

localtownpages Franklin

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Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

July 1, 2026

In honor and remembrance

Memorial Day, Franklin, 2026



BY NATALEE WEBB

The gloomy skies reflected the somberness of the afternoon's Memorial Day ceremonies. Townsfolk gathered on Franklin's Common to pay tribute and honor to all who gave the ultimate sacrifice - their lives. Franklin's Veterans Memorial Walkway established in 2018, eulogizes the 45 Franklin soldiers with granite columns in honor and remembrance of their mortal service. They sacrificed their lives for America to

HONOR

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American Legion Post 75 Rifle Squad. Their ceremonial salute signifies that the soldier has been properly cared for and can be honorably laid to rest.

6th Annual Franklin Mike Crandall Blues Fest on US 250th

BY JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Scott Sebastian, President of the Connecticut Blues Society (CBS), was Mike Crandall's friend, and he feels it's fitting to have Franklin's blues festival named for him.

"He was just a great human being, and he is extremely missed," says Sebastian, pointing out that Crandall "grew up hard. Everything he had he had to struggle and scratch to get."

Crandall, who would mentor and support fellow blues artists, made music his life, Sebastian says, and "he died doing what he loved, on stage."

The Connecticut Blues So-



Ed Peabody will kick off the Franklin 4th July 4 show.

ciety, in fact, will have a booth at the Franklin 4th celebration, raising funds for the Mike Crandall Scholarship Fund (<https://www.ctblues.org/MC-Scholarship-Fund>).

"Mike Crandall played this festival and would help get the bands in," says Sebastian, "When (Mike) died, he was a pretty good friend, and the Crandall family and I got this scholarship going." The Connecticut Blues Society, with over 600 members and over 40 events a year, also holds an annual blues fundraiser for the scholarship, but Sebastian adds he's enjoyed playing in the festival for several years and will be singing with the Mike Crandall Tribute Band, with all the original members of Mike's band.

Also at the festival, as he was in all the previous Franklin Blues Festivals is Tom Retano, friends with Crandall for about 24 years. Retano met Crandall at the Berlin Blues Festival that

BLUES FEST

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HONOR

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give us the freedoms we enjoy today.

Shortly after the Civil War ended in 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) established "Decoration Day" as a



Grand Marshal, Victor Pisini a Korean War Veteran, gives a moving and profound speech. At 97, Pisini says he still enjoys working at his shoe store on Main Street he established in 1952.

time for our nation to adorn the graves of those mortally wounded with flowers, prayers, and respect. After WWII, Decoration Day was commonly called Memorial Day although the name wasn't officially changed and made a federal

holiday until 1971.

The skies were dark, the mood was somber and the honorable rituals of Memorial Day galvanized all who gathered. Master of Ceremonies, Franklin's Veterans' Service Officer Shannon Nesbitt smoothly directed the day's events. The Parade Committee of 14 had worked dilligently all year to bring Memorial Day activities to fruition.

The VFW Post 3402 and American Legion Post 75, along with their posse of veterans, were a pivatol part of the day exemplifying respect and honor for soldiers who gave their lives for us. Both Commanders spoke on the importance of the day.

Franklin's Scouting Troops were another integral part of

Memorial Day observances. Their contributions throughout the day were conducted with reverence and pride.

The Girl Scout Troop placed wreaths they handmade upon the war monuments located at the beginning of the Veterans Memorial Walkway. They also placed wreaths at St. Mary's and Union Street cemeteries and at Dean College's Memorial.

The Boy Scouts raised the Armed Forces Flags for all branches of the military. The Army, Navy, and Marine Corps were established in 1775, the Coast Guard in 1790, the Air Force in 1947, and the Space Force in 2019.

The Scouts also helped replace flags on the graves of soldiers buried in Franklin's



Commanders Dick Hynes of the American Legion Post 75 and Ernest Carruthers of the VFW Post 3402 speaking on the importance of this solemn day of remembrance.



VFW member, Command Sergeant Major Herman Anderson, retired, salutes as Commander Carruthers rings the ceremonial bell for each of the 48 Franklin Veterans that left their earthly home this past year.

cemeteries.

The recognition of every Franklin Veteran who left the earth this year was an emotional and poignant experience. VFW Post 3402 Commander Ernest Carruthers along with member Herman Anderson, a retired Army Command Sergeant Major, fervently recognized the 48 Franklin Honorables with the ringing of a bell and hand salute for their service to our Country.

At 97 years young, Grand Marshal and Korean War Veteran Victor Pisini gave a moving and profound speech on the meaning of Memorial Day. He stated that he "thanks God for bringing him home." After his speech there was a resounding clap of appreciation, not once but twice. Victor owns

Pisini Shoe Shop in the heart of Franklin and remarked that he still enjoys working at the store he established 74 years ago. A homegrown townie, he is truly a man of honor and Franklinites love him.

The Parade Committee extends their gratitude "to all Veterans, officials, organizations, and individuals who participated in our Memorial Day events. To the Franklin Garden Club for beautifying the Town Common, to Allegra Printing for providing our Parade Banner, to South Coast Entertainment for providing sound, and to Franklin TV for coordinating comprehensive coverage." The event is now available for viewing on Franklin TV.

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Town board and committee vacancies anticipated

Franklin residents are encouraged to apply for upcoming vacancies on town boards.

Anticipated vacancies (as of July 1) include Agricultural Commission (2 Full, 2 Associ-

ate), Community Preservation Committee (2-Citizen at Large), Cultural Council 4 Full), Design Review Commission, 4 (2 Full, 2 Associate), Finance Committee (1 Full), Historical Commission,

3 (1 Full, 2 Associate), Municipal Affordable Housing Trust (1 Full), Police Station Building Committee (1Full).

All residents who are interested in getting more involved to

submit a volunteer application! Applications can be found here: <https://franklinmaboard.vt-s.net/newcaf.php>.

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Ken Hamwey, in Memoriam

He wrote about the good

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Ken Hamwey never missed a deadline, and he had a passion for telling a good story. Getting the word out about something or someone inspirational, conveying its importance, meant the world to him. That kind of drive, a level of investment scarcely seen in the world today, deserved your full attention. Our Town Publishing didn't just lose a sportswriter when we lost Ken Hamwey, we lost a lion-hearted wordsmith who cared deeply about the people he wrote about, and their moments of glory.

"Ken Hamwey was an amazing sportswriter and a consummate professional," said Jen Schofield, owner of Our Town Publishing. "He was someone I truly enjoyed talking with, listening to his stories, and his passion and dedication for covering high school sports was unmatched. He genuinely cared about the

athletes, teams, and communities he wrote about, which was evident in his work."

"Ken was very dedicated in getting the stories," added Chuck Tashjian, who worked with Ken for many years as former publisher of Our Town Publishing. "He went above and beyond, especially with championship games. He really loved what he did. He loved writing, and he loved sports."

"He just cared about the kids. If there was anything that stood out about him it was his passion for what he did ... He cared so much about making everyone look good, and that was such a good trait, and the way he'd remember things," said Bellingham High School Football Coach Dan Haddad, who added both he and Ken were motivated by "love of the kids." Student athletes Ken interviewed would tell the coach that Mr. Hamwey was "probably the nicest guy I've ever met."

"What was unique about Ken was how he wanted to learn about me personally and what life experiences led me to where I am rather than other reporters who would just ask about jobs and responsibilities listed on a resume," says Bellingham Town Administrator Joseph Laydon, who says he truly appreciated this approach in Ken's regular Municipal Spotlight column for the Bellingham Bulletin.

Just 24 in 1967 when he entered the field of journalism, the young graduate of Natick High and Babson College began his career at Framingham News, now known as the MetroWest Daily News, covering the small-town beat of Millis. Ken would get the opportunity of a lifetime a year later, covering the Celtics' defeat of the 76ers in Philadelphia to win the Eastern conference one day after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. In a lifelong story of his own he'd often tell, the late,

great Celtics coach and general manager, Red Auerbach, in fact, held up the press corps bus so young Ken could call in that story. Ken would move on in 1973 to the Pulitzer Prize winning Providence Journal, and after 35-plus years as the Night Sports Editor, he received a citation from the Rhode Island State Senate honoring his excellence as a journalist.

For many years, Ken would follow the trajectory of local sports heroes' stories in a MetroWest Daily News column called "Yesterday's Heroes." In semi-retirement, Ken would continue to cover high school sports for local papers such as Bellingham Bulletin and Local Town Pages papers.

Ken was immensely proud of the recognition he received for his efforts. He was inducted into the Millis Athletic Hall of Fame in March 2022, and later, into the Bellingham Athletic Hall of Fame, and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association selected him for its Distinguished Friend Award in 2010.

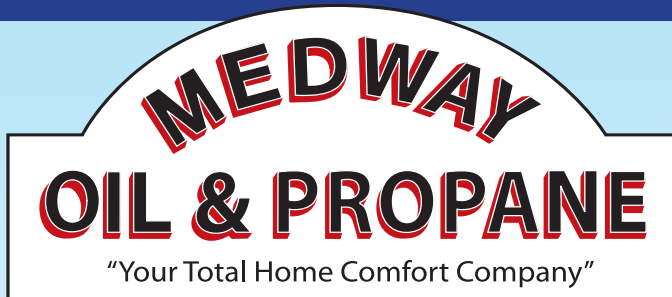


Ken Hamwey
October 14, 1943 - May 25, 2026

"High school sports lost a legendary storyteller with the passing of Ken Hamwey," wrote Millis Athletics on X, "For nearly six decades, Ken dedicated his life to highlighting the achievements of local student-athletes, beginning with his very first varsity football story in Millis back in 1967." Dover Sherborn Basketball also lauded his "passion and dedication for

HAMWEY
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July 2026 VSO newsletter notes

There will be NO VETERANS COFFEE SOCIAL IN JULY. The next Social will be on Wednesday, August 5 at 10 a.m. at the Senior Center Café. We will recognize Franklin Purple Heart recipients that day. All Veterans are invited!

There will be NO VETERANS COUNCIL MEETING IN JULY. The next Council meeting will be on Thursday, August 20 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. Any Franklin resident interested in Veterans' activities is welcome to join the

Veterans' Council.

TUNE IT OUT GUITAR LESSONS FOR VETERANS WILL NOT MEET IN JULY AND AUGUST. Classes will resume on Tuesday, September 15 with an Open House at 5:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Any Veteran interested in learning more about guitar lessons is welcome! There is no fee for lessons, and we provide guitars! Call our office for details.

WARRIOR WITHIN YOGA CLASS FOR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS WILL NOT MEET IN JULY AND AUGUST. Stay tuned for updates!

July 27 – National Korean War Armistice Day – observed annually to commemorate the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953, which brought an end to the active fighting of the Korean War. More than 35,000 U.S. Service members lost their lives during this conflict.

Purple Hearts - Please let our office know if you or a family member (residing in Franklin) is a Purple Heart recipient, and we will add them to our database. National Purple Heart Day is celebrated on August 7 every year. The Purple Heart is a distinguished military decoration awarded in the name of the President to those who have been wounded or killed while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Veterans Memorial Walkway - The next engraved brick installation will be in November

to coincide with Veterans' Day. Veterans need not be from Franklin to be honored with a brick. All members of the U.S. military are eligible. Brick order forms are available in the Town Hall and Senior Center lobbies and on the Veterans' Services page on the Town website.

Please visit our webpage at: <https://www.franklinma.gov/335/Veterans-Services> to learn more about Franklin Veterans' Services.

BLUES FEST

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he ran in Connecticut.

"(Mike) played every other year and was also master of ceremonies for a lot of the Connecticut Blues Society events," says Retano. Three times, he says, Crandall won the CBS Memphis Challenge, where he got to go play in Memphis, TN. "We traveled together, and we

worked a lot together. He was also a carpenter by trade, the hardest working person I ever met in my life," says Retano, "He worked hard himself, and he pushed everyone else ... His band members have an immense amount of respect for him."

