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May 2021

*The Voice of Your Community*

## Commitment to the Community

As a young girl, needing assistance from the community was a very real part of Heather Cohen's childhood. Many times, her family had to rely on community programs and the generosity of neighbors to make ends meet.

"I remember going with my mother to our church to pick up meals and clothing. That experience stuck with me, and not because I felt ashamed or embarrassed. It was just the opposite, in fact! Everyone who helped us was so supportive and kind, it instilled in me a sense of community and inspired me in my commitment to give back."

Heather owns b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio, a brand new, 4000 sq ft beauty salon housed in the historic Medway Mills Complex. With soaring ceilings, natural light-filled rooms and the areas most current and exciting salon services, b.LUXE is one of Metrowest's most impressive beauty destinations.

But just last year, all plans for the new studio were put on hold. Heather explains, "When we first



Photo Credit: Wendy Shea Photography

shut-down, my initial mindset was to scrap the build-out and hunker down in our existing space. It was a tough time for all of us in the beauty industry. But, later, when we returned to work, there was a very different landscape waiting for us. My staff had to split shifts and reduce hours to accommodate the new safety guidelines. I knew right away they needed a bigger salon to work at full capacity and our clients needed a safe space to relax and enjoy their services."

A new plan began to unfold for

the studio when Heather realized that the timing of the pandemic actually enabled her to build a socially distanced salon from the ground up.

"I had to pivot away from our original design and rethink every inch of space."

And pivot she did! b.LUXE Hair and Makeup now has 16 socially-distanced styling stations, 3 treatment rooms, multiple pro-

**B.LUXE**

*continued on page 3*

## Get Ready for The LadyBug Trail in Downtown Franklin

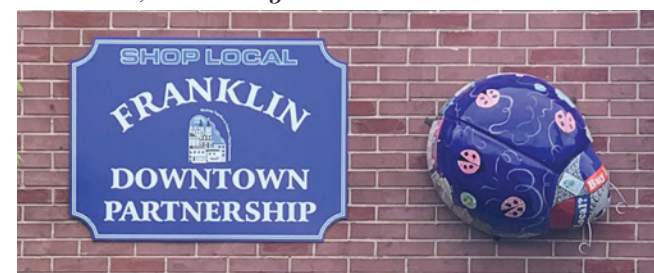
By J.D. O'GARA

What do ladybugs have to do with Franklin?

In 1974, Franklin's John

nessed it signed into law.

"The elementary school, JFK, rallied the state to make the ladybug the state



This ladybug, part of a town-wide art project in 2014, will be one stop installed this year on The Ladybug Trail, which will connect 25 business, historical and cultural sites around Franklin.

F. Kennedy School second-grade students and their teacher, Palma Johnson, petitioned the state to name the ladybug Massachusetts' state insect and subsequently wit-

bug," said Beth Simon who along with Claire Griffin were members of the Franklin Cultural Council in 2014

**LADYBUG TRAIL**

*continued on page 2*

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# Franklin Area Nonprofit Network (FANN) Kicks Off

By J.D. O'GARA

Did you know that over 100 nonprofit organizations are based in the town of Franklin, with even more nonprofits in the greater community serving the town? Some of them, in fact, serve similar purposes and might be able to streamline their budgets and services if they could collaborate. The newly-established Franklin Area Nonprofit Network (FANN), created by Steve Sherlock, of Franklin Matters, Franklin resident Bo Kinney and Pete

Fasciano, of Franklin TV, aims to foster connections between nonprofits and create a “cookbook” of best practices for these groups.

Bo Kinney, a Franklin resident for 36 years, retired last September after 30 years with the Army at Natick labs. After his cousin on the North Shore did some work to help elders, Kinney started researching what organizations support seniors in his own town.

“Maggie, at the Senior Center, put me in touch with a half a dozen people, and I came away

with an observation that they all have a lot in common,” says Kinney, who also serves on the board for the nonprofit Ben Speaks. After meeting with Rep. Jeff Roy at his monthly senior hours, Kinney concluded, “As it turns out, nonprofits are a lot like the government. Everyone is working really hard trying to solve their problems in their own little silos. The real bang for the buck will be when those silos start working together and collaborating. You have a problem – there’s always



which Kinney aimed to find a solution was already being tackled by Steve Sherlock and Pete Fasciano. “Steve told me this offline, he’s been trying to do this for a couple years now, working with Pete,” says Kinney. “These guys already had a lot of the data, and Steve already had a name, FANN.”

“More people should be aware of everyone else around

someone who’s had the same problem.”

Turns out, the problem for

**FANN**

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## LADYBUG TRAIL

*continued from page 1*

that initiated the ladybug public art project. In the end, 25 ladybugs were painted by various artists, sponsored by local businesses and residents.

Now, a project is underway to feature several those ladybugs on a trail in downtown Franklin.

The Ladybug Trail will use ladybug sculptures to tie approximately 25 historical and cultural sites in downtown Franklin together. Visitors will walk along the trail using a digital map and view signage detailing the history of Franklin and the names of the artists who painted the ladybugs.

Lisa Piana, of the Franklin Downtown Partnership, says the ladybug mounted on the side of the building in which her organization resides received such an enthusiastic response, she began asking other businesses, such as



**This ladybug, sponsored by the DeBaggis family, will be installed on a building on East Central Street this month.**

Dean Bank and Keefe Insurance, to put them up. “I thought it would be a great idea to connect them,” says Piana, and apparently, she wasn’t alone. Everyone she called agreed to do it.

When Covid came, she and members of the Ladybug Trail Committee, which represents

key organizations in the Franklin community, including the FDP, Franklin Cultural District, and Historical Commission, worked behind the scenes with the different business owners, tracking down each ladybug. Members of the committee also include Beth Simon, Roberta Trahan, Pandora Carlucci, Mary Olson, Melanie Hamblen, Eileen Mason, and Jane Curran.

By the end of the summer, Piana anticipates that 15 of the original ladybugs will be mounted at various locations in town. In addition, some of the sites on the ladybug trail will feature a mural, some public art, or something of historic significance.

“We are so excited to bring together several organizations in Franklin to make this project a reality,” said Lisa Piana, Executive Director of the FDP and chair of the Ladybug Trail Committee. “Our vision is to have visitors and residents alike

enjoy the opportunity to walk the downtown trail and visit the unique businesses along the way, as well as view the historical and cultural sites.”

A recent grant to the FDP from the Franklin Cultural District and the Massachusetts Cultural Council will help fund a portion of the ladybug installations.

Although the list has yet to be finalized, Simon’s Furniture, Dean College, Agway and THE BLACK BOX are among those businesses that have agreed to put ladybugs up. Some stops along the trail, will feature artwork, such as the alleyway on East Central Street, which will feature a mural. The FDP is coordinating a number of public art projects that will be included on the trail. “It has been a fun experience working with five talented artists from the Franklin Art Association to paint murals in what will be known as ‘Flower Alley’ on East Central Street,”

Piana said. “This will be just one of the 25 stops along the way”. Stops will include 12 business sites, six cultural sites and seven historical sites.

By summer end, visitors to the downtown area will have a digital guide to the stops.

“We’re working on a very detailed digital map,” says Piana. The map, with audio, is expected to be completed sometime in August.

“It’s going to be really exciting for people to come down and see what ladybug’s going to be up now. It’s really an invitation for people to come down. This is a true economic development project in that we’re hoping it will encourage people to really enjoy Franklin center, and hopefully, also dine and shop in the downtown center.”

To learn more about the Ladybug Trail project, please contact Lisa Piana at downtown.franklin@yahoo.com.

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FANN

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the table,” says Sherlock. “You’re not alone in this.” Sherlock, in FANN’s introductory meeting, stressed using the new network for referrals among nonprofits. “You can do within your scope, but maybe not do everything the person is looking for,” says Sherlock. “This directory can help us to help you. You’ll be able to network with each other and figure out how best to do that. You’re all here servicing some aspect of the community.”

“What we hope is we can create some type of template about the kinds of information you need to keep on-hand, how it is you need to cycle it and what your month might look like if you’re the volunteer,” says Fasciano. “We can offer some suggestions based on what we’re seeing on our end, an annual plan, or whatever helps them out.”

While the initial Zoom meeting of FANN, at the end of March, introduced FANN to a number of local nonprofits, subsequent meetings will establish introductions between groups. Later, FANN creators envision

“action” pieces for the nonprofits. Fasciano, for example, at press time, was working on a “Media 101” action, that would simplify the process of getting announcements out to media. Other action items that have arisen out of conversations with nonprofits might include establishing best business practices or creating a mission statement, “every business process you need in order to get your job done,” says Kinney, who envisions generic templates boiling down processes for nonprofits.

Sherlock says nonprofits can learn from each other. He recently connected a family coordinating the annual Franklin Food Pantry’s Turkey Trot with HMEA, so they could share best practices in putting together a 5K, which HMEA has done for 20 years. FANN will facilitate more of these connections.

FANN also aims to reduce redundancy in the efforts of several local nonprofits, such as the Franklin Food Pantry. With a little coordination, different groups that aim to help the food pantry could organize in a way that would benefit the nonprofit the most.

FANN

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B.LUXE

continued from page 1

cessing areas and a private service space for high-risk clients. They’ve also added a skincare department, organic tanning services and some of the most relaxing spa services around!

From concept to completion, the continuous thread that runs through this expansion is Heather’s commitment to community.

A few of Heather’s community contributions include free fundraising events for local organizations where the b.LUXE artists host beauty nights with 100% of ticket sales donated to the organization. These events have hosted 50 guests and raised thousands of dollars.

Heather and her team also donate time to the Franklin Food Pantry, regularly volunteering at their food drives and back-to-school backpack programs.

Guests from The Franklin Senior center visit b.LUXE for free hair styling and grooming as well as the residents from The Medway House, who receive complimentary services whenever needed.



Business spotlight

Every year, the b.LUXE team travels to Mexico to bring beauty supplies and cutting edge education to the Martello Institute of Beauty, Cancun. With each trip, Heather donates two full beauty scholarships to students, until last

year, when the pandemic sidelined their travels, she donated three.

b.LUXE is also proud to work with The Hummingbird Foundation, Medway Parks and Rec, The Gilded Project and many other local groups and organizations.

Heather’s philosophy is simple, “We all have it within ourselves to help others and improve our community. So, do your best...and then do a little better.”





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# May 4<sup>th</sup>, Horace Mann's Birthday, to Mark FEF "Day of Giving"

## Franklin Education Foundation Supports FPS with Educational Grants

By J.D. O'GARA

With Covid putting the kibosh on its biggest fundraiser in 2020, the annual Harlem Wizards show, the Franklin Education Foundation, which supports Franklin Public Schools with educational grants, had to come up with a new fundraising strategy this year.

"A day of giving on Tuesday, May 4th, to celebrate Horace Mann's birthday and our wonderful educators in Franklin, will be our major fundraising effort," says FEF's Joni Magee. "We're really hoping to reach out to community and alumni, and to sponsors."

Franklin is the birthplace of Horace Mann, considered the father of public school education.

"In the past, we've done the

Wizards, and we've tapped into our broader support from the corporate point of view. That's how we got a lot of our fundraising," says Mary Kroon, FEF volunteer, adding that a few paint night fundraisers brought in a bit more as well. "We're hoping the Day of Giving will compensate for (the loss of those fundraisers in 2020) without the community being taxed. If you're able to give, you can."

