvee players are swinging up to varsity, and I see great things for their future. Our heads are held high.”

The captains are all senior midfielders — Luci Walden, Samantha McNamara and Jocelyn Zahn

“Sam suffered a fractured ankle against Northbridge, and Jocelyn sustained a head injury against Norton,” Saillant of-

fered. “Luci hurt her back during basketball season, and that is preventing her from playing until further notice. The good news is I should have Sam and Jocelyn back in a few weeks.”

Abigail Wallace, a senior defender who’s a co-op player from Millis, suffered an ACL injury during basketball and will be out for the season, according to Saillant.

“Abigail was a starting defender last year and was the voice and star of our defense,” Saillant said. “It’s a loss for the team to not have Abigail this year. She’ll be playing at Caldwell University next year.”

The adversity left the girls with a 0-6 record at the Bulletin’s deadline. Two of the defeats were sudden-death overtime losses.

Before the injuries, the 32-year-old Saillant was cautiously optimistic that her Blackhawks could secure a date in the playoffs after falling short by one match last year.

“We’ll stay competitive, aim to top our four-win season of last year and hopefully earn a playoff date,” she said. “Those objectives are realistic, because the girls worked hard in the off-season and we’re more experienced.”

A native of Natick and a 2010 graduate of Bellingham High where she played four years of lacrosse, Saillant has fielded a team that has other strengths.

“We’ve got depth, and we’re talented and skilled,” said Saillant who was a defender at the University of New England. “The girls are also versatile and very coachable. Our senior leadership is fantastic, and the players’ work ethic is strong.”

The captains personified many of those attributes, said Saillant.

“Luci is our strongest role model, respected by all her teammates,” she said, “A Tri Valley League all-star, she leads by example, by being communicated and supportive. She’s outstanding in transition, excellent on offense and will play lacrosse at Colby-Sawyer College.

“A leader by example, Samantha plays center midfield and is very good on draw control,” continued Saillant, “She’s passionate about lacrosse, also excellent in transition and well-skilled. She’ll be playing lacrosse at Worcester State. Jocelyn is a vocal leader, has great speed, is confident and aggressive in a good way.”

Freshman Shannon Marino plays attack, and Saillant says, “She’s got the potential to be a prolific scorer.” The coach also notes, “Shannon has grit, is able to play any position is coachable and willing to learn.”



Coach Sarah Saillant, right, and her assistant, Alyssa Murphy, are hoping the girls lacrosse team stays healthy.

Besides Marino, four seniors, Abigail Pelletier, Riana Taylor, Kaidyn Shea and Ava Bartnik, compete as attackers. “Our attackers play an aggressive style and are mentally tough,” Saillant offered. “Their offensive ability is outstanding, and they rely on drive and passion to score. Abigail is our strongest attacker, and I like the group’s work ethic and cohesive nature.”

The defensive unit includes seniors Sophia Jandrow and Juliana Trudeau, junior Izzy Acuna,

and sophomore Deb Kalemi. “Our defenders are intense and versatile, able to adapt effectively,” Saillant said. “They’re coachable, passionate about lacrosse, and very instinctive.”

Freshman Gianna Padula started as a goalie last year, quickly learning that role as an eighth-grader. Describing Padula as calm and collected, Saillant said, “Gianna’s stickwork is good, she blocks shots well and is a fine communicator who protects the net.”

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Sports

Lacrosse Roundup

Bellingham Boys' LAX Off to Slow Season Start

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

Coach Steve Linehan, who led the boys' squad to a 7-12 record last season and a tourney berth, said of the 2025 campaign thus far, "We've gotten off to a disappointing start. Our leading scorer from last season, Ryan Austin, left our opening match because of a potential concussion. We sat Ryan for the next few games. Overall, we just simply haven't played up to our expectations in the early going."

At the Bulletin deadline, the Blackhawks were 1-4, a record that includes a win over Norton and two losses to a pair of Tri Valley League powerhouses — Dover-Sherborn and Medfield.

Nevertheless, Linehan plans to continue building his program "through skill development and higher competition capabilities."

The boys earned berths in the tournament two of the last three years and hope to earn another invite this season. The squad, which has a strong contingent of senior leaders, is led offensively by Austin, a captain and TVL all-star; captain Brady Carroll, a TVL honorable mention all-star; and second-year sophomore

starters Bryson Nicholson and Charlie Baker.

Carroll had 7 Goals and 2 Assists in five games this season and Austin (in 2 games) had 6 goals and one assist.