The Franklin Mike Crandall Blues Festival this year takes place exactly on the nation's 250th birthday. See the entire schedule of Franklin 4th events

below. For more information or to donate, visit www.franklin4th.com. You can also support this annual celebration by franklin4th.com to (508) 501-7173.

Wednesday, July 1

Carnival Hours: 6-10, Wrist bands: 6-10, Music: 6-10

6 p.m.: Ricky Brennan, Jr., 8 p.m.: GQ & The Lady, a musically diverse dance band with versatile and dynamic lead female vocalists

Thursday, July 2

Carnival Hours: 6-10, Wrist bands: 6-10, Music: 6-10, Fireworks: 10

6 p.m.: Garden of Hedon, a 70s-influenced psychedelic blues-rock band.

7:15 p.m.: Ozzie Tribute Band

8:30 p.m.: The Zajac Brothers, features songwriter Tyler Zajac and his brother Matthew on drums

Friday July 3

Carnival Hours: 12-10, Wrist bands: 12-5, MEGAPASS: 12-10, Music: 12-10

12 p.m., Two Guys Who Like Sharks, acoustic rock with driving bass lines

1:30 p.m., Midnight Ride, high-energy rock from 60s to 90s

3 p.m., George Cross Project, a unique blend of 'East Coast Blues'

4:30 p.m., Attleboro School of Rock, a leader in performance-based music education

6:30 p.m., Full Circle, a five-piece Rock & Roll dance band

8 p.m., Jeff Pitchell, an American singer, songwriter, guitarist and recording artist

Saturday, July 4

12-10 p.m. Mike Crandall Franklin Blues Festival: Local, National and International

Blues Artists perform and pay tribute to Mike Crandall and his music.

12 p.m.: Ed Peabody & The Big Blue Thang

1:15 p.m.: Cliff Taylor & The Undertakers

2:30 p.m.: Neal & The Vipers

3:45 p.m.: Mike Crandall Tribute Band

5 p.m.: Sugar Ray & The Bluetones

6:15 p.m.: Carl Ricci & 706 Union Ave.

7:30 p.m.: The Darrell Nulisch Band

8:45 p.m.: Richiman & Groove Nice

Carnival Hours: 12-10, Wrist bands, 12-5, MEGAPASS: 12-10, Music: 12-10

Sunday, July 5

Carnival Hours: 12-6, Wrist bands: 12-4, MEGAPASS: 12-6, Music: 12-6

12 p.m.: Jamie Barrett, a beloved Franklin singer, songwriter, guitarist and teacher

1:15 p.m.: Padula Family Band, Franklin's own performs timeless jazz standards and the sounds of blues

2:30 p.m.: David Fields Band with Special Guest Diane Blue

4 p.m., Beantown Swing Orchestra, distinct big band sound recognized by generations worldwide



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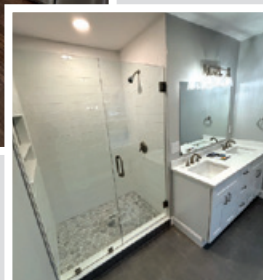
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Franklin Town Hall: Community Highlights & Updates

Town of Franklin FY27 Budget Approved, Continuing Investments without an Override or New Tax Increase

The Town of Franklin's Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Budget has been approved, continuing the Town's commitment to responsible financial planning while maintaining the services and investments residents rely on every day.

The balanced FY27 Budget was achieved without an override, tax increase, or new rate increase. The budget supports key community priorities, including education, public safety, public works, infrastructure improvements, parks and recreation, and municipal services.

To help residents better understand how local tax dollars support services and investments throughout the community, the Town has prepared a two-page FY27 Budget Snapshot & Summary.

View the FY27 Budget Snapshot & Summary: <https://tinyurl.com/FY27BudgetSnapshot>

Franklin Health Department Launches Women's Health & Preventive Care Survey

The Franklin Health Department has launched a community survey for women in Franklin to better understand access to and use of preventive women's health services.

The survey will help identify

community needs, barriers to care, and opportunities to strengthen local health resources and programs for women.

Women who live in Franklin are encouraged to participate and share their feedback. Responses will help guide future public health initiatives and improve services available within the community.

The Franklin Women's Health & Preventive Care Survey is available online at: <https://tinyurl.com/FranklinWomenHealthSurvey>

Explore Career Opportunities with the Town of Franklin

The Town of Franklin is currently seeking qualified candi-

dates for several employment opportunities across municipal government. Open positions include Deputy Town Administrator, Patrol Officer, ERP Systems Analyst, and Administrative Assistant.

These roles offer the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of essential public services while supporting the Town's ongoing commitment to excellence, innovation, and community service.

Interested applicants can learn more about each position, including qualifications and application requirements, by visiting the Town's employment webpage at www.franklinma.gov/228/job-opportunities

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. The newsletter features key updates, community highlights, and information on upcoming events and initiatives.

Read the latest edition: www.franklinma.gov/1139/Franklin-First-Newsletter

Subscribe for Town news and announcements: <https://tinyurl.com/FranklinNewsandAnnouncements>

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

Franklin church bell to Join National Ceremony on July 4

The invitation reads: "The National Bell Festival invites bells and bell towers across America to ring out together on Independence Day, creating a canopy of sound over our nation."

At 2:50 p.m. on July 4, 2026, bells in the eastern time zone

(that's us) will peal thirteen times (once for each of the original thirteen colonies/states.) States in more western times zones will ring at 1:40, 2:50, etc. so "the canopy of sound" will be simultaneous across the country, including Alaska where it will be

10:50 AM and Hawaii where it will be 9:50 or 8:50 a.m.

The Franklin Federated Church, the church on the south side of Franklin's common and the town's first church, will contribute to this wonderful, unified sound with Steve Kinson as our

bell ringer. Thank you, Steve.

Since Steve will be inside, invisible as he pulls the rope to ring our bell, we will gather below the bell tower (between the church building and the parsonage) to make our church's participation visible.

This is a joyous, non-political way to celebrate our country's 250th birthday.

Franklin Federated Church is located at 171 Main St., Franklin.

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Unearthing history – Central New England Relic Hunters

By JUDITH DORATO O’GARA

Is it a trinket or is it a treasure? With the new friends they’ve made, the knowledge they’ve gained, and the chance to spend a lot of time out in the natural world, Jim Riendeau and Joe Bustamonte have certainly stumbled upon a priceless gold mine. In January, the two brothers-in-law, Bellingham residents, started a regional metal detecting club, Central New England Relic Hunters, that meets at the Bellingham Sportsman Club every second Monday, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Each month, they show off what they’ve found, vote on their favorites, hold a raffle and even conduct a food drive for Loaves & Fishes Pantry in Bellingham. To date, over 49 “detectorists” have joined, some local, and some from places as far as New Hampshire and Connecticut.

“It is such a really cool hobby. It’s lots of fun and great people,” says Riendeau, who got his brother-in-law Joe, president of the club, hooked on the hobby. The group, says Riendeau, has found relics and coins from around the area, involving historical societies and the local coin shops in identifying finds. One member, he says, “found a coin worth over \$50K (an Oak

Tree Shilling, a very valuable and rare coin minted in Massachusetts Bay Colony issued from 1660 to 1667, according to Numismatic Guaranty Company NGC®, www.ngccoin.com), and we also have found some George Washington buttons (made for Washington’s inauguration in 1789), worth around \$5K.”

The value is beside the point for many, however, says Riendeau. “We all do it for the love of history of what we find and also the history of the towns we find stuff in,” he says.

The group conducts about three or four outings together each year, careful to be sure to get permission, to pick up trash along the way, and to leave no trace of digging. The effort is worth the occasional brush with poison ivy.

On their first outing this year in Wellesley, John Silva, of Attleboro, found a Mexico Colony Spanish 8 Real, minted when Mexico was a Spanish colony (<https://bullionexchanges.com>).

There’s more to it than just wandering around waiting for machines to beep. Bustamonte explains the detectorists will drive around and look for stone walls in historic areas.

“That’s all boundary lines, so you go onto the old maps, and



Members of Cental New England Relic hunters meet monthly in Bellingham, but go on group outings a few times a year. Here they are at Wellesley Town Forest. Photo courtesy of Joe Bustamonte.

you try to research what was there 100 years ago, 200 years ago. It’s a lot of checking war sites, Puritans, colonists.”

Buried metal objects turn up in unlikely spaces, he says, “You never know where you’ll find it. You don’t know if there was a horse rider and it fell out of his pocket.”

A simple beep from the metal detector opens up a meandering path of investigation. The items found may be historic in nature, but modern technology plays a big role in identifying both sites to search as well as the unearthed finds.

“If it’s public, we research (the land) through apps,” says Bustamonte, adding, “We do a lot of computer work.”

Oxford resident Robin Rivera, who’s pursued this hobby for about 16 years, explains the apps use LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), which uses pulsed laser light to produce 3D information about an area. “We use it in grayscale. It shows you indentations in the land, so if there is an old foundation in the middle of the woods, you’re apt to see a black square there.”

Rivera, who lives behind historical Main Street in Oxford, has had the opportunity to metal detect some of her neighbor’s properties for years. She recently found a small metal bird, and after researching, she discovered it was a sewing bird women used in the 1850s to hold fabric onto the sewing table, so their hands could be free.

Most of the items Rivera finds on the private properties the owners don’t want, but in one

case in which the property was owned by successive generations of a family, Rivera found a pocket watch. The property owner was able to find an old photo of an ancestor with that watch, so that item still remains with the family.

Many in the club enjoy it so much they join several metal detecting clubs. Marty Conceicao, of Carver, is one of them. He joined this one to meet new people interested in metal detecting, “and to metal detect areas I haven’t done before.” His friend, Steve Hassell, of Brockton, also belongs to a few clubs. “It’s a fun time to be out and great people,” says Hassell.

Bustamonte concurs, saying the club is about “Friendships, laughter, and amazing finds. We’re bringing history back to life, one hole at a time.”

Find out more about Central New England Relic Hunters or reach out to them on their public Facebook page.

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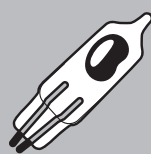
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3rd Annual Franklin PorchFest Draws Hundreds



It was hot! The music, that is. Well, okay, the weather was hot, too, but air quality warnings don't stop Franklin residents from rocking on! Franklin Porchfest 2026 was a great day for the many folks who comprised great audiences for the 50 bands that took part at 32 locations around town.

Save the Date! PorchFest 2027 is scheduled for Saturday, June 5, 2027. Visit <https://franklin.porchfest.info> for more information.

Clockwise from top left: On the other side of town, cars lined Hunter's Run Road to catch Slack Tide's driveway show; Rick Smyth's relaxed tunes made an excellent backdrop for Lincoln Street neighbors to catch up; Groovestone delighted this writer with a Bill Withers' cover on the Common!; Critical Mass drew a crowd on Main Street. Photos by Judith Dorato O'Gara

HAMWEY

continued from page 3

covering sports in our area... RIP."

Ken Hamwey once told Dan Haddad, "I want to write about the good."

In his own life, Hamwey, the beloved husband for 36 years of Pauline A. (Allard) Hamwey and the late Martha (Loan) Hamwey,

and the loving father of Travis M. Hamwey and his wife, Katie, aspired himself to be the best person he could be, volunteering time as a coach and library trustee, devoting himself to his faith, and valuing each individual with whom he interacted. He once told me how much it meant to him that his coverage of young athletes might help them make it into college. He had an energy that drove him to weave a story of pride and potential that would shine a light on and lift up his subject. He offered such respect that you wanted to rise to be worthy of it.

