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State Rep. Roy Honors Richard “Dick” Hynes at Inaugural Statewide Military Appreciation Day

Boston, MA – State Representative Jeffrey N. Roy (D-Franklin) proudly honored Richard “Dick” Hynes of Franklin today at the first-ever Military Appreciation Day ceremony held in the Massachusetts State House’s historic House Chamber.

Military Appreciation Day was created by the Healey-Driscoll Administration to establish a lasting annual tradition that brings together local, state, and community leaders to honor those whose service might otherwise go unrecognized. Each legislator was invited to nominate a member of their local military community—whether a veteran, active-duty service member, National Guard, Reservist, or military spouse—to be honored during the ceremony. More than 125 individuals who exemplify commitment to service and community were recognized from districts across Massachusetts.

“I’m proud to recognize Richard “Dick” Hynes for his military service and community leadership,” said Representative Jeffrey N. Roy (D-Franklin). “His contributions reflect the strength, resilience, and dedication of our local military community, and I’m honored to celebrate him at this statewide event. We appreciate his service and efforts (along with VFW Post 3402 Cmdr. Ernest Carruthers) to keep the memories of our 45 fallen soldiers alive with moving ceremonies at the Veterans Memorial on the Franklin Town Com-



Nominated by Rep. Jeff Roy, Dick Hynes, of Franklin, was honored at the first Military Appreciation Day at the MA State House.
Photo by Noah Gargas.

mon.” This month, those 9 a.m. ceremonies will be held on Franklin Town Common for Howard T. Feeley – WWII (July 5), Gerald M. Parmenter – WWII (July 17), Alesandro Patete WWI and Patrick Ristaino – WWI (July 18), and Anthony J. Mucciarone – WWII (July 30).

INAUGURAL
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Pride Flag Raising Kicked Off Pride Month in Franklin

By JUDITH DORATO O’GARA

On June 1st, members of the Franklin community, town officials and local legislators gathered to celebrate the town’s second annual Pride flag raising, outside the Franklin Municipal Building.

Franklin Town Counselor Ted Cormier-Ledger, a proud Town Counselor and member of the LGBTQ+ community in Franklin, thanked attendees, noting, “We have to remember that it isn’t easy for everybody ... particularly if you identify yourself somewhere in that beautiful LGBTQ+ rainbow...I wish that we lived in a time when we didn’t need to do this, truly. I wish that what the American flag stands for, liberty and justice for all, truly applied to everyone, but that just isn’t the case. We still have friends and neighbors and family members who ... just want to be recognized, they want to live their lives, they want to

love who they want to love, they want to be able to work without fear of persecution...”

Senator Rebecca Rausch thanked local community members for the advocacy that led to raising the Pride flag, calling Pride itself a protest. “This flag publicly shows that Franklin values people as their true selves and with their true loves. It demonstrates this community’s proud stance for inclusion and equality...” Alluding to leaders of the Stonewall Riots, Rausch encouraged, “Let’s pledge to continue their fight for equality, for safety, and for dignity ... everywhere, all the time, every time.”

Rep. Jeff Roy also spoke, pointing out the group gathered to “celebrate love, diversity, and the enduring spirit of the LGBTQ+ community ... today we’re elevating a symbol

PRIDE FLAG
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PRIDE FLAG

continued from page 1

of hope, unity, and the relentless pursuit of equality.”

Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator, encouraged Franklin’s LGBTQ+ community to celebrate “who you are,” and reminded them their town government loves and supports them.

Singer Sioo also entertained the crowd following the raising of the flag.

The second raising of the Pride flag at the Franklin Municipal Building in June to celebrate Pride month was a joyful occasion.



Singer Sioo performed after the flag raising.

Horace Mann Middle School Displays ‘Who’s Your Hero?’ Mural

Franklin, MA -Last month, the artwork of more than 400 students was displayed in the auditorium hallway of Horace Mann Middle School.

The “Who’s Your Hero?” mural featured eight panels filled with 6-inch square, matted drawings, each depicting a personal hero selected by the student artist who created it.

The Horace Mann Middle School students first chose personal heroes, then researched them and created miniature posters, each with a photograph and a small description of the individual. Then they created the artwork itself, creating an image of their hero, including the hero’s name in decorative font plus information — a quote, characteristics, achievements — showing how that hero is inspirational.

“Students chose athletes, artists, actors, singers, and activists, including heroes from throughout history and from many different cultures,” said Horace



Shown is a portion of the “Who’s Your Hero?” mural, created by Horace Mann Middle Schoolers. (Photo Courtesy Franklin Public Schools)

Mann Middle School art teacher Robin Katz. “Some chose ordinary heroes such as their teachers, coaches and parents. The project and mural have been inspiring many great conversations across our community — student to student, student to teacher, student to parents and siblings.”

As a result of the mural project, Katz said one of her sixth-grade students shared that he spoke to his parents, found out that his great grandfather fought during World War II, and then chose him as his personal hero. Another student told Katz that she talked about the project with her parents and ended up choosing a

heroine who shares her cultural heritage, a woman who helped fight for Indian independence in 1947.

“I think it’s important, now more than ever, that we encourage conversations about kindness, helping others and positive achievement, to inspire our students to help others and achieve,” Katz said. “The ‘Who’s Your Hero?’ project certainly provoked those conversations and allowed our students to delve into these themes, reminding us all about the important achievements and qualities of the heroes we admire most.”

Superintendent Lucas Giguere and Principal Rebecca Motte congratulate all the students involved with the project and thank Ms. Robin Katz for supporting students throughout this project.

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INAUGURAL

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Hynes served in the Navy as a Medic during the Vietnam War from August 1962 to April 1967. Dick attained the rank of HM2 which is the Hospital Corpsman Second Class and is the largest occupational rating in the Navy. Dick proudly received the National Defense Medal along with the Good Conduct Medal. While serving, he met Judy, his Navy nurse wife of 43 years.

For the past several years, Hynes has led efforts to honor the 45 Franklin veterans who lost their lives in service to our country. The Town of Franklin has one of the most beautiful Veteran's Memorial areas in the state, including 45 granite posts which line the Veterans' Walkway. Each one of these posts is dedicated to a Franklin veteran who gave his life, defending our freedom.

Under Dick's leadership, along with Franklin's Veterans' organizations, the Edward L. Grant American Legion Post 75, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3402, a program has been developed honor and remember those who died for our nation. This program includes the placing of a Memorial Wreath for the day, the playing of Taps, a salute from those present, and a reading of whatever history we may have on that veteran.

To view the full list of 2025 Military Appreciation Day honorees, go to <https://www.mass.gov/doc/military-appreciation-day-2025-honoree-list/download>.

Franklin Veterans - July 2025 Notes

There will be NO VETERANS COFFEE SOCIAL IN JULY. The next Social will be on Wednesday, August 6 at 10 a.m. at the Senior Center Café. All Veterans are invited!

There will be NO VETERANS COUNCIL MEETING IN JULY. The next Council meeting will be on Thursday, August 21 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. Any Franklin resident interested in Veterans' activities is welcome to join the Veterans' Council.

TUNE IT OUT GUITAR LESSONS FOR VETERANS WILL NOT MEET IN JULY AND AUGUST. Classes will resume on Tuesday, September 9 with an Open House at 5:30 pm at the Senior Center. Any Veteran interested in learning more about guitar lessons is welcome! There is no fee for lessons and we provide guitars! Call our office for details.

WARRIOR WITHIN YOGA CLASS FOR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS WILL NOT MEET IN JULY.

Stay tuned for updates!
Purple Hearts - Please let our office know if you or a family member (residing in Franklin) is a Purple Heart recipient and we will add them to our data-

base. National Purple Heart Day is celebrated on August 7 every year. The Purple Heart is a distinguished military decoration awarded in the name of the President to those who have been wounded or killed while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Veterans Memorial Walkway - The next engraved brick installation will be in November to coincide with Veterans' Day. Veterans need not be from Franklin to be honored with a brick. All members of the U.S. military are eligible. Brick order forms are available in the Town Hall and Senior Center lobbies and on the Veterans' Services page on the Town website.

Please visit our webpage at: <https://www.franklinma.gov/335/Veterans-Services> to learn more about Franklin Veterans' Services.



Franklin VSO Shannon Nisbett received a citation by Sen. Becca Rausch for the Inaugural Statewide Military Appreciation Day. Shown with Nisbett and Rausch are members of Franklin Town Council, TA Jamie Hellen, FFD Chief Jim McLaughlin, FPD Chief Tom Lynch and State Rep. Jeff Roy. Photo by Linda Rondeau Photography

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BFCCPS Student's Painting Leads to Big Wins at the Scholastic Art Competition

By JENNIFER RUSSO

One of the most prestigious award events in the country, the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition, has been providing middle and high school students of exceptional artistic and literary talent with a platform for recognition, publication, and scholarships since its founding in 1923. Winners of the past include notable creatives like Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Robert Redford, Zac Posen, and Edward Sorel. And now, another name can be added to the list of those awarded – Franklin resident and BFCCPS seventh grader, Lillian Zhou.

With over 110,000 entrants and over 300,000 pieces submitted for judging, only 2,800 works received National medals this year. Adjudication is anonymous, and judges are looking for artistic skill, original works that are unique and blur boundaries, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision through



Lillian Zhou, a student at Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School, is shown here with her work, *Reaching for Dad*, which won Scholastic Art and Writing Competition's regional Gold Key award and National Gold Medal.

the piece. Lillian won a regional Gold Key award and a National Gold Medal for her work, *Reaching for Dad*. In addition to these honors, she was also one of only ten students to be presented with the New York Life Award, a scholarship given for works that explore death and personal grief.

Lillian's winning art piece was inspired by her father, Heng Zhou, who sadly passed away from pancreatic cancer after battling the disease for 8 months.

"I wasn't prepared for the time we had left with him, and I was terrified of what would happen. Every day, I wished for him to get better, but his health kept declining. When he passed just a week before my 12th birthday, I didn't fully understand what had happened, but I was glad he wasn't suffering anymore. During those months with him, I learned to be grateful for all the time we have with loved ones," shares Lillian.

The arts have long been recognized as a powerful emotional outlet that enables people to process and make sense of difficult circumstances. A painting or drawing can sometimes help us express emotions that might otherwise remain unspoken, whether that be grief, anxiety, or frustration. Expression through art can also give the creator an opportunity to heal and reflect.

Lillian's work reveals her personal growth, both emotionally and spiritually. Through her story and art, she hopes to inspire others to confront life's challenges with courage and gratitude.

Congratulations, Lillian, on your momentous achievement in winning these esteemed awards!

Learn more about the Scholastic Art and Writing awards at www.artandwriting.org/awards/





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BFCCPS Announces Middle School Achievements

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School is thrilled to announce middle school achievements this month in the fields of Science, Technology and Engineering. The mission of BFCCPS, includes a classical education whereby students are grounded in the fundamental subjects of literature, history, mathematics, science, language, music and the arts in order to understand culture and enable active participation in it.

The One8 Applied Learning Hub and Project Lead the Way (PLTW) hosted an Applied Learning Student Showcase on May 9, 2025 at The TRACK at New Balance in Boston, Mass. Three 8th grade teams were selected from BFCCPS following an in-school STEAM student showcase.

The students who participated in this statewide expo created a tri-fold board presentation and produced a functioning app on MIT App Inventor. *Brainrot Dictionary* was made by Aisiri Praveen, Lara Liedke, and Ella Phul. *Trivia Verse* was made by Avery Ivins, Emily Annantuonio, Briana Bastos, and Haley Berthelette. *Cow Clicker* was made by Nate Bjorkman, Arnav Garg, Max Prompas, and Jeremy Sanchez.

They were then introduced to many industry experts who asked questions about the creation of their apps along with suggestions for how to improve their apps in the future. It was a wonderful event, and the students selected should be so proud of their hard



work. Thank you to Jessica Keller our STEAM Teacher and Grades 6-8 Librarian for supporting this initiative and chaperoning the trip to the TRACK at New Balance.

