

localtownpages Franklin

Vol. 16 No. 6

Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

August 1, 2025

Yankee Quilters Build Skill ... and Friendship

Donate Your Old Housewares, Books & Clothing/Textiles Aug. 11-Oct. 4



Shown are members of the Yankee Quilters, which draws from area towns and is always welcoming new members. From Aug. 11th -Oct. 4th, they will be holding a fundraiser, accepting donations of used wares and textiles. Photo by Jim Lynch.

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Batting. If you don't sew, you might not think much about it, but it's essential to making a quilt cozy and warm, and it can be costly for the volunteers who comprise Yankee Quilters, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization of quilters who make quilts to comfort cancer patients, veterans and others who need them. Starting August 11th through October 4th, 2025, the guild is asking you to clean out your closets and cupboards and donate your gently used textiles, household goods and books, so they can fundraise for batting, backing fabric, and guest lecturers. Specifically, the group is collecting:

QUILTERS

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Town of Franklin Prepared to Assist During Extreme Heat

By DAVID DUNBAR

When the temperatures rise, it is uncomfortable for most people. But for the 4,600 older people living in Franklin, it can be dangerous.

Summers are getting warmer and with it can come heat cramps, edema, exhaustion and heat stroke especially for those over 65 years of age.

"In addition to the elderly population," explains Franklin Fire Chief James McLaughlin, "there are the kids playing sports outdoors, laborers, and others at risk because of the high temperatures." Other at-risk groups include pregnant individuals,

people with disabilities or limited mobility, and folks without air conditioning.

"We usually regard three days in a row with temperatures above 90 degrees as a heat wave," he adds. Oftentimes, this is accompanied by a significant increase in emergency room visits and heat-related illnesses.

Globally, Swiss Re Group's 2025 SONAR Report showed extreme heat claimed 500,000 lives last year. More than hurricanes, tornadoes, severe rainstorms, blizzards or floods One study published in the August

HEAT

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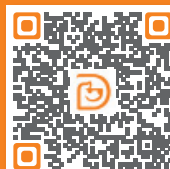
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QUILTERS

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- Clothes (in bags): men’s, women’s, & children’s clothes, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, belts, backpacks, etc.
- Household Textiles (in bags): bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linen, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc.
- Small Household Goods (in small tightly packed boxes): kitchen items (such as pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, serving pieces and hand-held appliances), home decorative items, knick-knacks, toys, games, and small electronics
- Books & Media (in separate boxes): paperback, hard cover - all genres - *no encyclopedias or textbooks

Yankee Quilters always welcomes new members, including beginners. The group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at Emma’s Quilt Cupboard at 7 p.m. from September through June.

A quilting class at Emma’s is where Paula Colleton, who has lived in Bellingham most of her life, first heard about the group in 2008. She’s been quilting since 1976, as a young Mom who took an evening class with Gladys Glockner at Bellingham High School. “I was hooked,” says Colleton, who also belongs to Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild, “I couldn’t get into it fast enough. It was love at first stitch.” Glad she joined the “nice group of people” at Yankee Quilters, Colleton says, “I had no idea that the guilds did anything besides sew. I thought it was strictly a social thing, and it is, but each guild does so much more than get together and sew. They all have their own specific volunteerism.”

Fellow member Cindy Lynch explains Yankee Quilters’ Comfort Quilts was started by Joan Hallett, of Franklin, around 2000. These quilts are currently provided to cancer patients at Dana Farber in Milford. Other quilts have gone to First Concern PRC in Marlborough, Quilts of Valor, and Wrap the World with Quilts, a group that began at the start of

the Ukraine war and provided quilts to Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

“To us, it’s just a show of caring ,but for them, they’re very grateful,” adds Colleton.

“I personally love the group,” says Lynch, Yankee Quilters’ treasurer, whose mother, a Holliston resident, is a long-term member. Lynch travels a good distance from Monson to remain a part of the guild. “In a lot of ways they work together, they love to share. If one person is struggling with how to do something, there’s always somebody else that has done it prior and will share that information. In some ways, it’s a very diverse group in the sense that there are people who like doing things very structured, using patterns, and there are other people that take scraps and make it into some of the most gorgeous work out there,” Lynch says.

Sandie Husby, of Franklin, is one of those who likes to quilt from scraps. She has been quilting since 1986. A member of Yankee Quilters and purveyor of her own sewn work (The Lone Quilter), the Idaho native says, “I really enjoy the group. I

get a kick out of them. Some of those women have known each other for 50 years, and they have stories.” She encourages beginners to experience how welcoming the group is. “Whatever your skill level is, whatever you can do, you come in ,and you can help. If you want to come and hear the speaker, great! If you want to come in and do the comfort quilts and iron, great!”

In addition to the second Tuesday of the month, some members also meet at Emma’s on Mondays, from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. to work on comfort quilts.

“That, right now, is our best option for people who are learning to sew, to help them,” says Cindy. On Tuesday afternoons, from 1:30-4 p.m., the group holds an open sewing circle at Christ the King Lutheran church in Holliston.

Members, says Cindy, whose husband finishes many of the comfort quilts with a long arm machine, “are there to have fun, to enjoy what they’re doing, to pass it on to new people, to share their experiences. We are a low budget guild, so we look to each other’s knowledge for each of us to build our craft.”

The Yankee Quilters do some other fundraising, putting some of their creations in a consignment shop, Mermaid and the Mariner in Monson, as well as holding a “Staycation” four times a year at Christ the King in Holliston, a weekend that includes dinner Friday night, lunch and dinner Saturday, and bagels on Sunday. The

cost is \$100 for members and \$125 for no-members, with the next scheduled for October 24-27, 2025.

Right now, if you would like to support the Yankee Quilters with donations of household items between August 11th and October 4th, contact Cindy at (508) 560-5846 or email yankeequilters11@gmail.com to arrange for pickup, or simply drop items off at the Community Collection Day, September 6, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Prime Storage, 302 Hartford Ave., Bellingham.

Learn More about the Rotary Club!

Rotary Club of Franklin meets the first and third Tuesday of each month, 5:30 – 7 p.m., at the Rome Restaurant, 4 E. Central St., Franklin Mass.

Rotary Club is a service driven group. If you are interested in learning more about this organization see www.franklinmarotary.org.

Contact Diane Padula at rotarycluboffranklinma@gmail.com and you will be invited to join them for a dinner meeting.

localtownpages

Published Monthly
Mailed FREE to the
Community of Franklin
Circulation: 13,164
households & businesses

Publisher
Chuck Tashjian

Editor
J.D. O’Gara

Send Editorial to:
editor@franklintownnews.com

Advertising Director
Jen Schofield
508-570-6544
jenschofield@localtownpages.com

Creative Design & Layout
Michelle McSherry
Kim Vasseur
Wendy Watkins

Office Address
9 Industrial Road, Suite 107
Milford, MA 01757

Ad Deadline is the
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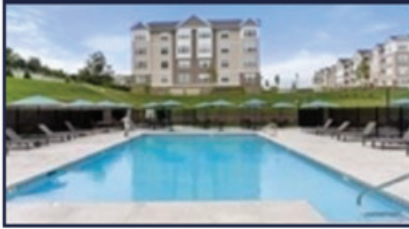
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HEAT

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2024 Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) identified 311 deaths in the U.S. due to extreme heat in 2004; in 2023, the number of deaths had risen to 2,325.

To the elderly, Chief McLaughlin offers advice to “stay inside during the heat and try to stay cool. Wear loose clothing, close the windows, take a cool shower or bath, and drink plenty of water.” Good advice for everyone.

You might also seek out a cooling center. “The Franklin Library is one of the places where people can take refuge in extreme weather,” explains Director Felicia Oti. Another is the Senior Center.

Oti continues, “The cooling center is open during regular library hours... 9 a.m.-8 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays



At the Franklin fire headquarters, from left, are Chief James McLaughlin, Deputy Chief Joseph Barbieri, and Deputy Chief James Klich. “And don’t forget to check on your neighbors during a heat wave,” adds Chief McLaughlin.

and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Fridays/Saturdays.” All are welcome, she says, “and they can stay as long as they choose during regular library hours.”

And what can visitors do while they cool off? “We have programs in the mornings, after-

noons and evenings every day; we provide access to clean chilled water and snacks, plus access to computers.” Oti adds, “We also have a variety of reading materials, board games, toys, playthings and plenty of comfortable seating.”

Chief McLaughlin receives a weekly weather forecast from the state and when extreme weather is predicted, he spreads the word. “We use phone calls, texts, emails plus Twitter and local cable television to reach our residents.”

You might visit www.mass.gov/info-details/extreme-heat-resources for additional information.

Be on the alert this summer for really hot weather. July is usually the hottest month of the year, followed by August. According to The Weather Channel and Yale Climate Connections, “2025 is shaping up to be the second hottest year on earth.”

Town Issues “Carry In / Carry Out” Trash & Recycling Policy for All Outdoor Spaces in Franklin

Policy Took Effect July 1st, 2025

This new policy is being put into effect due to staffing issues and budget constraints.

The intent of this policy is to keep our parks and recreation areas clean, green, safe and sustainable.

What This Means

All visitors, teams, families, and sports organizations that use Town spaces are responsible for:

- Disposing of all trash, food waste, wrappers, bottles, cans, and recyclables properly that is brought into a park or field.
- Disposing “properly” means to use the proper trash or recycling containers that may be provided on site. If containers were taken off site, trash should be disposed of or recycled off site.
- Leave the area cleaner than you found it.

What You Won’t See

- Trash or recycling barrels will not be provided at the usual places at parks or fields as in the past.
- If trash and recycling containers are provided on site,

they will be consolidated to one spot near an entrance/exit to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

- Public Works crews will not collect or remove any litter left behind.

Why It Matters

- Our facilities remain clean and welcoming for everyone to enjoy in a safe manner.
- Reduces operating costs and environmental impact.
- Encourages responsible stewardship of public spaces.

Important Notes

- Coaches, youth sports groups, parents and players are expected to help enforce this policy during games, practices, other events, and causal use.
- Failure to comply may result in loss of field permits or field closures.

We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our community clean!

Together, we can protect and preserve our outdoor public facilities.

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Franklin Artist Adams Creates a Space in Which to Heal

By JUDITH DORATO O’GARA

If you venture over to Natick’s Common Street Spiritual Center at 13 Common Street, you’ll be sure to notice a special art installation which opened at the end of June. Franklin artist Amy Adams created an art exhibit and Wind Phone, an idea she explains was initially developed in Japan and brought to the United States. Adams’ Wind Phone is part of her Project Healing with HeART. It sits by a bench encapsulated under an arbor-like structure, both custom-painted in a floral motif, entitled “Forget Me Not.” Its purpose, to be used as a tool to process emotions and to share words.

