

Franklin to Vote on CPA a 2nd Time on Nov. 3

By J.D. O'GARA

National politics aside, November brings a very local measure up for vote in Franklin, a vote on passing the Community Preservation

Act. According to the Community Preservation Coalition, (www.communitypreservation.org), the Community Preservation Act. 177 communities, about half of all

Massachusetts municipalities, have adopted the Community Preservation Act, including towns surrounding Franklin such as Norfolk, Medway, Millis, Wrentham, Norwood and Holliston. Collectively, these funds protected over 30,000 acres of open space in Massachusetts. The Community Preservation Act was passed in 2000 to help communities empower themselves to raise a dedicated revenue source for the purposes of open space preservation, historic preservation, affordable housing and recreation.

"Financially, it's a very good deal for the towns," says Franklin resident and volunteer Susan Speer, who personally supports the measure. "It gives a town funds to do something." Speers has worked with 15 other communities, "many of which have adopted CPA either in the very beginning, like Mendon, or recently, like Wrentham and Northbridge. I've seen towns

VOTE

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Businesses, the Town Wants to Hear from You

Franklin Business Listening Sessions Designed to Elicit Feedback, Find Solutions

By J.D. O'GARA

Just at the end of the last month, the town of Franklin embarked on a program designed to gather input from local businesses. Franklin Business Listening Sessions, which will continue this month on October 19th, at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom.

"The initial idea came off our MAPC Town Market Study, which was recently completed and is online (at the town website). We decided one of the best ways to start working to implement some of these steps would be to reach out and listen and hear from our business community

and our community stakeholders," says Anne Marie Tracey, Franklin Communication Director. Tracey notes that the town is "looking forward with a very different lens" in the midst of the pandemic, COVID-19. "What businesses need now is very different from what they needed" back in April, when the study was completed."

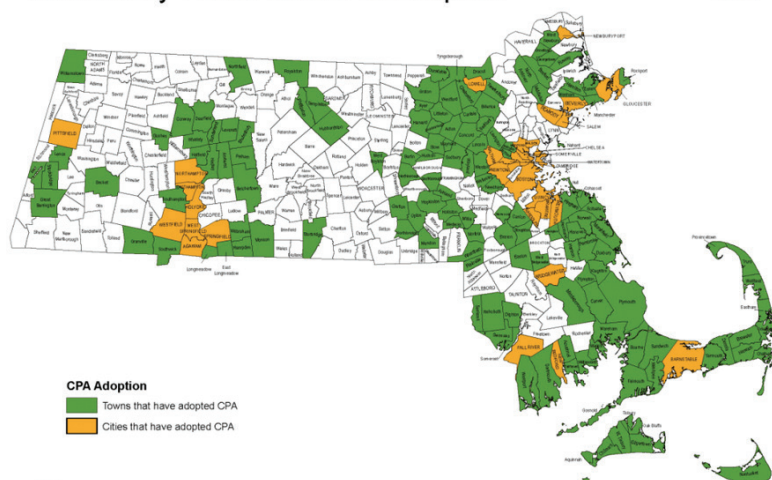
"The Economic Development Subcommittee of the town council (EDC) is dedicated to discussing issues that could enhance

BUSINESSES

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Community Preservation Act Adoption

June 2020



CPA Adoption
Green: Towns that have adopted CPA
Orange: Cities that have adopted CPA

Shown is a map of Massachusetts cities and towns that have passed CPA. The Franklin Town Council voted to put a vote on CPA funding on the November 3rd ballot. If passed, the measure would raise establish a fund dedicated to open space, affordable housing, historic preservation and recreation in the town.

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VOTE*continued from page 1*

all around the area use CPA to protect the things and places they care about, not some outside organization that's going to tell you what to do with that money."

Open space is one of four areas in which CPA funds can be used. The three other categories are housing, historic, and recreation, and the local municipality decides by vote when and if funds set aside under the CPA will be used for projects.

"This would give us a savings account. It gives the town funds to do the things that the residents want to see done, it's local control," says Speers. "I think it's smart to think about it now, how we are going to protect places in the future."

Alan Earls, a Franklin resident who's been advocating for open space preservation in Franklin, including the Charles River Meadowlands, notes, "CPA is an opportunity to address some of these special areas of focus in Franklin as well as recreation facilities, historic preservation, and affordable housing that have

often been under funded in town budgets. With an override vote to raise taxes for our basic services on the near horizon, that only increases the appeal of CPA for those concerned about these secondary needs. I am glad that the Nov. 3 ballot will finally give the citizens of Franklin an opportunity to be heard regarding their support for these important 'quality of life' priorities."

If passed, this "savings account" for the town of Franklin would be funded from two sources, a local property tax surcharge and a yearly distribution from the statewide CPA Trust Fund. Locally, funds would be raised through a surcharge of the tax levy against real property, which municipalities must adopt CPA by ballot referendum. In many of the cities and towns that have adopted CPA, exemptions are available for lower income residents or up to a certain amount of real estate tax. Based on 2020 numbers in Franklin, revenue from CPA funds would amount to \$1,559,839 levied at 2% , which would mean, for a median home value of \$460,400, with an exemption of the first

\$100,000, \$104.58 a year in CPA surcharge.

The town would also receive revenue from a CPA Trust Fund, derived from a percentage of a surcharge placed on all real estate transactions at the state's Registries of Deeds. In 2019, Franklin real estate transactions, according to the Register of Deeds, accounted for \$126,300 for calendar year 2019. Franklin residents already pay these fees, but do not get any of it back. The state also has provided additional funds to this Trust Fund when real estate transactions have declined. The state match fluctuates every year based off the actual numbers of revenue generated at the local level and based on revenues appropriated by the Legislature into the CPA Match Fund at the state.

To take a neighboring town of Medway for example, where low-income homeowners are exempt, as is the first \$100,000 of a real estate transaction, CPA funds in that town amounted to \$1,058,092 in 2019, with \$862,143 coming from the local surcharge and \$195,949 coming from the CPA Trust Fund distri-

bution. Over the years, Medway has raised \$15,761,430 through CPA funding, which has gone to various projects, each voted for by residents in town.

"There are great advantages for any town who participate in the CPA program," says Mary Olssen, Franklin resident, who is involved in the Franklin Historical Museum but spoke to *Local Town Pages* from her personal view. "Franklin would benefit by receiving funding for open spaces, preserving historic resources, and assisting with recreation areas and public housing. Personally, I would like to see the initiative pass."

Wayne Simarrian, chair of the Franklin Recreation Advisory Board had voted unanimously to support a yes vote on CPA in mid-September. Personally, Simarrian noted, "I am in favor of CPA. The CPA will benefit The Recreation Programs of the Town of Franklin."

This will not be the first time the CPA has been on the ballot in Franklin. In 2007, the measure failed, with a vote of 56.5% no and 39.7% yes. (3.7% were blank.)

According to a presentation made before the Franklin Town Council on January 30th about CPA, the current measure on the ballot would, like Medway, exempt the first \$100,000 in real property value and low income. If passed, 10% of funds must be allocated for open space, 10% for historic preservation, and 10% for affordable housing, with the remaining funds discretionary. Those funds do not have to spent each year and may be set aside for future use.

If the town decides to pass the CPA measure, it must establish Community Preservation Committee comprised of at least five to recommend expenditures to the Town Council for final approval. The committee must include a representative from the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, the Housing Authority, the Historical Commission and the Recreation Board, and it may also have up to four additional at-large members.

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Communities Division. \$15,000 is earmarked for the purchase of two electric vehicles and \$15,000 is earmarked for the purchase of electric vehicle charging stations, which will be installed at the Municipal Building and Franklin Public Library.

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BUSINESSES

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economic development and make recommendations to the Town Council about changes that could be put in place to help businesses,” says Melanie Hamblen, Chair of the Franklin Economic Development Subcommittee. “We have been discussing the findings of the MAPC market analysis at our last few meetings. One of the issues that became clear is that a more detailed “wish list” of specific areas would be of great value. We are hoping to get input from more businesses about what their employees would like to see here in Franklin as well and what is the best way to share the information.”

Also on the subcommittee are Glenn Jones, Andy Bissanti and Brian Chandler.

Hamblen explains the subcommittee hopes to “get input from more businesses, of all sizes, about their specific needs. It could be from getting help generating an online shop and how to set up curbside pickup to making temporary by-law changes.” Hamblen touts the job the town has done on speeding up permit processes for temporary outdoor eating and helping small businesses get grants, as well as the Board of Health’s efforts to educate local employees on Covid-19 regulations. She lauds the Coronavirus information portal already on the Town website for business owners.

The listening sessions would elicit even more feedback from businesses.

Tracey explains the town identified five different business sectors with the listening sessions. In September, the first session focused on the downtown and crossing and cultural district, that encompasses Dean College. Although each session was designed to draw feedback from a certain faction of the Franklin business community, business owners and other members of the community are encouraged to attend any session if they’re not able to attend their “category.”

“People can go to whatever they like,” says Tracey, explaining the hopes are “everyone finds somewhere they fit under the umbrella.”

Hamblen says she sees some issues already arising among businesses.

“One of the questions I get asked a lot is “how do I find ____.” Everyone is busy, and our Franklin businesses need help in being found. Hopefully the State “My local MA” campaign will help. We are planning a “Franklin First” campaign, so customers can find what they need in Franklin,” says Hamblen. In these times of pandemic, she says, “

Businesses want their customers to feel free to come visit and customers need to feel safe while shopping, working out and eating. These are challenging times and I believe the listening sessions will allow us to continue to listen, learn and act as we brainstorm to create new ways to encourage and develop local economic enhancements.”



The Franklin Town Council Economic Development subcommittee invites business owners, key community stakeholders and citizens to a series of a

Business Listening & Networking Sessions

to discuss needs, ideas and strategies related to economic development, town marketing and communication. Join the conversation with local and state leadership to discuss Franklin's long-term growth in the COVID-19 era and beyond.

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December 9th
6:30pm

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Franklin Cultural Council Plans Busy October

By J.D. O'Gara

A Halloween House Decorating Contest, a couple great acts at the Franklin Senior Center and an extended deadline for grant submissions are what's going on at the Franklin Cultural Council this month. Although at deadline, specifics were not yet available, Franklin residents are encouraged to take part in a Halloween House Decorating Contest, from October 22nd through October 30th, the final day of which judges will pick winning houses. Look for more details on Facebook on the Franklin Cultural Council page.

Franklin Cultural Council members were excitedly working on the specific dates for two great shows at the Franklin Senior Center. The performances will be outside, limited to 50 people, and hopes were to offer

two shows per concert, so that the first audience can leave and make room for a second. Planners noted that seniors can listen from in or around their cars. Featured artists will include:

- Singer/songwriter Susan Cattaneo performing a solo "USO" show in the second week of October
- The Mark Shilansky trio playing jazz and big band standards in the fourth week of October

The Franklin Cultural Council will be posting more concert details on their Facebook page as they are available.

Finally, while the deadline for grant proposals is usually October 15th each year to the Franklin Cultural Council, this year that deadline has been pushed

back by a month, to November. The Franklin Cultural Council awards grants to local programs in the arts, humanities and sciences. Last year, it awarded 37 grants, totaling nearly \$19,500.

Applications will be available October 1st. To view requirements, as well as last year's award recipients in Franklin, visit <https://www.mass-culture.org/franklin>

The mission of the Franklin Cultural Council (FCC) is to encourage participation and enhance opportunities for enrichment in the cultural arts and sciences throughout our community. Comprised of committed residents, the FCC meets monthly with the purpose of supporting events and programs through grants from the Town of Franklin and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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But figuring out who to call can be a pain. 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!

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Jay Schadler started his business in 2003. 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 ten 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.

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 as well as Resellables, a thrift store in Bellingham. 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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FSPA Meets the Challenges of Fall 2020

The Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) is open for the 2020-2021 season and continues to welcome new students in the school's departments of Music, Dance, and Drama. Founder and Director Raye Lynn Mercer comments on the school's 36th season, "This is certainly a most unusual fall opening, but we are successfully underway! It's great to have activity, music, and happy students back in the building." The school is following the [Mass.gov/Reopening Massachusetts](https://www.mass.gov/reopening-massachusetts-guidelines) guidelines and continues to update procedures and practices as updates become available.