The very next day, eight BFCCPS students in Grades Seven and Eight participated in the Massachusetts Science & Engineering Fair (MSEF). The event was held on May 10, 2025 at Clark University, Worcester. We are excited to recognize the following students who earned accolades:

Grade Seven:

- Chittesh Patel received an Honorable Mention for his project *The Green Revolution: Building a Sustainable Future with Renewable Energy*

- Aagam Shah won first place in the MSEF and also qualified for the Thermo Fisher Junior Challenge with his project *Optimizing Hydroelectric Power with a Siphon*

Grade Eight:

- Aisiri's Praveen received an Honorable Mention for her project *Wind Wars: Bernoulli vs. Structures*
- Mahathe Logesh won second place and also won the Thermo Fischer Award with her project *Uncovering Hidden Sugar in Food*
- Navya Satishkumar has won first prize in State Science and Engineering Fair for her project *A Study of Concentrated Indoor Air Pollutants and Poor*

Ventilation in Urban Households: Sources, Health Effects, and Mitigation Strategies.

In addition, Aagam, Navya and Mahathe have been recognized as Thermo Fisher Junior Innovators Challenge Delegates and have the opportunity to enter the Thermo Fisher Junior Innovators Challenge (JIC).

Thank you to both Mr. Rutt and Mrs. Nestor for their support and encouragement of our scientists and in particular to Mrs. Nestor for attending the State Level Science fair with the participants and their families!

About the Benjamin Franklin Charter School

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School's mission is to assist parents in their role as primary educators of their children by providing students with a classical academic education coupled with sound character development and community service. Our mission is supported by four distinct, yet interconnected pillars that provide for a collaborative, rigorous education for all students. These pillars guide, direct and define the school in all it does.

MSEF Middle School Science Fair Winners:

<https://scifair.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/2025-MSEF-Middle-School-Award-Winners.pdf>

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Jay Schadler started his business in 2005. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with eight trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

Affordable Junk Removal specializes in house and estate cleanouts. If your garage, attic, or office is overflowing with stuff, take back your space and let the pros do the heavy lifting.

Jay and his team have handled it all. They've dismantled above-ground pools, hauled

Business spotlight

away ancient hot tubs, taken down old fencing, and stripped away worn carpeting. They'll come for a single item, or they'll clean out an entire house. And they can take almost anything. They can't accept hazardous materials, brush, dirt, or concrete, but everything else is fair game for them to take away.

Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it. He first tries to either recycle or donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

Working with Affordable Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for what you don't use.

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've also got a driveway special where they'll take away a truckload of your unwanted things if you pile it up. Or if you don't want to lift a finger, then you can point at the items, and the team will fill up their truck and haul away your unwanted things. However you do it, you're left with more space and more peace of mind.

Jay and his team beat the big



waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

And speaking of pricing, Jay is upfront about it. His website shows the truck sizes and prices, so you can save time knowing your costs before you call for an appointment. There aren't any hidden costs or surprise fees with Affordable Junk Removal.

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fully licensed and fully insured, and they'll treat your property with care and respect.

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in

Holliston. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

Contact Affordable Junk Removal and Dumpster Rental and let a local small business take care of everything for you. Call Jay Schadler at (774) 287-1133 or visit us online at AffordableJunkRemoval.com.

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Franklin 4th Schedule of Events

Following is the schedule of the Franklin Fourth of July events on Franklin Town Common 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

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 12-5 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.;

Annual Mike Crandall Franklin Blues Festival

- 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.
- **Fireworks** 10 p.m.

Sunday, July 6 (12-6)

Ride Wristbands: 12-5 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)

Community Mourns Lost Mother, Daughter

BY J.D. O'GARA

Last month, the Franklin community came together in a roadside vigil to honor the lives lost of 5-year-old Krisha Atulkumar Patel and her mother, Minaben Patel, 38, after a May 24th car crash in Franklin. The two had been passengers in a car driven by Atulkumar Patel,

along with Krisha's brother, Kunj, who also suffered injuries in the crash. Krisha was lost the night of the accident, and her mother succumbed to her injuries nine days later.

The car was struck by a truck driven by James Blanchard, 21, of Franklin, who was charged with motor vehicle homicide

while OUI; two counts of operating a vehicle under the influence of liquor causing serious bodily injury; driving to endanger; and possession of an open container of liquor. At press time, Blanchard was set to be arraigned at Wrentham District Court on June 24th.



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July 2025 at Franklin Public Library

Summer Reading is HERE!

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Franklin Public Library's 2025 Reading Challenge!

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

ESL & Adult Literacy Program

The Franklin Public Library has started an English as a Second Language and Adult Literacy Program to serve Franklin and its surrounding communities. Volunteers and students do not need to be Franklin residents. If interested, fill out the registration form on the library's website (<https://www.franklinma.gov/franklin-public-library>).

Special Events for Kids

Scott Martel Magic Show, Wednesday July 2 @ 10:30 a.m. Ages 4-12

Rainforest Reptiles, Monday July 7 @ 4 p.m., Live animals! All ages

R.I. Pirate Guy, Tuesday July 8 @ 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. Registration Required

Fairytale Fun, Wednesday July 9 @ 10:30 a.m., Dress up for a royal ball! Singing, dancing, interactive storytelling and a photo opp!

Mr. Vinny Bubble Show, Monday July 14 @ 4 p.m.

Mike Bent Magic Show, Wednesday July 16 @ 10:30 a.m.
Animal Affair, Friday July 18 @ 1 p.m., Animal Affair Traveling Petting Zoo

Crafternoon, Friday July 18 @ 2 p.m.

Legendary Foam Party, Saturday July 19 @ 10:30 a.m. (Don't forget your towel!)

Music at the Blissful, Monday July 21 @ 4 p.m. With Musician Evan Haller, for families

Ants on a Log Band, Wednesday July 23 @ 10:30 a.m. Award-winning music centers positivity, social justice, and silliness.

Parody Playhouse, Monday July 28 @ 4 p.m. Kid-friendly spin on your favorite musical hits!

Wild Kat Hoops, Wednesday July 30 @ 10:30 a.m. Awesome kids' hula hoop event!

The BenAnna Band, Thursday July 31 @ 10:30 a.m., interactive show

Special Events for Teens

Into the Dungeon, Mondays @ 2-4 p.m. Registration Required

Roll for initiative as we bring to life stories from your favorite series! Into the Dungeon is a single event adventure using the Fate tabletop role-playing system to insert yourself into a story set in worlds we know and love! Each week will play out challenges with player choices and chance writing the story! Please only register for one of the dates.

Game Bytes Overdrive, Wednesdays @ 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Game Bytes is Leveling Up for a summer of FUN! Bring a snack and join us for two hours of casual co-op and solo play. Bring your own device or play on the big screen!

Service Squad, Thursdays @ 1 p.m.

Teens looking for community service are invited to join the Youth Services Department to help strategize and prepare crafts and activities for story-times and events!

Teen Paint Party, Monday July 28 @ 4 p.m.

Pixel Pals, Thursday July 31 @ 4p.m. Book group for graphic novels, manga, anime, cartoons, etc.!

Special Events for Adults

Maker Moment: Silk Scarves, Thursday July 10 @ 6:30 p.m. Registration Required

Matt York: Songs & Stories of the Highwaymen, Saturday July 19 @ 2 p.m.

Longtime New England musician/author Matt York will perform the songs of Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson and Waylon Jennings and tell the stories of these songwriting legends who joined forces in the 1980s to form the country super group The Highwaymen.

Special Events for All Ages

Summer Skill Up, Tuesdays @ 4 p.m.

All ages are welcome to level up their knowledge by trying a new skill! Every week we will be

providing a new small project to practice, learn, and grow! All Supplies are provided! Young children may need an adult to help.

Summer Concert Series, Wednesdays @ 6pm

Join us Wednesday evenings on the Library patio all summer long for live music for all ages!

- July 2: Jamie Barrett
- July 9: Kat Chapman
- July 16: DJ Sam & Andy
- July 23: Jeff Roy
- July 30: The Oh Mys

Library Lawn Games, Friday July 11 & 25 @ 2 p.m.

Roll over to the library for a treat of classic board games made GIANT! We are chilling on the Library Lawn with Giant Board Games to enjoy! If the weather is wet or hot we are still here to play in the Library Meeting Room!

Science Chefs: Slushies, Thursday July 17 @ 4 p.m.

1 part food, 1 part science, and unlimited fun!

Puzzle Mania, Thursday July 24 @ 5 p.m. Registration Required

Join us for a family-fun puzzle challenge! Work as a team to see how quickly you can complete a 500-piece puzzle! (Please submit only 1 registration per family).

Franklin Library Book Sale

Friday, July 18th, 1-5 p.m.
Saturday, July 19th, 9 a.m.-noon
All books \$1.

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Franklin United Methodist Church to Hold Free Cookout July 26

Saturday, July 26: FREE Community Cookout with burgers, hot dogs, and chips served from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on the back lawn at 82 West Central Street, Franklin.

For more information, visit Franklinumc.org/community (event will cancel in case of rain).

In July 2025, the Community Closet will be open from 12-2 p.m. every Tuesday.

Your Money, Your Independence

Enjoy Every Sandwicher Moment.



Glenn Brown, CFP

living/house routines began to slide. My wife, our daughters (then 5 & 3) and I lived comfortably in our Ashland home. The adults agreed on a Plan B supported by updated financial planning. Sell both homes, buy a new home for 3 generations and live as one household sharing in daily responsibilities.

The urgency was greater than anticipated and not without challenges since our move to Holliston, here's some antidotes for Sandwichers:

Small talks instead of "The Talk". Families don't like to think about declining health and elder care, let alone discuss it. I used single topics tied to a recent story about a friend, asking what they would do. I'd gain small agreements, then change the subject to continue building a framework for a mutual plan.

Bring in outside mediators. My aunt shared with my mom that time is not your friend. She emphasized the positives and encouraged to act now, rather than later, when fewer options are available. Additionally, we consulted with an elder care attorney on understanding MA Health options, current trusts, POAs and proxies before making the move.

Define their plans for wellness. Far too often, adult children tip-toe around aging conversations with parents for fear it may come across as morbid or worse, inheritance focus. These conversations need to focus on their future ideas of wellness. What is it they foresee for a surviving spouse? When they can no longer remain independent? By having these talks when both parents are in good health, it defines their expectations and allows planning a foundation with greater flexibility.

Your spouse's support is critical. Very fortunate to have a spouse that pushed me to see the positives and embraces bringing family in as "you'd want your daughters to treat you the same someday".

Through the eyes of a child. It's not all about you, the girls show the love and benefits of learning by being around grandma and grandpa. And vice versa, as health and activity improved due to the energy and motivation brought daily by our girls.

Sometimes timing is everything. I couldn't imagine the anxiety and ill-advised actions my parents would have faced on their own since fall of 2018. Nor would I have wanted to see my mom on her own this past year and moving forward.

Your parents sacrificed many things to make sure you had it better, including concealing issues to not worry you. Be open with communication and embrace change, the best ways to prevent costly unintended con-

sequences and ensure positive lasting memories.

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 Plan-Dynamic, 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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Once David Letterman had a frequent guest and favorite musician of his, Warren Zevon, on for an entire show. Zevon, who disclosed his terminal cancer, performed and interviewed throughout. Dave at one point asked, "Anything you know now, that I should know?" to which Zevon wittily deadpanned, "Enjoy every sandwich."

Those raising children and helping aging parents often feel rushed and are distracted thinking about what's next, overlooking the beauty of daily, mundane moments.

July is National Sandwich Generation Month, celebrating a generation of people sandwiched between caring for their young children and aging parents at the same time.

I'm a Sandwicher, as are approximately 15% of Americans between ages 40-60 who face the challenges of planning, communicating and executing for 3 generations at once.

After 60 years in their New Hampshire home, my parents were struggling with their health and finding it increasingly difficult to maintain their independence. The stress weighed heavily on my mother, as she was becoming a caregiver and daily

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2025 Strawberry Stroll a Big Hit for Vendors and Visitors

The weather was perfect for Franklin's 21st Annual Strawberry Stroll, a success with thousands of people and more than 125 vendors. Proceeds from strawberry shortcakes will fund next year's Stroll. Everyone loved the celebration all the way from the Franklin Historical Museum, where a small strawberry patch was planted, to the Franklin Library.

"This year's Strawberry Stroll was such an incredible event. We are already getting great feedback from vendors on how much they liked how the event went straight up Main Street to the Library," Scott Martin said, president of Franklin Downtown Partnership.