“It is a disconnected telephone with the purpose to speak to loved ones who have passed on, allowing messages to be “carried by the wind,” says Adams, “It is a symbolic way to share memories, and hold space, so that healing from grief can begin.”

Adams says she tries to center her art around “topics that need talking about and raise awareness ... and I thought creating an installation near us would be great to promote healing to give an opportunity for people to reflect and to save a space for healing.”

Inside the installation, a list of resources for those dealing with grief, including a support hotline for mothers who have lost children and a resource for children dealing with grief and loss, help those experiencing the exhibit understand they are not alone



Franklin artist Amy Adams sits on a bench inside her art installation at Natick’s Common Street Spiritual Center. The “Wind Phone” aims to provide a means of healing from the grief of loss. The beautiful space also contains resources for those who have lost a loved one. Photos provided by Amy Adams.

in their grief and that they can reach out to others.

“The project itself is to promote awareness of grief and remove the stigma behind it,” says Adams, who has, as many, experienced profound loss of loved ones in her life. “A lot of people think there is a time stamp for grief,” she says, “but there is not, and this is an opportunity to make it a little more normal.”

The new Wind Phone of Natick is one of 303 Wind



Use this phone to make a “call to the wind,” to someone who has passed on.

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How to Have a Sting-Free Summer



Jim Mazzuchelli, owner, WPC Pest and Termite Control

From backyard barbecues to sunny beach days, families across the country are enjoying the warm weather. To make sure Americans can safely enjoy their summer, WPC Pest and Termite Control and the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) are sharing how to avoid stinging insects.

“Every year, more than 500,000 people visit the emergency room to be treated for insect stings,” said Cindy Mannes, senior vice president of public affairs for NPMA. “Stinging in-

sects can become aggressive and dangerous if provoked, which makes working with a licensed pest control professional a must for homeowners.”

Jim Mazzuchelli, owner of WPC Pest and Termite Control, is sharing these tips on how to avoid painful stings this summer:

Wasps



Wasps, including yellowjackets and the misnamed bald-faced hornet, are commonly encountered during late summer, when colonies are largest. Avoid attracting these insects and keep them out of your home by removing garbage frequently, keeping trashcans covered and ensuring all doors and windows are properly screened. Sweet-smelling perfumes should also be avoided, as the scent can attract yellowjackets.

Hornets



European hornets can be deterred from your home by changing exterior lights to yellow

bulbs, storing garbage in sealed receptacles and removing fallen fruit from trees. If a stray hornet is giving you unwanted attention, avoid swatting at the insect. Instead, blow gently from a safe distance to shoo it away.

Africanized Bees

Africanized “killer” bees can become hostile if threatened and have been known to chase people for more than a quarter of a mile. Because they look similar to European honeybees, only a licensed pest control professional can identify and remove a nest. If you live within 100 miles of an area where Africanized bees are common, do not approach any nest.

DIY removal of a stinging insect nest is never recommended, as the process requires specialized training and equipment. Call your local professionals at WPC Pest and Termite Control at (508) 435-2211.

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Franklin Veterans' Services - August 2025 Notes

August 4 - U.S. Coast Guard's 235th Birthday

August 6 - Veterans Coffee Social - 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. In honor of National Purple Heart Day, we will recognize several Franklin Purple Heart recipients.

August 7 - National Purple Heart Day - The Purple Heart is a distinguished military decoration awarded in the name of the President to those who have been wounded or killed as a result of enemy action while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. 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 database.

August 21 - Veterans Council Meeting - 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. Any Franklin resident interested in Veterans' activities is welcome to join us.

August 29 - Marine Corps Reserve 109th Birthday

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 p.m. 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 FOR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS WILL NOT MEET IN JULY AND AUGUST. Classes will resume in the fall.

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.

Looking ahead...On **Monday, September 15th at 9 a.m.**, the VSO will host a **VA and State Survivor Benefits** information session for Veterans, service members and spouses in the Senior Center's multipurpose room.

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

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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

Franklin Resident Writes Book for Young Creatives

By JUDITH DORATO O’GARA

This month, Berklee College of Music professor Kaye Kelly, of Franklin, announces her first book, *The Modern Creative*. The work is aimed to serve as an interactive guide for young creatives from various arts concentrations, to offer “tools, inspiration, and structure needed to build a sustainable, purpose-driven artistic career.”

“I wrote the book I wish someone would have given me when I finished my degree at the University of Miami in studio music and vocal performance. I really got no help in terms of thinking forward to my next steps, career plans, how I was going to support myself,” says Kelly, “It’s a guidebook, but it’s also a workbook. At end of each chapter, there are exercise a reader can do.”

The guide blends honest conversations about the realities of artistic life with practical strategies for success—financially, creatively, and personally. Kelly drew upon her experience as a professor with 25 years of experience teaching college students

not only music and liberal arts, but also professional development. Kelly also spoke with working professionals in various arts careers.

“I was able to get some really great interviews from all types of artists,” says Kelly. Those included James Taylor’s background singer, the bass player for the band Chicago, a successful L.A. actress, a Broadway dancer, an award-winning author, and the Executive Director of the Mass Cultural Council.

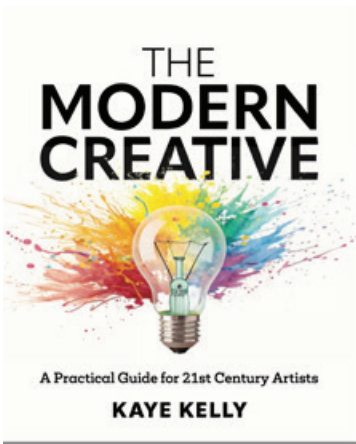
“I interviewed someone who was a musician, transitioned to a baker and is now a best-selling author. It’s really interesting following these creative paths,” says Kelly. “I think it’s important we teach our young creatives that the career path is not linear. It is ok to move around in throughout your career. It’s not something to be looked down upon, and it’s important to normalize that.”

Kelly says sending young arts majors out into the world with expectations they will get a job right out of school can lead to “mental health issues, depres-



sion, anxiety, and feelings of failure. I’m trying to normalize the zig-zag path we take in the creative space,” she says, “There are many ways to be an artist.” Although some can support themselves fully with their art, says Kelly, “There are others that hold a full-time job and do their art (on the side). But American society tends to snub their nose at that, which, of course, is really bad for our mental health. Taking financial pressure off and having a full-time job is actually excellent for artists.”

In addition to her work as a veteran faculty member at Berk-



lee, Kaye is an active singer, songwriter, arranger, and bandleader in New England. An expert grant writer and advocate for independent artists, Kaye has won multiple state awards for her work in

the arts, including being named a 2022 Commonwealth Heroine for the State of Massachusetts. The avid writer also dabbles in creating multimedia art focused on social issues.

Kelly, who is married with four children, has lived in Franklin for 21 years. She and her husband, also a musician and teacher, play together in a duo act called Stick-ManBlue, which will be performing in November as part of the United Methodist Church’s community concert series.

The Modern Creative will be available starting this month on www.ingramspark.com and on Amazon.

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Franklin 4th Draws Crowds

By J.D. O’GARA

Thousands of Franklin residents and neighbors enjoyed the annual Franklin 4th festivities once again, with Saturday featuring the annual Mike Crandall Blues Festival, followed by fireworks. The event, 100% privately funded, has been taking place for over 40 years, will return next year. For more information on the volunteer-run five-day event, including sponsors, or to donate, visit www.franklin4th.com.



Members of the Connecticut Blues Society, from left, George Cross, Cros and Scott Sebastian. <https://ctblues.org>



Democratic Town Committee members Rachel Plukas, left, and Curtis Owens, right, hustled at their organization’s booth to raise funds for the committee’s scholarship fund. The group meets second Monday of every month at the Franklin TV, from 7-8:30 p.m. (www.franklindemocrats.org).



All the way from Korea, Richiman & Groove Nice turned the Mike Crandall Blues Festival into an international affair.



All smiles from the volunteers that make it happen at the Franklin July 4th Coalition booth. From left, Joe Carmignani, Francesca Carmignani, Ava Carmignani, Paul Kortick & Kim Kortick.



Adam Jacoby works hard at Franklin Rod & Gun Club’s always popular fried dough booth. The group will hold its all-you-can-eat breakfast this month on August 17th (www.franklinrodandgun.org).



Members of the Nick Moss Band clearly enjoy making music together on stage.



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Your Money, Your Independence

One Big Beautiful Bill - A Planning Perspective



Glenn Brown, CFP

Depending upon your news sources and social media algorithms, the One Big Beautiful Bill (OB BB) is either the worst bill ever and people will die, or it will unleash a new era of prosperity for the US economy. The truth is that it will do neither of these things.

Like all things with Washington, OB BB has the good, the bad and the political virtue signaling (i.e. \$1,000 Trump Accounts for U.S. citizen newborns).

From a financial planning perspective, let's review the 5 areas of broadest impact.

1. Extension of 2017 Federal Tax Cuts. The current tax rate structure, including a top marginal tax rate of 37%, remains in place permanently. It was to expire this year, meaning if you're in the current 12%, 22%,

24% tax brackets, a 3% or 4% increase would have happened. While some disagree with this act, they'd be celebrating if Massachusetts went from 5% to 1% income tax.

Also permanent is the estate tax and gift tax exemption, which prior to 2017 was \$1 million. Today, it is \$13.99 million per individual, adjusts for inflation and is a flat 40% tax on excess over the exemption.

- 2. Expanded Standard Deduction and Child Tax Credit.** Recall in 2017, the standard deduction was dramatically increased while many subjective write-offs were eliminated. This resulted in 90-93% of tax filers taking the standard deduction over the last 8 years, up from 68.7% tax filers in 2016.
- 3. New Senior Tax Deduction.** Tax on Social Security benefits was not eliminated, however through 2028 there is an additional \$6,000 deduction per individual for those 65 and older. This equates to 88% of tax filers not paying a federal tax on their social security benefits.
- 4. State And Local Tax (SALT) Deduction Cap Raised.** OB BB temporarily raises the SALT deduction cap to \$40,000 from \$10,000, with a

1% annual increase through 2029. Good news for deductions on mortgage interest, property taxes and sales tax. However, it's reduced by 30% if modified adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds certain thresholds, such as \$500,000 for joint filers.

The OB BB ensures continued federal deductibility of PTET for pass-through entities, like S corporations and partnerships. These will pay state income taxes at the entity level, effectively bypassing the individual SALT deduction cap.