Prospective students are invited to come in person for a tour and to discuss program options. All FSPA programs are being taught in person or in a hybrid format, while some students may elect to take all classes virtually. Mercer remarks, "Understanding that many families are grappling with the difficulties of settling into school this fall, we are 'ready when you are' with enrollment at FSPA ongoing throughout the year."

Masks are required at all times at FSPA. Faculty and students have become accustomed to dancing, acting, and singing while socially distanced and in masks. "Safety is our top pri-

ority," notes Mercer. "We are infusing fun and the joy of the arts into our disciplined environment. Our students are enjoying their classes and have accepted the challenges of the times with respect and a wonderfully positive collective attitude."

FSPA sophomore Audrey Miningham of Mendon exclaims, "Despite everything that's going on, FSPA has done an incredible job making sure that all of us are having fun while still being cautious and safe. I think it's pretty amazing that they found a way to bring the arts back and for us to be together again doing what we love."



Business spotlight

Classes, all with limited enrollment, are being conducted creatively in order to keep students distanced. The school has installed air filters and purifiers and is operating classrooms with windows and doors open as weather allows. Enhanced cleaning practices include daily cleaning and repeated sanitizing of frequently touched surfaces throughout the day. Private lessons have been moved to larger studios, THE BLACK BOX is being used for some group classes, and studios are equipped with tablets and tripods for livestreaming classes home to students working virtually. Dressing rooms are currently closed, and parents and siblings are asked not to wait in the building, keeping numbers of people in the building at a minimum.

According to FSPA Voice Instructor Heidi Iuliano, "The joy the students express to be able to make music in person is so wonderful to see. We're thrilled to be teaching safely at FSPA. The staff and students need this consistently positive outlet!"



"... FSPA has done an incredible job making sure that all of us are having fun while still being cautious and safe," says FSPA student Audrey Miningham, of Mendon.

FSPA parent John Verre of Quincy shares, "As former public school professionals ourselves, expanding our son's involvement in voice, acting, and dance at FSPA and enrolling him in FSPA Academy represented a radical change for my wife and me. With the school's careful re-opening planning and implementation, we are pleased that he is so happy to be there, guided in his academic and theater-related learning by such capable and committed staff, and engaged with classmates and upper-class students who share his passion for musical theater."

Performance opportunities are a hallmark of the FSPA experience. THE BLACK BOX, home of the Franklin Perform-

ing Arts Company (FPAC) and located behind FSPA, is operating an outdoor stage into the fall and under current guidelines for indoor venues, virtual performances and livestream formats are being contemplated. Mercer stresses that students can look forward to performing during the school year.

The FSPA office is open Monday - Saturday. Drop in visits can be accommodated or an appointment can be made for a tour and a discussion of program options for new students. For more information about FSPA and its programs, visit www.FSPAonline.com, call (508) 528-8668, or stop by 38 Main St. in Franklin. Follow FSPA on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.

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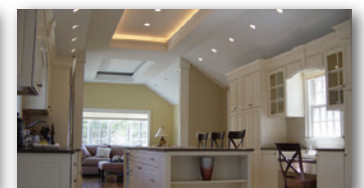
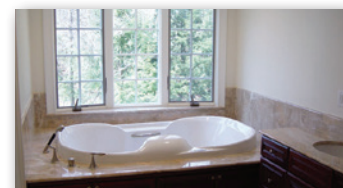


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Farmers Market Coupons Available for Qualifying Seniors

By JANE LEBAK

Food insecurity is a concern for many area seniors. While most Massachusetts residents are familiar with local food pantries, Meals on Wheels, and the SNAP program, there's also a lesser-known program called the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

Marty Schneier, Outreach Coordinator of the Holliston Senior Center, says, "It's a great program, and people really appreciated it. One of the things that's lacking from Meals on Wheels is fresh produce, and that's what you get at a farmers market."

A UMass Boston study from 2016 showed that Massachusetts has the second highest economic insecurity rate for single adults older than 65. Fewer than one-third of senior citizens in the United States eat the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables, but the goal of the Farmers Market Nutrition Program is to increase these seniors' access to nutritious local foods.

Farmers market coupons can be used to purchase fruits and vegetables, fresh herbs, and even honey.

Qualifying individuals are given \$25 to \$50 in coupons. Coupons for this year will expire on October 31st, so anyone with coupons for this year should spend them this month.

According to the Farmers Market Coalition (farmersmarketcoalition.org), senior citizens in particular benefit from farmers markets. While locally fresh sourced is beneficial to everyone, the communal aspect of a farmer's market adds an element of socialization and community. Individuals who shop at a farmers market may have up to twenty social interactions per visit, as opposed to two interactions per visit at a typical grocery store.

Farmers markets also benefit the community by bolstering the local economy. They feature area vendors who have a direct investment in the area and are in touch with the specific needs of their town's customers. Meanwhile, by sourcing locally and eating sea-

sonal foods, shoppers are eating fresher produce that wasn't transported across the country—a benefit that's not only nutritional but also environmental.

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program began as a pilot program in 2001 and was subsequently authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill. In the 2018 Farm Bill, the program's funding was increased to \$20.6 million per year. In 2019, Massachusetts received over half a million dollars in federal funds, with nearly 25,000 individuals receiving coupons and 490 farmers participating at 298 markets and farmstands.

Each town has a separate procedure for getting coupons into the hands of seniors who need them, but the general process is the same. Coupons are distributed through area agencies. Depending on the town, they may go through Baypath, Tri-Valley, or the Health and Social Service Consortium. These agencies may then work with local senior centers or senior housing authorities.

In May or June, they start re-

ceiving applications. In July or August, the recipients will receive their coupons.

Erin Rogers of the Franklin Senior Center says, "Tri Valley reaches out to us to let us know how many coupons we'll have. We let the seniors know, and then we screen the applicants."

Recipients must be sixty years of age or older, disabled or living in senior housing where nutrition services are provided, and below certain income guidelines. In Massachusetts, this year's guidelines were \$23,606 for an individual living alone, or \$31,894 for a household of two.

Although we're at the end of the season for 2020, coupons may still be available in some areas.

"We do still have some," says Marty Schneier of Holliston. "Someone in need who comes in can still get a booklet of \$25 worth of coupons for fruits and vegetables. Maybe even a pumpkin."

By contrast, Franklin does not have any extra coupons at this point in the season. "The biggest

complaint is we wish we could get more," Rogers says. "We've had a lot of seniors using the Farmers Market in Franklin this year."

Area farmers markets with vendors participating in the program are Mendon (closes October 4th), Ashland (closes October 10th), Walpole (October 24th), Dedham (October 28th), Franklin (October 30th), and Natick (which closes October 31st). Medway has participating vendors, but has closed for the season.

Participating booths will feature a green and white sign saying "Farmers Market Coupons Accepted." Each coupon is worth \$2.50. Because no change is given, anyone shopping with these coupons should bring change and/or small bills to get the maximum benefit from their coupons.

More information is available at <https://www.mass.gov/farmers-market-nutrition-program>, where seniors can check their eligibility for the program and learn how to apply for their coupons.

localtownpages



LocalTownPages is excited to announce the launch of our redesigned local community site!

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Tap into our Local Service Guide giving you hundreds of local business listings!

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*Submissions are published at the discretion of the publisher and no advertising or self promotion will be accepted as free listings.

To Advertise your Business on this site, please email: jenschofield@localtownpages.com | 508-570-6544



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Like us on Facebook for up to date happenings around town!

Franklin Kindness Rocks Garden Finds New Life

Franklin Downtown Partnership, Berry Insurance and other local volunteers are spreading kindness and positivity by breathing new life into the Kindness Rocks Garden located in the green space next to Rockland Trust in downtown Franklin.

Originally installed in the summer of 2018, the Kindness Rocks Garden was a huge hit with people who took rocks painted with inspirational messages and pictures. Now, a new push is on to create more painted rocks to place at the Kindness Rocks Garden.

“We’re excited to continue the new tradition of a Kindness Rocks garden in downtown Franklin. Together we can help spread more kindness one rock at a time,” said Kaitlyn Pintarich of Berry Insurance.

The project is an extension of a popular national initiative called The Kindness Rocks Project that has a mission of promoting random acts of kindness to unsuspecting recipients by painting and dropping inspirational rocks.

Franklin Downtown Partnership Executive Director Lisa Piana is pleased that the Kindness Rocks Garden will offer just one more reason to visit the downtown area. “We hope that the Kindness Rocks Garden reminds people that our residents care and support others, especially during these challenging times.”

Visitors are encouraged to visit the Kindness Rocks Garden next to Rockland Trust, 58 Main St., Franklin, and take a rock. They are also invited to leave a rock as an inspiration to someone else.



Photos used courtesy of the Franklin Downtown Partnership.



The Franklin Downtown Partnership is a nonprofit, 501©3 organization made up of nearly 300 business owners, community leaders and residents working to stimulate economic development downtown and create a positive impact throughout the area. Go to www.franklindowntownpartnership.org/ for more information.

Advertise your business this Holiday Season in our Holiday Gift Guide!

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NOVEMBER 3RD

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Senator Rausch Explains Voting by Mail

Free, fair, open, and safely accessible elections are a central pillar of our democracy. In the midst of a global pandemic of epic proportions that renders traditional in-person voting a public safety concern, it is critically important that we protect both our communities' health and our constitutional right to vote. That's why I spent months on Beacon Hill advocating for robust mail-in voting this year. I'm glad we passed a law allowing every registered Massachusetts voter to cast their ballot by mail or safely vote in person, whether during early voting or on Election Day. Voting by mail was extremely popular for this year's primary election, resulting in our highest turnout ever in a Massachusetts primary. As one of the foremost champions of election access in the Legislature, I hope this information will help empower every voter to cast their ballot in the November 3rd general election, whether by mail or in person. Comprehensive resources and links for online tools are available on my website: www.beccaraus-chma.com/2020-elections.

Register to vote: You must be registered to vote in order to request a mail-in-ballot. You have until Saturday, October 24 to register in time for the November

general election, but I urge you to register as soon as possible. Registering to vote and checking your registration status can be done online at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>.

Eligibility to vote by mail: If you're a registered voter, you can vote by mail in 2020! That's it. No additional qualifications required.

Get a vote by mail ballot application: Every registered voter should have received a vote-by-mail application before the primary. If you successfully applied to vote by mail for both the primary and the general, you do not need to reapply. (Skip to "Track your application" to confirm whether you applied for the general election too.) If you did not apply over the summer, or applied only for the primary, another mail-in ballot application for the general election should have been mailed to you. If you do not receive an application and wish to vote by mail, download the application at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/2020-Vote-by-Mail-Application.pdf> or call 1-800-462-VOTE to request one be sent to your home. You can also write to your local election official requesting a mail-in-ballot if you include your full name, ad-

dress, and signature.

Submit your application: Applications for mail-in voting are due back to your local clerk by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28, but I recommend sending in your application as soon as possible. Submit your application by mail, email, or drop-off. If you mail it, do it now in order to leave plenty of time for the application to arrive by the deadline. No need to worry about postage; it's prepaid on the application sent to you. If you submit the application ballot via email, make sure the application still has your signature on it.

Track your application: You can track the status at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/track/track-myballot.aspx> of your mail-in voting application online. If your status is listed as "pending" then your application was received and your ballot should be on its way. Call your local clerk with any concerns.

Get your mail-in ballot: If you successfully applied to vote by mail, your ballot will be mailed to you. Ballots should start to arrive to voters in early to mid-October.

