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Franklin's Last Surviving WWII Veteran

Art Ziemer Youngest of Five Brothers Who Served

By NATALEE WEBB

Of the 16 million Americans who served during WWII, there are currently just over 45 thousand still living but their numbers are rapidly declining. Most WWII Veterans are in their 90s and even 100+ years old. Included in these numbers is Art Ziemer a Navy WWII Veteran who will celebrate his 100th birthday in 2027. The youngest of his family, Art Ziemer is Franklin's last surviving WWII Veteran.

This December 7th marks the 84th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor where 19 ships were sunk, 300 aircraft destroyed, and 2,400 fatalities. Almost half of these fatalities were aboard the USS Arizona. This battleship had only been in



Art Ziemer a Navy Veteran, is Franklin's last surviving WWII Veteran. He is shown here with his daughter Leslie, Chief Surgeon at Franklin's Acorn Animal Hospital.

WWII VET
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1st State Title for FHS Girls' Volleyball

Congratulations to Franklin High School Girls' Volleyball – MIAA Division I State Champions! Look for in-depth coverage in our next issue!



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WWII VET

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combat for minutes before being sunk by the Japanese. The USS Arizona Museum now sits atop the sunken ship at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu Hawaii. Lieutenant Commander Louis A. Canter from Ojibwa, Wisconsin was aboard the battleship when it was struck, mercifully he survived. He passed away at the age of 102 in 2024 as America’s last survivor of the USS Arizona.

All five of the Ziemer boys joined the Navy so together they could serve their country during WWII, leaving their two sisters, Mom, and Dad at home. Oldest brother Jack served from 1942-45, Ernest, the second son joined in 1937 retiring after 20 years in the Navy. Third brother Howard enlisted in 1941 and served in the Navy for 27 years.

Bill the 4th son joined the Navy in 1942 as a Fighter Pilot aboard the USS Intrepid Aircraft Carrier. His ship is now permanently docked at Pier 86 in New York City. Flying his F6F Fighter Plane, LTJG (Lieutenant Junior Grade) William Ziemer was shot down over



The Japanese infamous Ofuna Camp where Art’s older brother Bill Ziemer was tortured and killed during WWII.

Formosa Island off the coast of China where he was captured by the enemy becoming a POW (Prisoner of War). He was held hostage at the infamous Ofuna Camp, where he and fellow prisoners were subject to starvation, exposure to the elements, beatings, tropical illnesses and more. This secret enemy camp was not discovered until after the war. At this camp, the Japanese did not consider their captured soldiers as prisoners or treat them according to the Geneva Convention instituted in 1864. They viewed these soldiers as enemies to be tortured for various insidious reasons. Bill gave the ultimate sacrifice for freedom dying from this brutality to the horror

of his family. Art mournfully recalled, “That was not supposed to happen.”

In 1945, Art, the fifth son of the Ziemer family of seven, joined his brothers in the Navy while still in High School. President Truman allowed these teens to join while Juniors in High School, offering them a diploma upon their honorable discharge from service. Art was scheduled to be released from duty in 1950 when the Korean War broke out. American troops were depleted, yet desperately needed for this new battle. To solve this dilemma President Truman revoked all discharges for an additional year of service. Art was then honorably discharged in 1951.



The USS Arizona, the Japanese sank, is visible from its museum of the same name, at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii

The Sullivan family from Iowa also had five boys who enlisted in the Navy during WWII, along with their sister who joined the WAVES. The boys, ranging in ages from 22-32, enlisted together with the stipulation that they all serve together and were subsequently assigned to the CL-52 (Class Light Cruiser), the USS Juneau. Horribly they all perished together when a Japanese submarine sank their ship. This mother’s worst nightmare led to the creation of the military’s Sole Survivor policy. Established in 1948, the Military Selective Service Act exempts the last son/daughter from having to

serve during war or peacetime. All five of the Ziemer brothers were able to serve together in the Navy, as they were not assigned to the same military installation.

American Flags will fly at half-staff this Sunday, December 7th with a moment of silence being observed at 7:55 a.m., the moment the first wave of 183 Japanese bombers attacked Pearl Harbor igniting America’s journey into WWII. All Americans should respect Pearl Harbor Day and be blessed that they are free because of the actions of WWII and should honor all the brave soldiers of the United States of America.

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Italian Immigrant Panel at Franklin Senior Center Draws Crowd

On Friday, November 14th, the Franklin Senior Center hosted an “Italian Roundtable: Experiences of 20th Century Immigrants,” presented by Quattro Eroi Lodge 1414 Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. The event, emceed by Gino Carlucci, featured a frank discussion of the experiences of Italian immigrants Eddie Colace, of Franklin, Mike Narducci, of Medway, Al Pizzi, of Franklin, and Phyllis Vozzella, of Franklin.



Panelists spoke of how they’d left their country of Italy with the promise of a better future here. All came as minors, from

rural areas, with no knowledge of English, many from places where war had interfered with their ability to earn a living by farming. All told tales of being separated from family, many living in separate continents from their parents, some meeting their fathers for the first time when they moved to the United States.

The event, filmed by Franklin TV, enjoyed a full audience. Find it at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XsiSqmU_1Ag.

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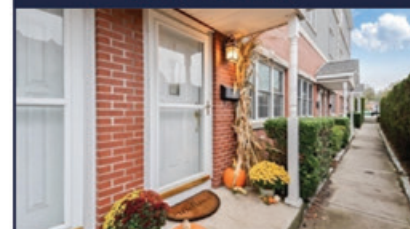
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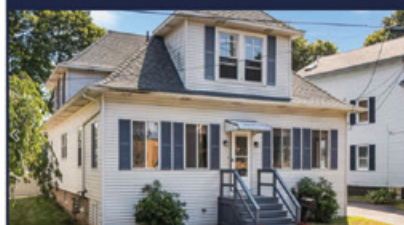
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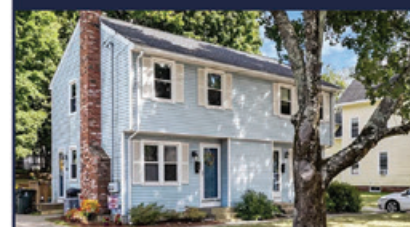
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SNAP Debacle Brought Already Rising Food Insecurity to Forefront

BY DAVID DUNBAR

It has been a confusing, frustrating past month for the 1,168 recipients of SNAP benefits in Franklin. First, benefits were halted temporarily during the federal government shutdown, then half the benefits would be paid, but nobody seemed to know when and how much. And now the government is open again, SNAP is back, but food insecurity continues.

Roughly 42-million low-income Americans receive monthly benefits from SNAP -- the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program -- also known as the Food Stamp Program. Slightly more than one million in Massachusetts receive SNAP benefits according to the Department of Transitional Assistance. The program provides food-purchasing assistance for low- and no-income people to help them maintain adequate nutrition and health.

Fortunately, there are other places to turn for free food.

"Facing unprecedented demand for food and assistance, The Franklin Food Pantry has

been serving a record-breaking 215 households in a single day," according to Communications Manager Catherine Troutman. The Pantry's executive director, Tina Powderly, adds, "The threat to SNAP benefits has brought food insecurity to the forefront, but the reality is that demand has been rising sharply for months."

"We're committed to being here for our neighbors," explains Powderly, "but we need our community's support to ensure that anyone who needs food can access it with dignity."

The Pantry is located at 341 Central St. in Franklin. More information is available, including times it is open for food pick up, by visiting www.franklinfoodpantry.org. Monetary donations are welcome.

The Adirondack Club in Franklin started a "Pack the Pickup" program last month to bring food and other supplies to the Food Pantry. There were three truckloads in total, filled by Club members and totaling nearly one ton of items including noodles, peanut butter, sar-



The Adirondack Club's "Pack the Pickup" project delivered about one ton of food and other supplies to The Franklin Food Pantry. Standing beside the truck (from left) are Club Owner Bob Hinrichs, Franklin Police officer Amanda Ayer (the dog beside her is Ben Franklin), Club members Lexi Beahm, Lisa Marchioni, and Alex Bevilacqua.

dines, soup, dog food, diapers, toothbrushes, razors and body wash.

In a press release, the Club said, "We were thrilled by the incredible support from our

members and local businesses who generously donated food, raffle prizes, and more."

The Franklin Senior Center hosts a mobile food pantry on the second Wednesday of each

month. Members can receive a selection of shelf-stable pan-

SNAP

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SNAP

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try items, proteins, vegetables, fruits, dairy, bread, baked goods, and toiletries. More information is available by calling (508) 520-4945.

The local YMCA has a weekly food program. “And our numbers have tripled,” says Director of Food Access Programs Alyson Delano. “We typically see around 75 families at our walk-in pantry every week, and we are currently up to 150 families.”

The pantry is located at the North Attleboro Branch (in the childcare parking lot) and is available to anyone regardless of the town that they live in. It’s open on Wednesdays 12:30 - 2:00pm and 5:30 - 6:30pm, and on Thursdays 7:30 - 8:30am. Address: 300 Elmwood St in North Attleborough.

“We are seeing people who have no food at home and are trying to source their next meal,” says Delano.

Although SNAP benefits have been restored, longer-term consequences remain. Brief disruptions to food access can affect pregnant women and children. Research indicates that children who grow up with food insecurity are more likely to struggle in school, experience developmental delays, and face higher rates of anxiety, depression and behavioral challenges that can persist into adulthood.

For an update on local SNAP activity visit: www.mass.gov/SNAP.

To support the Franklin Food Pantry, individuals and organizations can:

Make a Monetary Donation

The Pantry purchases food and personal care items at significant discounts and tax-free from the Greater Boston Food Bank and local retailers, making the most of every dollar donated.

Organize a Food Drive

Mobilize coworkers, youth groups, sports teams, and clubs and collect nonperishable food and deliver to The Pantry at 341 W Central St., Franklin, MA. Be sure to register your food drive with The Pantry. A list of high priority needs can be found The Pantry’s website.

Purchase and Ship Donations through The Pantry’s Amazon Wish List

Send items that The Pantry needs the most by using our Amazon Wish List. Please be sure to send packages to Franklin Food Pantry, C/O Postal Center, PO Box 288, 279 E Central St, Franklin, MA 02038.

Additional information on supporting The Pantry can be found online at www.franklinfoodpantry.org

To receive food assistance from the Franklin Food Pantry, please visit our website for Franklin Food Pantry’s eligibility information, or contact Laura Du, Client Services Manager, by email at Ldu@franklinfoodpantry.org, or by phone at (508) 528-3115.

Menorah Lighting to Be Held at Gilly’s House

By Grace Allen

Gilly’s House in Wrentham will once again host a public menorah lighting in celebration of Hanukkah. This year’s gathering is scheduled for Monday, December 15 at 7 p.m. The outdoor ceremony will feature traditional music and Chanukah treats, including donuts, chocolate gelt, and hot apple cider.

Open to people of all ages and all faith backgrounds, the menorah lighting highlights the second night of Hanukkah, the Jewish eight-day Festival of Lights. The holiday commemorates both the victory of Jewish freedom fighters over the Syrian Greeks and the miracle in which a small amount of oil kept the Temple menorah burning for eight days.

The story of Hanukkah underscores the triumph of light over darkness and the enduring



pursuit of religious freedom. Sharing that message publicly is an important part of the holiday tradition.

