

localtownpages Franklin

Vol. 16 No. 11

Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

January 1, 2026

Franklin Cheer for the Championship – Again!

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

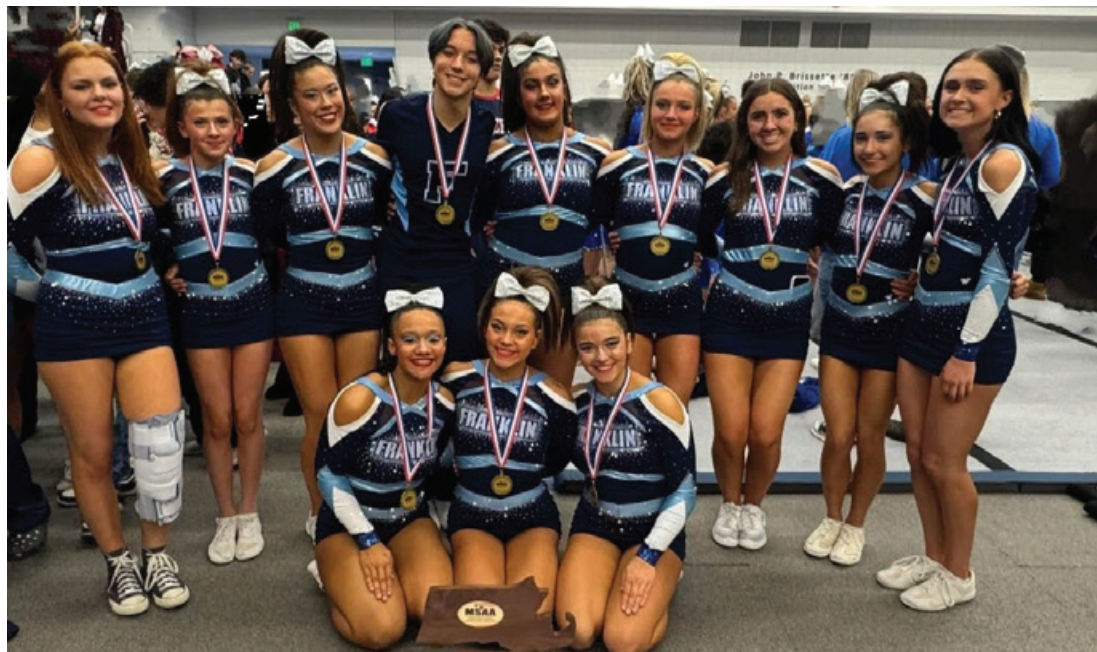
The Franklin High School
co-ed Cheerleading team has

continued to impress as the Pan-
thers captured the MSAA Div.
1 2025 Fall Cheerleading State
Championship, the Hockomock

League Championship, and the

CHEER

continued on page 2



FHS Volleyball Celebrates State Championship

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

VOLLEYBALL

continued on page 3



At the beginning of the season, Franklin High School Volleyball
players informed their new coach, Chris Ridolfi, that they would be
winning the State Title, and they did.

Photo by Jill Kuykendall used courtesy of Jilly Bean Photography



Authentic Landscapes

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

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 Licensed

*Serving our communities
for 30 years!*



MORE CUSTOMERS. LESS HASSLE.
Small-business websites, social, print & promos on a budget.

BARN & ANCHOR
CREATIVE



617.372.1853
barnandanchor.com
513 South Street, Wrentham, MA

- Free Estimates
- Licensed & Insured
- Roofing • Residential
- Gutters • Rubber
- Siding • Flat Roofs
- Windows

FINANCING AVAILABLE

@RobertRoofing AndGuttersInc

www.robertroofingandgutters.com

One Call Sends a
Roofer Not a Salesman



**ROBERT ROOFING
AND GUTTERS**

NO GIMMICKS
JUST HONEST
PRICING!

Serving the South Shore and
Surrounding Areas
Robert Greene - 857-247-8709

Looking to Advertise in Our
REAL ESTATE CORNER?



CONTACT
Jen Schofield
508-570-6544
JenSchofield@localtownpages.com

Experience. Service. Trust.

2026 New Year, New Home?
Buying, Selling or Just need Advice?
Call **Lorraine Kuney** first 508-380-9938
Always going Above & Beyond.



Lorraine Kuney
508-380-9938
Lorrainekuney@gmail.com



Local
Customer
Postal
PERMIT NO. 142
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
EPCWSS
PRSRPT STD

localtownpages 

Scan this QR CODE
to visit our Website



Scan this QR CODE
to visit our Facebook Page

localtownpages 



CHEER

continued from page 1

MSAA Div. 1 South Regionals. The team’s dedication and teamwork have been key factors in their success, and they are proud to have won multiple state championships. This the school’s 17th and the sixth straight over the fall and winter seasons.

Coach Doni Gill, who is in her ninth season with the program, has been the guidance to the Panther’s success having captured 11 State Titles since her arrival in 2017.

“Each year our goal is to continue to repeat as champions and I’ve been extremely lucky with the talent I have gotten. However, I don’t know how long it will continue to last,” the Franklin coach said. I hold the girls to very high expectations and have them working on performing the hardest skills we can while doing it safely.”

By pushing her girls to the limit, Gill is able to get them to perform these difficult routines, and when it’s done right, the girls’ confidence soars. Volunteer Coach Eric Bichao brings

the difficult skills to the table and choreographs all the routines. Like Gill, he too looks to have the girls performing the hardest routines possible.

Senior captains Areiel Orrell and Cassidy Stanley are the lynch pins to the Panthers’ success. Orrell is an amazing talent according to her Coach. This year, in addition to being the team’s top tumbler performing the hardest passes, the senior took on the position of main base for the first time.

“Being her first year in doing so, she knocked it out of the park,” Gill said. “She learned the position and picked it up quickly and with skill. Doing what she did was not only difficult, but she did it with two broken pinkies.”

Stanley also had an injury to her shoulder, but trudged through her performance with a brace. The team’s secondary base leads the team to where they are in their stunting. Her grit and determination had the rest of the team following in her footsteps.

“These two pushing through the pain and injuries shows the younger girls that it’s not what you say as captains but how you set the example on the floor,” the Coach said.

In addition to the captains, Gill has been impressed with freshman Riley Lemay. The first-year flyer was thrust into action when the team lost its main flyer and having little to no experience coming into the year she proved her worth. Lemay learned how to perform some of the most difficult stunts in the state.

“Being a freshman and new to the sport, we really didn’t know if she could fundamentally do this,” Gill said. “She is a very coachable kid and will do anything that you ask of her and takes criticism to heart.”

As the cheer team adds yet another trophy to the successful teams that have graced the high school, Gill and Bichao are getting the winter tam ready for the next season. The squad will continue to practice a lot of the same routines, with a tweak here and there while adding two new girls to the team and losing some to play other sports this winter.

“Our expectations do not change – we are looking to continue our winning ways into the winter season and defend our title,” the Panther Coach said. Eric will change some of the choreography while having the girls try new stunts, but overall, it will remain the same.”

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

localtownpages

Published Monthly
Mailed FREE to the
Community of Franklin
Circulation: 13,164
households & businesses

Publisher
Jennifer Schofield

Editor
Theresa Knapp

Send Editorial to:
editor@franklintownnews.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

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.



Paintings by Katie Kindilien

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.

CHARRON

Tree Service

Quality Timely Service!

BELLINGHAM, MA

508-883-8823

FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED

KEVIN LEMIRE, OWNER

All employees are covered under Workers' Comp Ins.

CharronTreeService.com

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

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

VOLLEYBALL

continued from page 1

After finishing the regular season with an 18-2 record, the Franklin volleyball team was awarded a five seed in the Division 1 State Volleyball Tournament, where they dispatched of Braintree, Lincoln-Sudbury, Andover (the four seed) and Newton South all by the score of 3-0 to gain entry into the Finals. Once there, the Panthers hung on to beat number two seed Newton North 3-2 to bring home the State Championship to Franklin.

Captains Makalya Kuykendall, an outside hitter, and Olivia Alberti, a middle hitter, provided the leadership throughout the year that the Panthers needed to keep the team going. According to first year Franklin Coach Chris Ridolfi, their personalities were a good mix with his and the duo brought a competitiveness and a positive spin to the game making it easy for the rest of the team to follow their lead.

“Being my first-year coaching at Franklin, I knew a lot of the players through my coaching club volleyball. They were a talented group of kids, but I didn’t now if they had hit their ceiling,” Ridolfi said. “However, my outlook would change the first day that I met the captains: They told me that this year they were wining the State Championship, so it was them who set the expectations.”

Right away, the new coach noticed that the girls had the talent to accomplish their highly set goals, and it would be his responsibility to pace the team so that they were playing their best volleyball by November. Franklin succumbed to Attleboro in their first meeting of the year, but when the Panthers were able to walk away with a win in the second meeting, the new Coach had an inclination that this team could possibly conclude the season with a State Championship, something that he has been hoping to accomplish since he started playing the sport himself.

“Coming into Franklin for my first year, I found that these kids took me on a journey of a lifetime,” he said. “They gave me something that I have been chasing for a long time, some 30 years later, to deliver this was very special to me.”

Now that the season is over, Kuykendall will leave Franklin High School as the all-time leader in digs as well as kills for the Panthers in addition to being named a Hockomock All-Star and Player of the Year. She will continue to play volleyball next fall at Bentley. Alberti brough a versatility to the team with her blocks, serves and all-around play while getting the rest of the team to play together and do what was necessary to win.

Although the entire team contributed to the successful season that the Panthers had, Emma Cunningham, senior libero,

Emerson Delleo, sophomore outside hitter who developed into a second offensive threat behind Kuykendall, and Phoebe O’Connor, freshman setter who took the reins at the position forcing Ridolfi to go with a single setter instead of two, all were big contributors to the team being able to go as far as they were able to.

The great senior leadership with the talent, to the younger kids’ desire, took this team to the top of the mountain,” the Franklin Coach said. “They continued to play hard and didn’t blink, and next thing you know were winning the State Championship.”

Franklin’s State Championship team will lose five seniors when they regroup next fall. Ridolfi is sure that next year’s team will reload and establish themselves all over again, relying on the younger athletes.

While the Franklin varsity team was able to take home the Division 1 State Volleyball Championship this year, Ridolfi is not worried about the future. The Junior Varsity team concluded their season undefeated, and the freshman squad only lost one game, leaving all three volleyball teams with an impressive record of 64-3 this year.

There is talent in the Franklin gym, and Ridolfi is lucky to have taken over the program just in time as the Panthers prepare to make a statement over the next few years in the volleyball circuit.

Rotary Club of Franklin MA 7th Valentine’s Brunch, February 7, 2026.

The Rotary Club of Franklin MA is proud to announce that their 7th Annual Valentine’s Brunch is slated for February 7, 2026, from 10-:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Franklin Housing Authority Hall, located at 1000 Central Park Terrace, Franklin, MA 02038.

All Franklin seniors and residents of Franklin Housing Authority are welcome to join the Rotary Club as their special guests, where all will be treated to a delicious, homemade Valentine’s brunch. Feel free to show your love and wear your red!

