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January 2022

## In Wake of Tragedy, Town Seeks to Comfort, Heal

By J.D. O'GARA

In response to the horrific murder of Franklin resident Shirley Owen on Friday, December 17th by her ex-husband, hundreds of Franklin community members held a candlelight vigil on Sunday, December 19th, at Franklin Town Common. Franklin resident Rep. Jeff Roy led the event, emphasizing to Owen's family members, "that we – their community – are here for them, and we wrap our arms around them in love and solidarity." Roy also recognized the efforts of first responders to the difficult call and introduced members of the Franklin Interfaith Council as well as local educators who worked with the Owen children.

After a moment of silence, Julia Guilmette began and ended the vigil with heartfelt song, and Fr. Brian



**Hundreds of people gathered in the cold night of December 19th to mourn the loss of Shirley Owen, Franklin resident who was tragically killed two days earlier.**

Manning, of St. Mary's Parish, led opening and closing prayers. Manning's opening prayer was followed by Rabbi Thomas Alpert of Temple Etz Chaim, who offered words of comfort but cautioned against ignoring the responsibility to

take action to protect victims of domestic violence, noting, "we as a society have failed those who have fallen prey to domestic violence. We have

**HEAL**

*continued on page 4*

See our  
*Healthy Living Section*  
Inside...



## Bringing Mobility to Those Who Need It

Local Company Partners with Wheels for the World™

By J.D. O'GARA

This fall, the Franklin-based branch of National Seating and Mobility took steps to improve the lives of strangers around the world. The company, which provides complex rehabilitation equipment, partnered with Wheels for the World, a subset of the Joni & Friends ministry, to donate specialized wheelchairs to those who need them.

Wheels for the World™ Program provides life-changing mobility for people in developing countries who are excluded from their communities. Through the ministry, used wheelchairs are col-



**On November 23rd, National Seating and Mobility, in Franklin, donated specialty wheelchairs to Joni & Friends' Wheels for the World™ Program, which collects and refurbishes wheelchairs for those who need them in developing countries.**

**MOBILITY**

*continued on page 2*

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**MOBILITY***continued from page 1*

lected across the United States, refurbished and delivered to people with disabilities in developing nations where wheelchairs are scarce or financially out of reach.

“Our relationship with National Seating and Mobility is very special, because when we distribute overseas, the need for specialty chairs is great,” says Maria DeGenova, Program Manager for Joni & Friends. “We’ll take any manual chair, but it’s really unique to have a partner where everything that’s coming in is specialty chairs.”

Joni and Friends was founded by Joni Earackson Tada, who herself became quadriplegic after a diving accident in 1967. The California-based organization is dedicated to meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of people impacted by disability around the globe.

“Joni traveled overseas and saw a need for those who don’t have mobility,” says DeGenova. “Wheels for the World is one of the branches of the ministry. We

collect used wheelchairs all over the country. Nothing goes to waste, and we partner with prisons around the U.S.” Volunteers in a volunteer work programs at the prisons take apart, clean and restore the wheelchairs, making them like new. “It’s a second chance for the prisoners as well. They’re learning a trade and getting a chance at redemption with opportunity to do good work.”

“It’s a meaningful partnership,” says Jennifer Gibbons, LicSW, General Manager of the Franklin, Mass. branch of National Seating and Mobility, which provides complex rehabilitation equipment. “It will provide another journey for these chairs to help others who are less fortunate.”

National Seating and Mobility provides specialized, fit and measured chairs customized by assistive technology professionals to work with a client’s mobility needs, living arrangements, family support and other day-to-day needs. On occasion, however, client conditions change before they are delivered, that render the chair unusable for the client.



**A chair corps volunteer loads donated wheelchairs, headed to be refurbished by inmates in a volunteer work program then distributed to those who need them.**

“When this happens, we need to get them a chair that works for them but need to find a place for the old chair,” says Gibbons. November’s donation was the second the Franklin branch has made.

“I love the whole idea of the chairs being rehabilitated at local prisons,” says Amy O’Brien.

Marketing Development manager at of National Seating and Mobility. “It’s an opportu-

nity to turn something around in their personal life and learn a trade. I think it’s a nice way to give back.”

Refurbished wheelchairs are loaded onto ocean containers by volunteers.

“We have partnerships all over the world,” says DeGenova. “Each office partners with a different country.” The destination for the wheelchairs donated by National Seating and Mobility will go to Thailand. Once over-

seas, Wheels for the World™ volunteers work alongside local physical therapists and churches to provide outreach in the community.

“My first outreach was a 14-year-old boy, ‘Pan,’ who was being carried everywhere by his grandmother. The mechanic and therapist worked for six hours on his pediatric chair, made some adjustments and showed the grandmother how she could adjust the chair,” says DeGenova. “When we put him in that chair, that was the first time he was able to look eye-to-eye with someone. All his life he’d been looking up. We were not only able to meet his physical needs, but also emotional and spiritual needs.”

Every wheelchair, says DeGenova, opens the door to give hope and independence for the entire family.

“In some of the countries we go, there is shame associated, (a belief that) someone with a disability did something wrong to deserve that disability, and so it’s hidden,” says DeGenova, “But

**MOBILITY***continued on page 3*

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## VNA Care

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**MOBILITY**

*continued from page 2*

we believe God has a plan for that person, and he makes no mistakes. We're able to share with people that they have an incredible purpose, and they have value."

This year, Wheels for the World™ has collected over 1,000 wheelchairs, "a record for us," says DeGenova.

In addition to Wheels for the World™, Joni & Friends also provides practical care and hope through life-affirming programs and resources for special needs families, churches and communities.

In fact, Daniel Rivera, a chair corps volunteer who helped receive the Franklin donation, says his family has personally benefited from the camp. He and his wife have three sons, aged 20, 10 and 7, the older two with significant disabilities and special needs.

"The church I belong to here in Cranston, Hope Church, surprised us the year the pandemic hit, asking us if we wanted to

be sponsored by them to go to a Joni & Friends retreat in New England. We had never taken a family vacation." After participating in the program, Rivera says, "We absolutely fell in love with Joni & Friends, and we became a part of it."

March is wheelchair collection month. Wheels for the world accepts donations of the following mobility devices, with tax-deductible receipts available:

- Manual wheelchairs, all types and sizes
- Aluminum walkers, crutches, and canes
- Wheelchair footrests
- Other wheelchair parts and trays
- Wheelchair seat cushions
- New crutch and armpit pads, hand grips, and foot tips

If you have an unused wheelchair you would like to donate, visit <https://www.joniandfriends.org/support-us/donate-a-wheelchair/#drop-off> to find a local drop-off.

# Franklin Appropriates \$175K in Cannabis Fees to SAFE Coalition

SAFE Coalition has announced the passing of Resolution 21 – 70, Appropriation of Cannabis Fees with a unanimous vote through the Franklin Town Council to appropriate \$175,000 to the SAFE Coalition for FY22. These funds have been secured through the Town of Franklin by the Social Host Agreement set forth by the Cannabis Control Commission. These funds will provide vital education and prevention opportunities for citizens, vast substance use training for professionals, and increased programming already established within the community.

"The passing of resolution 21 – 70 is monumental for community-based substance use care in Franklin. To work within a community where leaders are leaning in and recognizing the impact early intervention, training, and supportive services can have on their community members, means that the health and wellness of their citizens is a top priority. I am so thankful for the listening ear of the council members, the collaborative work with Town Administrator Jamie Hellen, and the various community partnerships we have developed over the last 6 years. Now, let's get it work!" said Jennifer Levine, President of the SAFE Coalition, adding

in a Local Town Pages interview, "Overall, we really want to partner with the town of Franklin to provide mental health and substance abuse resources for all ages."

