

localtownpages Franklin

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Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

September 1, 2025

Bigger and Better than Ever –

Franklin's Harvest Festival Set for September 27th

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Lisa Piana, Executive Director of the Franklin Downtown Partnership, was a vendor 23 years ago, when the first Annual Franklin Harvest Festival took place. She's now been involved the town's largest event for 22 years. This year's event, bigger than ever, will boast over 130 vendors, live music, fun kids' activities, unique hand-made artwork and crafts, merch and services from local businesses, and opportunities to meet local nonprofits. Thousands from Franklin and beyond attend the festival, which will take place Saturday, Sept. 27, 12 noon to



The Franklin Harvest Festival will take place on Saturday, September 27th, from 12-5. (Rain date Sept. 28) This year, the fun expands down Main Street to include the Franklin Public Library green and Dean College campus. Photo used courtesy of Franklin Downtown Partnership.

5 p.m. (rain date Sun. Sept. 28.) For the first time, the festival will expand down Main Street to Dean College and the Frank-

lin Library, with Dean College opening up its grounds.

HARVEST FEST
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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 Sep-

tember 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

MUSEUM
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HARVEST FEST

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“It was always our vision to be able to (expand) for years,” says Piana, who says local response to the Strawberry Stroll expansion this year was very positive. Also, “Dean College’s opening up its campus for the Harvest Festival is a game changer,” she adds.

- This year’s event will include:
- Live music performances at the corner of Main St. and Dean Ave. From Noon-2 p.m., 8-person soft-rock band Critical Mass (donating its stipend to Franklin Food Pantry), then from 3-5 p.m., The Padula Family Band, with FSPA.
 - Radio station MyFM will broadcast live from Main St. near the Little Shop of Olive Oils.
 - Special interactive exhibits. See science in action with the Children’s Museum of Franklin; get the kids moving at the Hockomock Area YMCA’s Gaga Pit; and play literary lawn games at the Franklin Library.

- Dean College’s Dean Hall front lawn will offer a kid-friendly \$5 train ride, fall foods, and music from their student radio station Power 88.3 FM.
- The Franklin Historical Museum will provide free popcorn and mid-century film clips from Franklin’s Chilson Collection as well as kazoos, cookies and water for Karaoke, Kazoos and Cookies, a “joyful noise” fest directed by Dennis Ferguson at 3 p.m.
- Sparky the Fire Dog will be at Franklin Fire Station, with a Touch-a-Truck.
- Among many food options, Dean Bank’s booth will sell cider donuts, cider, popcorn and hot chocolate, with proceeds supporting the festival. Local shops and eateries will offer other special fall-themed treats.

“The Harvest Festival is the ideal time to socialize, relax, and enjoy the community spirit,” said Scott Martin, President of the Franklin Downtown Partnership and Harvest Festival Chair, who encourages attendees to linger and explore shops and dining even after the festival.

The Franklin Harvest Festival has nearly doubled in size since it began, says Piana, as has the Partnership itself, which boasts about 350 members, a big leap from 25 in 2002.

“Looking back at how much Scott Martin has done in the 10 years as the (festival) chair, it has

grown so much,” says Piana. Martin, Sr. Executive Director of the Hockomock Area YMCA, estimates FDP membership stood at about 70 when he came aboard as chair. He became a member as a business owner in 2005.

“I wanted to connect with the community,” says Martin, impressed by how the Harvest Festival and Strawberry Stroll could bring people to his front door. “More and more of the Partnership members want to be part of it. It brings foot traffic downtown and introduces people to their neighbors. It really shows the town of Franklin with that classic New England feel. You’ve got your downtown storefronts, and as you continue on your walk, you’re seeing a college campus and a historic library, really the best New England has to offer.”

This year will include more interactive events and restaurants featured in the parking lot where Little Shop of Olive Oils is located. “We’re calling it ‘Food Alley,’” says Piana, who also thanks the town DPW and Franklin Police Department for their important contributions.

“I love our name,” says Piana, “because the Franklin Downtown Partnership partners with everyone.”

The Franklin Harvest Festival, she says, “relies on two very important things, volunteers and sponsors. It literally takes a village.” She lauds dedicated volunteers like Pandora Carlucci and Roberta Trahan, who coordinate other volunteers (always needed festival day) and map out booth

space, limited this year to Franklin businesses due to the space available.

Piana can’t say enough how generous sponsors make this huge event possible. “We are so grateful their support,” says Piana. At press time, sponsors included:

Platinum – Dean Bank, G & C Plumbing & Heating, Local Town Pages Franklin

Gold – Camford Property Group, Inc., Dean College, Hockomock YMCA, Middlesex Savings Bank

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For festival updates, follow Franklin Downtown Partnership on Instagram and Facebook. For more information on The Franklin Downtown Partnership, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization, visit www.franklindowntownpartnership.org.

Harvest Festival Offers Dean College a Chance

Bill Ingram, Dean of Sanders School of Business at Dean College, couldn’t be more

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Dean College’s student radio station, 88.3FM, will provide music on the quad.

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HARVEST FEST

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excited Franklin’s Harvest Festival has been extended down Main Street to include the college campus.

“We’ve always been one of the top sponsors, and we had a booth out there, but because it kind of ended there, we’ve never had it on our campus,” says Ingram. “We’re going to do our best to open up the campus. Come in and check it out!”

The festival provides a perfect opportunity for the school to invite the community past its gates and hang out, says Ingram.



Inside Dean College’s gates, children can board a trackless train, with unlimited rides for \$5, during the Harvest Festival.

Children will enjoy a \$5 unlimited ride on a trackless train in Dean’s quad area, and folks will enjoy music by Dean’s student radio station, Power 88.3FM, a mix of classic rock and modern hits. Sodexo, which runs the dining hall at the college, will also be on the green with some food and beverages to offer festival goers.

“We might end up with some student performance as well,” says Ingram.

The college has also generously opened up space across the street to the YMCA, which will hold some children’s activities in front of the Ray House.

Padula Family Band to Play at Harvest Festival

Ryan Padula really liked growing up in a musical family.

Now 23, Padula, and his family, mom Brenda on vocals, dad Frank on drums and his two brothers, Matt, on saxophone and Aidan, also a drummer, share that love with the Franklin community, as either the Padula Family Band or as the Padula Brothers Trio Plus One.

The young musicians, who all got an early start learning classical piano at the Franklin School for the Performing Arts, began playing out along with their parents and getting a taste for jazz as early as middle school at a restaurant in Plainville.

The two older brothers would go on to complete degrees

in jazz performance at UMass Amherst, with Matt continuing on to get his master’s in music. Aidan would study with Kenny Hadley at FSPA.

“We’ve always all jammed together, but this whole band thing didn’t really start coming together until after I was done with school,” explains Ryan. “We try to play as much as we can for anybody we can, because we really love expressing our artistic abilities for people to enjoy.”

A self-confessed “old soul,” Padula confesses he could “listen to Sinatra all day if I could. That’s my favorite era of jazz. Bill Evans, Oscar Peterson are some of my role models. We all



Padula Family Band members, left to right, Ryan, Aidan, Brenda, Matt, and Frank at La Cantina Winery. Photos used courtesy of Ryan Padula.

love listening to it.”

Improvising is also a draw to the genre.

“A lot of people, when they think about (improvisation), it’s kind of scary to them, but it’s more of a free form of being able to express yourself through your instrument and listening

to your peers around you. You really have to feel out the moment,” says Ryan. He feels especially lucky to have played at the Franklin 4th of July’s Mike Crandall Blues Festival for the past four years. He and his family “definitely play way easier off each other as opposed to play-



The Padula Brothers Trio Plus One, with Ryan Padula on keyboard, Bruce Gertz on bass, Aidan Padula on drums, Matthew Padula on saxophone

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MUSEUM

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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 non-profit’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 Science 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>.

Bellingham Harvest Fest Sept. 20

Harvest Fest is making a comeback in Bellingham.

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

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

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

Many vendors will be on hand to promote and sell their products. The churches are still seeking sponsors and vendors (fee for vendors is \$20). If interested contact Pastor Baron Rodrigues at (508) 844-1843.

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

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

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Queer Book Club

Wednesday September 17th 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 at the beginning of the month to see what it is!

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20 Years of Growth At Sunrise Montessori School

Experience, passion, and innovation are hallmarks of the school’s success.

Sunrise Montessori School has been teaching preschool and kindergarten students to be well-rounded and self-confident for 20 years. In 2005, Sunrise began with one classroom, two teachers, and six students, expanding into its current location at 31 Hayward St. in Franklin. The school’s founders worked diligently to build an environment where kids feel comfortable discovering and learning at their own pace, allowing students to not only take direction of their learning, but to find wonder in the world around them. Former Head of School and co-founder, Karen Roeber, recounts her first visit to a Montessori classroom. “I can remember being so impressed. The classroom was so different from any other that I had ever been in – the children were all working quietly in various subject areas. The environment was so clean, and the shelves were neatly set up. The children chose which activities they wanted to work on, and when they completed their work, they put it back on the shelf for the next child. What a wonderful concept of care and sharing, a philosophy that has lasted over 118 years”.

Since 2005 Sunrise has brought the Montessori method to more than 418 children, ranging in age from 2.9 to 6 years old. Many families enroll younger siblings in subsequent years. The Montessori approach uses hands-on experiences that support independence and discovery. Students from Sunrise achieve success both academically and creatively (most recently, a Sunrise alum won the regional Gold Key, National Gold Medal, and scholarship at the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition for her artwork).