Seniors are urged to enter their names on a sign-up so that no one is left out. Sign-up sheets may found at the following locations:

- Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill Street, Franklin

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

If you would like more information about our organization or interested in attending a meeting, please contact Diane Padula at rotartycluboffranklinma@gmail.com and she will make arrangements for you to be a guest at one of Rotary’s upcoming meetings.

- Central Park Terrace, 1000 Central Park Terrace, Franklin

Free quotes and appraisals
By appointment sales
Paying 80% of spot for silver coins

I Have Coins
Buying and selling coins
www.iHaveCoins.com

Rod
(781) 962-0329
Rod@ihavecoins.com
15 Main St. Franklin





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 or 508.528.6333

461 W Central Street (Rt. 140), Franklin, MA

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



LICENSED | INSURED | CERTIFIED



CONNELL
ROOFING • SIDING • GUTTERS

781-444-7577
www.ConnellRoofing.com

Your Car, Your Choice: Why Who Repairs Your Vehicle Matters More Than Ever

You are driving along, headed to the grocery store for dinner, when the driver in front of you stops suddenly because a deer decides it's the perfect time to cross the street. You react and swerve, but unfortunately, your cars collide. Your bumper falls off, your hood is slightly bent, and your headlight is cracked. You are both okay, but your car isn't.

The moment after the accident is stressful, but the phone call to your insurance company that follows can be confusing. This is where many drivers unknowingly lose control of their vehicle's repair.

When you report a claim, insurance representatives often push you toward one of their "preferred" repair facilities. Unfortunately, this is a practice known as "steering," and it is often done under false pretenses. Every driver needs to know: **You have the legal right to take your vehicle to any licensed repair facility you choose.**

Insurance companies are increasingly steering customers toward "direct repair programs" (DRPs). These are effectively partnerships between the insurer and a body shop. While this sounds efficient, it creates a conflict of interest. A "preferred" shop is often under pressure to repair the vehicle in the interest of the insurance company's bottom line—prioritizing speed

Business spotlight

and cost-cutting over meticulous manufacturer guidelines.

"We work for you, the vehicle owner. We want our clients to be confident that the shop they choose is repairing the vehicle in a way that is in their best interest, not for the best interest of an insurance partnership," says Doug Begin, Vendetti Motors Collision Center Manager.

Modern Tech Requires Modern Expertise

Choosing your own shop isn't just about rights; it's about safety. Cars today are vastly different than they were ten years ago. They are equipped with AI technology, complex sensors, and Advanced Driver-Assistance Systems (ADAS).

"What a lot of car owners don't realize is that even something as simple as a bumper replacement requires a vehicle to be calibrated after the repair," shares Doug. "If they are not calibrated after work is done, it could lead to features not working properly. Those cameras and sensors need to be adjusted, even after low-speed impact collisions."



Vendetti Collision Center doesn't rely on tradition or shortcuts. They adhere closely to manufacturer-recommended repair procedures, ensuring every vehicle is restored safely and reliably - helping to prevent future mechanical problems or safety risks in the event of another accident.

Experience You Can Trust

With over 80 years of combined experience, Doug and his team of technicians possess a deep understanding of what is required for different makes and models.

While they are located within the Vendetti Motors Buick GMC dealership, **they repair almost all makes and models, not just General Motors vehicles.** Every car worked on at the facility undergoes a pre-diagnostic scan and a post-diagnostic scan.

"An electrical issue will show up easily on a scanner, but understanding structural damage

means knowing the car's history," Doug explains. "We go beyond just repairs—sometimes you can't simply use a hammer to bang a piece of metal back into shape, because it could make it more brittle. We dive deep into what really needs to be done for your vehicle, and we make sure you understand what needs to be replaced and why."

An Advocate in Your Corner

Navigating insurance claims can be difficult, but you don't have to do it alone. Doug Begin serves on the Board of Directors of the Alliance of Automotive Service Providers (AASP/MA) as a committee chair. He knows Massachusetts repair regulations inside and out and is well-versed in state auto insurance policies. This expertise allows the team to cut through insurance red tape and ensure your vehicle is repaired the right way, the first time.

This expertise means Vendetti Collision Center doesn't just fix your car; they advocate for a proper, safe repair on your behalf against insurance pressure.

The shop's commitment to excellence is recognized with the **I-CAR Gold Class® designation**, an honor that requires maintaining the highest level of role-relevant training across the industry.

When you've had an accident, remember: It's your car, and it's your safety. Don't let an insurance company dictate who fixes it.

Vendetti Collision Center (License #: RS0002838) is located at 411 West Central Street in Franklin, MA. To schedule an estimate or discuss a repair, call (508) 520-5189 or visit www.vendettimotors.com/bodyshop.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

At Vendetti Collision Center, we provide the level of customer service and Expert Collision Repair. With our State-of-the-Art equipment and Gold Class technicians, you can get your vehicle repaired with us and leave with the peace of mind that goes along with knowing your vehicle just received the very best collision services in the greater Boston area.

- Free Estimates
- Towing Available
- Rental Assistance
- 4.9 stars on google

- We work on most makes and models
- Detailing services
- Lifetime warranty
- State-of-the-Art Repair/Refinish Equipment

"You Have the Right to Choose your Repair Facility"
Choose the only I-CAR Gold Class Facility in Southern Norfolk County
Choose Vendetti Collision Center

We handle your car with the best of care every step of the way

Vendetti Motors
(508) 520-5189
411 W Central St | Franklin, MA 02038
Lic# RS0002838

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones

Andruzzi Visits Bob's in Franklin to Help Fellow Cancer Survivor

Joe Andruzzi Foundation (JAF) Has Granted over \$13.7 Million since 2008

BY JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

On Monday, December 8th, former New England Patriot and cancer survivor Joe Andruzzi came to Bob's Discount Furniture in Franklin to give a special shopping experience to fellow cancer survivor Ayanna Cundiff, selected as part of the Joe Andruzzi Foundation's expanded Giving Tuesday initiative. Cundiff received \$2,500 in store credit to select essential home items for herself and her family. The event was part of JAF's Giving Tuesday partnership with Bob's Discount Furniture, which this year included a \$30,000 match and two patient experiences per New England state.

The former offensive guard told *Local Town Pages*, "I played 10 years in the NFL and then was stricken with cancer and

forced to retire overnight. I had a great career for myself, 10 years, and I learned how to fight out on the field, and then the toughest fight ever was laying (sic) in a hospital bed, a lot of physical and mental stress and getting through it every day..."

Andruzzi was treated intensively for non-Hodgkin's Burkitt's lymphoma, inpatient for three months, sometimes 5-10 days straight of chemotherapy, he said.

"My doctor was a true believer, you get better at home, which I truly believe," said the former NFL player, adding, "That being said, my wife, Jenna and decided to start up a foundation ... and try to keep people in their homes. When you learn that 50% of cancer patients become bankrupt after their battle, it gets me sick to my stomach. It

shouldn't be like that, so we're able to step in and pay that mortgage and keep them in their home and help them recuperate and get better."

The foundation also has started a food security program and has assisted patients with rides to treatment, wheelchair ramps, and outings to lift morale for patients of all ages fighting various types of cancer.

"You shouldn't have to choose between putting food on the table or buying medicine," said Andruzzi, "So, for us to be able to step in for those cancer patients is very rewarding, not only for myself but my whole staff and board."

Cundiff, a patient at Atrius Health, who is battling stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, said, "I feel very grateful and thankful for this opportunity. I feel lucky."

"The best words we ever get are the two words, 'thank you.' ... Being able to do that is pretty amazing," said Andruzzi.



Former New England Patriot and cancer survivor Joe Andruzzi, right, presented cancer patient Ayanna Cundiff, third from left, with a store credit to Bob's Discount Furniture on Monday, December 8th.

Since 2008, JAF has granted over \$13.7 million to more than 75,000 cancer patients and family members across New England to help ease the pressure of household expenses, food, transportation, and extraordinary needs while undergoing treatment. In 2024 alone, JAF

distributed more than \$1.2 million in direct assistance to help more than 8,100 patients and their families throughout New England.

For more information, or to make a donation, please visit: joeandruzzifoundation.org or Facebook, and Instagram pages.

ARIGNA
IRISH pub
& COAL FIRE KITCHEN
36 MILLISTON RD IN MILLIS
(ROCHE BROS. PLAZA)
OPEN FOR
LUNCH + DINNER
EVERYDAY @ 12:00

Clear the Clutter and Start Fresh This New Year

Make the most of the busy new year season—give yourself the gift of space with help from Affordable Junk Removal. “Life is hectic, we are all so busy in our daily lives that we don’t notice how quickly we are being overrun with junk” said Jason Schadler, who founded the business in this area 20 years ago. “It’s nice to park your car in the garage during the cold months, but maybe you need to make room there first, and we can help with that.”

Business spotlight

With Affordable Junk Removal, you can rent a dumpster or have their Junk Removal Professionals come to haul away items that have been gathering dust and taking up precious space. Setting a New Year’s resolution to clean up a neglected basement or attic is a great start.



PROFESSIONAL TREE SERVICE

Shade Tree Pruning • Tree Removal
Ornamental Tree Pruning
Bucket Truck Service

Call the certified arborists at
Destito Tree Services for an evaluation.

The name you have trusted since 1984.
Massachusetts Certified Arborist - Fully Insured

DESTITO TREE SERVICES
Quality Tree Care
www.destitotreeservices.com

Nicholas Destito
508-699-4532

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

Sometimes the biggest challenge is not knowing where to begin with cleaning out your home and that is where Affordable can assist you .

“You can load your own dumpster or have our truck guys do all of the work for you,” Schadler explained. “And rest assured, we don’t just take everything to the landfill. We try and recycle as much as possible. Clothing and household items are donated to local organizations that help our friends and neighbors. That keeps them out of landfills, gives them a new life, and helps us keep our prices down. We’re always looking for ways to be more cost effective because customers appreciate our reasonable prices.”

Changes in legislation have made it increasingly more difficult to dispose of certain items, like mattresses, for example. It is a state law that most textiles and mattresses must be recycled. “Finding places to take mattresses is a challenge and the fees for disposal have gone through the roof,” said Schadler. Items like these carry a separate recycling fee that the commercial transfer stations charge because of how labor intensive that recycling is. “People are usually shocked at the cost, and we find ourselves educating the customer as to why these fees exist. Here at Affordable, we view ourselves as an avenue our clients can turn to when they have these items and want them disposed of legally, safely and properly.”

Affordable has many repeat customers. “When people call, they reach me, not some automated corporate call center,” he said. “They know me and the crew and trust us. We do a great job and are fast, efficient, and reliable. We come when we say we will and if anything unexpected comes up, we communicate. We live here too, we are your friends and neighbors. We sponsor your little league teams and run into you at the grocery store. We are your local guys.” A quick look at the many years of positive online reviews attests to this.

For more information, visit AffordableJunkRemoval.com. For an estimate or appointment, call or text (774) 287-1133.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

LEDGER SOLUTIONS

BOOKKEEPING SERVICES

- GENERAL LEDGER MAINTENANCE
- FINANCIAL REPORTING
- ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & RECEIVABLE
- CASH FLOW MANAGEMENT
- BANK RECONCILIATION

Contact Us Today for a Free Consultation!

