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Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

August 1, 2025

Federated Church's New Pastor Has Deep Local Roots



The Reverend Dan Woodman is the settled pastor of the Federated Church.

BY GRACE ALLEN

For the Reverend Dan Woodman, becoming a pastor wasn't part of a lifelong plan. Instead, it was a calling that came later, after a successful business career, after raising a family, and after years spent as a faithful churchgoer and lay leader. But now, as the newly installed settled pastor of Norfolk's Federated Church, he feels like he's returned to where he was always meant to be.

Though Woodman originally hails from Stamford, Connecticut, both he and his wife, Sue, from Hancock, NY, have deep and unexpected ties to the Norfolk-Medfield area. When

101-Year-Old Norfolk Resident Presented with Boston Post Cane

BY GRACE ALLEN

Evelyn "Deby" Readel Preston, a long-time Norfolk resident, was honored with the Boston Post Cane in a special presentation on July 14 at the Norfolk Senior Center. The cane is awarded to the town's oldest resident and represents a special New England tradition dating back more than a century. Preston is 101 years old.

Preston was awarded the cane by Bill Crane, the president of the Friends of the Norfolk Council on Aging. Anita Mecklenburg, the chairperson of the Select Board, read aloud a history of the Boston Post Cane. Karen Edwards, the director of the Norfolk Council on Aging, presented a proclamation from the Town of Norfolk recognizing July 14, 2025, as

Deby Readel Preston Day.

Friends and relatives, including several great-grandchildren, also attended the presentation, which was held before the Senior Center's weekly Bingo game. Preston is a regular participant.

When asked about the key to her longevity, Preston replied, "Just keep busy." She likes to crochet, and is working on her 190th afghan, which she says she will donate to Milford Regional Medical Center. She has also knitted 1,600 hats to date, donating those to Boston hospitals.

Deby was born on April 12, 1924. She and her husband Harold raised a son and two daughters in Norfolk, and for over two

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PASTOR

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the couple moved to Medfield in 1981, they bought a home near the Ralph Wheelock School. It wasn't until later that they learned that Sue's ancestor was Ralph Wheelock, who founded Medfield in 1630.

On Woodman's side, the connections are just as unexpected and meaningful. His father's family is from Franklin, where Woodman completed his student ministry at Franklin Federated Church, just around the corner from the house his father grew up in. He discovered that his grandfather married his Medfield-born grandmother in 1918 at the Baptist Church in Norfolk, now the Grange Hall, just a mile from Woodman's current home at Pin Oaks. Woodman also learned, after some research, that his great-great grandparents are buried in the Norfolk Cemetery.

These discoveries have added a profound personal dimension to his spiritual calling and connection with the community.



With his deep local roots, Dan Woodman is at home in Norfolk's Federated Church.

"I feel like I've come home," he said.

Woodman's spiritual journey began in the 1990s when he trained as a Stephen Minister, a lay caregiver offering one-on-one support to individuals in crisis. Later, he served as a chaplain at Brigham and Women's Hospital. He loved the work, but it wasn't until he accepted a role as associate pastor in Leominster that he realized how rewarding parish ministry could be.

"In chaplaincy, you might connect with someone for a day or a week," he said. "But in a church setting, those con-

nections last years. I found that pretty fulfilling."

He started seminary out of curiosity in 2008, attending part-time. "I wasn't sure if I wanted to go on this path, but I stuck my toe in the water and the more I was there, the more I started to swim," he said.

Before the ministry, Woodman was best known in the region as the owner of the London Harness retail chain. He started with one store in Wellesley in 1981 and eventually acquired the entire chain, including the historic downtown Boston shop.

But like many small business owners, Woodman was hit hard by the 2008 financial crisis and had to make the difficult decision to downsize. He returned to the original Wellesley store, which he later sold to two long-time employees—a husband and wife who met and married while working there.

When asked if his experiences as a business owner give him a different perspective as a minister, Woodman says it's a matter of connecting with people and ministering to whatever it is they need.

"As my wife puts it, 'My husband used to sell luggage. Now he sells God,'" he joked.

Woodman, 75, sees his role at the Federated Church as more than leading Sunday worship. "I assess my position in three ways," he explained. "I'm their spiritual leader, but I am also their cheerleader, supporting all the different initiatives they undertake. And I am the public face of the church in the community, kind of their public relations."

He's especially proud of the church's commitment to service, both locally and globally, and the active Christian education program. Like many churches, the Federated Church faces challenges in attracting younger generations. But Woodman sees signs of growth in Norfolk.

He says his preaching style reflects his desire to keep worship relevant and engaging.

"My goal is to connect, to make the Bible relevant in to-

day's world. I don't think it's that hard to do, because there are consistent values and challenges that transcend history. It's my job to share a perspective that resonates."

If Rev. Woodman had to choose one passage of scripture that inspires him, it would be the parable of the Good Samaritan.

"It's about reaching out to those who may be different from you," he reflected. "We all have the same light of God within us, so it's my duty to honor that light in every person I meet."

A lifelong music lover, Woodman brings his passion for singing into his pastoral work. He founded Norfolk Note-able Neighbors, an a cappella group composed of residents from Pin Oaks, River's Edge, and the broader community. The group has performed at church services, town events, and the Senior Center.

In his downtime, Woodman enjoys walking his dog, spending time outdoors, and being with his daughters and grandchildren, who live nearby in Medfield and West Newton.

Contemplating on the road that led him to the pulpit in Norfolk, Rev. Woodman remains grounded in both humility and purpose. "No, I don't consider it overwhelming," he said when asked about the weight of leading a congregation. "I consider it a very special privilege."

And perhaps also a calling rooted in faith, service, and deep connection to the community he now shepherds.

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RESIDENT

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decades she served as a cook and baker in the cafeterias at King Philip High School and King Philip Middle School. Deby enjoyed gardening for many years, as well as traveling with her husband.

The Boston Post Cane tradition began in 1909, when Edwin A. Grozier, publisher of the Boston Post newspaper, sent 700 ebony canes with 14-karat gold heads to towns across New England. Selectmen were instructed to present the cane to the oldest living resident of each town as a gesture of respect. The tradition stipulates that the canes belong to the towns and were to be handed down continuously to the oldest residents.

Former Norfolk Council on Aging Director Norma Shruhan, who served in the role from 1988-2016, determined after some research that Norfolk had never received a Boston Post Cane. So Shruhan had a replica made and started the tradition in town. Helen Rokicki, age 100, received the first cane in 2014.

The cane is kept in its display case at the Senior Center and the



Preston is a regular at the Senior Center's weekly Bingo games.



Bill Crane, the president of the Friends of the Norfolk Council on Aging, presented the Boston Post Cane to Deby Preston on July 14.

recipient is presented with a lapel pin, a small honorary replica of the cane. Preston's name was added to a special plaque of residents who have been awarded the cane. The plaque is also on display at the Senior Center.

Wrentham Commemorates Overdose Awareness Day with Community Vigil

International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) will be marked this year in Wrentham with a community vigil on August 31 from 5 to 6 p.m. at Wrentham Town Common. 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, a local nonprofit committed to inclusive and judgment-free support for substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery, and family support.

In addition to the vigil, SAFE will work with community members to plant memorial flag displays in Franklin, Wrentham, Norfolk, and Medway.

Wrentham'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 participate 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.

With support groups, educational courses, events, train-

ing, 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/iodad> to sign up and learn more.

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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, gymnastics 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.

Guest Column

Weather-related Disasters

By G. GREGORY TOOKER

Mounting carnage and damage driven by extraordinary weather events such as have occurred in North Carolina and recently in Texas and "tornado alley" demonstrate the growing need for disaster preparedness at all levels of government. Any voluntary cutbacks of resources dedicated to emergency response in answer to such is evidence of professional malfeasance. Furthermore, such resources must be allocated without preference, devoid of any consideration for geographical location or the politics of a particular population.

