



# Bellingham BULLETIN

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Bellingham's Favorite Hometown Newspaper

September 1, 2025

## Gravestone Guardians Preserve Bellingham's Cemeteries One Headstone at a Time

By JENNIFER RUSSO

A stroll through a cemetery can be a quiet moment of reflection, a chance to pay our respects to those who have passed on, or an opportunity to learn more about the history of an old town. Bellingham has cemeteries older than the town itself, dating back to the early 1700s, and many weathered, dirty, and illegible headstones are showing over three hundred years of wear and tear. They are the resting places for many of the town's founding-



**A before-and-after view of the headstone for Abigail Thayer, now legible because of Gravestone Guardians' work.**

families, revolutionary and civil war soldiers, and more.



**David and Jenny Carr, the Gravestone Guardians, have a passion for honoring the past by cleaning and repairing headstones.**

David and Jenny Carr, also known as the Gravestone Guardians, are a husband-and-wife team who are passion-

**CEMETERIES**  
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### Municipal Spotlight

## Harvest Fest Returns to Bellingham Sept. 20

By KEN HAMWEY,  
BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

Harvest Fest is making a comeback in Bellingham.

The event, a family-focused fun day, 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 in 2020. The event, which aims to help stock area food pantries,



**Pastors Baron Rodrigues, left, and Michael Carrier, right, have worked together to bring Harvest Fest back after a five-year absence. Proceeds after expenses will benefit area food pantries, and donations of non-perishable food are welcome.**

**HARVEST FEST**  
*continued on page 3*

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CEMETERIES

continued from page 1

ate about honoring those who came before them. Taking it upon themselves to photograph headstones to help families better document their histories, the couple has taken over 180,000 photos across over four hundred cemeteries in fourteen states and three countries for Billion-Graves.

“As we walked through neglected and overgrown cemeteries, we saw more than broken headstones and forgotten names – we saw stories worth preserving, lives that mattered, and legacies that deserved to be remembered. We realized documenting was only the beginning – many of these stones were deteriorating, sinking, or completely broken. It became clear that if no one stepped in to care for them, these tangible links to our shared past would be lost forever,” share Dave and Jenny.

So, they answered the call of their hearts.

With a strong belief in the



Some of the finished stones in Bellingham's Center Cemetery.

philosophy of “If not us, then who? If not now, then when?” they founded Gravestone Guardians, a nonprofit dedicated to helping individuals and communities preserve their local history through respectful headstone cleaning, resetting, and repair. It is entirely donation-funded, because they don't believe cost should be a barrier to this important work being done. The donations go directly toward the tools and materials needed to restore headstones properly, such as D/2 Biological Solution for cleaning, shovels and tampers for resetting, gravel and sand for stability, and specialized epoxy and clamps for repairing broken stones.

“We love the people connections we have made. So many people want to help, and it's amazing to watch the power of community,” shares Jenny. “Our first large project started in March 2024 in Saugerties,

New York, where Dave was raised. There was a cemetery there with twelve Revolutionary War soldiers and one War of 1812 patriot among 183 other buried individuals, over eighty of whom are Dave's ancestors.”

The couple had been living in Colorado Springs, and in 2023, they moved to Bellingham because of the New England cemeteries, knowing they could do so much to help in a place with such a rich history.

“As we were photographing in Bellingham, we had the same reaction as almost everywhere else we have been – the stones needed cleaning, some were leaning and needing a reset, some were broken and in need of proper repair – so we asked if we could present to the Bellingham Cemetery Committee back in April,” the couple shares.

The Committee approved the work to begin with cleaning some of the oldest stones



The Gravestone Guardians working to clean Bellingham's headstones.

at Center Cemetery first, and Gravestone Guardians will bring examples of these to the next meeting for further discussion on cleaning within our other cemetery locations and more involved work that should be considered.

If you've driven by Center Cemetery, you will see a dramatic difference in the headstones viewable from the road. Gravestone Guardians has done exceptional work on some of our most historic stones. Many of them look brand new and are now easily legible, due to their meticulous attention and preservation best practices.

“We often wonder if people ever regret asking us if we have a hobby at dinner parties or social gatherings. We whip out our phones and start showing off pictures of the different projects in which we are involved, like proud parents! Everyone is always fascinated by what we share. But for some reason, very

few take us up on going out to clean headstones or learn how to work on restoration. We get it - people only have so many hours in their day, and there are so many worthy causes demanding our time and attention. But if anyone reading this article thinks to themselves, ‘This sounds like something I'd like to do,’ then reach out and give it a shot. You never know until you try it, only to discover that you may have found your passion,” say Dave and Jenny.

Patiently working section by section, stone by stone, removing centuries of dirt, moss, and lichen – each is an act of care that will ripple through time. Gravestone Guardians hope that their work will inspire others to see cemeteries not as forgotten corners, but as vital pieces of the community's story.

To learn more about Gravestone Guardians, visit [gravestoneguardians.org](http://gravestoneguardians.org)

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Advertisement for The Cracker-Barrel Fair. Features a large title 'THE CRACKER-BARREL FAIR IS ALMOST HERE!', dates 'September 12th-14th, 2025', and 'Celebrating our 43rd year!'. It lists activities like 'RIDES! FOOD!', 'FIREWORKS! SATURDAY NIGHT!', 'ERIDAY 5-10! SATURDAY 12-10! SUNDAY 12-7!', and 'FEATURING: DAVE WARNER, THE REMINISANTS, SMCC BAND, AK GODY AND THE WICKED NORTHMEN, DAVE PENZA, MATT TREMBLE'. It also mentions 'ANIMALS! MAGIC! CRAFTS!' and 'LIVE MUSIC! GAMES!'. The location is 'Fairgrounds on Emerald St. Wrentham, MA'.

**HARVEST FEST**

*continued from page 1*

is now being revived after a five-year absence.

“When COVID happened, churches shut down, then struggled to regain attendance,” said Pastor Baron Rodrigues of the First Baptist Church. “We didn’t have the people or the funds to continue with Harvest Fest. During the pandemic, I saw cars lined up at St. Blaise Church’s food pantry and realized how many people were suffering. That’s when I felt that a family day was needed to meet the needs of our community.”

Michael Carrier arrived at Bible Baptist Church in 2022 as its 32nd pastor and will be participating in his first Harvest Fest. “I’m thrilled to be part of this community event where families can come together to share the spirit of the town and experience the love that both of our churches strive to show every day,” he said.

Parking is limited at the common, but attendees can park in the lots at the Plaza at Bellingham Commons located behind Dairy Queen and Honey Dew on North Main Street (Route 126).

For the youth, there will be free pony rides, face painting, a bounce house, an obstacle course, gymnastic and karate exhibitions, and other exciting activities. A Christian concert is also scheduled.

“We’ve worked hard to have a fun-filled day for children and hope that they leave with great smiles and joy in their hearts,” Pastor Carrier said.

Many vendors will be on hand to promote and sell their products and both churches are still seeking sponsors and vendors. The fee for vendors is \$20 and sponsors can support the event with a contribution of any size. If interested contact Pastor Rodrigues at (508) 844-1843.

At the *Bulletin* deadline, sponsors included Imperial Cars, Our Town Publishing (*Bellingham Bulletin*), the Bellingham VFW, Middlesex Savings Bank, Cook Valley Farm, Unibank, Mass. Armament, Dean Bank, WMRC Radio, Pearls Candy and Nuts, Muffin House Café, LifeFunction, and the Bellingham Lions Club.

Vendors will be showcasing a variety of items like jewelry, photo prints, arts and crafts, woodworking items, food trucks, candy, dried flower frames, croc-

charms, Tupperware, cups, wallets, etc.

“We’re thankful for the vendors and sponsors who are partnering with us to provide fun and also help the needy in the surrounding communities,” Pastor Rodrigues said.

After expenses are paid (police detail, permits, entertainment costs, etc.), any funds remaining will go to area food pantries. Also, non-perishable, food-item donations are welcomed.

“Behind every outreach we do, there is compassion,” Pastor Carrier emphasized. Pastor Rodrigues added: “It’s about having fun but also about those in need. That’s the prime focus. If we don’t do this, who will?”

Both churches have been fixtures in Bellingham for a lengthy stretch.

The First Baptist Church, which was founded in 1737, played a key role in America’s fight for independence. Its meeting house was a focal point where pastors met to plot their fight for religious freedom, and its second pastor was Noah Alden, a descendant of John and Priscilla Alden of Plymouth Colony. Alden later became a religious adviser to President John Adams.

Bellingham Bible Baptist Church began 150 years ago when Noah J. Arnold and Varnum J. Bates gathered with a small group of believers above their grocery store on Maple Street. These men laid the spiritual foundation of what would become the North Bellingham Baptist Church in 1867. Thanks to a generous land donation by Deacon D.A. King, the current building was completed and dedicated in March 1908. Thirty-one pastors served faithfully before Pastor Carrier was called in 2022.

“Both churches have a long-standing history of fighting for religious liberty, and today we carry out that mission by bringing hope and generosity to our community,” Pastor Carrier noted.

Pastor Rodrigues indicated that “too many times churches have acted separately, but today we’re working together on a mission that was given to us by Jesus to bring His love and compassion to others.”

The fliers promoting Harvest Fest put the event in perspective with one sentence. The flier says: “Bring the whole family for a day filled with laughter, excitement, and unforgettable memories.”

# From the Town Clerk’s Office...

‘Tis the season for weddings and we’ve been busy processing marriage paperwork this summer. (One of my favorite parts of the job!) Appointments are suggested to fill out marriage license paperwork which takes about half an hour to complete. Please be sure to bring a photo ID with your date of birth, so a license/ID or passport will work. As a reminder, you may fill your paperwork out at any Town Clerk’s office in Massachusetts – *but only if you’re getting married within Massachusetts*. You don’t have to fill out paperwork in the town you live in, but be sure to remember where you did because your license will be located in that town if you need it again.

Other things to note, unless a court order is issued, there’s a mandatory three-day wait between filling out your paperwork and picking up your license, and that license will be good for 60 days. If you have any questions about the timing of your license/paperwork or necessary documentation, give us a call at (508) 657-2830 or email at

townclerk@bellinghamma.org. So far, we’ve joyfully processed 58 licenses this year, which puts us about on track with last year’s total of 128 for the year. The cost for a marriage license is \$25, payable by cash or check. Once the marriage is processed, there will be an additional \$10 fee per copy when the certificate is picked up. If you need a copy of an older marriage certificate, please call to

order it and we’ll have the document ready for pickup for a fee of \$10.

Best wishes for a safe and happy fall from the Clerk’s office! As a reminder our Annual Fall Town Meeting is on November 19th, and articles are due by September 12th.

Amy Bartelloni  
Town Clerk

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# Can You Grow a Great Pumpkin? Find Out at Bellingham Community Garden.

By DAVID DUNBAR

“The Great Garden Pumpkin Showdown” is coming to the Bellingham Community Garden.

“The Showdown is a season-long challenge to grow the biggest, baddest pumpkin around, starting from seed,” explains Garden Manager Scott Rice. “It’s designed to be fun, informal, and welcoming to beginners and long-time growers alike,” Rice continues. Participants can use their home gardens, backyards, (must be registered) or even rent a plot at the Community Garden to get in on the action.

Awards will be given for the largest pumpkin, the most un-

usual shaped pumpkin, the best pumpkin name or backstory, and for the best decorated and the roundest pumpkins. They will be presented around Halloween.

The competition this year is kind of a warm-up for the full growing season next year when the 2026 Great Garden Pumpkin Showdown will begin earlier in the season.

Rice has never grown a giant pumpkin, and so, about two months ago, he purchased some seeds for the Dills Atlantic Giant variety and planted them in the garden. “These things can grow to 2,000-plus pounds,” says Rice. “We will be using the OTT (Over-The-Top) measurement

method to estimate pumpkin weight.”

The OTT method is widely accepted in giant pumpkin competitions and provides a reliable estimate by measuring the pumpkin’s circumference and over-the-top distances. While it’s not as precise as using a scale, it allows for consistent, fair comparisons among all entries.

Participants in this year’s Showdown will receive free pumpkin seeds, and guidance on how to grow their own giant pumpkin from scratch. You can grow it in a home garden or take one of six plots available at the community garden. You can sign up by visiting [www.bellingham-](http://www.bellingham-communitygarden.org/pumpkin-showdown)

[communitygarden.org/pumpkin-showdown](http://communitygarden.org/pumpkin-showdown)

Rice says, “Pumpkins aren’t the only thing we’re hoping to grow. Often when I talk to someone in town about the Community Garden, they say, ‘I didn’t know we had one of those.’”

He hopes the Great Garden Pumpkin Showdown will raise the visibility of the Garden and bring in some new faces. “We have about three dozen plots, a greenhouse, and opportunities for volunteers. The Garden is ripe for engagement but needs more community involvement to thrive.” The Garden is located at 200 Center Street just off the SNETT walking trail.