The Franklin Downtown Partnership issued a big thank you to Denise Pearson and the Dean Bank staff for serving shortcakes, Bill Ingram, Dean College and FDP Board member, and the Dean College staff, who prepared strawberries. Thank you was also extended to MyFM Radio 101.3 for broadcasting live, to all volunteers; Kevin Johnson, Stroll event chair; Scott Martin, FDP president who coordinated the day; and Roberta Trahan and Pandora Carlucci, vendor coordinators.

Lisa Piana, Franklin Downtown Partnership's Executive Di-

rector, extended a big thanks to Stroll sponsors, and to the police, DPW, and all who help pull off this event.

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 celebration wouldn't be complete without shortcake!



Cory Shea and Stroll volunteers helped children decorated pavers for the sculpture park.



Photo courtesy of Franklin Downtown Partnership



Photo courtesy of Franklin Downtown Partnership



Franklin High School student Tuhina Pal spread awareness about mental health, also promoting her book of poetry, *They Didn't Know.*, available on Amazon.



Inflatables and crafts at the library made a great addition to the Stroll this year!



The Strawberry Stroll is an initiative of the Franklin Downtown Partnership. Photo courtesy of Franklin Downtown Partnership



Desi Swag Dancers at the 2025 Franklin Strawberry Stroll. Photo courtesy of Franklin Downtown Partnership



Heath Nisbett performs with his daughter, Rayna.



Civic groups, such as Franklin's Edward L. Grant Post 75, took part.

Franklin's Early Childhood Development Center Holds Inaugural Special Olympics Young Athletes Game Day

Franklin, MA - Superintendent Lucas Giguere and Principal Kimberly Taylor are proud to share that the F.X. O'Regan Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) hosted its first-ever Special Olympics Unified Young Athletes Game Day on Friday, June 6.

The event celebrated the remarkable efforts and achievements of Franklin's youngest Unified athletes — preschool students who have been practicing teamwork and motor skill development throughout the spring as part of the Special Olympics Young Athletes Program.

Under the guidance of ECDC Physical Therapist Jodi Klein and a dedicated team of staff coaches, these young students learned important physical and social-emotional skills while embracing the core values of inclusion and support.

We had a wonderful group of athletes and coaches for our inaugural year of Young Athletes," said Klein. "I think Game Day represented a wide array of the skills we worked on for several months, including balance, jumping, eye-hand coordination, teamwork and sportsmanship. It is a privilege to be able to do this work with our littlest athletes and get them started with healthy habits in a positive, inclusive environment."

The Game Day event featured a full slate of festivities, beginning with opening ceremonies, a flag salute and a proud recitation of the Special Olympics Athlete Oath: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."



Franklin's Unified Young Athletes participated in a series of fun and skill-based activities at the Game Day event. (Photo Courtesy Franklin Public Schools)

Franklin Knights of Columbus Award 2025 Scholarships

The Knights of Columbus 1847 Franklin are proud to announce the winners of this year's Robert Simmler PGK, Sacred Heart Council 1847 Knights of Columbus College Scholarship 2025. Congratulations to Elle Bonacci, \$3000 and Eiley Cinnelli \$1000. Elle and Eiley are both graduates of Franklin High School. Both accomplished students and are active members of the St Mary's Parish Community. Their achievements were especially noteworthy amongst the many wonderful talented candidates that applied for the 2025 scholarship award.

We wish Elle the best of luck as she goes onto the University of Pittsburgh in the fall and Eiley will attend University of Colorado Boulder in the fall. **The Robert Simmler PGK Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council 1847 Scholarship** is named in honor of Mr. Robert Simmler; he was a very active and accomplished member of the Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council and the Franklin Community.



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July at the First Universalist Society in Franklin

The First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) is pleased to announce our Summer Sunday Worship Series each week from July 6 through July 27, 2025. Please join us each Sunday as we explore the Unitarian Universalist (UU) values of Equity, Transformation, Generosity, Interdependence, Justice, Pluralism and Love. All services start at 10 a.m. Afterwards, we invite you to stay for cookies and conversation.



July 6: Yes, And: The Spirit of Improv & UU Values

Join FUSF member, high school teacher, and improv enthusiast Emily Steltzer for a joyful and interactive worship service exploring the surprising connections between the principles of improv and our Unitarian Universalist values of generosity and equity. Through an introduction to the 5 “rules” of improv and playful exercises, we will build community, boost confidence,

and discover how saying “yes, and” can deepen our spiritual practice. Come ready to engage, connect, and leave a little lighter and more inspired!

July 13: A Very Tolkien Creation Story

The Fourth Unitarian Universalist Principle says that congregations will affirm and promote the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. As Unitarian Universalists we are challenged to find our own sources of truth and meaning in our lives, whether through sacred texts, encounters with nature, or the exquisite alchemy of our relationships. FUSF lay leader Dave Gerlits will share his own search and how he finally found a Creation Story that he could embrace. It appeared in a most unexpected place: the writings of J.R.R. Tolkien.

July 20: The Power of Love

The six UU values revolve around the principle of Love. Rev. A. Powell Davis emphasizes: “None of our private worlds is big enough to live a wholesome life in. Love is what we need. To love and be

loved.” Join us as FUSF member Peter Dennis leads a discussion on how love fuels us and helps us find meaning, especially in times of uncertainty. We will make music together.

July 27: A Conversation on Healing

Please join us for a unique dialogue with two FUSF members. Dr. Priscilla Cogan, psychologist, and Duncan Sings Alone, Native American Medicine Person, will explain and contrast their different approaches to healing the self and others through stories and conversation. There will be time for questions and some singing, too.

The First Universalist Society in Franklin is a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation located at 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin MA. For further information about FUSF please explore our website at fustf.org or contact our Interim Minister, the Reverend Beverly Waring at (508) 528-5348 or minister@fustf.org

6th Annual Summer Concert Series at HCA through August 3

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The much-awaited Summer Concert Series at HCA is finally here!

Friday and Saturday nights through July, we bring 10 incredible bands to get you on your feet and dancing. Additionally, we will be offering five Sunday jazz groups!

Sponsored by Dell Technologies, our outdoor amphitheater provides the perfect backdrop! You only need your lawn chair, blanket, and picnic basket to

enjoy an evening of rockin’ good music. And don’t worry, if the weather doesn’t cooperate, we’ll move the concert inside to our air-conditioned performance space.

So, what are you waiting for? Please mark your calendars and join us for a summer to remember at HCA’s Summer Concert Series!

To make the arts more accessible to all, this concert is on a pay-what-you-can basis.

HCA is located at 98 Hayden Rowe St, Hopkinton.

July 4

Hit the Bus, 6:30-8:30 p.m., New England’s Party, Rock, and Dance Band

July 5

Big Chief Band, 6:30-8:30 p.m., MetroWest Boston’s BIG CHIEF band’s musical styles include R&B, swing, boogie-woogie, and Rock ‘n’ Roll.

July 6

Bob Martin Jazz Quartet, 11 a.m. -12:30 p.m., Sunday Summer Jazz series in our outdoor amphitheater.

July 11

Professor Harp, 6:30-8:30 p.m., The emanations from his harmonica and vocals make it clear that Professor Harp has the blues of Texas and the whole vast Delta coursing through his veins.

July 12

Racky Thomas Band, 6:30-8:30 p.m., One of the coolest guys on this side of the Mason-Dixon, Racky Thomas, lives and breathes the blues.

July 13

Metrowest Jazz Project, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Sunday Summer Jazz series in our outdoor amphitheater.

July 18

The Hipshot Band, 6:30-8:30 p.m., The Hipshot Band covers everything from classic R&B, Disco, Soul, Rock, Jazz, Country, Reggae, Swing, 80’s favorites, Motown, and your favorite Top 40 hits!

July 19

The Love Dogs, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Take a red-hot horn section—alto, tenor, baritone saxophones, and trombone—mixed with barrelhouse boogie-woogie piano and stinging Fender guitar. Combine this with a top-notch

rhythm section Blues Review magazine called “the best in the business.”

July 20

Subject2Change, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sunday Summer Jazz series in our outdoor amphitheater.

July 25

The Fat City Band, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Now in its fifth decade, The Fat City Band has had the good fortune to write, record, and perform our unique style of Blues, Roadhouse Rock, Jazz, and New Orleans-style R&B for fans and friends.

July 26

Gunpowder and Lead, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Get ready to turn up the volume and unleash your inner country rock star because the Gunpowder and Lead Band is hitting the stage at HCA!

July 27

Nate Aronow’s Nextet, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Sunday Summer Jazz series in our outdoor amphitheater.

August 3

Stoney’s Wicked Din, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Sunday Summer Jazz series in our outdoor amphitheater.

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Save the Date: Arts & Culture Symposium Sept. 18th

The Franklin Department of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy will hold an Arts & Culture Symposium on September 18th and 19th, 2025.

The upcoming symposium (<https://www.franklinculture.org/arts-and-culture-symposium>) will build on this tradition by providing a platform for exchanging ideas and forming a regional arts organizing cohort. Sessions will dive into pop up programming, cultural planning, and ways to design inviting spaces that drive creative and economic growth. By spotlighting the transformative power of temporary activations and

thoughtful design, the event aims to strengthen the region's cultural fabric and nurture inclusive, vibrant, and resilient communities.

"This year's arts and culture symposium scheduled to take place here in Franklin is an exciting gathering of people who are interested in the impact the arts can have on a community. The arts can and do make extraordinary impacts on a community's identity, its sense of pride and add greatly to its economic vitality. This year's symposium is an opportunity to learn, share, dream, partner and plan," says John Ristaino, Franklin Cultural Council Chair.

SAVE THE DATE

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9.19.25

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Register Wins Lawsuit over County in State Supreme Court

Dedham, MA – The seven justices of the highest state court in Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, ruled in favor of Norfolk Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell in a lawsuit brought against Norfolk County Director John J. Cronin and the County Commissioners, Joseph P. Shea of Quincy, Peter H. Collins of Milton and Richard R. Staiti of Canton. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court wrote, "We hold that the defendants' interference with the requested transfers was unlawful."

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, the highest state court in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, upheld an earlier favorable ruling by Norfolk Superior Court Judge Cahillane for the Norfolk Register of Deeds Bill O'Donnell. Judge Cahillane of Norfolk Superior Court who stated in his decision that the statute being violated by the County Commissioners and County Director was "unambiguous" ruled:

"In permitting an authorized official such as the Register to determine whether certain transfers within a main group may be made, the statute recognizes that the Register is in the best position to understand the daily needs of the Registry of Deeds and to take certain actions in the interest of the public that elected him."

The case decided by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court was initiated by the Norfolk Register of Deeds on October 21, 2022 in response to Norfolk County Director John J. Cronin's refusal to allow the Register to access approved budget funds for Registry operations and services. This budget was voted on by the 28-member Norfolk County Advisory Board that represents each of the 28 Norfolk County communities.

Register O'Donnell had to file this lawsuit without the benefit of legal representation. The Register's office was not allowed an attorney to represent the office and the interests of the Registry of Deeds. Despite

not having an attorney Register O'Donnell secured favorable rulings in the Norfolk Superior Court and the Massachusetts Appeals Court and the Mas-

sachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

The decision in favor of the Register of Deeds by the Supreme Judicial Court can be

viewed here. Click to see decision: <https://www.norfolkdeeds.org/wp-content/uploads/Supreme-Judicial-Court-No.-SJC-13669.pdf>

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A Summer Vacation Destination for your Pup at Dogtopia

By JENNIFER RUSSO

With Summer upon us, many of us are looking forward to upcoming vacation plans – a relaxing day at the beach with our feet up, a barbecue with friends and family, and some well-deserved time off from the day-to-day. Our precious canine family members are super lucky though, because EVERY day can be a fun day at a place where they can play with their friends, have some yummy treats, enjoy a leisurely nap, and be their perfectly puppy selves.

Dogtopia, located in the Franklin Village Plaza, is like a bougie vacation destination, with a state-of-the-art facility and a staff of certified, dog-loving team members ready to spoil your dog – making sure they have everything they need to have the most amazing time while you work, get some shopping done, have appointments to get to, or have a trip they can't join you for.

As pup-parents, it's important to know that our animals receive the very best care. Dogtopia has rigorous safety standards, with compressed rubber flooring that helps with long-term joint health, pet-safe cleaning products, and spacious, climate-controlled playrooms.