Features and benefits include

- Training for academic, medical, and para-professionals related to substance use
- Education specific to substance use, recovery, de-stigmatization, and
- Prevention work related to social-emotional wellness
- Continuation of 6 supportive programs hosting Franklin residents

About SAFE Coalition: SAFE is a judgement free community organization relentlessly committed to educating and supporting those affected by substance use disorder and mental health concerns across southeastern Massachusetts. Staffed by trusted, trained professionals and peer support volunteers, SAFE compassionately empowers individuals and their loved ones by breaking down barriers to treatment and emotional support in a way that inspires success on the journey to recovery.



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HEAL

continued from page 1

not heard them as we should, and we have not protected them as we must.”

Kathleen McAdams, of St. John’s Episcopal Church, also offered prayer, expressing her confidence that Shirley was embraced in heaven, that the Lord was “walking beside” her family, and that because Christians were called to do so, they would also pray for Brendan Owen, to “bring him to conversion of heart as we struggle to heal from this tragedy.”

Other members of the community who worked with the Owen children stood up express their sorrow for and solidarity with the family, including Coach Carmine Colace, of the FHS Wrestling team, Coach Scott Tuxbury, of Franklin Metro Basketball, Robin Heroux, teacher at Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School, and Matthew Connolly, teacher at

Remington Middle School. Following the ceremony, officiants distributed purple candles to attendees to display in their windows as a visual support against domestic violence in support of the Owen family. Information about the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (<https://ncadv.org>) was also made available.

Town members moved quickly to support Owen’s family, her two children, Jonathan and Juliana, and her mother, Mary Branco, left homeless by the crime. By the end of the night of the incident, a meal train for the family had been organized, largely filled, with additional meal contributions exceeding \$4,000. A Go Fund Me fundraising page, “Shirley-in-our-hearts,” (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/shirleys>) had raised nearly \$338,000 by Thursday morning, a raffle basket with contributions from local businesses was being organized by Franklin Future Leaders, over



2,400 people had joined a Facebook page to support the family (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/326889772613518>), with members of the page also organizing a holiday gift drive for the Owen/Branco family (<https://bit.ly/3FdUKB8>).

In his remarks at the vigil, Rep. Jeff Roy (D-Franklin) noted that Governor Baker and Lt. Governor had reached out to express support for the community of Franklin. At press time, Roy and Baker were scheduled



Fr. Brian Manning, of St. Mary’s Parish, was one of three members of the Franklin Interfaith Council, including Rabbi Thomas Alpert of Temple Etz Chaim and Rev. Kathleen McAdams of St. John’s Episcopal Church, who offered words of solace to a community devastated by a loss of life to violence.

to meet the week after Christmas, “to talk about exactly what we’re going to do. Domestic violence creates an effect that ripples through families, communities, and states – sometimes for generations. We must find better ways to break this

cycle and ensure that families have the tools they need to overcome and break free from such dangerous situations,” said Roy.

HEAL

continued on page 5

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**Send Editorial to:**  
editor@franklintownnews.com

**Advertising Director**

Kathy Benoit  
508-868-9293  
kathybenoit@localtownpages.com

**Advertising Sales Manager**

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

**Multi Media Sales Consultant**

Jeremy Wardwell  
413-204-5296  
jeremywardwell@localtownpages.com

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Michelle McSherry  
Kim Vasseur

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**HEAL**

*continued from page 4*



# Franklin Future Leaders Help Franklin Police Benefit Community

Franklin Future Leaders welcomed members of the Franklin Police Department on Thursday, December 16th at the Franklin Public Library. Guests taught the young members about important measures they can take to stay safe in their communities, as well as explained a number of important police procedures. After the presentation, Franklin Future Leaders presented their guests with their collection of toys and baby items for Franklin Police's annual Toys for Tots drive.



Future meetings of Franklin's Future Leaders will take place at the New England Chapel, which has generously offered a room for the group to use for its monthly meetings.



Brendan Owen, of East Bridgewater, was arrested Friday afternoon, December 17th on charges he murdered his former wife (Shirley Owen), assaulted his former mother-in-law (Mary Branco), and set fire to the Franklin home Owen and Branco shared on Friday morning, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey. Owen, represented by Attorney Neil Madden, pleaded not guilty to the charges of murder, home invasion, kidnapping, arson of a dwelling house, and assault and battery causing serious bodily injury. A restraining order was in place against Mr. Owen at the time of the crime.

According to District Attorney Morrissey and Franklin Police Chief Thomas J. Lynch, the FPD had received a 911 call at approximately 7:40 a.m. from a Grace Lane resident reporting an ongoing domestic assault at the residence of their neighbor Shirley Owen. Police arrived within 5 minutes and observed Mr. Owen inside the home. He ignored commands to open the door to police and instead exited the home through another door.

Police encountered him in the area of the garage and driveway, deploying a Taser to bring him into custody. Despite substantial smoke and fire inside the building, officers were able to evacuate Shirley Owen outside, but, despite first aid and life support measures by the Franklin Fire Department, she succumbed to her injuries.

Wrentham District Court Judge Scott Peterson ordered Brendon Owen, 47, held without bail and to return to WRD on January 19, 2022, for a probable cause hearing.

At press time, funeral arrangements were being planned at Oteri Funeral Home.

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# Winter Bluesfest comes to HCA

The HCA, your regional arts center located at 98 Hayden Rowe Street in Hopkinton, is delighted to announce that they will be hosting four amazing musicians for a Winter Bluesfest on January 22nd. This is just one of the many exciting events coming to the HCA this year.

“We’re so pleased to head into 2022 with a full year’s line-up of music, dance, theater, gallery and other special events” says Kelly Grill, Executive Director for the HCA. “Some events will have a ticketed price, while others will be free or ask you to pay what you can. We are working towards the goal of having live entertainment happening every weekend. Keep checking our calendar on the website to see what’s coming up”

The January 22nd festival-style event will feature Chris Fitz, Racky Thomas, Ken Clark and Sonya Rae. Chris Fitz’ music resonates with Woodstock era Baby Boomers all the way to young adults who have never listened to a blues record in their life. His energy and enthusiasm for his profession shines through every performance. The Racky Thomas Band has been a torchbearer for the blues since its formation in 1995, when Racky Thomas collaborated with bassist Todd Carson, guitarist Nick Adams, and drummer

Ted Larkin to make a demo cd, and do some gigs around the Boston area. Ken Clark is internationally known as one of the world’s greatest jazz organists. Ken’s technical ability joined with his natural feel for funk and soul makes for a great experience. Sonya Rae is part of the new breed of blues and soul musicians, always searching for new ways to revitalize the form. A triple threat, her striking musical ability is immediately evident through her soaring vocals, scorching guitar work and savvy song-craft. Often joined by guitar phenom (husband) Ryan Taylor, she and her band are quickly becoming one of the most sought after acts on the scene today.

Tickets for this event can be purchased online at [hopartscenter.org](http://hopartscenter.org)

### About the HCA

The HCA offers arts to all people. Classes, theater productions, and gallery exhibitions serve an inclusive community of students, performers, and exhibiting artists diverse in age, ability, experience, ethnicity, and geography. Created in 2011, HCA, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community arts center, fosters and celebrates the creative spirit in everyone.



The Chris Fitz Band



The Racky Thomas Band



Ken Clark Organ Trio



Sonya Rae & Ryan Taylor



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Your Money, Your Independence

# Resolutions Gone Bad: Rein In Your New Year

Making New Year's resolutions to improve your financial wellness in 2022?

Let's help you start by recognizing questionable resolutions, including three destined for failure plus what should be considered for successful planning outcomes.

**Bad Resolution:** *Need to start buying some "X" to make more money.*

Please, tell me more. If due to FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) or based on this year's performance, give pause.