Since 1997, FEF has funded hundreds of educational grants totaling well over \$300,000, to inspire innovative and sustainable programs, and to further support excellence in education within Franklin Public Schools. The educational grants support engaging, diverse and sustainable preK-12 learning opportunities and resources. During the pandemic, the FEF has stepped up its efforts to support Franklin Public Schools by extending its 2019-2020 grants (a total of 17, for a total of \$20,000) to the end of June 2021, as well as providing the schools with a lump sum do-

nation so that students could be provided with outreach materials they needed.

"Educators and school districts have had to pivot like no other time," says Magee, pointing out that, moving forward, grants will allow students to have access to education in different ways than they did before and "teachers to have more tools in the toolbox."

Kroon explains that the FEF enhances the public-school experience. "It's a fabulous charity to donate to. We help (teachers) be innovative and creative, so kids can maximize their experience at Franklin Public Schools," says Kroon.

Over the decades, the FEF has funded such projects as the Franklin Family Resource Guide, Box City, Family Astronomy Night, and Franklin High School Empty Bowls Project.

According to Mary Kroon, examples of what the Franklin Education Foundation supported this year include:

- A garden for first graders and the first-grade life science curriculum
- A grant for a flexible seating option encouraging student self-

regulatory skills and ability to attend academic tasks

- A updated, leveled Spanish reading program for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Digital and hands on resources to enhance science curriculum
- Author visits
- A science author visit
- Moxie strings, for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Arduino processors, for a high school AP computer science principles course
- Funds for training, team-building, guest speakers, and outreach to strengthen the Franklin High School gay/straight alliance group
- A 10-worlds language library of comprehensive readers in Spanish, Latin and French for high schoolers
- A grant for a new NIKON camera for Panther yearbook staff
- A mosaic tile stepping stone art installation adjacent to the specialized high needs program
- A Passion program initiative for K-5 students, which allows students and staff to engage in learning related to a passion of theirs, with an opportunity to give back to the community



None of these innovative programs and resources would be possible without the financial support of area businesses, organizations, families and individuals. The Franklin Education Foundation is entirely dependent on the generosity of sponsorships, financial donations, and in-kind donations.

Contributions can be made directly to the Franklin Education Foundation website under the donate tab <https://www.franklined.org/get-involved/donate>, or by mailing a check to Franklin Education Foundation at P.O. Box 531, Franklin, MA 02038. You can learn more about the Franklin Education Foundation (FEF) on their website at <https://www.franklined.org/>.

For more information about FEF please contact FEF co-chair, Pandora Carlucci at [pandora.carlucci@gmail.com](mailto:pandora.carlucci@gmail.com).

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## Save the Dates! June 11th- June 13th – Franklin ArtWALK!

Mark your calendars for the Franklin ArtWALK Celebration, scheduled for Friday, June 11; Saturday, June 12; and, Sunday, June 13. The Franklin Cultural District has received grants and funding from a number of sources including the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Franklin Cultural Council. The Cultural District (<https://www.franklinculture.org/>) was officially dedicated in May 2019.



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# MDP for Men

## Local CVS Stores Lead the Way with Revolutionary Product for Men

By JANE LEBAK

CVS is now featuring a new product for a problem no one wants to talk about: unpredictable light bladder leakage for men.

MDP (Male Drip Protection) is a revolutionary super-absorbent sleeve designed to be worn directly on the male anatomy.

MDP's developer, Ian Heyman, says, "Twelve million men in America experience light incontinence for reasons including prostate problems, kidney issues, or even Crohn's disease. For too many men, this leakage gets in the way of an active life."

Ian developed MDP after he witnessed his father's embarrassment at the occasional wet spot. "There was nothing on the market to help my Dad, so I designed and patented an anatomically conforming solution for men."

Although the product was previously sold only through MDP4men.com, high demand has brought it to local CVS shelves. "We're excited that CVS recognizes the innovation MDP brings to the men's incontinence market," says Ian. "These MetroWest locations will be the first stores in the country to offer MDP products."

MDP is light, flexible, and discreet. Its design permits it to flex with the anatomy while men are working, walking, lifting, or sitting. "When it comes to bladder leakage, some men don't tell anyone what they're dealing with, not even their wives," Ian



says. "Light incontinence is more than just a laundry problem. It's a quality-of-life problem, but one that is absolutely solvable."

Ian developed the product in consultation with doctors, prostate support groups, and several expert designers. Although there are plenty of guards and shields on the market, the challenge in designing a man's incontinence product was the variability of the male anatomy.

"A man's anatomy changes size and position many times throughout the day," says Ian. "Everything else for men functions as a shield that attaches to the clothes. A man's product needs to attach to his body to accommodate changes immediately as they occur."

MDP achieves exactly that, fitting like an absorbent sock right onto the male anatomy, then staying secure using two straps with variable zones of elasticity.

Although MDP features four functional layers, it's as thin as a pantyliner, and also feels like silk. "Once a man learns to secure it, MDP stays in place for as long as he needs it."

This made-in-the USA product features an innermost layer

# Business spotlight

comprised of a silklike nonwoven fabric, the softest available for hygiene products. "The male anatomy is extremely sensitive," says Ian. "Our product needed to be ultra-soft where it comes in contact with the anatomy."

The second layer channels fluid away from the body. This keeps the user dry and prevents skin irritation.

The third layer is the absorbent core, trapping the fluid until the wearer is ready to dispose of the product. Enclosing it all is the fourth layer, a poly-barrier that is breathable for comfort but prevents any leakage from escaping.

The side panels have variable zones of elasticity that instantly adapt to changes in shape, size, and position. Finally, the two hook-and-loop straps ensure MDP is a self-adjusting product that the man doesn't have to think about.

Put all together, the MDP product is comfortable, breathable, and much more discreet than a bulky guard or ineffective shield. "This is the first product of its kind," says Ian. "It's invisible to the wearer, and it's invisible to everyone else, too."

That very invisibility was a primary concern to all the test-users

and early adopters. "There's an embarrassment factor that makes men not want to talk about this," says Ian. "But there should be no stigma in taking care of your body."

With its bold logo and black and gold packaging, MDP's sleek box stands apart in the aisle of bulky incontinence products. Ian says, "I've met men who try to make do with paper towels and a rubber band, but men deserve better. They deserve to take their wives out for dinner and trust they won't have to hurry home. They deserve to cut the grass, go golfing, or see their grandkids, all with the security of knowing they'll stay dry and comfortable."

Comfortable, secure, dry, and discreet...that's what MDP delivers. MDP is available on shelves now at CVS in Millis, Wrentham, Millbury, North Kings-town, and four other locations. For more information or to have MDP shipped discreetly to your door, visit <https://mdp4men.com> today.

## FANN

continued from page 3

Sherlock already puts together a calendar of events for the website, Franklin Matters. ([www.franklinmatters.org](http://www.franklinmatters.org)) "One of the issues we have is nobody is putting things out there 2-3 months ahead," says Sherlock. Recently, both the FSPA and Franklin High School, for example, found out they were doing the same musical around the same time, something they might have avoided had they communicated.

"Collaboration is so key to not only the efficiency, but also the effectiveness. You're going to spend your money a lot wiser, and you're going to have more bang for your buck," says Kinney. "(Nonprofits) are swamped, they've got blinders on just looking forward a lot of times." FANN, he says, can be a substantial resource to these groups.

"This is their (the nonprofits) network, not our network," says Sherlock.

FANN's website is still in the works, but you can stay apprised of its progress by visiting [www.franklinmatters.org](http://www.franklinmatters.org).



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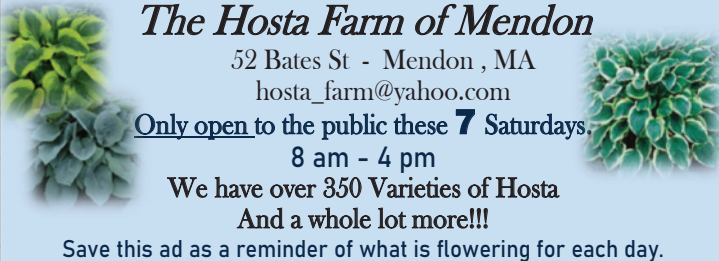
<p>Send us an e-mail, And we will add you to our email list Or follow us on Facebook</p> <p>Additions to our schedule and special events go out via email first And then on to Facebook</p>	<p>May 15<sup>th</sup> Fertilizer &amp; Critter Control</p> <p><b>Hosta</b> <b>Hosta</b></p> 
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# Spring Arts Awakening Continues at THE BLACK BOX

THE BLACK BOX, Franklin's very own concert, theater, and event venue, will continue its nine-week entertainment series, outdoors under a tent in the venue's parking lot. The Spring Arts Awakening celebrates a comeback for arts and entertainment and offers an opportunity to support THE BLACK BOX in its recovery from the pandemic. Masks and social distancing are required at all performances and events.

On May 7, the culinary and performing arts unite for an inspired evening of fabulous food, libations, and entertainment. The \$75 per person all-inclusive ticket delivers a delicious, entertaining evening. The 9th annual Culinary Cabaret spotlights this region's outstanding culinary talent, showcasing fine wines, craft beer, flavorful dishes, and mouth-watering desserts. Featuring entertainment by Electric Youth and special guest artists of the Franklin Performing Arts Company. Current safety guidelines will be followed and strictly enforced.

The Franklin High School All-Class Reunion takes place Saturday, May 8th from 7-10 p.m. FHS alumni are encour-

aged to put together a group from their class, or just attend and be surprised who they see. Spouses and friends of Franklin High school welcome. This casual gathering under the tent at THE BLACK BOX includes pizza, snacks, a cash bar, live music, Joe Landry's vintage videos and photo archives, an FHS yearbook library, and Panther Pride Sports Corner.

THE BLACK BOX Sings... *Newsies* brings back to Franklin Broadway's Christopher Rice singing Jack Kelly on May 15 and 16. With cast members from FPAC's 2018 sell out production and additional special guests, enjoy a celebration of the inspiring story and unforgettable music of *Newsies*.

THE BLACK BOX Sings... *Wicked* Starring Broadway Elphaba Emily Koch with Jim Hogan singing Fiyero returns to TBB on May 22 and 23. Pianist Austin Davy from the *Wicked* tour accompanies an FPAC all-star cast featuring Ali Funkhouser, Nick Paone, Katie Gray, Hallie Wetzell, and Tim Ayres-Kerr. Audiences will enjoy a celebration of the music of *Wicked* and the story of the Witches of Oz!



On May 29 and 30, THE BLACK BOX will support the return of live music and enthusiastically welcome food trucks to Downtown Franklin with a Food Truck and Live Music Festival. Saturday, May 29th and Sunday, May 30th from 5-10 PM, socially-distanced audiences can enjoy local music outdoors.

Spring Arts Awakening at THE BLACK BOX will continue into June with more concerts and events featuring Broadway stars, local artists, and more. Patrons are encouraged to visit [www.THEBLACKBOX-online.com](http://www.THEBLACKBOX-online.com) and follow THE BLACK BOX on social media to stay updated on the venue's offerings.

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Your Money, Your Independence

# If your taxes could talk, what would they say?

Get your taxes done?

You have until May 17th to complete and find out what they say about you. Specifically, what are you doing well and can be done better?

If you don't know, ask your accountant. If he/she can't answer, maybe it's time to get help with tax planning from a Certified Financial Planner (CFP).