Each of the three playrooms is supervised, and dogs are grouped by similar size, tem-



perament, and play style. Pups are socialized safely, given basic behavioral education, have the opportunity for agility exercises and brain games, and provided with an open-play environment that will help them release all of their pent-up energy and stay fit.

There is even a Bark Bar – yes, you read that right! The bar has special treats available for parents to purchase for their companions, like chicken or salmon protein bowls, pupsicles, and a smoothie of the month.

Ultimately, Dogtopia is committed to giving the pups a happy, loving, and safe environment to play and learn in. Pup-parents can check in whenever they'd like, with live webcams in every playroom, and periodic report cards to keep them in the loop.

Is your family going on a vacation where your pup can't join? Give them a vacation of their own with Dogtopia's boarding services! It's a home away from home, where your four-legged friend will be well cared for and pampered. They will enjoy fun-filled days with their friends, rest comfortably and safely, and can even enjoy spa services while you are away!



Dogtopia is all about community, offering not only the best in care, but also events that clients can take part in with their pups, like craft days, photo days, themed parties, and more!

Check out some of the July events they have planned!

- Passport to Dogtopia: Grand Canyon - July 1
- Passport to Dogtopia: Machu Picchu- July 2
- July 4th BBQ- July 4
- Passport to Dogtopia: Galápagos Islands- July 7
- Passport to Dogtopia: Antarctica- July 8
- Birthday/Gotcha Day celebration - July 10
- Passport to Dogtopia: Pyramids of Giza- July 11
- Passport to Dogtopia: Madagascar- July 14
- Passport to Dogtopia: Sahara



- Desert- July 15
- Wellness Wednesday- July 16
- Passport to Dogtopia: Stonehenge- July 18
- Mini Monday- July 21
- Passport to Dogtopia: Eiffel Tower- July 23
- Passport to Dogtopia: Leaning Tower of Pisa- July 24
- Foundation Friday- July 25
- Passport to Dogtopia: Great Barrier Reef- July 28
- Back Home for Scruffy's Birthday!- July 29th

Does your pup need a place for socialization, exercise, love, and endless fun? Curious about how to get started?

The Dogtopia staff understands that every dog is different and a one-size-fits-all approach is not what works best. New cli-



ents bring their dog in for a meet and greet with a trained evaluator, which helps determine their overall wellness and personality, comfort level in the space (for fun and playtime), and a crate (for naptime or boarding), and how they interact with staff and other dogs.

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.

"At Franklin Village Dogtopia, let us be your one-stop shop for all pup things! Between safety, extra snuggles, and lots of fun, we always strive to make it the most exciting day ever for you and your dog!" says Dogtopia District Manager Naomi Paige.

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.

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Franklin Secures Lower Electricity Rate for Franklin Residents

Program Has Saved Ratepayers an Estimated \$16.7M over 4 Years

Franklin, MA – The Town is pleased to announce that when the current electricity supply agreement expires with the Community Choice Power Supply Program in November 2025, a new agreement with a lower fixed rate of 13.9 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) will commence and remain in effect through November of 2028.

The newly secured supply rate of 13.9 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) is 1.2 cents less than the current rate of 15.1 cents per kWh and reflects an anticipated average savings of \$7 per month, or \$84 annually, assuming an average household usage of 600 kWh per month.

Since its inception in November 2020, the Town of Franklin has successfully saved Franklin residents and small businesses an estimated \$16.7 million in electricity costs by securing a fixed supply rate through the Community Choice Power Supply Program. State law allows the town to partake in aggregate energy supply pricing in an effort to secure more competitive rates than what is offered through basic National Grid supply service.

“In this challenging fiscal climate, the Town of Franklin is

pleased to offer some financial relief to our residents and small businesses through continued participation in the Community Choice Power Supply Program,” stated Town Administrator Jamie Hellen.

In addition to its cost saving benefits, the Franklin Community Choice Power Supply Program also promotes the Town’s commitment to lowering carbon emissions. The energy supplied through the new contract meets Massachusetts’ renewable energy requirements at 63% renewable (69% in 2026); and, for the first time, Franklin residents will also have the option to utilize energy that is 100% renewable and locally sourced at a rate of 16.6 cents per kWh. While its rate is 1.5 cents per kWh higher than the current contracted rate, this local option accomplishes a goal of the recently approved 2025 townwide Master Plan.

“As a Certified Green Community since 2018, Franklin is committed to further reducing its carbon footprint, and this program allows us to do so through the use of renewable energy” commented Jamie Hellen. “We are excited to provide residents and ratepayers with the option

to source 100% of their renewable energy locally, which has been implemented as part of the Town’s Master Plan and in response to community feedback.”

This contract does not prohibit any resident or small business from procuring their own electricity distribution separately.

The Franklin Community Choice Power Supply Program is an electricity aggregation program that allows a municipality to purchase electricity in bulk on behalf of its residential and small business customers. The goal of municipal aggregation is to stabilize energy costs, deliver savings to ratepayers, reduce the community’s carbon footprint, and enhance local control in its energy purchasing. Currently, 8,492 meters are enrolled in the program and Franklin ratepayers have saved a combined 16.7 million dollars as of December 2024.

Residents and business owners who are already enrolled in Franklin’s Community Choice Power Supply Program will be automatically re-enrolled in the program with the Town’s standard product at the new rate of 13.9 cents per kWh, and will receive an informational postcard from Colonial Power Group thirty days before the new rates take effect. The postcard will include the name and contact in-

formation of the new supplier, instructions on how to select the locally sourced energy product at a rate of 16.6 cents per kWh instead of the Town’s standard product, how to opt-out of the program, and other important details.

Residents and business owners that are not enrolled will need to opt into the program if interested in participating. To opt into the program with our current supplier, Dynegy Energy Services, at the rate of 15.1 cents per kWh, call Dynegy at (866) 220-5696 or visit <https://colonialpowergroup.com/franklin/>. Enrolled participants will be automatically re-enrolled with the new supplier and rates when the agreement takes effect later this year. Anyone who wishes to opt into the program after the new agreement commences will need to visit the

Town’s Municipal Aggregation Website or contact the Town Administration Office at (508)

520-4949 for more information.

There are no fees for enrollment or cancellation. However, residents and business owners with a supplier block on their account must contact National Grid at (800) 322-3223 to have the block removed in order to participate in this program. Additionally, anyone already locked into an existing contract with another third-party supplier is advised to verify the contract terms before switching, as they may be subject to penalties or early termination fees charged by that supplier.

Residents and ratepayers seeking enrollment status are advised to contact Colonial Power Group at (866) 485-5858 ext. 1 or colonialpowergroup.com/franklin.

Learn more about the Town of Franklin’s Community Choice Power Supply Program at <https://www.franklinma.gov/163/Municipal-Aggregation>.

The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Your Best Summer Hair Ever

Easy Ways to Keep Your Hair Healthy All Summer Long

BY GINA WOELFEL

Feel that sunshine? The longer days and poolside vibes mean summer is in full swing—and it's the perfect time to brighten your blonde with a beachy balayage or lighten up your look. But while you're soaking up the season, your hair might be soaking up something else: UV rays, chlorine, and mineral-heavy water.

The result? Dryness, dullness, and yes—even that dreaded green tint. Don't worry—we've got you covered with easy ways to keep your hair healthy, vibrant, and summer-ready.

Why Does Hair Turn Green in the Summer?

Most people think chlorine is the main culprit, but that's only part of the story. The real issue? Metals in the water—especially copper.

Copper is often found in pool water, particularly those filled with well water or treated with copper-based algacides. When chlorine oxidizes these metals, they bond to the proteins in your hair. The result? A greenish pa-

tina—just like an old penny.

And if you think saltwater pools are a safer bet, think again. Saltwater systems still produce chlorine—they just do it differently—so your hair is still exposed to the same oxidizing effects.

The good news? A few proactive steps can go a long way toward protecting your hair from turning green, getting dry, or fading in the sun. Read on for our expert tips.

Pre-Wet and Protect

Dry hair acts like a sponge, quickly soaking up chlorine, salt, and other chemicals. Before you swim, thoroughly saturate your hair with clean, filtered water, then apply a protective hair oil. We recommend favorites like our own *b.LUXE BEFORE Oil*, *Goldwell's STYLESIGN Weightless Shine-Oil*, *KERASILK's Multi-Benefit Hair Oil*, or *Oribe's Gold Lust Nourishing Hair Oil*. This simple step helps block harsh chemicals and seals in moisture to keep your hair soft, shiny, and protected.



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR HAIR SERVICES

Don't Be Afraid of a Swim Cap

Not just for Olympic athletes anymore, swim caps are a smart (and often cute) option if you swim frequently. Choose one made from silicone or lycra for a more comfortable, hair-friendly fit. Bonus: they keep your blow-out intact longer!

Ditch Copper-Based Algacides

If you maintain your own pool, check the ingredients in your algacide. Copper-free options are now widely available. You can also test your water's



metal content with simple strips from your local pool store and use metal removers or filters as needed.

Start with Healthy Hair

Dry, brittle hair is more prone to damage and discoloration. Invest in regular conditioning treatment like *KERASILK's Recovery Mask* to strengthen and seal the hair cuticle.

Rinse and Clarify

After swimming, wash your hair as soon as possible to rinse away chlorine, salt, and other impurities. If you swim regularly, we recommend using a clarifying shampoo every 1–2 weeks to deeply cleanse and maintain hair health. We love the *Kerasilk* shampoo line—all formulas include a chelating agent, which gently removes mineral build-up without stripping essential moisture, leaving your hair clean, soft, and balanced.

Struggling with Hard Water at Home?

Clean, healthy hair starts with clean water. Hard water can dull your color—especially blondes—and cause unwanted discoloration or fading. That's why b.LUXE now carries the *Kitsch Water Filter*, designed to reduce chlorine and other impurities while being gentle on your hair, skin, and nails. Best of all, it won't affect your shower pres-

sure, so you can enjoy your wash-time ritual without compromise.

Got Green? Here's How to Fix It

Have you noticed a greenish tint in your hair? Don't worry—it's totally fixable. Book a demineralizing treatment at b.LUXE, like *Malibu C's Crystal Gel Demineralizer*, to remove the build-up of metals and impurities that cause discoloration. Your stylist may also recommend a gloss or glaze to rebalance your tone and bring back that healthy shine.

A Little Prep Goes a Long Way

Summer should be all about fun in the sun—not damage control. With just a few extra steps and the right products, you can enjoy the pool, the beach, and everything in between without sacrificing your hair color or health.

Are you setting your summer hair goals? Book a consultation or conditioning treatment with b.LUXE today—we'll help you stay shiny, strong, and green-free all season long.

Call the studio at (508) 321-1624 or book online at bluxe.com.

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Gazebo Built by Woodstock Building Associates for New Children’s Museum of Franklin

Franklin, MA - The highly anticipated Children’s Museum of Franklin recently celebrated another step toward opening the new interactive education and imagination center with the installation of a special gazebo built by Woodstock Building Associates, based in Franklin, MA and Woodstock, CT.



design and carpentry team truly enjoyed designing, fabricating, and assembling the gazebo. It’s been a joy to see it become part of the museum’s vision.” A father of young children himself, Steve is impressed by the efforts of Erin and co-founder Meg Hagen for the Franklin community and beyond. “WBA is honored to support their mission of creating a welcoming,

Opening to the public this summer at 157 Cottage Street, the Children’s Museum of Franklin will offer exhibit space for children 0–10 years old, programming for elementary and middle school students, volunteer and leadership opportunities for high school students, and internships for college students. “An integral piece of the museum’s Imaginative Play Downtown, the gazebo offers a gross motor opportunity for our younger visitors,” says Franklin mom and co-Founder of the 501(c)3 non-profit children’s museum, Erin Gallagher. “As the first significant exhibit feature to be installed at Children’s Museum of Franklin, this gazebo

truly represented a milestone for this non-profit and the community it will serve. We were thrilled to work with a local organization to create a piece that, as in any downtown, can truly become the heart of this exhibit. WBA went above and beyond with its thought and craftsmanship throughout the process. We are thrilled with the final product!” Steven Keene, Principal and Team Leader at Woodstock Building Associates said, “We’re proud to contribute to such an interactive and inspiring project for the children of Franklin. Our

imaginative space where children can learn, play, and grow.” At press time, Children’s Museum of Franklin was seeking donors for the final stretch of its fundraising efforts before it could open its doors. In late June, a “Squares for a Cause” fundraiser was launched, posted on the “All about Franklin Mass” Facebook page. To view the available squares, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ChildrensMusSquares>, and visit the page for further details. To donate directly, visit www.childrensmuseumfranklin.org/donate.

