

localtownpages Franklin

Vol. 17 No. 3

Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

May 1, 2026

St. Mary's CYO - A Three Time Winner

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

This season, Bo Botelho took over the Franklin St. Mary's ninth and tenth grade CYO basketball team and was able to ac-

complish something that hasn't been done for over a decade. Under the guidance of Botelho and his assistant John Langis, Franklin went 10-1 on the regular season and then went on not only to capture the MetroWest

Championship, but also to take home the State and New England trophies.

Once the Coaching staff saw the roster for the first time, they knew that they had a special group of athletes.

"In basketball, you have to know what you are trying to do. I knew that we had a great team, and a championship was what we're playing for," Botelho said. "I told the kids at the beginning that if we are going to be playing for the championship, even playing time was not going to happen; in tight games, the starters were going to see more time. Everyone bought in."

On the court, the Franklin players were a family, and as a coach who played basketball,



Under the guidance of Bo Botelho and his assistant John Langis, Franklin St. Mary's ninth and tenth grade CYO basketball team Franklin captured the MetroWest Championship as well as the State and New England trophies.



This month, 2026 New England Golden Gloves of America champion (110 lb.) Jose Roman III, of Franklin, shown here flanked by his coaches Jose Roman, Jr. and Peter Manfredo, Jr. will head to the Golden Gloves Of America National Championship in Tulsa, OK. Photo by Tiana Roman

Franklin's Jose Roman III Wins NE Golden

WINNERS
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Gloves Fighter to Head to Golden Gloves of America this month

BY JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

He beat cancer and got up on his feet to beat other junior boxers in his weight class, and now, competing as an adult in the ring this time, Franklin's Jose Roman III has risen up to become this year's New England Golden Gloves Of America champion in the 110 lb. category, winning a February 26 match against Melvin Garcia of Bridgeport, CT.

GLOVES

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SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS



Franklin Town Hall: Community Highlights & Updates

FY27 Budget Process Underway

The Town of Franklin has released its FY27 Budget Narrative, outlining priorities and financial planning for the upcoming fiscal year. The Finance Committee recently held four budget hearings from April 6-9 to review departmental requests

and gather input, marking an important step in the budget development process.

The Finance Committee will take a formal vote on its budget recommendations on May 27, which will then be submitted to the Town Council. In accordance with the Town Charter, the Finance Committee will

issue printed recommendations and make copies available at the time of the public hearings. The Town Council will conduct two public hearings on the Town Administrator's proposed budget before taking a final vote to adopt the FY27 Budget on June 10.

Residents are encouraged to

review the budget document and participate in the upcoming public hearings.

FY27 Budget Narrative:
<https://tinyurl.com/Franklin-FY27Budget>

Upcoming Public Budget Hearings:

Town Council Legal Budget Hearings: Wednesday, May 20,

2026 at 6 p.m.; Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Finance Committee Budget Meetings: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 6 p.m.; Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Town Council Final Budget

COMMUNITY

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GLOVES

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"He is a multi-time state champ, probably one of the best in New England, a very good fighter," says a proud 18-year-old Roman, "I don't think there's a harder fighter for me to fight in New England than him. A lot of people thought he was going to win, but I'm determined in everything in life. I've been doubted every time, but I've always found a way to prove a point."

He had fought and beat the fighter in the past, but "this time, this fight was per-

sonal," says Roman, adding, "I needed to get this one, especially where this was the Golden Gloves."

"I think it was a very good fight and a very good performance by me, and I fought a very good fighter," says Roman.

Roman, who is coached by his father, and now, Peter Manfredo Jr. will be the youngest member of his team to head to the Golden Gloves Of America National Championship on May 11th - 16th in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

"He punches to the body like no tomorrow, and he works hard. He has a good upside, and the only thing he

has against him is the light weight," says Manfredo, noting that getting him fights at his weight is not always easy and he'd "like to see him get as many amateur fights as possible." Fighting at the national level, he says will help him pick up experience.

"Last night, I had him sparring guys at 140," adds Manfredo, "I want him to see a lot of different styles. You don't know what you're going to spar with at the national level..."

In the boxing world it's a pretty big thing, not just winning, but winning all of New England. That's a major thing to advance. You want to be

able to simulate almost every type of style."

Manfredo, who says he's been around the game a long time, lauds Roman's growth, explaining that as a coach, he's "very particular. I'm very hard on him. Once he does listen and he sees how it works for him, he stays with it."

The fighter himself says, "A lot of determination, a lot of hard work, went into this fight. I think this was the toughest competition you can get in New England, and it was a test I passed."

Jose's father will accompany him to nationals.

"He's always been supportive, and he's going with

me to the nationals," says the young boxer, "It's always been a team effort to see me improve."

Roman, Jr. says, "I'm proud of him that's he's gotten to experience going to nationals. He's been working very hard to get to this point. I'm very proud of how well he's done, in and out of boxing."

You can follow Jose's progress on Instagram at "Joseelrelampagoroman".

Learn more about Golden Gloves of America and livestream at www.goldenglovesusa.org.

localtownpages

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

Publisher
Jennifer Schofield

Editor
Judith Dorato O'Gara

Send Editorial to:
editor@franklintownnews.com

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

Creative Design & Layout
Bess Couture
Kim Vasseur
Wendy Watkins

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

Ad Deadline is the
14th of each month.

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SOUR GRAPES by Tim Jones



Panel 1: "I'LL HAVE THE DAILY SPECIAL, PLEASE."

Panel 2: "WE DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIALS TODAY, AESOP."

Panel 3: "YOU'LL HAVE TO PICK FROM THE MAIN MENU UP ON THE WALL BEHIND ME. THE CAFE DOESN'T OFFER SPECIALS ANYMORE, SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?"

Panel 4: "OH, NOTHING SPECIAL."

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Make Room for Spring with Affordable Junk Removal

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

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

Or you can call Affordable Junk Removal and let a local small business with deep community roots take care of everything.

Jay Schadler started his business in 2005. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer service never wavered.

Now he's got a staff of ten, along with eight trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

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

Jay and his team have handled it all. They've dismantled above-ground pools, hauled away ancient hot tubs, taken down old fencing, and stripped away worn carpeting. They'll come for a single item, or they'll clean out an entire house. And they can take almost anything. They can't accept hazardous materials, brush, dirt, or concrete, but everything else is fair game for them to take away.

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

Working with Affordable

Business spotlight

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

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

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price



and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

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

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

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can

even handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

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

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ENTER TO WIN TICKETS TO SOUTHWICK'S ZOO!

Find the Hidden Animals in This Month's Editorial Pages! There are 10 animals scattered throughout this issue's articles. Scan the QR code below and submit the list of animals you have found for your chance to win a Grand Prize of a Family 4-pack of general admission tickets to Southwick's Zoo during the 2026 season. Multiple runner-up 2-pack general admission tickets will be awarded. Submit by June 12, 2026 to be included.

WINNERS

continued from page 1

Botelho had a good idea as to who was good at what. The coach's philosophy, which he stressed from day one, was that he wanted his players talking loudly on defense while playing hard against the opposition. When the team was on offense, he wanted his team to be quiet and have his point guard push the ball up court.

The Franklin athletes all bought in on day one, and the coaching staff knew that this team had everything they would need to be successful. Franklin's only blemish on their season was a two-point loss, the only game their center didn't play in, and a game Botelho believes they wouldn't have lost if he was in the game.

The Franklin contingent would need to continue with their great game play and win three games to capture the MetroWest CYO Championship. First up was St. Edwards Parish out of Medfield, and Franklin would



begin their streak of wins with a 75-45 win with Bryce Botelho hitting on six of his nine three-point shots to end up with a season high 30 points.

Colin O'Brien came off the bench to score 11 points to give Franklin the boost they needed to take out Natick Catholic Community 60-53, and in the finals against St Martha's of Plainville, it was a trio of players that got Franklin into the win column with the first of its three championships. Botelho played the entire game, while Colin Stacey, who sat out the first half due to an injury, came in to play hurt in the second half. Martin took over for Matt Lord who got into foul trouble; he'd have to cover the opposition's big guy and did so with impressive results as Franklin walked away with a hard fought 42-39 victory.

With three games down, Franklin would now enter into the State Tournament. Taking part in the Semi-final game against St Martin's of Dorchester, things looked as though the Franklin season could possibly come to an end. Trailing 39-37 with a mere eight seconds on the clock, Jack Langis dribbled

down the court, split the defenders and scored while getting fouled. He would knock down the free throw, and Franklin walked away with a 40-39 win to advance into the State Championship game against St Agatha of Milton.

The State Championship tilt showcased Botelho once again, knocking down six of his nine three-point shots giving him 26 points in the 75-59 win. Playing in a small venue, it was relevant that 15 tenth graders, all friends of the team, drove to the game and pumped up the squad by being loud throughout the game.

Franklin now had two championship trophies and had won five straight games. St. Mary's would only need two more victories to capture their third Championship of the year, the first time the program would do it in many years.

Once in the New England Tournament, Franklin would dispatch of St. Elizabeth Seton of Bedford, NH 75-57. New Hampshire team had no answer for Franklin's big man, Matt Lord, who was able to pull down 20 rebounds in the win, pushing Franklin to the brink of

yet another Championship.

Much like the previous game, the Final game of the New England Tournament against St Brenda's/St Martha's (combined team) of Providence Rhode Island didn't really get in the way of Franklin, recording the trifecta as St Mary's took home the Title with another convincing win 66-43. Franklin was originally down 9-2 in the early goings, before Coach Botelho took a timeout telling his kids to stay positive and make some adjustments on defense. Franklin would go on a 64-34 run following that timeout.

"Of our seven games, we could have easily lost three or four of them," the Coach noted. "But this team went out and put forth a complete team effort by playing great defense and making great passes."

St. Mary's CYO would average 58.9 points per game, while only allowing its opposition to score 42.9 points. Bryce Botelho, by far the team's best ball handler and dribbler, would lead the team with an average of 14 points per contest, while Jack Langis, the team's Swiss Army knife, was right behind

him with 11 points. Sitting at nine points per game were Colin Stacey (top defender and best overall player) and Matt Lord (a beast in the paint with rebounds and blocks). Luke Mulvey, a good rebounder and a good passer for a big guy, would add six points per game rounding out the starting lineup.

Colin O'Brien and Malay Bhatt would contribute with an average of four points per game. Botelho and Langis would lead the team in assists while Lord, Mulvey and Stacey would be tops in rebounds. Stacey owned the most steals and Lord lead the team n block shots.

Rounding out the players for the three-time champion St. Mary's CYO are Krish Sachdeva, Srihaas Tadapaneni, Luke Longboardi and Robert white. Along with the rest of the team they all played unselfish basketball, worked hard and did what was asked of them en route to the successful Franklin CYO season.

The tenth-grade players will all be moving up to the 11th/12th grade team next year and are already looking to run it back.

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Seasonal LookBook: Introducing 5 Must-Have for Spring at Apricot Lane Boutique

By JANE LEBAK

Warmer temperatures bring the excitement of outdoor social gatherings, from school graduations, wedding events, to backyard parties. You don't have to travel far to refresh your closet with a couple of new outfits. Apricot Lane, your local boutique, is ready with five on-trend looks to feel great this season.