A CFP's goal with tax planning is to help clients take proactive steps to save money on their taxes now and help reduce liabilities in the future. Aspects include lowering your AGI (adjusted gross income), leveraging tax deductions, taking advantage of tax credits, tax deferrals and timing of large purchases, sales and realization of income.

Once you've exhaled from completing your taxes, see if these apply for 2021:

**Dedicate space to a home office.** If you're self-employed or started a side-gig, dedicate a section of your house as a home office. Schedule C deductions are many and prorated across several aspects of expenses, maintenance and utilities on your entire home. Additionally, if you build or renovate a home office, there are additional deductions if you're self-employed.

**Working From Home (WFH) becoming permanent.** Is your company changing your role to WFH indefinitely, providing flexibility to move to another state? Understand workers are required to have taxes withheld in accordance with their state's tax rules, regardless of where their employer is located. Also, some states make employers withhold taxes from nonresident employees' wages.

**Adjust your W-4.** If you got a large refund, lower your withholding and do more with your money than letting the government sit on it. Additionally, if both spouses work and one is self-employed, consider raising your W-4 withholding to avoid potential penalties for underpaying estimated taxes on a growing small business.

**Exercising Restricted Stock Units (RSUs).** Did you sell some RSUs and get a large tax bill? Connect with HR to discuss withholding options before your next exercise. Also, learn of the benefits and drawbacks of converting to stock to qualify for long-term, instead of short-term, capital gains.

**Revisit Work Benefits.** You can impact your adjusted gross income (AGI) through 401k contributions as well as funding

a HSA funding, FSA for dental/vision or FSA dependent care. Additionally, you may want to choose Roth instead of Traditional to eliminate future tax liabilities. If you can't make some changes until open enrollment, don't forget if you have a life event (new child, spouse loses or changes job) you have 30 days to revisit and reset your work benefits.

Tax planning is complex, but it doesn't need to be complicated. Work with someone to help you save money, stay organized and reduce liabilities in the future.

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



Glenn Brown

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

## Growing a Community

### Franklin Church Plans Community Garden for Food Pantry; All Welcome

By J.D. O'GARA

St. John's is building a garden, and its Franklin neighbors are invited to be part of it.

alongside the small bed.

"It really did become a whole parish sort of project last year," says Gellar. "There would be people who'd come to weed or fill

- Help haul garden soil to fill a bed
- Enclose raised beds with fencing, including in-bed plant supports
- Place lining on paths between beds

ing such a garden. When she was Deacon at Christ Church in Medway, "We built four wooden raised beds in the front yard of the church," she says. "The idea was to have a garden that would be a church project that would also provide some donations of

fresh produce to the food pantry. Although Gellar has moved on to St. John's, in Franklin, her former congregation is still operating the community garden.

**GARDEN**  
continued on page 9



St. John's Church, at 237 Pleasant St. in Franklin, will soon build a good news garden similar to one in neighboring Medway, shown here. All are welcome, and the garden will help supply the Franklin Food Pantry with fresh produce.

May will kick off a lot of activity on the grounds of St. John's Church, at 237 Pleasant St. Deacon Maggie Gellar is heading up The Good News Garden Project, a project which began with a small garden bed last year, during Covid, to supply the Franklin Food Pantry with some fresh vegetables. Four new wooden raised beds will be added this month

barrels, and they knew they had to keep away, but they were so excited to see each other. It was a way to do something as part of a community, so hopefully it will be bigger and better this year."

Families are encouraged, with careful Covid-19 protocols to sign up to:

- Construct a raised bed (materials supplied)

- Help plant seedlings
- Water beds/weed gardens as needed during the growing season
- Harvest and deliver fresh produce to Franklin Food Pantry early on Tuesdays and Fridays

Gellar has experience creat-

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# FSPA Now Enrolling for Summer 2021 and the 21-22 School Year

The Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) has opened enrollment for Summer 2021 and the 21-22 School year. The school is following FSPA's Reopening Plan in accordance with the Mass.gov/Reopening Massachusetts guidelines and will continue to update procedures and practices as updates become available. Prospective students are invited to make an appointment to come in person for a tour and to discuss program options.

Proudly serving more than 500 students annually from 45 communities in Massachusetts' Metro West region, the Franklin School for the Performing Arts is committed to quality education in the arts with exceptional curriculum, outstanding professional faculty, and unwavering dedication to each and every student enrolled. Founded in 1985 by Director Raye Lynn Mercer, FSPA is a unique place where students of all ages and levels of ability participate in an array of music, dance, and drama programs with professional instruction and extraordinary performing opportunities. With broad-based and varied curricula, FSPA guides students in the development of technique, creativity, and artistic expression to last a lifetime. FSPA's faculty boasts outstanding professional artists, performers, and teachers. Their impressive credentials

are indicative of the excellent instruction available in all programs. FSPA instructors strive to meet the individual needs of each student, working to develop each student's abilities to their own potential.



Recent FSPA alumna Susana Wickstrom is currently attending the prestigious Musical Theater program at Carnegie Mellon University. Of her FSPA training Wickstrom notes, "FSPA has taught me absolutely everything that I know. I owe the world to it. My teachers there taught me why I love the arts, and why I want to pursue it for the rest of my life."

Performance is an integral part of an FSPA education and the school offers unrivaled performing opportunities for stu-

dents throughout the year. On the calendar annually are student recitals, concerts by faculty and guest artists, master classes, student showcases, holiday shows, the school's signature Spring Concert, and summer camps and intensives. In addition, for students whose level of interest is more focused, there are special performing ensemble opportunities available by audition.

FSPA Academy combines the flexibility of a virtual education with the practicality of a school-room, and can accommodate professional opportunities, rehearsal, and performance schedules. FSPA Academy partners with TECCA, a virtual Massachusetts Public School. The curriculum is taught by licensed, certified teachers through a combination of Live Lessons and individual assignments.

THE BLACK BOX, home of the Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC), a 200-seat flexible theater located behind FSPA, provides a professional venue for FSPA student productions, while FPAC offers opportunities by audition for student performers.

For more information about FSPA and its programs, visit [www.FSPAonline.com](http://www.FSPAonline.com), call (508)-528-8668, or stop by 38 Main St. in Franklin. Follow FSPA on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.

# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Rail Trail 5K Goes Virtual This May

## Franklin Bellingham Rail Trail Committee, Tri-Valley Front Runners, and 67 Degrees Brewing Team Up to Host Virtual Race

From May 22nd to May 31st, walkers and runners are invited to complete a 5k to raise money for the Franklin Bellingham

entry into four race divisions: Male Open (49 and under), Female Open (49 and under), Male Senior (50+), and Female Senior (50+).



Each division winner will receive a gift certificate to 67 Degrees Brewing, located on Grove Street.

Walkers are also invited to participate without submitting their times.

Registration is \$20 for runners and \$15 for walkers. First regis-

trants will receive COVID-safe neck gaiters, distributed by 67 Degrees.

FBRTC has stayed very active during the pandemic. Over the past year, the Committee has opened a tunnel under Prospect Street to improve trail accessibility, added a StoryWalk for families, set up signage to highlight the trail's foliage, hosted monthly group walks and clean-ups, and launched their first-ever photo contest.

Register for the 5k event at: [active.com/running/distance-running-races/10th-annual-fbrtc-virtual-race-5k-run-or-walk-2021](http://active.com/running/distance-running-races/10th-annual-fbrtc-virtual-race-5k-run-or-walk-2021)

Local businesses interested in sponsoring the event can contact FBRTC at [fbrtcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:fbrtcommittee@gmail.com).

You can learn more about the Franklin Bellingham Rail Trail Committee at

[franklinbellinghamrailtrail.org](http://franklinbellinghamrailtrail.org) and [tri-valleyfrontrunners.com](http://tri-valleyfrontrunners.com).

Rail Trail Committee (FBRTC), the local nonprofit dedicated to the promotion and improvement of the multi-use Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT).

"After a difficult year, we are very excited to be able to welcome residents back to the Trail for some friendly competition," says Sue Rheume, an FBRTC volunteer and race organizer. "Now in our 10<sup>th</sup> year, the Rail Trail race continues to be a fantastic source of local recreation and fundraiser for trail improvements."

This year's race is a collaboration between FBRTC and Tri-Valley Front Runners, a local running group. Participants are invited to run any 5k course they choose, but there will be signage on the SNETT - starting at the Grove St. trailhead - to mark the start, turn-around, and finish locations for those that choose to run on the trail. Runners are invited to submit their times for

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# We're Not In Bedrock and You're Not with The Flintstones

BY DENNIS SULLIVAN & ASSOCIATES,  
COUNSELORS AT LAW

You may recall the popular television show of the 1960s' "The Flintstones" who lived in the town of Bedrock. It happened to be the first-ever prime-time cartoon show. Here, Fred's biggest concerns were staying on the good side of his wife Wilma and avoiding getting tackled by his pet dinosaur Dino when he came through the door. Today, however, life in this COVID-19 world isn't as simple.

The word "Bedrock" also means strength. Being strong is something we all want to achieve. One way of getting there is to view your life in three facets such as depicted on a pyramid. The pyramid, as we view it, represents our health, finances, and legacy. Beneath this pyramid is the bedrock of our core values: the fundamental beliefs we hold dear. These guiding principles dictate our behavior and help

us know the difference between right and wrong. Ideally, we share our core values with our loved ones. However, during this past year, core values have sometimes taken a back seat to the topsy-turvy COVID-19 landscape. Principles and beliefs, while still important, can get lost in the mere challenge of navigating through COVID-19 restrictions, sickness, and turmoil. Likewise, career, finances, relationships, and yes, our mental and physical well-being in general have been jumbled. Worry and fear have become the norm for many. Are you one of the many who have suffered through sleepless nights?

Nevertheless, beneath all of this, you still have your bedrock of core values. This is where we can help in making sure you stay on a straight path in your health, financial and legacy pyramid, despite all you have been through.

As we enter the second year



of COVID-19, we're here to help you explore and share your core values with loved ones. We offer unique discovery counseling opportunities with proven health, life, disability, estate, and asset protection planning processes to help guide you successfully through the COVID-19 landscape and other challenges you and your family may face.

This is achieved through our new proprietary, peace of mind, Legacy Planning System. It protects you for life, and most importantly passes on your core values and legacy for generations that follow. As you document your core values, you will uncover what's most important to pass on to those who follow in your footsteps for generations to

come. Your legacy can be a fantastic legacy to pass along! It is prudent, today more than ever, to protect your health, home, spouse, family, life savings, and legacy. In these continued times of COVID-19, you owe it to yourself and those year hold dear. Don't let this Bedrock opportunity pass you by!

*Book a FREE online discovery session today. You'll discover why 90% of all trust and estate plans fail as well as what you can do to protect your health, home, spouse, family, legacy, and life savings. Call 800-964-4295 NOW or visit [www.DSullivan.com](http://www.DSullivan.com) to register for a Free Discovery Session! You will even qualify to receive up to \$2,475 in valuable benefits to update your trust and estate plans for the new Covid-19 world and build your own value-based legacy to guide future generations.*

*Dennis Sullivan & Associates is a team of caring, compassionate, experienced professionals who Protect Families for Generations.*

## GARDEN

*continued from page 7*

"The thing I liked about it was it was definitely a community project," says Gellar, adding that neighbors to the church were interested in the garden and welcome to participate. "The rule is, if you come and help with it, it's your garden, too. My whole thing is connecting people and making things be about us and

not a we/them sort of situation."