"Ken was kind, dependable, and always willing to go above and beyond. Even shortly before his passing, while battling illness and facing deadline pressure, he completed his last three stories—a testament to his remarkable work ethic and commitment to journalism," said Schofield, adding, "He was a one-of-a-kind colleague and friend, who will be deeply missed by everyone in his Our Town Publishing family. His legacy will live on through the countless stories he told and the many lives he touched."



In 2010, Ken received the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Distinguished Friend Award.

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Scenes from the 2026 Strawberry Stroll

The 22nd Annual Strawberry Stroll took place on the very warm evening of Friday, June 12, 2026. Strollers lingered in humidity as they greeted neighbors, enjoyed music, performance, games and giveaways as evening crept in. Rain date is Saturday June 13 from 4 to 8 p.m. The event expanded up Main Street to Dean College and Franklin Public Library.

Sponsors included:

Strawberry Stroll organizer Franklin Downtown Partnership is grateful for the generosity of their sponsors:

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-J.D. O'Gara



Clockwise from above left: Evelyn Rossing dressed in the spirit of the day and was happy to get her shortcakes! ; Young dancers from the Feet in Motion School of Dance took turns performing for the crowd by the MyFM 101.3 booth; The Desi Swag Queens brought their colorful performance to the library area; Dean Bank's staff in front served delicious shortcakes with fresh strawberries donated and cut by Dean College. Photos by J.D. O'Gara. Dean Bank photo used courtesy of Franklin Downtown Partnership.



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Your Money, Your Independence

Ignore at your peril: Why fund a Trump Account for your child



Glenn Brown, CFP

Save yourself the political angst, as I'm going to educate as a fiduciary on why you should open and fund a Trump Account for your child. Let me repeat: "educate as a fiduciary."

Building generational wealth via disciplined investment, forward-thinking tax planning, and unapologetic pragmatism shouldn't be partisan. Parents and grandparents need to look past political branding and understand this financial opportunity starting July 4 through the U.S. Treasury via IRS Form 4547, then deployed to major institutions, including Schwab, Fidelity, and Vanguard.

Reality Beyond Reels

Media outlets and social influencers are hyper-focused on flashy elements: the narcissistic naming, Michael Dell's \$6.25 billion gift, and the one-time

\$1,000 newborn cash seed funded by the U.S. government for 2025–2028.

This noise has millions of parents completely ignoring the program, assuming their older children aren't eligible or out of political disdain. What a massive financial planning error.

The truth is any U.S. citizen under 18 with an SSN qualifies for a parent or grandparent established Trump Account. The real opportunity is investing up to \$5,000 annually tax-deferred, which transitions directly into a Traditional IRA in the child's name at age 18. Free of spending restrictions, this complements a 529 plan.

Doing 10-year-old math

Say you have a 10-year-old and max contribute \$5,000 prior to each December 31 deadline until they turn 18. Your total out-of-pocket investment over those eight years is \$40,000.

Treasury mandates require these funds to be placed in diversified, low-fee index funds mirroring benchmarks like the S&P 500 (which has averaged 10.5% historical annual return since its 1957 inception). Assuming a 10% annualized return over that eight-year window, this 10-year-old's account grows to \$62,897 by age 18—meaning \$22,897 is investment growth.

The age-18 IRA handoff

At age 18, regulations dictate

the account must transition directly into a Traditional IRA under the child's control. Because your original \$40,000 in contributions was made with after-tax dollars, it carries over into that Traditional IRA as a non-deductible basis, meaning the principal can eventually be withdrawn tax-free. Why is this important?

The Roth conversion strategy

Instead of leaving this IRA to compound for a massive tax bill down the road, the optimal wealth-building move at age 18 is a full Roth IRA conversion. As a student entering adulthood with little to no earned income, they can exploit their standard deductions and baseline federal tax brackets to effectively neutralize the conversion tax.

Due to pro-rata rules governing Roth conversions, your 18-year-old will owe ordinary income taxes only on the converted growth portion (\$22,897) on their own tax return, not yours.

Consider an 18-year-old Massachusetts student with zero personal income:

- **Federal Tax:** Standard deduction shields the first \$16,100 of growth. The rest falls into the 10% bracket, resulting in a \$680 tax bill.
- **State Tax:** Massachusetts applies its \$4,400 personal exemption, then levies its flat 5% tax for a \$925 obligation.

For \$1,605 paid in taxes, this Massachusetts 18-year-old has converted the entire \$62,897 into a Roth IRA. So, what now?

A \$3.4 million Roth IRA by age 60

If this Roth IRA is left untouched to compound at 10% annually with \$0 further added, the account will swell to over \$3.44 million by age 60—entirely tax-free upon distribution.

The truth is \$3.4M today isn't the same as \$3.4M in 50 years. However, by demonstrating the power of compounding

through incremental investment, you lay the behavioral foundation for your child to keep saving and investing during their career.

Ignore at your own peril, but be prepared in 20 years for: "Mom, Dad, what happened? Why didn't you choose to do this?"

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*

Your Summer Beauty Capsule: less fuss, more fun

By GINA WOELFEL

Summer has exactly zero patience for complicated beauty routines. Neither do we!

That's why we created the **b.LUXE Summer Beauty Capsule**, a collection of services and products designed to help you look polished and confident all season long.

From low-maintenance hair color and beach-proof lashes to glowing skin and simplified routines, we've rounded up our warm-weather favorites.

Think of this as your cheat sheet for an easier summer. Less time getting ready. More time enjoying everything that makes summer, summer.

Lash Lift and Tint: the best decision you'll make before you hit the beach

No mascara. No smudging. No standing in a beach bathroom trying to fix what the ocean already ruined. And no going without the look of thick, full lashes! A lash lift and tint works with your natural lashes, lifting, curling, and deepening them so beautifully that you will genuinely forget you are not wearing a thing. Results last six to eight weeks, which in summer math translates to basically the whole season. It's easy to see why this service is a summer staple for so many of our guests.

Brow Tint: five minutes, a whole summer of payoff

Pair your lash lift and tint with a brow tint and your face is simply done for the day. Defined brows have a remarkable way of pulling everything together, and

this quick service delivers weeks of low-maintenance payoff. It's quite possibly the most underrated five minutes you will ever spend in the studio.

Waxing: because summer is too short for shaving

Summer was made for spontaneous plans, not daily shaving. Professional waxing offers weeks of smooth skin without reaching for a razor. Few services deliver such a big payoff with so little upkeep. Brows, lip, chin, arms, legs, bikini, you name it. One appointment and you're free to enjoy every spontaneous sundress moment the season has in store.

Low Maintenance Hair Color: sun kissed without the upkeep

If your current color requires a standing appointment every few weeks, summer is gently suggesting you reconsider. Balayage and softly blended highlights are everything warm weather hair color should be: beautiful on day one, even more beautiful as they grow, and wonderfully low demand. Our color specialists will work with your natural tones to create something that looks as though the sun itself did the work (and only you'll know the truth!)

Air Dry Products: your blow dryer has earned a vacation

Nobody should be standing over a heat tool when it is 85 degrees outside. The right air dry products change everything, enhancing your natural texture, taming frizz from humidity, and turning what used to be a

frustrating hair day into a rather good one. Wavy, curly, or somewhere wonderfully in between, our stylists will match you with exactly the right products and send you home with simple techniques that work. Your hair and your sanity will both benefit.

The Power of 3 Facial with dermaplaning: because your skin deserves a moment

Our Power of 3 Facial is a results-driven treatment that combines dermaplaning, a customized brightening peel, and a soothing mask. Together, these three services gently remove dead skin cells, fine vellus hair, and surface buildup that can leave skin looking dull. Sun exposure, humidity, and heat are not exactly your complexion's best friends, making this treatment the perfect summer reset.

The result? Smoother, fuzz-free, radiant skin with no harsh chemicals, no downtime, and no discomfort. Even better, your skincare products absorb more effectively, helping you get the most from your at-home routine.

If you're curious about professional skincare but aren't sure where to begin, this is an excellent place to start. Our skincare team is always happy to answer questions and help you find the treatments that make the most sense for your skin.

Tinted SPF by G.M. Collin: never face the sun without it

If daily SPF is not already part of your routine, we say this with complete affection: it needs to be! G.M. Collin's tinted sun protection is an award winning



industry favorite that earns every bit of its reputation. It evens your skin tone, softens imperfections, and protects you from harmful rays all in one effortless step. It's the kind of product that makes you wonder what you did without it!

Ready to build your Summer Beauty Capsule?

Your Summer Beauty Capsule does not have to include everything on this list. It just has to include what works for you. And the b.LUXE team is here to help.

If you're not sure where to start, our team is always happy to help. Visit us at b.LUXE Hair & Makeup Studio in Medway or learn more at bluxe.com.

Because summer should be spent making memories, not

standing in front of the mirror. b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio, Medway. Visit us at bLUXE.com or call 508-321-1624

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Historic happenings: Franklin Historical Museum July 2026

Regular Hours: Saturdays 10-1, Sundays 1-4

Admission is free but donations are very appreciated.

Revolutionaries in White: A Look across Three Centuries of Bridal Fashion (Continuing from June)

Brides didn't always wear white, but in the 19th cen-

tury, a number of factors combined to make that the preferred color choice. Today, white remains dominant for American brides as well as for brides in many other lands. Revolutionaries in White will display gowns spanning from the 19th to the 21st century, offering insights into rapid social changes, with

groupings that include multi-generational family gowns and the unique 1946 Parachute Dress with its spectacular 13-foot train.

Sunday, July 12, Second Sunday Speaker Series: 'Looking Back at Franklin's 1976 Federal Bicentennial,' by Jim Johnston.

Jim Johnston, a retired

Franklin history teacher and author, was also deeply involved with getting the town's 1976 Federal Bicentennial celebration off the ground and making sure it was successful. The museum will show some of its historic images of the event and Jim, always an entertaining speaker, will share stories, kudos, and maybe a

few brickbats regarding the town's celebration of half-a-century ago.

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

Santa Foundation launches new scholarship initiative

Introducing the Bob and Elaine Sullivan Memorial Scholarship

The Santa Foundation is proud to announce the launch and administering of its newest community initiative: The Bob and Elaine Sullivan Memorial Scholarship — a scholarship program created to support graduating high school seniors who are pursuing careers dedicated to helping others.

This newly established scholarship initiative honors the legacy of Bob and Elaine Sullivan, whose lives reflected compassion, generosity, service, and dedication to community. Their commitment to helping others inspired countless people and continues to influence the values at the heart of Santa Foundation's work today.

Beginning in Spring 2027, the Foundation plans to administer these scholarships to graduating seniors who have demonstrated community involvement, compassion, and a desire to pursue careers in fields that support children, families, and communities. Eligible areas

of study may include education, healthcare, social work, mental health, public service, nonprofit leadership, and other helping professions.

"We believe that investing in young people who want to make a difference creates long-term positive change for our entire community," said Executive Director Pam Formosa, from Santa Foundation. "This scholarship is about more than financial assistance — it is about encouraging and recognizing future helpers, caregivers, mentors, and community leaders."

Community members, businesses, and supporters interested in contributing to the scholarship initiative may also donate directly through the Foundation's website. www.sfjoy.org/ donate.

For more information about the scholarship initiative, upcoming fundraising events, or ways to support the mission, visit the Santa Foundation at www.sfjoy.org.

Christine Blue Lamb Toubeau wins People's Choice

The second annual exhibit of the Franklin Art Association's, "Fakes & Forgeries Art Show" closed with announcing the winner of its People's Choice Award. The People's Choice Ribbon was won by Franklin resident and artist Christine Blue Lamb Toubeau. She rendered her version of the famous, Johannes Vermeer's, "Girl with a Pearl Earring" done in 1665. The girl was shown this time with contemporary clothing and jewelry in today's fashion and this new version was titled, "Material Girl with a Pearl Earring."

On June 6, the public was asked to vote for their favorites at the Franklin Historical Museum, open for the day. Artists had painted a work of an honored art Master using their own style and their own interpretation for the new image.