Throughout the day, you’ll see the Montessori Head Teachers observing the classroom, presenting lessons to small groups and engaging one-on-one with students. The curriculum is self-directed; guided by the child’s own curiosity, and includes Language, Math, Science, Geography, Sensorial, the Arts, and Grace & Courtesy lessons that teach real-life skills children practice every day. From pouring their own glass of water and sweeping up after their lunch to identifying



the life cycle and structure of a flower, each student is building a foundation of interest and responsibility in their everyday life that will carry them into adulthood. The teachers also help the children grasp a foundational component of Montessori education - respect for all living things - by strengthening communication and conflict resolution skills with their peers.

Andrea Rossick, Sunrise’s current Head of School, has 25+ years of experience in Montessori environments. Rossick has spearheaded many updated facility and playground improvements in recent years to enhance the experience for students. “Looking forward, it’s been our dream to expand upon our successful preschool and kindergarten classrooms by adding a toddler program - which would help support the growing needs of our community.”

The school will celebrate its 20th year with multiple events, which will include former and current educators, staff, board members, and families who have come together to create the Sunrise community. Co-founder, Sue Roecker, states that “under the guidance of our dedicated Board of Directors and support from the community, Sunrise Montessori School continues to provide excellence in early childhood education”.

Sunrise Montessori is a member of both the Montessori Schools of Massachusetts and American Montessori Society and is licensed by the MA De-

partment of Early Education & Care. The school is a non-profit, 501c3 organization that relies on the support of tuition, fundraising, grants and the community to keep its vision moving forward.



Located at 31 Hayward St., Franklin, the school welcomes families from all surrounding towns. To schedule a tour, learn more about the curriculum,

or support Sunrise Montessori School, visit mysunrisemontessori.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 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 years, and we both work full time



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

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."

As for Franklin in particular, Schadler says they are proud

to have many repeat customers and friends in the area. The Schadlers' oldest daughter lives in Franklin, and their kids attended softball camp and learned how to skate in town. Prior to starting Affordable Junk Removal, Christine worked for years in Franklin as well.

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.

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Franklin 2025 Arts & Culture Symposium September 18 & 19

BY JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

How can local artists, performers, crafters and other creatives enhance the economic livelihood of a town, and how can town planners, business and organizations collaborate to create opportunities to support these creatives and enhance their municipalities? These are some of the questions Franklin's 2025 Arts & Culture Symposium, on September 18th and 19th, with a theme of "Creative Econ is in Session," will address.

The two-day event will begin from 6-9 p.m. at Dean College's Guidrey Arts Center with an opening reception, interactive pop-up art installations by regional artists and live performances, followed by a networking session at THE BLACK BOX the next day, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. that features guest speakers Allison Yee CEO

& Founder of UpNext (Formerly Popping Up Next), and Lindsey Jaworek of the Marlboro Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

“Really what we want to do this time around is bring the creative economy to the forefront of the conversation,” says Cory Shea, Franklin’s Director of Arts, Culture & the Creative Economy, “We wanted to set it up to be more of a networking opportunity, to cross pollinate sectors with creators and organizers. We wanted to get feedback from other business-minded community members involved ... on how as a region we can work together on these programmings.”

Shea, acquainted with Lindsey Jaworek through their mutual work on the Metrowest Visitors Bureau Board of Directors, says she herself is inspired by the success of Jaworek's

work in Marlborough, by which popup “sheds” featuring artisan and crafter wares were added to the downtown area, drawing patrons and fueling the local economy. Shea is inspired to work to activate “all of the empty storefronts Franklin currently has.”

Amy Friguletti, Franklin Deputy Town Administrator, suggested Shea also reach out to Allison Yee, responsible for many pop-up shops in the Boston area.

“I worked with Allison Yee when I was in Wellesley,” says Friguletti, “We worked on a state grant with several other communities during COVID. We were able to fund several popups in Wellesley square, and a lot of them were creative individuals.”

"A huge part is bridging together opportunities for creative businesses," says Shea, "A lot of the work that community organizers are doing overlaps, and

that's the point of being in a room together. Let's actually sit and talk with each other about 'how can I bring that here?'" The symposium, she says, can be a way to share information between economic development groups, cultural councils and districts, nonprofit organizations as well as businesses.

"A lot of these symposiums very much focus on the emotional mission of the work, where this is the economic side of the work," says Shea.

Friguletti is excited for the arts symposium, hopeful to generate ideas and “see if there’s some collaboration we can use there, to pair our open spaces with some creatives,” something residents perceive as “fun and cool.” Shea, she says, is “an advocate for our creatives. We’re actually hiring photographers, looking for ways to bring in individuals that create and give them

stipends to do the work they do, find resources and money to be able to do what they're doing and enliven our community."

Following the symposium, participants will have a chance to see an example of the symposium's subject matter. "At 2 p.m., we're going to encourage participants to head over to the farmers' market, (where) the Franklin Art Association is having a pop-up works exhibition to raise funds for their scholarships, exhibitions and programs they run, and it's also an opportunity for these regional folks to come and see what businesses are coming in," says Shea.

To learn more about the Franklin Arts & Culture Symposium, visit <https://www.franklinma.gov/1162/2025-Arts-and-Culture-Symposium>). You can also register at <https://tinyurl.com/FranklinArtsCulture>.

FUMC Plans Concert, Cookout this Month

Franklin United Methodist Church, at 82 West Central St., Franklin, will present two fun community events this month, including a free concert and a free back yard community cook-out. Visit Franklinumc.org/community or see below:

Saturday, September 13: **FREE** Community Concert featuring the *Jazz Tones Trio* starting at 7 p.m. The *Jazz Tones* have a unique blend of piano, guitar and bass for easy listening. Selections are from "Great American Songbooks" of jazz and light rock tunes.

Saturday, Sept 27: FREE Community Cookout with burgers, hot dogs, and chips served from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on the back lawn (event will cancel in case of rain).

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BJ's Gift Allows Franklin Food Pantry to Pay it Forward to Natick

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

On Wednesday, August 13th, the Franklin Food Pantry received a gift of a larger, refrigerated truck, as well as two commercial cooling units to use as a client shopping freezer

and client shopping refrigerator, from BJ's Wholesale Club through its BJ's Charitable Foundation, a donation totaling over \$130,000. Thanks to this generosity, the Franklin Food Pantry was able to give its

older, smaller truck to the Natick Service Council, which they learned, through the Greater Boston Food Bank, needed a new vehicle to better serve its population.

"We are incredibly grateful to BJ's Wholesale Club for their generous donation, which arrives at a critical time when the need for food services in our community is rising," said Tina Powderly, Executive Director of the Franklin Food Pantry, who told the crowd the Pantry had given away over 600,000 lbs. of food last year and has seen a 38% increase in demand for hunger relief programs and services.

"This new refrigerated truck not only improves our operations, and how we serve the community, but it also allows us to pay that generosity forward to the Natick Service Council. Today's celebration is a powerful example of how businesses and nonprofits can join forces to support one another," added Powderly.

Emily McCann, of BJ's, told the crowd it made sense for BJ's, a Feeding America partner, to help fulfill Franklin Food Pantry's need.

"Food security is on the rise across the country, including right here in Franklin, so BJ's is so proud to partner with the Franklin Food Pantry to help them serve more families," said McCann, "We're pleased to provide funding from our BJ's



BJ's donated this refrigerated truck to the Franklin Food Pantry last month, enabling the Pantry to give its smaller truck to the Natick Service Council. Photo by Paul Vicario, Vicario Studio.

Charitable Foundation to help the Pantry to purchase this flashy new refrigerated truck, to access more quality food that they need, from our club, from the Greater Boston Food Bank and other partners. We're thrilled to make this truck a reality and to see the positive impact it has on the Franklin community."

Powderly explained that the Pantry's existing truck, purchased through a Greater Boston Food Bank grant six years ago, was in great condition, so the GBFB immediately identified the Natick Service Council as organization that could use it.

Dan Shea, Executive Director of the Natick Service Council, in thanking the Franklin Food Pantry, noted that his organization's request for funding from the Greater Boston Food Bank for a van to meet its mobile pantry needs had been turned down this year, so the

gift of the truck was "an exciting time for us and we couldn't be happier. Our motto is 'neighbors helping neighbors'...and I'd like to think that today we're extending our neighborhood to Franklin and the Franklin Food Pantry, so thank you for being part of Natick and the Natick neighborhood."

Shea later added, "BJ Wholesale Club's donation to the Franklin Food Pantry created a ripple effect of generosity that resulted in a donation to us. This act shows how one donation can create a positive impact far beyond its initial purpose."

For information about the Franklin Food Pantry, visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org. If you or someone you know is experiencing food insecurity, please contact Laura Du, Client Services Manager, Franklin Food Pantry, at (508) 528-3115 or Ldu@franklinfoodpantry.org.

September is Hunger Action Month

The Franklin Food Pantry reminds residents that September is Hunger Action Month! Here are a few ideas you might consider to support your neighbors in need:

Make a Financial Contribution

- Give money to help The Pantry purchase much needed items
- Sign up to donate money every month (become a GEM!)
- Give securities and donor advised funds
- Make a legacy gift
- Make use of employee matching programs

Donate Nonperishable Food

- Bring donations of non-perishable, nonexpired food to The Pantry
- Send donations directly to The Pantry through their Amazon Wish List

Organize Fundraisers and Food Drives

- Organize in-person & virtual food drives (great for sports teams, church groups, etc.)
- Host a fundraising event (lemonade stand, sporting or golf tournament, etc.)