“It’s about building something together,” says Rice, “about creating memories, learning something new, and making everyone feel like this space is theirs too.”

Back to the Showdown... Rice says if you plant now, you might get a 200-pounder by fall. “It’s a great way to learn and experiment before going all in for next year!”

## Bellingham 15th Annual “Friends of the Poor Walk” Sept. 27

### All Proceeds Assist Bellingham Residents

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, St. Blaise Bellingham

Conference is participating for the fifteenth year in the na-

tionally sponsored “Friends of the Poor Walk.” The 1.5 mile Friends of the Poor Walk will be held rain or shine on Satur-

day, September 27th, 2025. The walk begins at St. Blaise Church, 1158 South Main Street continues down to the town common, around the common several times and back to the church.

Registration begins at St. Blaise Church, 1158 South Main Street, Bellingham at 8 a.m. and the walk begins at 9 a.m. T shirts, beverages and snacks will be available to all participants. You may choose to participate virtually in the walk, completing a 1.5 mile on your own at any time during the month of September.

Last year’s participants walked and together raised \$6,588. The conference is looking to increase the participation and funds raised this year. There are no administrative fees and all proceeds from the walk are used locally to assist Bellingham residents, regardless of faith. Assistance is provided for heating, gas, electrical bills, rent and other necessities. Approximately 52 families and individuals have received assistance from the Bellingham Conference this past year totaling over \$31,000.

There are many ways people can help to ensure that the fifteenth Friends of the Poor Walk is a successful one. If unable to participate on the actual day of the Walk, you may donate to a specific walker or directly to the Bellingham conference by going to the church’s website [www.saintblaise.org](http://www.saintblaise.org) and scrolling down to “Online Giving”. Then, select “Saint Vincent de Paul” (please put FOB Walk in the Notes), or make a check out directly to SVdP Bellingham Walk – c/o St. Blaise Parish, 1158 South Main Street, Bellingham 02019.

Join the walk and help us help those in need. Experience the good feeling that comes with helping individuals and families to find shelter, put food on the table, heat their homes, keep the lights on, provide for their children and remain in their homes.

If you need help or know of someone who does you can call St. Blaise Church at (508) 966-1258 extension 6. Leave a message. Most calls are returned within 24 hours and are held in strictest confidentiality.



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# Bring Your Recycling, Leave with a Smile

BY DAVID DUNBAR

Last fall, a Bellingham resident pulled into the town's Recycling Center with a truck full of leaves from his yard. Dolly Burnett greeted him at the entrance. "You know you have to separate the red leaves from the yellow leaves," she announced. And then laughed. He now refers to her as "my favorite nightmare."

This is the kind of social interaction that goes on at the Recycling Center, along with the dumping of all kinds of items including television sets, windowpanes, books, lawn toys, and, yes, leaves.

Burnett has been greeting and helping residents for the past three years. She, along with three others, "run" the center by approving which materials can be dumped and exactly where they should be deposited.

"I love it here," she says. "I have fun. I've lived in Bellingham since 1999, and now I know everybody in town!" Burnett works Saturdays and Sun-

days as a tax-work-off employee and a volunteer.

Most weekends, Harry Montville is at the Center, where he "helps train new people, retirees, and volunteers. And I answer lots of questions about the items we will accept." He is a part-time employee of the Department of Public Works (DPW), and a tax-work-off worker.

What sticks out in his memory of this year so far? "Well, we haven't had a rainy Saturday after having 13 in a row. We work year-round, all the seasons and in any weather."

You can bring air conditioners, batteries, cardboard, tires, plastic, paint, propane, and Styrofoam. Montville says they will not take furniture or commercial wood products.

Check out the town website for a complete listing of acceptable items: [www.bellinghamma.org](http://www.bellinghamma.org) and search for Recycling Center. It is located at 119 South Maple Street.

Until the first weekend of December, hours of operation



Harry Montville and Dolly Burnett stand in front of the "Give and Take Trailer." They are holding two items from inside where you can find an assortment of clean, functioning items you might like to take home with you. And you can leave something that somebody else might want.

are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Not long ago somebody showed up with something the Center would not take. "You'll have to come back Monday," said Burnett with a smile.

New pricing takes effect on September 1. Increased rates are the result of the town's increased cost of disposal and includes tires, mattresses, box springs, and TV sets.

Claire Lofgren is the part-

time manager of the Center and has worked for the DPW for 30 years. She says that, without the Recycling Center, town residents would have to pay more for regular trash removal. "We're busiest in the spring and fall when people are cleaning up their yards and need to dispose of leaves, tree branches, and more."

At election time, she says candidates often show up at the Center's entrance to speak with voters and "make their case."

She says the senior volunteers are "great" and they help check licenses of drivers coming in and direct them to the right places to unload. "We have 10-15 volunteers and tax work off people who are great workers, help with paperwork, and come back year after year."

If you'd like to volunteer, you can call Claire Lofgren at (508) 298-5441. If you'd like to know more about the tax work off program, please call Melissa Paquette at Town Hall at (508) 657-2801.

## Craft Unique Piece of Art, Support St. Blaise Christmas Fair

Imagine a picture of a woman, wineglass, shoe, or several other items totally created through various artistic mediums on canvas including drawing, lace, jewelry, metal, and jewel stones. Choosing an item or object to craft is limited only by your imagination.

Explore your artistic expression at a St. Blaise fundraiser for our Christmas Fair on September 26, 7 p.m. in the parish hall, 1158 South Main Street, Bellingham. All supplies, such as jewelry stones, buttons, lace and fabric, metal, will be furnished. An image of your choice on



canvas and crafting glue will also be provided for the base to create your masterpiece. You could personalize it further if you have a piece of jewelry or item of sentimental value to include in your design.

For only \$25, you will design and create a piece of art for your home or a unique gift for a friend or family member.

This event is open to the general public. To sign up or for more information, please contact Sue Garten, [suegarten25@gmail.com](mailto:suegarten25@gmail.com).

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# Family-Run Affordable Junk Removal Takes the Stress Out of Cleanups

By CHRISTIE VOGT  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Bellingham-based Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.



The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my

phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible, properly disposes of non-recyclables and resells many items at the Schadlers' secondhand store, Resellables. "We opened that store in Bellingham because we hated to see things thrown away," Schadler says. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

## Business spotlight

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the back-end while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 17



Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.

years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place, The Corner Market in Holliston."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

The Schadlers say that Bellingham has been an excellent hometown for both Affordable Junk Removal and their Resellables shop, and they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

To receive a free junk removal estimate, call (774) 287-1133 or visit [affordablejunkremoval.com](http://affordablejunkremoval.com).

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# Look at Your Financial Situation Holistically



Todd Miller

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When you plan a trip, you consider not only the destination but also the climate, activities that interest you, transportation needs, anticipated costs, best time to go and coverage for your work, home or pets. It's a holistic approach — looking at your trip from a variety of angles.

It's wise to apply that same holistic thinking when you plan for your financial future — that is, bringing into the picture all elements of yourself.

Here are some things that may affect your financial strategy:

**Your views on helping your family** – Your decisions about helping your family are clearly going to be a major part of your financial strategy, and this is true at virtually all stages of your life. When your children are young, you'll need to decide if you're going to save money for their college education, and if so, how much, and in what investments. When they're young adults, you may also need to decide how much financial support you're willing to provide for major expenses such as down payments on a new home or a new car. And when you're drawing up your estate plans, you'll need to consider how and when to distribute assets to your children, grandchildren or other family members.

**Your personal beliefs** – As someone with civic, ethical and moral concerns, you may feel compelled to make charitable gifts throughout your life and then make philanthropy part of your legacy. To accomplish these objectives, you'll want to include gifting techniques in your financial strategy today and your estate plans for tomorrow. Of course, for the estate-planning component, you'll need to work with your tax and legal advisors.

**Your purpose in life when you retire** – Having a purpose can bring fulfillment beyond financial security. Leading up to retirement, your purpose may involve providing for your immediate family, bringing value to your profession or contributing to your community. When you retire and step off your career path, you're entering a new world of possibilities. How will you define, and live out, your new sense of purpose at this stage of your life? Do you seek

to broaden your horizons by traveling around the world? Or spend more time volunteering? Can you pursue hobbies that give you a chance for self-expression? Each of these choices will carry different financial implications for how much you'll need to accumulate for retirement and how much income you will need to take out each year from your retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k).

**Your health** – Your physical and mental health can play big roles in your financial plans and outlook. On the most basic level, the healthier you are, and the better you take care of yourself, the lower your health care bills will likely be during retirement, which will affect the amount you need to put away for health care. And you also may need to prepare for the costs of long-term care, which can be enormous — in fact, a private room in a nursing home can easily cost \$100,000 per

year, according to Genworth, an insurance company.

It can be challenging to weave all these elements into a single, unified vision, so you may want to get some help from a financial professional. But, in any case, be prepared to look at your situation holistically because, when putting together a lifetime's financial strategy, every part of your life matters.


For more information contact:

Todd Miller  
O: (781) 652 - 9573 call or text  
Todd.Miller@edwardjones.com

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**Please help keep our local waters clean:**

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

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For more information, visit our community's website or go to [www.stormwatermatters.org](http://www.stormwatermatters.org).

# Children's Museum of Franklin to Open

## Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony September 17; Doors Open September 18th

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

After two years of community collaboration, Franklin innovators and moms Erin Gallagher and Meg Hagen will finally be able to realize their dream, the Children's Museum

of Franklin. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the family-friendly regional venue at 157 Cottage Street in Franklin, will take place from 4-5 p.m. on September 17th, 2025, with the museum welcoming families the

very next day, from 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Two days later, exactly two years to the day the 501 (c) 3 nonprofit was founded, adults are invited to a birthday bash on the premises on September 19, 2025 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tickets (\$100) will include a drink ticket, food, and live music by the Pub Kings.

Hagen and Gallagher expressed "joyful anticipation" at "being able to welcome all of those families who have wrapped their arms around us to be able to open a museum for the community and by the community," referring not only to financial contributions from the community, but to local experts who contributed their talents to create the inclusive space, from an advisory committee of child-centric professionals to the exhibit builders themselves. "Their talents have been so meaningful to this process, and they will be so valued by this community," said Gallagher.

The museum boasts features like an Imaginative Play Downtown with a custom gazebo, a dinosaur exhibit, Miss Money's Playroom, a Healthy Bodies area with a pumping heart, an 8-foot diameter Sensory Tree, a transportation area, a climbing structure with a step-down pit, nursing stations, a classroom makerspace and lab facilities. Exhibits are designed for children aged 0-10, with programming planned for



elementary and middle-school aged children and leadership opportunities for older students.

The museum is expected to attract families and educators from up to an hour away, as the nonprofit's mobile museum events have drawn folks from 180 different towns. "We're really excited to be able to reach people on a daily basis and just offer so much more for families that come to visit us," said Gallagher.

Although a spring opening was planned, an extra financial push was needed to finally open the doors. Hagen and Gallagher were thankful to Founding Families, corporations and organizations that came aboard. A Massachusetts Cultural Council for \$145,000 also helped them complete the renovation of the space, formerly owned by Agway. "That absolutely was a game changer," said Hagen. Although the pair is still working to fund its A-Mazing Ways wind exhibit and a water exhibit designed by Sci-

ence Kinetics and Vanderbilt University, "engaging and fun temporary exhibits with STEM and learning tables" will temporarily fill those spaces.

The two partners, who refer to their collective five children as "exhibit testers extraordinaire," said their work together has deepened their friendship. "Our ability to maintain our friendship and to grow and work together throughout this process has been amazing," says Hagen.

"It just feels like such a milestone moment to be able to announce our opening," added Gallagher.

Admission to the museum, closed to the public Tuesday and Wednesdays to allow for school field trips, will be \$14 per person, with discounted rates for WIC and EBT recipients and discounted passes available at local libraries. "We have also had someone step up to provide free passes for the Franklin Food Pantry and the SAFE Coalition," said Hagen.

Prior to the public opening, the museum will hold a registration-only pre-play event for social media family/parenting life influencers on September 14th. In addition, a Scary Scurry 5K and Fun Run fundraiser is scheduled for October 19, 2025.

For more information, visit <http://childrensmuseum-franklin.org>.

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# Navigating College Admissions with Financial Planning



Glenn Brown, CFP

The college admissions process can feel overwhelming for both students and parents.

From understanding early application options to maximizing financial aid and planning for expenses, every decision matters. Let's break down key aspects to help families make confident, informed choices.

### Early Action vs. Early Decision

These two common early application paths are typically due around November 1, but they work very differently:

**Early Action (EA):** Students apply earlier and receive admissions decisions sooner, without any binding commitment. EA applicants can apply to multiple schools and compare offers before deciding.

**Early Decision (ED):** A binding commitment—if admitted, students must attend. ED can improve acceptance odds because schools see these applicants as highly motivated. However, families must request merit aid at the time of applica-

tion; later financial aid concerns can jeopardize an acceptance.

