

Franklin Strawberry Stroll Set for June 13; Will Expand up Main Street with More Activities

The 21st Annual Strawberry Stroll is set for Friday June 13th from 4 to 8 p.m. Rain date is Saturday June 14 from 4 to 8 p.m. This year's stroll is expanding farther up Main Street from Dean Bank toward Dean College and Franklin Public Library.

This year, visitors will enjoy more interactive activities, more music, and more vendors. Stroll along Main Street by Dean College's beautiful, historic campus. Just a few steps more and you will see the handsome Franklin Public Library across the street.

With the expanded format, it's an easy and short stroll to Franklin Town Common where the Farmer's Market will be happening. Food trucks will be there. The market operates on Fridays in the summer from 2 to 6 p.m.

Make sure you stroll downtown to the restaurants and shops on Main Street and the surrounding streets.

It's all that you expect of the Strawberry Stroll and more. Food, music, 100+ vendors, community groups, activities and, of course, strawberries. Booths will be open from 4 to 8 pm with fun activities for children and giveaways.

"We expanded the stroll so people can experience more of Franklin. It's got all the right things for summer



fun: strawberry shortcake, more than 100 vendors, live music, and shops and eateries downtown," said Lisa Piana, Franklin Downtown Partnership Executive Director. "The Strawberry Stroll is a wonderful start to summer."

STROLL
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Mark your calendars for Friday, June 13th for the annual Strawberry Stroll in downtown Franklin, now expanded, with even more free music and interactive activities.
Photo used courtesy of Franklin Downtown Partnership

Franklin Operational Override Vote of \$3.86M on Ballot

Special Town Election June 3, 2025

Town of Franklin voters are asked to take part in a Special Local Election on Tuesday, June 3, 2025. The election will take place at Franklin High School, 218 Oak St., Franklin, from 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.

On the ballot will be the question:

"Shall the Town of Franklin be allowed to assess an additional three million, eight hundred sixty two thousand, six hundred seventy two dollars (\$3,862,672) in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of the municipal and school operating budgets for which monies from this assessment will be used for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025?"

To learn more details about the proposed FY26 override, Franklin voters can go to:

<https://ma-franklin.civicplus.com/1089/Fiscal-Year-2026-Override-Information>. or follow the links on the Franklin town website, www.franklinma.gov.

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STROLL

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Here's the rest of the agenda: **Signature strawberry short-cakes** will be served by Dean Bank's staff under tents in front of the bank. Fresh strawberries donated and cut by Dean College will top hundreds of short-cakes complete with whipped cream. Proceeds from strawberry shortcake sales go to the Downtown Partnership to help fund the event.

Children's Museum of Franklin is planning a variety of interactive exhibits and mobile makerspace activities at the stroll. Co-owner Meg will be running a science experiment once each hour during the stroll.

Dean College will have their famous Bull Dog inflatable and there will be plenty of mascots walking around to greet kids for photos.

Franklin Historical Museum will introduce the "Franklin Strawberry Patch" with a brief ribbon cutting and remarks at 4 p.m. The Strawberry Patch is a permanent perennial planting of strawberries in a raised bed, surrounded by decorations for the day. There will be popcorn and fun giveaways for kids. As always, the museum's fun and accessible exhibits are free.

Plus, the museum, in cooperation with their neighbor, Franklin United Methodist Church (FUMC), will highlight the church's Spring Fashion Fling, with a "fashion show" of recycled and upcycled clothing. The FUMC operates Community Closet — an ambitious clothing reuse program to benefit anyone in need or anyone who just likes a bargain. Enjoy their fashion show and shopping at the church during the Stroll.

Franklin Public Library is excited to offer several fun activities for children.

Touch-A-Truck will be at the Franklin Fire Station on West Central Street with fire safety handouts. Sparky the fire dog will make the rounds with families.

Music will be provided by local musicians Dom DeBaggis 4 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. and Heath Nisbett, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Dean Avenue. At the other end of Main Street, near Dean College, The Padula Band will perform 4 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.; and State Representative Jeff Roy will play his acoustic guitar from 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Feet in Motion School of Dance will perform at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Radio Station MyFM 101.3 will broadcast live from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"Year after year this event attracts more visitors and vendors. It's always an exciting day to see so many people enjoying themselves and some strawberry shortcake," said Roberta Trahan, Vice President of the Franklin Downtown Partnership. "What better way to kick off the summer than joining others and listening to live music on Main Street."

Strawberry Stroll organizer Franklin Downtown Partnership is grateful for the support from their sponsors:

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Follow the Franklin Downtown Partnership and keep up with their many activities on:

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

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

The Franklin Downtown Partnership is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization made up of more than 350 business owners, residents,

and community leaders working to revitalize downtown Franklin. Residents are welcome to join the Downtown Partnership for only \$25. The Partnership manages events like the Strawberry Stroll and the Harvest Festival, and initiatives such as beautification, streetscape design, greenspace, alley murals, and sculpture projects. For more information go to www.franklindowntownpartnership.org.

Friends of Franklin Library Award Scholarship

Liana Warnakulasooriya has won the Friends of the Franklin Library Scholarship in Memory of Wilma Winters. A 2024 graduate of Franklin High School, Liana recently received \$1,000 from The Friends toward the cost of a college education.

Liana's winning entry was about how she found her voice through public speaking. "When speaking on stage, on trial, or in front of an audience, my deep tone turns into a blessing, allowing me to capture the attention of audience members and reach the back of every room."

Liana wrote about how her younger self was reluctant to speak up, but she later participated in organized debates and taught others about public speaking. "My eighth-grade voice was full of sheepish insecurity, while my current voice is filled with confidence," Liana wrote.

A second-semester student at Northeastern University, Liana



David Djerf, president of Friends of the Franklin Library's board, recently presented Liana Warnakulasooriya with a check for winning the Friends' annual essay contest.

studies computer science and business.

Friends of the Franklin Library, an independent, non-profit organization committed to supporting the Franklin Public Library, established its scholarship program in 2014. The annual scholarship is part of several ef-

SCHOLARSHIP

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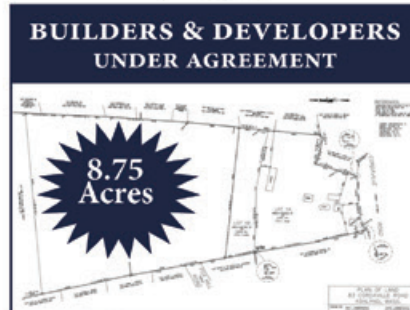
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43rd Annual Franklin 4th July 2-6, 2025

100% Donor-Funded Celebration to Includes 5th Blues Fest, Fireworks July 5th

By J.D. O'GARA

As it has for decades, Franklin will celebrate our nation's birthday with a five-day celebration that will include carnival rides, non-profit food booths, fireworks and, for the fifth year in a row, a blues festival. All of this is organized by the Franklin 4th of July Coalition, which is 100% funded by donations.

"We've got another great event planned," says Joe Carmignani, who has organized the event with Paul Kortick for the past 8 years. "This is the earliest we've finalized the music," says Carmignani, "We have a great lineup of music over the five days, including the Annual Mike Crandall Franklin Blues Festival, which will be Saturday, the fifth."

"I think we got the recipe down," says Kortick, of Franklin's 4th, which will feature different genres of music each night. A highlight this year in addition to the Blues Festival will be well-known rock artist Gary Hoey. Local artists will be in the mix as well, this year with such acts as Dave Sardella, Jamie Barrett, Matt Zajac, Sr., the Padula Family, the Zajac Bros., the Attleboro School of Rock, and the Michael Dutra Band.

The Franklin 4th of July Coalition is still a small and selective group of about six people, say Kortick and Carmignani, who are impressed by the smooth operation of EJ Dean of Fiesta Shows, who takes care of operating the carnival.

"We really work closely with the people of the carnival, that's why people come to this event," says Kortick. "They are just great partners every year, and that's a huge piece of it. Joe and I can worry about the music and the tents."

"This year, we end on Sunday July 6th," says Carmignani, noting that, despite the thousands of people that will have traversed the area, "if you show up on Town Common on Monday, it almost looks like back to normal within 24 hours after the thing is done."

Organizers ensure the carnival's concessions don't overlap with the offerings of nonprofit booths that participate in Franklin's 4th celebration.

"We make it so they don't compete with concessions," says Kortick, "We don't want carnival

selling pizza – the Franklin Democrats sell pizza. The carnival is not selling fried dough, that's Franklin Rod & Gun. These are nonprofits, and it's important for them to fundraise at the event."

The Franklin 4th of July Coalition will also have a table in which they'll sell ice cream and soft drinks, and the Franklin Republican Town Committee will sell corn dogs and nachos.

No 4th of July celebration is really complete without fireworks, and the two event planners are happy that American Thunder will provide fireworks on Saturday, July 5th, at 10 p.m. at Franklin High School.

"The fireworks are launched from the baseball field, so people can watch them from the high school parking lot, junior high school parking lot, the Horace Mann school and Senior Center," says Joe. All have plenty of parking, but since Oak Street will be closed off starting at about 9:15, many folks will opt to walk down from the Common.

Carmignani and Kortick emphasize that the event does not take any money from the town of Franklin. The coalition sends out a fundraising letter each year, and they're extremely thankful to their sponsors, they say.

2025 Gold Sponsors of the event include Allegra, Connell Roofing, CTS, Garelick Farms, Re/Max Executive Realty, Notturno Home Services, Accurate Baker Ellman Plumbing, Eastern Oil, Daddario Hardware, Dean Bank, G&C Plumbing and Heating, and D.G. Ranieri Real Estate.



Following is the schedule as of press time. Updated information is available at www.franklin4th.com:

Wednesday, July 2

Ride Wristbands 6-10 p.m., 6 p.m. Midnight Ride (60's-90's Rock); 8 p.m. GQ & The Lady (Dance)

Thursday, July 3

Ride Wristbands 6-10 p.m. Megapass: 12-10 p.m., 6 p.m. Matt Zajac (Rock); 8 p.m. Smoke & Whiskey (Country Rock)

Friday, July 4 (12-10)

Megapass: 12-10 p.m. Ride; Wristbands 2-6 p.m., 12 p.m. Two Guys Who like Sharks (Acoustic Rock); 1:30 p.m. Jamie Barrett; 3 p.m. George Cross Project (East Coast Blues); 6 p.m. Attleboro School of Rock; 8 p.m. Gary Hoey (Rock Guitar)

Saturday, July 5 (12-10)

Megapass: 12-10 p.m.; Wristbands 12-5 p.m.; Franklin Blues Festival, 12-9:45 p.m., Fireworks 10 p.m.

Sunday, July 6 (12-6)

Ride Wristbands: 12-4 p.m. Megapass: 12-10 p.m.; 12 p.m. Zajac Bros. Band; 2 p.m.; Michael Dutra & the Strictly Sinatra Band; 4:30 p.m. Padula Family Band (Jazz)



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Franklin PMC Kids Ride June 8, 2025

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.

Now in its 19th year, the Franklin event offers young cyclists (ages 3 to 14) a meaningful

and fun way to get involved. Riders can choose from 3, 6, or 10-mile routes. For younger 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.



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.

Fifth Annual Mike Crandall Franklin Blues Festival Keeps Blues Alive

By J.D. O'GARA

It began as Mike Crandall's idea.

Crandall, a blues artist himself, was working on Joe Carmignani's house. Carmignani and Paul Kortick were planning musical acts for the annual Franklin 4th of July celebration, and conversation simply came up, says Joe.

"(Crandall) was really the driving force behind this, and the first four years (Crandall) did it all, he was really well-connected," says Kortick.

"When Mike started this, he had one rule," says Carmignani, "We're not going to have any divas in this, just great people who love to play the blues. He said, 'If you do this right, a lot of people will come to you.'"

That advice seems to ring true. The Franklin Blues Festival was a hit with attendees and blues artists alike. Five years later, Crandall has passed on, and to honor his memory, last year, the Franklin's Blues Festival became known as the Annual Mike Crandall Franklin Blues Festival. This year, it will take place on Saturday, July 5th, from noon to 9:45, followed by fireworks.

Many of the blues artists return each year, says Kortick, noting that the musicians are world-class acts. "They love the venue, love the experience, love to see one another, hang out, and

listen to one another play, and that's what we wanted. It's really a fun environment for them as well as for everyone listening to them."

"We have people play an hour to an hour and half of their best stuff, so no one is on stage for three hours, and they can play hard for that whole hour," says Carmignani, "Each band wants to do well for the other bands that watch them."