Gilly’s House—a residential program supporting young men in recovery—was founded by Barbara Gillmeister and her husband in memory of their son Steven. Gillmeister notes that celebrating Hanukkah publicly carries particular meaning today given the rise in antisemitic incidents across the country and around the world.

“The menorah lighting is all about Jewish unity,” she said, adding that the themes of Hanukkah resonate across all faiths.

Organizers say community participation has grown each year, and the support continues to be deeply appreciated.

For questions about the event, email barbara@gillyshouse.com.

Gilly’s House is located at 1022 West Street. Guests are asked to park at the Little Red Schoolhouse lot, 944 West St., because on-site parking at Gilly’s House is limited. Additional parking is available on Hancock St., near the former post office and Sheldonville Country Store.



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Franklin Panel Address Rise in Antisemitism

By JUDITH DORATO O’GARA

On October 28th, the Franklin Interfaith Council, working with MA Rep. Jeff Roy, presented a panel “Understanding Antisemitism in 2025,” at Franklin High School. The event included panelists Rabbi Rachel Putterman, Temple Etz Chaim, Franklin, Mike Rubin, President of Temple Etz Chaim and Uxbridge High School Principal, Jeremy Burton, CEO of Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, Dr. Miri Bar-Halpern, Director of Trauma Training and Services at Parents for Peace and Lecturer, Harvard Medical School, and Rep. Simon Cataldo, State Representative Co-Chair of the Massachusetts Special Committee on Combating Antisemitism. The panel was moderated by Rep. Jeff Roy. About 100 members of the community attended.

Jewish panelists spoke of their families’ experiences, how members of immediately preceding generations of family beat odds and survived and came to this country after almost all of their family members and friends were murdered in the Holocaust. They also spoke of their personal experiences receiving generalized anger and bigoted commentary directed at them from strangers they didn’t know.

That bigotry appears to be on the rise.

Rep. Cataldo pointed out that Jewish people in the state



On October 28th, a panel discussion on antisemitism was held at Franklin High School.

are more likely to experience discrimination than others at this point in time. In 2024 for first time, he said, according to state tracking data, Jewish people were most common victims of hate crimes out of any group since 1991 when the state started tracking hate crimes. Despite public perception that Jewish people don’t factor in as victims of discrimination, 84% of religiously motivated hate crimes in Massachusetts are perpetrated against Jewish people. The top recommendation of the Commission, in fact, was that antisemitism be addressed in DEI training, simply part of the discussion.

Burton discussed strategies to combat antisemitism.

“It is not the responsibility of

the Jewish community to combat antisemitism. Our responsibility in the face of rising antisemitism is to go on living vibrant Jewish lives and building vibrant Jewish communities. It is the responsibility of society,” said Burton. He did add that Jewish people did have a responsibility to let their neighbors understand what they are experiencing, however.

“I do not make the assumption that my neighbor’s lack of public voice on this is because they are an antisemite or because they don’t care. ...when I share it with them, they have an opportunity to be a good ally,” added Burton, who would like to see members of society “make antisemitism socially unacceptable,” and “call it out,” when they see it in their own circles.



“It’s a very lonely scary time to be Jewish,” said Rabbi Putterman. She encourages non-Jewish neighbors to reach out to Jewish people in their lives when antisemitic acts take place.

Dr. Halpern, who has experience in trauma. The clinical psychologist has worked with victims – and perpetrators - of terrorism. She explained the correlation between “traumatic invalidation,” and PTSD and depression and anxiety.

“Anti-Jewish racism is in healthcare; it’s in academia; it’s in healthcare it’s in K-12,” she explained. Jewish students, she said, have a fear of expressing their identity as well as have experienced the burden of being accountable for what the Israeli government is doing while at

the same time having their experience of antisemitism being invalidated or minimized. That produces a constant stress, and “when someone is under constant stress, the pre-frontal cortex is not going to function properly.”

Halpern continued, pointing out that antisemitism is not a political issue, that it manifests across the board and is actually a common thread in our society. Data shows, she says, that in all areas, that antisemitism is “a gateway to radicalization.”

The MA Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism concluded its findings in mid-November with a final report. Find it at <https://malegislature.gov/Commissions/Detail/646/Documents>.

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Santa Foundation Sees Need Rise

Giving Trees Placed in Many Local Locations

By JUDITH DORATO O’GARA

Last year, the Santa Foundation, whose mission is to plant seeds of hope by providing holiday gifts for families in need, assisted 716 local families last year. The 501 (c) 3 nonprofit has seen the need jump this year, with over 750 families reaching out for help by mid-November.

You can help. The Santa Foundation has placed 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

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:

- 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

The Santa Foundation’s Dick Timmons says the foundation is grateful for community support, adding, “If you are too busy to buy a gift this year, a Venmo donation of any amount is appreciated and will help the Santa Foundation fulfill its mission.”

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

Food Pantry Seeks Student ‘Pantry Elves’:

Earn Service Hours, Spread Holiday Cheer

Franklin, MA – Are you a middle or high school student looking for a meaningful way to give back this holiday season? Join the Franklin Food Pantry’s annual Pantry Elves Campaign and raise funds to support neighbors experiencing food insecurity. With over 1,880 community

members relying on The Pantry for support, the need for donations is at an all-time high. The Pantry Elves campaign is an entirely online fundraiser where student volunteers raise money to purchase food and personal care products. Not only will your participation ensure a brighter

holiday for local families, but all participating “Elves” will earn community service hours.

To join, please visit the Franklin Food Pantry website:www.franklinfoodpantry.org.

Questions? Please email Jen Johnson, Development Associate, at JJohnson@franklinfoodpantry.org.

You’re Invited! Rise Up (18+) Open House Holiday Party



Rise Up is an accessible social hour intended to connect the community with individuals navigating disability. The group will hold a holiday open house with free food, drinks, activities and social time on Saturday, December 20th, from 10-11 a.m. at 82 West Central St., Franklin. *

For information on Rise Up, visit <https://alirheaume.com/rise-up> or contact Ali Rheume at (508) 455-5687 or arheaume10@gmail.com.



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Town of Franklin Issues Email Scam Alert

The Town of Franklin has become aware of an email scam wherein hackers impersonating the Planning Department, Conservation Commission, and potentially others, contact individuals and organizations demanding invoice payment via wire transfer.

PLEASE BE AWARE that the Town of Franklin does not solicit payments via wire transfer.

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BFCCPS Accepting K-8 Applications

Public Charter School Offers Roundtrip Bus Service to 10 Communities

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School (BFCCPS), located in Franklin, Massachusetts, has begun accepting applications for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year. The 30-year-old regional public charter school for students in Kindergarten through Grade Eight, is one of the oldest and most successful charter schools in Massachusetts.

Siblings of currently enrolled students will have priority enrollment status; thereafter applicants from communities in the school's district will have a chance at securing a spot for their child through the annual enrollment lottery to be held on February 25, 2026. Applicants

from outside of the region (who reside within the state of Massachusetts) will be eligible for enrollment should additional spaces remain after all sibling and regional applicants have been placed.

For the 2026-2027 school year, 100 spaces will be offered for Kindergarten, and students at all other grade levels will receive a waiting list number. Offers for Grades 1-8 would be contingent upon currently enrolled students electing not to return next year.

The school provides a well-rounded, rigorous academic program designed to educate the whole child providing courses in art, music, languages, technol-



ogy, and physical education. In addition to our core academic and co-curricular classes, students in Grade 6-8 participate in weekly Classical Enrichment Courses and start Latin studies

in Grade Six. Middle schoolers are also eligible to participate in our Spring Musical. Students in Grades 5-8 also have the opportunity to participate in overnight field trips each spring.

Round trip bus transportation is available with bus stops currently in Bellingham, Blackstone, Franklin, Norfolk, Mendon, Medway, Milford, Millis, Norfolk, and Wrentham.

BFCCPS alumni continue to excel at the high school level.

Please visit the school's website at www.bfccps.org for enrollment details, including applications. Enrollment information sessions and building tours will be held on January 24th and February 7 from 10 a.m. to noon. Please note that the enrollment period will come to a close on February 11, 2026 at 4pm.

To learn more about the educational mission of the school or have enrollment-related questions, please contact the school's Communication Coordinator, Joanne Basile at jbasile@bfccps.org or (508) 541-3434 x104.

Are you looking for a job with school hours and the school schedule? We have the job for you!

The Medfield Foodservice Department is now hiring! Substitute worker positions available with flexible hours, as well as full time, benefited positions.

For more information please contact: Caitlin Fahy at cfahy@email.medfield.net or 508-242-8897



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Dean College Opens Doors for Transfer Students This January

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

Founded more than 160 years ago, Dean is now a competitive four-year college offering programs in business, the arts, dance, and liberal arts and sciences. The College has earned multiple Colleges of Distinction recognitions, including national awards for career preparation, affordability,

and student support.

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

Beyond the logistics, faculty and staff make it a priority to help students settle in and succeed. Each transfer student is paired with an advisor who provides academic guidance, while Dean's Success and Career Advisors work with students from their first semester through graduation to ensure they stay on track and graduate prepared for the workforce. Career prep is built into the experience through

the Dean Career Advantage program, which includes internships, networking opportunities, and professional development.

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

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

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



Your Money, Your Independence

Slow Down, Show Up and Spend Ahead



Glenn Brown, CFP

My work focuses on financial planning and aligning priorities, but the season upon us is also a reminder to pause, reflect, and reduce stress. December can feel like a sprint between holiday preparations, kids stressed over exams and shows, travel plans, shopping, and year-end deadlines, it's easy to get overwhelmed.

Consider focusing on three simple actions: slow down, show up, and spend ahead. Small steps that help you stay grounded and intentional amid the season's demands.

1. Slow Down: Protect a Few Quiet Moments

In a world that rarely pauses, now is a good time to tap the brakes:

Block "no-plan" time. Take a day away from work or schedule a low-pressure activity, like a walk on a rail trail in the winter air, grabbing coffee and browsing local shops, or finally enjoying a hobby you've been putting off. Unscheduled space lets everyone reset.

Put phones away for an evening. Board games, walks to see holiday lights, or uninterrupted conversation often do more for connection than any planned outing. Families who pick one evening a week to unplug together often create the best memories of the month.

Say "no" without guilt. Skip traditions or gatherings where being there feels more like an obligation than an opportunity to share joy. Focus on the experiences and events you'll remember and talk about in 10 years. Plan next-day commitments thoughtfully so you can fully enjoy the evening. There's nothing worse than being distracted or leaving early because "I have to do ___ tomorrow," when it could be handled earlier or later. Thoughtful "no's" free up space and make your "yes" moments richer.

2. Show Up: For Your People, Your Community, and Yourself

Presence is often the best gift, and showing up can take many forms:

Support school and community events. Attend concerts, games, or fundraisers, even when they feel small or routine. Kids notice which events adults treat as important. Your presence often matters more than a perfectly wrapped gift.

Choose local when possible. Small purchases at neighborhood shops or restaurants make a difference and keep spending aligned with your values.

Reach out intentionally. A quick note of appreciation or a short call to a teacher, coach, colleague, or friend can leave a lasting impact. Small gestures often create bigger memories than elaborate gifts.

Show up for yourself. December is also a time to reflect on the year. Take 30–60 minutes to review and journal your accomplishments from the past year.

3. Spend Ahead: Raise Cash and Mark Your Calendars

Planning ahead prevents stress later:

Set aside cash now. Travel, home renovations, summer rentals, or other big-ticket aspirational items happening in 2026? Don't wait until "when the time comes" or, worse, reacting to market changes. Allocating funds now reduces stress, supports budgeting, and ensures trips are booked, contracts signed, and projects scheduled.

