



# Bellingham BULLETIN

Vol. 32 No. 2

Bellingham's Favorite Hometown Newspaper

January 1, 2026

## Kids Lead the Way in PLTW Showcase

By DAVID DUNBAR

Ever been in a room full of 150 sixth graders who are excited to show off the Therapeutic Toys they conceived and constructed?

“Organized chaos” is the way Todd Monroe describes it. He’s a STEAM teacher at Bellingham Memorial School (BMS), and organizer of a well-attended showcase last month.

“Students have seven class periods to sketch, design, build, modify and present their creations,” explains Monroe. STEAM is an acronym for Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics.

And what, exactly, is a “Therapeutic Toy?” Some examples include Magna-tiles, Shape Sorters, rolling dice with a cup, and Play-Doh to name a few. Each works on three



Todd Monroe, Bellingham Memorial School teacher and organizer of Project Lead The Way, leans in with Damian, Jordy and Rowan at the boy’s Therapeutic Toy entitled The Conveyor Project.

primary skills: pincer grasp, hand-eye coordination, and wrist extension. And they

LEAD

continued on page 2

## Celebrating 75 Years of We Serve:

The Bellingham Lions Club's Legacy of Community & Heart

By JENNIFER RUSSO

For three quarters of a century, the Lions Club of Bellingham has been a shining example of the power of volunteerism and community outreach. Since

it was chartered on November 8, 1950, the Club has brought the international Lions mission of

CELEBRATING

continued on page 3



Rep. Mike Soter presents the Bellingham Lions with a citation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in recognition of its 75th Anniversary.



**Authentic Landscapes**  
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

*Serving our communities for 30 years!*

Let us point you in the right direction for your next hardscape/landscape project

Hardscapes • Patios • Walkways • Stone Walls • Landscape Maintenance & Design  
Plantings • Backhoe/Excavator/Bobcat Service • Outdoor Kitchens & Showers • Firepits

508-528-7114

Insured [www.authenticlandscapes-ma.com](http://www.authenticlandscapes-ma.com) Licensed

Get the Experience & Knowledge that you need to Navigate the Real Estate Market!

Call us Today!

**Kelley Byrnes-Benkart**  
Broker Associate, GRI, ABR, CBR  
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices  
Commonwealth Real Estate  
391 E Central St, Franklin, MA 02038  
508-245-2336  
Kelley.Benkart@CommonMoves.com

**Poli MORTGAGE GROUP**  
a division of radius financial group, inc.

**Sarah Joy**  
NMLS 1914862 - Branch Manager  
600 Longwater Drive  
Norwell, MA 02061  
(774) 291-6481

Poli Mortgage Group a division of radius financial NMLS 1846.  
Equal Housing Lender. [www.radiusgrp.com/licenses](http://www.radiusgrp.com/licenses)  
[www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org](http://www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org)

**Piette JEWELERS**  
WHERE QUALITY & SERVICE ALWAYS COME FIRST!

Wedding Bands and Engagement Rings of all styles. Stop by and see our collection!

COME IN AND VIEW OUR COLLECTION

- Gemologist
- Watchmaker
- Engraver
- Jewelry Repairs
- Custom Remounting
- Gifts & Collectibles
- Overseas Diamond Buyers
- We Buy Gold

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10:00 - 5:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 - 2:00 pm  
Closed Sunday and Monday

**The Piette Family**  
Back Row: Ross, Ryan, Roland  
Front Row: Jennifer, Rita

429 Pulaski Blvd  
Bellingham, MA 02019  
(508) 876-0010  
[www.piettejewelers.com](http://www.piettejewelers.com)

Serving the community for over 65 years

**Pre-Targeting™: The New Way to Buy Online Display Ads**

Pre-Targeting selects the sites by the concentration of audience interest rather than specific content.

Want to reach your target audience?  
Contact Jen Schofield at 508-570-6544 or by email at [jenschofield@localtownpages.com](mailto:jenschofield@localtownpages.com) today for more information.

PRSRRT STD  
FIRST CLASS  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 142  
SPRINGFIELD, MA  
Postal  
Customer  
Local

**localtownpages**

Scan this QR CODE to visit our Website

Scan this QR CODE to visit our Facebook Page

**localtownpages**

LEAD

continued from page 1

are created by teams of up to four students each. This is all part of a nationwide curriculum program; Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

“There was a lot of nervous energy in the room,” continues Monroe. BMS Principal Josh Hanna adds, “This is how we make the technology program come to life. They can say to themselves, ‘I did this, and it works!’ This is how we build next-generation creators.”

Giselle White, Violet Trudeau, and Breagha Briggeman are “next generation creators”. The three 11-year-olds created a computer complete with a box for the hard drive, a keyboard and mousepad (pictured). Violet came up with the idea, Breagha noted, “We had to try our best,” and Giselle concluded, “We succeeded!”

Attending the showcase were parents, teachers, and others.



Thursday, December 18, 9:30am... about 150 sixth graders, parents, teachers, and others gathered in the BMS cafeteria to see about 30 projects created by teams of three or four 11-year-olds each.

About half the sixth grade had their creations on display; the other half will showcase their work in late May. Three teams will go on to represent BMS at the state-wide PLTW Showcase in Boston next year at The Track at New Balance Center. Monroe says, “We have been sending students for four consecutive years, and this year marks the fifth such journey.”

Folks who attended in the BMS cafeteria were asked to evaluate and vote on the Therapeutic Toys on display. More than 30 ballots were submitted with comments including, “Never seen something like this before,” “Amazing,” “Creative,” and “Passionate.”

Helping to make all this possible was a five-figure grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences



Sixth graders (from left) Giselle White, Violet Trudeau, and Breagha Briggeman stand in front of the desk top computer they conceived and constructed. They said the computer took two to three weeks from design to finish.

Center. A grant summary from the Center’s Ryan Mudawar noted, “Funding went toward updating outdated lab equipment, replacing broken items, introducing students to modern lab techniques... and providing students with essential real-world life science experiences and technical skills to prepare them for post-graduation.”

Grant money also went to-

ward 3D printers, classroom furniture, and industry connections where students receive feedback on their projects from industry professionals.

New research shows that potential employers are looking for critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity in their prospective hires. These sixth graders may have some potential.

localtownpages

Founded by Pamela Johnson

Published Monthly Mailed FREE to the Community of Bellingham Circulation: 7,500 households & businesses

Publisher Jennifer Schofield

Editor Judith Dorato O’Gara

Send Editorial to: bellinghambulletineditor@gmail.com

Advertising Director Jen Schofield 508-570-6544 jenschofield@localtownpages.com

Creative Design & Layout Michelle McSherry Kim Vasseur Wendy Watkins

Office Address 9 Industrial Road, Suite 107 Milford, MA 01757

Ad Deadline is the 15th of each month.

LocalTownPages assumes no financial liability for errors or omissions in printed advertising and reserves the right to reject/edit advertising or editorial submissions.

© Copyright 2026 LocalTownPages

Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild to Raise Funds for Home Base

The Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild has chosen Home Base as their Special Fundraiser for their biennial quilt show to be held March 14th and 15th at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School.

Home Base is a national non-profit organization dedicated to healing the invisible wounds of war for veterans of all eras. Service members, military families and families of the fallen have access to world-class direct

MORAN PLUMBING SOLUTIONS FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING NEEDS CALL TODAY! 508-918-4648 Gerald Moran, Owner License # PL36504-J Insured

Cartier’s Funeral Home Complete Pre-Need Funeral Planning Family Owned & Operated Since 1957 Serving Bellingham and the Surrounding Communities 151 South Main Street, Bellingham, MA 02019 508-883-8383 www.cartiersfuneralhome.com Francis E. Cartier Leslie A. Cartier



Pictured are a sampling of the articles that will contribute to this fundraiser and some of the guild members who made them.

clinical care, wellness, education and research at no cost to them regardless of era of service, discharge status or geographical location. The program was founded by Massachusetts General Hospital and the Boston Red Sox.

Home Base receives a significant portion of their funding through fundraising efforts and Thimble Pleasures hopes to be able to contribute greatly to these efforts. Guild members

have been busy creating articles to be sold at a special table during the quilt show with all proceeds being donated to Home Base. These articles have been created using patriotic and Red Sox fabric themes and include table runners, small quilts, cross-stitched Christmas ornaments, door decorations and pillows. This special fundraiser is being chaired by Pattie Trachimowicz and Linda Gosselin.

**CELEBRATING**

*continued from page 1*

“We Serve” to life right here at home, supporting seniors, youth, families in need, and important causes statewide while enriching the fabric of our town.

Lions Clubs International, the world’s largest service organization, which was originally founded in 1917, has grown to almost 1.5 million members in over two hundred countries, united in humanitarian service that spans from global sight conservation to local community support. The Bellingham Lions Club proudly carries forward its mission, adapting to the needs of our neighbors with compassion and humility.

In those early years, 24 local volunteers from Bellingham met together to plan ways they could make a difference — fundraising, organizing events, and responding to community needs big and small. Their efforts focused not just on global concerns, but also on the everyday needs of local families, youth, and seniors.

For example, the Lions donated the town’s first ambulance in 1954. Some other notable contributions include beginning an Outstanding Citizen award program in 1968, with the first recipient being Maurice LeBlanc, the Scoutmaster of Troop 18. The Lions actively partici-

pate in town parades, such as the annual Memorial Day parade and the 250th and 275th town anniversaries. They were involved in presenting the Bellingham Blackouts shows in the 70s and 80s. They raised funds for a thermal imaging gun for the Fire Department, and they more recently funded the concessions and restroom building at the high school football field.

The first elected King Lion was Francis G. Locklin, along with Vice Presidents Bruno Santini and Leo Levitre. Walter Mostek was the first treasurer, and Lucien Gagne was the first secretary. While the Club rallied around several objectives, the first and second on their charter well explains their mission – 1) to promote the theory and practice of the principles of good government and good citizenship, and 2) to take an active interest in the civic, social, and moral welfare of the community.

Over the decades, the Lions’ events and projects have become beloved traditions in Bellingham. Annual fundraising efforts, such as the golf tournament, help award scholarships to local students, and everyone looks forward to seasonal events, like their well-attended holiday luncheon and Santa visits to local neighborhoods on his “sleigh” to help benefit the Loaves & Fishes Food Pan-

try. They also run the popular BARKtober Fest in October to help raise funds for pet charities. Additionally, the Club has also championed youth creativity and leadership through speech and Peace Poster contests, and in recent years collected items to deliver to Ukraine when they were most in need.

More than just events, the Lions’ service shows up in everyday impact—raising funds for eye research, recognizing student and athletic achievements, partnering with local nonprofits, and walking with families through times of need. Each volunteer hour and every contribution reflects a simple but powerful truth: service strengthens our Bellingham community. Since its official incorporation in January of 1951, their impact on our town has been incredibly valuable.

As the Club celebrates its 75 years of service, we honor all past and present members whose dedication has helped make Bellingham an even better place to live—and hope it inspires future generations to carry the Club’s spirit of service into the future.

To learn more about the Bellingham Lions Club, follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/BellinghamMALions or send an email to bellinghammalions@yahoo.com.

# Happy New Year from the Town Clerk’s office!

We spent much of last year getting the office up to date and organized, and we’re looking forward to the 2026 election season! As of today, we have three scheduled elections: the Annual Town Election on June 2nd, the State Primary on September 1st, and the State Election on November 3rd. If there are any additions or changes to that schedule, we’ll be sure to let you know.

Nomination papers for the June 2nd Local Election will be available March 1st. To ease the process of running for local election, we’ve created a “how to” guide for running for office in Bellingham. It can be found on our website at www.bellinghamma.org under “Town Clerk.” This packet contains a timeline for the Local Election, campaign finance dates and information, and offices up for election. A paper copy can be picked up at the Town Clerk’s office, as well as nomination papers (beginning March 1st) for those interested. Fifty verified signatures are required to be on the ballot, and these must be returned to us by April 14. All the positions listed below are open, and we welcome participation. Author Roald Dahl once said, “somewhere inside of all of us is the power to change the world,” and I truly believe that everyone

can make a difference.

Offices on the ballot for the Local Election this year are listed below, and incumbents (those currently elected) are marked with an (I). For information on any of the positions, please contact us at the Town Clerk’s office at (508) 657-2830 or townclerk@bellinghamma.org, and please make sure you’re registered to vote by May 22nd for the election!

**Select Board, 2 positions, 3-year terms.**

- Ann L. Odabashian (I)
- Michael J. Hennessey (I)

**Planning Board, 1 position, 3-year term**

- William F. O’Connell, Jr. (I)

**Planning Board, 1 Position, 1-year term**

-

**Library Trustee, 2 Positions, 3-year terms**

- Laura M. Howard (I)
- Macala Lamour (I)

**School Committee, 1 Position, 3-year term**

- Beverly Pierce

**Housing Authority, 1 Position, 5-year term**

- Debra K. Sacco

**Constable, 2 positions, 3-year terms**

-

**Please Recycle this Paper**



# 3

**PRIVATE DINING AT 3**

**Up to 150 guests**

- Corporate Dinners
- Rehearsal Dinners
- Bridal & Baby Showers
- Graduations & more

Our contemporary, beautifully appointed private dining rooms provide the perfect backdrop for your event. 3 has the menu, and atmosphere, to suit the most discerning tastes.

For more information, contact Jasmine at [jm@3-restaurant.com](mailto:jm@3-restaurant.com) or 508.528.6333

461 W Central Street (Rt. 140), Franklin, MA  
[3-restaurant.com](http://3-restaurant.com)

“Quality and Professionalism Every Shingle Time”

OUR SERVICES

- ▲ Roofing
- ▲ Siding
- ▲ Gutters
- ▲ Windows
- ▲ Doors
- ▲ Skylights

OUR NEW SERVICE DIVISION

Service Calls

- ▲ Gutter Cleaning
- ▲ Small Leaks
- ▲ Ventilation Questions
- ▲ Flashing Repairs

Experience the Best in Roofing:  
60+ Years of Quality Service



CONNELL

ROOFING • SIDING • GUTTERS

781-444-7577

www.ConnellRoofing.com

LICENSED | INSURED | CERTIFIED

# Bringing Song and Lifting Spirit, One Patient at a Time

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Bellingham resident Jeffrey Scornavacca is a musician. He plays slide guitar-style “roots rock,” with his partner, Jade, and he spends a lot of time alone, practicing, writing and producing – important work for a musician, but work that can be isolating. However, he’s found a way to take his love of music and give back to the greater community.

Musicians On Call (MOC) (www.musiciansoncall.org) headquartered in Nashville, brings live bedside performances to 25 cities and 40 hospitals and other healthcare facilities across the US.

“I’ve been involved nearly 10 years and volunteered for hundreds of shifts and played for thousands of patients. It’s been incredibly fulfilling,” says Scornavacca, who was invited to MOC by an old bandmate when the organization was just getting started in the Boston area.

At first, the experience took some getting used to for the musician, who was used to performing on a stage with a bit of

distance from the audience, but it was well worth it.

“When you’re performing bedside for people, there’s none of that. You’re six feet from the patients. It was a little unnerving, but you can really see the difference in how they’re smiling, their blood pressure is going down, they’re really reacting to what you’re playing. It’s really wonderful,” says Scornavacca.

Musicians involved always work with a guide, a trained volunteer through MOC as well as the hospital, who gets the go-ahead for musicians to enter hospital rooms and walks them through the hallways.

“They take the temperature of the room and ask if there’s a style or artist they like. Sometimes people don’t want to be bothered,” says Scornavacca, who is also trained as a guide. “If everyone is up for it, I’ll come in and play.”