5. Permanent Small Business Tax Relief. This includes the 20% Qualified Business Income (QBI) deduction for pass-through businesses and 100% bonus depreciation for new capital investments. The maximum Section 179 expensing amount is increased, and immediate Research & Development (R&D) expensing is restored with a catch-up deduction option.

Other notables that caught my attention:

- Vocational and trade schools now qualify for 529 Plan expenses.
- Bronze and catastrophic insurance plans qualify as HSA expenses.
- No tax on overtime (\$12,500) and qualified tips (\$25,000).
- Paid leave tax credits are permanent and expanded.
- Increased childcare expense credits.

Finally, Congress got involved with student loan reform rather than defer to executive orders.

To curb the blank-check effect, OB BB has eliminated "Cost of Attendance" loan limits for graduate students and parents of undergraduate students.

Like the pre-existing caps on how much undergraduates can borrow (\$12,500 annually, \$57,500 aggregate), moving forward universities must deal with parents' ability to borrow capped

at \$20,000 annually and \$65,000 in aggregate per undergraduate. Graduate student caps are now \$50,000 annually and \$200,000 in aggregate.

It's a start to address the cause and not just the effect.

More to consider beyond this limited space, talk with your Certified Financial Planner to learn how you and your family can benefit.

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

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of PlanDynamic, LLC, www.PlanDynamic.com. Glenn is a fee-only Certified Financial Planner™ helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.

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Franklin Girl Scout Elizabeth Hagy Receives Gold Award

Her Project Promoting Literacy for Inmates Earned Highest Girl Scout Honor

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

In May, Franklin Girl Scout Elizabeth Hagy was among 48 in Massachusetts who were presented with the Gold Award, the highest achievement in Girl Scouting. Hagy founded Second Edition MA, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving access for incarcerated individuals in the Boston area. An advocate for prison and criminal justice reform, Hagy focused on promoting literacy in the prison system. Now in college, she has passed the project onto younger Girl Scouts

“My hope is younger Scouts can pick it up and continue the foundation I’ve laid,” said Hagy.

She believes more empathy toward incarcerated individuals could go a long way.

“That could reduce recidivism more than harsh punishment or social exclusion,” said Hagy, “especially in terms of trying to get a job or build credit after release. There’s a lot of prejudice there, but (education) could help acclimate and reintegrate people back into society.”

Hagy was especially focused on collecting books for inmates focused on financial literacy.

“I received in-kind donations from friends, teachers, family,” she said, “With that, and book donations, I got about 200 textbooks and another 300 literature books.”

In fact, the donated books helped establish a library in one of the two prisons to which Hagy donated, while donations supplemented the library of the other.

“Then, I also (donated to) a domestic violence shelter, because I felt I wanted to directly impact women in some way. That didn’t directly impact my mission, but it reached people anyway,” said Hagy.

The Girl Scout was inspired to choose her Gold Award project after watching a TV documentary, Girls Incarcerated.

“I watched a reality docuseries on a prison in (Indiana) that has a very strong reeducation program. It made me look at the Massachusetts program. These students get photocopies of textbooks rather than real textbooks. Juvenile (detention) is slightly better, but they have very little access to true educational material. No



Elizabeth Hagy, of Franklin, left, shown here with a fellow Girl Scout, recently earned the Gold Award from the Girl Scouts of Eastern, Mass.

one believes that following your time (served) you can go be a firefighter, can go be a paramedic, go be a teacher. Some people are fully able to reintegrate, but can’t, because they don’t have the skills to do so.”

The rising sophomore at Boston University finished her project in 2024 but received the award in spring 2025. She feels her work toward the Gold Award built her confidence.

Like a Boy Scout Eagle Project, Girl Scouts must have completed several scouting milestones before they can even consider a Gold Award project, which must be sustainable, measurable, and ultimately, relevant beyond their local community. The individual Girl Scout herself must devote at least 80 hours to the project,

and, unlike the 100 hours that the Eagle Scout requires, Girl Scouts cannot count any volunteer hours of fellow scouts who assisted her toward the requirement.

Hagy learned, “I’m capable of more than I thought I was. I’m able to reach out and build a team to make something happen,” she said, but she also had to learn to overcome discouragement.

“I heard ‘No.’ a lot,” she says, “and I had to find a way around it. I had to engage in a lot of self-reflection and growth to realize my worth, and my determination to see this project through could not be deterred by the attitudes and actions of others,” said Elizabeth.



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August 2025 at Bellforge Arts Center

Summer Sounds with Boston Summer Opera Wednesday, August 6, 6-8 p.m.	Little Lies: A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac Saturday, September 6, 3-7 p.m. (\$10)
The Goonies: 'Forge Films Wednesday, August 13, 8-10 p.m.	Women in Music Festival Saturday, September 20, 4-7 p.m.
Summer Sounds with Viruette and Mallcops Wednesday, August 20, 6-8 p.m.	For more information on these free shows or other low-cost ticketed events not listed here, visit www.bellforge.org/events .
E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial: 'Forge Films Wednesday, August 27, 8-10 p.m.	

Tina Powderly Honored in MA Women’s Commission, Commonwealth Heroine Class of 2025

Boston-MA- Franklin resi- dent Tina Powderly was recently elected to the 22nd Annual Mas- sachusetts Women’s Commission “Commonwealth Heroine Class of 2025.” Nominated by State Representative Jeffrey N. Roy (Franklin-D), Ms. Pow- derly was honored alongside over 125 other distinguished women from around the Com- monwealth at the State House in the Great Hall of Flags on June 26th, 2025.

Tina serves her community by working as the Executive Di- rector of the Franklin Food Pan- try. It is thanks to her that a new facility was built, leading to the feeding of over 25,000 people in 2024 alone. Tina holds ex- perience in various fields, such as healthcare consulting, and hospital strategy, allowing her to receive leadership positions at AMN Healthcare, Milford Regional Medical Center, and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.



She holds a bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University and a master’s degree in Health Policy Management from Har- vard. Tina has served on the YMCA’s Board of Managers, and as Vice Chair of the Frank- lin Town Council.

Living with her husband and

five children in the community, she has served the Town of Franklin with honor and distinc- tion.

“I’m honored to nominate Tina Powderly as a 2025 Com- monwealth Heroine,” said Roy. “Her selfless work in the health- care industry, service to her com- munity, and her leadership at the Franklin Food Pantry cement her status as an upstanding pillar of the community and display a perfect representation of a Com- monwealth Heroine.”

“The Commonwealth Hero- ines are women who don’t make the news, but make all the differ- ence in their communities,” said MCSW Chairwoman Mary-dith Tuitt. “... Commonwealth Her- oines use their time, talent, spirit, and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of others in their commu- nity. They are mentors, volun- teers, and innovators - they are the glue that keeps a community together.”

OBITUARY

DIMARCO, ANTHONY M. 41, formerly of Franklin, MA died suddenly in his home in Los Angeles, CA on December 21, 2024. Beloved son of Christina {Walker} DiMarco and Peter DiMarco and brother of Darius DiMarco all of Florida. Aunts Marylyn Walker Sukis and Gail DiMarco. Uncles Dan Sukis, Nick DiMarco and Jack and Frank Walker. Niece Gianna DiMarco and nephew Joe DiMarco. Favorite cousins Lucy and Jim Libbey. Also survived by many cousins and friends. Anthony graduated from Franklin High School and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, cum laude. He was employed as a financial fund accountant for companies in Boston, MA, Princeton, NJ, Sacramento and Los Angeles, CA. He was a self-taught golfer. He won the Junior golf Championship at Dennis Highlands Golf Course in Dennis, MA. He played golf for 4 years at Franklin High School. He was on the team when it won the State



Championship. He was a master of the flop shot. Anthony was an avid collector of video games, systems and monitors. He loved cats and dogs especially his mother’s Italian greyhound, Buttercup, who would bound in the air into his arms. A funeral mass will be held at St Mary’s Church at 1 Church Square, Franklin, MA. On Saturday September 6,2025 at 11:00 AM. Burial will be private. Donations to the American Heart Association or the charity of one’s choice would be appreciated.

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Nomination Papers Available Starting August 4th in Biennial Town Election

2025 Biennial Town Election November 4, 2025

Franklin High School – 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday August 4th – Nomination papers available (by appointment only) in the Town Clerk’s Office. Please check our website for hours.

September 15th by 4 p.m. – Signed Nomination papers must be submitted to the Town Clerk’s Office for certification

September 22nd by 4 p.m. – Last day to withdraw your candidacy

October 25th (Saturday) – Last day to register to vote from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Town Clerk’s Office by appointment only or register online at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us>

Please visit our website www.franklinma.gov/town-clerk or call the Town Clerks Office at (508) 520-4900 for a complete list of available positions.

NANCY DANELLO, CMC, TOWN CLERK



Biennial Town Election - November 4th, 2025

The Following seats are open in the Biennial Town Election being held on Tuesday, November 4th, 2025 Nomination papers will be available on Monday, Aug. 4, to Sept. 15, 2025 at the Town Clerk’s Office

BOARD/COMMITTEE/POSITION	# OF OPEN SEATS	CURRENT OFFICIAL	TERM OF OFFICE	
Board of Assessors	1 Seat	Christopher K. Feeley	4 Year	2025 -2029
Board of Health	1 Seat	Bridget L. Sweet	4 Year	2025 -2029
Planning Board	2 Seats	Beth Wierling	4 Year	2025 -2029
		Jennifer Williams	4 Year	2025 -2029
Planning Board (Associate Member)	1 Seat	Mark Mucciarone (Appointed)	4 Year	2025 -2029
School Committee	7 Seats	David C. Callaghan	2 Year	2025 -2027
		David J. McNeil!	2 Year	2025 -2027
		Al Charles	2 Year	2025 -2027
		Erin Ford Gallagher	2 Year	2025 -2027
		Paul Griffith	2 Year	2025 -2027
		Ruthann O’Sullivan	2 Year	2025 -2027
		KP Sompally	2 Year	2025 -2027
Town Clerk	1 Seat	Nancy Danella	4 Year	2025 -2029
Town Council	9 Seats	Thomas D. Mercer	2 Year	2025 -2027
		Robert D. Dellorco	2 Year	2025 -2027
		Glenn F. Jones	2 Year	2025 -2027
		Brian M. Chandler	2 Year	2025 -2027
		Theodore Cormier- Leger	2 Year	2025 -2027
		Melanie J. Hamblen	2 Year	2025 -2027
		Cobi Frongillo	2 Year	2025 -2027
		Deborah Pellegri	2 Year	2025 -2027
		Patrick Sheridan	2 Year	2025 -2027

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Nancy Danella, CMC, Town Clerk with any questions, (508) 520-4900/ndanello@franklinma.gav

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

Town of Franklin to Establish 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Franklin, MA – The Town of Franklin is excited to announce the establishment of a 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee. The Committee will plan, organize, and carry out events and activities pertaining to Franklin’s 250th Anniversary celebration, which will be held throughout the Town’s semiquincentennial year, culminating with a signature event marking the Town’s 250th anniversary of March 2, 2028.