Gellar explains that St. John's Church school will begin the seedlings, and "in mid-May, we'll gather and build the gardens." Vegetables will be planted the last weekend in May.

Gellar notes that the planned garden will support something that matters to the Franklin community, and it will encourage camaraderie not only among church members, but also be-

tween the church and its neighbors.

"We will invite the people who live in the neighborhood and let them know if they want to work in the garden, they are welcome," says Gellar.

To sign up as an individual or a family, visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050848AFA72CA7F58-stjohns3>

For more information, contact Maggie at [maggiel1@comcast.net](mailto:maggiel1@comcast.net), (508) 277-1032.

For more information about St. John's Church, visit <http://www.stjohnsfranklinma.org/>

## Franklin Memorial Day Celebration

12 Noon, Franklin Town Common  
(no parade this year due to Covid-19 Guidance;  
please wear masks and keep social distance.)

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# Franklin Police Remind Town of Safety Protocols

Dear Residents, Businesses, and Visitors to the Town of Franklin,

As Chief of Police I have enacted several new policies in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. While many of these are internal and deal with how of-

ficers will continue to work and provide public safety, there are a few which the public should be aware of. These will continue until further notice.

As a police department, it is impossible for our employees to cut off all contact with the pub-

lic, and because our role in the community is so vital, we must respond to this situation with some changes. To protect the members of the Department and the public, the Franklin Police Department has implemented the following:

Food - Food brought to the station by members of the community shall not be accepted. Eating from a large common tray of food is an effective way to spread an illness; therefore we shall not take these trays in until further notice.

Firearms Licensing - Please see the Fire-

arms Licensing page (<https://www.franklinma.gov/user/login?destination=node/263794>) for more detailed information. (Updated 6/12/2020)

Tours of Station / Ride Along - All tours of the station, and Ride Along requests are suspended until further notice.

Solicitor Permits - Please see the Solicitor Information Page (<https://www.franklinma.gov/police-department/web-forms/solicitation-permits>) for more information.

We understand that some of these changes may be an inconvenience to the public. We ask

for your consideration as we concentrate our efforts on being prepared to respond to emergency calls for service and continuing to maintain our mission of providing a safe community for all who live, work, and visit the Town of Franklin. These changes outlined above are in place to limit potential exposure of our staff to the virus and keep them healthy and able to respond to emergencies.

Thank you for your understanding, and continued support,  
Thomas J. Lynch, Chief of Police

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## Flowers to Adorn Downtown Franklin Again

### May 21 Event to Beautify Town

On May 21, members of the Franklin Downtown Partnership, Franklin Garden Club and other volunteers will meet to beautify Franklin by planting colorful mini-liquorice, purple and white wave petunias and pink gaura flowers in barrels and boxes throughout the downtown area.

Volunteers will meet at 2 p.m. on Fri., May 21 at Fairmount

Fruit Farm to pick up the plants and transport them downtown. Then volunteers will plant the barrels in front of various businesses, and finally, the boxes and barrels at the bridge in downtown Franklin.



If you can help with the spring planting, please email Eileen at [emason4234@gmail.com](mailto:emason4234@gmail.com).

"I'm looking forward to building on what we started last year by having designated parties responsible for certain locations. It worked fantastically and kept everyone safe," said Eileen Mason who leads the beautification efforts. "Let's celebrate new beginnings in 2021 by staying safe and adding a dash of color and fresh new plantings in downtown Franklin!"

The FDP is a non-profit 501©3 organization made up of more than 350 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 beautification, streetscape design, greenspace, alley murals, and sculpture projects. For more information go to [www.franklindowntownpartnership.org](http://www.franklindowntownpartnership.org).

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# Franklin Police Receive Implicit Bias Training

In March the Franklin Police Department provided Fair and Impartial Policing training to all of our officers. Fair and Impartial Policing uses modern science to train police officers on implicit bias and gives them the tools they need to reduce and manage bias.

The recent police reform bill passed by the Commonwealth speaks to eventually providing this type of training for officers. We felt it was a priority now, and brought the training to our staff.

The training was intensive and conducted by Fair & Impartial Policing (<https://fipolicing.com>).

# Water Treatment Plant Update

The Town is currently building a new water treatment plant (WTP), off Grove Street, for Wells No. 6 and No. 3, to improve the water quality and reliability of our system. The new WTP will be able to produce up to 1.22 million gallons per day and allow the Town to utilize the full capacity of Well Nos. 6 & 3. The New Grove Street Water Treatment Plant will be brought online in Spring 2021.

# Friends of Franklin Historical Museum Seeks New Members

The Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum are seeking new members. Contact Paula Vozzella, (781) 828-7981 or stop by the Museum gift shop on Sundays from 1-4 p.m. for more information.

The Historical Museum is looking for photographs of Franklin brides for our next exhibit. If you or someone you know was married in Franklin and would like to be included, please send the photos to [franklinbrides@gmail.com](mailto:franklinbrides@gmail.com).



# Franklin Fire Welcomes New Dept. Members

Our four newest members of the Department began on March 22, 2021. Welcome aboard!

- FF/Paramedic Brian Armstrong
- FF/Paramedic Jeffrey Ward
- FF/Paramedic Kent Parsons
- FF/Paramedic Benjamin Angelo

The second annual corned beef “drive-thru” dinner served on St. Patrick’s Day at the senior center was a huge success with approximately 300 meals served. This event is hosted by Franklin Firefighters Local #2637.

The whole department recently participated in Rapid Intervention Training (RIT) for two weeks. All the costs of this train-

ing will be covered from an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) that was secured by the Department.

Franklin Fire assisted with second-dose vaccination clinics on April 2 at the Franklin Housing Authority and on April 6 at the Franklin Senior Center.

**Opening Summer 2021**  
NOW ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS

*Stop by our campus for an in-person visit or join us online for one of our virtual events, it's all complimentary!*

### Fun Food Friday | May 7, 4, 21

Stop by anytime from 9 am – 12 pm for complimentary Muffin House Café muffins & coffee

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# Living Healthy

## Milford -Franklin Eye Center

### No Need to Travel for Your Eyecare

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

Milford-Franklin Eye Center has been providing excellent eye care to the community for decades. With much excitement, we are happy to announce that we have grown to a dedicated group of 8 physicians and Optometrists. In January of 2021 Dr. Mai-Khuyen Nguyen, OD will join our team in our state-of-the-art medical offices in Franklin and Milford. Dr Nguyen is a comprehensive optometrist offering the latest in comprehensive eye care for the entire family.

With offices located in Milford and Franklin and a support staff of 50, we are proud to be the

leading medical and surgical eye care center in the area and one of the major eye care institutions in the State. We are also one of the rare ophthalmology practices to own and operate our own surgical center, the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford. No more need to travel miles and hours to have cataract surgery! Five experienced eye physicians/ surgeons and 3 optometrists are here to provide comprehensive and excellent eye care for the entire family. If your optometrist is still asking you to travel for eyecare to far away practices, be aware of this optometrist bias and call us for a second opinion.

Dr. Roger Kaldawy is an ex-

perienced eye physician and surgeon and the area's only full-time specialist in corneal diseases. Having completed his training in Ophthalmology at University of Rochester and his fellowship in Cornea and Refractive Surgery at the prestigious Department of Ophthalmology of the University of Iowa, Dr. Kaldawy served as Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Boston University where he was Director of the Cornea and External Disease program and trained fellows and residents in Ophthalmology. Some of his trainees are now in academic and private practices in Massachusetts and around the world. Dr Kaldawy published research articles in peer-reviewed academic journals and has been invited as a guest speaker to



many prestigious academic programs in the US and around the world including University of New York, Stanford University and University of Wisconsin, Madison. Dr. Kaldawy is proud to be the first surgeon in central Massachusetts and among a handful of surgeons in the State to have performed DSAEK corneal transplantation. With special interest in cataract surgery, Dr Kaldawy has performed tens of thousands of procedures and was the first surgeon in the area to offer the highly advanced accommodating implants. Dr Kaldawy is the first and only surgeon in the area to offer bladeless laser-assisted Femto cataract surgery. This laser procedure is offered locally at the Cataract and Laser Surgery Center of Milford.

Dr. Hatch is the only fellowship trained pediatric ophthalmologist in the area, and is a skilled surgeon with training in the latest techniques for straightening misaligned eyes. Dr. Hatch earned bachelors and master's degrees in engineering from Boston University and Dartmouth College. He completed his medical degree at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in 1988, followed by residency in Ophthalmology at Yale-New Haven Hospital and fellowship in Pediatric and Neuro-ophthalmology at Duke University. Returning to his home state in 1993, Dr. Hatch joined the Milford-Franklin Eye Center where he focuses on comprehensive pediatric and adult ophthalmology

and adult strabismus.

Dr. Lashkari is our practicing vitreoretinal specialist as well as a scientist at the Schepens Eye Research Institute, Harvard Medical School. He is also a part-time Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at the Harvard Medical School. Dr. Lashkari completed a Medical-Surgical Fellow in Vitreoretinal disease at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmiry.

Dr. Ahmed graduated Magna cum Laude with Honors from Brown University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. She then pursued her medical degree at Medical College of Georgia followed by a medical internship at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore, MD. She completed her residency in Ophthalmology at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, MA followed by a Cornea and Anterior Segment Fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX. Her specific interests include ocular surface disease, complex cataracts and corneal transplantation.

Dr. Perriello Consigli received her Bachelor of Science degree from Clark University in 1987. She went on to earn her Doctor of Optometry degree from New England College of Optometry in 1991. Dr. Consigli has over twenty five years of experience, spending several years in private practice. In February 2019, Dr. Consigli joined Milford-Franklin



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# Living Healthy

## Tri-County RVTHS Juniors Assist Elders to Prepare for CNA Certification

Tri-County RVTHS Juniors were excited to get back out and start working in a clinical setting this February. After nearly a year of being unable to go into a clinical setting due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Juniors are eager and excited to help the residents at the Timothy Daniel's House in Holliston. "Our students missed those meaningful connections they make with the residents," says Kylie Geikie, Health Careers instructor. Students help the thirty long-term care patients with activities such as feeding, bathing/showering, transferring with and without a Hoyer lift, ambulation, incontinence care, personal companionship,

and taking vitals. The care they provide for these residents helps ease the facilities workers' burden and allows the students to earn the hours needed for their CNA Certification.

The students have risen to the challenge of COVID-19, used their knowledge of infectious diseases and infection control practices to care for the most vulnerable population. Typically, the Tri-County students would do their clinical hours throughout the year in preparation for a cooperative education (Co-op) position in their senior year; however, this year, students were restricted by the visitation limitations set forth by facilities.

Tri-County is the only school in the radius currently participating in on-site clinical hours.

Tri-County students usually work at a long-term facility which houses approximately 100 long-term care patients, and have been enjoying the smaller, more intimate setting of the Timothy Daniel's House. Working with fewer patients has allowed the students to spend more time with each resident and build a relationship.

"The level of compassion, empathy, and passion our students bring to each day of the clinical is inspiring," commented Geikie.



## A Few May Events with Franklin Senior Center

Here's a sampling of what Franklin Senior Center has to offer this month:

**Page Turner's Book Club:** Inheritance, by Dan Shapiro

To join Zoom meeting, email judymurphy@verizon.net

Monday, May 3, 12 p.m.