"Last year, we scored 140 goals (most in school history), and we will continue to focus on increased offensive production with this group," Linehan said. "Also contributing on offense are starting midfielders Kyle Connors (junior), Carter Lelievre (senior) and Charlie Eldridge (senior).

"On defense, we will be anchored by senior goalie Thiago Oliveira," Linehan said. "He's been a shining light so far with 80 saves in five games (16 saves per match)."

BHS has an experienced group of defensemen led by seniors Jake Silvestri and Aiden Smith and juniors Max Henchey and Eric Todd. Also providing stability on the defensive end are midfielders Hayden Davis (sophomore), Andrew Sweet (junior), Tommy Shannon (junior) and senior captain Gabe Egan."

Linehan emphasized that the all-important face-off circle will be a challenge after losing Jack Baker to graduation. That task



Coach Steve Linehan with his captains, from left, Brady Carroll, Ryan Austin and Gabe Egan.

has gone to sophomore Zach Hughes and Egan. New varsity players that Linehan hopes will be contributors are juniors Eddie Savje and Tyler Enright and sophomore Will Landrigan.

Linehan's staff includes JV coach/varsity assistant Quinton Champagne and volunteer assistant Cade Linehan, a 2019 BHS graduate.

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Sports

BHS Softball Team Aims To Keep Building

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

Bellingham High softball coach Courtney Parker says her team is more seasoned and more comfortable than it was last year. It also has a better idea of what to expect.

Last year's squad, which finished 5-15 and split a pair of games in the playoffs, was competing after the program went dormant for the 2023 season. With low numbers and only freshmen and eighth-graders available, a year off to regroup seemed necessary.

"We didn't have any seniors on last year's team, and now we've got 13 returnees with varying degrees of experience," Parker said. "Our goals are to remain competitive, strive to reach .500 and qualify for the tourney again.

At the Bulletin deadline, the Blackhawks were off to a slow start, losing four of five games. A victory over Ursuline would have left them at 2-3, but a late-inning lead evaporated into a 2-1 loss. There's still time, nevertheless, to fulfill their goals.

The Blackhawks have a plethora of strengths. "Besides experience, we're eager to learn, we're versatile, coachable and able to adapt," Parker noted. "Our pitching, athleticism and team chemistry are assets and we're still working on improving our skills and techniques."

The Blackhawks will be led by co-captains Cassidy Leger, a senior right-fielder, and junior pitcher Jacobi Houston. Both lead by example and are supportive of their teammates.

"Cassidy is an incredible athlete," Parker offered. "She's got speed, good range and a strong arm in the outfield. A three-year varsity player, she's got a tremendous work ethic and is very coachable. Her batting average was .364 after five games.

"A right-hander, Jacobi had an E.R.A. of 3.43 and 72 strikeouts in 71 innings last year. She also hit .484 and had 21 RBIs. Her best pitches are a screw ball and a change-up. Her velocity is good, in the upper 50 mph range, and her control is excellent. Our ace pitcher, she's got a high softball IQ. When she isn't pitching, she can play shortstop."



Softball coach Courtney Parker and her captains — Cassidy Leger (left) and Jacobi Houston.

The infield includes juniors Lorelai Grant and Morgan Goyer at first base; junior Ainsley MacNeil at second; junior Ashley Kamin at shortstop or third base and sophomore Lilly Proler catching. After five games, Proler was hitting .357 and Kamin's average was .333.

"Lilly is the quarterback of our infield," Parker noted. "She works hard, is solid on defense, blocks the plate effectively, has a

strong arm and is a powerful hitter. "Ashley is swift and agile and is powerful in the field and at the plate. She reacts quickly, making her a standout in the field.

"Lorelai is a rock-solid fielder and a powerful hitter. She's also dedicated and leads by example. Morgan has power. She's refined her defensive skills and now is more well-rounded. Ainsley also has improved on defense and is vocal and supportive."

Besides Leger, the outfield consists of sophomore Megan Skarin and junior Hayley Hig-

gins. "Megan is vocal, covers a lot of ground and is fast," Parker said. "She's very coachable and unselfish. Hayley has speed, also covers lots of ground, and has a strong arm. On offense, she hits for power."

When Houston isn't pitching, sophomore right-hander Trista, Corshia will be on the mound. "Trista relies on a fastball and change-up," Parker said. "She throws in the 50-mph range and has improve her velocity. Last year, she won five games and struck out 52 in 45 innings. She's got lots of energy and has a positive attitude."

Freshman Kaleigh Simpson, who was hitting .429 through five games, is a utility player who'll see action catching, at second base, shortstop or the outfield. Sophomore Julia Simon is a reserve outfielder. "Kaleigh is athletic, very fast and versatile," Parker said. "Julia is strong, fast, quick, and also versatile."