Complete and submit your ballot: First things first: read the instructions! If you're voting by mail but receive an instruction sheet for absentee voting, ignore

the part that says you should check to be sure you're eligible; the eligibility requirements for voting absentee do not apply to voting by mail in 2020. Fill in the ovals on your ballot with a black pen or pencil. Remember to check the back side of your ballot and vote there too. Put your completed ballot inside the yellow ballot envelope. Seal the ballot envelope and complete the top portion of the exterior. Do not forget to sign the yellow envelope. If you do not receive a yellow envelope with your ballot, contact your local clerk. Put the signed and sealed ballot envelope inside the white mailing envelope and seal that one. Like the application, the ballot mailing envelope will be pre-addressed and postage prepaid. Your ballot must be mailed by election day (Tuesday, November 3) or you must place your ballot in the ballot drop box by 8 pm on Election Day. If you're mailing it, do so as soon as you can to ensure your ballot arrives on time and will be counted. Your mailed ballot must be received by your local clerk by Friday, November 6 in order to be counted. The U.S. Postal Service has experienced delays, so please return your mail-in ballot early or use a drop box. Again, you can track your ballot online.

What about my "I voted" sticker?! Unfortunately, if you vote by mail, you're probably not getting an "I voted" sticker this year.

I want to change my mind: If you requested and received a mail-in ballot but decide not to use it, you can still vote in person.

However, if your ballot has been received and processed by the clerk, you cannot vote in person. You can track the status of your mail in ballot online.

In-person early voting: Along with voting by mail, voters may also vote early in person, starting on Saturday, October 17 and running until Friday, October 30. Specific early voting schedules and locations will be posted online by Friday, October 9. You can also check with your local clerk for in-person early voting information. Wear a mask when you go to cast your vote.

In-person voting on Election Day: Polls will be open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3. Make sure you know your polling place location (<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/bal/MyElectionInfo.aspx>). Wear a mask when you go to cast your vote.

I am so proud that Massachusetts voters have broader voting options and increased safety precautions for the upcoming election on November 3, 2020. I encourage everyone to vote by mail, whether you mail back your ballot or drop it off; if you choose to vote in person, please be diligent with your COVID-19 precautions -- wear a mask, keep your distance, and use hand sanitizer. Please visit www.beccaraus-chma.com/2020-elections for a detailed FAQ and email me directly at becca.rausch@masenate.gov with any specific questions or concerns.

Happy voting, everyone!



COVID-19 made it difficult for some people to get rid of their unwanted items or move to their new home. Let College Hunks Hauling Junk & Moving help with contactless curbside pickup of the items you don't want to move.

#CollegeHUNKS predicts the coming months will be busy with people
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STATE ELECTION

Tuesday, November 3rd, from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL GYM

Early Voting: Franklin High School (2 weeks) starting Saturday, Oct.17 through Friday, Oct.30th

Saturday, Oct.17th and Sunday, Oct.18th, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - (both days)
Monday, Oct.19th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct.20th 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct.21st, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday, Oct.22nd, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Friday, Oct.23rd, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 24th and Sunday, Oct.25th 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (both days)
Monday, Oct. 26th 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 27th 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct.28th 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday, Oct.29th 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Friday, Oct.30th 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Franklin Special Town Election – Town Council Seat

Monday, November 23rd, Post Warrant
Wednesday, November 25th, Last day to register to vote
Saturday, December 5th, 2020, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. ELECTION DAY

Dean College Ranks among the Top Best Regional Colleges

Dean College, a private, residential college located in Franklin, Massachusetts, has been ranked **34th in the 2021 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges** rankings for the Best Regional Colleges, North category. This is the tenth consecutive year that Dean College has received the Best Colleges honor.

Additionally, Dean placed 6th in the Best Regional Colleges, North category for Best Undergraduate Teaching and was named to the list of institutions with the Least Debt for Student Debt Loan at Graduation.

“We are thrilled to be recognized by *U.S. News* and our peer

institutions once again this year,” said Dr. Paula M. Rooney, Dean College President. “It signals the overall strength of Dean’s academic experience and the emphasis we place on student success.”

U.S. News & World Report is a multi-platform, publisher of news and information. The *U.S. News* ranking system for the Best Regional Colleges rests on two pillars. The formula uses quantitative measures that education experts have proposed as reliable indicators of academic quality, and it is based on research of what matters in education, including: graduation rate per-

formance, academic reputation, and financial selectivity, among others.

This year’s ranking is a testament to The Dean Difference – the way that our community cares for and commits to each other through hands-on learning, engaging faculty & staff, strong academic support, and real-life workforce preparation to help our students achieve unimagined heights.

For more information on *U.S. News & World Report*, visit www.usnews.com/education. For more information on Dean College, visit www.dean.edu.

Milford Regional Reopens Main Lobby

The main lobby, which had been closed due to COVID-19, is now open 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Visitors must now enter through the main lobby, and visiting hours are from 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. Patients can have one visitor per day during those hours. Visi-

tors are no longer able to enter through the Hill Building, Emergency Department or Imaging Department.

Joe Shea is OUR Norfolk County Commissioner



JOE SHEA
COMMISSIONER

The last few months have been challenging to say the least, but as we have in the past **we come together** now to support one another and our communities. This spirit, the backbone of our region, makes me proud to continue my efforts as one of your Norfolk County Commissioners.

I have dedicated my life to public service and providing **trusted leadership** at every step of the way as an elected official. Together, we have put practices in place to ensure that Norfolk County continues as a **cost-effective, inclusive and transparent** regional entity, including efforts to:

- Initiate a plan to **modernize the County’s financial and capital planning practices.**
- Make significant **investments at the Norfolk County Agricultural High School.**
- **Prioritize capital improvement** and preservation efforts in our county courthouses.
- Lead a grant initiative to create more regional, public health, nursing services between the towns of Avon, Holbrook and Randolph; **a model for future regional efforts.**

Helping people, promoting good government and serving the County for the last five years has been my passion. **It’s clear that we must continue to respond, adapt, and ensure that the County is governed with modern-day practices.** I am running for re-election, and I’m honored to ask for your support to continue this work.



Please Vote to Re-Elect Joe Shea on or before November 3rd.

Franklin Food Pantry Launches Ambassador Program

Ambassadors to Help Educate the Community about Hunger in Our Community

Today the Franklin Food Pantry announced that it has launched a new ambassador program (<https://www.franklin-foodpantry.org/ambassador-program/>) to raise awareness, help educate the community about hunger and publicize the many ways people can get involved in the Franklin Food Pantry. Ambassadors can raise funds

through their own activities like marathons, product sales, and other activities that benefit The Pantry. Ambassadors will display a real commitment to eradicating hunger and a passion to inspire others to help.

Both individuals and small businesses can become Franklin Food Pantry Ambassadors. Individuals can support The Pantry

with donor pages, hosting events, educating the community via social media, opening lemonade stands, and in a variety of other ways. Small businesses can help connect their service and community by adding a Franklin Food Pantry ambassador logo to their website, become a donation location, serve a special drink, and in different initiatives that support The Pantry.

“The idea behind the Ambassador Program is that anyone can join the fight against hunger,



whether they are five years old or 105 years old. Being hungry is more than just the inability to buy food and every person who faces this challenge has their own unique story,” said Kim Cooper, Donor Relations Manager for The Franklin Food Pantry. “The Ambassador Program will help those stories get told and increase ways the community can help The Pantry. Each word spoken, each dollar raised, goes back to help people facing food insecurity in our community. Every hand, big or small, can help.”

If you have a passion for helping end food insecurity and are looking for ways to contribute to The Franklin Food Pantry, the Ambassador Program may be right for you. Please reach out to Kim Cooper at kcooper@franklinfoodpantry.org for more information and learn how you can help make a difference in your community.

During the pandemic, the Franklin Food Pantry continues to operate to serve all new and existing neighbors. The Pantry

has changed its hours to Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays. The Pantry is distributing prepackaged bags of shelf-stable items as well as fresh produce and proteins through a drive-up service. Since March, the Pantry has seen a weekly increase of new neighbors needing to receive services and all donations have gone toward continuing to feed our patrons.

About the Franklin Food Pantry

The mission of the Franklin Food Pantry is to alleviate food insecurity and compassionately empower our community through resources and collaboration. The Franklin Food Pantry offers supplemental food assistance and household necessities to over 1,400 individuals. As a nonprofit organization, the Pantry depends entirely on donations and receives no town or state funding. In FY 2019 - 2020, 287,691 pounds of food was provided to clients. Other programs include the Weekend Backpack Program, Carts for Clients, Mobile Pantry, and holiday meal packages. Visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org for more information.

October 2020 Franklin Veterans News

- The next Veterans' VIRTUAL Coffee Social will be held on Wednesday, October 7 at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to “tune in” for updates and conversation. Check the Veterans' Services web page at: <https://www.franklinma.gov/veterans-services> for Zoom log-in details.
- The annual Veterans' Day luncheon has been cancelled this year due to the pandemic. To honor Franklin veterans, a Veterans' Day celebration, hosted by the Franklin VSO, will be aired on Franklin Community Cable Access TV on November 11. Check Franklin TV's program guide for schedule.
- If you are a Franklin resident and are a Purple Heart recipient, please contact the Veterans'

Services Office so you (or a family member residing in Franklin) can be added to the Franklin Purple Heart database. Franklin is a Purple Heart Community that recognizes and honors Purple Heart recipients on National Purple Heart Day, August 7, each year.

- The next engraved brick installation on the Veterans Memorial Walkway is scheduled for November. The cut-off date for purchases for this installation was September 14. However, brick sales are ongoing. The next installation will be in May 2021. For order forms or information, please contact the Veterans' Services Office at: (508) 613-1315 or go to the VSO web page at: <https://www.franklinma.gov/veterans-services>

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

Pumpkin Patch October 2-31 at St. John's Church

Pick your perfect pumpkin all month long during October at St. John's Church Pumpkin Patch.

The church will have a large assortment of pumpkins from October 2 through 31. Come by the front lawn at 237 Pleasant Street, Franklin. Visitors can shop Saturdays and Sundays from 12 pm to 8 pm. Monday through Friday shop from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Adding to the fun, children can enjoy activities and games on the front lawn; they can have their photo taken, if they wish. The month will wrap up on Sat. October 31st when anyone can participate in a Halloween costume contest at 3 p.m.

The pumpkins are grown on a Navajo reservation in New Mexico and provide jobs for the people there. They use sustainable farming practices, so they're gentle on the earth.

If you have any questions, call St. John's Episcopal Church at (508) 528-2387.

Grab a gourd. Select a squash. Pick your perfect pumpkin at 237 Pleasant Street. Select from a large variety of pumpkin sizes and prices. And remember: it's cool to shop local!

Call (508) 528-2387

Like us Facebook: St John's Episcopal Church

View www.stjohnsfranklinma.org

You Are Cordially Invited to A Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving

When: Sunday, October 4, 2020 from 2-2:45 p.m.

Where: Newell Shelter, Capron Park,
201 County Street, Attleboro, MA 02703

Grief and loss are universal human experiences. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, these experiences may be even more challenging. This event offers an opportunity to find a silver lining among the clouds.

Join us for an outdoor service in memory of loved ones who received care from Community VNA Hospice. Our service includes candle lighting, music, readings, and a tribute to those whose lives have been impacted by or lost to COVID-19.

We invite you to bring a photo or memento of your loved one to place on the memorial altar. During the service, we will read the names of those who have died between September 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020. Names will be printed in the order of service.

We will observe physical distancing at the service. Please estimate how many chairs you will need when you RSVP. Wearing face masks during the service will

be required, for the protection and safety of all.

Accessibility: Please indicate in your RSVP how we can support you in attending the service. The Newell Shelter is an open-air venue near the rose garden and zoo entrance. There is a low-rise ramp on the street side of the Newell Shelter; where you can stop briefly for a drop off before you reach the parking lot. The floor of the shelter is a level cement slab, with open sides and a high roof. We will use a sound system during the service. Bathrooms are not accessible from the shelter and the service is planned for 40 minutes.

For more information, contact:

Glenn Rounseville, Spiritual & Bereavement Care Coordinator

Community VNA, (508) 222-0118, ext. 1372, grounseville@communityvna.com

There's Still Time to Support the 2020 St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor Walk

Each year, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary's Church walks to bring awareness to the Franklin Community of the struggles some residents experience that impact their life. For 30 years, we have been there to help people in need in Franklin. We work closely with many charitable and government organizations.

