

localtownpages Franklin

Vol. 16 No. 9

Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

November 1, 2025

After Cancer, Nothing Can Stop Young Boxing Champ

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

José Roman III knows how to do battle. The young boxer from Franklin rose triumphant from a two-year fight for his life after being diagnosed at age 10 with leukemia. What did he do upon recovery? He got back into the ring. Since then, under the direction of his coach and father, José Roman, Jr., he's won number of New England titles, including the 2024 New England Silver Gloves. He's also fought in many national matches, with his most prestigious win taking place this past July in Chattanooga, TN, when José took home the 2025 National Junior & Youth Golden Gloves of America title. The 18-year-old is now rated 5th in the nation for his age and weight class of 110 lbs.

"I won the entire national, and it felt really good," says José, who also recently began training under Peter Manfredo of Manfredo Boxing



CHAMP
continued on page 2

José Roman, III, shown here with his father and coach, José Roman, Jr., has not only won several boxing titles, but he's beaten cancer as well.

Keeping Local News Alive and Communities Connected

By JENNIFER RUSSO

For the first time in our newspaper's history, the cost of postage has surpassed the cost of printing. On average, mailing services have increased in price by over 7% in the last couple of years. While the USPS may require this operationally, it does underscore the growing financial challenges facing local journalism today. Paper, ink, fuel, and distribution costs have all risen sharply in the past year, and while we've absorbed those increases for as long as we could, we now find ourselves at a turning point.

Despite these challenges, one thing hasn't changed: our commitment to providing free, local news that keeps our communities informed and connected. Local

journalism is not just about headlines — it's about people. It's about the high school team's championship win, the opening of a new family business, the celebration of a lifelong volunteer, and the coverage of town meetings, and ensuring that every story is told.

When you open your community newspaper, you read about your neighbors, your schools, and the heartbeat of your area. You're seeing your community reflected in print - its triumphs, challenges, and spirit. Local news brings people together, fosters accountability, and preserves the stories that make each town

DONATION
continued on page 2



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CHAMP

continued from page 1

Sports Fitness. “I was coming off a loss, and that just motivated me to train harder than ever.”

He explains that he had to fight two opponents to win. “The first fight was actually harder. I fought this kid I didn’t even know he had double the fights I had, and I ended up winning the fight and advancing to the finals,” says the boxer, “The second fight was the easier fight, but I beat this kid easily, and I think it was probably one of my best performances. The national title was on the line, so I knew my best version of myself came out.”

The young pugilist started training in boxing early, learning from his father. “It’s fun. I like doing it. I like fighting, I love boxing. It’s always been something in my blood, I guess, to fight,” says José. When his father hit the heavy bag at home, “he wanted to hit the bag, too,” says Roman, Jr.,

After he got his diagnosis in 2018, young José spent the first two months in the hospital undergoing chemotherapy, some-



Shown is the 2025 National Junior & Youth Golden Gloves of America belt, which José won in July.

thing he would have to receive over the course of two years.

“I wasn’t really aware of the magnitude of the situation,” says José “When you’re young, you kind of feel invincible. I wasn’t able to train, visited the gym a few times just to see training partners, but I didn’t really start training again until I was done with treatment.”

After that was finished, COVID-19 set his training back even further, but he worked to into shape. Rather than knock him out, José says overcoming his diagnosis “very much motivated me to realize that if I can beat cancer, I can do anything.”

At 13, then, after coming back from treatment, José made it to the semifinals in the National Silver Gloves Tournament in 2021, losing only in the finals. In October of that same year, he won the New England championship.

The young boxer is intensely focused on his sport. He trains five days a week, several hours a day, running every day and watching what he eats. José , believes he’s been successful because, “I show up on the days that I don’t want to train, the days I want to train, the days I feel sick, I still show up. I’m consistent.” In fact, if his father didn’t insist on him taking a break on week-ends, José would train seven days a week, he says, adding that he takes any loss, such as his loss to the top-ranked fighter in the Junior Olympics this year, as a learning experience.

“My goal is to go to the 2028 Olympics and then turn pro,” says José , who hopes to inspire other young people facing obstacles such as cancer.

“A lot of people, some kids, they’ll have cancer, and they don’t know if they’re going to live to see the next day, but you know, if you keep persevering through, you have that mindset—

I’m going to survive. I’m going to live. I’m not going to die here in this hospital, and that’s why I’m alive. If I can do it, anybody can do it, because I’m just a normal guy.”

José adds he believes “100%” that his prayers, and the prayers of others for him, have made a difference in his recovery and continued success.

Early this month, José will compete in the USA Boxing New England Championships in New Bedford.

Follow his progress on Instagram, [joseelrelampagoroman](#), and TikTok [@josearoman](#).

DONATION

continued from page 1

unique. Without it, those small but powerful connections risk being lost.

Advertising revenue has always been a vital source of support for our papers, and we are deeply grateful to the local businesses that continue to support us. But as printing and mailing costs rise to historic levels, advertising alone can no longer carry the full weight of production. We recognize that our small businesses are facing similar pressures, and we would prefer not to raise advertising rates too much. Instead, we’re turning to you — our readers — for help.

This November, we’re launching our annual **Support the Newspaper** campaign. Every donation, no matter the size, helps offset the rising costs of printing and distribution, ensuring that your paper remains free, local, and delivered right to your doorstep or mailbox. Your contribution isn’t just helping to print pages — it’s helping to keep civic engagement alive, preserving our community history, and giving a platform to local voices that deserve to be heard.

We are endlessly thankful for your readership, your trust, and your belief in the value of local journalism. For decades, this paper has been honored to share your stories, celebrate your milestones, and champion the spirit of our towns. With your help, we can continue to do so for many years to come.

Please consider a donation, in any amount. To contribute to our community news, please visit <https://bit.ly/SupportTheNewspaper> or send your support to Local Town Pages, 9 Industrial Rd, Suite 107, Milford MA 01757

Thank you for your support. We have been honored to be a part of your community, and we are excited to continue to bring you the news and stories that matter to you each month.



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Franklin 2025 Biennial
Town Election

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Exsultet! Plans Two December Concerts

Exsultet! A Celebration of Voices will hold two December concerts, the first to take place on Friday, December 5, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. at the Christ Lutheran Church, 113 Union St., Natick, and the second on Sunday, December 7, at 2 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 725 Washington St., Holliston. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$15 for students and seniors, and free for children aged 12 and under. Visit www.exsultet.us for more information.

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Despite Cuts, the Show Must Go on at FHS

By GRAYDON WEBB

The winter season is just around the corner, and with this time of year comes Franklin High School’s annual performing arts events! From musical-lovers to concertgoers, there is something for everyone on offer this year. We spoke with the school’s Visual & Performing Arts Director, Diane Plouffe, to get some more information on the school’s musical activities.

Plouffe began teaching middle school orchestra in Franklin in 1997 and became the Director of Music back in 2016. Like many districts across the state, Franklin Public Schools has faced difficult budget decisions in recent years that have affected several program areas, including performing arts. Franklin suffered reductions in the performing arts programs during the school day.

Last year, Franklin High’s theater program was cut from the school day due to a combination of ongoing budgetary constraints and enrollment shifts. With it went a multitude of classes including Theatre I, II, and III; Stagecraft; and even Musical Theater Workshop. The high school wasn’t the only one affected by these budget cuts, either. Franklin Middle School’s musical theater program - the Footlighters - have been facing some tragedy of their own. Their lighting system has begun to fail. Without proper funding, fixing this will be quite the uphill battle.

Fortunately, the drama program at Franklin High has stayed alive through the use of additional funding allocations to the district and donations, allowing for a drama club to meet after school and perform musicals and plays. Headed by alumnus Chloe Selznick, the group is looking forward to bringing the hit musical *Mean Girls* to the stage in November (see the list below for details).

As Plouffe tells us, the afterschool drama club has a “limited budget,” and they are “facing a lot of challenges. With these budget cuts, she says it’s challenging to maintain “the level of instructional support it had before.” Plouffe laments the loss of such strong, creative offerings in the theater program, as it teaches qualities like “team-



building, musicianship, self-expression and theatre tech skills.” So how can the community get involved? Well, seeing the school musical is a start! With a struggling budget,” the ticket sales of *Mean Girls* may drastically shape how Franklin High’s drama club looks going forward. Also, thanks to a communal group dubbed the FHS Theatre Company Boosters, donations can be made online to help out the drama program. Their website can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/FHSTheatreBoost>. In other good news for the town’s musical endeavors, Franklin Middle School’s orchestra program is back in business this year After losing the orchestra during the school day and having it placed after school last year, it has returned in the 25-26 school year. Another alumnus of the program, Steven Sergi, is serving as the new middle school orchestra director.

Young students once again have the opportunity to learn to play a string instrument as part of their curriculum! The FHS performing arts community is working hard to stay afloat in Franklin, and a fascinating note is that the two aforementioned programs rising from the ashes are being led by alumni; students who were shaped by the very classes they now teach. Both Selznick and Sergi stand as hopeful examples, proving just how important the arts can be to an impressionable young talent. Plouffe shared, “[the performing arts] are a safe place for so many kids that need that space.”

The community’s continued support will be essential to sustaining these valuable programs in the years ahead. Please read on to see what fun these talented students will bring to the public soon!

- November 21, 22, & 23 - The Franklin High School Theatre Company will be performing their next musical: *Mean Girls*. Three nights only, at 7 p.m., with a matinee performance on November 23 at 1 p.m.
 - December 9 - Franklin High Band Concert at 7 p.m.
 - Snow date for this concert is December 15.
 - December 11 - Franklin High Chorus Orchestra Concert at 7 p.m. Snow date for this concert is also December 15.
- December 16 - Franklin Middle School 7th and 8th Grade Band Concert at Franklin Middle School, 6 p.m. Snow date for this concert is December 22.
 - December 18 - Franklin Middle School 7th and 8th Grade Orchestra Concert, as well as 6/7/8th Grade Chorus Concert. Snow date for this event is December 22.

To all the students in their winter events, break a leg! For further details, please contact Franklin High School. Thank you again to Diane Plouffe and the FHSTC Boosters for talking with us!

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Santa Foundation Celebrates 40 Years, Its Renewal, and a Future of Giving

Dick Timmons, of the Santa Foundation, felt he kept an important promise last month, following a successful celebration and fundraiser for the 501 c3 organization that has served over 30,000 local families with gifts, toys, clothing and support since it began in 1985.

“When I looked out over the sold-out 40th Anniversary Gala, I knew there would be one big man looking down with a smile on his face ... as Bob Sullivan lay in his bed knowing he would be leaving us soon, surrounded by his loving wife Elaine and family, he looked at me and whispered, ‘Please keep the Santa Foundation going!’

“It was in 2019, followed by COVID that not only shook the Santa Foundation, but the country. We survived but needed to relocate and get some additional help! We have now relocated and added key people like Joe & Pam Formosa, Karla Boudreau and Cindy and Patrick Timmons playing larger rolls! We are now

in a much better place, looking forward to many more years of helping local families in the over 20 communities we serve,” said Timmons.

Board member Karla Boudreau kicked off festivities, thanking “the Elks, our entertainers (Ken Barney and Mirror’s Edge), florists (Flower’s and More, Luna’s Flower Shop, Black Opal Florist and Designs by Lorraine), and bakers (Muffin House, Twist Bakery, and Wright’s Dairy Farm) for their contributions” to the evening, an “incredible team of volunteers,” and those in the community who partner with the foundation to bring the magic of Christmas to “countless deserving children and their families.”

The event included a beautiful Christmas tree door prize with handcrafted ornaments and Meme’s stockings, handcrafted ornaments for attendees, and a wide range of raffles donated by various businesses and organizations.



Later, Pat Timmons, whose grandfather was Robert Sullivan, gave a toast celebrating how the Santa Foundation’s “hard work always transforms into something beautiful: joy.”

Later this month, the Santa Foundation will place Giving Trees at various locations around town. Tags on the trees represent the wishes of a member of a family in need, and those with generous hearts are encouraged to take a tag and fulfill a wish to help neighbors enduring tough times feel the joy and comfort of the holiday season. Giving Trees will be located at:

- Advanced Auto, 45 Pulaski Blvd. Bellingham
- Grove Street Auto, 79 Grove Street, Franklin
- James Breakfast & More, 850 Franklin St., Wrentham
- King Street Cafe, 390 King St., Franklin
- Middlesex Bank, 1000 Franklin Village Drive, Franklin



- Norfolk Credit Union, 194 Main St., Norfolk
- Postal Center, 279 E Central Street, Franklin
- Postal Center, 9 Medway Rd., Ste. C, Milford
- Postal Center, 14 Milliston Rd., Millis
- Salon Elan, Inc., 9 Summer St., Ste. 102, Franklin
- Franklin Tile, 168 Grove St., Franklin
- Mak’s Roast Beef & Breakfast, 451 W. Central St., Franklin
- Franklin Police Department, 911 Panther Way, Franklin
- Medway Police Department, 315 Village St., Franklin
- Norfolk Fire Department, 117 Main St, Norfolk
- Wrentham Police/Fire Department, 89/99 South St., Wrentham
- Douglas Police Department, 29 Depot St., Douglas
- Norfolk Sheriff’s Department, 200 West St., Dedham

In addition to the Giving Tree locations, although no trees are put up at the following locations, these community partners graciously collect and deliver gifts for The Santa Foundation:

For more information on the Santa Foundation, visit www.sfjoy.org.