Parker, a 33-year old native of Bellingham, has a staff of assistants she labels as "knowledgeable and relating well with the players." They include Nikki Sandell (javy coach) and voluntary varsity aides Devin Woodman, David Espinoza and Doug Houston.

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Sports

BHS Volleyball Team Eyes Return to the Playoffs

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

The Bellingham High boys' volleyball team is aiming to improve on last year's .500 record.

Coach Steve Mantegani's squad finished at 9-9 last season, then split a pair of matches in the tournament, defeating Innovation Academy before losing to Keefe Tech. Mantegani's goals this season are to not only return to the playoffs, but to return with a winning record.

At the Bulletin's deadline, the Blackhawks were off to a good start to achieving their coach's goals. They were 5-2, a record that included a 3-2 victory over powerful Medfield.

The only coach the boys program has known, Mantegani started the sport in 2019 and has guided the Blackhawks to four tourney appearances.

"The victory over Medfield was the first time we've beaten them, he said. "Definitely a great

win for us. Our goals are realistic, and we believe we'll achieve them. We lost only two seniors from last year's squad and have six returnees with varying degrees of experience."

Mantegani's cast has a variety of strengths and he's optimistic those assets will improve as the season moves along.

"Our experience is a plus," he said. "Our core players have 2-3 years of varsity experience. We also have good athleticism; the boys are very coachable and their skills and techniques are at a high level. The team has hard-working competitors and they're mentally tough. Our ball control, serving and passing are also pluses."

Senior Jack Davidson is a capable outside hitter who has four years of varsity experience. "Jack works hard, and he's strong and aggressive at the net," Mantegani said. "He relies heavily on his technical skills, and his passing and ball control have improved."



Coach Steve Linehan with his captains, from left, Brady Carroll, Ryan Austin and Gabe Egan.

Junior Aiden Gibbs plays setter, and he'll be counted on to quarterback the offense. "Aiden has been our starting setter for two years," Mantegani said. "He's athletic and has great hands. A strong server; he knows

how to direct our offense."

Junior Thomas Crandall returns as the team's libero (defensive specialist). "A two-year starter, Thomas is our QB of serve-serve," Mantegani noted. "One of our best passers, his technique is very sound."

Mantegani considers Hestrick Richards the Blackhawks' strongest hitter. "A 6-foot-2 junior; he's in his second year of varsity competition as a middle hitter; and he's effective blocking and jumping," said Mantegani.

Esdras Goncalves, a junior outside hitter, is a second-year player who has improved. "Esdras is athletic, jumps well and hits the ball hard," Mantegani offered.

Junior Wagner Lourenco is another second-year player. "An outside hitter, he jumps effectively, hits hard and is very athletic," the coach said.

Sophomores Caleb Platek (outside hitter) and Lucas La-

housee (defensive specialist) and junior Rehan Shah (middle hitter) are all in their first year on the varsity. "We are hoping that Caleb, Lucas, and Rehan can contribute as the year goes on, and they strengthen their skills and techniques," Mantegani said.

Mantegani's son, Justin, who coaches the freshmen girls' squad in the fall, is directing the boys' junior-varsity team. "Justin knows the game, and the players know him well since he teaches at the high school," his father said.

This year's team is a co-op venture. Holliston and Medway High don't have a boys' volleyball program but now have joined BHS. Players from those two schools, however, will compete solely at the jayvee level to comply with MIAA rules. "The two schools hope to begin a boys' varsity program next year," Mantegani said.

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Library Resources of the Month – Genealogy

The Bellingham Public Library subscribes to three online resources to help with your genealogy research: Ancestry.com Library Edition, HeritageQuest, and Fold 3. All three of these resources can be accessed in the library on both the library computers and on our WiFi network using your own device.

Ancestry.com is the largest online genealogy database in the world. It gives access to hundreds of years of history in billions of historical documents and millions of historical photos from all over the world. Access vital records, census lists, immigration records such as passenger lists, military records, directories, African American and Native American records, and more! The Library Edition of Ancestry.com doesn't give you access to the personal family tree feature or private messages that a personal account has. DNA testing and matching, as well as some databases and collections are also not available in the Library Edition.

HeritageQuest contains census records, family histories, military and bank records, city

directories, just to name a few! Access to census records includes U.S. Federal Census Records from 1790 to 1950, Canadian Census Collection 1825-1931, and the U.S. Indian Census Rolls 1885-1940. Military records contain a premier collection of Revolutionary War records. Freedman's Bank Records, 1861-1875, is a great source for genealogists researching their African American heritage.