**Phone Tele-Bingo**

Play Bingo over the phone- no computer needed! Call the Senior Center to

sign up and receive your free kit which includes everything you need to play from home. To play, simply dial (508) 206-8603, no meeting ID or password required.

Mondays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 1-2 p.m.

**Zoom Chair Exercise**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.

To join, call the Senior Center at (508) 520-4945 or email Judith at judivperez@gmail.com

**Zoom Sunshine Club**

Fridays, 11 a.m.

The Supportive Day Program meets weekly on Zoom. Contact Ariel for more information at adoggett@franklinma.gov, or (508) 520-4945.

**TOPS** (Take off Pounds Sensibly) offers tools and programs for healthy living and weight management, with exceptional group fellowship and recognition.

To join, email: patdamour@yahoo.com.

Fridays, 12:30 p.m.

**Zoom – Senior Scribblers**

Senior Scribblers' Writers Group meets weekly on Wednesdays via Zoom. To join, email Steve Sherlock at shersteve@gmail.com

Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

### EYES

*continued from page 12*

Eye Center. She enjoys seeing patients of all ages. She is proficient in routine eye care, contact lens fitting, and diagnosing and treating various eye disease.

Dr. Adams, graduated from John Carroll University, Bachelors of Science, summa cum laude, in 1995. He completed his Masters in Biochemistry from The Ohio State University in 1997. In 2003 he received his Doctorate from the New England College of Optometry. Dr. Adams has advanced training in corneal pathology, specialty contact lenses, ocular disease and laser refractive surgery.

Dr. Mai-Khuyen Nguyen joins Milford-Franklin Eye Center from the New England Carpenters Benefit Fund – Vi-

sion Center, where she served as Head of Optometry. She has over 9 years of experience in comprehensive eye exams for adult, geriatric, pediatric, and special needs populations. Her experience includes performing contact lens fitting and managing contact lens complications. Dr. Nguyen is also experienced in glasses fitting and lens edging. Her charitable activities include participating in Boston Cares program and the Boston Special Olympics.

Milford-Franklin Eye Center realizes you have choices when it comes to eye care. We are different. We focus on excellent and advanced eye care and treat our patients as if each and every one is family. We are from the community, most of us live in the community and our focus is to serve the community. You will

see us in the office, at the local supermarket and in the ER at 1 AM if there is a need for our care. Our focus is you, your vision and excellent results. We are available, in your backyard and proud to offer world class cataract surgery closer to home: Here in Milford! Our optical shop has its own dedicated lab and can cut and finish your glasses while you wait. We offer after-hours, same day emergency appointments and Saturday appointments. We have great management focused on quality customer care. Eight providers dedicated to the best in eye medicine and surgery closer to home. Are they still asking you to travel hours to other practices? Call us: We are available for a second opinion.

*For more details, see our ad on page 12.*

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# Ace Handyman Services: Bringing Can-Do to the To-Do List

By JANE LEBAK

Every home needs a little work. The sink that drips or the shutter that's askew, they're little repairs, but each repair takes time, tools, and expertise.

Enter the Ace Handyman Services craftsman packages, where a homeowner can hire a multi-skilled craftsman for half a day to complete their entire to-do list.

"Everyone around here knows Ace Hardware," says Bruce Baltz, owner of the Franklin, Massachusetts Ace

## Business spotlight

Handyman franchise. "Ace Handyman Services carries the Ace Hardware commitment to quality right into your home."

For homeowners working full-time, household maintenance and repair can get pushed off due to lack of time. Other homeowners don't feel confident enough to tinker with their home, their largest investment. The elderly in particular may find themselves unable to do the maintenance they need in order to remain safe in their homes.

Then there's the matter of trust. How can a homeowner know which craftsmen will respect their home and do a quality job?

Baltz says, "Homeowners want the confidence of knowing they can get the work done--and not only 'done', but done safely, and done competitively-priced. We're serious about the trust our customers put in us."

The route to a thriving home starts at [www.AceHandymanServices.com](http://www.AceHandymanServices.com). Once a customer enters their zip code, the website links them to the closest office. The customer can then set their own schedule, uploading a list of all of their repairs and undone tasks while the website estimates how long each will take.

This is where Ace Handyman Services introduces their greatest innovation, the "package" model. "You can request a full-day or a half-day package, depending on how much you need," says Baltz. "These packages can be a multitude of different tasks, or they can focus around a single room."

Ace will match your repairs with the team member who's the best fit for the work. "All our craftsmen are trained, licensed, and background checked," says Baltz. "It's an added reassurance for the homeowner."



The website offers 1,162 different tasks to improve your home, along with a time estimate for each. For customers who feel more comfortable speaking with the office, the phone number is prominent in the right-hand corner.

Baltz says, "These packages are the single most exciting thing that Ace Handyman Services offers. They're the best value for your time as well as your money. Our multi-skilled craftsmen will arrive at your house capable of handling your entire list, with the complete tools and equipment to get it done."



Ace Handyman Services operates in the niche between independent handymen and professional licensed contractors, such as plumbers and electricians. Baltz says, "We make it a point to develop relationships with high-quality and trustworthy partners. When we encounter a problem that's out of our scope, we transfer our customers to those partners, but we still back up their repairs."

This means no homeowner will be stuck with unsafe or incomplete work. "Everything is tracked, accountable, and repeatable. Every single time you schedule, the experience will be the same. It's delivered the same way. Over time, you'll form a relationship with the craftsmen."

Ace Handyman Services promises to treat your home with respect. That means honoring your family's personal space, using protective materials on walls and floors, and leaving your home cleaner than they found it. They strive to communicate about every step of the process, from scheduling, to an on-the-way text, to written

changes before adjusting any work order.

Baltz says, "All work is guaranteed for a full year. We want homeowners to feel confident that if something were to go wrong, we're there to make it right. We're bonded and insured, and that protects the homeowner."

Every Ace Handyman craftsman observes strict Covid-19 protocols. The craftsman arrives wearing a fresh face mask, shoe covers, and gloves. They adhere to social distancing standards and disinfectant use, and will re-sanitize the area after work is completed.

As homeowners become more comfortable with the package model, they can explore the more involved packages, such as bathroom and kitchen renovations.

"You live in your home," says Baltz. "We're honored when you invite us in to improve it."

*To put the can-do in your to-do list, visit [www.AceHandymanServices.com](http://www.AceHandymanServices.com) today. See how a team of multi-skilled craftsmen can improve your home!*

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## Franklin Farmers Market to Open June 4

The Franklin Farmers Market will officially open for the 2021 season from 2-6 p.m. on Friday, June 4, 2021. The Farmers Market will take place on Fridays, from 2-6 p.m., and many of those Fridays will feature local organizations and entertainment. The market's first day will feature The Soul Estate Band, sponsored by The Franklin Cultural Council.

Visit <https://www.franklinfarmersmarketma.com/> for more information.

# Calendar

## May 4

Franklin Education Foundation (FEF) Day of Giving, in Honor of Horace Mann's birthday, Contributions can be made directly to the Franklin Education Foundation website under the donate tab <https://www.franklined.org/get-involved/donate>, or by mailing a check to Franklin Education Foundation at P.O. Box 531, Franklin, MA 02038. More info. on FEF at <https://www.franklined.org/>

Franklin Public Library Program, Keeping the Memories, Not the Stuff with Professional Organizer Janine Cavanaugh, 7 p.m. To register, please visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9w0hW-2Rmjf1Ta0Yw-Fe-Qy>.

## May 5

Franklin Public Library Program, Growing a Summer Salad with Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens, 7 p.m.

To register, please visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2t27OrqM9cnnzShsz9X50>.

Dean College will be holding a FREE virtual information session on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 from 6 – 7 p.m. To register for the information session and for more information about the pre-college programs, visit [www.dean.edu/summer](http://www.dean.edu/summer).

## May 7

FSPA 9th Annual Culinary Cabaret, \$75 pp inclusive ticket explores Franklin's culinary talent and features performance by Electric Youth and Franklin Performing Arts Company. Visit [www.THEBLACKBOXonline.com](http://www.THEBLACKBOXonline.com)

HMEA fundraiser, Smarty Pants Trivia 2, 7 p.m., fun, virtual night of trivia and raise money for your favorite HMEA programs that support over 5,000 people, [www.hmea.org/incredABLE-Day](http://www.hmea.org/incredABLE-Day)

## May 8

Franklin High School All-Class Reunion, 7-10 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, includes pizza, snacks, a cash bar, live music, Joe Landry's vin-

tage videos and photo archives, an FHS yearbook library, and Panther Pride Sports Corner. Visit [www.THEBLACKBOXonline.com](http://www.THEBLACKBOXonline.com).

## May 11

Franklin Public Library Program, The Rise of Dolley Madison, 7 p.m., To register, please visit [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/02vcmhrzkjG9BPCjuFRpMMAY-0GIhE\\_FdAw](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/02vcmhrzkjG9BPCjuFRpMMAY-0GIhE_FdAw)

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## May 12

Free VA Home Loan Benefits VIRTUAL Seminar, 6:30 p.m., presented by Michael Shain of Bay State Equity Home Loans, register at (508) 416-2170; or register online at <https://keefeatnight.org/>. Select "Live/Virtual/Interactive and Hybrid Classes." Then from the left dropdown menu, select "view by start date." Go to May 12th.

## May 13

SAFE Coalition Community

Conversation, "Who is the SAFE Coalition?" Zoom event, 7 p.m., Meeting ID 831 3495 2161

## May 15-16

Franklin, MA Legion Post 75 baseball team tryouts, visit [www.franklinlegion.com](http://www.franklinlegion.com).

## May 16

An incredABLE Stroll Down Memory Lane, Sunday, 6 p.m.,

## CALENDAR

continued on page 16

### SPORT MANAGEMENT



### SPORTS BROADCASTING

### FORENSICS



Franklin, MA

# SUMMER PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

WHY DEAN COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAMS?

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# Dean College to Hold the Class of 2021 and Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremonies, May 8, 2021

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Town of Franklin have approved a safe and acceptable plan for Dean College Commencement.

The Class of 2021 and the Class of 2020 will celebrate their Commencement Ceremo-

nies on Saturday, May 8, 2021. The Class of 2021 Commencement Ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. and the Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. Both ceremonies will be held outside in front of Dean Hall on the Dean Col-

lege Campus, 99 Main Street, Franklin, MA.

Livestream options will be available for graduates, family and friends who are unable to attend in person, as the event is limited capacity. To learn more about Dean College Commencement, visit [www.dean.edu/commencement](http://www.dean.edu/commencement).

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

**CALENDAR**

*continued from page 15*

[www.hmea.org/incredABLE-Day](http://www.hmea.org/incredABLE-Day)

**May 21**

Franklin Downtown Beautification, presented by Franklin Downtown Partnership, Franklin Garden Club and other volunteers, 2 p.m. meetup at Fairmount Fruit Farm, volunteer to help plant flowers by emailing Eileen at [emason4234@gmail.com](mailto:emason4234@gmail.com)

HMEA Fundraiser Jukebox Virtual Bingo, 7 p.m.

Join us for Jukebox Bingo featuring song clips in a format like "Name That Tune." Tickets \$15 pp, chance to win prizes in 3 rounds. [www.hmea.org/incredABLE-Day](http://www.hmea.org/incredABLE-Day)

**May 22**

The BLACK BOX presents *Wicked's* Emily Koch (Elphaba) with Jim Hogan singing Fiyero. Visit [www.THEBLACKBOXonline.com](http://www.THEBLACKBOXonline.com).