Currently, Scornavacca visits the VA Hospital in West Roxbury every Monday evening, and he heads to Boston Children’s Hospital about once a month.

“One of my goals is to get

us into the Dana-Farber and Milford Regional,” says Scornavacca, adding, “The greater Milford area is a very rich environment for musicians, and if you were going to volunteer and it was in your backyard, it would probably be a bit easier.”

Scornavacca is looking to grow a local pool of music-loving volunteers in the area to join him as musicians and guides.

Patrick Loughlin, of Wrentham, who owns a house design business in Franklin, is one such volunteer who came aboard after chatting with Scornavacca at the gym.

“I’m pretty vocal that I like music, and Jeffrey said, ‘I’d think you’d be pretty good as a guide.’” Loughlin shadowed Scornavacca before he chose to move forward with training as a guide and would recommend the experience to anyone “who might be a musician or might be someone who enjoys music.

“I would say I’m not well to do, but I’ve lived a pretty good life and have some stuff to give back, and you go in that VA hospital – if you’re having a bad day you come out in a much better mood, like, I’m doing all right,” says Loughlin.

With repeated visits to the hospital, Scornavacca says, “Sometimes you see the same patients over and over – people who are there long-term. It’s kind of fun to get to know them a little bit, and we take requests.”

Loughlin remembers Scornavacca once took it upon himself to learn a requested song, playing it for the patient when he returned to the hospital. One middle-aged woman, he remembers, who brought her mother, in a wheelchair, to visit her ter-



**Jeffrey Scornavacca, a musician from Bellingham, volunteers with Musicians on Call, which brings the power of music bedside to local hospitals. He’s looking for volunteers and plans a fundraiser on February 1st.**

minally ill father at the VA, “requested a song and (Jeffrey) played it, and she’s holding both of their hands while she’s dancing and crying, and it was truly moving. I was like, wow.”

Scornavacca, passionate about the cause, recently produced a compilation CD of original music as a way to honor and celebrate MOC’s effort, “MOC Mixtape” (<https://jeffreyscornavacca.bandcamp.com/album/moc-mixtape>.)

“The songs were selected as something you might hear at a Musicians On Call shift: bright, uplifting, positive, and support-

ive,” he says. All revenue from “MOC Mixtape” goes directly to Musicians On Call to help continue their mission.

On February 1st, you can hear Scornavacca, and other musical guests play as well as also support the MOC mission with a fundraiser at Craftroots Brewing, 4 Industrial Road, Milford, from 3-6 p.m. The suggested donation at the door is \$20, and the event will include food and raffles.

You can also donate directly the cause at

<https://donate.musiciansoncall.org/MOCMixtape>.

**Call us for all your  
Tire and Mechanical Needs!**

**Happy  
New  
Year**

**...from our  
Home to Yours!**

Foreign and Domestic, tune ups, brakes. Exhaust, struts, shocks, wheel alignments, batteries, front end work, water pumps, alternators, starters, transmission and radiator flush services....etc

**BFGoodrich**

**UNIROYAL**



**CHARLIE'S TIRE  
& SERVICE CENTER**

**Now in our 47<sup>th</sup> Year!**

825 So. Main St., Rte. 126, Bellingham, MA 02019

508-883-1211 • [www.CharliesTires.com](http://www.CharliesTires.com)

## Garden Club of Bellingham, MA Announces New Tea Talks

Garden Club of Bellingham, MA has released new Garden Tea Talks:

Episode 23, “Harmful Insects & Ways to Protect your Plants,” with a leading Entomologist helps us to get ready for Spring.

Episode 25 discusses our “Garden Tea Talk Podcast,” Purpose, Mission, Advertising and Support in more detail along with “SPONSOR,” information.

**Garden Tea Talk Subscriber link:**

<https://forms.gle/68UxZ4kvRdNDVlXf6>

Our podcasts are also available on Spotify, iHeart.com Podcast, Our BGCMA YouTube Channel and on our website, <https://bellinghambgcm.com>.

Also, like us on Facebook!

# BHS STEM Students Get College Head Start through MassBay Program

BY JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Bellingham High School students were among students participating in MassBay Community College's biannual Student STEM Expo, held Wednesday, December 10, 2025, in the Wellesley Hills campus cafeteria. The BHS students are currently enrolled in MassBay Community College's MN 130 Engineering Design course as part of their engineering/manufacturing pathway program.

"These are all students in our Advanced Manufacturing Pathway. They're taking this class for dual enrollment and get free college credits though MassBay and they get a level four credit on their GPA at Bellingham High School as well," said Adam Wingo, who runs the Career Pathways and Internship Program at Bellingham High School. Students, he explains, get a taste of what a college-level course is like.

"The same level course in high school is a year-long," explained Wingo, "This course is only half that, so the pace is a lot quicker. They had to step it up a bit. That's the pace of a college course."

This unique collaboration offers these secondary students an opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school, fulfill a key requirement in their career pathway program, and gain hands-on experience in engineering and design. Programs like this prepare students for high-demand STEM careers as well as a head start on college life.

The MassBay's STEM Expo offered students in engineering, math, computer science, life sciences, and biotechnology programs a chance to showcase their work to the greater community.

Bellingham High's eight participating students split into two groups who created very different inventions. The students demonstrated their creations at the fair.

Tyler Enright, Maxfield Henchey, Wyatt Callery and Bryan Dealmedia worked together to create a Mechanical Curtain Opener, a product that



**Tyler Enright, Maxfield Henchey, Wyatt Callery and Bryan Dealmedia worked together to create a Mechanical Curtain Opener. They demonstrated the prototype at the MassBay STEM Expo.**



**Rehan Shah and Jayden Ling, who worked with fellow students Christian Goncalves and Hesrick Richards (not shown), believe their invention, VIGIL, could reduce the number of housefires by half.**

could aid folks with disabilities. Its simple design, the students explained, would make it less expensive to make and more affordable for the consumer.

Rehan Shah, Hesrick Richards, Christian Goncalves and Jayden Ling created what they call "VIGIL."

"There are 330,000 house fires every year, and half are caused by stoves left unattended," said Shah. He and his fellow teammates invented and created a prototype of a mechanism that will turn a stove off when left unattended after a certain amount of time. Shah noted that, though a different class at Bellingham High, the young inventors will work on marketing the product.

Overall, the STEM Expo offered an opportunity for the public and potential employers to interact with students and see how they put the knowledge and skills they're learning to work. In fact, according to MassBay, several STEM industry professionals have hired MassBay students after attending a STEM Expo and interacting with students.



**OSTRANDER INSURANCE**  
Established in 1979

## Advice from the insurance nerd!

A suggestion we make to our customers is to increase their collision deductible to \$1,000. A majority of our customers have a perfect driving record. Taking that into account, we suggest customers "bet on themselves" not having an accident vs. having an accident.

A customer usually saves \$200+ per vehicle when comparing a \$500 deductible and a \$1,000 deductible. The savings over time typically outweigh any deductible that would need to be paid. Plus, if you are not at fault in an accident and can identify the negligent driver, you do not have to pay your deductible.

Another way to look at it is you are guaranteed to pay more with a \$500 deductible for something that might not happen or pay less with a \$1,000 deductible for something that most likely will not happen to good drivers. Call and save with Ostrander today!



Calling Bellingham home for 35+ years!

**Paul@OstranderInsurance.com 508.966.1116**

**OSTRANDERINSURANCE.COM**

# Bellingham Business Association Plans Trivia Night Doughraiser January 14

BY JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Join the Bellingham Business Association at Uno's in Bellingham, 205 Hartford Ave., on Wednesday, January 14th for a fun evening of trivia. The BBA plans this fun night in lieu of its regular monthly meeting, and what's more, if you present the coupon found on the BBA's Facebook page at your time of purchase, 20% of your order (anytime on that date) will be donated to the business organization, which in turn will donate it to various nonprofits in Bellingham. Find the link here at <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17cohrtYPx/>.

"The past two years we donated \$500 to the VFW," says the BBA's Sue Grady, "This year, we took a poll and are hoping to donate to a few organizations that service Bellingham."

The BBA recently renewed their support of the Friends of Bellingham Library with a check covering the Southwick Zoo pass this coming year. The group celebrated the holidays at Savini's Pomodoro with comedian Steve Linehan, bingo, raffles, dessert by The Dough Duo and collected toys for Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.

The BBA has decided to no longer host a website. If you

would like more information about the organization, you can find it on the town website at <https://www.bellinghamma.org/159/Bellingham-Business-Association> or follow the Bellingham Business Association on Facebook.

So, help the BBA with their doughraiser, raise funds for your favorite non-profit and have fun playing trivia while doing it! If you can't make it, consider ordering lunch/dinner for the office or family, as money raised all day will help. Just mention or show the ticket, please.

# LoSA Celebrate at Christmas Gala

After a brief meeting and Fr. Al's blessing, Willowbrook Restaurant provided a delicious buffet for the Christmas Gala on December 11. The Grinch read a story to which the Ladies played pass the present, right or left each time those words were spoken. Charades' prizes of

scratch tickets were a big hit.

Our January meeting will be held in the St. Blaise parish hall on January 8 at 6 p.m. After the business meeting, Crystal, with Listen to Your Art, will guide us in completing pre-ordered stencil art.



To ADVERTISE in THIS PAPER  
Call Jen Schofield at 508-570-6544  
or email [jenschofield@localtownpages.com](mailto:jenschofield@localtownpages.com)



## Winter Comfort, Genuine Connection

Experience the warmth of the season, and of those around you, at Whitney Place Assisted Living Residences at Natick. Discover connection and compassion in a community designed to help you thrive. With select apartments starting at \$5,995, it's the perfect time to make your move.

Call 508-655-5000  
to schedule your  
personal tour today.

**SALMON**  
HEALTH & RETIREMENT

Whitney Place at Natick  
Three Vision Drive, Route 9 West  
Natick, MA 01760

250 PULASKI BLVD.

**Bellingham Electric**  
Since 1953

**APPLIANCES**

<b>BOSCH</b>	<b>Electrolux</b>
<b>GE</b>	<b>LG</b> Life's Good
<b>SAMSUNG</b>	<b>KitchenAid</b>

APPLIANCE SALES & REPAIRS  
(508) 883-7235  
[WWW.BELLINGHAMELECTRIC.COM](http://WWW.BELLINGHAMELECTRIC.COM)

# New Year's financial resolutions: Making them stick



Todd Miller, CFP®

**FINANCIAL FOCUS®**  
Provided by Edward Jones

As the calendar flips to a new year, millions of Americans pledge to improve their financial lives. But without a concrete plan, those well-intentioned resolutions often fade quickly.

Financial goals consistently top the list of New Year's resolutions. A 2025 CFP® Board study

shows that financial resolutions are prominent, with saving more money (45%) and reducing debt (32%) ranking among the top three goals.

Unfortunately, most resolutions don't last. A 2023 Forbes Health poll found that over half of people give up on resolutions by the four-month mark and only 1% make it the full year.

The challenge isn't a lack of desire for change. People may set the same resolution year after year, revealing a disconnect between intentions and action. Or it may be that they try to tackle too many goals at once, or aim higher than is realistic, setting themselves up for disappointment.

### Set smart financial goals.

Before crafting your action plan, consider which financial priorities matter most to you. If you need ideas, here are some areas where you may want focus in 2026:

- Regularly review your financial goals and track progress toward meeting them
- Increase your 401(k) contributions or max out your IRA and/or HSA contributions
- Pay down debt strategically and negotiate lower interest payments
- Build an emergency savings fund of six to 12 months

### Save more consistently.

Be specific. Vague resolutions like "save more money" rarely succeed. Instead, it can help to make goals specific and measurable. For example, rather than making a resolution to "start an emergency fund," commit to a specific goal, such as, "I will put \$100 a month into an emergency fund."

This shift from general to specific transforms wishful thinking into actionable steps. When goals are attainable, it's

easier to track progress and stay motivated.

### Find an accountability partner.

Don't go it alone. Having someone to check in with can help you stay on track. This could be a spouse, friend or family member who shares similar goals.

Consider working with a financial advisor who can help you create a realistic plan, monitor your progress and adjust strategies as needed. A professional can provide expertise and accountability, making it easier to stay on track throughout the year.

### Start small and build momentum.

Rather than overhauling your entire financial life all at once, focus on one or two priority areas. Identify where the largest gap exists between your current situation and where you

want to be, then concentrate your energy there.

Breaking larger goals into smaller, manageable actions makes them less overwhelming and more achievable. Each small win builds confidence and momentum for tackling the next challenge.

The new year offers a fresh start and renewed motivation to improve your financial health. With specific goals, a solid action plan and the right support system, this could be the year your financial resolutions finally stick.

For more information contact:  
Todd Miller, CFP®  
O: (781) 652 - 9573 call or text  
Todd.Miller@edwardjones.com

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

*Sponsored articles are submitted by our advertisers. The advertiser is solely responsible for the content of this article.*

## Hey Ladies ...

### looking for **wide** shoes?

**Happy Holiday ~ Get \$15 OFF**  
(JUST MENTION THIS AD) EXPIRES JANUARY 31, 2026

*Performance Sneaker from Propet*



*Stay warm dry and comfy with Toe Warmer Boots*



*Stylish ankle boot from David Tate*



Plenty of other Boots & Shoes to Choose!

Sizes 6.5ww - 11ww, also 12m

## The Forgotten Foot

"It's Worth the Trip!"

1255 Worcester Road, Framingham  
Behind St. Mary's Credit Union, Rte. 9 West  
Hours: Mon. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sun. 12 - 4 p.m.

### 508-879-3290

# Mark's Transportation LLC

**CALL TODAY**  
for more information  
**561-654-9881**



**DRIVERS WANTED**  
**30 Positions**  
**NOW AVAILABLE!**

**WE PAY MORE**

**\$1,000 Sign-On Bonus\***



Transport Students & Adults.

NO CDL Required, 7D Certificate Only.

We'll help you get the Certification.

SPLIT SHIFTS: Early morning, mid/late afternoon.

Great job for retired person or someone needing part-time work.

Must be 21 or older with valid Driver's License.

*Office is located at*  
**51 East Main St., Milford, MA**  
**OFFICE HOURS:**  
**Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm**

\*New applicants only; restrictions apply

# Bellingham Senior Center Upcoming Events

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

**From Ice to Incorporation:** The Land that became Bellingham: Thursdays, January 15 and 22 at 1 p.m.

**Diner's Club:** Wanna FREE lunch? Join our Diner's Club and get ready for a tasty, satisfying, no-cost lunch! You'll get a small punch card and every time you come into the Joyful Cup Café for a \$5+ meal, we'll punch your card. Ten punches = free lunch!

**Saving Claire:** *Saving Claire* is a groundbreaking 15-minute documentary that follows Claire, the chaos that unfolds after her fall, and the people who step in to help prevent the next one. This short film explores the complex nature of aging and its challenges. Join Amanda Falcone, OTR/L, CLT, CWT of SpOT On Therapy January 30

at 1 p.m. for a screening and discussion. Please call ahead.

**Coffee & Conversation:** Every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. Town Manager Joe Laydon will attend the first Tuesday of each month.

**Brain Healthy Cooking:** In this one-hour presentation Friday, January 23 at 1 p.m., learn how healthful and mindful food choices can benefit you, and learn how to cook "brain healthy" meals at home. With chefs from Senior Residences. Please call ahead.

**Spiritual Book Club:** The Club meets via Zoom on Mondays at 9 a.m. Discussion will be about *The Girl Who Baptised Herself* by Meggan Watterson. Please call host Josie Dutil at (508) 657-2705 for more information.