Fold 3 features premier collections of original military records. These records include the stories, photos, and personal documents of the men and women who served in the military. Many of the records come from the U.S. National Archives, the National Archives of the U.K., and other international records.

The library's website also provides links to a number of other genealogy resources. They are the American-French Genealogical Society, Boston Public Library's Newspaper Databases, FamilySearch.org, FindaGrave.com, National Archives, New England Historic Genealogical Society's AmericanAncestors.

org, New England State Archives, and the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Genealogy Resources.

- **American-French Genealogical Society** is physically located in Woonsocket, RI. It is a nonprofit genealogical and historical organization dedicated to French Canadian research. They specialize in assisting members in their ancestral search with resources dating from the 1600s and beyond. The Society has access to birth, marriage, burial, and in some cases, real estate records from over 130 countries. They can also assist with DNA and genetics research.
- **Boston Public Library's Newspaper Databases** allow you to search some newspapers dating back to the 18th century! Any resident of Massachusetts can apply for a Boston Public Library ecard, which will allow you to access many of their databases from home.

- **FamilySearch.org** contains millions of digitized records from around the globe, along with a Research Wiki to help you find other online sources for records. You do have to register for an account with an email address to use FamilySearch. Creating an account with FamilySearch allows you to make your own family tree, unlike Ancestry.com Library Edition.

- **FindaGrave.com** is a community created record of gravesites and cemeteries from all around the world. Find the graves of ancestors, create virtual memorials or add photos, virtual flowers and a note to a loved one's memorial.

- **National Archives** is the nation's record keeper. Here you may find records that contain clues about your family's history, a veteran's military service, or material to help you research an historical topic. The website and email contact for the National Archives at Boston, located in Waltham, is also linked on the library's website.

- **New England Historic Genealogical Society's AmericanAncestors.org** provides access to over 1.4 billion records spanning the United States, British Isles, continental Europe, and beyond. It includes one of the most extensive online collections of early American genealogical records, the largest searchable collection of published genealogical research journals and magazines, and the only online source for records from Boston's Catholic Archdiocese.

- **New England State Archives** has links to websites and email contacts for the Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Maine State Archives.

- **Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Genealogy Resources** consist of land documents dating back to 1793, deeds, mortgages, death certificates, plans of land, old city/town atlases, along with other documents that are useful in examining the past.

To access these resources, go to the Bellingham Library's website at www.bellinghamlibrary.org. Click on the Resources tab, and then click Genealogy.

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Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild Plans 2026 Quilt Show

The Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild is pleased to announce that its biennial quilt show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 14th and 15th, 2026 at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical Show in Upton, Massachusetts. The Guild has selected "Creating Comfort" as their show theme. This theme reflects not only the members' love of quilting but also reflects the guild's mission and fundraising efforts. Over 200 member quilts as well as guild challenges and round robins will be on display. Also included at the show will be a special raffle quilt, the quilters' boutique, raffle baskets, and local area vendors. Any local area vendor wishing to participate in

the Guild's show should contact Deb Hudgins through the website at thimblepleasures.org or by contacting her by mail at TPQG, P.O. Box 447, Mendon, MA 01756.

The guild has chosen Home Base as the show's special fundraiser. All funds raised through the sale of items at the special fundraiser table will be donated directly to Home Base. Home Base is a Red Sox Foundation dedicated to healing the invisible wounds of veterans, service members, and their families through clinical care, wellness, education and research. The 2026 show is being chaired by Gina Brooks, Donna Hopkins, and Val Ogilvie.

Calendar

May 5

Book Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham. *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by Victoria Schwab

May 6

A Novel Idea book club, 6:30-8 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham. *Project Hail Mary*, by Andy Weir. If interested, please contact Diane Nelson at atdnelson@cwmar.org.

May 7

Virtual Author Talks: 2 p.m. - How to Use Anxiety to Thrive with Dr. David H. Rosmarin, through Bellingham Public Library – to register for these talks, go to: <https://libraryc.org/bellinghamma>

Franklin Art Association meeting, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, artist Shilpa Adduri will do demonstration, www.franklinart.org

May 11

Mother's Day Tea, 1-3 p.m., Proctor Mansion, 36 Common St., Wrentham, more info. at (877) 384-1861

May 14

Bellingham Business Association State of the State meeting, 5:30 p.m., Arigna's Irish Pub, 799 S. Main St., Bellingham

Virtual Author Talks: 7 p.m. - On Writing a Brilliant, Dark, and Diabolical Thriller with Author Liann Zhang – to register for these talks, go to: <https://libraryc.org/bellinghamma>

May 17

Franklin & Bellingham Rail Trail 14th Annual 5K Run & Walk, 9 a.m., Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT) Grove St. Trailhead, with parking available at 210 Grove Street, Franklin (Waters Corporation parking lot). Register at <https://www.tri-valleyfrontrunners.com/fbrtc/FBRTC5K.php> or learn more at www.franklin-bellinghamrailtrail.org.