Your first step into this sweet boutique, tucked behind Starbucks on Route 140 in Franklin, welcomes you with a wide assortment of hand-selected pieces in spring colors, mixed and matched personally by the owner, Marta McNulty. With an extensive experience in visual merchandising, Marta has perfected a sense for how the right combination of tops, bottoms, and layering pieces can create an individual look for everyone's personal style.

Marta says, "I am excited about the new season collection and wanted to share my favorite five key items that have come to the spotlight."

While you are planning your spring and summer events, Apricot Lane has a multitude of dresses to choose from. Silky fabric, flowy silhouettes, and gorgeous floral prints abound, from poppies to daisies to tropical hibiscus prints.

For the nautical New England feel, Apricot Lane showcases stripes, from bold to subtle, on blouses, light sweaters, and dresses. Stripes project confidence with their polished, upscale look. Apricot Lane's bestsellers are pieces from Canadian brands RD Style and Dex.

Tencel Denim takes an important spot in manufacturing this season, bringing cloud-soft jean jackets, dresses, and shorts. "Combined with lace detailing on a vest or embroidery on jeans, our denim is feminine and stylish," Marta says. While you are there, check out featured brands like Elan, French designer Molly Bracken, or Skies are Blue.

Perhaps the season favorite is the open knitwear. Loose and airy summer tops, crochet vests, and



Business spotlight

open cardigans all ripple with lace-like textures, perfect to layer over a dress to create a delicate look. Marta says, "Their neutral tones coordinate perfectly with our spring dresses, adding artisanal flair to everyday or event outfits."

For a final touch, elevate your outfit by pairing it with the perfect necklace. This season calls for chunky jewelry. A bold statement necklace looks chic tucked just under the collar. "We have a variety of nautical inspired jewelry", says Marta. "I love the trend-









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ing fish charm, anchor, coin, or pearl pendants." Whether it's a puffy heart or a horseshoe detail, chunky necklaces accentuate the clothes by drawing the eye and adding a whimsical touch.

"You have to wear what you love," says Marta, "otherwise you won't feel like your true self. Our team is always excited and eager to help in selecting exactly the right pieces to give every customer a great shopping experience and confidence in her look."

Whether it's a beach dress embellished with shell ornaments or a silky top with an asymmetric floral embellishment on one shoulder, Marta chose each piece for Apricot Lane because of the way it stands out from the crowd. Marta explains, "I take the time to source unique pieces from designers in Canada, Denmark, or Spain, and especially from busi-

nesses with a positive sense of social responsibility. I am especially excited about brands like Vero Moda, Dex, B.Young, or ICHI, which are eco-friendly every step of their manufacturing, using 100% recycled materials. Even a basic t-shirt can surprise you with the softness of organic cotton and make it so special and different. I believe we should all embrace our individual style, and I'd love to encourage you to take advantage of these One-of-a-kind finds."

You can visit Apricot Lane's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/apricotlanefranklin>, but afterward, you'll probably want to spring over to the shop at 342 East Central Street in Franklin to try it all on for yourself.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Wellpoint names Franklin Police chief a Hometown Hero

FRANKLIN, MA. – On Thursday, April 16, Wellpoint, a health benefits company serving the Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission, recognized Franklin Police Chief Thomas J. “TJ” Lynch as an honoree in its Hometown Heroes program during a celebration at the Franklin Police Department.

Under Chief Lynch’s leadership, the Franklin Police Department achieved full accreditation, expanded regional collaboration through the MetroLEC SWAT task force, and established a co-response model that integrates mental health clinicians into

policing and makes therapy dogs available to support residents in times of need.

The Hometown Heroes initiative celebrates the invaluable contributions of public servants, local first responders, teachers, and military personnel across Massachusetts, shining a spotlight on the everyday acts of courage and kindness that strengthen our communities.

Shown, Franklin Town Administrator Jamie Hellen, David Morales, General Manager, Wellpoint, and Hometown Hero Franklin Police Chief Thomas J. “TJ” Lynch
Photo by Stephen Sherlock, Franklin Matters



Franklin Fire awarded \$21,649 through MA Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant

FRANKLIN, MA — The Franklin Fire Department is pleased to announce it has been awarded \$21,649.08 through the Massachusetts Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program, administered by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) and the Department of Fire Services (DFS).

This funding is part of a statewide initiative by the Healey-Driscoll Administration, which awarded a total of \$5 million to 307 fire departments to support the purchase of critical safety equipment.

The Franklin Fire Department will use the funds to purchase gas- or battery-powered scene lighting and structural firefighting gear to enhance on-scene visibility, improve safety and strengthen operational readiness.

“We’re grateful to EOPSS and DFS for their continued support,” said Fire Chief Chuck Allen. “This funding helps ensure our personnel have the equipment they need to operate safely and effectively.”

COMMUNITY

continued from page 2

Vote: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 6 p.m.

All meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at the Franklin Municipal Building. Residents may attend in person or participate virtually via Zoom. Meetings will also be broadcast live on Franklin Town Hall TV’s YouTube channel. Find meeting details and agendas on the Town’s website, www.franklinma.gov

Franklin Restaurant Week (May 31 - June 6, 2026)
 Kick Off Summer with the Flavors of Franklin!

The Town of Franklin is excited to launch its inaugural Restaurant Week, inviting residents and visitors to experience the vibrant local dining scene.

Restaurants throughout Franklin will offer special menus, promotions, or limited-time offerings, providing a unique opportunity to explore new flavors while supporting local businesses.

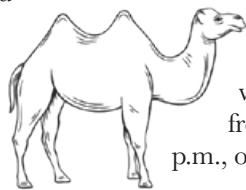
Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/FranklinRestaurantWeek2026>

Restaurants interested in participating can sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/FranklinRestaurantSignUp>

Women’s Health Expo – May 20, 2026

The Franklin Health Department invites residents to attend the Women’s Health Expo on Wednesday, May 20, from 2 to 5 p.m. at New England Chapel, 300 E. Central Street. A mobile

mammography van from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute will also be on-site from 7 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., offering convenient ac-



cess to screening services.

<https://tinyurl.com/Women-HealthExpoFlyers>

Save the Date: Habitat for Humanity Home Dedication

A new home dedication and move-in celebration hosted by Habitat for Humanity is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24,

2026, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Stay Informed: Franklin First Newsletter & Town Updates
 Residents are encouraged to stay up to date with Town news, highlights, and important announcements by reading the monthly Franklin First Newsletter. Read the latest edition: <https://www.franklinma.gov/1139/Franklin-First->

Newsletter

Short url: <https://tinyurl.com/FranklinFirstNewsletter>

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Residents can also follow the Town of Franklin on social media for timely updates, reminders, and community news.

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Franklin Art Association 2nd annual Fakes & Forgeries May 16-June 6

Deadline for entries May 2nd

The Franklin Art Association warmly welcomes the public to enter their work into the Second Annual "Fakes and Forgeries Art Exhibit"! The deadline for entries is May 2. This is a free public display featuring artistic reproductions and creative interpretations of masters' artworks by local artists. The exhibit will run from May 16 to June 6 during Museum hours at the Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central Street, Franklin.

Rules for entries are; One entry per person. First come/first served. Fifty entrants maximum due to space limitations. To register, complete this form at : <https://forms.gle/nSjk4b-3Smo8g9TcB7>. Enter quickly!

Artwork Requirements: Artwork must be framed, mounted on mat/foam board or gallery wrapped canvas. Artwork and Frame maximum 20" x 20".

Ready to hang with proper wiring.

Must be a reproduction of the original Master artwork or a creative interpretation of the original, Master artwork.

Drop off for artwork will be on May 15, 10-11 a.m. at the Franklin Historical Museum. (And pick-up will be on June 7th, 4-6 p.m. at the Museum.)

This returning show is again a collaboration between the Franklin Historical Museum and The Franklin Art Association. It was so successful last year we are joining to put it on again! Opening Reception to the public on June 6th (same day as PorchFest in Franklin), 12-6 p.m. at The Franklin Historical Museum.

Participants are asked to volunteer to help make this event possible. Sign up here:

volunteersignup.org/79KT8

Franklin Art welcomes Kristen Perone May 6

The Franklin Art Association's next public meeting on Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin. Our guest artist demonstrator will be gouache artist, Kristen Perone, a still life artist who uses media acrylic gouache (a thicker than watercolor consistency, water-based media) . Within the typical subjects in a still life, Perone mixes in personal touches using her own teapots, cups and animal figurines she collected on treasure hunts with loved ones.

Kristen Perone, "Afternoon Tea"



May 2026 – Franklin Veterans' Services

May 6 – Veterans' Coffee Social – 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. All Veterans may join us for updates, coffee and conversation! First Wednesday of every month.

May 8 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day – Thank you to all military spouses for your love, loyalty and support!

May 16 – Armed Forces Day – An annual holiday observed to pay tribute to men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Thank you!

May 21 – Veterans' Council/Memorial Day Parade Meeting – 7 p.m. at the Senior

Center. All interested members of the community are invited. Parade volunteers are needed.

May 22 – Memorial Day Breakfast – 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. at the Senior Center. RSVP by May 9, 2025. Veterans will be given first preference.

May 25 – Memorial Day - Honors the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. Military. The Memorial Day Parade will begin at 11 a.m., starting at Horace Mann School, right onto Oak St., continues onto Union St., left onto West Central St., left onto Emmons St., left onto Main St., ending on the Town Common, where a Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at 12 p.m. If any Veteran would like to walk or ride in the parade, please contact our office.

Veterans Memorial Walkway - The May installation of engraved bricks on the Walkway will be completed by Memorial Day. Thank you to all who've supported this project

by honoring their special U.S. Service Members with a brick. The next installation will be in November to coincide with Veterans' Day. Brick order forms are available in the Town Hall and Senior Center lobbies and on the Veterans' Services page on the Town website.

Please let our office know if you or a family member (residing in Franklin) is a Purple Heart recipient. National Purple Heart Day is celebrated on August 7 every year.

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

The Warrior Within Yoga program for Veterans and First Responders meets on Thursdays from 4-5 p.m. at the Senior Center. Call our office to sign up. Visit our web page at: <https://www.franklinma.gov/335/Veterans-Services>

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Your Money, Your Independence

# Grads: Don't Pay the Comfort Tax, Invest in the "Struggle"



Glenn Brown, CFP

Every commencement season, a familiar debate plays out: move back home to save money or head to a cramped apartment on a diet of ramen and determination?

On a spreadsheet, the live-at-home option looks like a win. By eliminating rent and utilities, the theory suggests you can save \$20,000 to \$40,000 in your first year.

Sorry Grads, but this premise rarely becomes reality. It's ironic: you rolled your eyes at professors steeped in abstract theory, yet here you are committing the same nonsense.

### The Myth of Boomerang Savings

When the Bank of Mom and Dad subsidizes your life, psychological urgency evaporates. Without the boundary of

a rent check, savings leak into high-end gyms, trips, subscriptions and tech. The justification is: "I'm suffering enough by living at home; I deserve this." Instead of a surplus, you entrench expensive habits you can't afford once you leave.