Sandy Scannell
Ledger Solutions
508-344-2804

Available Mon–Fri 9am–5pm
LedgerSolutions25@gmail.com

INTUIT QuickBooks CERTIFIED

WENZEL

Inc.

- Patios
- Walkways
- Walls
- Fire Pits
- Outdoor Kitchens
- Pool Surrounds

- Landscape Design & Installation
- Lawn Installation
- Grading
- Excavation
- Drainage

508-376-2815

Free Estimates • Fully Insured
www.WenzelLandscaping.com

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-

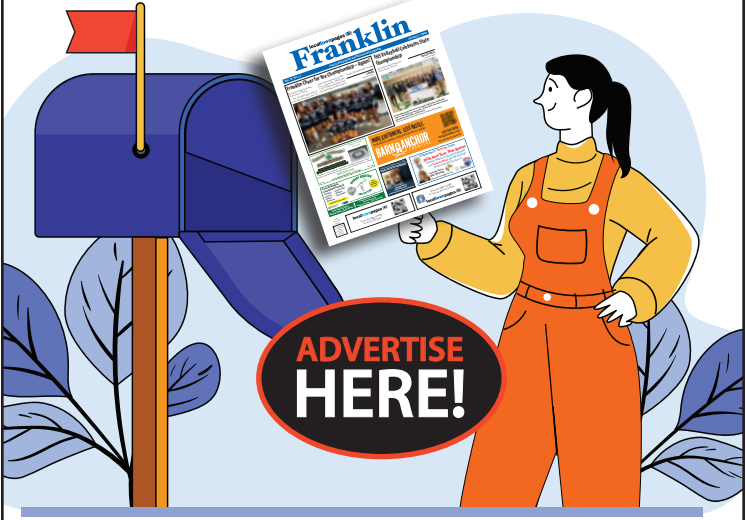
tial. That kind of outcome is no accident. Alongside academic expertise, Dean students leave with the skills employers value most, including communication, collaboration, leadership, global awareness, and problem-solving. These abilities are practiced and refined through both coursework and campus life.

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.

Now is the Time
TO MAKE YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS SEEN

REACH OVER 13,100
Households & Businesses



Contact Jen
508-570-6544
jenschofield@localtownpages.com

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 to learn more and register for Dean's 2026 Summer Programs.



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 per-

forming 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 remem-



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.

bers, who brought her mother, in a wheelchair, to visit her terminally 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 supportive,” 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>.

Hey Ladies ... looking for **wide** shoes?

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



*Performance Sneaker
from Propet*



*Stylish ankle
boot from
David Tate*

*Stay warm
dry and
comfy with
Toe Warmer
Boots*



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

This Month at Franklin UMC

Community Concerts @ Franklin UMC, Vera Meyer, 7 p.m., January 10, 2026, Free.

Did you know Benjamin Franklin invented the glass harmonica in 1761?

Vera Meyer, Co-Founder of the Glass Music Society will play music created on various glass instruments. The sounds are both beautiful and ethereal.

Community Closet@ Franklin

Open for shopping on Tuesdays from 12-2 p.m. or by appointment.

The Franklin United Methodist Church is located at 82 West Central Street Franklin.

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 finan-

cial 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.

GET NOTICED!

For rates and info on advertising your business, please call Jen at 508-570-6544 or email: jenschofield@localtownpages.com



AIRPORT SHUTTLE

RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION

- BOSTON
- PROVIDENCE
- WORC. REG.

VISIT US



spartancarservice.com



Winter Comfort,
Genuine Connection

As the seasons change, embrace a lifestyle where comfort, connection, and peace of mind come together. From engaging activities and festive gatherings to exceptional amenities and personalized support—including assisted living and memory care—our community is here to help you thrive now and into the future.

Call 508-533-3300 today to learn more—we can’t wait to welcome you home.



SALMON

HEALTH & RETIREMENT



SALMON at Medway
44 Willow Pond Circle
Medway, MA 02053

Building a College List

As the calendar turns to January, many families begin to feel a renewed sense of urgency around college planning. Juniors are entering the heart of the process, sophomores are beginning to explore, and even freshmen families are wondering when and how to start. One of the most important (and often misunderstood) parts of the admissions journey is building a thoughtful college list.

The ultimate goal is not to find the perfect college, but to create a balanced list of 8–12 schools that are the right fit academically, socially, and financially. A strong college list doesn’t happen all at once; it’s built intentionally, in phases.

Phase 1: Learn What Colleges Feel Like - Before You Go Too Far

Before students start flying across the country to tour “name-brand” schools, they need to understand how colleges actually differ from one another. The best way to do this is by scheduling three or four official college tours locally. These visits are not

about falling in love with a school - they’re about learning.

Families might consider touring a mix such as:

- Small colleges: Endicott, Bryant, Holy Cross, or Amherst
- Medium-sized colleges Sacred Heart, Roger Williams, Providence College, or BC.
- Large universities: UMass Amherst, UConn, BU, or Northeastern University.

The key is to be intentional. Each visit should check different boxes: public or private; urban, suburban, or rural; small, medium, or large. For example, UMass Amherst offers insight into what a large, public, rural campus with a college-town feel is really like.

As students tour, they should begin asking questions and reflecting on what matters most to them: Do I prefer small, discussion-based classes or large lecture halls? Can I picture myself here socially - do I “see my people”? How far from home feels com-

fortable - drivable or a plane ride away? How important are school spirit, athletics, and extracurriculars?

These early visits help students identify their college criteria, which becomes the foundation for everything that follows.

Phase 2: Build a Smart, Balanced Working List

Once students understand what they’re looking for, it’s time to create an initial list of about 20 colleges, easier if organized in a spreadsheet. This list should clearly reflect the student’s priorities: academic programs, campus size, location, distance from home, social environment, and cost.

Just as important, the list must be balanced:

- Likely schools: Colleges where a student’s academic profile (grades, course rigor, test scores if submitted) is well above the school’s typical admitted range. These are schools where admission is very likely.
- Probable schools: Colleges



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

where the student fits comfortably within the middle of the admitted range. These are strong, realistic options.

- Selective schools: Colleges where admission is more competitive and not guaranteed, even for strong students.

A common guideline is 6–7 schools in each category, knowing that this list will eventually be narrowed down to 8–12 applications. Starting with 20 provides flexibility for additional research, visits, and changing priorities.

There are many excellent tools available to help families build a college list, including high school platforms like Naviance or Scoir, as well as resources such as College Navigator, the Fiske Guide, Princeton Review, and Niche. These tools help families filter colleges based on the criteria that matter most to the student - not just rankings.

Phase 3: Research, Refine, and Decide - Together

This final phase is where the list truly takes shape – and it takes a village. Families should

aim to complete this phase by the summer entering the student’s senior year. Thoughtful research, including diving into college websites to review majors and curriculum, campus visits (both in person and virtual – often found on YouTube, social media platforms, and college websites), and ongoing family conversations are essential. This is when students begin deciding which schools will stay on the list. Parents play a key role in helping students stay organized, manage timelines, and plan tours. Having realistic conversations early about fit and affordability will make the process far less stressful – and far more successful.

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

College 101 Admissions Consultants LLC.
Website: www.mycollege101.com.
Email: tracy@mycollege101.com.
Phone: (508) 380-3845.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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

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

Save the Date for Virtual Author Event January 31

The Friends of the Millis Public Library will once again host “A Novel Occasion,” a virtual live experience with bestselling authors, on January 31, 2026. Authors include Bart Baker, Brendan Slocumb, Diane Barnes, Jon Lindstrom, Paula Munier, Samantha Downing, Stephanie Burns, Tiffany L. Warren, and Vanessa Riley.

For tickets, visit www.anoveloccasion.com.

Farm Animal Rescue Quietly Saves Lives

By JANE LEBAK

Lauren Maloney never thought she'd be up at five o'clock in the morning, tending to rescued farm animals, but nowadays, it's her vocation. "We started with chickens," says Lauren Maloney, "but then it became our passion."

Originally incorporated as Maloney Farm and Forest (with the motto, "Watch us live through the chaos!"), More Farm than Fancy saves farm animals who otherwise would have been abandoned or killed. A walk around the property is a meet-and-greet with dozens of animals eager to meet their new visitors.

The rescue began with Mike the Pig, who's become something of a local celebrity. Maloney explains, "My daughter wanted a mini pig for Christmas, so I said, 'Do the research.' She researched for a year." Pet pigs cost in the neighborhood of \$2000, though, so the Maloneys reached out to local animal rescues.

It was love at first sight. Maloney says, "We came across Mike at the Animal Rescue League



Lauren Maloney, sells t-shirts at Bellingham's OpGrad Holiday Fair to support the animals in her Franklin home-based rescue, More Farm than Fancy.

of Dedham. We brought him home two weeks later." In addition to being their first adoption, that was the beginning of a long relationship with the Animal Rescue League of Dedham. "The Animal Rescue League has been our best friend," says Maloney. "They've even reached out to us when

they have a rescue animal and no interest." Because some of their animals come from animal hoarding situations, the Maloneys are aware of the consequences of taking on more than they can handle. To ensure the rescue animals live their best lives, they work closely with the town of



The rescue began with Mike the pig, whom the Maloneys brought home from the Animal Rescue League of Dedham.



Goats are the first to greet any visitors to the rescue.

Franklin and the Department of Agriculture inspectors. "At our last Department of Agriculture inspection," Maloney says, "they told us they love working with us."

Maloney explains the farm's process. "When we're consider-



Two rescued Flemish giant rabbits soon turned into more.

ing an animal, we sit and think for 24 hours, minimum." They research the space that kind of animal needs, whether it will be a good fit with the other animals, and if they can shoulder the cost of food and veterinary care. "Our hearts tell us, 'Yes,'" Maloney explains, "but realistically, we need to say, 'Can we handle it?' If we do say yes to something, we realize it's a life-long decision."

RESCUE
continued on page 13



ACCREDITED BUSINESS





OIL & PROPANE

"Your Total Home Comfort Company"



PROPANE

CLEAN AMERICAN ENERGY™

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1954

We provide support & discounts*
for veterans, military and first responders

Happy New Year!

800-649-5949

info@medwayoilpropane.com

Contact us today for
more information about
our award-winning
delivery & service



Your neighbors have voted us GOLD MEDAL WINNERS!

*DISCOUNTS ARE FOR AUTO DELIVERY WHOLE HOUSE HEAT CUSTOMERS ONLY, ASK FOR DETAILS.

Supporting the local
communities we serve
as a charitable partner

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 relieve 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 cli-

Beauty is our Business!

Scan to Visit b.LUXE.com

ents 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 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.



“ WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! ”

• **Have an Upcoming Event?**

• **Do you have a concern about things Happening Around Town?**

EMAIL
Editor@franklintownnews.com
& LET US KNOW!

RESCUE*continued from page 11*

The rescues will not be moved to other farms in the future, nor will they be used as food. This is their forever home. Maloney says, "For them, it's Shangri-La."