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Clear the Clutter this Fall with Affordable Junk

There are plenty of reasons to call a junk removal service. Maybe walking through your basement has gotten difficult or there is no more room in the attic? Perhaps you are planning to move, and you need to declutter before your open house?

Figuring out who to call can be challenging. If you contact one of the big haulers, they route you to a phone center where they've never even heard of your town, plus their pricing seems vague and full of extra fees. No wonder you've let the stuff pile up—it's too much of a hassle to get rid of it!

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Jay Schadler started his business in 2005. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with eight trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

Affordable Junk Removal specializes in house and estate cleanouts. If your garage, attic, or office is overflowing with stuff, take back your space and let the pros do the heavy lifting.

Jay and his team have handled it all. They've dismantled above-ground pools, hauled away an-



cient hot tubs, taken down old fencing, and stripped away worn carpeting. They'll come for a single item, or they'll clean out an entire house. And they can take almost anything. They can't accept hazardous materials, brush, dirt, or concrete, but everything else is fair game for them to take away.

Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it. He first tries to either recycle or donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

Working with Affordable Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for what you don't use.

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've also got a driveway special where they'll take away a truckload of your unwanted things if you pile it up. Or if you don't want to lift a finger, then you can point at the items, and the team will fill up their truck and haul away your unwanted things. However you do it, you're left with more space



and more peace of mind. Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

And speaking of pricing, Jay is upfront about it. His website shows the truck sizes and prices, so you can save time knowing your costs before you call for an appointment. There aren't any hidden costs or surprise fees with Affordable Junk Removal.

Affordable Junk Removal is fully licensed and fully insured, and they'll treat your property with care and respect.

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even handle emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in

Holliston. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

Contact Affordable Junk Removal and Dumpster Rental and let a local small business take care of everything for you. Call Jay Schadler at (774) 287-1133 or visit us online at AffordableJunkRemoval.com.

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Rebuilding Self-Confidence, One Wig at a Time

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Heather Cohen has always loved making women feel beautiful, but the owner of B.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio lights up when she talks about her latest professional focus, making high-quality realistic wigs for women with hair loss and not only helping them feel beautiful, but whole, again.

"There's nothing I would rather do than be here working on the wigs. I loved my business as a whole since the day I opened it," says Cohen, "but the impact I make on hair loss clients far exceeds anything I thought I would be able to do for people."

The stylist herself felt the upheaval of hair loss four years ago, when a medication she was on caused her own hair to fall out. Not only was it personally devastating, but since her career centered around beautiful hair, succumbing to baldness was simply not an option. That was when she began her several years-long research process.

Cohen estimates she's spent thousands of dollars researching different vendors and materials for her specialized wigs. Since her salon caters primarily to Caucasian women, her wigs are created for that demographic, although, she explains, she learned a lot from a huge black women's hair industry, where wigs are accepted as mainstream. She also learned how to find ethically-sourced hair.

"I don't want to get involved with anyone who is taking advantage of somebody who economically might be struggling, and they're paying them \$2 for their thick, beautiful ponytail. If you see a wig that's inexpensive, the hair is not being ethically sourced or, it did not come from a human head, or they're getting what we call 'drain hair,'" she says.

Cohen is upfront about the cost. "A custom human hair wig can be anywhere from \$1,000 to \$4,000, and it really does depend on the length," she says. That's why Cohen undertook training

to receive the correct credentials for a National Provider Identifier (NPI) number, so her clients can use insurance and health savings accounts (HSA).

"There are reasons for hair loss where your health insurance will actually help pay for a cranial prosthetic, which is a really cool word for a wig," she explains.

The entrepreneur spends a lot of time networking with health care providers to build her client base. Others have discovered her through social media support groups and word-of-mouth.

Krista Sirignano found Cohen through a friend, after struggling for decades with alopecia.

"Heather really knows her stuff when it comes to wearing wigs or any type of hairpiece. She took so much time and care with me until we found the perfect fit that made me feel comfortable and really good about myself," she says.

Rhonda Parker, whose hair



Heather Cohen, owner of b.LUXE Hair & Makeup Studio in Medway, is passionate about helping women with hair loss come out of hiding.

had also thinned due to medications, had tried synthetic wigs, but "after seeing how really beautiful and natural the human hair toppers and wigs looked on, I decided to go that route. On my way home from B. LUXE I stopped by my daughter's house, and she thought my hair looked beautiful, not even realizing it was a topper. As I am always self-conscious, that was the best feeling ever!"

"I always tell people when you first wear alternative hair, it's like exercising a muscle. The more you do it, the easier it gets," says Cohen. "And nobody knows, because nobody is as critical of you as you."

This niche takes commitment, however.

"You can't dabble in wigs," says Cohen, "It's all or nothing, because my wig clients truly need a partner. They need to be able to call me on Friday morning and say, 'I can't get this wig on right. It's crooked. I need to come in today,' and I have to be available to them. You really need to make the decision that you're going to leave the chair behind."

Someday, though, Cohen hopes to train stylists, and by 2026, she envisions her own brand of wigs, noting, "I feel like I've definitely cracked the code on like what feels comfortable, what feels good, what looks natural, and what stays on, and I want to be able to create that line and be able to give it to everybody."

Cohen has employed her new skills for breast cancer organizations such as the Susan B. Komen Foundation (www.komen.org), and the Gloria Gemma (www.gloriagemma.org).

This month, she'll work with Runway for a Cause (<https://runwayforacause.org>), currently planning its annual NYC fashion show.

Cohen feels immense reward from her new career focus, receiving a sense of giving back.

"Working with hair loss clients and giving them back that level of self-confidence makes me feel like I'm paying the universe back for all of the good that has happened to me," she says, "It's really amazing to help people just feel better and know they don't have to hide."

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"It's Just So Wonderful to Know You're Not Alone."

Franklin Interfaith Council Thanksgiving Service Sunday, November 16

By Judith Dorato O’Gara

The annual Franklin Interfaith Council Thanksgiving Service will take place on Sunday, November 16, 2025, from 7-8 p.m., this year at the Franklin United Methodist Church, 82 W. Central St. Franklin. This year, the service will be led by Rabbi Rachel Putterman, as Rev. Doreen Oughton, of Franklin Federated Church, explains, “We rotate not only the location, but who gives the message” each year. At the service, the Council will be taking offerings to support its fuel/heating assistance fund for community members in need.

Calling its primary purpose “the betterment of the community it serves,” the Council aims to use its “power of faith as defined by our individual spiritual traditions” unite as well as challenge citizens in Franklin to address issues of social injustice, celebrate diversity and promote tolerance and understanding.

Members of the Franklin Interfaith Council include the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Temple Etz Chaim, St. Mary’s Parish, St. John’s Episcopal Church, Franklin United Methodist Church, Franklin Federated Church, First Universalist Society in Franklin, and recently joined, New England Chapel.

“We are united in love and service to our fellow human beings, though it might look different for each of us, we respect the dignity of each human being,”

says Mary Diehl, who has been involved with the Franklin Interfaith Council for about 12 years. She’s now the Interfaith Choir Director and is in her second year as Interfaith President.

Diehl explains that Interfaith members are “politically neutral ... but overwhelmingly, we are saddened by the divisive discourse, the objectifying, I would say, of different groups instead of just getting down to person-to-person interaction. I can’t speak for whole council on this, but overwhelmingly, it’s ‘let’s talk instead of fight.’”

Showing up for each other is important. The Council responded to a number of incidents last year, including an arson fire at St. Mary’s and vandalism at Temple Etz Chaim.

A member of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Diehl explains how touched she was to receive the love and support of folks from other houses of faith, when, just 12 hours after her church’s prophet President Russell M. Nelson passed, a devastating shooting took place against members of her church in Michigan. Diehl feels the compassion she received is the Interfaith Council’s “our real strength ... I had so many of them reach out and just offer their support and love and condolence, and that was huge to me.” She says she heard the same sentiment from the rabbi in the Council. “It’s just so wonderful to know we’re not alone,



The Franklin Interfaith Council, comprised of congregations in Franklin, will hold its Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on November 16, at Franklin United Methodist Church.

because we often feel we are,” says Diehl.

Last month, the Interfaith Council came together with Rep. Jeff Roy to support an antisemitism discussion at Franklin High School, says Diehl, something that arose in response to vandalism at Temple Etz Chaim. “All of the people who showed up at the vigil wanted to do something more,” she says.

“We stand with those who are grieving,” says Rev. Oughton,

“and we seek to offer comfort and appreciation and a sense of unity. The Thanksgiving Service is just about that. It’s so important to experience gratitude and to recognize what we have received.”

The houses of faith that comprise the Franklin Interfaith Council get together to support other initiatives in town, including several for the Franklin Food Pantry, a Martin Luther King, Jr. service day in January, in which

members created placemats and cards for recipients of Meals on Wheels, and gathering diapers and wipes for Foster Care Essentials. When migrant families housed at local hotels departed, Interfaith members collected donations of various household products for about 65 “home starter kits” for them. They’ve used donations received at their Voices of Faith concert in May to help increase threshold for the Franklin Food Pantry’s SNAP match at the Franklin Farmers Market.

From the beginning, Rev. Oughton was impressed by the warm welcome of the Franklin Interfaith Council. “It’s just such a diverse group of lay representatives and clergy ... a group of people that understand faith differently in some ways, but with such a respect and appreciation for each other and a real focus on the common good of this community – not buying into the idea that just because we have different beliefs we have to be against each other,” she says.

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Franklin Veterans' Services Notes

November 5 - Monthly Veterans Coffee Social – 10 a.m. - Franklin Senior Center Café. Socials are held the first Wednesday of every month. Veterans are invited to join us for coffee and pastries, conversation and announcements.

November 10 - Marine Corps 250th Birthday
November 11 - Veterans' Day Luncheon – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Elks Lodge #2136 at 1077 Pond Street.

Franklin USAF Veteran Ronald Seyffert will be the featured speaker. Reservations are required. The event will be videotaped and shown on Franklin TV. Check their program guide for dates and times. THANK YOU to the Elks membership for generously sponsoring the annual luncheon!

November 11 - Veterans' Day - Is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice treaty which ended

WWI in 1918 and is a day to thank all military Veterans for their patriotism, service and sacrifices.

November 20 - Veterans' Council Meeting – 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. All members of the Franklin community interested in Veterans' activities are welcome to join us!

The next engraved brick installation on the Veterans Memorial Walkway is scheduled to coincide with Veterans' Day. Brick orders are now being accepted for the May 2026 installation.

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.

The Tune It Out guitar lessons program for Veterans meets on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. No charge. Guitar experience is not needed and we have guitars! Call the Veterans' Services office for details.

Warrior Within Yoga classes for Veterans and First Responders are held on Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. No charge. Call our office to register.

Our office recently installed a new display in the Town Hall lobby which highlights Women in the U.S. Military, and features some local SHEROES. Check out the display the next time you're visiting the Town Offices!

Holiday cards for deployed U.S. troops are available to sign in the Senior Center lobby. Please show your support and appreciation for our military service members and let them know they are not alone during the holiday season!

Please visit our web page at: www.franklinma.gov/335/Veterans-Services

Clubs at Dean College Enrich Student Life and the Franklin Community

At Dean College, students don't just attend college—they experience it. From the moment they arrive, they are encouraged to get involved, connect with others, and make the most of every opportunity on campus. With more than 40 active clubs and organizations, Dean offers a dynamic, close-knit community where students truly belong.

"We want our students to feel a sense of belonging, and by getting involved, these experiences not only make the college years fun, but also build valuable skills that last long after graduation," said David Drucker, Dean of Students.

From cultural and identity-based groups like the Black Student Union, Jewish Community Club, and Queer Pride Alliance to service-oriented organizations such as Active Minds, Crafting Kindness, and Dean Community Outreach, students come together around shared passions and values.

Creative expression thrives on campus as well. The Musical Theater Troupe and Jazz Club give performers a stage, while The Dean Daily Newspaper, The Dean News Network, Power 88 Radio, and the literary journal Wrote, Unquote offer platforms for students to elevate their voices.

Career-minded students gain hands-on experience through clubs like the Criminal Justice Club, Women in Business, and the Sports Management Club, each providing networking opportunities and real-world preparation that complement classroom learning. For those

who find their rhythm through movement and teamwork, groups such as the Table Tennis Club, Step Team, and Pom Team foster Bulldog spirit and camaraderie.

Leadership is another hallmark of the Dean experience. The Dean Activities Board (DAB) plans signature events that bring the community together, while the Student Government Association (SGA) ensures that student voices help shape campus life. Membership in honor societies including the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) and the Golden Key Honor Society helps students develop confidence and skills that serve them well beyond graduation.

"Our clubs and organizations give students the chance to explore their passions, meet new people, and develop skills that complement their academics," said Emma Mero, Director of Student Engagement and First Year Programs.

That connection extends beyond campus. Dean students are active participants in the Franklin community, volunteering, performing, and interning with local organizations. Their involvement enriches not only their own experience but also the town Dean calls home.

