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October 1, 2025

Local Innovators Invent Game Changer for Wheelchair Mobility

By DAVID DUNBAR

Arav Tyagi and Antonio Marzoratti were “best friends” at Franklin High School several years ago, and both have been inclined toward careers in engineering. They worked together to make money by creating things to sell, like bracelets, glasses, and candy. And then one day in 2021, Marzoratti said, they decided to “create something bigger.” They came up with an idea of creating a way to electrify a wheelchair that did not have a motor.

“PAWE” – Portable Affordable Wheelchair

Enhancer – was the result. It’s a 17-pound electric battery that can be attached to a standard wheelchair and enable users to find new freedom in their mobility.

Tyagi says, “All great companies seem to start in a garage or a basement.” Tyagi and Marzoratti build their PAWEs in a garage. And they sold their first one to Rebecca Loverude who lives in Bellingham with her daughter and husband, who uses a wheelchair.



Antonio Marzoratti (right) stands with Co-CEO and Co-Founder Arav Tyagi with their Portable Affordable Wheelchair Enhancer (PAWE) at the Bellingham Senior Center. The battery, mounted on the back of the wheelchair, is lightweight and easily removeable.

INNOVATOR
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Open for Play - Children’s Museum of Franklin!

By J.D. O’GARA

On September 17, 2025, the Children’s Museum of Franklin held a ribbon cutting for its first permanent location at 157 Cottage Street, Franklin, Mass. The event celebrated the culmination of two years of vision, collaboration, and community support, officially opening the doors of a museum designed to empower children and families to discover, imagine, and grow together through play and exploration. The event included remarks and citations by Aidan Doherty, District Director for Sen. Becca Rausch and by Rep. Jeff Roy. Founders Erin Gallagher and

Meg Hagen expressed their gratitude to all of those that helped them to realize their dream of a regional children’s museum, with Meg promising to “welcome you all into the inclusive, creative and joyful space that is children’s museum of Franklin” once the children at the gathering made a ceremonial mad dash up the ramp to the front doors.

Hagen added, joined by Gallagher, “So, from the bottom of our very joyful, very tired, and very grateful hearts, thank you, and let’s play!”

MUSEUM
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LiveARTS String Quartet Plans Concert at Franklin Historical Museum



November 16th Chamber Ensemble to Feature World-Class Musicians

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

LiveARTS, of Franklin, disbanded last year.

Right?

Not so fast, say those who are collaborating to revive the LiveARTS String Quartet in Franklin. They even have a concert and venue planned – Sunday, November 16th, 3 p.m., at the Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin. Admission for this concert is free with voluntary donations gratefully accepted.

“Our goal is to start a string quartet chamber music series in Franklin and surrounding areas coming out of the dissolution of LiveARTS,” says professional violinist Donald Krishnaswami, of Norfolk, who served for eight years on the LiveARTS board.

LiveARTS, he says, was formed in 2001 at the First Uni-

versalist Society of Franklin, although it was separate from the church. “We always called it a gem of a concert series, with world class artists coming from outside the Boston area, and sometimes internationally,” says Krishnaswami “It was Boston-caliber musical performance without having to go to Boston, and much less expensive.”

The LiveARTS String Quartet began in 2009, when Krishnaswami reached out to BSO players. They performed a world premiere of his String Quartet #1. The following year, the four musicians performed another concert, “and lo and behold, we ended up establishing the LiveARTS String Quartet,” he says, what would grow to be a beloved quartet-in-residence of LiveARTS which generally played an annual concert.

As good things sometimes do, the larger umbrella of LiveARTS simply ran its course.

“We reached a point in LiveARTS, I think, (where) there was a bit of a burnout,” says the musician.

When the group notified its fans, Franklin resident, musician and composer Jon Mitchell felt so unhappy with the news, he reached out on a group thread to



then LiveARTS president David Burnham, asking if the decision to end the group wasn't premature. Krishnaswami followed along on the email thread.

“I thought, what about the LiveARTS String Quartet?” says Krishnaswami, who emailed Mitchell privately. “Within days, David, Jon and I had a meeting at Birchwood Bakery I thought was exploratory, but my jaw dropped. I came out of that meeting with a scheduled concert date. Two Franklin residents

who were LiveARTS patrons and very dedicated to the arts thriving in Franklin, particularly classical music, had already gotten the gears moving, having already talked to the Franklin Historical Museum, and a portion of the funding was in place already.”

Mitchell describes his part in the effort as “very small,” simply reaching out to Don and Randy LaRosa, the latter a retired music educator who performed with the Metrowest Symphony, to Timothy Ayers, a choral con-

ductor at Dean College, and to Alan Earls, head of the Historical Commission at the museum.

The November show will feature a world class ensemble, whose partial biographies, follow:

- **Gregory Vitale-Newton, Violin**, Concertmaster of the Boston Landmarks Orchestra, repeat featured soloist on Boston's Esplanade, guest soloist with the New

LIVEARTS

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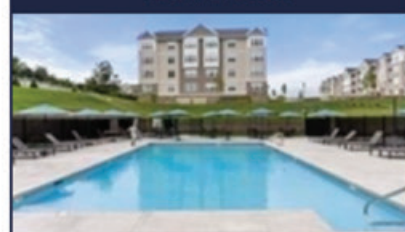
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MUSEUM

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The museum is intentionally built to be inclusive and accessible, welcoming families of all backgrounds, financial circumstances, and abilities.

The journey to opening day was powered by the support of donors, community members and Mobile Museum visitors from across the region, the design vision of KuthRanieri Architects, and especially the extraordinary partnership with Camford Property Group, whose commitment helped bring this dream to life.

“We’re endlessly grateful to every individual and organization who has contributed their time, talents, and resources,” added co-founder Meg Hagen. “This museum is built for the community, by the community.”

For more information, visit www.childrensmuseumfranklin.org or follow the museum on social media @childrensmuseum-franklin.

Here are a few scenes from the event.



Flanked by family members, Erin Gallagher, left, and Meg Hagen, right, founders of the newly opened Children’s Museum of Franklin last month celebrated the ribbon cutting of their dream space, an inclusive regional museum for all children to learn and grow.



Children’s Museum of Franklin founders (center) are joined in celebration by members of the Franklin Town Council, from left, Melanie Hamblen, Tom Mercer, Ted Cormier-Leger and Patrick Sheridan.





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INNOVATOR

continued from page 1

“We met Antonio and Arav at the Franklin Senior Center one year ago,” recalls Loverude. “We test drove the unit then and told them we were interested. We saw them again at our Bellingham Senior Center and test drove it again with the upgrades. The wheelchair improvement cost \$1,500. We love it.”

Tyagi and Marzoratti explain, “For the past four years, we’ve worked tirelessly to develop and refine PAWE, gathering insights from over 120 wheelchair users and working with industry experts, mentors, and medical professionals to ensure our solution truly meets their needs.” They continue, “We’ve built PAWE not in a lab, but in the real world, side-by-side with the people who will use it.”

Loverude says her husband, Jeff, “can use the wheelchair without having to worry about modifying our vehicle to transport it, which would be needed with other heavier, electric wheelchairs. He also can use it with one hand. We are testing the current version, which is constantly being upgraded to meet the challenges we face with navigating it in our community.”

Marzoratti and Tyagi have named their company, Technotonin Industries which is a fusion of the words technology and serotonin (because it can

play an important role in improving mood and overall well-being). On their website – www.technotonin.com – they write, “At Technotonin Industries, we believe that mobility should not be a limitation, and through smart, user-centric solutions like PAWE, we are redefining what’s possible in assistive technology.”

The lightweight, rechargeable battery can power a wheelchair for eight miles on a single charge. It’s removable, so the wheelchair can easily fit into a car. The PAWE, which the inventors call a “recreational device,” can go six miles per hour and be driven over paved and unpaved surfaces. And its price tag of around \$1,500 is significantly less than a conventional electric wheelchair that can cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Marzoratti says, “Some people think we’re crazy, and others think what we’re doing is really cool. Our parents are 100% on board.” They’ve done presentations at the Bellingham and Franklin Senior Centers and are relying on word-of-mouth and social media to get their story out. They’ll be doing more presentations to groups in the future.

Loverude says, “Antonio and Arav are energetic and passionate about what they do. We have enjoyed going through the testing process with them.”

You can learn more by visiting the website or emailing info@technotonin.com or calling (617) 410-6566.

Town of Franklin Holds Arts Symposium at Dean

On September 18th and 19th, the town of Franklin held its Arts & Culture Symposium, opening at Dean College’s Guidrey Cen-

ter and closing with speakers and break-out sessions the next day at THE BLACK BOX. The theme of the event was “Cre-

ative Econ is in Session.” Here, the colorfully dressed “Desi Swag Queens” perform on the Guidrey Center stage.



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Santa Foundation to Hold Annual Gala, Calendar Raffle this Month

By JUDITH DORATO O’GARA

Forty years ago, Robert Sullivan began the Santa Foundation provide gifts for families in need at Christmas time, with the hope that, at least on Christmas Day, these families should feel like other families, receiving presents and maybe a little hope. The 501 c3 charity has since served over 30,000 families with gifts, toys, clothing and support to over 716 families in 2024

This month, the Santa Foundation, now located at 275 Washington Street - Suite A6 in Franklin, will hold its annual gala at the Franklin Elks Club,

1077 Pond Street, Franklin on October 3, 2025, from 6-10 p.m. A \$50 ticket includes live entertainment, one drink, a buffet dinner, a special gift and a silent auction with great prizes.

Starting October first, the Santa Foundation’s annual calendar sale fundraiser will also take place. The \$20 purchase of a calendar enters the buyer into a daily raffle. These calendars will be available on the Santa Foundation website at www.sfjoy.org, as well as at a few brick-and-mortar locations around Franklin.



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LIVEARTS

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England String Ensemble, Nashua Chamber Orchestra, Brookline Philharmonic, and Wellesley Symphony orchestras, who plays regularly with the Boston Pops on occasion with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

- **Katherine Winterstein, Violin**, Concertmaster of the Vermont Symphony, Asso-

ciate Concertmaster of the Rhode Island Philharmonic, and Co-concertmaster of the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra. She has performed as Concertmaster of the Palm Beach Opera and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and she performs regularly with the Handel and Haydn Society, Boston Baroque, and A Far Cry. She was a member of the Hartt String Quartet, the Providence-based Au-

rea Ensemble, and has been with the Craftsbury Chamber Players of Vermont for 21 years.

- **Donald Krishnaswami, Viola**, has played with many members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, is a founding member of the LiveARTS String Quartet, has been a guest artist with the Walden Chamber Players, a core member of the Art of Music Chamber Players, a founding member

of the South Coast Chamber Music Series of New Bedford, Mass., and the Persichetti String Quartet. He has played internationally and on radio, with orchestras including, among others, the Boston Pops, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Lyric Opera Orchestra, Boston Ballet Orchestra, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

- **Guest artist Emmanuel Feldman, Cello**, enjoys an active career as a soloist, chamber musician, recording artist, champion and commissioner of new music and educator. Feldman has concertized throughout Europe and North America. He has performed as soloist with the Boston Pops, Nashville Chamber Orchestra,

Greensboro Festival Orchestra, Boston Philharmonic, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, New England String Ensemble and many others.

LiveARTS String Quartet’s regular cello player, Jan Mueller-Szeraws, not available November 16th, has an equally impressive CV to the musicians above.

If all goes well with LiveARTS String Quartet’s first concert at Franklin Historical Museum, Krishnaswami is hoping the string quartet can perform a series of three to four concerts per year. “It’s an exciting thing, the establishment of a top-notch professional high caliber string quartet that’s based in Franklin,” he says.

Although the LiveARTS String Quartet does not yet have a website, you can reach out to Krishnaswami at Liveartsma@gmail.com.

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Fighting Cancer One Step at a Time

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

On Sunday, October 5th, 59 residents from Franklin will participate in the 2025 Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai.

Pamela Vickery, Kellie Bobola, Colleen Devereaux, Barbara Scardino, Thomas Lynch, Peter Sullivan, Anne Calligan, Brock Leiendecker, Chidvilasini Garimella, Harriet Rauffenbart, and 49 other Franklin residents, along with thousands of other walkers, will participate in the iconic annual event that will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk aims to raise \$9.5 million this year to prevent, treat, and defy cancer.

Franklin resident Mark Lewis will participate for his third year as a Jimmy Fund Walk Hero. Walk Heroes are Dana-Farber patients who provide inspiration and motivation to walkers along the course. Heroes are matched with Jimmy Fund Walk teams who walk in their honor. He walks (as much as he's able) with his match team, The Rak Pack.

"Your money is not going for naught," says Lewis, "Research works, and that's why I'm still here." Lewis was diagnosed with Stage IV GI cancer that had metastasized to his liver and given a 10-13-month prognosis in February of 2020, over four and a half years ago.