We are all volunteers and assist people in a number of ways to help them retain their dignity and return to become self-sustaining.

- Guide them to other resources, both state and charitable
- Provide clothing and furniture through our SVDP Thrift Stores

- Supply non-perishable food and paper products from our pantry to supplement other food resources
- Assist financially during an unexpected crisis helping pay rent, medical, car repairs etc.

Last year we helped Franklin Families 186 times for \$65,000

This year due to COVID 19 we have had to change our format to operate a safe event on September 26th. If you missed out sponsoring a walker and would like to support our mission of helping residents of Franklin in need, you may make a financial donation in either of two ways.



1. Send a check to: SVDP 1 Church Square Franklin, MA 02038 Or
2. Online to the SVDP team at: <https://www.fopwalk.org/eventlisting/eventdetail/donate/?eventid=2507>

If you have any questions please call SVDP (508) 918-2291. All donations stay in Franklin and all information is kept confidential.

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October 2020 at the Franklin Public Library

Library News

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Franklin Public Library is currently closed to the public. Curbside Pickup is available Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the vestibule of the entrance at the top of the parking lot ramp. Library Staff are available by phone (508-520-4941) and email (frkill@minlib.net) Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday hours are not available at this time.

In observance of Columbus Day, Curbside Pickup will not be available Monday, October 12th.

No donations are being accepted at this time. Please do not place them in the return bins or outside the building.

Programs for Children and Teens

Weekly Facebook Live Events for Kids!

Wake Up Wiggles! Mondays 9:15 a.m.

Tummy Time for Babies! Tuesdays @9:30 a.m. email Miss Caleigh at ckeating@minlib.net to register for Tummy Time!

Zoom Cool Cruisers! (Music and movement!) Tuesdays @4 p.m. email Miss Caleigh at ckeating@minlib.net to register for Cool Cruisers!

Tummy Time for Babies! Thursdays @9:30 p.m. email Miss Caleigh at ckeating@minlib.net to register for Tummy Time!

Bookworm Bounce! Thursdays @4 p.m.

Zoom Book Club for Kids Grades 3-5 (weekly on Wednesday afternoons at 3:30 p.m.)

Kids in Grades 3-5! Join us for awesome book discussions and fun activities! We are currently reading the 39 Clues Book 2 (One False Note by Gordon Korman) and having a blast trying to solve all the mysteries and make predictions with this thrilling series! Email ckeating@minlib.net to get involved!

Reader's Choice Zoom Book Club for Teens!

Join a group of avid readers as we choose a YA book or series to read together and then discuss over zoom! This casual book club meets on zoom at the convenience of the members, and we decide what to read together, and LOVE getting recommendations! Email ckeating@minlib.net to get involved!

Hurl sings, and bends the guitar strings, and Bruce Ward pounds the piano keys. Their first CD, Bumpity Bump, got great reviews in the press, and on the internet, and play on many radio shows. Their follow-up, Slap Happy, attracted similar attention. Upbeat music suitable for listening, dining, and dancing. More info: www.stevhurl.com or www.reverbNation.com/jumpinjuba

Please remain in your vehicle or its immediate vicinity while enjoying the concert. Social distancing rules apply. Stay at home if you or a member of your household is sick. Masks covering your nose and mouth must be worn if you are exiting your vehicle. Please maintain a distance of six feet from other participants.

This program is supported by a grant from the Franklin Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

lin residents. Pre-assembled kits containing materials and tools to be used in the workshop will be available for the first 15 registrants to pick-up curbside at the library. Additional participants may make up their own kit with a provided supply list. After registration closes, you will receive an email with either instructions about picking up your kit OR a supply list to put together your own kit. All registrants will receive the link to connect to the (Zoom) workshop.

To register go to www.thecreativitycurator.com. Email questions to Jacqueline Volpe at thecreativitycurator@gmail.com. Please register early if you would like to receive one of the pre-made kits since quantities are limited.

Kitchen Table Art Workshops (KTAW) are online open studios intended to foster creativity and encourage experimentation in the safety of our homes while being socially and artistically connected online.

Franklin Public Library Book Club, Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 p.m.

The book for discussion is *Hollow Kingdom*, by Kira Jane Buxton.

To reserve a copy of the book or for more information, please contact Assistant Library Director Kim Shipala at kshipala@minlib.net. To register, please visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6480464804>

Consignment Shop Opening Soon in Franklin!



VENDORS WANTED! - Looking for Home Decor and Craft items
CALL FOR APPOINTMENTS! - 508-498-9824

Teen Advisory Board, 2nd Wednesday of the Month on Zoom @7:30 p.m.

Teens! Want to get involved at the library from a distance? Join us as we plan teen-centric events, book displays, revamp our website and more! The perfect way to earn community service hours remotely! Email ckeating@minlib.net to get involved!

Kitchen Table Art Workshop: Beeswax Ink Transfers

Sunday, October 25th, 3 p.m.

Transformation is pretty cool! Working in miniature we will explore an ink-onto-wax encaustic-like transfer method that has a magical quality. We will apply, burnish, and mark pigment from recycled magazine pages onto beeswax coated wood. The workshop is for adult and young adult artists, non-artists, and emerging creatives from all fields. No prior art experience is necessary.

Registration is between September 1st and October 15th. Priority will be given to Frank-

Adults

Jumpin' Juba Car Concert, Friday, October 9, 3 p.m.

Jumpin' Juba plays a mix of old-school blues, early rock & roll, and roots-y versions of Americana tunes. Steve

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Fall into Downtown Franklin

On September 16, members of the Franklin Downtown Partnership, Franklin Garden Club, resident volunteers and DPW decorated the downtown area with mums, pumpkins, and other autumnal decor from Hillside Nurseries and Franklin Agway.

“This year, we feel it’s more important than ever to roll out the red carpet to our downtown by beautifying it with autumn



Photos used courtesy of Franklin Downtown Partnership.

decorations,” said Roberta Trahan, vice president of the FDP. “We want to encourage people to shop local and support Franklin businesses.”

Long-time chair of the beautification efforts in downtown, Eileen Mason, said all the volunteers maintained appropriate social distancing and wore masks while installing the fall decorations.

“We wanted to make sure we beautified the downtown in the safest way possible,” said Mason. “Many thanks to our volunteers, Hillside Nurseries, the Department of Public Works and Franklin Agway for making this possible.”

The FDP is a non-profit 501©3 organization made up of nearly 300 residents, business owners and community leaders working to revitalize downtown Franklin. The Partnership manages events like the Strawberry Stroll and the Harvest Festival, and initiatives such as beautifica-



tion, streetscape design, greenspace, alley murals, and sculpture projects. For more information go to www.franklindowntownpartnership.org.

Keep it Local - Support Franklin Businesses

Top 10 Health Concerns of Baby Boomers, Part 1

BY DENNIS SULLIVAN & ASSOCIATES

Baby boomers are now in their 50s, 60s, and 70s, and as they age they are dealing with the challenges of staying healthy. Of their top ten concerns, here are 6 through 10. We’ll discuss the next five in November’s issue.

10. Living Longer

People are living longer than in prior generations. With longevity comes increased risk of illness and the need for long-term care, and the question of whether savings will last a lifetime. At Dennis Sullivan & Associates, we hear these concerns every day. Our goal is to help families protect their assets for their later years.

9. Bones, Joints, and Mobility

Over 25% of boomer women have osteoporosis, and many more have bone and joint issues. As we age, the cartilage that cushions bones and joints break down, resulting in the pain, swelling and stiffness of osteoarthritis. This is a top cause of disability. Prevention is key for osteoporosis, and daily exercise is crucial to maintaining joint flexibility.

8. Caregiver Strain

Baby boomers are in a unique position. Many are caring not only for their own families but also for aging relatives. This puts considerable stress on caregivers and can affect their mental and physical health and that of those they care for. It is paramount that caregivers take time to see to their physical and emotional well-being. If you would like to receive our caregiver strain index, call our office. It can help you and your family develop a plan to provide care and preserve resources in advance of a crisis.

7. Navigating Insurance

Medicare plans offer many options. It’s currently open enrollment season and baby boomers are overwhelmed by the choices available to them. Many people do not realize that long-term care is not covered by Medicare. Planning ahead is essential for navigating the complex insurance system and making sure you’ve got the coverage and protection you need.

6. Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease

Age is the best-known risk factor for dementia. A 2011 study by the World Alzheimer’s Organization found that over 50% of those age 80 and over worldwide have some form of dementia. Over 5 million Americans were living with Alzheimer’s disease in 2013, and by 2050 the CDC projects the number will be 14 million. When there is a dementia diagnosis, there is an increased need for long-term care. Dementia robs a person of the ability to make their own decisions, so it is crucial that boomers appoint health care decision makers via a Health Care Proxy/Living Will, authorize the release of information via HIPPA release, and discuss the MOLST with their doctor. These documents are essential for everyone over the age of 18.

Dennis Sullivan & Associates has been assisting families in Massachusetts for over 26 years, protecting their homes, health, legacy and life savings. To learn more and to attend a free on-line discovery seminar, visit DSullivan.com. This is a paid advertisement.



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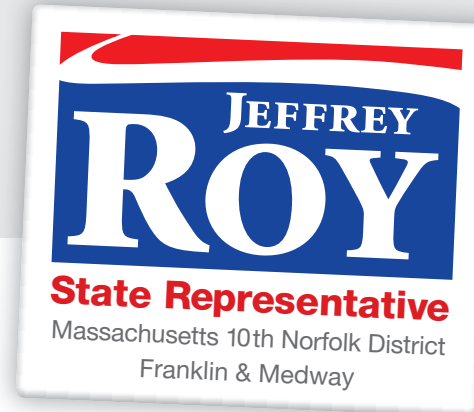
Legal Services Network

RE-ELECT

A Proven Commitment to Our Community



It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Franklin and Medway. I humbly ask for your vote once again so I may continue to work on your behalf on the issues important to us all.



Legislative Priorities:

- Promote **economic development** by bringing manufacturing back to Massachusetts and fostering its renaissance in the state.
- Increase access to **healthcare** statewide, while lowering costs.
- Continue current efforts to **increase education funding** and enhance programs.
- Further the commitment to work **across party lines** and maintain civility in state government.

Legislative Accomplishments:

Since 2013 Jeff has been part of a legislative team that has addressed the issues of education, economic development, the coronavirus pandemic, health care, substance use disorder, criminal justice, civil rights and social equity, gun safety, energy, and the environment. In addition, he has:

- Worked to maintain high quality in our public schools
- Lead author of legislation **increasing transparency** and financial reporting requirements for higher education institutions
- Instrumental in re-opening a closed factory in Franklin to **manufacture PPE**
- Helped families coping with substance use disorder by co-founding the SAFE Coalition and delivering **\$150,000** in state funds
- Lead author of legislation that **increased transparency** and civic engagement by creating a searchable online database of legal notices
- Led fight for **healthcare reform**
- Helped **Seniors** with Housing, Tax Relief and funding for Senior Centers
- Supported **Veterans** through the Valor Acts and Memorial Walkway funding
- Brought **civics education** back to our public schools so young people will understand the importance of participating in government
- Lead author and sponsor of the **Genocide Education Act**
- Sponsored legislation lowering thresholds on specialty license plates, making them available to smaller **charities and causes**
- Led legislative effort to create a **Regional Dispatch Center** for Franklin, Norfolk, Wrentham and Plainville
- Delivered **local aid** for schools, roads, infrastructure, public safety, arts and recreation
- Delivered improvements to **Commuter Rail Service** and infrastructure
- Delivered funding for **SNETT tunnel** under Prospect Street, parking at Franklin State Forest, and improvements to recreational spaces in Medway
- Advocated for the **Cultural District** in Franklin

Constituent Services:

Helped thousands of constituents with issues involving:

- Unemployment
- Healthcare
- Human services

and other matters with state agencies.