This show is a successful collaboration of both the Franklin Art Association's art-



Christine Blue Lamb Toubeau's rendition of "Material Girl with a Pearl Earring" won People's Choice. Photo used courtesy of Franklin Art Association

work from area artists and The Franklin Historical Museum's building and facilities in which to show the work.

The Franklin Art Associa-

tion will start its monthly art demonstrations and programmed meetings again on September 2nd.



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LIVING HEALTHY

Understanding macular degeneration:

Causes, symptoms, and new treatment options

By ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D.

What is macular degeneration?

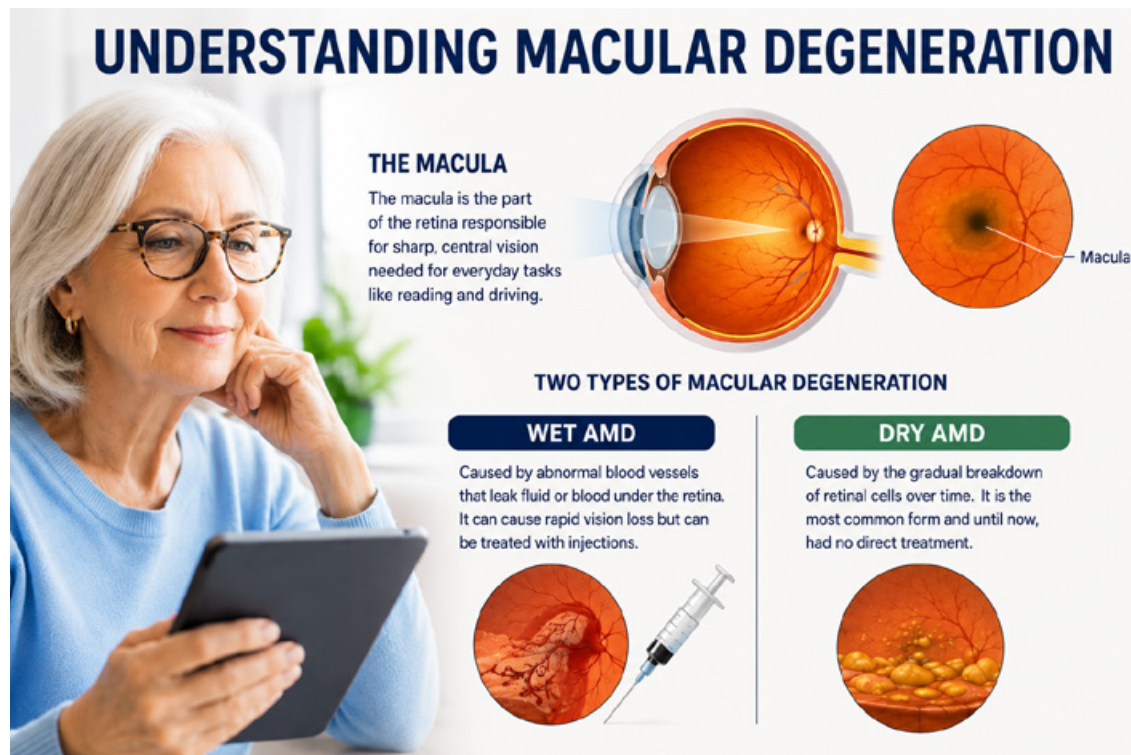
Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is one of the leading causes of vision loss in adults over the age of 50. The disease affects the macula, the central portion of the retina responsible for sharp, detailed vision needed for reading, driving, recognizing faces, and performing daily activities. Although AMD usually does not cause total blindness, it can significantly impair central vision and reduce independence and quality of life if not diagnosed and treated early.

AMD develops from aging changes within the retina combined with genetic and environmental factors. Over time, retinal tissues become less efficient at clearing waste products,

leading to deposits called drusen beneath the retina. Several risk factors increase the likelihood of developing AMD, including advancing age, family history, smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity, ultraviolet light exposure, and poor nutrition. Because early AMD can progress silently, routine eye examinations remain essential for early detection.

Common symptoms of AMD

Patients with macular degeneration may experience blurred central vision, distortion of straight lines, difficulty reading, trouble recognizing faces, dark or empty areas in central vision, reduced color sensitivity, or an increased need for brighter lighting. Symptoms may develop gradually or suddenly depending on the type of



AMD involved.

There are two primary forms of AMD: wet macular degeneration and dry macular degeneration. Although both affect

the same part of the retina, they behave very differently and require different treatment approaches.

Wet macular degeneration: the more serious form

Wet AMD is less common but far more aggressive and dangerous. In wet AMD, abnormal blood vessels grow beneath the retina and leak blood or fluid into the macula, causing rapid and potentially permanent vision loss if treatment is delayed. Patients may suddenly notice wavy vision, blurred central vision, distortion, or dark spots that worsen over days or weeks. Because vision can deteriorate quickly, wet AMD requires urgent evaluation and treatment.

Fortunately, major advances in retinal medicine have dramatically improved outcomes for patients with wet AMD through the use of intravitreal injections. These specialized medications are injected directly into the eye and work by reducing abnormal blood vessel growth and leakage. These treatments have revolutionized wet AMD care and have helped many patients stabilize or even improve their vision.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, patients with wet AMD have access to advanced retinal diagnostics and modern injection therapies using the latest evidence-based treatments

available today. Early diagnosis remains critical because time equals vision.

Dry macular degeneration: the most common form

Dry AMD accounts for approximately 85–90% of all cases of macular degeneration and progresses more slowly than the wet form. In dry AMD, retinal cells gradually deteriorate over time, leading to progressive central vision loss. Although it is generally less aggressive than wet AMD, dry AMD can still significantly affect quality of life and independence.

Traditionally, ophthalmologists often had difficult conversations with patients diagnosed with dry AMD because there was no direct treatment available for the disease itself. Patients were commonly told, “You have the dry form of macular degeneration. Unfortunately, there is no treatment available.” While vitamins, lifestyle modifications, smoking cessation, and monitoring could sometimes slow progression, there historically has been little available to directly target the disease process.

A new breakthrough: PMB therapy for dry AMD

That is now beginning to

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Franklin Senior Center Highlights

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

July is a fun month at the Senior Center. Here are a few exciting events!

Summer Concert Series!

On Monday nights at 7 p.m., bring a blanket or chair and enjoy an outdoor concert!

- July 13: Folk Rock & Blues
- July 20: Southeastern Mass.

Community Concert Band American Revolution History Talk

Tuesday, July 14, 1:30 p.m.

A great way to celebrate our nation's 250th, come listen to some facts presented by Dean College history professor, Rob Lawson.

Monthly Party-- America's 250th Birthday BBQ with The Company Bees

Friday, July 10, 11 a.m.

EYES

continued from page 12

change with the emergence of PMB therapy, one of the most exciting recent advances in ophthalmology for dry macular degeneration. PMB represents a promising new treatment option that offers hope to patients who previously had limited choices beyond observation and supportive care. This innovative technology may help slow disease progression and preserve functional vision in patients with dry AMD.

Milford Franklin Eye Center is proud to be among the first practices in Massachusetts to offer PMB therapy and currently remains the only practice in the area providing this advanced treatment option for dry AMD patients. This reflects the practice's commitment to bringing state-of-the-art retinal care and innovative technology to the community.

On-site retina specialty care

Milford Franklin Eye Center is also proud to provide on-site retina specialty care through Dr. Alyse Richard, a highly trained retina specialist dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of retinal diseases including dry and wet macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, retinal vascular disease, retinal tears, and other complex retinal conditions.

Dr. Richard combines advanced subspecialty expertise with compassionate, patient-centered care and is committed to helping patients preserve their vision using the latest evidence-based treatments available today. Having on-site retina specialty care allows patients to receive comprehensive retinal evaluations, advanced imaging, injections, monitoring, and ongoing treatment in one convenient location.

Early evaluation can preserve vision

Macular degeneration remains one of the leading causes of vision loss in older adults, but advances in retinal care are rapidly transforming outcomes for patients. Early evaluation and treatment can make a meaningful difference in preserving vision, maintaining independence, and improving quality of life.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with dry AMD, now is the time to learn more about this exciting breakthrough in treatment. Patients are encouraged to contact Milford Franklin Eye Center for immediate appointments and second opinions regarding this revolutionary new technology that is changing the future of dry macular degeneration care.

For more details, see our ad on page 12.

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Healey-Driscoll administration launches early career resource website

BOSTON, MA — The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, through the MassHire Department of Career Services, today announced the launch of Start Your Career in MA, a new online career resource designed to support early-career jobseekers and career changers with state-supported career tools, labor market information, job search resources, and professional development opportunities through a single, centralized resource designed to support career exploration in Massachusetts.

Free weekly virtual workshops will focus on resume writing, interview tips, LinkedIn and digital networking, soft skills, and job search strategies. More information on the workshops plus career search tools can be found at mass.gov/StartYourCareer.

The initiative is aimed at supporting early career jobseekers and those changing careers as they navigate the transition from

education to employment and help them better understand opportunities across the state's labor market, including in-demand industries, occupations, and skills. This effort comes as Massachusetts' continues to see strong workforce participation and demand for talent across industries. The state's labor force participation rate among workers ages 25-54 reached 86.7%, its highest level in a decade, and there were more than 229,000 active job postings statewide as of May 2026. Both the website and virtual webinar series will introduce participants to MassHire Career Centers and additional workforce services available across the Commonwealth.

Webinar series coming up include:

LinkedIn: Make Your Digital First Impression Stand Out
Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 10-11 a.m.

Presented by MassHire Cape & Islands, this workshop will guide participants through

building a strong LinkedIn profile, expanding their network, connecting with recruiters and hiring managers, and searching for jobs on the platform. <https://tinyurl.com/digitalimpression>

Soft Skills for Job Search: Why They Matter
Wednesday, July 22, 2026, 10-11 a.m.

Presented by MassHire Metro North, this session will help participants understand how communication, reliability, professionalism, adaptability, teamwork, and accountability can support success in interviews and in the workplace. <https://tinyurl.com/standoutsoftskills>

Early-career jobseekers and career changers are encouraged to visit mass.gov/StartYourCareer to explore career resources, upcoming workshops, labor market information, and job search tools. Additional employment, training, and resources through the MassHire network at mass.gov/MassHire.



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Summer cleanout is greener 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 de-clutter 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 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.

Business spotlight

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!

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State Rep. Jeffrey Roy announces passing of House Budget FY27

BOSTON – Wednesday, April 29, 2026 – State Rep. Jeffrey Roy (D-Franklin) secured key funding for Franklin and Medway when the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed its Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget this past week. Funded at \$63.41 billion, the House's FY27 budget responds to the needs of residents, provides record support

for the Commonwealth's cities and towns, and among many critical investments, includes significant funding for education, transportation, health care, housing, and workforce development.

Representative Roy's Franklin budget amendments include:

- \$100,000 to the Franklin Performing Arts Company

- \$100,000 to the SAFE Coalition
- \$50,000 to the Franklin Food Pantry
- \$25,000 to the Franklin Downtown Partnership
- \$25,000 to the Franklin Creative Center for the Arts

The budget includes \$10 billion in aid to cities and towns across the Commonwealth, a

\$477 million increase from the FY26 budget. This includes \$2.7 billion for transportation and education initiatives supported through funding generated by the Fair Share ballot initiative that voters approved in November 2022, that established a surtax of 4-percent on annual income over \$1 million.

Speaker Mariano and the

House Committee on Ways & Means introduced their FY27 budget proposal on April 15, 2026, following a review of the Governor's proposal and a series of public hearings. The budget passed the House of Representatives 149-9 and at press time was headed to the Senate for consideration.