**AARP Tax Prep:** If you'd like to take advantage of free, professional help in preparing your federal income tax filing, then call the Senior Center and make

an appointment. No voicemails, please. You must speak to a person to get an appointment.

**Meditation:** January 12, at 10:30 a.m., we'll offer a free half hour of meditation practice. How to do it? Why to do it? We'll discuss the benefits of doing it with a short question and answer session. Call the Center today and reserve a spot!

**Deep Stretch:** 9:15 a.m. on Wednesdays, a 60-minute class is offered that will give you the opportunity to stretch. You don't have to be a "senior" to take advantage. It's only \$5!

This stretching is done mostly on the floor and features 2-3-minute holds in various positions designed to stretch key areas of your body like shoulders and hips. Breath control exercises and a very brief meditation are included. Call (508) 966-0398 and reserve your spot!

# Governor Healey Announces Federal Heating Assistance Funding Now Available

BOSTON – Governor Maura Healey today announced in December that the Trump Administration released federal funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). After more than a month's delay, the federal funding was released December 4th, and all applications can now be processed.

"For more than a month, President Trump has forced American families to wait in the cold," said Governor Healey. "As we hit cold winter weather, we are relieved that funds are finally flowing now, and families can apply for help heating their homes. Our team has worked to make this funding available immediately, because our families cannot afford to wait. I'm grateful to Secretary Augustus and the team at the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities for taking the necessary steps to ensure we were prepared to get the program started again as soon as the federal funding was made available."

LIHEAP is a federal program, referred to as the Massachusetts Home Energy Assistance Pro-

gram (HEAP) in Massachusetts, that typically helps more than 150,000 Massachusetts households, representing over 300,000 people, afford to heat their homes during the winter each year. This federal funding usually becomes available in early November, but it was delayed due to the federal government shutdown. Even after the government reopened on November 13, it took the Trump Administration nearly three weeks to release funding – a delay that Governor Healey criticized.

During the pause, the Healey-Driscoll Administration utilized leftover federal funding from last year to support households with a heating emergency. The Department of Public Utilities also extended its shut-off moratorium to October 27, 2025 – April 1, 2026.

All eligible HEAP clients are now able to apply online at [www.toapply.org/MassHEAP](http://www.toapply.org/MassHEAP) for heating assistance.

In Bellingham, residents can also make an appointment with Lisa Loo, Social Services Coordinator at Bellingham Senior Center, by calling (508) 657-2714.

421 Pulaski Blv  
Bellingham, MA 02019  
774-460-6084



**CBD**  
ReLeaf Center

375 Putnam Pike  
Smithfield, RI 02917  
401-757-6872

[ReleafCenter1@gmail.com](mailto:ReleafCenter1@gmail.com)      [www.myCBDreleafcenter.com](http://www.myCBDreleafcenter.com)

**CURBSIDE PICKUP OR YOU CAN COME IN!**



Visit Today!

Discounts Available for  
Seniors & Veterans

Try our new CBG tinctures



"CBD" stands for cannabidiol. It is a non-intoxicating cannabinoid found in cannabis.  
<https://weedmaps.com/learn/dictionary/cbd>

**MONEY-SAVING COUPON!**

MENTION THIS AD & RECEIVE  
10% OFF

YOUR NEXT PURCHASE!

Limited time offer; not valid with any other offers.



**HOURS:**  
MON-SAT,  
10AM-7PM;  
SUNDAY,  
11AM-4PM



421 Pulaski Blvd,  
Bellingham, MA 02019  
774-460-6084

# A+ Plus



## TIRE AND AUTO CARE

[aplustireandautocare.com](http://aplustireandautocare.com)

Get your  
MA  
Inspection  
HERE!



COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS

MA State Inspections	Mufflers
Oil & Filter Change	Shocks & Struts
Tires—All Brands	Brakes & Tune-ups
Computer Engine Analysis	Axles & CV Joints



**HERCULES TIRES**

633 Rathbun St.  
Blackstone, MA 01504  
**508-883-8881**  
OPEN SATURDAYS, 8AM-NOON

Your Money, Your Independence

# Already Bid Adieu to “New Year, New You?”



Glenn Brown, CFP

Did you make New Year’s resolutions to improve your financial wellness in 2026?

The start of a new year invites reflection on what went well, what didn’t, and what to change.

Think back to 2025. Was it supposed to be the year you’d pay off all debts, max out savings, run a marathon, learn a new language, and still book that dream vacation—all before February?

Lasting financial change is difficult to achieve. Understanding why resolutions fail can help turn intentions into sustainable strategies.

## 1. Unrealistic Expectations

The most common reason resolutions fail is that goals don’t match reality.

For example, someone might plan to save half their income while paying off long-standing loans, only to realize monthly expenses and unexpected bills make this unrealistic. Progress

feels slow, leading to frustration and eventual abandonment.

**Resolution:** Break goals into smaller, achievable steps. For example, aim to reduce debt by 25% over six months. Celebrating incremental wins keeps motivation high, builds confidence, and reinforces the habit of financial discipline.

## 2. Lack of a Clear Plan

Vague goals such as “save more” or “get out of debt” offer little guidance. Goals like these are the financial equivalent of saying “eat healthier” without changing what’s in your fridge.

Rules and opportunities change yearly, so without a clear plan, it’s easy to miss important steps like evolving retirement contribution rules, tax planning opportunities, or other proactive financial strategies.

**Resolution:** Create a clear plan. Review monthly expenses, budget upcoming projects and aspirations, set up automatic transfers, and monitor progress.

## 3. Failure to Track Progress

Goals fade without structured review, even when apps are used to track spending. Many avoid holistic review until problems become too great to ignore.

Even small oversights like pausing emergency savings transfers, frequent DoorDashing restaurants a mile away, or buying from social media ads can derail intentions. It’s also important to evaluate actual income, since “spenders” believe their pay will

match their top year, overlooking factors like unique company performance or equity grants.

**Resolution:** Schedule quarterly check-ins that leverage technology and constructive feedback. Celebrating milestones helps maintain motivation and reinforces strong financial habits.

## 4. Emotional Spending and Instant Gratification

Many struggle with impulse spending or seek instant gratification, especially after a stressful day. Afraid to look at your Amazon spending history? This behavior derails the best-laid plans.

**Resolution:** Identify triggers and implement strategies to delay or review purchase decisions. Create a spending prioritization strategy by identifying where you want to spend your money; this helps shift focus from immediate desires to long-term financial goals and encourages thoughtful, deliberate financial choices.

## 5. Lack of Accountability

Some thrive independently;

others struggle without support. It’s easier to justify financial decisions when no one else is watching. Couples, friends, or professional advisors who provide accountability often help keep each other honest and motivated.

**Resolution:** Accountability goes beyond “no.” Sharing progress and receiving guidance builds confidence, strengthens financial habits, and motivates continued long-term efforts.

## Quick Hits To Start 2026

**401(k) Catch-Up Rules:** Workers over 50 making over \$150,000 must direct catch-up contributions to Roth accounts, reducing traditional tax benefits.

**Roth Conversions:** Converting pre-tax accounts to Roth can be strategic but may trigger higher taxes if not timed carefully, so model in Q1.

**Cash Reserves:** With slower job growth in late 2025, increasing emergency savings can help avoid reliance on credit or early retirement withdrawals.

## Final Thoughts

Financial resolutions can be powerful tools for long-term security but require more than wishful thinking.

Make 2026 the year to socialize your goals, set action steps, and partner with a Certified Financial Planner™ professional to turn intentions into lasting progress.

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.

*Sponsored articles are submitted by our advertisers. The advertiser is solely responsible for the content of this article.*

## CREATE YOUR VISION BOARD

2026

Dream Goals on a Journey PLAN

Virtual Vision Board Event!

We'll gather online, walk through intention setting, and build our vision boards together using an easy, interactive Canva template. No design experience needed!

★ Event Details ★

Date: Wednesday, January 7  
Time: 7:00-8:00  
Where: Zoom (link sent after registration)  
Cost: Free — my gift to you

Bonus: I will professionally print your finished board on 11x17 for free!

508-951-2178  
jenniferdeluca@bhhspace.com  
licensed in MA & RI

For more information and to sign-up, please scan the QR code below.

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES PAGE REALTY

# CHARRON

## Tree Service

Quality Timely Service!

### 508-883-8823

FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED

## RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

- Tree Removal • Pruning/Trimming
- Storm Damage • Land Clearing
- Stump Grinding • Seasoned Firewood

CharronTreeService.com

KEVIN LEMIRE - OWNER  
All Employees Are Covered Under Workers' Comp Insurance

1060 Pulaski Blvd  
Bellingham, MA 02019

# The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

## New-To-You Services to Love in 2026!

### Hidden Gems at b.LUXE

BY GINA WOELFEL

Happy New Year, b.LUXE Beauties! As we step into 2026, we thought it was the perfect time to share some of our best-kept secrets! These four services are already on our menu but might have flown under your radar. Once our clients discover them, they can't stop raving about them, and we have a feeling you'll love them, too. So if one of your resolutions is to take better care of yourself or try something new this year, this is your sign to book one of these game-changers!

#### Scalp Spa: The Treatment Your Hair Has Been Begging For \$60

When's the last time you gave your scalp some real TLC? If you're like most people, you focus on your hair but forget about the foundation it grows from. Our Scalp Spa treatment is like hitting the reset button for

your hair and scalp, and trust us, it's an experience you won't forget.

We start with a thorough consultation to understand your scalp's specific needs, whether you're dealing with dryness, oiliness, buildup, or sensitivity. Then we move into a deep cleanse and gentle exfoliation to remove all that product buildup, dead skin cells, and everyday grime that accumulates over time. This is especially important if you use a lot of styling products, dry shampoo, or wearing winter hats.

The best part is the relaxing scalp massage with nourishing treatments customized to your needs. We use premium products that boost circulation, balance oil production, and promote healthier hair growth from the roots up. The massage itself is incredibly relaxing (some clients even fall asleep!), but it's also therapeutic, helping to re-



lieve the tension and stress we all carry in our heads and necks.

The results speak for themselves: your scalp feels refreshed and revitalized, your hair looks shinier and fuller, and most clients are booking their next visit before they even sit up! It's one of those rare self-care treatments that feels incredible in the moment and leaves you looking noticeably better afterward.

#### Lash Lift & Tint: Your Morning Routine Just Got Easier \$90

Imagine rolling out of bed with perfectly curled, defined lashes. No mascara wand, no lash curler, no worrying about smudges by noon or raccoon eyes after the gym. That's exactly what a lash lift and tint delivers. Our Lash Lift & Tint devotees are hooked!

Here's how it works: We lift and curl your natural lashes from the root using a gentle, safe process that enhances what you already have. Then we add a custom tint in the shade that works best for your coloring. That could be classic black, soft brown, or something in between. The results last 6-8 weeks, which means you're looking at two months of stress-free lashes.

It's one of those treatments where you don't realize how much you need it until you have it (then you wonder how you ever lived without it!) Perfect for vacations, busy mornings, anyone who wears contacts or



New-To-You  
BEAUTY  
SERVICES

glasses, or if you just want to simplify your beauty routine without sacrificing that polished look.

#### Color Balance Treatment: The Perfect In-Between Service \$60+

Not quite ready for full highlights or balayage, but your roots are starting to show and your color feels a bit flat? Is your hair craving high-shine and manageability? Our Color Balance Treatment is the sweet spot you've been looking for, and it's ideal for maintaining that salon-fresh color without the major time or financial commitment.

Good for both natural and chemically treated hair, this service adds instant radiance and mirror-like shine. You can book it as a standalone treatment or use it between your balayage or highlight appointments at around the 6 to 8 week mark. It adds just the right amount of dimension while blending regrowth and keeping your color looking vibrant. Think of it as maintaining the beautiful color you already have without starting from scratch every time. Your hair looks intentional and polished, never grown out or neglected. It's the icing on the cake.

#### Face Frame Highlight: Maximum Impact, Minimal Commitment \$55 - \$80+

Sometimes all you need is a little brightness around your face

to feel like a whole new person. Our mini face frame highlight focuses strategically on the hair that frames your features (the pieces that catch the light and make the biggest visual impact when people look at you.)

It's perfect for extending the life of your full color service by refreshing just the most visible sections, testing out a lighter shade before committing to an all-over change, or just getting that fresh-from-the-salon feeling without blocking out half your day. Placement is key here, highlighting exactly where it counts to help brighten your face and add that lit-from-within glow. Quick, gorgeous, and totally transformative.

Let's simplify, streamline and make 2026 your best beauty year yet! This is your moment to strip away the noise, focus on what truly works for you, and build a routine that feels less like a chore and more like an act of self care. You deserve a beauty regimen that energizes rather than overwhelms, one that celebrates your unique features and fits seamlessly into your real life.

Ready to find your new favorite treatment? Give us a call at (508) 321-1624 or visit bluxe.com to explore our complete service menu. We know you'll find something you love!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Sponsored articles are submitted by our advertisers. The advertiser is solely responsible for the content of this article.



**Azza Law**  
Amy Azza, Esq

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

#### WHY YOU NEED A TRUST

A trust will help you avoid probate and appoint a trustee to manage assets for family members or beneficiaries who are unable to manage their assets.

#### WHY YOU NEED A WILL

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

#### WHY YOU NEED A HEALTH CARE PROXY

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

#### WHY YOU NEED A DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY

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



Discover the Azza Difference  
and call Amy Azza at 508 517 4310  
or email [azzalaw@outlook.com](mailto:azzalaw@outlook.com)

51 Whitehall Way, Bellingham, MA 02019

# January with Stony Brook Camera Club

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. Our meetings feature speakers, competitions, and discussions of general interest. We also sponsor a number of photography activities and workshops throughout the year.

SBCC includes and welcomes photographers of all abilities.

Our program for January:

- January 8: Member competition
- January 15: (Zoom) "The Power of Imaging to Push Creative Boundaries" with Gerri Jones
- January 22: (Zoom) "Abstract Architecture and Geometry" with Dan Waterman
- January 29: (Zoom) "Creating Stories with Video" with Mark Houde



**Birches, by Dan Gyves**

For the month of January an exhibit of member prints is on display in the Community Room of the Norfolk Public Library. 65 prints by 19 members of the club can be viewed during regular library hours.

See our website : stony-brookcc.com for a calendar of events and member information.

Photos by Dan Gyves (Birches) and Jake Jacobson (Beautiful Norfolk)

# SEMAP to Present 3rd Annual Agricultural Conference Feb. 1

DIGHTON, MA - The Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP), in partnership with nine local food and agricultural service providers, is pleased to announce the 3rd Annual Southeast New England Agriculture Conference and Trade Show (SNEACTS)

and Kids Conference, to be held on Sunday February 1, 2026 at Bristol County Agricultural High School in Dighton.

Find out more at [www.sneacts.org](http://www.sneacts.org). For questions, please contact Susan Murraray @ [smurray@semaponline.org](mailto:smurray@semaponline.org).