"The biggest thing for me is they're able to give me immunotherapy drugs, in conjunction with my chemotherapy, and the immunotherapy drug kind of goes in and stops the blood flow to the tumors, and it keeps them from growing," says Lewis, who was switched to this drug when the first one doctors tried did not

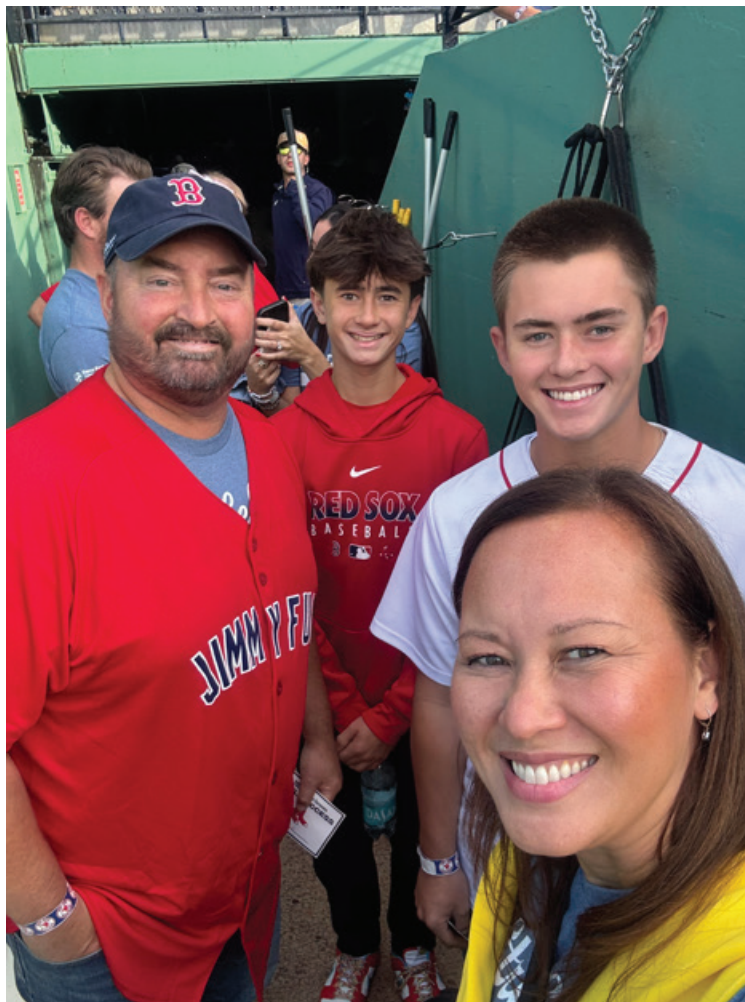
work for him. "Without research they would have never found it. It would have been straight chemo and hope for the best," says Lewis, who has just finished his 56th cycle of treatment.

"For 36 years, the Jimmy Fund Walk has been a cornerstone of support for lifesaving cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber," said Caitlin Fink, vice president of The Jimmy Fund. "Every participant contributes directly to advancing lifesaving research and critically important cancer care. Walk Day is more than just an event—it's a celebration of hope and the shared commitment of the Jimmy Fund community."

"People ask why I don't go to this or that hospital, because I want Dana Farber," says Lewis, who has himself lost his father and mother-in-law to cancer. "My doctor doesn't go to any other locations, and we're 50 minutes away from the best hospital on the planet for it," he adds. Lewis' wife of nearly 25 years feels the same way.

"I love my team, they're fantastic," he says "It's worth it on a high traffic day when it takes an hour and half to get in." The father of two sons, 16 and 13, credits his treatment with allowing him to "see things I didn't think I'd be able to see ... like my oldest going to high school, playing soccer and making the varsity baseball team as a sophomore. The younger one is now in eighth grade. He'll go to high school next year, and if everything works out, I'll still be here for that."

Mary-Beth Proulx, an oncology nurse at Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Milford who is also from Franklin, has walked for the past six years "in memory of my beautiful mother,



Jimmy Fund Hero Mark Lewis, of Franklin, left, is shown here with his family, from l-r, Cody, Owen and Christine. "Research works," says Lewis, diagnosed with stage IV GI cancer in 2020, "and that's why I'm still here." Contributed photo.

who lost her battle with breast cancer at the age of 54," whose "strength, grace, and courage continue to inspire me every day." The married mother of three children (and one labradoodle named Rosie) also says

she walks because she can, for her sister, who has survived cervical cancer, and for her patients who don't have the strength and whose lives have touched hers. All of these survivors, she says, are her heroes.

The Jimmy Fund Walk takes place along the famed Boston Marathon® course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: 5K walk (from Dana-Farber's Longwood Medical Campus); 10K walk (from Newton); Half Marathon Walk (from Wellesley); and Marathon Walk (from Hopkinton). Walkers who prefer to participate virtually can complete their chosen distance from any location.

All routes will conclude at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric at Boston Common, by the corner of Charles and Beacon Street. Finish line activities will include a celebration with food, entertainment, and more.

To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk), volunteer, or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call 866-531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

To support Mark's team, visit https://danafarber.jimmyfund.org/site/TR/JimmyFundWalk/JimmyFundWalk?px=1697148&pg=personal&fr_id=2380.

To support Mary-Beth's team, visit

https://danafarber.jimmyfund.org/site/TR?fr_id=2380&pg=personal&px=1802467.



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Dean College Opens Doors for Transfer Students This January

Each year, thousands of college students across Massachusetts decide their first choice wasn't the right fit. Some discover that being far from home is harder than expected; others find the campus culture isn't what they hoped. For those looking for a fresh start closer to home, Dean College in Franklin has increasingly drawn interest from students seeking a better fit.

Founded more than 160 years ago, Dean is now a competitive four-year college offering programs in business, the arts, dance, and liberal arts and sciences. The College has earned multiple Col-

leges of Distinction recognitions, including national awards for career preparation, affordability, and student support.

For transfer students, the transition is designed to be seamless. Dean accepts up to 90 credits toward a bachelor's degree, guarantees housing, and provides transfer scholarships of up to \$35,500 per year.

Beyond the logistics, faculty and staff make it a priority to help students settle in and succeed. Each transfer student is paired with an advisor who provides academic guidance, while Dean's Success and Ca-

reer Advisors work with students from their first semester through graduation to ensure they stay on track and graduate prepared for the workforce. Career prep is built into the experience through the Dean Career Advantage program, which includes internships, networking opportunities, and professional development.

Life outside the classroom is equally full, with more than 40 student clubs and organizations, 16 Division III athletic teams, and a wide range of performing arts productions each semester.

Many students who began college elsewhere find that Dean offers both the community they've been seeking and the preparation they need for life after college.

Dean is currently accepting transfer applications for the January semester. More information is available at dean.edu/transfer.

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Board certified in family medicine, Dr. Sperber earned his medical degree from the MCP Hahnemann School of Medicine, Allegheny University of the Health Sciences in Philadelphia, PA, and completed his family practice residency at Virtua Memorial Hospital Burlington County in Mount Holly, NJ.

With more than 20 years of experience in primary care, Dr. Sperber has been a trusted physician with Brown Health Medical Group, Hillside Family Medicine in Pawtucket, RI, where he cared for patients of all ages. In addition, he has served as clinical faculty at both Brown University Medical School and Dartmouth University Medical School, helping to train the next generation of physicians.

Dr. Sperber looks forward to bringing his compassionate, comprehensive approach to patient care at Franklin-Wrentham Family Medicine.



Ken Sperber, MD

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Franklin Retires Fire Chief, Votes in New One

This article first appeared in and is used courtesy of The Franklin Observer, (<https://franklinobserver.town.news>)

By ALAN EARLS

During the Franklin Town Council meeting (September third), James McLaughlin, who has been the Fire Chief of the Franklin Fire Department since July 2019 and is also the town's Emergency Management Agency Director, made his departure official after announcing plans for his retirement in June 2025.

McLaughlin cited achievements during his tenure, including completion of ISO certification by the department. He credited the high caliber of the people in the department for that success and others during his time in town. He also lauded the Town government for supporting training and education for the department.

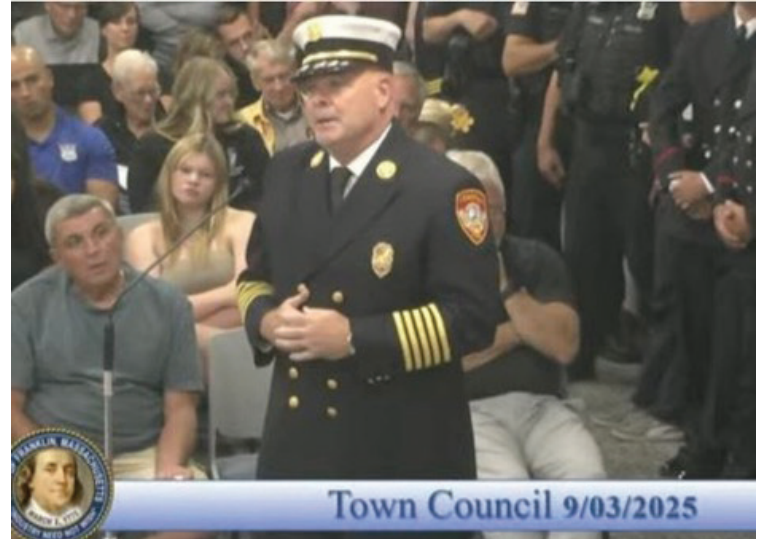
Then, it was time for Town Administrator Jamie Hellen to

officially nominate a replacement from within the department -- the first such "from within" promotion in more than 40 years. Hellen noted that a number of high-quality candidates were considered, but said the choice ultimately became Charles "Chuck" Allen.

Allen previously served as a Battalion Chief for the Franklin Fire Department. In March 2025, Allen was actually appointed Chief of the East Bridgewater Fire Department by that town's Select Board but could not come to an acceptable contract, so he never actually left his role in Franklin.

Allen joined the Franklin Fire Department in 2000 as a firefighter/paramedic and was promoted to Battalion Chief in July 2020 as part of a departmental restructuring.

As Battalion Chief, Allen was a spokesperson during a fire that displaced dozens of residents from a Franklin condominium complex in May 2021.



Last month, the town of Franklin congratulated Fire Chief James McLaughlin on his retirement.



Franklin's new Fire Chief Charles "Chuck" Allen speaks after his appointment.

Your Money, Your Independence

Open Enrollment 2026: Medical Plans & HSAs



Glenn Brown, CFP

Open enrollment is your annual opportunity to review and select the benefits that best fit your health and financial needs. Beyond medical insurance, you'll choose dental and vision coverage, life and disability insurance, tax-advantaged accounts (dependent care, commuter benefits), and retirement savings plans.

One area that often causes confusion is deciding between traditional medical plans and High Deductible Health Plans (HDHPs), along with their powerful partner: the Health Savings Account (HSA). Understanding how these work together can help you make smarter choices for 2026 and beyond.

Choosing the Right Medical Plan

Selecting a medical plan comes down to two basics:

- Provider comfort: Make sure you're satisfied with the in-network doctors and hospitals.

- Cost expectations: Review your historical annual medical expenses and consider whether you anticipate major changes.

If your expenses are generally low and predictable, an HDHP paired with an HSA can be especially attractive.

Why Consider a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP)?

Lower premiums, higher deductibles: HDHPs typically have lower monthly premiums, but you'll pay out-of-pocket until you reach your deductible.

Potential cost savings: For healthy individuals and families who don't expect large medical bills, the premium savings plus HSA advantages often outweigh the higher deductible.

HSA eligibility: You can only contribute to an HSA if you are enrolled in an HDHP. This makes the plan an entry point to one of the most tax-efficient tools available.

Health Savings Accounts (HSA): Triple Tax Advantage

In 2026, contribution limits have increased:

- Individual: \$4,400
- Family: \$8,750
- Catch-up (age 55+): \$1,000

Why do HSAs stand out? Three reasons: contributions being federal, state, and FICA tax-free; withdrawals for qualified healthcare expenses are tax-free; and balances can be

invested for tax-free growth. No other account offers this "triple tax advantage."

Don't Miss the Free Money

Shockingly, more than half of eligible employees don't open or fund an HSA. That's surprising because many employers contribute \$500-\$2,000 per year to jump-start employee accounts. Contributing even \$1 per pay period can unlock hundreds or thousands in employer dollars.

Some companies reward healthy habits: for example, \$400 added to your HSA when you and your spouse complete annual physicals. Skipping this is like leaving free money on the table.

Real-World Tax Savings

Consider a family in the 24% federal tax bracket who spends around \$4,000 annually on out-of-pocket medical expenses. By funding those expenses through an HSA, they save about \$1,480

in taxes (federal, state of MA, and FICA combined).

Families in higher brackets gain even more. A household in the 32% bracket contributing the 2026 family maximum could save nearly \$3,900 in taxes.

HSAs as a Retirement Strategy

HSAs aren't just about today's medical bills—they can be a powerful long-term planning tool. Some families pay current medical expenses out of pocket and allow HSA funds to stay invested. Over time, this can compound into a substantial tax-free pool of money.