Franklin LGBTQ Alliance July Events

Brunch with Non-Scene Friends

Saturday July 5th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Mak’s Roast Beef, 451 West Central St., Franklin. Enjoy great food with great friends!

Card Games on the Common

Thursday July 10th (the second Thursday this month) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Franklin Town Common, 200 Main St., Franklin. Come join the FLA in playing some relaxing card games on the common! Games will be provided but feel free to bring your own!

Queer Book Club

Wednesday July 16th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Franklin TV and Radio, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin. Join the FLA in our discussion on *So Many Stars: An Oral History of Trans, Nonbinary, Genderqueer, and Two-Spirit People of Color*, by Caro De Robertis. This book is a “first-of-its-kind, deeply personal, and moving oral history of a generation of trans and gender nonconforming elders of color—from leading activists to artists to ordinary citizens.”



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Saturday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. CLOSED Sunday**

St. Mary Parish Celebrates Longtime Educator

On June 21st, St. Mary Parish celebrated Karen Ackles' 30 years of service to the St. Mary Parish Religious Education Program. Parishioners honored Ackles at the 4 p.m. Mass.

After many years of dedication and hard work teaching the children of St. Mary Parish, Karen is retiring. "We wish her much luck and prayers for the future as she enjoys her retirement with her family and friends," the Parish wrote in a statement.

Karen has led the St. Mary's CCD program for thirty years in the Director role. St. Mary's notes she has been committed and passionate in supporting the families and children of Franklin through this effort without exception. She has lived and loved this role in our community with amazing dedication, and she will be missed!



Annual St. Mary's Benefit Car Show & Community Event to be held Sept. 6

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #1562



The Knights of Columbus Council #1562 of St. Mary's Parish is thrilled to announce the return of the Annual Car Show & Community Event on Sat., Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Uxbridge High School, 300 Quaker Highway, Uxbridge. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

This community event promises a day filled with classic and custom cars, family-friendly activities, local vendors, music, food, raffles, and more, all in support of local charitable initiatives.

Get Involved, support a worthy cause. Knights of Columbus Council #1562 has proudly served Uxbridge and surrounding communities for generations, promoting faith, family, and service. Proceeds from the Car Show and Family Fun Day will support local charities, and Knights' programs that assist those in need.

Ways to participate:

- Event sponsorships: Gain exposure for your business or organization. Sponsorships include signage, online recognition, and booth space options.
- Vendor tables: Local artisans, businesses, and community groups are invited to reserve space to sell or promote their goods and services. Limited spaces available.
- Donations welcome: We gratefully accept raffle items, gift cards, services, or monetary donations to support our mission and event expenses.
- Attend the event: Join us for a fun-filled day! Mark your calendar for Sept. 6, 2025

Event highlights:

- Display of classic, muscle, and antique cars, trucks & motorcycles
- Family-friendly activities, games, and kids' entertainment
- Food trucks, refreshments, and local treats
- DJ music, raffles, and a 50/50 drawing

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/StMarysUxbridge-CarShow2025>.

Call to Action, be a part of something bigger. Help us build a stronger community—one good deed at a time. To become a sponsor, reserve a vendor table, or contribute a donation, please contact Phil Cieply at (508) 509-8870 or pcieply@msn.com, or Jeff Richard at (508) 475-8950 or jlfad5@verizon.net.

Join Knights of Columbus Council #1562 for a day of cars, community, and compassion. See you there!





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- Women's Hormone Replacement Therapy



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PLEASE RECYCLE

H2T Skin and Laser Center – Where Medical Expertise Meets Aesthetic Excellence

By JENNIFER RUSSO

Aesthetic medicine has seen a surge in popularity in recent years as more people seek non-invasive treatments to enhance their appearance, boost confidence, and maintain a youthful glow. H2T Skin and Laser Center, with locations in Franklin and Foxboro, is redefining what it means to receive advanced skincare and cosmetic treatments – it isn't just another med spa, but a fully comprehensive medical practice led by a highly specialized Nurse Practitioner combining clinical knowledge with the art of beauty to deliver safe, science-backed, and stunning results. This sets H2T apart in the very best way.

With over 25 years in the medical field and 12 years in medical aesthetics, owner Matt Azulay-LaFever, NP-C, brings a deep understanding of anatomy, skin physiology, and patient health. This extensive training in both general medicine and specialized care allows H2T to perform the most advanced procedures, while also being able to evaluate underlying skin conditions and make medically informed decisions that prioritize the well-being of the client.

"I was a nurse at Mass General Hospital when a colleague approached me and was telling me about a course he planned to take for injectable skin care, and it sounded interesting to me. So, I went to the course as well because I wanted to learn more about it," shares owner Matt Azulay-LaFever.

"The minute I started doing it, I had a passion for it. I was able to use the skills I learned at my husband's salon a couple of days per week, and my clientele grew by referral more than I could've imagined. I knew it was what I wanted to be doing and was able to grow my own business doing what I love."

The head-to-toe, full-service center offers an expansive menu of the most innovative treatments, including Botox and fillers, skin rejuvenation and regenerative therapies, Hydra-Facial, Collagen Induction Therapy, chemical peels, laser and

energy treatments such as laser hair removal and IPL, and wellness services such as hormone replacement for men and women, vitamin injections, and food sensitivity testing. They even offer non-invasive hair loss therapies and FUE hair transplant services.

H2T also offers body contouring, cellulite reduction, and muscle toning, as well as skin tightening – which has become popular due to rapid fat loss from semaglutide and tirzepatide injectables, that often lead to facial volume loss and loose or sagging skin, making someone appear older. Matt recommends that if you are using weight loss injectables, get ahead of these issues by starting these therapies while you are using them.

"There is absolutely no pressure here. I am not a salesman - I am a healthcare provider first and foremost. Skin health is a journey, and there is no one-and-done approach. I can prescribe treatment plans, but my clients are the ones who set the pace, moving as quickly or as slowly as they are comfortable. For me, it really is about making people's lives better," says Matt.

Clients benefit from custom-tailored treatment plans, grounded in medical science but delivered with an artistic eye. The result? Natural-looking enhancements, youthful skin, and a radiant glow that boosts and reflects inner confidence.

The center offers Visia Skin Analysis, which is an innovative technology that scans your face to analyze skin health and reveal any underlying issues with the skin, like UV damage, brown spots, wrinkles, and other things you may not see with the naked eye. This is great for someone coming in who isn't quite sure which service or services would be most beneficial for them. Through this tool, H2T can pinpoint areas of concern and create a treatment plan.

H2T is a full-spectrum skin health destination. The center also features ZO Skin Health products, a medical-grade skincare line that provides solutions for acne, dehydration, redness, aging, and other concerns. The



H2T Skin team can provide guidance on building routines that support long-term skin wellness.

This combination of expert care, medical leadership, and advanced technology makes H2T a

trusted choice for clients not only in Franklin but from across the region. It is an upscale, comfortable, and relaxing environment with a commitment to clinical excellence, ethical practice, and personalized results.

You can find H2T Skin and Laser Center at 435 King Street in Franklin, and at 17 Cocasset Street in Foxboro. Learn more about their services or book a consultation/appointment at www.h2tskin.com and follow them on Instagram at [@h2tskinandlasercenter](https://www.instagram.com/h2tskinandlasercenter)

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Living Healthy

Summer Eye Safety

Stay Safe This 4th of July

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

We all use sunscreen to protect our skin, but it's important not to forget your eyes. Summer means more time outdoors, and sunlight can be harmful to your eyes just as it is to your skin. Bright sunlight increases the risk of cataracts, macular degeneration, and even eye cancer. This risk is the same when using indoor tanning beds, so protecting your eyes from artificial UV light matters as much as shielding them from natural sunlight. If you're spending time at the beach or pool, be aware that sunlight reflecting off water and sand can cause photokeratitis, a painful condition sometimes called snow blindness.

Everyone, regardless of age or skin color, is vulnerable to UV damage, but children are especially at risk because their eyes absorb more UV rays. People

with light-colored eyes may also be more susceptible to certain eye diseases linked to UV exposure, including eye cancer. Additionally, people with eye conditions like retinal dystrophy might be more sensitive to UV damage.

One of the most common eye problems linked to sun exposure is cataracts, which is a clouding of the eye's lens. The lens needs to be clear to focus light properly on the retina for good vision. Years of sun exposure are a major factor in cataract development, which is why cataract surgery is the most frequently performed surgery in the United States.

Despite the risks, many people don't realize how important it is to protect their eyes from UV rays. A survey by the American Academy of Ophthalmology found that only about half of those who wear sunglasses check



whether they block UV light. Fortunately, protecting your eyes is simple. Sunglasses should be labeled as providing 100% UV protection or UV400 to block both UV-A and UV-B rays. Choosing wraparound styles helps prevent UV rays from entering around the edges. Even if you wear contact lenses that block UV rays, you still need to wear sunglasses for full protection. Wearing a wide-brimmed hat along with your sunglasses adds extra defense from sunlight.

Children need special care too. It's best to keep them out of direct sunlight during midday when the sun's rays are strongest, and make sure they always wear

sunglasses and hats when outside. Many people think clouds block UV rays, but this is not true; the sun's rays can pass through clouds, haze, and fog, causing damage at any time of the year—not just in summer. Be especially cautious when near water, snow, or at high altitudes, where sunlight is more intense because it reflects off these surfaces.

With these simple precautions, you and your family can enjoy the summer safely while protecting your vision.

Fireworks: Enjoy the Celebration Safely

With Independence Day approaching, many people look forward to fireworks. While professional displays are generally safe, backyard fireworks can cause serious injuries. Most firework injuries happen between late June and late July. Each year about 16,000 people go to emergency rooms because of fireworks-related injuries, and there are roughly 18 deaths. The number of minor injuries that don't require ER visits is even higher.

Many people believe those lighting fireworks are at the highest risk, but it's the bystanders who are most often hurt. About 65% of firework-related emergency room visits are by people watching from the sidelines. Injuries most commonly affect hands, fingers, legs, head, face, ears, and arms. Small fireworks and sparklers, often considered safer and used near children, still cause many injuries.

Eye injuries from fireworks can be especially devastating. The eyes are very delicate, and sparks, flames, smoke, or flying debris from fireworks can cause permanent damage. Common eye injuries include scratches on the cornea, detached retinas, ruptured eyeballs, and burns. Any injury to the eye should be treated as a medical emergency. If you suffer an eye injury from fireworks, seek immediate care. To avoid risks, leave fireworks to the professionals and enjoy a safe celebration.

Advances in Cataract Surgery

If the sun caught up with you and you now have cataracts and need surgery, new technology can greatly improve your results.

Bladeless laser cataract surgery is a major advancement that is FDA-approved and widely used by leading ophthalmologists. This method offers greater precision and safety compared to traditional surgery and often allows correction of astigmatism at the same time, resulting in better vision outcomes.

Why Choose Milford Franklin Eye Center?

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we provide high-quality sunglasses with full UV protection at our optical service. For those needing cataract surgery, Dr. Roger Kaldawy was the first surgeon in the area, and among the first in Massachusetts, to offer bladeless laser-assisted cataract surgery. Dr. Dan Liu in our practice, offers the same services. We use premium lenses that correct vision at all distances, including near, far, and everything in between. Thanks to bladeless laser technology, even patients with astigmatism can now enjoy excellent results.

Our surgeries take place in a certified, accredited surgery center in Milford, where an anesthesiologist is always present to ensure your safety and comfort. This level of care is not typical for all practices; some perform surgery in-office without an anesthesiologist, which is not endorsed by professional societies or Medicare. If you have been offered office-based cataract surgery, call us for a second opinion.

With more than 24 years of experience and tens of thousands of procedures performed, we are proud to offer state-of-the-art medical and surgical eye care to our community. Your vision comes first with us.

Protect your eyes this summer by wearing proper sunglasses, using hats, avoiding direct sun during peak hours, and celebrating holidays safely. If it's time for cataract surgery, advanced options are available to restore your vision better than ever. At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we're here to help you see clearly for many summers to come.