**For FREE Estimates  
CALL (508) 446-6241**  
[VpGutterCleaners@hotmail.com](mailto:VpGutterCleaners@hotmail.com)  
RICHARD Owner/Operator

**VP Gutter Cleaning**

**Gutter Cleaning Done Right!**

• Serving Norfolk County & Surrounding Areas •



**Beautiful Norfolk, by Jake Jacobson**

**Store Your Stuff With Us. You'll Be GLAD U Did!**

**GLADU**  
DISPOSAL and  
**SELF STORAGE**

Storage Units  
5x10 • 10x10 • 10x15 • 10x20

**401-769-9125** [www.GladuSelfStorage.com](http://www.GladuSelfStorage.com)

**Best Prices & Great Service**

**Servicing Southern MA & RI**

**10 - 15 - 20 - 25 yd. Dumpster Rentals**



**165 Poplar St., Woonsocket, RI**

**[www.GladuWrecking.com](http://www.GladuWrecking.com)**

DALPE'S P&M SVCS., LTD.  
DBA **JOE THE PLUMBER**  
508-962-5225  
[JothePlumber314@aol.com](mailto:JothePlumber314@aol.com)

Repairs • Installations  
Kitchen & Bath Remodels • Gas Piping  
Gas & Oil Heating System Installations • Conversions

**Joe Corriveau**  
Master Plumber

MA Lic.# 11226  
RI Lic.# 1719

# Living Healthy

## MFEC Decades of Service to the Community and a New Provider

Milford–Franklin Eye Center has been proudly serving the community with advanced, compassionate eye care for more than four decades. With a staff of 59, an award-winning surgery center in Milford, and offices in Milford, Franklin, and our new locations in Hopkinton and Medfield, we remain one of the leading eye care centers in Massachusetts. We are also one of the few ophthalmology practices in the state that owns and operates its own surgical facility, the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford, allowing patients to receive ethical, world-class cataract surgery close to home. Our team includes fellowship-trained ophthalmologists and four optometrists, offering comprehensive care for the entire family.

### Roger Kaldawy, M.D.

Dr. Kaldawy is an eye physician, surgeon, and corneal spe-

cialist trained at the University of Rochester and the University of Iowa. A former Assistant Professor at Boston University, he has performed more than 32,000 surgeries, pioneering advanced techniques in corneal transplants, innovative glaucoma surgery, premium implants, and bladeless femtosecond cataract surgery. He has trained numerous physicians, has been featured in multiple news articles including Channel 5, and serves as Medical Director of the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford.

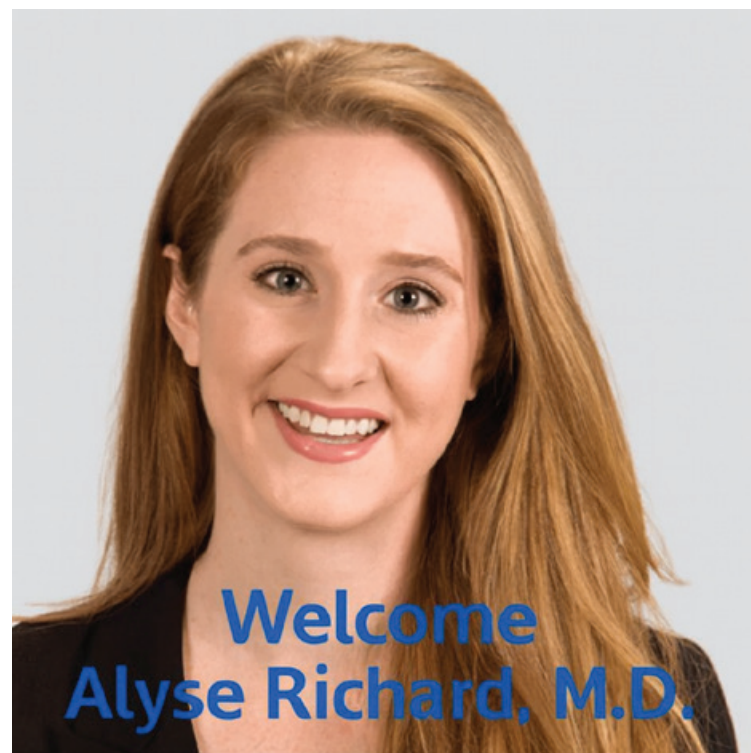
### Alyse Richard, M.D.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Alyse Richard, who will join our team in January 2026. She is a well-regarded retina specialist with expertise in macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, retinal tears, and retina-related emergencies. Dr. Richard completed her medical degree at Al-

bany Medical College, residency at the University of Rochester's Flaum Eye Institute, and a medical retina fellowship at New England Eye Center, Tufts Medical Center. She is known for her efficient, skilled approach to patient care and her commitment to maximizing diagnostic precision. She performs intraocular injections, laser procedures, and repairs of retinal tears and detachments.

### Dan Liu, M.D.

Dr. Liu graduated from Northwestern University and Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, where she was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha. She completed residency at Albany Medical Center as Chief Resident and a fellowship in Cornea and Anterior Segment Surgery at Tufts. Her expertise includes cataract surgery with ORA, DMEK/DSEK/PK corneal transplants,



keratoconus treatment, MIGS glaucoma procedures, ocular surface tumors, and pterygia. She is board-certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology.

### Shalin Zia, O.D.

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

### Michael Adams, O.D.

Dr. Adams graduated from John Carroll University, completed a Master's in Biochemistry at Ohio State, and earned his optometry degree from the New England College of Optometry. His training includes corneal pathology, specialty contact lenses, and advanced ocular disease.

### Donald L. Conn, O.D.

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

### Purvi Patel, O.D.

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

### New Offices: Expanding to Serve the Community

#### Boston Eyes in Hopkinton

Located at 66 Main Street, our new Hopkinton office provides comprehensive eye exams, contact lens services, surgical consultations, and a wide eyewear selection. With more than 24 years of connection to the Hopkinton community, we bring top-tier eye care directly to local residents.

#### Boston Eyes in Medfield–Millis

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

### Why Choose Milford–Franklin Eye Center

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

We are especially proud of our state-licensed, QUAD A–accredited, state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford. Unlike practices that perform cataract surgery in office settings without anesthesia

Happy New Year 2026!

NOW ACCEPTING VSP & DAVIS VISION INSURANCE  
NEW PATIENTS receive a FREE pair of Select Glasses

Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D.

Alyse Richard, M.D.

Dan Liu, M.D.

Michael R. Adams, O.D.

Shalin Zia, O.D.

Donald L. Conn, O.D.

Dr. Purvi Patel, O.D.

SMILEFORVISION.COM

<b>FRANKLIN OFFICE</b> 750 Union St. 508-528-3344	<b>HOPKINTON OFFICE</b> 66 Main St. 508-528-3344	<b>MILFORD OFFICE</b> 160 South Main St. 508-473-7939	<b>MEDFIELD OFFICE</b> 258 Main St. 508-528-3344	<b>SURGERY CENTER MILFORD</b> 145 West St. 508-381-6040
---	--	---	--	---

# Bellingham's 1st Annual Holiday Parade & Celebration a Big Hit

By DAVID DUNBAR

Bellingham's First Annual Holiday Parade and Celebration is in the books and drawing praise from organizers, sponsors, participants and those who watched the parade.

"It was amazing to see Police and Fire vehicles from Bellingham and from our neighboring towns joined by decorated vehicles from local businesses, local officials, and Bellingham High School students," said Town Manager Joe Laydon. "The rolling parade truly reflected this community's commitment to its residents and its heart during this holiday season." Laydon was also a sponsor and Grand Marshall.

Decorated vehicles gathered at Bellingham Middle School (BMS) and at 5 p.m. began the parade along South Main Street and down to the Town Hall. "We had 25 vehicles," explained Select Board member Jennifer Altomonte, "from businesses including Briggs Property Management, Bite Me, Tri-Valley Garage Door and Cook's Roofing. The route went from BMS to the Town Common and ended at Spartan Fitness. Lots of fun." The Holiday Celebration was held on Saturday, December 13, and included a Christmas tree lighting in front of Town Hall.

On Facebook, Briggs posted: "We had an absolute blast participating in the parade and loved seeing all the smiles, waves, and excitement throughout the route — it made the night that much more fun."

State Rep Mike Soter was part of the parade: "We had a festive and memorable night at the First



**Christmas tree lighting at Bellingham Town Hall. Standing in front of the new tree that was lit during the Holiday Celebration parade are (from left) the BBA's Sue Grady, Town Manager Joe Laydon, Fire Chief Bill Miller, and Select Board member Jennifer Altomonte. Photos by David Dunbar.**

Bellingham Christmas Parade celebrating community spirit and the joy of the holiday season. Thank you to the organizers, volunteers, and participants who helped make this event a success and brought so many residents together."

Altomonte was one of the organizers of the event who said, "We first went to the Bellingham Business Association (BBA) with the idea. Fire Chief Bill Miller got involved, and so did the Spartan Fitness Club, where we held a celebration after the parade." Santa visited the Club (along with the Grinch) "and there was a line of children out the door and around the building waiting to sit on Santa's lap," according to Altomonte.

Fire and Police vehicles from Medway, Mendon, and Hopedale joined Bellingham's. "For our first holiday parade, I think it was very successful," explained Chief Miller. "We are already looking at doing it again next year,

just bigger and better... and get more town wide participation as it is a whole community event."

"What a wonderful parade, tree lighting and party at the gym! The crowd and decorations did not disappoint. Please tell all your friends about it now, so we can double in size year two... We can't wait to do it all again next year, save the date 12/12/26. We've already started planning," smiled the BBA's Sue Grady.



**Some two dozen decorated trucks drove along the parade route (South and North Main Streets) including one from Charron Tree Service. The company thanked their decorators on Facebook: "Our trucks looked amazing, but they don't decorate themselves. Long, cold hours went into making that happen..."**

## EYE

*continued from page 12*

staff or IV sedation — and where patients are often needlessly charged extra "office-based surgery fees" — our patients receive the highest level of safety while staying in-network and benefiting from true ambulatory surgery center quality. No office-based surgery fees with us. Every procedure includes IV sedation and is staffed by anesthesiologists to ensure the safest and most comfortable experience.

Most importantly, we live in the same communities we serve.

Whether in the office, at the supermarket, or in the ER at 1 a.m., our focus remains on you, your vision, and delivering world-class care close to home.

As we look ahead to 2026, when it comes to quality eye care, you have one address: Milford-Franklin Eye Center.

Wishing our communities and patients a happy, healthy, and safe new year.

For more details, see our ad on the previous page.

*Sponsored articles are submitted by our advertisers. The advertiser is solely responsible for the content of this article.*



**Clean Solar Energy**

**\$0 DOWN!**  
You Own the System

**GROUND MOUNT • ROOF MOUNT • PRODUCTION GUARANTEE**  
Based in Bellingham • Installing Solar in Bellingham since 2009  
**References Available**

**MIKE KELLEY**  
**508-657-1116 or [mkelley@massrenewables.net](mailto:mkelley@massrenewables.net)**  
[www.MassRenewables.net](http://www.MassRenewables.net)



CALL NOW FOR MORE INFO!

## Municipal Spotlight

# Bellingham Planning Board Focused on Two Projects

By KEN HAMWEY,  
BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

Two development projects currently in the public-hearing stage are keeping the Town Planner and the Planning Board busy while creating lots of discussion in Bellingham.

The projects include the New England Country Club and the Hartford Avenue Retail Development District. So far, there have been seven hearings on the golf-course project and four on the Hartford Avenue Retail district.

The golf-course project, which is zoned as a 55-plus (age) active adult overlay district, allows larger density for 55-plus housing with open space for passive recreation.

“The proposal began as a 1,600-unit housing project on the golf course’s 350 acres,” said Town Planner Rob Lussier. “It previously had access from Wrentham Road and Paine Street. But the density now has been reduced to 800 units with the sole access from Paine Street.”

The Planning Board currently is reviewing a variety of issues that include traffic, stormwater, civil engineering, utilities and zoning peer reviews. Residents who’ve attended are not only

from Bellingham and Wrentham, but also from Woonsocket and Cumberland, R.I.

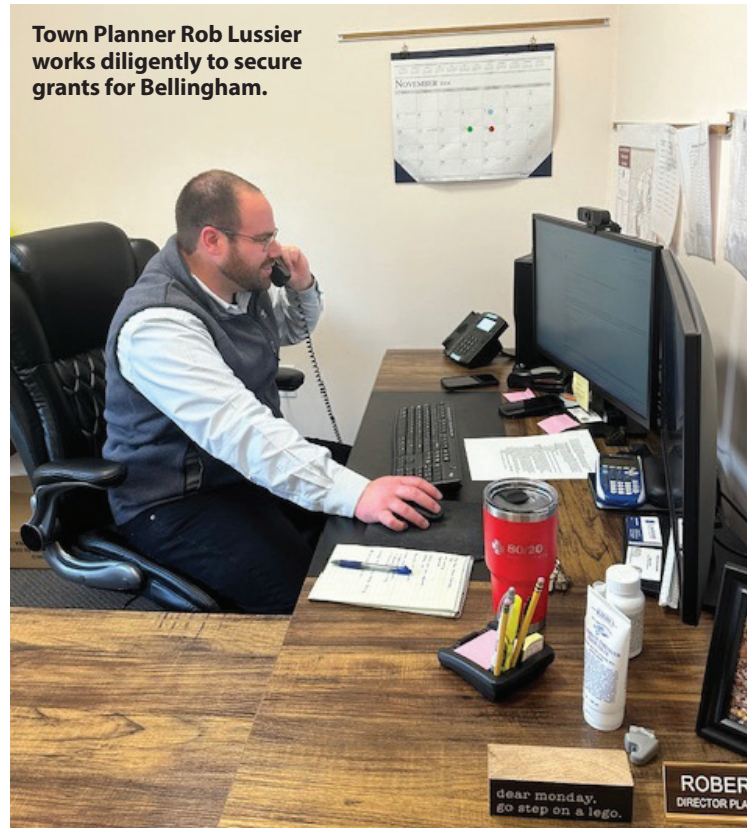
Residents’ concerns are: Paine Street access; traffic at the Crooks Corner intersection; congestion at the Wrentham Road intersection where Bellingham’s South Fire Station is located; historic preservation; and stormwater runoff onto abutting properties.

Lussier is pleased that residents of four communities have commented on the project.

“With the size and complexity of this project, public input is extremely helpful for the planning staff and Planning Board to properly review all aspects of the application,” Lussier said. “Collaboration during the process often leads to the best outcome.”

The Hartford Avenue project involves two separate developments on five parcels that span 182 to 198 Hartford Avenue. A bank is proposed on two parcels, and the other three will be for commercial/retail space (no definite tenants yet).

During the public hearings, residents have primarily expressed concern about traffic, and townwide comment has focused on hope to demolish three



Town Planner Rob Lussier works diligently to secure grants for Bellingham.

boarded-up houses.

“The Planning Board and residents are concerned with how the proposed development will operate with future Hartford Avenue improvements that are being reviewed by the state,” Lussier noted. “The Planning Board is looking at improvements to Cedar Hill Road to better accommodate site access.”

The developers for the two projects are The Meehan Group for Hartford Avenue and Copper Mill for New England Country Club.

On another topic, Lussier, who graduated from Bellingham High in 2012 and has a bachelor’s degree in environmental engineering, has been working diligently to secure grants from the state. So far, Bellingham has been awarded two — a Housing Choice Grant for \$135,000 and a Mass. Trails Grant for \$100,000.

“The Housing Choice Grant is for a feasibility study and site design for the proposed housing development on Center Street,” Lussier said. “The parcel has been owned by the Bellingham

Housing Authority since the 1990s. So far, there is no specific number of units designated for this project.”

The Mass. Trails Grant is for another feasibility study that involves the proposed Charles Headwaters Greenway, which is for pedestrian and bicycle access (similar to SNETT).

“Money from this grant will help connect the Blackstone River Greenway to existing trails in Milford and Medway,” Lussier said. “This project is a collaborative effort among Bellingham, Blackstone and Mendon.”