The organizers explain that many of these musicians hail from Connecticut and are part of a blues society there, but this year one group is coming from Korea and the two preceding are coming in from Chicago.

Ed Peabody will be returning from Connecticut to play in Franklin's Blues Festival for the fourth time. Praising the organizers as some of the nicest people he's met in a long time, Peabody, who's been in the blues circuit since he was 17 and has played with James Montgomery and sang with Room Full of Blues, as well as his own band, says joining in the festival is a pleasure.

"I get to play," says Peabody, "I love it. It's the way I was raised."

Peabody played with Brandt Taylor last year, because his own band wasn't available, and he has played with other acts like Sugar Ray and Neil & the Vipers as well.



Ed Peabody, left, and Brandt Taylor, right, are just two of the talented blue musicians who will play the Fifth Annual Mike Crandall Franklin Blues Festival, on July 5th at Franklin Town Common.

"It's such a unique thing. I'm very fortunate to know so many talented people, and it's all interchangeable," says Peabody, "Everyone knows their songs so well it doesn't have to be rehearsed. Everyone feeds off everyone else, and I think that's a complement in itself. If you take someone else's music and you make it your own, your feel goes into it, and if somebody out in the audience is enjoying it, we did something good."

"The lineup they're bringing in ... they don't get much better. It's amazing that they're here and we get to hear them."

Brandt Taylor, too, comes from Canterbury, CT, and he has been involved from the get go.

"Mike was one of my dear friends, and I miss him every day. He was a great friend and

a tremendous musician, one of the few real deal blues men I've ever met and a consummate artist." Taylor, who'll not only play the festival but backline the guitar amps, bass amp and percussion for musical acts the whole weekend, says, "I love that it's a wide cross section of people, being that it's a town fest. You get people from all ages, and it's bringing in (blues) names, also."

It's nice to have a venue for that. They're getting fewer and farther in-between."

Following is the schedule of events for the blues festival:

Annual Mike Crandall Franklin Blues Festival

Saturday, July 5, 12-9:45 p.m.

- Ed Peabody & The Big Blue Thing – Noon
- Brandt Taylor Band – 1:15 p.m.
- Neal & the Vipers – 2:30 p.m.
- Mike Crandall Tribute Band – 3:45 p.m.
- Bruce Katz Band – 5 p.m.
- Joanna Connor – 6:15 p.m.
- Nick Moss – 7:30 p.m.
- Richiman & Groove Nice – 8:45 p.m.



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OBITUARY

Hannelore Amelia Pacheco (Kuhlmann), 95, formerly of Holbrook, known affectionately as Hanna to her friends and family, passed away peacefully of natural causes on May 1, 2025, in Raynham, Massachusetts. Born on December 8, 1929, in Mecklenburg, Germany, she was a beacon of adventurous spirit, generosity, and captivating charm throughout her 95 years.

Hanna's early years in Germany were marked by an appreciation for the great outdoors, a passion that only grew as she did. Her love for ice skating, skiing, and hiking was matched by her talent in each, and became an integral part of her life. Her melodious voice found a home at The Boylston Schul-Verein, Walpole, a German Club, where she joined the singing choir, and she sang with gusto and joy, sharing her culture and zest for life with all those around her.

A master of the garden, Hanna cultivated beauty and life in the soil of her home in Holbrook, creating an oasis that reflected the care and attention she gave to every aspect of her life. Her gardens were a symbol of her nurturing soul, a

trait that extended into her relationships with her loved ones.

She is reunited in eternity with her husband, Manuel Costa Pacheco, her mother Dora Becker, and her sister, Ursula Clark, whom she cherished deeply. Hannelore leaves behind a legacy of love carried on by her children Bruce Pacheco and wife Beth, Mark Pacheco and wife Linda, and Michelle McSherry and husband George, her grandchildren Jonathan, Lauren, Emily, Hannah, Katelyn, Shane and Joshua and her great-grandchildren Evelyn and Kellan. Each family member carries forward a piece of Hanna's extraordinary legacy through their own lives.

Those who knew Hanna will remember her as a woman who embraced life's challenges with a remarkable blend of strength and grace. Her generous nature knew no bounds, and she was always the first to offer help to anyone in need. Her life was a tapestry of experiences that made her one of the most interesting and engaging individuals to be around.

Hanna's passing leaves a void in the hearts of all



who loved her, but her spirit remains a guiding light. Her adventurous tales, her laughter in the chorus, and the beauty of her gardens will continue to inspire and comfort her family and friends. Hannelore Amelia Pacheco's life was one well-lived, full of passion and kindness, and she will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

A private memorial service honoring her life was held at Cartwright funeral followed by her burial at Blue Hills cemetery.

The family would like to thank Old Colony Hospice of West Bridgewater for their compassionate care. Memorial contributions may be sent in lieu of flowers to Old Colony Hospice, 321 Manley St. West Bridgewater, MA 02379.

www.oldcolonyhospice.org



Franklin Porchfest June 7th

**Free Event to Be Held
12-6 p.m.; Rain date
June 8th**



In a matter of days, Porchfest will be back in Franklin, MA! PorchFest is a free, outdoor music event that will be held on Saturday, June 7th from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, June 8th.

Porchfests have become popular nation-wide. This grassroots music festival is a way for neighbors to connect and celebrate local music in a relaxed, informal setting.

Come spend the day in Franklin's beautiful Cultural District while listening to live music. Musicians and bands of all genres will be performing on porches and patios throughout the district. This walkable event is also the perfect opportunity



to check out our local shops and restaurants.

You'll find band schedules and porch locations on our website, <https://franklin.porchfest.info/>. Our Facebook and Instagram pages will also have useful information and updates.

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Celtic Strength Returns to Milford for Historic 5th Year — Bigger, Bolder!

Brace yourself for the 5th Annual Celtic Strength Festival, Saturday June 21st, as it storms back onto Fino Field with a day of kilts, courage, and community. Formerly known as the Scottish Highland Games, this expanded celebration now embraces the full breadth of Celtic warrior traditions—including stone lifting, Irish wrestling, and the iconic Scottish Heavy Athletics.

Over the past four years, world records have fallen and legends have risen. With 120+ athletes flying in from Scotland, Ireland, Canada, and across the U.S., 2025 is shaping up to be our boldest year yet!

Celtic Strength blends adrenaline-pumping competition with cultural pride and family-friendly fun. Highlights include:

- **Highland Games Heavies** — Caber Toss, Weight for Height, Sheaf Toss, and more with athletes from the USA, Czech Republic, Belgium, Holland, and Canada.
- **Team Highlander Showdown** — Barbell clubs, firehouses, and gyms face off in events like the 550 lb Wagon Wheel Deadlift, U-Haul Pull, and Caber Relay.



- **Celtic Wrestling Revival** — Live matches and workshops in Irish Collar & Elbow and Scottish Backhold, featuring expert Tom “Headhunter” Higgins from Chicago.
- **Stonelifting Showcase** — World-class lifters including Martin “The Stoneman” Jancsics from Scotland and David “Indiana Stones” Keohan from Ireland will demonstrate historic feats of raw power. Try-it stations open to all ages.

Celebrate with the Whole Clan

Join us for Opening Ceremonies with bagpipes and awards, a Kids Tug-of-War vs. Team Highlander Captains at noon, Celtic heritage booths, food trucks, epic merch, and activities for all ages.

Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 kids (5–18), under 5 free.

Location: Fino Field, Milford, MA - lawn chairs encouraged.

More Info: www.nofamegames.com

Thanks to Milford Parks & Recreation, Sports Illustrated Tickets, Cerberus Strength USA, Bosse Pickledom, Premier Fence, Celtic New England, USMMA, and others for supporting this unforgettable day of strength and unity.

Ní neart go cur le chéile — *There is no strength without unity.*

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Hannah Linzay, (above) professional strongwoman from AL throwing the Sheaf Toss. Steve Laser (left) of FL mid-spin with the Heavyweight for Distance.

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A Year of New Friendships and Fur-tastic Adventures at Dogtopia

By JENNIFER RUSSO

Whether you added a new pup to your home over the holidays, are planning on doing some travel without your furry friend or have been looking for just the right place where you can leave your favorite canine companion for the day, Dogtopia understands that dogs are more than just pets, they are a part of your family.

Dogs are unique in that they are full of unconditional love, they give all of themselves to the people who care for them, expecting nothing in return except some food and attention. They bring a joy to their owners that can't really be described, so finding a caregiver for them is an important choice for any pup-parent.

Dogtopia is committed to giving these extended family members a happy, loving, and safe environment to play and learn in. With their state-of-the-art facility, impeccable safety standards, and certified animal-loving team members who are expertly trained to meet the needs of every pup, dog moms and dads can rest assured that their animals are very well taken care of and having a fabulous time.

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

"We want your pup to look forward to coming here. Nothing makes us happier than when one of our furry clients shows up and their tails are wagging in excitement to start their day with their friends," says Dogtopia Director Amy Hughes.

The Franklin Dogtopia location has three spacious playrooms where the dogs are placed based on their size, temperament and play style. Safety is always the first priority, and there are a number of protocols in place to ensure the pups' wellbeing, such as certified staff, compressed rubber flooring to reduce impact on the dogs' joints, soundproofing, a climate-controlled environment, and

Business spotlight

pet-friendly cleaning supplies.

Dogtopia requires a meet and greet for new clients, so that they can find the best placement for the pup, since all dogs are different. Each dog needs to be fit for an open play environment, and they conduct a thorough temperament test during this visit to better understand how the pup prefers to interact with others.

"We want to safely socialize the pups so they can release their energy, while getting lots of exercise and having fun," shares Hughes. "We have agility exercises, brain games, and more. It's an activity-filled day that will leave pups happy and fulfilled, so when they go home, they can relax and snuggle with their families."

All dogs need to be at least 12 weeks of age and must be up to date on all required vaccinations (Rabies, Canine Influenza, DHPP, and Bordetella). Dogs 7 months old and up must also be spayed/neutered. If you don't have the records on hand, Dogtopia is able to call your vet and obtain them for you.

For those who welcomed a new pet to the family this year, Amy shares some important tips:

- 1) Early socialization is extremely important so that the pup understands how to act within different environments and becomes more desensitized to distractions.
- 2) Be consistent with everything and have a routine in place that the pup can expect. A certain mealtime, play time, bedtime, potty time, etc. can make all the difference.
- 3) Be patient and calm while training. All dogs are different, and no pup is perfect. Praise for good behaviors and calmly correct those that need improvement.

"If the dog is still a puppy, we do offer a puppy pre-school that can help dogs acclimate early and be more adaptable,"



Check out our June Events!

All Week June 1-7 • Pet Appreciation Week

We appreciate your pup every day but we will have 3 specific events:

Tuesday, June 3 • Photo Shoot

Wednesday, June 4 • Wellness Day

Thursday, June 5 • Activity Day

Sunday, June 8 • BFFs Day

For Dogtopia's 8th Annual BFFs Day, we're celebrating all of those special bonds made in our playrooms!

Sunday, June 15 • Father's Day

Celebrate the special dog dad in your life with a personalized craft from his BFFF! (We'll be crafting from 6/13-6/15 so get him a \$5 customized photo before his big day)

Friday, June 18 • Birthday/Gotcha Day

Celebrate our June dogs with a gotcha/birthday party!

Monday, June 23 • Mini Monday

This is a really BIG deal for our WEE dogs.

Wednesday, June 25 • Pride Party

Love is love! We're celebrating Pride Month with our own Pup Pride Fest with rainbow arts & crafts & treats!

Friday, June 27 • Foundation Friday

Treat your pup to 2 pieces of turkey bacon at lunchtime with a \$5 donation to the Foundation.

Friday, July 4 • July 4th BBQ

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she says. "Bringing any pup into Dogtopia is always a win, because they will learn to safely socialize, have fun playing in a structured way, and reinforce good behaviors that make home life even smoother."

Dogtopia promises peace of mind for dog parents, with live webcams in every playroom that can be looked at any time, and periodic report cards to keep them in the loop.

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

Dogtopia operates with a community mindset, with events that clients can take part in with their pups, such as a craft day where pups create gifts for their human parents, themed dance parties, Mini Mondays which

offer specialized play for small dogs, and more. They even recently had a Santa and pup photo op and an ugly sweater party.

In addition to helping the community by caring for local pets, the Dogtopia Foundation also comes together to raise money for important causes, such as service dogs for Veterans. Stay tuned to learn how to help them with these efforts.