To build financial independence, you first need to take flight. Just as a plane needs the resistance of wind to generate lift, you need the friction of real-world expenses to get off the ground. Living at home removes headwinds and leaves you idling on the runway while your peers are taking off.

### The Geography of Opportunity

High-rent brain-hubs trigger the Agglomeration Effect, forcing you into a network of mentors and peers that hometowns lack. Research shows physical proximity leads to faster promotions and better career matching. You can't effectively network from your basement with AI; career-defining windows of opportunity open when you are present, both at work and socializing outside of it.

Furthermore, roommates are a masterclass in negotiation. Sharing a kitchen, bathroom and utility bills teaches conflict resolution and accountability. These soft skills create an independence gap between those who handle their own friction points and those who have

them smoothed over by parents.

### The Real Cost of Entry-Level

Manage your burn rate without suffocating your future. Aim for the 30% Rule: keep all housing costs under 30% of your gross income. In the Boston-area, this means Davis Square or Allston/Brighton, not splitting a Seaport two-bedroom.

Parents, if your graduate is complaining of costs and can't get ahead, don't pay their rent as it kills urgency. Instead, offer a one-time "get out of jail" card for a true crisis. This provides security without removing the daily incentive to work hard to change outcomes.

### Independence is a Habit

Living at home for "just a year" often turns into three. Grads, when you live like Boomers in a cozy setup, you lose the primary engine of growth: discontent. If you aren't bothered by your surroundings, you won't hunt for a promotion or take a career risk. The most effective career coach is a little room you're desperate to leave; that daily friction creates an obsession with progress and a determina-

tion to never return.

### Advice to Class of 2026

**To the parents:** Supporting independence means letting them struggle. The best gift this May isn't their old room back (or worse, refinishing the basement); it's the belief that they are capable of building their own independence.

**To the graduates:** The money you think you'll save at home comes at the cost of your ambition. Renting a room you can barely afford in a city that excites you is a form of aggressive investing; you are betting on your own ability to grow into future expenses.

Go find the cramped apartment. Deal with noisy roommates. The struggle of your 20's is how you get a 2X-5X return

in your 30's. Financial independence isn't something you're given; it starts by choosing to outgrow the Comfort Tax.

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

*Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of PlanDynamic, LLC, www.PlanDynamic.com.*

*Glenn is a fee-only Certified Financial Planner™ helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.*

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# The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

## When Your Hair Stops Feeling Like You

It doesn't usually happen all at once.

It's subtle at first.

Your hair doesn't fall the same way it used to.

Your ponytail feels a little thinner.

The volume you used to count on just... isn't there.

You try a new product. Switch your shampoo. Blame the weather. Blame your water.

But something still feels off.

And eventually, the thought crosses your mind:

**Why doesn't my hair feel like mine anymore?**

At b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio in Medway, this is one of the most common conversations we have with our clients. Not always out loud. Sometimes it's said quietly. Sometimes it's not said at all.

But we see it.

"We can usually tell within the first few minutes," says owner Heather Cohen. "A guest will sit down and say, 'I don't know what's going on with my hair lately,' and what they really mean is... something has changed."

And they're right.

Hair changes more than people expect it to. It responds to hormones, stress, age, illness, and lifestyle. Even subtle shifts in your body can affect the thickness, texture, and manageability of your hair.

The challenge is, most people don't have the language for it.

So it gets labeled as frizzy. Flat. Thin.

Or the one we hear most: "I just have bad hair."

But that's almost never the full story.

"Hair doesn't just suddenly become 'bad,'" Heather explains. "There's always a reason. And once you understand that, everything starts to make more sense."

Sometimes, it comes down to the haircut. A shape that works with your natural texture, not against it, can completely change how your hair behaves day to day.

For curly and wavy hair especially, our signature b.LUXE Curly Cut is designed to enhance your pattern, shape, and overall fullness. This multi-stage cutting approach is tailored to how your curls actually live, helping bring back movement, definition, and that effortless bounce so many clients feel they've lost. It also includes a styling lesson, so you can recreate the look at home!

It can also be your routine. Many clients jump from product to product hoping for a change, but small adjustments in how you blow dry or style your hair can make a bigger difference than switching products ever will. At your next appointment, ask your stylist to walk you through their techniques so you can recreate that fresh-from-the-salon feel at home.

And sometimes, the issue starts at the scalp.

The scalp is skin, and just like the skin on your face, it can become congested. Product buildup, hard water minerals, and excess oil can block follicles and weigh hair down, leading to that dull, limp feeling so many people describe.

At b.LUXE, our Scalp Spa Treatments are designed to gently exfoliate, reset, and rebalance the scalp so hair can grow and perform the way it's meant to. With consistent treatments and the right at-home clarifying care, many guests begin to notice improved fullness and a healthier texture over time.

And then there are the moments when the change feels different. More noticeable.

You see more hair in your brush. A little less density at your hairline. Not dramatic. Just enough to make you pause and think... Okay, something is definitely going on.

For many women, this isn't just about hair.

It's about identity.

We hear it every day:

"My hair is so limp lately."

"I don't know how to style it



## SOMETHING'S OFF

why doesn't my hair feel the same anymore?

bLUXE.com

anymore."

"I used to love my hair."

And underneath all of that, there's often something deeper. A quiet disconnect from the version of yourself you're used to seeing.

The good news is, there isn't just one solution.

There are options. More than most people realize. And you don't have to navigate it alone.

After taking a closer look at your scalp health, haircut, and routine, we can guide you toward personalized solutions, including our wig and topper services for those experiencing thinning or looking for added fullness and flexibility.

"We're not here to change how you look," Heather says. "We're here to help you feel like yourself again."

And if you're thinking, I'm not there yet... you're not alone.

Most people aren't. Until they are.

And when they are, the most common thing we hear is:

"I wish I had known about this sooner."

If your hair has been feeling different lately... harder to manage, less full, not quite like it used to... You don't have to figure it out on your own.

Sometimes, all it takes is the right conversation.

You're always welcome to start that conversation with us here at b.LUXE.

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# Town of Franklin Designated a 2026 Housing Choice Community

FRANKLIN, MA — The Town of Franklin has been designated as a 2026 Housing Choice Community by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, recognizing the Town's ongoing efforts to support housing growth and expand access to housing opportunities.

On Monday, April 13, the Town was recognized by the Healey-Driscoll Administration, along with 28 other communities, for taking concrete steps to support housing production.

This designation reflects Franklin's commitment to planning for sustainable growth and meeting the evolving housing needs of its residents.

As a Housing Choice Community, Franklin is eligible to apply for the Commonwealth's Housing Choice Grant Program. The designation also provides additional consideration in several state funding opportunities, including the MassWorks Infrastructure Program, Seaport Economic Council

Grant Program, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Complete Streets Funding Program, MassDOT Capital Projects Program, and the LAND and PARC Grant Programs.

The Housing Choice Initiative encourages municipalities

to adopt best practices and policies that promote responsible housing development, support economic growth and increase access to opportunity across the state.

"This designation reflects Franklin's proactive approach to supporting housing opportuni-

ties that serve residents at all stages of life," said Town Administrator Jamie Hellen. "We appreciate the Commonwealth's recognition and look forward to continuing our work to advance thoughtful and sustainable development in our community."

# Stamp Out Hunger, Fill Empty Bowls for Hungry Neighbors

Stamp Out Hunger is Saturday, May 9, 2026

Attention Franklin: Get ready for the annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive to benefit the Franklin Food Pantry. Franklin Letter Carriers will collect bags of non-perishable donations from Franklin residents on Saturday, May 9, and bring them to the Franklin Food Pantry to help feed our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

To participate, please place a bag of nonperishable donations by your mailbox prior to your normal mail delivery time. Your letter carrier will pick up your donation during their regular route time, or they may come back later in the day once their route is complete. This event takes place rain or shine. For more information, please visit [www.franklinfoodpantry.org](http://www.franklinfoodpantry.org).



11th Annual Franklin High School Empty Bowls Fundraiser is Thursday, May 14, 2026

The 11th Annual Empty Bowls Dinner and Fundraiser will take place on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 6 p.m. at Franklin Public High School. Come to a simple supper of soup and

bread, bid on silent auction items including pottery designed and created by FHS Empty Bowls club members—all to raise funds for The Pantry and bring awareness that "somewhere, someone's bowl is empty."

This fundraiser is a great event for the whole family. Tickets to Empty Bowls are \$22 for adults, \$12 for children (18 and under) and can be purchased at [www.franklinfoodpantry.org](http://www.franklinfoodpantry.org). Tickets will also be available at the door on the night of the event (cash or check only).

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LIVING HEALTHY

# Over 50 and Tired of Reading Glasses? Refractive Lens Exchange May Be for You

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

If you are over 50 and constantly reaching for reading glasses, you are not alone. Age-related vision changes, especially presbyopia, make it harder to focus up close. Refractive Lens Exchange, or RLE, is an advanced surgical option that can significantly reduce or eliminate your need for glasses for both distance and near vision.

### What is presbyopia?

Presbyopia is a natural part of aging in which the eye's lens gradually loses flexibility. This reduces the ability to focus on close objects, especially when reading, using a phone, or working on a computer. It typically begins in the early to mid-40s and progresses over time, often leading to increasing dependence on reading glasses

or bifocals for nearly all near tasks.

### What is Refractive Lens Exchange?

Refractive Lens Exchange is a procedure in which the eye's natural lens is removed and replaced with an artificial intraocular lens, commonly called an IOL. The procedure is essentially the same as modern cataract surgery, but it is performed before a cataract becomes visually significant.

Unlike LASIK or PRK, which reshape the cornea, RLE works inside the eye and corrects vision by replacing the lens itself. This allows correction of distance, intermediate, and near vision, depending on the lens selected.

### Who is a good candidate?

RLE is most often recommended for individuals over 50 who are frustrated with glasses



or contact lenses. Ideal candidates have difficulty with near vision due to presbyopia and may also have farsightedness,

nearsightedness, or astigmatism. It is also an option for patients not ideal for LASIK because of thin corneas, dry eye concerns, or higher prescriptions.

Candidates should have healthy eyes without significant retinal disease, uncontrolled glaucoma, or other major ocular conditions. They should also understand realistic expectations, including that some patients may still need glasses for fine print or low light tasks after surgery.

### Benefits of RLE

One major benefit of RLE is freedom from reading glasses. Modern intraocular lenses can provide a full range of vision, including distance, intermediate, and near, depending on the chosen lens.

The results are long-lasting because the artificial lens does not age or change. Since the natural lens is removed, patients will not develop cataracts in the future, eliminating the need for cataract surgery later in life.

Many patients report improved clarity, brightness, and contrast with modern lens technology. Daily activities such as driving, reading, computer use, and travel often become easier and more convenient without glasses or contact lenses.

### Insurance coverage

In most cases, Refractive Lens Exchange is considered elective and is not covered by insurance. This is because it is performed to reduce dependence on glasses rather than to treat cataracts. If a cataract is present and affecting vision, insurance may cover part of the procedure like cataract surgery. However, premium lenses and advanced technology upgrades are usually out-of-pocket expenses. Patients should review benefits in advance so they clearly understand expected costs and options.