Yes, momentum, innovation, social & macro themes, niche and/or value could be part of your investing strategy, but let's back up - do you have a strategy?

Is a core of low-cost, diversified index funds present to allow for explore ideas like X? How does X correlate with what is already owned? Impact on overall risk? Without mentioning performance, can you articulate why you own X and when wouldn't own X?



Glenn Brown

**Better Resolution:** *Need to save \_\_\_% and take \_\_\_ risk with investments to reach \_\_\_ goal.*

To truly build assets, you need to save a specific percentage each year, take opportunistic or measured risks AND invest towards your established goal, not an investment benchmark or The Joneses.

**Bad Resolution:** *Pay down debt.* Sounds important, but is it? It depends. Tax deductions, interest rates, duration, fixed or variable, inflation, deflation, and depreciation ensure all debt is not equal.

**Better Resolution:** *Execute a debt reduction plan.*

Access all debt, then prioritize on high-interest debt, variable rates, and unsecured. If down to a 3% of lower mortgage, 2% auto loans, and a MassSave at 0%, then maintain required payments, reap benefits of low, fixed rates in an inflationary environment and allocate towards investments outpacing inflation.

An exception, if not at ~40% home equity ownership, can make a case to get there and open a HELOC. Beyond flexibility to access equity built and lower total interest paid, can eliminate the opportunity costs of a large cash position for the "what ifs" in life.

**Bad Resolution:** *Do more for my retirement.*

Buy a lottery ticket, as greater chance of success than this vague "lose weight" resolution tossed by January 10th.

**Better Resolution:** *How do I retire at 55 or semi-retire in 5 years.*

Now you're analyzing cash flows, balance sheet, contribution rates, investment allocations, taxation, work benefits, college funding, planning for the unexpected and desired lifestyle with expenses in retirement. You'll establish a set of base facts, allowing to then create scenarios, see projections, reverse engineer action steps, and track goals within timelines.

Aggressive timelines creates urgency, leading to actions that bring you closer the ultimate retirement accomplishment - choice.

How to ensure resolutions are not misguided, outdated, or simply unrealistic?

Use common sense, socialize with your spouse, and/or leverage an accountability partner (i.e. Certified Financial Planner) to make your 2022 resolutions happen.

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

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

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# Franklin Author Invites Others to Share Cancer Victory Stories

By J.D. O'GARA

“Where are all the people living happily after their journey with cancer?”

That’s the question Angel Moscatelli, Franklin resident and author of her own biographical, *Confessions of a Cancer Survivor: My Victory over Cancer*, wants to know. In 2014, at 53, she was diagnosed with a rare cancer – monophasic synovial sarcoma – with a sarcoma in her lung the size of a grapefruit. Now, she’s NED, or “no evidence of disease.” Her focus, she says, was getting past the diagnoses and treatments and living her best life, and she’s created a website where others who’ve beat cancer can go to tell their stories of triumph, [www.cancervictorystories.com](http://www.cancervictorystories.com).

“Cancer is not a death sentence, and I think the world needs to hear from cancer thrivers,”

says Moscatelli. “What about the people who survive it? What are they doing, how are they doing it? I’m not trying to negate what somebody is going through, but it’s all about a vision of being healthy again,” says Moscatelli. “You can die of cancer, but you can also survive it.”

When she was diagnosed, Moscatelli initially chose to keep it private, purchasing a wig that resembled her natural look. Later, however, she opted to share her story to family and friends through a private portal hosted by Dana Farber for those undergoing treatment to update family and friends. During Covid, the Franklin mother of three grown daughters and grandmother of two dug deeper, writing down her vision of faith and healing. She found a publisher, Words of Passion, out of Georgia, which



**Despite her cancer diagnosis, Angel Moscatelli focused on living her life to the fullest while she underwent treatment. For her, that meant attending her daughters’ weddings and seeing her grandchildren born. She invites others who’ve had cancer diagnoses to share their stories of living at [www.cancervictorystories.com](http://www.cancervictorystories.com).**



specializes in inspirational stories.

Moscatelli advocates speaking up for oneself. Treatment depends on the individual. “When you get diagnosed with any illness, you have a million people telling you what to do, And I’m saying do what’s right for you, what’s best for you to live your best life. There’s always

something, life’s not perfect.” An example Moscatelli gives is that when she was undergoing treatment, she had a port surgically installed for her meds. “A nurse wanted to give me an IV in the arms. She didn’t know how to use the port, but I told her, ‘I went through surgery to get this port in my body; you find a nurse who can do it!’ Every BODY is different, and the body is going to react differently,” continues Moscatelli. “No one treatment is the same for everyone.”

She adds that attitude plays a big role.

“I do think if you think, ‘I’m going to die,’ you’re going to die. Someone may live a better quality of life, or someone may go into a mental depression. You can choose happiness or choose sadness. You can be your disease, or you can conquer it.”

Moscatelli hopes to hear from those conquerors at [www.cancervictorystories.com](http://www.cancervictorystories.com).

“There are no posts, yet, but it’s up and running,” she says. “It’s about sharing cancer thriver stories, sharing your victory stories in 250 words or less.” Moscatelli must approve any submissions, noting that she may edit them for length.

“How did you do it? How do you feel now? What would you tell others today? I want to give hope and inspiration to anyone who is diagnosed. (A diagnosis) does not have to equate to death. How can I make it my best life, until I am either cured, or whatever happens? I wanted to live every day to the fullest, to be here with my daughters. My desire is to give people more hope. It’s about living.”

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## A Novel Occasion, Virtual Live Experience, January 29

Tickets for the 2nd annual “A Novel Occasion” are on sale now. This fundraising event hosted by The Friends of the Millis Public Library is on Saturday, January 29, 2022, from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET

At this fun and interactive Zoom event, guests will hear bestselling authors, receive a book from the event-featured author of their choice, and participate in two intimate author roundtables.

This year’s Best-Selling authors include: Alka Joshi, Gregg Hurwitz, Jamie Brenner, Katherine

Rowley, Vanessa Riley, and Viola Shipman (Wade Rouse).

Tickets to this one-of-a-kind event are \$50 per person and are available at <https://www.anoveloccasion.com/>

The Friends of the Millis Public Library is a nonprofit 501 (3) (c) organization (tax ID#04-3268133) and donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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# The b.LUXE beauty beat

## New Year • New You 2022 Giveaway!

BY GINA WOELFEL

Different cultures from around the world welcome the change of the calendar with unique traditions all their own.

In Spain, it's customary to eat 12 grapes at midnight, one for each stroke of the clock. Each grape represents a wish of good luck for the coming months of the year.

In Denmark, plates and glasses are thrown at the front doors of close family and friends to banish bad spirits away.

In Scotland, the first person to cross the threshold of a home in the New Year should carry a gift for good luck.

And in Ireland, there's a beautiful tradition of opening the back door to the house just before midnight to "let the Old Year out" and opening the front door to "let the New Year in".

As many of you know, b.LUXE owner Heather Cohen is a true New Year's baby and was the first child born in Boston on January 1st, 1976!

"I love to travel somewhere warm and tranquil for my birthday. I don't go out or do much while I'm there, it's really my time to reflect, reset and look ahead. I love to read on the beach and watch the crystal blue waves crash over the sand. If I'm carrying any tension or stress from the previous year, I let it all go. I give everything I have to my business and love working with my team, but every once in a while, I need to take some personal time to regroup and set new goals. This time away let's me reboot and return filled with inspiration and a renewed sense of excitement for the coming year." - Heather Cohen

2021 was a remarkable year for b.LUXE. We achieved so many of our personal goals and worked collaboratively to push the studio to the top of the beauty industry! It's time to celebrate and start our own New Year's tradition with you!

In lieu of throwing plates at your front door, we've come up with a wonderful way to ring in the New Year and usher in a fantastic 2022!