Does your pup need a place for socialization, exercise, love, and endless fun? **Take advantage of a special, limited time offer – for just \$99 a week, your pup can enjoy unlimited daycare visits.** This deal won't last long, so grab it while it's available!

Learn more about Dogtopia of Franklin Village and their amazing services by visiting <https://www.dogtopia.com/massachusetts-franklin-village/> or check out their Instagram at @DogtopiaFranklinVillage.

Your Money, Your Independence

Mid-Year Review: Five Financial Metrics To Evaluate



Glenn Brown, CFP

As the year reaches its midpoint, June is a great time to reflect on your financial progress.

Whether your goals include building savings, paying off debt, and/or preparing for retirement - evaluating key financial metrics this month gives you the opportunity to make strategic changes to complete a strong year. Here are five essential financial indicators to assess this month and how to act on what you find.

1. Net Worth

Your net worth provides a clear snapshot of your overall financial health. It's calculated by subtracting your total liabilities (debts) from your total assets (cash, investments, real estate, etc.).

Why it matters in June: Reviewing net worth mid-year helps you evaluate growth of wealth over time. If it's stagnant or declining, it may signal overspending, increased debt, and/or underperforming investments.

Action step: List all assets and liabilities using a spreadsheet or financial planning software, like eMoney. Compare with your end of December figures to track progress and use this insight to adjust the following items.

2. Savings Rate

Your savings rate is the percentage of your income that you're saving — including contributions to retirement accounts, HSAs, 529s, emergency funds, brokerage accounts, etc.

Why it matters now: If you're not close to 50% of your annual savings target, consider increasing contributions to accounts where funds are accessible this year without penalty. This usually means taxable accounts and not 401k or 529 plans, because if a shortfall is created, you'll need ease of access to funds to cover.

How to calculate: Divide your total savings to date by your gross income (pre-tax) for the same period. A 15% savings rate is a solid target, but if you wish to be above-average there are only two ways - save more and/or invest beyond median returns of the population.

3. Monthly Cash Flow

Cash flow reflects your day-to-day financial reality by measuring the difference between your monthly income and expenses. Positive cash flow means you're living a sustainable lifestyle and have money left to save and invest.

How to check: Track all income and expenses for the past one or two months. Subtract total expenses from total income. If you're consistently negative, you need to trim spending, increase income, or both.

Action step: Use budgeting apps or spreadsheets to monitor cash flow. Small leaks — like unused subscriptions, frequent takeout, impulse purchases — can erode your financial health over time.

4. Emergency Fund Coverage

An emergency fund should cover 3-6 months of essential living expenses to defend against financial surprises.

Why June matters: If you've had unexpected costs this year, your emergency fund may be lower than it should be. Summer travel and seasonal expenses can also drain savings if you're not careful.

Action step: Calculate the last 3 months of essential expenses, compare to your current cash balance, and plan to replenish if needed.

5. Investment Portfolio Allocation

June is a great time to check investment returns and asset allocation. Market changes or personal milestones (like a job change, large purchase or desired earlier retirement) may require a strategy shift.

Why it matters: If your portfolio has drifted from your target allocation (e.g., too much in stocks, not enough in bonds or real assets), it can affect risk exposure, volatility and long-term results.

Action step: After confirming monthly cash flows and emergency funds are aligned and no additional funds need

to be raised, review your portfolio allocation and rebalance accordingly.

Final Thoughts

A mid-year financial check-up gives you clarity, control, and the chance to recalibrate while sitting outside with your laptop sipping morning coffee or lazing on a sunny afternoon in the summertime.

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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Franklin Rod & Gun to Hold Annual Fishing Derby June 7th

By J.D. O'GARA

The Franklin Rod & Gun Club 2025 Fishing Derby will take place on June 7th, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 53 Florence Road on Uncas Pond in Franklin, with lots of prizes and raffles, a \$5 all you can eat breakfast, and free pizza for lunch. The derby is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

"Last year, we had over 200 people, and that was 90th anniversary," says Jim Gianotti, club president, "About 125 were 16 years and under, a lot of kids, and that's what we want, and it was pretty much 50/50 when it comes to girls and boys taking the first, second or third prize," he says.

Gianotti notes that the event has four prize categories: under 8; 8-12; 13-16; and adults 17+. There is a cash prize for adults

who catch the largest trout, and trophies for kids 16 and under.

This year, member Tommy Marchand has taken over planning the fishing derby.

"He's basically down there every day getting the boats ready, getting the equipment ready. What he did this year is he went around locally, and he ended up getting some sponsors," says Gianotti. Other changes this year include more kid-oriented raffle prizes, which include starter fishing packs.

At press time, those sponsors included: MRN Diagnostics, Snook Law, Rome Restaurant, Honey Dew, Aubuchons, Daddario Hardware, and Charlie Moore, The Mad Fisherman.

Since the fishing derby will take place during free fishing weekend, participants don't have to worry about a fishing license.

Those fishing will have a good likelihood of catching trout, as, because the Franklin Rod & Gun Club offers public access to Uncas Pond, the state has already stocked the pond a couple times with rainbow and brown trout, says Gianotti.

Membership in the Franklin Rod & Gun Club is up this year, to 255, with a lot of junior memberships, says Gianotti. "There's been a change in demographics to more family-oriented membership, and this was kind of my goal when I became president three years ago, to get more families oriented and more kids down there."

The club sponsors a Boy Scout troop and holds a breakfast every third Sunday of the month. Recently, it improved the beach area and got a couple new boats, he says.

For the fishing derby, the club



Shown is the first-place winner of last year's Franklin Rod & Gun Club Fishing Derby winner of the 7 and under category. This year, the event will take place on the morning of June 7th.

offers boats, rods and reels as supplies last.

The club does have a pistol range, says Gianotti, but lately, "we're actually seeing the biggest growth and use at our archery range. People are actually going

back to the old-style long bows, and we do instruction."

To learn more about the Franklin Rod & Gun Club, visit www.franklinrodandgun.org or find them on Facebook.

Historic Happenings at the Franklin Historical Museum for June 2025

Saturday, June 7 – Porchfest!
This second annual town-wide event runs from noon to 6 pm.

Multiple bands are scheduled to perform on the museum portico. Bring a lawn chair or blanket!

Rain date, June 8.
Saturday, June 7 – Fakes & Forgeries: Come to the First An-

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nual Fakes & Forgeries Exhibit, sponsored by The Franklin Art Association and the Franklin Historical Museum to enjoy artistic reproductions and creative interpretations of great artworks by FAA artists! There will also be a special showing of works by FHS students. The exhibit runs from June 7-22. Opening Reception: June 7, 12-6 p.m. (Porchfest will be happening at the same time!) Admission is free!

Sun. June 8--Second Sunday Speaker Series: "Franklin's Historic Painters"

In the 19th and 20th centuries, a number of artists, still highly regarded, emerged in Franklin or had Franklin roots, including Eliab Metcalf (1785-1834), Henry Hammond Gallison (1850-1910), and Charles

Partridge Adams (1858-1942) among others. The slide show and talk by Historical Commission Chair Alan Earls, is offered in conjunction with the ongoing Franklin Art Association exhibit. It starts at 1:15 and will include background about the artists and images of some of their works. The museum is open from 1-4 and admission is free.

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

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

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

Getting Rid of Ants, The Most Common Home Invader

While homeowners across the country enjoy the warm weather and the sights, smells and activities of the season, they also must contend with increased pest activity. This season, WPC Pest and Termite Control is reminding homeowners to be on the lookout for one of the most prevalent pests – ants.

Often considered the No. 1 nuisance pest, ants also pose significant health and property risk as they destroy wood and contaminate food items. And with more than 700 types of ant species in the United States, it's not surprising that ants can quickly become a source of disgust, frustration and concern for homeowners.

"Most ants thrive in warm and moist conditions, which is why it's best to eliminate moisture or standing water near or inside the home," says Jim Maz-zuchelli, owner of WPC Pest and Termite Control. "In some cases, the only way to completely remediate an ant infestation is to call a qualified pest professional who can locate and remove the identified species' nests."

WPC Pest and Termite Control reminds homeowners that the first step to remediation is to properly identify which ant species is present in the home.

Some of the most common home invaders include:



- **Odorous House Ants:** These ants get their name from the unpleasant odor they give off when crushed, often described as smelling like a rotten coconut. They typically nest in wall voids and crevices and prefer sweet foods.
- **Pharaoh Ants:** Pharaoh ants prefer sweets, but also consume grease and even shoe polish. They live in extremely large colonies and keep warm near artificial heating sources like baseboard heaters and ovens.

- **Carpenter Ants:** This species hollows out nests in both dry and moist wood, though they prefer the latter. They can be particularly hard to remove since their nests can be more difficult to locate.
- **Fire Ants:** Fire ants can cause severe allergic reactions in addition to structural damage caused by chewing through the insulation around electrical wiring.

Homeowners who suspect an ant infestation should contact a licensed pest professional who can identify ant species and recommend a course of treatment. To learn more about ants, please visit www.nobugsnopests.com.

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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Ready, Set, Glow!

The Best Summer Facials at b.LUXE

BY GINA WOELFEL

The flowers are blooming, the sun is shining, and iced coffee is officially back in our rotation—that's right, **summer is just around the corner!**

While we've mostly thawed out from winter, your skin might still be playing catch-up. After months of dry indoor heat, unpredictable New England weather, and layers of holiday makeup, it's time to refresh your complexion before the summer sun takes center stage.

We've designed our hand-picked lineup of **facials and skincare treatments to exfoliate, hydrate, and bring back your skin's natural glow**—just in time for the sunny season ahead. With beach days, weddings, and outdoor adventures on the calendar, we've rounded up a few sum-

mer-time favorites to help your skin look—and feel—its absolute best.

So, let's go!

The Power of 3 Facial

Think of this as the ultimate skincare triple threat. The Power of 3 Facial blends dermaplaning, a brightening peel, and a deeply hydrating mask to sweep away dull, dry skin and reveal the fresh, dewy glow beneath the surface.

Using a sterilized blade, dermaplaning gently sweeps away built-up surface debris, fine vellus hair (aka peach fuzz), and micro—surface wrinkles without harsh chemicals, downtime, or discomfort.

Results: A smoother, more refined complexion that better absorbs your skincare products and creates the perfect canvas for makeup.

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You'll leave with visibly plumper, smoother, and more radiant skin—and the results don't stop when you walk out the door. This treatment works long after your appointment, improving elasticity, reducing fine lines, and giving your complexion a fresh, youthful bounce you'll love.

Best for: Tired, dull, oily, acne-prone, devitalized, or element-stressed skin needing a deep reset and revitalization.

Pro tip: Schedule early in the season for a complete refresh.

Hydrolifting Facial

This anti-aging, hydrating miracle worker profoundly improves the visible toning of the face, neck, and jawline.

Best for: Anyone wanting to feel tighter, brighter, and red-carpet-ready.

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Results: Hydrated, glowing skin and a calmer, lighter you.

Big Results, Minimal Time Stand-Alone or Add-On Chemical Peel 30 min

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Best for: A quick, no-nonsense glow-up.

Just a warning: They can be addictive from the very first one!

Stand-Alone Oil Dermaplaning 30 min

Short on time? No worries—you can book an oil dermaplaning on its own for the ultimate lunch break glow-up. This quick

treatment smooths skin, removes peach fuzz and helps your products absorb more effectively.

Best for: Makeup lovers, SPF devotees, and anyone craving a smoother, more radiant complexion.

Pro Tip for Summer: Don't Skip the SPF

Sun protection is non-negotiable—especially after a glow-boosting facial. Make daily SPF part of your routine to keep your skin looking radiant and healthy all season long. **Great skincare doesn't end at the spa!**

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ALARM Robotics Hosts 2nd SFLLEE

By J.D. O'GARA

On April 26, 2025, ALARM Robotics, which operates out of the Red Brick School in Franklin, held its second Stephen Green FIRST LEGO League Explore Event (SFLLEE). The group, which has received the Engineering Inspiration Award for its outstanding community outreach in teaching younger children, dedicates this event to the memory of Late Mr. Stephen Green, a long time FIRST volunteer, Franklin resident and MA FLL Explore partner who coached robotics teams in Quincy for 20 years and hosted the Quincy FLL Qualifier for multiple years with his wife, Ms. Shelley.

“At the event, we gave out a Volunteer of the Season award to Tom Kroon, founding mentor of Sense and Sound Robotics, who is also a resident of Franklin,” says ALARM mentor Pallavi Naravane, who explains that Sense and Sound was founded in 2017 and teaches children free of cost. “Many of his alumni have gone onto STEM programs in college,” she explains.