Mark key dates. Add school breaks, work deadlines, travel plans, and major milestones to your calendar. Early planning creates a roadmap for the year ahead, helps avoid last-minute stress, and ensures everyone in the household is aligned.

These steps reduce stress and give you confidence in completing your aspirational goals next year. These actions make the year ahead feel more manageable and intentional.

Closing Thoughts

By slowing down, showing up, and spending ahead, you can finish the year grounded, organized, and connected to what matters most.

If you'd like help balancing your money, priorities, and peace of mind, talk with your Certified Financial Planner.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

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 Garden Club Holiday Wreath & Arrangement Sale Dec. 6

The Franklin Garden Club will sell decorated holiday wreaths, swags, cemetery and patio boxes as well as table arrangements on Saturday, December 6 from 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Daddario’s Hardware Store, 528 West Central Street, Franklin. Prices for all items range from \$25 - \$40. The Franklin Garden Club Instagram handle is @franklingardencubma. Payment may be made with cash, credit card, check, or Venmo.



Officials Celebrate SNETT Trail Extension

Boston, MA - a cold morning in mid-November, State Rep. Jeffrey N. Roy (D-Franklin) was joined by Congressman Jake Auchincloss, local Franklin town officials and members of the SNETT Rail Trail Committee to celebrate the acquisition of rail line from Grove Street to Union Street.

“This is a tremendous win for the community and will truly boost the crossing neighborhood in Franklin,” said Rep. Roy. “The extension of the rail trail will give families and individuals the opportunity to walk, bike and run through Franklin and beyond. I want to thank Congressman Auchincloss, Franklin officials and the Franklin Bellingham Rail Trail Committee for their persistence and commitment to Franklin’s resources and continuing to offer recreational and economic development options to the community.”

Rep. Roy worked with Congressman Auchincloss to get CSX, a freight train company, and Franklin officials to provide a pathway for the town to acquire the rail line to turn it into an extension of the rail trail. That would connect the current trailhead on Grove Street



to Union Street and extend the line across town. This extension makes the Southern New England Trunkline Trail an 80-mile recreation trail extending from Franklin to Connecticut.

“I am proud to be a part of the team to bring this vision to fruition” said Jamie Hellen, Franklin Town Administrator, thanking state and town officials. “This acquisition will be the cornerstone of a revitalized Franklin Crossing Neighborhood and will provide an incredible opportunity for recreational enthusiasts, including bikers, hikers, walkers and many others to be able to access this 80-mile SNETT trail that will extend all the way to Connecticut ... This is a true partnership for the greater good of all residents!”

“The rail trail extension is game changing in making Down-

town Franklin a compelling destination both for locals and people from further afield. Franklin will be the ideal starting point for a family walk or bike ride combined with a visit to local businesses,” said Paul Stamp Vice President of the Franklin Bellingham Rail Trail Committee.

Massachusetts contributed \$700,000 towards the purchase of the line and has committed and addition \$1 million to prepare the trail for use.

Cobi Frongillo, Past President of the Franklin & Bellingham Rail Trail Committee and former Franklin Town Councilor, added, “Our community has pushed for this connection for years, and it’s finally moving forward thanks to the persistence of town leaders and the leadership of Representative Roy and Congressman Auchincloss.”



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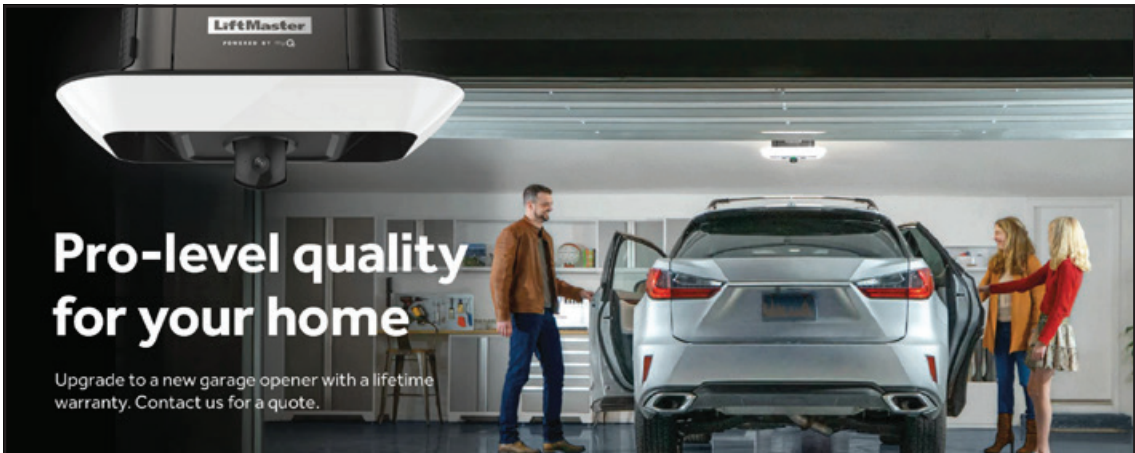
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court Probate and Family Court
Docket No. W006D1662DV1
Worcester Division

Dylan Nicholson, Plaintiff
vs.
Corrine Moran, Defendant

Upon motion of plaintiff for an order directing the defendant **Corrine Moran** herein, to appear, plead, or answer, in accordance with Mass.R.Civ.P./ Mass.R.Dom.Rel.P.Rule 4, it appearing to the Court that this is an action for Modification.

It is **Ordered** that said defendant is directed to appear, plead, answer, or otherwise move with respect to the complaint herein on or before January 6, 2026. If you fail to do so this Court will proceed to a hearing and adjudication of this matter.

It is further **Ordered** that the accompanying summons be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in Franklin, Massachusetts the publication to be at least 20 days before said return day. It is further **Ordered** that a copy of the summons be e-mailed to the defendant.

Leilah A Keamy, Justice of Probate and Family Court
October 8, 2025

FBRTC Announces Grant Award for Benches on SNETT

Franklin, MA - The Franklin & Bellingham Rail Trail Committee (FBRTC) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a MassTrails Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The funding will be used to install additional seating along the Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT), enhancing comfort and accessibility for trail users.

MassTrails grants are awarded by DCR to support the development, maintenance, and improvement of recreational and shared-use trails across the Commonwealth.

This grant will provide the majority of funding needed to install four new benches along the 2.8-mile stretch of the SNETT between Grove Street in Franklin and Center Street in Bellingham. The remaining funds will be provided by FBRTC and its generous community sponsors and donors.

“These new benches will greatly improve comfort and accessibility for all trail users,” said Darren McNamara, FBRTC



President. “The most common feedback we’ve received is that the lack of seating made it difficult for some—particularly those with mobility challenges—to fully enjoy the trail. This project demonstrates how local advocacy groups like FBRTC can work hand-in-hand with state agencies to improve qual-

ity of life in our communities.” FBRTC is a volunteer-led advocacy organization dedicated to the development and maintenance of the Southern New England Trunkline Trail. Earlier this year, the committee played a key role in advocating for the use of Community Preservation Act funds in Franklin

to purchase disused freight rail land—extending the SNETT by 1.75 miles into downtown Franklin. The group’s ongoing priorities include improving the Franklin–Bellingham section of the trail and advancing connectivity toward Blackstone.

FBRTC extends its sincere thanks to the Massachusetts

DCR, as well as to state and local officials, sponsors, and donors who supported this successful grant application.

Those interested in getting involved with FBRTC’s trail improvement and advocacy efforts are encouraged to contact fbrtc-committee@gmail.com.

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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Holiday Hearts Initiative:

b.LUXE Celebrates Community with Local Business Gift Card Giveaway

By GINA WOELFEL

As December's festive spirit fills the streets of Medway and its surrounding towns, twinkling lights adorn storefronts and holiday shoppers bustle through local shops, creating a scene of seasonal joy. But there's a particular warmth spreading through our community this year, one that goes beyond the glow of decorations and holiday shopping. This month, b.LUXE Hair and Makeup is celebrating what we're calling the "Holiday Hearts Initiative," a tribute to the small businesses that make our communities thrive and the loyal customers who support them.

The concept is beautifully simple: **b.LUXE is Gifting Ten \$50 Gift Cards to Some of Our Favorite Local Businesses Throughout Medway, Franklin, And Hopkinton.** But here's where it gets truly special; these aren't gift cards FROM b.LUXE. Instead, we're empowering our fellow small business owners to pay it forward, giving them the freedom to award these gift cards to customers they feel are deserving, whether that's a loyal patron, someone going through a difficult time, or simply a face that brightens their day.

"December is the heart of the holiday season, and it reminds us what's truly important," explains b.LUXE owner Heather Cohen. "We've always believed in lifting each other up, and supporting the incredible small businesses in our area. It's not just a good business practice, it's the foundation of what makes these tight-knit communities so special. These businesses are run by our neighbors, staffed by our friends, and together they create the unique character that makes our community feel like home."

Each of these ten businesses brings something unique to our towns...

Molly's Apothecary in Medway has been crafting hand-made natural soaps, lotions, and

bath products since 2006. Run by sisters Ann and Margaret at Medway Mill, the business was born from a mother's love—named after their mom Molly and started when Ann's son experienced skin issues and she wanted an all-natural solution. Their commitment to using only the finest oils, butters, and essential oils has made them a destination for those seeking natural, thoughtfully made skincare. **www.mollysapothecary.com**

Muffin House Cafe in Medway needs little introduction to locals. Since 2014, owner Sheldon Strasnack has been creating what many claim are the best blueberry muffins since the legendary Jordan Marsh bakery. Opening at 5 a.m. daily, this family-owned cafe serves not just their famous muffins but breakfast sandwiches, lunch options, and specialty coffees. The success speaks for itself—the original Medway location has grown to six shops throughout the region. **www.muffinhousecafe.com**

Over in Hopkinton, **Swoon Central Boutique** has been a gathering place for women since 2014. More than just a clothing store, Swoon has become a community hub where friendships flourish over trendy apparel, jewelry, and gifts. The boutique recently welcomed new owner Alaina Chagnon, a local kindergarten teacher who previously loved shopping at Swoon and now brings fresh energy and passion to this beloved space. **www.swooncentral.com**

Terrazza Gift Shop in Franklin has been transporting customers to the Tuscan countryside since 2004. Specializing in gifts, jewelry, home decor, and garden accents inspired by French Country and Italian landscapes, this Franklin Village treasure offers everything from elegant Italian pottery to serene landscape prints. The moment you walk through their doors, the bubbling fountains and scents of lavender and vanilla create an instant escape. **www.terrazzagifts.com**

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Apricot Lane Boutique in Franklin joined our community more recently, bringing the 30-year-old California-based franchise's philosophy of local ownership and personalized service to East Central Street in 2022. Owner Marta McNulty curates unique styles weekly, ensuring that women of all ages can find flattering, timeless, and affordable fashion. The boutique's relaxed atmosphere and knowledgeable fashion consultants make every shopping trip feel special. **www.apricotlaneboutique.com**

Comer Teng Jewelry Studio, also in Franklin, represents the beautiful intersection of art, sustainability, and entrepreneurship. Husband and wife team Sean Comer and Paulina Teng (PT) create lightweight, hypoallergenic jewelry and accessories from wood, leather, acrylic, and upcycled materials in their home studio. Their commitment extends beyond beautiful design—they use only recyclable packaging materials and donate monthly to organizations making the world better. **www.comertengstudio.com**