### Risks and considerations

RLE is a safe and commonly performed procedure, but it carries some risks as with any eye surgery. These include infection, inflammation, or swelling, though these complications are uncommon with modern techniques.

There is a small risk of retinal detachment, particularly in highly nearsighted patients. Some patients may notice glare, halos, or starbursts at night, especially with multifocal lenses.

A later occurrence is posterior capsule opacification, a



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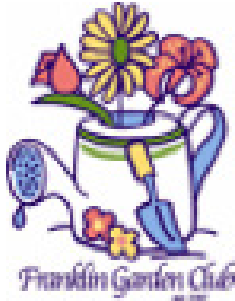
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Evening & Saturday Appointments

# Franklin Garden Club to present "Orchids 101" May 5th

Franklin, MA - Orchids 101, a program on growing and caring for orchids, will be the featured presentation at the Tuesday, May 5, 2026, Franklin Garden Club meeting, 6-8:30 p.m. at the Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St. Orchid experts Linda Abrams and Mike Badia will



discuss a variety of topics related to orchids. An informal social get-together will take place from 6- 6:30 p.m. followed by a business meeting and the program. The meeting is open to the public at no charge. "Orchids 101" will include tips

on the basics of orchid culture, including good types of orchids for growing in the home, watering, fertilizing, light requirements, potting mixes, repotting and pests. There will also be an orchid repotting demo. Speakers will highlight their favorite sources for orchid plants, orchid information on the web, and the Massachusetts Orchid Society (MOS).

# Save the Date: June 12 for Strawberry Stroll

Mark your calendar: The Franklin Downtown Partnership's Annual Strawberry Stroll is set for Friday, June 12, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in downtown Franklin. Rain date is Saturday, June 13 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Like last year's stroll, it extends up Main Street to Dean College and Franklin Public Library with more music, more fun activities, and more vendors.

Sponsorship opportunities for the stroll are open and filling up quickly. Interested in being a sponsor? Contact the Franklin Downtown Partnership at downtown.franklin@yahoo.com. Stay up to date and follow the FDP at: www.instagram.com/franklindowntownpartnership/ and www.facebook.com/franklindowntownpartnership.org/

## EYES

continued from page 12

mild clouding behind the implant that can develop months or years later. This is easily treated with a quick, painless laser procedure.

### Alternatives to RLE

Other options depend on age and vision needs. LASIK and PRK effectively treat distance vision but do not correct age-related reading vision loss after the mid-40s or early 50s.

Implantable lenses are typically used in younger patients and do not address presbyopia. Monovision, where one eye is corrected for distance and the other for near, can work well for some patients, but others may not adapt comfortably or may notice reduced depth perception.

### Final thoughts

Refractive Lens Exchange is a proven option for patients over 50 who are tired of glasses. By replacing the natural lens with a customized artificial lens,

it is possible to restore a broad range of vision and improve quality of life.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we use advanced diagnostics and modern surgical techniques to achieve precise outcomes. All procedures are performed in an accredited surgery center under topical anesthesia with anesthesia professionals present for safety and comfort.

If you are over 50 and frustrated with reading glasses, RLE may be worth considering. A consultation can help determine the best approach for

your vision and lifestyle goals.

For more details, see our ad on page 12.

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# Franklin's Young Riders Return to Crush Cancer June 7

FRANKLIN, MA -On Sunday, June 7, 2026, the Franklin PMC Kids Ride celebrates its 20th anniversary as one of 20 youth cycling events across New England. These rides are part of the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) Kids Rides program, which inspires children to get involved in philanthropy by riding their bikes and raising money for cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The program has raised over \$12 million to support the fight against cancer.



In 2025, the PMC Kids Rides welcomed more than 1,700 young cyclists and 500+ volunteers, who raised \$400,000 as part of the PMC's record-break-

ing \$78 million gift to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The PMC is Dana-Farber's largest single contributor, representing 67% of the Jimmy Fund's annual revenue and has raised over \$1.1 billion for cancer treatment and research since 1980.

The Franklin event offers young cyclists ages 3 to 14 a meaningful and fun way to make a real difference. Riders can choose from 3, 6, or 10-mile routes. Younger riders not yet on two wheels can take part in the Tikes and Trikes course, a con-

tained area filled with fun stations and activities designed just for them. Kids can join a team, create their own, or ride solo. The day is packed with interactive stations, fun activities, and a festive post-ride celebration.

Top fundraisers will be honored with a commemorative item and certificate. Kids who raise \$100 or more earn the title of Power Pedaler; those who raise \$500 or more become a PMC Kids Heavy Hitter; and riders who surpass \$1,000 are celebrated as PMC Kids Break-away Fundraisers.

The Franklin ride was founded by local resident Lisa Marchioni in honor of a dear friend who passed away from

lung cancer, leaving behind three young children.

The event takes place at Washington Street Elementary School, 628 Washington St., from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Sunday, June 7, 2026. There is a \$20 registration fee and a minimum fundraising goal of \$40 per rider. Families from any town are welcome!

The PMC Kids Rides program is made possible by Yawkey Foundations, with support from Yasso, 105.7 WROR, and Landry's Bicycles. The PMC is co-presented by the Red Sox® Foundation and M&T Bank.

To register, donate, or learn more, visit [kids.pmc.org/franklin](http://kids.pmc.org/franklin) or contact Lisa Marchioni at [lisabxyz@verizon.net](mailto:lisabxyz@verizon.net).

## FUSF has the Rx for peace and quiet: a walking meditation

Did you know that the First Universalist Society in Franklin has a labyrinth on its grounds? FUSF congregants built a 7-Circuit Classical Labyrinth in 2008 with the generous funding of a Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation's Community Spirit 9/11 Mini-Grant. The

labyrinth was restored in 2025 by a labyrinth builder and designer at InnateCreations ([www.innatecreations.org](http://www.innatecreations.org)) to accommodate both the growing trees surrounding it and walkers with limited mobility. It is now a beautiful 5-Circuit Concentric Classical Labyrinth made of crushed

stone.

The Labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool with one path leading to the center and back out. One walks this sacred space with an open heart and open mind. The twists and turns provide for a calming walk or reflective journey.

In honor of World Labyrinth Day on May 2, the First Universalist Society in Franklin invites you to its labyrinth, listed on the World-Wide Labyrinth Locator, open to the general public from sunrise to sundown. We hope that it will become an important part of your regular spiritual

practice.

The First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) is a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation located at 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin. For more information visit [Fusf.org](http://Fusf.org), email [info@fusf.org](mailto:info@fusf.org); or call 508-528-5348.

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## Franklin Theater & Music Boosters launch capital campaign



**FHS Theatre to present play May 22 & 23**

With the town of Franklin's limited town budget, the Franklin Theater Boosters and Music Boosters have launched a large fundraiser campaign to rejuvenate failing equipment and make additional repairs to the high school and middle school auditoriums. Every dollar raised will go directly toward providing

Franklin Public Schools. The groups aim to raise \$100K by July first.

Below is the Give Butter link. <https://givebutter.com/FP-SCaptialCampaign2026>

Find the boosters' letter to the community at:

<https://tinyurl.com/FHSArts>  
 The FHS Theatre is also

putting on a show on May 22 and 23 at the FHS auditorium at 218 Oak St., Franklin. The show is called *The Curious Case of the Cottingley Fairies*.

Keep an eye out for ticket information at:

<https://www.facebook.com/franklinhstheatreco>

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# Volunteers needed for Beautification Day May 16

The Franklin Downtown Partnership and Franklin Garden Club are gearing up for Beautification Day on Saturday, May 16. From 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Volunteers are needed! Roll up your sleeves and dig in. Many hands are needed to help plant flowers on the bridges, barrels and boxes downtown.

Volunteer to plant on May 16 or pick one of 18 weeks to water during the summer. Contact Sandy Sauer at [sandy@franklintilecarpetone.com](mailto:sandy@franklintilecarpetone.com), or 508-733-8929.

The FHS Baseball team volunteers their time planting for the spring, but more help is always appreciated. This is the perfect opportunity to earn student community service hours. You will get a note documenting your service.

Volunteers with trucks, please meet at 7:30 a.m. at Fairmount Fruit

Farm at 887 Lincoln Street to pick up trays of flowers and deliver downtown. If you don't have a truck, arrive by 8 a.m. at the public parking lot near the bridge in front of The Rome restaurant. Bring work gloves, rakes and garden tools, if you can.

Franklin DPW supplies water, hoses and mulch. They also clean up litter and debris in certain areas.

"Our goal is to give people something to smile about as they drive through our

historic downtown and maybe just make their day a

little better," said Eileen Mason, Beautification Day Chair.

Franklin Downtown Partnership Executive Director, Lisa Piana, appreciates the many people who come together to make this a success.

"The Partnership is very grateful to Eileen Mason, Sandy Sauer, the Franklin Garden

Club, the DPW and the many members of our community who volunteer to make our center beautiful for the spring and summer," she said.

Franklin Downtown Partnership is grateful to our Beautification Day sponsors, who, at press time, included:

Platinum: D.G. Ranieri Real Estate; G & C Plumbing & Heating; Glen Meadow Apartments; Eileen Mason, RE/MAX Executive Realty; Sunrise Montessori School, Inc.

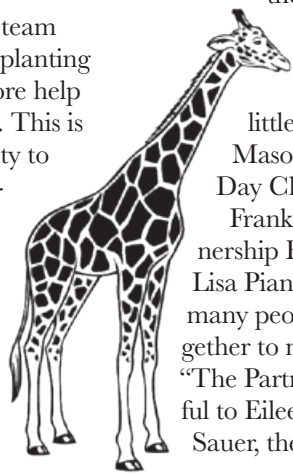
Gold: Dean Bank; Eagle Stainless Tube & Fabrication, Inc.; Fenton Financial; Notturmo Home Services

Silver: Friends of Franklin Elders, Inc.; PEEL Microspa

Stay up to date on the Downtown Partnership's Beautification Day and other events here:

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

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



# Former Franklin Woman Charged with Arson for November House Fire

FRANKLIN, MA —A former Franklin resident has been charged with setting fire to her Maple Street home late last year, said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and Franklin Fire Chief Charles Allen.

State Police fire investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office arrested Melissa Brown, 48, with the assistance of the State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section. She was charged with arson of a dwelling in connection with the November 1, 2025, fire at 338 Maple Street.

Brown's arrest followed a methodical investigation by the State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office, which was supported by the Franklin Fire Department, Franklin Police Department, and State Police Crime Lab. She was arraigned yesterday in Wrentham District Court.

Neighbors reported smoke

and flames at the single-family home at about 5:45 p.m. The Franklin Fire Department responded to find heavy fire showing from the front and left sides of the 2 1/2-story structure. One resident, identified as Brown, had escaped and declined medical attention.

The fire extended from the first floor to the second and quickly went to two alarms. Firefighters were able to knock down the bulk of the fire quickly but found multiple hotspots and remained on scene for several hours conducting overhaul. The fire caused extensive damage throughout the home. Two cats were found deceased. No other injuries were reported.