ALARM Robotics presented the Volunteer of the Season Award to Franklin resident Tom Kroon - Founder and Head Coach of Sense and Sound Robotics from Franklin, Mass.

Naravane notes that Mr. Green was an important mentor to the team, “deeply invested in bringing robotics to students and in knowing the value of teaching technology to young kids.”

The ALARM Robotics team invited 12 younger FLL Explore teams from Rhode Island and Massachusetts to SFLLEE to showcase their builds and code at the event at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Middle School in Franklin.

This year, the teen members



ALARM Robotics team with younger students at the Stephen Green First LEGO League Explore Event.
Photo provided by ALARM Robotics.

of ALARM Robotics taught five FIRST LEGO League Explore teams, and one Discover Class at the Plainville Library for 13 weeks from Oct-Jan completely free of cost and reached 50 students who wouldn't otherwise

have had the opportunity to do robotics, according to Naravane. The team has put in 700 volunteer hours with 17 engineering workshops at seven local libraries, and it has reached close to 10,000 people.

“We're getting kids to stick around the robotics season year after year,” says Naravane, who explains that team members are gaining leadership skills from coaching younger grades.

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Sanford Mill: Best Place to Live by a Dam Site

BY ALAN EARLS

The town of Medway invited members of the public to an introductory meeting on the Sanford Mill Pond Dam Alternative Analysis Project in April

at the Middle School. At issue is what to do about the aging Sanford Mill Dam, which spans the Franklin-Medway line, has had no known owner since the 1980s and has some immediate issues,



repair, dam removal, or dam failure all issues of great concern to residents.

Linda Donnelly picked up this point and read several key passages from Massachusetts statute Chapter 79, section 20, which, she said, spells out the full liability for damages to adjacent property when a dam is being built, removed, or renovated. She asked whether that risk had been factored into the study and was told it likely would be as the study goes forward.

GZA did acknowledge that a dam removal would likely make the upstream section of the river less navigable most of the time due to removal of the impoundment but a dam removal would potentially mean uninterrupted navigation over longer stretches of the river they said.

As to who would pay for any work beyond the current study, that's all to-be-determined...

You can visit www.medwayma.gov/sanford-dam/ for more project information or email the DPW at dpw@townofmedway.org

but no recent maintenance work and is in unknown structural condition.

The meeting attracted about 35 people, most of whom seemed to be residents of the Sanford Mills condos.

The Town's engineering consultant, GZA GeoEnvironmental (GZA), presented an overview of the current conditions of the dam, outlined the planned tasks and data collection efforts, and answered most of the questions

from the audience, including who is paying for their \$250,000 project (the state).

Multiple residents talked of their love of the historic site and its water views and wildlife, which might be a thing of the past if the dam is removed -- one of the options being explored in the GZA study which is expected to take about a year. One of the biggest issues is that the dam and the structure of the condo buildings are connected making dam



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Local Resident Helping to 'Strike Out' Rare Kidney Disease

BY LISA GENTES-HUNT

One local mother is hoping to spread awareness about IgA Nephropathy, a rare kidney disease, by teaming up with the Boston Red Sox and the IgA Nephropathy Foundation. In a special May 17 event at Fenway Park in Boston, Franklin resident Victoria Bartlett, Ph.D., the Massachusetts ambassador for the national foundation, took part in a "Strike Out IGaN" day as part of a nationwide awareness week. This year, for the first time in the state's history, Governor Maura Healey issued an official state proclamation declaring May 14 as "IGaN Awareness Day" in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Bartlett, who works in Boston and has been living with IGaN for more than 20 years, wanted to reach others battling the rare kidney disease, also known as Berger disease, which, according to the Mayo Clinic, happens when germ-fighting immunoglobulin A (IgA) builds up in the kidneys, causing inflammation that, over time, can make it harder for kidneys to filter waste from the blood. The first sign is often blood in the urine.

"I had a supportive nephrologist, but I never met another patient until after my transplant," said Bartlett, who is originally from the United Kingdom and who received a kidney transplant in 2021 at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

Bartlett decided to become an ambassador for the foundation to "share my story and give

some people hope that you can live with this disease," she said. "Finding out can be quite scary. It can be traumatic. It's nice to be on the other side and have a kidney that's working and doing what it needs to do."

Bonnie Schneider, the founder of the IgA Nephropathy Foundation, which has ambassadors throughout the United States and Canada, said the state proclamation is a huge boost for the foundation.

"We are hoping to have all 50 states recognize IGaN Awareness Day, and having Massachusetts is really important as there are a lot of patients in the state," Schneider said. "They can be recognized and celebrate IGaN Awareness Day instead of suffering in silence. The disease does not define you, and it's okay not to be okay."

Schneider, a New Jersey resident, created the foundation when her son was diagnosed 21 years ago. She said it's crucial to the foundation to have ambassadors, like Bartlett, advocating for the foundation.

"It's really important that these ambassadors come out of their comfort zone and help others in their communities," she stated, noting that the volunteer ambassadors help patients that are newly diagnosed navigate the disease and teach them what is available. "Victoria is amazing and goes above and beyond the call of duty," she said. "We're lucky and honored to have her as part of the program."



Getting ready for their "Strike out IGaN" Red Sox game on Saturday, May 17 at Fenway Park, from left to right are Lauren Bartlett, Abby Trombert, Tracey Trombert, and Victoria Bartlett.

Schneider also noted that the foundation is thankful for the kidney donors as well. "We couldn't do it without our unsung heroes."

One of those unsung heroes is Francine Gregoire, Bartlett's friend and kidney donor.

The former Massachusetts resident, who now lives in San Carlos, California, has been friends with Bartlett since the two worked together in January 2014.

Gregoire was moved to become a kidney donor after learning of her friend's plight.

"When I received the text from Victoria indicating finding a donor...was pretty much life or death for her, I only had one thought in mind - how can I help her," she said. "I could not bear the thought of losing my friend."

After undergoing various tests, and "a pandemic delay," the friend said she was "thrilled to

hear I was qualifying as a donor. I never looked back and would do it again if I had a 'third/another' spare kidney."

Gregoire stressed how important spreading awareness about the rare kidney disease is for patients, caregivers and for potential kidney donors.

She said spreading the word is critical to the cause. "I had no clue Victoria was affected by IGaN, a deadly kidney disease



which still has no cure. It is also key for potential donors to understand that you can live a perfectly normal life with one kidney."

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Living Healthy

Direct SLT

A Revolutionary Advance in Glaucoma Treatment Debuts in Massachusetts

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

Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of irreversible blindness worldwide, affecting over 3 million Americans and millions more globally. This silent disease gradually damages the optic nerve—often without noticeable symptoms until significant vision is lost. Lowering intraocular pressure (IOP) remains the only proven way to slow or stop its progression—and innovative treatments continue to evolve in the fight to preserve vision.

In a major advancement for glaucoma patients in Massachusetts, Dr. Roger Kaldawy, MD, is offering the state's first Direct SLT (Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty) using Alcon's newest, state-of-the-art laser system. This groundbreaking 2-second procedure will take place at Milford Franklin Eye Center's surgical

facility in Milford, MA, marking a new chapter in laser glaucoma care—right here, close to home.

What Is Glaucoma and How Is It Treated?

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that damage the optic nerve, usually due to increased intraocular pressure. The most common form, **open-angle glaucoma**, occurs when the drainage system of the eye becomes less effective over time, allowing fluid to accumulate and pressure to build. Without treatment, this pressure can cause permanent vision loss.

Traditional glaucoma treatment options include:

- Medicated eye drops to reduce fluid production or improve drainage

- Oral medications, often a last resort due to systemic side effects
- Laser treatments, such as conventional SLT or argon laser trabeculoplasty (ALT)
- Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS) for moderate disease
- Traditional surgeries, including trabeculectomy or tube shunts, for advanced cases

Each approach has its pros and cons, and treatment is tailored to the patient's specific needs and stage of disease.

What Is SLT?

Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) is a well-established, non-invasive laser treatment that targets the eye's **trabecular meshwork**—the tissue responsible for draining fluid from the eye. SLT uses gentle laser pulses to improve outflow and lower IOP, often reducing or eliminating the need for daily eye drops. It's a quick, painless procedure with minimal downtime, typically per-



formed in an outpatient setting.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, **Dr. Kaldawy was among the first surgeons in the region to offer SLT**, performing hundreds of successful treatments over the years. Our facility provides SLT in a state-of-the-art surgical center in Milford, offering expert care without the need to travel to distant hospitals or urban centers.

With this advanced center available in your backyard, there's no reason to travel hours for glaucoma or eye surgery. If your provider is still recommending you drive long distances for treatment, we welcome second opinions and offer world-class laser glaucoma care, right here in Milford.

Introducing Direct SLT: The Next Generation of Laser Therapy

Alcon's Direct SLT takes traditional SLT to the next level, combining the trusted benefits of SLT with cutting-edge technology and enhanced precision. This new approach allows the laser to be applied more accurately and consistently to the drainage tissues of the eye, resulting in improved outcomes and a better patient experience.

What Sets Direct SLT Apart from Traditional SLT?

Traditional SLT:

- *Requires a gonioscope:* A specialized lens is placed on the eye to allow the physician to visualize and direct the laser beam at the trabecular meshwork

- *More operator-dependent:* The accuracy and effectiveness can vary based on the physician's experience and technique
- *Longer procedure:* Typically takes a few minutes
- *Can involve some discomfort:* Some patients may experience discomfort from the gonioscope

Direct SLT (DSLST):

- *Non-contact:* Laser energy is delivered through the limbus, eliminating the need for a gonioscope or physical contact with the eye
- *Automated and fast:* The procedure is automated, takes less than 3 seconds, and can be performed by trained personnel
- *Efficient and accessible:* DSLST may treat more patients in less time, making care more accessible
- *Potentially more comfortable:* Non-contact delivery improves patient comfort

Who Should Consider Direct SLT?

Direct SLT is especially beneficial for:

- Patients with early to moderate open-angle glaucoma
- Individuals looking to reduce or avoid glaucoma medications
- Patients with sensitivity or allergies to eye drops

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Celebrate with Pride 2025 Saturday June 21, 2025

Family-Friendly Event on Town Common 12-4 p.m. (Rain Date June 22)

At press time, Franklin's Celebrate with Pride 2025 had garnered over 50 vendors, making it the biggest Pride event yet. The event, highlighting gender and sexual diversity in Franklin, will take place on Saturday, June 21st at Franklin Town Common, 200 Main Street, Franklin. As last year, the free event will include:

- Family crafts and activities including caricature artists, tarot readings, Franklin Art Association artists, weaving wall, mandala, lawn games, and henna
- Live music including Sioo and drag artist Phlegm Mignon
- Non-profit tables
- Vendors



Space at the event was noted as first come/first serve, but for information, visit

<https://tinyurl.com/FranklinPride2025>

If you would like to volunteer for set-up and break down, or in some other capacity, visit

<https://tinyurl.com/FranklinPrideVolunteer>. Potential vendors or volunteers may also email franklincwp@gmail.com

Franklin LGBTQ Alliance Events for June

Progress Flag Raising

Sunday June 1st from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central St., Franklin: Kick off LGBTQ+ Pride Month by seeing the Progress Flag raised at Franklin Municipal Building!

Celebrate with Pride Preparation

Thursday June 5th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin: Come help us prep for our pride event by putting together miniature flags, writing place markers for exhibitors/vendors on the flags, and other miscellaneous tasks!

Farmers Market

Friday June 6th from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Franklin Town Common 200 Main St., Franklin: The Franklin LGBTQ Alliance will have a booth so come say hi!

Strawberry Stroll

Friday June 13th from 4 to 8 pm on Main St., Franklin: The Franklin LGBTQ Alliance will have a booth so come say hi!

Pride Flag Planting

Saturday June 14th starting at 10 a.m. at the Franklin Town Common 200 Main St., Franklin: Help us plant miniature pride flags at the Franklin Town Common! All ages welcome!

Celebrate with Pride:

Saturday June 21st with the rain date being the next day from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Franklin Town Common, 200 Main St., Franklin

Come for family fun, food trucks, shopping, live music, and more, all in celebration of gender and sexual diversity in Franklin! There are also still volunteer slots! Interested? Visit franklinlgbtqalliance.com

EYES

continued from page 16

- Those with difficulty maintaining a drop regimen
- Patients with ocular surface disease worsened by medications

Benefits and Risks of Direct SLT

Benefits:

- No incisions and minimal discomfort
- Quick recovery
- May reduce or eliminate the need for daily drops
- Repeatable treatment
- Customized for individual patient needs

Risks:

- Temporary eye irritation or inflammation
- Mild, short-term increase in IOP immediately after treatment
- In rare cases, insufficient pressure reduction

Why Choose Milford Franklin Eye Center for Your Laser Glaucoma Surgery?