“The Town Council is enthusiastic in establishing this committee in recognition of Franklin’s 250th Anniversary”, stated Town Council Chair Thomas Mercer. “The mission of the Committee is to have events throughout the year recognizing Franklin’s Past, Present and Future - engaging all Franklinites in a celebratory, collaborative, and unified manner.”

Thirteen voting members and five ex officio non-voting

staff members will be appointed to the Committee. Of the thirteen voting members, one member from the Cultural District Committee, Cultural Council, Historical Commission, and Library Board of Directors will be recommended to the Town Administrator by the Chair of each committee, and one member of the Dean College organization will be recommended by the College’s President or Interim President. Eight At-Large Franklin residents will be selected through the Town’s standard volunteer application process. The terms of the committee members will end on June 30, 2029.

“The Committee will be asked to engage town boards, committees and departments for input, ideas and collaboration on the yearlong celebration and plan a rich program of events and activities”, said Franklin Town Administrator Jamie Hellen. “Due to the nature of this committee, the

Town is able to establish a fund in accordance with MGL Chapter 53, Section 53i and fundraise to finance these programs. The Town anticipates hosting events and activities similar to what many other communities have done during their celebrations, such as a gala, carnival, parade, concert, fireworks, time capsule, monument, tours, a tree or other commemorative gesture, or whatever creative ideas the committee comes up with that tells Franklin’s unique story.”

Franklin residents interested in serving on the Committee should apply via the Town’s Online Volunteer Application Form (<https://franklin-maboardsvt-s.net/newcaf.php>). The application will remain open to the community until September 15, 2025. The Town anticipates that the Committee will begin meeting this October, 2025.


Historic Happenings at Franklin Historical Museum for August 2025

Bridal Exhibit Continues

Thanks to popular demand, Franklin Historical Museum is holding over its popular Bridal Gown Exhibit, *Something Old and Something New*, through August! See gowns worn by Franklin-area brides in a range of fashions throughout the decades, from the late 1800s right up to the 2000s. Bridal photography and ephemera are also on display. Each of the more than 30 gowns carries with it a unique story. The Bridal Exhibit continues through Saturday, August 30.

Sun. August 10--Second Sunday Speaker Series: A Deep Dive into the Rayner Postcard Collection

The Rayner Postcard Collection is one of the most important collections of postcards of Franklin, currently in the collection of the Franklin Public Library. Historical Commission Chair, Alan Earls will show as many of the 100-plus postcard, some



in color and some in black and white, dating from the late 19th century to about 1970. The program starts at 1:15. The museum is open from 1-4 and admission is free. Due to the presence of the Bridal Exhibit, seating is somewhat limited.

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. Verify Labor Day hours at <https://www.franklin-museum1778.com>. When visiting the museum, please consider donating a non-perishable item for the Franklin Food Pantry. Questions? Contact Alan Earls at (508) 560 3786.

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Save the Date: September 27th is Franklin’s Harvest Festival

The 21st Annual Harvest Festival is set for Sat., Sept. 27, 12 noon to 5 pm. The rain date is Sunday, Sept. 28. This year’s festival will be expanding up Main Street to Dean College and Franklin Library, adding more activities and booths.

Organized by Franklin Downtown Partnership, the Harvest Festival is their largest event. More than 150 vendors will fill Main Street in the expanded format. Look for more music, food, kids’ activities, art and crafts, merch and services from local shops, and community groups. More details will be coming in September.

“The Harvest Festival is the ideal time to socialize, relax, and enjoy the community spirit. There are many great shopping and dining opportunities in downtown Franklin,” said Scott

Martin, President of the Franklin Downtown Partnership and Harvest Festival Chair.

Due to the popularity of the event, vendor booths will only be available to FDP members this year. The Partnership invites Franklin crafters to join and participate in the festival. Registration for FDP members will open the last week of August.

Business owners are invited to be a sponsor of the Harvest Festival. Please email the FDP office at downtown.franklin@yahoo.com to learn about sponsorship opportunities, or register on the FDP website at www.franklindowntownpartnership.org.

“This huge event is made possible because of our generous local business sponsors,” said Lisa Piana, FDP’s Executive Director. This is our list of sponsors so far:

Platinum – Dean Bank, G&C Plumbing & Heating

Gold – Camford Property Group, Inc., Hockomock YMCA

Silver – Eagle Stainless Tube & Fabrication, Inc., Glen Meadow Apartments-Schochet Cos., Notturno Home Services, The Enclave of Franklin.

Bronze – Chestnut Dental Associates, Connell Roofing, Inc., Elizabeth’s Bagels, Fenton Financial Group, Simon’s Furniture.

Follow the Partnership on Instagram and Facebook for info, updates, and activities:

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

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

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

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

Coming Up at the Franklin Senior Center

The Franklin Senior Center is located at 10 Daniel McCall St., Franklin. Reach them at (508) 520-4945.

There is always lots to do at the Franklin Senior Center. Here’s a peek at some of what’s happening in August.

- Thrive Beyond Time, 1 p.m., August 1, 8, 15, 22, 6-week wellness campaign presented by local youth volunteer supported by an OT. No need to register for all events, but registration preferred.
- Intro to Bellydancing, 9:45 a.m., August 4 & August 11
- The UFO’s Concert, 6 p.m., August 6, Presented by the Ukulele Friends Orchestra. Open to all in the community.
- Eat around the World, 11 a.m., August 8, Louisiana (Creole)
- Sing-along with Cathy, 10:45 a.m., August 12, in lobby
- Pizza & Movie Night, 4 p.m., August 13

- Fall Prevention & Home Safety Tips, 11 a.m., August 14
- Zentangle, 1-3 p.m., August 18
- Hearing Clinic, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., August 19
- Fall Prevention & PT, 12 p.m., find out how physical therapy ties into fall prevention, August 20
- Memory Café, 1 p.m., August 20
- Trivia with Ariel, 11 a.m., August 21
- Clay Art Class, 1 p.m., make a clay goose for your garden, \$3, August 21
- Drum Circle, 1 p.m., August 26
- Rainbow Café, 2 p.m., August 26
- Fraud Prevention with Norfolk County Sheriff, 11 a.m., August 27
- Karaoke, 2:30 p.m., August 27
- Acrylic Art, 1 p.m., \$3, August 28

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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Struggling with Hair Loss? Here's the Confidence Hack You Might Not Know About

BY GINA WOELFEL

Believe it or not, your Flexible Spending Account (FSA) or Health Savings Account (HSA) could be the hidden hero in your hair loss journey.

For people dealing with hair loss, the physical and emotional challenges are only part of the story. There's also the cost! What most don't know is that, in many cases, you can use your pre-tax healthcare dollars to help cover the expense. A wig can be considered a qualified medical expense and eligible for reimbursement with pre-tax funds from an HSA or FSA under specific conditions. And if you're working with your insurance, b.LUXE is here to help make it as easy (and stress-free) as possible.

FSA & HSA: Beauty + Health in One Swipe

Think FSA and HSA funds are just for prescriptions and

copays? Think again. If you're struggling with hair loss caused by medication or a medical condition—such as alopecia, hormonal imbalance, stress, or treatments like chemotherapy or radiation—you may be able to use your HSA or FSA funds to help cover the cost of a wig.

Insurance Reimbursement

Depending on your individual insurance plan and circumstances, you may also be eligible for full or partial reimbursement from your health insurance provider. Coverage varies, but many of our clients have successfully used their benefits to help offset the cost of their wig or topper. At b.LUXE, we are uniquely qualified to assist you through the insurance reimbursement process and can provide the necessary documentation and guidance to help you maximize your benefits.

LEARN MORE



VISIT OUR HAIR-LOSS SOLUTIONS PAGE

Yes, We'll Help with the Paperwork

We know insurance can be confusing and overwhelming—but that's where your friends at b.LUXE come in. We're here to guide you through the process and help you gather the right documentation to submit your claim with confidence. Our goal is to make everything as simple and stress-free as possible.

We've helped many clients use their pre-tax dollars to cover the cost of their wigs, and while reimbursement is a great outcome, what matters most to us is seeing our clients walk out standing taller, smiling brighter, and feeling like themselves again.

It's important to note that every insurance policy is different, and b.LUXE cannot guarantee coverage. Typically, to qualify, you'll need a doctor's prescription or a Letter of Medical Necessity stating that the wig is medically required—not just for cosmetic reasons. Be sure to keep all related documentation and receipts, including those for wig maintenance, cleaning, or repairs. We always recommend checking with your provider before your appointment to understand what your plan may cover.

Why Choose b.LUXE?

At b.LUXE in Medway, Massachusetts, we're redefining what it means to support clients going through appearance-related health changes. This isn't a one-size-fits-all beauty counter—it's a private, welcoming, and judgment-free studio designed for personalized service, real conver-



“Wigs and toppers have truly been a game-changer for me. My hair had become so thin and brittle, and now I finally have the freedom and versatility to love the way my hair looks again.”

— Heather Cohen

sations, and expert care.

Our founder and in-house hair loss specialist, Heather Cohen, helps people find the right solution to feel confident again. She'll work with you one-on-one in a private, supportive setting—walking you through your options, what qualifies for reimbursement, and how the whole process works. She truly gets it—Heather isn't just a wig stylist; she's also a wig and topper wearer who's faced the challenges of hair loss herself during treatment for rheumatoid arthritis.

Clients love the calm, welcoming vibe of our private wig & topper room. We know this journey

can feel overwhelming, so we do everything we can to make your appointment feel comfortable, supportive, and empowering.

Confidence Is Priceless—But Sometimes, It's Reimbursable

We've all heard the phrase “you can't put a price on feeling confident,” but we'd like to gently challenge that: you can and should invest in your well-being.

If you're facing a recent diagnosis, going through medical treatment, or simply trying to reconnect with your sense of self, you're not alone. At b.LUXE, we understand how personal hair loss can be—and **we're here to support you every step of the way.** When you work with b.LUXE, you're getting a partner in your journey back to feeling great about the way you look.

Ready to Learn More? Let's Chat.

Scan the QR code to visit the b.LUXE Wigs & Toppers page and schedule your private consultation. Prefer to talk it through? Give us a call at (508) 321-1624—we can't wait to hear from you!