The fire departments of Milford, Medway, Bellingham, Wrentham, Foxborough, Plainville, and Norfolk provided mutual aid at the scene.

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# LiveArts Back at Franklin Historical Museum May 17th

BY JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

The resurrection of the LiveArts String Quartet saw a packed house, and clearly a demand for high-caliber musical performance, at the Franklin Historical Museum last November, so now, with the help of a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the professional musicians are planning another concert this month, on Sunday, May 17th, at 3 p.m., again at the Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin.

“We were just delighted and astounded at the incredible turnout at the concert last November. The place was absolutely packed, standing room only, and it was even hard to find standing room spots,” says Don Krishnaswami, violist, “That was a real

indication that the people in the town really want to have this.”

“The museum is thrilled to have LASQ back,” says Alan Earls, Franklin Historical Commission Chair, “The reaction to



LiveArts series. The brand was already familiar to people, so when they saw LiveArts String Quartet, there was excitement to have us back. Our concerts were always well attended,” says the

chestra and Boston Pops.

Now, Krishnaswami says, with this grant “and support from private individuals and local business, we’re able to present some more concerts and look forward to see how this develops going forward,” says Krishnaswami, “We think its excellent to have a top caliber professional string quartet dedicated to the southwest suburbs right here in Franklin.”

With the tight quarters, tickets are limited to 70 total, and this time, there is a cost for the concert, although children under 12 are free, with a portion of the proceeds donated to the historical museum. The group now has a website, www.Liveartsstringquartet.org, where you can purchase tickets or donate.



Katherine Winterstein, violin



Jan Müller-Szeraws, cello



Greg Vitale, violin



Donald Krishnaswami, viola

the concert in November was extremely enthusiastic -- and many people also said how pleased they were to experience the museum for the first time.”

Krishnaswami says the branding of LiveArts certainly helped the LiveArts String Quartet draw the crowd. “One thing we do have is the advantage of riding on the coattails of the

musician. The LiveArts String Quartet is comprised of world-class professional musicians who have performed with Boston’s leading musical ensembles, such as the Boston Symphony Or-

## May 2026 at Franklin Public Library

### 2026 Reading Challenge May: A Book Set in Massachusetts

Looking for a way to expand your reading habits this year? Join the Massachusetts Center for the Book 2026 Reading Challenge for adults and the library will reward your reading with a coupon for a free book from our book sale! Check out the details on our Reading Challenges page at <https://www.franklinma.gov/261/Reading-Challenges-Book-Groups>

### Special Events for Kids & Teens

#### Plush Pet Adoption Day! Saturday, May 2 @ 1 p.m.

Come adopt a reading buddy and decorate a collar, make an adoption certificate, and enjoy a dog-themed storytime with your new best friend!

**Science Night**, Wednesday, May 6 @ 5 p.m., led by teen volunteers!

**Teen Stress Relief Night**, Wednesday, May 6 @ 5:30 p.m. Join us for a night of relaxation and rejuvenation before those

big exams!

**Pen to Picture!** Saturday, May 16 @ 1 p.m.

Join us as we welcome award-winning illustrator, author, and artist Colleen AF Venable to Franklin! Hear all about her creative process and participate in interactive breakout sessions. Photo ops and book signings will be available, too.

**Hairstyling Workshop for Grown-Ups & Kiddos**, Saturday, May 30 @ 1 p.m.

Come to the library for a special hairstyling workshop! Learn to do a few special styles on your kiddo’s hair and leave with a kit to continue building your skills at home.

**Petite Prom!** Saturday, May 30 @ 2 p.m.

Get dressed up and join the library for our very first Petite Prom! There’ll be music, snacks, dancing, and an epic prom photo booth!

### Special Events for Adults

**Diamond Art De-Stress**, Thursday, May 14 @ 6:30 p.m., Registration Required

Give your day some sparkle & Zen. Enjoy a meditative diamond art project with coffee or tea and conversation, or quiet, as you prefer. All materials provided. For ages 18+.

**Mahjong Meetup**, Tuesday, May 26 @ 6 p.m.

Whether you have a rudimentary knowledge of mahjong or have been playing for years, u join us for an evening of strategy, luck and fun. This is an opportunity for the novice to hone their skills and experienced players to share their knowledge. This event will not include instruction on how to play. If you have your own mahjong set, please bring it along. Play begins at 6 p.m. For ages 18+.

Special Events for All Ages Wind Phone Pebble Paint w/ Cultural District, Saturday, May

2 @ 10 a.m.

Come join us for a creative and meaningful afternoon as we paint pebbles for our community “rock garden,” a space that will live beside the upcoming Wind-Phone installation at Franklin Sculpture Park, set to debut in late May. Led by Franklin Artist Amy Adams, this is a chance for kids and adults alike to see how the smallest gesture can inspire moments of empathy. All are welcome for this free activity!

**Craft Supply Swap**, Saturday, May 9 @ 1 p.m.

Bring a bag of your own craft supply donations and/or come to shop Franklin Public Library’s first Craft Supply Swap! More details are listed on the library calendar. To volunteer to help evaluate and sort, please email [mgousie@minlib.net](mailto:mgousie@minlib.net).

**Melodious Zach: An Elton John Experience**, Saturday, May 23 @ 3 p.m.

Hear the stories and songs of Elton John in this historical jaunt through Elton’s music. Featuring early songs like “Skyline Pigeon,” hits like “Crocodile Rock,” “Hakuna Matata,” and more recent tunes like “I Want Love.”

### Franklin Library Book Sale

Friday, May 15: 1 – 5 p.m., Saturday, May 16: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., All books \$1.

Bag Sale - \$5 Per Bag, Saturday, May 16: 1 – 4 p.m.

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# 'Soccer's Big Event' is coming to 'Boston Stadium'

Two million people will be looking for things to do in surrounding towns

By THERESA KNAPP

*Editor's note: Due to copyright issues, the more commonly known name for the football/soccer matches cannot be used by publications outside of the official association. We are calling it "Soccer's Big Event."*

The most popular sport in the world is football (or "soccer" in the U.S.) and this year several matches of the global soccer tournament – or "Soccer's Big Event" – will be played in June and July in Massachusetts.

Boston is one of 16 cities across North America that will host matches. Specific dates for the Boston area will be announced closer to the event, but will be between June 13 and July 9.

At a recent Tourism Summit and Legislative Breakfast hosted by the MetroWest Boston Visitors Bureau, state and local officials explained how Massachusetts is preparing for the event.

The main speaker at the conference was Greta Teller of "Bostonfwc26," the group that is overseeing local logistics for the world organization. She said there are many ways MetroWest communities can provide experiences for the millions of visitors who are expected to flood the area.

"Two million people are coming, and there are only 740,000 tickets," Teller said. "And many of those people are coming without tickets and will need things to do."

There are opportunities for communities all around Eastern Massachusetts, and beyond, to join in the festivities and revelry, Teller said, adding fans just want to be in Massachusetts to support their team, which is an opportunity for local fan festivals, fan marches, fan zones, pep rallies, watch parties, and more.

The event, Teller said, will provide a significant boost to hotels, restaurants and other local businesses; and the Bostonfwc is encouraging towns to organize

fan festivals and cultural celebrations in the area, and to promote those events through the organization's website and the MWVB (for free).

At the summit, it was noted that MetroWest has the largest population of Brazilians outside of Brazil, Brockton has the largest Cape Verde population outside of Cape Verde, and Worcester is home to a large Ghana population – all of which can be a consideration when organizing activities around Soccer's Big Event.

MetroWest Visitors Bureau Executive Director Stacey David said local towns and organizations should think about experiences visitors might enjoy and market them accordingly – anything related to arts, culture, living history, outdoor activities (trail systems) - will be a big draw.

"Think about what you have in your town, and let the MetroWest Visitors Bureau help promote it," said David.

However, the very first action anyone should take, she said, is to change all website references from "Gillette Stadium" to "Boston Stadium," which is what visitors will be searching for when planning their trip.

When creating watch parties and other events, organizers should consult the organization's public viewing regulations, including broadcast licenses, branding, etc., which can be found at <https://bit.ly/FIFA-publicViewing>.

Sen. Becca Rausch, whose district includes Franklin – just nine miles from Foxboro where the matches will be played – attended the event and said the Commonwealth is ready to welcome visitors from around the world.

"I'm thrilled [Soccer's Big Event] is coming to Massachusetts and particularly our region, drawing millions of visitors to MetroWest this summer. Travelers have so much to discover here, from beautiful nature trails to dynamic main streets and cultural treasures. I hope people

are excited for the opportunity to welcome the world and showcase our hospitality and history, especially as we celebrate and share the stories of MA250. I stand with my colleague, Sen. Paul Feeney, as he leads the work in the Senate to secure funding for a safe and smooth experience for tourists and residents alike," Sen. Rausch told Local Town Pages, after the event.

The MetroWest Boston Visitors Bureau promotes travel and tourism throughout the 19 towns of the MetroWest



"Soccer's Big Event" is coming to "Boston Stadium" in June and July. Image created by Theresa Knapp using ChatGPT

region, which include Ashland, Bellingham, Framingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Hudson, Marlborough, Medway, Milford, Millis,

Natick, Northborough, Sherborn, Southborough, Sudbury, Wayland, and Westborough, according to [www.metrowestvisitors.org](http://www.metrowestvisitors.org).

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# 50K visitors to the Children’s Museum of Franklin!

By JUDITH DORATO O’GARA

Seven months in, the 6,400-square-foot space of The Children’s Museum of Franklin has seen nearly 50,000 visitors walking through its doors. In fact, last month the 501 c3 nonprofit was one of a number of burgeoning children’s museums recognized by *The New York Times!*

“It’s been incredible to see the response so far across Mas-

sachusetts, Rhode Island and beyond,” says Gallagher, co-founder with Meg Hagen, “Before we opened, we anticipated folks coming an hour drive away and further, it’s incredible to see how much families are looking for places like this.”

All exhibits, she says, “get an equal amount of love,” with children and families making use of the whole facility. Recently, the museum was able to fund an exhibit they’d hoped to add to

their inclusive space.

“Amazing Airways” takes up the entirety of those two big windows,” says Gallagher, of the pneumatic tube wind system, funded by the family and in the memory of longtime beloved community member Peter Brunelli, known for his community volunteerism and facilitating the Feast of St. Rocco for many years. “It brings so much joy, with colored acrylic panels. It looks beautiful from the pit.

Kids can put scarves and balls into the tubes and can change the direction of the wind,” she says.

The museum is getting ready to open its outdoor space, anticipating a June opening.

Inclusivity has been at the top of priorities for the space, Gallagher says. Recently, the museum held a private event for Hope-health PediPal, for children with serious illness.

“One of our new friends who came, who’s 8 years old, said to us on the way out, ‘This is the most accessible space I’ve ever been to. I can’t believe you let other kids come here to play, too.’ It was really special to hear,” says Gallagher. Thanks to the generosity of a donor, the nonprofit will continue to be able to host such groups at free and reduced admissions.

Weekends are busiest for the museum, but during the week, elementary school groups come to play, “and we’re booked up through the whole spring,” says Gallagher.