Advocate

- Contact elected officials and advocate for food assistance programs

Raise Awareness

- Wear orange on September 9, 2025 - Hunger Action Day!
- Share the Franklin Food Pantry's posts on social media

Volunteer

- Sign up to volunteer for the Franklin Food Pantry's on its website, www.franklinfoodpantry.org

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

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A New Roof for a Historic Building: Connell Roofing Gives Back

By JENNIFER RUSSO

One of Franklin’s most treasured historic landmarks, the Old South Meeting House, located on Washington Street, is undergoing renovations to turn it into a 3-bedroom home. When Connell Roofing saw an opportunity to contribute to safeguarding this piece of the community’s heritage by donating a brand-new roof to the building, they didn’t hesitate. A third-generation, family-owned company with nearly 70 years

of experience, they understand that giving back means more than just doing business – it’s about helping neighbors and ensuring every family has a place they are proud to live in. The church building was originally built in 1856, and many people have said in recent years that it should be demolished, since it has been unoccupied for quite some time. The town of Franklin, however, found a much better solution that would help preserve the building’s history while transforming it into

a home through Old Colony Habitat for Humanity. “Being a part of the community means showing up for one another; I am proud to support Habitat for Humanity as an organization and blessed to have been able to offer this donation. Every person deserves a safe, solid roof over their head, and we are happy to be able to help our neighbors build a better future,” shared Ben Connell, Connell Roofing CEO.

Town administrators leveraged the Community Preservation Act, which enables Massachusetts towns to create preservation funds related to community housing, historic preservation, open space, and outdoor recreation. These funds, along with community business donations, such as the new roof from Connell Roofing, made it possible to create a beautiful and affordable home for a worthy and deserving family. They broke ground back in June.



This 1856 building will be converted to needed housing thanks to Franklin CPA funds, Habitat for Humanity and donations from local businesses, such as Connell Roofing.

Partnering with Habitat for Humanity, Connell Roofing provided both materials and skilled labor toward the project, and the upgrade ensures that the new home will remain a safe and welcoming space while honoring the history of Franklin. The collaboration is a perfect example of the impact that local businesses can make when they join forces with nonprofit organiza-

tions for the betterment of the community. “Habitat for Humanity inspires our company, because they don’t just build houses — they build stability and hope, and we value the partnerships evident between families and communities. Habitat for Humanity empowers people while creating lasting change,” says Connell.



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Rotary Club of Franklin, MA Celebrates 95 Years of Dedicated Service

Franklin, MA — The Rotary Club of Franklin proudly celebrates its 95th anniversary, marking nearly a century of dedicated service, leadership, and commitment to the Rotary motto: “Service Above Self.” Chartered on May 30, 1930, the Club has left an enduring mark on the Franklin community and beyond—supporting local initiatives, youth development, international service, and community enrichment projects.

Beloved traditions continue today, including the Annual Valentine’s Day Brunch and Pasta Supper, where Rotarians prepare and serve homemade meals for Franklin seniors and Housing Authority residents. The Annual Car Show Fundraiser is coming up in early October.

The Club announces its 2025–2026 Board of Directors: Co-Presidents: Diane Padula and Joseph Collins, Treasurer: Victoria Rawlinson

“We are incredibly proud to celebrate 95 years of making a difference,” said Co-President

Diane Padula. “This milestone reflects our deep roots in the community and our ongoing commitment to service.”

From awarding scholarships and empowering youth through RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards), to supporting organizations like the Franklin Food Pantry, the Club’s contributions are visible across town. Notable community enhancements include lighting and benches on the Franklin Town Common, and the velvet stage curtain in the former Franklin Junior High School—still admired during local performances.

“Many folks may remember the very popular Franklin Home and Trade Show, held for years at the FHS Field House,” said Co-President and Rotary Head Chef Joe Collins.

Looking ahead, the Club is launching new initiatives to further its legacy. Most recently, the Rotary Club of Franklin has partnered with Franklin Newcomers & Friends to continue their Annual Craft Fair, now set

for November 8th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School.

“After 50 years, Franklin Newcomers is passing the torch to the Rotary Club. We knew it would be a good fit, because our organizations share the same values—bringing people together for fun, while giving back to our community,” said Padula.

The Rotary Club of Franklin MA is part of Rotary International, a global network of 1.4 million.

Are you a person of action and interested in learning more or becoming a member?

For information on general or Corporate Memberships, please email: rotarycluboffranklinma@gmail.com

Guests are always welcome at our meetings, held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at The Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central Street, Franklin, MA.

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Santa Foundation Turns 40, Plans Gala Fundraiser

By JUDITH DORATO O’GARA

The Santa Foundation turns 40 this year, and it’s planning its annual gala at the Franklin Elks Club, 1077 Pond Street, Franklin for October 3, 2025, from 6-10 p.m.

The modest giving operation of founder Robert Sullivan and his wife has grown to serve over 30,000 families, providing gifts, toys, clothing and support to over 716 families in 2024.

Last year, the organization, which outgrew its space in the basement of a small house on Joy Street, moved to 275 Washington Street - Suite A6 in Franklin, with the help of hundreds of hours of volunteer hours from the Franklin community.

“That change did pay off the way we thought,” says Joe Formosa, who joined The Santa Foundation’s Board last year with his wife, Pam. “We can now have space and room for dozens of members of the community to continue our mission.” Formosa notes that the community need has not waned.



“Bob started something that, unfortunately, the need doesn’t go away,” says Formosa, who says The Santa Foundation is committed to working with new community partner organizations to continue to meet that call. “What we’ll do this year is, if you can’t write a check, we will collaborate and work with someone, if they need car repair, or work with the Food Pantry and St. Vincent de Paul. How do we solve a problem without just writing a check,” says Formosa, who admits that the new location adds to the organization’s overhead costs.

Just as The Santa Foundation outgrew the space needed to



The Santa Foundation turns 40 this year. Last year, it moved to a new space, which allows for more volunteers, more space for donations, and greater community involvement. The organization will hold its annual gala October 3, 2025 at the Franklin Elks. Photo used courtesy of The Santa Foundation.



house its donations, so the organization has outgrown the space at La Cantina Winery, where it has held past galas.

“Thank you, La Cantina – it’s been a great supporter,” says Formosa. Board member Karla Boudreau, founder of Meme’s Stockings, is chairing the event, which will include two entertainers, at least 10 sizeable raffle

prizes, and a silent auction for items such as Boston Bruin’s tickets for 4 on the glass, a custom paint experience, a one-of-a-kind doll house and a Boston College football package.

As part of its 40th year celebration, The Santa Foundation has updated the look and ease of its website, under the direction of Social Media Director Pat Timmons (grandson of Robert and Elaine Sullivan). The updated website also acknowledges the many long-standing and recent companies and individuals who support The Santa Foundation.

The Santa Foundation will join Franklin in celebrating Har-

vest Fest on September 27th and encourages folks to stop by, learn more about the organization, and sign up as volunteers. In October, the organization will also launch its annual fall Calendar raffle fundraiser, to be sold throughout the month of October (in person or online) with 30+ days of prizes for the month of November.

To purchase tickets for the gala or to learn more about The Santa Foundation, visit its website at www.sfjoy.org. You can also follow The Santa Foundation on Instagram (@sfjoyorg) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/SantaFoundation).

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Franklin Veterans Take Flight: A Story of Honoring America’s Most Senior Veterans

By BRITTANY AMALFI

Since 2009, Honor Flight New England has honored senior veterans by flying them to Washington, D.C., to visit the memorials dedicated to their service. and this month, a few of our very own Franklin veterans will be taking to the air and witnessing their mark on history. “Their first flight took place on June 13, 2009, carrying 50 veterans—including 14 WWII prisoners of war and five decorated heroes—on a day that organizers described as ‘humbling,’” says the Honor Flight website. Since then, Honor Flight New England has served 2,329 veterans and has completed 65 flights. The trips are provided at no cost to the veterans, with all expenses covered through donations and volunteer support. Among the Franklin veterans taking part in the Honor Flight are David A. Cox, who proudly

served 21 years in the U.S. Air Force; Terrence S. Gilboy, who served four years with the Navy Seabees and is a Vietnam veteran; John B. Hefe, who joined the Navy Reserves in 1965, was called to active duty in 1966, and served a total of six years including two on active duty; and Joseph P. Lesica, who served in the Navy from 1968 to 1972, including two years on active duty and two in the Reserves. Each of these veterans brings their own unique story and experiences, and this trip offers them the opportunity to reflect on their service while connecting with fellow veterans who share similar histories. Our Franklin veterans will board their flight September 14th, 2025, departing from Logan Airport. On this special day, members of the Franklin community are invited to come together at the airport in the early morning hours to



give these heroes the warm and heartfelt send-off they deserve. For the veterans, this trip is more than just visiting the memorials—it’s a way to recognize their service and connect with fellow veterans. Many describe the experience as meaningful and memorable, a reminder that their service is appreciated. By taking part in the Honor Flight, Franklin veterans join thousands across New England who have visited these memorials in honor of their dedication. Thanks to the major sponsors for upcoming flights such as Service Credit Union, Swim with a Mission NH, Northeast Credit Union, and We Ride So They Can Fly, Honor Flight new England is able to stay true

to their mission of helping veterans achieve a major milestone. Their contributions ensure that veterans can travel safely, comfortably, and at no cost, allowing the focus to remain on honoring the individuals who have served our country. When Honor Flight New England says, “A Race Against Time to Say Thank You!” they remind us that every moment matters. Together, we have the opportunity to give our veterans the heartfelt gratitude they have earned through their service and sacrifice.