In retirement, HSA dollars can cover Medicare premiums, dental, vision, hearing aids, nursing services, and long-term care insurance. For early retirees, HSAs can even pay COBRA premiums to bridge coverage until Medicare eligibility.

The Bottom Line

Open enrollment is one of the most important financial

planning windows of the year. If you're eligible for an HDHP and HSA, weigh the trade-offs carefully, run the numbers, and don't overlook the employer contributions and long-term tax savings.

Learn more by connecting with your benefits coordinator or 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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Navratri Brings Culture, Dance & Community Spirit to Tri County Gym

By BRITTANY AMALFI

On September 27th, music, dance, and celebration was planned for many at a Navratri event at the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School gym. Navratri, which means “nine nights” in Sanskrit, is one of India’s most significant festivals. It celebrates the victory of good over evil and honors Goddess Durga and her nine forms.

In India, Navratri is celebrated on a grand scale from September 22 to October 2 this year, with music, dancing, and prayers filling the streets every night for nine consecutive evenings. Families and neighbors gather for Garba and Dandiya Raas, traditional dances performed in circles or with decorated sticks called dandiya. The sounds of drums and singing fill the neighborhoods as each night brings devotion, culture, and celebration together.



In India, Navratri, which means “nine nights,” is celebrated on a grand scale from September 22 to October 2, but in Franklin, Mass., this huge event was planned for just one night. *Contributed photos.*

But for Indian American communities, the scale and timing of such festivities can be hard to replicate. Work schedules, school routines, and access to space often make it challenging to organize a nine-night

celebration like the ones held in India.

That’s why Swati Patel Rao applied for a Franklin Cultural Council grant earlier this year—to bring at least one evening of Navratri to life locally. The



Navratri celebrates the Goddess Durga and her nine forms.

grant made it possible to rent the Tri-County gym, hire a DJ, and create an event space where families could celebrate.

“We don’t have the luxury of celebrating nine nights here,” Rao explained when planning

the event. “But even one evening helps bring the community together and keeps traditions alive.”

With the grant funding covering the costs, the event was open to all and drew more than 500 people. Attendees danced, socialized, and celebrated, many wearing traditional attire for the occasion. The evening offered a chance for younger generations to learn about the meaning behind Navratri while giving longtime community members a familiar connection to traditions from back home.

Although just one night, the celebration, which was scheduled to take place after Local Town Pages deadline, aimed to honor the values of Navratri: devotion, togetherness, and joy. Organizers say they hope to continue the tradition in future years, keeping the festival going for local families while sharing its cultural significance with the broader community.



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Special Pet Blessings on October 5th

Love your pet? Come to St. John's Episcopal Church for a special Blessing of the Pets on Sunday, October 5th during the 10 a.m. worship service on the front lawn of the church...in the pumpkin patch at 237 Pleasant St., Franklin.

The Rev. Kathy McAdams will lead the service that includes a special blessing for all pets in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, associated with the patronage of animals and the natural environment. Bring your dog, cat, bird, goat or whomever is your beloved pet (on a leash or in a carrier, please). Favorite stuffed animals and pet photos are welcome too!

For more information, call (508) 528-2387, visit www.stjohnsfranklinma.org or find "St. John's Episcopal Church" on Facebook.

Free Concert at Franklin United Methodist Church October 18

Saturday October 18: FREE Community Concert featuring Eric Christensen on guitar @ 7 p.m.

October 2025: Community Closet open on Tuesdays Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28 from 12 – 2 p.m. Shop for free clothing for all ages.

Franklin United Methodist Church is located at 82 West Central Street, Franklin, MA

Franklin Art Association to Welcome Charlie Guay October 1st

The Franklin Art Association warmly welcomes the public to its next monthly public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on October 1. Our guest artist demonstrator will be Charlie Guay at the Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, where he will be demonstrating oil painting with Cold Wax Medium. Refreshments will be served at intermission.

Charles Guay's style is varied and ranges from representational images to abstract design. He received his BFA in Painting from UMass Dartmouth and later earned a MFA at Maine College of Art. Charles has been a local featured artist and his work has been shown in New York, Maine and Southeastern Massachusetts-area. His paintings can be found in many private collections in the US and Europe.

Charles Guay teaches local classes and virtual classes, and he is also available for commis-



"Beachcomber", oil and Cold Wax Medium, 12" x 12"



"Serene Stripes", oil and Cold Wax Medium, 17 3/8" x 22 3/16"



"West 11th", abstract, oil and Cold Wax Medium, 24 13/16" x 28 9/16"

sioned work. Contact him at www.charlesguayart.com, www.facebook.com/artworkcharles/ and <http://instagram.com/charlesguayfinearts>.

Join our monthly meeting at the Franklin Art Association, which also takes pride in offering a student scholarship yearly to a local student wishing to pursue an art career after high school graduation.

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1st Mary C. Olsson Historic Preservation Award Goes to Dean College

Franklin Historical Commission
Recognizes Dean's Work at Town Cemetery

The Mary C. Morrissey Olsson Historic Preservation Award was established by the Franklin Historical Commission, in honor of former chairperson, Mary Olsson, a tireless advocate for historic preservation, as a non-monetary award to recognize an individual or organization that has made an important contribution to preserving, protecting, or communicating the history of Franklin.

By vote of the Commission, the first such award has been bestowed on Dean College for the on-going, multiyear effort to care for and restore cemetery markers in the Union Street Cemetery and the town cemetery with which it is co-located.

"We know Mary would have been pleased with this recognition of Dean, because she took a great interest in the future of the cemetery, served on its board and also participated in the work," said Alan Earls, Historical Commission Chair.

Robin Bowman, an assistant to the dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Dean who is now at Tufts, launched the effort a few years ago after she noticed

grave markers in the oldest part of the cemetery had fallen into disrepair, with lichen and hundreds of years of decay. When she reached out to the Franklin Historical Museum and Franklin Cemetery Association she learned that, despite volunteers who maintain the grounds of the cemetery and some of the newer markers, there was no one to clean the historic stones.

Bowman found training for students, herself and other staff, including Liz Faber and Susan Travers, on the right tools, solution and methods to clean the stones. Cleaning the stones with water, D2 biological solution and gentle scrubbing, volunteers

restored the stones so that details were legible and the markers could be inventoried for the Franklin Cemetery Association.

In the project, sponsored by the Humanities in Action Initiative at Dean, Bowman and her crew gave careful attention not only to markers for historical figures buried in the cemetery, but also to the markers of ordinary people. Bowman hopes to continue these restoration events, engaging the Franklin community, and exploring opportunities for students in marker restoration, digitizing and taking inventory of the history in the cemetery as well as raising funds for those stones they cannot repair themselves.

Watch a video on the project at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJDq8mItUEY&t=5s>.



Understanding Antisemitism in 2025:

A Panel Discussion Scheduled for October 28

On Tuesday, October 28, join State Representative Jeffrey Roy (D-Franklin), Rabbi Rachel Putterman of Temple Etz Chaim, and Reverend Kathleen McAdams of St John Episcopal Church for a panel discussion regarding antisemitism in the current moment. The event will take place at 7 p.m. at Franklin High School.

Rep. Roy will moderate the panel discussion which will include the following:

- Jeremy Burton, CEO of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston;
- Rabbi Rachel Putterman, Temple Etz Chaim in Franklin;
- Dr. Miri Bar-Halprin, Director of Trauma Training and Services at Parents for Peace and a lecturer at Harvard Medical School;
- Mike Rubin, Uxbridge High School Principal and President of Temple Etz Chaim;
- State Rep. Simon Cataldo, Co-Chair of the Special Massachusetts Committee on Combating Antisemitism; and

- Rev. Kathy McAdams, Saint John Episcopal Church, Franklin

This community conversation will address the history of antisemitism, experiences of antisemitism today, and communal responses to antisemitism including the work of the Special Commission and public school curriculum requirements.

Occurrences of antisemitic incidents have dramatically increased over the past five years, including in our community, especially since the outbreak of war on October 7, 2023. According to the Anti-Defamation League New England (ADL), there were 438 antisemitic incidents in Massachusetts in 2024, a nearly threefold increase from 152 antisemitic incidents in 2022.

There will be time at the end for the panelists to answer questions from the audience.

This event is open to the public.

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SAFE Coalition to Receive Opioid Abatement Funds

Funding to Help SAFE Bring Vital Substance Use Recovery Support to Norfolk County

Norfolk County, MA – SAFE Coalition has been awarded contracts through Opioid Abatement Funds from the towns of Franklin, Medway, Medfield, Millis, Norfolk, and Wrentham. SAFE will utilize the funding to deliver comprehensive substance use and mental health support to residents across these communities experiencing substance use and related concerns.

These contracts will allow SAFE to provide services free of cost to thousands of residents across all six towns, regardless of circumstance.

SAFE’s programs and services will focus on the increase in opioid overdose-related deaths in Norfolk County. The number has continued to rise despite opioid overdose rates and dispensing rates declining in the rest of the state.

Residents also experience higher rates of mental health when compared to Norfolk

County and MetroWest Region. This creates additional risk, as depression, anxiety, and existing substance use problems can lead to opioid addiction.

“We’re grateful for the opportunity to continue and expand the vital work SAFE has been doing for nearly a decade,” says SAFE CEO Jen Levine. “We have been providing wrap-around, zero-cost services since 2015, and these opioid abatement funds ensure we can maintain that commitment to our community while reaching even more families who need support.”

Opioid fund expenditure plans require addressal of several key strategies like treatment and recovery support, harm reduction (like Narcan and safe syringe programs), supporting parents and families, and prevention education.

SAFE’s response across all six communities will include:

- Community Narcan training
- 90-day support plans with service referrals, offering support with substance use and mental health needs
- School partnerships and events to bring prevention and early intervention to students and caregivers
- Perinatal support group with referral services
- Families Anonymous group for families of those struggling with substance use
- Medication take-back
- Support groups and grief counseling

As part of the funding, SAFE will also launch a First Responder Support Group to facilitate conversation and community regarding the opioid epidemic. “We often forget that first responders are our community members at the frontline of this crisis,” says CEO Jen Levine. “They deserve dedicated space to process their experiences and



be seen and heard.”

SAFE’s existing partnerships with dozens of organizations and agencies across the state also enable clients additional ac-

cess to targeted support.

Founded in 2015, SAFE is the only nonprofit in southeast Massachusetts offering wrap-around, zero-cost substance use and mental health services to individuals and families. SAFE works directly with communities to support individuals at every stage of their recovery journey, from individual and family support groups to youth education initiatives, peer-led programs, mediation, and counseling services.

For more information, visit www.safecoalitionma.org, email info@safecoalitionma.org or call (508) 488-8105.

Save the Date

The SAFE Gala: An Evening of Giving

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Visions of a Master: Tommaso Juglaris at the Library and Beyond

October 20 – November 20, 2025



Join the Franklin Public Library for a special exhibit honoring Italian-born muralist Tommaso Juglaris, whose stunning 1904 mural, A Grecian Festival, adorns the library’s historic Reading Gallery. Discover the fascinating life of this transatlantic artist, who taught in Boston, painted state capitols, and shaped a generation of American painters.

Franklin LGBTQ Alliance October Events

Spooky Movie Night

Thursday, October 2nd from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Franklin TV and Radio, 23 Hutchinson St.
Join us to watch the 1991 Addams Family movie, with popcorn and candy. Come in costume and bring a blanket!

Brunch with Non Scene Friends

Saturday, October 4th from 10 a.m. -12 p.m. at Mak’s Roast Beef, 451 West Central St.

Queer Book Club

Wednesday, October 15th from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Franklin TV and Radio, 23 Hutchinson St.
This month’s selection is Light from Uncommon Stars by Ryka Aoki, available in print, as an e-book, and as an audiobook.

Local Plumbing Company Announces Veterans Day Contest

G&C Plumbing & Heating has announced a Veterans Day Giveaway, in which one lucky deserving veteran from Bellingham or Franklin will receive a free brand-new water heater with professional installation. Nominations are due November 8th, visit www.GandCPlumbing.com to learn more.

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Historic Happenings at Franklin Historical Museum, October 2025

Sun. Oct. 12 --Second Sunday
Speaker Series: Uncas, Hero or Villain?

Join Historical Commission Chair Alan Earls for a 45-minute slide show exploration of this complex and crucial, Colonial-era leader whose name adorns a town pond and multiple roads in Franklin. Uncas helped to give the Mohegan tribe of Connecticut its own identity and culture but has drawn criticism for his cooperation with invading English settlers. The program starts at 1:15.



Alan Earls will tell the complex story of Uncas, depicted here with Miantonomoh.

Wed. Oct. 29 – Ghosts and Legends with the ALWAYS Popular Jeff Belanger

Back with new stories for 2025! This ghostly multi-media program pulls from one of the nation’s premiere storytellers’ 25 years of research for his books, podcasts, adventures, and the various television shows he’s worked on. This event, sponsored by the Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum, always draws a capacity crowd. Doors open at 6:30, and the event runs from 7-8:30. Admission is free, but donations are encouraged.