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Franklin residents received over \$2.6M in Mass Save incentives last year

BY GRAYDON WEBB

Mass Save has released its Annual Impact Report for 2025, and savings are in abundance! For those unaware of the program, Mass Save is a collaborative effort between six of the state's energy providers - including Eversource, National Grid, Berkshire Gas, Cape Light Compact, Liberty, and Unitil. Each year, these companies work with Mass Save to help communities lower their electric and gas bills through eco-friendly upgrades and overall improvements that some may overlook.

With the help of Mass Save sponsors, residents received over \$3.6 billion in benefits in 2025, through household changes like weatherizing homes and installing heat pumps. We spoke with a representative from Eversource - Energy Efficiency Manager, Stephanie Terach - to learn more about how these

incentives are helping local communities, and how to take advantage of such offers. "The great thing is that it's open to almost everyone," Stephanie tells us, "If you get a gas or electric bill from one of these sponsors, you're eligible!"

On each electric or gas bill, customers pay mandatory energy efficiency charges (EECs) calculated based on use. EECs are set at a specific level in the proposed plans in cents-per-kilo-watt-hour (or ¢/kWh) for electricity and dollars-per-therm (or \$/therm) for natural gas. Funds collected from these EECs pay for the majority of Mass Save incentives, according to Mass.gov.

As for Mass Save benefits in residential homes, our local community has seen a significant amount of savings this past year. Franklin alone received a whopping \$2,642,694 in Mass Save incentives with Eversource, including both

electric (\$1,236,552) and gas (\$1,406,142). Eversource tells us one of the easiest ways to save money is by scheduling a Home Energy Assessment, in which the company examines a home to locate any areas of improvement. This could range from finding a room that lacks insulation to changing a showerhead to something more energy efficient. In many cases, Eversource will provide these upgrades on the spot, with no additional charge.

It really is that easy, and with Mass Save, these companies have been able to provide towns all across the state with efficient energy-saving methods. "It's not just about residential homes," says Stephanie, "we have had some local community parishes participate... a popular restaurant chain... a New England-based grocery store..." These improvements can be something as simple as lighting upgrades to larger projects like insula-

tion and heating systems. With the help of Mass Save sponsors, these businesses can make energy efficiency a reality, all the while saving money and resources for their staff and other tasks.

Even the smallest improvements can lead to a more energy- and cost-efficient lifestyle. Eversource shared with us that through their Demand Response program, customers last summer lowered electricity consumption by 210 MW on the hottest days - which is enough energy to power over 100,000 homes. Their smart thermostats help homes and businesses by automatically shifting the heating/cooling systems, in turn saving their customers money in energy costs. The sponsors of Mass Save have helped countless members of the community receive such improvements and update their homes with cheaper, cleaner solutions.

The goal of Eversource and

the sponsors of Mass Save is to be as accessible to their community as possible. As Stephanie puts it, "There isn't one specific income or age requirement to get started. We really want the entire community to feel like they can take advantage of this." Even low-income and moderate-income customers can receive offers if they qualify for higher incentives, which only helps more with community outreach. Both homeowners and renters alike are eligible, as well.

So how can one get involved? Well, there is a website - Mass-Save.com - where one can get more information on the brand and its sponsors, as well as inquire about taking advantage of the incentives. There is also a telephone number: 1-866-527-SAVE (7283), and of course, if you are already a customer of any Mass Save sponsor, they can assist in connecting you to the benefits of Mass Save.

Franklin 250 Team shares first logo and merch

FRANKLIN, Mass - Franklin 250th Celebration Committee, formed in late 2025 by the Town of Franklin to ready the

recent Strawberry Stroll.

The committee, composed of 15 residents, has already set dates for several celebratory events in 2028, including a parade and fireworks in September of 2028 and a gala in early November. Between now and then, the committee is pursuing a number of fun and educational initiatives and engaging with residents, businesses, and community groups to help

community to mark its first "quarter millennia" as a town, formally revealed its new logo and fun merchandise at the most

make this 250th celebration truly special.

Watch for Franklin 250 volunteers at other upcoming events

including Watch Parties, Farmers Market and at the town's Independence Day festivities on the Common, July 1-5.

About Franklin 250

The Franklin 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee builds on the work of townspeople who came together in 1878,

1928, and 1978 (and 2003) to commemorate important milestones in the town's life, to honor the leadership and accomplishments of the past, and to point the way toward a vibrant future for the state's 221st town. Activities and events for all ages are being planned. The seed funds

for the Committee came from a state legislative earmark. All other funding will be by voluntary contributions from citizens and organizations who share a commitment to honor the past and build for the future. More information can be found at Franklin250.org



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The college essay - let the student's voice be heard!

Since I always have new readers, I share this article every year. It is my favorite -I love reading words of wisdom from the masters of admissions. However, this year I added a new piece of advice about AI.

Selecting a college essay topic can become the most challenging aspect of the application process. Students often search for the perfect topic that is not cliché, while feeling pressure to create a fascinating story that has never been told before. The truth is, all stories have been told before: the comeback after a basketball injury, the mission trip that changed your life, the patience you showed while vacationing with 30 family members in a small cabin with one bathroom. The lesson is that there is no one unique topic - they have all been done.

Does this mean you should

settle for mediocrity? No. It does mean that you need to differentiate yourself by finding YOUR voice, making sure it is heard, and unveiling the fantastic and authentic YOU in your story.

Here are a few tips from the masters.

AI does not make you authentic.

"...I guarantee that any essay one writes with the help of AI is not going to be nearly as good or authentic as one that an applicant composes on their own. And, remember, we're trying to build a community of learners who will contribute to the academic and social fabric here, so we count on authenticity in the application. Also, you are asked to sign off on your application verifying that the work is yours alone." *Karen Richardson, Dean of Admission at Princeton.*

Just make sure that the story you're telling is uniquely YOURS.

"I believe everyone has a story worth telling. Don't feel like you have to have had a huge, life-changing, drama-filled experience. Sometimes the seemingly smallest moments lead us to the biggest breakthroughs." *Maggie Schuh, high school English teacher in St. Louis.*

Tell a good story.

"Most people prefer reading a good story over anything else. So... tell a great story in your essay. Worry less about providing as many details about you as possible and more about captivating the reader's attention inside of a great narrative. I read a great essay this year where an applicant walked me through the steps of meditation and how your body responds



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

to it. Loved it." *Jeff Schiffman, Director of Admissions at Tulane University*

Write like a journalist.

"The first few sentences must capture the reader's attention, provide a gist of the story, and give a sense of where the essay is heading. Think about any article you've read - how do you decide to read it? You read the first few sentences and then decide. The same goes for college essays. A strong lead will place your reader in the "accept" mindset from the beginning of the essay. A weak lead will have your reader thinking "reject" - a mindset from which it's nearly impossible to recover." *Brad Schiller, MIT graduate and CEO of Prompt*

Write like you speak.

"You should use words and phrases that you would actually use in everyday conversation. The most meaningful essays are those where I feel like the student is sitting next to me, just talking to me". *Kim Struglinski, admissions counselor from Vanderbilt University.*

Read it aloud.

"Reading your essay aloud is the best way to corroborate that your essay is revealing your voice. Do you feel the emo-

tions? Is it a good story? Is the reader learning something valuable about you? And, will the admission reader say 'yes, I can see this student making a difference at our college?'" *Tracy Sullivan & Maryline Michel Kulewicz, College 101 Admission Consultants*

There are so many admission resources out there. I really enjoy reading Rick Clark's Georgia Tech Admission Blog. He is knowledgeable, honest, and tells an engaging story. Hint: elements of a good essay!

The college tips were paraphrased from College Essay Guys's "35+ Best College Essay Tips from College Application Experts" plus "Navigating College Applications with AI: What Colleges Say + CEG's Advice to Students and Counselors."

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Bellingham, Franklin Police seek charges following pursuit through multiple Communities

BELLINGHAM and FRANKLIN, Mass.- On June 9, 2026, at approximately 8:52 a.m., Officer Dan Gavin attempted to stop a blue Ford Ranger on Pulaski Boulevard. The vehicle is known to officers as being commonly operated by Dominick Revell, 54, of Franklin. Revell, who has an extensive criminal history, has several active warrants for his arrest and a revoked driver's license.

The vehicle failed to stop, and a pursuit ensued, continuing into Franklin, where officers from the Franklin Police Department joined the effort. During the pursuit, stop sticks were successfully deployed on Grove Street in Franklin, deflating the vehicle's passenger-side tires.

Despite the damage, the vehicle continued traveling through Franklin, briefly approaching the Medway town line before ultimately coming to a stop on Pond Street in Franklin. During the pursuit, the vehicle struck several mailboxes. After stopping, the operator exited the vehicle and fled on foot. The suspect jumped over a fence, swam across a small river, and

continued into a wooded area.

Officers from the Bellingham and Franklin Police Departments established a perimeter and requested assistance from regional K9 teams and drone operators. K9 teams from the Milford and Millis Police Departments responded to assist, along with drone operators from the Bellingham and Franklin Police Departments. Officers were later able to locate the suspect and arrest him.

The Bellingham Police Department will be seeking an additional warrant charging Revell with Failure to Stop for Police, Reckless Operation, Operating After Suspension, Speeding, and multiple other motor vehicle violations.

The Franklin Police Department will be seeking an additional warrant charging Revell with several motor vehicle violations, including Leaving the Scene of Property Damage and Reckless Operation.

Revell appeared in Milford District Court on June 10, ordered held on cash bail for two counts but revoked bail in two earlier cases.

Outdoor summer concert series at HCA

Thanks to sponsor Dell Technologies, Hopkinton Center for the Arts (HCA) is once again offering its summer concert series on Friday and Saturday nights for the seventh year through July in its outdoor amphitheater. You only need your lawn chair, blanket, and picnic basket to enjoy an evening of rockin' good music. In case of inclement weather, concerts will take place in the HCA's air-conditioned performance space.

In addition, HCA offers a Sunday jazz series.

To make the arts more accessible to all, these concerts are on

a pay-what-you-can basis, with a suggested donation of \$10-\$25. Following are upcoming performances this month:

Compaq Big Band, July 3, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Simmer Down, July 4, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Summer Sunday Jazz: Nate Aronow Nextet, July 5, 2026, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

According to Nancy, July 10, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Chris Fitz Band, July 11, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Summer Sunday Jazz: Stony's Wicked Din, July 12, 2026, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Los Sugar Kings, July 17, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Racky Thomas Band, July 18, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Summer Sunday Jazz: MetroWest Jazz Project, July 19, 2026, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Hip Shot Band, July 24, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Fat City Band, July 25, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Summer Sunday Jazz: Subject2Change, July 26, 2026, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tin Street Groove, July 31, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

HCA is located at 98 Hayden Rowe St, Hopkinton.

Don't trash clothes or household goods that neighbors can use!

BELLINGHAM, Mass.- Yankee Quilters, Inc., a nonprofit guild of quilters which meets in Franklin, is holding a Savers Fundraiser as a benefit for our programs and outreach to those facing challenges. We are collecting 'softlines' (men's, women's, and children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, belts, backpacks, etc. bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linens, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc.) Books and Media (paperback, hard cover of all genres except encyclopedias or text books). Any media items need to be boxed separately.

We will be holding three drop-off dates for donations: Saturday,

July 18th; Saturday, August 22nd and Saturday, September 12th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon each day. October 3rd is our final Savers drop-off date, so we will be loading a truck and leaving promptly at noon on that date. The drop-off location is Prime Storage, 302 Hartford Ave., Bellingham, MA 02019. If people need assistance with donations, please email yankeequilters11@gmail.com or call 598-657-4770 and we will do our best to either

pickup donations or schedule other drop-off times.

Yankee members make quilts for Dana Farber, First Concern PRC and other nonprofits. We use our tiniest scraps to make pet beds and keep fiber out of landfills. Our quilts are made with donated materials, however sometimes funds are needed for batting, used for warmth in the quilts or specific fabrics. This fundraiser also helps cover the cost of lectures to improve our skills.