We are proud to be **the first center in Massachusetts to offer Direct SLT**, and even prouder to provide it in a local, accessible setting that prioritizes patient comfort and convenience. Our facility is equipped with the latest ophthalmic technology, and our team—led by Dr. Kaldawy—delivers compassionate, expert care with excellent outcomes.

Here's the great news: You don't need to travel far to receive top-tier glaucoma care. We're offering excellence in SLT—including the newest Direct SLT—right here in Milford.

If you or someone you love is living with glaucoma or elevated eye pressure, **contact us today** to learn whether Direct SLT is right for you. We're honored to bring this breakthrough in glaucoma care to our community—and we're ready to help you protect your vision for years to come.

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June 2025 Franklin Library Highlights

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- Touch-a-Truck, Tuesday, June 17 @ 1 – 3 p.m.
- Mr. Vinny's Giant Bubbles, Monday, June 23 @ 4 p.m.
- Flying High Dogs, Wednesday, June 25 @ 10:30 a.m., on library lawn!
- Family Line Dancing, Friday, June 27 @ 4 p.m.
- Elijah T. Grasshopper Band, Saturday, June 28 @ 11 a.m.
- Franklin PorchFest 2025, Saturday, June 7 @ 12 – 6 p.m.

Performing at the library:

- 12 – 1 p.m.: Tommy Feeley
- 1 – 2 p.m.: Jamie Barrett
- 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.: Dave Perry
- 4 – 6 p.m.: Jeffrey Scornavacca

- Strawberry Stroll on the Library Lawn, Friday, June 13 @ 4 – 8 p.m.
- Summer Reading Kickoff Celebration, Saturday, June 14 @ 10:30am – 12:30 p.m.
- Drum Circle with Dave Curry, Saturday, June 14 @ 2 p.m.
- DJ Dance Party, Wednesday, June 25 @ 6 p.m.
- Puzzle Mania, Thursday, June 26 @ 5 p.m. (family puzzle challenge, must register!)
- Mobile Mini-Golf, Monday, June 30 @ 3 – 6 p.m., adults required for kids under 14

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*Letter to the Editor***Don't Tax My Credit Union**

By SUSAN J. KENNEY

CEO, Norfolk Community Federal Credit Union

Credit unions are speaking as Congress and the new administration move quickly on tax reform and announced plans to end the industry's tax exemption status. Here's what you should know:

A Tax on Credit Unions Is a Tax on You: Why We Must Act Now

In communities across America, credit unions are doing what they've always done best—putting people first. As not-for-profit financial cooperatives, credit unions are fundamentally different from banks. They exist to serve their members, not to generate profits for shareholders. That's why more than 140 million Americans—43% of the population—have chosen credit unions as their trusted financial partner.

But this model is now under threat.

There's a growing concern that lawmakers may consider eliminating the federal income tax exemption for credit unions. Make no mistake: a tax on credit unions is a tax on you and the

millions of other Americans who depend on them.

Credit Unions' tax status was established by congress in 1937, and it is crucial to all credit unions' survival and continued ability to service people left behind by banks. As cooperatives, credit unions succeed when people come together. We are all stronger when we advocate and act with one unified voice. Just like in the movie "It's A Wonderful Life," with Bailey Building and Loan fighting against Mr. Potter's authoritarian way.

Why Credit Unions Matter

Credit unions were born out of necessity. More than a century ago, when banks turned their backs on working families, farmers, and small business owners, credit unions stepped in to serve. They provided accessible financial services to those excluded from the mainstream banking system—and they continue to do so today.

Unlike banks, credit unions are not-for-profit and member-owned. Any earnings they generate are returned to members through better interest rates on loans, higher returns on savings, fewer fees, and personalized ser-

vices like financial counseling. This community-first model helps individuals and families build stronger financial futures and strengthens local economies. Credit unions are democratically owned and operated, governed under a "one member, one vote" principle, regardless of the amount of deposit. While banks are operated with the purpose of maximizing profits for their shareholders, credit unions' sole purpose is to return those benefits to their member-owners and the communities they serve.

Despite their growth, credit unions remain a relatively small player in the financial sector, holding only 8.8% of assets compared to banks, which control 91.2%. Yet their impact is outsized when it comes to improving financial well-being.

What's at Stake

The federal income tax exemption for credit unions exists because of their unique structure and mission. Congress recognized long ago that credit unions provide essential financial services to underserved communities, and that taxing them like for-profit banks would undermine that mission.

It's important to note: credit unions already contribute billions in state and local taxes. The exemption only applies to federal

income tax on profits—profits that are reinvested back into the membership, not handed to wealthy shareholders.

If Congress were to eliminate this exemption, it would significantly reduce the ability of credit unions to provide the services their members count on. That means fewer low- and no-fee accounts, less access to affordable loans, and reduced financial support for families and small businesses.

Why You Should Care

Eliminating the tax exemption wouldn't just hurt credit unions—it would hurt you. It would force your credit union to operate more like a bank, focusing on profits instead of people. And ultimately, those costs would be passed on to you in the form of higher fees and worse rates.

This isn't just a financial issue—it's a fairness issue. Why should consumers who have chosen a cooperative financial model be penalized because of pressure from big banks that fear competition?

Take Action: Protect Your Credit Union

Credit unions are not a loophole. They are a lifeline for millions of Americans.

As federal lawmakers consider tax reform, they need to hear di-

rectly from you. Tell your U.S. Representative and Senators: Don't tax my credit union—it's a tax on me. Visit donttaxmycreditunion.org for more information and a link to your lawmakers. You can also get the link on our website: www.norfolkcommunityfcu.org.

Your voice matters. Let Congress know that you stand with credit unions—and that any attempt to tax them is an attack on the financial security of more than 140 million Americans.

Here at Norfolk Community Federal Credit Union, it has been our mission to help our members fulfill their dreams and meet their financial goals for almost 75 years. We're in business to help people improve their lives through realizing their financial goals and to provide financial services to members at the lowest possible cost. People helping people help themselves. We have a Board of Directors who are local members of your community, volunteering their time to oversee the general direction of the credit union. So, credit union profits don't get distributed to them, like bank shareholders get bank dividends. We reinvest it in you, our members!

Now is the time to act. Protect your credit union. Protect your community. Protect your financial future. Protect your choice!

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Sports

Out Of the Shadows

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Running all began on the middle school cross country team for Franklin's Ella Chandaria, and although the young runner was hoping to join the track team when she arrived at the high school, she hit somewhat of a snag. Unfortunately, during her eighth-grade season COVID-19 ravaged the country and sports, along with a lot of other things were put on hold.

Eventually, things got back to somewhat of a normalcy and the Franklin resident was able to try out for the high school track team, where she would run the 4 x 200 relay as well as the hurdles.

"Originally, I was just hoping to have fun while running with friends. It wasn't supposed to be anything serious, but I found that I really liked it, so much I gave up cheerleading to focus on track," Chandaria said. "Hurdles were not something I was even thinking about, but Coach (Paul) Trovato threw me in there, thinking that I'd do good."

In the beginning, Chandaria was more than terrified with the newly appointed event and found herself just running and jumping over the hurdles, but by the end of the year, she had figured out the sport.

"By no means is it an easy event, but with training you eventually learn the proper form, endurance and speed of the event," she said. "By my indoor season during my sophomore year I had finally gotten it down. I prefer the 400-meter hurdles to the 100 as it gives you the opportunity to get your rhythm down with the hurdles spaced further apart."

Although now a senior participating on the Franklin track team, Chandaria is a contributing member who had been living in the shadows of an All-American hurdler.

"On any other team, Ella is a record holder in the hurdles, but unfortunately Sarah Dumas, who is now running at the University of Pennsylvania, was taking part in the same event," Panther Coach Trovato said. "Now that Sarah has moved on, Ella has taken the opportunity to finally emerge as a Hockmock Champion."



Senior year was Ella Chandaria's moment to shine in FHS Track. Chandaria had benefitted by competing alongside Sarah Dumas, who graduated last year, but this year was the All-Star's turn to shine.

Trovato noted that when he first put Chandaria in the hurdles, it was somewhat of a learning curve for the then freshman; thankfully she was able to learn while watching one of the best hurdlers in the state.

"I firmly believe that she really learned a lot by practicing with Sarah on a daily basis," the Franklin Coach said. "They brought out the best in each other and now that Sarah has moved on, Ella has grabbed the torch and is running with it."

While many athletes may not have taken the situation so lightly, Chandaria took it with a grain of salt and used it as a learning experience.

"Having Sarah in front of me was a good thing," she said. "For three years I got to train and run with her and accomplish something that I never thought possible. I like to think that she also got better because I was running on her tail; it was something that we both benefited from."

The senior went on to say that she truly doesn't believe

that she would have progressed as fast as she did without having Dumas pushing her.

As a three-time Franklin Outstanding Spirit Award recipient as well as a three-time Hockmock League All-Star, Chandaria knew that her final season running with the Panthers was going to be one that would be totally different.

"With Sarah gone, I knew that although all the pressure was not going to be placed on my shoulder, I did know that I was going to be counted on to step up to help this team to succeed," the senior said. "I like the push it has given me, but I also enjoy helping the younger girls starting to pick-up the hurdles."

Coming into her final year with Franklin, Chandaria was looking to improve her throwing bests in the shotput and discus. She was looking to get her shotput above 35 feet and her discus over 115 feet; she is close to both of those throws at the time of this writing. In addition to the throwing and running



events, the Franklin senior has competed in both the Heptathlon, where her best point total is 3458, and the pentathlon (2656 points).

When the spring season finally comes to an end and she

graduates, Chandaria will be taking her skills to Providence College, where she will be looking to help the Friars in the Big East Conference.

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SAFE Gala Highlights Group's Reach to 55 Communities

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

"This night is incredible. It is a highlight of the year for us at the SAFE Coalition, and we know that so many community members have been impacted by substance abuse, and tonight we get to honor those we have lost and celebrate the opportunity our community has to honor (them) and provide education and recovery," said Jennifer Knight-Levine, co-founder and CEO of the SAFE Coalition, which held its third annual fundraising gala on Thursday, May 8, 2025 at the Lakeview Pavilion in Foxboro. The event, which included a live auction emceed by Ken Cosco, met its fundraising goal of \$200,000

"We're pleased so many people are here to support such an incredible cause," said Dr. Anne Bergen, President of the SAFE board of directors, prior to the dinner, "SAFE is such an important organization in our community. We really have to do something about the mental health epidemic. It's not going away, and SAFE is on the front



SAFE CEO Jennifer Knight-Levine and SAFE Director of Family Recovery Jim Derick, co-founders of the SAFE Coalition, at the third annual SAFE Gala. The Franklin-founded nonprofit aimed at reducing substance use disorder and addressing mental health issues now reaches 55 communities.



Bill Fox was presented with this SAFE's Jeffrey N. Roy Excellence in Community Service Award for his outstanding commitment and follow-up to each person who asks him for help, any time of day.

said Rep. Jeff Roy at the event, present years ago when Jennifer Knight and Jim Levine were pondering how to tackle substance use disorder in the Franklin community. "To think that that small group of people turned into what we are seeing here tonight, 400 people coming, and all the lives they've saved and the support they've provided to the community ... and now

SAFE is supporting 55 communities," said Roy.

Norfolk County Commissioner Richard Staiti was also among supporters at the SAFE Gala. "They do a great job in Franklin and surrounding communities in the county, and I always want to try to support them any way I can," said Staiti, who added that the Norfolk County Commissioner's office recently was able to give SAFE a \$1,500 award as part of the opioid settlement.

Dr. Anne Bergen opened the event, honoring the memories of those who struggled with mental health issues and substance abuse disorder who have passed on and introducing SAFE COO Carrie Asprinio, who told her personal story, addressing the need to reduce stigma surrounding sexual and physical abuse even among those in the recovery.

Jim Derick followed, pointing out that, "We at SAFE know that when an individual or a family is impacted by substance abuse or mental health challenges, the entire family is impacted." Der-

ick then awarded the Jeffrey N. Roy Excellence in Community Service Award to Bill Fox.