Local Aid:

- **\$1.3 Million** SNETT tunnel
- **\$100,000** Franklin State Forest parking lot
- **\$58,000** Franklin schools substance abuse task force
- **\$170,000** Medway public safety equipment
- **\$135,000** Accessibility and safety improvements at the Lovering Heights Senior Citizens Complex in Medway
- **\$50,000** Vaping prevention program in the Franklin public schools
- Commuter rail service and infrastructure improvements
- **\$150,000** SAFE Coalition
- **\$28,416,161** Chapter 70 (Franklin)
- **\$10,501,419** Chapter 70 (Medway)
- **\$917,261** Chapter 90 road funding for Franklin
- **\$395,749** Chapter 90 road funding for Medway
- **\$75,000** Medway Community Farm
- **\$200,000** Medway THRIVE program
- **\$75,000** Franklin Downtown Partnership



with a Track Record of Delivering Results

Bias Free Policing:

Jeff supports all public safety officials. Recently, he joined House colleagues in voting for a bill that will create a more modern, transparent and accountable system for law enforcement credentialing and training to make policing stronger and bias free. Jeff and his House colleagues took a measured, thoughtful approach to complex issues.

The House Bill will create a **better atmosphere** for the vast majority who serve honorably by allowing them to be certified, and eliminating the few who do not meet those high standards. Forty-six states currently certify their police officers and this bill will make Massachusetts the 47th.

The House bill includes agreed-upon changes in the way that our police departments will operate, including:

- New certification, accreditation and oversight regulations
- Comprehensive bans on excessive force
- A requirement that officers intervene if they see violations
- A strong police presence in the development of standards
- Additional funding for police training

In addition, Jeff filed the amendment that creates a commission to study qualified immunity, a move sought by officers, chiefs and local officials. And after carefully reviewing the 120-page bill with his **constituents and public safety officials**, he even sought further changes.

The House bill upholds the principles of justice, equity and accountability, which the police union MassCOP described as **“constructive and positive.”** In fact, the House bill will bring more departments in Massachusetts up to the standards set by Chiefs Lynch and Tingley and the outstanding police officers in Franklin and Medway.

“We have known Jeff Roy for over 20 years, working closely with him on public safety issues. We applaud his vote on the House’s police reform bill, knowing it will help bring the best practices that **we developed in Franklin** to cities and towns across the state. And we were pleased that Jeff amended the bill to appoint a commission to **study qualified immunity** rather than dismantle it. We encourage everyone to do the research to understand reality as opposed to rumors. Jeff has always had our backs, and we know he will continue to in the future.”

— **Larry Benedetto, Steve Williams, Steve Semerjean**, Former Franklin Police Chiefs

As a State Rep and former police chief I know Chairman Roy has worked hard to strengthen police and community relations. He has a strong moral compass as evidenced by his vote on police reform, knowing the difficult job that police officers have and the need for the highest quality of service that his constituents expect. He was a leader in moving to study the issue of **qualified immunity** and calling for a robust discussion before taking any action that might negatively impact the protections that officers need.

— **Representative Paul Tucker**, Former Salem Police Chief

Public Service

- Represented Franklin and Medway since election in 2012
- Chair, Joint Committee on Higher Education
- Chair, Legislative Manufacturing Caucus, which promotes “Making It” in Massachusetts
- Member, special commission studying veteran’s tuition (2018-19)
- Member, Harm Reduction Commission, addressing prevention and access to appropriate care and treatment of addiction (2018-19)
- Member, Committee on Personnel and Administration
- Franklin Public Schools Substance Abuse Task Force (2017-present)
- Horace Mann Statue Committee (2016-2017)
- Franklin Town Council (2011-2013)
- Franklin School Committee (2001-2011) Chairman, 9 years
- Chair, Franklin Master Plan Committee (2012-2013)
- Co-Chair, Franklin Anti-Bullying Task Force (2009-2011)
- Horace Mann School Building Committee (2000-2004)

Other Boards/Commissions

- NCSL Student-Centered Learning Commission (2017-2020)
- Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference Health Committee (2017-18)
- Chair, Franklin Democratic Town Committee (June 2010-2013)

Education

- Boston College Law School (1986)
- Bates College (1983)

ELECTION
DAYS
VOTE!
Oct. 17th–
Nov. 3rd

Memberships/Activities

- SAFE Coalition Co-Founder and Emeritus Board Member
- American Bar Association (ABA)
- Massachusetts Bar Association
- Board of Incorporators, Hockomock Area YMCA
- Milford Regional Medical Center Corporator

Honors & Awards

- SAFE Coalition Excellence in Public Service Award (2020)
- Mass Academy of Trial Attorneys Legislator of the Year (2019)
- JCRC and MAJF Legislative Leader Award (2020)
- Providers Council Legislator of the Year (2015)
- Tree of Life Award, Temple Etz Chaim (2015)
- Caring Bear Award, Providers Council (2014)
- Hockomock Area YMCA Red Triangle Award (2014)
- Black Box Appreciation Award (2014)
- St. Thomas More Society of Worcester Scholarship
- American Jurisprudence Award for Constitutional Law

Personal

- Married to wife Maureen for 32 years
- Proud father of three children, all educated in the Franklin Public School system
- Small business owner for 27 years
- Pan-Mass Challenge rider, 18 years
- Guitar player, Ben Gardner’s Boat

JEFFREY
ROY

State Representative

Massachusetts 10th Norfolk District

Franklin & Medway



The Stony Brook Camera Club Has Gone Virtual!

The Stony Brook Camera Club in Franklin is proudly celebrating its 51st year. It all began in 1969 with a slide show and photo competition at Stony Brook Nature Center in Norfolk, Mass. as a way to increase public awareness of the sanctuary. By January of 1970, an active club was born. It grew rapidly and gained a reputation throughout New England as the friendliest, most open club. Fast forward 50 years, and that reputation remains with a membership of over 160.

SBCC includes and welcomes members of all ages and abilities. Whether a casual smart



phone shooter or an advanced photographer, everyone grows in knowledge and experience through SBCC's many programs

and workshops. Diane Robertson, a member for 29 years, said, "Stony Brook has always meant a lot to me as the interaction with members and learning new things, especially out in natural settings." Ellen Berenson, the club's newsletter editor, offers, "Regardless of our reasons for taking the photos we do, photography is our way of expressing our inspirations. We choose to share with others what we are seeing through our lens. Some of us seek to contrive our compositions, such as with still life or portraiture. Others of us share what we come upon as we go along, just because, perhaps, the light is right."

The club's mission statement is "To promote enjoyment and proficiency in all aspects of photography through education, fellowship, exchange of knowledge and experience; and a broad appreciation of nature and environment." SBCC gives back to the community as well by offering scholarships to deserving high school seniors from the area who intend to study photography in college. The recipients are invited to the year-end banquet to meet the membership, share their



work, and receive their awards.

The Program Committee has been hard at work planning a full year of quality programs. Fifteen area, national and international speakers will present programs covering topics such as nature, landscape, astrolandscape, black and white, timelapse and storytelling photography. There will be at least 5 Saturday workshops offered by the speakers throughout the year. SBCC also offers image studies as well as club and intra-club competitions to help members hone their skills. Field trips have been offered to members traveling as close as Cape

Cod for night photography or as far as Charleston, SC for varied photo ops. Camping trips are scheduled at least once a year with well-planned opportunities for shooting.

The SBCC website (StonyBrookCC.com) offers a wealth of information. Be sure to check out their calendar of events. Virtual meetings are held each Thursday evening at 6:30 for a social hour and 7:30 for the program. See their home page for how to log into Zoom and receive a free 30-day membership with access to the virtual meetings.

3rd Annual Thanksgiving Day Pie Sale – Knights of Columbus, Franklin

Why Bake When the Knights Can Do It for You?

The Knights of Columbus, St. Mary Parish Franklin MA Sacred Heart Council 1847 is running their 3rd Annual

Thanksgiving Pie Sale. Our famous bakery (same as last year) is the family owned **Mann's Orchards and Bakery.** The flavors will remain the same as last

year - Apple, Pecan, Pumpkin and Blueberry. These Pies are fantastic.... outstanding flavor, aroma, and taste. We held the price so we will still have the magnificent **\$15** price per Pie. As was last year you will be able to **DONATE** a pie. All donations will be donated to the Franklin Senior Center for distribution at Thanksgiving time.

This year there will be 2 means by which you may purchase your Thanksgiving or on Facebook ***KnightsofColumbusCouncil1847***. You will find a link to order and pay for your order. The site is open now till October 31. We will also be taking Pie orders just one weekend this year October 31-November 1 after all the Masses at St Mary we will be set up in the Lower Church to take your Pie orders, Cash, Check or Credit Card will be accepted. ALL on line orders will accept Credit Card only.

All COVID 19 and CDC guidelines will be strictly adhered

to. Pies are individually baked and packed at Manns Orchard.

You will be able to Pick Up your ordered Thanksgiving Pies on Tuesday, 11/24/2020 from 2 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the CCD Offices at the old St. Mary's Franklin Parish Hall Center (previously the Charter School) on the 1st floor. You will see our Signs.

We are excited again this year to bring this quality product to St Mary Parish community and all our Franklin neighbors. Please support this most worthy cause, help a senior and make your Thanksgiving Day special with a Pie (or 2) from Manns Orchard on your dinner table this year.

Any questions, please call Jim Campbell at (508) 848-8681 or Jim Lane at (774) 571-9804 or Mike Swan (508) 404-4792.

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THE BLACK BOX Continues Fall Outdoor Concert Series

THE BLACK BOX, the region's premiere concert, theater, and event venue, will continue their outdoor weekend concerts throughout the fall season in the theater's parking lot. The shows are presented in a 60-70 minute format. Tables are socially distanced and masks are required when patrons enter THE BLACK BOX building to access the box office, restrooms, and bar. Table groupings are limited to six.

The Fall Concert Series will feature an eclectic lineup of performers including the viral a capella sensation T.3, local favorite The Franklin Underground, and more. The public is encouraged to follow THE BLACK BOX on Facebook (THE BLACK BOX Online), Instagram (@the_black_box_online), and Twitter (@BLACK_BOXonline)

for performer announcements.

T.3 is a New York based vocal group composed of Liam Fennecken (School of Rock), Jim Hogan (Waitress) and Brendan Jacob Smith (The Simon & Garfunkel Story). They gained popularity on social media platforms with covers of Disney, Broadway and Pop hits. Jim Hogan is a New York City based actor, singer, musician and member of viral-sensation vocal group, T.3. His Broadway National Touring credits include Waitress, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Spring Awakening*. Jim has performed as a soloist with Symphony Orchestras across the US and Canada. Liam Fennecken is an actor, musician, and songwriter living in NYC. He recently toured the US and South Korea in School of Rock, and has toured North America with Once, American



A Capella favorite T.3 will be one of the featured acts in THE BLACK BOX's fall outdoor concert series.

Idiot, and Peter Pan 360. Brendan Jacob Smith is an Actor, Singer and Songwriter based in Brooklyn, NY. A recent graduate of Ithaca College, Brendan will be playing Art Garfunkel in the US/ Canada Company of The

Simon and Garfunkel starting this spring. He recently finished up his time as a member of Hyannis Sound, Cape Cod's professional A capella group, and was seen as Frankie Epps in *Parade* at The Rev Theatre Company.

Patrons are asked to purchase tickets for their table group in one transaction. Audience members are only seated with family or those with whom they are comfortable socializing. Tables of up to six are set with the correct number of chairs and will be reserved according to the number of people to be seated. Ushers assist the seating process. There is bar service to the tables; the lobby bar is closed for walk-up service. Masks and social distancing are required in the lobby; typical gathering in the lobby is currently not allowed. Bar tabs will be closed out before the end of each show.

Tickets will be available at www.THEBLACKBOXonline.com or by calling (508) 528-3370. THE BLACK BOX is located at 15 W. Central St. in downtown Franklin.

Montrose School's Stress Tests of Character e-Resource Showcased by International Ethics Institute

Amidst a global pandemic, a national reckoning with racism, an election and more, 2020 has presented us with several significant stress tests of character. But what do we do — who do we become — in the face of these stress tests?