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Amber Baur Named Chair of Franklin Food Pantry Board of Directors

Franklin, MA –The Franklin Food Pantry is proud to welcome Amber Baur as the new Chair of its Board of Directors. As a dedicated volunteer and long-time supporter, Amber brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to The Pantry’s mission of combating food insecurity in the community.

Amber’s leadership has been instrumental in many of The Pantry’s initiatives. She played a pivotal role in ensuring The Pantry’s Service Enterprise Certification, a prestigious accreditation awarded by the Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement and Points of Light recognizing a nonprofit’s commitment to effectively delivering on their missions by strategically engaging volunteer time and talent. More recently, she contributed to the nonprofit’s 2024 Strategic Plan, a comprehensive effort to identify community needs and develop sustainable strategies to address them. She volunteers regularly at The Pantry, greeting and assisting clients while they shop, and serves as Captain of The Pantry’s Falmouth Road Race Team.

“I am incredibly passionate about the work being done at the Franklin Food Pantry,” said Amber. “It is an honor and a privilege to step into this leadership role and collaborate with such a dedicated team to



combat hunger and support our neighbors who are facing food insecurity.”

Originally from California, Amber holds both an undergraduate degree in Business Administration and an MBA. She and her family have been residents of Franklin since 2007, and her son attended Franklin Public Schools.

“We’re incredibly fortunate to have Amber’s expertise and mission-driven leadership on our Board,” said Tina Powderly, Executive Director, Franklin Food Pantry. “Her unwavering support for clients, staff, and volunteers is evident in everything she does, and we know that she’ll continue to advance our fight against food insecurity in the community.”

For the past year, Amber has been preparing for her new role by serving as Co-chair of the Board of Directors alongside Rachel Flum. Rachel, who chaired the Board from May

2023 to June 2024, and then served as Co-chair from July 2024 to June 2025, recently concluded her term. Board member Judi Perez also finished her term. Both Rachel and Judi’s dedication and hard work were essential to The Pantry’s achievements over the past few years, and they will be greatly missed.

About the Franklin Food Pantry, Inc.

The Franklin Food Pantry, Inc. offers supplemental food assistance, household necessities, and resource referrals to more than 1,800 individuals per year. The Pantry relies on donations and grants to purchase items and pay for daily operations, and partnerships with The Greater Boston Food Bank, Spoonfuls, and local grocery stores to achieve greater buying power and lower costs. Programs include Inside Shopping, Curbside Pickup, Emergency Food Boxes, Mobile Pantries, Home Delivery, Kids’ Snack Bags, Weekend Backpacks, Holiday Meals, and the SNAP match at Franklin Farmers Market. The Pantry is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in good standing in Massa-



State Representative Jeff Roy presented Amber Baur with the President’s Volunteer Service Award for completing over 500 volunteer hours at the Franklin Food Pantry’s 2025 Volunteer Luncheon.

chusetts, recognized by Charity Navigator as a Four-Star Charity, and awarded GuideStar’s Platinum Transparency ranking. The Pantry is located at 341 W Central St. in Franklin, MA on Route 140. Please visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org for more information.

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Franklin's A-Wreath-of-Franklin to Add Pop Up Artisanal Market this Year

Selected Artisans to Keep ALL Profits - Sign Up Now

The Town of Franklin's A Wreath of Franklin will, this year, include a a cozy indoor pop-up market inside THE BLACK BOX on Saturday, December 13th. Artists are encouraged to fill out an inquiry form to let us know what you make! The subcommittee is curating a diverse mix of vendors and wants to avoid too much overlap in offerings.

Vendors keep 100% of their profits.

More details to come soon—this is just the first step!

Visit the *Google form at <https://tinyurl.com/AWreathof-Franklin2>.

*Please note that this form asks for you to upload examples of your work; meaning you will need to sign into a google account.



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Franklin LGBTQ Alliance August Events

Rock Painting and Party Games, Thursday August 7th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Franklin TV and Radio 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin

Join us as we paint some rocks and play some more games! If the weather is nice, it will be outside on the yard. If not, it'll be inside as per usual.

Mini Golf, Saturday August 16th from 5-7 p.m. at Putts and

More 750 Concord St., Holliston

Join us as we go mini golfing! This is an outdoor mini golf course. Admission is \$12 per person. There is also a snack bar including hot dogs, cheese pizza, chips, various drinks, and ice creams.

Queer Book Club, Wednesday August 20th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Franklin TV and Radio 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin

Join us as we discuss *Transgender History: The Roots of Today's Revolution* by Susan Stryker. It is about "the increasing awareness of trans people and trans issues; the rise and fall of many different organizations and publications over the past century; the building of and challenges to medical resources and healthcare access."

Free Summer Lunches Continue

North Attleboro, MA -The Hockomock Area YMCA continues its Free Summer Lunch Program this month, 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.

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.

through August 15

- Bellingham Public Library
100 Blackstone Street, Bellingham, MA

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

through August 14

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

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

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Franklin Fallen Heroes' Remembrance Ceremonies

In honor of the 45 Franklin Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, remembrance ceremonies are held on the anniversary of their KIA date. The ceremonies are led by members of the American Legion Post 75 and VFW Post 3402 and are held at 9 a.m. on the Veterans Memorial Walkway on the Franklin Town Common. Family members, friends and members of the community are all welcome to attend. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be postponed to the following day.

August
August 15 – Jules E. Perret – WWII
August 15 – Robert R. Pirelli – Iraq
August 20 – Edward C. Dailey – WWII
August 22 – John W. Wyllie, Jr. – WWII

Franklin Cultural District Guide a Go-To Arts Resource

The town of Franklin has introduced the Franklin Cultural District Guide — your go-to resource for discovering the heart of arts, culture, and community in downtown Franklin! Inside, you'll find local landmarks, public art, creative businesses, and cultural experiences that make our district unique. Guides will be created twice a year; next up is our Fall/Winter issue!

Pick up printed copies at the Franklin Municipal building, Franklin Public Library, Senior Center and other downtown Franklin locations, or view or download the digital version at <https://www.franklinculture.org/franklin-cultural-district-springsummer-2025>.

SAFE Offering Programs for Teens through August 13

Franklin: Wednesdays the SAFE Office, 31 Hayward St., 2C, Franklin
Drop-in Cafe: Wednesdays 2–4 p.m.
A judgement free, safe space for teens to hang out this the summer and build community. Snacks, beverages provided.
Teen Mentorship: Wednesdays 2–4 p.m.
Mentorship helps teens develop a deeper understanding of themselves, expand their wellness toolbox, learn how to foster responsible decision making, and build a supportive network of peers. This program integrates proven strategies to help participants build resilience, self-confidence, and adaptability. Registration Required (https://www.safecoalitionma.org/summer-teen?blm_aid=46786561)

Resources include:

- Guest speakers, workshops, guided discussions, and activities in a safe and fun space
- Skills for managing stress, uncomfortable feelings, and navigating peer pressure
- Tools for building and maintaining healthy relationships and friendships
- Strategies for handling home and family challenges
- Support with managing schoolwork and adapting to new environments
- Development of personal responsibility and self-advocacy skills
- Supportive peer network and community connections

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Living Healthy

Back to School Eye Health and Computer Vision Syndrome

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

Don't Wait: Now Is the Time to Book Back-to-School Eye Exams

As the back-to-school season quickly approaches, families everywhere are checking off their to-do lists — backpacks, notebooks, shoes, and clothes. But amid all this preparation, there's one essential task that often gets forgotten: scheduling your child's eye exam.

Why Eye Health Should Be a Top Priority This School Year

Vision plays a central role in learning. Whether reading from the board, using a tablet, or completing homework, children rely on their eyesight throughout the school day. With digital learning becoming more prevalent, eye health matters now more than ever. A comprehensive eye exam could be the key to preventing learning struggles, missed milestones, or behavioral issues tied to undiagnosed vision problems.

Unfortunately, vision disorders often go undetected. In fact, *1 in 17 preschoolers and 1 in 4 school-age children* have a vision problem that remains untreated — problems that can cause kids to fall behind or struggle academically.

Book Now — Avoid the Rush

Late summer is one of the busiest times of the year for eye doctors. Appointments fill up fast. Booking your child's exam now ensures they're seen before the first day of school — giving them the best possible start to the academic year.

The Critical Role of Routine Eye Exams

Eye exams are more than just a quick vision check. They help identify problems early and connect families with treatment options. Regular screenings and exams also help prevent future complications, including potential permanent vision loss. Here's what every parent should know:

Five Key Steps to Protect Your Child's Vision:

- 1. Know the Value:** Understand how important vision care is to your child's development and academic performance.
- 2. Screen Early and Often:** Make sure your child receives regular vision screenings using trusted tools and trained screeners.
- 3. Refer When Needed:** If a screening reveals a concern, follow up promptly with an eye care professional.
- 4. See an Eye Doctor:** Choose an optometrist or ophthalmologist experienced in pediatric eye care for a full evaluation.
- 5. Follow Through:** Stick to treatment plans and share exam results with schools or caregivers as needed.



Watch for These Signs That Your Child Needs an Eye Exam:

- Frequent squinting or head tilting
- Holding books or devices very close
- Complaints of headaches or eye fatigue
- Trouble concentrating on reading or close-up tasks
- Sensitivity to light or frequent tearing

If you notice any of these, don't wait — book a comprehensive exam as soon as possible. And remember: *When in doubt, moms always know best.* Trust your instincts. Get a second opinion.

Digital Learning and Eye Strain: A Growing Concern

Screens are everywhere — tablets, laptops, smartboards — and kids spend hours a day using them. This puts many students at risk for Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS), also known as Digital Eye Strain.

Symptoms of CVS Include:

- Blurry or fluctuating vision
- Eye burning or stinging
- Light sensitivity
- Frequent headaches
- Neck or shoulder pain

CVS typically develops after two or more hours of continuous screen time, especially if the screen is too close, too bright, or used without proper eye correction.

Tips to Prevent Digital Eye Strain:

- **Follow the 20-20-20 Rule:** Every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds.
- **Position Screens Properly:** Keep the monitor about 20–28 inches away and slightly below eye level.
- **Reduce Glare:** Use shades, reposition screens, or apply anti-glare filters.
- **Encourage Blinking:** Remind kids to blink often and use lubricating drops if needed.
- **Use Correct Eyewear:** Make sure your child's glasses are up-to-date, especially for screen work.

Despite the buzz around blue light glasses, there's no scientific evidence they help with eye strain. The American Academy of Ophthalmology does not recommend them.

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continued from page 20

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First Universalist Society in Franklin

– August Summer Services

First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) is pleased to announce our Summer Sunday Worship Series for August 3 ~ 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.