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Free Summer Lunches for Youth Return to Local Communities

North Attleboro, MA -The Hockomock Area YMCA is proud to announce the return of its Free Summer Lunch Program, providing nutritious meals to youth ages 1-18 at multiple locations across the region. This initiative, part of the YMCA's ongoing commitment to food access and community well-being, ensures that children and families have access to healthy meals throughout the summer months when school is not in session.

Beginning the week of June 23, free lunches will be available at the following sites:

- Memorial Elementary School – Milford
12 Walnut Street, Milford, MA
Monday through Friday | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
June 23 – August 15
- Bellingham Public Library
100 Blackstone Street, Bellingham, MA

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday | 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

June 24 – August 14

- Jackson Elementary School – Plainville
68 Messenger Street, Plainville, MA

Tuesdays & Thursdays | 12:15 p.m. – 1 p.m.

June 24 – August 14

No registration is required, and all children and teens are welcome to participate. A free lunch will be given to each child and the adult accompanying them. Meals are served in a safe, welcoming environment, and families are encouraged to attend together.

“This program is about more than just food—it’s about community,” said Jim Downs, CEO of the Hockomock Area YMCA. “We are proud to partner with local schools and libraries to ensure that no child goes hungry during the summer.”

The Summer Lunch Program is part of the YMCA's broader food access efforts, which include weekly food distribution and year-round support for families facing food insecurity. For more information, visit <https://www.hockymca.org/summer-lunch-program>.

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

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(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Franklin English Language Education Department Hosts Family Event at Franklin Public Library

Franklin, MA - On May 21, students and families joined together to connect with each other and learn more about community and school programs, including Franklin's English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC).

ELPAC serves as a bridge to bring families, schools and communities together in meaningful ways and encourages family engagement. The program fosters a shared commitment to student success.

“Through open communication, translation support and culturally inclusive practices, Franklin Public Schools is committed to creating welcoming environments where families feel valued, connected, and empowered to support their children's education,” said Assistant Superintendent Rogers.



English Language Education Teachers made this event possible. From left to right, Superintendent Lucas Giguere, Lovely Ariste, Giselle Bush, Rebecca Walsh, Sonia Vaz-Brune, Children's Librarian Caleigh Keating, Amanda Goddard, Caitlin Lucarelli, Assistant Superintendent Tina Rogers, Johanna Townsend, Kaytee Vetrano, and Food Pantry Client Service Manager Laura Du. (Photo Courtesy Franklin Public Schools)

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Fakes and Forgeries Draws Outside Artists to Franklin Mix

By J.D. O'GARA

The first annual Franklin Art Association "Fakes & Forgeries" exhibit took place at the Franklin Historical Museum on Saturday, June 7th, running through June 22nd. Sue Sheridan, of the Franklin Art Association, said the event was a "win-win" for both the Franklin Art Association and the Franklin Art Museum. About 75% of the submissions came from artists from the wider community outside Franklin.

"We invited all artists to participate for no fee, no cost or commission, so it gave people the opportunity to show their work in



Franklin Art Association members Sue Sheridan, Peg Munson and Diana Maley at the first "Fakes & Forgeries Exhibit," held at the Franklin Historical Museum.



Shown left is the People's Choice winner, a knockoff of John Singer Sargent's "Lady Agnew of Lochnaw" by Jamie Derr.

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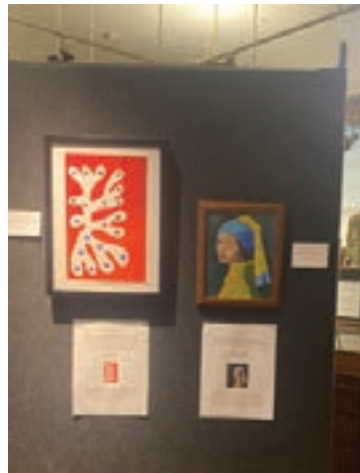
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a nice setting," said Sheridan. At the end of the day, artist Jamie Derr's rendition of John Singer Sargent's 1892 painting of "Lady Agnew of Lochnaw" won the People's Choice for Best in Show.



Thanks To Yanks Marches for Veterans

Thanks To Yanks a local non-profit that serves those who serve in uniform, was honored to recently participate in the Bellingham's annual Memorial Day parade, honoring and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Pictured here, L-R is Michael Shain the president and founder and Judi Dion, a longtime volunteer with the charity. Shain reminds us "All gave some, some gave all." For more information on Thanks To Yanks, please like them on Facebook



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Sports

Not the Year They Were Expecting for TC Baseball

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

After finishing last season with a 9-8 record, earning themselves a berth in the Division 3 State Tournament and bringing back almost the same exact team Coach Ryan Hippert expected his Tri-County baseball team to pretty much the same this year. Unfortunately the Cougars fell short of those expectations wrapping up the season with a 7-12 record.

During the frustrating season, the Cougars lost three one-run games, another four games by either two or three runs and blew to games in which they were leading, including a game against Bartlett in which they were up by three going into the seventh inning.

“We missed the tournament by two or three games. I was disappointed as a coach as this was one of the better teams that I’ve had here at Tri-country; we just didn’t have enough,” Hippert said. “I was hoping to do at least the same as last year having returned many players from that team, I was an expecting to compete for the state again.”

Despite already playing in a tough Mayflower League, Hippert decided to schedule some tough non-league games this year to prepare his team for the post-season but believes those games may have hurt his team’s chances.

“We played competitive baseball all year long with only 2 lopsided losses, everything else was extremely close,” the Tri-County Coach said. “We finished third in the Mayflower League, but I think I’m going to have to reassess our non-league opponents next year.”

While Hippert himself will not use the fact that Tri-Country is building a new school and the baseball team had no home field to practice or play on as an excuse, it had to take its toll on the players.

The Cougars were forced to practice wherever they could get an open field, and during the season, they probably found themselves practicing on 8-10 different fields. As for a home field, they were able to secure a

diamond at Field of Dreams in Plainville.

On the field this year junior Dylan Maw, now a three-time Mayflower league All-Star, was the team’s ace on the mound. He was able to eclipse the 100 strike-out mark this spring. He now has 133 strikeouts over his three seasons with the Cougars. According to Hippert, Maw pitched the majority of TC’s innings and was also the team’s top hitter.

In addition to Maw, sophomore twins Noah and Michael Roche were key components on the team. Noah was the team’s number two pitcher, who picked up a couple of wins for the Cougars, behind Maw and patrolled centerfield, while his brother Michael found his spot behind the plate and was named to the All-Star team this year for his work.

“Michael was a bright spot for the team this year,” said Hippert. “These two are baseball junkies and are some of our better hitters (both hit in the .300’s) and fielders.”

Freshman Gavin Sullivan started the entire year for the Cougars at the hot corner and got better as the season went on. Hippert noted that the first-year varsity player will be a nice player to build the team around in the future.

“I am happy that we will have Gavin for another three years, and, along with Dylan, Noah and Michael, it gives us a strong foundation to build upon,” the coach said. “All four of them will be playing during the summer, so they’ll be improving upon their skills.”

Other athletes on this year’s roster who made an impact were left-fielder Owen Maw, short-stop Sean Trusevitch and second baseman Cam Cummings. All three had been with the varsity program for the past three years. Trusevitch and Cummings were the teams fourth and fifth pitchers.

Looking to next season, Hippert will be returning four of his five top bats and although he is losing a handful of seniors from this year’s squad he believes that he already has the talent on the roster to step in and fill the vacancies.



Was the lack of a home field the reason the Cougars baseball team fell short of their goals this year? Coach Hippert says no, but he’s hopeful for improvement next season. Photo provided.

“I am excited about next year. We should be very competitive once again and shouldn’t fall off,” he said. “The goal will

once again be to compete and make the state tournament. Our JV team had a successful season, and there are a couple of young

kids from that team that could fit right in.”

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Franklin PMC Kids Ride Raises \$37K for Dana Farber

Fundraiser Online Continues until September

BY J.D. O'GARA

On Saturday, June 7th, 170 young riders aged 2-14 came together to support the fight against cancer in the 19th Franklin PMC Kids Ride. So far, the riders have already raised \$37,000, 100% of which goes directly to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through its Jimmy Fund. Donations can be still made to the cause through September 1st at <https://kids.pmc.org/franklin>.

Among the young fundraisers were 35 members of the team "The Pedaling Pandas," a group from the Parmenter School led by teacher Jen Lyons, and 33 riders, "The Broganators," led by teacher Pat Brogan from the Freeman Kennedy School in Norfolk. Several neighborhood teams also took part, including the "Ice Cream Monsters," which boasted 30 children.



Photos by David Marshak

July 2025 at Bellforge Arts Center

July 9, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Summer Sounds: Wyn & The White Light Hayley Sabella.

July 16, 8 p.m.-10 p.m.

'Forge Films: Shutter Island: A gripping psychological mystery under the summer stars.

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July 19 & 20, 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

Gazebo Players: Richard III: Shakespeare's powerful tale performed live outdoors.

July 23, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Summer Sounds: Cloudbelly and Lost Film.

July 30, 8 p.m.-10 p.m.

'Forge Films: Toy Story A timeless, heartwarming family favorite on the big screen.

For more information on these free shows, visit bellforge.org/events.

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Singin' in the Rain at Franklin Porchfest

BY J.D. O'GARA

The weather on June 7, 2025 did not make for the driest Franklin Porchfest, but a good number of hearty souls braved the elements to make the most of the day. Organizers later wrote, on their website, "Even though the last few hours brought some rain, we still had the chance to come together as a community—trav-



Fans of South Street 6 seemed undaunted by the downpours.



Although this audience moved indoors to listen, Matt Tremble braved the elements on his porch stage on Union Street.



Members of two different bands scheduled to play outside Teddy Gallaghers, these two musicians built some camaraderie despite the washout.



Oak Street '25 band members played to a surprisingly large (and wet) group on Cottage Street. There was even a food truck!



eling around town, listening to amazing music performed by some of the most talented musicians around."

Franklin Porchfest 2026 is currently being planned. To stay apprised, visit <https://franklinporchfest.info>.

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Franklin Celebrates One More Affordable House

Need for Affordable Housing in Town Greater than Ever

By J.D. O'GARA

On Monday, June 9th, stakeholders in the Franklin Housing Authority's acquisition of a long-time vacant property at 813 Summer Street, Franklin joined Rep. Jeff Roy for a celebration and tour of the recently renovated three-bedroom, 1 and 1/2 bath property, now leased to an income-eligible family of three. The home, complete with all new kitchen cabinets and counters, dining room, living room, flooring, heating, electrical and landscaping, is now part of the Town's affordable housing stock through perpetuity. Attendees recounted the steps taken to add this property to Franklin's affordable housing offerings, noting the scarcity of such housing options to the community at large.

Rep. Roy, who organized the event, welcomed the group that

"came together to create a new home. This action goes to the issue that lies at the heart of social justice and human dignity and that is the impact of public housing," which Roy explained as "not a charity; it's a social contract, and a collective commitment to ensuring to the basic human right known as shelter. Across our country millions of individuals and families struggle to afford a safe place to live... public housing steps in where the private market fails."

Roy went over the history of what went into bringing this property into the fold of public housing, which began with an email from Susan Speers, of Metacomet Land Trust looking for creative solutions to get the property, illegally mortgaged and later foreclosed, back into the public housing arena. The



Last month, many who were involved in turning this home into a refurbished, affordable house under the Franklin Housing Authority gathered to celebrate their accomplishment and tour the rehabbed home. L-R, Nayda Sanchez-DeJesus, Mark Lannigan, Larry Rettman, Maurice Coleman, Lisa Moczynski, Jeff Roy, Lisa Audette, Susan Speers, Chris Feeley, Attorney Mike Doherty, George Danello.

process involved legal discussions with Roy, Attorney Mike Doherty, and local officials, outreach to Sen. Markey's and Congressman Auchincloss' offices to connect to HUD and ultimately the return of the property to Bank of America.

From there, Roy worked with former State Sen. Paul White and the bank to get the property transferred to Franklin Housing in 2023. Franklin Housing then put the necessary work into the home to make it habitable and bring it up to code.

"This work and these actions clearly demonstrate if we put our heads together and use our tools, our knowledge, our relationships and goodwill, together we can make things happen," said Roy.