Jeff Belanger will talk about Ghosts and Legends on October 29th.

Oct. 31, Halloween Cemetery Tour – with Dean College Professor Rob Lawson

This is not an official Museum event, but we always look forward to the entertaining and informative exploration of the history and lore of Franklin’s Union Street Cemetery with Dr. Lawson. Please park at the Franklin Historical Museum, unless you have mobility issues, as space is limited in the cem-

etery . Like last year, folks will meet at the cemetery at 5 pm.

CINEMA 80, the Museum’s film program is back with another planned Itallian Film Festival

In cooperation with the Franklin Senior Center and the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America Lodge, the museum is planning to host several free Italian-themed films on Saturday Oct 4 (*Under Tuscan Sun*) and Oct. 18 (*Summertime*), and also Saturday Nov. 1 (TBD). Showing start at 4 p.m. Check

the museum website or facebook page for changes or other details as they become available.

The Franklin Historical Museum is located at 80 West Central St., Franklin. The museum is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and Sundays from 1-4 p.m., and experimentally, Thursdays, 12-5 p.m.

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

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

The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Color Me Autumn: Fall Color Trends Inspired by the Season

By GINA WOELFEL

Can we just talk about how gorgeous it is outside right now? Walking through Choate Park in Medway or driving through any of our MetroWest neighborhoods is spectacular! The trees are on fire! Deep red sugar maples, oaks mixing chocolate and gold, and birch trees glimmer like perfectly placed highlights.

It's the kind of beautiful that makes you slow down and actually notice. And honestly? It got us thinking about this fall's hottest hair color trends.

At b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio, our clients are falling hard for autumn-inspired hair color, with the rich, dimensional tones that make our New England autumns so legendary. These seasonal hues feel both on-trend and authentically you.

The Brunette Takeover

This season, brunettes are absolutely having their moment! The **"Expensive Brunette"** trend is all about adding depth, dimension, and high-gloss shine to darker tones; a perfect choice for clients seeking that luxurious, high-end look without the high-maintenance upkeep. This movement towards more natural shades has inspired some irresistibly cute names along the way - think favorite drinks, desserts, and yes, even stuffed animals! Haven't you heard of **Teddy Bear Brunette?** This popular twist on the modern **"bronde"** trend combines a deeper brunette base with honey blonde babylights. This technique balances warm tones and gives a subtle glow and brightness to brown hair without crossing into blonde territory.



Brown Sugar Brunette is like your favorite fall latte - warm, inviting, and absolutely irresistible. This gorgeous mid-toned brunette delivers all the cozy vibes with its rich blend of caramel and maple highlights that glow like late autumn sunlight. It's sophisticated yet effortless, and will leave people asking what you've done to look so good.

Brownie Batter Brunette is the richest of our fall favorites - think molten brownie batter in all its deep, chocolatey glory. This stunning shade goes darker and more dramatic than Brown Sugar Brunette, with a luscious chocolate base that's pure indulgence. Warm caramel highlights are delicately woven throughout, creating a subtle glow rather than dramatic contrast, giving you that perfect low-maintenance luxury. Unlike the honey-kissed lightness of Teddy Bear Brunette, Brownie Batter embraces the deeper, more decadent side of brown hair. Its warm undertones radiate sophistication with just enough dimension to keep things interesting.

The Redhead Renaissance

Redheads are absolutely stepping out this season with shades that are anything but basic! What's really exciting is how dimensional red hair has become with multi-tonal effects that blend warm and cool undertones. No more flat, single-shade colors! The reds we're loving right now are all about complexity. And **Cherry Cola** is "the red" of the moment with a rich chocolate base and deep cinnamon highlights for a sophisticated,



edgy look. **Sun-Kissed Copper** gives classic ginger a luxurious upgrade with richer, warmer, more wearable tones that stand out without being overwhelming. And **Strawberry Blonde?** It's the sweet spot between blonde and red, with golden undertones that help warm and soften fair complexions.

Going For Gold (And Silver!)

Now, don't think our golden girls are sitting this autumnal party out! Even our most devoted blondes are embracing deeper roots and effortless grow-outs that stretch appointments longer - a total blessing during the holiday rush. Take for instance, **Butter Blonde**. This warm, creamy shade mimics the richness of melted butter - soft, dimensional, and naturally radiant. **Honey Blonde** gives you that perfect "just back from vacation" vibe without ever leaving town. Then there's **Bronde** - the holy grail of low-maintenance color that blends brown and blonde so beautifully, it looks like you were born with perfectly luminous hair. And if you're feeling adventurous, **Golden Silver** brings just enough edge with its gorgeous metallic shimmer.

Our gray clients can get in on the low-maintenance trend too! Instead of covering your grays, ask your stylist about **Gray-Blending**, a technique that blends lowlights and highlights with your gray hair. Think tortoise shell or mosaic tiles - beautiful hues working in harmony.

Here's a trend that's always in style: Healthy Hair! Have your stylist recommend shampoo, conditioner, and styling products that will keep your hair looking great longer.

Celebrate the Season

There's something so magical about the season ahead of us. Let's embrace the cozy vibes, keep things simple, and soak up all the fun these next three months have to offer.

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Visit St. John’s Episcopal Church Pumpkin Patch through Oct. 31

St. John’s Episcopal Church at 237 Pleasant Street, Franklin is holding its 6th Annual Pumpkin Patch at the church Sept. 28 through Oct. 31. The community can visit Monday-Friday 4-6 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., and 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 benefit the Navajo Nation in New Mexico as well as St. John’s Church and its service in Franklin.

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

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, 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.

To register 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 how to become a member, please contact Diane Padula, padularotary@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.

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

Knights of Columbus Thanksgiving Pie Sale through Nov. 2nd

Why bake when the Knights can do it for you? The Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council 1847 St. Mary Parish Franklin MA is running their 8th Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale. Our famous bakery (same as last year) is Lyman Orchards. This year, we are adding Cherry to complement the Apple, Pumpkin and Blueberry. These Pies are fantastic – outstanding flavor, aroma, and taste. The price this year is \$20 per pie. We will have PECAN also, at a cost of \$25.

As last year, you will be able to DONATE a pie. All donations will be distributed through the Franklin Senior Center and Franklin Food Pantry for distribution at Thanksgiving time. We have done all we can to hold the costs down. We are all experiencing the high cost of living these days; our vendor has endured the same.

This year, you may purchase your Thanksgiving Day pies on our website www.kofc1847.org. The site is open now till November 2nd. We will also be taking Pie orders at the back of church the week-ends of October 25-26th and November 1st and

2nd, after all the Masses. Cash, Check or Credit Card will be accepted. ALL online orders will accept Credit Card only.

You will be able to pick up your order on Tuesday, November 25, from 2-6 p.m. at the Religious Ed Offices at the St. Mary’s school. You will see our signs. (same as last year) We are excited to bring this quality product to St Mary Parish community and all our Franklin neighbors. We thank you for your generous support over the years and the support you lend to help a senior or family in need make their Thanksgiving Day special with a pie or two from Lyman Orchards.

Any questions, please call Jim Lane (774)571-9804 or Mike Swan (508) 404-4792.

Thank You for your generosity and “giving back!”

Knights of Columbus
Sacred Heart Council 1847
Franklin, MA 02038

Norfolk County Agricultural High School, 400 Main Street, Walpole, MA 02081



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October 2025 at Franklin Public Library

The library will be closed Monday October 13th for Indigenous People's Day.

Franklin Public Library's 2025 Reading Challenge!

October:
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 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, including greeter, an interpreter, and 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 site coordinator 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 do not need to be Franklin residents. If interested, fill out the registration form on the library's website.

Special Events for Kids

Franklin's Not So Scary Halloween Party Saturday October 11th 10:30 a.m.

For all ages. Costumes are encouraged!

Interactive in Movie Wednesday October 15th 1 p.m.

Families can enjoy a seasonal movie, with popcorn and some fun surprises!

Petite Picassos Monday October 20th 4 p.m. Registration Required.

Miss Lily's step-by-step painting of stacked pumpkins is great for children ages 6-12! Materials provided.

Special Events for Teens

Teen Advisory Board Wednesday October 8th 5:30 p.m.

Teens! Join us each month to help plan events and programs, create displays, decorate the teen space, and help drive decisions on what materials we bring to the YA collection, all while eating snacks and getting volunteer hours!

Reach out to Miss Caleigh at ckeating@minlib.net to get on the email list.

Pixel Pals Graphic Novel Book Club Thursday October 23rd 4 p.m.

An afternoon book group for graphic novels, manga, anime, cartoons, etc.!

Special Events for Adults

Painting for Adults Saturday October 4th 1 p.m. Registration Required.

Join Miss Lily and create a step-by-step painting of fall foliage! All materials provided.

Watercolor Workshop Monday October 6th & 27th 6 p.m. Registration Required.

Join local instructor Sharon Carloni for a Watercolor Workshop for Adults.

Oct. 6 Leaf design; Oct. 27, sunflowers

Craft-along for Adults Saturday October 11th 2 p.m. Registration Required.

Adults of all ages and craft ability levels are welcome to join us one Saturday each month to complete a new DIY, creative craft. All supplies provided.

Special Events for All Ages

Health Fair Wednesday October 1st 3:30 p.m.

Join the Town Health Department for a Health Fair at the library with local vendors & health services, face painting & kids' activities, health screenings, raffles, giveaways, and refreshments!

Drum Circle Thursday October 2nd 2 p.m.

A hand-drumming workshop for all ages! This live event will explore different drumming styles from across the globe, celebrating the universality of this much-loved instrument.

Mysterious Massachusetts Saturday October 4th 2 p.m.

Every state has its ghost stories, but no other state has the Dover Demon or the Salem Witch Trials. From sea-side

ghosts to UFOs over the Berkshires, Massachusetts has a rich history of paranormal legend, odd events, and strange denizens. Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe will resurrect some of the most famous of Massachusetts paranormal history.

Chess Club Saturday October 4th 2:30 p.m.

All ages and ability levels are welcomed, including beginners. Sets will be available.

Trunk or Treat Saturday October 18th 2 p.m.

Dress up and join us in the library parking lot for a safe, little-kid friendly morning of trick-or-treating in the daylight! In case of rain, we will move indoors!!

If you'd like to participate as a trunk, please email Caleigh (ckeating@minlib.net)

Creepy Crawlers Saturday October 25th 10:30 a.m.

Real live bugs and more!

Fabio Pirozzolo in Concert Saturday October 25th 3 p.m.

Celebrate the art and culture of Italy with a concert of Italian Folk Music from Fabio Pirozzolo, an Italian drummer, multi-percussionist and singer currently based in Boston. Originally from Terracina, Italy, he started his career as a folk percussionist, playing Italian frame drums tamburello and tammorra, in one of the most famous folk groups in his area. He has traveled throughout Europe, playing concerts and giving lectures on regional Italian frame drum techniques

Franklin Library Book Sale

Friday, October 17th, 1-5 p.m. & Saturday, October 18th, 9 a.m. to 12 Noon, all books \$1

Bag Sale - \$5 A Bag—Saturday, October 18th, 1-4 p.m.

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Rotary Club of Franklin MA 33rd Annual Pasta Supper October 21

The Rotary Club of Franklin MA is happy to announce we have rescheduled our 33rd Annual Pasta Supper for October 21, 2025, at 5 p.m., at 1000 Central Park Terrace, Franklin.

All Senior Citizens and residents of the Franklin Housing Authority are welcome to attend this event and as always, it is completely free. Co-President and head chef Joe Collins will lead fellow Rotarians in preparing the meal of homemade tomato sauce and over 300 hand rolled meatballs. Rotary is planning to include some very special guest helpers again this year, and we urge folks to sign up, so they don't miss out!

As people of action, Rotarians look forward to providing a home cooked meal each year and work together to make it a memorable event for Franklin's senior citizens and residents of the Franklin Housing Authority. Rotary credits its largest annual Rotary Sponsors; Middlesex Savings, Dean Bank, Vendetti Motors, Rockland Trust, Shear Magic and the Rome Restaurant.



Once again, seniors will be treated to homemade meatballs and sauce (on their pasta).

Sign-up at the following locations:

- Central Park Terrace, 1000 Central Park Terrace, Franklin, MA
- Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill Street, Franklin, MA



Rotarian Gary Convertino serves seniors at a previous pasta supper.

The Rotary Club International is a non-profit organization made up of a diverse group of men and women “who come together to create positive, lasting change in our communities and around the world.” <https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary>

Franklin Rotary members meet the first and third Tuesday of each month, at The Rome Restaurant, 4 E. Central St., Franklin, MA, and welcome you to join them for dinner to learn more. Feel free to email: rotary-cluboffranklinma@gmail.com to be a guest at one of their upcoming meetings.