This summer will see a slight shift in hours, as the museum will be open to the public more days. It will also offer drop-in hands-on classes during summer break.

On June 15th, Children’s Museum of Franklin will hold



The latest exhibit for Children’s Museum of Franklin, Amazing Airways, was funded in memory of Franklin volunteer Peter Brunelli by his family.

a “Play Fore the Kids” charity golf classic, starting at 10 a.m., at Franklin Country Club.

“All of our players and sponsors’ funding goes directly to supporting access to this space for families,” says Gallagher, also thrilled that the museum’s visitors are going out and supporting other local businesses before and after their visits.

For more information on the summer hours or the golf fundraiser, visit the museum’s website at [www.childrensmuseumfranklin.org](http://www.childrensmuseumfranklin.org).



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# May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Each May, communities across the country come together to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and highlight the many ways we can support mental well-being—for ourselves and for one another.

While the month began as a public education campaign in the United States in 1949, it has evolved into a nationwide movement focused on connection, access, and prevention.

This is what makes it especially relevant for municipalities like Franklin—where everyday programs, from arts and culture to recreation and community events, play a meaningful role in supporting mental health.

In the Town of Franklin, we're proud to recognize the im-

portant role that everyday programs, services, and community connections play in supporting

Culture, and the Creative Economy invites you to step away from screens and reconnect with the simple act of making art.

Creative activities like sketching or doodling can help reduce stress, improve focus, and support overall well-being. This month, we encourage you to slow down, unplug, and take a "Moment to Make."

Mini sketchbooks will be available at the Franklin Public Library, Franklin Senior Center, and the Municipal Building lobby (while supplies last).

Want to connect digitally? Snap a pic of your sketchbook and post on social channels, tag + follow @franklinculture.

### Sketchbook Prompt #1:

#### Feeling Calm

This week, draw things that helps you feel calm.

It could be a place, a person, an object, or even an abstract pattern—there's no right or wrong way to create.

### Sketchbook Prompt #2: Emotions Without Words

Creative expression is a powerful way to process what you're feeling. Draw your moods as colors or shapes throughout the week; see how they change before and after you sketch.

### Sketchbook Prompt #3: Memory + Comfort

Revisiting comforting memories can help ground you in the present. Where do you go (in your mind) to feel at ease? Sketch places real or imagined.

### Sketchbook Prompt #4: Play + Imperfection

Perfection isn't the goal—showing up is. Fill a few pages with doodles—no plan, no rules.

### Sketchbook Prompt #5: Reflection

Big or small—capture a few moments of gratitude. Draw things you're grateful for, see how they change throughout the week.



mental health.

### A Moment to Make

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### May 2026 Calendar

**May 1**

**Small Works Reception and Fundraiser, 6-7:30 p.m.**, Lotvin Family Gallery, Hopkinton Center for the Arts, 98 Hayden Rowe St., Hopkinton, <https://canvas.hopartscenter.org/events/43>

**May 2**

**4th Annual Jane Jacobs Walk hosted by BEN4 Franklin, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.**, begins and ends at Franklin TV, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, updates at [ben4franklin.org](http://ben4franklin.org).

**Happy Birthday Horace -- For Kids and Families, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**, Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, activities and cake!

**Tot Shabbat, 9-9:30 a.m.**, Temple Etz Chaim, 186 Grove St., Franklin, open to all Jewish children up to the age of six and their families, membership not required. Email [earlychildhood@temple-etzchaim.org](mailto:earlychildhood@temple-etzchaim.org)

**Charles River Chorale Spring Concert, "It's About Time! A Journey Through Memory & Moment," 5 p.m.**, Medway High School Auditorium, 88 Summer St., Medway, tickets at <https://our.show/crcspringconcert>

**Fairy Walk 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**, Holi Festival of Colors Celebration, 12 p.m.-1 p.m., Bellforge Arts Center, 45 Hospital Rd., Medfield, Free, [www.bellforge.org](http://www.bellforge.org)

**MassBay Community College Spring Open House, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**, 50 Oakland St., Wellesley, \*Prospective students can RSVP

at [MassBay.edu/OpenHouse](http://MassBay.edu/OpenHouse) or email [admissions@massbay.edu](mailto:admissions@massbay.edu).

**May 3**

**Sunday Speaker Series, 1:15 p.m.**, Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, features Phillip Balkus, on the Horace Mann's less famous role rescuing the fortunes of his brother and other investments, free but donations appreciated

**May 4**

**Nine & Dine: 12 p.m.** shotgun start, Tri-County Regional Chamber Golf Tournament, Shining Rock Golf Club, 91 Clubhouse Lane, Northborough, <https://www.tricountychamberma.org/golf-tournament>

**May 5**

**Community Closet at Franklin UMC open, 12-2 p.m.**, 82 W. Central St., Franklin, all clothing is FREE. Donations of gently used clean clothes are gratefully accepted

**Franklin Garden Club presents Orchids 101, 6– 8:30 p.m.**, Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, features Linda Abrams and Mike Badia.

**Rotary Club of Franklin, MA meeting, 5:30 p.m.**, Rome Restaurant, 4 E. Central St., Franklin. If you would like to come to a meeting, email Diane Padula, [dmpadula@deanbank.com](mailto:dmpadula@deanbank.com).

**Voice of Franklin Toastmasters, 7:30 p.m.**, Franklin TV, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, work on your presentation skills with a supportive group in Zoom or in person, <https://>

[voiceoffranklin.toastmastersclubs.org](http://voiceoffranklin.toastmastersclubs.org)

**Stony Brook Camera Club meeting (Zoom)**, "Flower Photography" with Padma Inguva, [www.stonybrookcc.com](http://www.stonybrookcc.com)

**May 6**

**Veterans Coffee Social, 10 a.m.**, Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, ALL veterans welcome.

**Franklin Art Association meeting, 6:30 p.m.**, Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, guest artist Kristen Perone, [www.franklinart.org](http://www.franklinart.org)

**May 7**

**Franklin LGBTQ Alliance Bowling, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**, Pinz, 110 South Main St., Milford, space limited, so RSVP at [franklinlgbtqalliance@gmail.com](mailto:franklinlgbtqalliance@gmail.com). \$15 which includes shoes. Bring extra money for food or arcade.

**May 8**

**Frances Perkins Comes to Life! 1 p.m.**, Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, Historical Portrayals by LadyJ brings trailblazer Frances Perkins to life in this historical performance.

**May 9**

**Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive**, please place a bag of nonperishable donations by your mailbox prior to your normal mail delivery time. Your letter carrier will pick up your donation and bring it to the Franklin Food Pantry. [www.franklinfoodpantry.org](http://www.franklinfoodpantry.org)

**Craft Supply Swap, 1 p.m.**, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, volunteers needed, [mgou-sie@minlib.net](mailto:mgou-sie@minlib.net)

**Antiques Appraisal Benefit Event, 1-5 p.m.**, Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, with experienced appraiser James C. Johnston, \$10 per item, \$25 per 3 items, Seniors \$5 per item, \$10 per 3 items. Fundraiser for museum.

**Susan Werner, 7:30 p.m.**, Circle of Friends Coffeehouse, Franklin's First Universalist Society Meetinghouse, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin; doors open at 7 p.m. Beverages and gourmet desserts available. Tickets at <https://circlefolk.org/>

**Norfolk Cultural Council Juried Art Exhibition Reception & Awards Ceremony, 6-8 p.m.**, Norfolk Public Library, 2 Liberty Lane, Norfolk, exhibit runs May 2-30

**May 12**

**Community Closet at Franklin UMC open, 12-2 p.m.**, 82 W. Central St., Franklin, all clothing is FREE. Donations of gently used clean clothes are gratefully accepted

**Stony Brook Camera Club meeting (Zoom)**, Member Competition- Image of the year, [www.stonybrookcc.com](http://www.stonybrookcc.com)

**May 14**

**11th Annual Franklin High School Empty Bowls Fundraiser, 6 p.m.**, Franklin High School cafeteria, dinner of soup and bread, bid on auction items including handmade pottery by Empty Bowls members, \$22



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**May 15**

**Franklin Library Book Sale, 1-5 p.m.**, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Books \$1  
 Friday, May 15: 1 - 5pm; Saturday, May 16: 9am - 12pm. All books are just one dollar! Bag Sale - \$5 Per Bag. Saturday, May 16: 1 - 4pm

**May 16**

**Franklin Beautification Day, 8 a.m. – noon**, presented by Franklin Downtown Partnership, Volunteer to plant on May 16 or water during the summer. Contact Sandy Sauer [sandy@franklintilecarpetone.com](mailto:sandy@franklintilecarpetone.com), or 508-733-8929. Volunteers with trucks, 7:30 a.m., Fairmount Fruit Farm. Others 8 a.m. at public parking lot near bridge in front of The Rome restaurant. Bring work gloves, rakes and garden tools. [www.franklindowntownpartnership.org](http://www.franklindowntownpartnership.org)

**Franklin Art Association's Annual "Fakes and Forgeries Art Exhibit" opens**, Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin, museum hours. Public reception June 6.

**Franklin Library Book Sale, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, Books \$1, bag sale 1-4 p.m.

**Quattro Eroi Lodge #1414 Pasta Dinner, 6 p.m.**, VFW Post 3402 Hall, 1034 Pond St., Franklin, great Italian food, conversation, a remembrance of the men for whom the Lodge is named, and raffle baskets and auction items.

\$20 (\$15 for members). Follow activities on Facebook. [quattroeroi@gmail.com](mailto:quattroeroi@gmail.com).

**Bellingham Multicultural Festival, 1-4:30 p.m.**, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham

**May 17**

**LiveArts String Quartet, 3 p.m.**, Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin, features masterworks by Haydn, Mendelssohn, Schumann. Limited seating. Tickets at [www.Liveartsstringquartet.org](http://www.Liveartsstringquartet.org)

**May 19**

**Community Closet at Franklin UMC open, 12-2 p.m.**, 82 W. Central St., Franklin, all clothing is FREE . Donations of gently used clean clothes are gratefully accepted

**Stony Brook Camera Club meeting (Zoom)**, "Planning Astro-landscape Photos" with Manish Mamtani, [www.stonybrookcc.com](http://www.stonybrookcc.com)

**Rotary Club of Franklin, MA meeting, 5:30 p.m.**, Rome Restaurant, 4 E. Central St., Franklin. If you would like to come to a meeting, email Diane Padula, [dmpadula@deanbank.com](mailto:dmpadula@deanbank.com).

**Voice of Franklin Toastmasters, 7:30 p.m.**, Franklin TV, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, work on your presentation skills with a supportive group in Zoom or in person, <https://voiceoffranklin.toastmastersclubs.org>

**May 20**

**Women's Health Expo, 2-5 p.m.**, New England Chapel, 300 East Central St., Franklin, includes health screenings, educational resources, giveaways,

and local vendors. Dana-Farber Cancer Institute mobile mammography van 7 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

**Franklin Town Council Budget Hearing, 6 p.m.**, Council Chambers, Franklin Municipal Building, 355 E. Central St., Franklin, available on Zoom, visit [www.franklinma.gov](http://www.franklinma.gov) for details and agendas

**May 21**

**Franklin Town Council Budget Hearing, 6 p.m.**, Council Chambers, Franklin Municipal Building, 355 E. Central St., Franklin, available on Zoom, visit [www.franklinma.gov](http://www.franklinma.gov) for details and agendas

**May 22**

**Memorial Day Breakfast , 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.**, Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, RSVP by May 9, 2025. Veterans get first preference.