### Maximizing Merit-Based Aid

Merit aid is awarded for academic, athletic, or artistic achievements rather than financial need. To improve chances:

**Look Beyond Trophy Schools.** Highly competitive universities offer little merit aid because of their abundant applicant pools. Instead, consider niche colleges or specialized programs where your student's strengths stand out.

**Build Recruiter Relationships.** Merit decisions often hinge on personal connections. Encourage students to reach out to local recruiters, share interests, and stay in touch. These relationships can lead to introductions with faculty and admissions staff. When students apply, they should express enthusiasm directly—making their case for both admission and merit support.

**Let Students Lead.** Recruiters prefer authentic student voices. Parents should support, but avoid writing, editing, or speaking on behalf of the student.

### Making the Most of 529 Plans

A 529 plan offers tax-free growth and withdrawals when used for qualified education expenses. To use funds effectively:

**Adjust Investments Over Time:** As college approaches, consider shifting a portion of funds into more stable investments—such as bonds or money markets—to reduce volatility.

**Stick to Qualified Expenses:** Withdrawals must cover costs like tuition, fees, books, and room and board. Non-qualified

expenses can trigger taxes and penalties.

### Understanding Loan Options

Loans can help bridge financial gaps, but terms vary widely.

**Federal Student Loans:** Typically lower interest rates and flexible repayment terms. Includes Direct Subsidized Loans (interest covered while in school) and Direct Unsubsidized Loans (interest accrues immediately).

**Parent PLUS Loans:** Federal loans taken by parents. They carry fixed interest rates and repayment flexibility, but parents assume the debt burden.

**Private Loans:** Offered by banks and lenders. Usually higher interest rates and fewer protections, making them a last resort.

### Policy Update: Student Loan Reform

For the first time in years, Congress—not just executive orders—has taken the lead on student loan reform.

The One Big Beautiful Bill (OB BB) changes the “blank-check” borrowing effect:

**Parent PLUS Loans:** Borrowing is now capped at \$20,000 per year and \$65,000 total for parents of undergraduates.

**Graduate Loans:** Master's/general graduate programs are now \$20,500 annually and \$100,000 lifetime, while professional programs (e.g., law, medicine) are \$50,000 per year and \$200,000 total.

**Undergraduate Loans:** Existing limits remain unchanged at \$12,500 annually and \$57,500 aggregate.

By placing borrowing caps, OB BB shifts responsibility back to universities to manage affordability, rather than allowing unlimited borrowing. It's a step toward addressing the root cause of rising education costs—not just the symptoms.

### Final Thoughts

Families who plan ahead—by understanding application

strategies, targeting schools wisely, and exploring funding options—set themselves up for both financial stability and a smoother transition into college life. For tailored guidance, talk to your Certified Financial Planner.

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

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of Plan-Dynamic, LLC, [www.PlanDynamic.com](http://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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# Bellingham Lions 2nd Annual BARKtober FEST

*Sunday October 19, Bellingham Middle School*

The Bellingham Lions Second Annual BARKtober FEST will be held on Sunday October 19 at the Bellingham Middle School. The event will start at 12 p.m. with the Costume Contest at 1 p.m. Start thinking of creative costumes for your dog! There is no entrance fee, but a \$5 donation is welcome.

We are looking for pet related

businesses to be vendors at the event as well as donations of pet related raffle items. Follow our Facebook page for details.

If you would like to participate or have any questions, please message us through our Facebook page or contact Robin Ewing at [romitlog@gmail.com](mailto:romitlog@gmail.com).

All donations and proceeds will go to pet charities.

# New Year Begins for Ladies of St. Anne Sodality

All Bellingham women, 18+ years, are welcome to join the Ladies Sodality. Our ministry is to develop and strengthen one another in devotion to St. Anne. We actively create an atmosphere of comfort, support, companionship and charity in our monthly meetings.

We will host a "Coffee and" on September 21, after the 10

a.m. Mass, in the vestibule of St. Blaise. Please stop in to visit with our members, have a cup of coffee/tea, a cookie and learn a little more about our Sodality. We would love to talk with you.

The first meeting of the 2025-26 year is on September 11th, at 6:30 p.m. We will begin with a Communion Service in the Chapel and then move down to

the hall for our meeting and refreshments. As usual, this meeting will establish the calendar of events for the coming year. Of course, we all enjoy catching up with each other and finding out how the summer went.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

# St. Blaise Fair September 13

The Annual Vendor Fair opens at 8 a.m. on Saturday, September 13, until 2 p.m., on the grounds of St. Blaise Parish, 1158 South Main Street, Bellingham, MA. Admission is free and open to the public.

Grandma's Attic, set up by the garage, will feature old and new treasures for the bargain hunter.

The Brotherhood of St. Joseph the Worker will offer hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, soda and other delicious food items for sale. Enjoy your lunch at tables set up in the food area.

The Ladies of St. Anne will offer muffins, breads, fruit cups, yogurt parfaits and desserts for sale. Eat at the fair, or take home and share with family and

friends.

Vendors selling many various products will have tables set around the church. Purchase early hand-made, unique Christmas gifts, home decor or other items.

We hope to see you there!



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# Rep. Soter Announces FY26 Chapter 90 Funding for District

## Road and Bridge Funding Part of \$1.185B Transportation Infrastructure Bill

Boston, MA – All towns in the 8th Worcester district are scheduled to receive FY26 Total Apportionment in state Chapter 90 funding assistance for local transportation infrastructure as part of a \$1.185 billion transportation bond bill supported by State Representative Michael Soter (R-Bellingham).

House Bill 4307, *An Act financing long-term improvements to municipal roads and bridges*, was given preliminary approval by the House of Representatives on July 23, when it was engrossed on a vote of 156-0. The bond bill was signed by Governor Healey's August 8th.

Representative Soter said the House bill calls for a \$300 million statewide allocation for the Chapter 90 program for Fiscal Year 2026, with \$200 million to be allocated to cities and towns using the traditional three-prong formula that is based on the weighted average of each community's local road mileage (58.33%), population (20.83%) and employment (20.83%). The remaining \$100 million will be allocated based strictly on local road mileage.

Under the House bill, Representative Soter noted the following town allocations:

	FY 2026 CH90 Formula	FY 2026 Road Miles	Total Apportionment
BELLINGHAM	\$ 540,086.30	\$ 306,930.10	\$ 847,016.40
BLACKSTONE	\$ 228,509.94	\$ 136,181.27	\$ 364,691.21
MILLVILLE	\$ 108,936.70	\$ 74,161.47	\$ 183,098.17
MEDWAY	\$ 396,464.18	\$ 230,108.42	\$ 626,572.60
UXBRIDGE	\$ 526,377.90	\$ 339,885.60	\$ 866,263.50

Created by the Legislature in 1973, the Chapter 90 program is funded annually and provides reimbursement to cities and towns to help offset the costs associated with local transportation infrastructure projects. In addition to constructing, repairing and maintaining local roads and bridges, communities can use Chapter 90 funds for related transportation infrastructure work such as sidewalks, traffic

signalization and street lighting.

Representative Soter noted that House Bill 4307 also includes \$885 million in bond funding to support three non-Chapter 90 transportation-related initiatives, including:

- \$500 million for the bridge and pavement lifecycle asset management program, which assists communities with non-federally aided roadway and bridge projects

and for the nonparticipating portion of federally aided projects;

- \$200 million for modernization and resilience upgrades to municipally owned culverts and small bridges; and
- \$185 million for statewide capital projects aimed at easing congestion and improving safety through multimodal infrastructure improvements.

# Yankee Quilters Plan 1st Meeting of Year September 9th

Yankee Quilters, a nonprofit guild of quilters which meets in Franklin, welcomes members new and old to its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 9th at Emma's Quilt Cupboard and Sewing Center, Horace Mann Plaza, 319 E. Central St., Franklin. The Guild meets the second Tuesday of the month, September through June. Members have a social gathering at 6:30 followed by the meeting at 7 p.m.

With this being our first meeting, we are planning a short busi-

ness meeting, followed by a Meet and Greet. New people can receive information about our guild, and this year's calendar. Returning members can catch up with friends they haven't seen over the summer and make new friends. We will have a Show and Tell of projects completed over the summer.

Yankee Quilters is holding a Savers Fundraiser as a benefit for our programs and outreach to those facing challenges. We are collecting 'softlines' (men's, women's, and children's clothes, coats,

shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, belts, backpacks, etc. bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linens, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc.) Books and Media (paperback, hard covers of all genres except encyclopedias or textbooks). Any media items need to be boxed separately.

We will be holding 2 drop-off dates for donations: September 6th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and October 4th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. October 4th is our Savers drop-off date, so we will be load-

ing a truck and leaving promptly at noon. The drop-off location is Prime Storage, 302 Hartford Ave., Bellingham, MA 02019. If people need assistance with donations, please email yankeequilters11@gmail.com we will do our best to either pick up donations or schedule other drop-off times.

We have Yankee member Sandie Husby, of Franklin, who sells her work as the "Lone Quilter," presenting at the October meeting with a program on "The Depression and Quilting." Sandie will be discussing the Depression, how it affected quilting and the quilts of that era.

Yankee Quilters has three Staycation sewing events planned. Please add them to your calendar because they fill up fast.

The dates are October 24 - 26, 2025; February 27 - March 1, 2026; and April 10 - 12, 2026. All weekends take place in Holiston.

The Staycations include a 6-foot table per person, cutting table, sandwiching table, design walls, 3 ironing stations. We also provide dinner on Friday night, lunch and dinner on Saturday, bagels and leftovers on Sunday. The cost for the weekend is \$100 for members and \$125 for non-members, with a daily rate of \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members. If you are interested in participating in any of these Staycations, please reach out to yankeequilters11@gmail.com or attend one of our meetings.



We invite all to join us for a "Night of Remembrance" as we "light up" the Bellingham Town Common's pathways in *Love* to remember all those we keep in our hearts that are ill or those that have passed.

Each Luminary bag (complete with battery-operated candle and glass weights) may be dedicated to whomever you would like to remember that evening.

Luminaries can be reserved in advance; for which, forms are available at the Town Clerk's Office, the Library, and the Senior Center, or available the night of the event.

The cost for each bag is **\$5** and may be taken home at the conclusion of the event.

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# Upcoming Events through Tri-County Regional Chamber

Introducing the **Business Opportunity Network** — a dynamic, one-seat-per-industry networking group designed for early risers who are serious about building strong, referral-driven relationships. Our quarterly in-person meeting is open to guests, and we'd love to have you join us. We're actively growing and looking for professionals ready to connect, collaborate, and grow their business in a supportive, energized environment. Why not join us, meet the group, and see what you think?

**Thursday, September 4th | 5:30 – 7 p.m.**

### CraftRoots Brewing

**4 Industrial Road Milford, MA**  
<https://tinyurl.com/BusOppNet>

### The Strategy Table

Join us for **The Strategy Table** — a powerful, solutions-driven roundtable where chamber members come together to help one of our own. Each month, we spotlight a local business that could use a boost — whether it's with marketing, finances, hiring chal-

lenges, or something else entirely. This isn't your typical meeting. It's a collaborative brainstorming session where your ideas, experience, and insight can make a real difference. Come ready to share, support, and spark real change for a fellow member, and leave feeling inspired by the power of community. Let's put our heads together and lift each other up!

**Friday, September 5th | 8 – 9 a.m.**  
**Chamber Office 258 Main Street, Suite 306, Milford, MA**

<https://tinyurl.com/Strategy-TableFiore>

### Wellness Business Exchange

Join us for a relaxed networking meetup while enjoying the benefits of the salt chamber at Caney Salt & Wellness in Holliston—open to anyone in the health and wellness industry. Connect, share referrals, and build real relationships with fellow pros in a calming, supportive space.

**Tuesday, September 9th | 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.**

### CANēY Salt & Wellness Studio

**100 Central Street Holliston, MA**  
<https://tinyurl.com/Wellness-BusExchange>

### Business After Hours

Join us at The Curry House in Franklin for an evening of delicious Indian cuisine, a cash bar, exciting giveaways, and great company. Whether you're catching up with familiar faces or making brand-new connections, it's the perfect mix of networking and fun. Don't miss this flavorful night—bring a friend (or two) and let's make it another one to remember!

**Tuesday, September 9th | 5 - 7pm**  
**The Curry House 418 West Central Street Franklin, MA**

<https://tinyurl.com/BusAfter-Hours925>

### Connecting Women Leaders Luncheon

We're thrilled to welcome **Nicole Gabe, Morning News Anchor at Boston25 News** as our featured speaker at the Connecting Women Leaders Luncheon!

Nicole will share her personal journey, insights into the industry, the challenges women continue to face, and the power of mentorship and community involvement. Her message promises to inspire, uplift, and spark meaningful conversation.

**Wednesday, September 17th | 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**The Willows at Medway 44 Willow Pond Circle Medway, MA**

<https://tinyurl.com/connect-womenleaders>

### Leads & Lunch: Countdown to Windows 11: Is Your Business Ready for the End of Windows 10?

Support ends October 14, 2025—don't wait!