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MA Electric Utility Customers to Be Eligible for Heat Pump Discount Rates

By MARK MINNICHELLI – MEMBER, ENERGIZE FRANKLIN

The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities has recently approved new, lower electric rates for residential customers using heat pumps to heat their homes. Franklin residents who heat their homes using heat pumps should contact their electric supplier (typically National Grid) by November 1, 2025 to enroll in the new residential heat pump rate. Since these new, lower rates apply to the distribution and transmission charge portion of the bill, even those who are using Franklin’s municipal aggregation rate for electric

supply should still see significant savings!

On Friday, September 5th, I called National Grid requesting access to the new heat pump electric rate. Although National Grid was not yet ready to accept applications, I was told that I would need to provide proof of heat pump purchase and installation and that they would be ready for applications by early October; roughly the time of publication for this article.

If you are a National Grid customer, visit www.nationalgridus.com or call (800) 322-3223 for more information on how to enroll.

A news release on July 29, 2025 at mass.gov noted that the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) had issued “an order approving a new heat pump rate that eligible Eversource customers can start taking advantage of this winter. Customers of all three electric utilities that use heat pumps will be able to enroll in the seasonal electric rates which could save them an average of \$540 this winter.”

“Last summer, the DPU approved a seasonal heat pump rate for Unitil electric customers, and it approved a similar rate in September of 2024 for National Grid customers. The

DPU worked quickly to approve Eversource’s rate, taking only four months to conduct the proceeding before issuing its order. Now, customers of all three electric utilities can access heat pump rates. The new rates will be available every winter for qualifying customers ...

“By approving these flexible rates for the winter, we make heat pumps more cost-effective, and improve air quality and public health,” said Commissioner Staci Rubin. “The new rates effective this winter make our clean energy transition more affordable and accessible.”

“Heat pumps make it possible for households to decarbonize quickly and efficiently, with minimal impacts to their homes. Heat pumps use electricity to both cool and heat homes, making them an economical solution to mitigate volatile winter utility bills.

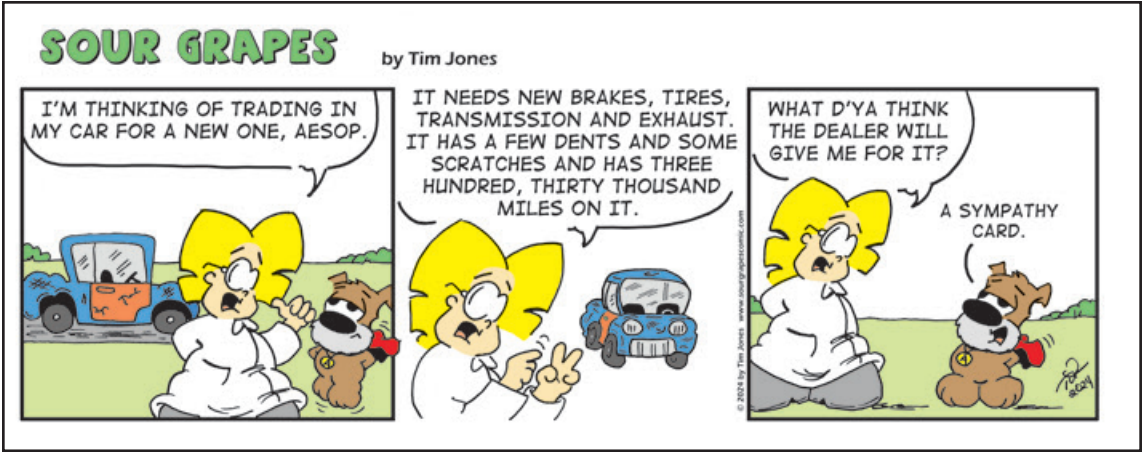
“These seasonal rates are at a lower cost than the average base distribution rates from the electric utilities. The new rates for heat pump households will have no financial impact on other electric customers: non-heat pump households will not pay more for electricity this winter because of the new rate.

“To be eligible for the new rates, households must be cus-

tomers of one of the three electric utilities (Eversource, National Grid, and Unitil), have a heat pump installed in their homes, and communicate to their electric provider that they wish to enroll in the seasonal rate before the winter heating season starts on November 1, 2025. Residential customers in the electric utilities’ low-income discount program that use a heat pump are able to also enroll in the new seasonal rate.

“Customers who installed their heat pumps through Mass Save may be automatically enrolled in the new rates but should call their electric utility provider to confirm their enrollment.”

Energize Franklin is an online space where friends and neighbors here in Franklin can find inspiration and see what others in their community are doing. You can find us online at www.energizefranklin.org



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Coming Up at the Franklin Senior Center

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

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

Wednesday, October 1

Joe Landry Talk: Franklin Then & Now, 1p.m.: Take a trip down memory lane with Joe Landry! View old photography of downtown Franklin compared with current photos.

Thursday, October 2

Acoustic Jam Session: 5:30 p.m.: Bring your guitar and play some music with the group!

Monday, October 6

50+ Job Seekers, 1:30 p.m.: Intro to Networking

Wednesday, October 8

Reiki Meditation, 12:30 p.m.: Join Sharon as she shares a guided meditation and group Reiki session.

Thursday, October 9

Craft Corner, 1 p.m., Make a fun, easy fall craft with Jean.

Friday, October 10

Eat around the World, 11 a.m., Sweden

Tuesday, October 14

Technology Assistance, 9:30 a.m., Bring your tech questions for Rich from Tinetrix
7 Signs It's Time for Home Care, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, October 15

FSC Van Trip, Wachusett Mountain, 9 a.m., \$5 for ride
Memory Café, 1 p.m., Featuring Kaufman-Stone & Tom Trio, sponsored by Care One

Thursday, October 16

The Dementia Experience, 1-3 p.m., Learn the world of a person with dementia

Monday, October 20

Sen. Rausch Office Hours, 1-2:30 p.m.
50+ Job Seekers, 1:30 p.m., Interviewing

Tuesday, October 21

SHINE Medicare, 1 p.m., General information on Medicare open enrollment from certified SHINE counselor

Wednesday, October 22

10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Shred Event, free shredding

Thursday, October 23

Acrylic Art, 1 p.m., with Kathy

Pizza & Movie Night 4 p.m., Creature Double Feature, Frankenstein & Bride of Frankenstein

Tuesday, October 28

Technology Assistance, 9:30 a.m., Bring your tech questions for Rich from Tinetrix

Thursday, October 30

A Dramatic Reading of The Raven, 12:30 p.m., with Jillian

Friday, October 31

Monthly Party Spooktacular, 11 a.m., Live entertainment with pianist Ryan Hood and costume contest with prizes.

Veterans' Services Office Notes

(508) 613-1315

October 1 – Coffee Social – 10 a.m. in the Senior Center Café. Socials are held the first Wednesday of every month. All Veterans are welcome!

October 13 – U.S. Navy's 250th Birthday – On October 13, 1775, the Continental Congress established a naval force, hoping that a small fleet of privateers could attack British commerce and offset British sea power.

October 16 – Veterans' Council Meeting – 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. All Franklin residents interested in Veterans' activities are welcome to join us!

October 26 – National Day of the Deployed annually honors

United States military personnel deployed around the globe. The designation recognizes all of the brave military personnel who have been deployed, are sacrificing, or have sacrificed their lives to defend our country.

The Tune It Out guitar lessons program for Veterans meets on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. There is no charge for lessons and no guitar experience is required. We have guitars! Call our office for details.

Warrior Within Yoga for Veterans and First Responders meets on Thursdays at 4 p.m. at the Senior Center. No charge for classes. Call our office to sign up.

UPCOMING NOVEMBER EVENTS - FREE HAIRCUTS FOR VETERANS EVERY WEDNESDAY IN NOVEMBER AT THE SENIOR CENTER! Thank you to hair stylist Debey for making this very generous offer to Franklin Veterans in honor of Veterans' Day! Please

call Mary at: (508) 520-4945 to make an appointment.

***Save the Date - The Veterans' Day Luncheon** is scheduled for Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 11 a.m. at the Elks Lodge #2136 on Pond Street. Reservations are required. Call the Veterans' Services Office to RSVP by October

27. Thank you to the Elks' membership for their generous ongoing support of Veterans' events and programs!

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



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USMMA Martial Arts and Yoga Raises \$6K for Franklin Food Pantry

Franklin, MA — USMMA Martial Arts and Yoga is pleased to announce it successfully raised \$6,000 at its annual golf tournament, held this year at New England Country Club. More than 80 players participated in the tournament, which dedicated all net proceeds to the Franklin Food Pantry.

Thanks to the generosity of participants and the outstanding support of Paul Mastroianni, whose donation helped push the event past its goal of \$5,000, USMMA Martial Arts and Yoga is proud to contribute \$6,000 to help provide vital food assistance to the Franklin community.

“We are so grateful for the support of our community and all of the participants at the annual golf tournament,” said Tom Hafers, owner of USMMA Martial Arts and Yoga. “This tournament is about bringing people together for a fun day, while giving back. Partnering with the Franklin Food Pantry ensures our efforts directly benefit our neighbors.”

“It’s an honor to support Tom and Danielle and the Franklin Food Pantry,” said Paul Mastroianni. “The Pantry helps so many people every single day,



and it’s inspiring to see the impact. We are proud to be part of this event each year and are already looking forward to 2026.”

The Franklin Food Pantry provides services and programs to more than 1,800 people annually and has recently expanded its services to meet rising demand. The \$6,000 donation will help The Pantry provide food and personal care items to the Franklin community, particularly during the busy holiday season.

“Thank you to USMMA Martial Arts and Yoga for their

incredible donation and support,” said Tina Powderly, Executive Director of the Franklin Food Pantry. “Their dedication to fighting food insecurity, along with the generosity of everyone who participated in their golf tournament, will make a tangible difference in the lives of our neighbors.”

For more information on USMMA Martial Arts and Yoga, please visit www.usmma.org. To support the Franklin Food Pantry or learn more about its programs, visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org.

Dyuthi Sulochana Papineni Earns Eagle Scout Rank

Dyuthi S. Papineni, a member of Scouting America Troop 219 and a resident of Franklin, has earned the honor of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouting, on April 22nd, 2025. Since the inception of the Eagle Scout award in 1912, only two percent of eligible Scouts have earned Scouting’s highest honor.

Dyuthi S. Papineni, daughter of Arun & Sangeetha Papineni, is a recent graduate of the Franklin High School class of 2025 as an honors and Advanced Placement student. She was a stellar choral performer and the recipient of the highest award for her ensemble. Furthermore, she was a leader and mentor in the Franklin Music program and an active member of various honors societies. She will continue her higher education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, entering the class of 2029 as a Biology/Pre-Med major, aiming to join the next generation of doctors and medical professionals.



Assistant Scoutmaster. She was also inducted into the Order of the Arrow during the May 2023 Ordeal and has since gotten her Brotherhood rank. She has gone on many trips with her troop, such as West Point 2023, campouts at Camp Resolute and Nobscot, and multiple summer camp trips at Camp Squanto.

Dyuthi’s Eagle Service Project involved creating 30 care packages for children undergoing cancer treatment at Mass General Brigham Hospital in Boston. She communicated closely with the Child Life Specialist of the Department of Pediatric Medical Services at Mass General. She coordinated a fundraiser to funds necessary for materials and gifts for the care packages. She subsequently organized her troop and other peers to help decorate bags and make friendship bracelets for the care packages. Lastly, she delivered the care packages to the hospital, where they aided children battling and recovering from cancer.

Troop 219 is chartered by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Milford, MA. One of the first all-female Scouts BSA Troops in the area, Troop 219 is in the BSA Mayflower Council, Headwaters District and includes scouts from Milford, Franklin, Hopedale, Bellingham and the surrounding towns. For more information about Troop 219, email scoutmaster@troop21milford.org.

Or find a troop near you at <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/>



Having recently aged out of Troop 219, Dyuthi has spent 6 years in the troop and has continued to serve as an adult volunteer. Dyuthi’s journey as a scout began 10 years ago as a Girl Scout, where she earned the Gold Torch distinction. Always interested and eager to participate in her older brother’s scouting activities, she seized the opportunity to do so when, in 2019, she joined Troop 219 as a founding member as soon as girls were admitted into Scouts BSA.

This committed young lady’s six years in the troop have been filled with dedication and passion to service as she has served as a Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and as a Junior

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First Universalist Society in Franklin Welcomes New Youth Group Advisor

The First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) is happy to announce that Emily Steltzer is joining their staff as a Youth Advisor. Emily holds a master's degree in history from the University of New Hampshire and teaches high school history. Originally from the United Kingdom, Emily, who has international teaching experience, is curious, creative and fun, as well as rigorous in her intellectual pursuits, including her commitment to Unitarian Universalist values. This past summer, Emily led a church service that incorporated her love of improvisation as a teaching and learning tool. As youth group advisor, Emily will coordinate activities for middle school and high school youth groups.

Ms. Steltzer resides in Franklin with her husband and two children. In addition to her classroom teaching, Emily has spent the past few summers working in the camp world, where she has led programs that emphasize teamwork, creativity, and joy. She looks forward to combining her camp leadership background



with her teaching experience to support young people in building friendships, exploring their values, and developing their voices.