August 3: Interdependence and Pickles

Unitarian Universalism teaches us to honor the interdependent web of all existence. This is a broad concept that ranges from individuals' roles in society to humanity's branch on the family tree of living things to the stardust in our cells. Join us as we focus on exploring specific aspects of interdependence that involve pickles. FUSF member Ann Gillette Parsley, who is studying to become a minister, will lead the service and provide the pickles! (Please note, you will not have to eat the pickles -- all are welcome at UU churches, even people who do not like pickles.)

August 10: To Bee or Not to Bee

Visualize a meadow with an infinite view of beautiful flowers that vary in color, boldness, and scent. In the distance, a grove of fruit trees offers their seasonal bounty. Imagine how each trunk, branch, leaf, pedal or stem invites Earth's creatures to thrive and live in natural harmony. Join FUSF member Deb Prudhomme to reflect on the importance of bees in the web of life and the 7th principle in Unitarian Universalism: Respect for the interdependent Web of all existence. Buzz in to reflect on our interconnectedness and for a hands-on project to support bees.

August 17: A Journey Toward Contemplative Activism

Our Unitarian Universalist Value of Transformation encourages us to "adapt to the changing world" and to "collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically." Transformation is a journey that involves continuous learning, adaptation, and self-discovery. Join us as Bobbi Gerlits, one of FUSF's lay leaders, shares details of her journey

toward contemplative activism and provides us an opportunity to experience one form of this type of activism.

August 24: Carrying Our Values Into the World

Each Sunday we sing our Unitarian Affirmation and our Farewell Song, both of which speak of our values, of being together, supporting one another, and how we aspire to be out in the world. Join Rev. Bev Waring and Director of Religious Education Sara Allegretti for the last summer service of 2025, as we explore how everyone, of all ages, can take our good news of Unitarian Universalism out into the world. During this worship service we will be blessing backpacks, computer bags, and satchels of any type. This is a service for all ages.

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

Red Cross:

Make an Immediate Difference by Giving Blood or Platelets Now

Boston,MA — The American Red Cross urges all donors to give blood or platelets now to keep the blood supply strong this summer. Type O blood products are most needed on hospital shelves – especially in the face of summer challenges that can quickly cause blood and platelet reserves to drop.

All blood types are needed, and donors who don't know their blood type can learn it after donation. Book a time to give blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities nearby

- Thursday, August 7, 2025, Franklin Elks, 1-6 p.m.
1077 Pond Street, Franklin
- Saturday, August 16, 2025, St. Mary's School, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.
1 Pleasant St., Franklin
- Thursday, August 21, 2025, Franklin Elks, 1-6 p.m.
1077 Pond Street, Franklin
- Thursday, September 4, 2025, Franklin Elks, 1-6 p.m.
1077 Pond Street, Franklin

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

For more information about the American Red Cross, please visit red-cross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow us on social media.

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Harvest Fest Sept. 20 in Bellingham

Harvest Fest is making a comeback in Bellingham.

The event, a family-focused activity, is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 20, at Bellingham's Town Common from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A rain date, if needed, is Sept. 27. The town's two Baptist Churches — First Baptist Church and Bible Baptist Church — are organizing the day's activities.

Harvest Fest began in 2017 and had a three-year run until COVID-19 forced the two churches to curtail the program. It's being revived after a five-year absence.

For the youth, there will be pony rides, an obstacle course, gymnastic and karate exhibitions, hopefully a magician and other exciting activities. A Christian concert is also scheduled.

Many vendors will be on hand to promote and sell their products. The churches are still seeking sponsors and vendors. If interested contact Pastor Baron Rodrigues at (508) 844-1843.

After expenses are paid (police detail, permits, entertainment costs, etc.), any funds remaining will go to area food pantries.

Important Factors in Choosing Your Major

“What do I want to major in?” is one of the most common and lingering questions for college-bound students. For some, the answer comes easily. But for many, it doesn’t—and that’s okay. In fact, nearly 20% of first-year students enter college as “undeclared,” making it one of the most popular choices on many campuses. On average, students change their major *three times over* the course of their college career.

The good news? With a little reflection and planning, students can make more informed decisions that align with both their interests and the ever-changing demands of the job market.

Start by Assessing Interests

Exploring your interests and passions is a productive and worthwhile investment. Tools like free personality and career assessments (try www.yourfreecareertest.com, BigFuture, or 16Personalities) can help you begin to connect your preferences to potential majors.

Talk to family members and professionals about their careers, attend career fairs, or even shadow someone in a job that sounds interesting. You don’t need to figure it all out immediately—but you do need to be curious and proactive.

Meet with Your College Academic Advisor (first month at college!)

Academic advisors are often one of the most underutilized resources on campus. They are there to help students explore majors and minors, choose the right courses, stay on track to graduate in 4 years, and even discover opportunities outside the classroom. Students should plan to meet with their advisor within their first few weeks on campus—and return regularly

as interests evolve.

Focus on Transferable Skills

In today’s rapidly shifting workforce—especially with the growing influence of AI and automation—having a major is helpful, but not everything. What’s becoming essential is the development of transferable skills: the abilities that apply across careers and industries, regardless of your major.

Employers increasingly value skills that are difficult for machines to replicate:

- Critical thinking and problem-solving
- Communication and collaboration
- Creativity and adaptability
- Emotional intelligence and ethical decision-making
- Digital literacy and data fluency

Whether you study computer science, English, psychology, or engineering, your focus should be on how your major helps you build these essential skills. Even liberal arts graduates are finding success in tech, marketing, and user experience design—not because of the specific content of their major, but because of how they learned to think, communicate, and solve problems. One of my former students majored in English but is now excelling as a manager at a high-tech AI company.

Research Career Demand

While passion matters, it’s also wise to consider job outlook and salary trends. For example, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 40% growth rate for Nurse Practitioners over the next eight years—while jobs in journalism are expected to decline

by 9%. Students can explore detailed job outlooks at www.bls.gov/ooh.

That said, remember: the jobs of tomorrow may not exist today. Many careers emerging over the next decade will be shaped by technology we’re only beginning to understand. That’s why developing adaptable, human-centered skills is so important.

Try Internships—and Learn from All of Them

Once you have a potential major in mind, internships are an excellent way to test the waters. They provide real-world experience, build your résumé, and offer networking opportunities. Most colleges offer support through their Career Services Office to help students find internships during the academic year or summer.

And if an internship *doesn’t* go well? That’s still useful information. Ruling out a career path can be just as helpful as discovering one you love. Every experience adds clarity.

Preparing to leave for college without a declared major can feel overwhelming—but it doesn’t have to be. Use your time wisely. Start exploring interests. Talk to people. Be open to the process. The key is not just choosing the “right” major—but choosing



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

experiences that help you grow into a thoughtful, adaptable, and skilled individual.

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

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Energize Franklin Explains Franklin’s Lower Electricity Rate Effective December 2025

By MARK MINNICHELLI – MEMBER, ENERGIZE FRANKLIN

In case you missed the press release issued by Franklin’s Town Administrator at the end of May, we’d like to share that Franklin’s administration has once again negotiated a very positive Community Choice Power Supply Program for Franklin residents! This new agreement with Colonial Power Group will reduce the average Franklin household’s annual electric bill by \$84, while continuing Franklin’s commitment to reducing carbon emissions. The new agreement takes the current negotiated generation rate of 15.1 cents per kWh and reduces it to 13.9 cents per kWh from December 2025 through November 2028.

And for those who would like to buy electricity which is 100%

renewable and locally generated in the northeast, further reducing local carbon emissions, there is an optional plan priced at 16.6 cents per kWh, which is 1.5 cents per kWh greater than the existing plan rate. By choosing the 100% local renewable plan, Franklin residents will be supporting local solar and wind generation while reducing harmful pollutants and carbon from our local northeast environment. Choose whichever “Community Choice” option seems best for you!

You should also be aware, and beware of, certain third-party electric retailers, some of which lure consumers using predatory practices such as low initial rates which quickly expire. The Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office has produced a series of

reports (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/competitive-electric-supply-report-2024/download>) finding that in the last eight years, individual residential customers who switched to and received their electric supply from “competitive” suppliers paid over \$577 million more collectively on their electric bills than they would have paid if they stayed with their utility company’s basic service. As detailed in a report published in 2024, customers accrued significant net losses in seven of the eight years studied. Those are losses were compared to utility Basic Service – the losses compared to municipal aggregation (Community Choice Programs) are much higher, on the order of a nickel per kWh, or about \$350 per year for the average Massachusetts consumer.

To summarize, Franklin residents have three basic choices for electric power generation:

- 1) buy electricity supply directly from the utility company,
- 2) join Franklin’s Community Choice Power Supply Program for a negotiated long-term fixed rate renewable option, or
- 3) buy electricity supplied by a 3rd party electric retailer (but really do your homework first on this option).

For more information regarding Franklin’s new Community Choice Power Supply Program, go to the www.franklinma.gov website and find “Municipal Aggregation” in the “Administrator” Department.

For more information regarding Municipal Aggregation and predatory practices by competitive electric suppliers in Massachusetts, go to www.greenenergyconsumers.org, choose “Renewable Energy”, then choose “Green Municipal Aggregation”, and open “Full 2023 Report: Green Power at Lower Cost”.

Learn more about Energize Franklin at www.energizefranklin.org



Exsultet! Auditions August 25th

Elite Women’s Chorus Draws from Local Towns

Do you love to sing? Then we would love to meet you! We are Exsultet!— a fun-loving, women’s choral group made up of eighteen musicians. We love

making music and challenging ourselves to present concerts which enlighten and entertain. Exsultet! sings a repertoire of choral literature spanning musi-

cal periods and cultures and incorporates readings and poetry into our performances.

Exsultet! has openings for Soprano 1 and 2 singers for the 2025-2026 season. Auditions will take place on Monday, August 25th at 7 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 725 Washington Street, Holliston, Mass.


- Exsultet! rehearsals for the 2025-2026 Season will be on Monday nights from 7-9 p.m. in preparation for our two concert weekends. We typically perform our Holiday Concert in early December and our Spring Concert in April/May.

- To audition, download the audition piece, *Seal Lullaby*, from our website, and prepare to rehearse and sing it with the group. At the end of rehearsal, you will be asked to sing your part in a trio or quartet. Come prepared to sing, work hard, and have fun!
- Please contact Carrie Klimeczko at carrie7975@gmail.com for more infor-



mation and to schedule a specific audition time.

- Visit www.exsultet.us to learn more about the audition process.