After graduating from UNH, Lussier, who’s been the Town’s Planner for 1½ years, worked briefly as a seasonal engineer for the Department of Conservation and Recreation at the Wachusett Reservoir where he assisted the staff with roadway maintenance.

Lussier then moved on to McClure Engineering in Charlton as a civil engineer. “I worked for 3½ years on site and utility designs for private projects,” he said. “I later worked for CMG, an environmental and civil engineering company in Sturbridge where I was project manager for municipal projects and private development.”

The 31-year-old Lussier, who had been an associate member of Bellingham’s Planning Board for three years, replaced Jim Kupfer as Town Planner.

## Bellingham Kenpo Karate ONE MONTH FREE TRIAL!



Traditional Values & Training  
Family-Oriented Environment  
Karate & Aikido

Cardio Kickboxing 1-hour class for \$5.00

A place where kids can learn discipline, respect, self-control, and focus, and gain confidence.

Adults can get in shape, relieve stress, and learn self-defense. A place that is affordable and offers discounts to families so that they can bond and share experiences as they learn and progress through the ranks of martial arts together.



### Bellingham Kenpo Karate

116 Mechanic St., Bellingham MA  
(directly across from post office)

781-856-5914

KarateBellingham.com

Residential &  
Commercial Roofing Contractor

40 years in Business  
Family Owned  
and Operated

# Cooks Roofing

Bellingham’s #1 Choice in Roofers

508-966-0306

Visit our website at:  
www.cooksroofing.com



MA Lic. #116815



# Students Collect Items to Benefit Veterans

Recently students at Milford's Woodland Elementary School, under the guidance of Ms. Jenn Alger a 5th grade teacher, collected items to be donated to Thanks To Yanks and then distributed to veterans, Thanks To Yanks, a local non-profit, has partnered with

Ms. Alger and the students of Woodland for many years. Pictured are some of the students that participated, along with Mike Shain and Scott Rielly of Thanks To Yanks.

For additional information on this charity, please visit Thanks To Yanks on Facebook.



# Raydio's First Holiday Toy Drive Garner's Truckloads of Community Generosity

Milford, MA - Raydio is thrilled to announce the overwhelming success of its first-ever Holiday Toy Drive, held at the DoubleTree in Milford November 28-30. What began as a brand-new community initiative turned into a heartwarming display of generosity, as listeners and neighbors across the Greater Milford area came together to support local families during the holiday season.

Toys were distributed to four local organizations whose work directly impacts families in need: The Milford Youth Center, Santa's Porch, The Santa Foundation, Toys for Kids and Teens.

"We couldn't have asked for a better first year," said Ray Auger, founder and operator of Raydio.

"Launching something new is always a leap of faith, but our community showed up in a huge way. Seeing each organization drive off with a truck loaded with toys was a powerful reminder of what this area is all about—heart, kindness, and looking out for one another."

Raydio extends sincere thanks to every listener, family, volunteer, and partner who contributed to making this inaugural drive a success.

For more information about Raydio's community initiatives, events, and partnerships, visit [www.localraydio.com](http://www.localraydio.com) or contact [localraydio@gmail.com](mailto:localraydio@gmail.com).

# Franklin LGBTQ Alliance January Events

## Yankee Gift Swap

Thursday January 8th (the second Thursday for this month) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Franklin TV and Radio 23 Hutchinson St.

Join us as we do our annual gift swap! Swap a gift and get a new one! You do not have to buy anything for this event. You can either bring a gift you received that doesn't quite fit who you are, or lightly used clothing/houseware items.

## Queer Book Club

Wednesday January 21st from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Franklin TV and Radio 23 Hutchinson St.

Join us as we discuss this month's book, *Acc: What Asexuality Reveals About Desire, Society, and the Meaning of Sex* by Angela Chen. This book is available in print, as an ebook, and as an audiobook.

# Got rewards?

## With Dean, you could have 5,000!

When you open a checking account with Dean Bank, we'll reward you with **5,000 Uchoose rewards points** to redeem however you like; think travel, merchandise and so much more.

### We're right around the corner:

- 📍 411 Pulaski Boulevard, Bellingham
- 📍 8 Main Street, Blackstone

When others leave you high and dry, Dean Bank will always be here with the financial advice you need and special offers to keep you going!

<sup>1</sup> A minimum of 10 debit card transactions required each calendar month or a \$10 monthly service fee applies. Account includes free monthly e-Statements. To receive paper statements, a \$5.00 fee applies each statement cycle. Dean Bank does not charge its customers for ATM, or Debit Mastercard® transactions made anywhere in the world. However, other banks and owners of ATMs may impose a "surcharge" or "convenience fee" for using their machines. All Access Checking provides unlimited rebates for such transactions each month. Rebate will appear as a statement credit approximately 2 Business Days after surcharge is incurred. 4.07% APY on balances up to \$3,000 and 0.07% APY on balances over \$3,000 valid as of January 15, 2025, and subject to change without notice. \$25 minimum deposit is required in order to earn APY.

## All Access Checking

- + Earn 4.07% APY<sup>1</sup> interest on balances up to \$3,000
- + Access any ATM without the fees<sup>1</sup>
- + No foreign ATM surcharges
- + All deposits fully insured, regardless of the amount, through both the FDIC and DIF

Open your account and get rewarded!



**DEAN BANK**  
It's my bank.™

[deanbank.com](http://deanbank.com) • (508) 883-2000



Member FDIC Member DIF

# Bellingham Operation Graduation 2025-26

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

On Saturday, December 6, 2025, Bellingham High School's Operation Graduation once again hosted its annual Holiday Vendor & Craft Fair.

"This is one of our biggest fundraisers, and it takes much time and effort to coordinate. We had almost 90 vendors participate this year, and shoppers had an opportunity to participate in raffles, meet Santa, and purchase concessions," says BHS Op Grad 2026 Committee Chair & Treasurer Sarah Doyle. She notes that many Class of 2026 parents stepped up to help, and members of the BHS National Honor Society, as well as National Junior Honor Society students also volunteered. In the end, the effort earned over \$7,500!

For 33 years, BHS Operation Graduation has been in swing, beginning fundraising the year before, with a goal of \$25K, for an all-night post-graduation party, held on the night of BHS commencement. The Class of 2026 BHS OpGrad Executive



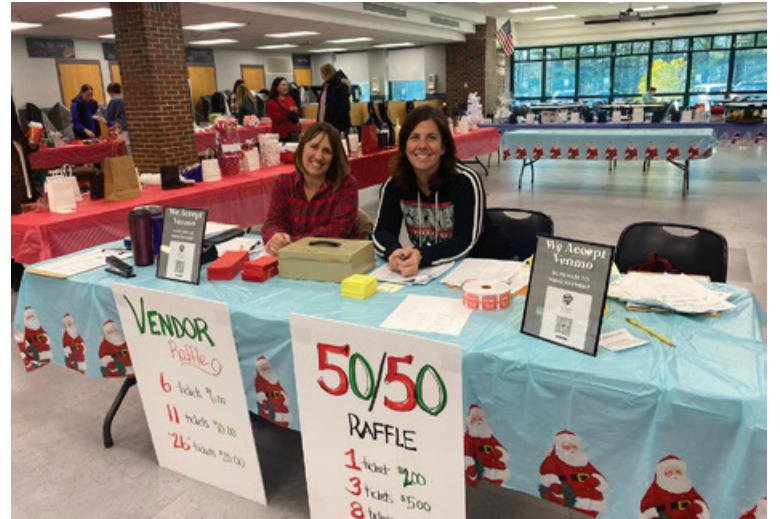
BHS OpGrad board members Jaclyn Higgins and Lauren Bashford greet visitors to the group's annual holiday craft fair, always the first Saturday in December. On May 2nd, they'll hold BHS OpGrad's first Spring Vendor Fair at the Bellingham Memorial School from 10 - 2.

Board includes Sarah Doyle, Lauren Bashford, Melissa Detorre, Julie Childs, Jaclyn Higgins, and Beverly Pierce.

"We are an entirely parent-volunteer-run organization who works to ensure that our kids have a safe and fun evening to celebrate this significant milestone in their lives," says Doyle, who points out that teen driving

fatalities spike during prom and graduation season. This, she says, is a safe, supervised alternative.

In addition to hosting this event, a portion of the funds raised go towards scholarships for several graduating seniors. "The more money we raise, the more scholarship opportunities we are able to provide," says Doyle.



Julie Worthington and Eileen Leonard invite folks to take their chances on the 50/50 raffle.

That said, several more fundraising events are scheduled for the coming months, including:

**January 28 - Paint Night** with Paint the Town, Liz's Tavern, 15 N. Main St., Bellingham 6-8 p.m.

**February 12 - Designer Bag Bingo**, Millerville Club, 8 Lloyd St., Blackstone, 6-9 p.m.

**Easter - Egg Your Yard**, where families can pay for our students to stuff and hide eggs in their yard the evening before Easter Sunday, this year falling on April 5, 2026!

**May 2** - BHS OpGrad will host its first ever Spring Vendor Fair, at the Bellingham Memorial School from 10 - 2, with a rain date the following day.

You can find BHS Operation Graduation's events on its Facebook page "Bellingham Operation Graduation 2026" at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577042586192>



www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577042586192

You can also visit its website, at <https://sites.google.com/view/bhsopgrad/home>.

Those who would like to support BHS OpGrad can also make Venmo donations at any time @BHSOpGradMA



**BUTLER & SONS**  
**TREE SERVICE INC.**  
**617-924-8322**

**FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1980**

**Fully Insured including Workers Compensation Residential & Commercial**

**SERVICES INCLUDE:**  
Tree Removals & Pruning  
Ornamental Tree Pruning Is Our Specialty  
Natural Hand Pruning of Shrubs  
Cabling & Bracing  
★ FREE ESTIMATES ★

**~ FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ~**

- Climber/Driver Wanted
- Ground Person/Driver Wanted

**PROUD MEMBERS OF**



**Email: [butlertree80@yahoo.com](mailto:butlertree80@yahoo.com) • Find us on Facebook**  
**Visit us online at [www.butlerandsonstreeservice.com](http://www.butlerandsonstreeservice.com)**

◆ **Serving Bellingham since 1991** ◆



**VALLEE'S**  
**EXTERIOR**  
**HOME IMPROVEMENT, INC.**

◆ **Siding** ◆ **Windows** ◆ **Roofing** ◆

**Call for your Free Estimate!**

**508-883-7912**

**Insured MA** **MA License**

# 4 Precious Paws Rescue Thanks Supporters, Plans January 22 Event

4 Precious Paws Rescue, Inc. wants to thank the people and businesses that donated gifts, gift cards and gift certificates for the fundraiser held December 4, 2025 at The Greenhouse Pub. First, we want to thank all the ladies that donated the lottery baskets:

Diane C. Maley, who donated cards featuring her watercolor paintings,

Mary Cianciolo, who donated her handmade wreath and Snowman centerpiece,

Carol Ann Chapman, who donate her place mat sets,

Teri Ryan, who donated the Novel Book Basket,

Deb Crispo, who donated the suncatcher,

and Eileen Russo, who donated the handmade items originating from Craftworks.

The following businesses gave baskets, gift cards or gift certificates: Lash Boss Studios, Grumpy's, Fluff It Pet Spa, Pet Supplies Plus, Town Pizza, Thai Chada, Eclips Hair Salon, Lowell's Restaurant, Shaw's, Stop & Shop, Black Hawk Pizza, The Curry House, and Craftworks of Northborough. In addition, we want to thank David Laska and Dan Chauvin for donating the gift of music for all of us to enjoy. If you used our website or QR code, thank you for giving.

On January 22, 2026, Uno's of Bellingham will host a "dough raiser" to benefit 4 Precious Paws Rescue, Inc. To participate, just tell your server that you are there to benefit the rescue. Uno's will donate up to 20% of the purchases made that day to help our cats and kittens.

# My Pinnacle Network B2B Networking Meetings January 2026

My Pinnacle Network recently announced a full slate of business-to-business networking meetings for January 2026, as follows:

**My Pinnacle Network - Westborough**, Tuesday, January 6, 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Zoom.

**My Pinnacle Network-Mansfield**, Wednesday, January 7, 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m. Zoom.

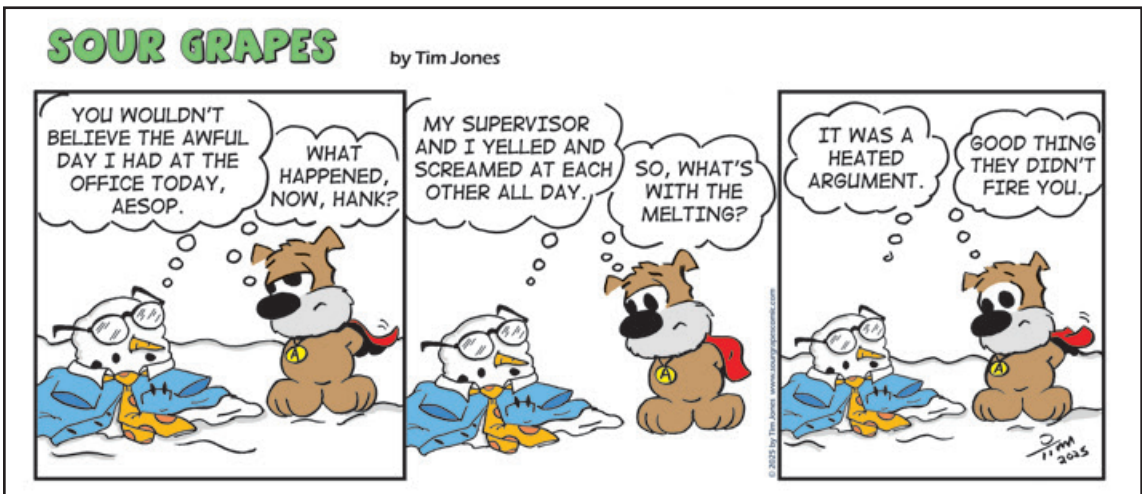
**My Pinnacle Network - Marshfield**, Thursday, January 8, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Zoom.

**My Pinnacle Network - Newton**, Thursday, January 8, 7:30 a.m.- 9 a.m. Zoom:

"The first round of meetings in 2026 sets the tone for the year ahead," said Steve Dubin, founder of My Pinnacle Network. "Our members come into January focused, motivated, and ready to build real relationships that lead to real business. These meetings aren't about collecting contacts—they're about creating momentum that carries through the entire year."

If you would like to attend a My Pinnacle Network meeting, please email [admin@mypinnacle-network.com](mailto:admin@mypinnacle-network.com). There is no charge to visit a My Pinnacle Network meeting.

For more information, visit [www.mypinnacle-network.com](http://www.mypinnacle-network.com).



# Knights' Basketball Free Throw Contest at YMCA Jan. 17th

Boys and Girls 9-14 years-old!

It's your turn to show your basketball free throw shooting skills!