At Dean College, students find the best of both worlds: a supportive, close-knit community and the full college experience that helps them grow personally, academically, and professionally.

To learn more about Dean College, visit www.dean.edu.



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Use November to Finalize Year-End Success and Plan for 2026



Glenn Brown, CFP

November is a pivotal month for financial planning — the time to measure progress, make final strategic tax decisions for 2025, and prepare for 2026. Wait until December, and your finances might get lost somewhere between pumpkin pie and ugly holiday sweaters.

Here's what you do now to stay in control.

1. Review Your Planning Goals

Have you met savings and investment targets? Paid down debt? Improved spending habits? Reviewing your progress helps identify what to accelerate before December 31 and where

to focus in 2026.

2. Tax Planning Strategies

November is ideal for evaluating tax opportunities while there's still time to act.

- Does a Roth conversion or switching future 401(k) contributions to Roth make sense?
- If converting, what's your projected 2025 tax bracket, and how much room remains before moving up a bracket?
- Are you or a grandparent planning to gift more than \$19,000 to a child's 529 Plan?
- Are you self-employed and opening a Solo 401(k)? The plan must be created by December 31, though contributions can be made until your 2026 tax-filing deadline.

Regulatory Update & Gifting: The OBBA Act of 2025 made many TCJA provisions permanent, including lower income tax brackets and the higher standard deduction, so the expected 2026 "rate reset" won't occur. Some temporary provisions — like higher SALT

deduction limits and expanded child/education incentives — phase down later. Consider whether realizing income, Roth conversions, or charitable deductions in 2025 could improve your long-term tax plan.

The annual gift tax exclusion remains \$19,000 per recipient for 2025, and the federal lifetime gift and estate tax exemption rises to \$15 million per individual starting January 1, 2026. The top estate and gift tax rate stays 40%.

3. Open Enrollment and Workplace Benefits

Open enrollment is your yearly chance to review benefits:

- Does your health plan still meet your needs?
- Should you fund an HSA or FSA for pre-tax medical savings?
- Do supplemental life, disability, or dependent care benefits make sense?

Use Your FSA Before It Expires: FSAs are "use-it-or-lose-it." For 2025, employers may allow up to \$660 to carry over into 2026, or a 2½-month grace period—not both. If you don't use it, it's gone — unlike that leftover Halloween candy you

somehow keep eating through March.

4. Evaluate Your Investment Portfolio

Review your asset allocation and rebalance if needed. Diversification across asset classes — not just equities — helps manage risk.

If nearing retirement or expecting major expenses, plan how to access funds efficiently. Tailor your strategy by account type (taxable, traditional, Roth, HSA) to balance liquidity, growth, and tax efficiency.

5. Cash Flow & Emergency Savings

Review cash flow and savings. Retirees using a Bucket Strategy should replenish cash to cover short-term income gaps over 2–3 years. Working individuals should maintain 3–4 months of liquidity and access to credit (e.g., HELOC) for unexpected expenses.

6. Don't Forget Your RMDs

For 2025, the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) age remains 73. Inherited IRAs from non-spouses after 2019 require annual RMDs within the 10-year rule. Penalties have been

waived through 2025 but take effect January 1, 2026.

Conclusion

November is a month for reflection, gratitude, and preparation. Reviewing finances now can set you up for a stronger 2026 — and help you avoid that awkward moment when you realize you splurged on "holiday gifts" for yourself.

If you're unsure where to start, connect with your Certified Financial Planner® to finish 2025 strong and position yourself for success in the year ahead.

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

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

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Franklin Vietnam Vet Runs Army's 10-Mile DC Race

By NATALEE WEBB-RUBINO

At 70-years young, Army Veteran Tim App participated in the 41st running of the Army's 10-mile Road Race held in our nation's Capital on October 12th. This was Tim's first attempt at running in the DC event, and his very first 10-mile run!

Tim chose to run in this year's race in honor of the Army's 250th birthday and for the successes he has achieved from his service to our nation. Tim commented "I am running the Army 10-miler as a celebration of all that I have accomplished, and that all started with my decision to join the Army, although an active conflict, the Vietnam Conflict, was raging." He had voluntarily enlisted in the Army immediately following High School.

The 10-mile race which is comprised of military, civilian, wheelchair, and wounded warrior athletes, is conducted by the Army's Military District of Washington (MDW) whose op-



erations seek to deter, prevent, and respond to threats aimed at DC's Capital region. The Race's proceeds will benefit the Army's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) unit which provides resources and programs to the Army's population including families of those now serving our country.

After his honorable discharge from the Army, Tim moved to Massachusetts where he held various leadership roles within the Department of Corrections - for 27 years! Following his retirement in 2003, he became an adjunct Professor at both Northeastern University and Stonehill



Tim App at the beginning of his 10-mile journey in DC.

College where he taught Corrections Practices, Sex Offender Programming and Ethics for 22 years.

After completing his military duty, Tim took a hiatus from running. He resumed his running career after learning of his niece's toddler being diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. His niece started a 5K race to sup-



Tim (right) and his brother Tom at the finish line of the Army's 10-Miler. The armband with his grandniece's photo is visible on his arm.

port her daughter and other children suffering from this rare form of cancer and asked him to run in the event. Sadly, his grandniece passed away at age 3, and Tim carries a picture of her with him on his armband for each and every training run and racing event.

An active member of Franklin's American Legion Post 75, Tim serves as their Sergeant-

at-Arms and remarked that "The Post does a tremendous amount of community work and I felt it fitting to run the ATM for the first time, on behalf of the Post." He also supports the Franklin community through his work with the St. Vincent DePaul charity at St. Mary's. In addition, he works with Meals on Wheels delivering food to Franklin residents in need.

Natalee Webb-Rubino joined the Air Force in 1976 becoming its 1st female Aircraft Mechanic (Crew Chief) and at Kadena AFB in Okinawa, Japan. In 1999 she founded the 11K road race in Stoneham created to honor and recognize Veterans. In 2009 she became the City of Melrose's 1st female Veterans Service Officer. She was first in her family to attend college full-time, earning a bachelor's degree with honors from Bridgewater State University in 2019. Her essays on Veteran matters have been published in Franklin, North Attleboro, Melrose, Milford, and Stoneham

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Franklin’s Holiday Happenings & Gift Guide

Ready to View Online Nov. 29 with Ideas and Activities

Franklin’s Holiday Happenings & Gift Guide, created by the Franklin Downtown Partnership, will be online and ready to access on Saturday November 29th – just in time for Small Business Saturday. The Holiday Guide, on Franklin Downtown Partnership’s website at franklindowntownpartnership.org, spotlights all things Franklin, making it easy to shop local this December. The easy-to-read guide will list special sales, promotions, activities, and events for the season from FDP business members. Take a look for shopping, places to dine, services, and entertainment for the family.

The Holiday Guide includes unique gift ideas and special treats for upcoming holidays and other special occasions and includes special



holiday events and activities in town. It’s the perfect preview for ideas before you go out shopping. It’s easy because it’s all local. Support your local economy and enjoy shopping for gifts, food, clothing, activities, and luxury services for yourself and others through December 31. Follow the Downtown Partnership on Instagram and Facebook for updates on the guide and other events at: <https://www.instagram.com/franklindowntownpartnership/>

and <https://www.facebook.com/franklindowntownpartnership.org/> The Franklin Downtown Partnership is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization made up of more than 350 business owners, residents, and community leaders working to revitalize downtown Franklin. Residents can join the Downtown Partnership for \$25. Find out more at www.franklindowntownpartnership.org.

Be a Vendor at A Wreath of FranklinHoliday Pop-Up!

Brought to the Franklin Community by the Franklin Cultural Council, Franklin Cultural District Committee and the Department of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy.

This holiday season, THE BLACK BOX is partnering with A-Wreath-of-Franklin volunteers and will be transformed into a festive indoor market—filled with creativity, community spirit, and cool handmade goods.

We’re now accepting vendor inquiries from local makers, artisans, and creatives!

- Vendors keep 100% of their profits
- A thoughtfully curated marketplace ensures a lively mix of offerings
- A warm, welcoming venue in the heart of downtown Franklin

If you’re interested in joining this year’s celebration as a vendor; we’d love to hear from you. Simply fill out the inquiry form at <https://tinyurl.com/AWreatha2> Also coming up will be a link to sign up for the Community Wreath Program, where local families, artists, organizations, and businesses share decorated wreaths around town that tell their own unique stories. Visitors can view these beautiful creations throughout downtown and vote for their favorites, adding a fun, interactive element to the festivities. Visit <https://ma-franklin.civicplus.com/1174/2025-A-Wreath-of-Franklin> to learn more.



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Town Celebrates Accessibility & Artwork at Dean College MBTA Stop

On a rainy but happy Monday, October 20th, the MBTA hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Franklin/Dean Train Station to celebrate the opening of the new accessible ramp and the completion of the exterior mural by artist Kayla Nisbet.

The approach to making the station more accessible began over a year ago, when a Franklin resident brought lack of accessibility to the attention of the Franklin Commission on Disability.

The team then sent letters to Philip Eng, the General Manager and CEO of the MBTA, as well as to Rep. Jeffrey Roy.

Ali Rheume, Chairperson of the Franklin Commission on Disability, says, "This new accessible mini-platform is a huge improvement and benefit to the Town of Franklin. It resolved the main issue of the station formally being inaccessible with a solution that is even more impressive than we imagined! When it comes to

accessibility, it's important to consider the diversity of needs, not only physical mobility. There is a ramp for boarding the train, auditory announcements and a visual digital screen about the train's arrival or updates, proper signage including Braille, and a large visual map to refer to.

"The great part about all of this, is that accessibility helps everyone and harms no-one, continues Rheume, "A ramp helps someone with physical mobility needs and can also benefit someone traveling with a rolling suitcase. Auditory announcements help someone who may be blind or experience low vision and can also benefit someone who is checking emails, yet still hear train updates. Visual signs and digital board updates help someone who is deaf or hard of hearing and can also benefit someone who is on a phone call and wants to know how much longer they have to talk.



"We want to thank the MBTA and our state leaders for prioritizing this new platform at the Downtown MBTA station" said Jamie Hellen, Franklin Town Administrator. "This project has taken many years and a lot of coordination with town staff to get funded and constructed, but better late than never!"

Not only is the station more accessible, but it is now adorned with a beautiful mural by Franklin artist Kayla Nisbet, who was selected last year by the town to create the artwork.

"As we all know, the MBTA Train Depot has sat vacant and without any love for almost a decade, continued Hellen. "But this is the role of art: to help bring color and imagination to forgotten spaces, bringing life and attention to a historic structure. I can't thank Cory Shea enough for her tireless efforts to secure the permission from the MBTA to bring a beautiful mural that both brings color and modernism to the site, but also respects the Town's history. Kayla Nisbett did a great job and we know many will enjoy this new attention to the building. If anyone is interested in occupying the building, they should let us know and we will work with MBTA officials to bring life back to the Depot Station."

Artist Nisbet said she felt lucky to live in a town that values public art and thanked her slew of supporters, noting, "This mural celebrates our town and its namesake, Ben Franklin. More specifically, it celebrates the 116 books that he once donated that established America's First Public Library. You'll see some of the original titles and flourishes from the exact books around the mural."

When you put artwork on an empty building such as this charming little station, you tend to see the structure in a new light. People notice the art, and then they notice the town and then a transformation takes place. Care and meaning give way to respect and wonder and excitement for what is beyond the art."

In an effort to strengthen connections between creative businesses and the community, the MBTA is currently seeking tenants for the station's interior.

With accessible restrooms, convenient parking, and a prime location in downtown Franklin, this could be your moment to bring new energy and activity to this revitalized space. Want to brainstorm? Reach out to the Director of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy Cory Shea, cshea@franklinma.gov.

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Letter to the Editor:

Franklin Federated Looks to the Future

By Rev. Doreen Oughton

As the pastor of Franklin Federated Church, I've been asked a couple of important questions lately:

1. Are we selling the building?
2. Are we closing?

The short answers are:

1. Hopefully!
2. Absolutely not.

Our congregation understands that church is about the people, not the steeple. We continue to have vibrant ministries focused on worship, mission, justice, service, and community-building. What we've been discerning is the future of our building—not our faith community.

Our current building was designed to host hundreds of worshippers, multiple Sunday school

classes, and large gatherings like church suppers. Today, we have far fewer worshippers, no Sunday school, and no in-house suppers. Meanwhile, the building demands a growing share of our financial and physical resources—more than feels faithful to our mission.

As part of our discernment, we've asked: How might this beautiful, historic space be reimagined to better serve our community and values?

Knowing that the town's master plan includes a cultural arts center, we wondered: could our building become that center? The idea aligns deeply with our values of community care, creativity, and shared space—far more than, say, converting it to residential housing.

We reached out to the former town planner, and conversations began. Since then, the town has commissioned a feasibility study to explore whether a cultural

arts center here could be self-sustaining—meaning it wouldn't require taxpayer support. Encouragingly, the study says yes—and offers a vibrant vision of how the space could host art exhibits, performances, culinary events, and more.