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August 1

Franklin Concerts on the Common, 3-5 p.m. David Rak, 5:30pm - 7:30 p.m. Electric Youth and the Boston Show Band, 8 - 10:30 p.m. MOVIE

August 4

Bellingham VFW 7272 Cruise Night, 4 p.m., 940 S. Main St., Bellingham, vfw7272.org

August 5

Rotary Club of Franklin meeting, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Rome Restaurant, 4 E. Central St., Franklin. Visit www.franklinmarotary.org to learn more, or contact Diane Padula at rotaryclubof-franklinma@gmail.com and you will be invited to join them for a dinner meeting.
Voice of Franklin Toastmasters, 7:30 p.m., Franklin TV, 23 Hutchinson St, Franklin, MA. Practice your public speaking skills in supportive environment. For Zoom link, click "contact us" at <https://voiceoffranklin.toastmastersclubs.org> get link. Please try to arrive by 7:15.

August 6

The UFO's Concert, 6 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, Presented by the Ukulele Friends Orchestra. Open to all in the community.
Franklin Public Library Summer Concert Series, 6 p.m., The Moonbellies, 118 Main St., Franklin

August 7

Franklin LGBTQ Alliance event, Rock Painting and Party Games, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Franklin TV and Radio 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin

August 8

Library Lawn Games, 2 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin
Franklin Concerts on the Common, 3-5 p.m. BUS-14, 5-7 p.m. Paradise Flyer

August 10

Skull & Roses, Grateful Dead Tribute Band for "Days in Between/Jerry Week", 7 p.m., with special guest Nate Burket, Niagara Coffee Haus, 8 Exchange St., Millis, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1467240087599>

August 11

Mr. Vinny Bubble Show, 4 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin
Bellingham VFW 7272 Cruise Night, 4 p.m., 940 S. Main St., Bellingham, vfw7272.org

August 13

Ed Popielarczyk Magic Show, 10:30 a.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin
Franklin Public Library Summer Concert Series, 6 p.m., 118 Main St., Franklin, Jamie Barrett

August 15

Rainforest Reptiles, 1 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin
Franklin Concerts on the Common, 3-5 p.m. Matt Zajac, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Pub Kings, 8 - 10:30 p.m. MOVIE

August 16

Music and Comedy of Don White, 3 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin
Franklin LGBTQ Alliance event, Mini Golf, 5-7 p.m., Putts and More, 750 Concord St., Holliston, \$12 pp.

August 17

Gilly's House Summerfest FREE Summerfest Family Fun Sober Event, 12-4 p.m., Wrentham Developmental Center Fairgrounds, located at 131 Emerald Street, Wrentham

August 18

Mobile Mini Golf, 3-6 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Children under the 14 MUST be accompanied by an adult.
Bellingham VFW 7272 Cruise Night, 4 p.m., 940 S. Main St., Bellingham, vfw7272.org

August 19

Rotary Club of Franklin meeting, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Rome Restaurant, 4 E. Central St., Franklin. Visit www.franklinmarotary.org to learn more, or contact Diane Padula at rotaryclubof-franklinma@gmail.com and you will be invited to join them for a dinner meeting.
Voice of Franklin Toastmasters, 7:30 p.m., Franklin TV, 23 Hutchinson St, Franklin, MA. Practice your public speaking skills in supportive environment. For Zoom link, click "contact us" at <https://voiceoffranklin.toastmastersclubs.org> get link. Please try to arrive by 7:15.

August 20

Franklin LGBTQ Alliance event, Queer Book Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Franklin TV and Radio 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, book: *Transgender History: The Roots of Today's Revolution* by Susan Stryker.
Franklin Public Library Summer Concert Series, 6 p.m., 118 Main St., Franklin, Sharks Come a Cruisin'

August 21

Maker Moment: Crochet Cares Away, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, all supplies provided.

August 22

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

August 25

Bellingham VFW 7272 Cruise Night, 4 p.m., 940 S. Main St., Bellingham, vfw7272.org

August 27

First day of school, BFCCPS, Norfolk Aggie
Community Song Circle, 6:45 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, with local musician Jamie Barrett, geared to adults and older teens

August 28

JUNTO Non-Fiction Book Club, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, The Art Thief, by Michael Finkel

August 30

Summer Reading Wrap-Up Celebration, 10:30 a.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

August 31

International Overdose Awareness Day vigil, 5-6 p.m., hosted by SAFE Coalition, Franklin Town Common, www.safecoalitionma.org, www.overdoseday.com

September 2

First day of school FPS grades 1-12 & Tri-County

September 27

SAVE the DATE, Franklin Harvest Festival, 12-5 p.m., presented by Franklin Downtown Partnership, www.franklin-downtownpartnership.org

No experience necessary. We'll be using a 5mm hook if you want to bring your own!

The Spotlight Shines Brightly on Performing Arts at Dean College

As the curtain rises on a new academic year, Dean College's performing arts programs are stepping into the spotlight with renewed energy, bold ambition, and a lineup that promises to captivate audiences across the region.

Long respected for its theatre and dance training, Dean continues to offer students a strong foundation in performance while engaging the local community through a diverse schedule of productions. This year also marks a leadership milestone with the appointment of Stephen Ursprung as dean of the Joan Phelps Palladino School of Dance and the School of the Arts. A longtime faculty member, Ursprung brings to the role a deep commitment to student-centered learning, professional preparation, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

The 2025-2026 season includes a compelling mix of plays, musicals, and dance performances. Fall highlights include *The Wolves*, *Cabaret*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *The Prom*, alongside original choreography and student showcases. Season ticket packages will be available August 4 at dean.edu/box-office, with individual tickets available beginning September 4.

Performance at Dean is rooted in community. Students learn by doing—often supporting one another across productions and programs—and they benefit from strong ties to local partners like the Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC). Through these partnerships, students can earn credit while gaining real-world experience both on stage and behind the scenes.

“What makes the performing arts at Dean truly special is the way our students, faculty, and staff come together to create work that is bold and deeply meaningful,” says Ursprung. “Our students aren’t just learning—they’re creating, collaborating, and building relationships that connect them to the wider arts community. We’re proud to welcome our neighbors to campus for another season of thoughtful and ambitious work.”

With a strong artistic vision, a dedicated faculty, and a community of emerging artists, Dean College’s performing arts programs continue to offer high-quality productions and an exceptional training ground for the next generation of performers and creators.

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Rotary Club to Lion’s Heart Youth - Politeness is Power

Franklin, MA – Who knew that good manners could be this cool? The Rotary Club of Franklin MA certainly did.

In collaboration with Julie Vendetti-Lomberto and Jenifer (Vendetti) Ellis of Vendetti Motors, whose extensive background in military protocol and education brought a unique perspective, the Rotary Club delivered an etiquette workshop for



Lee-Ann Barkhouse teaches etiquette to members of Franklin’s Lion’s Heart group in an event sponsored by Rotary Club of Franklin MA in collaboration with Julie Vendetti-Lomberto and Jenifer (Vendetti) Ellis of Vendetti Motors.

almost 50 teens from the Lion’s Heart service organization.

“Rotary has worked closely with Lion’s Heart over the past couple of years, and it was our way to give back to them and provide a service to the kids. You could say that together, we’re on a quest to equip these teens with the ultimate social superpower: etiquette!” said Rotary Co-President Diane Padula, highlighting the Club’s latest community service initiative.

During the workshop, students were given tools for personal and professional success. From the importance of a first impression (you only get seven seconds!) to the art of a firm handshake, eye contact, proper table settings, napkin etiquette, and even soup-eating techniques, the course covered essential skills often overlooked in traditional education. Participants also practiced writing thoughtful thank-you notes, reinforcing the values of gratitude and respect.

As a special recognition, each attendee received a certificate of completion along with a personalized copy of The Little Book of Etiquette with a special inscription from the Rotary.

With community support from our valued sponsors and passionate leadership, the Rotary Club of Franklin continues to make a meaningful impact—one handshake at a time.

Thanks to Yanks Supports Clear Path for Veterans

Pictured L-R is William Johnston of Clear Path for Veterans New England (www.clearpathne.org), a nonprofit that offers programs and services that empowers veterans, and Michael Shain of Thanks To Yanks, a local charity that serves those who serve our nation. Due to the generosity of others, Thanks To Yanks was able to donate Girl Scout cookies to Clear Path. These cookies will be given to local veterans. For more information on Thanks To Yanks, please like them on Facebook.



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Sports

Franklin American Legion a Good Fit for FHS Rising Senior Sullivan

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Franklin junior Jack Sullivan was coming off an impressive high school career with the Panthers where the shortstop was named to the Hockomock League All-Star team while batting .358 with a .473 on base percentage. Sullivan had 29 hits (7 doubles and 2 triples) while knocking in 13 runs and scoring 17 himself.

The lifetime baseball player was looking to improve his game, and one of his assistant coaches at FHS was also the Franklin American Legion Coach. He

At the time of this writing, the Franklin shortstop was batting .400 with three doubles, three RBI, three stolen bases and two runs scored in his first four legion games. It is right where the outgoing junior figured he'd be after leaving FHA and coming to the legion team.

"This is his first year with us, and I knew that he'd fit right in," Franklin American Legion Coach Tyler Pasquarosa said. "He was the MVP of the junior select All-Stars. Defensively, he has made some fantastic plays at shortstop that have left the coaching staff in awe."



Rising FHS senior and Panthers shortstop Jack Sullivan found value in joining the American Legion team. He hopes to see a State Championship in his final year at Franklin High.

Photos used courtesy of Jack Sullivan.

4-1 before going on to upset the number five seed Xaverian in the second round 5-3. Sullivan and company would then get edged out 2-1 by neighboring rival King Philip in a game that Sullivan and his teammates found discouraging, as it was a very winnable game that they let slip through their hands.

"We were only able to manage just one run; it was very frustrating," Sullivan said. "We return a lot of starters from this year's team and will be looking to flush that game and move on. Next year, we want to make a deeper run through the tourna-

ment."

As a first-year starter for the Panthers, Sullivan found that his hard work paid off as he was named to the Hockomock All-Star team for the first time. Being named to the team, the incoming senior is hoping that he can continue to improve upon his play in the field come next season to help him get into college.

"It was a moment of realization," Sullivan said. "College baseball is definitely something on the table. I am going to college showcases this summer and taking it one day at a time."

Sullivan is hoping that the opportunity comes his way to play the sport he's been playing for 13-some-odd years on the next level. He is currently looking and talking to coaches at a handful of colleges, all in the Northeast, where he is hoping to continue to play baseball. However, before he can get to college, he still has one final year in high school and one season with his Panther teammates on the diamond where they are hoping to bring a State Championship home.



asked the shortstop to come out for the team. Sullivan liked the Franklin first-base coach and what he stood for, so he decided to take him up on the offer.