The first animals that visitors meet are the goats. Dash and Millie came through the Animal Rescue League after being removed from an animal hoarding situation. Piccolo was a very ill neutered goat, and his friend Zeus joined because no one wanted him. A year later, that same farm offered Fletcher, a relative of Piccolo and Zeus.

There are dozens of chickens and ducks from a variety of sources, found one or two at a time. Their newest acquisition is a duck named Topsy, whom someone intended to keep as a house duck but later surrendered because "house ducks" are not a reasonable expectation.

"Topsy came with a stuffed duck that he carries around with him," says Maloney. "It was his only friend."

A dozen quail arrived after a social media poster threatened to send them to "freezer camp." Ryan Maloney picked them up the same day, rapidly constructing a coop with a heated shelter as well as an open area for them to stretch their wings.

"Commercial quail are kept in tiny cages," Lauren Maloney clarifies. "This is the first time they've been able to move around, so they're still adjusting to having space."

Then there are the Flemish giant rabbits, found via a Facebook post about abandoning them in the woods. The Maloneys drove forty-five minutes to pick up Mable and Cadbury in a parking lot. Flemish giant rabbits grow to three or four feet in length, so they are a massive commitment. "They're like having a dog," says Maloney.

Two of those seemed like a lot, until the day Mable gave birth to seven baby bunnies. She and the babies were immediately transferred to a heated indoor space until the babies could survive in the cold.

The local community has been generous, whether it's donations of plywood for fences

or leftover Halloween pumpkins for animal snacking. During the summers, the farm sells duck and chicken eggs. They've also introduced a line of clothing and other products with farm slogans through their website at MoreFarmThanFancy.com. There's even a Facebook group, "More Farm than Fancy."

Looking ahead, they would love to expand deeper into their four-acre property. The Maloneys may soon be able to foster animals with short-term needs. As for opening to the public, they've already hosted "open farm days" where visitors can meet the animals and witness the "Cheerio chase," where an entire farm population gets very, very excited over a box of scattered cereal. "We could even do birthday parties," Maloney says of the future. The possibilities are wide open.

For now, Lauren Maloney focuses on the animals they've already rescued. "I never thought I'd be a five a.m. person," she says with a laugh. "I'm up and loving it. We're lucky enough to be able to do this," she adds, although perhaps it's the rescue animals who are luckiest of all.

Join Us to Save Lives!

22nd Annual Gary Mirliss Memorial Blood Drive

Saturday, January 10, 2026

8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

King Philip Middle School, 18 King St., Norfolk, MA

Make your appointment now: https://blooddonor.massgeneral.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/6875

Walk-ins welcome!

#GaryMirlissBloodDrive #DonateBlood #SaveLives #BostonStrong

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. For questions, please contact Susan Murraray @smurray@semaponline.org.



COMPLETE AUTO CARE
FRANKLIN TIRE & AUTO
508-528-8558

BIG SAVINGS!

OIL, LUBE & FILTER
ONLY **\$39⁹⁵** +TAX

- Up to 5 Qts. 5W-30 Oil
- New Filter
- Lube Chassis Fittings
- Top off Major Fluids
- 14-Point Safety Check

Most Cars & Light Trucks. Valid with Coupon ONLY. Cannot be combined with other offer. EXPIRES 12/31/2025

FULL SYNTHETIC OIL, LUBE & FILTER
ONLY **\$69⁹⁵** +TAX

- Up to 5 Qts. 5W-30 Sunoco Synthetic Oil
- New Filter
- Lube Chassis Fittings
- Top off Major Fluids
- 14-Point Safety Check

Most Cars & Light Trucks. Valid with Coupon ONLY. Cannot be combined with other offer. EXPIRES 12/31/2025

WITH FULL BRAKE AND ROTORS FRONT & BACK
EXPIRES 12/31/2025

FREE OIL CHANGES
\$20 OFF
EXPIRES 12/31/2025

4 NEW TIRES
\$20 OFF
EXPIRES 12/31/2025

2-Year Parts and Labor Warranty On all work performed

FREE TIRE ROTATION with Oil Change ONLY!

AUTO REPAIR SERVICES & INSPECTION STATION

5% SENIOR DISCOUNT

WE DO ALL



WE FIX EVERYTHING!

- Tune-ups
- Tire Sales & Repair
- Anti-lock Brakes (ABS)
- Batteries
- Brake & Rotors Inspection, Service & Repair
- Suspension
- Wheel Balance & Bearings
- Diagnostic Service
- Timing Belt Replacement
- Starters
- Water Pumps
- Troubleshoot Check Engine Lights
- Steering
- Transmission Work
- Exhaust / Muffler Service

ALL TIME SPECIAL ONLY **\$190** +TAX

• Coolant Flush - Top off Fluids • Oil Change (Up to 5 Qts.) • Tire Rotation

EXPIRES 12/31/2025

FRANKLIN TIRE AND AUTO
Complete Service Facility

508-528-8558

278 Pleasant St., Franklin MA 02038
HOURS: MON - FRI: 8AM-6PM • SAT: 8AM-2PM




Honor Flight an Emotional Journey for Franklin Seniors

By NATALEE WEBB

Founded in 2005, the non-profit Honor Flight's mission is "to celebrate America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials." The organization honors WWII Veterans by flying them to view and reflect on the war memorials in Washington, D.C., without cost to the veteran.

With the rapidly declining WWII Veterans, now less than 66,000 of the 16 million who served, in 2022 the organization expanded their program to include Korean and Vietnam Veterans with top priority given to those remaining WWII Veterans and those who are terminally ill. Franklin's honorable Navy Vietnam Veterans: John Hefe, Terrence Gilboy, Joseph Lesica and Air Force combat veteran David Cox flew to D.C. along with 1 Korean and 84 Vietnam Veterans on the Honor Flight's 33rd mission.

Their excursion began in the wee hours of September 14th as they were taken to the State Police Headquarters at Logan Airport by Franklin's Spartan Car

Service. Here they were greeted by hundreds of well-wishers and Color Guard members of Franklin's American Legion Post 75 and the VFW Post 3402. After this joyous greeting they were then escorted by the Troopers to the Delta Terminal in a convoy with sirens sounding and lights blazing. Once again they were met by hundreds of supporters. "They were wall-to-wall!" John Hefe exclaimed.

In 1980 Congress established "the wall that heals," to honor those who courageously served in the Vietnam War. Inscribed on the Wall of this V-shaped, granite memorial which measures nearly 500 feet long and 10 feet high, are thousands of names of the men and women who were either killed in action (KIA) or are still missing in action (MIA).

In viewing this sacred memorial, John Hefe commented, "Hearing about the 58,000 men and women KIA/MIA is not the same as seeing those 58,000 names on the Wall. "It was very emotional for me and something I will never forget." They all concurred that the Honor Flight trip



Terrance Gilboy pointing to his cousin's name, LCpl Stedman, a USMC who was KIA.

was a gut-wrenching visit, especially seeing the Vietnam Wall Memorial. Joe Lesica reflected, "The Honor Flight was the welcome home we never got when we came back from Vietnam."

Four of Franklin's residents are on the memorial and are also on the Veterans Memorial Walkway in the Town's Common. Terry's cousin, Lance Corporal Paul Stedman, who was an equipment operator with the United States Marines, was injured in Vietnam.

While on a mission with his unit, he was felled by metal



Lesica's with John boarding plane

pieces from an exploding shell purposely designed to kill. He was hit by the shrapnel from the bomb on his head and body. Horribly wounded, he was airlifted to Da Nang's Military Hospital. Sadly, while in flight to the hospital he succumbed to his deadly injuries. Terry mournfully stated, "The grief gets easier through the years but it's something you never forget."

Through donations, the non-profit Honor Flight New England can transport veterans to D.C. and are able to provide them with medics, companion guides (guardians), all meals for their day-long visit, backpacks

filled with snacks and water, wheelchairs for those unable to walk far, and mementos of their journey. All of this without cost to these heroes.

If you know of a senior Veteran who has not had the opportunity to participate in the Honor Flight Program, are interested in becoming a "guardian" or want to help support their mission to honor veterans, please reach out to them by phone at (603)518-5368 or email them at honorflightnewengland@gmail.com. For more information on this prestigious organization, go to their website, www.honorflight-newengland.org.



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*

51 Whitehall Way, Bellingham, MA 02019

January 2026 – VSO Notes

(508) 613-1315

There will be no Veterans Coffee Social in January. The next Social will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. All Veterans are welcome!

January 15 - Veterans' Council Meeting – 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. All Franklin residents interested in Veterans' activities are welcome to join us!

January 27 - Vietnam Peace Day – On this day in 1973, the Paris Peace Accords arranged a ceasefire which officially ended America's involvement in the 20-year Vietnam War.

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

- **Warrior Within Yoga Classes for Veterans and First Responders** meets Thursdays at 4 p.m. at the Franklin Senior Center. There is no charge for classes. Call the Veterans' Services Office to sign up for guitar or yoga classes. **There will be no yoga class on January 1. Classes will resume on January 8.**

- The next engraved brick installation on the Veterans Memorial Walkway will be in May. Bricks are installed in May and November to coincide with Memorial Day and Veterans' Day. Thank you to all who have supported this project! Brick order forms are available in the Senior Center and Town Hall lobbies and on the Veterans' Services web page at: <https://www.franklinma.gov/335/Veterans-Services>



Theresa Carrano matched this ornate, yet very patriotic Veterans Services Office tree at the Franklin Senior Center Winter Wonderland.

Young Students Work to Honor Veterans

By JUDITH DORATO O’GARA

Two 8th graders who attend Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School, Max Greene and Sophia Bourgeois, have made an impression on the Franklin veterans community this year, choosing to give back to veterans as part of their capstone projects, service learning projects they begin in 7th grade.

“I just feel that veterans should get more appreciation than they get, so I wanted to do something in my town to help the veterans in my town,” says Max, who chose his project in honor of his two great grandfathers, John Robert Bosman, who served in the US Navy, and Winston Hawkins, who served as part of an Army medical unit in World War II.

Sophia says she was inspired to choose her project by her father. “He was a veteran and a cop. He, sadly, passed away two years ago,” says Sophia, adding, “Veterans are often lonely and quietly suffer from things like mental illness. I wanted to find a way to brighten up their lives



Max Greene, 8th grader at BFCCPS was honored to receive a challenge coin from veteran Castor Salemi. Greene focused his capstone project on helping veterans, volunteering at Veterans Coffee Socials, caring for the Veterans Memorial Walkway, and applying for and receiving a grant which went to purchasing three bricks on the walkway for veterans in need and pastries for the social.

and help them enjoy their community.”

Although many students do hold fundraisers, Max’s Mom, Aubrey, explained that their family “definitely believes service is important and wanted Max to have boots on the ground. Max volunteered not only at the monthly Veterans Coffee Social at the Senior Center, but he also spent a lot of time weeding and sweeping the Veterans Memorial Walkway.

Max also applied for a grant from his school’s parent community organization raise funds for bricks on the Veterans Memorial Walkway for veterans who can’t afford one. Although he applied for a \$250 grant, he received \$450, so in August, he donated \$300 to the Veterans Service Office for the bricks and the other \$150 he put toward pastries for the monthly coffee social. At press time, Max’s donation had purchased three bricks for veterans in need.