The Montrose School Stress Tests of Character e-Resource (<https://www.montroseschool.org/life-compass/stress-tests-of-character>) provides parents and educators with tools and strategies for the classroom and the home to help children navigate stress tests and develop their own character. This resource captures the power of practicing good mentoring protocols; helping students build the habits of mind, heart, and character they need to navigate stress and to thrive; and presenting inspirational stories in science, math, history and every subject to show how great scientists, mathematicians, figures in history and life meet stress tests and emerge stronger from them.

The e-Resource was showcased in an international newsletter from the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, the world's leading ethics and character institute.

"How fitting that this external endorsement comes at a time when our Maverick team

is navigating one of the biggest stress tests in our history — your grace and grit are inspirational to our girls and families," Head of School Dr. Karen Bohlin wrote in an email to Montrose faculty and staff.

Montrose students benefit from the school's leadership in utilizing the tools and strategies outlined in the e-Resource.

Rising Senior Maevis Fahey '21 said: "Experiencing quarantine as students wasn't about constant self-preservation or a sense of indifference for the situation when it wasn't directly impacting us. The great challenge of the coronavirus, the biggest stress test of character yet, was our great opportunity."

Recent graduate Anna Bachiochi '20 added: "We've examined what happens when a person allows their instincts of fear to control their decision making. But what about the reverse? What happens when people choose to be selfless, creative, and loving even in the face of immense fear and uncertainty? Well, these people, through their everyday decisions to be courageous, become the heroes of this pandemic."

The Stress Tests of Character curriculum was made possible with the generous support

of a grant from the Kern Family Foundation and the Montrose partnership with the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues.

Montrose is an independent school in Medfield for

girls in grades 6-12, inspired by the teachings of the Catholic Church.






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Living Healthy

World-Class Cataract Surgery Closer to Home

BY: ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D.,
MILFORD FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

Cataract surgery is by far the most common surgery performed in the United States. With advanced technology, and if you choose an experienced and highly skilled surgeon, modern cataract surgery should be a rather quick outpatient and a minimal risk procedure. If you are considering cataract surgery, your expectations should not only be to improve your vision, reduce glare at night, see more vivid colors and improve your day to day activities, but you should also be given an opportunity to reduce your dependence on glasses or contacts and, in many cases, eliminate this need. Your expectations should also be to have your surgery by a world-class surgeon close to where you live and not be told to travel hours for testing and surgery. Many choices exist on where to have the surgery and by whom. Here are the specific questions to ask when it's time to have the surgery:

1- Why are you referring me to this surgeon? Your eye care providers may ask you to travel miles and hours away from home to have

your surgery with a particular surgeon of their choice. When you have experienced surgeons within minutes from where you live and when those top-notch ethical surgeons with excellent nationwide reputation will perform your surgery in a state-of-the-art surgery center closer to home, ask your provider why they want you to travel hours and miles away. Beware referral bias. In our center, 100% of the surgeries are performed in a state-of-the-art facility in Milford. Very close to home.



2- What type of anesthesia am I going to get? With modern cataract surgery, most surgeries should be completed under topical anesthesia. This means that the surgery eye becomes numb with drops. No need for injections or shots around or behind your eye. No shots will reduce the risk of bleeding and serious complications from the shots. Ask about the techniques of the surgeon you are being asked to travel to see. In our center, 100% of the surgeries are performed under topical simple anesthesia.

3- What are the risks? One of the most dreaded risks of cataract surgery is accidental damage to the posterior capsule, which is the back wall of the bag holding your lens. Ask about the complication rate of the surgeon you are being asked to travel to. In our center this rate is close to zero percent.

4- What is the rate of infections in your center? Another potentially devastating risk of cataract surgery is an infection inside the eye called "endophthalmitis". Ask the complication rate of the surgeon you are being asked to travel to. In our center this rate is close to zero percent.

5- Where will the surgery be performed? Did you know that when your optometrist refers you to a surgeon who will perform your surgery at a hospital your insurance deductible and co-insurance cost may be higher at a hospital? If this is happening to you, we are available for a second opinion! All our surgeries are performed at an ambulatory surgery center in Milford- not a hospital with potential cost savings to you.

6- What type of technology is available at your surgery facility? Different centers have different equipment and resources. For instance, Massachusetts has only a few centers offering bladeless cataract surgery. This should be an option if you want to reduce dependence on glasses and treat low grades of astigmatism at the same time as your cataract surgery. Our center was among the first in the State and New England to offer this technology. Did you know that hospitals do not offer laser bladeless cataract surgery? We do!

7- What type of implant am I going to get? Different lens implants can be used during cataract surgery with different materials, quality and ability to reduce your need for glasses. Ask your referring provider about his/her surgeon choice of implants. Our center was the first in the greater Boston area to offer the new Panoptix trifocal implant. With this implant you can see clearly at distance, close and intermediate like phone and computer screen.



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MAIN STREET PEDIATRICS



Main Street Pediatrics would like to announce that Charlotte Delaney, MD has joined our practice and will start seeing patients as of October 19, 2020. She is accepting new patients of all ages.

Dr. Delaney received her undergraduate degree in Psychology and Music from Williams College in Williamstown, MA. She then went on to New York University for her Masters in Music before attending medical school at Albert Einstein College in New York. She did her internship and residency at UMass Medical Center in Worcester. She is trained in both pediatrics and internal medicine and is particularly interested in adolescent patients, as well as treatment of eating disorders and mood disorders. She also enjoys newborn and infant care, especially working with new parents.

Please call 508-435-5506 for an appointment
77R West Main St. Hopkinton • mainstreetpediatrics.com

Living Healthy

EYES

continued from page 20

- 8- Will my need to wear glasses be reduced? Cataract surgery is a wonderful opportunity to limit or eliminate your need for glasses. As the surgeon removes the cataract, there is an opportunity to replace the cloudy lens with a special high-tech implant able to achieve this goal. Ask your referring provider about his/her surgeon of choice ability to achieve those goals. Our center has many happy and glasses free patients.
- 9- Will I have stitches? It is ideal to eliminate the need of stitches such as the surgery is a no-stitch surgery. Placing a stitch can be complicated by stitch induced astigmatism, a foreign body sensation and a broken and irritating stitch. Ask your referring provider if his/her surgeon of choice is still using stitches. 100% of our cataract procedures are stitch-free.
- 10- What will be my vision on day 1 after the surgery? One of the measurements defining quality of outcomes after cataract surgery is the quality of vision on day 1 after the surgery. Surgeons should strive to make the vision correct to as close to best as possible on day 1. Ask your referring provider about his/her surgeon of choice ability to achieve this outcome. Our center has many patients with happy 20/20 vision on day 1 after cataract surgery.
- Cataract surgery is all about better precision, more safety and excellent outcomes. At Mil-

ford Franklin Eye Center, Dr. Kaldawy is proud to have been the first surgeon in the area and among the first in Massachusetts to offer bladeless laser-assisted cataract surgery and the first surgeon in the greater Boston area to implant the PanOptix lens implant. We offer bladeless laser cataract surgery. We implant high quality premium lenses only, with correction for distance, near and everything in between. Many cases of astigmatism are no longer a problem. Our percentage of posterior capsule complications and infections is one of the lowest in the Nation. No more need to travel hours for your cataract surgery! We operate in a state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford, offering bladeless laser cataract surgery. 100% of the surgeries are performed under topical anesthesia, so only drops, no need for shots and no need for stitches. Brand new gorgeous office in Franklin and a second location in Milford. Seven providers with your interest in mind first, offering the best, cost-efficient surgical care in an ambulatory surgery center closer to home.

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Dr. Ahlawat earned her medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester and completed internships at Yale-New Haven Hospital and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Neurology. Dr. Ahlawat also completed a fellowship in clinical neurophysiology/EMG at BIDMC. Her clinical interests include neuromuscular disorders such as Myasthenia Gravis, ALS, muscular dystrophies, and various neuropathies. Dr. Ahlawat is fluent in French.



Aditi Ahlawat, MD

Eliezer Sternberg, MD

Dr. Sternberg earned his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine and completed his residency in neurology at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He completed fellowships in clinical neurophysiology and epilepsy at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Sternberg is board certified in neurology with a broad clinical practice and specialty in the management of seizures and epilepsy. His clinical interests include seizures, epilepsy, headache, movement disorders, stroke and neurovascular disease, cognitive decline and disorders of consciousness.



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50+ Job Seekers Sessions Continue Online

With new funding from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and MCOA, we are very excited to offer our 50+ Job Seekers a series of 8 virtual, interactive, hands-on workshops! The series has been held at, among other locations, Franklin Senior Center.

The 50+ Job Seekers program is in its 6th year, providing career transition support, strategies, materials, and guidance to the 50+ demographic of job seekers. Our mission is dedicated to people who unemployed, underemployed, re-entering the workforce after an employment gap, or looking for a Second Act career.

Meet and network with fellow job seekers at our virtual workshops. We focus on topics relevant and essential to your job search. We equip and empower you to be successful. Come and learn from our experienced Career Coaches who facilitate these workshops.

Start your journey towards Re-Invention and Transformation. Mark your Calendars!

Two workshops were held in September, but workshops will continue on the following dates:

- 10/13: Create a Robust LinkedIn Profile
- 10/27: Use LinkedIn as a Job Search Tool
- 11/10: Develop your STARS/PARS
- 11/24: Network your way to a New Career
- 12/8: Create a Marketing Plan/Job Search Toolbox
- 12/15: Panel Event: Practice Interviewing with Employers

To Register:

If you have already attended 50+ sessions or town hall sessions, you will receive an invitation from our Group Leaders to register and attend each of these events. If you are new to the 50+ program and have never attended any sessions, Registration is Required at <https://50plusjobseekers.org/outreach/registration/>

Under “Host Site or Event,” select “Webinar Series” and complete the rest of the form. Upon receipt, you will receive an email with a link to attend the event.

Sen. Rausch Announces October Virtual Office Hours

Senator Rausch (D-Needham) will continue to host virtual office hours throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In keeping with best practices and recommendations from public health officials, conversations with the Senator and her staff will take place via video conferencing and phone calls.

Residents from any part of the Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex District are welcome to share their questions and opinions on state issues with Senator Rausch and her staff. Constituents may reserve 15-minute appointments in advance at beccarauschma.com/office-hours.

Senator Rausch will hold virtual office hours on the following dates in October:

- Friday, October 2, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Friday, October 9, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Friday, October 16, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Friday, October 23, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

To subscribe to Senator Rausch’s weekly COVID-19 updates, please visit <https://beccarauschma.com/covid19>. Constituents can still contact the Senator and her team at (617) 722-1555 or email becca.rausch@masenate.gov to share their opinion on state issues, seek assistance, or schedule a call with the Senator or her staff. Residents can also get live updates from the Senator via Twitter (@BeccaRauschMA) and Facebook (@BeccaRauschMA).

Senator Becca Rausch represents the Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex District, comprised of Attleboro, Franklin, Millis, Natick, Needham, Norfolk, North Attleborough, Plainville, Sherborn, Wayland, Wellesley, and Wrentham. Currently in her first term, Senator Rausch serves as the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government and the Senate Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs.

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Protect Our Home Team – Get a Flu Shot!

Getting a flu shot is now more important than ever, to protect yourself, your family and those around you – everyone who makes up your Home Team.

Milford Regional is launching “Protect Our Home Team,” a campaign to highlight the importance of getting the flu vaccine, especially with the emergence of COVID-19.

As fall approaches, we face the dual challenge of flu season combined with our continued battle with COVID-19. This combination of serious illnesses threatens not only the health of our community, but threatens to overwhelm the healthcare system.

Influenza and COVID-19 have similar symptoms. Getting a flu shot will help minimize the infection and spread of the flu, thereby lessening the pressure on our health system, healthcare workers and hospital capacity.

A flu vaccination not only protects you, but the people around you, including those who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness, like babies and young children, older people, and people with certain chronic health conditions. High risk groups include adults 65 years and older, pregnant women, young children and those with asthma, heart disease and stroke, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and cancer.