The representative introduced Maurice Coleman, SVP of Bank of America, who thanked all of those involved "for your commitment to improving the lives of so many," adding, "Today isn't just about the transfer of property; today is really about taking what was a vacant house and making it this incredible, vibrant, affordable home. Today is really about developing community. That's something we take great pride in..."

George Danello, Chair of the Franklin Housing Authority, noted that the Housing Authority, which has worked with Metacomet Land Trust since 2010, "never stopped; we always knew that we had to get this done..." He noted that the need for affordable housing in Franklin has gone up "six, seven-fold" from when he began in 1997. "The local need, which was 50-60 back then, is now 445 local families looking for housing just from the Franklin community looking for a home. The need is vast. We're totally committed to helping people, one house at a time if we have to do that. But we're thrilled to be here."

In fact, Lisa Audette, Executive Director of Franklin Housing Authority, told Local Town Pages that overall, 24,000 applicants have applied to live in affordable housing in Franklin, with about 450 Franklin residents. She spoke to the group on behalf of the current residents of the refurbished home. "The family that lives here can't thank all of the participants enough. It's an opportunity to live in a place where there is no stigma. They're on a residential street in a nice town. They have the opportunity of a lifetime, and they're very, very thankful."

Marc Lannigan, from Sen. Markey's office, offered, "This is the best of what government can do and should be doing. This is government that works, government that functions, government that is working for the people of Franklin, working for this community, so this is the sort of thing that the Senator leads on and wants to lead on in Washington, DC."

Not all of those who worked to make the property part of Franklin Housing Authority's offerings were present at the ceremony. According to a previous article posted on Franklin Matters in August, 2023, "supporters included: State Representative Jeffrey Roy, Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator, Lisa Moczynski, President, Metacomet Land Trust (MLT) and all of MLT's Board of Directors including Treasurer Susan Speers, Attorney Michael Doherty, Attorney Richard Cornetta, Chairman Christopher Vericker, Franklin Municipal Affordable Housing Trust (MAHT) and all MAHT's Trust Members including Christopher Feeley, Bank of America, Dean Bank, George Danello, Chairman of the Franklin Housing Authority (FHA) and all FHA Board Members."

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Calendar

July 2

Franklin Public Library Summer Concert Series, 6 p.m., Jamie Barrett

Franklin 4th of July 5-Day Celebration, Franklin Town Common, Ride Wristbands 6-10 p.m., 6 p.m. Midnight Ride (60's-90's Rock); 8 p.m. GQ & The Lady (Dance), www.franklin4th.com

July 3

Franklin 4th of July 5-Day Celebration, Franklin Town Common, Megapass: 12-10 p.m., 6 p.m. Matt Zajac (Rock); 8 p.m. Smoke & Whiskey (Country Rock), www.franklin4th.com

July 4 (12-10)

Franklin 4th of July 5-Day Celebration, Franklin Town Common, Megapass: 12-10 p.m. Ride; Wristbands 12-5 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) www.franklin4th.com

Bellingham 4th of July Celebration, Bellingham Memorial Middle School, 130 Blackstone St., Bellingham, 6 p.m. Belling-Hammered, followed by Pieces of Eight, concession stands, nonprofit booths, fireworks 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 5 (12-10)

Franklin 4th of July 5-Day Celebration, Franklin Town Common, Megapass: 12-10 p.m.; Wristbands 12-5 p.m.; Franklin Blues Festival: 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.

12-9:45 p.m., Fireworks 10 p.m., www.franklin4th.com

July 6 (12-6)

Franklin 4th of July 5-Day Celebration, Franklin Town Common, Ride Wristbands: 12-5 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), www.franklin4th.com

July 9

Franklin Public Library Summer Concert Series, 6 p.m. Kat Chapman

July 10

Maker Moment: Silk Scarves, 6:30 p.m. Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, For adults. Registration Required

July 11

Library Lawn Games, 2 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Concerts on the Common, sponsored by Franklin Recreation, 3-5 p.m., Mike Tarara, 5:30-7:30 p.m., The Reminisants

July 13

Second Sunday Speaker Series: "Iconic, Historic Wedding Gowns", 1:15 p.m. (doors open 1 p.m.), Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin

July 16

Franklin Public Library Summer Concert Series, 6 p.m.

Join us Wednesday evenings on the library patio all summer long for live music for all ages! DJ Sam & Andy

July 17

Science Chefs: Slushies, 4 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

July 18

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

Franklin Concerts on the Common, sponsored by Franklin Recreation, 3-5 p.m., Kymberlee O'Brien, 5:30-7:30 p.m., The Strumdawgs

July 19

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

Matt York: Songs & Stories of the Highwaymen, 2 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin. York will perform the songs and tell the stories of the four songwriting legends who joined forces in the 1980's to form the country super group The Highwaymen.

Uxbridge Dog Park 5th Anniversary Paw-ty and Fundraiser, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., 375 Sutton Street, Uxbridge, rain date July 26

July 23

Franklin Public Library Summer Concert Series, 6 p.m. Jeff Roy

July 24

Puzzle Mania, 5 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Registration Required, family puzzle challenge

Marlborough Country Club Women's Golf Association annual Charity Invitational Golf Tournament on Thursday, 7:30 a.m. registration and continental breakfast, 9 a.m. shotgun start, supports Pawsitively 4 Pink and the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

To learn more, email mcc.charity.golf@gmail.com or visit <https://mcc-charity.org>.

July 25

Library Lawn Games, 2 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Franklin Concerts on the Common, sponsored by Franklin Recreation, 3-5 p.m., It's a "J" Thing, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Frank Padula Band

July 26

Free Community Cookout, 5:30-6:30 p.m. on the back lawn at Franklin United Methodist Church, 82 West Central Street, Franklin.

July 30

Franklin Public Library Summer Concert Series, 6 p.m. The Oh Mys

August 1

Franklin Concerts on the Common, sponsored by Franklin Recreation, 3-5 p.m., David Rak, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Electric Youth and the Boston Show Band



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New Fish Swim at Franklin Sculpture Park

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

On June 9th, a celebration of the newest edition of the Franklin Sculpture Park's Traveling School of Fish was held. The project, which turned into an annual event three years ago when artist Amy Adams took the initiative to rehab existing wooden fish that had deteriorated at the park, was this year again a collaboration between Tri-County Regional Technical Vocational High School students, who



Jamal Adams, the day's emcee, shown with Cory Shea, Franklin Director of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy, points to the new school of fish produced by students at Tri-County Regional Technical Vocational High School and painted by students at the John F. Kennedy Elementary School at the Franklin Sculpture Park.



Brooklyn Padula, (left) and Tesse Kroehl (right) are shown here with art teacher Sarah Pelletier, who guided students in their artistic renderings of fish this year.



Sarah Pelletier and Amy Adams collaborated to lead the Traveling School of Fish program this year.

crafted the wooden fish, and elementary school students, this year at John F. Kennedy Elementary, who painted them.

"This collaboration really is about signifying teamwork and what that looks like when you join that with creativity," said Adams, "The Traveling School of Fish is now in its third year,

We don't know what will happen next year, because we have a shifting of some schools happening, so maybe it will go to the new school or be some other sort of collaboration." Adams gave a nod to the direction of art teacher Sarah Pelletier, who guided students through the project this year and last year,



but who will not be continuing as a Franklin Public School teacher next year.

Pelletier talked a bit about the process, noting she encouraged students to think about, "What it means to be part of the community, what it means to represent yourself within the community," as well as "what it means to represent yourself in general..."





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Dealing with Stress in the College Process in 2025

For many high school juniors and seniors, the college application process can feel like a pressure cooker. Today's students face not only the usual challenges, but also a landscape that's more complex and competitive than ever. Rising costs, competitive admissions, global uncertainty, and the nonstop comparison culture of social media all contribute to heightened anxiety.

Sources of Stress in 2025

- **The rising cost of college** and uncertainty about return on investment.
- **The complexity and competitiveness of admissions:** Students feel pressure to excel in every area — grades, course rigor, activities aligned with future careers, test scores, essays, and more.
- **The influence of social media**, where everyone seems to be accomplishing something extraordinary.
- **The political, social, and economic climate**, which can add background stress.
- **The lasting effects of COVID**, including disrupted learning and missed opportunities.

If this sounds familiar, your teen is not alone — and neither are you. The good news is that there are ways to manage the stress and help your teen move through the process with more confidence.

Stress-Reducing Tips for Students

- **Start somewhere, anywhere:** Don't let overthinking paralyze you. Draft an outline, jot down ideas, or complete one small task. Progress beats perfection. The key is to build momentum — once you start, the next step feels easier. Remember, there's no such thing as a perfect application, only an honest and well-prepared one.
- **Find your outlet:** Whether it's sports, music, video games, art, or baking — build regular breaks into your schedule. Even ten minutes of physical movement or creative activity can help reset your focus and lower stress levels. Instead of a coffee break - I walk around my neighborhood!
- **Celebrate small wins:** From creating your college list to drafting your first essay, every task you check off counts. Keep a visible list (on your wall or planner) and cross things off with pride. Small victories build confidence and make the big picture feel more manageable. And celebrate with something that will keep you motivated - an ice cream at Nicky's always works for me!
- **Work with your family on smart, affordable choices:** Reducing financial anxiety can ease the pressure of the

whole process. Sit down together and create a budget, explore

options like in-state or out-of-state public universities, honors colleges, private schools offering generous merit aid, and scholarship options, like Going Merry. Research tools like Big-Future, Big J Educational resources (awesome merit charts), and net price calculators on college websites. Building a list that fits academic goals, social fit, and your budget is empowering.

- **Put the process in perspective:** You don't have to be perfect in every category. Colleges are building communities — they want authentic, well-rounded people, not robots. Focus on what excites you and how you can contribute.
- **Manage your social media intake:** What you see online is often the highlight reel, not the full story. Consider unfollowing or muting accounts that trigger anxiety, and instead seek out positive, supportive voices — or take occasional social media breaks to clear your head.

Parents — How You Can Support Your Teen

- **Be a research partner:** Help your teen identify great-fit,



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

affordable colleges and explore scholarship options. Sometimes knowing there's a plan can reduce anxiety. Together, create a balanced list that includes a mix of likely, probable, and reach schools that also make financial sense.

- **Schedule regular check-ins:** Avoid college talk every day. Weekly or biweekly family check-ins result in lower stress for everyone!
- **Ask thoughtful questions:** Instead of rushing to solve every concern, ask what excites or worries your teen. Listening is powerful. Questions like "What part of this is feeling hardest right now?" or "What's something about college that you're looking forward to?" can open meaningful conversations.
- **Keep perspective:** Reassure your teen that there's

no single "perfect" college — and no one path defines their future success. Remind them that many students find their place and thrive in schools they hadn't originally considered.

Final Thought

The process may feel overwhelming — but with open communication, thoughtful planning, and a focus on fit *and* affordability, your family can move through it with less stress and more confidence. There are so many paths where your teen can thrive.

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

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

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Historic Happenings at the Franklin Historical Museum for July 2025

Bridal Exhibit Opens

This July, the Franklin Historical Museum welcomes the return of the Bridal Gown Exhibit, Something Old and Something New for July! See gowns worn by Franklin brides in a range of fashions throughout the decades, from the late 1800s right up to the 2000s. Each gown carries with it a unique story, preserving the hopes and dreams of each bride on her special day for generations to come. Our 2025 exhibit again features the highly requested 1946 parachute dress with the amazing 15-foot train, constructed of Japanese parachute silk. The Bridal Exhibit continues through Sunday, August 10 during regular museum hours, Saturdays 10 to 1 and Sundays 1 to 4. Please verify open hours over July 4 weekend by visiting <https://www.franklinmuseum1778.com>

Sun. July 13--Second Sunday Speaker Series: "Iconic, Historic Wedding Gowns"

In conjunction with the museum's exhibit of bridal gowns spanning nearly 150 years,



speaker Lisa Micheels will deliver a talk and slide show on talk about iconic historic wedding gowns over the decades. Micheels holds an MFA from University of Miami. She has taught fashion and theatre-based classes in the Boston area since 1989 and is currently a member of the faculty of the School of Fashion Design in Boston. In 1992 she launched her Very Eclectic Clothing line of hand-painted clothing and accessories. The program starts at 1:15. 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>



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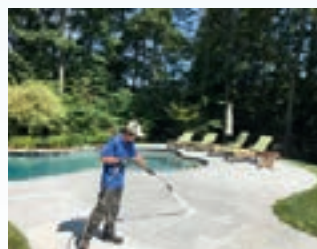


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Come Play Cornhole with the Oddfellows for the Arthritis Foundation!