Keynote speaker Jacob Haendel, co-creator of the podcast Blink, and sole survivor of a rare brain disease usually caused by inhaling the fumes from heroin heated on aluminum foil, moved the audience with his account of his experience, which included 18 months of Locked-in Syndrome, which, he said, caused him to shift perspective.

"I'm speaking to you as a guy who is in chronic pain in a wheelchair, and I'm so much happier than I was back then....," said Haendel, who now appreciates "little things" he took for granted.

After an impact video focusing on teen Sarah Bakas, Knight-Levine explained how SAFE now reaches 55 communities, with diversion programs in 19 schools and communities, Narcan training sessions in 44 communities and public pre-

SAFE

continued on page 21

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SAFE

continued from page 20

sentations in 31 communities. She highlighted SAFE's many offerings, among them 1:1 peer support, clinical support, and support groups. Prior to the speaking portion of the program, Knight-Levine told Local Town Pages about a recent grant from Community Health Systems and upcoming plans for that funding. "That means we can close off the space and create a real teen center. We'll run after-school programs and weekend programs, and this will be peer-to-peer support.," she said.

SAFE publicly thanks its major gala sponsors, listed here:

Champion Sponsors: Direct Federal Credit Union, Healthy KP Substance Use Prevention Coalition, Lampasona Concrete; Advocate Sponsors: Ever-source Energy, Plainridge Park

Roberta Trahan, Sue Rohrbach, and Anne Bergen mingle before dinner at the SAFE Gala. Dr. Bergen, President of SAFE's Board of Directors, opened the evening's event, welcoming guests and introducing speakers.

Casino, The Sacchetti Family, Sentient Jet; Ally Sponsors: 1776 Financial Services, Arbella Insurance Foundation; In-Kind Donors: Allegra Franklin – Marketing & Print Solutions, Earth and Sun Co., Franklin TV, Hope in Handfuls, Jaqueline-Gundberg Photography, Lakeview Pavilion, Only Prettier Design, Revelation Productions, The Candle Man, Unique Melody Events & Design, Vicario Studio.

For information on the SAFE Coalition, visit <https://www.safe-coalitionma.org>.



SAFE COO Carrie Asprinio shared her personal story, hoping to remove the stigma surrounding addicts who experience abuse.



Jacob Haendel, keynote speaker at the SAFE Gala, co-creator of the podcast Blink, (www.blinkthepodcast.com), spoke, and stood, briefly, before a sold-out audience of 400.



Members of Last Chance Clean and Sober men's motorcycle club attended the SAFE Gala. The 501 c 3 organization has a run this month, on June 7th. For more information, email lastchancemcinc@gmail.com or visit www.lastchancemotorcycleclub.org.

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June 2025 – Franklin Veterans’ Services Office Notes (508) 613-1315

June 4 - Monthly Coffee Social - 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. All Veterans are welcome to join us for updates, coffee and conversation!

June 6 - 81st Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion - On June 6, 1944, Allied forces launched a combined naval, air and land assault on Nazi-occupied France which led to the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi control.

June 14 - Flag Day commem-

orates the adoption of the U.S. flag by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14 as the official date to celebrate Flag Day.

June 14 - U.S. Army’s 250th Birthday

June 19 - Veterans’ Council Meeting - 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. Any Franklin resident interested in Veterans’ activities is welcome to join us!

Purple Heart Recipients -

Please let our office know if you or a family member (residing in Franklin) is a Purple Heart recipient so we can add you to our database. The Purple Heart is presented to service members who have been wounded or killed as a result of enemy action while serving in the U.S. military. National Purple Heart Day is celebrated on August 7 every year.

The **Tune It Out guitar lessons program** for Veterans

meets on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. There is no charge for lessons and no guitar experience is required. We have guitars! The last class of the season will be on June 10. Classes resume on Tuesday, September 9.

Warrior Within Yoga for Veterans and first responders meets on Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. at the Senior Center. No charge for classes. Call our office to sign up.

The next engraved brick in-

stallation on the Veterans Memorial Walkway on the Town Common will be in November. Brick order forms are available in the Town Hall and Senior Center lobbies and online at:

<https://www.franklinma.gov/335/Veterans-Services>

Thank you to all who have supported the Memorial Walkway Project!

BFCCPS Invites Alumni & Families to Pin-Down, BBQ & Tours

Our facility has come a long way since the days of the “caf-a-gym-a-nurse-atorium” and the Benjamin Franklin Educational Foundation (BFEF) invites our alumni and families to play your favorite game of Pin Down in our new gymnasium!

This event is being held in conjunction with our Physical Education Coaches and student leaders on Saturday, June 14 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. If you aren’t interested in playing pin-down, we hope you will still join us for building tours of 500 Fi-

nancial Park and a BBQ in the courtyard as well.

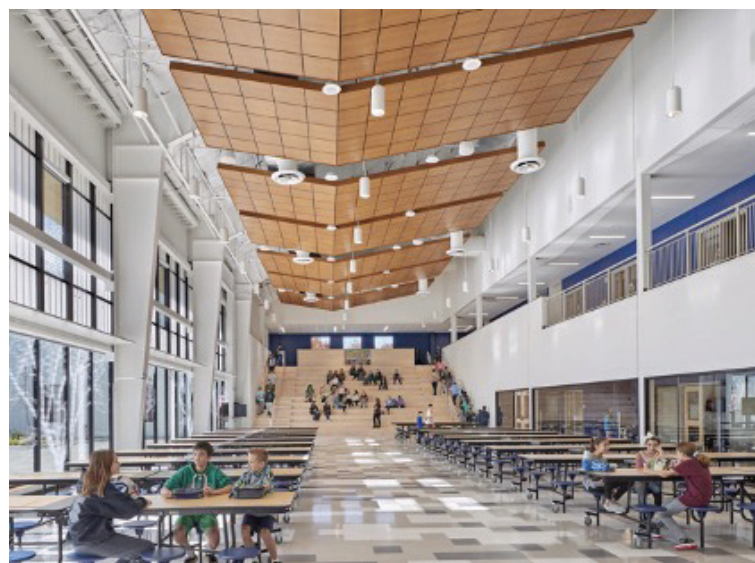
If you are interested in joining us please RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/BFCCPSPinDown> to let us know which elements of the day you’d like to participate in.

We hope you will consider joining us for the event!

About the Benjamin Franklin Educational Foundation (BFEF)

For over 20 years, the Benjamin Franklin Educational Foun-

dation (BFEF) has played a vital role in supporting the growth and development of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School (BFCCPS). Originally focused on funding capital improvements, BFEF’s mission has evolved to encompass a broader range of initiatives that enhance the student experience beyond what tuition alone can provide. From facility upgrades and staffing infrastructure to academic enrichment and parent education forums, BFEF is committed to securing the school’s future by



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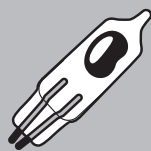
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diversifying its funding sources.

As the landscape of public education funding faces uncertainty, we turn to our community—current families, alumni, and supporters—to help sustain the exceptional, well-rounded education that defines BFCCPS. Now, more than ever, your involvement can make a meaningful impact.

The Foundation is actively seeking trustees and subcommittee members to help drive its mis-

sion forward. Whether you have experience in fundraising, event planning, or expanding academic and extracurricular programs—or simply a passion for supporting our students and educators—there’s a place for you here. Join us in shaping the next chapter of BFCCPS and ensuring its legacy of excellence continues for generations to come.

If you are interested in learning more please email: Info@bfe-foundation.org

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

Franklin Art Association and Franklin Historical Museum

1st Annual Fakes & Forgeries Exhibit

Featuring artistic reproductions and creative interpretations of masters' artworks by talented local artists.

Exhibit dates: June 7 - June 22, 2025
open any time during museum hours

**Opening Reception: Saturday, June 7th, 12-6 PM
with Peoples' Choice Award Presented at 5 PM**



Free and open to the public!

Location: Franklin Historical Museum
80 West Central St., Franklin MA
Accessible entrance at rear of building.

Fakes & Forgeries Exhibit to Open June 7th

FHS Student Component Added to Collaborative Show

The Franklin Art Association is collaborating with the Franklin Historical Museum to present the 1st Annual Fakes and Forgeries Exhibit. This exhibit will feature artists from Franklin and surrounding areas who will interpret or reproduce master artist works. The Opening Reception is June 7th, 12 - 6 p.m. at the Franklin Historical Museum and the show will run until June 22 during museum hours.

In addition to the exhibit of paintings, Franklin High School students will participate by show-

ing their "Art of the Crime" projects. Jennifer Curley, science teacher at Franklin High School, explains that students do a research project which involves watching The Art of the Fake, a Netflix documentary about the Robert Motherwell forgeries. They learn about x-ray techniques to determine authenticity. They then paint a small painting of a forged or stolen painting and share information about the forgery or theft. This addition of FHS student work dovetails nicely with the theme of the exhibit.

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Calendar

June 3

Franklin Special Election,

June 7

Franklin Rod & Gun Club Fishing Derby, 7 a.m.- 2 p.m., 53 Florence St., Uncas Pond, Franklin, \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under, \$5 all-you-can-eat breakfast, free homemade pizza for lunch, trophies, raffles, no license needed this day

Franklin Porchfest, 12-6 p.m., various locations around Franklin, free musical performances, schedule at <https://franklin.porchfest.info/>

Fakes & Forgeries exhibit opening, to run through June 22, Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin, partnered with the Franklin Art Association

SAFE Café after Dark, 6:30 p.m., SAFE, 31 Hayward St., Franklin, featuring music by the Zajac Brothers, visit <https://www.safecoalitionma.org/>

June 8

Franklin PMC Kids Ride, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Jefferson Elementary School, 628 Washington St., Franklin, visit kids.pmc.org/franklin or reach out to Lisa Marchioni at lisabxyz@verizon.net.

Second Sunday Speaker Series: "Franklin's Historic Painters," presented by Alan Earls, 1:15 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, slide show includes work by Eliab Metcalf (1785-1834), Henry Hammond Gallison (1850-1910), and Charles Partridge Adams (1858-1942) among others. Free

June 13

Franklin Strawberry Stroll, 4-8 p.m., Main Street from Dean Bank toward Dean College and Franklin Public Library, includes straw-

berry shortcake at Dean Bank, Dean College inflatable, interactive activities by Children's Museum of Franklin, music, and vendors, presented by Franklin Downtown Partnership, www.franklindowntownpartnership.org

June 14

Pin Down game for BFCCPS Alumni and Parents, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m., BFCCPS, 500 Financial Park, Franklin, presented by Benjamin Franklin Educational Foundation (BFEF), visit <https://tinyurl.com/BFCCPSPinDown>

Norfolk Fireworks, 6-10 p.m., Freeman Kennedy School, 70 Boardman St., Norfolk, live music, food trucks and fireworks, sponsored by Norfolk Recreation

June 21

Celebrate with Pride Franklin, 12-4 p.m., Franklin Town Common, LGBTQ celebration includes family friendly activities, vendors, performance

June 25

Guest Speaker - Mary Underwood (Memory Care Mary) - Author of The Heart Remembers, will present "Dementia and the Ethics of Lying," 2-3 p.m., Enclave of Franklin, 656 King St., Franklin

June 28

Bellingham Pride Fest, Bellingham Town Common, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Millis Fireworks, 9:30 p.m., Millis Town Park, 900 Main St., Millis, sponsored by Millis Recreation

July 2-6

Franklin 4th of July celebration, carnival, music each day, Blues Festival and Fireworks July 5th. Schedule at www.franklin4th.com

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Franklin High School Boys Basketball and Cheer Teams Honored at State House for Championship Victories

Franklin High School cheerleading and boys basketball teams were both recognized for their championship victories during an honorary visit to the State House on Wednesday, April 30.

The two teams were guests of state Rep. Jeffrey N. Roy, of Franklin, and state Sen. Rebecca L. Rausch, of Needham.

Both teams won their respective Division 1 state championships for the winter 2025 season.

The basketball team was recognized for their Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Division 1 Boys' Basketball State Championship, while the cheer team was recognized for their Massachusetts School Administrators' Association (MSAA) Division 1 State Championship.

For the Franklin High School cheerleading team, it was the fifth state championship in a row and the second state championship won this school year, after the cheerleaders also won the state championship for the fall season. The cheerleading team's graduating seniors finished their

high school careers having won seven out of their last eight state championship competitions.

In addition to the MSAA Division 1 Championship, the Franklin High cheerleading team earned the title of Hockomock League Champions this season and won its Regional Championship.