The annual Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council 1847, Franklin, MA Basketball Free Throw Contest will take place January 17, 2026, at the Franklin, YMCA

**Location:** Hockomock YMCA, 45 Forge Hill Rd., Franklin, MA

**Date and Time:** Saturday, January 17, 2026, 3 – 5 p.m.

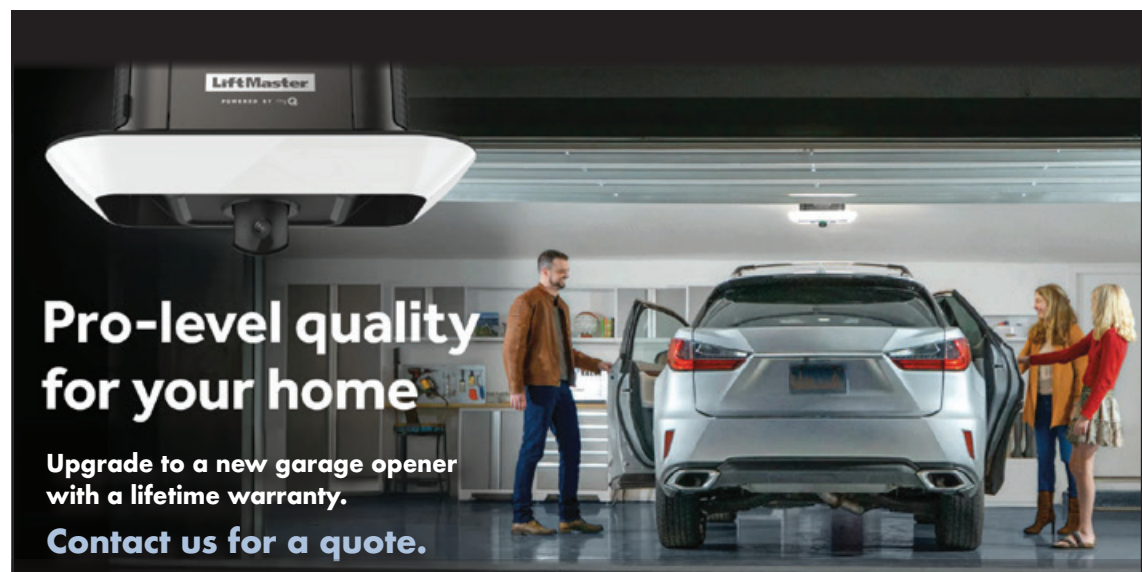
**Boys and Girls:** 9- 14 years old.

Parents (or guardians) are asked to accompany the participants.

Registration will be from 3 p.m. -5 p.m. at the registration table in the gymnasium.

Competition: Boys shoot against Boys. Girls shoot against Girls.

**Contact:** Jim Lane, KOC Free Throw Coordinator, JD-Lane58@hotmail.com, (774) 571-9804



Your trusted local professional service & installer.



**Jolicoeur**  
OVERHEAD DOORS

Family-Owned since 1994

**GARAGE DOOR EXPERTS**

Garage Doors • Openers  
Service • Installation

745 S. Main St., Bellingham  
508-883-4522 • MyGarageDoor.com

**HEAT**  
is just a phone call away!



**EASTCO OIL: 508-883-9371**

# Transforming Potential into Purpose at Dean College

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

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

That philosophy is woven into every aspect of the Dean experience. With just 1,200 full-time undergraduates, small class sizes make it easy for faculty to know students by name. Advisors tailor an academic plan to each individual's goals, while required internships ensure every graduate has a meaningful real-world

experience. Partnerships with organizations like Kraft Sports + Entertainment and the Franklin Performing Arts Company connect students directly to industry networks.

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

For recent graduate, Bree Gazeille '24, that attention made all the difference. "Thanks to the incredible support from Dean, I've surpassed my academic expectations and achieved more than I thought possible," she says. "Their guidance paved the way for two incredible internships, a job in my desired field post-graduation, and acceptance into grad school."

In a higher education landscape often defined by large lecture halls and anonymous crowds, Dean offers something refreshingly different with a close-knit community dedicated to helping students achieve their full poten-

tial. That kind of outcome is no accident. Alongside academic expertise, Dean students leave with the skills employers value most, including communication, collaboration, leadership, global awareness, and problem-solving. These abilities are practiced and refined through both coursework and campus life.

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

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

# New Members Welcome to Charles River Chorale Open Rehearsals in January

The Charles River Chorale will begin open rehearsals for its Spring 2026 season and is actively recruiting new members. Come and experience choral singing with a non-audition chorus. Our members come from throughout the MetroWest region and span all ages. All attest to the joy it brings them every week.

Under the leadership of our award-winning director, Ashley Nelson-Oneschuk, we would love to have you come see if this is for you. We meet every Tuesday through early May from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St. in Millis. Our spring concert is in early May. The first 3 rehearsals (1/20, 1/27 and 2/3) are open for new members without obligation.

We hope you can join us! To do so, you can either meet at the church for any of our open rehearsals or fill out our Sign-Up form (no obligation) using the following link: <https://forms.gle/mgnj9NCiRSLU4jTG9>. The accompanying QR code can also be used.

We look forward to seeing you!



## Discover Dean's 2026 Summer Programs

### Pre-College Programs

High school students gain hands-on experience and train with professionals in our week-long programs.

### Sports Broadcasting\*

7/19-7/24 or 7/26-7/31

### Podcasting\*

7/26-7/31

### Social Media Influencer

7/26-7/31

\*College credit available

### Summer Arts Institute

Students ages 14-18 train with esteemed performing arts faculty in our professional studios.

### Dance Intensive

7/26-8/2

### Musical Theatre Intensive

7/26-8/2



### It's Time to Register!

Visit [dean.edu/summeratdean](https://dean.edu/summeratdean) to learn more and register for Dean's 2026 Summer Programs.

# Rep. Soter Joins Colleagues to Pass Several Initiatives

Boston, MA - State Representative Michael J. Soter (R-Bellingham) recently voted to pass Resolutions to formally withdraw all prior applications the state has made to Congress requesting a U.S. Constitutional Convention under Article V.

Representative Soter said the Resolutions revoke several decades-old and outdated measures previously submitted by the Legislature, including a 1931 request to amend or repeal Prohibition, which formally ended in 1933. In voting for the Resolutions, he also cited concerns about avoiding a scenario where many longstanding Constitutional protections, including Second Amendment rights, could be subject to debate and potentially adverse actions if a Constitutional Convention of the states were to be convened.

House Bill 4692, *Resolutions rescinding previous Article V Convention applications*, was adopted by the House on a vote of 155-3 on November 19. A similar Resolution, Senate Bill 2684, was adopted in the Senate the same day on a vote of 34-4.

Massachusetts is now the 17th state to vote to rescind its previous Article V applications.

In addition, Rep. Soter recently joined a unanimous proposal to address workplace violence within the health care industry and protect employees who suffer bodily injuries on the job.

House Bill 4767, *An Act requiring health care employers to develop and implement programs to prevent workplace violence*, was engrossed by the House of Representatives on a vote of 158-0 on November 19. At press time, the bill was heading to the Senate for its consideration.

Soter also joined House colleagues to support a Fiscal Year 2025 closeout supplemental budget that contains House GOP leadership-sponsored language requiring the Healey Administration to resume providing ongoing updates on the amount of state spending associated with running the Commonwealth's emergency shelter system.

Language requiring the reinstatement of the reporting requirement was included in House Bill 4761, which allocates funding to address deficiencies in multiple state spending accounts while officially closing the books on Fiscal Year 2025, which ended on June 30. The bill represents a negotiated compromise between earlier versions of the bill passed by the House and Senate, and was enacted by the House on a vote of 146-9 on November 19 and by the Senate on a vote of 38-0 the same day.

Rep. Soter was again in the majority vote to support a bill to address deferred maintenance at 29 state colleges and universities. The legislation would provide \$3.28 billion to help address deferred infrastructure maintenance and other modernization projects at Massachusetts's 29 public college and university campuses.

House Bill 4750, *An Act to build resilient infrastructure to generate higher-ed transformation* (also known as the BRIGHT Act), uses a combination of bonding and surtax revenues to support the state's institutes of higher education. The bill was given preliminary approval by the House of Representatives, which engrossed it on a vote of 148-5 on November 18.

# St. Blaise Gives Thanks following Fair

The Misfit Toys want to thank everyone who visited during their fair at St. Blaise Church on December 6th and made it the most enjoyable and successful day in recent memory. Congratulations to the 36 winners of the Main raffle, the winners of the scratch ticket aprons, and the many winners of the Card Game. Those who found unique gifts for Christmas in the Country Store or Crafts tables felt like winners, too! Congratulations also to the winners of the kids' games like Snowman Knockdown, Penguin Plinko, Reindeer Ring Toss and guessing the number of Kisses in the container.

"A Dolly for Sue" was especially happy to see so many people enjoying a meal, conversation and fellowship in the Cafe. New England Clam Chowder was added to this year's wonderful menu.

The Island of Misfit Toys committee thanks everyone who



contributed raffle gifts, food, and their time and talent helping to make this fair a wonderful community event.

Hope you had a Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

**BUYING SELLING**

**EXMADAH Pellegrino**

YOUR REALTOR

25 Messenger Street, Plainville, MA 02762

exmadah@kw.com | exmadah.kw.com

**401.339.2420**

**KW ELITE**  
KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY

Licensed in MA and RI - English & Spanish

# TAXES

WHY RISK IT?  
HIRE A TAX PROFESSIONAL!

Don't take a gamble!

We can take the "risk" out of your taxes.  
Call soon to schedule an appointment.

Laura J. Smith, E.A.  
Bayberry Accounting & Tax Service

508-966-1685

Reasonable Rates ♦ Quality Service  
Accurate Tax Returns ♦ Confidentiality ♦ Electronic Filing

CLIP & SAVE!

NEW CLIENT SPECIAL

# SAVE 20%

Laura J. Smith, E.A.  
508-966-1685  
LSmith33@aol.com

VALUED SERVICE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE



Joan Fantini  
508-446-3073



Leo Fantini  
508-446-3538



Kayla Normand  
508-488-7371



Erin Herrick  
508-523-6782



Michelle O'Mara  
508-254-2819



Abbi Normand  
508-488-0373



Bob Wilson  
508-361-9539



Contact us 24/7 for help with

- Real Estate Marketing & Sales
- Buyer/Seller Representation
- Rentals
- Short Sales
- Foreclosures
- Staging Property for Sale



Massachusetts Real Estate Group



CORPORATE OFFICE:

24 North Main Street,  
Bellingham, MA 02019

508-966-2424

www.MARealEstateGroup.com

HOURS: by Appointment  
At Your Convenience

24/7 EMAIL:

MainOffice@MARealEstateGroup.com



Rene A. Rua\*  
508-488-6617  
\*English/Spanish



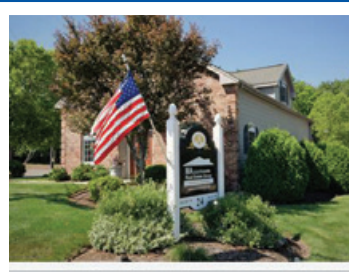
Brian Sequin  
774-266-6291



Lynne Roberts  
508-982-3086



Francesca Casasanta  
508-654-4592



# SAFE Receives Grant for Adolescent Wellness Center

The Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation has awarded SAFE a \$2,500 grant to support the Adolescent Wellness Center (AWC). This first-of-its-kind hub in southeastern Massachusetts provides free mental health and substance use services for teens.

Each year, AWC supports local youth through programs like WhyTry (SEL curriculum), Up in Smoke (diversion program), mentorship, life skills training, and new offerings such as drama therapy and trauma-informed yoga (coming soon!). These initiatives help teens build resilience, avoid risky behaviors, and stay connected. Funding will expand

programming and outreach, ensuring equitable access to prevention and wellness services for hundreds of teens annually.

The AWC fills a critical gap in adolescent services by addressing rising rates of daily substance use, anxiety, depression, and isolation among local teens. Programs are trauma-informed, strengths-based, and designed to meet youth where they are—helping them remain in school, avoid future justice involvement, and connect with caring adults and peers.

For more information on the SAFE Coalition and its programs, visit [www.safecoalitionma.org](http://www.safecoalitionma.org).

# Library Resource of the Month:

Learn Something New in the New Year!

One of the many resources you can access with your library card is Universal Class, which offers a multitude of self-paced, non-credit continuing education courses across more than 30 subject areas. With the New Year upon us, it's the perfect time to learn something new or rediscover an old passion!

When you first enter the site, you'll see a grid of options arranged in alphabetical order. From "Accounting" and "Alternative Medicine" to "Test Preparation" and "Writing Skills," there is likely something you'll want to learn about. In January, popular

options will be "Self-help" and "Personal Development," which contain classes on interpersonal communication, clutter control, and writing improvement. Or you could learn about aromatherapy or meditation!

Each course has clear content descriptions and learning goals. Courses are rated by previous users. Once you log in and start taking a course, your progress will be tracked and Universal Class will show you related options that may be of interest.

To access Universal Class, go to our website at [www.bellinghamlibrary.org](http://www.bellinghamlibrary.org) and click on "Resources." You'll find Universal Class at the bottom of the page.

To ADVERTISE in THIS PAPER

Call Jen Schofield at 508-570-6544 or  
email [jenschofield@localtownpages.com](mailto:jenschofield@localtownpages.com)



DECKS • KITCHEN REMODELS • ADDITIONS  
BATH REMODELS • ROOFING  
SIDING • WINDOWS • GUTTERS  
ENTRY DOORS • DORMERS • AND MORE!

774-573-9811

FREE ESTIMATES • REFERENCES AVAILABLE • LICENSED & INSURED

# Bellingham Public Library News & Events for January 2026

For updates about library programs and services, please visit [www.bellinghamlibrary.org](http://www.bellinghamlibrary.org) and click on Library Calendar & Events.

Or, go directly to the calendar by scanning the QR Code.

Closed, Thursday, January 1st, New Year's Day

Closed, Monday, January 19th, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## Special Programs

### Personalized Color Analysis:

**Unlock Your Radiance – Thursday, January 8th at 6 p.m.**

Discover the transformative power of color in this fun, interactive, and hands-on workshop designed to enhance your natural beauty and boost your confidence. In this small-group setting, participants will explore the principles of color analysis, and some will have the opportunity to identify their unique seasonal color palette based on hair, skin tone, and eye color. Facilitated by Tara Dufour, licensed Aesthetician. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

**Save the Date: Library Annual Art & Photography Show, Sunday, February 15th.**

Check library calendar for details!

## Ongoing Children's Programs

**STEAM Saturday – Saturday, January 3, 11 a.m.**

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

**Ring a Ding – Mondays & Thursdays at 10:15 a.m., for ages 0-5.**

**Read to Freedom the Reading Dog – Mondays from 5:30-7 p.m.**

Check the calendar to sign up for a 15-minute time slot!

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

**Lego Builders** – Mondays at 4:30 p.m., open hour to build with Legos. For Grades K to 3

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

## Adult Programs

**Book Discussion Group** – Generally meets the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. In-person or on Zoom. January 5th, we will discuss *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. Contact Suzanne salpert@cwmares.org, for more information. This year's titles:

February: *Happy Land* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez; March: *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon; April: *All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker; May: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell; June: *Finding My Way* by Malala Yousafzai; July: *The Orphan Collector* by Eileen Marie Wiseman; August: *James, A Novel* by Percival Everett; September: *Somewhere Beyond the Sea* by TJ Klune; October: *None of This is True* by Lisa Jewell; November: *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters; December: *Oona Out of Order* by Margarita Montimore

### English Conversation Group

Monday, January 5, 4 p.m., Tuesday, January 13th, 5 p.m., Saturday, January 17, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 21, 6 p.m., Thursday, January 29th 7

p.m.,

Facilitated by Thienne Risatto, our Library Assistant - Multilingual Learners Coordinator, for our newly revamped Conversation Circles program. Thienne, a native Portuguese speaker, is also fluent in Spanish and English (as well as learning Italian!). Practice speaking English in a relaxed, comfortable place, and meet new friends as we learn by talking. If you can speak English but want to improve your English conversation skills, this is the group for you! No registration. Just show up!