Sophia Bourgeois ran a book drive for veterans at the Franklin Senior Center. She is shown here , center, outside the Franklin Veterans Services Office.
Photo courtesy of Sophia Bourgeois

Sophia Bourgeois decided to host a book drive for veterans, which she delivered to the Franklin Senior Center. She hosted the drive for a week and was pleased to receive 50 large print books among the collection. Sophia, like Max, volunteered at the Veterans Coffee Socials, held on the first Wednesday morning of each month, and she helped set

up and serve veterans at the Memorial Day breakfast.

“It was fulfilling to see how the events brought veterans together,” says Sophia, of the events at which she volunteered, adding, “I saw them make new friendships and open up. It reminded me how community can really help us through small acts.”





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 to learn more.

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

Optical Shop On-Site



MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

Saturday & After Hours Available

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

FRANKLIN OFFICE
750 Union St.
508-528-3344

HOPKINTON OFFICE
66 Main St.
508-528-3344

MILFORD OFFICE
160 South Main St.
508-473-7939

MEDFIELD OFFICE
258 Main St.
508-528-3344

SURGERY CENTER MILFORD
145 West St.
508-381-6040

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 Program (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 for heating assistance.

In Franklin, residents can also make an appointment at the Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., by calling (508) 520-4945.

Franklin Police: Deputy Chief James West Graduates from FBI National Academy

This story first appeared in and is used courtesy of Franklin Matters, www.franklinmatters.org.

On December 12, 2025, Chief Thomas Lynch announced that **Deputy Chief James West** has graduated as a member of the 296th session of the FBI National Academy. The graduation took place at the National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, on December 11th, 2025. Deputy Chief West is the fourth officer in department history to complete this prestigious program. Nationally, fewer than one percent of officers have the opportunity to attend the program.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy offers 11 weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training. Participants must have proven records as professionals within their agencies to attend. On average, these officers have 21 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions.

The 296th session consisted of two hundred and fifty-four law enforcement officers who graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The 296th session of the National Academy consisted of men and women from 47 states and the District of Columbia.



Deputy Chief James West

The class included members of law enforcement agencies from 24 countries, four military organizations, and two federal civilian organizations.

Deputy Chief West started his law enforcement career in Winthrop, MA in 1996 before transferring to the Franklin Police Department in 2001. He rose through the ranks and

served as Sergeant, Lieutenant and currently holds the rank of Deputy Chief of Police. Deputy Chief West has also served on the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) and served as an academy drill instructor for many years for the Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee.:

EYE

continued from page 16

surgery in office settings without anesthesia 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.

Retiring in 2025!

The owners of Village Street Automotive Medway are retiring December 2025

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

Holiday Wonder at Franklin Senior Center

Franklin Senior Center’s Winter Wonderland was transformed into a festive Winter Wonderland on Thursday, December 11, 2025, bustling with fun activities and merry-makers of all ages. Take a look.



What better way to start a holiday celebration than a giant Gingerbread man to greet you?



Beautifully decorated trees filled Franklin Senior Center representing different factions of town.



Of course, Santa took time out of his busy December schedule to meet the kiddos.



The lovely Franklin Senior Center gift shop expanded for the special event.



OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, January 15th • 5:30pm - 7:30pm

The Mercymount Way

EDUCATION | VALUES | TRADITION | COMMUNITY

From preschool through eighth grade, Mercymount nurtures minds, inspires hearts, and prepares your child to thrive—in school, in faith, and in life.

A Mercy Catholic Education That Lasts A Lifetime



Scan the QR code or register at www.mercymount.org

35 Wrentham Road • Cumberland, RI 02864 • 401-333-5919



Jan Prentice brought her holiday spirit!

Franklin Historical Museum Historic Happenings

January 2026

Regular Hours: Saturdays 10-1, Sundays 1-4, and now some Thursdays 12- 5 (ring the bell or email in advance) Free

Through January, the SPECTACULAR, FRANKLIN IN MINIATURE CONTINUES ON DISPLAY

It took thousands of hours of research and precision modeling to create three large, models of the center of Franklin, circa 1932, clustered around the railroad tracks that connected the community to nearby towns and faraway cities. The models are an exact representation of the structures that once existed from just west of the present-day Del Carte Conservation land to beyond the present-day Mill Store. The models include hundreds of structures in 1:87 scale (HO scale), tiny motor vehicles and people and an as yet unknown number of tiny pigeons, all modeled from photographs and architectural plans, where available, by master modeler Scott Mason.

Free. Donations encouraged. View during Museum hours and at other times by arrangement.

Sunday, Jan. 11 – The ‘Second Sunday Speaker Series’-- “Dissecting the Dioramas”

Award winning historian Joe Landry will begin the talk at 1:15 with a deep dive into the backstory of some of the important structures illustrated in 3D in the Franklin in Miniature exhibit. He will explore the history that is still visible as well as some of the prior structures and enterprises that had already been swept aside by ‘progress’ in 1932. The second part of the presentation will feature, master modeler, and historian, Scott Mason, discussing the painstaking effort that went into creating his exact models – both the research and the craft work. Free. Donations welcome.

January is Ben Franklin Month in Franklin!

We honor his birth month,

connections to Franklin and diverse interests and accomplishments. This year, most events are at tFranklin Public Library.

- **Concert at Franklin United Methodist Church, Sat. January 10, 1 p.m.,** featuring Vera Meyer on the glass harmonica, an instrument invented by Ben Franklin, Sat. Jan 10, shortly after 1 p.m. This event is co-sponsored by the Franklin Historical Museum with funding from the Franklin Cultural Council. Free. Donations welcome.

Check out this short video by Ken Burns: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57-JQlwRDqc>.

- **The Franklin Stove: An Unintended American Revolution, Thursday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m.,** featuring Harvard Professor Joyce Chaplin at the Franklin Public



Library to discuss her new book, *The Franklin Stove: An Unintended American Revolution*. This event is co-sponsored by the Franklin Historical Museum with funding from the Franklin Cultural Council.

- **Live Reading of the Franklin Autobiography, Thursday, January 15 @ 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.** A tradition returns home! Join us for a live reading of Ben Franklin's Autobiography at the Franklin Public Library. Everyone is welcome to read, listen, and comment on the life of our favorite Founding Father.

- **Franklin as Composer w/ Metrowest Symphony Orchestra, Saturday, January 17 @ 11 a.m.** -Benjamin Franklin: statesman, entrepreneur, scientist... composer?! Yes, our beloved Ben even dabbled in composing his own music. Join us to explore this aspect of our namesake with the help of the Metro-West Symphony Orchestra at the Franklin Public Library.

- **Ben Franklin Birthday Bash, Saturday, January 17 @ 2 p.m.** Join us as we celebrate the birthday of Ben Franklin himself! Music, games, and more at the Franklin Public Library.

The Franklin Historical Museum is located at 80 West Central Street, Franklin. Questions? Contact Alan Earls at (508) 560-3786. Visit us online at <https://www.franklinmuseum1778.org>

Robert Roofing & Gutters

49 YEARS IN BUSINESS!

**ONE CALL SENDS
A ROOFER...
NOT A SALESMAN**

857-247-8709

- Roofing
- Siding
- Windows
- Gutters
- Residential Rubber
- Flat Roofs

FINANCING AVAILABLE

**NO GIMMICKS,
JUST HONEST PRICING!**



CertainTeed



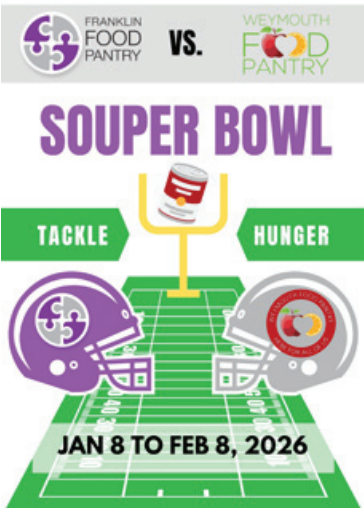
**FREE ESTIMATES
LICENSED & INSURED**

www.robertroofingandgutters.com • Rgreene465@gmail.com

Franklin vs. Weymouth Food Pantries Face Off in “SOUPer Bowl 2026” Soup Drive

The Franklin Food Pantry is gearing up to defend its title as SOUPer Bowl Champion against the Weymouth Food Pantry in the highly anticipated SOUPer Bowl 2026 canned soup competition. The two pantries are asking their communities to donate cans of soup starting January 8, 2026. The pantry that receives the most soup by February 8, 2026, will be named SOUPer Bowl Champ 2026. The Franklin Food Pantry and Weymouth Food Pantry previously faced off in 2025. The competition resulted in a combined total of 4,967 cans of soup, with Franklin edging out the win by a mere 205 cans.

While SOUPer Bowl 2026 is a friendly, spirited competition, the stakes are profoundly serious. Hunger in Massachusetts is reaching crisis levels, with a stag-



gering 1 in 3 people experiencing food insecurity. This challenge will help stock the shelves in both pantries and combat the skyrocketing hunger in our communities.

Here’s how to get in on the game and support your pantry:

- **What:** SOUPer Bowl 2026 (Canned Soup Drive)
- **Who:** Franklin Food Pantry vs. Weymouth Food Pantry
- **When:** January 8 to February 8, 2026
- **To Donate:**
 - Bring donations to the Franklin Food Pantry, 341 W Central St., Franklin, MA, 02038, or donate via the Franklin Food Pantry’s Amazon Wish List
 - Bring donations to the Weymouth Food Pantry Warehouse, 40 Reservoir Park Dr., Suite E, Rockland, MA, 02370, or donate via Weymouth Food Pantry’s Amazon Wish List

Individuals, families, houses of worship, sports teams, clubs, business, and other groups are encouraged to join the competition.

Follow the score and receive updates by following the Franklin Food Pantry’s and Weymouth Food Pantry’s Facebook and Instagram pages. In this “SOUPer Bowl,” the real victory is eliminating hunger—and that’s a win for everyone!

About Franklin Food Pantry, Inc.

The Franklin Food Pantry, Inc. offers supplemental food assistance, household necessities, and resource referrals to more than 1,880 individuals per year. The Pantry relies on donations and grants to purchase items and pay for daily operations, and

partnerships with The Greater Boston Food Bank, Spoonfuls, and local grocery stores to achieve greater buying power and lower costs. Programs include Inside Shopping, Curbside Pickup, Emergency Food Boxes, Mobile Pantries, Home Delivery, Kids’ Snack Bags, Weekend Backpacks, Holiday Meals, and the SNAP match at Franklin Farmers Market. The Pantry is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in good standing in Massachusetts, recognized by Charity Navigator as a Four-Star Charity, and awarded GuideStar’s Platinum Transparency ranking. The Pantry is located at 341 W Central St. in Franklin, MA on Route 140. Please visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org, or on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn for more information.

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.