The cheerleading team also won the title of 2025 Grand Champions at the Americheer International Competition, coming in first place for their category and scoring the highest score of the competition.

The basketball team went 27-1 overall this season. The team then went 5-0 in the state tournament, beating Shrewsbury, North Andover, Bridgewater Raynham, and Central Catholic, before winning the MIAA Division 1 championship final, defeating Newton North 55-52.

For Franklin High Basketball, this marked a back-to-back state finals appearance. This was only the second time that this happened in team history, following the team's success in 2017 and

2018.

And for the second year in a row, the Franklin High boys' basketball team went undefeated in its 16 games of league play, resulting in the team being ranked No. 1 overall heading into the state tournament. The Franklin High boys' basketball team was the first team in the league to accomplish this feat in 50 years.

The Franklin High School Cheerleading roster included seniors Keira Owens (captain), Ceci Pineda (captain), Lea Exposito (captain), Emma Rondeau (captain), Kat Rosenberg, and Taylor Briggs; juniors Cassidy Stanley, Aerial Orrell, Emily Bartlett, Lilah Wainwright; and sophomores Ashley Rickey and Aria Nicholson. The cheerleading team was led by Coach Doni Gill, and the team received direction from choreographer Eric Bichao.

The championship Franklin boys basketball team roster included seniors Caden Sullivan (captain), Seth O'Donnell (captain), Joseph Conlan, Wyatt Herndon, Zach Allen, Flynn



The state champion Franklin High School cheerleading and boys basketball teams were guests of state Rep. Jeffrey N. Roy, of Franklin, and state Sen. Rebecca L. Rausch, of Needham. (Photo Courtesy Franklin Public Schools)

Baker, Andrew Geer, Jake Olmstead and Colin O'Leary; juniors Jack Sullivan, Justice Samuels, James Crowley; sophomore Nas Johnson; and freshman Danny Santos. The Franklin basketball team was led by Head Coach CJ Neely, and the coaching staff also included Mike Doherty, Ryan Perron, Chuck Allen, Tim Rodgers, Connor Moroney, Matt

Cooper and Rob Mosher.

Superintendent Lucas Giguere and Athletic Director Karrah Ellis both congratulated the teams for the State House recognition, capping off an extraordinary year of success on the basketball court and the cheerleading mat.

Franklin Students Find Success at State Music Festival

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Norfolk Probate and Family Court
35 Shawmut Road
Canton, MA 02021
781-830-1200

Docket No. N023C0104CA

In the matter of: **Daric Mounier Hood**

A **Petition to Change Legal Name** has been filed by **Daric Mounier Hood of Franklin, MA** requesting that the Court enter a Decree changing their name to **Tarick Hood**

Important Notice

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Norfolk Probate and Family Court** before **10:00 a.m.** on the **return day of 6/11/2025**. This is not a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Lee M. Peterson,
First Justice of this Court

Date: May 7, 2025

Coleen M. Brierley, Register of Probate

Several Franklin High School music ensembles achieved high honors during their performances at the annual Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association (MICCA) Festival.

The Wind Ensemble and Concert Band, directed by Leighanne Rudsit, and the String Orchestra, Repertory Orchestra, Concert Choir and Treble Choir, directed by

Plouffe, each performed during the Concert Festival and Choral Festival April 4-6.

Ensembles were evaluated and awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold medals based on the quality of their performances. Franklin High School's Concert Band and choruses earned Silver Medals, while both orchestras and the Wind Ensemble received Gold Medals, the highest distinction given at the festival.



The Franklin High School Choruses received a Silver Medal at the MICCA Festival.



The Franklin High School Orchestras received a Gold Medal at the MICCA Festival. (Photos Courtesy Franklin Public Schools)

"I'm extremely proud of our student musicians," Plouffe said. "They performed at an extremely high level amongst incredible competition throughout the state of Massachusetts."

Due to their outstanding performances, the Franklin High School Wind Ensemble, String Orchestra, and Repertory Orchestra were invited to perform

at the Gold Medal Showcase at the Groton Hill Music Center on Sunday, April 13.

"This is a remarkable accomplishment for our student musicians and the dedicated educators who support them," said Superintendent Giguere. "Their hard work, passion and commitment to their craft are truly inspiring."

Transitioning to College

Preparing for the college journey is an exciting time — a period filled with intellectual exploration, new friendships & adventures, and the responsibility of managing one’s own schedule. Although adapting to college life can seem daunting at first, students begin to learn how to best juggle their new-found independence while focusing on their studies. The summer before freshman year is an ideal opportunity to organize, prepare, and ensure a smooth transition to college life.

Here are a few helpful steps for parents and students to review this summer:

1. Consider the legal documents needed, such as, FERPA, Health Care Proxy, HIPAA, Durable Power of Attorney, and if needed, the Psychiatric Advance Directive.
2. If the student has an Independent Educational Plan (IEP) in place during high school, it does not automatically transfer to college. The college may require additional testing and/or documentation.
3. The student should continue to check the college portal and their email frequently throughout the summer for any important updates. The student should inform the college of their personal email contact information before their HS graduation.
4. Be aware of the deadlines for tuition bills and any additional requirements. If the student did not apply for need-based financial aid through the CSS and FAFSA, the Bursar’s office may need the student to sign a waiver before they release the student’s scholarship award.
5. Notify the Guidance Counselor of the student’s final college decision and request a final transcript to be sent to the college. The student should also request a copy of their transcript for future records.
6. Sign up for the summer student orientation and register for classes at the first opportunity. Tip - when registering for classes, if the student is not an early bird, they should not sign up for an 8 am class!
7. Some colleges will require placement exams for math, science, English, and foreign language - check the college website and deadlines.
8. Complete the housing & roommate surveys. It is essential that students are clear about their preferences— it will help the college identify well-matched roommates.
9. Make summer appointments for medical physicals and dental check-ups.

10. Register for pre-orientation activities. These programs allow new students to move-in early and connect with a small cohort of peers- great 1st bonding experience.
11. Coordinate the shopping list for the dorm room with roommates. Ship any items that can be mailed prior to arrival on campus or purchase locally. Check the college website as schools often offer their own services to purchase common items such as XL dorm room sheets, blankets, fans, etc..
12. Establish a bank account on campus or in the nearby town; and establish a fund transfer account such as Zelle/Venmo/PayPal.
13. Reach out to your academic advisor and schedule your first appointment in September.
14. Students should visit their professor’s “Office Hours” early - don’t wait until the day before a test!
15. Visit campus club events to find favorite activities - a great way to stay involved and meet your “people”.



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

16. Parents should plan for the fall Parents Weekend. Pre-arrange a nearby hotel and dinner reservations - maybe even with your child’s new friends.

long, your campus will be your new home. And nothing in life is permanent! If it is truly the wrong fit campus for you, transferring is always an option. But first give yourself time for the adjustments! Just bring your best self and enjoy!

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

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

Message to students: The first few months of college requires flexibility, resilience, and time management. Part of the process is learning to advocate for yourself and figuring out where to get the help you need. Get your sleep, exercise, and eat well! Take care of your physical and mental health as you expand your network of friends and resources. Give it time and try new experiences. Before

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Franklin Public Schools Holds Opening Reception for AP Studio Art Exhibition

Franklin High School hosted the opening reception of the 2025 AP Studio Art Exhibition on Thursday, May 1. Held in the Panther Lobby, the event served as a celebration of the creativity, dedication and hard work of Franklin High School's advanced art and design students.

"The opening reception was a wonderful success with a large turnout from families, staff and community," said Franklin High School Art Teacher Danielle LaPlante. "The exhibition is a capstone for our AP Studio Art students, who spend the year developing a portfolio of college-level work that showcases both technical skill and personal voice. We are so proud of their achievements and thankful for everyone who came out to support them."

The exhibition featured the artwork of 19 AP Studio seniors, each with their own display of about 8 to 15 works each, including the following student artists:

- Marley Allen
- Izzy Brown
- Jess Crisileo
- Abby Cronin
- Jess Cunningham
- Maddie Damon



The 2025 AP Studio Art Exhibition featured artwork by FHS AP Art students, including senior Kai Lewis. (Photo Courtesy Franklin Public Schools)

- Eden Donovan
- Noah Gorgas
- Zeno Hart
- Libby Hofstra
- Oswin Kerns
- Maggie Levins
- Kai Lewis
- Maliha Mahjabin
- Elliot Mann

- Ash Montani
- Deeksha Pericherla
- Ruby Stamp
- Rory Teng

Superintendent Lucas Giguere and Principal Dr. Maria Weber congratulated the student artists on developing their portfolios and putting their capstone works on display.

Franklin Announces Launch of Art Pharmacy Partnership Utilizing Opioid Settlement Funds

The Town of Franklin is partnering with Art Pharmacy, a nationally recognized program that harnesses the power of arts and cultural engagement to promote healing, social connection, and overall well-being.

"Franklin is proud to be the first municipality in the United States to implement Arts & Cultural Prescriptions through the use of Town opioid settlement funds," stated Franklin Deputy Town Administer, Amy Friguli. "This pioneering program demonstrates the Town's commitment to fostering resilience and healing for individuals with substance use disorder through the transformative power of the arts."

Art Pharmacy connects individuals to creative experiences—such as music, visual arts, dance, and theater—as a tool for improving mental health and fostering resilience. By integrating the arts into wellness strategies, Franklin aims to support substance use prevention and recovery efforts within the community.

"We are thrilled to work with the Town of Franklin and support its residents with prevention and recovery supports for Substance Use Disorder," says Chris Appleton, Art Pharmacy CEO. "Cross-sector partnerships that leverage existing community resources with innovative care models is necessary to help individuals at the various stages they need support."

On March 5, 2025 the Town, along with Art Pharmacy and the Massachusetts Cultural Council,

introduced this program to the community. Since then, the Town has been working with Art Pharmacy to build out a network of providers and prescribers in order to launch the program to participants on May 1, 2025. This initiative was featured as part of an MMA

webinar on May 12th, discussing how to leverage arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery utilizing opioid settlement funds.

Art Pharmacy trains individuals and organizations across the community who serve individuals in need of support, including hospitals, health clinics, mental health clinics, senior centers, school professionals, community organizations, and more. Interested organizations can contact Art Pharmacy using this interest form, and Art Pharmacy will reach out directly with information on getting started.

Art Pharmacy is looking for creative and cultural programs that are open to members of the public who want to join the network. Organizations can be traditional and non-traditional arts & culture institutions, and any size. Complete this enrollment form to start the process of becoming an arts and culture partner. Art Pharmacy will reach out with next steps to join the network.

To learn about the Town of Franklin's partnership with Art Pharmacy, please visit the Town webpage. For questions about the Art Pharmacy program or how to get involved, please email care@artpharmacy.co.

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Volt Hockey – Fast, Fierce, and Fully Inclusive

By JENNIFER RUSSO

When we think of sports, we usually imagine professional or collegiate athletes who appear strong, with toned muscles - who run fast, throw far, jump high, and do everything they can to prove their physical ability. We are entertained by them competing with others of equal prowess, in part because we enjoy the excitement and perhaps a little because we admire them going over and above what the “average” person would ever consider themselves capable of.

Sports have the power to unite and inspire, but for far too long, people with certain disabilities have been left watching from the sidelines. Thankfully, that is changing, as more and more adaptive sports become available and technology advances. From wheelchair basketball and tennis to sound-based sports that aid those with vision loss in playing baseball or soccer, modifications have been made to enable people with physical challenges to be able to play.

Though adaptive sports have come a long way, what if there are more severe limitations to physical movement, caused by an injury to the spine or a genetic or congenital factor that causes skeletal and muscle weakness or atrophy? What if someone has little to no ability to move their legs, arms, neck, or all three? Is a competitive team sport possible?

Yes, it is.

While many adaptive sports still require some strength and dexterity, Volt Hockey breaks these barriers. This form of indoor floor hockey uses motorized wheelchairs which are joystick operated, making it accessible for people with very limited mobility. The chairs are affixed with specially designed hockey sticks and can spin 360 degrees. Matches are played on a flat gym floor and players zip around at a fast speed, spinning and making turns to gain control of the ball. It requires a lot of strategy and is incredibly exciting to play.

Volt Hockey originated in Scandinavia back in the 1990s, when the Crowned Prince of Denmark made a donation to the Danish Disabled Sports Foundation. It quickly became popular across Europe and made its way to Canada in 2016. Massachusetts is the first, and so far, the only state that has Volt Hockey teams. In 2021, the first official team was established in Boston, called the Boston Whiplash.