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SPORTS

Tri-Country Softball has another successful season

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

For the second straight season, the Tri-Country softball team posted a 16-2 regular season record. Last year, the Cougars edged out Auburn in the Division 3 Tournament 8-7 before falling to Nipmuc 3-1. This year, Tri-Country took upon number 3 Fairhaven in the first round and fell in a tough 3-0 battle.

Having another successful season was not something that Cougar Coach Stephanie Caffrey thought was on the horizon for the team this spring.

"After graduating our top pitcher and some key players from last year's team, I absolutely had no idea that we could accomplish this again," the Tri-Country coach said. "I really had no idea as to what we were getting this year, especially with pitching."

Luckily, freshman Emily Aley entered the picture. The first-year player would be given the ball for the Cougars non-league games where she would go 7-1 with a tough loss to Bellingham. By taking on the non-league games, Aley was able to get her toes wet while learning what to expect on the varsity level. At the plate, the freshman was able to bat .400 in her first varsity season.

While the freshman was pitching in the Cougars' non-league games, it was junior Nelia Schweitzer who would take to the circle for the league contests. Schweitzer was perfect whenever she was handed the ball and finished the regular season with an 8-0 record while facing some tough Division 1 and 2 teams in the Mayflower League.

"Nelia really stepped up for us this year," Caffrey said. "She won us a first-round game in the Vocational Tournament and took on a tough Fairhaven team in the State Tournament. We got to where we were because of her performances."

Prior to the season beginning, catcher MacKenzie Duffy came to Caffrey and told her that she would relearn pitching if it would help the team. Not knowing what was coming down the pipeline in terms of pitching, Duffy giving the coach a back-up plan for the season. Thankfully, Aley came out for the team and Duffy only saw time pitching three innings for the Cougars during their 16-win season.

Although Duffy happened to be playing catcher last year, Alexis Rego suited up behind the plate for the majority of the season this year. Rego became the perfect player and



After losing key players, Tri-Country Softball Coach Stephanie Caffrey was unsure how her team would do, but the remaining players literally stepped up to the plate.

voice, taking on the catching role while being an on-the-field coach for the TC athletes.

"Alexis catching was two-fold; she helped us as coaches, handling things on the field on her own," Caffrey said. "In taking over the catcher duties, she allowed MacKenzie to play

centerfield, where she was able to cover a lot of ground. It was so nice to have a group of diversity players."

Madison Benoit and Ava Gemelli filled in two of the infield positions. Benoit took over the shortstop position near the end of last year to get ready to take on the position full-time this year. Solid in the field, she was also successful as the teams leadoff hitter, where she batted .514 with 36 hits and added 23 stolen bases for the cougars.

Gemelli would waiver between first and third base. First base was her primary position, but she would move over to the hot corner when Schweitzer was pitching. Originally, Gemelli was an unknown, as the junior had missed her freshman and sophomore campaigns due to an injury. Caffrey was not sure what the junior would be able to give the team having not played since the eighth grade.

"Having two years off was a concern, but she ended up being huge for us," the Cougar Coach said. "She batted over .600 for most of the season but eventually ended up hitting

.529 with 36 hits (4 doubles, 6 triples and 3 homeruns) as both a power and singles hitter."

With six senior graduating from this year's team, things will be different for the Cougars come next spring. They will be bringing back eight returners from this year's squad, including three of the team's top four hitters. Caffrey knows that she is going to have find some outfielders to grace the roster of next year's team. This spring, she did have a few working the positions out, hoping that they'll be ready to take on the roles next year. She also has had some girls who have both JV and varsity experience who should be able to step up into those vacancies.

Although, next year, Caffrey will see her team with a very different look, she firmly believes that they should be able to do exactly what they accomplished this year. She has a team that can flash the leather in the field and brings back a strong pitching tandem in Aley and Schweitzer.

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SPORTS

Franklin softball – we not me

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The Franklin softball team, led by a group of 10 seniors (9 players and 1 team manager), did a tremendous job setting the tone for what Coach Breanna Shaffer wants Franklin Softball to represent. The team's focus was a We, not a Me mindset, emphasizing playing for each other and putting the team first in everything they did.

"A big part of our approach has been controlling what we can control. That means showing up to every practice and game with a strong effort, a positive attitude and a commitment to do the little things," Shaffer said.

The coach noted that what stood out about this year's team is how connected they were as a group, continually supporting each other, competing for one another and genuinely enjoying being around one another; that culture has made a difference on and off the field.

Last spring, the Panthers put together a 9-11 regular season record and were able to advance into the Division 1 State Tournament as the number 11 seed. Franklin would defeat Springfield Central 22-2 in

their first game at home and would then fall to Lincoln Sudbury 2-0 in the Round of 16. This year, the team would enter the playoffs again, triumphant in its first two games but fell in the Round of 8.

Shaffer, in her fourth year as the Panthers' head coach, graduated five seniors from last year but returned 11 varsity players, who each shone in her own way.

Senior Sophia Sacramone would take the ball in the circle for Franklin on a regular basis. The team's primary hurler also saw some outfield playing time and eclipsed the 300-career strikeout mark this season. She'd deliver a walk-off win against Haverhill this season, helping advance the team to the Round of 16.

"As a four-year varsity starter, she has been a workhorse for us in the circle," the Panther coach said.

Sacramone's counterpart on the field was senior catcher and co-captain Addilyn Weiss, a three-year varsity player who saw a lot of time at second base last year. Playing behind the plate is Weiss' primary position, although she is as versatile as they come, and the coaching staff is confident she'll call the right pitches.



Members of this season's FHS softball team were supportive of each other on and off the field, says their coach. Photos used courtesy of Breanna Shaffer.

"I've always said that if I can have nine Addis on my team it would be great – she has a high softball IQ and can play here anywhere," Shaffer said. "She's been a lead-by-example type of person."

Weiss' co-captain was short-stop Ella Weston, a 4-year varsity player who is very hard on herself and the way that she plays the game. Playing in the middle of the field for the Panthers, Weston has an incredible range in the field and could

flash the leather with the best of them, keeping her teammates within striking distance of their opponents.

Phenomenal third baseman Senior Ava Florest, committed to play at Simmons University next year, brought consistency to the game. The coach described her as "clutch," and the person to be at to the plate if the team needed a hard hit.

First year player Phoebe O'Connor was also "a fire-cracker that has brought a

spark to the team," says Shaffer. The freshman, used mostly as the team's designated player, also can play the outfield as well as pitch. O'Connor already won a state title with the volleyball team in her first season, and the coach was hoping to have an athlete of her caliber.

Prior to the tournament play, the coach pointed out she wanted the large number of seniors this year ... to have one last ride."

And so, they did.

SAFE Wins Major Harm Reduction Award

FRANKLIN, Mass. – SAFE Coalition's Harm Reduction team won the first-ever Program Achievement Award for their ongoing efforts to serve the MetroWest community with lifesaving care. The award was presented by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Addiction Services to recognize the team's major contributions to the state's harm reduction services.

SAFE's team of three, led by Director of Harm Reduction Sarah Fleming along with Harm Reduction Coordinator Amy Young-Sadler and Harm Reduction Clinician Stephanie Nunes, was chosen for recognition from over 200 harm reduction and post-overdose outreach programs actively operating

across Massachusetts.

The team was recognized for their success in migrating their outreach program from Justice Resource Institute to SAFE Coalition in Fall 2025. When their program faced the threat of closure, Fleming and her team worked closely with DPH to secure a move to Franklin-based SAFE without compromising service quality for their clients.

"We're fortunate to live and work in a state that supports harm reduction efforts as much as it does," says Fleming. "What has always uplifted my team is that no matter what the funding landscape looks like, harm reduction always finds a way. We remembered that harm reduction was a practice that started in rebellion and riots, continued

underground, and often exists without any funding at all. Fortunately, there are true harm reductionists in our state leadership and in DPH who understand the need on the ground right now, and we are grateful for that support."

SAFE's harm reduction team currently serves 105 clients from the towns of Framingham, Marlborough, Hudson, and Natick with non-judgmental, stigma-free support, from arranging safe rides to medical and court appointments to wellness checks, court advocacy, housing support, Narcan distribution, syringe exchange and more. Incredibly, the team provides all support by phone and in person, operating entirely in the field.

Harm reduction accepts behavior change as an incremental process rather than a single and instantaneous act. By treating people experiencing addiction with dignity and providing practical, life-saving tools to keep them alive and healthy, harm reduction seeks to minimize the negative physical and social consequences of drug use without requiring abstinence. These measures are proven to save lives and connect people to treatment without increasing drug use or crime.

"Harm reduction works because it meets people where they are, and it treats them with the dignity they deserve, says SAFE CEO Jen Knight-Levine. "When we do this work in MetroWest, it sends a message that no one in our community

is invisible. No one needs to go somewhere else to get help."

For Fleming, the award offers an opportunity to draw attention to the way stigma imposes limits on the way we see people who use drugs. "Harm reduction is a reminder to everyone that people who use drugs can still be incredibly skilled and have much to contribute," she says. "I never forget that the first responders to an overdose are most often actually people who use drugs. They are far more knowledgeable and capable than the system gives them credit for, and they should always have a seat at the table."

To learn more about SAFE Coalition, contact us at 508-488-8105 or info@safecoalitionma.org

July 2026 Calendar Sponsored by Notturmo Home Services

July 1

Franklin 4th of July celebration, Carnival Hours: 6-10, Wrist bands: 6-10, Music: 6-10, 6 p.m.: Ricky Brennan, Jr., 8 p.m.: GQ & The Lady

July 2

Franklin 4th of July celebration, Carnival Hours: 6-10, Wrist bands: 6-10, Music: 6-10, 6 p.m.: Garden of Hedon, 7:15 p.m.: Ozzie Tribute Band, 8:30 p.m.: The Zajac Brothers
Fireworks: 10 p.m.

July 3

Franklin 4th of July celebration, Carnival Hours: 12-10, Wrist bands: 12-5, MEGAPASS: 12-10, Music: 12-10, 12 p.m., Two Guys Who Like Sharks, 1:30 p.m., Midnight Ride, 3 p.m., George Cross Project, 4:30 p.m., Attleboro School of Rock, 6:30 p.m., Full Circle, 8 p.m., Jeff Pitchell

July 4

Franklin 4th of July celebration, Franklin Town Common: 12-10 p.m. Mike Crandall Franklin Blues Festival, Carnival Hours: 12-10, Wrist bands, 12-5, MEGAPASS: 12-10, 12 p.m.: Ed Peabody & The Big Blue Thang, 1:15 p.m.: Cliff Taylor & The Undertakers, 2:30 p.m.: Neal & The Vipers, 3:45 p.m.: Mike Crandall Tribute Band, 5 p.m.: Sugar Ray & The Bluetones, 6:15 p.m.: Carl Ricci & 706 Union Ave., 7:30 p.m.: The Darrell Nulisch Band, 8:45 p.m.: Richiman & Groove Nice

Franklin Federated Church National Bell Festival participation, 2:50 p.m., Franklin Federated Church, 171 Main St., Franklin, Church will join bell towers across the nation to ring bells 13 times to celebrate the nation's original colonies.

Bellingham 4th of July, 5 p.m., Bellingham Middle School, Fireworks 9:30 p.m.

July 5

Franklin 4th of July celebration, Franklin Town Common, Carnival Hours: 12-6, Wrist bands: 12-4, MEGAPASS: 12-6, Music: 12-6, 12 p.m.: Jamie Barrett, a beloved Franklin singer, songwriter, guitarist and teacher, 1:15 p.m.: Padula Family Band, 2:30 p.m.: David Fields Band with Special Guest Diane Blue, 4 p.m., Beantown Swing Orchestra

July 7

Community Closet open, 12-2 p.m., Franklin United Methodist Church, 82 W. Central St., Franklin, gently used clothing free of charge

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.