How does a HUGE giveaway valued at \$1000 sound? Pretty amazing, right?

Let's celebrate Heather's birthday together!

NEWYear/NEWYou 2022 Giveaway

We're so excited to share this AMAZING giveaway with all of you!

Here's to the year ahead - our brightest one yet and may we always be grateful for the past, find joy in the present, and remain excited for the future.

Let's "kick open the door" to 2022 together!



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- But, you'll receive **2 entries with a January appointment**
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- Winner will be drawn on February 1st

(TICKETS MUST BE PHYSICALLY BROUGHT INTO THE STUDIO AND REGISTERED TO BE ENTERED. DO NOT MAIL YOUR TICKET. ENTRANTS MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER. ENTRY WILL BE LOGGED AT THE END OF EACH APPOINTMENT)

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*the deets*

- Fill out ticket info below + bring your ticket to our studio.
- Giveaway is open to all new + existing customers
- No appointment necessary to enter
- BUT...you'll receive TWO entries with a January appointment!
- 1 additional entry for every additional January appointment
- All entrants must be 18 years of age or older
- Winning prize has no cash value and can't be gifted or sold
- Each gift card category must be booked on the same day
- Gift cards must be used by the last day of 2022

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NEW OR EXISTING CLIENT?

# Living Healthy

## Glaucoma Treatment: DURYSTA

### Commonly Asked Questions

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

Glaucoma is a condition that can damage our field of vision. It affects us when the pressure inside the eye is higher than what the eye can tolerate. Glaucoma

is treatable with drops targeted at lowering the eye pressure. There are patients who have problems remembering to use the drops and sometimes the preservative in the drop cause irritation, redness and intolerance to the drops.

In other instances, one can be traveling and forget to carry the eye drops during the trip. In those instances, a novel treatment using DURYSTA glaucoma implants can help manage the pressure while reducing or eliminating the need for drops.

### What is Durysta?

Durysta is a breakthrough in the treatment of open-angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension with FDA approval. Durysta (made by Allergan) will be a game-changer for those patients who have difficulty taking daily medicated eye drops for glaucoma because it frees patients from having to apply drops altogether.

### How does Durysta work?

Durysta is the first biodegradable sustained-release implant that continuously delivers Bimatoprost, a prostaglandin analog, within the eye that helps reduce and maintain healthy eye pressure levels. The preservative-free medication is housed within a tiny rod-shaped cartridge that is inserted in the eye's anterior chamber by an ophthalmologist during a safe 5-minute office procedure.

The implant comes pre-loaded with 10 mcg of Bimatoprost in a single-use applicator that your ophthalmologist uses to inject the implant directly into the front side of your eye. This means that the drug delivery system is a one-time use sterile applicator used on you and you alone.

The bimatoprost implant is biodegradable and breaks down naturally over time, so you do not require another procedure to remove the delivery system. It simply dissolves and is eliminated by your body. In fact, most patients continue to have controlled intraocular pressure levels even after Durysta has broken down.

### How long does Durysta last?

The great news for patients with open-angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension is that the Durysta implant is designed to last up to 6 months. However, most patients continue to have controlled intraocular pressure levels after Durysta has broken down. This means you'll continue to benefit from Durysta for months and sometimes a year or 2 later. Meanwhile, you'll be free from having to deal with



inserting eye drops and worrying about whether the correct amount of medication actually got into your eye.

### Who is a candidate for Durysta?

Durysta is indicated for people diagnosed with open-angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension. That said, not everyone is an ideal candidate for Durysta and it is contraindicated under the following circumstances:

- If you have an infection within or surrounding your eye
- If you have undergone a corneal transplant
- If you are diagnosed with corneal endothelial cell dystrophy
- If your posterior lens capsule is ruptured or absent
- If you are allergic to bimatoprost or to the components of the implant

### What are the side effects of Durysta?

As with any medication, clinical trials have shown that some people can experience side effects from Durysta. However, the interesting thing about the Durysta trials was that patients who were randomized to receive Durysta actually experienced fewer side effects than the control group patients taking standard glaucoma eye drops.

It's highly unusual for a new medication to exhibit fewer side effects than the standard medicine it's being compared to, but that's exactly what happened with Durysta. The Durysta patients had fewer complaints and tolerated the medication better than the patients using traditional glaucoma eye drops. Fewer side effects and better eye pressure control make for a compelling argument to consider switching to Durysta.

EYES

continued on page 11

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# Living Healthy

## Begin the New Year at the Franklin Senior Center

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

**Digital Photography 5 Week Beginner Class:** Classes are taught by professional photography teacher Steve McGrath. Friday, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 & Feb. 4 from 10-11:30. Cost is \$10. Call the Center to sign up!

**"A Life Story"- Legacy Writing, Tuesday, January 11 at 10 a.m.**

Faith and Family Hospice will provide every participant with "A Life Story" legacy book to record and preserve your special life memories for future generations to come. Reflect on your past, memorable moments, special events and so much more! Space is limited; please call the Center to sign up.

**Joe Landry, Wednesday, Jan. 12 at 1 p.m.**

Franklin Native Joe Landry will share his collection of photos. In January, Joe will highlight

the "Schools of Franklin." This event is in-person at the Center. Call to sign up.

**The Senior players, Tuesdays at 10 a.m.**

Be an actor on stage, or be behind the scenes making the action come to life. Come play with the Senior Players at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays starting January 11, 2022. For questions, email [info@jeanettescales.com](mailto:info@jeanettescales.com)

**Opera Lecture, Thursday, Jan. 27 at 10 a.m.**

Speaker Erika Reitshamer will discuss Giacomo Puccini's best-loved opera, La Bohème. Puccini's passionate, timeless, and indelible story of love among young artists in Paris is one of the world's most popular operas. Even if you are familiar with the opera, this lecture will give you a fresh and in-depth ap-

preciation of this masterpiece. Please call the Center to sign up.

**Franklin Matters Q&A, Wednesday, Jan. 12 at 10 a.m.**

Join Steve Sherlock in-person at the Senior Center or via Zoom as he discusses all things Franklin. Bring your questions! Email [shersteve@gmail.com](mailto:shersteve@gmail.com) to register for Zoom.

**MEMORY CAFÉ:** Memory Cafes are a comfortable, safe space that allows people experiencing memory loss and a loved one to connect, socialize, and meet new friends. On Wednesday, January 19 at 1 p.m., Howie Newman will kick off the New Year with songs everyone knows and loves. To attend, RSVP to Ariel at (508) 520-4945 or [adoggett@franklinma.gov](mailto:adoggett@franklinma.gov).

### SENIOR

*continued on page 16*

## 18th Annual Gary Mirliss Memorial Blood Drive

**Blood Drive at Lake Pearl,**

299 Creek St. Wrentham, MA 02093

Jan. 7th from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 8th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

My family and I, in partnership with Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Children's Hospital Boston are hosting a Blood Drive, in memory of my late father Gray Mirliss.

While blood is always needed and there is generally a lull in donations around the holiday season, this year is especially dire. "The American Red Cross recently issued a public call to action due to a plummeting national inventory of blood donations" forcing the cancellation of surgeries and other medical procedures.

Walk-ins will be accommodated on a 1st come 1st serve basis so we recommend that you make an appointment! Spots are filling up fast!

To make you appointment, visit the following links:

Friday Jan. 7th

[https://donor.kraftfamilyblooddonorcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/2793](https://donor.kraftfamilyblooddonorcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/2793)

Saturday Jan. 8th

[https://donor.kraftfamilyblooddonorcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/2774](https://donor.kraftfamilyblooddonorcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/2774)

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL

[GM.Memorial.Drive@Gmail.com](mailto:GM.Memorial.Drive@Gmail.com)

### EYES

*continued from page 10*

Some adverse events for Durysta patients can include:

- Eye redness
- Eye irritation
- Eye pain
- A foreign body sensation within the eye
- Light sensitivity (photophobia)
- Blurred vision
- Headache
- Conjunctival hemorrhage
- Iritis
- Increased intraocular pressure

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Also, the safety of taking Durysta during pregnancy has not been studied.