Join us for a Leads & Lunch with Rob Russell of Hopedale Technologies to learn what this change means, how to upgrade to Windows 11, and how to protect your business from rising cybersecurity risks.

Relaxed, informative, and made for local business owners. Don't get caught off guard—plan ahead!

**Friday, September 19th | 11:30 – 1 p.m.**

**Lowell's Restaurant**  
**75 Cape Road Mendon, MA**

<https://tinyurl.com/leadsn-lunchwindows11>

We mean business when it comes to growing your business. That's why we created the **MAXIMUM Impact networking group** — a dynamic leads referral group that helps businesses expand through trusted, high-quality referrals. The group meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 7:30am to 8:30am through Zoom, and meets in person quarterly. If you are interested in learning more about this group, or to check if there's a spot open for your industry, please contact Sherri.

**September In Person Luncheon: The Rail Trail**  
**223 Main Street Milford, MA**

**Tuesday, September 23rd | 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Cost for Lunch is \$25**

<https://tinyurl.com/Max-Impact925>

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- Multi-Color River Stone
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- 3/4" Processed Gravel
- 3" Processed Gravel
- Recycled Asphalt
- 1" Dense Grade Gravel
- 3/4" Crusher Run
- Washed Sand
- Mason/Pool Sand
- Stone Dust
- Blue Stone Dust
- Rip Rap
- Fill Clay/General
- Trench Sand

# Norfolk Register to Release Booklet on Norfolk County's Notable Women Sept. 10

Dedham, MA – Women have long shaped the fabric of Norfolk County through courage, intellect, and civic commitment—often beyond the spotlight. On Wednesday, September 10, 2025, the Norfolk

County Registry of Deeds will celebrate these legacies with the release of *We Remember Our Women*, the fourth installment in the Registry's Notable Land Records series.



and the continued progress of women in Norfolk County.

The event will also feature music and complimentary copies of the notable land record publication *We Remember Our Women*, all in celebration of the individuals whose efforts continue to shape life in Norfolk County and beyond, including the second female doctor in the country, a dedicated Canton conservationist, two female Army Generals, the first female professional writer, and a CNN anchor.

As Abigail Adams—a Norfolk County native—wrote to her husband John during the Continental Congress, “remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than of your ancestors.” This event carries forward her message, recognizing those whose contributions still echo through our communities today.

For more information, please contact Jonathan Thomas at (781) 234-3305 or email [jthomas@norfolkdeeds.org](mailto:jthomas@norfolkdeeds.org).

Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Kimberley L. Driscoll will offer keynote remarks at the event, which runs from 3-5 p.m. in the Registry's Great Hall, located at 649 High St. in Dedham. The gathering is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

The booklet presents 44 profiles of women from the twenty-eight communities of Norfolk County who have impacted society through dedication, courage, and achievement. The *We*

Remember Our Women booklet shares the fascinating stories of a diverse group of trailblazers who have influenced fields of medicine, environmental advocacy, journalism, literature, and military service.

Visitors to the Registry will be invited to view exhibits highlighting each woman's contributions, including historical storyboards and timelines. The Registry's Great Hall will be transformed into a space of reflection and pride, honoring both the past



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# Bellingham Senior Center Upcoming Events

The Bellingham Senior Center is located at 40 Blackstone St., Bellingham. Reach them at (508) 966-0398 or online at [www.bellinghamma.org](http://www.bellinghamma.org)

**BESG Annual Yard Sale:** approaches. Saturday, September 13, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Senior Center. Donations being accepted.

**The COA Breakfast:** Saturday, September 27 from 9-11 a.m. The menu will include scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, home fries and juice and coffee. For Bellingham seniors only. Free, but sign up at the front desk.

**Learn about Harvesting Food from Your Garden:** with Kate

Donovan, our Garden Guru, Thursday, September 18, at 10 a.m., Call (508) 966-0398 and reserve your spot.

**50+ Job Seekers:** Every month, Career Coach George Armstrong is at the Center and ready to help you find a great new job.

**Walk the Blackstone Canal:** September 11, at 8:30 a.m. Meet at the Canal Street parking lot in Blackstone. Please pack a picnic breakfast to be enjoyed after the walk. To join, please call Lisa Loo at (508) 966-0398.

**Learn to Paint:** with Amy Adams September 10, from 1-3 p.m. All supplies are included,

and everyone will leave with an 11"x14" painting they have created from start to finish. \$25 per person. Space is limited to 15. Please call (508) 966-0398 to sign up.

**Special Travel Presentation-Magical Rhine & Moselle Rivers:** Learn about a nine-day vacation beginning in the Netherlands and ending in Switzerland. Join Diane Silverman on Tuesday, September 9 at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. And please call ahead.

**Spiritual Book Club:** The Club meets via Zoom on Mondays at 9 a.m.

Please call host Josie Dutil

at (508) 657-2705 to join or for more information.

**Coffee & Conversation:** Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.! Special guest on September 9 will be the new Bellingham Town Administrator Joseph Laydon, who began his new role September 2.

**Fuel Assistance:** Be on the lookout for your LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) renewal application from SMOC starting in mid to late September. Once you receive it in the mail, please call Lisa Loo at the Senior Center to schedule your appointment. The sooner you can complete the application and submit it,

the sooner you will start to receive the benefit. Appointments for any new applications for the 2025 - 2026 fuel assistance season will begin in October. The fuel assistance season runs from November 1st, 2025, through April 30th, 2026.

**The Knitters & Quilters Group** meets each Monday at 9 a.m.

**Senior Center's 3rd Annual 60th Birthday Party:** October 2, open to Bellingham residents born in 1965

**Coming November 1:** The 20th annual Craft Fair at the Senior Center, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

# BVT's School Lunch and Breakfast Programs Policy

## Families Encouraged to Check Eligibility Chart & Submit Application

Upton, MA - The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District (BVT) is pleased to continue offering its students one free breakfast and lunch at school, thanks to permanent funding from the USDA and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. While meals are provided at no cost, families are still encouraged to complete the Free and Reduced Price Meal Application on the school website. Doing so helps expand other educational and nutrition initiatives across

the district and sustain funding for the program in future years.

You do not need to complete an application to receive free meal benefits if you receive a letter stating that your child is eligible for free meals via the direct certification process. Families who qualify for free or reduced price meals may also become eligible for Sun Bucks, a new program launching in 2026 that offers grocery assistance during the summer when school is out. Families may also qualify

for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which offers monthly financial assistance for grocery expenses. If you're not currently receiving SNAP but think you may be eligible, contact Project Bread's Food Source Hotline at 1-800-645-8333 or apply online at DTA Connect.

To see if children from your household are eligible for free or reduced price meal services, please visit the school website where you can view the federal eligibility income chart, find answers to frequently asked questions, and complete an online application at [www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/freereducedmealsfaq](http://www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/freereducedmealsfaq).

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# September 2025 at Bellforge Arts Center

These free or low-cost events are happening soon!

### September 6, 3-7 p.m.

#### Little Lies: A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac

Relive the timeless hits and harmonies of Fleetwood Mac.

### September 20, 4-7 p.m.

#### Women In Music Festival

Powerful performances by the women who command the stage. In partnership with Women In Music Boston.

### September 27, 4-7 p.m.

#### Peter, Brendan & Jim Mayer: Come Together Summer Tour 2025

Cap off Medfield Day with an evening of music, connection, and community that honors the spirit of Jimmy Buffet.

### October 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

#### CultureFest 2025

CultureFest is a joyful celebration of community, culture, and connection.

For more information on these free shows or other low-cost ticketed events not listed here, visit [www.bellforge.org/events](http://www.bellforge.org/events).

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# Plein-Air Artist Olson at Franklin Art Association Sept. 3

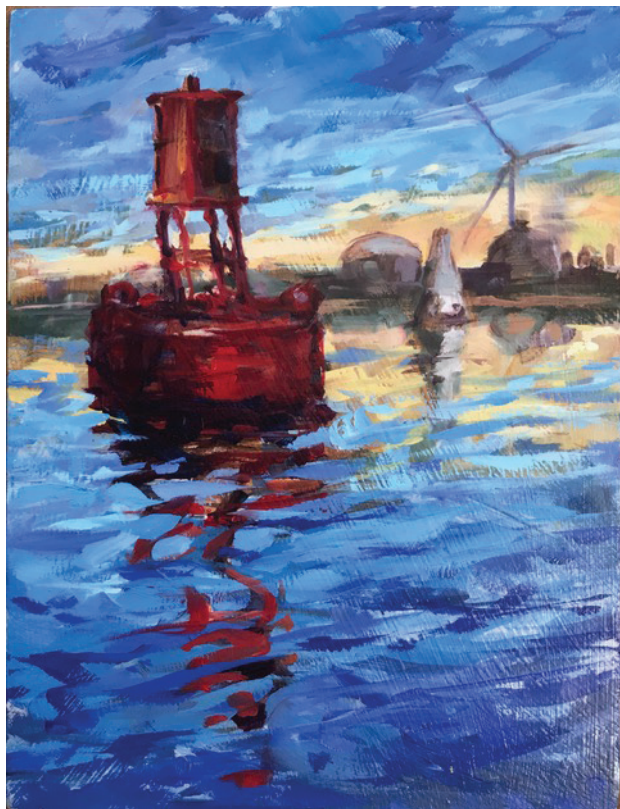
The Franklin Art Association is excited to welcome Paul Olson as their demo artist on Wed., Sept. 3, to kick off their 2025-2026 season. The FAA meets at the Franklin Senior Center at 6:30pm first Wednesday of each month, where new members and the public are invited.

Paul will demo his approach to plein-air painting. Paul Olson is a Rhode Island-based plein-air painter inspired by the natural splendor of our beautiful Narragansett Bay. Olson's artwork reflects his deep connection with nature and his love for the flora and fauna of the coastal landscape around him. He can

often be found at his easel on his small boat, documenting the effects of wind and weather, sky and water. His work has been exhibited in galleries throughout the Northeast, and in some less traditional spaces like the Providence Place Mall and the Local 251 Teamsters Union Hall.

Paul is also a lover of trees, having had two exhibitions of tree paintings at Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, and is a potter, making containers for Bonsai and cultivating his own collection of miniature trees.

Olson has been a passionate teacher at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) and Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt) with a career spanning over 25 years. Semi-retired but still teaching Oil Painting as a Senior Critic in the Illustration Department at RISD, Paul now spends more time out painting, enjoying being part of the landscape in the open air.



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# Bellingham Public Library News & Events for Events for September

Visit the library website at [www.bellinghamlibrary.org](http://www.bellinghamlibrary.org).

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

**Red Cross Blood Drive – Saturday, September 13th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Register at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

**Songs and Stories of Willie Nelson Concert – Friday, September 19th at 6:30 p.m.**

Longtime New England singer/songwriter Matt York will perform songs and tell stories about the great Willie Nelson and his seven-decade career. In both 2022 and 2023, York was nominated for the Boston Music Award for Best Country Artist and last year, his album *Gently Used* was named one of the top albums by *Worcester Magazine*.

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

**New and Improved Children’s Programs! We have two new programs for children this month!**

**Mini Masterpieces – Wednesdays through September 17th from 10:15-11 a.m.**

A story and a craft inspired by famous artists. We’ll read an artsy book then work on an art project where little ones can create their own mini masterpieces! For ages 2-5 (younger siblings welcome) - No registration, drop in!

**Little Learners – Beginning September 24th -Wednesdays & Fridays, 10:15 to 11 a.m.**

Little Learners is a story time program that will focus on a variety of early learning skills such as letters, numbers, shapes, colors, and more, with a format similar to Alphabits. This program runs September-May and is best for ages 2-5. *Registration is required to help us plan materials (Registering once will sign you up for the whole program).*

**Ongoing Children’s Programs**

**The Baby Bunch –** Mondays from 9-10 a.m., for infants 0-18 months and their caregivers.

**Ring a Ding –** Mondays & Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. For ages 0-5. Songs, dancing, instruments, beach balls, a parachute, and a story = a lot of noisy fun!

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

**Sensory Story Time –** Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. For children ages 2-5 of all abilities (younger siblings welcome). Story, sensory activities, and open play. Please register for each session.

**Lego Builders –** Mondays at 4:30 p.m. Grades K to 3 – Drop in, no registration!

**Fri-Yay Open Play –** Fridays at 10:15 a.m. through September 19th.

Yay for Fridays! The Community Room will be set up with some open-ended art and activities for ages 0-5.

**Adult/Child Book Clubs –** For kids in grades 2-4, 5-7 or 8-11 and an adult in their life who loves to read. Meets monthly. Those in grades 2-4 should contact Melissa Denham, [mdenham@cwmar.org](mailto:mdenham@cwmar.org), grades 5-7 should contact Amanda MacLure, [amaclure@cwmar.org](mailto:amaclure@cwmar.org), and grades 8-11 should contact Diane Nelson, [dnelson@cwmar.org](mailto:dnelson@cwmar.org). Check the library calendar for details.