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>

July 8

Kids' Creative Crafting with Mickayla: Beach, 6-7:30 p.m., Creative Corner, 21 E. Central St., Franklin, www.creativecornerartsstudiofranklin.com, \$25

ABMI-TV Concerts on the Grass 2026, 6-8 p.m., Bellingham Town Common, Free pony rides 6-7 p.m., Back Pages (classic rock) 6:30-8:30 p.m.

July 9

Franklin Food Pantry Falmouth Road Race Team Fundraiser, La Cantina Winery (357 Union Street, Franklin, \$35 pp includes small bites, live music, chance to win giveaways

Franklin LGBTQ Alliance Ice Cream Social, 6:30 p.m., Franklin TV & Radio, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin, bring your favorite ice cream to share, vegan options provided

July 10

Giant Board Game Party, 1 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Franklin Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m. (2-3 sensory-friendly hour),

Concerts on the Common: 3-5 p.m., Mike Tarara, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Four-play, Entertainment sponsored by Franklin Recreation

July 10-11

Fairbanks Family in America's 125th Annual Family Reunion, Fairbanks House - Dedham, 511 East St., Dedham, this year, a tribute to 111 known Fairbanks family members who served in support of the American Revolution. www.fairbankshouse.org

July 12

Second Sunday Speaker Series: Looking Back at Franklin's 1976

Federal Bicentennial, by Jim Johnston, 1:15 p.m., doors open 1 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 W. Central St., Franklin

July 13

Two Nerdy History Girls Discuss Everyday Life in 1776, 7 p.m., Zoom presentation presented by Bellingham Public Library, register under the library calendar at www.bellinghamlibrary.org, features authors and bloggers Loretta Chase and Susan Holloway Scott

July 14

Community Closet open, 12-2 p.m., Franklin United Methodist Church, 82 W. Central St., Franklin, gently used clothing free of charge

July 15

Franklin LGBTQ Alliance Book Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Franklin TV & Radio, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin. "Iron Widow," by Xiran Jay Zhao!

Kids' Creative Crafting with Mickayla: Planting, 6-7:30 p.m., Creative Corner, 21 E. Central St., Franklin, www.creativecornerartsstudiofranklin.com, \$25

July 16

Boots & Bottles: Line Dancing with Becca, class 7-8 p.m., open dance 8-9:30 p.m., La Cantina Winery, 230 Cottage St., Franklin, \$10

July 17

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

Franklin Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m. (2-3 sensory-friendly hour)

Franklin Concerts on the Common: 3-5 p.m., Matt Zajac, 5:30-7:30 p.m. 3SUM, Entertainment sponsored by Franklin Recreation

Swing 440 - Gypsy Jazz Ensemble, 7 p.m., Niagara Hall, 8 Exchange St., Millis,, tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/Swing440niagara>

July 18

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

Ed Popielarczyk Magic Show, 10:30 a.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Celebrate Medway Day, 12-9 p.m., Choate Park, Medway, local business booths 12-5 p.m., family fun activi-

ties 2-9 p.m. followed by fireworks

Gazebo Players of Medfield present: The Taming of the Shrew, 5 p.m., Bellforge Arts Center, 45 Hospital Rd., Medfield, free but please register, www.bellforge.org

July 19

Gazebo Players of Medfield present: The Taming of the Shrew, 5 p.m., Bellforge Arts Center, 45 Hospital Rd., Medfield, free but please register, www.bellforge.org

July 20

Rainforest Reptiles, 4 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, live animal show

The Black Experience of the Revolution with Herstorian Gracia Rich, 7 p.m., Zoom presentation presented by Bellingham Public Library, register under the library calendar at www.bellinghamlibrary.org.

July 21

Community Closet open, 12-2 p.m., Franklin United Methodist Church, 82 W. Central St., Franklin, gently used clothing free of charge

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.

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>

July 22

ABMI-TV Concerts on the Grass 2026, 6-8 p.m., Bellingham Town Common, Free pony rides 6-7 p.m., Morse Code (classic rock), 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sponsored by Middlesex Savings Bank

Summer Sounds with Soft Touch, Bellforge Arts Center, 45 Hospital Rd., Medfield, free but please register, www.bellforge.org

July 24

Franklin Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m. (2-3 sensory-friendly hour).

Franklin Concerts on the Common: 3-5 p.m., David Rak, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Paradise Flyer, Entertainment sponsored by Franklin Recreation, 2-6 p.m. Zucchini Races sponsored by Franklin Ag Comm

*For rates and info on advertising your business,
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July 25

Tri-County Chamber Hot to Trot 5K, Registration 7 a.m., Race 8 a.m., VFW, 15 Milford St., Upton, sign up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Upton/HottoTrot5k>

Ted Reinstein: Greetings from Breeds Hill, 2 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, family program

Next Stop Comedy at Niagara Coffee Haus, 7 p.m., Niagara Coffee Haus, 8 Exchange St., Millis, <https://www.nextstopcomedy.com/events/niagara-coffee-haus-2026-07-25-7pm>

July 27

Mr. Vinny Shadow Puppets, 4 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, family program

July 28

Community Closet open, 12-2 p.m., Franklin United Methodist Church, 82 W. Central St., Franklin, gently used clothing free of charge

July 29

Interactive Movie, 1 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, family program

Kids' Creative Crafting with Mickayla: Harry Potter Birthday Celebration, 6-7:30 p.m., Creative

Corner, 21 E. Central St., Franklin, www.creativecornerartsstudiofranklin.com, \$25

July 30

Adults Make Awkward Art, 6 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

Celebrate art with the goal to make something so bad it's good!

Rehearsal for Life presents The Gardener's Daughter, a new work by Mary Torpey and Cooper Evello, 8 p.m., Bellforge Arts Center, 45 Hospital Rd., Medfield, free but please register, www.bellforge.org

July 31

Franklin Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m. (2-3 sensory-friendly hour)

Franklin Concerts on the Common: 3-5 p.m., It's a "J" Thing, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Frank Padula Band, Entertainment sponsored by Franklin Recreation

Rehearsal for Life presents The Gardener's Daughter, a new work by Mary Torpey and Cooper Evello, 8 p.m., Bellforge Arts Center, 45 Hospital Rd., Medfield, free but please register, www.bellforge.org

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Save the Date!

Rotary Club of Franklin MA 34th Annual Pasta Supper September 15, 2026

The Rotary Club of Franklin MA is happy to announce that we have scheduled our 34th Annual free Pasta Supper to take place on September 15, 2026, at 5 p.m., at 1000 Central Park Terrace, Franklin, open to all seniors and residents of Franklin Housing Authority. Sign up at Central Park Terrace, 1000 Central Park Terrace, Franklin Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill Street, Franklin

Check out the new school of fish!



On Thursday, May 28, artist Amy Adams welcomed community members to the Franklin Sculpture Park to celebrate the 2026 Traveling School of Fish. Tri-County students created the wooden fish, artistically painted by students at the Washington Street School. Adams collaborated with shop and art teachers on this project, in its 4th year.



Photos used courtesy of Amy Adams



Franklin Public Schools 5th Graders Recognized at Student Showcase

Fifth-grade students from Lincoln Street and Washington Street Elementary Schools presented projects to over 500 industry professionals at the One8 Applied Learning Hub Student Showcase on May 8. Both schools received awards for their impressive group projects. Washington Street's team won the ST Math category and Lincoln Street's team won Project of Distinction.

(Photo Courtesy Franklin Public Schools)

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

Franklin Food Pantry 'SNAP Match' doubles buying power at Franklin Farmers' Market

FRANKLIN, Mass. — The Franklin Food Pantry is sponsoring the SNAP Match program at the Franklin Farmers' Market, offering an unlimited, dollar-for-dollar match that doubles the purchasing power for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients. Funded through grants and individual gifts, the SNAP Match program is a win-win for the local community. By effectively lowering the cost of farm-fresh produce, households experiencing food insecurity gain greater access to nutritious options. The program also supports local vendors and regional agribusinesses.



SNAP EBT card and "matches" the chosen amount dollar-for-dollar in SNAP Tokens. For example, spending \$10 results in \$20 worth of tokens.

The Franklin Farmers' Market takes place every Friday from 2pm to 6pm, June through October, on the Franklin Town Common.

How the SNAP Match Program Works

Any household registered with SNAP, regardless of their resident town or state, can participate in the SNAP Match at the Franklin Farmers' Market.

Before shopping, SNAP recipients bring their SNAP EBT card to the Franklin Food Pantry booth. Shoppers tell the staff how much they would like to spend from their SNAP benefits. The representative swipes the

SNAP tokens can be spent just like cash with any SNAP-eligible vendor at the Franklin Farmers' Market. Franklin Farmers' Market SNAP tokens are exclusive to the Franklin Farmers' Market and SNAP tokens from other farmers' markets cannot be accepted.

For more information on the SNAP Match program, please visit the Franklin Food Pantry booth at the Franklin Farmers' Market, or contact the Franklin Food Pantry at 508-528-3115 or info@franklinfoodpantry.org.

To apply for SNAP benefits, please visit the Department of Transitional Assistance website.

20th PMC Kids Ride rolls in Franklin

June's PMC Kids Ride in Franklin marked the 20th anniversary of the event, part of a statewide movement of young cyclists helping fund life-saving cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

with Olivia now a parent herself and still closely connected to the ride she helped inspire.

Across Franklin and beyond, hundreds of children ages 2 to 15 participate each summer, collectively reinforcing a powerful mes-

Jen Lyons, a Franklin teacher and longtime PMC Kids Ride participant, started with PMC 14 years ago. A few years back, she and another elementary school teacher started a friendly competition to see who could re-



The PMC Kids Ride has raised over \$12M for Dana-Farber since 2005. Courtesy photo

What began two decades ago with siblings Olivia Garrity and Jack Marchioni riding through a rainstorm in Medfield and turning that moment into a simple idea that Franklin should have its own PMC Kids Ride has since grown into one of the region's largest events. Today, the founding spirit has come full circle,

sage: you are never too young to make a difference. The impact is substantial. Since the PMC Kids Ride program began in 2005, young riders have raised more than \$12 million for Dana-Farber. Across the broader Pan-Mass Challenge community, contributions have surpassed \$1.125 billion since 1980.

cruit more students for the ride. One year, she even recruited 70 students!

The Franklin PMC Kids Ride stands as a living example of community-driven impact and proof that small riders can help drive enormous change.



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Franklin LGBTQ Alliance July events

Ice Cream Social
Thursday July 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Franklin TV and Radio Station, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin. Bring your favorite ice cream to share with everyone, and come hungry! Vegan and non-vegan options will be provided!

Brunch with Non-Scene Friends
Saturday July 11, 10 a.m.-12

p.m., Mak's Roast Beef, 451 West Central St., Franklin.

Book Club
Wednesday July 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Franklin TV and Radio Station, 23 Hutchinson St., Franklin. Join our discussion on the novel "Iron Widow," by Xiran Jay Zhao!

FUSF announces services

The First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) is pleased to announce our Summer Sunday Worship Series each week through August 30th.

All services start at 10 a.m. Afterwards, we invite you to stay for cookies and conversation.

July 12, 2026 - Hope & the Beloved Community

July 19, 2026 - Sustaining Hope in the Wake of Mental Health Concerns for Loved Ones

July 26, 2026 - The Resilience of Hope

The First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) is a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation located at 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin. Our Minister is the Reverend Beverly Waring. For more information about FUSF please visit our website at Fusf.org. You can also contact us at info@fusf.org or by calling 508-528-5348.