Community support—through donations, volunteering, or attending the send-off—is what keeps Honor Flight new England alive. The September 14th flight will be an important day for Franklin veterans, their families, and the community, offering a chance to show thanks and respect for those who have served. For more information about Honor Flight New England, check out their website at honorflightnewengland.org/ There you can learn about their mission, discover upcoming flights, and find ways to support their efforts through volunteering or donations.

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Franklin Newcomers to End, Hand Craft Fair to Rotary

50th Annual Franklin Newcomers & Friends Craft Fair November 8th at Tri-County

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

All good things must come to an end, and after 54 years, the Franklin Newcomers & Friends will disband, handing off the reins of their annual Craft Fair fundraiser to the Rotary Club of Franklin, MA. The 50th and final Annual Franklin Newcomers and Friends Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 9-3 at Tri-County High School, 147 Pond St., Franklin, with a \$3 entry fee for those 12 and older.

Franklin Newcomers was “a great way to meet people in real time,” says Anne Parker, who’s been a Newcomers member for about 15 years. She’s made some good friends through the social group, but membership has waned in recent years, she says.

Terri Attinello echoes the sentiment.

“It’s changed a lot in the last 10 years, and then, since

COVID, people just don’t want to commit to things. Our membership is way down,” says Attinello, who shifted to Newcomers from the Franklin Moms group once her children were in school, around 2006. “When I joined, membership was over 150 people, and now we probably have 10-15 people,” says Attinello, “We’re all friends, and we’d do things together whether we had a club or not. It seems silly to keep the club going.

Franklin Newcomers & Friends began in 1971 by Fran Kober. She moved to Franklin from New Jersey and was very disappointed to learn there was no Newcomers Club in town, so she placed an ad in the paper to meet other new residents to the town. She received five replies, and the next ad she placed encouraged new people to come meet and socialize. Twenty people responded, and the Franklin Newcomers & Friends group was born.

Community service was also an integral aspect of the club. Proceeds from the Newcomers’ Craft Fair would not only fund club events and outings, but members would vote on and give annual donations to such local Franklin organizations as the Random Smile Project, Franklin Food Pantry, the 4th of July Coalition, The Santa Foundation, Fish of Franklin, and the SAFE Coalition, among others.

The group did other fundraisers as well. Blanca DiGiacomo, who made many friends in Newcomers and spent time on its board, was lead decorator in the group’s Holiday House Tours fundraiser. Although not a member anymore, the interior designer says, “I am so grateful I joined and was active in the club for many years ... To this day we still go out to dinner with friends we met at the Newcomers. It was a great way to meet people in town you felt you had things in common with.” She felt good, too, supporting community causes.

As Newcomers hands off its biggest fundraiser, members of the Newcomers will work with Rotary members this year and next for a smooth transition.

“We are having (Rotary) shadow us for the remaining things we’re doing to prepare,” says Attinello. Rotary members



Shown is a photo from a past Franklin Newcomers Craft Fair. The group will dissolve this year, handing this fundraiser off to Rotary Club of Franklin, MA. Photo used courtesy of Franklin Newcomers.

will also be involved on the day of the event.

“They will be running it next year, with a little bit of support from us,” says Attinello, who is sad, but concedes the event had become too much for the dwindling group. “It’s a great fundraiser, and Rotary doesn’t have a huge fundraiser like this, so it’s a win-win,” she says.

Rotary of Franklin, MA Co-President Diane Padula says the fundraiser aligns perfectly with her club’s core values. “Everything they were doing was similar. They were doing their fun things and giving back to the community, all the different

things that we do. It was just a good fit.”

Although the next Rotary Car Show is coming up on October 4, 2025 at New England Chapel, moving forward, Rotary will shift that event to the spring to accommodate the Craft Fair.

For more information about this year’s Craft Fair visit <https://www.facebook.com/FranklinNewcomersCraftFair/>.

For more information about The Rotary Club of Franklin, visit <https://franklinmarotary.org/in/home/>.

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Franklin Garden Club Begins Season on September 2nd

The Franklin Garden Club will begin its 2025-2026 season on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, with a meeting at the Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill Street, from 6– 8:30 p.m. An informal social get-together will take place from 6 – 6:30 p.m. followed by a presentation on the coming year’s programs and activities. The meeting is open to the public, including those interested in becoming members.

Club Co-Presidents Eileen Smith and Janice Cederquist stated, “The Garden Club, founded in 1987, offers many educational programs, and one does not have to be a Master Gardener to join. Meetings provide a wonderful opportunity to learn about various aspects of gardening from experts and to exchange information. We welcome anyone who is interested to attend.”

In addition to the September meeting, this year’s program-



ming schedule includes: October 7 – Craft Night – Bringing Books to Life; November 4- All About Mushrooms; December 2 – Holiday Greens Workshop to prepare for annual wreath and arrangement sale; February 3 – Deep in the Heart of Winter – New Age Floral Designs; March 3 – Flowers, Health and Healing; April 7 – Craft Project; May 5 – Orchid 101; June 2 - Year-End Social.

Club community service activities include planting and maintenance of the Franklin Town Common Garden and the planters at the Franklin Library and Franklin Food Pantry; sponsorship of an annual scholarship awarded to a high school graduate; distribution of pine tree seedlings in the elementary schools; and special projects with other community organizations. The Franklin Garden Club is a member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts.

SAVE THE DATE

Friends of the Poor Walk
Saturday, September 27, 2025

Franklin Town Common

St. Mary Parish, St. Vincent de Paul Conference is sponsoring its annual fund raiser on Saturday, September 27, on Franklin’s Town Common. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The Walk begins with a Blessing for the Walk at 9 a.m.

Participants can collect donations and walk with us. Additionally, donations are accepted online at:
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=T6EQV6EC25NR6

All money raised will stay in Franklin to assist those in need. Thank you.



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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

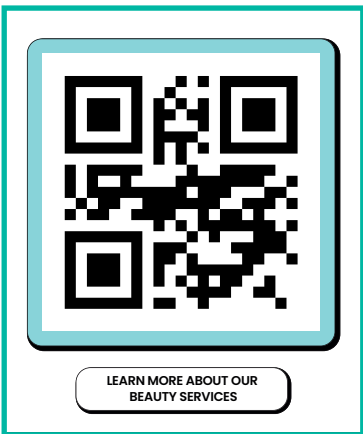
We’ve carefully curated our favorite end-of-summer beauty treatments that will leave you feeling revived, radiant, and ready to embrace this cozy fall season.

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 sun-screen 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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MA Legislature Approves Road & Bridge Funding for Cities & Towns

The Massachusetts Legislature passed a bill to distribute \$1.2 billion among cities and towns to maintain and repair roads and bridges across the state. Within the grants, State Representative Jeffrey Roy (D-Franklin) was pleased to advocate for the bill which provides significant funding for Franklin and Medway. Franklin will receive a total of \$1,784,137.23 while Medway was awarded \$797,908.81.

“This legislation provides critical funding that allows for the needed repairs on roadways and infrastructure to ensure safer travels for my constituents and across the state,” said Representative Roy.

The funding, derived from bonding, will expand the Chapter 90 program and help address transportation related improvements, road and bridge repairs, and the impacts of climate change on local infrastructure.

The bill enacted includes a one-year authorization of \$300 million for the Chapter 90 Program, which provides funding to local municipalities for improvements on public roadways. This makes a 50% increase over past funding levels, including:

- \$200 million to be distributed to all municipalities based on the standard Chapter 90 program distribution formula;

- \$100 million to be distributed to all municipalities based solely on road mileage.

Funding for three additional critical programs to support various transportation related projects include:

- \$500 million for the Lifecycle Asset Management Program (LAMP), which supports non-federally aided roads and targets the pavement and bridges that are in the worst condition in the Commonwealth.
- \$200 million for a culvert and small bridge repair program for municipalities’ local culverts and small bridges under 20 feet that are in a state of disrepair or require replacement.

- \$185 million for capital projects to reduce congestion hotspots, funding that will be available for projects such as shared use paths, intersection improvements, railroad grade crossings, and sidewalks.

The bill also appropriates \$885 million in additional funding to help ensure the Commonwealth’s long-term transportation goals.

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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September 2025 at Franklin Public Library

Franklin Public Library's 2025 Reading Challenge!

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

Franklin Public Library VITA: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

We Need You! for the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs... better known as VITA and TCE.
Many volunteer roles are available. You can help as a greeter, an interpreter, and many other roles, but most of all, we need tax preparers. Training for certification is provided!
Learn more at <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/irs-tax-volunteers> or email Mitzi Gousie at mgousie@minlib.net

ESL & Adult Literacy Program

The Franklin Public Library has started an English as a Second Language and Adult Literacy Program to serve Franklin and surrounding communities. Volunteers and students need not be Franklin residents. If interested, fill out the registration form on the library's website.

Special Events for Kids

Tot Bop! Starting Thursday, September 11th @ 4 p.m.
For ages 3 - 5. No registration required.

Artsy Afternoons! Returning Thursday, September, 11th @ 4 p.m.

Registration Required!
Children ages 6-11, join Ms. Cindy for a step-by-step art project! All materials provided!

Stuffie Spa Thursday, September 11th @ 2:30 p.m., library meeting room
Treat your fluffy friend to a 'bath', brush, fluff, and more!