**Tuesday Fiber Arts & Other Crafts** – alternating Tuesdays, January 6 and 20, from 6-7:45 p.m. Love to knit, crochet or do other arts and crafts? Join others with similar interests.

**A Novel Idea: Book Club for Adults** – Tuesday, January 6th, from 6:30-8 p.m., with light refreshments. This month's selection - *Devolution*, by Max Brooks. Please contact Diane Nelson [dnelson@cwmares.org](mailto:dnelson@cwmares.org)

**Needlecraft Night** – Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. All skill levels welcome, bring your own materials

**Library Board of Trustees Meeting** – Thursday, January 8th at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room

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

• Tuesday, January 13th at 2 p.m. – **The Creative and Compassionate Art of Seeing Others Deeply with David Brooks**

• Tuesday, January 20th at 2 p.m. – **Nature, Art, and Service as Medicine with Journalist Julia Hotz**

• Wednesday, January 28th at 7 p.m. – **Secrets and Second Chances with Liz Moore**

**Yoga: Slow Down & Warm Up – Kripalu Yoga For Winter** – Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. starting on January 13th. Check the library calendar to register.

**Friends of the Library Monthly Meeting** – Tuesday, January 13th at 7 p.m., To attend email [library@bellinghamlibrary.org](mailto:library@bellinghamlibrary.org) for the Zoom link!

**Writing Group for Adults** – Tuesday, January 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Hybrid meeting. Writers, readers, listeners – come join us! Local area writers Amy Barteloni and Marjorie Turner Hollman welcome you to hear what local writers are working on and share what you are working on. Works of fiction or non-fiction are welcome. Reading limit is 9 minutes per reader, with a brief opportunity for positive, personal comments. Contact Marjorie Turner Hollman at [marjorie@marjorieturner.com](mailto:marjorie@marjorieturner.com).

**Chat & Craft for Adults: Found Poetry Canvas**, Wednesday, January 21st at 6:30 p.m. Join us and create a “found poetry” decorated canvas using pages from discarded books, acrylic pens, watercolor paints, and ephemera. All materials will be provided (but you are welcome to bring your own ephemera if you'd like.) Guidance provided. Contact Suzanne at [salpert@cwmares.org](mailto:salpert@cwmares.org)

[cwmares.org](http://cwmares.org) for more information. Registration required. **Program is supported by the Friends of the Bellingham Library.**

**Bellingham Genealogy Club** – Monday, January 26th from 6-7:30 p.m., Registration is required; all registrants will receive an email with the Zoom link.

## Multicultural Festival Committee Members Wanted

The library plans to host Bellingham's first Multicultural Festival. With the assistance of the community, we hope to turn this into an annual event. We are actively seeking members of the community that represent a variety of cultures and reflect the diversity in our community. To learn more, please contact Library Director Bernadette Rivard [atbrivard@bellinghamma.org](mailto:atbrivard@bellinghamma.org) or (508) 657-2776.

**Friends of the Library Program Supply Wish List** – Can you assist the Friends by purchasing one of these items from the Wish List? Many items are under \$10! <http://bit.ly/3KJiV2i>



## Free Contemporary Dance/Fusion Class Alert!

January 14th @ 7:30 p.m. at the HCA

Join this free introductory class for ages 16+ for all levels and discover combinations that blend jazz and modern techniques with the fluidity and expressiveness of contemporary dance. It's a fun way to try something new and get a taste of our upcoming winter class!

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/HCAJan14Free> to RSVP.

The HCA Dance Studio is located at 34 Hayden Rowe St, Hopkinton.

**JWA**  
J.White's Automotive



## ATTENTION LAND ROVER OWNERS

If you are tired of getting the run-around or have you experienced dishonesty at dealerships?

Please call Shirley or Julia to schedule your next appointment at J.White's Automotive in Bellingham.

We are a family run company since 2006 and have found our permanent home here on Mechanic Street in Bellingham. We would love the opportunity to earn your trust.

Thank you for Considering our Shop for all your Land Rover Needs  
**WE FIX CAR PROBLEMS & BUILD DREAM CARS!**

75 Mechanic Street, Bellingham, MA, 02019

508-966-2902

888-90ROVER • [jwhitesoffice@me.com](mailto:jwhitesoffice@me.com)

[j.whitesautomotive](https://www.instagram.com/j.whitesautomotive)



JWhite'sautomotive



# Sports

## BHS Track Teams Aiming to Improve in Three Areas

By KEN HAMWEY,  
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

January has arrived, and that's when Tom Cowell, Bellingham High's indoor track coach, and his boys' and girls' squads will rev up their intensity to improve on last season's results.

The girls compiled a 3-2 record last year while competing in the Tri Valley League's Small Division, and the boys finished with a 1-4 record.

Cowell has three goals for the new season.

"For both teams, our goals are to finish the season with a winning record, to see improvement in individual events by setting new personal records, and to send athletes to compete at the Division 5 Championship Meet," he said. "Last year, we had 13 athletes qualify to compete at that meet, and although we lost several of those athletes, our goal will be to meet or surpass that number with the talent we have this year."

Cowell is optimistic.

"The boys' and the girls' have excellent upperclassman leader-

ship, with nine returning seniors and 23 juniors," Cowell said. "These athletes have years of combined experience that will help them guide and mentor our younger athletes as we continue to build a strong program. We have depth at every event, with 71 total athletes, many of whom compete in a wide range of events. I'm very excited about an influx of young distance talent from the cross-country program, which will help boost an area where we've had lower numbers in years past."

There also are other factors that make the goals realistic.

"We had close losses last year to Norton for both squads and a very close loss to Medfield for the girls," Cowell noted. "We've increased our depth in the distance events, which should make us more competitive for points across the middle- and long-distance events. Athletes will push themselves in training sessions to improve speed out of the blocks, endurance on the track, and explosive strength in the circle, which will result in improved marks and personal records."

The senior captains are not only quality competitors, but also lead by example and focus on being supportive and communicative. They include Eli Cowell (hurdles, long jump), Alannah Doyle (shot put), and Grace Kelley (55 and 300-meter dash).

"Eli has great rhythm in the hurdles and began to consistently three-step the full race in his junior year," his father said. "He's a natural leader that his peers look to for setting the example. Alannah is returning for her second year as a captain. She leads the throwers and has an excellent command presence, often taking the reins to run drills on technique. After summer throwing camps, she seemed poised for a big year, hoping to break the 30-foot barrier."

"Grace is a hard-working sprinter who earned captaincy for her natural leadership style. She is liked and respected by her teammates, approachable, and kind to all. She will likely see action in a number of events, including the sprints and the relays."

Five other competitors who'll be prime contributors include juniors Bryan DeAlmeida (sprints, middle distance, high jump), Jenna Dormady (middle and long distance), Eric Mounsey (middle distance), and Megan Skarin (middle distance), and sophomore Brett McRae (shot put).

"Bryan came out for the team for the first time last year and was immediately one of the top athletes in the TVL, Cowell said. "He can compete at the top level in a wide range of events, from the 55-meter dash to the 1,000-meter run. Jenna has been a force since eighth grade, earning huge points for the team across a wide range of distance events — from the 600-meter run to the two-mile."

"Eric has phenomenal speed endurance and finishes as strong as anyone on the track. He competed last season in the 1000-meter run at the divisional championships, and I expect he'll be among the top 1,000



Coach Sam Cowell and Bellingham High's indoor track captains, from left, Alannah Doyle, Grace Kelley, and Eli Cowell.

runners in the league this season. Megan worked hard to qualify last year for the divisional championship meet in the mile. She is an excellent 1,000-meter runner and can also contribute on the relay teams. Brett set the freshman record in the shot put for BHS last year with a throw of 36 feet, 6.5 inches. With a year's growth and work in the weight room, Brett is ready to break 40 feet and be a major competitor in the TVL."

Cowell's assistant coaches include John Pendlebury (shot put and high jump), Travis Hites (sprints), and Peter Lacasse (hurdles).

"John has decades with the program, specializing in throws and the high jump," Cowell said. "He's a great asset, developing shot putters and high jumpers and building our strength-training program. Travis is detail-oriented and brings quality analysis into the planning for our dual meet rosters. Peter is a BHS track legend and head coach of the outdoor team. We're privileged to have

his assistance, because he's a great resource in all aspects of the sport."

The Blackhawks opened their season against Millis and registered a pair of victories. The girls won, 49-43, and the boys triumphed, 67-24.

"I was proud of our teams' effort in the opening meet," Cowell said. "We had a number of personal records set and we were able to secure two victories. Olivia Ginn was a top performer for our team, winning a tight hurdles race and earning 11 points total to help us win a very close meet."

The remaining TVL meets on the schedule include Medfield (Jan. 8) and Norton (Jan. 14). TVL meets against Medway and Dover-Sherborn occurred after the *Bulletin's* deadline.

Two post-season events include the TVL Showcase Meet (Jan. 31, 9:30 am) at the TRACK at New Balance and the MIAA Division 5 Championship Meet (Feb. 14, 10 am), also at the TRACK at New Balance in Brighton.

It's that time of year Deer are out partying in the street. If you happen to crash their party - Just call Marty's!



**COLLISION & TOWING EXPERTS**  
**508-966-1008**

**Visit Us for All Your Collision Repairs!**

46 No. Main St. Rte. 126 | Bellingham, MA 02019

# Sports

## Guillemette, 8 Others Inducted into BHS Hall of Fame

By KEN HAMWEY,  
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

Roger Guillemette was the only coach honored at Bellingham High School's fifth Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the Coachmen's Lodge on Nov. 21.

The 81-year-old Guillemette, who lives in North Smithfield, R.I., was a worthy choice, primarily because he was the hockey program's first coach, and that usually means dealing with a lengthy building plan before fans could celebrate winning records and tourney appearances. Quite the contrary in Guillemette's case.

The Woonsocket native became Bellingham High's coach in 1978, and he compiled 45 victories in his four years at the Blackhawks' helm. In the program's second year, Guillemette led BHS to a quarterfinal playoff berth at the Boston Garden.

Bellingham's maiden voyage in hockey produced an 11-5-2 record, and its second year in the Tri Valley League concluded with a 15-5-1 record. Guillemette thrived on coaching a new program that became an instant winner.

"Getting to Boston Garden in year two exceeded everyone's expectations," he told the crowd of 200. "The town's youth program was a big plus, but the key was we had no prima donnas, the boys were very coachable, and they overachieved."

"Getting inducted into the school's hall of fame is special," he emphasized. "You dream about being in a hall of fame when you're young, and when it happens, you're thankful for the recognition."

A teacher, guidance counselor and special-ed coordinator who loved working in Bellingham for 30 years, Guillemette said, "During my four years as the coach, the kids and the parents were a joy to work with." Guillemette left coaching to see his sons compete in hockey for North Smithfield.

Guillemette, who also was a successful coach at Bishop Hendricken in Warwick, R.I., was the right man at the right time

to lead Bellingham's new hockey program.

The other inductees included two contributors (John Simpson and the late Harold Maines); five student-athletes (Michael Trudeau, Greg Smith, Lisa Motroni, Lisa Payne, and Kevin Maines); and one team (1998 football team).

Following are brief comments from the other inductees:

\*MICHAEL TRUDEAU (basketball, baseball) — "It's an honor to join previous inductees, like cousins, friends, and coaches who helped develop my ability. I'm thankful for the teams and the teammates I competed with. Thanks to a Naval ROTC scholarship, I was a walk-on in baseball and played three seasons at Notre Dame. Athletics enabled me to appreciate the support and encouragement I got from family, friends and coaches."

\*HAROLD MAINES (contributor) — "My father was always willing to give time to his town, whether it was serving on the Park Commission or the School Committee," said his son Kevin. "He believed that it was important for students to play sports because they learned sportsmanship, teamwork, and commitment. He must have seen a million sports events. Dan Ranieri also spoke, emphasizing that "Harold was a good, kind and decent man."

\*KEVIN MAINES (football, basketball, baseball) — "It's an honor to enter the Hall of Fame with my father. For me, it's rewarding to be recognized for lots of effort and commitment. We didn't win a lot but we did go 4-4-1 in football in 1971. My teammates were scrappy and competitive and there always was great camaraderie. I also served as an assistant in football



Roger Guillemette was Bellingham High's first ice-hockey coach.

formed in athletics and I'm thankful for the community, the coaches, my family and teammates. And, I played for two fine coaches (Joann Paquette and Lynn Stocks)."

\*GREG SMITH (football, basketball, baseball) — "It's a tremendous and incredible honor to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. I competed with great teammates and we won two TVL titles in baseball and the first Super Bowl championship in 1993 by beating Marian. I had excellent coaches is Dale Caparaso, Jim Bonollo and Dave Gibbs. It's also a thrill to join my father in the Hall of Fame and to go in with John Simpson, a longtime friend."

\*LISA PAYNE (field hockey, track, softball) — "I was honored to be inducted with the 1985 field hockey team in 2018. That was the school's first state title in field hockey and

that started something for the program. It's nice to also be remembered for track and softball. It was rewarding to compete with good friends, have great coaches and receive support from my family. I was pleased to be a captain in all three sports as a senior (1987). It's humbling to be honored for commitment and dedication."

\*1998 FOOTBALL TEAM — "We're honored and appreciate the recognition," said Justin Prophet, one of the captains. "What we achieved shows the power of brotherhood. We started 0-2, won nine straight, then beat South Boston, 34-8, in the Super Bowl. We did our jobs before Bill Belichick coined those words. We believed in each other and we thank the Hall of Fame committee and all those who believed in us."

The Bellingham Athletic Booster Club is the driving force behind the Hall of Fame ceremonies. The president is Athletic Director Michael Connor and vice presidents are Dan Haddad and Aley Thibault.

and head track coach. I found joy in those days and they later were a plus in my career as a principal and superintendent at Douglas High School."

\*JOHN SIMPSON (contributor) — "I'm humbled and honored to enter the Hall of Fame and join previous inductees who are the cream of the crop of Bellingham sports. For 11 years, I thoroughly enjoyed leading the town's youth basketball league that was available for 7 to 14-year-olds. I began in 1979 and got help from many wonderful people. We were viewed as the feeder system for the high school varsity that won a state title in 2003."

\*LISA MOTRONI (field hockey, track) — "It was gratifying to win the TVL MVP award twice in field hockey and to be chosen to the Boston Globe and Boston Herald all-scholastic teams. But, I'm blessed to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Friendships were

**The Sue Ranieri/Melissa Bertonazzi Team**

Looking to buy or sell a home in the New Year?  
**We are here to help you! Just give us a call!**

**Suzanne Ranieri** | **Melissa Bertonazzi**  
508-380-1643 | 508-320-3596  
Suzanne.Ranieri@NEMoves.com | melissa.bertonazzi@cbrealty.com

**WE'LL TURN YOUR DREAMS INTO REALITY!**

# Franklin Art Association to Welcome Artist Katie Kindilien

The Franklin Art Association warmly welcomes the public to its next public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on January 7, 2026 at the Franklin Senior Center. Our artist demonstrator will be Katie Kindilien. She is a landscape and still life painter who currently lives in New Haven, CT. She received her undergraduate degree in painting from Tyler School in Philadelphia. A year studying in Rome opened her eyes to fresco and oil painting. She taught art in public school, as she painted and took classes to develop her own skills.

Her work is inspired by the everyday moments of beauty that surround us. She hopes her paintings and demonstrations will bring light and joy to others.

The Franklin Art Association takes pride in offering a student scholarship yearly to a local art student wishing to continue their art career in art instruction after high school graduation.