### Is Durysta for me?

If you have tried other treatments for glaucoma, including eye drops and they did not work, or If you've found eye drops are challenging or you can't use them as prescribed, contact us. Eye drops are not always the best option for every patient, and Durysta may be a better solution.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, Dr. Kaldawy was among the first surgeons in the area to offer Durysta. We perform the procedure in a state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford and closer to home. With this center available to you here in your backyard there is no reason to travel hours to have eye surgery and laser glaucoma surgery. If your eye provider is still recommending you travel far away to have eye surgery, we are available for a second opinion. We are proud to offer excellence in glaucoma management and surgery with world class outcomes and here is the great news: In Milford, and closer to home than ever before!

For more details, see our ad on page 10



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# Providing Support for Adoptive and Foster Families

BY GRACE ALLEN

It takes a great leap of faith to decide to adopt or foster a child. And while each family's situation is different, they all share one thing in common: a need for support. That's where a local group comes in.

The Friends of Adoption and Foster Care (FAFC) was started in 2018 by two Wrentham residents. Jane Williams, one of the group's founding members, said adoptive and foster families face many challenges, and support groups can provide ways to share information and resources, as well as opportunities for socialization and learning from other parents who have experienced the same issues.

"This group is so helpful for adoptive and foster parents because you often feel you're all

alone in the struggle," said Williams, who is an adoptive parent herself. "These children can have difficult behaviors because of past traumas and don't always adjust well."

In addition to providing peer and family support, the FAFC group has also held backpack drives to help children in the foster care system. Backpacks filled with essentials—such as pajamas, toiletries, school supplies, and stuffed animals—are collected and donated to the Arlington office of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). From there, the backpacks are distributed by social workers to children who are being removed from their homes to be taken to a safe place.

"These children are living through the worst day of their



**Local group, Friends of Adoption and Foster Care, of Wrentham, aims to soften the emotional blows dealt children taken out of a tough situation. Even the gift of a backpack filled with essential items can make the worst day of their lives a little less difficult.**

life and feel like no one cares about them," said Williams. "The social workers tell us that even the teens, when you give them a backpack, their faces light up. It makes the day a little bit easier for them. It really is a huge comfort for these kids."

KP Cares, a community service group at King Philip Regional High School, recently donated 27 filled backpacks to the latest FAFC backpack drive. The high school group also collected and donated extra boxes of school supplies, toiletries, and stuffed animals to FAFC for later distribution.

Williams says FAFC has worked with social workers from DCF to help support families struggling to keep their own children at home. The group has collected gift cards, diapers, baby formula, and other necessary items for these families, as well as for families who suffer a financial burden when they open their homes to foster children.

While foster care is intended to be a short-term solution, with

the ultimate goal of reuniting a child with his or her birth parents, the need for foster parents is acute. And yet nearly half of foster parents quit in their first year of fostering due to lack of support or feeling ill-equipped to deal with the challenges.

Adoption too can be fraught with issues, even with infants, who can suffer from reactive attachment disorder as much as older children. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that between 1 and 5 percent of adoptions end up being legally dissolved. Children put up for re-adoption will have their lives deeply disrupted, and the effects can last a lifetime.

Williams says it takes more than a big heart to open your home to an adoptive or foster child. It's important to be flexible and understand that children and teens express complex emotions and experiences through behaviors that might not make sense in the moment.

"I think you must be very open to learn, and you must be able to

bounce back and not take things personally," she said. "These kids can have a lot of problems, and they know how to push your buttons. They've been through a lot. They were pulled out of their homes for a reason, whether it's neglect or abuse. Every adoption or foster care situation begins with a tragedy."

She added, "A foster or adoptive parent can read 1,000 books, but you won't really learn until you go through it. And you have to be willing to accept help and support from others who will listen to you without judgement."

The Friends of Adoption and Foster Care group meets twice a month. New families and volunteers meet on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Teen Room of the rectory at St. Mary Catholic Church, 130 South Street in Wrentham. Current families meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m., either at a member's home or in the Teen Room for a pizza or potluck supper. There are games available for the children.

While the church provides the meeting space, the group itself is not-faith based, and a Zoom option is available for the meetings.

People can still support the foster care community, even if they are unable to foster a child, noted Williams. Volunteers are needed to help with outreach, backpack and diaper drives, and activities for families. Donations for the drives can be dropped off at the bin in the rear of St. Mary's parking lot. Gift cards can be dropped off at the rectory.

For more information about FAFC or to come to a meeting, contact Williams at [jsvel@yahoo.com](mailto:jsvel@yahoo.com). FAFC is open to adoptive and foster parents from any community.

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## Knights Annual Free Throw Contest

January 8, 2022 at Franklin YMCA

The Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council 1847, Franklin, is holding its Annual Free Throw Contest on Saturday January 8, 2022. Registration begins at 3:00 PM and the contest to follow at 3:30 PM at

the Hockomock YMCA, 45 Forge Hill Road, Franklin, MA. The event is open for boys and girls 9 – 14 years old as of 01/01/2022. All contestants are recognized for their participation in this event.

Format: 3 practice shots before taking 15 free throws.

The champs are invited to compete in the district competition.

For more information contact Mike Perkins at (508) 446-2865 or email [knightsforcolumbus1847@gmail.com](mailto:knightsforcolumbus1847@gmail.com).

# Mass Legislature Passes Genocide Education Bill

Bill, Led by Local Rep., Establishes Genocide Education Trust Fund to Educate Students

In late November, the Massachusetts Legislature passed *An Act concerning genocide education* to provide education to middle and high school students on the history of genocide and to promote the teaching of human rights issues.

"While past crimes against humanity cannot be undone, we must learn from them," stated Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "After a rise in anti-Semitic incidences in our state and a noticeable decline in young people's understanding of the specifics or the seriousness of the Holocaust, it was clear something must be done. As a Jewish woman and daughter of a World War II veteran who liberated the Buchenwald Concentration Camp, I believe it is our responsibility to ensure we educate our children on the many instances of genocide throughout history so that it is never repeated."

When signed into law, Massachusetts will become the 20th state to have adopted mandatory Holocaust and genocide education.

The bill requires middle schools and high schools in the Commonwealth to include instruction on the history of genocide. This most recent iteration of the legislation comes as incidences of hate and anti-Semitism are on the rise across the country, with several incidents reported in Massachusetts over the past year.

In 2020, a widely reported survey commissioned by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, which gauged Holocaust knowledge among millennials and Generation Z populations, found that 63 percent of US respondents did not know six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust. The survey also found that nearly half were unfamiliar with Nazi concentration camps like Auschwitz. Massachusetts does not currently require Holocaust education or other genocides as part of classroom curriculum.

"It is shocking how many young people today have never heard of the Auschwitz concentration camp, the Holocaust, or other heinous genocides perpetrated in the past," said Senator Jason Lewis (D-Winchester),

Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Education. "This important legislation will ensure that more students understand the history of genocide so that it never happens again."

"While racial, ethnic, national, and religious violence has existed throughout the past and continues in the present, recent events suggest our collective knowledge of some of history's worst atrocities is waning. It is our responsibility to take steps to ensure we do not forget the past so that we can continue to build a better future, while still respecting the ability of individual school districts to shape the curricula of their students," said Representative Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Education. "I'd like to thank Speaker Mariano, Chairman Michlewitz, and Chairman Roy for their leadership on this critical piece of legislation."