JK Cafe and Catering on West Central Street in Franklin serves up small bites, charcuterie boards, and handcrafted beverages in a welcoming atmosphere. Owner Kelsey Lindsey has created a space where the community gathers for everything from banana nut chai lattes to pressed sandwiches and loaded pasta salads. Open Tuesday through Saturday for both cafe and catering services. **www.jkcateringandevents.com**

Medway Cafe on Main Street is where the town comes together. This sports-themed American restaurant and bar serves up generous portions of



comfort food like fresh seafood dinners and tender steak tips, alongside cold drinks and plenty of TVs for game day. They've earned their loyal following the old-fashioned way: quality food, fair prices, and a friendly atmosphere where everyone feels at home. **www.medwaycafe.com**

Fiori and Fern recently moved to a stunning new location at 138 East Central Street in Franklin, featuring floor-to-ceiling windows that showcase two floors of curated gifts, home decor, plants, and fresh weekly flowers. Owner Michelle Greenwood, with her background in corporate merchandising, has created a unique shopping experience that goes beyond beautiful blooms to include artisan jewelry, candles, and thoughtfully selected home goods. **www.fioriandfern.com**

Finally, The Parlour at **Chat Noir Nail Studio** in Medway brings a touch of French elegance to nail care. Named after a historic French cabaret, owner Jillian Cohen has built a boutique salon in the West Medway Historic District that stands apart from typical walk-in nail salons. Known for meticulous service, rigid safety protocols, and a cozy atmosphere, Chat Noir offers everything from basic manicures to nail art and reconstruction services. **mysite.vagaro.com/theparlour-at-chatnoir**

What ties all these businesses together is their commitment to more than just transactions. They're building relationships, creating customer experiences, and investing in our communi-

ties. They sponsor local teams, host workshops, employ our neighbors, and show up for events that matter.

"When we support local businesses, we're doing more than making a purchase," reflects Heather. "We're investing in the character of our community, keeping dollars circulating locally, and building the kind of towns we want to live in. This **Holiday Hearts Initiative** is our way of saying thank you to the business owners who pour their hearts into serving us, and to the customers who choose local."

If we remember one thing this season it's that the holidays aren't just about what we buy, but how we build each other up. Maybe you're grabbing your morning coffee or treating yourself to a manicure, or searching for the perfect gift. Every choice to shop local creates ripples of positive impact.

So this December, as you check off your holiday lists and finish your shopping, consider making your next stop one of these wonderful local businesses—or any of the other incredible small shops throughout Medway, Franklin, Hopkinton and our surrounding towns. Supporting them supports us all.

The Holiday Hearts Initiative continues through December. Visit these businesses in person to experience the local love for yourself.

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Franklin Public Library News for December

New Homebound Service

Can't make it to the library? Let us bring the library to your door. Home Delivery Service ensures that Franklin residents who are unable to visit the library due to aging-related limitations, illness, disability, or temporary mobility limitations can continue to benefit from library resources. Items will be delivered to and picked up from a homebound patron's home by staff members approximately every three weeks.

Special Events for Kids

Mike Bent's Ho Ho Hocus Pocus Magic Show, Saturday, December 6 @ 10:30 a.m.

Join us for an exciting and fun comedy magic show developed especially for kids and families! AbraKidabra!™ combines amazing magic, big laughs, audience participation and hilarious surprises for a one-of-a-kind, interactive experience!

Pancakes and Pajamas! Saturday, December 13 @ 10:30 a.m.

Keep your jammies on and join us for a cozy pancake breakfast, hot cocoa, and holiday music with Jamie Barrett!

Pumpernickel Puppets, Friday, December 25 @ 10:30 a.m.

Enjoy a fun cast of colorful puppet characters, live voices and sound effects!

Fairytale Fun, Saturday, December 27 @ 10:30 a.m.

Bundle up in your winter fin-est and join us for a special visit from our favorite royal sisters with singing, dancing, interactive storytelling and a photo opportunity!

Ed Popielarczyk Magic Show, Monday, December 29 @ 10:30 a.m.

Help welcome Ed Popielarczyk for a one-of-a-kind magic show guaranteed to leave the whole family impressed!

Noon Year's Eve Party, Wednesday, December 31 @ 11 a.m.

Send off 2025 in style! Join

us for an end of the year bash with music, snacks, games, and a super New Year's celebration!

Special Events for Adults

Maker Moment: Painting Silk Scarves, Saturday, December 6 @ 3 p.m.

Registration Required, all levels welcome

Special Events for All Ages

Winter Sing-Along with Dean College Vocal Ensemble, Wed., December 3 @ 4 p.m.

The Dean College Vocal Ensemble will perform a variety of musical selections, including familiar winter carols and eclectic song choices from throughout history.

Swiftmass Celebration! Wednesday, December 17 @ 1 p.m.

Join us for a Taylor Swift birthday celebration! Snacks and sing-alongs!

Copley Cats Holiday Concert, Saturday, December 20 @ 3 p.m.

Groove to the harmonies of the Copley Cats! Featuring popular tunes from various decades this A Capella group with a 30-year history is coming for a Saturday afternoon to remember.

Cocoa and Coloring, Wednesday, December 24 @ 12 p.m.

Enjoy warm cocoa, a holiday classic movie, and coloring sheets for a relaxing afternoon.

Franklin Library Book Sale

Stuff your stockings with books and more from the Book Sale! All books \$1.

Friday, December 12 @ 1-5 p.m., Saturday, December 13 @ 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Bag Sale - \$5 A Bag: Saturday, December 13 @ 1-4pm

St. Mary's Knights of Columbus to Hold Blood Drive December 6

The Knights of Columbus at St. Mary's Church in Franklin will hold a blood drive at the St. Mary's religious education office on Pleasant Street behind the old Saint Mary school on Saturday, December 6th, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. <https://www.redcross.org/>



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December 2025 – Franklin Veterans’ Services Notes

(508) 613-1315

December 3 – Veterans’ Monthly Coffee Social – 10 a.m., Franklin Senior Center, first Wednesday of the month. Franklin Federated Church members will provide goodies. All Veterans are invited for some holiday cheer!

December 7 - National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day –annual observance to honor the 2,403 U.S. service members killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.



Franklin’s annual Veterans Day breakfast was hosted again this year at the Franklin Elks Lodge #2136. Photos by Linda Rondeau Photography.



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December 13 – U.S. National Guard’s 389th Birthday – The National Guard is the oldest military organization in America.

December 13 – National Wreaths Across America Day – Wreath-laying ceremonies at Veterans’ cemeteries, memorials and historic sites will be held at 4,000+ locations nationwide. To sponsor a wreath, volunteer or partner, go to www.wreath-sacrossamerica.org.

December 20 – U.S. Space Force’s 6th Birthday – The newest branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, was created in 2019 by the Department of the Air Force to focus on the national security imperative of space.

There will be no Veterans’ Council meeting in December.

The Tune It Out guitar lessons program for Veterans meets on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

at the Senior Center. There is no charge for lessons and no guitar experience is required. We have guitars! Call our office to register. Tune It Out will not meet on 12/23/25 and 12/30/25.

Warrior Within Yoga for Veterans and First Responders meets on Thursdays at 4 p.m. at the Senior Center. There is no charge for classes. Call our office to register.

There will be no yoga class on 12/25/25 and 1/1/26.

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

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

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Franklin's Holiday Happenings & Gift Guide Now Online

This month! Franklin's Holiday Happenings & Gift Guide is online and ready with ideas and inspiration. The Holiday Guide makes it easy to shop local this December.

Check out the guide at [franklindowntownpartnership.org](https://www.franklindowntownpartnership.org) – the home of Franklin Downtown Partnership's website. The easy-to-read guide lists special sales, promotions, activities, and events for the season from FDP business members. Make sure you check it out 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. The guide also includes special holiday-themed 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/>

For more information go to www.franklindowntownpartnership.org.

Free Play on Story of Christ December 5th & 6th

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Blackstone Valley will celebrate Christmas with the musical production, *Savior of the World: His Birth*. This musical production was commissioned by The Church of Jesus Christ & premiered in 2000 at the Church's Conference Center Theater in SLC, UT. We feel grateful to be performing it here locally!

Our Blackstone Valley Stake cast is comprised of more than 50 actors and singers drawn from local congregations and will have full costuming, set, sound & lighting. Come experience the sacred story of Jesus Christ's birth in this uplifting musical drama that weaves scripture and original music into the story of Mary and Joseph, Zacharias and Elisabeth, and humble shepherds seeking the newborn Christ child.

Tickets are free but they are necessary as seating capacity is limited. Showtime is approximately 1 hour. Performances are



Friday, December 5th and Saturday, December 6th from 7-8 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (91 Jordan Rd., Franklin). [Visitsaviorofttheworldtickets.org](https://visitsaviorofttheworldtickets.org) to reserve your tickets now!

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., holi-

day shopping, silent auction and raffle items, gift baskets, snacks and more.

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

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LiveARTS String Quartet Draws Crowd to Historical Museum

On November 16, 2025, the LiveARTS String Quartet made a comeback appearance at the Franklin Historical Museum. The event was so popular 90 people attended, with standing room only after filling 70 chairs.

The classical music ensemble hopes to fundraise to present a

full season of chamber concerts. To donate, visit <https://tinyurl.com/liveartsstring>. For information, email liveartsma@gmail.com.

Photos by Mia Krishnaswami





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Landry Honored with 2nd Mary C. Morrissey Olsson Historic Preservation Award

The Mary C. Morrissey Olsson Historic Preservation Award was established in 2024 by the Franklin Historical Commission, in honor of former chairperson, Mary Olsson, a tireless advocate for historic preservation, as a non-monetary award to recognize an individual or organization that has made an important contribution to preserving, protecting, or communicating the history of Franklin.

The Commission voted to award the second annual award

to historian Joseph Landry, for his years of research into the history of Franklin, using primary sources, to create presentations and broadcasts that have engaged the public and opened new doors of understanding regarding the town of Franklin. The North Attleborough resident was raised in Franklin and is a 1967 graduate of Franklin High School.

“We know Mary would have been pleased with this recognition of Joe, because she often

worked with him and was instrumental to bringing his work to the Franklin Historical Museum,” said Alan Earls, Historical Commission Chair.

“Just in recent days, Joe has delivered presentations on the early schools of Franklin and, at the Franklin Historical Museum, on the first decades of the Franklin YMCA, which was established back in 1900,” said Earls. His work can also be found on YouTube and on Franklin TV.



The Franklin Historical Commission presented the second The Mary C. Morrissey Olsson Historic Preservation Award to Joe Landry. From left, Landry, Mary’s husband, Kai Olsson and son, Toby Olsson, and Franklin Historical Commission Chair Alan Earls.

Franklin Firm MA Manufacturer of Year for 10th Norfolk District

Foxboro-MA -Dale Medical Products, Inc. of Franklin, Massachusetts received the Manufacturer of the Year Award for the 10th Norfolk District at the 10th Annual Manufacturing Awards Ceremony held Tuesday, October 21st at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, MA. This award is given in recognition of outstanding leadership skills in the manufacturing industry. The annual event was hosted by the Massachusetts Legislative Manufacturing Caucus, in partnership with MassTech Collaborative and the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Mass-MEP).