On Sunday, October 5th, join FUSF lay leaders, Donna Williams, Katie Nunes, Lea MacNider and Vicki Coates, as they explore how to live intentionally, how to use one's core beliefs to achieve clarity as to which path to take to move forward, and where to invest precious time.

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, visit Fusf.org, email info@fusf.org; or call (508) 528-5348

Gobble, Gobble! The Franklin Turkey Trot is Back!

Franklin, MA — Get ready to run, walk, and give back! Registration is now open for the annual Franklin Turkey Trot, a family-friendly fun run to benefit Franklin Food Pantry held on Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, November 27, 2025, at 8 a.m.

All levels and abilities are welcome to join in. Participants can look forward to a light breakfast, raffle prizes, and medals for each age bracket after the run – and NEW this year – a prize for best costume! All proceeds from the event will directly benefit the Franklin Food Pantry.

Event Details:

- **What:** Franklin Turkey Trot

- **When:** Thursday, November 27, 2025, at 8 a.m.
- **Where:** Start and finish from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 91 Jordan Road, Franklin, MA 02056

Registration:

- Register Online at www.franklinturkeytrot.org, in-person at 91 Jordan Road, Franklin, MA, on November 26, 2025, from 7 to 9 p.m., or on race day from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m.
- **Early Bird:** \$25 until October 13
- **Standard:** \$30 after October 13

- **Swag:** Race shirts are available for purchase online through October 30, 2025, or in-person at bib pick-up and on race day (while supplies last)

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Last year, nearly 1,000 people participated in the Franklin Turkey Trot. Businesses interested in gaining valuable name recognition while supporting the Franklin Food Pantry can contact Jen Johnson at jjohnson@franklinfoodpantry.org.

The Franklin Food Pantry extends a special thank you to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Franklin for hosting and helping to organize this event.

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Living Healthy

Top 10 Myths in Eye Care Debunked

By ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D.

When it comes to eye health, misinformation can be more harmful than helpful. Many long-held beliefs about vision and eye care are based on outdated science or pure myth. Let's debunk 10 of the most common misconceptions to help you make smarter decisions about your eyes.

1. Carrots Will Fix Your Vision

Carrots contain vitamin A, which is essential for maintaining healthy vision—especially night vision. However, eating more carrots won't sharpen blurry eyesight or reverse vision problems like nearsightedness or farsightedness. A well-rounded diet with leafy greens, fruits, and fish is better for long-term eye health.

2. Reading in Dim Light Will Damage Your Eyes

Reading in low light may

cause eye fatigue or temporary discomfort, but it won't permanently harm your vision. Your eyes are working harder in dim lighting, which can lead to headaches or strain, but not lasting damage. A well-lit environment simply helps reduce fatigue.

3. Sitting Too Close to the TV Will Hurt Your Eyes

This myth has been around since the days of old box TVs. Sitting close to the television can lead to temporary eye strain, but it doesn't cause permanent eye damage. Children often sit closer because they can focus up close better than adults—but it's not a cause for alarm.

4. Wearing Glasses or Contacts Makes Your Eyes Dependent on Them

Glasses and contact lenses correct your vision; they don't change your eyes themselves. You may feel more dependent



on them once you start seeing clearly, but the prescription doesn't "weaken" your eyes. Vision can naturally change over time, but that's not due to corrective lenses.

5. Blue Light from Screens is Damaging Your Eyes

The concern around blue light

has led to a surge in "blue light glasses." But current research doesn't support the idea that blue light from screens causes permanent eye damage. What people often experience is digital eye strain—caused by staring at screens too long, not blue light itself. The 20-20-20 rule (every 20 minutes, look 20 feet away for 20 seconds) can help reduce eye fatigue.

6. Eye Exercises Can Cure Vision Problems

While exercises may improve focus or coordination in some rare eye conditions (like convergence insufficiency), they can't correct structural issues like myopia, hyperopia, or astigmatism. No amount of eye rolling or focusing drills will replace the need for glasses, contacts, or surgery when needed.

7. You Don't Need an Eye Exam if You See Fine

Even if your vision is perfect, regular eye exams are crucial. Eye diseases like glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and macular degeneration can develop silently, without noticeable symptoms. Early detection through routine check-ups is often the key to preserving sight.

8. Only Older Adults Need to Worry About Eye Problems

Age increases the risk of certain eye conditions, but eye health matters at every age. Children, teens, and young adults are increasingly affected by screen-related strain and dry eyes. Preventative care—like UV

protection, a healthy diet, and annual eye exams—should start early and continue for life.

9. Sunglasses Are Only for Sunny Days

UV rays can penetrate clouds, meaning your eyes are exposed even on overcast days. Prolonged UV exposure is linked to cataracts and other serious eye issues. Look for sunglasses that block 100% of UVA and UVB rays—and wear them year-round whenever you're outdoors.

10. You Have to Wait Until a Cataract is "Ripe" to Remove It

This outdated notion comes from older surgical methods. Today's advanced cataract surgeries allow removal whenever the cataract interferes with daily life—no need to wait for it to "mature." In fact, early intervention can often lead to quicker recovery and better visual outcomes.

Misinformation can lead to unnecessary worry—or worse, delayed treatment. The best way to protect your vision is by staying informed, getting regular eye exams, and speaking directly with a trusted eye care professional. Clear vision is about more than just 20/20 sight—it's about making smart, evidence-based decisions to preserve your eyesight for life.

Milford Franklin Eye Center proudly operates four convenient office locations in Milford, Franklin, Hopkinton, and Medfield. In addition, our state-of-the-art Cataract and Laser Surgery Center in Milford offers world-class surgical eye care close to home. Patients benefit from an accredited and licensed facility, on-site anesthesia presence, and carefully titrated sedation—ensuring the highest standards of comfort, safety, and precision. When it comes to your eyes, you don't have to travel far to receive the best care available.

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Commonwealth Awards Bi-County Collaborative Over \$420K to Strengthen Literacy across Grade Levels

Walpole, MA — Bi-County Collaborative is pleased to announce that it has received more than \$420,000 in competitive state grants to expand access to high-quality English Language Arts (ELA) instruction and professional development for teachers.

BICO was awarded \$294,000 through the state’s PRISM II grant program to support early literacy instruction in grades K-3, and an additional \$127,500 through the PRISM III program for literacy instruction in grades 4-12.

These substantial awards, part of the Healey-Driscoll Administration’s multiyear investment in literacy education, will allow BICO to purchase brand-new, high-quality instructional materials for students in all grade levels and provide extensive professional development for educators.

“This funding is transformative for our Collaborative,” said Ann Buckley, the Professional Development and Curriculum Specialist for BICO. “It ensures our students have access to rigorous, high-quality instructional materials, while also giving our teachers the time, resources, and coaching they need to strengthen instruction. Ultimately, it’s about equity and making sure every student, regardless of background or disability status, has access to the same level of opportunity.”

With the PRISM II grant, BICO will roll out HMH Into Reading as its new K-5 ELA curriculum. The PRISM III grant will fund the adoption of Study-Sync for grades 6-12. Both selections were made last year after a collaborative vetting process involving BICO educators, with support from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and its high-quality instructional materials curriculum evaluation networks.

The grant funds will also cover costs for staff participation in professional development and curriculum planning, including substitute coverage and teacher stipends for work beyond the school day; support instructional coaching from The New Teacher Project; and provide long-term investment in curriculum materials, with funding supporting a four-year adoption cycle.

Through these initiatives, BICO will strengthen early literacy instruction, enhance high school literature studies, and close achievement gaps by ensuring equitable access to world-class materials and teaching practices.

“These grants represent a significant investment in our students and educators, and we are extremely grateful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration for this funding,” said Executive Director Jeanne Sullivan.

Bi-County Collaborative programs address the needs of students with Autism, Communication, Emotional, Health, Intellectual, Neurological, Physical Impairments, and Specific Learning Disabilities in of twenty (20) member school districts in Bristol, Norfolk, and Worcester counties, including Bellingham and Franklin.

Local Teen Takes Community Service, Leadership Talent Abroad

Franklin-based teen Adarsh Srinivasan has been making an inspiring impact both locally and abroad. Adarsh volunteers with several organizations including the Arthritis Foundation and Big Help for Education. At Big Help he serves as a Youth Social Media Ambassador.

Recently, on a family trip to India, Adarsh expanded his volunteering by engaging with Single Teacher Schools, an initiative supporting education in rural villages in Tamil Nadu. While there, he visited schools, interacted with students, and conducted sessions on AI literacy and Rubik’s cube problem-solving at a skill center for underprivileged children and school dropouts.

Thank you, and keep up the good work, Adarsh!



Upcoming Fallen Heroes KIA Dates and Remembrance Ceremonies

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

October 5 – Edward L. Grant – WWI

October 6 – Shayne M. Cabino – Iraq

October 10 – Emilio Daddario – WWI

Mark Your Calendars for 50th Newcomers Craft Fair November 8

Our 50th Craft Fair will be held Saturday, November 8th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Fair will be located at Tri-County High School in Franklin. There is a \$3 entry fee for anyone over 12 years of age.

We typically showcase close to 70 Artisans, with bake and raffle tables located near the entrance. All proceeds are donated to local charitable organizations. Also, we will accept donated items for the Franklin Food Pantry.

This juried craft fair will feature handmade items from artisans skilled in jewelry design, fine art, textiles, holiday items, photography, body products, food items and so much more! You’ll find the perfect special something for every occasion.

For more information about the Craft Fair visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FranklinNewcomersCraftFair/>.

Local Drive-Thru Drug Disposal October 25th

Effort 10 a.m.- Noon Part of DEA’s National Prescription Drug Takeback Day

Time: 10 a.m.–noon
Date: Saturday, Oct. 25
Locations:

- SAFE Coalition, 31 Hayward St., Ste. 2C, Franklin
- Wrentham Fire Department, 99 South St., Wrentham
- Norfolk Police Department, 14 Sharon Ave., Norfolk
- Medway Town Hall, 155 Village St., Medway
- Millis Fire Department, 885 Main St., Millis

Accepted: Tabs/pills, lotions, patches, and liquids. **No sharps.**

Need Based Financial Aid for College

The fall is a busy time of year if you have a high school senior- so many exciting plans and opportunities! But with this excitement comes an important question: how will you cover the cost of college? This month's focus is on need-based financial aid.

Financial aid is usually divided into two broad categories:

- **Need-based** aid is money awarded to students based on a family's financial circumstances, not on grades or test scores. This aid comes from the following:
 - Federal: Pell Grants, subsidized loans, work-study.
 - State: grants, scholarships (based on FAFSA info).
 - Institutional: colleges give their own need-based aid packages.
- **Merit aid (non-need-based)** is awarded by individual colleges based on GPA, test scores, a specific major, special talents, or residency- not on family income.

FAFSA: The Key to Need-Based Aid
To be considered for need-based aid, families must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). It provides access to the largest source of federal financial aid. However, states and colleges also use a family's Federal FAFSA information to award their own need-based grants, scholarships, and loans to eligible students.

The 2026-2027 FAFSA (for students starting college in fall 2026) will open October 1, 2025 and close June 30, 2027. However, state and college FAFSA deadlines are much earlier- often in October or November of senior year. Always check each college's financial aid page for exact dates. High school seniors entering college in fall 2026 should file as soon as possible.

Why file early? More aid dollars- federal, state, and institutional- are often distributed to families who submit early.

Why file at all, even if you think you won't qualify?

1. Students may be eligible for unsubsidized federal loans, which often have lower interest rates than private loans.
2. It will provide a safety net if any unexpected family financial changes occur, such as loss of income or change in family circumstances.
3. Many schools have endowment programs, grants, and scholarships to help students who have demonstrated need. You can't apply to these without submitting the FAFSA.
4. Some colleges require the FAFSA for awarding merit academic scholarships.

You can list up to 20 colleges on the FAFSA form. Always list any college you're considering, even if you're unsure about

applying- you can remove it later, but missing it may mean losing aid.

What is the CSS Profile?

The CSS Profile (College Scholarship Service Profile) is a separate financial aid application used by approximately 250 private or selective colleges to award their own institutional aid. Unlike the FAFSA, which is free, the CSS Profile requires a fee and asks more detailed financial questions. The colleges that require the CSS Profile can be found on CollegeBoard.org.

Deadlines vary by school, but usually close to the college application deadline, so check each college's website. **Colleges that require the CSS Profile still want the FAFSA filed as well.**

Key Tools to Understand College Costs

- **Cost of Attendance (COA):** The "sticker price," including tuition, room & board, fees, books, transportation, and personal expenses. Every college lists its COA online.
- **Net Price Calculator (NPC):** Estimates your true cost after grants and scholarships. Each college provides one, but quality varies. Use it early to compare affordability.
- **Loan Simulator:** Found at studentaid.gov, this tool projects monthly repayment costs for both students and parents. Working through it together is a smart family exercise.