**Teen Room Activities –** Teen Room Activities are for children in grades 7 to 12. The program is open Monday through Friday from 2-4:45 p.m. Stop by the Teen Room to use computers, play on the Nintendo Switch and Xbox, play board games and hang out with friends! No registration needed. Please note: program times may vary on early release days.

**Adult Programs**

**Book Discussion Group –** Generally meets the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Attend in person or on Zoom. Contact [library@bellinghamlibrary.org](mailto:library@bellinghamlibrary.org) for more information.

Our upcoming titles and dates are:

September 8th: *Rough Sleepers* by Tracy Kidder

October 6: *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

November 3: *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride

December 1: *The Women* by Kristin Hannah

**A Novel Idea: A Book Club for Adults –** Tuesday, September 2nd from 6:30-8 p.m.

A Novel Idea is a new book club designed for adults who love to read. Discussion with light refreshments. This month, we are discussing *A Secret History of Witches*, by Louisa Morgan. Contact Diane Nelson at [dnelson@cwmar.org](mailto:dnelson@cwmar.org)

**English Conversation Groups**

Practice speaking English with other adult English language learners in a relaxed, comfortable place, and meet new friends as we learn by talking together. Conversations will be facilitated by a library staff member or volunteer. Attend as often as you wish!

Monday, September 8th from 1-1:45 p.m.

Tuesday, September 9th from 6-6:45 p.m.

Wednesday, September 17th from 10-10:45 a.m.

Thursday, September 25th from 5-5:45 p.m.

**Yoga & Meditation for Late Summer & Early Fall**

Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. Start-

ing September 9th. Check the library calendar to register.

**Friends of the Library Monthly Meeting (Zoom)–** Tuesday, September 9th at 7 p.m.

To attend, email [library@bellinghamlibrary.org](mailto:library@bellinghamlibrary.org) for the Zoom link!

**Needlecraft Night –** Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m.

All skill levels are welcome, including beginners. Please bring your own materials.

**Library Board of Trustees Meeting –** Thursday, September 11 at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room.

**Writing Group for Adults –** Tuesday, September 16th at 6:30 pm.

Join us at the library or on Zoom! Local area writers Amy Bartelloni and Marjorie Turner Hollman welcome the public to hear what local writers are working on and share what you are working on. Works of fiction or nonfiction are welcome. Reading limit is 9 minutes per reader, with a brief opportunity for positive, personal comments only. Contact Marjorie Turner Hollman at [marjorie@marjorie-turner.com](mailto:marjorie@marjorie-turner.com).

**Bellingham Genealogy Club –** Monday, September 22nd from 6-7:30 p.m.

Bring your laptop or use one of our Chromebooks on the fourth Monday of the month to work on your family history in the company of other family historians! This program is hosted by our Teen & Local History Librarian Molly Garten. Registration is preferred but not necessary!

**Virtual Author Talks –** to register for these talks, go to: <https://library.org/bellingham>. Recordings of these talks are also available on the library website in the days following the event.

Wednesday, September 3rd at 7 p.m. – Online Author Talk with Author Hannah Nicole Maehrer

Wednesday, September 10th at 2 p.m. – Virtual Talk with Communication Expert Jefferson Fisher

Wednesday, September 17th at 2 p.m. – Online Author Talk with Author Gabe Henry

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**After School Programs for Fall of 2025 (Began August 27)**

**After School Kids (ASK) –** The After School Kids program is for children in grades 4-6. The program runs 2:25 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. The children walk to the library from the middle school and play video games, use the Chromebooks we provide or their own, play board games and do arts and crafts. It is a wonderful way for them to socialize after school in a safe, positive environment. Registration is required, and first-time applicants must sign-up in person. Contact Diane Nelson with questions.



# Bellingham Author's *Wicked Strange* Explores New England's Weird Side

Bellingham, MA — Red Wheel/Weiser, LLC has announced the publication of *Wicked Strange: Your Guide to Ghosts, Monsters, Oddities, and Urban Legends* from New England, the latest book by best-selling author Jeff Belanger and award-winning photographer Frank Grace. *Wicked Strange* is the ultimate northeast travel guide taking readers on a journey to the strange and frequently unseen world that is often right under their noses.

"*Wicked Strange* is the culmination of more than a decade of collecting weird tales for my PBS television series *New England Legends*, and my weekly podcast of the same name," said Belanger. "Frank Grace and I had been publishing the annual *Haunted New England* wall calendar since 2014, so this book was the next logical step in our mission to chronicle every legend in New England one story at a time."

Covering haunted places, swamps, forests, and lakes where mysterious creatures have been spotted, areas where unusual events have happened, eccentric locals, and roadside oddities, noted expert of the strange Jeff Belanger is your guide to all that's local and weird.

All six New England states are equally represented in this guide of the bizarre. Highlights include: Mark Twain's haunted mansion in Hartford, Connecticut; The Westford Knight in Westford, Massachusetts; Beer Bottle Church in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire; the Vampire in Cumberland, Rhode Island; the Sweetest Cemetery in Waterbury, Vermont; and the Specter Moose of Lobster Lake in Piccataquis, Maine.

"Legends have always run deep in New England—thankfully, Jeff Belanger is here to uncover them and bring them to life. Partnered with the stunning photography of Frank Grace, this collection of mysteries, secrets, and folklore from America's birthplace is as illuminating as it is fascinating," remarked Josh Gates, explorer, host of Discovery's *Expedition Unknown*.

*Wicked Strange* is now available as a full-color paperback and e-book.

## About Jeff Belanger

Jeff Belanger ([jeffbelanger.com](http://jeffbelanger.com)) is an author, adventurer, journalist, and one of the most visible explorers of the unexplained. Some his best-selling books include *The Fright Before Christmas*, *Weird Massachusetts*, and *The World's Most Haunted Places*. He is also the Emmy-nominated host, writer, and producer of the *New England Legends* series on PBS and the weekly *New England Legends* podcast that's garnered more than 6 million downloads. He's been a guest on hundreds of television and radio networks and programs, including History, Travel Channel, Biography Channel, PBS, *CBS Sunday Morning*, NPR, BBC, and *Coast to Coast AM*. Jeff lives near Boston, Massachusetts.

## About Frank Grace

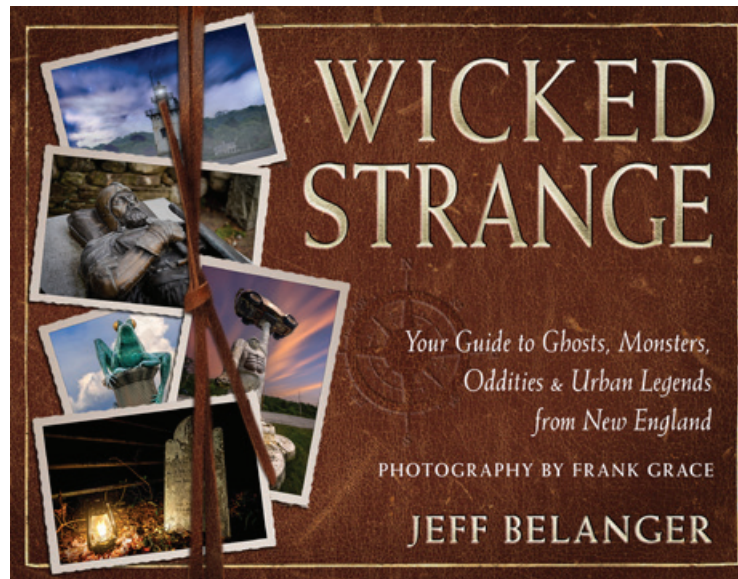
Frank Grace ([trigphotography.com](http://trigphotography.com)) turns renowned, infamous, and peculiar landmarks into stylized, yet creepy, works of art. He has been photographing weird and wonderful New England since 2010. He's been a finalist for Ron Howard's *Project Imagination* in 2010 and 2011, and his work has been shown in galleries in both New England and New York. His photography has appeared in many books, magazines including *Playboy*, and other publications. He loves all things ghostly and strange. Since 2014, he's published the annual *Haunted New England* wall calendar with Jeff Belanger.

## About Red Wheel/Weiser

Red Wheel/Weiser is an independent publisher specializing in "Books to Live By." The company's books serve to expand the mind, heal the body, and nurture the spirit. Imprints include: Weiser Books, the premier publisher of occult and esoterica since 1957, and New Page Books, offering well-researched books on Alternative History, Paranormal, UFOs, Ancient Mysteries, and Unexplained Phenomena.



Bellingham's Emmy-nominated host, writer, and producer Jeff Belanger explores strange New England in his latest book. Photo by Frank Grace.



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# Library Resources of the Month – Children’s Online Resources

Help your child start off the school year with the Bellingham Public Library’s online resources for kids. There is tutoring, hands-on activities, lesson plans, information about animals and

famous people, comics, and so much more!

**Brainfuse HelpNow** provides live tutoring services for students of all ages and levels with a wide range of academic needs – whether it’s tackling a tough homework problem, mastering a particular topic, or writing a paper. Help is available in subjects such as math, science, reading/writing, social studies, as well as the PSAT/SAT, ACT, AP and state standardized tests. Tutors are available from 2 -11 p.m. daily.

**ComicsPlus** accesses thousands of digital comics, graphic novels, and manga for all ages. There are no waitlists or holds, and all titles are unlimited access. Children’s titles can be accessed using a smartphone, tablet, or web browser, and can be downloaded.

**Educate Station** provides ready-to-use, hands-on activities for kids to do at home or school, for Pre-K through Grade 5. There are learning plans and worksheets. There are plans in English language arts, math, science, social studies, and social-emotional learning.

**Gale Resources** have a number of databases for children of all ages.

- *Britannica Library* is a comprehensive encyclopedia with a dictionary, thesaurus, atlas, and more.
- *Britannica Fundamentals* contains activities, games, videos, and more.
- *Britannica School* has separate links for elementary, middle, and high school students.
- *Britannica Escolar* is the Encyclopedia Britannica in Spanish for Grades K-8.
- *Britannica Primaria* is the Encyclopedia Britannica in Spanish for Grades K-5.
- *Gale in Context: Opposing Viewpoints* contains continuously updated information and opinions on hot issues.
- *Gale High School Edition* contains information on high school research topics plus pop culture, sports, and more.
- *PebbleGo* helps children learn about animals and famous people.

• *Science (Gale One File)* is updated daily and includes 1.6 million articles and 200 journals.

• *U.S. History (Gale One File)* has robust coverage for both novice historians and advanced researchers.

• *World History (Gale One File)* contains well-rounded coverage of current thinking and scholarly work.

**The Great Courses** features over 250 courses covering a broad range of subjects such as science, math, philosophy, history, literature, fine arts and music, travel, business, and personal development. These courses are designed for older students and adults.

**Novelist Plus** is a database that helps people of all ages find similar books, books by the same author, or books in a series.

**Teachables** offers teaching materials for students from Pre-K to Grade 8. It consists of over 30,000 materials including

**LIBRARY**

*continued on page 21*

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**LIBRARY**

*continued from page 20*

worksheets, lesson plans, crafts, classroom management tools, flash cards, Ebooks, games and puzzles, clip art, bulletin board ideas, and skills sheets.

Universal Class offers over 600 online continuing education courses which are designed for adults, but many are appropriate for a variety of ages and there is a category of courses just for homeschoolers.

To access any of these online resources, go to the Bellingham Library's website at [www.bellinghamlibrary.org](http://www.bellinghamlibrary.org) and click on "Children", and then click "Educational Resources". All you need is your Bellingham Library card for access!

Get your child a library card so they have access to both physical items IN the library and these great ONLINE resources!

# Bishop Feehan Announces Fourth Quarter Honor Roll 2024-2025

Vice Principal for Academics, Charlotte Lourenco, is proud to announce the Honor Roll students for the fourth quarter. Honor Roll is a recognition of high-performing students based on the student's overall average in any given quarter, regardless of the levels of their classes. Bishop Feehan has three levels of Honor Roll. First Honors

is awarded to students whose overall average in that quarter is grade 93.00 or higher; Second Honors is grade 90.00 or higher; and Third Honors is 85.00 or higher, with no individual grade below 80.

Find the full list here: <https://www.bishopfeehan.com/apps/news/article/2088367>

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# The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

## Love How You Glow: Our Favorite End-Of-Summer Beauty Services

BY GINA WOELFEL

*It's time to fall back into your beauty routine and give your hair and skin the nourishing refresh they need after a sun-soaked summer.*

We get it—summer never slows down. Beach days, pool parties, outdoor adventures, and endless activities can leave your beauty routine on the back burner. But as the leaves start to change and September settles in, it's the perfect time for a seasonal beauty reset. With the kids back to school and schedules returning to normal, you finally have that precious “me-time” you've been craving all summer long.