**May 22-31**

10th Annual Rail Trail 5K (VIRTUAL), fundraiser for the Franklin Bellingham Rail Trail Committee (FBRTC), the local nonprofit dedicated to the promotion and improvement of the multi-use Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT). Registration is \$20 for runners and \$15 for walkers. Register at: [active.com/running/distance-running-races/10th-annual-fbrtc-virtual-race-5k-run-or-walk-2021](https://active.com/running/distance-running-races/10th-annual-fbrtc-virtual-race-5k-run-or-walk-2021)

**May 23**

The BLACK BOX presents *Wicked's* Emily Koch (Elphaba) with Jim Hogan singing Fiyero. Visit [www.THEBLACKBOXonline.com](http://www.THEBLACKBOXonline.com).

Franklin Public Library Program: Kitchen Table Art Workshops: Small Books, 4 p.m. Presented on Zoom by Jacqueline Volpe, The Creativity Curator at [jbdesignstudio.com](http://jbdesignstudio.com). Sign up by May 7, 2021. To register, please contact Assistant Library Director Kim Shipala (508) 520-4941, or [kshipala@minlib.net](mailto:kshipala@minlib.net).

**May 25**

Franklin Public Library Book Group, 7 p.m., *The Round House*, by Louis Erdrich, to reserve a copy, contact Assistant Library Director Kim Shipala at [kshipala@minlib.net](mailto:kshipala@minlib.net). To register, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZcsf-yrrDluGNZUG2MU-5BiraLtGa3dGaFib>.

**May 29**

THE BLACK BOX welcomes Franklin Food Truck and Live Music Festival, 5-10 p.m., socially-distanced audiences can enjoy local music outdoors, more info. at [www.THEBLACKBOXonline.com](http://www.THEBLACKBOXonline.com).

**May 30**

THE BLACK BOX welcomes Franklin Food Truck and Live Music Festival, 5-10 p.m., socially-distanced audiences can enjoy local music outdoors, more info. at [www.THEBLACKBOXonline.com](http://www.THEBLACKBOXonline.com).

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# Foundryy Aims to Forge a Future for Local Businesses

By MARJORIE TURNER HOLLMAN

Matt Consigli, of Norfolk, MA, born and raised in this area, is concerned about the well-being of our small businesses. He pointed out in a recent interview that “30% of small business owners are still worried about making it to the end of 2021.” He continued, “We are going to get back to normal, but just because the health crisis will be over, the businesses that have been struggling—their coffers are empty. Banks have been lenient, but that will have to stop at some point, since the banks are hurting too.”

Consigli recalls the years his dad coached his baseball team as a kid. The memory that stands out? “After each game we won, my dad would take us to the local ice cream stand. My memory of baseball with my dad is actually the ice cream stand, not the ball games. These businesses are a part of our lives. They’re where we grew up and have some of our best memories. They were there for us, and we weren’t even paying attention. Now they need our help.” He wants to be sure these local, small businesses do not disappear because of a missed opportunity.

“No one wants to see our Main Streets barren,” he stated. “I believe it’s easier than we think if we can rally the community, pull together in the same direction, so we can save these businesses. We are not alone—we are working to channel the goodwill of the community in a positive direction.”

With this in mind, Consigli decided to take action. He created www.foundryy.com, designed to support the small businesses that have been affected by the COVID pandemic. The name of the company was inspired by this quote: “American commerce is the furnace where the future is forged,” and it’s meant to person-



Mary Ellen Blue, owner of Cilla’s coffee House and Matt Consigli, founder of Foundryy

ify the entrepreneurial spirit and optimism of the small businesses he supports. He took no shortcuts in creating the platform; enlisting a legal team and hiring technology experts, launching live in market this past March.

The goal? To create a platform designed specifically to support local small businesses through crowd-funding. But his Foundryy.com platform is different than other better known sites like GoFundMe. Consigli explained, “Everything was built with the small business owner in mind. No fundraising minimum is required, you keep everything you raise, and we have no fees, so we can get capital into the hands of small business owners that need it.” He continued, “Last summer I started with a different idea, to provide equity funding to raise money for startup ventures. It’s kind of shocking when you first hear it, but the rate of entrepreneurship has steadily fallen in the U.S. since the late ’70s.”

As the pandemic wore on into the fall, Consigli watched the

news and saw that big restaurants were shutting down. “I realized that we should instead be focusing on saving existing businesses, to promote them and help provide job security. I wanted to help keep those existing businesses in

## Business spotlight

business, to help them succeed.”

Consigli has spent his career in financial services, working for Bank of America as an underwriter, evaluating business health. Later he worked for Liberty Mutual, and is now at Lincoln Financial. With his schooling (an MBA from Dartmouth) and experience, he wants to give back to the community.

He was quick to point out that every business that has participated using his platform so far has made it clear they are not looking for charity. Each donor receives something back, depending on how each campaign is set up. Gift cards, product discounts, special deals or other creative options can be distributed in return for their support. One campaign, 3805 Productions in North Attleboro, offers drone photography for construction sites and small

businesses. The owner has created a campaign to support an upcoming VFW event to recognize those who served with veteran portraits. Proceeds from the Foundryy campaign will go to supporting this free event to veterans.

In addition to funding campaigns, Foundryy has set up what they are calling “Foundryy Challenges.” Each month, people in the community can nominate a small business that they feel deserves some recognition and vote for the winner. “The business that receives the most votes receives \$1,000 from Foundryy, no questions asked,” Consigli explained. “Recently, Cilla’s Coffeehouse in Norfolk won, and they are using the money to purchase outdoor patio furniture.”

It’s exciting to know we can make a difference. Foundryy.com is a simple way for lots of us to take small steps to support our local businesses, and remind them how important their success is to all of us. Be sure to stop by Foundryy.com to learn more today.



Coming July 2021  
Space reservation: June 1

The landscape of business as we know it has dramatically changed, but now we are starting to shift gears and open back up. Local Town Pages offers an outlet for business owners with *Back to Business* - a cost effective and strategic way to place your business back in the mind of consumers.

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## 20th Anniversary HMEA's incredABLE Day Virtual Events

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Get your tickets today at [www.hmea.org/incredABLE-Day](http://www.hmea.org/incredABLE-Day).

\*Smarty Pants Trivia 2, May 7, 2021, 7 p.m.

Join us for a fun, virtual night of trivia and raise money for your favorite HMEA programs that support over 5,000 people with differing abilities in MA and RI.

You could win a PhoneSoap Go UV Cellphone Sanitizer/

Charger!

\*Jukebox Virtual Bingo, May 21, 2021, 7 p.m.

Join us for Jukebox Bingo featuring song clips in a format like "Name That Tune". Tickets are \$15 for each player.

You'll have 3 chances to win one of these great prizes: Portable Mini Bluetooth Speaker with LED Light Show, \$25 Amazon Gift Card, or a \$25 Starbucks Gift Card!

An incredABLE Stroll Down Memory Lane, Sunday, May 16th, 6 p.m.

Wow, we are celebrating our 20th Anniversary incredABLE Day on our 60th Anniversary of teaching, supporting, and em-

powering people with disabilities and their families to live meaningful lives of their choice!

Please join us for this heartwarming, uplifting walk down memory lane with HMEA's community of supported individuals, staff, families, friends, and supporters!

We'll have social time in smaller groups in break-out rooms to say hi and get to know each other.

You'll get to vote on polls and answer trivia questions

Together, we'll enjoy the 20th Anniversary incredABLE Day - Walk Down Memory Lane video. This video captures the highlights and community spirit of the past 20 years from

our very first 5k event way back in 2002. You just may see your friends, family, your team, or yourself in the video!

One lucky person will win a commemorative 20th Anniversary incredABLE t-shirt in our random drawing at the end of the night.

Visit <https://hmea-org.zoom.us/join/8448122021> to register and receive your Zoom link to join the celebration.

HMEA's mission is to teach, support and empower people with developmental disabilities and their families to live meaningful lives of their choice. It en-

visions a world where individual differences are appreciated and celebrated, and where everyone contributes. For more information, visit [www.hmea.org](http://www.hmea.org).

\*NOTE: You will need 2 devices to play. One on Zoom to watch the game and one logged into the game system to record your answers. Devices can be a computer, laptop, tablet, or cell-phone but they must both have internet access. All players in your household can watch the game on Zoom together on one device, but each player will need their own second device to record their answer or your household can answer as one player.

## Dean College to Offer Summer Pre-College Programs to High School Students, July 26 – August 6, 2021

High school students can enjoy an amazing experience at Dean College this summer while earning college credits through Dean's Summer Pre-College Programs. Students can choose from three programs, including Forensics, Sport Management and Leadership and Sports Broadcasting. Each program will run July 26 - August 6, 2021.

Dean will be holding a FREE virtual information session on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 from 6 – 7 p.m. To register for the information session and for more information about the pre-college programs, visit [www.dean.edu/summer](http://www.dean.edu/summer).



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**Congratulations to our April Winner:  
Carolyn Schober**

# Franklin Art Association Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup>

## Presents Virtual Gallery of Victor Pisini, Founding Member

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Franklin Art Association, which recently devoted its Virtual Gallery to the work of Victor Pisini, one of our founding members, who has been creating art for seven decades. Thank you, Victor, for your creativity and your inspiration!

Find Victor Pisini's virtual gallery at Franklin Art Association,

on Facebook. The direct link is <https://www.facebook.com/FranklinArtAssoc/videos/444996750070798>.



# Dean College Children's Center to Reopen Fall 2021, Personalized Tours Available

The Dean College Children's Center, a childcare program that has served families in Franklin and surrounding communities for generations, will be reopening in the fall of 2021. Personalized tours following all health and safety requirements are now available by appointment. Masks and social distancing are required. Parents of children ages 2.9 through 6 years old are encouraged to bring their child to explore the school and learn about our program.

Applications are being accepted for 5-day morning, 2-day morning, and 3-day morning preschool programs. We are also very excited to offer a 5-day afternoon transitional kindergarten program or a full-day option (8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.) for 4-6-year-olds who will be moving into a kindergarten program the following year. There is no deadline to enroll your child in

our program.

Innovative and progressive, the school is NAEYC accredited and well known in the community for an inspiring preschool experience. The Children's Center is a lab school for Early Childhood Education majors at Dean College, with teachers-in-training alongside credentialed teachers. The center offers a professional and caring environment for children to learn through exploration, and uses a

developmental approach to education which reflects current research in child development and peer conflict resolution.

The Dean College Children's Center is located at 144 School Street in Franklin, MA. For more information, visit [www.dean.edu/childrenscenter](http://www.dean.edu/childrenscenter) or call (508)-541-1598 to schedule a tour.

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# Tri-County Student Awarded Scholarship to Dean College

**Tri-County Announces Anna Weidman as the 23rd recipient of the Dean College Scholarship**

Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School is proud to announce that Anna Weidman, a senior in the Engineering Career Program from Franklin, has been awarded a \$36,000 tuition scholarship to Dean College for the 2021-2022 academic year. The scholarship is renewable for up to four years/eight semesters of attendance at Dean College, providing a GPA

of at least 2.7 is maintained. This is the 23rd year that Dean College is awarding a Tri-County student with the scholarship. Consideration for the scholarship is based on a completed admissions application, a Tri-County senior in good standing, superior academic record, teacher recommendations, interviews with a Dean College Admissions representative and

Tri-County School Counselors, and extra-curricular activities, including employment.