Milford Regional is also doing its part to “Protect Our Home Team,” with hospital staff (except for those with medical and religious exemptions) getting vaccinated.

“As healthcare advocates, we all need to model proven preventive measures, such as getting the flu vaccine, so that members of the community – our larger home team – follow our example,” says Edward J. Kelly, president &

CEO of Milford Regional Medical Center, noting that there were more than 55,000 emergency department visits and 7,000-8,000 hospitalizations in the state during the 2019-2020 flu season. “When we layer COVID-19 on top of this trajectory, it is easy to see why we must all do our part in protecting our home team both in and outside the hospital and physician offices by getting the flu vaccine.”

Calendar of Events

October 4

Blessing of the Pets, 10 a.m., St. John's Church front lawn, 237 Pleasant St., Franklin, (508) 528-2387

October 9

Jumpin' Juba Car Concert, 3 p.m., Franklin Public Library

Jumpin' Juba plays a mix of old-school blues, early rock & roll, and roots-y versions of Americana tunes. More info: www.stevehurl.com or www.reverbnation.com/jumpinjuba. Please remain in your vehicle or its immediate vicinity while enjoying the concert. Social distancing and mask rules apply. Don't come if sick. Program is supported by a grant from the Franklin Cultural Council, supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

The Franklin Underground, **BLACK BOX Fall Concert Series, 6:30 p.m., 8:15 p.m., 15 W. Central St., Franklin,** visit www.THEBLACK-BOXonline.com or call (508) 528-3370.

October 25

Kitchen Table Art Workshop: Beeswax Ink Transfers (virtual program), 3 p.m., Franklin Public Library

Working in miniature we will explore an ink-onto-wax encaustic-like transfer, applying, burnishing, and marking pigment from recycled magazine pages onto beeswax coated wood. Workshop for adults and young adults.

Register by October 15th, with priority for Franklin residents. Pre-assembled kits containing materials and tools available for the first 15 registrants to pick-up curbside. Additional participants may make up their own kit. All registrants will receive the link to connect to the (Zoom) workshop. To register go to www.thecreativitycurator.com. Email questions to Jacqueline Volpe at thecreativitycurator@gmail.com.

October 27

Franklin Public Library Book Club, 7 p.m.

The book for discussion is *Hollow Kingdom*, by Kira Jane Buxton.

S.T., a domesticated crow, is a bird of simple pleasures: hanging out with his owner Big Jim, trading insults with Seattle's wild crows (i.e. “those idiots”), and enjoying the finest food humankind has to offer: Cheetos®.

But when Big Jim's eyeball falls out of his head, S.T. starts to think something's not quite right. His tried-and-true remedies — from beak-delivered beer to the slobbering affection of Big Jim's loyal but dim-witted dog, Dennis — fail to cure Big Jim's debilitating malady. S.T. is left with no choice but to abandon his old life and venture out into a wild and frightening new world with his trusty steed Dennis, where he suddenly discovers that the neighbors are devouring one other. Local wildlife is abuzz with rumors of Seattle's dangerous new predators.

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Sports

Franklin High Girls Soccer Team Ready to Adjust to Changes

By KEN HAMWEY, STAFF
SPORTS WRITER

The 2020 soccer season for Franklin High's varsity girls' squad will be very different than what's occurred in the past.

A plethora of changes have been made, all because of the coronavirus pandemic that eliminated last spring's interscholastic athletic competition. Not only will soccer be played differently, but the Panthers' schedule also has been altered.

Like so many other teams, Franklin will be playing a limited schedule (10 matches), and there'll be no non-league games. Fans can forget about Sectional and State tournaments, because there will be no post-season play.

Modifications on the field primarily deal with eliminating contact, thus restricting defenses and making the sport more offensive-minded. Final scores could resemble a low-scoring football result — a 10-7 score could be the norm.

"Soccer previously was played with contact," said Panthers' coach Tom Geysen. "Now, the modifications make it a game that's aimed at keeping everyone

safe. There'll be plenty of restrictions, but I prefer playing with changes versus what happened to athletics last spring when all was lost. At least we now have an opportunity to have a season where student-athletes can play a sport they love."

The changes, implemented by the MIAA Covid-19 Task Force, are numerous but some key alterations include: no shoulder-to-shoulder contact; no hand contact; heading is not allowed; unnecessary contact results in an infraction; masks are mandatory while playing but can be moved for easier breathing if an opponent is 10 feet away; and for a re-start to occur, a referee must check that all masks are in place.

"Everyone will have to adjust," said Geysen. "Referees are burdened with added responsibilities while trying to call a match. Coaches have to change their strategic approach, because offenses have more of a chance to dominate since contact is limited, and players will be under more pressure. Now that the rules have changed, players will have to control their instincts. The basics they learned in youth leagues are different now, and

there'll be confusion on what's allowed and what's not allowed."

The Panthers, nevertheless, will have some talented players who'll be dealing with all the ramifications that occur.

Geysen has capable backs in sophomore Norah Anderson and senior Carissa Alers.

"Norah is well-skilled and has speed," he said. "A starter on the varsity as a freshman, she's soccer smart and has experience. Carissa was an outside back last year, but will play in the center slot. She's experienced, athletic, quick and knows how to get to the ball."

A trio of midfielders are definite assets — seniors Erin Quaile and Bridgette Ginley and junior Stella Regan, who can also play forward.

"Erin has great instincts and good speed," Geysen noted. "A four-year veteran, she's got top-notch skills and a high soccer IQ. Bridgette is very athletic, possesses great speed and is tenacious to the ball whether she's on offense or defense. Stella is recovering from a broken leg suffered last year. She's worked hard in her rehab. A player with solid instincts, she's also aggressive and has a high soccer IQ."

Senior Sydney St. Marie and junior Riley Fitzpatrick should provide the Panthers with some offensive punch.

"Sydney is a four-year veteran who's aggressive and physical," said Geysen. "A hard-nosed player, she's quick up front, reads the play well and has experience. Riley is really quick. Her skills are very good and she can shoot well with either foot. She'll help us up front."

Senior Julia Bertone is ticketed to start the season in goal. "She's fearless," Geysen said. "She plays the angles consistently, she's vocal and also athletic."

Geysen, whose goals every season are to compete for the Hockomock League title and qualify for tourney play, has a different set of objectives in these pandemic times.



In pandemic times, Franklin girls' soccer's reach for a tourney will be set aside in favor of enjoying the sport and making the most of a curtailed season.

"I'd like us to be as successful as we can and be able to enjoy the moment," he emphasized. "Think of the ups and downs these kids have had to deal with. At least now they can enjoy their sport and make the most of the moment."

Franklin's schedule will include two games against each of their Kelly-Rex Division opponents (King Philip, Mansfield, Attleboro, Taunton and Milford). An 11th game could be added if the league's A.D.s vote in favor of a playoff matchup of Kelly-Rex Division teams versus Davenport Division squads. A post-season format, however, is still to be determined.

During the 10-game schedule, teams will play the same opponent twice in the same week. "That's designed to trace and pinpoint any illnesses that occur," Geysen noted.

No stranger to teaching and coaching, Geysen is sensitive to

what all students had to endure last spring when schools were closed for 3½ months. Not only were sports curtailed, but all kinds of extra-curricular activity also ended.

An English and social studies instructor for 35 years, Geysen taught at the middle school and high school levels in Franklin. On the athletic front, he coached a variety of sports at the varsity level — boys' track, softball and boys' basketball. As the girls' soccer coach, he's led the Panthers to 32 tourney appearances in 36 years and his 2012 squad won a State championship by defeating Nashoba.

Tom Geysen is acutely aware that high school soccer in 2020 will be played very differently than in previous years. But, he's glad there will be a season.

"We're taking a negative situation and making it as positive as possible," he emphasized.

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Sports

Area ADs Favor Modifications to Allow Sports to Continue

By KEN HAMWEY
Staff Sports Writer

The area's high school athletic directors were busy lining up their sports menus after the Mass. Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Mass. Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) issued their fall guidelines, risk categories and levels of play.

The coronavirus pandemic forced the cancellation of all interscholastic sports last spring but approval to move forward with athletics for the fall came on Aug. 18, enabling ADs, superintendents and their school committees to proceed with caution. Sports for the fall that are in a lower and moderate risk category can compete with modifications, but football, competitive cheerleading and unified basketball are classified as high risk. Those teams can play in a "fall 2 season" that would run from Feb. 22 to April 25.

Several area ADs revealed their plans to proceed for a fall season that will feature plenty of changes and modifications.

At Millis, there'll be boys and girls varsity and jayvee soccer, boys/girls varsity cross-country and varsity and jayvee golf.

"We're elated to be taking the next step towards normalcy," said Chuck Grant, the Mohawks AD. "Everyone needs sports back into their routine. The kids are ready to compete within the guidelines. Many things had to come together for these opportunities to become reality and we appreciate all the effort that went into gaining their approval."

For Millis, the fall 2 season will include football and volleyball. "Things will need to continue to improve for both to become reality," Grant said. "If we have a basketball season, that will be a good omen for volleyball. It just made sense to buy more time for an inside event to be given a chance for circumstances to improve before bringing other 'cohorts' into each others' buildings at a time when we're trying to bring our own students back into the building."

Grant said that "since football

is being played in other states, that will provide us with much needed guidance and evidence of the likelihood that football will be approved for competition in Massachusetts. The numbers are improving every day so the continuation of that trend in concert with encouraging national news would bode well for football's chances."

At Franklin High, the athletic offerings for each of the four seasons include: fall — boys and girls soccer, boys and girls cross-country, field hockey and golf; winter — boys and girls basketball, boys and girls hockey, wrestling, gymnastics, boys and girls indoor track, cheerleading and boys and girls swimming; fall 2 — football, cheerleading, unified basketball and volleyball; spring — baseball, softball, boys and girls lacrosse, boys and girls tennis, and boys and girls unified track.

Here's how the Panthers' AD, Tom Angelo, viewed the modifications:

"Clearly, the rules of the game will be very different from what we're used to. Although these new rules are not very popular, they are in place so our student-athletes can again participate in interscholastic athletics. That said, everything is now different due to the pandemic. Why would athletics be excluded? Our teams will simply have to learn the new rules, make the necessary adjustments, play to the best of their ability, and represent our community with the same Franklin pride as they have done in the past."

Matt Baker, Holliston High's AD, listed all the sports that are slated for all four seasons. Fall 1 will include cross-country (boys and girls), field hockey, golf, and soccer (boys and girls). Winter's offerings are basketball (boys and girls), cheer, gymnastics, ice hockey (boys and girls), indoor track, swimming and diving, and wrestling. The fall 2 lineup features cheer, football, unified basketball and volleyball. The spring menu includes baseball, lacrosse (boys and girls), softball, tennis (boys and girls), track and ultimate frisbee.

Baker said that he supports



Chuck Grant, Millis Athletic Director.



Matt Baker, Holliston Athletic Director.

the decision by the MIAA to move higher risk sports to fall 2. "We feel this will create a safer environment for these sports (cheer, football, unified basketball and volleyball)," he noted. "We'll revisit what's happening with COVID-19 throughout the school year. The Tri Valley League has taken the additional step of moving volleyball to fall 2. This was done in an effort to maintain safety for our students. Also, many schools do not have use of their gyms for athletics due to COVID-19 protocols using the gym for other purposes."

Baker endorses the alterations that will allow athletics to continue.

"We know these modifications are changing sports dramatically but at least this is creating a situation where we can offer student-athletes the opportunity to play sports during the pandemic," he emphasized. "This is better than not having fall sports at all. Our coaching staff is looking forward to being with their teams and to compete. These types of activities are so important for the social/emotional well-being of our student-athletes and everyone is trying to be creative in the solutions to make this happen."

King Philip Regional will have soccer, field hockey, cross-country and golf on the athletic menu this fall but volleyball, football, cheerleading and unified basketball will be played in the fall 2 season.

"We've focused on the fall season and worked to get that squared away," said KP AD

all students getting involved with whatever their extra-curricular activity is. For me, it'll be rewarding to see kids actively competing and representing KP or whatever school they play for."