Dale Medical Products was nominated by State Rep. Jeffrey N. Roy (D-Franklin), House Chair of the Legislature’s Manufacturing Caucus. Founded in 1961, Dale is a trusted manufacturer of specialty medical devices, known for delivering high-quality, reliable, and cost-

effective solutions that enhance patient care with products designed to reduce infection rates, improve efficiency, boost patient satisfaction, and support cost accountability.

This recognition is reserved for Commonwealth manufacturers that exemplify what it means

to “make it in Massachusetts” and propel their industry towards continued growth and innovation. This year, over 60 diverse manufacturers were selected by legislators from across the Commonwealth to be recognized.

“I was proud to join my colleagues in recognizing 69 Massa-

chusetts Manufacturers for their outstanding contributions to our Commonwealth’s economy. Their innovation, craftsmanship, and dedication to job creation, strengthens our communities, and ensures that Massachusetts remains a leader in advanced manufacturing,” said State Rep. Roy.

“Our state is a hub of manufacturing and innovation,” said Senate President Karen E. Spilka. “From materials manufacturers that ship products globally, to nurseries that bring

beauty to homes and businesses, to breweries and distilleries — these are products made with unmatched skill and pride here in Massachusetts. Congratulations to each of the awardees, and my deep thanks to Senator Paul Feeney for his leadership of the Manufacturing Caucus, to Representative Roy, and to all the members who raise their voices on behalf of our manufacturers every day.”

Formed in August 2014, the Manufacturing Caucus includes 71 MA legislators.



A group photo of Massachusetts manufacturers attending the 10th Annual Manufacturing Awards on Tuesday, October 21 at Gillette Stadium. This year, Franklin firm Dale Medical Products, Inc. received MA Manufacturer of the Year Award for the 10th Norfolk District.

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Living Healthy

EVO ICL: Is this the New Lasik?

By: ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, LASIK became the crown jewel of refractive surgery. Patients rushed to correct their vision, thrilled by the idea of being free from glasses and contacts. Over time, however, some of LASIK’s limitations became clearer: cutting and thinning of the cornea, potential for worsened dry-eye symptoms, night-vision issues, and concerns about corneal stability — especially in thinner corneas — as well as challenges in achieving precise intraocular lens calculations if cataract surgery is needed later in life.

A new technology has since emerged in the United States — the EVO Visian ICL (often simply called “EVO ICL”) — and its adoption has grown rapidly since FDA approval in 2022. Designed

for adults with moderate to high myopia, with or without astigmatism, EVO ICL offers a compelling alternative to LASIK.

What makes EVO ICL different — and increasingly preferable? Unlike LASIK, EVO ICL does not remove or thin the cornea. The lens is placed behind the iris and in front of the natural crystalline lens, leaving the corneal architecture untouched. There is no flap creation, no tissue removal, and no weakening of the cornea.

Because the cornea remains intact, the risk of corneal ectasia — a rare but serious complication associated with LASIK — is virtually eliminated in properly screened patients. EVO ICL also tends to minimize dry-eye symptoms, since the corneal nerves are not disrupted as they are during laser-based procedures.

Night-vision problems such as glare or halos, often reported after LASIK, are less common with EVO ICL. Because the eye’s optical system remains more natural and unaltered, patients frequently report crisp, high-quality vision even in dim light.

Another major advantage is that EVO ICL is reversible and additive rather than subtractive. The lens can be removed or replaced if needed, preserving the eye’s natural anatomy. This feature becomes especially important later in life when cataract surgery may be needed. Since the cornea is untouched, calculations for premium intraocular lenses — such as multifocal implants that restore both distance and near vision — remain highly accurate.

Across the country, surgeons are reporting rapid growth in EVO ICL procedures since its



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approval. More patients are asking for it, more practices are offering it, and the procedure has quickly become a mainstream choice for vision correction.

Clinically, LASIK remains an excellent option for patients with mild to moderate myopia, healthy corneal thickness, and no significant dry-eye history. But for patients with thinner corneas, higher prescriptions, greater astigmatism, or those thinking ahead to future cataract surgery, EVO ICL is quickly becoming the preferred option. Many surgeons are now offering it even for mild myopia because of its safety, comfort, and strong outcomes.

In short, LASIK may now represent the past for many patients and practices, while EVO ICL stands as the future of refractive correction. Both have their place, but the shift is unmistakable: more people are choosing EVO ICL for its safety, reversibility, comfort, and compatibility with future vision care.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we are proud to be at the fore-

front of this evolution. Dr. Roger Kaldawy is among the first surgeons in the region to offer EVO ICL technology in our state-of-the-art surgery center. With over 30,000 intraocular procedures — and an even higher number of laser cases — Dr. Kaldawy brings unparalleled experience to this advanced form of refractive surgery. He and his colleagues are committed to helping you achieve your vision goals: reducing your dependence on glasses and contacts while protecting your long-term eye health.

If you’re ready to explore true refractive freedom — and considering a meaningful gift of sight this holiday season — contact us for a consultation and discover why EVO ICL may be the procedure of tomorrow, available today.

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Franklin Historical Museum Historic Happenings December 2025

December and January, the SPECTACULAR, FRANKLIN IN MINIATURE is ON DISPLAY

It took thousands of hours of research and precision modeling to create three large, models of the center of Franklin, circa 1932. The models are an exact representation of the structures that once existed from just west of the present-day Del Carte Conservation land to beyond the present-day Mill Store, and they include hundreds of structures in 1:87 scale (HO scale), tiny motor vehicles, people and even tiny pigeons, all modeled by Scott Mason from photographs and architectural plans.

Saturday, Dec. 13 – The Museum Offers Extended Hours During the A-Wreath-of-Franklin downtown event.

Friends of the Franklin Museum Gift Store will provide exciting reasons to visit the museum and its neighbors from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. this day, during A-Wreath-of-Franklin! Enjoy shopping downtown, community wreaths, and a pop-up market as well!

Sunday, Dec. 14 – The ‘Second Sunday Speaker Series’-- Hoboes

and Vagabonds – Humanity Along the Rails presented by Historian and Master Modeler Scott Mason

In good times and especially in bad times, like the Great Depression of the 1930s, the rail lines became pathways for migration and a way of life for tens of thousands, mostly men but also including women and children. Many knew how to “hop a freight” to get a free but very dangerous ride to wherever they wanted to go. The romance and camaraderie was counterbalanced by crime and rough treatment from railroad police and local officials. Mason will paint a portrait of this bygone subculture and an era with no social safety net. The museum will be open from 1 to 4 to view the exhibit, and Scott will be presenting next door through the courtesy of the Franklin United Methodist Church starting at approximately 1:15.

EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS: DEC 26- DEC 31

To provide more opportunities for individuals and families to view the SPECTACULAR, FRANKLIN IN MINIATURE exhibit, the museum is planning



Franklin in Miniature will be displayed December and January at the Franklin Historical Museum, with extended hours (1-5) on December 13th for A-Wreath-of-Franklin and during school vacation.

to be open from 1 to 5 each day between Christmas and New Year’s, based on the availability of volunteers. Check the Museum Website (<https://www.franklinmuseum1778.org>) or Facebook page for exact hours.

Admission is FREE but DONATIONS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED

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, Thursday from 12-5 p.m. Questions? Contact Alan Earls at (508) 560-3786. Visit <https://www.franklin-museum1778.org>

Franklin UMC & Franklin Fathers to Present Holiday Stories & Song December 13

Franklin UMC & NE Chapel Winter Coat Giveaway Morning of December 13

The Community Concerts @Franklin UMC is proud to partner with Franklin Fathers to provide an afternoon of holiday stories and song on December 13 at 4 p.m. Franklin Fathers will be reading children’s holiday stories, we’ll sing favorite holiday songs and, don’t forget the holiday cookies and hot chocolate! Wear your favorite holiday jammies or ugly sweaters. Prizes will be offered to the most festively dressed. All are welcome.

The Annual Winter Coat Giveaway, an annual collaboration of New England Chapel and the Franklin UMC, will be Saturday, December 13 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Anyone who needs or would like a new winter coat is welcome to come pick one

out for FREE. The Community Closet will also be open during this event. There will be special hours for Franklin seniors and veterans to pick out coats – contact the Franklin Senior Center and Veterans Affairs officer to learn more about transportation to this event. Drop coat donations to Franklin UMC, Franklin YMCA, Franklin Police Station, Franklin Fire Department, and New England Chapel. For questions, please contact Kim at necares@nechapel.org.

The Community Closet will be open Tuesdays, December 2, 9, and 16, from 12-2 p.m., but CLOSED Tuesday, December 23 and 30.

All events take place at the Franklin UMC, 82 W. Central

Street, Franklin. To learn more about the Community @FranklinUMC, go to franklinumc.org/community. Learn more by calling (508) 528-1092 or emailing office@franklinumc.org.

Retiring in 2025!

The owners of Village Street Automotive Medway are retiring December 2025

Thank you for your patronage the last 35 years - and for supporting our small business!

First Universalist Society in Franklin December Events

When the Holidays Hurt: A Blue Christmas Vesper Service

Sunday, December 21, 2025 @ 4 p.m.
Rev. Bev Waring
This meditative service will honor the complexity of feelings during the holidays. Grief is often the hardest emotion to express when it seems that everyone around you is happy or merry. Child care will be provided.

3rd Annual Holiday Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 13, 2025 – 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Select from a delicious assortment of homemade treats provided by more than 30 bakers. Cookies will be sold by the pound. Containers, decorated with your choice of holiday sticker, will be provided.



Come join the First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) on New Year's Eve for a labrynth walk, 5-7 p.m.

New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk

Wednesday, December 31st, from 5 - 7pm. All ages, free.
Candle lit walk through FUSF's 7-Circuit Petite Chartres Labyrinth. Finger labyrinths

available for people who have mobility issues.
Labyrinths are found throughout the world with the oldest dating back thousands of years. In contemporary use, labyrinths



FUSF's third annual cookie walk will take place on the morning of December 13th.

provide an opportunity for personal reflection, spiritual practice, or the reduction of stress.
Please allow about 30 minutes to walk Socks are required. Booties that cover footwear will be provided for those who need shoes to walk.
Call Bobbi at (508) 446-5131 for more information and fol-

low the FUSF Facebook page for weather cancellations.
The First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) is a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation located at 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin. For more information, visit Fusf.org, email info@fusf.org or call (508) 528-5348.

SAFE Wins \$40,000 Grant to Expand Services to Western MA

The SAFE Coalition has been awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Beveridge Family Foundation to expand services into Western Massachusetts. This generous funding will sup-

port the opening of a new office in Springfield in Spring 2026.
This expansion fills a critical gap and brings our barrier-free model to communities in urgent need. We're deeply grateful to

the Beveridge Foundation for supporting our mission to deliver judgement-free, compassionate care where it's needed most!

Diaper Bank Receives Community Support

SAFE's Community Diaper Bank recently received an outpouring of support from both local and philanthropic partners. The Franklin Cross Country Team delivered over 3,000 diapers, 6,700 wipes, and formula, all collected during a diaper drive they hosted last month. The team even ran to the SAFE office to hand deliver the donations!
In addition, SAFE is deeply grateful to have been awarded a \$3,000 grant from Digital Federal Credit Union's "DCU for Kids" Foundation, helping us meet growing demand for essential baby supplies, not covered by public assistance programs like SNAP, across Southeastern Massachusetts. With diaper costs up 48% since 2020 and many

families spending over \$1,000 per child annually, this support is more critical than ever. In the past month alone, SAFE has distributed over 2,000 diapers.
Beyond supplies, the Diaper Bank connects families to broader services like recovery coaching, mental health support, and education.