Come along with us as we go inside the Lift Station of the Beaver St Interceptor Project (BSI)

This article first appeared in and is used courtesy of Franklin Matters

By STEVE SHERLOCK

Our thanks to Doug Martin, P.E., Water and Sewer Superintendent for the Town of Franklin (MA) for providing us access and helping explain the workings of this new pump/life station. Thanks also to Mike Ammendolia, Construction Supervisor for Methuen Construction which built the pump/life station. This project consists of the replacement and repair of Franklin's largest piece of sewer infrastructure, originally constructed in 1914. The cost for this pump/life station installation was about \$8M or about 25% of the total \$30M project. The project is being financed by a SRF loan



25' Underground and inside the new BSI Lift Station on Beaver St
Photo by Franklin Matters

from the State of MA and the sewer user fees. Additional info on the BSI Project can be found on the Town of Franklin project page <https://www.franklinma.gov/557/Beaver-Street-Interceptor-BSI-Project>

My thanks also to Chris Levrone and Joe Landry for capturing the video footage. And especially to Chris for handling the bulk of the editing.

See the video at: <https://youtu.be/uH48wRHdIFA>

Annual Recycling Center Permits Available Beginning July 1

Beginning July 1, 2026, the annual permit fee for the Franklin Recycling Center will increase from \$35 to \$50.

Residents who wish to use the Recycling Center may purchase a permit sticker starting July 1 at any of the following locations:

- DPW Administrative Office, 257 Fisher Street
- Treasurer/Collector's Office, Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street
- Recycling Center, 455 Beaver Street

The annual permit is valid from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

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July 2026

Summer Reading 2026

Plant a Seed...Read!
 Summer Reading is waiting for YOU at the Library! All ages, sign up at library or on the library website; then set your sights on reading goals and summer adventures.

Special Events for Kids & Teens

Fairytale Fun! Monday, July 6 @ 4pm

You're invited to join us, once upon a dream with your favorite sleepy princess! Includes singing, dancing, interactive storytelling and a photo opportunity!

Giant Board Game Party, Friday, July 10 @ 1 p.m.

An afternoon full of giant, life-size versions of classic games, including Hungry Hungry Hippos, Twister, Connect Four, and more!

Teen Amazing Digital Circus Interactive Viewing! Wednesday, July 15 @ 6 p.m.

Teens! Join us for a special celebration of this popular indie animation with an interactive viewing, snacks, and more!

Science Chefs: Make Slushies, Friday, July 17 @ 1 p.m.

We'll be exploring endothermic reactions as we make delicious lemonade slushies to enjoy!

Ed Popielarczyk Magic Show, Saturday, July 18 @ 10:30 a.m.

A one-of-a-kind magic show that is guaranteed to leave the whole family impressed!

Rainforest Reptiles, Monday, July 20 @ 4 p.m.

Travel with us to the different rainforests around the world and meet the alligators, turtles, snakes and more that call these places home! Real, LIVE animal fun! All ages!

Stuffed Animal Sleepover! Thursday, July 23 @ 6 p.m.

What kind of trouble can a bunch of stuffed animals cause

in an empty library? Bring one of your favorite stuffed friends to the library for a cozy story-time, then leave them in our care for the evening! When you pick your friend up on Friday, see what antics they might have caused!

Make Your Own Puzzle, Friday, July 24th @ 1 p.m.

Design and decorate your very own puzzle with Ms. Kaitlyn!

Summer Snow Party! Saturday, July 25 @ 10:30 a.m.

Chill out with a summer blizzard at the library!

Mr. Vinny Shadow Puppets, Monday, July 27 @ 4 p.m.

Get ready for lots of jokes and audience participation!

Interactive Movie, Wednesday, July 29th @ 1 p.m.

Families! Join us for a special Interactive movie screening with popcorn and fun surprises!

Hunger Games Club,

Wednesday, July 29 @ 6 p.m.

Teens! Join us for a monthly interactive viewing of our favorite YA dystopian film franchise! One book and film each month leading up to the release of the latest film in November!

Special Events for Adults

Stars & Waves Silk Scarf Painting, Thursday, July 9 @ 6:30 p.m., Registration Required

Using Inks and fabric resist, paint a silk scarf in patriotic stars and wavy stripes!

Diamond Art Destress, Saturday, July 11 & Thursday, July 23 @ 1:30 p.m., Registration Required

Enjoy a meditative diamond art project! Materials provided. For ages 18+.

Learn to Mahjong! Tuesday, July 14 @ 6 p.m., Registration Required

This intro to Mahjong session will introduce the suits, the rules, the card, and other basics of American Mahjong!

Ted Reinstein: Greetings from

Breeds Hill, Saturday, July 25 @ 2 p.m.

Join us in welcoming author and journalist Ted Reinstein for "Greetings from Breeds Hill... and Other Stories of Fact & Folklore for the 250th"! A new talk exploring lesser-known stories behind the more famous ones from New England's Revolutionary War period.

Mahjong Meetup, Tuesday, July 28 @ 6 p.m.

Whether you have a rudimentary knowledge of Mahjong or have been playing for years, we would love to have you join us for an evening of strategy, luck and fun. For ages 18+.

Adults Make Awkward Art, Thursday, July 30 @ 6 p.m.

Make something so bad it's good! Inspired by the Museum of Bad Art in Boston!

Franklin Library Book Sale Friday, July 17 15: 1 - 5 p.m., Saturday, July 18: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., All books \$1.

Bag Sale - \$5 Per Bag, Saturday, July 18: 1 - 4 p.m.

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<p>2412 Franklin Crossing Road Franklin \$320,000</p>  <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">FOR SALE</p> <p>Eileen Mason</p>	<p>49 Beaver Street Franklin</p>  <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">CTG</p> <p>Susan Morrison</p>	<p>196-198 Grove Street Franklin</p>  <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">UAG</p> <p>Eileen Mason</p>	<p>4 Marshall Street Norfolk</p>  <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">UAG</p> <p>Susan Morrison</p>	<p>0 West Birch Street Norfolk \$99,000</p>  <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">FOR SALE</p> <p>Eileen Mason</p>



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Norfolk County Real Estate Activity Slows in May 2026

Dedham, MA – Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O’Donnell today released the real estate recording statistics for May 2026, which indicate a slowdown in real estate activity across Norfolk County compared to May 2025, with declines seen in several key indicators including sales volume, average sale prices, and mortgage activity.

The Registry of Deeds recorded 9,415 documents in May 2026, a 2% decrease compared to the 9,628 documents recorded in May 2025, and a slight 1% decrease from April 2026.

“May 2026 reflects a lower level of real estate activity compared to last year,” noted Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O’Donnell. “While overall document recordings remained relatively stable, the yearoveryear decline suggests a market that is adjusting to ongoing economic pressures and a limited inventory of available properties.”

The total number of deeds recorded for May 2026, representing both commercial and residential real estate sales and transfers, was 1,462, a 2%

decrease from the 1,494 deeds recorded in May 2025, but a 3% increase from April 2026. Looking at just real estate sales, 773 properties were sold in May 2026, representing a 6% decrease compared to May 2025.

“Although transaction volume improved over April of 2026, this spring market has

not matched the level seen in May of 2025,” stated Register O’Donnell. “Elevated interest rates and affordability challenges continue to restrict both buyers and sellers.”

Lending activity also declined in May. A total of 1,511 mortgages were recorded in May 2026, a 2% decrease from

the 1,542 mortgages recorded in May 2025, and an 8% decrease from April 2026. Total mortgage indebtedness was approximately \$1.25 billion, a 14% decrease compared to May 2025, but a 10% increase from April 2026.

“The decrease in mortgage activity, along with a significant

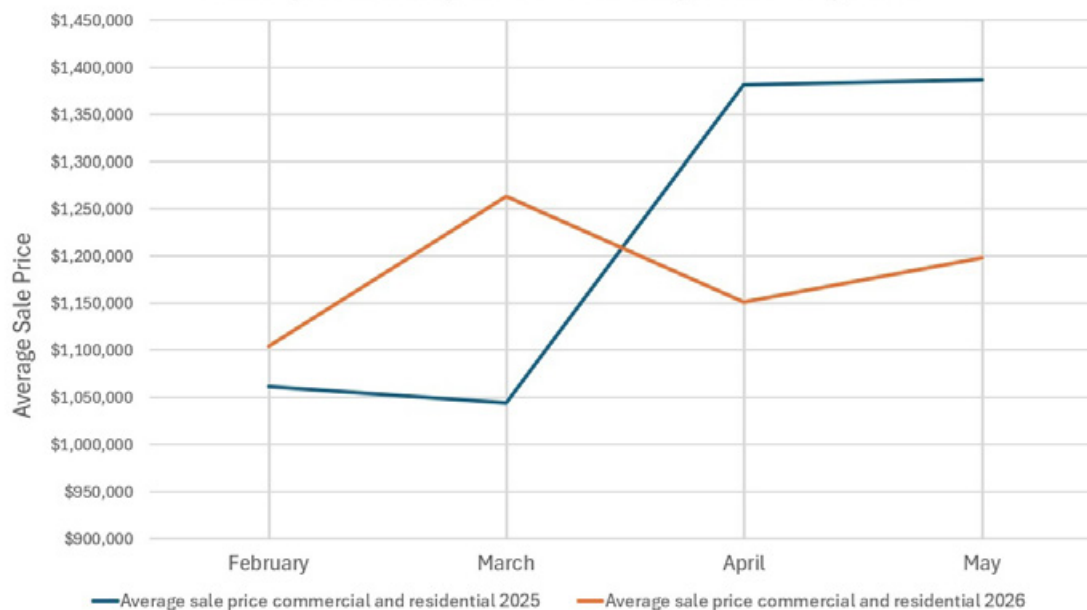
drop in total mortgage indebtedness compared to last year, reflects a more cautious lending environment,” stated Register O’Donnell. “Interest rates and overall borrowing costs remain key factors affecting financing decisions.”

The total value of commercial and residential sales recorded in May 2026 was approximately \$926 million, a 19% decrease from the \$1.14 billion recorded in May 2025, but a 17% increase from April 2026. The average sale price for all property types was approximately \$1.19 million, a 14% decrease compared to May 2025, but a 4% increase from April 2026.

“While overall property values remain historically elevated, the decrease appears to reflect a combination of fewer high-value transactions, softness in the commercial real estate sector, and increased sensitivity to affordability among buyers,” said Register O’Donnell.

For more information, visit the Registry’s website www.norfolkdeeds.org, call 781-461-6101, or email registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.

Average Sale Price Commercial and Residential Property February 2025 to May 2025 V.S. February 2026 to May 2026



DA Candidate Djuna Perkins Reasserts Prior Call for DA Michael Morrissey to Resign as Norfolk County DA

Dedham, Mass. - Norfolk District Attorney candidate Djuna Perkins called for DA Michael Morrissey to resign last year, and last month she reiterated the call after text messages involving

members of Morrissey’s investigative unit were revealed.

“One year ago, I called on DA Michael Morrissey to resign following a pattern of failures to prosecute egregious crimes, the

lack of oversight of the Norfolk County District Attorney’s Office State Police investigative unit, and misguided prosecutorial priorities.”

“The newly released text mes-

sages from members of Morrissey’s investigative unit further highlights why I called for his resignation last year and have continued to assert the need for a complete overhaul of the

DA’s office. Residents of Norfolk County should not be subjected to this level of misconduct, mismanagement, and abhorrent behavior from the county’s top law enforcement officials.”



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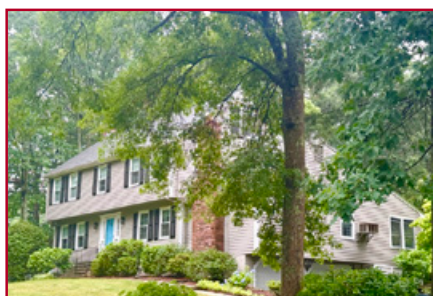


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6 Haverstock Rd. Franklin
Under Contract



18 Plain St. Franklin
Under Contract



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15 Ridge Rd. Wrentham
Sold



7 Pleasantview Rd. Natick
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