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

Final Thoughts

The financial aid process can be complex, but there are plenty of resources to help. The Federal Student Aid website (studentaid.gov) is an excellent resource. And remember: while the COA may seem daunting, need-based and merit aid can significantly reduce costs. Planning ahead, filing forms early, and using tools like the NPC and Loan Simulator can make the process clearer- and the

path to college more affordable. Good luck and enjoy the journey!

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Mass. DSNDP Volunteers Participate in Cleanliness Drive!

On August 24th 2025, Massachusetts State residents joined hands as dedicated volunteers of the global non-profit organization Dr. Shri. Nanasahab Dharmadhikari Pratishthan (DSNDP), undertaking a Adopt-A-Highway cleanup drive in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) at (Adopt-a-Highway) RTE. 135 Eastbound side from Pond Rd. to Weston Rd., Wellesley, MA 02481 and (Adopt A Visibility Site) High Street (Paved Area Located Under Providence Highway), Dedham, Massachusetts, 02026. This cleanliness

drive by DSNDP drew three volunteers from Norfolk County who collected around 30 pounds of waste.

In alignment with the motto "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (The world is one family), DSNDP has aimed to foster a brighter future by advocating for cleanliness drives in collaboration with the US government since July 2022. These activities are guided by the founders of the organization Dr. Shri Appasaheb Dharmadhikari and Dr. Shri Sachindada Dharmadhikari.

For more information, please visit <https://www.dsndp.com>.



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Calendar

October 1

Health Fair, 3:30 p.m., sponsored by Franklin Health Department at Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, local vendors & health services, face painting & kids’ activities, health screenings, raffles, giveaways, and refreshments!

Franklin Art Association meeting, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, guest artist Charlie Guay to demonstrate cold wax medium

October 2

Franklin LGBTQ Alliance Spooky Movie Night, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Franklin TV and Radio 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, join us as we watch the 1991 Addams Family movie. Come in costume and bring a blanket! Popcorn and candy provided.

Drum Circle, 2 p.m., Franklin Public Library, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, drums for all provided

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

Franklin Rotary 9th Annual Car Show, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., New England Chapel, 300 East Central St., Franklin, free to public, food, raffles and a special Blessing of the Animals at 11 a.m., special presentation of Modified Mobility Van at 10 a.m., \$20 to register car for show; contact Gary Convertino gconvertino@cox.net or John Power john@powerpaintingplus.com

Brunch with non-Scene Friends, presented by Franklin LGBTQ Alliance, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Mak’s Roast Beef 451 West Central St., Franklin

Mysterious Massachusetts, 2 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, workshop with Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe on some of the most famous of Massachusetts paranormal history.

Cinema 80: Under Tuscan Sun, 4 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St.,

Franklin, presented by Franklin Senior Center and Sons & Daughters of Italy

Millis Library Book Sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Millis Public Library, 961 Main St., Millis

October 5

Blessing of Pets, 10 a.m., St John’s Episcopal Church lawn, 237 Pleasant Street, Franklin, bring pets, leashed or in carrier, or even stuffed animals or pet pics

Millis Library Book Sale, 1-3 p.m., Millis Public Library, 961 Main St., Millis

October 7

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>

October 10

2-6 p.m. Franklin Farmers Market : 3-6 p.m. Dom DeBaggis. Sponsored by Franklin Cultural Council and Mass Cultural Council. 4 PM The Great Pumpkin Contest Sponsored by Franklin Ag Comm.

October 11

10:30 am - Not So Scary Halloween Party, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Jimmy Kveskin, with the Millis Berfield Band, 7 p.m., Niagara Coffee Haus, 8 Exchange St., Millis, sponsored by Middlesex Savings Bank, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1297501775739>

October 12

Second Sunday Speaker Series: Uncas, Hero or Villain?, 1:15 p.m., doors open 1 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, Historical Commission Chair Alan Earls presents a slide show exploration of this complex and crucial, Colonial-era leader.

October 14

Yankee Quilters Meeting, 6:30 social meetup; 7 p.m. meeting, Emma’s Quilt Cupboard and Sewing Center, Horace Mann Plaza, 319 E. Central St., Franklin. All welcome

October 15

The Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation, Inc. presents award-winning Worcester poet John Edward Keough, 6 p.m. Milford Town Library, 80 Spruce St., Milford

‘Drive in’ Movie, 1 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Queer Book Club, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., with Franklin LGBTQ Alliance, Franklin TV and Radio 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, *Light from Uncommon Stars* by Ryka Aoki

October 16

Oh, The Horror! A Panel Discussion with Authors of Horror Fiction, 6:30 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham

The Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation, Inc. presents award-winning Worcester poet John Edward Keough, 6 p.m., Uxbridge Free Public Library, 19 North Main St., Uxbridge

Strive to Thrive Benefit: Bringing Power to the Patient, 6 p.m., Marilyn Rodman Performing Arts Center, 1 School St, Foxboro, FUNdraising, food, drinks, live music), featuring leaders from MGB Cancer Center and survivor voices tickets: <https://mrpac.art/tickets?pg=selectevent&eid=163025&edid=0>

October 17

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

Annie opens at THE BLACK BOX, see <https://theblackbox-online.com/annie/> for other dates and details

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

October 18

Trunk or Treat, 10:30 a.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Franklin Public Library Book Sale, 9 a.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, books \$1

FREE Community Concert featuring Eric Christensen, 7 p.m. Franklin United Methodist Church, 82 West Central Street, Franklin

Cinema 80: Summertime, 4 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, presented by Franklin Senior Center and Sons & Daughters of Italy

October 19

Bellingham Educational Foundation 3rd Annual BEF 5K Halloween Dash, 9 a.m., DiPietro Elementary School, Bellingham, run, walk or stroll, \$35 registration, \$20 BPS students & staff, visit www.belledfound.org

October 20

MBTA Train Mural Celebration (Town plans not finalized at press time).

Opening of Visions of a master: Tommaso Juglaris at the Library and Beyond, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, special exhibit honoring Italian-born muralist Tommaso Juglaris, whose stunning 1904 mural, *A Grecian Festival*, adorns the library’s historic Reading Gallery. Through November 20

Sen. Rausch Office Hours, 1-2:30 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin

October 21

Rotary Club of Franklin 33rd Annual Pasta Supper, 5 p.m., at 1000 Central Park Terrace, Franklin, free for all Franklin seniors and residents of Franklin Housing Authority, sign-up sheets at Franklin Senior Center and Central Park Terrace

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>

October 24

Franklin Farmers Market, , 2-6 p.m., (Last of the Season), Franklin Town Common, 3-6 p.m. Music by Sioo, Sponsored by Franklin Cultural Council and Mass Cultural Council

Laughter on the 23rd Floor, by Neil Simon, performed by Millis Community Theatre, 7:30 p.m., Millis High School, 245 Plain St., Millis

October 25

Rainforest Reptiles: Creepy Crawlers, 10:30 a.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Italian Folk a concert of Fabio Pirozzolo, 3 p.m. Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Bellingham Business Association Trunk or Treat Stroll, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Bellingham Town Common, come dress up and trick-or-treat at BBA member tables.

Laughter on the 23rd Floor, by Neil Simon, performed by Millis Community Theatre, 7:30 p.m., Millis High School, 245 Plain St., Millis

October 28

Understanding Antisemitism in 2025: A Panel Discussion, 7 p.m., Franklin High School

October 29

Ghosts and Legends with Jeff Belanger, doors open 6:30 p.m., presentation at 7, Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin, sponsored by Friends of Franklin Historical Museum, free

October 31

Halloween Cemetery Tour - with Dean College Professor Rob Lawson, 5 p.m., Franklin’s Union Street Cemetery (parking available and preferred at Franklin Historical Museum for those who can walk

November 8

Franklin Newcomers & Friends Craft Fair, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., over 70 juried artisans, bake & raffle table, \$3 ages 12+, free under 12, bring item for food pantry, more info. at <https://www.facebook.com/FranklinNewcomersCraftFair/>.

Sports

Franklin Golf Looking Toward State Finals

By Christopher Tremblay,
Staff Sports Writer

Last fall the Franklin golf team went an impressive 12-1 within the league to become co-champions of the Hockomock League with King Philip. The Panthers and Warriors each blemished the other's perfect league record defeating one another. Unfortunately, Franklin had a rough time with its non-league schedule, the hardest in the state, losing all four matches to finish the regular season 12-5.

Although the Panther golfers advanced into the State Tournament, they were unable to advance as one of the 6 teams into the State Finals. According to Coach Bo Botelho, over the last decade, Franklin has been a dominating force within the Hockomock League but just haven't been able to get things done once they get into the post-season.

"We set lofty goals on a regu-



Franklin golf Coach Bo Botelho hopes this year's team will make it to state finals this year. On left, the golf team; on right, its starters.

lar basis and would love to share the Hockomock Title with King Philip again, but our biggest goal is a better showing at the State Tournament," the Panther Coach said. "I would rather go 0-2 against KP and go to the State Finals instead of going 2-0

against them while we watch them go to the Finals."

Leading Franklin this fall on the links will be junior Ben Burgess and Tyler Perlman. Both golfers are relatively equal when it comes to play and on any given day could be the team's number



one golfer. At the time of this writing, Burgess currently held the top spot with a 37.5 average over the first two matches of the season, while Perlman was sitting at 39.5. Botelho has seen improvement over last year in both golfers.

While Burgess and Perlman are battling it out for the top two spots, senior co-captain Dylan O'Brien, the squads only four-year player, is right behind them in the third position shooting a 40.5 thus far, a shot and a half better than his average from last fall.

"Dylan knows that he is an important part of the team, and we need him to take his game to the next level," the Coach said. "It is critical that he goes out and gives us a 39 every other match to take some of the pressure off the rest of the team; it will do us a lot of good."

Bryce Botelho (averaging a 42) played himself a lot of tournament golf over the off-season and should find himself within the top six on the team. Currently, he is teeing off in the fourth position and has shot a 37 in practice giving the young golfer a lot of confidence.

"He's a golfaholic and has had a couple of really good tournaments this summer," Botelho

said. "He shot multiple rounds under 40 and this will be key to helping Ben and Tyler."

Playing in only his second season with the team, senior Chris Shanahan is holding onto the fifth spot in the early goings with a 45.5 average: three strokes below last year. Shanahan only got into a mere two matches last year due to the talented players in front of him. Along with Botelho, Shanahan is one of the most improved players on the squad this season. The Panther Coach noted that the senior has been performing really well in practice, and he needs him to take that mentality and ability to the course during matches. Botelho is hoping that he can improve and move his way into the top four.

Rounding out the top six is another senior, Gabe Rodrigues. Last year, Rodrigues was a surprise and came out of nowhere. He was the final golfer to be selected for the team, battling hard for that 16th spot on the Franklin roster. However, once he got going there was no stopping him and his season turned around in the second half. He is currently averaging 43.5 over the first two

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Sports

Pingeton to Be Inducted into Leicester Hall of Fame

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

Bob Pingeton, who coaches golf and girls' basketball at Bellingham High, will be inducted into the Leicester High School Athletic Hall of Fame on Friday, Nov. 28, at the Spencer Country Inn. The event gets underway at 5:30 p.m.

The 52-year-old native of Leicester graduated in 1991 and was a three-sport star for the Wolverines, playing quarterback in football, guard in basketball and a pitcher-centerfielder in baseball. During his interscholastic career, he earned 10 letters, was named the top weekly player 12 times by the Worcester Telegram and Gazette and was selected as the school's top athlete as a senior.

Competing in the Southern Worcester County League (SWCL) at 6-feet, 160 pounds, Pingeton was a two-time captain in basketball and baseball.

The statistics he achieved in football include 14 touchdown passes and five rushing TDs as a senior. A two-year starter, he was mobile and did his share of scrambling as he led Leicester to a 6-4 record his senior season.

A point guard in basketball who also played on the wing, Pingeton averaged 17 points a game as a sophomore, but his scoring average was 15.5 as a junior and 14 as a senior, primarily because he played mostly at point guard those two seasons. However, he averaged six assists a game as a senior and ended his four-year varsity career with 950 points, almost making it to the 1,000-point club. He was a key



BHS Coach and Franklin resident Bob Pingeton will soon be a member of Leicester High's Athletic Hall of Fame.

player in helping Leicester get invited twice to play in the legendary Clark Tourney and also in the State Tournament.

On the diamond, Pingeton batted third and hit .310 during a four-year varsity career. As a junior pitcher, he compiled a 4-4 record but his 1.80 earned-run average led the SWCL.

"I'm thrilled and honored to be selected for the Leicester Hall of Fame," Pingeton said. "I was surprised, and I never expected to be chosen 34 years after graduation. It's great that peo-

ple remember what I achieved. I'm proud of my high school career."

Pingeton labels himself as "a finesse player in basketball and baseball but an aggressive competitor in football." He relied on speed and quickness and a high sports IQ in all three sports. He said his skills in the three sports could have been better, but playing three sports kept him busy from August to July. After the school year ended, he played three years of Senior Babe Ruth baseball.

is DJ Silverstein, an outstanding baseball player. Having signed to play for Bentley next year Silverstein knew the pressure was off and wanted to try something different his senior campaign and decided to give golf a try. Botelho noted that the senior baseball player had himself a very impressive tryout and could surprise people, much the way Rodrigues did last fall.