Despite continued denial in some sectors of the reality of cli-

mate change, weather-related disasters continue to mount in both frequency and severity. These will continue to grow in number, regardless of how vigorously the deniers voice their uninformed opinions. It behooves every community and family to assume increased responsibility and develop an emergency response plan addressing the exposures to which their loved ones and property may be exposed.

Here in Massachusetts, state and local government appear better equipped to assist citizens in need of preparation as well as respond to actual emergencies. From a national perspective, the capability of FEMA to respond

effectively seems questionable, given the downsizing of that resource. This applies not only to post-event response but also to nationally managed alert systems geared to timely and accurate forecasting of weather-associated events.

Bottom line, we are facing a future more challenging than we have known in the past. Given this trend and the fact that we will be expected to rely more and more on our own capabilities to respond to weather-related disasters, we should all evaluate our preparedness without delay.

Opinions expressed in the Guest Column do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

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 Wrentham 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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Wrentham's Historic Houses

A New Exhibit at the Old Fiske Museum

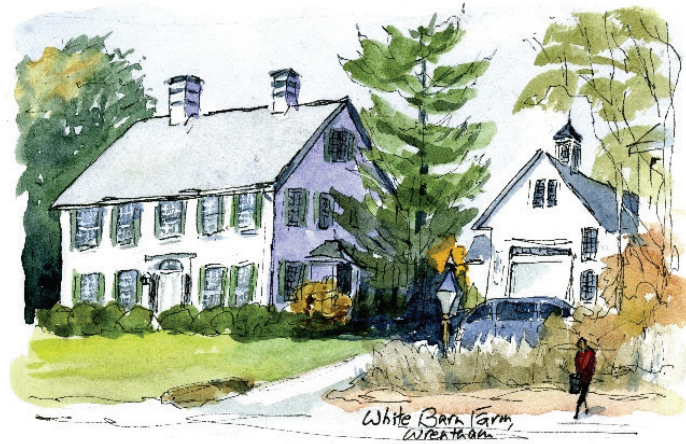
"Built To Last, Stories To Tell," a new exhibit at the Old Fiske Museum, celebrates the history of some of Wrentham's historic houses and the generations of people who called them home.

Minutemen, noblemen, a celebrated modern dancer, the first female UPenn Ph.D., an early wind power proponent, the author of the first text on military surgery, a multimedia professional artist, a contending prizefighter, and one of the

first military chaplains.... they've all called Wrentham home, and the houses they lived in are still standing today. Visit the Old Fiske Museum and learn the stories told by some of Wrentham's historic buildings.

The exhibit is open every Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. through December. The Old Fiske Museum is located at 55 East Street, Wrentham. Admission is free.

Funding for this project was generously provided by the Wrentham Cultural Council



House sketches courtesy of artist Monica Foulkes.



Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary War Monument Ceremony at KP High

By JOE STEWART

On August 9 at 1 p.m. at the King Philip Regional High School (KPRHS), the Wrentham Historical Commission will have a ceremony unveiling a monument to commemorate the French Army camping in Wrentham following its decisive victory over the British Army at Yorktown, Pennsylvania. The October 1781 battle was the culminating battle of our Revolutionary War. The public is invited, and parking is available at the KPRHS.

Town Historian Greg Stahl, a lifelong resident of Wrentham and longtime member of the Historical Commission, worked with the Commission for years to secure funding for the monument and recognition of Wrentham's place on the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail. The trail encompasses over 680 miles of land and water trails through Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

According to the National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association (W3R, <https://w3r-us.org/>), following the British defeat at Yorktown in October 1781, the French army under General Jean-Baptiste de Rochambeau did not immediately return to France. For the remainder of 1781 and much of 1782, the French army remained in the United States largely to serve as a deterrent - their continued presence in Virginia discouraged fur-



French Army Camp at Wrentham from Return of the French Army from Virginia to Boston, July - December, 1782; Louis-Alexandre Berthier Collection, Princeton University Library, https://findingaids.princeton.edu/catalog/C0022_c0146.

ther British raids and maintained pressure on the remaining British-occupied cities such as New York, Charleston, and Savannah.

By the spring of 1782, peace negotiations were underway in Paris and by July, Rochambeau began the march from Virginia to Boston, the deep-water port from which his army had deployed.

On December 1, the French army left their encampment in North Providence and marched

16 miles to its next camp in Wrentham. Four French infantry regiments, the Bourbonnois, Soissonnois, Saintonge and Royal Deux-Ponts Regiments, and an artillery regiment, the Auxonne, camped on a site at the KPRHS, then known as Cobb's Field.

On December 2, the French army left Wrentham and marched to Dedham where they camped until December 4 before marching onward to Boston. By

December 7 all but the officers were aboard French ships and on December 23 the ships left Boston, bound for the Caribbean in preparation for an attack on British-held Jamaica. The attack never took place as peace negotiations were successful and Rochambeau's army returned to France by June 1784.

For more information about the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail, visit nps.gov and search for Washington-Rochambeau.



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Flood-Ready Pets: How to Prepare for Weather-Related Emergencies

Following the recent and devastating floods in Texas and in light of recent flash flood warning across the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, Best Friends Animal Society, a leading national animal welfare organization working to end the killing of cats and dogs in America's shelters, is urging people to take proactive steps to ensure the safety and well-being of their pets during weather-related emergencies. Flash flooding can happen quickly, so advanced preparations can mean the difference between life and death for pets.

"Many pets become separated from their families during severe weather evacuations due to lack of preparation—don't let yours be one of them," said Sharon Hawa, Senior Manager of Emergency Services, Best Friends Animal Society. "For those living in flood-prone areas, now is the time to make plans for

your pet to ensure their protection and care in the event you need to evacuate."

From packing a pet emergency kit to identifying emergency shelters and caregivers, Best Friends offers the following guidance, as well as five essential safety tips to ensure people and their pets are flood-ready:

Prepare Your Pet:

Should separation occur during an evacuation or other emergency, safeguard your pet's health and chance for a swift return by:

- Microchipping your pet and making sure the registration is up to date with your current phone number and address.
- Making sure your pet's vaccines are up-to-date to protect them from illness and injury, as well as ensure they can be accepted into an

evacuation shelter or boarding facility if needed.

Pack a Go Bag for You and Your Pet(s)

Evacuations can happen quickly, so it's vital to be ready to leave at a moment's notice. A pet emergency "go bag" should include:

- Printed vaccination records and a week's worth of prescriptions, medications and a list of medical needs, dosages and vet contact info. It's also a good idea to store this information in a secure cloud storage service or on a backup device to ensure access even if phones or paper documents are lost or damaged.
- A 3-to-5-day supply of wet and/or dry pet food and water



- Collapsible water bowl
- Toys, treats, and a familiar item like a worn sweater of their humans to reduce stress
- Leash, collar with ID tag/microchip, and a labeled crate
- Waste bags, blanket, towels, and a small litter box with litter for cats
- Bowl, can opener, and spoon

Take and Store Photos of Your Pets on Your Phone and Computer Hard Drive:

Photos are key to reuniting with a lost pet:

- Take a clear photo of your pet alone, and one of you with your pet
- Store them on your phone and print copies in case of device failure or power loss

SOUR GRAPES by Tim Jones

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 - Muzzle, emergency blanket, sling for larger dogs, and flashlight

Designate Pet Caregivers and Boarding Options

Pets should never be left alone at home or tied- up outside during a storm. In the event people are displaced or unable to care for their pet, it's important to:

- Identify trusted caregivers and provide them with your pet's daily routine and emergency supplies
- Research pet-friendly lodging within a 5-50-mile radius. If caregivers are unavailable, know your nearest pet-friendly evacuation shelters and boarding facilities

"Pets are family, and they depend on us for their safety," said Hawa. "Preparing now can prevent heartbreak later. Take the time to build an emergency kit, plan for care, and ensure your pet's identification is up to date."