Want to support the Diaper Bank?

- Host a diaper drive: Email info@safecoalitionma.org to collaborate.
- Drop off donations at the SAFE office. Email intern@safecoalitionma.org to schedule.
- Purchase diapers through SAFE's Amazon wish list at https://tinyurl.com/SAFE-Diaperbank .

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- Ruggles

RED LINE

- Downtown Crossing
- Ashmont
- Davis
- Porter

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

Light Up Franklin 2025 Wed., Dec. 31st, 6 p.m.

BS Troop 126 Sale Also Supports Franklin Food Pantry, Franklin Historical Society

On Wednesday, December 31st, let's transform our town into a beautiful winter community. Please join us to celebrate New Year's Eve by lining our neighborhoods with candle luminaries!

Each \$12 Kit contains supplies for 10 luminaries: 10 white bags, 10 votive candles, sand, and instructions. Order kits by December 19th.

You can pick up kits at Franklin Historical Museum,

Each \$12 Luminary Kit includes supplies for 10 complete luminaries:

- 10 white bags
- 10 votive candles
- Sand
- Step-by-step instructions

Ordering Options

Kits may be ordered online using our QR code or via manual order.

Manual Order Instructions

Please complete the order form with your name, address, email and phone number and make checks payable to BSA

Troop 126 Franklin. Mail or drop off payment and forms to:

BSA Troop 126 Franklin
c/o Craig Arnold, Treasurer
37 Hilltop Rd.
Franklin, MA 02038

Order Deadline

All orders must be placed by December 19.

Pickup & Delivery

Buyers may choose pickup or delivery. Delivery is available within Franklin for an additional \$3.

Kit Pricing

- 1 kit: \$12 pickup / \$15 delivered



- 2 kits: \$24 pickup / \$27 delivered
- 3 kits: \$36 pickup / \$39 delivered
- 4 kits: \$48 pickup / \$51 delivered
- 5 kits: \$60 pickup (delivery not available)

Pickup Details

Pickup will take place at the Franklin Historical Museum on Saturday, December 20, from 1-3 p.m.

For more information, or to fill out the form, use the QR Code accompanying this article.



Newcomers Final Craft Fair a Success, Rotary Sets Next Year's Date

The Franklin Newcomers, with help from the Franklin Rotary Club of MA, held their 50th and final craft fair last month. The doors opened at 9 a.m. sharp, and the number of patrons waiting to enter could put a Bloomingdale's sale to shame! There was a steady stream of visitors and strong vendor sales right up until closing at 3 p.m.

Rotary is extremely grateful to The Newcomers for offering us the unique opportunity to take on their Annual Craft Show. We couldn't have been so successful without Lion's Heart, Rotary Interact and other volunteers! The Newcomers and Rotary members will debrief at a meeting at 5:30 p.m. on December 9 at The Rome Restaurant. A date has been tentatively set for November 14, 2026, at Tri-County School.



Happy Holidays!





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Franklin Police Toy Drive

The Franklin Police are accepting new, unwrapped toys and gift cards before Christmas this year to donate to local causes that help families in need. You can drop off a toy, or scan the QR code then search "Franklin Police Toy Drive" to find the Amazon Registry. For questions, call Sgt. Copeland, (508) 528-1212, x2733 or email ecopeland@franklinma.gov.



Emily Letourneau’s Holiday Fundraiser December 14th

Help Support Boston Children’s Hospital by Having Breakfast with Santa

Bellingham, MA - Today, *Team Emily* announced that their annual holiday fundraiser in memory of Emily Letourneau will take place on Sunday, December 14th, at St. Blaise Church. Enjoy Breakfast with Santa from 9 to 11 a.m. or participate virtually to support Boston Children’s Hospital.

Since 2002, the Letourneau family has organized annual fundraisers in Emily’s memory to give back to Boston Children’s Hospital for the compassionate care Emily received. Born in December 2000, Emily was quickly diagnosed with Zellweger’s Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder with no cure.

“My family will forever be grateful for the compassionate care that Emily received at Boston Children’s Hospital during her short life, treating her as a child and not as a case study,” shared Caitlyn Letourneau, Emily’s older sister. “Today, Boston Children’s treats more children with rare diseases than any other hospital in the coun-

try, and it’s our family’s mission to keep Emily’s memory alive by supporting this life-changing work. As we approach what would have been Emily’s 25th birthday this December, we are filled with gratitude for the friends and community members who continue to join us in honoring her and supporting this incredible organization.”

What: Emily Letourneau’s Breakfast with Santa:

When: Sunday December 14th, 2025, from 9:00am to 11:00am

Where: Saint Blaise Church 1158 S Main St, Bellingham, MA 02019

Donation: \$12pp, \$6 children 6-12, and children under 6 FREE

Other Ways to Donate Virtually: \$20 for 12 chances or for a \$10 donation you get 5 chances to win a gift card holiday wreath. Raffle drawing on Sunday December 14th, 2025, at 11 a.m. <http://secure.childrenshospital.org/goto/TeamEmily25>

2025 Pan-Mass Challenge Raises \$78 M for Dana-Farber

BOSTON, MA - In November, the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC), the world’s single most successful athletic fundraiser, announced a \$78 million gift for cancer research, treatment and patient care at the top-ranked Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Since its founding in 1980, the PMC has raised a total of \$1.125 billion to advance Dana-Farber’s mission in the fight against cancer.

The PMC is Dana-Farber’s largest single contributor and accounts for 67 percent of The Jimmy Fund’s annual revenue. Through this transformative philanthropic relationship, PMC funding continues to be a foundation on which Dana-Farber has built its success. Dana-Farber has made substantive contributions in the development of more than half of all cancer drugs approved by the FDA in the last five years, and is a national leader in conducting clinical trials, currently offering more than 1,200 active clinical trials.

For the 19th consecutive year, 100% of every rider-raised dollar has gone directly to Dana-Farber to support lifesaving cancer research, treatment and care.

The PMC’s philanthropy holds particular importance as the need for funding is greater than ever, and cancer incidences are on the rise. In Massachusetts, new cancer cases rose by 27% between 2020 and 2024. In the state, there have also been 455 new cases/10,000 individuals per year diagnosed with cancer — higher than the national average (CDC).

The PMC is co-presented by the Red Sox Foundation® and M&T Bank. To learn more, visit www.pmc.org, or call (800) WE-CYCLE. Connect with the PMC on Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn.



Stony Brook Camera Club Meets in December

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, MA. 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.

The SBCC includes and welcomes members of all abilities.

Meetings for December:

- December 12: Competition
- December 11 “Storm Chasing” by Robert Galluci
- December 18: “Flash for Flowers” by Bobbi Lane

Member Exhibition at the Norfolk Public Library beginning December 8 during library hours.

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Winter Break Tips for College Bound Seniors

Winter break is the perfect time for high school seniors to take advantage of a well-needed break from their late-night studying and the juggling of sports, work, and clubs. It is a time to catch up on sleep, enjoy the holidays, and of course, cross a few things off the college application checklist!

Winter Break To-Do List:

At this point, students have already submitted their early decision and early action college applications. This is an ideal time for students to submit any outstanding regular decision college applications with January and February deadlines.

Before break begins: Be certain your teacher & guidance counselor recommendation letters and transcripts have been uploaded to the Common Application prior to break.

1. Finish Regular Decision Applications:

- Confirm the application deadlines, required materials that will be needed, and complete the final edits of the main college essay.
- Complete all supplemental essays- including optional essays.

- Complete and submit your regular decision applications as early as possible.
- And, whatever you do- do not wait till 12/31/25 to fill out and submit your 1/1/26 applications.

2. Create a final College spreadsheet:

Once the applications have been submitted, create a spreadsheet with the final list of colleges. Include: college name, campus visit or demonstrated interest status, the college's Acceptance Student Day dates, intended major, scholarship deadlines, tuition and room & board costs, and any other college criteria that is important.

- ### 3. Review College List:
- Take a moment to evaluate the final college list. Make sure that you would be happy to attend ANY of the colleges on your list, especially the "likelies." Having a balanced college list, which includes 2 or 3 likely, probable, and selective colleges, will allow a broader range of possibilities. Lastly, take the time to reflect if there is

a school that's missing- perhaps a dream school? If it is - dream - and apply!

4. Submit Financial Aid Forms:

Complete and submit the FAFSA and CSS forms (if required). Each school posts their deadlines on the financial aid page of their website -important to keep on top of this.

5. Schedule Campus Tours:

It is not too late and the best way to truly determine whether a college is the right fit is to visit the campus when the school is in session. It's best not to visit campuses over winter break but plan your campus tour schedule in late January or February.

General Reminders:

- ### 1. Admission Portals:
- Most colleges provide access to their admission portal so that students can check the status of their applications. The portal also confirms that the colleges have received all of the supplemental materials (transcript, high school profile, recommendation letters, SRAR). A student's application will not be reviewed



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

until all required materials have been received. If a student has not received a portal email notification from a college, call the college's admission office.

2. Don't Let your Academic Guard Down:

Make a plan to finish the year strong! Colleges review the final transcript at the end of the academic year to be certain the student has completed the necessary credits and that their grades are still in good-standing.

Balancing work and play is an important part of maintaining good mental health. The winter

break can achieve both! Take time to also do what you love most. And maybe if you run out of fun things to do, you can have your mom & dad teach you how to do laundry and make a budget - helpful skills in college!

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

College 101 Admissions Consultants LLC.
Website: www.mycollege101.com.
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"Creating Comfort" Theme of Thimble Pleasures Quilt Show Theme

In keeping with its mission statement, Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild has chosen "Creating Comfort" for the theme of its upcoming quilt show.

The guild members involve themselves in both local and national outreach charity programs that create comfort for others. For many years the members have been visiting local nursing and assisted living facilities to work

with the residents in designing their own lap quilts. These lap quilts are then sewn by the guild members and returned to the residents during a Reveal Party. From February to October of this year the guild made a total of 136 lap quilts for these residents and many more extra lap quilts made for residents who were not able to attend the design session.

In addition to lap quilts, mem-

bers also make:

- Fidget quilts that are distributed to nursing homes as well as to members' family and friends
- Placemats for spring and for the winter holidays given to a local Senior Center drawn during a guild meeting
- Chemo caps donated to UMass Memorial Hospital or to local residents who are undergoing chemo therapy
- Brian's Quilts, flannel-backed small quilts made for children for local police departments to carry in their cruisers to comfort a child in need due to accident, fire or family need.

- Kennel Quilts, a national program benefitting rescue leagues working in disaster-stricken areas. Kennel Quilts are sent out to areas of our country that are rescuing animals from forest fires, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, or blizzards. More than 50 Kennel quilts have been distributed this year.
- Kitten Bags, a new project, that provides cotton drawstring bags filled kitten toys and treats for kittens adopted from the Blackstone Valley Regional Animal Shelter.

In addition to these projects the guild also donates full-sized quilts through its Comfort Quilt

program. These quilts are given to those in need and to people whose story has touched our members with joy, loss, stress, illness, and in many other ways. These quilts are also donated to support groups such as the End of Life Program at Milford Regional Medical Center. Many quilts have also been sent to the Ukraine to support refugees there as well as to areas of the United States which have experienced disasters.

You can see examples of these efforts at the Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild biennial quilt show on March 15-16 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School in Upton.