The conversation is ongoing and will likely continue when the new Town Council begins its term in January. If the town decides to move forward, we'll explore options—perhaps continuing to worship in the space on Sunday mornings, or perhaps finding a new home. Either way, we are not closing. We are evolving.

We believe this transition can free us to more fully follow the movement of the Spirit—to make God's love and mercy even more evident in and through our community.

If you have questions or would like to tour the building and imagine the possibilities, please reach out: franklin.federated@gmail.com.



St. John's Christmas Fair Saturday, December 6

St. John's Church Christmas Fair is set for Saturday, December 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 237 Pleasant Street, Franklin. The event will feature a live nativity, with Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and real farm animals (sheep, goats, donkey) from 12-2 p.m.

Do your holiday shopping in one stop: Buy gift cards from popular restaurants and stores; silent auction and raffle items. Check out gift baskets with themes like sports, spa, health and wellness, and pet items. Give the gift of food, wine, coffees, or

teas. Appreciate unique, hand-made crafts? You'll love the beautiful fresh wreaths and greens, as well as cozy scarves, mittens, and hats.

Choose delicious treats like cookies, fudge and other baked goods at the Cookie Walk. Snacks and drinks can be purchased during the fair.

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

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Franklin UMC to Present Free Concert November 15

Church to Also Run Coat Drive at Locations in Town through December 6

Coming up at the Franklin United Methodist Church this month:

- **Community Concert @ Franklin UMC November 15:** will feature StickMan Blue feat & Kaye Kelly 7 p.m. Free. 82 West Central Street
- **Community Closet@ Franklin UMC:** Open for shopping on Tuesdays 12 -2 p.m. or by appointment. 82 West Central Street.
- **Franklin 2025 Winter Coat Drive from November 10 through December 6th:** People are encouraged to donate gently used or new coats to help Franklin- area neighbors. Donations can be dropped off at the following Franklin locations starting on November 10th through December 6th:
 - Franklin Fire Department 40 West Central Street
 - Franklin Police Department 911 Panther Way
 - Franklin United Methodist Church 82 West Central Street
 - New England Chapel 300 East Central Street
 - Hockomock YMCA 45 Forge Hill Road

Coat Drive Questions: Contact Kim Mu-Chow at NECCA-RES@NECHAPEL.ORG

Franklin Energy Program Announces New Supplier & Lower Rates

Franklin, MA – The Town of Franklin has signed a 36-month contract with a new electricity supplier, First Point Power. Beginning with the November 2025 meter reads, the Franklin Community Choice Power Supply Program will have a new rate of \$0.139 per kWh for its standard product which meets the state’s minimum renewable requirements (this is a change in renewable energy content). The Program will also now offer an additional, optional product that uses 100% Massachusetts Class I Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), at a rate of \$0.1659 per kWh.

The Town’s current contracted supply rate of \$0.151 per kWh with Dynegy Energy will expire with the November 2025 meter reads, at which time the new, lower contracted rate with First Point Power will take effect. This new rate is approximately 10% lower than National Grid’s current Residential Basic Service rate of \$0.1548 per kWh and 7% lower than Eversource’s current Residential Basic Service rate of \$0.1488 per kWh. Residents can expect to see an average savings of \$7 per month (National Grid) and \$6 per month (Eversource) for the months of November 2025 through January 2026.

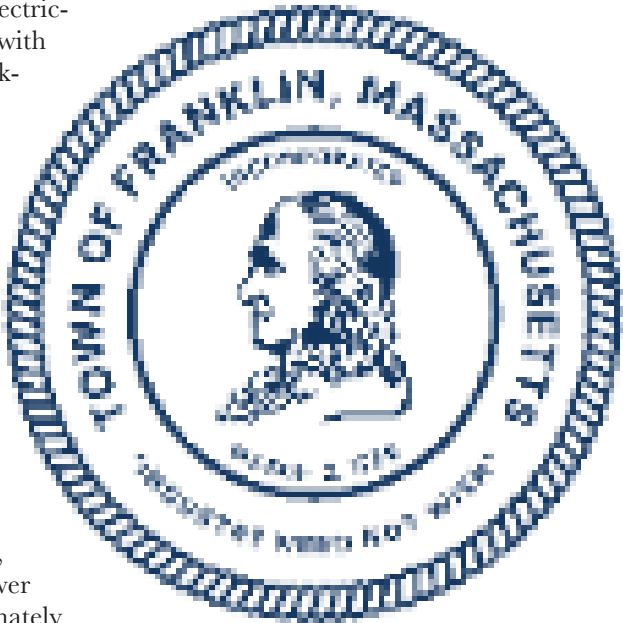
Residents who are already enrolled do not need to take any action to opt-in to this program with the standard product at a rate of \$0.139 per kWh. To opt-in with the optional 100% Massachusetts Class I Renewable Energy Certificates product at a rate of \$0.1659 per kWh, residents will need to visit colonialpowergroup.com/franklin or call First Point Power at (888) 875-1711.

Residents who are not already enrolled but would like to enroll will need to opt-in to the program. To opt-in, visit colonialpowergroup.com/franklin or call First Point Power at (888) 875-1711.

Anyone who is enrolled will see the new rate and “First Point Power” printed under the “Supply Services” section of their December 2025 bill.

The Franklin Community Choice Power Supply Program has no fees or charges. However, anyone switching from a contract with a third-party supplier may be subject to penalties or early termination fees charged by that supplier. Rate-payers should verify terms before switching.

Basic Service rates with National Grid and Eversource change twice a year or more, depending on rate class. As a result, the aggregation rate with First Point Power may not always be lower than the Basic Service rate. The goal of the aggregation is to deliver savings over the life of the pro-



gram against National Grid Basic Service. However, future savings cannot be guaranteed. Participants in the program are able to opt-out or re-enroll at any time.

National Grid has several programs to help income-eligible families and customers needing special assistance meet their energy needs. To learn more visit nationalgridus.com/MA-Home/Bill-Help/Payment-Assistance-Programs.

Residents may visit colonialpowergroup.com/franklin or call (866) 485-5858 ext. 1 to learn more about Franklin’s Community Choice Power Supply Program, to opt-in or opt-out, or to change product selection.

Residents may also visit the Town of Franklin’s Municipal Aggregation website at: <https://www.franklinma.gov/163/Municipal-Aggregation>

Franklin launched its electricity program in November 2020 in an effort to develop an energy program that would be stable, affordable and incorporate renewable energy. From inception through March 2025, the Program has saved residents and small businesses over \$16.6 million in electricity costs as compared to National Grid Basic Service.

About Colonial Power Group

Based in Marlborough, Mass., Colonial Power Group is the leading aggregation-consulting firm in Massachusetts. Colonial Power has been working with local governments since 2002 in the design, implementation and management of municipal aggregation programs.



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Amy Azza, Esq

Amy N. Azza, experienced attorney of 24 years, is accepting new clients for their estate planning needs for wills, trusts, powers of attorney and health care proxies.

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WHY YOU NEED A WILL

Wills can distribute your property, name an executor, name guardians for children, forgive debts and more. Having a will also means that you, rather than your state’s laws, decide who gets your property when you die.

WHY YOU NEED A HEALTH CARE PROXY

A health care proxy is a document that names someone you trust as your proxy, or agent, to express your wishes and make health care decisions for you if you are unable to speak for yourself.

WHY YOU NEED A DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY

A Durable Power of Attorney provides extensive power to the individual who is assigned that role. Absent an appointed Agent in a Durable Power of Attorney, it would be necessary for a family member or loved one to petition the court to become the guardian over the incapacitated person.



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Lownes to Do Demo for Franklin Art Association November 5th



Josy Lownes, Landscape.

The Franklin Art Association welcomes the public to our monthly public art demonstration featuring this month on Wednesday, November 5, Josy Lownes, both a painter and teacher. She has been a professional artist for the past 30 years; painting most of her time in Arizona and Rhode Island. Summers on an island give her inspiration for her landscapes and non-representational work. Her figurative pieces reflect her feelings for the single life, as well as relationships. She paints the human figure and groups to show the human desire for companionship and enjoying life together.

She has school background from Arizona State College and her master's from the University of Illinois. She holds memberships in the Utah Watercolor Society, Western Watercolor Societies and the Sonoran Arts League.

The public is invited to attend her art demonstration at the Franklin Senior Center at 6:30 p.m., Nov.5th. The FAA encourages members and the public to attend. Refreshments are served at the break, and we have an ongoing FAA Scholarship Fund to which attendees are invited to contribute.



Josy Lownes, Floral.

Josy Lownes, Urban Landscape.



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.

- November 6 – Jay Stone Davis – WWI
- November 7 – Lawrence J. Clark – WWI
- November 11 – Daniel E. McCahill – WWII
- November 30 – Robert L. Cummings – WWII

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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

A Season of Gratitude

By GINA WOELFEL

b.LUXE Owner Heather Cohen on What's Inspiring Her this Fall...

November always makes us pause and reflect on what we're thankful for, not just in life, but here at b.LUXE. What started as a dream has grown into something bigger than all of us could have imagined, and that's because of the people who show up every day.

When you enter the salon, you'll see over 35 women who genuinely, wholeheartedly support and respect each other. There's laughter, collaboration, and real encouragement. Clients feel it the moment they walk in.

Our Team - The Heart of b.LUXE

"What makes our team special isn't just talent, it's how we show up for each other," says Heather. "Jumping in to help during a busy Saturday, celebrating wins, or problem-solving together when challenges arise, there's a genuine care that runs through everything we do. It's the kind of environment where everyone feels valued, and that energy radiates to every person who walks through our doors."

When asked to pinpoint one thing she's especially proud of, Heather told me, "Watching our team work and grow together to help the junior staff and apprentices become confident stylists and estheticians. We don't refer to our clients as 'mine' or 'yours', we take care of every client together. That spirit is what makes this place so exciting."

Behind the Scenes

Running b.LUXE takes a village, and Heather knows she has the right people at the helm. "Angie, our salon manager, is the glue that holds everything together," she says. "She somehow manages to coordinate a million moving parts while keeping our front desk team in sync so no client ever feels overlooked. I really don't know what I'd do without her!"

"And speaking of our front desk team, you know how some people just have that gift of making you feel welcome the second you walk in? That's them," says Heather. "They keep things running smoothly even when we're completely slammed. The whole b.LUXE experience starts right there at the front desk, and we

mean it when we say we'd be lost without them."

A Salon That Gives Back

"From the beginning, I wanted b.LUXE to be more than a place to get your hair done, I wanted it to be somewhere people grow, learn, and feel supported, and that includes giving back to the community," says Heather. "This year, we've continued supporting organizations like PAWS New England, The Medway Food Pantry, Franklin Food Pantry, Stairs for Troops, The Santa Foundation, Gilly's House in Wrentham, The Hummingbird Foundation, and many of our surrounding towns' sports teams and school programs. We also fund our yearly scholarship with The Martello Institute of Beauty in Cancun, Mexico, covering two full cosmetology tuitions. Being the helping hand that helps future stylists pursue their dreams has always meant a lot to me."

Wigs and Toppers: A Mission Close to My Heart

"Of everything at b.LUXE, our Wigs and Toppers program has really become something special to me," says Heather. "After my own hair loss during rheumatoid arthritis treatment, I knew I wanted to help others going through the same thing. This year, we partnered with organizations like the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Foundation, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and hospitals across Boston to help women facing medical or age-related hair loss."

She continues, "Recently, I had the honor of being nationally featured on NBC News for this work. Seeing our mission recognized across the U.S. was humbling, and honestly a bit surreal. But the real reward is still sitting with a client, hearing her story, and helping her feel like herself again." Heather often tells her team, "Hair is never just about looks, it's about confidence, dignity, and feeling whole again."

Our Clients and Community

"To our clients: thank you for trusting us," says Heather. "You share your wedding days, your



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“ WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! ”

◉ Have an Upcoming Event?

◉ Do you have a concern about things Happening Around Town?

EMAIL
Editor@franklintownnews.com
& LET US KNOW!

fresh-start cuts, your vulnerable moments, and everything in between. That trust means everything to us."

She continues, "I also want to give a huge shout-out to Medway and our surrounding MetroWest communities. We're so lucky to be part of a town that truly supports local businesses and shows up for each other. From our amazing neighbors here at the Medway Mills to fellow business owners who cheer us on, to the people who stop by just to say hello, this community has embraced b.LUXE in ways I never expected. You've celebrated our wins, referred your friends and family, and made us feel like we truly belong here. That kind of support doesn't go unnoticed, and we're so grateful to call Medway home."

"And if you haven't heard yet, we're running our most popular special, now through the end of the year: Buy 3, Get 1 FREE on all retail products. Stock up on your favorites or get a head start on holiday gifting!"

Heather adds, "This holiday season, we're proud to support The Santa Foundation, and we'd love your help donating to families in need. Scan the QR code above for their donation link. I'm so grateful for each of you. Thank you for being part of this journey and making b.LUXE what it is today."

With gratitude,
Heather Cohen
Owner, b.LUXE Hair and Makeup

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Join in Moonlight Bliss at Franklin Food Pantry November 6th

Come out to join us for a fun start to your friends night out. Bring a friend or come alone to have some laughs and spread a little paint. All experience levels welcome.

Time & Location

November 6, 2025, 5-7 p.m.