**FHS Theatre presents *The Curious Case of the Cottingley Fairies***, Franklin High School Auditorium, 218 Oak St., Franklin, for more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/franklinhstheatreco>

**May 23**

**Melodious Zach: An Elton John Experience, 3 p.m.**, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

**FHS Theatre presents *The Curious Case of the Cottingley Fairies***, Franklin High School Auditorium, 218 Oak St., Franklin, for more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/franklinhstheatreco>

**May 25**

**Memorial Day: Memorial Day Parade 11 a.m.**, from Horace Mann School to Oak, to Daniel McCahill, to Union, to W. Central, to Emmons, to Main, to Town Common. Memorial Day Ceremony 12 p.m.

**May 26**

**Community Closet at Franklin UMC open, 12-2 p.m.**, 82 W. Central St., Franklin, all clothing is FREE . Donations of gently used clean clothes are gratefully accepted

**Mahjong Meetup, Tuesday, 6 p.m.**, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, for adults

**Stony Brook Camera Club meeting (Zoom)**, Image Makers – Member Presentations, [www.stonybrookcc.com](http://www.stonybrookcc.com)

**May 27**

**Finance Committee Budget Meeting, 6 p.m.**, Franklin Municipal Building, 355 E. Central St., Franklin, available on Zoom, visit [www.franklinma.gov](http://www.franklinma.gov) for details and agendas

**Bellforges Arts Center Balance in Nature: Mind-Body Movement, 10-11 a.m.**, Bellforges Arts Center, 45 Hospital Rd., Medfield, Free, [www.bellforges.org](http://www.bellforges.org)

**May 31-June 6**

**Franklin Restaurant Week**, promotions all week in restaurants around town, visit <https://tinyurl.com/Franklin-RestaurantWeek2026>

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

# Fit to Major: What Colleges Are Really Looking For

Things have changed dramatically since I was 18 years old applying to college. Gone are the days when earning a strong GPA in your core classes, achieving a competitive SAT/ACT score, and joining a few clubs would open the door to many top schools.

In today's admissions landscape, especially at more selective colleges, expectations have evolved. Colleges are now looking for students who demonstrate emotional intelligence, digital literacy, meaningful community engagement, and intellectual curiosity. And increasingly, they are looking for something called "fit to major."

Fit to major means colleges want to understand the "why" behind a student's intended major. They are looking for alignment between a student's transcript, activities, and real-world experiences. In other words: Does this student show evidence that they are genuinely interested in and prepared for in this field?

That evidence might include relevant coursework, jobs, internships, volunteer work, or independent exploration. Colleges don't want students to simply tell them why - they want students to show it through their actions.

At first, this can sound overwhelming - but it doesn't have to be. Think of it as building a compelling and cohesive story, not a list of random activities.

This is one of my favorite parts of the process to work on with students. It's purposeful. As students begin to explore their interests, things start to click. Their confidence grows, and a strong application comes together. I often say the final application should read like "The Story of Mary or John Smith," where an admissions officer can say, "I get who they are!"

The more a student understands why they are interested in a field, the easier it becomes to recognize opportunities that align with that interest.

## How to Build "Fit to Major" (Using Business as an Example)

While this approach works for any major, let's use business as an example.

Students should begin by exploring what interests them within business. Are they drawn to entrepreneurship, finance, marketing, analytics, or management? The more specific the interest, the stronger the application story.

### Clarity leads to a stronger narrative - and a stronger application.

Next, students need to demonstrate that interest through action. This doesn't mean launching a million dollar startup in their garage - it means doing something intentional.

Examples might include:

- Working a part-time job (retail, restaurant, etc.) to learn about customers.
- Shadowing a professional or completing a short internship.
- Attending a summer program or taking an online business course.
- Helping a local business with social media or technology.
- Tutoring younger students or running a small camp.
- Starting an investment club or joining the business club



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

and showing real engagement.

One of the most important strategies is to layer experiences. Students should choose two or three meaningful activities that genuinely interest them and fit into their schedule. It's not about doing everything - it's about doing a few things with purpose and consistency.

It's also important to use existing interests strategically. Students don't need to abandon what they already enjoy - they can build connections. A student-athlete might run a youth clinic or fundraiser. A creative student might start a small online venture. The goal is to show initiative.

As students build these experiences, they should track them in a resume or activity list.

Over time, these experiences come together. When it's time to write a supplemental essay, answer a "Why this major?" question, or sit for an interview, the student is no longer searching for answers - they are just telling their story.

### What This Looks Like in Practice

Mary is interested in business and begins exploring different areas. She enjoys math

and starts to think finance could be a good fit. Over time, she joins DECA and competes, becomes involved in Math Honor Society and tutors younger students, co-founds a Women in Business club, and works at a local diner. She also takes time to shadow professionals and conduct informational interviews.

Individually, each activity is valuable. Together, they tell a clear and cohesive story.

### Final Thought

Fit to major is not about having everything figured out - it's about being intentional. When students explore their interests and connect their experiences, their application becomes more than a list of accomplishments. It becomes a story - and that's what admissions officers remember.

Good luck and enjoy the journey!  
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## FHS soph's essay wins Franklin a permanent sign on Navy ship

By NATALEE WEBB

Last year, in preparation for the commissioning of a new submarine, middle and high school students authored essays for a chance to have their town's name onboard the Navy's newest ship. Of the 351 towns and cities in Massachusetts FHS Sophomore Chloe Bowser was one of twelve winners.

Thanks to her award-winning essay, "A Family's Legacy in the

Yard," about the Charleston Naval shipyard, a sign "Entering the Town of Franklin," now sits above an entryway to the berthing room (sleeping quarters) aboard the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Massachusetts SSN 798, commissioned March 28th in Boston Harbor. The idea of having such a ceremony originated in the 1600s during the Anglo-Dutch War, when Admiral Tromp posted a

broom atop his masthead signaling his intention to "sweep" the English from the sea.

Chloe's Mom, Ally serves as President of the Parent Communication Council (PCC) at Franklin Middle School, overseeing fundraising initiatives, student programs, yearbook management, and field trip coordination. Travis met Ally while stationed in Newport, Rhode Island, where she was attending Salve Regina College.

Major Travis Bowser courageously served in three combat actions, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Khanjar. Highly educated, with two bachelor's degrees and a master's, he currently instructs the Marine Corps' Junior ROTC program at Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School, where Chloe enjoys participating in their marksmanship training, and raider and color guard teams.

The "Bowser Bunch" includes Chloe and her four brothers. And what a patriotic bunch they are! Oldest brother Chance followed in Travis' footsteps and joined the Marines as an Aviation Welder. Second brother Chris went into the Air Force in Com-

bat Controller/Special Warfare, the equivalent to a Navy Seal. Third son 19-year-old Jacob attends Providence College and majors in both Political Science and Community Services studies. TJ (Travis Juinor) is the youngest of the Bowser Bunch and is a 7th grader at Franklin Middle School.

Following her mother's world of science, Chloe lists science as her number 1 fav. The accomplished and energetic teen, in the top 10% of her class, is a member of the Science Olympiad Club, working on higher-level science projects. Her second love is music, and she plays both the clarinet and Tenor Sax, and her extracurricular activities include volunteering to help children with special needs, acting as a treasurer for FHS Student Government, a Project 351 Ambassador and mentor, a member of the Music Honor Society and the National Honor Society for math studies, a Varsity track athlete, a poet, an artist, and "an amazing daughter, sister, and Auntie." her dad proudly proclaimed. Chloe also enjoys painting in the small amount of spare time she has.

The essayist advises others to go after their dreams encouraging them to, "Take it one step at



**Chloe proudly holding Franklin's plaque that will now sit atop the entryway to sleeping quarters aboard the USS Massachusetts SSN 798, awarded for her essay, "A Families Legacy in the Yard." Photo by Travis Bowser**



**The newly commissioned USS Massachusetts SSN 798, alongside "Old Ironsides" in Boston Harbor. Photo by USS Massachusetts Commissioning Committee**

a time so you can enjoy and experience the goal to its fullest."

Congratulations to Chloe for her commendable essay getting "Entering Franklin" on an entryway to the berthing room of the USS Massachusetts SSN 798. And kudos to these patriotic townies in our cherished community, the Bowser Bunch. It makes me proud to be a Franklinite!

# Historic Happenings at Franklin Historical Museum May 2026

All programs FREE but donations always appreciated!

**HORACE MANN WEEK-END!** (In honor of his 230th Birthday on May 4!)

**Saturday, May 2** -- Happy Birthday Horace -- For Families, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., with cake!

**Sunday, May 3** --"Second Sunday Speaker" on the FIRST Sunday, 1:15 p.m.: Phillip Balkus will explore Horace Mann's less famous role.

**Saturday, May 9**

Antiques Appraisal Benefit, 1-5 p.m., \$10 per item, \$25 per 3 items, Seniors \$5 per item, \$10 per 3 items: Bring antiques, collectibles, heirlooms, and unusual items to be evaluated by an experienced appraiser, James C. Johnston. (Please no guns!) For more information, contact alan.r.earls@gmail.com.

**Sunday, May 10 (CLOSED Mothers' Day)**

**Sat May 16**, Soft Opening of 'Fakes and Forgeries', runs through Porchfest

**Sun May 17** The Return

of Live Arts String Quartet (LASQ)

With masterworks by Franz Joseph Haydn, Felix Mendels-

sohn, and Robert Schumann. Visit [www.liveartsstringquartet.org/purchase-tickets-1](http://www.liveartsstringquartet.org/purchase-tickets-1).

## FPS Secures \$150K, Innovation Grant for MS Library

FRANKLIN, MA -Franklin Public Schools has secured \$150,000 in funding to support redesign and modernization of the Franklin Middle School library and STEM space. A state earmark Rep. Jeff Roy helped secure will help transform the space into a Library and Innovation Commons. An Inventionland Education Innovation

Grant will support a learning environment focused on creativity, innovation, makerspace experiences, group collaboration, and project-based learning.

Elizabeth Morrison, Director of ELA and Social Studies, and Eric Stark, Director of STEM, are commended for leadership in the project.

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# Carpenter Ants: A Serious Threat to MetroWest Homes



**Jim Maxxuchelli, owner, WPC Pest and Termite Control**

In Massachusetts, homeowners face unique pest challenges due to our changing seasons and moisture prone climate. While many people dismiss ants as a minor annoyance, carpenter ants are one of the most destructive pests affecting homes in the MetroWest Area.

We regularly see carpenter ant infestations throughout MetroWest—and the damage they cause can be extensive if

left untreated. Said, Jim Maz-zuchelli from WPC Pest and Termite Control, Inc.,

### Warning Signs Home-owners Should Watch For

- Large black or reddish ants, often active at night, inside your home
- Winged ants (swarmers) appearing indoors in spring
- Piles of sawdust like debris near baseboards or windows
- Faint rustling sounds inside walls
- Ant trails from basements, kitchens, or exterior siding
- These signs should never be ignored—especially in homes with moisture issues or older construction.