Garden Club of Bellingham MA Food Insecurity Fundraiser Plant Sale & Clothing Drive, 10 a.m. -12 noon, Doubletree Hotel, Milford, participate by emailing bellinghamgardenclubofma@gmail.com or visit bellinghamgardenclubofma.com for more info.

Red Cross Blood Drive, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham.

Register at redcrossblood.org
Ladies of St. Anne Plant Sale, 3 varieties of plants sold in 6-inch pots, available before and after Mass at St. Blaise Catholic Church, 1158 S. Main St., Bellingham

May 18

Ladies of St. Anne Plant Sale, 3 varieties of plants sold in 6-inch pots, available before and after Mass at St. Blaise Catholic Church, 1158 S. Main St., Bellingham

Bellingham's 154th Memorial Day ceremony, parade steps off 1 p.m. at the Memorial School with ceremony following at 2 p.m. at Bellingham Town Common.

May 19

Great - Great Grandfather, Tell Me a Story! 6:30 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, Author Janis Robinson Daly shares her inspiration to write historical novel, *The Unlocked Path*. Please register. This

program is made possible by funding from the Friends of the Bellingham Library.

May 20

"Meet the Candidates" forum, Bellingham Senior Center, 9 to 11 a.m., 40 Blackstone St., Bellingham, meeting candidates running for town office

May 21

Virtual Author Talks: 2 p.m. - How Judy Blume Rewrote Childhood for All of Us with Author Rachele Bergstein – to register for these talks, go to: <https://libraryc.org/bellinghamma>

Warrior Family Books for NICU Fundraiser, Bellingham Pizzeria UNO, 20% donation per order, visit <https://www.facebook.com/WarriorFamilyBooksForNICU/>

May 22

KMA Student Art Show, 6-7:45 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St.,

May 24

Popular Music & Veterans, 4-5 p.m., Bellingham Town Common, In "Popular Music and Veterans," Jon and Li Waterman will explore experiences and sacrifices of veterans throughout American history through songs. Bellingham Library is a rain venue. Supported by a grant from Bellingham Cultural Council, supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

June 3

Bellingham Town Election, last day to register to vote for the Local Election May 23rd, Mail in Ballot applications will be accepted until May 27th, and please note you must fill out an application to receive a ballot through the mail.

Bishop Feehan Unveils 2025 Legends & Legacy Honorees

Bishop Feehan High School President Tim Sullivan '87 has announced the newest members of the school's Athletics Hall of Fame and Arts Hall of Fame, along with two distinguished contributors. All will be honored

at Feehan's Legends & Legacy celebration on May 21, 2025, at the school's Attleboro campus.

For more information, visit <https://www.bishopfeehan.com/apps/news/article/2059640>.



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Save the Date for June 13 Strawberry Stroll

Mark your calendar: The Franklin Downtown Partnership's Annual Strawberry Stroll is set for Friday, June 13, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in downtown Franklin. The rain date will be Saturday, June 14 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This year, the stroll will extend farther up Main Street to Dean College and Franklin Public Library with more music and activities, according to Strawberry Stroll Committee Chairman Kevin Johnson of Edward Jones. "Don't miss this great evening of music, food, and vendors who offer a variety of products and services," Johnson said.

"The Stroll is a terrific community event," Roberta Trahan, Vice President of the Franklin Downtown Partnership agrees. "It's always a fun time to visit the shops and restaurants downtown and catch up with friends. The committee has been working hard to expand the event this year with more interactive

activities."

The Downtown Partnership is very grateful for the support from their sponsors.

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Sponsorship opportunities for the stroll are still open and filling up quickly. If you are interested in being a sponsor, contact the Franklin Downtown Partnership at downtown.franklin@yahoo.com.

Stay up to date and follow the Franklin Downtown Partnership at:

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

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

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

Support for Local Veterans



On April 17th, the Bellingham Youth Basketball Association executive board donated \$1,000 to the VFW Post 7272. Commander Kevin Calnan expressed his thanks to the group for supporting local veterans on the Post's Facebook page.

VFW Post 7272, at 940 S. Main Street in Bellingham, offers a monthly Coffee & Donuts with Veterans on the last Saturday of each month, this month on May 31st, from 9 a.m.- 11 a.m.

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