For more detailed information on preparing your pet for a weather-related emergency, visit <https://bestfriends.org>.

Best Friends Animal Society is a leading animal welfare organization dedicated to saving the lives of dogs and cats in America's shelters and making the entire country no-kill. Founded in 1984, Best Friends runs lifesaving facilities and programs nationwide in partnership with more than 5,000 shelters and rescue organizations. From our headquarters in Kanab, Utah, we also operate the nation's largest no-kill animal sanctuary — a destination that brings our mission to life for thousands of visitors each year. We maintain the most comprehensive animal sheltering data in the country and make it accessible to the public — empowering communities with critical insights into the needs of their local shelters and how they can help. We believe every dog and cat deserves a home. And we believe that, by working together, we can Save Them All®.

Enjoying the Season’s Best at Norfolk’s Farmers Market

August 3 to 9 is National Farmers Market Week

By Grace Allen

National Farmers Market Week, held annually during the first full week of August, celebrates more than just fresh produce. It also highlights the essential role that farmers markets play in the American food landscape. From boosting local economies to improving food access and supporting sustainable agriculture, farmers markets offer benefits far beyond the bounty on display.

In Norfolk, the weekly Farmers Market is held every Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m. on Town Hill. Operating since 2016, the market provides a direct connection between producers and consumers.

“We have stayed true to our goal of being a grassroots market that serves the local community,” said Zach Ziegler, the market’s coordinator and founder. “It continues to provide an outlet for local farmers, producers, artists, and entrepreneurs to offer fresh agricultural products and locally made goods.”

Unlike grocery stores, where goods often travel thousands of miles, farmers markets offer food harvested just hours before it’s sold. Shoppers can find peak-season fruits and vegetables, grass-fed meats, eggs, honey, baked goods, and handmade products—all while learning exactly where their food comes from.

“The market has definitely increased awareness and education about local agriculture and local businesses, while creating a fun and welcoming gathering

space for the community each week,” Ziegler said. His farm, Ziegler’s Market Garden, sells organically grown vegetables.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, farmers markets stimulate local economies by keeping dollars within the community. Every dollar spent at a farmers market generates twice as much economic activity as money spent at a conventional grocery store.

Beyond commerce, farmers markets foster a sense of place. They bring together neighbors, promote cultural exchange, and often serve as platforms for local musicians, nonprofits, and health initiatives. New this year, the Norfolk Farmers Market is offering free booth space to local non-profits and community organizations. Ziegler notes it’s a great opportunity for groups to raise awareness about their work.



Photos courtesy Norfolk Farmers Market.

Whether you’re picking up tomatoes for tonight’s dinner or shaking hands with the person who grew your carrots, supporters say participating in your local farmers market is a simple, powerful way to invest in your community and your health.

For more information about the Norfolk Farmers Market, follow them on Facebook or In-

stagram. To sign up to be a vendor, perform at the market, or for a free community table, visit www.norfolkMAfarmersmarket.com.

Ziegler expressed his gratitude to the many volunteers that work the market, as well as the Town of Norfolk, the Norfolk DPW, and the Norfolk Public Library for their support.

Norfolk’s farmers market has between 10 and 15 vendors each week, including Fairmount Fruit Farm, Elmhurst Farm, Round Hill Ranch, Sweet Honey Treats, Al Runs on Cakes, Laurene Hulbig Floral Design, C&C Ice Cream, and Fat Bottomed Bees Honey. There are specialty vendors selling crafts, jewelry, and more. A rotating lineup of food trucks makes regular appearances, and every other week there is live music.

Ziegler estimates several hundred people attend the Farmers Market each week.



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Wrentham Moving Forward with MBTA Communities

By JOE STEWART

At its July 8 meeting, Wrentham's Select Board discussed next steps to meet state requirements relating to the MBTA Communities Act. The purpose of the law is to increase housing throughout the state, and the law requires communities to implement zoning to enable high density housing. In Wrentham's case, the law requires zoning for a minimum of 50 acres.

Wrentham has opposed complying with the law, including bringing a lawsuit asserting that MBTA Communities was an unfunded mandate. That suit was dismissed in June with the judge ruling that Wrentham had failed to identify direct costs.

During the Select Board meeting, Select Board member Bill Harrington read into the record the Select Board's statement issued following the suit's dismissal. The statement included that the Select Board "... has determined that the most prudent

and cost-effective option is to move forward..." To that end, Gallo began the discussion by commenting that the Board is now supporting the high-density zoning and will need to educate voters. Gallo reminded the Board of Town Counsel Jay Talerman's comment that "Any rush is a rush to failure."

Town Manager Mike King noted that the Fall Town Meeting would be the next scheduled meeting at which voters could assess the new zoning. King also noted that Wrentham is speaking with the state's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, the Attorney General's office, and the Governor's office. King also noted the need for significant voter education.

Gallo asked about the July 14 compliance deadline, particularly to address concerns that some voters raised about the potential appointment of a special master (appointed by a court to assist in overseeing contested

matters), the possible loss of state grants, and other coercive measures available to the state to achieve compliance with the law. King confirmed that Wrentham is actively engaged with the state and agreed that those measures are unlikely.

On July 15 the Attorney General stated in a press release, "Recognizing that the local legislative process to adopt zoning by-laws and ordinances involves multiple steps that take time to complete, the AGO [Attorney General's Office] does not plan [to] take legal action this summer or fall..."

Gallo summarized next steps as educating voters on the high-density zoning and continuing to collaborate with the Planning Board to bring the issue to voters at the Fall Town Meeting, scheduled for November 17 at the King Philip Regional High School. The Select Board statement is available at <http://bit.ly/40hCDHo>.



The Bulfinch Group has announced that Norfolk resident Barry Zimmerman has been named a Leaders Club qualifier by The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America® (Guardian). Leaders Club is one of the highest honors annually awarded by Guardian to financial professionals who demonstrate outstanding service and dedication to their clients.

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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 (OBBB) 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, OBBB 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, how-

ever 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. OBBB 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 OBBB 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, OBBB 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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Wrentham Concerts on the Common Series Wraps up this Month

This is the final month of the 2025 Concerts on the Common series. Concerts are held on Sundays at 6 p.m. Grab a lawn chair, pack a picnic, and enjoy the fleeting summer nights while you can.

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| August 3 | The Music Matters Band |
| August 10 | Mike & Joe's Big Band |
| August 17 | Rico Barr & JJ Horns |

OCC Consignment Shop Opens in Wrentham

The Original Congregational Church of Wrentham has opened the upscale consignment shop "Remarkables," located at the Whiston House adjacent to the church.

The shop will feature unique, well-loved items for sale, includ-

ing home décor, fine china, antiques, furniture, and more. Inventory changes regularly.

Looking for items or have something to sell? Stop by during shopping hours, Tuesdays and Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m. Consigner will receive 50% of

sales, with remainder retained by the Original Congregational Church. The shop accepts cash or check only.

The church is located at 22 Dedham Street. Contact the church office at 508-384-3110 or visit www.occhurch.net.

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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 mile-

stones, 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.

- 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 scien-

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

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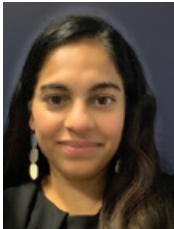

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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

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.

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.

LEARN MORE



VISIT OUR HAIR-LOSS SOLUTIONS PAGE

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 conversations, 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.



“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

per 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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First Universalist Society Announces August Summer Services

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 Unison 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. For more information about FUSE, visit fusf.org or contact the Reverend Beverly Waring at 508-528-5348 or minister@fusf.org.

Exsultet! Auditions



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 musical 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 25 at 7 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 725 Washington Street, Holliston.

Exsultet! rehearsals for the 2025-2026 season will be on Monday nights from 7 to 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 information and to schedule a specific audition time.

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

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Fiske Public Library August Program Highlights

For a full list of programs, visit <https://fiskelib.org/>.