### Why Your Skin and Hair Need Extra TLC This Fall

Summer's relentless sun, chlorine exposure, salt water, and heat styling can wreak havoc on your hair and skin. You might notice your complexion looking dull, feeling dehydrated, or showing signs of sun damage. Your hair may feel dry, brittle, or lacking its usual shine and bounce. These are all tell-tale signs that it's time for some serious beauty intervention.

Fall is nature's reminder to slow down and nurture ourselves—and your beauty routine

should follow suit. This seasonal transition period is crucial for repairing summer damage and preparing your skin and hair for the cooler, drier months ahead.

### Our Top Fall Beauty Services to Restore Your Glow

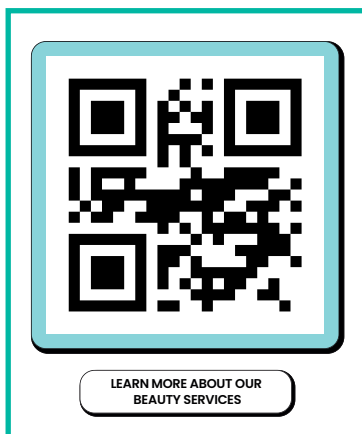
We've carefully curated our favorite end-of-summer beauty treatments that will leave you feeling revived, radiant, and ready to embrace this cozy fall season.

#### Oxygenating Facial - \$175

This powerhouse treatment is your skin's best friend and a b.LUXE favorite. After months of sun exposure, our oxygenating facial deeply cleanses, exfoliates, and infuses your skin with pure oxygen to boost cellular renewal. Perfect for addressing:

- Dull, tired-looking complexion
- Sun spots and hyperpigmentation
- Dehydrated skin
- Clogged pores from sunscreen buildup
- Fine lines from UV damage

The result? Instantly brighter, more luminous skin that glows



from within. This treatment also helps prep your skin for richer fall moisturizers and serums.

#### Scalp Spa Revival - \$60

Your scalp needs just as much attention as your skin after summer's harsh elements (because remember...your scalp is your skin!) This deeply relaxing treatment combines gentle exfoliation, nourishing masks, and a therapeutic scalp massage to:

- Remove product buildup
- Restore moisture balance to soothe dry, flaky scalp
- Stimulate blood circulation for healthier hair growth
- Create the perfect foundation for gorgeous fall hair

Think of it as a reset button for your entire head—you'll leave feeling refreshed and your hair will thank you with improved body and shine.

#### Demineralizer Treatment - \$65

Hard water, pool chemicals, and environmental pollutants can leave mineral deposits in your hair, making it feel heavy, dull, and difficult to style. Our demineralizer treatment gently removes these stubborn buildup issues while:

- Restoring your hair's natural pH balance
- Improving color vibrancy and clarity
- Enhancing moisture absorption

- Leaving hair softer and more manageable
- Preps hair for better absorption on new color services

#### Color Balance

Perfect your natural or colored hair with a color balance, our professional toning service that delivers incredible shine for all hair colors and eliminates unwanted brassy or yellow tones for blondes and gray hair. By smoothing the hair cuticle, this gloss treatment creates a mirror-like finish that makes your existing color look fresh and vibrant. For the ultimate red carpet look, book a color balance and blowout!

This service delivers:

- Ultimate glossiness and shine for every hair color
- Enhanced color clarity for all hair types
- Clear or Toned Finish
- Smoother, healthier-looking results

The perfect finishing touch that leaves your hair looking radiant. Remember to add this service when you book your next appointment!

#### The Science Behind Seasonal Beauty Transitions

As temperatures drop and humidity levels decrease, your skin and hair face new chal-

lenges. Indoor heating systems can further strip moisture, while cooler air means less natural oil production. Starting your fall beauty routine early helps you stay ahead of these seasonal changes rather than playing catch-up later.

### Book Your Fall Beauty Reset Today

These seasonal self-care essentials are your secret weapon for transitioning into fall beauty. Don't wait for the leaves to change—your skin and hair benefit most from early intervention.

Step into 'sweatah weathah' feeling radiant and renewed this September! Our team of experts is here to help you create a unique fall beauty plan tailored just for you.

**Contact us today to schedule an end-of-summer beauty refresh and discover why so many clients trust us with their beauty needs.**

*Step into your most confident fall look this season. Visit bluxe.com or call (508) 321-1624 to book your appointment or learn more about our complete menu of beauty services.*

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# Charles River Chorale to Hold Open Rehearsals this Month

## New Members Welcome

The Charles River Chorale welcomes new members to join us for our 41st season. We are a non-audition, 100-member chorale and hold open rehearsals on September 16th, 23rd and 30th from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis. These first 3 weeks allow those who are new or who sang earlier in life to experience the joys of choral singing with no obligation.

Our Music Director, Ashley Nelson-Oneschuk, is entering her 11th year with the chorale and has been elected to the Massachusetts Instru-

mental and Choral Conductors Hall of Fame for 2025. Her goal is “focused on cultivating a joyful community first, with excellent musical experiences as the vessel to achieve this.”

Please consider joining us! Our concert this season will be on December 7th at 2 p.m. at Medway High School.

If you do decide to explore, we suggest you fill out our no-obligation Sign-Up form by either visiting [www.charlesriverchorale.com](http://www.charlesriverchorale.com) and going to the Join Us tab or using the following link: <https://forms.gle/43qpRyEoFhZCq3qj8>.




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# Decades of Service to the Community and 2 New Offices

By ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D.

Milford-Franklin Eye Center has been serving the community with advanced, compassionate eye care for more than four decades. With a staff of 59, an award-winning surgery center in Milford, and offices in Milford, Franklin, and now two new locations in Hopkinton and Medfield, we are proud to be one of the leading eye care centers in Massachusetts. We are also one of the few ophthalmology practices in the state to own and operate our own surgical facility, the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford. This means patients can receive world-class cataract surgery close to home. Our team includes fellowship-trained ophthalmologists and five optometrists, offering eyecare for the entire family.

### Meet Our Providers

**Roger Kaldawy, M.D.**

Dr. Kaldawy is an eye physician, surgeon, and corneal specialist. He trained at the University of Rochester and the University of Iowa, later serving as Assistant Professor at Bos-

ton University. With more than 32,000 surgeries performed, he pioneered corneal transplants, innovative glaucoma surgery, advanced implants, and bladeless femtosecond cataract surgery in the region. He has trained numerous physicians and has been featured in many news articles including on Channel 5. He also serves as Medical Director of the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford.

**Mark D. Barsamian, D.O.**

Dr. Barsamian is a vitreoretinal specialist affiliated with UMass Memorial Medical Center. He earned his DO degree from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed a two-year fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery at Ohio State University. With over 20 years of experience, he is board-certified and active in multiple professional societies. He also teaches as a Clinical Instructor of Surgery at Brown University. Patients value his expertise, compassion, and dedication.

**Dan Liu, M.D.**

Dr. Liu graduated from

Northwestern University and Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, where she was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha. She completed residency at Albany Medical Center, where she was Chief Resident, and a fellowship in Cornea and Anterior Segment Surgery at Tufts. Her expertise includes cataract surgery with ORA, corneal transplants (DMEK, DSEK, PK), keratoconus treatment, glaucoma MIGS, ocular surface tumors, and pterygia. She is board-certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology.

**Shalin Zia, O.D.**

Dr. Zia earned her Doctor of Optometry from Indiana University. She provides care for patients of all ages, specializing in routine vision exams, contact lenses, and management of eye disease.

**Michael Adams, O.D.**

Dr. Adams graduated from John Carroll University, completed a Master's in Biochemistry at Ohio State, and earned his optometry degree from the New England College of Optometry.

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He has advanced training in corneal pathology, specialty contact lenses, and ocular disease.

**Donald L. Conn, O.D.**

Dr. Conn received his optometry degree from the New England College of Optometry and completed a residency in Ocular Disease and Primary Care at the Bedford VA. He provides care to both adult and pediatric patients.

**Purvi Patel, O.D.**

Dr. Patel earned her Doctor of Optometry at SUNY and completed a residency in Ocular Disease. A Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, she has held leadership roles at Boston community health centers and focuses on diabetes, glaucoma, and community-based care.

### New Offices: Expanding to Serve the Community

**Boston Eyes in Hopkinton**

Located at 66 Main Street, our new Hopkinton office offers comprehensive eye exams, contact lens services, surgical consultations, and a curated eyewear selection. With a connection to Hopkinton for more than 24 years, we bring the same

advanced care found at Boston's top centers directly to the community.

**Boston Eyes in Medfield - Millis**

Our newest office serves Medfield, Millis, Dover, Sherborn, and Westwood. This renovated, convenient location provides eye exams for adults and children, contact lens fittings, surgical consultations, and care for cataracts, glaucoma, diabetes, and retina conditions.

### Why Choose Milford-Franklin Eye Center

At Milford-Franklin Eye Center, we treat every patient like family. Our results rival those of major Boston hospitals, and we provide same-day emergency care, Saturday appointments, and a full-service optical shop with an on-site lab. New patients even receive a complimentary pair of select glasses.

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**EYE**

*continued on page 25*

# Franklin LGBTQ Alliance Events for September

## Puzzle Solving Competition

Thursday September 4th  
6:30-8:30 p.m., Franklin TV and Radio 23 Hutchinson Street

Bring a puzzle, and challenge others to solve it faster than you!

6:30-8:30 p.m., Franklin TV and Radio 23 Hutchinson Street

At press time, this month's book had yet to be decided, so check out our website [www.franklinlgbtqalliance.com](http://www.franklinlgbtqalliance.com) at the beginning of the month to see what it is!

## Queer Book Club

Wednesday September 17th

# "September to Remember" Brunch at Brotherhood of Temple Beth Torah

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Torah, 2162 Washington St, Holliston, invites all potential brothers to attend our "September to Remember", Brunch on Sunday September 14th, from 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. At the Temple, the cost is \$9 a person. Please RSVP by e-mailing [Brotherhood@bethtorah.org](mailto:Brotherhood@bethtorah.org), non-temple members are welcome.

The Temple strives to be vibrant and inclusive, a Jewish

community family who are committed to each other, to meaningful Jewish living and learning, to inspiring prayer and ritual and to doing acts of kindness. Love of Jewish tradition, building community, spiritual growth and a commitment to social justice animate everything we do at Temple Beth Torah, and we strive to bring more joy and light into each other's lives and our world.

## EYE

*continued from page 24*

other practices that may perform cataract surgery in an office setting without anesthesia staff and without IV sedation, our patients have access to a fully accredited surgical facility close to home. At the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford, your safety comes first: all patients receive IV sedation for comfort, and every surgery is staffed with an anesthesiologist.

Most importantly, we live in the same communities we serve. Whether in the office, at the local supermarket, or in the ER at 1 a.m., our focus remains on you, your vision, and delivering world-class care close to home.

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# Sports

## BHS Golf Team Strives for Major Improvement

By KEN HAMWEY,  
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

Bellingham High's golf team is eager to take the next step to be a competitive squad in the Tri Valley League.

Bob Pingeton, who's in second year as head coach, more than likely will get better results than he did in his first season, which ended with a 2-18 overall record. His three goals for 2025 are all geared towards improvement.

"Our first goal is simply to be competitive in as many matches as possible," Pingeton said. "We want to improve on our win total and also aim for a berth in the sectional tourney, which will require eight or nine victories. A .500 record is what's needed for a playoff invitation."

The 52-year-old Pingeton believes his three objectives are realistic. "We were a very young team last year, but our players showed improvement," he emphasized. "Only two seniors were lost to graduation, and there are nine returnees who got playing time. We've got a mix of experience and depth, our guys are very coachable; they got better in the off-season, and they're strong

off the tee."

Pingeton will continue focusing on two key aspects. "What's very important is to teach good technique and have a sound mental approach to the game," said Pingeton. "We also want to win, and that will occur if we're more consistent with our putting and chipping."

Two top-notch players are the captains (senior Eli Cowell and junior Eric Johnston). Cowell was a top-four player on the team with a nine-hole average of 44 last year. Johnston's average was 42.

"Eli leads by example, and Eric is more of a vocal leader," Pingeton said. "Eli is very consistent and has a good short game. Eric is strong off the tee, and he can chip and putt. His overall game has few flaws."

Another prime player is junior Julian Ames, who averaged 43 for nine holes last year. "Julian is technically sound, and he's got a high ceiling," Pingeton said. "He and Eric have the potential to lower their averages into the 30s."

Pingeton has four players who competed in many matches last

year, and all of them finished in the top six (their scores were carded). They include juniors Dylan Ormberg and Jackson Cinq-Mars, sophomore Nathan Parmentier, and freshman Colin Johnston.

"I expect this group to be major contributors and add to the success of the team," Pingeton offered.

Five players who gained experience at the jayvee level last year are expected to make the jump to the varsity and compete for playing time. They are juniors Jackson Mancuso and Zach Lane, sophomores Owen Acconcia, and Michael Puopolo, and freshman Spencer Nicholson.