Franklin's two matches so far this season have both been at the opposite end of the spectrum.

Franklin destroyed Mansfield by 18 strokes but then fell to 2-time State Champion St Johns of Shrewsbury by 15. Although only two games in at press time, the Franklin Coach believes his top six golfers will be playing at the top of their game.

"Although I believe that we are not as deep as last year, the top six will be better," he said. "If they go out and play their games, while continuing to improve we could get to the State Finals this year."

Pingeton has two favorite memories as a Wolverine at Leicester High.

"As a senior competing against Prouty High of Spencer on Thanksgiving, I threw one touchdown pass for 20 yards and ran for a 47-yard TD after a fake handoff, giving us a 20-7 triumph. A second TD run was nullified because of a penalty. That was my last high-school football game."

Pingeton's other top memory was as a senior playing against Grafton in basketball.

"We were down by 12 points in the final quarter, but I got 10 points in the final 2½ minutes and scored the winning basket at the buzzer on a full-court lay-up," he recalled. "There were about five seconds left, and we called a timeout. The pass went to a player at the free-throw line, and I was a decoy in the corner. I took a pass to the sideline, went the length of the court and scored at the buzzer. I had good speed and outran the coverage."

After high school, Pingeton majored in business management at Nichols College and played three years of basketball, two seasons of baseball and one year of football.

The 52-year-old Pingeton has a common-sense approach to coaching and competing.

"Winning is important but reaching one's potential is vital," he said. "When players hit their competitive peak, then winning and enjoyment follow. "And, valuable life lessons

can be learned from athletics. I want players to learn how to overcome adversity, become resilient, and lead on and off the court. Our goal is to become a team that trusts, respects and is accountable to one another."

When Pingeton coached at Franklin High, his golf teams won two league titles, and his girls' tennis team won the first league championship in school history in 2024. He also coached as an assistant in boys' basketball.

And, after three seasons of directing Bellingham's girls' basketball team, he's got the hoop program heading in the right direction. The team failed to qualify for tourney play in his first year, but the Blackhawks earned playoff berths the last two seasons and finished with an overall record of 12-12 last winter. He's rebuilt that program by starting out with two wins, then four triumphs after his second season.

Pingeton, a married Franklin resident for 26 years with two daughters, is in his second year as Bellingham High's golf coach.

"The keys to becoming a formidable team are having players with competitive fire, a coachable nature and passion for the sport," he offered. No doubt that the standards his coaches set at Leicester High, especially the late George Albro, prepared him well for coaching in very competitive leagues.

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GOLF

continued from page 30

matches and the Panther Coach is looking for him to do what he did the second half of last year.

Battling for the last two seats on the Franklin bus are three returners and a newbie. The three returning golfers vying for those seats are senior Vinny Spencer, junior Ayden Doyle and sophomore Leo Swahn. Looking to make his first appearance on the links wearing a Franklin golf polo

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

Lantern Making Workshop Popup
Wednesday, October 8, 1-3 p.m.

FieldFest: Fall Music Showcase
Saturday, October 11, 3-6 p.m.

Fun at the 'Forge: Fall 2025
Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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

Hear One of the Oldest Church Organs in New England!

This year, the William Goodrich organ at Trinity Episcopal Church, Wrentham, is 200 years old. Originally built in 1825 for the Universalist Church in Providence, the organ has been at Trinity Church since 1915. To celebrate this milestone, the church is presenting three opportunities to hear this amazing instrument. All three events will be held at the church on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m.

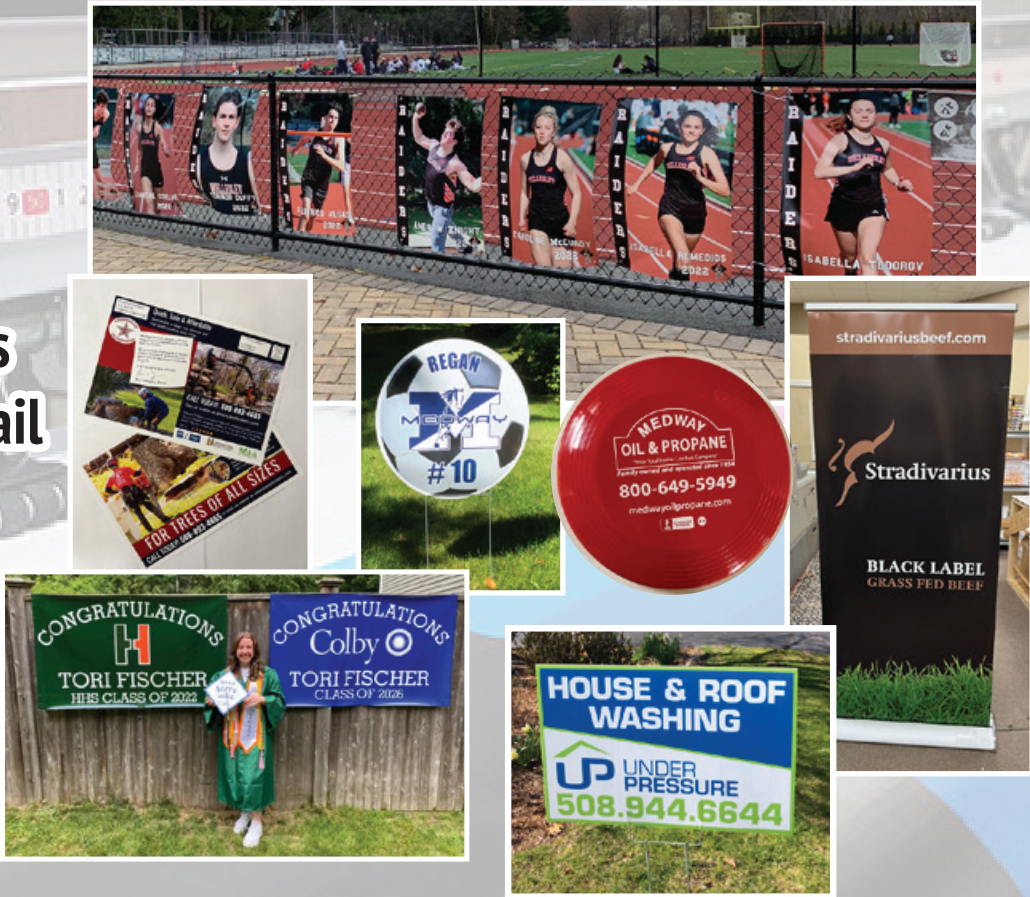
- October 26, 2025, Music Director Rick Duthe presents a lecture-demonstration “How Does This Thing Work?”.
- November 9, 2025, prominent Boston-area organist Peter Sykes will present a recital, preceded by a presentation about the organ’s history and its builder, William Marcellus Goodrich by Matthew Bellocchio of Andover Organ Company.
- November 16, 2025, a Four-Person Organ Recital will be given by Lorna Russell, former Director of Music at Trinity Church, Philip Hall, pianist and substitute organist at the church, David Burnham, Director of Music at St. Gabriel’s Church in Marion, Massachusetts, and Rick Duthe, Director of Music at the church.

Trinity Episcopal Church is located at 47 East St., Wrentham, Mass.

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Paid Off Your Mortgage? Don't Forget to File Mortgage Discharge

Dedham, MA – Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reminded consumers today about the importance of filing a mortgage discharge in a timely manner after their mortgage has been paid off.

Register O'Donnell stated, "As consumers, we all need to borrow money. There are many reasons why consumers borrow money—to purchase a house, to make home improvements, or to help pay for the ever-increasing tuition payments of our children. When borrowing money involves real estate, a mortgage is recorded against the property's title."

In 2024, the Norfolk Registry of Deeds recorded over 103,000 documents. Of these, nearly 15,500 were mortgages—accounting for more than 15% of all recordings.

Once a mortgage is paid off, a mortgage discharge must be recorded to clear the property's title. This document, typically titled "Discharge of Mortgage" or "Satisfaction of Mortgage," is issued by the lender and is usually one or two pages long.

"As a consumer, you want to make sure a discharge has been recorded at the Registry of Deeds, which tells the world that the mortgage has been paid off," noted Register O'Donnell.

In some instances, mortgage discharges are filed directly by banks or settlement closing attorneys with the Registry as part of a property sale or as a result of a refinancing transaction. In other cases, the mortgage discharge is sent to the property owner, who then becomes responsible for making sure the document is recorded.

Register O'Donnell cautioned, "Whether or not the mortgage discharge is recorded by the lending institution or the individual property owner, it is imperative that the property owner ensures all necessary documents have been recorded at the Registry of Deeds."

Individuals with property recorded at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds can check their title and make sure all their mortgages have been properly discharged using the Registry's online records at www.norfolkdeeds.org. By going to the Online Research section of our website, property owners can verify that all mortgages associated with the property have been discharged.

"Please remember that not having a mortgage discharged will result in a title issue and thereby impact the process of selling one's home or the refinancing of one's home," said O'Donnell.

The Register further noted that there have been cases where no discharge has been recorded against a long-paid-off mortgage. "Unfortunately, some of the lending institutions that provided funds for these mortgages are no longer in existence. In other cases, financial entities have merged with another lending institution."

If a property owner needs to retrieve the original discharge of a mortgage and it is unclear which lending institution is now responsible for providing the document, an option is to contact the Massachusetts Division of Banks at 1-800-495-2265 x-1 and then x-61501. Another option is to access the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation website, www.fdic.gov. Then, approximately halfway down the homepage, find and click the Consumer Resource Center link. Under the topic Protecting Consumers, click Bank Find. Enter the name of the lending institution in question, click on the lending institution link, and you will be able to determine who is responsible for the mortgage and then procure a mortgage discharge from that entity.

When recording a mortgage discharge, the original document is required. By law, the Registry of Deeds cannot accept photocopies or faxed copies of documents. The filing fee, set by state statute, is \$106.

Learn more about the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds at www.norfolkdeeds.org.

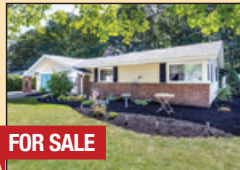
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Norfolk County Sees Active Real Estate Market in August

Dedham, MA – Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reported that real estate activity in Norfolk County continued its upward trend in August 2025, with notable increases in mortgage recordings and property transactions compared to the same period last year.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds recorded a total of 10,035 documents in August 2025. This represents a 7% increase from August 2024, and down 6% from July 2025.

"The August data is a positive indicator of the Norfolk County real estate market's resilience," stated Norfolk County Register of Deeds, William P. O'Donnell.

The total number of deeds recorded for August 2025, which includes both commercial and residential real estate sales and transfers, was 1,549, up 3% from August 2024, but down 8% from the previous month of July 2025. Looking at just real estate sales, 881 properties were sold in August, representing a 5% increase compared to the same

time last year.

In addition to increased deed recordings, lending activity also saw growth. A total of 1,534 mortgages were recorded in August 2025, up 6% from August 2024, though down 9% from July 2025.

"The growth in mortgage recordings suggests that, despite broader economic factors, a large number of people are still successfully navigating the market to secure financing," said Register O'Donnell.

The average sale price of

commercial and residential properties in August 2025 was \$1,028,482, a decrease of 18% from August 2024, and down 24% from July of this year. The total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales in August was \$906 million, a 15% decrease compared to August of last year.

"This reduction in overall real estate prices may offer some relief to those looking to purchase property in Norfolk County going into the fall months," said Register O'Donnell. "Lower av-

erage sale prices could present new opportunities for buyers who were previously priced out of the market."

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds is located at 649 High St., Dedham. Contact them at (781) 461-6101 or email registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org. You can also find them on Facebook at facebook.com/norfolkdeeds and on X and Instagram at [@norfolkdeeds](https://twitter.com/norfolkdeeds).

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Framingham, Mass. - Mass-Bay Community College has been awarded a \$75,000 grant from the Cummings Foundation to expand programs for English Language Learners (ELL) and disadvantaged students in career certificate pathways for high-demand fields. MassBay was one of 150 nonprofit recipients of the \$30 million grant program.

The Cummings Foundation grant will support MassBay students sharpen their English skills and transition into career-focused training programs that align with regional workforce needs. This initiative addresses critical workforce shortages in MetroWest by training people in roles that are urgently needed and have career stability including working with the aging population and people with mental health issues, as well as meet

the constantly growing need for Information technology and cybersecurity support.

The Cummings Foundation (<https://www.cummingsfoundation.org/>), established by Bill and Joyce Cummings, is one of the largest private foundations in New England and focuses its philanthropy in the Greater Boston area. The grants are awarded to nonprofit organizations in a wide variety of causes, including human services, education, healthcare, and the environment. To date, the Cummings Foundation has awarded more than \$600 million to local organizations.

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