The library hours are Monday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is closed on Saturdays in August.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

Fossil Discovery with the Children’s Museum Easton

Friday, August 1 from 1 to 2 p.m.

Identify, compare, and explore! As junior paleontologists, children will excavate fossils and engage in discussions about various extinction theories while learning fun facts about these creatures that once roamed the Earth. They will also be able to take home their excavated fossils! Come dig with us! For kids in grades K-3, register on the calendar page at fiskelib.org.

This program is supported by a grant from the Wrentham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Coding Club

Wednesday, August 6 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Drop in to this tech program where kids can try out various tools that “level up” skills in computational thinking and basic coding. Ages 4+

Mobile-MiniGolf

Friday, August 8 from noon to 3 p.m.

Mobile-MiniGolf will be bringing a 9-hole mini golf course to the library to celebrate all the hard work of the Summer Reading Club kids. The colorful course has hills, jumps, bumps, twists and loops and is suitable for kids (and adults) of all ages. Stop by anytime between noon and 3 p.m. to play a round with friends and family.

Reading Dragons Party

Wednesday, August 13 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Did you complete the summer Reading Dragons program and collect all the dragon family cards? You’re invited to our Reading Dragons Party! Bring

your Reading Dragons cards to play against your friends, and enjoy dragon themed crafts, snacks, games, and more. Register on the calendar page at fiskelib.org.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Spice Kits

Pick up one of the monthly Spice Kits. Each kit contains information about the spice, recipes, and a sample to try at home. August’s spice: rosemary.

Adult Take & Make Craft

This adult craft kit contains materials and instructions to make a mason jar sun catcher. Craft kits can be picked up at the front desk starting August 1 while supplies last.

Quick Pickling Workshop with Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens

Thursday, August 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Learn to make summer squash, zucchini or cucumber pickles. All participants will go home with a pint jar of pickles

they make themselves. This program is free and open to the public. Please register at fiskelib.org.

Fiske Public Library Book Club

Tuesday, August 26 at 7 p.m.
This month’s book is “Fourth Wing” by Rebecca Yarros. Contact Library Director Kim Shipala at kshipala@sailsinc.org or 508-384-5440 with any questions.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

The Fiske Public Library showcases a virtual author talk series each month featuring bestselling, award-winning, and highly acclaimed authors from around the world. The featured writers and thought leaders will cover a wide range of fiction and nonfiction genres.

The free, virtual series takes place two to three times a month and includes the opportunity to ask questions of the author. A complete list of events is available on the Fiske Library’s virtual author talk series website at <https://libraryc.org/>

[fiskelib](https://fiskelib.org/). Visit <https://libraryc.org/fiskelib> or call 508-384-5440 to register.

Author talks for this month include:

- The Stories, Science, and History of Birds with Smithsonian Biologist Jay Falk, a Library Speakers Consortium and Smithsonian Institution Collaboration, on Tuesday, August 5 at 2 p.m. ET.
- Returning to Romance Through Food and Flirty Fun in Fiction with Casey McQuiston, #1 New York Times bestselling author of “Red, White, & Royal Blue,” on Wednesday, August 20 at 7 p.m. ET.
- How to Thrive in a World of Constant Chaos with Organizational Psychologist Dr. Tasha Eurich, New York Times bestselling author and international keynote speaker, on Thursday, August 28 at 2 p.m. ET.

On Stage This Fall at Dean

A New Generation of Talent.

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This Fall’s Lineup:

The Wolves

October 15–19

Fall Dance Concert

October 31–November 1

Cabaret

November 12–16

New Dancer Shwocase

November 21–22

New Thespian Showcase

November 22–23

Faculty Dance Works

December 5–6

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Ticket packages available August 4.

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DEAN COLLEGE

FRANKLIN Cultural DISTRICT

August Program Highlights at the Norfolk Senior Center

RSVP to 508-528-4430 or register for programs in person at the Norfolk Senior Center, 28 Medway Branch Road. For a full list of activities, visit the Council on Aging page on the town's website: norfolk.ma.us.

August 2 to August 28 **Senior Art Show At Norfolk Library** The Center's art classes will display their artwork at the Norfolk Library for the month of August. The show will feature watercolors, drawings, paintings, knitting, photographs, diamond art, and much more. An Art Show Opening Celebration will be held on Monday August 4 at 1 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Monday, August 4 at 11 a.m.
Armchair Travel to Madrid See this modern city as well as reminders of ancient Roman rule, Islam and Jewish influences, and Spain's golden age. Led by Gene Flynn, who has taught at the College of Lake County and Harper College and serves on the board of the Institute for Continued Learning at Roosevelt University. Churros will be served. RSVP required.

Tuesday, August 5 at noon
Lunch & Learn: Food & Mood-Emotional Impact of Food On Seniors: Nutrition plays a vital role in emotional wellbeing. A balanced diet rich in nutrients can help stabilize mood, improve cognitive function, and reduce feelings of anxiety or depression. Poor eating such as consuming too much sugar or processed foods can lead to energy crashes, irritability, and emotional distress. Led by registered dietitian Judy Palken, MNS, RD, LDN. Healthy sandwiches will be served. RSVP required.

Monday, August 11 at 10:30 a.m. **Coffee Cake with Karen** Coffee cake will be served as Karen Edwards, the Director of the Norfolk Senior Center, will discuss with attendees programs and activities they'd like to see at the Center. RSVP requested.

Monday, August 11 at 11 a.m.
Virtual History of New England Sweets: Doughnuts, Bonbons and Whoopie Pies Author and photographer Susan Mara Bregman will discuss her book, “New England Sweets: Doughnuts,

Bonbons & Whoopie Pies” and NE’s enduring love affair with sweets. The region is home to an extraordinary variety of baked, fried, dipped, sugared and frozen confections. From Fluffernutters to whoopie pies, Susan explores this sugary legacy, uncovering the stories behind the treats that sweetened NE’s culinary landscape. Whoopie pies will be served. RSVP required.

Wednesday, August 13 at 1 p.m. **Tom Cleverdon Himself Concert** Resident Tom Cleverdon is back! He has played guitar and sung for more than 40 years. His music focuses on folk, country, pop and classics by various artists from the Kingston Trio and Glen Campbell to Simon & Garfunkel, Jimmy Buffett, Willie Nelson, Neil Diamond, and Lee Greenwood. Enjoy some great music and sing along! RSVP requested.

Thursday, August 14 at 1 p.m.
Whales of New England An in-depth look at whales that visit New England waters to feed, including humpback whales, huge fin whales, critically endangered North Atlantic right whales, pure

white Beluga whales, and killer whales. Presented by photographer Bob Michelson of Photography By Michelson, Inc. RSVP requested.

Tuesday, August 19 at 12:30 p.m. **C&C Ice Cream Truck** Enjoy a free ice cream treat! RSVP required.

Monday, August 25 at 11 a.m.
Solo Ager Discussion Group Are you an older adult who lives alone and doesn't have reliable support from children or family members? Are you making decisions about your future independently? Then the "Solo Agers Discussion Group" is for you! This is a monthly meeting to discuss the practical planning steps that are unique to solo agers. Call Outreach Coordinator Becky Poynot with questions. RSVP requested.

Wednesday, August 27 at 1 p.m. **Maria & Den Concert** Maria & Denis Cocchiara are a husband & wife duo known for their interactive, feel-good performances. Maria's sweet, soulful vocals pair beautifully with Den's seasoned, expressive guitar work. Together, they deliver rich and nostalgic

sounds that blend '60s and '70s classics, country-pop, blues, and current-day favorites. RSVP requested.

Thursday, August 28 at 1 p.m.
Recent First Ladies of the United States Jon Huibregtse of Framingham State University is back to discuss recent First Ladies Melania Trump, Jill Biden, Michelle Obama, Laura Bush, and Hillary Clinton, and examine the impact of these women. RSVP requested.