"Legion games are more competitive and good for my career," Sullivan said. "I took the opportunity to develop my game more as a player, and that should help me with the ability to play college ball."

Playing for Franklin High School, which tends to schedule quality opponents, Sullivan found that the competition was pretty similar on the American Legion level.

"The biggest difference between the two was that Legion has less pressure," he said. "In high school you're playing hard consistently while focusing on winning a State Championship for your school. Legion is laid back and much more fun based."

Growing up, Sullivan found himself in many sports but always seemed to come back to baseball as his favorite. Originally playing for the Franklin Bulldogs, an AAU team, the Franklin resident patrolled centerfield, but it was during an all-star season in which his coach decided to try him out at shortstop.

"It was totally different from what I was used to in the outfield, but I found that I really enjoyed the position. As an athletic kid, I understand that the coach was trying to help the team," he said. "The infield always seems to be active; you're not just waiting around for something to happen, and that was ok with me."

As the Panthers' shortstop, Sullivan helped his team into the Division 1 State Tournament where, as the number 12 seed, Franklin would defeat Durfee



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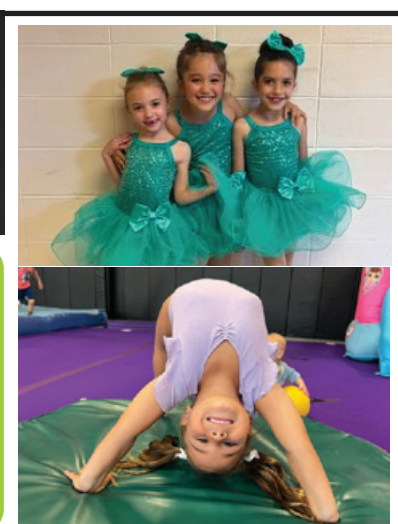
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Stephen Ursprung Named Dean of Schools of Dance & The Arts at Dean College

Franklin, MA – Dean College is pleased to announce the appointment of Stephen Ursprung as the new dean of the Joan Phelps Palladino School of Dance and the School of the Arts. His appointment follows a national search and is effective immediately.

Ursprung has been a member of the Dean College faculty since 2016 and most recently served as interim assistant dean. In this role, he led key curricular enhancements, deepened student engagement, and fostered cross-disciplinary partnerships

to strengthen the College’s nationally recognized dance and theatre programs.

As a seasoned educator and performer, Ursprung brings to his work a dynamic blend of artistic vision, academic leadership, and a deep commitment to student-centered education. He is a long-time champion of innovation in the performing arts and interdisciplinary arts education.

“I am honored to step into this role as we look to the future of performing arts education at Dean College, where

innovation, inclusivity, and artistic excellence guide all that we do,” said Ursprung. “We have an incredible opportunity to reimagine how we train, inspire, and engage the next generation of artists. I look forward to supporting and guiding our students toward successful careers.”

In addition to his work as dean, Ursprung has chaired the College’s curriculum committee, served on the liberal arts academic program review team, and mentors the Dean College chapter of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA). His influence also extends nationally, as the co-chair of *DANCE 2050*, an initiative of the National Dance Education Organization that envisions the future of dance education in America.

Ursprung remains an active artist as a member of SAG-AFTRA and the Actors’ Equity As-



sociation, with credited roles in the movies *Hocus Pocus 2* and *Little Women*, recent performances in *La Cage Aux Folles* and *Oklahoma!* at Trinity Repertory Company, and choreographing productions for Bridge Repertory Theatre of Boston. Ursprung also completed a research fellowship at Jacob’s Pillow in 2024, one of the most prestigious institutions in American Modern Dance. As a performer and educator, he continues his involvement in *Dancing Legacy*, the Nilsprung Dance Project, and *Reject Dance Theatre*.

“Stephen’s expertise, experience, and deep commitment to student-centered learning make him the ideal choice to guide our performing arts schools into their next chapters,” said Dr. Scott Sibley, Provost. “We are excited for the vision and momentum he brings to this role.”

Ursprung holds a B.A. in Economics and Italian Studies from Brown University and an M.F.A. in Dance from Smith College.



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Register O'Donnell Promotes Foreclosure Assistance Programs

Dedham MA – Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell today reminded Norfolk County homeowners who are struggling to pay their mortgage or facing foreclosure that there are consumer assistance programs available to help them out.

A statistical review of the first six months of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024 shows a decrease in foreclosures and notices to foreclose, the first step in the process. In the first half of 2025, a total of 29 foreclosures were recorded, down 38% from 2024, and 143 notices to foreclose were recorded, down 29% from last year.

"There is no question that this reduction in the number of foreclosures and notices to foreclose is good news," Register O'Donnell continued, "With that said, we realize that foreclosure activity has a human face associated with it, and there are still a number of our neighbors who have lost their homes, and even more are dangerously close to losing their homes."

To help those facing issues paying their mortgage, the Registry of Deeds has partnered with upstanding non-profit agencies by promoting their services when it comes to mortgage modification and foreclosure programs.

NeighborWorks Housing Solutions (NHS) offers a multitude of services with the aim of helping homeowners maintain safe, affordable, high-quality housing and grow their financial skills. NHS' services include rental assistance, emergency financial help, shelter and homelessness prevention, first-time homebuyer education and counseling, financial coaching, foreclosure prevention, affordable residential and small business loans, and the construction and management of high-quality rental housing across Southern Massachusetts.

Since 1965, Quincy Community Action (QCAP) has been providing anti-poverty services in the Greater Quincy region. This includes basic needs such as food and nutrition, fuel assistance, affordable housing, quality early education and care, adult education and workforce development, and financial education. QCAP helps more than 100 communities, and more than 28,000 individuals benefit from QCAP services annually.

Homeowners can contact Quincy Community Action Programs at (617) 479-8181 x-376 or NeighborWorks Housing Solutions at (617) 770-2227. Another option available is to contact the Massachusetts Attorney General's Consumer Advocacy and Response Division (CARD) at (617) 727-8400.

"All of these agencies provide a range of assistance, from helping with the mortgage modification process to providing legal services to offering credit counseling," stated Register O'Donnell. "If you are having difficulty paying your monthly mortgage, please consider contacting one of these non-profit agencies for help and guidance."

For more information on these and other support options, go to the Registry's website at www.norfolkdeeds.org, click on the Support tab, and then click on the subtab that mentions Foreclosure Assistance.

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SAFE to Commemorates Overdose Awareness Day with Community Vigil in Franklin



WHAT: Public vigil

DATE: Sunday, August 31st

TIME: 5-6 p.m.

PLACE: Franklin Town Common

Franklin, Mass.—International Overdose Awareness Day (www.overdoseday.com) will be marked this year in Franklin with a community vigil from 5–6 p.m. on August 31 at Franklin Town Common. Additionally, SAFE will work with community members to plant memorial flag displays in Franklin, Wrentham, Norfolk, and Medway. This annual event is intended to end overdose, remember those who have died, and acknowledge the grief of those left behind.

The vigil is hosted by SAFE Coalition (www.safecoalitionma.org) a local nonprofit committed to inclusive and judgement-free support for substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery, and family support.

Franklin's IOAD vigil is one of several events SAFE is hosting across southeastern Massachusetts. "Each year, we have the privilege to come together as a community and remember those we've lost to the disease of addiction," said Jen Levine, CEO and co-founder of SAFE. "It's important to place the flags and hold these vigils because they create a space to meet, talk, and be with others who have felt similar losses."

The threat of overdose is both serious and urgent. Massachusetts experienced 1,763 fatal overdoses in 2024, and more than 80,391 people died from overdose nationwide. Each loss sends ripples of grief through families, schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

This year, thousands of communities worldwide will partici-



pate in IOAD, a time to honor those who have died or suffered due to overdose. Established in 2001, IOAD seeks to reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths, remember those who died of overdose, and create change that reduces the harms associated with drug use.

The theme of IOAD 2025 is "One Big Family, Driven by Hope." It reflects the idea that while overdose fractures families and communities, it also reveals how deeply connected we are—and how powerful we can be when we show up for one another. This year, we honor those we've lost by standing together in hope, compassion, and action. Participate in the global day of acknowledgment using the hashtags #OneBigFamily #DrivenByHope #IOAD2025 #EndOverdose.



Family members remember lost loved ones at last year's vigil.
 Photo used courtesy of the SAFE Coalition.

With support groups, educational courses, events, training, support services and more, SAFE provides a whole-person, whole-family, whole-community approach to addiction, prevention, and recovery.

SAFE is seeking volunteers to help plant and remove memorial flags for IOAD. Visit <https://www.safecoalitionma.org/ioad> to sign up and learn more.

Gilly's House to Host Free Summerfest Celebration

Gilly's House invites the public to its annual FREE Summerfest Family Fun Sober Event, taking place on Sunday, August 17 from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Wren-

tham Developmental Center Fairgrounds, located at 131 Emerald Street, Wrentham.

The annual celebration brings the community together to

honor recovery, connection, and healthy fun in a safe, substance-free environment. Admission is completely free, and all food and activities are provided at no cost, thanks to the generosity of sponsors and community partners.

The afternoon will feature:

- Live music and entertainment from MC Michael Petit and DJ Jeff Hall
- A wide variety of family-friendly activities, including a circus workshop, water slide, bouncy house, petting zoo, dunk tank, dragon foam, and arts & crafts

- Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips & drinks (sponsored by the Norfolk Lions Club)
- A restaurant cook-off featuring many local restaurants
- A special guest appearance by Pat the Patriot, mascot of the New England Patriots
- Recovery resources and local vendors on site

Gilly's House, a sober recovery home for men located in Wrentham, was founded by David and Barbara Gillmeister in memory of their son, Steven, known as "Gilly" by his friends.

The nonprofit's mission is to provide a structured sober environment along with life-skills development to help residents reintegrate successfully into the community.

As a nonprofit sober home and community resource, Gilly's House relies on the support of donors and sponsors to make Summerfest a continued success. To help keep the event free for all, visit www.gillyshouse.com for sponsorship opportunities.

For questions or to get involved, please contact Maureen at maureen@gillyshouse.com.



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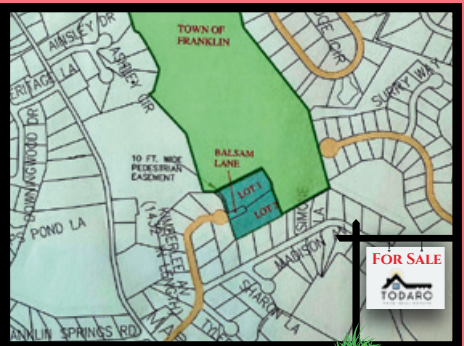
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