RI Pirate Guy Party Saturday September 20th @ 1 p.m.
Join the R.I. Pirate Guy for a rollicking adventure! We'll dress like pirates, create our own pirate flags, play a few pirate games, and uncover buried treasure!

Special Events for Teens

D&D Club Returns Monday September 8th @ 4 p.m.
Registration Required
Kids ages 10-17 are invited for a weekly Dungeons and Dragons Club! D&D is one of the most complex tabletop games in history. The library will supply dice, rulebooks, and blank character sheets! We will be using the 5th edition. Other Table Top systems welcome!

Pixel Pals Thursday, September 25th @ 4 p.m.
An afternoon book group for graphic novels, manga, anime, cartoons, etc.!

Special Events for Adults

Painting for Adults Saturday September 6th @ 1 p.m.
Registration Required
Grown-ups! Join Miss Lily and create a step-by-step painting of inspired by American artist Georgia O'Keefe! All materials provided.

Craftalong for Adults September 13th @ 2 p.m.
Registration Required
Adults of all ages and abilities are welcome to join us. One Saturday each month, we'll complete a new DIY creative craft. All supplies provided. This

month's project is Marbled Clay Leaves!

Community Song Circle, Wednesdays, September 10 & 24 @ 6:45 p.m.

Come together as a community with local musician Jamie Barrett to sing some favorite songs, with lyrics provided. This program is geared toward adults and older teens. No knowledge of music or singing experience required. Language Learners who want to practice English through singing are especially invited to participate!

Special Events for All Ages

Messtival! Saturday September 6th @ 10:30 a.m.

Join us for an afternoon of mess making and chaos! Enjoy Oobleck, bubbles, sensory brings, and more! Bring enthusiasm and a change of clothes!

Karaoke! Saturday September 6th @ 2 p.m.
Join us for Karaoke at the Library!

Tiny Art Show Reception! Friday September 12th 3:30-4:45 p.m.
A special reception celebrating this summer's tiny masterpieces and their artists! We hope to see as many of the show's artists and loved ones as possible! Refreshments will be served!

MetroWest Symphony Orchestra Concert, September 13th @10:30 a.m.

Join us in welcoming the Metro-West Symphony Orchestra as a group of their amazing cohort perform for us a few pieces by composers from around the world and give us an inside look at the history and instruments involved.

Clue in the Library: A Mystery Scavenger Hunt! Tuesday September 23rd, all day!

It's a day off from school, and we have a mystery to solve! Can you help us investigate? (This is a passive program; you can come anytime and go at your own pace!)

Harvest Festival Library Lawn Games Saturday September 27th starting at 12 p.m.

Visit us on the Library Lawn for Giant Board Games, a scavenger hunt, and more!

Franklin Library Book Sale

Friday, September 20th, 1-5 p.m., Saturday, September 21st, 9 a.m.-Noon
All books \$1.

Bag Sale - \$5 A Bag—Saturday, September 21st, from 1-4 p.m.

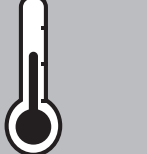
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September 2025 Veterans' Services Notes

Veterans' Services Office (508) 613-1315

September 3 – Monthly Coffee Social - 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. VA Nurses will discuss the VA Home Health Care Program. All Veterans are welcome!

September 9 – Tune It Out guitar lessons for Veterans **OPEN HOUSE** - 5:30 p.m. Weekly classes meet on Tuesdays from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. No fee or guitar experience needed. We have guitars!

September 15 – Veterans Survivor Benefits Discussion – 9 a.m. at the Senior Center. Veterans, service members and their spouses are welcome. RSVP encouraged: (508) 613-1315

September 15 – Veterans Memorial Walkway - Deadline for engraved brick orders for the November installation. Brick order forms are available in the Town Hall and Senior Center lobbies and online at: <https://www.franklinma.gov/335/Veterans-Services>

September 18 – U.S. Air Force's 78th birthday - Before the creation of the Air Force, the military's flying operations were handled by the U.S. Army on land and the Navy by sea.

September 18 – Veterans' Council Meeting - 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. All Franklin residents are welcome to join us!

September 19 – National POW/MIA Recognition Day – A day to remember and honor those Americans who were prisoners of war and those who served and never returned home.

September 28 – Gold Star Mothers and Families Day - A day to honor the families of fallen Service members.

Stay tuned for Warrior Within Yoga for Veterans and First Responders updates...

Please visit our webpage at: <https://www.franklinma.gov/335/Veterans-Services>

Franklin Fallen Heroes' Remembrance Ceremonies

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

SEPTEMBER

September 9 – David Bullukian, Jr. – WWII

September 18 – Levi Pieri – WWI

September 21 – Lawrence E. Garron, Jr. – Vietnam

September 21 – Alfred L. Muciarone – WWI

September 25 – Frank J. Smith – WWI

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Coming Up at the Franklin Senior Center

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

There is always lots to do at the Franklin Senior Center. Here's a few events in September:

Page Turners Book Club: Monday, September 8, 1 p.m. The Senior Center book club is looking for new members. Summer reading was *The Optimist's Daughter*, by Eudora Welty, and *The Gathering*, by Ann Enright.

Texas Hold 'Em Instruction: Every Monday at 10:30 a.m., no cash needed to play! Minimum seven participants to run. Beginner and intermediate players welcome!

Zentangle Art Class: Monday, September 22, 1-3 p.m., \$25, pre-registration required, fee includes the class and all materials. Minimum 6 participants to run.

Day Trip-Cape Cod Train with Lunch and Downtown Hyannis Shopping: Wednesday, September 10. Bus departs at 9 a.m., returns at approximately 5:30 p.m. \$155

Rocky Mountain High-John Denver Tribute Show: Tuesday, September 16, doors open 11:30 a.m. at Lake Pearl, includes baked stuffed chicken or vegetable lasagna.

Friends of Franklin Elders meeting: Friday, September 26, 9 a.m. Public is welcome.

Call Jen Schofield at 508-570-6544 to run in our Newspaper!

1776 Financial Services Awards 2025 Scott Dittrich Memorial Scholarships

Franklin, MA - 1776 Financial Services awarded the Scott Dittrich Memorial Scholarships to Ella Mahoney of Franklin High School and Addison Lewis of King Philip Regional High School.

The scholarship is given in memory of 1776 Financial Services co-founder Scott Dittrich who passed away in March 2023. Throughout his lifetime, Scott demonstrated the extraordinary ability to regularly engage others and influence change. Ella and Addison submitted winning essays detailing an instance when they inspired someone to act which resulted in a positive outcome.

These annual scholarships are awarded to one Franklin High School senior and one King Philip Regional High School senior who will pursue a business-related major at a 4-year college or university. The scholarship is a progressive one that will be given



Pictured from left to right: Bill Dittrich, Ella Mahoney, Marybeth Stanton

out over the four years of study.

1776 Financial would like to wish Ella and Addison the best

of luck as they attend New York University and Georgia Institute of Technology respectively.



Pictured from left to right: Bill Dittrich, Addison Lewis, Marybeth Stanton

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Franklin Public Schools Offers Meals at No Cost for All Students

Franklin Public Schools participates in the **National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program**. As part of this program, Franklin High School, Franklin Middle School, Lincoln Street Elementary Complex, Washington Street Elementary Complex, ECDC on Oat Street and ECDC on Pond Street offer healthy meals every school day. The Commonwealth is supplementing National School Lunch Program funds to ensure all students have access to healthy school meals in Massachusetts, regardless of household income. We ask that families complete a Meal Benefit Application as this provides data for school funding and community resources. The results from each Meal Benefit Application is used to ensure sustainability for this program.

Qualifications for children to receive free or reduced price meals include: belonging to a household whose income is at or below the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines, belonging to a household that receives public assistance, or if the child is homeless, migrant, runaway, foster, or participates in a Head Start or Even Start pre-K program.

Household size and income criteria are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits if the household does not receive assistance or the children are not in the other categories mentioned above. Children can get free or reduced price meals if the household's gross income falls at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guideline chart.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2025-2026						
Household size	Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals			Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals		
	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$20,345	\$1,696	\$392	\$28,953	\$2,413	\$557
2	\$27,495	\$2,292	\$529	\$39,128	\$3,261	\$753
3	\$34,645	\$2,888	\$667	\$49,303	\$4,109	\$949
4	\$41,795	\$3,483	\$804	\$59,478	\$4,957	\$1,144
5	\$48,945	\$4,079	\$942	\$69,653	\$5,805	\$1,340
6	\$56,095	\$4,675	\$1,079	\$79,828	\$6,653	\$1,536
7	\$63,245	\$5,271	\$1,217	\$90,003	\$7,501	\$1,731
8	\$70,395	\$5,867	\$1,354	\$100,178	\$8,349	\$1,927
Each additional person:	+7,150	+596	+138	+10,175	+848	+196

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households can fill out the application and return it to the school unless the household has already received notification that their children are approved for free meals this year. Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children and what is required to complete the application. Applications also are available **at each school's main office, central office, and online at franklinps.net/district/food-services. You may also apply online through the Franklin Public Schools Food Service office website at franklinps.net/district/food-services.**

Only one application is required for all children in the household and the information provided will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data. Applications may be verified at any time during the school year by the school or other program officials. An application for free or reduced-price benefits cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions. In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability.

Families can apply for benefits at any time. If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the Federal Guidelines. Contact **Aaron Lenart at alenarta@franklinps.net** at any time to request an application.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced price policy, **Jana Melotti, School Business Administrator, 355 East Central Street, Franklin MA 02038, melottij@franklinps.net, or 508-553-4825** will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to **Franklin Public Schools**.