Franklin Food Pantry, 341 W
Central St, Franklin

About the event

Come out to enjoy an evening
filled with a delightful blend of

music and painting, setting the perfect tone for a memorable night out with friends and family.

This unique event inspires creativity and fosters connections among attendees, so gather your loved ones, unleash your creativity, while enjoying a wonderful evening together!

Visit <https://www.paintingvenus.art/event-details/moonlight-bliss-1> to purchase tickets.

One Hour of 168

Sunday, November 16, 2025, 10 a.m., FUSF

Amid busy schedules and constant demands, the one hour a week we spend together in worship shapes our perspectives and strengthens our bonds throughout the remaining 167 hours. Please join us as FUSF member Peter Dennis leads a discussion celebrating this hour as a unique opportunity for reflection and growth, both individually and as a loving community.

Peter Dennis is a member of FUSE. The author and sales consultant works at Babson College as Senior Director for Babson's Professional & Executive Education.

The First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF), 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin, is a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation. Our Minister is Reverend Beverly Waring. For more information, please visit



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

Franklin LGBTQ Alliance Events for November

Friendsgiving

Thursday November 6th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Franklin TV and Radio 23 Hutchinson Street, Franklin

Join us as we have our very own friendsgiving! If you would like to bring a side dish or dessert, please bring an ingredient list due to food allergies.

Queer Book Club

Wednesday November 19th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Franklin TV and Radio 23 Hutchinson Street, Franklin. Join us as we discuss *Myra Breckenridge*, by Gore Vidal. This book is available in print, as an ebook, and as an audiobook.

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November Happenings at Franklin Historical Museum

Sat. Nov. 15 – The SATURDAY ‘Second Sunday Speaker Series’-- The Early Days of the Franklin Y

But long-before the 1988 Y at Forge Hill came into existence, the Y was a vital part of the Franklin Community that actually got its start in 1901. Joe Landry, will deliver this talk and slide show called. “The YMCA in Franklin: The Early Years.” Joe will delve into the building, the lore, the personalities and the times in which this Y -- aimed especially at the needs of young men -- was a vital community resource. The program starts at 1:15.



Don Krishnaswami is one of the renowned string musicians that comprise the LiveARTS String Quartet, back for a performance at the Franklin Historical Museum at 3 p.m. on November 16th. The concert is free, but donations are accepted.



On November 15th, Joe Landry will give a historic talk on the rich background of the YMCA in Franklin.

Sun. Nov. 16 – Music at the Museum, LiveARTS String Quartet

The LiveARTS String Quartet is back!! Come hear world-class musicians perform string quartet masterworks by Mozart, Beethoven, and Brahms. Admission to this single concert is free, with voluntary donations gratefully received. Donate through the QR code and help the LASQ establish a regular concert series in Franklin! The museum is open for extended hours, from 1-5. The performance will begin at 3 p.m.

CINEMA 80, final Showing in the Italian Film Festival

In cooperation with the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America Lodge, the museum

will show a **free Italian-themed film on Saturday Nov. 1 at 4 p.m.** Check the museum website or Facebook page for changes.

The Franklin Historical Museum is located at 80 West Central Street, Franklin. The museum is open Saturday mornings from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (except as noted above), Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m., and, experimentally, most Thursdays from noon to 5p.m. (ring the bell).

When visiting the museum, please consider donating a non-perishable item for the Franklin Food Pantry.

Questions? Contact Alan Earls at (508) 560-3786. Visit us online at <https://www.franklin-museum1778.org>

LiveARTS String Quartet Returns to Franklin for Classical Masterworks Program



Franklin, MA - The Franklin-based LiveARTS String Quartet is pleased to announce that it will appear in concert on November 16, 2025, at 3 p.m. at the Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St. in Franklin. Admission to the concert is free, with voluntary donations at the door gratefully accepted.

The program will include masterworks by Mozart, Beethoven, and Brahms, offering a rich and engaging experience for music lovers.

Founded in 2009 by violist Donald Krishnaswami, the LiveARTS String Quartet features some of the Boston area's finest professional string players. The members of the Quartet include Gregory Vitale and

Katherine Winterstein, violins, Donald Krishnaswami, viola, and guest cellist Emmanuel Feldman.

Born of Franklin's popular LiveARTS concert series, the group served as the organization's string quartet-in-residence from 2009 until LiveARTS' dissolution in 2025. For twenty-five years, LiveARTS brought world-class classical chamber music performances to the Franklin community. Now operating independently, the LiveARTS String Quartet is working to build a regular season of exceptional live performances to audiences in Franklin and other southwestern suburbs of Boston, maintaining the high artistic standards established

during its time with LiveARTS.

Those who are excited at the prospect of the LiveARTS String Quartet growing out of the foundation that LiveARTS built, are encouraged to become pioneer donors, helping establish the LASQ as a permanent presence in the community. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/LiveArtsString4> to donate, or contact Donald Krishnaswami at liveartsma@gmail.com.

Join the LiveARTS String Quartet in concert on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at 3 p.m. at the Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central Street, Franklin. Admission is free, with voluntary donations gratefully accepted at the door.

GET NOTICED!

**For rates and info on advertising your business,
please call Jen at 508-570-6544
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Franklin Newcomers
50th & Final Craft
Fair, November 8th

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

Come support local artisans in your community and local non-profit organizations by attending the Franklin Newcomers & Friends 50th Annual Craft Fair. This will be the last year the Franklin Newcomers, which is disbanding, will hold this event. Next year, they will pass the torch to Rotary Club of Franklin, MA.

Our juried 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, 147 Pond Street in Franklin. There is a \$3 entry fee for anyone over 12 years of age.

We typically showcase close to 70 Artisans. In addition, you'll find our 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 at the entrance.

Through 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 Turkey Trot Gets Thanksgiving Day Up & Running

Franklin, MA —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. Participants can enjoy 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.

Registration:

- Where: Start and finish from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 91 Jordan Road, Franklin, MA 02056
- 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.

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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November 2025 Highlights at Franklin Public Library

Franklin Public Library's 2025 Reading Challenge!

November: Cultivate Kindness!

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 that's good at the library's Book Sale. Submissions MUST be submitted by the last day of each month in order to qualify for that month's Free Book Coupon. For complete details, visit our website! Grand prizes made possible by the Friends of the Franklin Library!

Franklin Public Library VITA: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

We Need You! for the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs... better known as VITA and TCE.

Many volunteer roles are available. You can help as a greeter, an interpreter, and many other roles, but most of all, we need tax preparers. Training for certification is provided!

Learn more at <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/irs-tax-volunteers> or email 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 its 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

DINO-vember Party Saturday, November 15, 10:30 a.m.

Petite Picassos Monday, November 17, 4 p.m., ages 6-12, Registration Required.

Fairytale Fun Saturday, November 22, 10:30 a.m.

Special Events for Teens

Teensgiving Wednesday, November 19, 5 p.m. Bring along your favorite snack and your appetite and kick off the thanksgiving holiday with friends!

Special Events for Adults

Painting for Adults Saturday November 1, 1 p.m., Registration Required.

Watercolors Workshop Monday November 3 & 24, 6 p.m., Registration Required

Restoring the Promise: A Discussion About Immigration Policy & the Path Forward Tuesday November 4, 6:30 p.m.

Craftalong for Adults Saturday November 8, 2 p.m. Registration Required.

Special Events for All Ages

Chess Club Saturday November 1, 2:30 p.m. All ages and ability levels are welcomed.

Slime Time November 12, 1 p.m.

Holiday Heroes! An Interactive Adventure! November 13, 1 p.m., with local heroes from the Franklin Fire Department to prepare for a safe and healthy holiday season!

Science Chefs Make Butter Saturday November 22, 2 p.m.

Santa Story Walk Saturday November 29, 10:30 a.m., family program

Franklin Library Book Sale

Friday, November 14th, 1-5 p.m. Saturday, November 15th, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Books \$1

Bag Sale - \$5 A Bag—Saturday, November 15th, 1-4 p.m.

Franklin Senior Center Highlights for November

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

November 3, 1:30 p.m., 50+ Job Seekers: Protecting Yourself from Job Scams

November 4, 10:30-12:30 p.m., Senior Players

November 5, 1 p.m., Joe Landry Talks, Schools of Franklin: The Early Years

November 7, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Caregiver Appreciation Day: All programs canceled, Cafe closed--We're inviting all caregivers! Those caring for parents, spouses, grandparents, or loved ones, please join us for a special day of recognition, relaxation, and gratitude. Mini Spa & Wellness Services, Refreshments, Raffles & Giveaways, Entertainment & Music, Resource Tables & Community Support. **FREE ADMISSION • ALL CAREGIVERS WELCOME**, RSVP Appreciated—RSVP required for your loved one in our dedicated activity room while you are here.

November 12, 1 p.m., Community Connect with Franklin Fire Department: Come learn about Community Connect and create a profile to enter your information so first responders can most effectively help you in the event of an emergency.

November 13, 1-2 p.m., Intro to Amigurumi Crochet; 4 p.m. PIZZA & MOVIE, \$5: Superman 2025

November 14, 1:30 p.m., Panel Discussion on Italian Immigrant Experiences, filmed by Franklin TV. 5-6 panelists. Hosted by Sons & Daughters of Italy

November 17, 1:30 p.m., 50+ Job Seekers: All About LinkedIn Profile and Job Search

November 18, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Senior Players Performance, begins at 11

November 18, 1 p.m., Understanding Key Differences Between Caregiver Companions, PCAs, HHAs, and CNAs

November 19, 12:30 p.m., Reiki Meditation, 1 p.m., Memory Café with live entertainment by Steve McGovern

November 20, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Senior Players Performance, begins at 11

November 21, 11 a.m., Beatlemania & Friendsgiving, \$10, FREE professional photos by Vicario Studio, with Abbey Road backdrop, full turkey dinner and pumpkin pie, live entertainment featuring Studio Two, tribute band of The Beatles

Franklin Family Needs Help

A Franklin family is facing eviction on top of struggling with health problems, Local Town Pages learned, thanks to a submission. Dawn Megna, and her husband Rick are currently both out of work, diagnosed within 15 months of each other with lung cancer. Their friend Dawn, who created a Go FundMe for the couple, writes, "They're good hearted and hard-working people who are in the midst of the most challenging time

of their lives. They desperately need assistance, and I'm reaching out to anyone who could help me get the word out about their current predicament ... They also have a teenage daughter Ashley who is medically disabled. It's a tough situation all around and I'm trying to do my part to help them."

If you would like to donate to help the Megnas, visit GoFundMe <https://go-fund.me/4482e15ab>.

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

Happy Thanksgiving!







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Resilient Rhythms: A Teen’s Story of Strength Through Dance

Franklin, MA — Franklin High School junior Tanavi Balaji recently marked a remarkable milestone with her Arangetram, the traditional solo debut in Bharatanatyam, one of India’s oldest and most revered classical dance forms. Known for its intricate movements, expressive storytelling, and rhythmic precision, Bharatanatyam demands years of dedication and discipline.

The Arangetram, which means “ascending the stage,” represents a dancer’s formal graduation after years of rigorous training. Tanavi began her journey at age five and delivered a performance that was both powerful and graceful, leaving the audience mesmerized by her artistry and emotional depth.

Her extraordinary dedication drew recognition from Mass. State Rep. Jeffrey N. Roy, who presented her with an accolade, and Mass. State Senator Rebecca L. Rausch, who honored her for her artistic achievements and contributions to cultural enrichment. Both leaders praised her for using art to inspire others and foster the well-being of the



community. The celebration was further graced by Professor Kaye Kelly, Senior Faculty at Berklee College of Music, who spoke of

dance as a transformative force that softens hearts and unites people through its universal language.



FHS Junior Tanavi Balaji recently reached the level of performing her Arangetram, the traditional solo debut in Bharatanatyam. She is shown with Berklee Professor Kaye Kelly above and Rep. Jeff Roy left. All are from Franklin.

Beyond her technical skill and stage presence, Tanavi dedicated her Arangetram to promoting emotional & mental resilience,

highlighting dance as a universal language of healing and expression. “Dance allows us to feel, express, and come together,” she said. “It transforms every emotion, whether joy, sadness, hope, or love, into strength that uplifts and inspires communities.”

“In today’s ever-changing world, it is important to pause and celebrate what brings us together through art, culture, and compassion,” Tanavi added. Her Arangetram was both a personal triumph and a testament to resilience, inclusivity, and the power of art to unite communities. Moments like these remind us that creativity and culture can inspire, heal, and leave a lasting impact on all who experience them.

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Ten FHS Students Commended by National Merit Scholarship Corporation

One Named Semifinalist for Merit Scholar Award

Franklin, MA - A Franklin High School student was named as a Semifinalist for a National Merit Scholarship by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), while 10 fellow seniors were honored as Commended Students.

The 10 Franklin High seniors recognized as Commended Students by NMSC as part of its 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program include the following: Arden Meyer, Ridika Gandla, Aodhfionn Downs, Charles Nash, Krithi Rajesh, Emma Anderson, Arsh Tyagi, Jonathan Mabardy, Keshan Kumar and Pranava Ponvinayagan.