Anna was awarded the scholarship based on her professionalism, along with her many accolades. She works part-time at Daily Dog Sitting and delivering flowers for Luna Flowers. Weidman has maintained a 4.40 GPA and plans to pursue a Business Management degree from Dean College.

“Anna Weidman is an exceptional student who has excelled both inside the classroom and out. Anna represented Tri-

County in SkillsUSA National Competitions in Engineering Technology and as a NASA Hunch Semi-Finalist,” says Kristian Johannesen, Guidance Counselor.

Dean College is a private, residential, not-for-profit institution that is fully accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).

“The rewarding partnership we have with Dean College positively impacts our community. We are grateful for the generosity of Dean College,” said Stephen Dockray, Superintendent.



“The scholarship program allows a Tri-County student the opportunity to pursue a college education.

Congratulations to Anna from all of us at Tri-County.”

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## Joe Macchi Resigns as Head Coach for Franklin Legion Post #75

Franklin, MA Legion Post #75 announced today that Joe Macchi has stepped down from coaching after 12 seasons with the team. Coach Macchi served as the team's assistant coach from 2009-2016, and took over as head coach when Mark D'Angelo re-

signed. In Coach Macchi's four years as head coach, he led the team to four consecutive playoffs births. He had his best season in 2019 by going 17-3 and clinching the #1 seed in the District 6 Senior Tournament.

“Joe has done a fantastic job bringing this program to where it is today. We are all grateful for the many seasons of hard work to make the program strong. The team is always in contention to win district 6 West division and that was because of Joe's leadership,” said team manager Ryan Jette.

Taking over as head coach of the team will be Tyler Pasqua-

rosa, who has served as an assistant coach on the Senior team and previously was the Junior team manager. “Coach Pasquarosa has been an assistant coach at Franklin High School for the past 2 seasons, and we are very excited to have him re-join the program as the head coach of the senior team,” said Jette.

Franklin Legion will begin accepting registration for the 2021 team through its website ([www.franklinlegion.com](http://www.franklinlegion.com)). Tryouts will be held on May 15 and 16, 2021

For more information on Franklin Legion Baseball Post #75, please visit: [www.franklinlegion.com](http://www.franklinlegion.com).

*Celebrate your Graduate!*

The Class of 2021 has experienced the most unusual senior year of our lifetimes!  
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# Sports

## Jones Battled Adversity Twice and Conquered It

### FHS Lacrosse Star Missed 2 Seasons

By KEN HAMWEY, STAFF SPORTS WRITER

If there were an award for overcoming adversity, then Franklin High's Katie Jones would be high on the list of potential recipients. She could easily be the poster child for coping with adverse situations.

A starter as an attack for the Panthers' lacrosse team as a freshman, she had a dynamic season, scoring 37 goals and registering 15 assists. Her sophomore and junior years, however, should have been superb campaigns, but they weren't. They're in the books as DNPs (did not play).

Jones missed her entire sophomore year after suffering a torn ACL and a torn meniscus in her left knee. And, when she was healthy and ready for her junior season, Covid-19 arrived, forcing State officials to cancel all spring sports in 2020. Now, the 18-year-old senior is gearing up for her second and final season, eager to get started and delighted to be ending a two-year lapse.

"I'm thankful to finally get the opportunity to compete after a two-year absence," said Jones, who could also be a poster child for academic excellence (4.1 GPA). "The route to my senior season wasn't the path I expected, but I'm blessed to get the chance to play again. I love lacrosse, and my teammates know I've waited two years for this moment."

Jones' objectives were to have a successful high school career and play lacrosse at the collegiate level. The University of Connecticut didn't hesitate to recruit Jones, even after her injury. She committed to play for the Huskies as a junior and got a scholarship.

"After the injury, I wasn't sure what was in store, but when decisions had to be made, I went to work, put my head down and accepted all the conditioning work and all the physical therapy that was needed," Jones said. "After six months of rehab, I was able to help the team in practice and by evaluating film. I even emulated being an opponent. Rehab was tough, but I stayed focused.

"Later, when Covid-19 struck, I was disappointed because I was ready to return. But, I accepted it. You can't feel badly for yourself, because others were dealing with it. I focused on what I could control — like improving my technique and stickwork, staying in shape, and maintaining a strong mental approach."

Jones' goals for her final season are for the Panthers to finish first in the Kelly-Rex Division of the Hockomock League, qualify for Sectionals and advance as far as possible. "King Philip will likely be our toughest opponent," she said. "They're competitive and traditionally strong. I also want everyone to stay healthy and avoid any Covid-19 issues. "My individual goals are to be a league

all-star, and I'll strive to become a high school all-American."

Jones strengths are sure to shine again. She's athletic, technically sound, has a high lacrosse IQ, and is a team-first player with excellent field vision.

"Katie has embraced a leadership role, despite missing two years," said coach Kristin Igoe. "She's continued to persevere despite the adversity, and for that, is well-respected by her teammates. Katie always plays with a team-first mentality, and I know she's eager to get on the field and have some fun. I'm looking forward to watching her compete this season for Franklin and also in the future at UConn."

The 5-foot-9 Jones, who's played seven years of club lacrosse, competed in the playoffs her frosh season and rose to the occasion when Franklin faced Lexington in its opener.

Relying on a finesse style, Jones enjoys playing attack because it requires creativity. "The key is being instinctive and know where the ball is going," she said. "The position involves quick thinking and being creative. I also like attack, because it provides chances to pass effectively, to be strategic and to anticipate our opponent's next move."

A native of Franklin, Jones was focused on attending UConn, a school whose coach (Katie Woods) saw film of Jones competing at the club level. "I visited the college, liked what I saw and liked the idea of play-



Katie Jones prepares to commit to the University of Connecticut where she'll play lacrosse.

ing in the Big East Conference," Jones said. "UConn's program is traditionally strong and coach Woods respected my tenacity after the injury."

Playing at the college level will involve a transition and Jones knows what's needed to be successful. "The key is to adjust to a faster pace," she emphasized. "The defenses in college will be far more aggressive and decision-making will have to occur quickly."

A high honor student for four years, Jones, inspired most by her parents, will major in marketing and she's aiming for a career in

sports marketing, perhaps at the pro level.

Acutely aware that athletics teach valuable life lessons, Jones lists six that she's learned. "Sports have helped me to be a good teammate, how to encourage and assist colleagues and how to develop a strong work ethic," she said. "Sports also help to overcome adversity, to strengthen one's leadership ability and to build confidence."

Katie Jones has a great sense of perspective. She also knows how to handle adversity.

And conquer it.

## Franklin Cultural District Looks Forward to May

After a long Covid-19 winter it is with great pleasure that we welcome spring. It is wonderful to see many people venturing out to enjoy the warm spring days. Although Massachusetts is experiencing a small rise in the number of Covid cases, there is some hope due to the large number of residents who have already received the vaccine.

Effective March 22nd, Governor Baker, amended the guidelines for gatherings in public spaces. At this time, gatherings at event venues in public settings can include up to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors. For all our Frank-

lin performance venues, this is exciting news. We will now have the opportunity to hear live music and experience live performances. We hope that many of you will take advantage of the outstanding cultural opportunities in Franklin. Please check out the Franklin Cultural District calendar which can be found at our website, [Franklinculture.org](http://Franklinculture.org), where you can view some of the great performances happening right here in Franklin!

Regards,  
Nancy Schoen, Chair

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# May at Franklin Public Library

The Franklin Public Library is now open for 30 minute browsing visits! Hours are:

- Monday: 1 - 4 p.m.
- Tuesday 1 - 4 p.m.
- Wednesday 1 - 4 p.m.
- Thursday: 4 - 8 p.m. (Senior hour 3 - 4 pm)

- Friday 1 - 4 p.m.
- Saturday 1 - 4 p.m.

Curbside services will continue with pick up hours as follows:

- Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

- Friday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

All returns still must be placed in the outside book drop prior to entering the building. Items will continue to be quarantined for three days before they are checked in.

No donations are being accepted at this time.

### What's available:

- Browsing the stacks. Please limit your visit to 30 minutes.
- Checking out items (Please use the self-check app or self-check computers)
- Logging into your account to pay late fees and lost materials with your credit card.

Staff will not be handling cash at this time.

- WIFI access
- Public computer workstations (May be used for up to 60 minutes only)
- Printing, scanning, faxing, and photocopying. Please bring exact change. Staff will not be making change or handling cash.
- Museum passes (Please check with the museum prior to your visit. Further action may be necessary)

### What is not available:

- Study rooms
- Meeting rooms
- Toys

- Children's play area
- Local history collection
- Restrooms. Please plan your visit accordingly.

### Health & Safety Practices

All patrons entering the library will be required to do the following:

- Wear face coverings covering their nose and mouth at all times inside the Library
- Use remote services - phone, email, and curbside - if you cannot wear face coverings for medical reasons.
- Sanitize hands upon enter-

### LIBRARY

continued on page 23

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# Dean College to Offer Paramedic Training Program, May 17, 2021

Dean College, in partnership with Emergency Medical Teaching Services Inc., will offer a paramedic education program beginning May 17, 2021.

The program includes clini-

cal and field rotations, as well as credit-bearing evening classes that prepare competent entry-level paramedics in the cognitive, psychomotor and affective learning domains.

Upon completion of the program, students will receive a certificate of completion that allows them to become eligible to sit for

the National Registry Paramedic Examination.

Dean will be holding a FREE virtual information session on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 from 6 - 7 p.m. To register for the information session and for more information about the program and requirements, visit [www.dean.edu/paramedictraining](http://www.dean.edu/paramedictraining).

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## SAFE Coalition and Franklin Dems to Host Community Conversation

SAFE Coalition and the Franklin Democratic Committee are thrilled to announce a community conversation, "Who is the SAFE Coalition?". This virtual zoom event will host James Derrick, co-founder, board president and father with lived experience, Child Life Specialist and Grief Counselor Meghan Brewer, Franklin Police Detective Michael Collecchi, and Advocates Jail Diversion Franklin/Medway Police Dept Clinician Kallie Montagano. Each presenter will discuss their work within the coalition and how this impacts the community at large.

Features and benefits of the

event include:

Connection – All audience members will be able to ask panelist questions

Education – Learn more about what substance use, mental health, domestic violence supports

Increased Access to Care – Hear how to connect with SAFE for services

Availability:

Event will take place Thursday May 13, 7 p.m.

Via Zoom, Meeting ID 831 3495 2161

About SAFE Coalition: The SAFE Coalition is a non-profit organization that provides supportive services to those impacted

by Substance Use Disorder. We focus on prevention, education, peer connection and treatment options. Some of our partnerships include Wayside Youth and Families Support Services, The Providers Council, Turning Point Recovery Center, Norfolk County District Attorney, Norfolk County Sheriff's Department, Wrentham District Court, the Commission on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, the Hockomock Area YMCA, and school, police, fire, and faith communities. We believe in the opportunity of recovery and recognize the value in community collaboration.

## FDP Coordinating 2021 Harvest Festival

The Franklin Downtown Partnership (FDP) is forging ahead with planning the 2021 Harvest Festival based on the decrease in COVID-19 cases and the planned widespread vaccination by the fall. The FDP is optimistic that the town can resume its Harvest Festival this year on Sat., Oct. 2 with a rain date of Sun., Oct. 3.