When known to **Franklin Public Schools** households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free meals if they are members of households receiving assistance from the:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); or
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), if the State program meets Federal standards.

An application is not required for free meal benefits for Assistance Program participants and all the children in the household are eligible for free meal benefits. If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, or if a household does not receive a notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school to have free meal benefits extended to them. Participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals, but they will need to turn in an application including household size and total income.

When known to **Franklin Public Schools** households will also be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals if the individual child is considered "Other Source Categorically Eligible", because the child is categorized, as defined by law as:

- Foster
- Homeless,
- Migrant,
- Runaway,
- Enrolled in an eligible Head Start, or
- Enrolled in an eligible pre-kindergarten class.

If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school about their eligibility through the list above, or should submit an income application. Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact the school if the household chooses to decline the benefits.

For more information, you may **call Aaron Lenart at 508-613-2477** or e-mail at **alenarta@franklinps.net**

Non-Discrimination Statement:

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- mail:**
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- fax:**
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- email:**
program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Franklin Rotary Club 9th Annual Car Show

October 4, 2025 – New England Chapel

The Franklin Rotary Club & New England Chapel are “Gearing Up” for their 9th Annual Car Show, slated for October 4, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the New England Chapel, 300 E. Central St., Franklin. Registration is \$20 per car, and entry is FREE to spectators. This show features: Food, Ice Cream, a Smores Fire Pit, Air-Conditioned Lounge, Indoor Restrooms, Raffles and a special Blessing of the Animals at 11 a.m. In addition, the Franklin Rotary Club is honored to have a special presentation of a Modified Mobility Van at 10 a.m. This car show welcomes vehicles of all types; Antique, Muscle, Classic, Custom, Motorcycles and out of the norm new cars! Trophies will be awarded at 12:30 p.m.

Sponsorship Levels Available Below

Includes all Media Promos (Print & Social Media)

\$1,000 (Exotic Car Level) - Your company branded area space for 2 cars; live promotion by DJ during Show; large company logo display; Trophy Sponsorship – “Best In Show”; Coupons for handout.

\$500 (Luxury Care Level) - Trophy Sponsorship; company logo display; coupons for handout.

\$250 (Classic Care Level) - Trophy Sponsorship; company logo display; coupons for handout.

\$100 (Friends of Rotary Level) - Business Card on Flyer

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To register or become a sponsor contact: Gary Convertino at gconvertino@cox.net or John Power at john@powerpaintingplus.com

All proceeds to benefit Rotary Club of Franklin, MA community service projects. Learn more at <https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary>



If you would like more information about our organization or to become a member, please contact Diane Padula, padularo-tary@gmail.com and she will make arrangements for you to be a guest at one of the upcoming meetings on the first and third

Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central Street (Rte. 140), Franklin.

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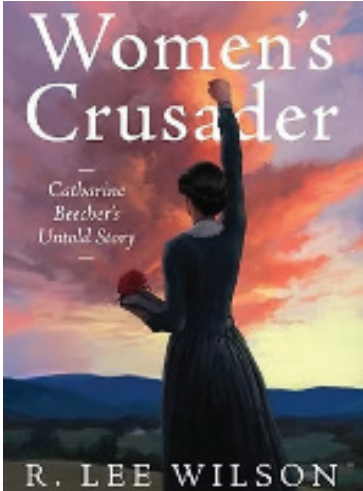
Historic Happenings at the Franklin Historical Museum

Sat. Sept. 13: Join us for Cake and a Celebration of the 225th Birthday of Catharine Beecher

Saturday is the exact 225th birthday of one-time Franklin resident, Catharine Beecher, the topic of our Second Sunday talk (see below)! Stop by for a complimentary slice of cake...

Sun. Sept. 14--Second Sunday Speaker Series: Author Lee Wilson Brings Catherine Beecher to Life!

Billed as “The incredible untold story of how a lighthearted romantic became a pioneer advocate for women’s education,” R. Lee Wilson’s recent book, *Women’s Crusader*, tells the story of Catharine Beecher and of her big impact on 19th century America. Sister of Harriet Beecher Stowe, Catharine at first seemed more destined for a life of domesticity than of public leadership. But her chance romance and ill-fated engagement with Franklin-born Alexander Metcalf Fisher, a brilliant Yale professor who would die in shipwreck changed the focus of Catharine’s life. After living for a time in Franklin with Fisher’s family, she emerged with a clear



view of her life’s work, fighting misogyny and creating opportunities for women to get the education they needed and deserved. The program starts at 1:15. The museum is open from 1-4 and admission is free.

Sat. Sept. 27. Franklin Historical Museum will Participate in Harvest Festival and host ‘Karaoke, Kazoos, and Cookies’

During the Franklin Downtown Partnership Harvest Festival from 12-5, the Franklin Historical Museum will provide complimentary popcorn on the front portico (for consumption



outside of the museum, only, please!). Inside, we will be showing mid-century film clips from Franklin’s Chilson Collection, highlighting familiar landmarks as they looked 80 years ago! At 3:30 p.m. the Museum will convene “Karaoke, Kazoos and Cookies” in front of the museum, with kazoos provided while they last, free cookies and water. Musical direction by Franklin’s own Dennis Ferguson.

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

When visiting the museum, please consider donating a non-perishable item for the Franklin Food Pantry. Questions? Contact Alan Earls at (508) 560 3786. Visit us online at <https://www.franklinmuseum1778.com>

RECYCLE THIS PAPER

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court

Norfolk Division

Docket No. N025P2115EA

Estate of: Carol Zeidler Ertle

Also Know As: Carol Z. Ertle

Date of Death: February 27, 2025

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of **William J. Ertle of Franklin MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate. **William J. Ertle of Franklin MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

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Living Healthy

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 Boston 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 vitreo-

retinal 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

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Dan Liu, M.D.



Michael R. Adams, O.D.



Shalin Zia, O.D.



Donald L. Conn, O.D.



Dr. Purvi Patel, O.D.

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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. 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 of-

EYES

continued from page 24

fers 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.

We are especially proud of our state-licensed and QUAD A-accredited, state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford. Unlike 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.

For more details, see our ad on previous page.

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Franklin Federated Church to hold Annual Yard Sale on September 27th

The Franklin Federated Church, 171 Main St., will hold its annual yard sale on Saturday, September 27th from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., rain or shine. (Sale will be indoors in case of rain). It is good to note that this is the same day as Franklin Harvest Festival which begins at Noon.

This year, you will find many great deals on books, DVDs, games and toys, household items, electronics, sporting goods, and more. The Thrifty Threads thrift store will also have special pricing on adult clothing and accessories and a large, discounted jewelry display.

This church fundraiser has taken place for over 25 years to help maintain the beautiful building and support the community. Please come by! Items not sold will be donated. No early birds, please.





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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 congregation 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 commit-

ment 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. to explore 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, email info@fusf.org or call (508) 528-5348.

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 Instrumental 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.charles-riverchorale.com and going to the Join Us tab or using the following link: <https://forms.gle/43qpRyEoFhZCq3qj8>.

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Public Universities: Still a Value, No Longer a Safety

For many years, families viewed their flagship state university as a “likely” or “safety” option. That is no longer the case. Here in Massachusetts, for example, UMass Amherst once was in the safety category on most students’ lists. Today, its average admitted GPA hovers around 4.07, making it competitive for even the strongest applicants. Across the country, flagship universities and well-known state schools are growing more selective- for both in-state and out-of-state students. Why? There are several factors:

Why Admissions Are Tightening

Rising costs at private colleges. As private tuition climbs at an average of 3–5% per year, many families, even affluent ones, can no longer justify paying \$75,000 to \$90,000 per year in tuition. Out-of-state public universities that cost in the \$40k–\$60K range suddenly look like a “value.” Ten years ago, merit aid at private colleges often brought them in line with public universities. Today, that gap has widened and are pushing students to public institutions.

Planning for graduate school. With private college costs climbing, many students who expect to pursue graduate or professional degrees- particularly in fields like health sciences, business, and psychology- are choosing more affordable public

universities for their undergraduate years. They recognize that saving money now leaves them better positioned to handle the tuition burden of medical school, business school, or graduate programs later on.

The southern migration. More students are applying to southern flagships drawn by football Saturdays, school spirit, Greek life, and warm weather. A Wall Street Journal headline even teased, “Sorry, Harvard. Everyone Wants to Go to College in the South Now.”

Test-optional admissions. Dropping testing requirements has increased applicant pools, especially at selective flagships. Students who might not have applied in the past now do.

In-state vs. out-of-state dynamics. For out-of-state applicants, many state systems hold quotas- sometimes admitting 80% or more from within state, which in turn lowers the acceptance rate for out of state students. Meanwhile, for some states declining state funding is pushing universities to admit more out-of-state and full-pay students. In-state families feel squeezed when spots shrink.

Yield management. Admissions offices use sophisticated modeling to admit the students most likely to enroll. Out-of-state applicants without demonstrated interest may be overlooked even with strong grades.