Please join us at our monthly meetings for art instruction, the camaraderie of art conversation and refreshments at intermission.



Paintings by Katie Kindilien




To ADVERTISE in THIS PAPER  
Call Jen Schofield at 508-570-6544  
or email [jenschofield@localtownpages.com](mailto:jenschofield@localtownpages.com)



**SIMPLE WAYS TO SAVE WATER**

There are many simple things we can do to save water. Learn from the water-efficiency hero Flo what you can do today to help protect our water supply!




**TURN OFF THE TAP!**


Just by turning off the tap while you brush your teeth in the morning and before bedtime, you can save up to 8 gallons of water! That adds up to more than 200 gallons a month, enough to fill a huge fish tank that holds 6 small sharks!

The same is true when you wash dishes. Turn off the tap! Scrape your dirty dishes into the trash—then put them in the dishwasher.

Check Back Each Month for more Helpful Ways to Save!



Sponsored by the Bellingham DPW



Find us on Facebook

FROM OUR HOMES TO YOURS...

*Happy New Year!*



Michelle Sebio Savje  
Sebio Savje Premier Group  
508-561-4257



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

Remember, if you want to BUY or SELL, call Michelle!

# BVT's 73 2026 Adams Scholars Earn Opportunities at State's Colleges or Universities

Upton, MA – The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship is a merit-based program that provides tuition at a Massachusetts state college or university. Seventy-three Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) seniors are the proud recipients of an Adams Scholarship. The award allows these students to further their vocational and career training with additional education, advanced training, and credentials.

The first-time score on a high school MCAS exam determines eligibility for an Adams Scholarship. Adams Scholar recipients receive free tuition for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts public college or university, renewable for eight consecutive semesters or four years. Recipients must use the tuition credit in the first fall semester following their high school graduation and maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better.

“The Adams Scholarship reflects our students’ commitment, dedication, and desire to put forth their full effort on exam day,” said BVT Superintendent-Director Anthony E. Steele, II. “We’re proud of their accomplishments and excited for our career and life-ready seniors to benefit from this scholarship.”

The following members of the Class of 2026 from Bellingham have earned a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship:

## BELLINGHAM

Gracie Clinton, Olivia Dalton, Evan Donlon, Evan Gerrish, Justyn Hayes, Gavin Jacobson, Charlie Leighton, Ericka Lizotte, Nicholas Russell, Andres Silva, Madyson Voss, and Justin Walsh.

## 2026 John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients



Congratulations, BVT Class of 2026 John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients!

**KEVIN J. TAGLIAFERRI**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

**CRIMINAL DEFENSE • BANKRUPTCY  
SORB HEARINGS • JUVENILE LAW**

**508-533-1600**

Email: [KevLaw2@verizon.net](mailto:KevLaw2@verizon.net) • [www.KevLaw2.com](http://www.KevLaw2.com)  
165 MAIN ST., STE. 210, MEDWAY, MA 02053

## Don't just watch TV — Make it!



**ABMI-TV \$1500 SCHOLARSHIP**  
All local high school seniors graduating in 2026 are eligible!

Check with the guidance department at your school to apply online! Applicants must reside in either Bellingham or Mendon.

**Access Bellingham-Mendon, Inc.**  
10 WILLIAM WAY (OFF RTE. 140) • BELLINGHAM, MA 02019  
Tel: 508-966-3234 • Email: [abmi8@comcast.net](mailto:abmi8@comcast.net)  
Visit us on the web at [abmi8.org](http://abmi8.org)



# CALENDAR

## January 3

**Electric Youth 2026 Debut Concert, 7:30 p.m.** The Black Box, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, [www.theblackboxonline.com](http://www.theblackboxonline.com)

## January 5

**Book Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m.**, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham or on Zoom, *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. Contact Suzanne at [salpert@cwmares.org](mailto:salpert@cwmares.org).

## January 6

**A Novel Idea: Book Club for Adults, 6:30-8 p.m.**, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham *Devolution*, by Max Brooks. Please contact Diane Nelson at [dnelson@cwmares.org](mailto:dnelson@cwmares.org)

**Tuesday Fiber Arts & Other Crafts**, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, for those who love to knit, crochet or do other arts and crafts

## January 8

**Personalized Color Analysis: Unlock Your Radiance, 6 p.m.**, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, Facilitated by Tara Dufour, licensed Aesthetician. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

**Ladies of St. Anne Sodality meeting, 6 p.m.**, St. Blaise Parish Hall, 1158 S. Main St., Bellingham

**Franklin LGBTQ Alliance Yankee Gift Swap, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**, Franklin TV, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, You can either bring a gift you received that doesn't quite fit who you are, or lightly used clothing/houseware items.

## January 13

**Virtual Author Talks: 2 p.m.**, Creative and Compassionate Art of Seeing Others Deeply with David Brooks. To register for these talks, go to: <https://libraryc.org/bellinghamma>

## January 14

**Bellingham Business Association Trivia Night and Doughraiser, 6 p.m.**, Uno's Bellingham, 205 Hartford Ave., Bellingham, 20% to BBA all day with coupon found at <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17cohrtYPx/> or just visit BBA Facebook page.

## January 17

**Franklin Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Contest for ages 9-14, 3-5 p.m.**, Hockomock YMCA, 45 Forge Hill Rd., Franklin, parents/guardians must accompany children, Questions to Jim Lane, KOC Free Throw Coordinator, [JDLane58@hotmail.com](mailto:JDLane58@hotmail.com), (774) 571-9804

## January 20

**Tuesday Fiber Arts & Other Crafts, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham**, for those who love to knit, crochet or do other arts and crafts

**Writing Group for Adults, 6:30 p.m.**, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bell-

ingham, contact Marjorie Turner Hollman at [marjorie@marjorieturner.com](mailto:marjorie@marjorieturner.com).

**Virtual Author Talks, 2 p.m.**, Nature, Art, and Service as Medicine with Journalist Julia Hotz. To register for these talks, go to: <https://libraryc.org/bellinghamma>

**Charles River Chorale Open Rehearsal, 7:30-9:30 p.m.**, Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis. New members welcome to regional non-audition chorus. Sign up at <https://forms.gle/mgnj9NCiRSLU4jTG9> or come to rehearsal.

## January 21

**Chat & Craft for Adults: Found Poetry Canvas, 6:30 p.m.**, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, Contact Suzanne at [salpert@cwmares.org](mailto:salpert@cwmares.org) for more information. Registration required.

**Queer Book Club, by Franklin LGBTQ Alliance, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**, Franklin TV, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, Ace: What Asexuality Reveals About Desire, Society, and the Meaning of Sex by Angela Chen

## January 23

**First Universalist Society in Franklin Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament and Sale, 6-8 p.m.**, 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin, Team competition on either Friday night OR Saturday morning. Sign up at [FUSE.org/events](https://FUSE.org/events). Questions to Vicki (508) 654-6740

## January 24

**First Universalist Society in Franklin Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament and Sale, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**, First Universalist Society in Franklin Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament and Sale, 6-8 p.m., 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin, Team competition on either Friday night OR Saturday morning. Sign up at [FUSE.org/events](https://FUSE.org/events). Questions to Vicki (508) 654-6740

## January 27

**Charles River Chorale Open Rehearsal, 7:30-9:30 p.m.**, Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis. New members welcome to regional non-audition chorus. Sign up at <https://forms.gle/mgnj9NCiRSLU4jTG9> or come to rehearsal.

## January 28

**Virtual Author Talks, 7 p.m.**, Secrets and Second Chances with Liz Moore. To register for these talks, go to: <https://libraryc.org/bellinghamma>



## Norfolk County Real Estate Activity Mixed in November

Dedham, MA – Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reported that Norfolk County recordings in November 2025 showed mixed results compared to November 2024, with fewer transactions but higher overall dollar volume of property sales and an increased number of mortgage recordings.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds recorded 8,221 documents in November 2025, down 1% compared to November 2024 and a 21% decrease from October 2025.

"November marked the first month since March of this year that document recordings fell below the same month last year," said Register O'Donnell. "This decline is largely due to fewer deed recordings compared to November 2024. Whether this is a temporary seasonal shift or the beginning of a broader market, change is something only time will tell."

The average sale price for commercial and residential properties in November was \$1,415,648.74, a 46% increase from November 2024 and up 38% from October 2025. This figure was significantly influenced by a single high-value commercial property sale of approximately \$205 million, which skewed the average upward. The total dollar volume of sales reached \$840.9 million, up 32% year-over-year and 4% from October.

"The increase in average sale price and total dollar volume compared to last year was driven by one major commercial transaction," said Register O'Donnell. "However, even without that sale prices remain higher than last year. According to RealtyTrac,

the median home price in Norfolk County for October 2025 was \$739,200, up from \$671,700 in October 2024."

The total number of deeds recorded in November, including commercial and residential transfers, was 1,233, an 8% decrease from November 2024 and down 23% from October 2025.

"Total deed recordings were lower than last November, which may reflect affordability challenges and buyers being more cautious when faced with increased property prices," noted Register O'Donnell. "While interest rates are slightly lower than a year ago, high property prices and limited inventory seem to be a driving influence in purchasing decisions."

Mortgage recordings totaled 1,400 in November, up 2% compared to last year and down 23% from October. The total mortgage indebtedness recorded was \$999 million, down 5% from November 2024 and an 11% decrease from October.

"Mortgage recordings were slightly higher than last year, but the total dollar amount was lower," stated Register O'Donnell. "This could indicate smaller loan sizes or fewer large refinances, as borrowers adjust to current market conditions."

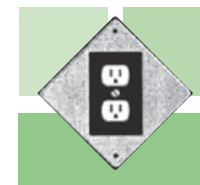
To learn more about Registry of Deed's events and initiatives, like us on Facebook® at [facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds](https://facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds) or follow us on X® at [X.com/NorfolkDeeds](https://X.com/NorfolkDeeds) and Instagram® at [Instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds](https://Instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds).

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds is located at 649 High Street in Dedham. Find them at [www.norfolkdeeds.org](http://www.norfolkdeeds.org), call (781) 461-6101 or email [registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org](mailto:registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org).

## Richard (Rick) Lamothe

### Electrical Contractor

Electrician — Master License in MA & RI



**CELL: (508) 397-1916**

Small jobs, service upgrades, fire alarms  
All phases of old and new construction

# First Universalist Society in Franklin

## Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament & Sale

Friday, January 23, 2026, 6-8 p.m., OR

Saturday, January 24, 2026, 10 a.m.-Noon

**Team Tournament:** Enter your team to puzzle against other teams in a friendly and fun competition on either Friday night or Saturday morning. Each team receives the same 500-piece puzzle and races to finish first. Prizes given for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place. It's only \$40 per team. Each team can be up to four people, and your team goes home with the completed puzzle. The Team Registration signup and puzzle tournament rules can be found at [FUSE.org/events](http://FUSE.org/events). For questions call Vicki (508) 654-6740. Cash, check or electronic payment accepted.

**Puzzle Sale:** Hundreds of Jigsaw puzzles will be for sale both days. You do not need to enter the tournament to shop. Most puzzles are priced between \$4 and \$6 - Some are brand new! Be sure to stock up for all those puzzlers in your life (or yourself). Cash, check or electronic payment accepted.

*The First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) is an Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation located at 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin. For more information, please contact us at [info@fusf.org](mailto:info@fusf.org) or call (508) 528-5348.*



# DESE to Conduct Review of BFCCPS the Week of January 16

During the week of January 16th, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE's) Office of Language Acquisition (OLA) will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School. The Office of Language Acquisition reviews each district's and charter school's ELE program every six years to monitor compliance with federal and state English learner education laws and regulations. Areas of review will include English learners' student assessments, identification of English learners; what programs English learners are placed in, parent and community involvement, curriculum and instruction, student support services, licensure requirements for faculty, staff and administration, program plans, and evaluation and recordkeeping.

In addition to the virtual visit, parent outreach is an important part of the review process. The district will send a survey to the parents of students whose records the review team examines. The survey focuses on key areas of their child's English learner education program. Survey results will be reviewed by OLA and they will contribute to the monitoring report.

Parents and other individuals may call David Parker, Office of Language Acquisition Review Chairperson, at (781) 338-3466 to request a telephone interview. If an individual requires an accommodation, such as translation, to participate in an interview, DESE will make the necessary arrangements.

Within approximately 60 business days of the onsite visit, the review chairperson will provide the (district or charter school) with a report with information

about areas in which the (district or charter school) meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and areas in which the (district or charter school) requires assistance to correct or improve practices. The report will be available to the public at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/ele/cpr/>.

## About the Benjamin Franklin Charter School

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School's mission is to assist parents in their role as primary educators of their children by providing students with a classical academic education coupled with sound character development and community service. Our mission is supported by four distinct, yet interconnected pillars that provide for a collaborative, rigorous education for all students. These pillars guide, direct and define the school in all it does.

To ADVERTISE in THIS PAPER  
Call Jen Schofield at 508-570-6544 or  
email [jenschofield@localtownpages.com](mailto:jenschofield@localtownpages.com)

**Our Town PUBLISHING**  
... is here to service ALL of your **PRINTING NEEDS**

- Full-service & high-quality printing
- Ready to help with your business, school or organization's projects
- We are print specialists who can also assist with our expertise to develop, design & mail

**CALL TO GET A QUOTE TODAY!**

508-533-4588 • [ourtownpublishing.com](http://ourtownpublishing.com)  
[printing@ourtownpublishing.com](mailto:printing@ourtownpublishing.com)

**WOODSTOCK BUILDING ASSOCIATES, LLC**  
The Leader in Design-Build

**WOODSTOCK, CT**  
3 Route 171, Suite 1  
860-928-0897



**FRANKLIN, MA**  
15 Main Street, Suite 11A  
508-570-4853

From design to completion, our architects, designers, estimators, project coordinators, superintendents, carpenters, and plumbers work as a team to ensure consistently superior craftsmanship for your project. Design and building costs are tailored to fit your needs without compromising quality. If you are looking for an experienced, organized, professional, and cost conscious design-build company, call Woodstock Building Associates today!



MA Home Improvement Contractor #119085 - MA Construction Supervisor #111269 - CT Home Improvement Contractor #565903 - CT New Home Construction Contractor #160

**REMODEL - NEW CONSTRUCTION - KITCHENS & BATHS - ADDITIONS**



LOOKING TO TRANSFER?

APPLY

TO

DEAN

**TRANSFER FRIENDLY**

Generous transfer scholarships and flexible transfer credit policy

**UNPARALLELED SUPPORT**

Academic, learning and social support tailored to meet your needs

**CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY**

Small class sizes averaging 16 students

**REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE**

100% of students complete an internship before graduation

**APPLY NOW AS A NEW OR TRANSFER STUDENT!**

Join us for the Spring 2026 semester! Visit [dean.edu/joindean](http://dean.edu/joindean) to learn more.



With our *YOU*nique mortgage options, your dreams can come true.

If you're looking to refinance or buy a home, we offer mortgage solutions that are *YOU*nique. At Charles River Bank, our Mortgage Consultants will provide the expertise you need and a truly *YOU*nique banking experience.

Talk with a Charles River Bank Mortgage Consultant today, or visit our online Mortgage Center anytime. We'll show you why Charles River Bank is *YOU*nique.

508-533-8661  
70 Main Street • Medway  
2 South Maple Street • Bellingham  
1 Hastings Street • Mendon



**Charles River Bank**  
Personal Connections. Powerful Solutions.

[CharlesRiverBank.com](http://CharlesRiverBank.com)

Member FDIC, Member DIF



Equal Housing Lender

NMLS# 743045