Held every autumn, with the exception of last year, the Harvest Festival draws thousands of people to the closed-off streets of downtown Franklin to enjoy community, entertainment, food, art, kids' activities and more.

"With recent developments with increased vaccine accessi-

bility, a number of FDP members and people throughout the community are seeing some light ahead," said Scott Martin, president of the Franklin Downtown Partnership Executive Board. "Knowing how we all want to be together again, and how much people want to return to the kind of events that bring our community together, our FDP will move forward with planning our Harvest Fest for the first Saturday in October."

The Strawberry Stroll, normally held in June, has been canceled for 2021 but the FDP is looking forward to hosting it again in 2022!

### LIBRARY

*continued from page 22*

ing and complete the contact tracing form

- Practice social distancing
- Please remember to maintain a distance of at least six feet away from other patrons and staff

#### Library Programming

All programming will continue to be either virtual or take-and-make kits.

#### Programs for Children and Teens

Weekly Virtual Events for Kids!

Move Along! Recorded videos drop each Monday on Facebook!

Virtual Dungeons & Dragons! Mondays @3:30 p.m. Email mgousie@minlib.net for more details!

Deb's Sing & Swing Virtual Storytime Special! Emails with YouTube video link sent each Wednesday! Email Miss Bree at bcomeau@minlib.net to register!

Zoom Toe Tapping Tuesdays! (Super Silly Dance Class for Ages 2+) Tuesdays @4 p.m. Email Miss Bree at bcomeau@minlib.net to register!

Bookworm Bounce! Recorded videos drop each Thursday on Facebook!

#### Take and Make: Wildflower Seed Bombs!

Starting Saturday, May 1st, stop by the library between 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and call the chil-

dren's room (508-520-4941 ext. 2) to pick up your very own seed bomb Kit! SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED!

#### Curious George Scavenger Hunt! Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

Can you locate the mischievous winner of our 2021 March Madness Character Challenge hiding in the Children's and Teen Rooms? Drop in to the library anytime in May and follow the clues to win a special prize! TO PLAY VIRTUALLY: Each Monday in the month of May a new clue will be posted to our Facebook & Instagram pages. Comment on the post and tell us where in the Children's and Teen Rooms the clue is leading you to! At the end of the month, email Bree at bcomeau@minlib.net to receive your prize!

#### Tech Tigers Zoom Website Challenge! Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 1 p.m.

Kids in grades 4 & up! Join the Tech Tigers First Lego League team for a fun intro to making your own Website! For registration and Zoom link, email Mitzi at mgousie@minlib.net!

#### Storyteller's Guild! Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 4 p.m.

A club for writers, makers, and gamers! Each month we meet to grow as story tellers through prompts, discussion and Table top Adventures! For registration and Zoom link, email Mitzi at mgousie@minlib.net!

#### Girls Who Code!

#### Grades 3-5 - Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> @ 3 p.m.

A Coding club for grades 3-5. Learn to Code, Join a community, and Share your passions. All kids interested are welcome! Email mgousie@minlib.net for more details!

#### Grades 6-12 - Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> @ 3 p.m.

A Coding club for grades 6-12. Email mgousie@minlib.net for more details!

#### Zoom Cooking Class for families with Miss Sandhya! Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m.

Special Zoom cooking class for kids and their grown-ups! We'll be making pasta primavera with pesto! For registration and Zoom link, email Bree at bcomeau@minlib.net!

#### Make with Miss Mitzi Craft Class: Calligraphy! Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 1 p.m.

Join Miss Mitzi for a special zoom crafting class! She will be teaching us how to write in calligraphy! For registration and Zoom link, email Mitzi at mgousie@minlib.net!

#### Teen Take and Make: Infinity Photo Cubes!

Teens! Starting Saturday, May 1st, stop by the library between 10 a.m. -4 p.m. and call the teen desk (508-520 4941 ext. 2) to pick up your very own infinity photo cube kit with (almost) everything you need to make a super cool photo puzzle/Rubik's cube/

fidget toy! Email Bree at bcomeau@minlib.net for details!

#### Adults

#### Keeping the Memories, Not the Stuff with Professional Organizer Janine Cavanaugh, Tuesday, May 4, 7 p.m.

To register, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9wOhW-2RmjF1Ta0Yw-Fe-Qy>

#### Growing a Summer Salad with Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens, Wednesday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.

To register, please visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2t27OrqM9cnnzShsz9X5O>

#### The Rise of Dolley Madison, Tuesday, May 11, 7 p.m.

Janet Parnes, founder of Historical Portrayals by Lady J, Millis will portray Mrs. Madison.

To register, please visit [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/PCjuFRpMMAY0G1hE\\_FdAw](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/PCjuFRpMMAY0G1hE_FdAw)

#### Kitchen Table Art Workshops: Small Books, Sunday, May 23, 4 p.m.

Presented on Zoom by Jacqueline Volpe, The Creativity Curator at jbvdesignstudio. Sign up by May 7, 2021.

Kits provided for the first 12 Franklin residents. Pick up is at the Library during the week before workshop. Any additional supplies generally will be com-

mon household items or art supplies that can be found at home, local stores, or online. For adult and young adult artists. No prior art experience necessary.

To register, please contact Assistant Library Director Kim Shipala at (508) 520-4941 or [kshipala@minlib.net](mailto:kshipala@minlib.net). For a list of additional supplies and instructions, visit Jacqueline at [www.thecreativitycurator.com](http://www.thecreativitycurator.com).

#### Take and Make Craft: Cross Stitch

In a collaboration with the Franklin Mill Store, the Franklin Public Library is now offering Take-And-Make craft kits for adults! Kits are available to the first 50 Franklin residents to register, and will be placed in Curbside Pickup starting May 1st. To register, please contact Assistant Library Director Kim Shipala at (508) 520-4941, or [kshipala@minlib.net](mailto:kshipala@minlib.net).

#### Franklin Public Library Book Club, Tuesday, May 25, 7 p.m.

The book for discussion is *The Round House*, by Louise Erdrich.

To reserve a copy of the book or for more information, please contact Assistant Library Director Kim Shipala at [kshipala@minlib.net](mailto:kshipala@minlib.net). To register, please visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/uGNZUG2MU5BiraLtGa3d-GaFib>.

# Real Estate Corner

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## Good Deeds: Covid-19 and The Registry

It has been over a year since the Coronavirus entered our vocabulary and our lives. What was said of the 1918 influenza pandemic can be said of Covid-19, "Nothing else-no infection, no war, no famine- has ever killed so many in as short a period."

The most important recognition of this COVID-19 pandemic is that it has taken the lives of our fellow Americans and individuals across the globe. The

loss of life from Covid-19 has been devastating. There has been both a physical as well as mental toll from Covid-19 on individuals that survived this debilitating disease.

The employees who work at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds were recently recognized as "Every Day Heroes" by D'Angelo Grilled Sandwiches. This recognition program honors groups of individuals who

stood out in their community during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Norfolk Registry of Deeds employees have kept the Registry open and operational every work day since Governor Baker declared a State of Emergency back on March 10, 2020.

By keeping the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds open for the recording of land documents while the Covid-19 pandemic has been ongoing,

the Norfolk County real estate economy and market was able to remain viable. These dedicated employees had a hand in making sure if you were a seller, your house got sold or if you were a buyer, you have your new home to live in. Think of all the individuals impacted by what goes on at the Registry of Deeds- the banks that lend the money, the real estate brokers, builders, contractors, plumbers, painters, home inspectors, appraisers and so many more whose livelihood depends on what takes place at the Registry of Deeds.

With the Coronavirus pandemic raging, the Norfolk Registry of Deeds employees recorded a total of 179,2660 land documents during 2020. This is a 19 percent increase compared to the previous year. Through the first three months of 2021 there were 50,935 documents recorded.

There has been busy real estate activity despite Covid-19 that has led to increased revenue collections at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds. Over \$68 million dollars was collected in calendar

year 2020 due to the efforts of Registry employees. These monies get forwarded to the State where they help pay for critical programs at the state, county and local levels including public safety, health care, education and social services. These collected funds are also used for the Community Preservation Act (CPA) projects in our local communities.

The Norfolk Registry of Deeds features an internet land record research library at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds that goes all the way back to its founding in 1793. Access it at [www.norfolkdeeds.org](http://www.norfolkdeeds.org). Electronic recording is available to record documents. You can contact the Registry Customer Service Department at (781) 461-6101 or email [registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org](mailto:registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org) with any questions.

To learn more about these and other Registry of Deeds events and initiatives, like us at [facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds](https://facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds) or follow us on [twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds](https://twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds) and [Instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds](https://Instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds).



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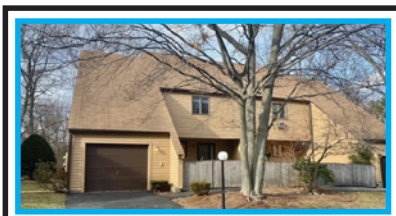


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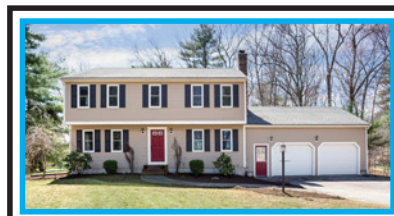
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# Real Estate Corner

## 2.4 Million Meals Donated to Food Banks from Big Y

To facilitate this past season of giving food to those in need, Big Y converted their Sack Hunger campaign from a \$10 bag of groceries to a streamlined \$5 donation to the five food banks within their marketing area. These regional food banks support local soup kitchens, food pantries, senior food programs, children's programs and more for the 2,100-member agencies they serve every day.

During last November and December, Big Y customers and employees contributed almost \$300,000 to help their friends and neighbors in their communities. In order to expand their support, Big Y matched this contribution bringing the total up to \$600,000 or 2.4 million meals.

The five regional food banks are the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, the Worcester County Food Bank, and the Greater Boston Food Bank in Massachusetts, as well as Foodshare and the Connecticut Food Bank in Connecticut. This year's virtual Sack Hunger bags were purchased from amongst 71 Big Y supermarkets, Fresh Acres Specialty Market and Table & Vine Fine Wines and Liquors.

April 12, 2021

## Free VA Home Loan Benefits VIRTUAL Seminar

Michael Shain of Bay Equity Home Loans will host a free VIRTUAL seminar May 12 to discuss the benefits of the VA home loan program. The seminar will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in conjunction with Keefe Tech continuing education.

A Veterans Affairs (VA) guaranteed home loan is exclusively available to qualified veterans, active-duty personnel, reservists and National Guard members, as well as surviving spouses of veterans. VA loans can be used for either purchases or refinances. For qualified borrowers, down pay-

ments can be as low as 0%, with no private mortgage insurance.

Registration is required. Call (508) 416-2170; or register online at <https://keefeatnight.org/>. Select "Live/Virtual/Interactive and Hybrid Classes." Then from the dropdown menu in the left column, select "view by start date." Go to May 12th to register. A link for the event will be sent to you the day before and the day of the event.

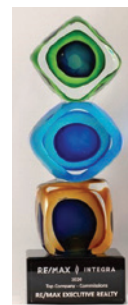
For more information, call Mike at (508) 330-8487 or email [mshain@bayeq.com](mailto:mshain@bayeq.com).



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