What Families Can Do:

- **Don’t assume a public university is a safety.** Even in-state flagships should be treated as targets- or sometimes reaches- depending on major. Research admit rates by program, not just overall.
- **Look beyond the obvious.** Explore under-the-radar public universities with strong honors programs or specialized majors. For example, in Massachusetts, UMass Lowell and UMass Dartmouth can be excellent options for students interested in engineering, business, or health sciences. In the south, UNC Wilmington and UNC Charlotte may offer great pathways in business or health sciences compared to UNC or NC State.
- **Apply early.** Priority and Early Action deadlines matter, particularly for scholarships, honors colleges, and competitive majors. Rolling-admission schools fill quickly- early applications can provide a real edge.
- **Stay rigorous.** Students should not coast, assuming a state school will overlook a light schedule. Strong GPA, test scores, and rigorous senior year courses matter. Although rigorous is always defined by the individual



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

student - not everyone can take or handle AP classes.

- **Visit.** Demonstrated interest counts at many public universities. Touring less competitive campuses can open students’ eyes to hidden gems.
- **Have a transfer plan.** Students could start at a branch campus or community college with a guaranteed transfer program. These can be smart pathways to a flagship degree.

Getting into college is not necessarily harder. But getting into many public universities has become much more competitive. Schools that once seemed like fallbacks- whether flagships or strong regional campuses-

are now far from guarantees. Families should look beyond the obvious and resist the pull of bumper-sticker schools that attract the bulk of applications. By casting a wider, more thoughtful net and pairing it with strong academics and preparation- students can discover public universities that offer both value and opportunity.

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

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Transforming Potential into Purpose at Dean College

In the heart of Franklin, Dean College has been shaping futures for more than 160 years. Stroll across its compact, tree-lined campus and you’ll see students headed to class, rehearsing in the theatre, or on their way to internships that put their classroom learning into action. For many, this is where raw potential is transformed into confidence, skill, and purpose.

“Every student walks onto Dean’s campus with unique strengths and aspirations,” says Dr. Scott Sibley, Provost. “Our role is to meet them where they are, challenge them, and guide them toward becoming confident, capable professionals.”

That philosophy is woven into every aspect of the Dean experience. With just 1,200 full-time undergraduates, small class sizes

make it easy for faculty to know students by name. Advisors tailor an academic plan to each individual’s goals, while required internships ensure every graduate has a meaningful real-world experience. Partnerships with organizations like Kraft Sports + Entertainment and the Franklin Performing Arts Company connect students directly to industry networks.

The results speak for themselves, with 96 percent of graduates employed or in graduate school within one year of earning their degree.

For recent graduate, Bree Gazeille ’24, that attention made all the difference. “Thanks to the incredible support from Dean, I’ve surpassed my academic expectations and achieved more than I thought possible,” she

says. “Their guidance paved the way for two incredible internships, a job in my desired field post-graduation, and acceptance into grad school.”

In a higher education landscape often defined by large lecture halls and anonymous crowds, Dean offers something refreshingly different with a close-knit community dedicated to helping students achieve their full potential. That kind of outcome is no accident. Alongside academic expertise, Dean students leave with the skills employers value most, including communication, collaboration, leadership, global awareness, and problem-solving. These abilities are practiced and refined through both coursework and campus life.

Performing Arts alumna, Gabrielle Fernandes credits Dean

with giving her more than technical training. “Dean has been an integral part of my professional success,” she says. “Through Dean, I have been able to grow my network by meeting and connecting with other alumni, which has led to jobs and bookings. Dean’s tight-knit community really is a family.”

For a growing number of students, Dean offers something rare in higher education: a place where talent is nurtured, ambition is matched with opportunity, and futures are built one experience at a time.

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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 business 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, and we will have a Show and Tell of summer projects.

Yankee Quilters is holding a Savers Fundraiser to benefit our programs and outreach. 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 loading 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 and we will do our best to pick up donations or schedule other drop-off times.

In October, Yankee member Sandie Husby, of Franklin, the

"Lone Quilter," will present 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, expected to 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, please reach out to yankeequilters11@gmail.com or attend one of our meetings.

St. John's Episcopal Church Kicks Off Fall

Kick-Off Sunday September 7th; Pumpkin Patch Sept. 28- Oct. 31

On September 7th, St. John's Episcopal Church at 237 Pleasant Street, Franklin will welcome fall with Kick-Off Sunday, the beginning of our Program Year, when we welcome back our choir (and perhaps some parishioners) from summer vacation, offer a special blessing for teachers and students, and enjoy ICE CREAM sundaes after worship.

Later in the month, the 6th Annual Pumpkin Patch at the church will open Sept. 28 through Oct. 31.

A huge selection of pumpkins, gourds and colorful mum plants will fill the front lawn. Kids can pick out their favorites, and it's a cute photo opportunity.

Open 7 days a week, here's the schedule:

Monday-Friday 4-6 p.m.

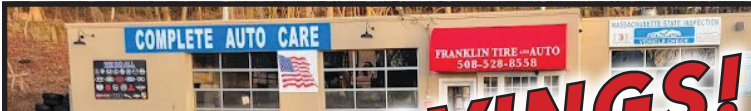
Saturdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sundays Noon-4 p.m.

Monday October 14, open 10 - 4 p.m.

The pumpkins are grown using sustainable agricultural practices in a region of New Mexico with 42% unemployment, providing jobs for Navajo people. Proceeds from pumpkin & plant sales benefit the Navajo Nation in New Mexico as well as St. John's Church and its service in the Franklin community.

For more information call (508) 528-2387, email: Admin@StJohnsFranklinMA.org, follow us on Facebook (St John's Episcopal Church) or visit www.st-johnsfranklinma.org.



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September 2

Franklin Garden Club meeting, 6-8:30 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., first meeting of season, with presentation on the coming year's programs and activities.

Franklin Rotary Club meeting, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central Street (Rte. 140), Franklin, contact Diane Padula padularotary@gmail.com to attend and learn more.

Voice of Franklin Toastmasters, 7:30 p.m., Franklin TV, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, improve your public speaking in a safe environment, <https://voiceoffranklin.toastmastersclubs.org>

September 3

Franklin Art Association meeting, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill 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 5

Franklin Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m., Franklin Town Common, 3-5 p.m. Wild Sunday Trio. Sponsored by Franklin Cultural Council and Mass Cultural Council

September 6

Messtival! 10:30 a.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Join us for an afternoon of mess making and chaos!

Painting for Adults, 1 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin,

Join Miss Lily and create a step-by-step painting of inspired by American artist Georgia O'Keefe! All materials will be provided. Registration required.

Karaoke! 2 pm., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

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

Community Song Circle, Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, with local musician Jamie Barrett, geared toward adults and older teens.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds celebrates release of *We Remember Our Women*, booklet on 44 important women from 28 Norfolk County communities, 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 12

Franklin Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m., Franklin Town Common, 3-6 p.m., Kendo. Sponsored by Franklin Cultural Council and Mass Cultural Council

September 13

MetroWest Symphony Orchestra Concert, 10:30 a.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Cake and a Celebration of the 225th Birthday of Catharine Beecher, Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, stop by for a piece of cake during museum hours.

Craftalong for Adults, 2 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

DIY creative craft of marbled clay leaves, materials provided, registration required.

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

St. Blaise Vendor Fair, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., St. Blaise Church, 1158 S. Main St., Bellingham

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

Electronics Recycling Day, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., First Congregational Church, 4 Congress St., Milford, Recycling fees are \$5 to \$45 per item. Cell phones can be recycled at no charge and will be donated to charities.

September 14

Second Sunday Speaker Series: Author Lee Wilson Brings Catherine Beecher to Life!, 1:15 p.m., doors open 1 p.m. Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, learn about the sister of Harriet Beecher Stowe who became a pioneer advocate for women's education.

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 .

September 16

Franklin Rotary Club meeting, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central Street (Rte. 140), Franklin, contact Diane Padula padularotary@gmail.com to attend and learn more.

Voice of Franklin Toastmasters, 7:30 p.m., Franklin TV, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, improve your public speaking in a safe environment, <https://voiceoffranklin.toastmastersclubs.org>

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

September 17

Queer Book Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Franklin TV and Radio 23 Hutchinson Street, find this month's book at www.franklinlgbtqalliance.com.

September 18,

Franklin Arts & Culture Symposium, 6-9 p.m., Dean College, interactive pop-up art installations, live performance, networking, register for one or both days, <https://tinyurl.com/FranklinArtsCulture>

September 19

Franklin Arts & Culture Symposium, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, features guest speakers Allison Yee and Lindsey Jaworek, break out conversations, art, music & more, register or one or both days, <https://tinyurl.com/FranklinArtsCulture>

Franklin Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m., Franklin Town Common, Featuring the Franklin Art Association Small Works exhibition & 3-6 p.m. Jamie Barrett

September 20

Franklin Public Library Book Sale, 1-5 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, all books \$1

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

Franklin Public Library Book Sale, 9 a.m.- noon, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, all books \$1, bag sale 1-4 p.m., fill a provided brown bag for \$5

September 23

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

September 24

Community Song Circle, Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, with local musician Jamie Barrett, geared toward adults and older teens.

September 26

Franklin Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m., Franklin Town Common, 3-6 p.m. Heath Nisbett. Sponsored by Franklin Cultural Council and Mass Cultural Council

September 27

St. Mary Parish, St. Vincent de Paul Conference Friends of the Poor Walk, FranklinTown Common. Registration begins 8:30 a.m. Blessing for the Walk at 9 a.m.