Friday, August 29 at 11 a.m.
Virtual NYC Tour of the Gilded Age Mansions of Museum Mile
Stroll up Fifth Avenue from the Frick Collection to the Cooper Hewitt Museum and see turn-of-the-20th Century homes. Learn stories about their wealthy owners, like Pulitzer, Whitney, and Carnegie. Led by Ginny Poleman, owner of New York City Encounters, a licensed New York City Sightseeing Guide, docent for the Municipal Art Society, and educational guide at Manhattan's largest art museum. Bagels and a variety of cream cheeses will be served. RSVP required.

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Joe Andruzzi Foundation Receives \$22K+ from Wrentham Initiative

Evviva Trattoria Diners Help Raise Critical Funds for Cancer Patients



From left, Joe Andruzzi, Barbara Foley, Manager of Corporate & Foundation Relations, Joe Bartucca, Sr. Hospitality Manager for Evviva Wrentham, and Rob Luzzi, Sr. Director of Marketing, RAVentures Hospitality Group (Evviva Trattoria).

Since early 2023, the Joe Andruzzi Foundation has benefited from a unique partnership with Evviva Trattoria’s Wrentham location, where a private dining room was dedicated in the Foundation’s name. Through this collaboration, more than \$22,000 in donations have been generated to support the Joe Andruzzi Foundation’s mission of providing financial assistance to New England cancer patients and their families.

Founded in 2008 by former New England Patriots offensive guard and cancer survivor Joe Andruzzi and his wife Jen, the Joe Andruzzi Foundation has granted more than \$13 million

in aid to over 45,000 individuals facing the financial burdens of cancer treatment. The funds raised through the Wrentham dining initiative contribute directly to that impact.

“We’re incredibly thankful to Evviva Trattoria for turning everyday celebrations into life-changing support,” said Jen Andruzzi, President & CEO of the Joe Andruzzi Foundation. “Their dedication – and the generosity of their guests – provides real relief to families when they need it most.”

A portion of proceeds from every event held in the Joe Andruzzi Foundation Private Dining Room is donated to the Joe

Andruzzi Foundation. Whether for wedding rehearsals, corporate events, or milestone gatherings, guests who book the space make a tangible difference in the lives of local families.

The partnership is part of a broader charitable effort, through which Evviva Trattoria has contributed more than \$25,000 to regional nonprofits, including the Joe Andruzzi Foundation.

For more information about the Joe Andruzzi Foundation or to support its mission, visit www.joeandruzzifoundation.org. To learn more about hosting an event in the Joe Andruzzi Foundation Private Dining Room, visit www.evvivatrattoria.com.

State Budget Expands Access to Retirement Savings for Nonprofit Workers

CORE Plan Included in FY26 Budget

SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF MA STATE TREASURER DEBORAH B. GOLDBERG

Massachusetts State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg is celebrat-

ing the inclusion of a key policy priority in the FY26 state budget – an expansion of the CORE Plan, the Massachusetts retirement savings program for small nonprofits. This measure will increase access to the plan, helping nonprofits retain talent and employees invest in their futures.

Launched by Treasurer Goldberg in 2017, the CORE Plan

was the first state-facilitated plan of its kind in the United States. The CORE Plan helps Massachusetts nonprofit employees save and invest for a financially secure retirement. The plan is a state-of-the-art multiple employer 401k retirement plan designed specifi-

BUDGET
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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.



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

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

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

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Sports

Two KP Teams Flew Under The Radar in 2024-25

By KEN HAMWEY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

King Philip Regional sports teams will be gearing up for their fall schedules by participating in pre-season practices that begin later this month.

But, before fans, friends and families start attending a variety of athletic scrimmages that lead to the regular season, it's worthwhile to reflect on teams that got good results during the 2024-25 school year and whose achievements flew under the radar.

Two programs come to mind quickly, and the choices are based solely on this writer's opinion.

The Warriors baseball squad and the girls soccer team advanced deep into the state tournament, as they've done methodically in the recent past. They weren't crowned state champs, but both teams have become perennial threats to formidable foes heavily favored in post-season play.

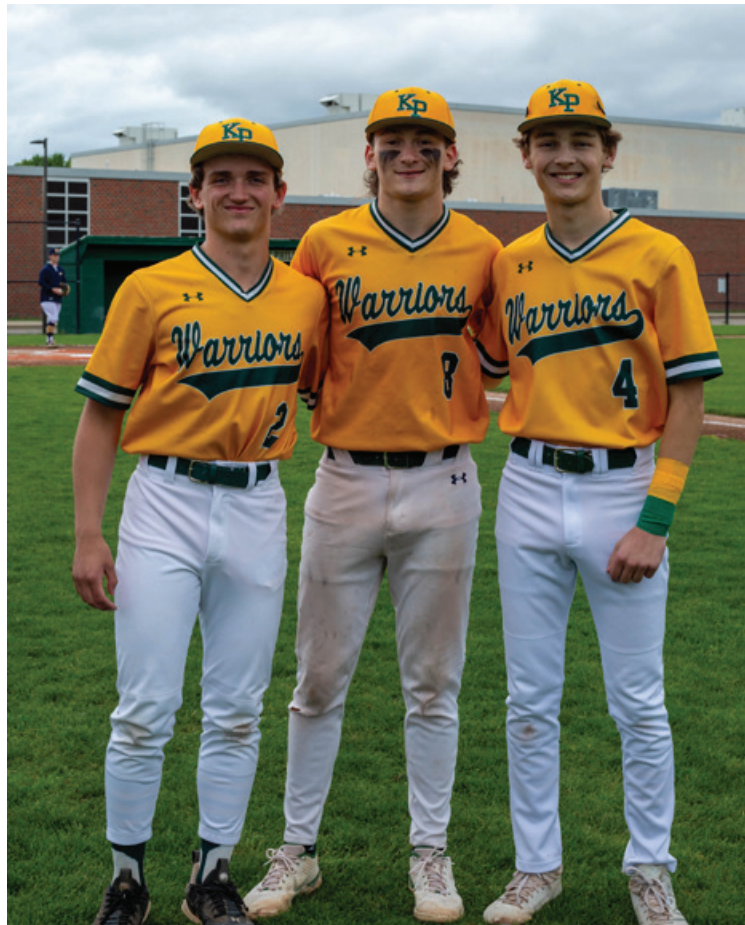
Here's a glimpse at some of the 2024-25 highlights of the KP baseball team and the girls soccer contingent.

BASEBALL

The Warriors, led by coach Jeff Plympton Jr., compiled a plethora of achievements that are firsts for the program.

KP finished 17-4 during the regular season, then advanced to the Final Four of the Division 1 State Tournament before it was eliminated by Braintree. Its three playoff triumphs elevated the Warriors to a 20-win season, the most in the program's history.

At the start of the season, which was Plympton's fifth since taking the varsity coaching job, KP opened with a 10-0 record



KP's all-star pitchers included, from left, Nate Pennini, Cam Hasenfus, and Ryan Higgins.

— another first for the program.

The Warriors faced archrival Franklin three times, winning all three outings by one run. That's the first time in KP baseball history that the Warriors defeated Franklin three times in a season. And, the last time KP beat Franklin, prior to the 2025 season, was in 2016.

When the Warriors defeated Franklin in the Elite Eight (tournament quarterfinals) at Lombard Field, about 1,000 fans attended. Plympton verified that number as the largest crowd to ever watch a KP baseball game.

Two other games — shutouts against Taunton and Xaverian — are significant. The 2-0 vic-

tory over Taunton was the first time the Tigers were shut out since 2019. The 1-0 triumph over Xaverian was the only time it was shut out during the 2025 campaign.

When it comes to individual honors, KP seems like it was first in line.

Its three senior pitchers were all named to the Hockomock League all-star team. That included Cam Hasenfus, Nate Pennini and Ryan Higgins. Shortstop Vinny Menendez, who hit .310, was an honorable-mention choice.