CURIOSITY COINS

Buying Coins, Gold , Silver, Jewelry.
Make an Appointment!
Call: 508-958-9795
Info@curiositycoins.com



Located in Medway

The Norfolk Community Federal Credit Union

AUTO LOANS

Our rates are low
NEW and USED is 4.99% APR



Call our office for more details (508) 528-3360
Or go to our website www.norfolkcommunityfcu.org



(508) 528-3360
18 Union Street, Suite 104
Norfolk, MA 02056



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
[j.whitesautomotive](https://www.instagram.com/j.whitesautomotive) [JWhite'sautomotive](https://www.youtube.com/JWhite'sautomotive)



Despite Division in 2025, Good Things Happening in Franklin, Says TA

By J.D. O'GARA

Franklin Town Administrator Jamie Hellen understands tensions are high in Franklin, but despite division, he hopes to reassure residents that the Town of Franklin is in a good place as the new year begins.

"Affordability and civility and all these other issues that are very frustrating for most families out there are challenging. I think there's a unique juxtaposition of amazing work going on with a backdrop of frustration and anxiety in the air.

"Affordability in Franklin, as well as Massachusetts, is a big struggle. I think this is not unique to Franklin, but represents the times in our country," says Hellen, pointing out the following positives for the town:

Acquisition of CSX Trail Bed

"While people may not see the fruits of that labor now, they will for generations to come. It will revitalize accessibility to the crossing neighborhood," says Hellen, of the future Rail Trail extension, pointing out the lo-

cation of The Winery, the Children's Museum and the purchase of 205 Union Street, formerly The Mill, by a developer who plans to install housing as well as first-floor restaurants.

"We redid the zoning, did a lot of work in that neighborhood, but not a lot of people can see it, yet" says Hellen.

Old South Meeting House Restoration by Habitat for Humanity

Rather than knock down an old building, the Town committed Community Preservation funds to a Habitat for Humanity project for this building, ultimately producing an affordable unit for a young family.

"To help out a single mother with three children become new members of your town, to be able to provide three kids an education at the Franklin Public Schools, is extraordinarily special. To have Habitat for humanity be part of our community now is just incredible," says Hellen, heartened to see local contractors donating work on that project for free.

Successes in Town Departments

Town Departments are thriving, says Hellen, with the library receiving Boston Globe coverage for its mural renovations in the old hall, the schools still achieving, with 100% graduation rate and winning championships, the Senior Center thriving with a new van and outdoor canopy. The Recreation Department is producing more programs than ever, cultural events such as A Wreath of Franklin are booming, and Police and Fire working at top level, he says, and thanks to tax revenue from more restaurants than ever and robust office parks boasting internationally renowned companies, Franklin is in a strong economic place.

"All these things we're doing as a town government and as a community show Franklin is still the place to be," says Hellen, adding the new wheelchair accessible platform Dean station has possibly drawn "a tenant for a business that's been vacant for 10 or 15 years." In addition, the Beaver Street sewer project is halfway done, on time and so far,

under budget, although inflation and tariffs could affect that.

Hellen again acknowledges, that because of division, "It doesn't feel to people there are a lot of great things happening, looking back on 2025. I think the project at 444 East Central Street has been a contentious issue, and any time you try to raise taxes. People were really unhappy with the cuts that were made. The Senior Center lost a part time nurse, the Library got \$50,000 in cuts, supplies for children in schools were cut, fees at school raised, we lost two police officers, two paramedics, \$250,000 in maintenance money for sidewalks. It is frustrating and difficult to be in a position where we had nine months of meetings where we told people what was going to happen. We laid out a vision of what would be cut, gave people information and facts, and the response, in the aggregate community, was to make the cuts. People, I think, have a lot of concern about affordability, and the one place they get to express that opinion is at the ballot box.

There's not a lot they can do on (the price of) electricity, groceries, and cars."

Hellen notes, however that both overrides lost by 1%. He adds the new Town Council and School Committee have a lot on their shoulders to bridge the divide in the community. Franklin recently presented its five-year forecast to the new Town Council. (Residents can find the 2025 Master Plan on the town website, or go to this link, www.franklinma.gov/295/MasterPlan. For the status of objectives set out in the past year, they can also look at the List of Goals, Accomplishments at <https://tinyurl.com/Franklin2024-25Update>.)

"At some point we need leadership that balances concern about affordability while also trying to preserve the high quality of safety services. We can't maintain our public safety status losing more people. Almost every other major issue is on the backburner until this solved. That's going on across the state, the region and the country," says Hellen.

State Fire Marshal Issues Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Reminder

STOW—On the heels of gift-giving season, State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine is reminding residents to use caution when using devices powered by lithium-ion batteries.

"Many of Christmas and Hanukkah presents will be use lithium-ion batteries," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "These devices pack a lot of power into a small device, so it's important to use them safely."

- Buy only listed products. When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, look for a certification mark from an independent testing lab such as UL or Intertek/ETL. This means the device meets important safety standards.
- Charge devices safely. Always use the cords that came with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that

the manufacturer has approved. Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.

- Keep doorways, stairways, and windows clear. A fire involving a large device such as an e-bike can trap residents if left in an escape route like a doorway, stairwell, or window. Store e-bikes and electric scooters outdoors if possible.
- Recycle batteries responsibly. When it's time to dispose of the device or replace the battery, don't throw it in the trash or regular recycling bins. Physical damage in a compactor truck or transfer station is a common cause of lithium-ion battery fires. Instead, bring them to a safe battery recycling location. Visit www.call2recycle.org to find a recycling spot near you.

In 2023, the Department of Fire Services launched a data collection tool to help officials track the extent of fires, explosions, and other lithium-ion battery incidents. This investigative checklist is used by the State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit, and local fire investigators are encouraged to use it as well. While previous reporting suggested about 20 lithium-ion battery fires per year, the new tool identified about 90 by the end of 2025.

Visit the Department of Fire Services' website at www.mass.gov/info-details/lithium-ion-battery-safety for more lithium-ion battery safety resources.

Also, last month, the Department of Fire Services added three new drones to its Special Operations fleet that will allow fire/rescue personnel to stream footage from hazardous indoor environments, State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine said.

"Drones were a giant step forward for situational awareness in the fire service," said State Fire

Marshal Davine. "Up until now, we've used them primarily to provide aerial footage from outside a structure or above a large wildfire or search area. These

new drones can operate reliably inside a building, which will be especially valuable for Hazmat, structural collapse, and other dangerous calls."



Planning and preparing your Estate today is a gift to yourself and a gift to your family which brings peace of mind to everyone.

With over 30 years experience, Attorney Daniel J. Cardinal will create an estate plan to fit your specific family needs to protect your children, your home and all of your assets. As a seasoned personal injury and wrongful death attorney, Attorney Cardinal can also protect you and your family if a tragedy should affect you or any of your loved ones.



FRANKLIN LAW GROUP, P.C.

Call today and let us protect your family now and in the future.

Daniel James Cardinal
Attorney at Law

1 FISHER STREET, FRANKLIN, MA 02038
617-277-3477 | cardinal@franklinlawgroupma.com | franklinlawgroupma.com

January at Franklin Public Library

New Service: Home Delivery!

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

Special Events for Kids

K-Pop Demon Hunters Party, Friday, January 2 @ 10:30 a.m.

Calling all Demon Hunters! Join us for an epic celebration of everyone's favorite movie, with music, crafts, games, and a few surprises!

Rainforest Reptiles! Saturday, January 3 @ 10:30a.m.

Travel with us to the different rainforests around the world and meet the critters, turtles, snakes and more that call these places home! Real, LIVE Animal Fun for All Ages!

Stuffed Animal Village, Saturday, January 10 @ 10:30 a.m.

Bring your favorite stuffed animal for a special day trip to our stuffed animal village!

Hairstyling Workshop for Grown-Ups & Kiddos! Friday, January 16 @ 3:30 p.m.

Join us for a special hairstyling workshop, perfect for learning something new in the New Year! Learn a few special styles and leave with a kit to continue building your skills at home.

Ben Franklin Birthday Bash, Saturday, January 17 @ 2 p.m.

Vision Board Making, Wednesday, January 21 @ 1 p.m.

Families- set your intentions for 2026! Join us as we get crafty, creating vision boards AND setting our reading resolutions.

Tape Town! Saturday, January 24 @ 10:30 a.m.

Bring along a small toy vehicle (or borrow one of ours) and cruise along our "roads" made of tape all through our program room and enjoy a series of imaginative interactive pretend play stations all through the town.

Special Events for Adults

The Franklin Stove: An Unintended American Revolution, Thursday, January 8 @ 6:30 p.m., As part of the town's annual Ben Franklin Month, Harvard Professor Joyce Chaplin will discuss her new book, *The Franklin Stove: An Unintended American Revolution*. Kirkus Reviews said: "Historian Chaplin focuses on Benjamin Franklin's multiple renditions of an

innovative stove to examine the intersection of scientific inquiry, race, class, politics, and economics at a time of climate change and resource depletion—a period, she underscores, not unlike our own."

Go/No Go? Launching your Business w/ Mentors from SCORE, Thursday, January 22 @ 6:30 p.m., Registration Requested, Hey there, future small business owner! This one hour guided conversation will introduce you to the tools you need to confidently decide if your idea for a new business is ready to launch.

Special Events for All Ages

Live Reading of the Franklin Biography, Thursday, January 15 @ 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

A tradition returns home! Join us for a live reading of Ben Franklin's Autobiography at the

Franklin Public Library. Everyone is welcome to read, listen, and comment on the life of our favorite Founding Father.

Franklin as Composer w/ Metrowest Symphony Orchestra, Saturday, January 17 @ 11 a.m., Benjamin Franklin: statesman, entrepreneur, scientist... composer?! Yes, our beloved Ben even dabbled in composing his own music. Join us to explore this aspect of our namesake with the help of the Metro-West Symphony Orchestra.

Franklin Library Book Sale

Friday, January 16: 1 - 5pm

Saturday, January 17: 9am - 12pm
All books are just one dollar!

Bag Sale - \$5 A Bag

Saturday, January 17: 1 - 4pm
Come fill a brown bag with all the books you can!

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, *Ace: 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.

Franklin Interfaith Council to Create NEW Website

The Franklin Interfaith Council has lost the domain name for its long-held website and is in the process of developing a new site at **Franklin-MAinterfaith.org**.

Until that is completed, please follow us on Facebook: **Franklin Interfaith Council**.

The Franklin Interfaith Council is an organization whose membership is composed of faith communities in the town of Franklin, Massachusetts. It addresses the vari-

ous needs of its community by recognizing the power of faith as defined by the individual spiritual traditions. However, it is these same traditions that unite us in the common goal to initiate and sponsor activities that enrich and challenge the citizens of Franklin. The intent of the council is to sensitize the Franklin community to issues of deprivation and social injustice, and to promote tolerance and understanding through shared worship, programs, performances, and publications, and to bring the understanding of our faith traditions to bear on these issues. Additionally, through these same devices, the council seeks to acknowledge and celebrate both the diver-

sity and the common values existing within the community. The council is a nonprofit organization that has as its primary purpose the betterment of the community it serves.

Participating Houses of Worship :

- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- First Universalist Society in Franklin
- Franklin Federated Church
- Franklin United Methodist Church
- New England Chapel
- St. John's Episcopal Church
- St. Mary's Catholic Parish
- Temple Etz Chaim



Happy New Year!