Participants can collect donations and walk with us. Donations also accepted online at https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=T6EQV6EC25NR6

September 28

Opening day for St. John's Episcopal Church Pumpkin Patch, Noon, 237 Pleasant Street, Franklin

September 30

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

October 2

Drum Circle with Drums for One and All, 2 p.m., (No School). Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, see website for details

October 3

Franklin Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m., Franklin Town Common, 3-6 p.m. Tom Abbott. Sponsored by Franklin Cultural Council and Mass Cultural Council

October 4

The Franklin Rotary Club & New England Chapel 9th Annual Car Show, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., special presentation of a Modified Mobility Van at 10 a.m., New England Chapel, 300 E. Central St., Franklin

Franklin Navrati, 6:30 p.m., Tri County Regional Vocational Technical High, 147 Pond St., Franklin, Brought to the community by The Indian Cultural Association of Franklin, <https://www.instagram.com/icaf.ma/>

Franklin Harvest Festival, 12-5 p.m. (raindate 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, film and kazoo music making (3 p.m.) at Franklin Historical Museum, activities include Dean College radio station and kiddie train, and Franklin Public Library lawn games and scavenger hunt.

The Franklin Federated Church Annual Yard Sale, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.,

171 Main St., Franklin. rain or shine.

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).

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.

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 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.

Baby Giraffe Born at Southwick's Zoo

Southwick's Zoo is thrilled to announce the birth of a baby giraffe, born August 11, 2025, and already standing tall as the newest member of New England's largest zoo's family. The healthy

calf, measuring just over five feet at birth, was born to Molly, raised herself at the Mendon zoo, and arrives during a year of special celebration for the zoo's 60th anniversary.



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.

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Sports

Franklin Field Hockey Hopeful for a Strong Season

By Christopher Tremblay,
Staff Sports Writer

Last fall, the Franklin field hockey team was able to compile an amazing 17-1 regular season record, with its one and only loss coming at the hands of Bishop Feehan. In doing so, the Panthers captured their sixth straight Hockomock League – Kelly Rex Championship and qualified for the Division 1 State Tournament earning a seven seed. Franklin would get into the Elite 8, where they would fall 3-0 to Walpole, the eventual State Champion. After putting together such a promising campaign last fall, Coach Michelle Hess has said goodbye to some key components of that season, but on the bright side will be returning 12 players, including eight starters.

“I know right now people are feeling very nervous because of all we lost,” she said. “But we’re Franklin; we’ll reload and be just fine.”

Hess will be looking for her four captains to step up this upcoming season. The senior captains this fall will be four-year goalie Devon Barry, defensive fullback Liz Dumas, fullback / sweeper Ava Lucenta and forward Addi Weiss. The foursome has been around strong leaders for so long over their careers that the Coach believes that they are all capable of taking on the job while bringing unity to the team.

In addition to the seniors stepping up their games this year, Hess will be looking to rely on just about everyone that dons a Franklin uniform. Sophomore Ella Marzullo, a Hockomock League All-Star last year at center-forward, had herself a great campaign as an incoming freshman and has put in a lot of work during the off-season to get even better.

Marzullo was invited to participate in the Under Armour Select Game, at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. this summer. Here, the girls were under the microscope of 45 collegiate coaches. As a freshman, Marzullo notched 19 goals and 13 assists, and Hess is looking for the now sophomore to surpass those numbers.



Sophomore Ella Marzullo and Junior Jossie Camp will both be key players this year.

Another player that Hess will be looking to be an impact for the Panthers this year is another sophomore, Penelope Brady. As a freshman, she was able to get on the score card with 4 goals and 2 assists, but the coach is figuring she will be able to increase those numbers and help the team.

“She’s a scrappy, aggressive playmaker who is fast and skilled,” Hess said. “This should be a big season for her, especially after playing USA Field Hockey Nexus in a tournament in Virginia Beach.”

As a four-year goalie, Barry is another Panther who will be looking to take her game to the next level and play for a college program. Last year, she spilt time between the pipes; playing in a total of 15.5 games where she only allowed 13 goals for an .84 goals against average while recording three shutouts.

Over the years, Hess has been trying to get the Franklin keeper to expand her communication skills, and it looks like she has finally done that. According to the Panther Coach, Barry has been displaying those communication skills with confidence.

“Over the past three years, I have been trying to get her to work on her vocal skills, and I think she has finally got it,” the Coach said. “It will be super important for her to take charge this year now that she has lost two major defenders in front of her.”



Franklin Field Hockey made it to the state tourney last year, but fell short of the top spot. Coach Hess is undaunted, confident her team this year will rebound. Shown are this year’s captains, who include Devon Barry, Liz Dumas, Ava Lucenta and Addi Weiss.

Barry was named to the Hockomock league All-Star team last fall, and the Coach is expecting her to take her game up a notch, especially now that colleges are looking more closely at her.

Junior Jossie Camp will be the starting center-midfielder for Franklin this fall. Last year, as a sophomore, she was behind Emily Carney, until she went down with an ACL injury and Camp was thrust into duty.

“I had to grab someone, and although she had moments of insecurity, by the end of the season she was playing like a seasoned veteran,” the Coach said. “She is a very coachable individual with a high field hockey IQ and a great teammate. She was one of the top defenders in the league as a sophomore.”

Hess went onto note that playing center midfield is one of the hardest positions on the field and Camp was able to mark her opponent while limiting their production. Offensively, she was also someone who could provide the Panthers with a scoring threat.

“She is a positive attribute on offense and defense as well as everywhere in between,” Hess said. “Jossie is a strong individ-

ual, and the team loves playing with her.”

This season, Franklin will be involved in a pilot season where they will now have five non-league games, compared to only two a year ago, while also adding two strength of schedule contests. Despite the new schedule, Hess will be looking for her team to once again be consistent to whomever they play.

The Franklin goals will continue to be relatively the same as they’ve been in the past: Hess is looking to continue to dominate the Hockomock League and hold onto the League Championship, while trying to improve upon their best appearance in the tournament. The Panthers have been to the Final 4 in the past and would like to get back there and take it even further.

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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 p.m. – 7 p.m.
CraftRoots Brewing
 4 Industrial Road Milford, MA 01757
<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

challenges, 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 a.m. – 9 a.m.
Chamber Office 258 Main Street, Suite 306
 Milford, MA 01757
<https://tinyurl.com/StrategyTableFiore>

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 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
CANeY Salt & Wellness Studio
 100 Central Street Holliston, MA 01746
<https://tinyurl.com/WellnessBusExchange>

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 | 5pm – 7pm
The Curry House 418 West Central Street Franklin, MA 02038
<https://tinyurl.com/BusAfterHours925>

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 02053
<https://tinyurl.com/connectwomenleaders>

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 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Lowell's Restaurant
 75 Cape Road Mendon, MA 01756
<https://tinyurl.com/leadsnlunchwindows11>

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 01757
Tuesday, September 23rd | 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Cost for Lunch is \$25
<https://tinyurl.com/MaxImpact925>

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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>

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.

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.

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.

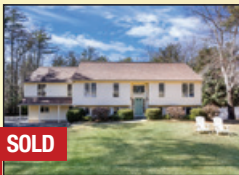
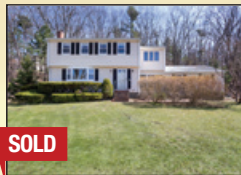
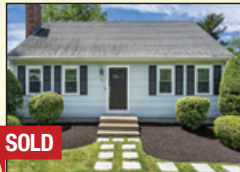
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2nd Quarter RE Activity Up in Norfolk County

Dedham, MA – Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reports that Norfolk County real estate recordings for the second quarter of 2025 (April-June 2025) indicate a significant increase in overall real estate activity, with growth observed in both the total number of deeds and mortgages recorded compared to the second quarter of 2024.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds recorded 28,732 documents during the second quarter of 2025, representing an 8% increase compared to the 26,623 documents recorded in the same period in 2024. June was the busiest month in the second quarter of 2025 for real estate activity, with 10,433 documents recorded, marking a 15% increase from June 2024.

The number of deeds recorded in the second quarter of 2025, which reflect both commercial and residential real estate sales and transfers, was 4,493, marking a 6% increase during the same period in 2024. The number of deeds recorded for consideration (actual sales) also rose by 6% to 2,456 in the second quarter of 2025 compared to the second quarter of 2024.

The total volume of commercial and residential sales for the second quarter of 2025 reached \$3,166,444,793, a 14% increase compared to the second quarter of 2024. The average sale price for commercial and residential properties climbed to \$1,289,269, reflecting an 8% increase from the same time period in 2024. April 2025 saw a notable increase, with the average sale price reaching \$1,381,678, up 33% from April 2024. However, June 2025 saw virtually no change in the average property price from June 2024.

Overall lending activity was up in the second quarter. The total number of mortgages recorded was 4,692, marking a 16% increase compared to the same period last year. Total mortgage indebtedness also increased by 56% to \$4,226,032,103 in the second quarter compared to 2024. June 2025 recordings saw the largest increase in mortgages compared to the same month in 2024, up 22% from last year.

The foreclosure market in Norfolk County saw positive developments during the second quarter of 2025. There were 11 foreclosure deeds recorded as a result of mortgage foreclosures taking place in Norfolk County, a 38% decrease from the second quarter of 2024. Notices to foreclose also declined by 33%, with 74 notices recorded compared to 112 during the same time period last year.

For the past several years, the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has partnered with Quincy Community Action Programs (617-479-8181 x376) and NeighborWorks Housing Solutions (508-587-0950) to help anyone facing challenges paying their mortgage. Another option for homeowners is to contact the Massachusetts Attorney General's Consumer Advocacy and Response Division (CARD) at 617-727-8400.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, is located at 649 High St., Dedham. Find them on social media, visit www.norfolkdeeds.org, call (781) 461-6101 or email registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.

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

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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, 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.



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