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Calendar

December 2

Busy Bees Holiday Bazaar, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, handmade crafts

December 3

Winter Sing-Along with Dean College Vocal Ensemble, 4 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin
Busy Bees Holiday Bazaar, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, handmade crafts

December 4

Franklin LGBTQ Alliance Wreath Making and Games, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Franklin TV and Radio, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin

December 5

Savior of the World: His Birth, 7-8 p.m., The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (91 Jordan Rd., Franklin), free, but reserve tickets at savioroft-heworldtickets.org
Exsultet! to perform holiday concert, Baby It's Cold Outside, 7:30 p.m. Christ Lutheran Church, 113 Union Street, Natick, for ticket information, visit www.exsultet.us.
11th Annual Holiday Stroll & Sale, 4-8:30 p.m., Downtown Medfield, <https://bellforge.org/event/holiday-stroll-2025/>

December 6

St. John's Christmas Fair, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., 237 Pleasant Street, Franklin. www.stjohnsfranklinma.org, or (508) 528-2387.
Franklin Garden Club Holiday Wreath and Arrangement Sale, 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., Daddario's Hardware Store, 528 West Central Street, Franklin, decorated holiday wreaths, swags, cemetery and patio boxes as well as table arrangements ranging from \$25 - \$40.

Visit [@franklingardenclubma](https://franklingardenclubma). Cash, credit card, check, or Venmo accepted.
Holiday Pop-Up Shop, 10-11:30 a.m., 82 West Central St., Franklin, handmade art and gifts by Ali Rheume of Embracing Unique, floral bouquets by Piette Petal, coat and clothes donation drive for Community Closet. *Please fragrance free
Knights of Columbus blood drive, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., St. Mary's religious education office, Pleasant St., Franklin
Savior of the World: His Birth, 7-8 p.m., The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (91 Jordan Rd., Franklin), free, but reserve tickets at savioroft-heworldtickets.org
HCA Holiday Marketplace, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Hopkinton Center for the Arts 98 Hayden Rowe St., Hopkinton, shop from 40 local artisans

December 7

Charles River Chorale Winter Concert, "Lift and Illuminate Our Voices, 2 p.m., Medway High School Auditorium, visit <https://our.show/crcwinterconcert> .
Exsultet! to perform holiday concert, Baby It's Cold Outside, 2 p.m., First Congregational Church, 725 Washington Street, Holliston, for ticket information, visit www.exsultet.us.
Proctor Mansion Inn Holiday Afternoon Tea, 1-3 p.m., All ages, musical entertainment, a variety of flavored teas, menu catered by The Vintage Tea & Cake Co., guided house tour of this unique, historic 1861 home available at the end. Space limited, info. at <https://proctormansion.com/products/annual-holiday-afternoon-tea/>
Advance reservations and payment required. Please inform us of any food allergies or dietary restrictions when booking. Call 877-384-1861 for more information.

December 11

Winter Wonderland, 4:30 – 7 p.m.,

Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill, Franklin, Bring the family for an evening of holiday cheer! Holiday decorations, live entertainment with Elvis, cookies & hot cocoa, caricature artist, face painting, photobooth, raffle baskets, and a visit from Santa!
Stony Book Camera Club, 7:30 p.m., "Storm Chasing" by Robert Galluci, Anglican Church of the Redeemer, 195 Main Street, Franklin

December 12

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

December 13

Annual Winter Coat Giveaway, by New England Chapel and the Franklin UMC, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., 82 W. Central St., Franklin, anyone who needs or would like a new winter coat is welcome to come pick one out for FREE.
FUSF Cookie Walk, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., The First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF), 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin, cookies sold by pound
2nd Annual "A-Wreath-of-Franklin," 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.,
Pop-up selection of beautifully curated selection of handcrafted goods from local artists, makers, and small businesses and Community Wreath Display created by artists, families, schools, and organizations showcasing the theme of "Franklin Welcomes the World."
For updates, visit <https://franklinartsculture.my.canva.site/wreath25-program-site>
Franklin Public Library Book Sale, 9 a.m. -12 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Books \$1, bag sale 1-4 p.m.
Franklin UMC & Franklin Fathers Holiday Stories and Song, 4 p.m., Franklin Fathers to read children's holiday stories, with holiday cookies and hot chocolate provided, jammies and ugly sweaters encouraged, with prizes.

December 14

Second Sunday Speaker Series: Hoboes and Vagabonds – Humanity Along the Rails, presented by Scott Mason, 1:15 p.m., doors open 1 p.m., Franklin United Methodist Church*, 82 W. Central St., Franklin, *Franklin Historical Museum program to be presented next door*

December 17

Queer Book Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Franklin TV and Radio, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin. *Carmilla*, by Joseph Sheridan LeFanu! Sponsored by Franklin LGBTQ Alliance.

December 18

"Flash for Flowers" by Bobbi Lane, Anglican Church of the Redeemer, 195 Main Street, Franklin

December 20

Copley Cats Holiday Concert, 3 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, A Capella group with 30-year history

December 21

When the Holidays Hurt: A Blue Christmas Vesper Service, 4 p.m., The First Universalist Society in Franklin, 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin, with Rev. Bev Waring, for those struggling with loss at Christmastime

December 24

Cocoa and Coloring, 12 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, adult program featuring a holiday classic movie and coloring to relax

December 31

FUSF New Year's Labyrinth Walk, 5-7 p.m. The First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF), 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin

Baby, It's Cold Outside

Exsultet to Perform Two Holiday Concerts

Kick off the holiday season with the exquisite sounds of Exsultet as we present our annual winter concert. This year's performance, "Baby, It's Cold Outside," features moments of ethereal beauty such as in the *Hebrides Lullaby*, the humor of *Cold and Fugue Season*, and classics like *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*. Celebrate the season's

joyful moments and experience the warmth of music that brings families and friends together.

Concert Dates:

Friday, December 5, 2025, 7:30 p.m.
Christ Lutheran Church
113 Union Street, Natick

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 2 p.m.
First Congregational Church
725 Washington Street, Holliston
For ticket information, visit www.exsultet.us. Tickets will also be available at the door prior to the performance.
Whether you're a longtime concert-goer or joining us for the first time, this performance promises to be a memorable evening. Come and experience the

magic of the season with songs that have become part of our most cherished traditions. Let's warm up together, because Baby, It's Cold Outside!
About Exsultet!
Founded in 2013, **Exsultet! A Celebration of Voices** is an auditioned women's chamber ensemble combining great music and poetry to inspire audiences with adventurous and innovative con-

certs. Exsultet's mission is to give women an opportunity to join together to make music, to showcase the works of up and coming composers and arrangers, to feature the talents of local musicians and actors, and to combine performance and advocacy by focusing on important community issues and partnering with other local organizations. For more details, please visit www.exsultet.us.

Sports

TC Girls' Basketball Faces Ranking, Scoring Challenges

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Tri-County's girls' basketball team recorded an 11-5 season last winter, finding themselves losing to only three teams. The record earned the Cougars a number 43 seed in the Division 4 State Tournament, where the team did not do well in their first-round game and was sent home with a 49-31 loss.

Coach Julie Caffrey is hoping that, despite the new vocational tournament alignment by the MIAA, her girls will be able to qualify for the post-season, something Tri-County hasn't done in as long time. In addition, qualifying through the new power ranking system the MIAA has also incorporated three new divisions (small, medium and large), Tri-County is currently teetering between the small and medium division at the time of this writing.

"In the past, it was strictly based on your won/loss record," Caffrey said. "Now, with the new power ranking, teams that we could benefit from playing don't want to play us, as it doesn't help their cause."

Playing in the large division of the Mayflower League, the Cougars will still find themselves tipping off against some tough



Juniors Kerin O'Connolly, Leah Hall, and Neila Schweitzer will be key players in building Tri-County Girls' Basketball this season.
Photos used courtesy of Julie Caffrey.

teams that regularly play in Divisions 1-3, which will be beneficial to the team's power ranking. Tri-County will also play some tough Cape Tech Schools during the regular season.

Although the qualifying standards have changed, Tri-County still needs to overcome its biggest challenge in order to get to the post-season – scoring.

"In the past, we've had some quarters where we didn't score at all," the coach said. "We know that we have to put the ball in the hoop to be successful. Over the first part of the season, we will work on our defense, and the rest of the year we will focus on our scoring."

In addition, the team will unfortunately be without its senior center Ava Gill, her tore her ACL during the later part of the lacrosse season and will remain sidelined. According to the Coach, Gill was the only real height the team had coming into the winter campaign.

Without Gill, Caffrey will rely on three juniors who have been with the squad since their freshman years. The coach also hopes she may get some height from incoming freshman.

Junior Kerin O'Connolly, the team's starting point guard

and leading scorer, averaging 11 points per contest will be looked upon to increase her scoring this winter now that she is a year older and wiser on the court. According to Caffrey, Tri-County's offense will run through O'Connolly.

Another junior, Leah Hall, had a breakout campaign last year as the team's shooting guard, and the coach is looking for her to use her quickness and aggressive play on defense. Hall will also be regulated to guarding the opposition's best player slowing them down and keeping the team from getting going.

The final junior that will be looked upon to guide the team this year will be Neila Schweitzer, who, although playing forward last year, has also seen some earlier time as a guard. Schweitzer plays tough down low and will battle with the best of them, and although not the tallest girl on the team, she definitely will play up to her competition. She is an important key to the Cougar's success and brings

a lot of knowledge to the court.

Last year, then junior Becca Hall, playing in her first varsity season, started out slow and eventually picked up her game, but the outside shooter found herself benched near the end of the season with an injury. Caffrey noted that the senior is ready to go this year.

Tri-County will also have two sophomores looking to help the cause on the court this winter. Both Ava Simoes and Addi Kunicki are guards that were swing players last year, but really didn't see a lot of action with the varsity club. Simoes is a quick individual that can not only shoot but drive to the basket while running the JV team. Kunicki is a tough defensive player that will share the point guard job with O'Connolly, allowing the juniors wing play to open up.

If all comes together, and everyone plays their part, the Cougars could finally make it back to the postseason, where they might have some success.

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Sports

FHS Celebrates Standout Fall Athletic Season



Franklin High School's Girls Volleyball team won the MIAA Division I State Championship, defeating Newton North at Billerica High School, on Saturday, Nov. 15. (Photo Courtesy Franklin Public Schools)

Franklin, MA - Principal Maria Weber and Athletic Director Karrah Ellis are proud to share that Franklin High School is celebrating one of its strongest fall athletic seasons in recent years, highlighted by a state championship, several league titles and playoff success across multiple programs.

The season's biggest milestone November 15th, when the Girls Volleyball team won the MIAA Division I State Championship, defeating Newton North at Billerica High School. It marks the first state title in program history. The match drew a large Franklin crowd, including a "Rattle City" student section that traveled to support the team.

Franklin also saw significant postseason achievements in several other sports. Field Hockey reached the Division I State Final and battled Walpole in a tight 1-0 game. Girls Soccer continues its postseason run and will play Natick in the Division I Championship Game on

Saturday. Cheerleading earned the Hockomock League Championship, won the South Sectional, and will compete for a Division I State Championship this Sunday at Worcester State University.

Franklin's student-athletes continued to shine throughout the fall. Highlights include:

- At press time, FHS football will play King Philip for the Hockomock Kelly-Rex League title on Thanksgiving at Franklin. The team entered the state tournament as the number nine seed and advanced to the Round of 16.
- Boys' Soccer won the Hockomock Kelly-Rex Division and reached the Round of 16 in the MIAA tournament.
- The Unified Basketball Blue and White teams completed a successful season that would conclude with a charity game to support the Kyle Cares Foundation. Students also participated in the Spe-

cial Olympics Jamboree.