A native of Leicester, Pingeton noted that there are several newcomers who signed up and are hopeful of making the team and improving their games. There also will be a newcomer to coach the jayvees — Jacob Forbes, whose father (Tom) coached the team before Pingeton arrived.

No stranger to rebuilding and winning, Pingeton is acutely aware of what's needed for success at the interscholastic level. When he coached at Franklin



Coach Pingeton is beginning his second season as BHS golf coach.

High, his golf teams won two league titles, and his girls' tennis team won the first league championship in school history in 2024.

And, after three seasons of directing the girls' basketball team at BHS, he's got the hoop program heading in the right direction. The team failed to qualify for tourney play in his first year, but the Blackhawks earned playoff berths the last two seasons

and finished with an overall record of 12-12 last winter.

"The keys to becoming a formidable team are having players with competitive fire, a coachable nature, and passion for the sport," Pingeton offered. "To achieve success in golf, players must know how to manage each hole and how to approach each shot. This season, we're looking for all our players to have a 2-3 shot improvement over their nine-hole average from last year."

The goals are clear, and the team has balance — one senior, seven juniors, three sophomores and one freshman. And, two missing ingredients from last year are prevalent this season — experience and depth. "Another asset is being better equipped to handle the pressure that each match creates," Pingeton noted.

The Blackhawks opened their season at their home course (New England Country Club) in a tri match against Hopedale and Ashland, which was played after the *Bulletin's* deadline. Next up is a home match against Holliston on Sept. 7.

The journey is underway, and it could be an enjoyable ride.

## Tennis, Swimming Added to BHS Sports Menu

By KEN HAMWEY,  
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

There's good news for student-athletes at Bellingham High who like to swim or play tennis — both sports have been added to the varsity menu.

The two sports will be co-op ventures, and BHS will be the guest school in both sports. Swimming will be scheduled in

the winter with Medfield as the host school, and tennis will be played in the spring with Medway as the host.

The Mass. Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), approves co-op teams for either one or two-year intervals with grandfathered players able to finish their high school years with the team, even when the co-op is dis-

banded.

Co-op teams usually are okayed when one school has a desire to offer a sport but there aren't enough in-house players to field a squad. If a neighboring school is in a similar situation, then the merger likely will occur.

Perhaps the best example of a successful co-op venture occurred when Millis High was about to dissolve its football program because its numbers weren't sufficient to continue. The Mohawks' grid program, which dates back to the 1940s, continued when the MIAA approved a co-op with Hopedale. Millis added some key players from Hopedale and eventually won a Super Bowl.

Bellingham Athletic Director Michael Connor was the catalyst in the move to increase the school's sports offerings. With the co-op additions, BHS now has 17

varsity sports.

"I got calls from parents asking if we offer tennis and swimming," Connor said. "At Tri Valley League athletic director meetings, I asked about the potential of co-op teams in both sports. It eventually happened, thanks to Medfield and Medway."

Host schools select the coaches, and practices are held at the host school, or in the case of swimming, whatever venue the host school chooses. Medfield practices at the Kingsbury Club. Players from guest schools are responsible for their transportation.

"The reality is that some sports are so desirable to families, and that may lead them to consider school choice so their child can attend a school that has the desired sport," Connor said. "A co-op team is a plus on

two fronts. It helps to keep kids in their school district, and in our case, Bellingham will save thousands of dollars in school-choice funding."

Besides the two new co-op ventures, Connor plans to re-apply for approvals to host boys' hockey (BMR and Millis), girls' lacrosse (Millis), and wrestling (Medway, Millis and BVT). Bellingham will continue as a guest in the five-school girls hockey co-op hosted by Ashland.

Connor emphasized that all co-op decisions are driven by need and interest.

"It's imperative for families to register early for all athletic offerings, because decisions are made months, and often a year in advance, based on expressions of interest by families."

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# Sports

## Young BHS Runners Are Coachable & Committed

By **KEN HAMWEY**,  
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

T.J. Chiappone's first season at the helm of Bellingham High's cross-country team last year went rather well for the school's veteran basketball and baseball coach. The Blackhawks' girls' squad finished with a 4-3 record and the boys' contingent went 2-5.

Not bad for the 53-year-old Bellingham native, who took a crash course in the sport and relied on the wisdom of others well-versed in distance running.

Chiappone firmly believes that his second year on the job will be more comfortable because "many of the unknowns have been eliminated."

"There's still a lot to learn, but I'm looking forward to it," he emphasized. "Both squads are very young, but I'll be more comfortable in developing the workouts in practices. Another plus is being more familiar with invitational meets. We'll go to four or five, and I'll have a better idea of how to deal with that format."

The goals for the girls' and boys' teams are the same, and so are the strengths of both squads.

"Our prime objectives are to increase the number of participants for both programs and focus on individual improvement," Chiappone said. "The team strengths for both are solid team chemistry, depth, a coachable nature and commitment to the sport. Both teams have a fun culture — they're close-knit and supportive of one another. Our depth has improved, too, with the potential to score points in the 1-5 slots."

The girls' team, which lost only one senior (Tri Valley League all-star Emma Smith), is comprised of six juniors, one

sophomore, one freshman and two eighth-graders. The girls are definitely young, and the boys are even younger.

Junior Jenna Dormady, who was a TVL all-star last year, is the girls' captain. She finished 14th in the Division 3 meet last year and qualified for the Meet of Champions, finishing 33rd in a field of 200.

"Jenna is the hardest worker on the team," said Chiappone, who graduated from BHS in 1990 before getting his bachelor's degree from Bridgewater State. "She's got lots of natural ability, she's a fierce competitor and has great mental toughness. She leads by example and is developing into a vocal leader and a communicator."

Eighth-grader Morgan Henshaw and junior Olivia Ginn are top-notch competitors.

"Morgan was an honorable-mention TVL all-star as a seventh-grader," Chiappone noted. "She's tough and improving at her grade level and did very well at last year's invitational meets. Olivia has made great progress and has unlimited potential. She turned in some impressive efforts last year, and we hope she'll build on those this season."

Since the *Bulletin's* deadline arrived before pre-season practice, Chiappone noted that the remaining girls will be relied on to provide depth and score points at all meets.

The boys' team, which had no seniors last year, includes one junior, two sophomores, four freshmen and six eighth-graders. The group's youth is stunning, and so is its captain — Grady Henshaw — who's only a sophomore.

"Grady is quiet, and he leads by example," Chiappone said. "He was an honorable-mention



**Grady Henshaw, the top scorer for the boys' team last year, is a sophomore captain.**



**Captain Jenna Dormady was a Tri Valley League All-Star last year.**

TVL all-star as a freshman. He's got passion for cross-country running, and his work ethic is great. Very athletic, he was our most consistent runner last year and also our top scorer."

Freshman Xavier Dupuis and sophomore Liam Holden will be key contributors.

"Xavier improved last year," Chiappone offered. "He had the best time for the boys in all

our meets. He ran the 3.1-mile course at the Division 3 Meet in 19:15. He's now realizing how good he can be. Liam is in his first year of cross-country but he showed great promise during the summer. He'll be a consistent competitor, because he works hard and has a good stride."

Chiappone again will have Jay Fadden on hand as a volunteer assistant coach. "Jay is in his second year, and he's very dedicated towards the program," Chiappone said.

How both cross-country teams fare this season is difficult to gauge. Chiappone is still learning the nuances of coaching distance runners, but he's acutely aware that three attributes are crucial for cross-country success.

"Individual commitment to practice and improving times are very important, and so are knowing one's pace and building endurance," Chiappone emphasized.

The coach is hoping those attributes are front and center when the Blackhawks open their season on Sept. 3 at home for a quad meet against Dedham, Westwood and Norton.

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# Sports

## BHS Boys' Soccer Squad Eyes Improvement

By KEN HAMWEY,  
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

Eric Mounsey, who's beginning his second season as Bellingham High's boys' soccer coach, is optimistic that the 2025 campaign will be very different from last year, when his Blackhawks finished 1-14-2 but still managed to qualify for the Division 4 Tournament.

"Last year, we faced a lot of adversity with multiple starters injured all through the season," he noted. "It's hard to develop team chemistry when every game introduces a new starting 11. I'm excited for us to come out stronger than ever this year and truly show the Tri Valley League what we're capable of."

Mounsey may sound like he's using injuries as an excuse, but he's actually referring to them as a plus going forward. "Our players displayed perseverance, willpower and a never-say-die attitude," he emphasized. "We had a young team that fought through adversity and still was able to qualify for the playoffs."

BHS, which was seeded No. 32, bowed to Oxford, 1-0, in the tourney.

The Blackhawks' current roster has a strong nucleus that Mounsey will be counting on.

"We've got experience now, our injured players are back, and our underclassmen will provide depth by getting playing time and contributing," he said.

Mounsey's team goals stress unity.

"Our main goal is to compete in every game until the final whistle," he offered. "We want to walk off the field with pride, regardless of the outcome. Team chemistry is another key as we continue to build our program. We're also striving to generate excitement at the youth levels, and we want fans at our home games."

Bellingham is moving up to Division 3 this season, and Mounsey is acutely aware that the degree of difficulty will be tougher. But, he hasn't ruled out a second straight tourney berth, and he knows his contingent wants to contend for the TVL Small Division title.

"Competing in Division 3 is going to add additional challenges, but we'll be ready to face them, and we're hopeful for a re-

turn appearance in the playoffs," he said. "We have a group of strong athletes this year who are full of heart and determination. You can't teach that, so it's exciting when you have a group that wants it as much as I do."

The Blackhawks' captains — seniors Thomas Crandall (goalie) and Tyler Enright (wing) and junior Caleb Playtek (midfielder) — are top-notch leaders and intense competitors.

"Tom was a TVL all-star last year, and he's a four-year varsity player," Mounsey said. "A three-year starter, he's a vocal and supportive captain who's instinctive, has great field vision, is aggressive and resilient. He's our team anchor."

Mounsey likes Enright's intensity, toughness, and tenacity and Playtek's maturity and leadership.

"Tyler leads by example, he's got speed and quickness, and he generates toughness," Mounsey said. "A well-rounded player, he never gives up. Caleb competes hard, is versatile, able to play as a defender if necessary, and he's a great asset. That's evident by the way he organizes captains' practice."



**Coach Eric Mounsey is counting on a strong nucleus for the 2025 campaign.**

A trio of returning players will be counted on to provide consistent offense. They include seniors Jason Greenberg (striker) and Aidan Gibbs (midfielder) and junior Cillian Murphy (wing/striker).

"Jason is a vocal leader who can pass and shoot and dictate our offensive tempo," Mounsey noted. "Aidan is physically and mentally tough, has good field vision and is excellent in transition. Cillian has a powerful foot,

he understands the game, and he can read a defense and exploit it."

Senior Brad Hearn gives the Blackhawks defensive clout at center back.

"Brad is instinctive, has speed, tenacity, and toughness," Mounsey said. "He's resilient in a variety of situations when Tom needs help at the net."

Mounsey relies on a competitive philosophy that's all about ensuring that his players grow and reach their potential. "We want to win, but success also comes when potentials are reached, and there's enjoyment in competing," he emphasized.

Valuable life lessons can be learned in athletics, and Mounsey has a list that he hopes his players will absorb. "Sports teach student-athletes how to overcome adversity, to be resilient, to be good teammates and leaders, and to accept responsibility and be accountable," he said.

The Blackhawks have positive expectations for the new season, and it gets underway on Sept. 2 at Blackstone-Millville Regional.

## BHS Sophomore Fosters Lacrosse Skills, Fuels Leadership

By JENNIFER RUSSO

For most high school athletes, summer vacations are for

sleeping in or hanging out with friends, with a little upcoming season sports prep thrown in. For



**Zachary Hughes, BHS Varsity Lacrosse starter, organized a free, week-long faceoff clinic for youth lacrosse players over the summer.**

Bellingham High School sophomore and Varsity team starter, Zachary Hughes, one week this summer was for something a bit



**Zach Hughes works with Colton Milani during the youth lacrosse clinic.**

different — teaching the next generation of high school lacrosse players how to take control of the game, one faceoff at a time.

Earlier this summer, Zach organized and ran a lacrosse faceoff clinic for young players (grades 2-8) in the community. It wasn't an assignment, a school project, or a fundraiser — it was something he saw a need for and acted on. He took the initiative to reach out to Bellingham Youth Lacrosse to tell them that

he wanted to run the clinic for free and then sought out the high school athletic director to secure the turf field for the week. He created a website for signups and a flyer to promote the clinic, posting on social media channels.

Additionally, he reached out to his teammates and friends to see if they could help with coach-

**LACROSSE**

*continued on page 29*

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# First Universalist Society in Franklin Receives Bennett Award

The First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) is proud to announce that it is one of four congregations nationwide selected to receive this year's prestigious *Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) Bennett Award for Congregational Action on Human Justice and Social Action*. The award is in recognition of FUSF's longstanding commitment to Food Justice and their partnership with the Franklin Food Pantry.