Brown stressed that "the bottom line is the health and safety of everyone."

At Natick High, the fall season will feature boys and girls cross-country, field hockey, boys and girls soccer, golf and girls swimming and diving. The fall 2 season will include girls volleyball, football, cheerleading and unified basketball.

Natick's Athletic Director, Tim Collins, is pleased sports are returning after a dormant spring.

"I'm thrilled athletics will be played this fall," he said. "All of us at Natick High want the chance to compete, hopefully be healthy and face competitive challenges with teammates and coaches. Any opportunity to play in spite of whatever modifications are imposed is a blessing."

Collins said that "the players are ready, the coaches are ready, and the community needs it."

Because Framingham High will not be playing any sports this fall, the Redhawks fall teams will be in a Carey Division that includes Wellesley, Needham, Newton-North and Brookline.

ADS

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Social Security Announces New Online Video Hearings

The Social Security Administration announced a new service for people awaiting a hearing decision. In addition to telephone hearings, Social Security will offer the opportunity for an online video hearing using the Microsoft Teams platform beginning this fall. This new free service will allow applicants and their representatives to participate in the hearing from anywhere they have access to a camera-enabled smartphone, tablet, or computer. This stable and secure online platform allows the Social Security judge to see and interact with applicants and their representatives just like an in-person hearing, while maintaining privacy of the claimant's information. Other hearing experts, such as medical or vocational experts, may participate as well.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of finding new ways to serve the public," said Commissioner of Social Security Andrew Saul. "For over a decade, the agency has used video hearings to get applicants their hearing decisions sooner. This advancement builds on that effort, making it easier and more convenient to attend a hearing remotely, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. To continue to ensure all participants' safety, we expect online video hearings and telephone hearings will be the only two hearing options for the foreseeable future."

Social Security has been conducting appeal hearings with Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) via telephone only since March, while offices remain closed to the public to protect the health

and safety of the public and employees. The agency's ALJs have held more than 180,000 telephone hearings since March, allowing the agency to continue to deliver critical customer service.

For the new online video hearings, whether the device is a laptop, smartphone, or tablet on either iPhone or Android, people will experience a clear picture and audio of the ALJ and their representative during their hearing.

For updates on the implementation and expansion of this new hearing service, and other Social Security information, please visit the agency's COVID-19 web page atwww.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/.

To get more Social Security news, follow the Press Office on Twitter @SSAPress.

Thanks to Yanks Donates 9/11 Artwork to American Heritage Museum

In this picture, Michael and Barbara Shain of Thanks To Yanks, make a donation of two important 9/11, pieces of art-

work, from(L-R) A drawing entitled "First Pass Defenders Over Washington with a Pilot and Aircraft of the North Da-

kota Air National Guard" and an F16 with the pentagon in the background. The other frame is artwork entitled "Ground Zero Eagles on Station" with a pilot and aircraft of the Massachusetts Air National Guard's 102nd fighter wing with the twin towers in the background; the plane is a F-15. Thanks to Yanks donated both these pieces of art, as well as the original newspaper article that discuss the origins of the paintings and history about the pilots, to the American Heritage Museum in Hudson for all to see. Thanks to Yanks is a local charity that supports and honors our military families.



Michael and Barbara Shain of Thanks To Yanks



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Sports

ADS

continued from page 25

State Guidelines

The EEA and DESE guidance classified sports into three categories — Lower Risk, Moderate Risk and Higher Risk. For the fall, Lower Risk sports include golf and cross country. Moderate Risk fall sports are volleyball, field hockey, and soccer. Higher Risk fall sports are football, competitive cheerleading and unified basketball.

Moderate Risk sports are listed as: "sports or activities that involve intermittent close proximity or limited, incidental physical contact between participants." Higher Risk sports are listed as: "sports or activities for which there is a requirement or a substantial likelihood of routine close and/or sustained proximity or deliberate physical contact between participants and a high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants."

The guidance lists four levels of play. Level 1 is individual or socially distanced activities; Level 2 is competitive practices; Level 3 is games; and Level 4 is tournaments.

Lower Risk sports get the green light to participate in all four levels. That enables golf and cross country to compete. Moderate and High Risk sports can participate only in Level 1, which translates to no practices, games or tournaments.

For soccer, field hockey, and volleyball to practice, the following requirements are a must: Training activities must be performed in groups of 10 or less. These same groups must be used for every training session or class. Boundaries must be marked so that those groups remain at least 14 feet apart. No more than 25 people can be on a playing surface at once. Groups can only compete against each other if they remain separate and no contact occurs.

For soccer, field hockey, and volleyball to compete in games, two criteria must be followed. First, deliberate close contact must be eliminated. Deliberate close contact includes but is not limited to collisions, body checking, tackling, blocking, and racing/riding in packs. Second, minimize intermittent contact. Game situations that result in intermittent, close physical or face-to-face contact must be modified or eliminated, including restarts, faceoffs, throw-ins, scrums for the ball/puck, or similar activities. These activities may be allowed if face masks are used during contact.

Facts & Figures

Here are some facts and dates that shed some light on how interscholastic sports will look going forward:

- The floating season (Fall 2) will run from Feb. 22 to April 25 and will include football, competitive cheerleading, unified basketball and any other sports that don't take place in an earlier season, for whatever reason.
- The fall season, which got underway with practices on Sept. 18, will end on Nov. 20. Winter sports get underway on Nov. 30 and conclude on Feb. 21, while spring sports will start on April 26 and continue until July 3.
- MIAA post-season tournaments have been canceled for the fall. Various leagues, however, can conduct their own playoffs but must abide by DESE/EEA guidelines.
- Student-athletes can compete in all four seasons.
- Massachusetts is the 15th state, along with the District of Columbia, to push high school football off the fall sports menu.

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Franklin Art Association to Hold Virtual Meeting October 7

The Franklin Art Association will hold a Zoom association meeting on October 7th, 2020, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The demonstrator will be Karen Israel, a well-known Connecticut-based pastel painter whose work has won numerous awards in national and international juried exhibits since 2011. These include 3rd place in Pastel Journal's Pastel 100 in both 2012 and 2014, and honorable mention in the same competition in 2018 and 2020, and Best in Show at the Pastel Society of the West Coast's National Exhibit and the Flora Giffuni Memorial Award with the American Artist's Professional League. Karen serves on the Board of Governors with the Pastel Society of America, where she has earned the title of Master Pastelist.

For more information on the meeting, visit <http://www.franklinart.org>, or find Franklin Art Association on Facebook.





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Free Online Service Aimed at Protecting against Real Estate Fraud

Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell today reminded Norfolk County homeowners of a free on-line Consumer Notifica-

tion Service offered by the Registry of Deeds to protect county property owners against fraud.

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation (F.B.I.)," noted Register O'Donnell, "has continued to express their concern about property/deed and mortgage fraud. Many jurisdictions across the country have reported unscrupulous individuals recording fraudulent land documents making it appear they own another person's home or property. Fortunately, we have not seen this type of crime take place in Norfolk County. My intent here is not to upset county property owners but to make sure my office is proactively helping consumers protect their home."

Any owner of real property in the 28 communities comprising Norfolk County can join over 1,200 homeowners already utilizing the service by signing up for the Consumer Notification Service free of charge by doing the following: Go to the Registry's website www.norfolkdeeds.org, and click on the Consumer Notification Service Get Consumer "Alerts" button to complete the initial registration. From there, follow the remaining sign-up instructions.

Once you have signed up for the service, each subscriber will be able to input two names, individual or business, and the corresponding city or town in Norfolk County for monitoring. They can monitor their real estate records for such activities as changes in deeds, mortgages, mortgage discharges, non-mortgage liens, Homesteads or other land documents that might be recorded against the property. O'Donnell stated, "The process to sign-up for the service is user friendly and will only take a few minutes of your time. While the program will not prevent the fraud, it will allow residents to find out about it in a more timely manner."

If a document is recorded against one of the names inputted for monitoring, the subscriber will be alerted via email,

usually within 24 hours. The person can check the Registry's on-line land research records at www.norfolkresearch.org as an option. If a subscriber believes a fraudulent land record has been recorded against their property, they should then immediately contact the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Customer Service Center at (781)461-6101. After talking with a Registry employee, the subscriber will be given a list of public safety referrals by the Registry.

Register O'Donnell concluded, "Even during these extraordinary times in world history, the core mission here at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds is to make sure the recording of land documents are accomplished in a secure, accurate and accessible manner. I also want to make sure my office is taking any and all steps to minimize the effects of fraudulent activity related to land document recordings. The Registry's Consumer Notification Service provides a level of protection to the program's subscribers against dishonest individuals who commit real estate or land document fraud. After all, the biggest asset most of us have is our home. I urge people to sign up for this free program."



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Real Estate Corner

Register O'Donnell Promotes Homestead Act

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, where the focus is understandably on the health and safety of our families, friends and neighbors, Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell is reminding Norfolk County homeowners about the importance of filing for Homestead protection.

O'Donnell noted, "As your elected Norfolk County Register of Deeds, I am pleased to inform county homeowners about a valuable consumer protection tool. Indeed, for most of us our home is the most important financial asset we have. If you own a home, and it is your primary

residence, one way to protect it is to file a Homestead. The Homestead law provides a homeowner with limited protection against the forced sale of their primary residence to satisfy unsecured debt up to \$500,000."

Another feature of the Homestead law is the allowance for a filing of an Elderly Homestead application, which defines an elder as a person who is 62 years of age or older. This protection can be increased if the elderly couple are each 62 years of age or older and file jointly.

The Register further noted, "Back in March of 2011, the

Homestead law was updated by an act of the Massachusetts Legislature. Current law states a valid Homestead cannot be terminated when refinancing a mortgage. Other enhancements that took place back in 2011 state that a Homestead can provide protections for a primary home even if it is kept in trust. The definition of a primary residence was also further expanded to include a manufactured or mobile home."

While a Homestead provides important protections for homeowners, it is important to note there are certain debts that are

exempted from protection under the Homestead Act. These include federal, state and local tax liens, as well as mortgages contracted for the purchase of a primary home and nursing home liens. Most other mortgages, debts, and encumbrances existing prior to the filing of the Declaration of Homestead, along with probate court executions for spousal and child support, are also not covered under the Homestead protection statute.

Homestead documents are recorded at the Registry of Deeds for a state imposed fee of \$36. To find out more about the Home-

stead law, or to get a free application, please go online to the Registry's website at www.norfolkdeeds.org or contact the Registry's Customer Service Center at (781) 461-6101.

To learn more about these and other Registry of Deeds events and initiatives, like us at Facebook/com/NorfolkDeeds or follow us on twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds and/or Instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds. The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds is located at 649 High Street in Dedham.

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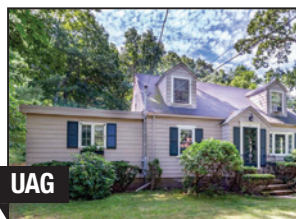
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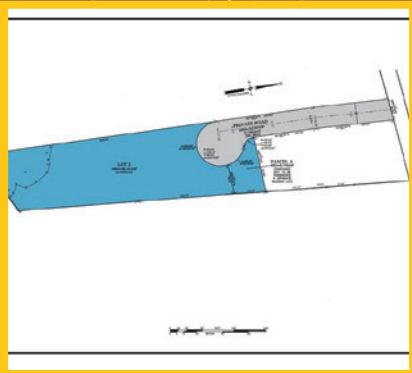
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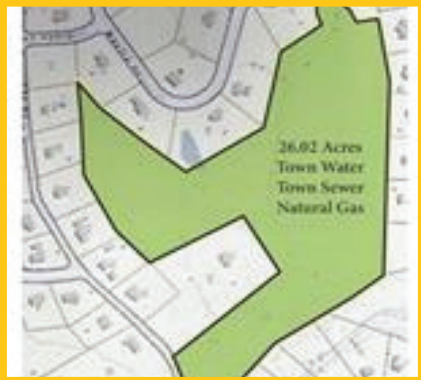
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