- Two members of the FHS Golf Team advanced from the Central Sectional Tournament to compete in the State Championship at the Ridge Club in Sandwich.
- Boys and Girls Cross Country each posted strong seasons and closed the year at the MIAA Division I Championship in Wrentham, with many athletes earning personal bests.

The high school was recently awarded the Boston Globe Dalton Trophy for the 2024-2025 academic year. This recognition was Franklin's seventh consecutive Dalton Trophy, given annually to the school with the best overall athletic performance across all varsity programs.

Additionally, longtime Wrestling Coach Carmine Colace, who retired at the end of last school year, has been named the MIAA Wrestling Coach of the Year and will be honored at a ceremony on Dec. 8.

"This fall captured the best of Franklin athletics," said Athletic Director Ellis. "Our teams competed at a high level thanks to the tremendous support of their coaches, and our families and fans were there every step of the way. The energy around Franklin High School athletics has never been stronger."

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Family Winter Wonderland & More at Franklin Senior Center

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

Monday, 12/1, 1:30 p.m., 50+ Job Seekers: Interviewing: 7 p.m., Southeastern MA Community Concert Band, Come for an evening of live holiday music! Free and open to the entire community!

Tuesday, 12/2, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Busy Bees Holiday Bazaar: Handmade crafts for holiday gifts, your home, and your loved ones!

Wednesday, 12/3, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Busy Bees Holiday Bazaar: Handmade crafts for holiday gifts, your home, and your loved ones!

Wednesday, 12/3, 1 p.m., Joe Landry Talk: Franklin Post Office: We'll explore the history of how the Post Office evolved from the town's beginning up until the 1970's.

Thursday, 12/4, 1-2:30 p.m., Felted Winter Countryside: Craft a charming winter scene featuring a cozy home in a snowy countryside. Using a barbed felting needle, you'll shape and

layer the wool to create a wintry landscape scene nestled into a terra-cotta saucer, creating a frame for the artwork. 15 people maximum, spots are filling fast!

Tuesday, 12/9, 9:30 a.m., Technology Assistance: bring your questions to Rich from Tinetrix.

Tuesday, 12/9, 1 p.m., 7 Winter Home Safety Tips for Older Adults: Winter weather can pose serious risks for older adults, especially when it comes to cold temperatures, slippery conditions, and power outages. Join Gabrielle from Advanced Home Care to learn about 7 tips to remain safe at home during winter weather seasons!

Thursday, 12/11, 4:30 - 7 p.m., Winter Wonderland: Bring the family for an evening of holiday cheer! See the Senior Center decked out for the holidays, including live entertainment with Elvis, cookies & hot cocoa, caricature artist, face painting, photobooth, raffle baskets, and a visit from Santa! The Senior Center gift shop will be open. The Senior Center Van will be available for rides.

Friday, 12/12, 1-2:30 p.m., Community Closet Coat Give-away for Seniors: Seniors can go to Franklin United Methodist Church (82 West Central St., Franklin MA) to get a free winter coat and free winter clothing. This date & time is for SENIORS ONLY. If you need transportation, the Senior Center Van will be available for rides to the Coat Drive, please call us to schedule a ride.

Monday, 12/15, 1:30 p.m., 50+ Job Seekers: Holiday Motivation

Tuesday, 12/16, 1 p.m., The Art of Saying No: Neuroscience insights of People-Pleasing: Why is it so hard to say no—and what's happening in the brain when we do? This eye-opening talk explores the neuroscience behind people-pleasing, including the roles of empathy circuits, stress responses, and social bonding chemicals like oxytocin. Learn how brain patterns can be rewired to support healthy boundaries, self-respect, and authentic connection.

Wednesday, 12/17, 12:30 p.m., Reiki Meditation: Reiki is

a practice that aims to promote healing and well-being by directing energy in the body. Join Sharon as she shares a guided meditation and group Reiki session.

Wednesday, 12/17, 1 p.m., Memory Café: Live entertainment featuring Alex Connelly. Memory Cafes are safe and inviting spaces for people experiencing memory loss, as well as

for their families and caregivers. Join us for an hour of music, conversation, refreshments, and meaningful engagement.

Friday, 12/19, 1-3 p.m., Christmas Karaoke Sing-along: With holiday mocktails!

Tuesday, 12/23, 9:30 a.m., Technology Assistance: Bring your questions to Rich from Tinetrix.

Franklin LGBTQ Alliance Events for December

Wreath making and games

Thursday December 4th 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Franklin TV and Radio, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin. Join us for games and to make our wreath for A Wreath of Franklin!

Winter Wonderland at Southwicks Zoo

Friday December 12th, 7-9 p.m. Join us as we go to South-

wicks Zoo for their Winter Wonderland lights and some shopping! Tickets can be purchased online or at the door. <https://southwickszoo.com/winter-wonderland/>

Queer Book Club

Wednesday December 17th, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Franklin TV and Radio, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin. Selection is Carmilla, by Joseph Sheridan LeFanu!

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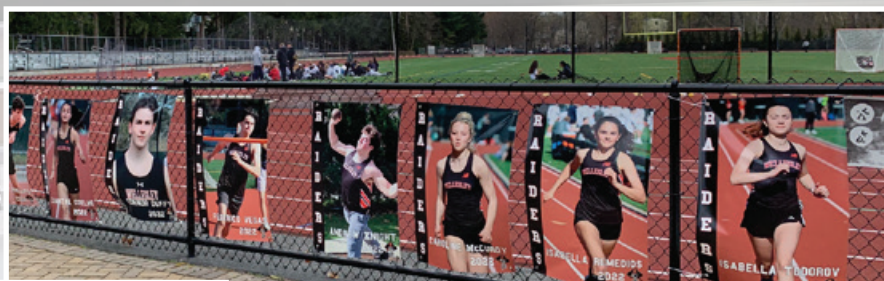
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Franklin Enhances Municipal Safety Measures with MIIA Grant

Franklin, MA – On October 15, 2025, the town of Franklin was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), the town’s property and casualty insurance provider, to support the installation of Sam-sara GPS modules that improve the town’s ability to track and manage fleet operations thereby enhancing the efficiency, safety, and sustainability of its public works operations.

With real-time GPS tracking, the town can monitor winter operations more closely and calculate salt and calcium usage with greater precision, ensuring materials are applied as economically and effectively as possible.

The technology also provides diagnostic information that enables faster identification and repair of town vehicle performance issues, reducing environmental impact and preventing more costly repairs. Additionally, integration with Franklin’s new fuel system enables more accurate fuel tracking and reporting, allowing the town to better understand and reduce its environmental footprint over time.

“This grant is helping us improve how we manage operations, respond to maintenance needs, and make informed decisions about future vehicle investments,” said Jay Stearns, Franklin’s Fleet Manager. “With these new tools, we’re better equipped to serve residents, operate efficiently, and reduce our environmental impact.”

For the 2025 fiscal year, MIIA awarded \$1 million to fund over 150 grant requests from members for public safety activities and equipment. Municipalities were able to conduct HVAC evaluations, purchase confined space safety equipment, and conduct boiler and water loss prevention measures, among many other initiatives.

“This grant is about real-world impact – helping municipalities reduce claims, safeguard municipal assets, and protect workers,” said Stan Corcoran, MIIA Executive Vice President. “Helping our members build safer communities is central to MIIA’s mission, and we’re pleased to support Franklin as it strengthens efforts to prevent losses and protect both employees and residents.”

MIIA is a membership service of the Massachusetts Municipal Association. As a mission-driven, member-led nonprofit, MIIA focuses on providing Massachusetts municipalities and other governmental entities with insurance coverage alternatives, quality risk management, and wellness programs.

For more information, visit www.emiia.org and www.mma.org.

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Susan Morrison
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susan.morrison1@comcast.net

"Susan was fantastic! She really knows her stuff and I will be using her again in the future and referring her to anyone that asks me who I would recommend!"
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State Fire Marshal Urges Heating Fire Safety during Heating Season

Stow, MA - With temperatures falling, Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine is reminding residents protect themselves and their loved ones from some of the most common home heating hazards.

"Most of Massachusetts will see some of the coldest weather since last winter over the next few days," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "Heating equipment is the leading cause of carbon monoxide at home and the second leading cause of residential fires. Whether you're using gas, oil, solid fuel, or space heaters to keep warm, be sure you keep safe, too."

State Fire Marshal Davine said there were more than 6,400 heating fires in Massachusetts from 2020 to 2024. These fires claimed eight lives, caused 153

injuries to firefighters and residents, and contributed to over \$52 million in damage. And in 2024 alone, Massachusetts fire departments reported finding carbon monoxide at more than 4,700 non-fire incidents.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Every household needs working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of their home. Check the manufacturing date on the back of your alarms so you know when to replace them: smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years, and carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced after 5 to 10 years depending on the model. If it's time to replace your alarms, choose new ones from a well-known, national brand with the mark of an independent testing lab such

as UL or Intertek/ETL. Select smoke alarms with a sealed, long-life battery and a hush feature.

Natural Gas and Oil Heat

If you have a furnace, water heater, or oil burner, have it professionally checked and serviced each year. This will help it run more efficiently, which will save you money and could save your life. Always keep a three-foot "circle of safety" around the appliance clear of anything that could catch fire. Never store painting supplies, aerosol cans, or other flammable items near these appliances. If you smell gas, don't use any electrical switches or devices: get out, stay out, and call 9-1-1 right away.

Solid Fuel Heating

If you use a fireplace or a stove that burns wood, pellets, or coal, always keep the area around it clear for three feet in all directions. This circle of safety should be free of furniture, drapery, rugs, books and papers, fuel, and any other flammable items. To prevent sparks and embers from escaping, use a fireplace screen or keep the stove door closed while

burning. Use only dry, seasoned hardwood and don't use flammable liquids to start the fire. When disposing of ashes, wait until they are cool and shovel them into a metal bucket with a lid and place it outside at least 10 feet away from the building.

Have your chimney and flue professionally inspected and cleaned each year. Most chimney fires are caused by burning creosote, a tarry substance that builds up as the fireplace, wood stove, or pellet stove is used. If burning creosote, sparks, embers, or hot gases escape through cracks in the flue or chimney, they can cause a fire that spreads to the rest of the structure. Annual cleaning and inspection can minimize this risk. Contact the Massachusetts Chimney Sweep Guild or Chimney Safety Institute of America to identify reputable local companies.

Space Heaters

Keep space heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn. Plug them directly into a wall socket, not an extension cord or a power strip, and remember that they're for tem-

porary use. Always turn a space heater off when you leave the room or go to sleep.

When purchasing a space heater, select one that's been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company such as UL or Intertek/ETL. Newer space heaters should have an automatic shut-off switch that turns the device off if it tips over. Unvented kerosene space heaters and portable propane space heaters are not permitted for residential use in Massachusetts, State Fire Marshal Davine said: they pose a great risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Create and Practice a Home Escape Plan

Everyone should have a home escape plan that accounts for two ways out of every room, and everyone should be able to open the doors and windows along the way. Remember that children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need extra assistance.

Find More Home Heating Safety Tips at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/winter-home-heating-safety>

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Wishing Everyone Joy and Peace this Holiday Season!



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