They join about 34,000 Commended Students from throughout the country who are now being honored by NMSC for their exceptional academic promise. They were originally identified from a group of 50,000

top finishers in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, also known as the Preliminary SAT, serving as the initial screen of program entrants.

Franklin High School senior Gavin Warnakulasooriya was named as a Semifinalist for a National Merit Scholarship after taking the Preliminary SAT.

NMSC recently named more than 16,000 Semifinalists in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program, who each have an opportunity to further demonstrate high academic achievement and leadership in an application for 6,930 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million, along with the title of Merit Scholar. (More than 1.3 million juniors took the Preliminary SAT last year, meaning the nationwide pool of semifinalists represents about 1% of U.S. high school seniors.)



Franklin High School senior Gavin Warnakulasooriya was named Semifinalist for a National Merit Scholarship after taking the Preliminary SAT. (Photos Courtesy Franklin Public Schools)

Superintendent Lucas Giguere and Principal Maria Weber congratulated Franklin High School's 10 Commended Students and its National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist.



Ten students from Franklin High School were named Commended Students by National Merit Scholarship Corporation. From left to right, Arden Meyer, Ridika Gandla, Aodhfionn Downs, Charles Nash, Krithi Rajesh, Emma Anderson, Arsh Tyagi, Jonathan Mabardy and Keshan Kumar. Pranava Ponvinayagan (not pictured) was also honored as a Commended Student.

"I am thrilled to see our students acknowledged for their dedication, hard work and achievements," Principal Weber said in congratulating the students. "Their accomplishments in the classroom are inspiring and demonstrate their outstanding potential."

"We are immensely proud of our Franklin High School

seniors who earned recognition from NMSC as a Commended Student or National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist," said Superintendent Giguere. "These academic achievements are a demonstration of the drive, hard work, and talents of our students. We're grateful that they are all now being celebrated for these accomplishments."

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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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The Stony Brook Camera Club meets in-person and/or virtually on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. from September to June. In person meetings are held at the Anglican Church of the Redeemer, 195 Main Street, Franklin, Mass. Our meetings feature speakers, competitions, image studies, and discussions of general interest. We also sponsor a number of photography activities and workshops throughout the year.

SBCCL includes and welcomes members of all abilities.

Highlights for November include "Digital Apps for Planning Photo Shoots," with Paul Nguyen, on November 13th, an Image Study with Ray Guillette on November 20th and a number of competitions.

See our website: stonybrookcc.com for a calendar of events and membership information.

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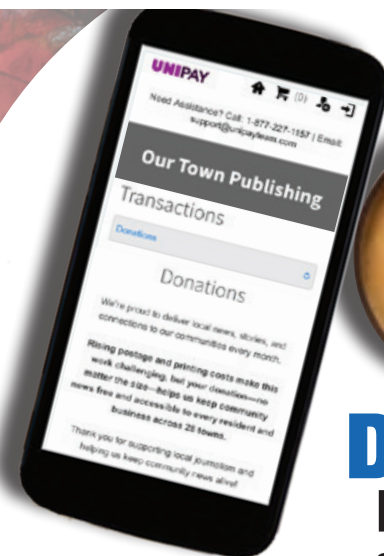
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Living Healthy

What It Is and How to Treat It

By ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D.
MILFORD FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of preventable blindness, affecting millions of people worldwide. Often called the “silent thief of sight,” glaucoma usually develops slowly and without symptoms. By the time people notice vision changes, significant and irreversible damage may already have occurred.

So, what exactly is glaucoma, and how is it treated today? Let’s take a closer look at this common but serious eye condition—and the many advanced treatments now available.

What Is Glaucoma?

Inside your eye, a clear fluid called aqueous humor circulates to nourish tissues and maintain healthy pressure. Normally, this fluid drains through tiny channels. In glaucoma, those channels become blocked or don’t work

properly. Pressure builds up and damages the optic nerve—the cable that carries visual signals from your eye to your brain. The most common type, called open-angle glaucoma, develops slowly over time. Other forms, like angle-closure glaucoma or normal-tension glaucoma, are less common but can also cause vision loss.

How Is Glaucoma Detected?

Because glaucoma often has no warning signs, regular eye exams are essential. Your eye doctor can measure your eye pressure, examine your optic nerve, perform a visual field test, and use imaging (like OCT scans) to look for early damage. Detecting glaucoma early is the best way to preserve your vision.

Treatment Options

The main goal in treating glaucoma is to lower eye pressure and protect the optic nerve.

Fortunately, there are now many options—from simple eye drops to sophisticated laser and surgical procedures.

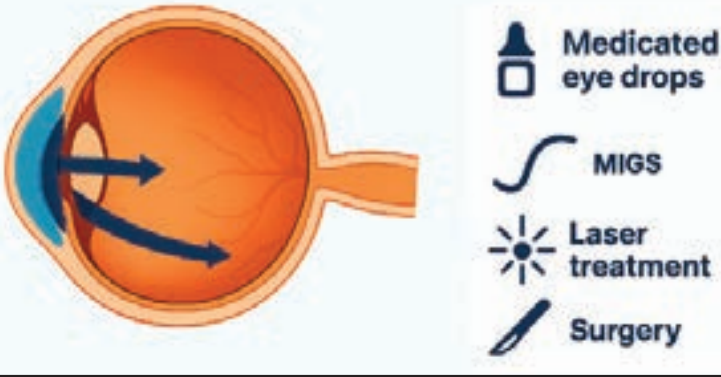
1. Eye Drops

Eye drops are usually the first line of defense. They either help your eye drain fluid better or slow down its production.

- **Prostaglandin Analogs** (like latanoprost, bimatoprost, and travoprost): These are among the most common and effective glaucoma drops. They’re typically used once a day and can lower eye pressure well. Some patients may notice red eyes, longer eyelashes, or a slight darkening of the iris or eyelid.

Now, there’s an exciting new advancement: **iDose TR**—a tiny injectable device placed inside the eye that slowly re-

GLAUCOMA TREATMENT



leases medication over many months, so patients don’t have to use daily drops. Another long-lasting option is **Durysta**, a biodegradable implant that steadily delivers medicine inside the eye. These treatments reduce the burden of daily drop use and help maintain consistent eye pressure.

- **Beta Blockers** (like timolol): These reduce the eye’s fluid production. They’re effective but can sometimes cause fatigue, slower heart rate, or breathing issues in patients with asthma.
- **Alpha Agonists** (like Brimonidine) and **Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors** (like Dorzolamide): These drops also lower eye pressure in different ways, though they can cause dryness, mild stinging, or allergic reactions in some patients.

For those who struggle to remember daily drops or experience side effects, these new sustained-release options are changing how we manage glaucoma and are quickly replacing drops as first line of treatment:

2. Laser Treatment (SLT)

Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty, or SLT, is a gentle, in-office laser procedure that helps the eye’s natural drainage system work better. It takes only a few seconds, is painless, and can lower pressure just as well as daily drops for many patients. SLT is safe, repeatable, and eliminates the need to remember medications (drops)—it’s a great choice for many patients. SLT is quickly replacing drops as first line treatment for glaucoma.

3. Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS)

For patients needing more pressure reduction—or those already having cataract surgery—MIGS procedures are an excellent option. These involve placing tiny stents or micro-devices (like the iStent, Hydrus Microstent, or Xen Gel Stent) to improve drainage through small, self-sealing incisions. Recovery is usually quick, and the risks are lower than with traditional surgeries.

4. Advanced Glaucoma Surgeries

In more advanced cases, or when other treatments aren’t enough, traditional surgeries can achieve stronger pressure control.

- **Trabeculectomy:** This surgery creates a new pathway for fluid to drain from the eye.
- **Aqueous Shunt or Tube Implants:** These use small drainage tubes to help fluid leave the eye safely.

Although these procedures require close follow-up, they remain highly effective for patients with advanced glaucoma, however they are risky procedures.

In Summary

The good news is that glaucoma care has advanced tremendously. From effective drops and innovative implants like iDose TR and Durysta, to gentle laser treatments and modern microsurgeries, we have more tools than ever to protect your sight.

The key is early detection and ongoing care. Regular eye exams allow your doctor to catch glaucoma before it causes permanent

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EYE

continued from page 24

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At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we are committed to offering the latest advancements in glaucoma care, including iDose TR. We are proud to have performed one of the first iDose TR procedures in New England at our Cataract and Surgery Center of Milford. As a leader in advanced eye care technology, we are thrilled to be among the pioneers of this groundbreaking treatment. Our surgery and surgeon were featured in a segment broadcasted on Channel 5 TV. We are available for second opinions and dedicated to providing world-class outcomes.

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Register O'Donnell Announces 2025 Holiday Food Drive

November 12th through December 18th

Dedham, MA – Many individuals and families in Norfolk County are finding it increasingly difficult to afford basic necessities like food, especially during the holiday season, when the pressure to provide for loved ones intensifies. In response, Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell is encouraging residents to support the Annual Registry of Deeds Food Drive, which begins Wednesday, November 12th and continues through Thursday, December 18th.

"There is no doubt that Norfolk County is a desirable place to live and work," said Register O'Donnell. "However, many people who live in the communities of this county are facing challenging circumstances. This year, we have seen a grow-

ing demand for food assistance, and it is essential that we come together as a community to support those in need. By participating in the Annual Registry of Deeds Food Drive, we can make a meaningful difference this holiday season."

According to the latest statistics from Project Bread, 37% of households in Massachusetts are considered food insecure. Rising costs for housing and groceries are key contributors to this troubling trend.

"Community donations are the lifeblood of the food pantry," said Deborah Devine, Executive Director of the Ecumenical Community Food Pantry of Norwood. "Every can of soup or box of pasta donated provides lifesaving nutrition to our neighbors."

The Greater Boston Food Bank reports that child-level food insecurity—where parents must reduce or alter the food their children eat due to financial constraints—affected 43% of households with children in Massachusetts in 2024.

"As the holidays approach, the need for food assistance becomes even more urgent," Register O'Donnell added. "Higher household expenses, including heating fuel and food costs, are placing additional strain on families. These rising costs disproportionately affect some Norfolk County residents, leaving them worried about how they'll meet their food needs. Let's be mindful this Thanksgiving that others may need our help."

Donations of non-perishable food items can be dropped off at

the Registry of Deeds, located at 649 High Street in Dedham, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. A donation bin will be available in the lobby. Suggested items include canned goods,

If you're unable to visit the Registry of Deeds in person, you can find a food pantry near you by visiting the Registry's website at www.norfolkdeeds.org.

To learn more about these and other Registry of Deeds events and initiatives, "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/norfolkdeeds. Follow us on X and Instagram at @norfolkdeeds. In addition to its Dedham location, you can find the Norfolk Registry of Deeds at www.norfolkdeeds.org, or reach them at (781) 461-6101 or at register-odonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.



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Summer Reading Success a Boost at Franklin Middle School

Franklin, MA — When more than 1,000 students walked into Franklin Middle School this September, they already shared something in common: the books they read over the summer.

The summer reading program, a long-standing requirement in Franklin Public Schools, calls on students to read at least two books over the break to support both academic growth and social-emotional development.

This year, as Franklin Middle School welcomed students into a newly reorganized building, the leadership team sought to take the program a step further.

“Our goal was simple: to ensure that every Franklin Middle School student entered the year not only as a reader, but also with a shared story that could spark conversations, build community, and ease the transition into a brand-new school,” said Erin O’Leary, Reading Specialist at Franklin Middle School.

Six titles were selected for the program, each centered on

a middle school-aged character navigating challenges familiar to students. They were: *Twerp* by Mark M. Goldblatt; *The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman* by Gennifer Choldenko; *Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan; *Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga; *Fast Break* by Mike Lupica; and *Bye Forever, I Guess* by Jodi Meadows.

The effort was met with strong participation: 75 percent of students completed the required reading, with some choosing to read multiple books. When the school year began, teachers set aside time for students to gather by book title and share reflections with classmates.

Students reported that the program made reading more enjoyable and also provided a way for them to bond with their peers.

“Having a list made it easier to choose,” one student shared.

Another said, “I picked it because my friend was reading it, and we wanted to read the same thing.”



Franklin Middle School students discuss books they read over the summer after returning to school in September. (Photo Courtesy Franklin Public Schools)

Through these shared stories, Franklin Middle School’s summer reading program helped prevent summer learning loss while also building community among students.

“This experience shows the power of books to unite students,” said Superintendent Lucas Gugiere. “It gave our students common ground to start conversations, build friendships, and feel at home in their new school.”

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Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild Biennial Quilt Show March 14th & 15th

The Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild is pleased to announce that it’s biennial quilt show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 14th and 15th, 2026 at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical Show in Upton, Massachusetts. The Guild has selected “Creating Comfort” as their show theme. This theme reflects not only the members’ love of quilting but also reflects the guild’s mission and fundraising efforts. Over 200 member quilts as well as guild challenges and round robins will be on display. Also included at the show will be a special raffle quilt, the Quilters’ Boutique, raffle baskets, and local area vendors. Any local area vendor wishing to participate in the Guild’s show should contact Deb Hudgins by mail at TPQG, P.O. Box 447, Mendon, MA 01756.