On August 17, 2025, the public is invited to join the Franklin Odd Fellows for an afternoon of fun and good cheer starting at 1 p.m. at the Bellingham Sportsman Club at 360 Lake St., Bellingham, MA 02019. This will be a fundraiser event with profits going to the Massachusetts Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation. The cost for registration is \$25 per player.

The tournament format will be Switchholio – 4 game round-robin, where players get a new partner for their first 4 games and get ranked on an individual basis to form the standings. The tournament director will use the standings to generate your partner for a double elimination

playoff bracket. Pre-registration is encouraged to hold your place, but it is not necessary to be able to participate as cash, check or Venmo will be acceptable payment at the door.

Last year's event went well, but we're looking for more teams this year. No need to come with a partner as you will be listed as an individual player when you register. The Odd Fellows will provide a buffet lunch to all present - and a cash prize will be made to the first, second and third place teams. Many thanks to the Sportsman Club for use of their facility for this event. Register and prepay at: <https://franklinmassoddfellows.org/cornhole>

Sensory Friendly Time & Food Pantry Benefit at Friday Farmers' Markets

The Franklin Farmers' Market will once again take place at the Franklin Town Common every Friday through October (no market July 4 or October 31), 2 p.m.- 6 p.m. SNAP and

HIP benefits will be accepted, and the Franklin Food Pantry will be sponsoring a match program, for the first \$20 spent the Pantry will sponsor an additional \$20. The market will offer

a sensory-friendly time every week from 2-3 p.m. For more information, visit www.franklinfarmersmarketma.com.

MasterPeace Celebrates K9 Grads

On June 14th, MasterPeace Dog Training hosted its first-ever Service Dog Graduation Ceremony, celebrating the incredible journey of its first two graduates, Luna and Nalah, who have completed over two years of intensive training and are now fully certified service dogs.

This event also commemorated the life and legacy of Mike Masters, the co-founder of MasterPeace Dog Training, who was a disabled man with a service dog. This ceremony honored his memory on the 10th anniversary of his passing.

According to its website, Corey Silva, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2017, wished to train his own service dog, Zuko, who now assists him daily. Silva realized a scarcity of resources available for individuals wishing to train their own service dogs, and so created the program.

To watch the ceremony on YouTube, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWy8wl0hvsY>

For more information on the program, visit Masterpeaceservicedog.com



Luna, above, and Nala, below, are the first proud Service Dog Training graduates of Masterpeace Dog Training. Photos by Amie DuPlessis.



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Town of Franklin Mandatory Water Conservation Measures

Lawn Watering Restricted to One Day Per Week on Trash Day

No automatic lawn watering between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

No holiday delays for watering.

No lawn watering is permitted on other days of the week.

Hand watering is permitted anytime.

In accordance with the Town's Water Management Act Permit issued by the State, the first Monday in June means that summer Water Conservation Measures are now in effect. Conservation measures are needed to limit the daily demand on the water system to ensure that adequate water is available to meet the public health and safety needs of the

Town. This measure is necessary to maintain the water levels in the tanks for fire protection and normal consumption.

During the summer months, the Town experiences excessively high demands for water due to lawn watering. There have been 24-hour periods during which water consumption has been more than twice our average daily water usage for the year. Because of the tremendous increase in the demand for water and State restrictions on the amount of water that can be pumped daily, the Town of Franklin must place mandatory water conservation measures in effect for lawn watering during the summer months. A total of

1-inch of water once per week from rain and watering promotes the healthiest lawns.

Conservation measures will stay in effect until the second Monday in September (September 9, 2025) unless a drought condition is present.

Non-compliance with these regulations could adversely affect public health and safety. Violators are subject to fines up to \$200.

For additional information, visit the DPW website at <https://www.franklinma.gov/628/Water-Conservation>.

Any questions should be directed to the Department of Public Works at (508) 520-4910.

Concerts ON THE COMMON

Schedule

| | |
|----------------|--|
| JUNE 27 | 3:00pm - 5:00pm Robert Swalley 5:30pm - 7:30pm 3Sum Band |
| JULY 11 | 3:00pm - 5:00pm Mike Tarrara 5:30pm - 7:30pm The Reminisants |
| JULY 18 | 3:00pm - 5:00pm Kimberlee O'Brien 5:30pm - 7:30pm The Strumdawgs |
| JULY 25 | 3:00pm - 5:00pm It's a "J" Thing 5:30pm - 7:30pm Frank Padula Band |
| AUG 1 | 3:00pm - 5:00pm David Rak 5:30pm - 7:30pm Electric Youth and the Boston Show Band 8:00pm - 10:30pm MOVIE |
| AUG 8 | 3:00pm - 5:00pm BUS-14 5:00pm - 7:00pm Paradise Flyer |
| AUG 15 | 3:00pm - 5:00pm Matt Zajac 5:30pm - 7:30pm Pub Kings 8:00pm - 10:30pm MOVIE |

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| <p>426 Coronation Drive Franklin</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>Susan Morrison</p> | <p>2 Heights Road Franklin</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>Eileen Mason</p> | <p>250 Irondequoit Road Franklin</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>Susan Morrison</p> | <p>28 Jackson Cirde Franklin</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>Susan Morrison</p> |

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Norfolk County Real Estate Sees Growth in May 2025

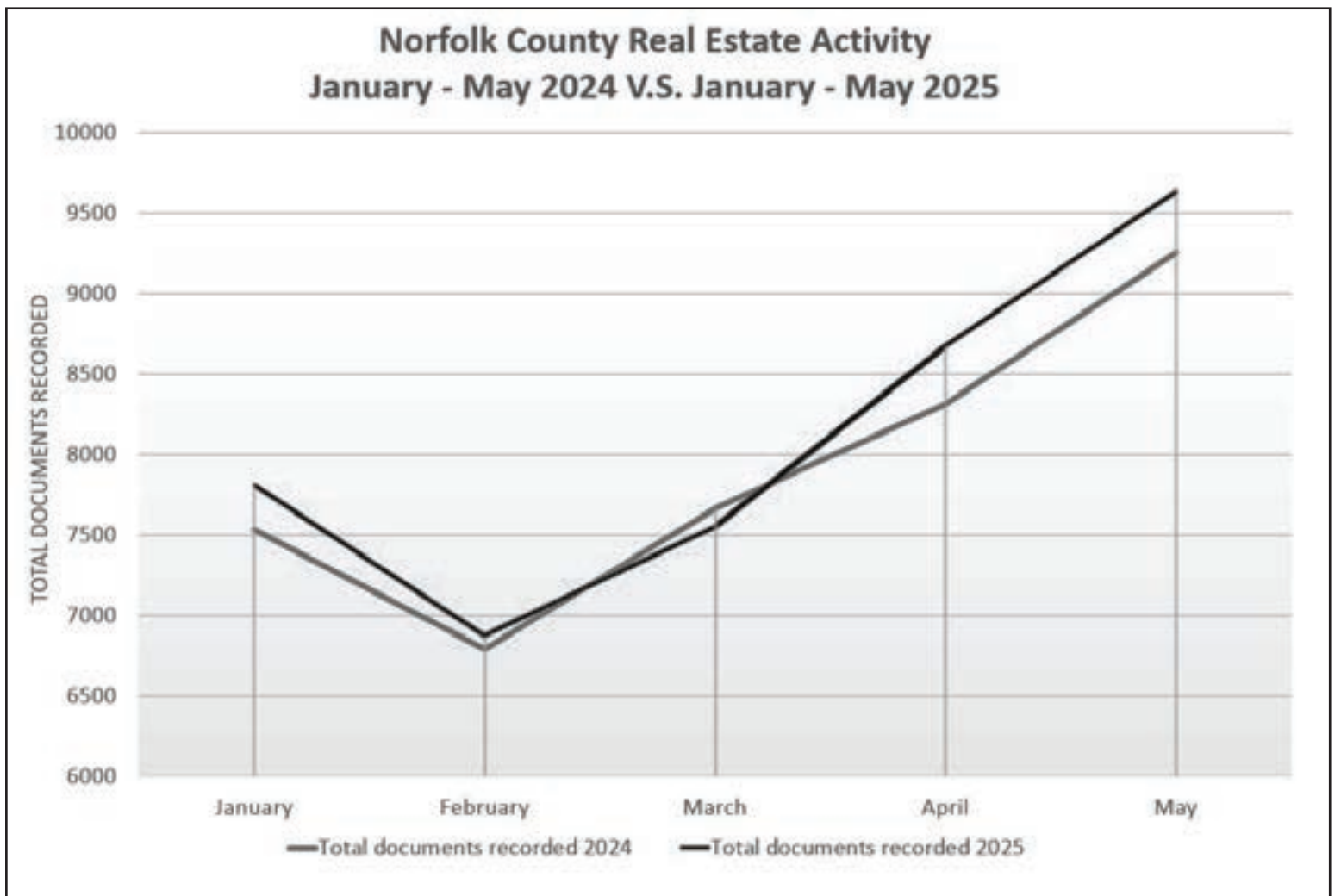
Dedham, MA – Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O’Donnell reported that Norfolk County recordings for the month of May 2025 indicate an increase in overall real estate activity, with increases in property sales and mortgage activity as compared to May 2024.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds recorded a total of 9,628 documents in May 2025. This represents a 4% increase from May 2024 and an 11% increase compared to April 2025.

The total number of deeds recorded for May 2025, which reflects both commercial and residential real estate sales and transfers, was 1,494, slightly down 1% from May 2024 but up 13% from April 2025. Looking at commercial and residential real estate sale prices, the average sale price in Norfolk County for May 2025 was up 11% from May of 2024.

“Despite some broader economic concerns, the total number of commercial and residential property sales in May 2025 showed a vibrancy,” stated Register O’Donnell. “There is still an inventory issue on the residential side that is having an effect.”

The average sale price for commercial and residential



properties in May 2025 rose to \$1,386,599, an 11% increase compared to May 2024 and nearly the same as the aver-

age sale price from April 2025. Additionally, the total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales is up, increasing 18% from last year and up 33% from last month.

For the month of May, lending activity showed an increase compared to the same month a year ago. A total of 1,542 mortgages were recorded in May 2025, up 11% from May 2024 and 7% more than last month. According to the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation,

the average mortgage interest rate for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage in May 2025 was between 6.76% and 6.89%, a decrease compared to May of 2024, when interest rates were between 6.94% and 7.22%.

Register O’Donnell concluded, “The May 2025 real estate data for Norfolk County shows a competitive real estate market driven by strong demand and increasing lending activity. While this growth highlights the desirability of our communi-

ties, it also underscores the challenges of limited inventory and rising prices. As we move into the summer months, we remain hopeful for continued growth and look forward to seeing how the market develops.”

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, located at 649 High St., Dedham, is the principal office for real property in Norfolk County. Reach them at (781) 461-6101 or email registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.



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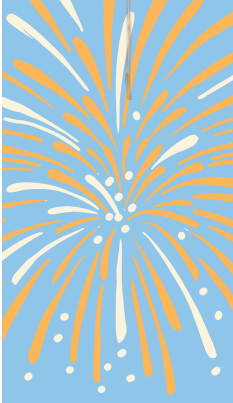
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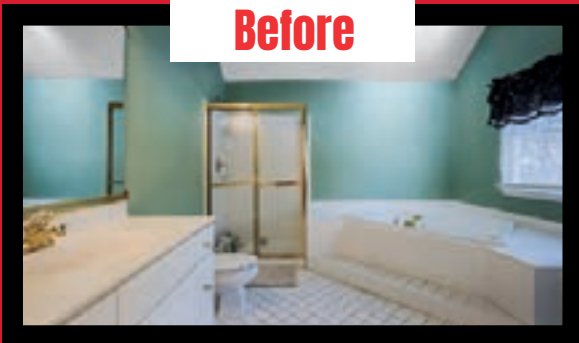
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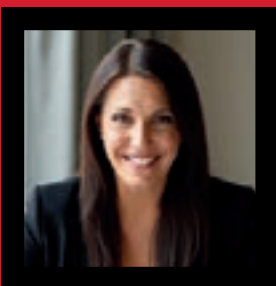
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