Hasenfus, who had a 7-0 record and an E.R.A. of 0.49, was selected as the league's MVP. That's the first time KP has had an MVP since 2016 when Will Weir was chosen.

"Cam was so deserving of the MVP award," Plympton said. "We had a lot of confidence when he was on the mound. He yielded only four earned runs all year and three of them came in our first game against Franklin. He got good movement on his pitches, relied on a knuckle-curve and a fastball, and had



Gary Pichel has coached the KP girls soccer team for 14 years.

57 strikeouts in 56 innings. His velocity was clocked at 87 mph."

Pennini and Higgins gave the Warriors great depth. Pennini posted a 3-2 record and had an E.R.A. of 2.10. Higgins was 7-2 and had an E.R.A. of 2.60.

Two players will compete in college — Hasenfus at Wheaton and first baseman Drew Herlin at Worcester Polytech. "Drew hit No. 3 in the lineup," Plympton noted. "He battled hard and hit .289 playing through a hand injury. As a junior, he hit .409."

KP, which competed in Division 1 for the last two years, will return to Division 2 next season. The Warriors played and lost to Milton twice in the Division 2 state finals. "I think we'd be successful whether it was in Division 1 or 2," Plympton noted. "Division 2 has good teams, too, but just not as many as there are in Division 1."

KP baseball in 2025 featured a variety of strengths and Plympton viewed all of them as keys to a rewarding season that produced plenty of achievements.

"Our pitching and defense were phenomenal," he emphasized. "The players' baseball IQs were high, they worked hard and were dedicated. Our skills were very good and our guys competed with a team-first attitude. They were a fun group that made my job easier."

GIRLS SOCCER

Coach Gary Pichel's 2024 squad, which finished its regular season at 16-2, lost in the quarterfinals of the state tourney to

Brookline, leaving the Warriors with an overall record of 18-3. Those numbers gave KP its second straight Kelly-Rex Division championship and the fourth division crown in Pichel's 14 years at the helm. The Warriors were dynamic on offense and defense, scoring 73 goals and yielding only 23.

Last year's results also earned Pichel the Hockomock League's Coach of the Year Award. That's the third time he's been selected for that honor. The 2019 season, however, was memorable because it not only provided him with the Hockomock League's coaching award, it also earned him Coach of the Year honors in Division 1.

"Last year was very rewarding," Pichel said. "The coaching awards are not a tribute to me; they're all about having team-first players who understand perseverance." Before arriving at KP, Pichel led Nipmuc Regional (Mendon/Upton) to state championships in 2005 and 2006.

The 2024 season was also memorable for KP's four captains — striker Dani Lomuscio, forward Mikayla Thompson, and defenders Addison Lamothe and Rhianna Mason. Three of the four will be playing college soccer at the Division 1 level and the fourth will be competing in Division 3. Lomuscio will play for Stonehill; Thompson and Lamothe will compete for Iona; and Mason will be at Virginia Wesleyan, a Division 3 university.

Lomuscio scored 27 goals and had 22 assists for 49 points, earning her the league's MVP Award, which has gone to a KP player five times in the last seven years and for the last three years (Ella Pisani in 2022 and Heidi Lawrence in 2023). Avery Snead captured the award in 2018 and Chloe Woodward won it in 2019.

"The 2024 captains are one of the best group of captains I've ever coached," Pichel said. "And, Dani is one of the top five most versatile and talented players I've coached."

KP TEAMS

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Sports

KP TEAMS

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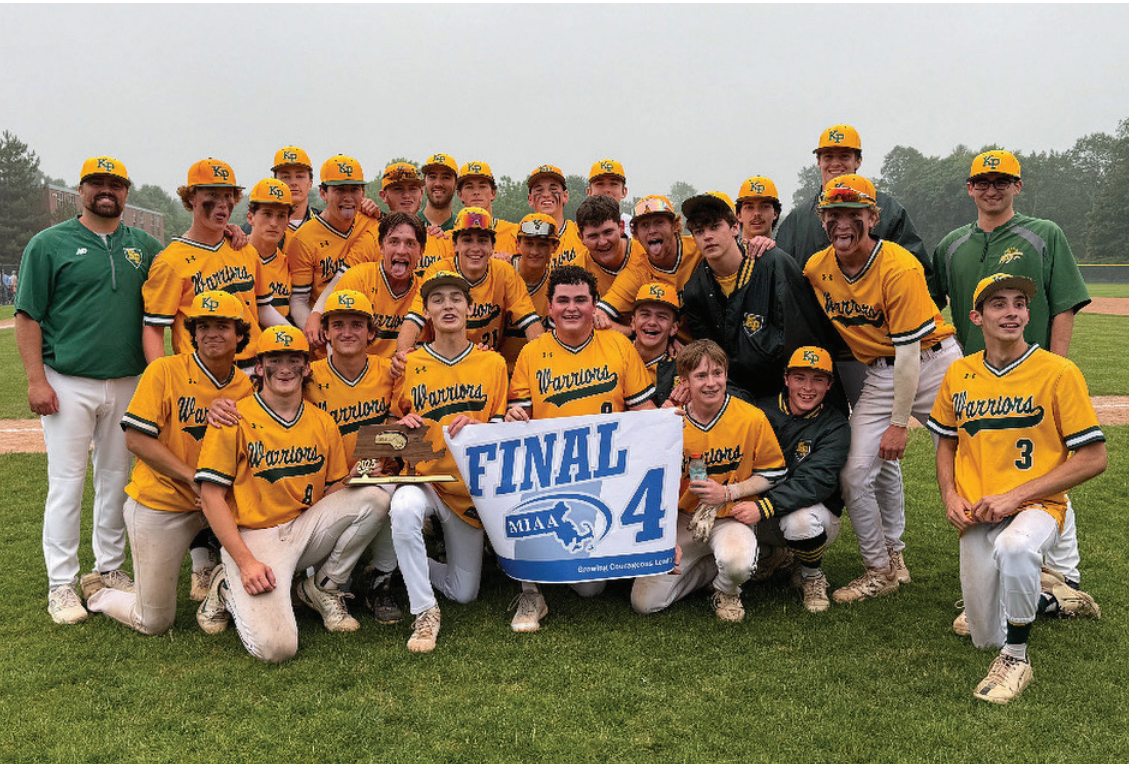
Snead wasn't a member of the 2024 team but she made headlines in January, announcing that she had signed a contract to play professional soccer in Norway for FK Bodo/Glimt.

Snead competed in dynamic fashion for four years at KP before moving on to Providence College where she excelled on defense and was honored with numerous awards. In her four seasons at Providence, Snead started in all 69 games she played. She anchored the Friars' back line throughout her career, logging 6,200 minutes played.

At KP, playing from 2016 to 2019, Snead was the Hockomock League's top scorer in 2017 and 2018 and was chosen as the league's MVP in 2018. KP coach Gary Pichel called Snead "the best soccer player I've ever coached."

At PC, Snead was selected to the All-Big East Second Team (2021, 2023), United Soccer Coaches All-East Region (2023), NEWISA All-New England First Team (2023), NEWISA Senior Bowl (2023), NEWISA All-New England Second Team (2022, 2021), Big East All-Freshman Team in 2020-21 and United Soccer Coaches Player of the Week on March 16, 2021.

Snead later played one season at the University of Indiana in 2024 as a grad student.



The 2025 KP baseball team defeated Franklin in the Division 1 quarterfinals, enabling it to advance to the Final Four.

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King Philip Regional Middle School announces its 2024-2025 Term 4 Honor Roll:

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Oliver, Viola; Panda, Rivan; Quinn, Anthony; Quinn, Riley; Quintin, Connor; Richard, William; Sachdev, Brycen; Sorel, Scott; Wainwright, Vera; Wambolt, Wyatt; Weake, Jainith; Weeman, Lola; Weeman, Zoe.