"With this law, we can arm our students with the knowledge they will need to recognize the warning signs and feel empowered to prevent genocides in the future," Representative Jeffrey Roy (D-Franklin), lead sponsor

of the House bill and House Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy. "Making genocide education a mandatory topic for teaching in our schools is a reaffirmation of the commitment of free peoples from all nations to never again permit the occurrence of another genocide, and to deter indifference to crimes against humanity and human suffering wherever they occur."

You can find a link to Rep. Roy's floor remarks at: <https://youtu.be/fOQLJ5NiDz8>

This bill, which had over 100 cosponsors, would establish a Genocide Education Trust Fund to promote and educate middle and high school students on the history of genocide. Funds in this trust would be used for the instruction of middle and high school students on the history of genocide and ensure the development of curricular materials, as well as to provide professional development training to assist educators in the teaching of genocide.

The legislation requires each school district to annually file a description of their lesson plan and programs related to genocide education with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The bill also establishes a competitive grant program that schools, and districts can apply to for additional programming support.

The bill was supported by ADL New England, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, the Armenian National Committee of Eastern Massachusetts - ANC of EM, Facing History and Ourselves, the Committee for Holodomor Genocide Awareness (<https://ukrainegenocide.com>), the Genocide Education Project, and over 60 coalition members.

At press time, Governor Baker was poised to sign *An Act concerning genocide education* on December 22nd, 2021.

The text of the Legislation can be found -> <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S2557>.

## Not Just for Newcomers . . .

Come join your friends and neighbors at the Franklin Newcomers & Friends monthly meeting. Meet us upstairs at "3" Restaurant on Wednesday, January 19th at 7:30 for Game Night! Following the club updates, we will play some fun, social games to kick off the new year!

We will also be collecting personal care items and cleaning supplies for the Franklin Food Pantry. Please bring one or more items from the following list: shampoo (8 oz.-24 oz.), conditioner (8 oz.-24 oz.), disposable razors, hand and body lotion (8 oz.-24 oz.), liquid hand

soap (6 oz.-24 oz.), Scott's toilet paper (single WRAPPED roll 1000 sheets), cleaning wipes, all purpose cleaner spray (32 oz.), Ajax or Comet cleansers.

Come join us and have fun while you make connections in your community. We are a multi-generational club offering a wide range of activities for all ages with an emphasis on fun and camaraderie. We are a member-driven organization and are always excited to welcome new faces and new ideas.

No need to be a newcomer to the area...residents of Franklin (or any surrounding town that doesn't have a Newcomers

Club) are welcome to join us. We run our meetings September through May on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (occasionally we switch Wednesdays to accommodate holidays or speakers) upstairs in a private room at "3" Restaurant, 461 W. Central Street, Franklin. Complimentary appetizers and beverages are provided and a cash bar is available.

Additionally, we hold many fun and varied events to stay connected throughout the year. Look for us on our Meetup page for more information.

<https://www.meetup.com/Franklin-Newcomers-Friends>

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# Franklin Native Maddox Honored for Helping 50,000 Families Avoid Eviction

## Small Business Coalition Members Recognized

Jennifer Maddox, Undersecretary of the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), received the 2021 LISC Community Impact Award in recognition of her leadership of the statewide Eviction Diversion Initiative. The award was presented by Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Boston. Maddox, a graduate of Franklin High School and LaSalle University, who assumed leadership of DHCD in February 2020 just weeks before the pandemic onset, was honored for her effective housing leadership through the crisis, and specifically for preventing widespread evictions after expiration of the legislative moratorium ended in October of 2020. The Eviction Diversion Initiative led by Maddox and her team provides deep assistance to tenants and landlords, including funding for rent and overdue utilities with state and federal funding, as well as free and low-cost legal aid and professional mediation services to

help households avoid evictions. Through October of this year, more than 50,000 unique households had received \$360 million to avoid eviction, and eviction filings and executions continue to remain below pre-pandemic levels. Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy credits Maddox for these outcomes, “You don’t get these kinds of results without a leader with incredible vision, compassion, commitment, and desire to improve the lives of others, with a tenacity – a quiet tenacity in Jennifer’s case – to get things done and make things better.”

The award was presented to Maddox by Rachel Heller, Chief Executive Officer of Citizens Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA), who called Maddox the epitome of grace under fire, stating that, “Because of her leadership, Massachusetts is a leader in the nation, helping people to avoid evictions and ensuring that rent is paid so that people stay stable in their homes,



and landlords and neighborhoods also remain stable.”

Accepting the award, Maddox said, “I have an incredible team backing me up at DHCD – dedicated public servants who have solved problems that were considered impossible before Covid-19. We’ve worked with regional agencies, legal aid organizations and community mediation partners, and brought on expert assistance, to fundamentally transform how we deliver housing assistance and keep peo-

ple in their homes.”

The Eviction Diversion Initiative team includes hundreds of support staff at DHCD, regional housing agencies, legal aid organizations, and community mediation organizations. Maddox has steered DHCD through the process of administering emergency assistance; providing hundreds of millions of emergency support to shelters, public housing, municipalities, and community foundations; and scaling rental and mortgage assistance

to families from \$20 million per year to more than \$40 million a month.

## SMALL BUSINESS COALITION MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

The statewide Massachusetts Equitable PPP Access Initiative was also honored by LISC for its dedicated and coordinated assistance to businesses owned by people of color in the wake of the pandemic. The coalition of community development financial institutions, banks, business support organizations, foundations, and other supporting partners formed to provide timely and equitable access to forgivable Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans for underbanked businesses and historically disadvantaged and underserved demographic groups, including businesses owned by women and people of color.

The announcements were made at the 2021 LISC Story Slam, which took place Wednesday, November 10, 2021 – virtually and at the Artists for Humanity Epicenter in South Boston.

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## Franklin Veterans' Services Office News

**Reach the Veterans' Services Office at (508) 613-1315**

Tune It Out guitar lessons for veterans meets on Tuesdays from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Call the Veterans' office if interested in joining this wonderful program led by music instructor Jamie Barrett. Guitar experience is not required.

Thank you to all senior center guests and staff who took the time to sign holiday cards for our deployed troops. This small gesture means so much to them and is a great morale-booster! Wishing Happy, Healthy Holidays to All!

- January 5 – Monthly Coffee Social – 10:00 a.m. at the Senior Center.
- January 20 - Veterans' Council Meeting – 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. All members of the community are invited.
- January 27 – Vietnam Peace Day

Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or mask will be required at all Veterans' events.

# Trane Technologies Uses IRS 179D to Benefit Tri-County

Representatives of Trane Technologies (NYSE:TT), a global climate innovator in heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and transport refrigeration, presented a check in the sum of \$27,327.74 to Superintendent, Karen Maguire for the benefit of Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School at their Franklin, MA facility.

Through a proven and innovative procurement and contracting process known as Performance Contracting, Trane designed and installed a comprehensive range of facility improvements at Tri-County that will provide a safe, comfortable, and efficient learning environment while substantially reducing energy consumption.

The \$7M project, financed by an independent third party, and completed in 2020, included a roof replacement, new HVAC equipment and controls, and a comprehensive lighting systems upgrade. As part of the Per-

formance Contracting process, Trane will guarantee that Tri-County will realize a reduction in energy consumption equaling \$178,000/year over the 20-year term. Trane will also provide ongoing maintenance services to ensure optimal operation of project improvements for the long term.

“As a local resident and taxpayer, I am pleased to help facilitate a mechanism whereby Tri-County is able demonstrate fiscal and environmental stewardship while optimizing the learning environment for students,” said Leo McNeil of Trane.

“As a civic minded organization, Trane is pleased to share a portion of the 179D tax benefit with our customers” said Morgan Perras, of Trane.