### Why DIY Treatments Often Fail

Over the counter sprays and baits may kill visible ants but rarely address the nest hidden deep within walls or structural wood. In many cases, improper treatment allows infestations to

spread and continue causing damage. Effective carpenter ant control requires professional experience, proper identification, and targeted treatment.

At WPC Pest and Termite Control, Inc., we understand the specific pest pressures MetroWest homeowners face. Our experienced technicians use proven methods to locate carpenter ant nests, eliminate infestations at the source, and help prevent future problems.

If you suspect carpenter ants—or want peace of mind before damage worsens—don't wait.

Contact WPC Pest and Termite Control, Inc. today for a FREE professional carpenter ant inspection and protect your home from hidden structural damage. WPC Pest and Termite Control, Inc. 508-366-1820. [nobugsnopests.com](http://nobugsnopests.com)

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# Highlighted Franklin Senior Center May Programs

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

There's lots of fun and continued learning to be had at Franklin Senior Center. Here are a few highlights:

### Tuesday, May 5

Senior Players Theater Performance, 11 a.m.

### Wednesday, May 6

Bluegrass & Country Jam Circle, 5:30 p.m.

### Thursday, May 7

Franklin Police Department Presentation, 1 p.m., learn from detectives how to protect yourself from common scams, and explore local mental health resources.

### Friday, May 8

Senior Players Theater Performance, 11 a.m.

Frances Perkins Comes to Life! 1 p.m., Step back in time as Historical Portrayals by Lady J brings trailblazer Frances Perkins to life. Discover the remarkable story of the first female U.S. Cabinet Secretary, her role in shaping the New Deal, and challenges she faced.

### Tuesday, May 12

Tech Help, 9:30 a.m.

Lifeline Medical Alert, 10 a.m.

### Wednesday, May 13

Mobile Food Pantry, 11 a.m.

### Thursday, May 14

Money Matters Office Hours,

1-3 p.m., with Greg Safford.

Four Hands, One Piano, 3 p.m., Pianists Dennis Ferguson and Claudia Binns will play classical single piano simultaneously!

Pizza & Movie Night, 4 p.m., Rental Family, \$5

### Friday, May 15

Franklin Garden Club Floral Arranging Workshop, 1 p.m., supplies provided, space limited

### Monday, May 18

Senior Olympics Opening Ceremony! (events in bold)

**Sarah's opening remarks, 10:30 a.m.**

**The Flying Dogs perform, 11 a.m.**

**Chair Volleyball with Franklin Police and Fire department on teams, 1 p.m.**

**Half-Mile Walk or Run, 11 a.m.**

**Hole in One Contest, 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 20**

**Bocce Tournament, 9:30 a.m.**

**Men's Cornhole, 12 p.m. Women's Cornhole, 1**

**p.m. Memory Café, 1 p.m. Thursday, May 21**

**Curling Competition, 11 a.m.**

**Pool Tournament, 1 p.m. Painting with Amy, 1 p.m.**

## SENIOR CENTER

*continued on page 25*

# Franklin LGBTQ Alliance Upcoming Events



Bowling!  
Thursday,  
May 7th,  
6:30-8:30  
p.m. at Pinz,  
110 South  
Main St., Mil-  
ford

Join us as we go bowling! There are limited spaces, so RSVP at [franklinlgbtqalliance@gmail.com](mailto:franklinlgbtqalliance@gmail.com). \$15 includes shoes. Bring extra money for food if wanted as well as the arcade.

Celebrate with Pride

We are already planning for our Celebrate with Pride event in June! If you would like to be an exhibitor, a food booth, OR volunteer, email [franklinlgbtqalliance@gmail.com](mailto:franklinlgbtqalliance@gmail.com).

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# Solidifying Horace Mann's legacy

## Horace Mann Legacy Subcommittee plans outreach, starting May 2nd

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Members of the Horace Mann Legacy Subcommittee will join the Franklin Historical Museum on Saturday, May 2nd to celebrate Horace Mann's birthday. Member Dave Callahan explains the group hopes to talk to community members about a vision for a Horace Mann campus on Oak Street, tying together public-school facilities there.

According to the group's overview, "On August 26, 2025, the Franklin School Committee voted to establish the Horace Mann Legacy Subcommittee and to designate the Oak Street and Panther Way school grounds as the Horace Mann Campus. This subcommittee was created to guide the development of initiatives that honor the life, legacy, and enduring influence of Horace Mann, a Franklin native and widely re-

garded as the Father of Public Education.

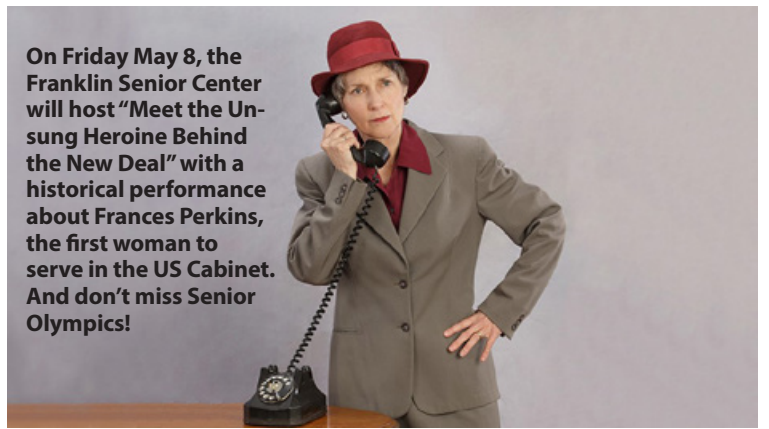
The subcommittee serves in an advisory capacity to the Franklin School Committee. Its role is to research, develop, vet, and recommend initiatives that honor Horace Mann's legacy while remaining aligned with district priorities, governance structures, and community context. Final authority for approval and implementation rests with the Franklin School Committee."

"As we were beginning this process, we were in touch with Franklin Historical Commission and Museum and thought we might be able to Horace Mann's birthday as a public kickoff, to publicly announce some of the ideas we have and to solicit thoughts and ideas the community may have, and certainly any expertise they would be able to contribute toward this project," says David Callaghan, member

of the Horace Mann Legacy Subcommittee (HMLS). "We will have representatives there to talk about what we're looking to do, kind of give an elevator pitch."

Over the next 15+ months, says Callaghan, the HMLS, which is in the process of putting a linked web page on the Franklin Public Schools website, will implement more public outreach surveys. They'll also have a presence at the Franklin Strawberry Stroll on Friday, June 12th, from 4-8 p.m., as well as at the Franklin Farmers Market (which opens June 5th) on Friday, August 21st from 2-6 p.m.

"We will try to honor Horace Mann's legacy with signage and placards, so that when folks come onto that school property, they recognize they're on the Horace Mann Campus," he says.



On Friday May 8, the Franklin Senior Center will host "Meet the Unsung Heroine Behind the New Deal" with a historical performance about Frances Perkins, the first woman to serve in the US Cabinet. And don't miss Senior Olympics!

### SENIOR CENTER

*continued from page 24*

Acoustic Jam Session, 5 p.m.  
**Friday, May 22**

Puzzle Wars, 11:30 a.m.

**Music Trivia, 1:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, May 26**

**Axe-Throwing, 11 a.m.**

**Cribbage Tournament, 1**

**p.m.**

**Wednesday, May 27**

**Two-Mile Walking Relay**

**at Franklin High School**

**track, 9:30 a.m.**

**Field Goal Kick at Frank-**

**lin High School football**

**field, 10 a.m.**

**Scrabble Wars, 1 p.m.**  
**Thursday, May 28**

Noodle Hockey, 10:30 a.m.

Darts Contest, 12 p.m.

BFCCPS Kids Choir, patri-

otic/Memorial Day themed, 1

p.m.

Kathy's Art Class, 1 p.m., \$3

**Friday, May 29**

**Senior Olympics Closing**

**Ceremony**

**Medal ceremony, 11 a.m.**

**Lunch, 12 p.m.**

C&C Ice Cream Truck, 12:30

p.m.

Franklin Library in atten-

dance with Adult Summer

Reading program

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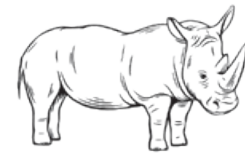
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## Franklin PorchFest 2026 June 6th

### Event still accepting bands and hosts

Get Ready .... PorchFest 2026 is Coming! The Town of Franklin will be filled with music as PorchFest returns on Saturday, June 6. The event runs from 12-6 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, June 7th.

Registration is now OPEN for both bands and porches! Sign up using the Band Signup or Porch Signup tabs on our website, <https://franklin.porchfest.info>.

This years' event is shaping

up to be our biggest yet. Musicians and bands of all genres will be performing on porches and patios throughout Franklin's Cultural District.

This walkable event is also the perfect opportunity to check out our local shops and restaurants. The Town Common will feature opening and closing ceremonies, Food Trucks, and picnic tables.



Public bathrooms will also be available.

Stay tuned; we'll be posting updates on our website.

You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram. You'll find all the information needed to celebrate an amazing day of live music in Franklin!

## Franklin's Progress on Our Green Energy Journey

By MARRISA BOVIE, ENERGIZE-FRANKLIN TEAM

The Energize Franklin team is excited to report the <https://energizefranklin.org> website now includes helpful tools, such as a carbon calculator, a savings calculator, and an exciting new tool from Professor Zana Cranmer of Bentley University, which looks at Massachusetts' and individual municipalities' progress toward climate goals.

Did you know that, as of 2023, Franklin has 710 solar projects? That includes residential solar, industrial, and community solar projects. Twenty-four percent of the solar capacity in Franklin is community solar, and 19.6% is residential, with 4.6% of Franklin households sporting solar panels. We may see even more household solar represented in 2024 and 2025, when IRA tax deductions were in effect.

Using the tracker, the Energize Franklin team concluded that overall emissions in Franklin have decreased by 1% since 2020. Though this may not seem like much, it's actually very impressive, considering approximately 46% of our emissions come from transportation, and most of us were doing a lot less driving in 2020. More residents are opting for gas hybrid vehicles; as of 2026, 5.5% of Franklin passenger vehicles are gas hybrid vehicles.

The Energize Franklin team encourages you to visit [www.EnergizeFranklin.org](http://www.EnergizeFranklin.org) and check out the tracker. Franklin may be just a little above average (66th percentile) in emissions per capita, but we're excited to see community members doing their part to help our planet. Every new solar array, home heat pump conversion, or new EV in the parking lot is another piece of the puzzle.

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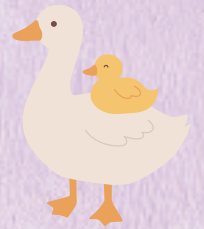
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**2 Kingson Ln. Unit 2. Medway Under Contract**



**41 Kimberlee Ave. Franklin Under Contract**



**17 Forest Park Dr. Mendon Under Contract**



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