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nino, Tess; Jacques, Colin; Johnson, Addison; Joughin, William; Kalkut, Colin; Kazorek, Sawyer; Kelly, Hadley; Kemble, Megan; Kennedy, Lillian; Kerner, Dakota; Kerrigan, Abby; Kinahan, Brooklyn; Labonte, Sadie; Laliberte, Connor; Lallier, Cheyenne; Lamothe-Cotter, Ainsley; Lamothe-Vaughn, Anderson; Laplante, Brielle; Leclair, Isabella; Libetario, Ema; Liptak, Flynn; Loehfelm, Colin; Lombard, Diya; Lonergan, Declan; Lopes, Sara; Maloney, Grace; McCabe, Mackenzie; McDonagh, John; McDonald, Aidan; McGann, Brady; McGourthy, William; McGowan, Brendan; McKechnie, Mia; McNamee, Kaelie; McRell, Hunter; Moore, Hudson; Morley, Harper; Mucciarone, Wes; Mui, Anna; Mumira, Lucy; Munsinger, Jaxon; Murphy, Keagan; Noonan, Logan; O'Leary, Abigail; Paralta, Ella; Parker, Mason; Perreault, Kaiden; Pettit, Nathan; Pollard, Lilyanna; Pollender, Calla; Prater, Harper; Revell, Cassidy; Ruiz, Keira; Sandy, Jack; Sanford, Ella; Shehu-Khalifa,

Ameera; Siddiqui, Sophia; Silva, Abraham; Small, Patrick; Spitzer, Julia; St. Laurent, Cameron; Stark, Emerson; Sullivan, Gary; Tezber, Charlotte; Thomson, Sarah; Tiernan, Brynn; Tobin, Kiera; Todd, Abigail; Townsend, Amelia; Vasseur, Isla; Visser, Paige; Weaver, Francis; Weiblen, Gavin; Wenstrom, Courtney; Wetmore, Sophia; Wilayah, Ahmad; Wosny, Sean; Xu, Cameron; Zawaskey, Brielle.

8TH GRADE

HIGH HONORS

Almeida, Lillian; Babbitt, Luella; Barry, Georgia; Batt, Alexandra; Beaupre, Emerson; Bell, Katherine; Bostrom, William; Brathwaite, Giovanni; Burrows, McKinley; Caruso, Amber; Cataldo, Gabriella; Chacon Castillo, Marcela; Chavers, Genevieve; Cleverdon, Jeffrey; Courier, Madelyn; Crotty, Braeden; D'Amelio, Nicole; DaSilva, Cooper; Davis, Alexandra; DeVasto, Norah; Diamond, Anna; DiFiore, Karlie; Dow, Paige; Durniok, Lyla; Egan, Quinn; Fabiano, Lucy; Gallerani, Abri-

anna; Gill, Samson; Gonzalez, James; Hambelton, Benjamin; Hayes, Mason; Hunt, Maxwell; Jarvis, Emery; Johnson, Jessica; Jordan, Landon; Kelly, Nyla; Kohler, Daxin; Lanza, Carah; LeBlanc, Riley; LeBlanc, Stephanie; Loehfelm, Quinn; Lopes, Theodore; MacDonald, Emily; Mastro, Olivia; McCarthy, Rowen; Menneni, Medha; Miles, Evelyn; Morris, Matthew; Murk, Mae; Nayyer, Daniel; Noonan, Aoibhe; Noonan, Saoirse; O'Brien, Thomas; O'Leary, Rowen; Ohkagawa, Kai; Passafaro, Leah; Pennini, Isabella; Pitman, Jackson; Poska, Ryan; Pradeep, Misha; Richard, Emma; Ritchie, Juliana; Rizzo, Sophia; Rosier Gedeus, Tayc-huna; Rudsit, Alexander; Russas, Riley; Sharris, Grace; Smolak, Nathan; Spiller, Lylah; Stevens, Cameron; Tessier, Iris; Thomas, Madison; Tillson, Cole; Todd, Madalyn; Waldner, Abigail; Ward, Chase; Yanni, Hannah.

HONOR ROLL

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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 perform-

ing 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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HONOR ROLL

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HONORS

Alley, Emily; Anzalone, Olivia; Bailer, Zachary; Barboza, Charles; Batt, Parker; Bautista, Graham; Beaupre, Charles; Berthiaume, Nathan; Blake, Delaney; Bourdeau, Lilyana; Bright, Chase; Brumbaugh, Alanna; Cecko, Mia; Ciavola, Brooke; Cleary-Fallon, Olivia; Clough, Maile; Coen, Molly; Conley, Nathan; Cooney, Aiden; D’Aiello, Christopher; Dacko, Sarah; Davit, Parker; De Melo, Gabriellalina; DeAngelis, John; Desrosiers, Ava; Desrosiers, Gavin; DoRosario, Kelton; Duffy, Caroline; Dunfey, Connor; Dwomoh, Quinn; Estime, Savannah; Ferguson, Mason; Flaherty, Emma; Flanagan, Riley; Foster, Nathalie; Francoeur, Natalie; Frye, Noah; Fuller, Vanessa; Gately, Connor; Gove, Kayden; Grazado, Jack; Griffin, Paul; Hadayia, Isabella; Haddad, Liam; Herman, Quinn; Hicks, Vivienne; Ibrahim, Benjamin; Jacobs, Graham; James, Porter; Kassay, Alexandra; Keleher, Owen; Kelly, Catherine; Kelly,

Rylan; Kennedy, Grace; Kenney, Bridget; Keough, Myles; Kilroy, Teagan; Kissell, Chloe; Kollu, Anjali; Lacana, Macy; Leardo, Owen; Lussier, Jack; Lyons, Mia; Makrin, Stella; Mangini, Lucia; Marcil, Piper; Mastro, Owen; McCormick, Mason; McCreedy, Grace; McDuff, Hayden; McGrath, Grace; McKillop, Fia; McNulty, Adam; Medeiros, Caleb; Mehrotra, Karyna; Milici, Zachary; Monti, Nicholas; Moon, Colby; Morrissey, James; Nardelli, Leighton; Natan, Lucas; O’Blenis, Justin; Oxley, Emma; Pompei, Nicholas; Preite, Catherine; Rogoff, Lainey; Rose, Isabella; Russas, Michael; Salguero, Jackson; Salingier, Benjamin; Sanderson, Ceanneidigh; Saraf, Logan; Schmier, Rebecca; Sheerin, Ivy; Shook, Declan; Signes, Adam; Silva, Emily; Smith, Brooklyn; Spak, Tyler; St. Laurent, Casey; Stafford, Tyler; Stavris, Emmett; Taylor, Eden; Tepfer, Kenley; Tomes, Anthony; Uriarte, Justin; Valia, Hiya; Varey, Cecelia; Vierkant, Bryan; Walsh, Evelyn; Wells, Avery; Werdann, Zackery; Wiggin, Olivia; Woodall, Richard; Yanosick, Patrick.

BUDGET

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cally for the nonprofit sector in Massachusetts. Until now, the plan has been limited to organizations with 20 or fewer employees. The newly passed provisions will expand access to nonprofits with up to 100 employees, significantly broadening the program’s reach and impact across Massachusetts. The inclusion of this policy in the budget follows legislation filed earlier this year by Treasurer Goldberg and championed in the legislature by Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante and Senator Joan Lovely. “This is a major step forward in ensuring those who work in the nonprofit community have a meaningful opportunity to save for retirement. It is a sensible and important move toward financial security for so many in our state,” said Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. “I am grateful to the Governor and the Legislature for acting on our shared commitment to supporting the dedicated people who help make our communities stronger.”