COAN

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Specialists in Home Comfort & Energy Conservation

BOILERS • FURNACES • HEAT PUMPS • HOT WATER SYSTEMS • FUEL TANKS

Service Plans, Install and Repairs & More!

Coan Bioheat® Fuel Delivery



196 West Central St., Natick • 508-653-5050 • 800-262-6462 • coanoil.com



FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING NEEDS

CALL TODAY!

508-918-4648

Gerald Moran, Owner

License # PL36504-J Insured

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

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 : stonybrookcc.com for a calendar of events and member information.

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



Birches, by Dan Gyves



Beautiful Norfolk, by Jake Jacobson

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 others in a 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. For questions call Vicki (508) 654-6740. Cash, check or electronic payment accepted.

Puzzle Sale: Hundreds of Jigsaw puzzles priced \$4-\$6 will be for sale both days. You do not

need to enter the tournament to shop. Some are brand new! 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 or call (508) 528-5348.

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 Tues-

day 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!



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

Circle of Friends to Welcome Moberg & Nicholls Jan. 10th

The Circle of Friends Coffeehouse will present a split bill January 10th with award winning singer/songwriter/guitarist Kim Moberg, www.kimmobergmusic.com and Jenna Nicholls <https://jennanicholls.com>. The Circle of Friends Coffeehouse is a non-profit organization affiliated with Franklin's First Universalist Society.

Concerts are presented in a smoke free and alcohol-free environment at the Society's handicapped accessible Meetinghouse, 262 Chestnut St. in Franklin, and begin at 8 p.m.; doors open at 7:30 p.m. Beverages and gourmet desserts will be available. Please visit <https://circlefolk.org/> for more information.



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 or contact localraydio@gmail.com.

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.

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.



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 ex-

pressiveness 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.

Calendar

January2 K-Pop Demon Hunters Party, 10:30 a.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin	January 10 22nd Annual Gary Mirliiss Memorial Blood Drive, 8 a.m.- 3 p.m., King Philip Middle School, 18 King St., Norfolk, appointments at https://blooddonor.massgeneral.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/6875 or walk-in. Community Concerts @ Franklin UMC, 7 p.m., Franklin United Methodist Church, 82 West Central Street, Franklin Kim Moberg/Jenna Nichols, split bill show, 8 p.m., Circle of Friends Coffeehouse, First Universalist Society of Franklin Meetinghouse, 262, Chestnut St., Franklin, doors open 7:30 p.m., visit https://circlefolk.org for tickets. \$25	January 17 Franklin Public Library Book Sale, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., 118 Main St., Franklin, all books \$1, bag sale 1-4 p.m. Franklin as Composer w/ Metro-west Symphony Orchestra, 11 a.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin 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, (774) 571-9804	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. Questions to Vicki (508) 654-6740
January 3 Rainforest Reptiles! Saturday, 10:30 a.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin Electric Youth 2026 Debut Concert, 7:30 p.m. The Black Box, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, www.theblackboxonline.com	January 11 Second Sunday Speaker Series: Dissecting the Dioramas, 1:15 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, Award winning historian Joe Landry takes a deep dive into the backstory of some important structures in the Franklin in Miniature exhibit, followed by master modeler, and historian, Scott Mason.	January 20 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 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. Questions to Vicki (508) 654-6740
January 7 Franklin Art Association public meeting, 6:30 p.m. Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin. Artist demo by Katie Kindilien, landscape and still life painter	January 15 Live Reading of the Franklin Biography, 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, everyone is welcome to read, listen, and comment.	January 21 Queer Book Club, by Franklin LGBTQ Alliance, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Franklin TV, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, <i>Ace: What Asexuality Reveals About Desire, Society, and the Meaning of Sex</i> by Angela Chen	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 8 The Franklin Stove: An Unintended American Revolution, Thursday, January 8 @ 6:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, as part of the town's annual Ben Franklin Month, Harvard Professor Joyce Chaplin will be at the Franklin Public Library to discuss her new book, focusing on Benjamin Franklin's multiple renditions of an innovative stove. 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. Stony Brook Camera Club member competition, 7:30 p.m., Anglican Church of the Redeemer, 195 Main Street, Franklin, stonybrookcc.com	January 16 Franklin Public Library Book Sale, 1-5 p.m., 118 Main St., Franklin, all books \$1	January 22 Go/No Go? Launching your Business w/ Mentors from SCORE, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin	January 31 A Novel Occasion, Zoom from 12:00–2:30 p.m., Friends of Millis Public Library fundraiser, meet favorite authors including Bart Baker, Brendan Slocumb, Diane Barnes, Jon Lindstrom, Paula Munier, Samantha Downing, Stephanie Burns, Tiffany L. Warren, and Vanessa Riley. Tickets at www.anoveloccasion.com.

Two Franklin Firms Receive SafetyWorks Grants from State

Boston, MA – The Healey-Driscoll Administration recently launched the SafetyWorks Initiative, including grant funding and free technical consultation for employers to improve safety in the workplace. As part of SafetyWorks, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD) announced \$800,000 in grants to train an estimated 13,832 workers at 160 organizations across Massachusetts. The grants, administered by the Department of Industrial Accidents (DIA), aim to enhance workplace safety through training, education, and other preventative measures. SafetyWorks also features free technical consultation offered by the Department of Labor Standards for public

and private sector employers. The 160 grant recipients, which include Franklin companies Chargepoint Technology Inc., Franklin (\$4,950.00 12), and Hamilton Storage Technologies (\$2,750.00 36), encompass municipalities, minority- and women-owned businesses, veterans-owned businesses, small business, and employers across industries such as manufacturing, construction, and more. This funding is made available through DIA annually. Since 1988, DIA has funded approximately \$24 million to Massachusetts-based employers, helping approximately 324,000 workers and 1,693 employers throughout Massachusetts.

116 Main Street, Medway
(508) 533-6655

32 Hasting Street, Rte 16, Mendon
(508) 381-0249

43 Main Street, Hopkinton
(508) 625-8100

325 N. Main Street, Natick
(508) 647-0500

296 Washington Street, Westwood
(508) 533-6655

907 Main Street, Walpole
(508) 533-6655

Don't stand in line!

ONLINE ORDERING AVAILABLE!

muffinhousecafe.com

Open Daily

Bakery with Fresh Muffins/Pastries

MUFFIN HOUSE CAFE

NOW OFFERING DOORDASH, UBER EATS AND GRUB HUB

Receive 10% off any cake with this coupon

All our cakes are made from scratch on the premises

Expires 1-31-2026

FREE SMALL COFFEE

with a purchase of a muffin with this coupon

Expires 1-31-2026

Facebook

Twitter

F

F

14th Turkey Trot Raises \$55,108 for Franklin Food Pantry

The 14th Annual Franklin Turkey Trot took place Thanksgiving morning, drawing 1,015 registrants and raising more than \$55,000 for the Franklin Food Pantry. All of the money raised will support The Pantry's programs and services, which provided food assistance to individuals and families nearly 27,000 times last year. The annual Thanksgiving morning fun-run is organized in conjunction with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Franklin.

The money raised at the Turkey Trot comes at a critical time. The Pantry is experiencing unprecedented demand for assistance, marked by an increase in new clients and the return of neighbors who previously utilized Pantry services.

"The past few months have been a particularly stressful time for individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. Seeing the kindness and community spirit at the Turkey Trot meant so much," said Tina Powderly. "We are incredibly grateful to every runner, walker, sponsor, and spectator whose participa-



Carolyn and Henry Kuehnel get in character for the Franklin Turkey Trot. Photos by Allison Miles.



Pilgrims Spencer and Kate Gorman

(508) 440-5004 342 E. CENTRAL ST. FRANKLIN MA 02038 (NEXT TO BIG Y)





franklin

HAPPY
NEW YEAR



TAKE 20% OFF
REGULAR PRICE ONE ITEM
VALID THROUGH 01/30/2026

STORE HOURS: MONDAY-SATURDAY: 11AM-5PM SUNDAY: 12-4PM

tion helped raise an incredible \$55,108 for The Pantry. These funds will help provide our neighbors with access to nutritious food into the new year."

The Franklin Food Pantry is grateful for the following organizations and individuals who served as this year's race sponsors:

Presenting Sponsor: G&C Plumbing & Heating

Platinum Sponsors: Advanced European Repair, Franklin Plumbing, Heating, & Gas, Inc, Franklin Stretching & Mobility, Grove Street Auto Repair, MJ Henry & Associates, Next9Up, Notturmo Home Services, Starr and Glick Orthodontics, Terrazza, Wild Birds Unlimited of Franklin

Gold Sponsors: Connell Roofing, Siding and Gutters, Middlesex Savings Bank, MyFM 101.3, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Blackstone Valley

Silver Sponsors: Accurate Baker Elman, Eagle Stainless Tube & Fabrication, Inc., Krav Running Club, Knights of Columbus Franklin Council #1847, Mount Street Farm, Nutrify Performance, The Longobardi Family, Vet Med Pet Supplies

Bronze Sponsors: Active Recovery Boston, Adirondack Club, Berry Insurance, Chestnut Dental, Costello Realty, Eastern Propane & Oil, Elizabeth's Bagels & More, Emmons St., LLC, Franklin Matters, K Cooks, LLC, Keefe Insurance, Hilltop Auto, Maple & Main Renovations, LLC, Seniors Helping Seniors, Spiffy Designs, The Baur Family, The Sabolinski Family, The Sancher Family, Simon's Furniture, Vendetti Motors, Xpression Prints

Friends Sponsors: The Beach Family, Body Fit Training, The Bradosky Family, Mary Clermont, Franklin Family Smiles, The Hauk Family, The Johnson Family, Mint Dental, Norman-din Family, O'Neill Family, The Powderly Mason Family, The Tait/Shimer/Shanks Family, The Zicherman Family

For more information on the Franklin Food Pantry, to receive food assistance, or to donate funds and food, please visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org.

Sports

Resilience Key to Run by Franklin Girls' Soccer Team

By KEN HAMWEY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

No one likes to lose, and sometimes a team will suffer defeat and live with disappointment for a lengthy stretch. The girls' soccer team at Franklin High, however, should have no regrets, because they're a study in resilience, showing that defeat can bring out the best in student-athletes.

The Panthers, who lost, 4-2, to Natick in the Division 1 State playoffs last fall, started the season at 3-4-1. After their fourth loss, an 8-2 setback against Medfield, they were 18th in the power rankings.

But, coach Jodi Klein's forces didn't sulk or surrender. What they did was surge.

The Panthers went on a run and compiled a 12-2-1 record after their loss to Natick. Call that overcoming adversity or call it personifying resilience, there's no wrong answer.

"The girls were embarrassed by the 8-2 loss," Klein recalled. "The captains asked me to make the team run more in practice. What I did was raise the demands in practice, and they all responded."

Klein also credits the winning streak to some valuable team attributes. "We had depth, experience, team chemistry, high soccer IQs, coachable and skilled players and leadership from all the girls," she emphasized.

Natick is a very deserving champion — three state crowns in the last five years speak volumes about the Redhawks' ability and their achievements. Calling them a dynasty isn't far-fetched. Klein labeled Natick as "a great team and a worthy champion."