The guild has chosen “Home Base” as the show’s special fundraiser. All funds raised through the sale of items at the special fundraiser table will be donated directly to Home Base. Home Base is a Red Sox Foundation dedicated to healing the invisible wounds of veterans, service members, and their families through clinical care, wellness, education and research. The 2026 show is being chaired by Gina Brooks, Donna Hopkins, and Val Ogilvie.

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Merit Scholarships Opportunities

True or False?

- Merit scholarships are only awarded to students who have financial need. FALSE.
- Merit scholarships are only offered to the highest-achieving students at a school. FALSE.
- Once you earn a merit scholarship, you cannot lose it. FALSE.
- Merit scholarships are offered at Ivy League colleges. FALSE.

These are just a few of the many misconceptions about merit scholarships. In reality, a wide range of students are eligible for merit scholarships- not just a select few. And, with the cost of higher education increasing each year, scholarships are becoming an essential way to help fund a college education. It is important to know the facts.

What's True?

- Merit scholarships are a type of financial aid that is NOT awarded based on the family's financial need, but determined by the student's demonstrated academic and/or personal achievement during their high school years.
- While strong academics are important, students do not need to have straight A's to

earn merit. Scholarships are often awarded based on a combination of factors such as grade point average, standardized test scores, extracurricular activities, community service, leadership, work experience, major, geographical area, or unique talents. Awards are also used to encourage diversity, participation in certain majors, and to increase enrollment for out-of-state students.

- Most merit scholarships are renewable for four years, but students must typically maintain a minimum GPA and full-time status to keep them, so families should review renewal requirements. Also, be aware that some colleges require students to apply by an earlier deadline, such as University of Connecticut that has a priority deadline of December 1st to be considered for merit. Check the websites.

- If a college is a student's top choice, it's sometimes possible to appeal a merit award, especially with new accomplishments or a more affordable offer from a similar college.
- Colleges are the largest resource for merit scholarships. It is a common practice for colleges to auto-

matically award merit scholarships upon a student's acceptance if the student meets the academic requirements. Although some colleges may require a separate application, interview, supplemental essay, audition review, or portfolio review to award the student a merit scholarship. It is important to understand the merit process for each college- research the college website!

- A student is more likely to earn a merit scholarship at a school where they would be considered a top student in the applicant pool, such as a "likely" school versus a "reach" school. A college that is considered a "likely" for a student could open the door for the student to be admitted into the college's honors program which could result in a larger merit scholarship.
- Though the great majority of colleges offer merit scholarships, there are several colleges that do not. The Ivy League schools, along with many of the top selective schools, such as Bates College and Stanford University, generously meet full-financial need, but do not offer academic merit. Review the admission and financial aid webpage for



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

each college to determine the merit opportunities.

- The Net Price Calculator (NPC), available on all college websites, allows families to input the family's financials to determine an estimate of their need-based financial aid. Several of the private colleges allow families to input both the student's academic profile and family financials which will then provide an estimate of their need-based financial aid and merit scholarships that the student may receive.
- There are many ways to apply for outside scholarships (private). There are three main resources we recommend: (1) We love Going Merry- it is a one-stop shopping website for scholarships, with tutorials

to make it easy to navigate and send out applications; (2) The high school's Guidance Counseling office supplies local community scholarship opportunities, usually available after the new year of senior year; and (3) The student's or parents' employment may offer scholarship opportunities as well- contact the Human Resource department to ask.

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

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Hear One of the Oldest Church Organs in New England!

This year, the William Goodrich organ at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wrentham is 200 years old.

Originally built in 1825 for the Universalist Church in Providence, Trinity Church has been the organ's home since 1915.

To celebrate this milestone, the church is presenting opportunities to hear this amazing instrument. The events will be held at the church on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. Following each event, refreshments will be served in the church parish hall. There is no admission charge, but a donation to support the maintenance of the organ is requested.

On November 9, prominent Boston-area organist Peter Sykes will present a recital illustrating the organ's full potential as a solo instrument. Mr. Sykes is a well-known performer on keyboards of all types and has been Director of Music at First Church in Cambridge since 1986. He is a teacher and recording artist and is currently Associate Professor of Music and Chair of the Historical Performance Department at Boston University. The recital will be preceded by a presentation about the organ's history and its builder, William Marcellus Goodrich. The presentation will be given by Matthew Bellocchio of Andover Organ Company, which has maintained the instrument since 1968.

On November 16, there will be a Four-Person Organ Recital. This recital brings together four musicians with strong connections to Trinity Episcopal Church "back home" to celebrate their associations with this instrument. The performers are Lorna Russell, Organist Emerita and former Director of Music at Trinity Church, Philip Hall, pianist and substitute organist at the church, David Burnham, currently Director of Music at St. Gabriel's Church in Marion, Massachusetts, and Rick Duthe, current Director of Music at the church.

Please join us for these events as we celebrate an instrument that has been making good music for 200 years!

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Photo by The Shain family

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Calendar

November 1 Cinema 80: 4 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, Italian-themed films, presented by Franklin Senior Center and Sons & Daughters of Italy	November 9 Prominent Boston-area organist Peter Sykes recital on Trinity Church's William Goodrich organ, 3 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 47 East St., Wrentham, free but donations accepted
November 4 Franklin Biennial Town Election, 6 a.m.- 8 p.m., Franklin High School, 218 Oak St., Franklin Restoring the Promise: A Discussion About Immigration Policy & the Path Forward, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin 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	November 11 Veterans' Day Luncheon, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Elks Lodge #2136, 1077 Pond St., Franklin, Franklin USAF Veteran Ronald Seyffert featured speaker. Vets welcome. FHS Chorus to perform. Reservations required. (508) 613-1315, www.franklinma.gov/335/Veterans-Services 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
November 5 Franklin Art Association meeting, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, featured artist Jossy Lownes FHS Chamber Concert, 6:30 p.m., Franklin High School auditorium, 218 Oak St., Franklin, Snow date for this concert is the following day, November 6.	November 14 Franklin Public Library Book Sale, 1-5 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, books \$1
November 6 Franklin LGBTQ Alliance Friendsgiving, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Franklin TV and Radio 23 Hutchinson Street, Franklin, Join us! If you would like to bring a side dish or dessert, please bring an ingredient list due to food allergies.	November 15 "Third Saturday," (this month only) Speaker Series: The Early Days of the Franklin Y, 1:15 p.m., doors open 1 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, Free Community Concert: StickMan Blue & Kaye Kelly, 7 p.m., Franklin United Methodist Church, 82 West Central St., Franklin Franklin Public Library Book Sale, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, books \$1
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/ .	November 16 LiveARTS String Quartet concert, 3 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St. in Franklin, free but donations accepted Franklin Interfaith Council Thanksgiving Service, 7-8 p.m., Franklin United Methodist Church, 82 W. Central Street, Franklin Four-Person Organ Recital on William Goodrich organ, 3 p.m., Trinity Episcopal

Church, 47 East St., Wrentham, free but donations accepted

November 18
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>

November 19
Queer Book Club, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., with Franklin LGBTQ Alliance, Franklin TV and Radio 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, *Myra Breckenridge*, by Gore Vidal.

November 21
Franklin High School Theatre presents Mean Girls, 7 p.m., Franklin High School auditorium, 218 Oak St., Franklin
FPAC presents Peter and the Starcatcher, THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, www.THEBLACKBOXONLINE.com

November 22
Franklin High School Theatre presents Mean Girls, 7 p.m., Franklin High School auditorium, 218 Oak St., Franklin
FPAC presents Peter and the Starcatcher, THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, www.THEBLACKBOXONLINE.com

November 23
Franklin High School Theatre presents Mean Girls, 1 p.m., Franklin High School auditorium, 218 Oak St., Franklin
FPAC presents Peter and the Starcatcher, THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, www.THEBLACKBOXONLINE.com

Sports

Franklin Girls Soccer Captains Key to Regaining Position

By Christopher Tremblay,
Staff Sports Writer

Last year, the Franklin girls' soccer team went 12-1-5, earning themselves a 13 seed in the Division 1 State Tournament where they took out Wachusett Regional 3-2 in overtime and then was sent packing by number four Bishop Feehan 2-1 on penalty kicks. Feehan would get into the State championship game, where they would be beaten by Wellesley. The year prior, the Panthers would get to the Round of 8, where Hopkinton would end their season.

"Our goal is always to win the Hockomock League despite it being a challenge," Franklin Coach Jodi Klein said. "We have a reputation of being a top team in the league, but this year we're struggling, to say the least. We are working hard to get back to the top of the league and are currently tied for second with Attleboro and King Philip, all behind Sharon."

Klein would also like to have her girls get back to the State Tournament and go further than they did last year. Prior to last year's Round of 8 appearance, the Panthers made it to the Round of 16. It has been a while since the Panthers have been in the Final 4, and she is hoping to get that far this season. Although Franklin is not having their typical season, the Panthers are currently ranked 18th and sitting in a good position to qualify for the post-season.

In order to accomplish their goals, the Panthers will be relying on their three senior captains Morgan Lovell, Cassidy Carmignani and Gwen Holland. The trio will also be taking their skills to the next level following their high school graduation. Lovell, a center mid and striker will be headed to Division 3 Central Connecticut, Carmignani will be taking her center defender skills to the University of St Thomas in St Paul, Minnesota to play Division 1 soccer and Holland, a wing attacker and outside defender will be attending Division 1 Bryant University in North Smithfield RI.

The Panther Coach sees no issues with her captains taking that next step and playing on the collegiate level. The three all have a great work ethic, and they should all fit in nicely with their respective new teams come next year.

"The three captains, first and foremost, I have very high-performance standards for them. They are all hard workers that have set those standards during practice and games," the Panther Coach said. "Vocal leaders are hard to come by, and although I have to encourage them at times, Cassidy has been standing out more. The team understands we are working toward the same goal and our captains affect the way that we play."

With the trio being those effective leaders, Klein is also

looking for other leaders to emerge as the season goes on. She offers that, "on the field, Lovell is an incredibly dynamic and passionate player, and she excels in the midfield while controlling the game flow, Lovell is also physically strong and exhibits good leadership skills for the younger girls, and much like the other two captains, she rarely comes off the field.

"Morgan has good ball movement with great field vision," the coach said. "Currently she leads the team in assists and is one of the reasons that we score a lot of goals; she creates this opportunities for her teammates.

"Carmignani is a standout defender and was moved into the center defender position this year due to the fact that Franklin had two young players there, who although talented had not found their voice yet. Carmignani was moved into the position to lead and provide the team with a voice.

"She gives us a big voice motivating the team to play at a high intensity," Klein said. "Due to her direction in the back she has gotten everyone on the same page. Although skilled as a defender, Cassidy loves to get into the attack mode from time to time, but she is more important in the back for us."

Rounding out the captains is Holland, who is an attacker that has shaped her game over the last two seasons with Franklin. Originally an outside back with



If the Franklin coach gets her girls to stay the course, the Panthers should be able to move up in the standings and thus make a run through the Division 1 State Tournament.

the junior varsity team during her freshman campaign, the now senior is a wing attacker that brings the team speed and her dribbling ability. According to the coach, she doesn't have a lot of goals to her credit, but she creates chaos in front of the oppositions net putting stress on their back line players. Holland may not have the box score statistics, but she does have the intangibles that are important to the team's success.

With a good portion of the second half to be played, Klein knows that her team can com-

pete with the best of the teams out there, and despite being a team on the younger side, they have been working together to ensure that they will be able to make a deep run through the tournament.

"Franklin High School is expected to win, and when things go wrong, the younger girls need to stay calm and not exert pressure on themselves," she said. We've had our share of tough games, but you need to remain calm and play your game. If you do you'll be alright."

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Replace 10-Year-Old Fire Alarms, Say State Fire Marshal & Fire Chiefs

Stow, MA - State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts (FCAM) have teamed up to draw attention to a wave of smoke alarms that are nearing the end of their useful lifespans.

In 2015, a change to the Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code set a new requirement that replacement smoke alarms in most Massachusetts homes have a sealed, 10-year battery and a “hush” feature. This requirement reduces the likelihood that residents will disable the device after a nuisance alarm from cooking smoke or remove the batteries for use in another device.

The long-life batteries in these alarms are reliable only for 10 years. For that reason, the alarms purchased and put into service by early adopters of this code change may no longer be reliable soon.

“Smoke alarms are like any other appliance – they don’t last forever,” said Brockton Fire Chief Brian Nardelli, who serves as FCAM’s First Vice President. “Right now, the alarms that were purchased and put into service 10 years ago are reaching the end of their useful lifespan. Our concern is that a wave of smoke alarms in homes across Massachusetts won’t be reliable in the months

ahead. If the manufacturing date on the back of your alarm is more than 10 years old, or if it doesn’t have a date, replace it right away. If it’s not 10 years old and it takes alkaline batteries, this is a great time to put fresh batteries in to be sure you’re protected through the winter.”

“When it’s time to replace your smoke alarms, we strongly recommend choosing new alarms that meet UL Standard 217, 8th Edition or later,” said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “Look for that language on the packaging or the product specifications. These devices use the latest multi-criteria technology, which helps to prevent nuisance alarms caused by cooking smoke. And never disable a smoke alarm. Tragically, we found working smoke alarms at only about one-third of last winter’s fatal fires.”