Internal Revenue Code Sec. 179D is a popular tax incentive that provides building owners and eligible designers/builders the opportunity to claim a tax deduction for installing qualifying energy efficient systems in



buildings. Accordingly, Trane Technologies can file for this incentive for projects implemented at tax-exempt entities, such as Tri County Vocational Technical High School.

“Trane is pleased to present this share of the 179d tax benefit for this project to Tri-County”, said Chris Marshall, of Trane. The check is presented as a gift to Tri-County for their use in ful-

filling their mission to provide an excellent comprehensive technical and academic education to regional high school students.

## This Month at the Franklin Historical Museum

### Second Sunday Speaker Series, Sunday January 9th

The Franklin Historical Museum is happy to welcome Dennis J. Sardella, PhD, as our guest speaker on Sunday January 9th for his presentation on Byzantine and Russian Icons. Dennis has been a docent at the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton, Massachusetts since 2012, where he leads gallery tours and introduces visitors to the world of Russian icons. He also writes and speaks regularly to area groups on the topics of religious icons and the role they play in Eastern Christian spirituality. He was a professor at Boston College from 1967

until 2012. In 1990, he became the founding director of the Boston College Presidential Scholars Program, which he directed until his retirement in 2010. For 17 years he and his wife led groups of Boston College Presidential Scholars on month-long study trips to France, and they have continued to travel extensively throughout Western Europe.

Please join us for this informative talk as our Second Sunday Speaker Series continues in 2022. Doors open at 1 p.m.; presentation starts at 1:15 p.m.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY BEN!

On Sunday January 16th we celebrate Benjamin Franklin’s Birthday. The man whose name inspired the naming of our town was born January 17th, 1706. Come learn about Ben and how Franklin came to be named for him. Hear about the story of a

Toad and its tail, how “sense is preferable to sound,” and how his donation started the first public lending library in America. Join us for birthday cake from 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the research room of the museum. All are welcome.

The Franklin Historical Museum is located at 80 West Central St. in Franklin. Admission is always free. We are ADA compliant with an elevator access in the back of the building. Our gift shop is open year-round.

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# Become a Certified EMT or Paramedic Through the School of Continuing Studies at Dean College

The School of Continuing Studies at Dean College offers both a Paramedic Training Program and an Entry-Level EMT Course in partnership with EMTS, Inc.

For individuals interested in becoming a certified EMT, the Entry-Level EMT training course will run from September 19, 2022 through January 25, 2023. The course meets the current National EMS Guidelines and has Massachusetts Office of Emergency Medical Services approval. Virtual info sessions will be held on August 24, 2022 and September 6, 2022 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

For certified EMTs interested in becoming paramedics, the Paramedic Training Program will run from May 16, 2022 through April 4, 2023. This program meets the requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and national guidelines for paramedic education. Students must first complete an approved EMT-Basic course. Virtual info sessions will be held on March 22, 2022 and May 4, 2022 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Both programs are held on campus at Dean College.

To learn more and apply to these programs, visit [www.dean.edu/scs](http://www.dean.edu/scs).

## SENIOR

*continued from page 11*

**ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP:** Supports caregivers caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or dementia. On-site respite care is available if needed. To join, email Elaine Owens at: [elaine.owens@verizon.net](mailto:elaine.owens@verizon.net), or call the Center for more information. The group will meet:

Wednesday, Jan. 12 and Jan. 26 at 4 p.m.

**AUDIO BOOK CLUB:** The Audio Book Club meets via conference call by calling (508) 206-8603. Participants are welcome

to join using their favorite book format (book, audio, Kindle, etc.) All are welcome! This month the group will meet: Tuesday, January 18 & January 25 at 1 p.m.: Discussion of the current book via conference call.

**LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP:** Tuesday, January 4 at 1 p.m.: Audio reading of the FSC newsletter via conference call at (508) 206-8603.

Tuesday, January 11 at 1 p.m.: Guest speaker from the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

**HEARING SUPPORT GROUP:** The Hearing Support Group meets monthly. On Wednesday,

Jan. 12 at 1 p.m., Guest speaker will be Jonathan O'Dell, Director of Communication, Training and Technology Services at the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

**The Friends of Franklin Elders, Inc. (FOFE)** is a private, non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide funds for programs, services, and equipment for the Franklin Senior Center that cannot be provided by state or local government. The Friends raise funds through membership fees, donations, and special events. Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 28 at 9:30 a.m. The public is welcome to attend.

# Learn More about Franklin Rotary Club!

Rotary Club of Franklin MA meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m., at the Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central Street, Franklin, MA 02038. The Rotary Club International is a non-profit organization made up

of a diverse group of men and women "who come together to create positive, lasting change in our communities and around the world." <https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary>.

If you would like more information about their organization,

please email Diane Padula at [padularotary@gmail.com](mailto:padularotary@gmail.com) and she will make arrangements for you to be a guest at one of the upcoming meetings. You may also visit their website for upcoming events: <http://portal.clubrunner.ca/3689>.



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# January 2022 at the Franklin Public Library

## Library Hours

The Franklin Public Library will be closed on New Year's Day, and on Martin Luther King Day (Jan. 17th).

## Book Sale

### Franklin Library Book Sale

Friday, January 14, 1-5 p.m.  
Saturday, January 15, 9 a.m. to 12 Noon.

All books are just one dollar!

**Bag Sale - \$5 A Bag—Saturday, January 15, from 1-4 p.m.**

## Homework Help Program

The Franklin Public Library is now offering free Homework Help program for grades 1-8. The program takes place Monday-Thursday, 3-5 p.m. Students will be assisted by either retired teachers or high school students. Application forms available at the Circulation Desk.

## One Book, One Community Winter 2022

The Franklin Public Library is having a Winter 2022 One Book, One Community program to bring the community together through the reading and discussion of a common book. Beginning January 3rd, we'll be reading *The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* by Stuart Tur-

ton. Turton's book is a mixture of "Locked room mystery" (a la Agatha Christie), psychological thriller, romance, and...maybe...time travel? That's for you to find out!

Print copies of the book are available at the library and through interlibrary loan. Find the ebook and audiobook through the Hoopla and Libby apps. Please visit our One Book, One Community webpage to learn more! The library will host a discussion of the book Tuesday, March 22nd at 7 p.m.

## Special Events for Kids & Families

### Take & Makes: Book Journals!

Starting Monday January 3rd - SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED!

### Tape Town! Saturday January 8th, 10:30 a.m.

Families! Spend an imaginative morning at the library! Bring along a small toy vehicle (or borrow one of ours) and cruise along our "roads" made of tape all through our big meeting room. Enjoy interactive pretend play stations all through the town!

### Animation Nation Presents: Saturday Binge! Saturday January 8th 1-4:30 p.m.

Animation Nation is Proud to Present "The Saturday Binge"!

Multiple hours of a chosen anime on the big screen! Watch the Library Facebook for updates on what title we will be binge watching!

### "Drive-In" Movie! Saturday January 22nd, 10:30 a.m.

Families! Join us for a "Drive-In" movie (indoors of course!) in our big program room! First we'll decorate our "cars" (aka boxes we've been saving up) then we'll relax and enjoy a movie and some popcorn in our spiffy new rides! You're welcome to bring your own box, or use one of ours!

### The Python Problem! Saturday January 22nd 2-3:30 p.m.

Join Miss Mitzi and work on a Python challenge to learn some new expressions, code new applications, or fix broken code. Each session starts with an explanation of a concept or code piece followed by a challenge using that code or concept! Best for grades 5 and up! Previous coding experience encouraged, not required.

### Baby Sensory! Saturday January 22nd @9:30 a.m.

Join us for a 45-minute baby sensory program! Babies under 2 are welcome and encouraged! (Got older siblings? They can bring along a stuffed toy or baby and play along!)