“Non-profits do essential work in our communities, making them happier, healthier, and helping them thrive,” said Senator Joan Lovely. “Non-profit workers are motivated by their love for their communities and their work, so it is vital that we help them plan for the future. Expanding the CORE Plan will not only benefit non-profit employees by helping them plan for retirement but will also allow non-profits to stay competitive while seeking skilled workers.” “Nonprofit employees dedicate their careers to strengthening our communities, and it is critical that they have the tools to prepare for a secure retirement,” said Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D-Gloucester). “Expanding the CORE Plan to include organizations with up to 100 employees means more workers will gain access to high-quality retirement savings options. I’m proud to have partnered with Treasurer Goldberg to advance this policy in the FY26 budget.” For many of Massachusetts’ nonprofit organizations, the cost and resources required to administer an in-house retirement

plan can create prohibitive challenges, making the CORE Plan an essential offering from the state. The structure of the plan allows each adopting organization to join under one plan and trust, while the Office of the State Treasurer and its partner Empower assume most administrative responsibilities. In addition to the eligibility expansion, the budget authorizes the Treasurer to accept private donations and fundraised contributions to help defray program expenses, enabling broader outreach and sustainability. Currently, 2,400 employees at over 240 small nonprofits participate in the CORE Plan, and more than 80% of participating nonprofits are offering employer contributions to bolster their employees’ savings. Furthermore, nearly 85% of employers adopting the CORE Plan are start-ups, meaning they did not offer any retirement benefits outside of Social Security prior to adopting the CORE Plan. For more information about the CORE Plan, visit <https://www.mass.gov/core-plan-for-nonprofits>.

KPMS Art Club Collaborates with Southwick’s Zoo on Wildlife Conservation Project

This past school year, King Philip Middle School’s Art Club partnered with Southwick’s Zoo to contribute original artwork to a new educational garden focused on wildlife conservation. On Friday, June 6, members of the King Philip Middle School Art for Advocacy Club, led by art teacher and advisor Arianne Barrett, visited Southwick’s Zoo in Mendon to deliver their completed artwork. The pieces will be featured as permanent signage in the zoo’s upcoming education garden, which is set to open behind the new EARTH Ltd. building this fall. The project began with students researching native Massachusetts wildlife. Using their findings, the club designed vibrant educational signs to inform zoo visitors about local species and inspire them to take action to protect these species. In addition to the physical signs, students created a companion website filled with conservation tips and wild-

life facts: Colors of Conservation. In recognition of their contributions, Southwick’s Zoo presented the students with a certificate of appreciation. The zoo also organized a special behind-the-scenes encounter where students met and learned about a snake, an armadillo and a porcupine. The students’ visit concluded with time to explore the zoo and see how their work will support its educational mission. “This project is a beautiful example of how art and education can come together to support environmental awareness and conservation,” said Barrett. “We are so proud of our students for using their creativity to make a real-world impact.” EARTH Ltd. is a nonprofit conservation and education organization based at Southwick’s Zoo. Through educational programs, advocacy, and fundraising, EARTH Ltd. supports both local and global conservation efforts.



The King Philip Middle School Art Club delivered its completed artwork to Southwick’s Zoo on Friday, June 6. (Photo Courtesy King Philip Regional School District)

Real Estate Corner



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Norfolk County Real Estate Market Shows Notable Growth

The Norfolk County real estate market for the month of June 2025 had a notable increase in overall activity, with increases in both property sales and mortgage activity as compared to June 2024 and the previous month, May 2025.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds recorded a total of 10,433 documents in June 2025. This represents a 15% increase from June 2024 and an 8% increase compared to May 2025.

“The real estate market in Norfolk County is performing well as we move into the summer,” stated Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O’Donnell. “The increase in real estate activity especially in property sales and mortgages demonstrates the robust demand for property here.”

The total number of deeds recorded for June 2025, which reflect both commercial and residential real estate sales and transfers, was 1,677, up 14% from June 2024 and up 12% from May 2025. Looking at just commercial and residential real estate sales, a total of 1,012 properties were sold in June 2025. This figure represents a 13% increase from June 2024.

“The significant increase in deeds recorded and properties sold in June 2025 compared to the same month last year demonstrates the ongoing demand for real estate within our communities,” noted Register O’Donnell. “Even amidst various market factors, the consistent volume of transactions points to an active real estate landscape.”

The average sale price for commercial and residential properties in June 2025 was \$1,153,416, a less than 1% decrease from June 2024, and a decrease of 17% compared to May 2025. Additionally, the total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales is up, increasing 13% from last year and 2% from last month.

“The month of June saw a notable shift in the average sale prices on commercial and residential real estate as a whole, marking the first time in 2025 that we haven’t seen a year-over-year rise,” said O’Donnell. “This pause in upward trending property prices could offer a welcomed window for prospective buyers, but we will need to wait and see if this trend continues.”

For the month of June, lending activity showed a significant increase compared to the same month a year ago and the previous month. A total of 1,707 mortgages were recorded in June 2025, up 23% from June 2024 and 11% more than May 2025. The total mortgage indebtedness is also up increasing 67% compared to June 2024, and up 2% compared to May 2025.

The substantial rise in mortgage recordings, coupled with the increased mortgage indebtedness, indicates a strong and renewed confidence among buyers in securing financing, according to Register O’Donnell. The positive trend in lending activity is a key indicator of the overall health of the local real estate market.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds monitors the foreclosure market. In June 2025, there were 3 foreclosure deeds recorded as a result of mortgage foreclosures taking place in Norfolk County, whereas in June 2024, there were 9. Additionally, in June 2025, there were 28 notices to foreclose, the first step in the foreclosure process, less than the 37 recorded in June 2024.

“The June 2025 real estate data for Norfolk County showcases a competitive real estate

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Real Estate Corner

MARKET

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market driven by strong demand and increasing lending activity,” said O’Donnell. “This growth highlights the desirability of our communities. As we move further into the summer months, we remain optimistic for continued growth and look forward to seeing how the market evolves.”

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, located at 649 High St., Dedham, is the principal office for real property in Nor-

folk County. The Registry is a resource for homeowners, title examiners, mortgage lenders, municipalities, and others with a need for secure, accurate, and accessible land record information. All land record research information can be found on the Registry’s website, www.norfolk-deeds.org. Residents in need of assistance can contact the Registry of Deeds Customer Service Center at (781) 461-6101 or email registerodonnell@norfolk-deeds.org.

Stage II Water Ban in Wrentham

Mandatory restrictions on non-essential water will be in place until September 30 in Wrentham. In a Stage II Water Ban, there is no non-essential outdoor water use between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Non-essential uses subject to mandatory restrictions: Irrigation of lawns and landscaping using sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems, washing of vehicles except in a commercial

car wash or as necessary for operator safety, washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks except as necessary to apply surface treatments such as paint, preservation, stucco, pavement or cement, and filling of swimming pools.

These non-essential uses may only be conducted between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Wrentham Senior Center Memory Café This Month

The Wrentham Senior Center’s next Memory Café will be held on Aug. 26 from 2 to 3 p.m. There is no cost to attend.

A Memory Café is a welcoming gathering place for people with forgetfulness or other changes in their thinking, and for their family, friends, and caretakers. The goal of the Memory Café is to help guests feel comfortable and to know that they are not alone. It’s a place to talk

with others who understand what you are going through, to forget about limitations and instead focus on strengths while enjoying each other’s company and exploring something new.

Call the Wrentham Senior Center at 508-384-5425 to register.

All American Assisted Living is now a co-sponsor of the Memory Café, along with the Metacomet Public Health Nurses.



Call Jen Schofield at 508-570-6544 to run in our Real Estate Corner



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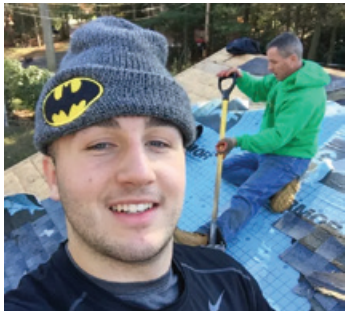
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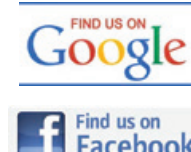
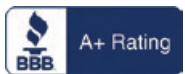
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