So, Franklin finished as the State runner-up, the second-best team in the division. The Panthers' gallant run earned them a No. 6 ranking, and they gave No. 4 Natick no comfort in a match that was 3-2 at halftime.

"We knew Franklin was going to be relentless and not give up," Natick co-head coach Denise Trubiano said. "We watched

film; we played 80 minutes of every game. Franklin is aggressive, they're tough, they're strong and we just knew we had to put the ball in the net, take advantage of opportunities and then hang on for dear life."

Natick held on until Nicole Proia scored an insurance goal to clinch the victory in the second half. Franklin's goals were scored by Anna Carosi and Gwen Holland.

"We knew we had to limit space to Proia and Abby McCauley," Klein noted. "We didn't do that, and both scored twice."

Klein, who's guided Franklin into four State tournaments in her four years as coach, had praise for her entire team, but a nucleus of eight players competed effectively in the five tournament matches. They include tri-captains Morgan Lovell, Cassidy Carmignani and Holland. Also, Jenny McGlaughlin, Lily Strong, Carosi, Ryleigh O'Brien and Grace Marinella.

"They were resilient during high-stress games," Klein said, "and they were able to dig deep and perform at a high level when we really needed them."

Klein also credits center midfielders Laila Rosen, BB Vallee and Sophia Horton for "helping to maintain composure in the middle."

The Panthers' future could be bright again next year. They lose seven seniors, but 15 girls with varying degrees of playing time will return.

"We were young with five sophomores who started," Klein said. "I expect another lengthy run, because we have a strong group of returnees, and I expect several talented players from the jayvees to make an impact."

Franklin finished its season at 15-6-2, and Natick's record was 16-3-3.

The Panthers lost in the title showdown, but they showed how valuable attributes like hard work, resilience and dedication can be.

CORNER KICKS:

- The Redhawks scored 19



The Franklin High girls' soccer team displays the Final Four banner after it defeated Hopkinton in the State tournament quarterfinals.

- goals during their playoff run and allowed only three, two of which were generated by Franklin.
- The last time the Panthers competed in a State final was 2012 when they defeated Nashoba
- Franklin's road to the final included victories over Shrewsbury, Lincoln-Sudbury, Hopkinton and Concord-Carlisle.

Spring Clean
Maid Easy

The Maids®

★★★★★

#1

HOUSE CLEANING
CUSTOMER SERVICE

2024 statista

★★★★★

When busy homes are filled with pets and kids, it's worth having a fast, thorough team take care of everything. Whether you only want a few rooms cleaned or the entire home, The Maids has different options to fit your budget.

Certain trademarks used under license from The Procter & Gamble Company or its affiliates.

THE MAIDS CERTIFIED CLEAN

MR. CLEAN APPROVED

Call The Maids® to book your Ultimate Healthy Home Service for Spring!
508-533-5350 | TheMaidsMedway.com

Holiday Fair a Great Success

To the Editor:
On behalf of everyone at Trinity Episcopal Church Wrentham, I would like to thank Local Town Pages for the newspaper coverage provided for our Holiday Fair on November 21 and 22. Many thanks to all who supported the fair by donating items, attending, and purchasing any of the many products offered. We are blessed to be surrounded

by such a supportive community. We are also grateful to the members of our collaborative church, St. Marks of Foxboro, who assisted us by working with us during both days of the fair. Wishing everyone a happy new year!!

Eufemia Campagna
TECW Holiday Fair Chairperson

Organ Concert Attendance Exceeded Expectations

To the Editor:
Members of Trinity Episcopal Church of Wrentham would like to thank Local Town Pages for coverage of the William Goodrich pipe organ concerts. The year 2025 marked the 200th year of its existence here. Built in the U.S.A., the Goodrich pipe organ has been located and maintained in Trinity Church for the past 110 years. Publishing the invitation to the demonstrations and two recitals of one

of the oldest church pipe organs in New England provided a response beyond expectations. Attendance and donations at both recitals were greatly appreciated. Trinity Church members appreciate the efforts and expertise of Rick Duthe, current Director of Music at Trinity Church, in organizing all the events.

Judith Chase
Trinity Church

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. There is no charge to visit a My Pinnacle Network meeting.

For more information, visit www.mypinnacle-network.com.

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 nonprofit 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 clinical care, wellness, education and research at no cost to them regardless of era of service, discharge status or geographical location. The program



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

was founded by Massachusetts General Hospital and the Boston Red Sox.

Home Base receives a signifi-

cant 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.

Woodforms

Fine Cherry Furniture

Made in Massachusetts



NOW OPEN!
Saturdays
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Come visit our FACTORY and FACTORY SHOWROOM!

131 Morse Street | Foxboro | 508-543-9417 | woodforms.net

Hours: Monday - Thursday: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Friday: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. CLOSED Sunday

Franklin Downtown Partnership Posts 2026 Event & Meeting Schedule

The Franklin Downtown Partnership has set their 2026 schedule for their Annual Events and business meetings. Events are open to the public. Meetings are for FDP members.

FDP Business Meeting Dates: February 5, April 2, June 4, September 3, November 5

General meetings are open to FDP members only. The meetings are a good opportunity to introduce your business and network. For more information contact FDP at downtownfranklin@yahoo.com or call (774) 571-3109. To become a member, visit the website at franklindowntownpartnership.org.

Follow the FDP on Instagram and Facebook at:

<https://www.instagram.com/franklindowntownpartnership/> and <https://www.facebook.com/franklindowntownpartnership.org/>

The Franklin Downtown Partnership is a non-profit

Event Dates:	
Ladybug Trail Spring Walk	Sat. April 25, 9 a.m. - all day, Rain Date April 26
Spring Beautification Day	Sat. May 16, 9 a.m. -12 p.m.
Strawberry Stroll	Fri. June 12, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m., Rain Date June 13
Harvest Festival	Sat. Sept. 26, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Rain Date Sept. 27
Winter Decorating Day	Sat. Nov. 21, 9 a.m.- 12 pm

501(c)3 organization made up of more than 375 business owners, residents, and community leaders working to revitalize downtown Franklin. Residents can join the Downtown Partnership for \$25. In addition to managing events like Strawberry Stroll, Harvest Festival, and Beautification Days, the Partnership also manages the streetscape design, greenspace, alley murals, and sculpture projects. For more information go to www.franklindowntownpartnership.org.

For rates and info on advertising your business,
please call Jen at 508-570-6544 or email: jenschofield@localtownpages.com

Real Estate Corner



Eileen Mason
508-330-4234
emason4234@gmail.com

"We asked for aggressive representation and Eileen came through selling our home in 4 days, above asking price. Couldn't ask for a better agent!"
~Paul L.

New Year, New home?

If your resolutions include a new home, we can help!

323 West Central Street, Franklin \$699,900  FOR SALE Eileen Mason	8 Bubbling Brook Road Franklin  UAG Susan Morrison	99 Pleasant Street Franklin  SOLD Eileen Mason	955 Summer Street, Franklin \$550,000  FOR SALE Susan Morrison
56 Fuller Place Franklin  CTG Susan Morrison	92 Sandalwood Drive Wilbraham  SOLD Eileen Mason	96 Indian Hill Road Worcester  CTG Susan Morrison	254 Summer Street Franklin  SOLD Eileen Mason



Susan Morrison
617-686-8178
susan.morrison1@comcast.net

"Susan was the clear choice to help us sell our home. Her personality, knowledge, foresight and guiding touch were everything we could have expected and received."
~ Paul S.

Call us for your complimentary market analysis.

308 West Central Street, Franklin, MA 02038

508-520-9696



Real Estate Corner



Jim Hanewich
NMLS #: 23315
Cell: 508-878-5385
James.Hanewich@bankfive.com
www.jimhanewich.com

Bank 5
MORTGAGE OFFICE

CONTACT JIM AT OUR BANKFIVE WRENTHAM MORTGAGE OFFICE

Jim Hanewich is here to assist with First-Time homebuyer, FHA, VA, portfolio, conventional and jumbo loans.

Set up an appointment at our new location at 667 South Street, Suite 2 Wrentham, MA 02093. Located right next door to Cafe Assisi!

LENDER MEMBER FDIC. MEMBER DIF. NMLS #525575



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 or follow us on X® at X.com/NorfolkDeeds and Instagram® at Instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds.

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



Happy New Year!

SERVICES OFFERED:

- Lash Extensions
- Lash Lifts
- Brown Laminations
- Tinting of Eyelashes & Brows

CALL **Felicia: 781-856-5271**
OR EMAIL: feesh59@yahoo.com

Gift Cards Available

Just Felicia
www.justfeliawi.com

Looking to Advertise in Our REAL ESTATE CORNER?



CONTACT Jen Schofield
508-570-6544
JenSchofield@localtownpages.com

For rates and info on advertising your business, please call Jen at 508-570-6544 or email: jenschofield@localtownpages.com

New Year - New Home? Welcome 2026!

Call Lorraine Kuney today to see if this is your year for a move!
Thank you to all my Clients and Customers that I helped achieve their dreams in 2025!



Wishing everyone a Safe and Happy New Year!



Lorraine Kuney
508-380-9938
lorrainekuney@gmail.com
"The Franklin Area's Most Frequently Hired Agent"



2026

The Todaro Team

HAPPY NEW YEAR



580 Eastside Rd, Wrentham
Stay Tuned



18 Plain St, Franklin
Stay Tuned



17 Forest Park Dr, Mendon
Stay Tuned



9 Reagan Ave, Franklin
Stay Tuned



18 Bubbling Brook Rd, Franklin
Stay Tuned



31 Highwood Dr #31, Franklin
Under Contract



41 Kimberlee Ave. Franklin
Under Contract



40 Kimberlee Ave. Franklin
For Sale



124 Minot Ave, Wareham
For Sale



31 Bellwood Cir. Bellingham
Being Renovated



7 Pleasantview Rd, Natick
Under Construction



55 & 57 A St, Franklin
Under Construction

2025 in Review...

To our buyers and sellers of 2025–Thank you for trusting The Todaro Team with one of life’s biggest milestones. Your confidence, support, and referrals made 2025 a year to remember. We are so grateful to be part of this community and honored to help you call it home.

- 862 Washington St, Franklin
 - 6 Trevor Rd, Franklin
 - 7 Summer Heights Dr, Franklin
 - 65 Benjamin Day Dr, Wrentham
 - 79 King St, Norfolk (Buyer)
- 25 Haywood Cir, Mendon (Buyer)
 - 530 Chestnut St, Franklin
 - 11 Northern Spy Rd, Franklin
 - 105 Oxford Dr, Franklin
 - 153 Partridge St, Franklin
 - 251 Irondequoit Rd, Franklin
- 25 Partridge View Ln, Wrentham
 - 2 Jacob Jones Way, Westborough (Buyer)
 - 7 Pleasantview Rd, Natick (Buyer)
 - 18 Highwood Dr, Franklin
 - 5 Field Cir, Wrentham
 - 52 James St, Bellingham
- 24 Ascension St, Blackstone (Buyer)
 - 40 Lawrence Dr, Franklin
 - 48 Pinchurst St, Franklin
 - 31 Highwood Dr, Franklin



Tammy Todaro
508-277-2977
www.todaroteamhomes.com