“Sealed-battery smoke alarms are powered by lithium-ion batteries, so please don’t put them in your household trash or recycling,” said Duxbury Fire Chief Rob Reardon. “If they’re crushed or punctured in a compactor truck or a transfer station, they could cause a fire that’s very difficult to extinguish. As lithium-ion batteries have become more common, we’ve started seeing more and more of these trash



Brockton Fire Chief Brian Nardelli at a press conference today urging residents to check the manufacturing date printed on the back of their smoke alarms and replace them if they’re more than 10 years old.

and transfer station fires, and it’s a safe bet that the root cause is battery damage.”

Each spring and fall, the Massachusetts fire service reminds residents to check their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms when they change their clocks. The reminder is especially urgent this year as so many smoke alarms may need to be replaced. The State Fire Marshal’s office and Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts urge residents to follow these safety tips:

- Check the manufacturing date printed on the back of your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms
 - Replace smoke alarms after 10 years and CO alarms according to the manufacturer’s instructions (usually after 5, 7, or 10 years depending on make and model)
 - Choose new smoke alarms from a well-known national brand and look for the mark of an independent testing lab such as UL or Intertek/ETL
 - Be sure the replacement alarm has a sealed, long-life battery and a hush feature and meets UL Standard 217, 8th Edition or later
- Many communities have programs that can assist older or low-income residents who need help installing or maintaining their alarms. Contact your local fire department for more information.



Many Franklin residents turned out to voice their displeasure on the federal level on October 18, 2025 in a “No Kings” demonstration.

Kick Off November at Bellforge's 'Do Good Day'

*Good Vibes, Great Causes, Presented by Young Families Advisory Council
November 1st*

Bellforge's Young Families Advisory Council presents: "Do Good Day: Good Vibes, Great Causes" — a day dedicated to giving back and lifting up our community, all in one meaningful, joy-filled experience.

Join us at Bellforge in Medfield, Mass. for this one-stop opportunity to make a difference. Donate clothing, food, and books, recycle responsibly, and bring your old Halloween pumpkins, mums, and plants to be composted. You'll have the chance to support a variety of local causes—all while embracing the spirit of gratitude and community. Enjoy music and delicious bites from local food trucks as you give back in a fun, intentional way.

What to bring:

Attendees are encouraged to bring the following donation items to support a variety of causes.

- Stuffed animals – new or gently used and cleaned
- Coats, gloves/ mittens – adult size

- Toiletries – unopened, any size (including hotel/travel size)
- Gift cards for food – any amount to Dunkin Donuts, McDonalds, grocery stores located in Boston
- Old pumpkins/ mums (to be composted)
- Food donations – shelf stable, unopened, unexpired and not jumbo size
- Items most needed: jelly/jam (12 or 18 oz), Oatmeal packets (plain, maple brown sugar, or apple cinnamon), hearty soup (chicken or beef), Kraft macaroni and cheese
- Holiday gift donation requests:
- New or like-new decorative pillows
- New/ unopened Chapsticks, lotions, nail polish, soft socks, candy
- Books to exchange/donate
- Sanitary pads (including incontinence underwear) or tampons

- New Underwear (with tags or original packaging)
- New and gently used bras
- Rinsed plastic bottles (such as 1- or 2-liter soda or juice containers)

Young Families Advisory Council

Kate Bingham, Astrid Burns, Kristen Careau, Lisa Chin, Chris Dagesse, Jennifer Debin, Meredith Flannery, Zoe Friend, Amy Gilmore, Kate Heffernan, Jenny Kennedy, Russ Kiser, Alexis Murphy, Cecilie Pope, Erica Shom, Leah Walczak Hampton

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For more information, visit www.bellforge.org/events.

Real F.R.I.E.N.D.S. and Friendsgiving at HCA

The Hopkinton Center for the Arts (HCA) is pleased to announce that it will be hosting Real F.R.I.E.N.D.S. in the Lotvin Family Gallery through November 20, 2025.

Artist and curator Jamaal Eversley presents an eclectic mix of collaborative artworks created between friends who reside in and around Hopkinton, artist pairs from his "Real F.R.I.E.N.D.S." collective and professional artist collaborations across the state. This exhibition will show how a successful collaborative process strengthens communal bonds and generates dynamic creations.

Jamaal Eversley, from Randolph, has been a professional artist and community organizer since 2010. He has planned, promoted and produced dozens of family-oriented exhibits featuring his and others' artwork in local town libraries and art galleries.

Hopkinton Center for the Arts also invites the public to join us for a "Friendsgiving" event on Friday November 14th at 7 p.m., where you can meet and break bread with the artists.

This exhibition of Real F.R.I.E.N.D.S. alongside the Friendsgiving is made possible by grants from the Massachusetts' local cultural councils of Hopkinton, Hopedale and Ashland as well as the Hopkinton Center for the Arts!

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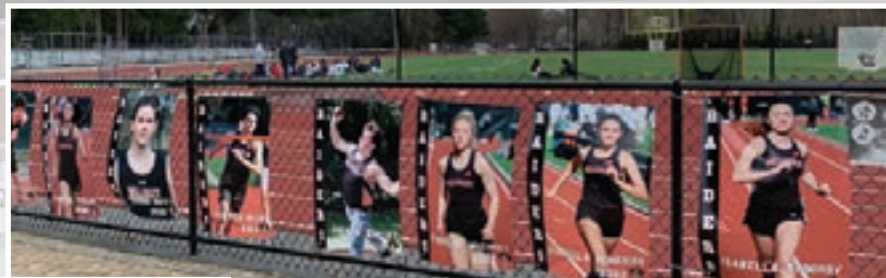
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Registration for the 2026 PMC Winter Cycle Is Now Open!

The Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) is excited to announce that registration for the 2026 PMC Winter Cycle is now open! On Saturday, January 31, 2026, hundreds of riders will gather inside The 521 Overlook at historic Fenway Park, to take part in the PMC's high-energy indoor cycling event to raise critical funds for cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Now in its 11th year, the PMC Winter Cycle kicks off the organization's 2026 fundraising campaign, with 100% of every rider-raised dollar directly supporting lifesaving cancer research and care at Dana-Farber. The PMC is Dana-Farber's single largest donor, accounting for 67 percent of its Jimmy Fund's annual revenue.

Visit wintercycle.org to register or learn more.

2025 AltWheels Fleet Day Successfully Leads in Sustainable Transportation

Norwood, MA – The 22nd annual AltWheels Fleet Day, held on Monday, October 6 at the Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood, celebrated another milestone year in advancing sustainable transportation solutions. With over 350 attendees representing 30+ fleets from 16 states, this year's event continued its tradition as one of the nation's premier forums for fleet managers,

policy makers, and clean transportation innovators.

The 2025 conference featured two dynamic-MCs — Scott Bradley, Director of Sales and Strategy Partnerships at Pioneer e-Mobility, and Sejal Shah, Lead Program Manager at National Grid — who guided the day's sessions. Attendees engaged in a full day of keynote presentations, panels, and networking, along

with the popular Lunch With Experts sessions and Ride & Drive vehicle showcase featuring 29 advanced technology vehicles.

Next year's AltWheels Fleet Day will take place on Monday, October 5, 2026 in Norwood, MA.

For more information visit <https://www.altwheels.org/>.

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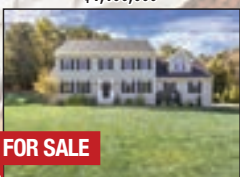
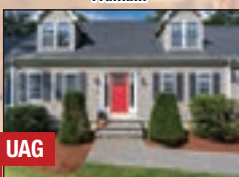
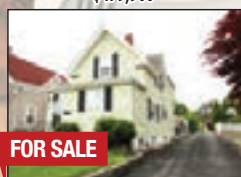
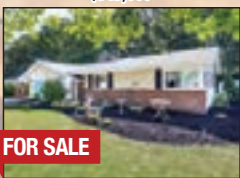
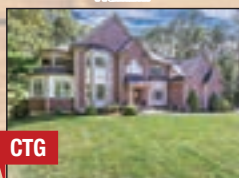
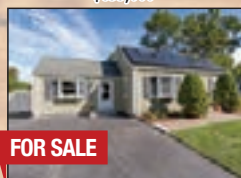
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Norfolk County Real Estate Dips from August, Still Up from Last Year

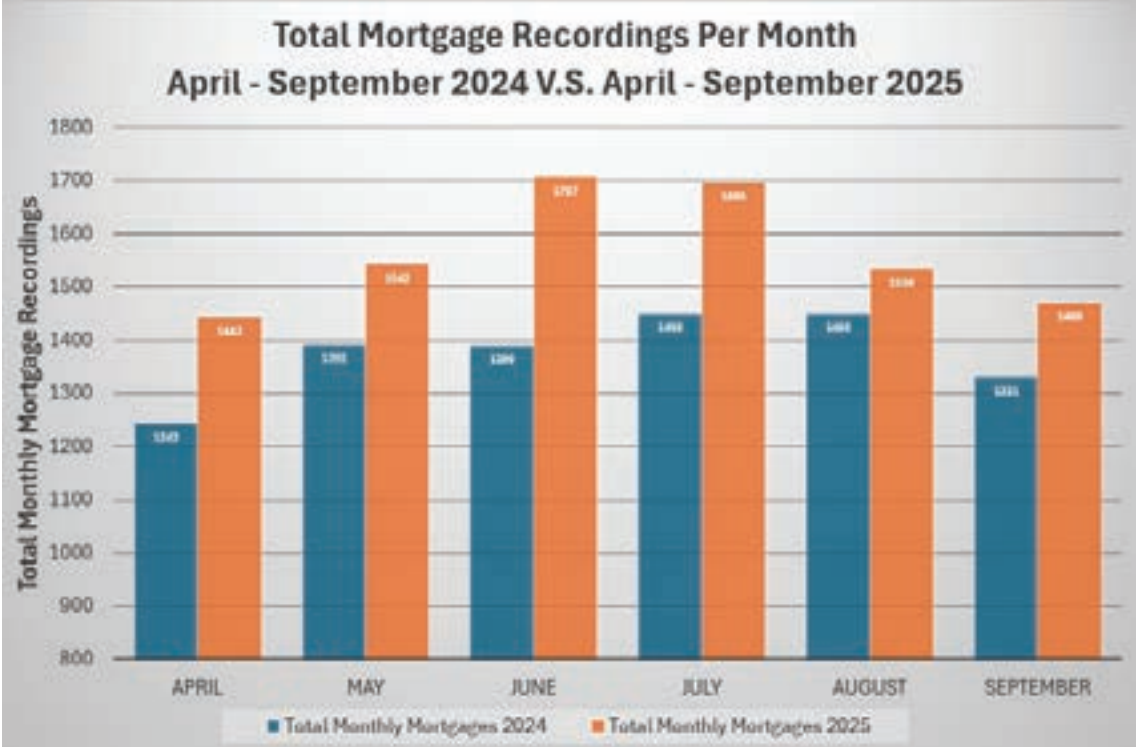
Dedham, MA – Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reported that real estate activity in Norfolk County continued its upward trend in September 2025. The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds recorded a total of 9,511 documents in September 2025, an 11% increase from September 2024, but a 5% decrease from August 2025.

"The increase in overall document recordings compared to last September is a strong indicator of continued engagement in the real estate market," stated Norfolk County Register of Deeds, William P. O'Donnell, "... Although it must be noted that the increase in September of 2025 was less than that of August 2025."

The total number of deeds recorded for September 2025, which includes both commercial and residential real estate sales and transfers, was 1,396, up 7% from September 2024, but down 10% from August 2025. Looking at just real estate sales, 684 properties were sold in September, representing a 5% increase compared to the same time last year.

"The year-over-year growth in property sales shows that the market remains active," noted Register O'Donnell.

In addition to increased deed recordings, lending activity also saw growth. A total of 1,469 mortgages were recorded in September 2025, up 10% from



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September 2024, though down 4% from August 2025. The total dollar amount of mortgage indebtedness recorded in September was \$1,286,464,631, a 61% increase compared to the \$797,674,694 recorded in September 2024.

The average sale price of commercial and residential properties in September 2025 was \$967,211.86, an increase of 1% from September 2024, and a 6% decrease from August of this year. The total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales in September was \$661.6 million, a 5% increase compared to September of last year.

"The slight increase in average sale price compared to last year may reflect increased demand and competition in certain area communities," noted Register O'Donnell. "However, it is encouraging to see values holding steady ..."

Foreclosure activity in September 2025 remained low. There were 6 foreclosure deeds recorded as a result of mortgage foreclosures taking place in Norfolk County, down from the 7 recorded in September 2024. Additionally, 23 notices to foreclose were filed, a decrease from the 28 notices recorded in September of last year.

"I would urge anyone struggling to pay their mortgage or who knows someone who is struggling to contact one of the non-profit organizations listed on our website, www.norfolkdeeds.org," said O'Donnell.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds continues to partner with local non-profits such as Quincy Community Action Programs (617-479-8181 x376), NeighborWorks Housing Solutions (508-587-0950), and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Consumer Advocacy and Response Division (CARD) at 617-727-8400 to assist residents in need.

For more information on the Norfolk County Register of Deeds, visit www.norfolkdeeds.org.



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