Helena and Helge Liedtke, who had a daughter born with spinal muscular atrophy, quickly realized how far there was to go when it came to true inclusion and decided to take action by founding a nonprofit organization called Space2Thrive in 2015.

“Despite the progress I thought we’d made as a society, our daughter was often excluded from community life and meaningful peer interaction. I couldn’t find a space where she could simply belong - especially one where she could play alongside her sister or a friend. That painful gap drove my husband and me to start Space2Thrive, a place where kids and families with and without disabilities can connect, play, and grow together,” says Helena.

When they discovered Volt Hockey in 2022, they saw it as the perfect way to expand that mission. They created a second U.S. team, called the Rolling Warriors, named after a book by activist Judith Heumann. The team practices at the North Attleboro YMCA and takes part in scrimmages with the Boston team as well as tournaments overseas.

“Volt Hockey is so much more than a sport; it’s empowerment, independence, and belonging. It’s where ability meets opportunity,” Helena shares.

To cover expenses for the program, Space2Thrive relies on funding partners and supporters who want to help expand their impact, creating more equitable opportunities. They have their

annual 5K fundraiser coming up on Saturday, June 14th at West Hill Dam in Uxbridge and hope that people will be inspired to become a part of their inclusion mission. People can choose to run, jog, walk, or wheel down the path, and there will also be a raffle and silent auction for some really great items, including gift cards to local businesses, signed sports memorabilia, and a vacation home stay.

Beyond the goals made, Volt Hockey also plays a powerful role in the push for true inclusion. It enables people to compete and be recognized, celebrating talent and drive, and inspires confidence. The Rolling Warriors are working on growing their team and reaching more youth and adults who could benefit from the transformative program. Long term, Helena hopes to have teams where everyone can play together, regardless of ability.

“Imagine a generation of children growing up alongside one another, learning to see each other’s strengths instead of their lim-



itations. That’s the world I want to help build. That’s the power of Volt Hockey—and the mission at the heart of Space2Thrive,” she says.

To learn more about Space2Thrive and their Volt Hockey program, or to sign up for their upcoming 5K Fundraiser, visit www.space2thrive.org.

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Sober and Social: Alcohol-Free Events for a Fun Summer

By JENNIFER RUSSO

Many people are shifting toward alcohol-free living, whether it be because they are in recovery, are pregnant, they want a healthier lifestyle overall, or any number of other reasons. While society may push people to believe that it isn't possible to have fun without drinking, it really couldn't be further from the truth. It's about the people you are with and an attitude of mindfulness and being completely present in the moment. And, in fact, many events are hosted that are considered sober events, cultivating connection, celebrating creativity, and setting the scene

for an exciting time – without the “buzz”. Check some of them out below.

The SAFE Coalition of Massachusetts is a nonprofit that hosts events throughout the year. On June 7th at 6:30 p.m., they have SAFE Café After Dark featuring music by the Zajac Brothers – located at 31 Hayward St in Franklin. They also host a weekly Sober Moms club for those moms navigating or exploring an alcohol-free lifestyle. Learn more here: <https://www.safecoalitionma.org/>

The Circle of Friends Coffee House, located in the First Universalist Society Meetinghouse in

Franklin, has monthly concerts with some of the best local acts around. Check out their schedule here: <https://www.circlefolk.org/schedule>

Plum Island Sober Sunset Cruises – an Alcoholics Anonymous cruise that sets sail from Newburyport on Tuesdays. Hot dogs, beverages including coffee, and snacks provided. Learn more here: <https://www.captainsfishing.com/cruises-events>

Held weekly on Sundays, a free 11:30 a.m. Stretch and Restore yoga class hosted by Namastay Sober at Serenity in the City, located in Stoneham. Check this and other events out here: <https://namastaysober.org/events/>

The Sober in the Sun Festival is celebrating its 37th year. Held on Labor Day Weekend at the Treasure Valley Scout Reservation in Rutland, you can get a weekend pass and camp out or a day pass to enjoy the live music. Get more info here: <https://soberinthesun.org/>

Additionally, if you find yourself being invited to a restaurant

or brewery and you'd prefer a zero-proof (non-alcohol) but are comfortable being around others who do want to have a libation, many places have alcohol-free options. For example, Castle Island brewery in Norwood offers hop-water and craft sodas. Odd by Worcester in Worcester collaborates with Woo Juice for some amazing mocktails, and all locations of Tavern in the Square have a dedicated selection of non-alcohol options. Most places can make you something delicious without the hard stuff, just ask.

Invited to a house party or BBQ? Stick to iced tea or bring your own mocktail! Here are a few easy and refreshing recipes for the summer) and we guarantee that people will wish they were having what you're having:

'I Carried a Watermelon' Mule: one cup muddled watermelon, ginger beer or ginger ale, mint, lime, and honey. Sweet with a gingery bite.

You're a Peach: Club soda or Sprite, muddled ripe peaches, simple syrup, and a squeeze of

lemon. Simple and summery!

NOjito: 4 or 5 mint sprigs, ginger ale, lime juice, and pure maple syrup. Add some blackberries too if you like it fruity.

Espresso Mocktini: For those who love coffee and chocolate, try chilled espresso coffee shaken with some chocolate syrup, seltzer, and ice. Strain into a glass and top with whipped cream and crushed Oreos if you're feeling fancy.

More events and activities are constantly popping up that offer a completely sober and present good time. And lots of activities are alcohol-free by default, such as visiting museums, zoos, and art galleries. There are also great local groups for sober events that you can join on meetup.com, like Adventures Without Alcohol and Sober Hour. Whatever your reason for choosing sobriety, we are happy for you and think it's a wonderful choice!

A reminder to friends and family of those who are choosing not to drink alcohol...please, be supportive of their decision.



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State Rep. Jeffrey N. Roy Announces Local Investments

State Representative Jeffrey Roy (D-Franklin) announced key victories for Franklin and the Commonwealth in the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) House budget, a \$61.47 billion spending plan focused on economic opportunity, education, housing, and transportation — passed without new taxes. Representative Roy successfully advocated for targeted local investments and critical statewide initiatives through a series of budget amendments.

“I was proud once again to deliver local aid to Franklin and Medway that will improve the lives of my constituents,” said Representative Roy. “In these difficult times, I am grateful for the leadership of Speaker Ron Mariano and Ways & Means Chair Aaron Michlewitz for making it all happen.

Due to responsible fiscal management, the House’s FY26 budget is balanced, and makes significant investments across several issue areas, without needing to include new taxes or tax increases nor drawing from the Stabilization Fund, which is set to reach \$8.36 billion.

Representative Roy’s budget wins include:

Local Investments in Franklin and Medway

- \$100,000 for the Franklin Performing Arts Company to support arts and cultural programming.
- \$50,000 for the Children’s Museum of Franklin to expand educational opportunities for local families.

- \$50,000 for the Franklin Food Pantry and \$50,000 for the Medway Village Food Pantry to fight food insecurity.

- \$25,000 for the Medway Community Farm to support local agriculture.

- \$25,000 for the Franklin Downtown Partnership to promote economic development in the heart of Franklin.

- \$100,000 for the SAFE Coalition to support individuals and families affected by substance use disorder.

Statewide Initiatives Led by Roy

- \$500,000 for the Genocide Education Trust Fund to support curriculum and

teacher training on genocide awareness in middle and high schools.

These amendments complement major statewide investments in the FY26 House budget, including:

- \$7.1 billion in Chapter 70 school aid, with minimum \$150 per pupil increases.

- \$1.3 billion in Unrestricted General Government Aid to cities and towns.

- \$450 million for the MBTA and \$110 million for RTAs, alongside \$40 million to launch the MBTA Academy.

- \$94 million to make community college free and expanded financial aid and adult learner support.

- \$275 million for Emergency Assistance shelters, and \$258 million for rental vouchers to protect housing stability.

- \$475 million for childcare provider grants and \$15 million to reduce the waitlist for affordable child care.

Speaker Mariano and the House Committee on Ways & Means introduced their FY26 budget proposal on April 16, 2025, following a review of the Governor’s proposal and a series of public hearings. At press time, the budget passed the House of Representatives 151-6 and was headed to the Senate for consideration.

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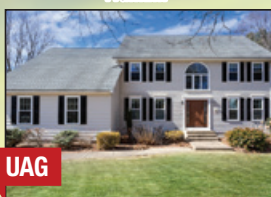
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Franklin Letter Carriers “Stamp Out Hunger” Yields 9,000 lbs. of Food for Franklin Food Pantry

The Franklin Food Pantry and Franklin Letter Carriers held the annual “Stamp Out Hunger” food drive, on Saturday, May 10, 2025. The town-wide event, led by the letter carriers, raised nearly 9,000 pounds of food and household items, which equates to approximately 7,500 meals, for individuals and families who are experiencing hunger and financial hardship in Franklin, Massachusetts. The outpouring of support comes at a critical time for The Pantry. Demand for the nonprofit’s programs and services continues to increase, and the community’s support is essential to meeting the growing need.

The Pantry began preparations for this year’s Stamp Out Hunger in October 2024. Volunteers, including youth groups, local businesses, houses of worship, and retirement communities volunteered their time to assemble Stamp Out Hunger bundles that included instructions and a paper bag, donated by Allegra Print and Marketing and Central Paper Company, Inc. A week prior to the event, letter carriers delivered the bundles to approximately 6,000 households in Franklin. On May 10, 2025, Franklin residents left donations of nonperishable food and goods by their mailboxes for letter carriers to collect along their route. Letter carriers brought the items to the Franklin Senior Center where volunteers set up stations to sort and organize the donations. The items will be distributed to clients through The Pantry’s several food assistance programs including Inside Shopping, Home Delivery, Mobile Pantries, Weekend Backpacks,



Mary Diehl, representing a volunteer group from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Franklin, and her daughter were among the many volunteers who helped sort donated food during the Franklin Letter Carrier’s Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive to benefit the Franklin Food Pantry on May 10, 2025.

Curbside Distribution, and more. “Stamp Out Hunger plays a vital role in providing much-needed support to neighbors facing food insecurity and helps ensure The Pantry can provide nutritious food for individuals and families leading up to the summer months,” said Anne McGillis, Operations Director, Franklin Food Pantry. “We extend a heartfelt thank you to our amazing letter carriers, the Franklin Senior Center for generously providing space for the immense undertaking of receiving and sorting the donations, our dedicated volunteers who gave their time leading up to and on the day of the event, and the Franklin community for their ongoing generosity. It truly takes a village to combat food insecurity, and the overwhelming participation makes a tangible and profound difference in the lives of so many.”

Individuals, households, and businesses who did not receive a Pantry bundle or who did not have an opportunity to participate in Stamp Out Hunger can bring donations to the Franklin Food Pantry, 341 W Central St. in Franklin, and place items in the purple bin on the loading dock at the back of the building. Items can also be shipped directly through The Pantry’s Amazon Wish List.

Special thanks to the many individuals and groups who volunteered to help make this year’s Stamp Out Hunger a success including Benchmark Senior Living at Forge Hill, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Coldwell Banker Realty Franklin/Cumberland Regional Office, Dell Technologies, The Enclave of Franklin, Eversource Energy, First Universalist Society in Franklin, Franklin High School Boys Soccer Team, G&C



Volunteers from Benchmark Senior Living at Forge Hill assemble Stamp Out Hunger bundles that include instructions and a paper bag, donated by Allegra Print and Marketing and Central Paper Company, Inc. Franklin Letter Carriers distributed 6,000 bundles to Franklin residents a week prior to the May 10, 2025, food drive.

Plumbing, Inc., The Language and Behavior Center (TLBC) New England, Milford High School Football Team, Station 117 Apartment Group, UDR Apartment Group.

Stamp Out Hunger 2026 will take place rain or shine on Sat-

urday, May 9! To volunteer as an individual or group to help The Pantry with this or other upcoming events, please complete a volunteer application online: <https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/get-involved/volunteer/>.

SCHOLARSHIP

continued from page 2

forts undertaken to honor the late Wilma Winters, a longtime Franklin resident and library supporter. Winters, who had a long career in higher education, worked for many years as a librarian, including at Boston University Medical School and Harvard’s School of Public Health. She spent her retirement years volunteering at the Franklin Public Library.

Friends of the Franklin Library has a long tradition of raising money to supplement library programs. In recent years, the group has purchased items for the Library of Things, tables and chairs for the main Reading Room, coordinated the creation of the brick patio at the School Street entrance, and provided funding for various library programs for adults, teens, children, and families.

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