The UUA award said, in part, "We were impressed by the intentionality you have put into

crafting a robust program that embodies solidarity rather than charity in the practice of mutual aid. The longevity of your partnership with the Franklin Food Pantry, coupled with your leadership's waiver of rent for Pantry activities and your team's collaboration to develop multigenerational opportunities to engage, is a profound example of the impact congregations can have locally when they are attuned to the needs of their broader community. Furthermore, the range of ways your team and congre-

gation have shown your commitment to a complex understanding of food insecurity - including collecting donations, advocating for critical legislation, and organizing a community care campaign during a time of real crisis - is reflective of the power and responsibility we know congregations have to be engaged in collective and transformative care."

"While this is not why we do this work of social justice," said FUSF President Caitlin MacDonald, "it is an honor to be recognized by the national office of

our denomination."

FUSF's minister, the Rev. Beverly Waring added, "This award represents our commitment to social justice as a congregation. We consciously work to put our faith into action in many ways. FUSF believes in giving back to the greater Franklin area community."

First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) begins a new year of Religious Education and Sunday Worship Services with their minister, Rev. Bev Waring on Sunday September 7, 2025.

All are welcome to join us each Sunday at 10 a.m. in community as we continue exploration of our Unitarian Universalist (UU) values of Equity, Transformation, Generosity, Interdependence, Justice, Pluralism and Love.

*The First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) is a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation located at 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin.*

*Our Minister is Reverend Beverly Waring. For more information, please visit [www.fusf.org](http://www.fusf.org) or contact us at [info@fusf.org](mailto:info@fusf.org); call (508) 528-5348.*

## LACROSSE

*continued from page 28*

ing and created a daily curriculum based on what he had done at the clinics he had attended. Zach attends the Faceoff Factory in Natick, run by pro player Joe Nadella, and he has also played on the Piatelli Stallions Club and Rhode Island Bulldogs club teams.

While the clinic was about learning techniques, building speed, and focusing on specific strategies that would help the kids in the game, it was also about building confidence and creating a space where they could fall in love with the sport just like he did.

"One of the most important positions in lacrosse is the faceoff position, and I realized there was a lack of faceoff specialists playing at the high school level. I wanted to increase the number in the years to come by teaching players in the youth leagues, and I think it will have a long-lasting effect on the position in the future," Zach shared.

For Zach, the experience was not only about teaching ground

ball techniques and quick-stick moves, but it was also about learning how to lead - a skill he knows will be crucial for his future. With plans to apply for the United States Military Academy at West Point and some other military academies, he understands that leadership skills are highly valued, along with strong academics and physical fitness. For the kids who attended the clinic, it was a week of learning, fun, and confidence-building. For Zach, it was a step toward a future built on service and teamwork.

"I learned how to better coach kids and be a better leader through this clinic. For example, I would show demonstrations for each drill, ask questions about the things I taught them, and figure out how to make the drills fun ones that they would want to do. Through the experience, I was also able to examine the intricacies of my own technique, so learning through leading was a takeaway for me," said Zach.

As for what's next, Zach hopes to run the clinic again next summer and keep building connections in the local lacrosse community. If you have a youth

lacrosse player, especially one interested in the faceoff position, this is a terrific opportunity to build the skills needed specifically for that role.

Thanks, Zach, for stepping up to organize the free lacrosse clinic, and best of luck as you apply to West Point!



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# Keep an Eye Out for Signs of Asian Longhorned Beetle

Washington, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is asking the public to look for and report signs of the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). APHIS asks everyone to look for signs of this destructive, invasive beetle by checking trees on your property and in your community for damage. Left unchecked, ALB can cause infested trees to die.

The ALB is a wood-boring beetle that emerges as an adult in August. It attacks 12 types of hardwood trees. The insect prefers maple trees, but it also likes to attack birches, buckeyes, elms, and willows. Sometimes it attacks ash, golden rain tree, katsura, London plane tree, mimosa, mountain ash, and poplar. Infested trees become safety hazards. Branches can drop and trees can fall over, especially during storms.



Signs that a tree might be infested include:

- Round exit holes in tree trunks and branches about the size of a dime or smaller.
- Egg sites, or chewed spots, on the bark about the size of a quarter. Sap may weep out from these.
- Sawdust-like material called frass found on the tree, ground, or tree branches.
- Branches or limbs dying or falling from an otherwise healthy-looking tree.

**Report signs of ALB:** If you think you found a beetle or tree damage, report it by calling the ALB hotline at 1-866-702-9938. Or submit an online report through the Asian longhorned beetle website <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/form/report-it>. Try to photograph the beetle or tree damage. If you can, capture the beetle in a durable container and freeze it. This helps preserve the insect for identification.

In its larval stage, the insect feeds deep inside tree trunks and branches. It creates tunnels as it feeds. Then as an adult, the beetle chews its way out, creating 3/4-inch round exit holes. Once the beetles exit a tree, they feed on its leaves and bark before mating, laying eggs, and starting another generation of tree-killing beetles.

The adult beetle has markings that are easy to recognize:

- A shiny, black body with white spots. Its body is about 1” to 1-1/2” long.
- Black and white antennae that are longer than its body.
- Six legs and feet that can appear bluish.

## BELLINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS

In compliance with the Student Records Regulation, Chapter 71 and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Regulations, 603 CMR23:06, notification of the destruction of temporary school records is given to all students who received special services and who transferred, terminated, withdrew, were released from these services, or graduated from the Bellingham Public School District during the 2017-18 school year.



Contact the Student Services Office at 508-883-1706, to make an appointment to obtain or examine the original copies of your special education student file prior to August 9, 2025. *All unclaimed student records meeting the above criteria will be destroyed after the deadline.*



On Friday, June 6th, the Bellingham High School Class of 2025 attended the Annual Operation Graduation All-Night Grad party at Urban Air Adventure Park. The goal of this event remains keeping our senior graduates safe while having an amazing time together for one last night after graduation. The Operation Graduation Committee is made up of a group of senior parents who volunteered their time over the past year to plan for this night. The planning for a safe night began over a year ago when a group of junior parents met in the High School library and ended Saturday sending our kids home after a night of creating lasting memories. The committee would like to express our sincere appreciation to the parents, families, Bellingham School Administration and local businesses that donated their time and resources to make this night a huge success. Thanks to all the generous donations from the community and local businesses, the committee was able to grant scholarships totaling \$8,000 to 17 deserving seniors as they embark on the next phase of their professional/educational journey.

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A VERY SPECIAL *Thank you* TO THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS THAT HELPED MAKE THE NIGHT POSSIBLE

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# CALENDAR

## September 2

**A Novel Idea: A New Book Club for Adults, 6:30-8 p.m.,** Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, contact Diane Nelson at [dnelson@cwmar.org](mailto:dnelson@cwmar.org), *A Secret History of Witches*, by Louisa Morgan

## September 3

**Virtual Author Talk: 7 p.m.,** Online Author Talk with Author Hannah Nicole Maehrer, through Bellingham Public Library, – to register, go to: <https://library.org/bellingham>.

**Franklin Art Association meeting, 6:30 p.m.,** Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCall St., Franklin, featured artist plein-air painter Paul Olson

## September 4

**Franklin LGBTQ Alliance Puzzle Solving Competition, 6:30-8:30 p.m.,** Franklin TV, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, bring a puzzle and challenge others to solve it faster than you!

## September 8

**Book Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m.** In person at Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, or on Zoom. Contact [library@bellinghamlibrary.org](mailto:library@bellinghamlibrary.org), for more info. *Rough Sleepers* by Tracy Kidder

## September 9

**Yankee Quilters meeting, 6:30 p.m.** social gathering; 7 p.m. meeting, Emma's Quilt Cupboard and Sewing Center, Horace Mann Plaza, 319 E. Central St., Franklin, nonprofit guild, all welcome

**Business After Hours, presented by Tri-County Regional Chamber, 5-7 p.m.,** Curry House, 418 W. Central St., Franklin, <https://tinyurl.com/BusAfterHours925>

## September 10

**Virtual Author Talk: 2 p.m.,** Virtual Talk with Communication Expert Jefferson Fisher,

through Bellingham Public Library, – to register, go to: <https://library.org/bellingham>.

**Norfolk County Registry of Deeds celebrates release of *We Remember Our Women*, 3-5 p.m.,** Norfolk Registry of Deeds Great Hall, 649 High St., Dedham. Includes keynote remarks by Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Kimberley L. Driscoll, music, light refreshments, a related exhibit and complimentary copies of booklet.

## September 11

**Ladies of St. Anne Sodality first meeting of year, 6:30 p.m.,** St. Blaise Church, 1158 S. Main St., Bellingham. We will begin with a Communion Service in the Chapel and then move down to the hall for our meeting and refreshments.

## September 13

**BESG Annual Yard Sale, BESG Annual Yard Sale, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.,** Bellingham Senior Center, 40 Blackstone St., Bellingham

**St. Blaise Vendor Fair, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.,** St. Blaise Church, 1158 S. Main St., Bellingham, features vendors, Grandma's attic of used treasures, hamburgers, hot dogs, treats and more for sale

**Red Cross Blood Drive, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.,** Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham. Register at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

**FREE Community Concert featuring the Jazz Tones Trio, 7 p.m.** Franklin United Methodist Church, 82 West Central St., Franklin

## September 14

**The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Torah "September to Remember" Brunch, 9:30-11 a.m.,** 2162 Washington St, Holliston, all potential brothers, including non-temple members, are welcome. \$9 a person. RSVP [Brotherhood@bethtorah.org](mailto:Brotherhood@bethtorah.org).

**Electronics Recycling Day, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.,** First Congregational Church, 4 Congress St., Milford, all computer monitors, computers, parts and accessories, faxes, copiers, printers, scanners and TV's can be recycled. Recycling fees are \$5 to \$45 per item. Cell phones can be recycled at no charge and will be donated to charities.

## September 16

**Writing Group for Adults, 6:30 p.m.** Join us at Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, or on Zoom! Facilitated by writers Amy Bartelloni and Marjorie Turner Hollman. Hear what local writers are working on and share what you are working on. Email [marjorie@marjorieturner.com](mailto:marjorie@marjorieturner.com) to join.

**Charles River Chorale Open Rehearsal, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.,** Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis.

## September 17

**Virtual Author Talk: 2 p.m.** – Online Author Talk with Author Gabe Henry, through Bellingham Public Library, – to register, go to: <https://library.org/bellingham>.

**Queer Book Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m.,** Radio 23 Hutchinson Street, find this month's book at [www.franklinlgbtqalliance.com](http://www.franklinlgbtqalliance.com).

## September 19

**Songs and Stories of Willie Nelson Concert, 6:30 p.m.,** Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, with longtime New England singer/songwriter Matt York, nominated in 2022 and 2023 for the Boston Music Award for Best Country Artist. Registration preferred. Program supported by the Bellingham Cultural Council, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

## September 20

**Bellingham Harvest Fest, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.,** Bellingham Town

Common, vendors, pony rides, an obstacle course, gymnastic and karate exhibitions, Christian concert and other activities. Organized by First Baptist Church and Bible Baptist Church

## September 21

**Ladies of St. Anne Sodality "Coffee and," after the 10 a.m.** Mass, in the vestibule of St. Blaise Church, 1158 S. Main St., Bellingham. Please stop in to visit with our members, have a cup of coffee/tea, a cookie and learn a little more about our Sodality, open to Bellingham women aged 18+.

## September 22

**Bellingham Genealogy Club, 6-7:30 p.m.,** Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham

## September 23

**Charles River Chorale Open Rehearsal, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.,** Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis.

## September 26

**Craft a Unique Piece of Art, 7 p.m.,** St. Blaise Church Hall, 1158 S. Main St., Bellingham, \$25, create a unique piece of art, supplies furnished, proceeds support Christmas fair. Sign up through Sue Garten, [suegarten25@gmail.com](mailto:suegarten25@gmail.com).

## September 27

**Friends of the Poor Walk, registration 8 a.m., walk begins 9 a.m.,** St. Blaise Church, 1158 S. Main St., Bellingham, presented by Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Blaise Bellingham Conference, 1.5 mile walk, t-shirts, beverages, snacks provided—virtual walk option and online donation also available through Sept., [www.saintblaise.org](http://www.saintblaise.org)

**Franklin Harvest Festival, 12-5 p.m.** (rain date 9/28), presented by Franklin Downtown Partnership, town's largest event with more than 130 vendor booths, live music, children's activities including a train at Dean College and Children's Museum of Franklin mobile exhibits, food vendors, MyFM, free popcorn and film at Franklin Historical Museum, activities extend down Main Street to Dean College and Franklin Public Library

**FREE Community Cookout, 5:30-6:30 p.m.,** Franklin United Methodist Church, 82 West Central St., Franklin, with burgers, hot dogs, and chips served on the back lawn (event will cancel in case of rain).

## September 30

**Charles River Chorale Open Rehearsal, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.,** Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis.

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