## Special Events for Teens

### Teen Take & Makes: Bullet Journals!

Starting Monday January 3rd stop by the library to pick up your very own bullet journal kit! Kits include supplies and instructions for making your very own bullet journal! SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED!

### Teen Yule Ball! Wednesday, January 5th @6:30 p.m.

Join the Volunteens for a night of Harry Potter-themed crafts, games, and dancing!

### Animation Nation Presents: Saturday Binge! Saturday January 8th 1-4:30 p.m.

Animation Nation is Proud to Present "The Saturday Binge"! Multiple hours of a chosen anime on the big screen! Watch the Library Facebook for updates!

### Teen Vision Board Making! Friday January 14th @3 p.m.

We will provide the supplies you need to make an epic 2022 vision board! Just bring your creativity!

### Crime Time Mysteries! Saturday January 15th @2 p.m.

AGES 13+ Join us for an immersive murder mystery game from "Hunt a Killer" that is told over the course of six "epi-

sodes." Each episode contains different clues that you'll use to solve the ongoing investigation! It is not required but encouraged that you attend all 6 meetings, since the episodes build on themselves!

**The Python Problem! Saturday January 22nd 2-3:30 p.m. (see description in family listing above)**

## Events for Adults

**Dark Journeys: Urban Legends with Jeff Belanger, Thursday, January 6, 6:30 p.m.**

Have you ever heard a story you didn't think was true, but then thought... what if? Bloody Mary in the mirror? The Hook by Lover's Lane? Why do similar stories pop up all over the world? Come take a virtual journey through the graveyard at midnight with author/folklorist Jeff Belanger. Free program.

**Girls Who Code Parents Open House Tuesday January 11th, 7 p.m.**

Hey Parents! Are you interested in Girls Who Code? Come to an "open house" hosted by Mrs. Mitzi to learn about the program, and even sign up! If

**HEAL**

*continued on page 21*

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

# Mass. Awards Town of Franklin \$2.2M MassWorks Grant & Food Pantry \$500K Underutilized Properties Program Grant

The town of Franklin is among this year's 56 grant recipients of the MassWorks Infrastructure Program Grants totaling \$66.5 million to 50 communities. Among this year's MassWorks projects, 29 are reactivating underutilized sites, 27 are supporting transit-oriented developments and 29 have a mixed-use component. Additionally, 14 communities are receiving their first ever MassWorks award. Franklin will receive \$2,220,000 for its Grove Street Improvement Project.

The Baker-Polito Administration and MassDevelopment also announced the first-ever awards made through the Underutilized Properties Program, which along with MassWorks is now part of the Community One Stop for Growth platform.

The Underutilized Properties

Program was created through the Economic Development Legislation signed into law by Governor Charlie Baker in January 2021. The program targets underutilized, abandoned, or vacant properties by supporting efforts that eliminate blight, increase housing production, support economic development projects, or increase the number of commercial buildings accessible to individuals with disabilities. In its first year, the program is funding 20 projects, totaling \$7,516,000 in awards. Included among the 20 awards is \$500,000 for the Franklin Food Pantry, which will use this grant to convert an underutilized property into a community food pantry to address social and health disparities. The new location will allow the nonprofit to operate additional hours and increase access to healthy food,

and will provide office space for confidential client support.

"MassWorks and the programs accessed through the One Stop support important local infrastructure projects that attract private investment, spur housing production and create jobs," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.

Including this year's round, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded 326 MassWorks grants to 181 communities and has invested over \$608 million in public infrastructure projects throughout the Commonwealth. These grants have directly supported the creation of 21,000 new housing units and tens of thousands of new construction and permanent jobs, while also leveraging over \$13 billion in private investment.

MassWorks is a competitive program that offers cities and

towns flexible capital funding to support and accelerate housing production and job growth and is the largest program in Community One Stop for Growth. Including MassWorks grants, the Community One Stop awarded \$88 million to 196 projects in 122 communities across the Commonwealth in its first year. Of the 196 projects awarded, nearly one-third were located in a rural or small town, half were located in a Housing Choice Community, and one-third were located in a Gateway City.

"We created the One Stop to offer access to a wide variety of programs through a single, streamlined process that ensures that valuable funds can be directed more effectively, to more communities, in less time," said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy.

"The One Stop gives communities the opportunity to work collaboratively with us, to pursue multiple projects simultaneously and to meet their economic development goals. ... While the first year of the One Stop has shown tremendous promise, the demand for our programs demonstrates that we can do more."

"This inaugural round of grants will breathe life into 20 underused buildings," said MassDevelopment President and CEO Dan Rivera. "The Underutilized Properties Program is making a difference in downtowns and town centers across Massachusetts. This \$7.5 million in awards will fund capital improvements and predevelopment work to increase occupancy in challenging properties, creating new opportunities for housing, retail, and further economic development."

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# Tri-County Juniors Work to Prevent Elder Fraud

Students from the class of 2023 in the Legal and Protective Services Career Program at Tri-County RVTHS are bringing important public safety presentations to several local area senior citizen centers. The presentations are focused on how to prevent scams and fraudulent practices that target the elderly and become more prevalent during the holiday season.

These presentations will help seniors learn how to identify and respond to scammers. The students aim to prevent the elderly community members from falling victim to illegal practices that could drain their savings, endanger, or frighten them. The students enrolled in the Legal and Protective Services Program independently researched the in-

formation in their presentations, including interviewing local law enforcement officers. Topics include Phishing & Identity Theft, IRS, romantic/companionship, sweepstakes, charity, funeral, and grandparent scams. According to the local law enforcement agencies, scams like this are prevalent, and residents of the immediate communities have been scammed out of tens of thousands of dollars.

Through research, the students recognized that scammers rely on strong emotions to catch their victims off guard. They will emotionally manipulate their victims through fear, intimidation, excitement, exhaustion, sympathy, guilt, grief, embarrassment, and love. This manipulation keeps intelligent, rational people

from making sound financial decisions. Victims of financial scams rarely recover the money they lose and it can take years for victims of identity theft to undo the damage.

After the first presentation in Franklin, an attendee expressed how grateful she was that these presentations were being provided to the community. After losing her husband several years ago, she fell victim to a scam and understands first-hand how real and cruel these scammers are.

Elder Fraud Presentations were conducted in December in Walpole, Attleboro, and Wrentham. If you would like to have an elder fraud presentation in your area, please contact Brenna Ferrick at (508) 528-5400, x201, or ferrick@tri-county.us



Tri-County Legal and Protective Services Juniors work to prevent Elder Fraud at Franklin Senior Center. (L to R) Emma Feeley (Plainville), Ben Bryson (Franklin), Jack Campbell (Walpole), Sophia Rodriguez (Blackstone), Jack Gagliani (Medway), Sabra Flanagan (Franklin), Samantha Bourque (Seekonk), Emily DeLuca (Bellingham), Tyler Gardner (Milford), Grace Crowell (Millis), Ava Cavallaro (Bellingham), Hayden Briggs (Medway), Tyler Girouard (Millis), Hailey Tichner (Medfield).

## Let's Laugh Today Wacky Wednesday Zoom Laughter Club

We will be back January 5th at 7:30 p.m. ET Please try to sign on a little early so we can start on time. We play happy music then, too! To join meeting click here (Password is in link): <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/426885926?pwd=QXpKTIQ2MzJNT0xjcjg3NUY3RmV2dz09> Or click <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/426885926> and add Password: 014657

## Community Health Systems, Inc. Forms New Foundation

Community Health Systems, Inc., of Attleboro, Mass., formally announced today the creation of a foundation that supports the health and wellness of residents of these Massachusetts communities: Attleboro, Dighton, Easton, Franklin, Foxboro, Mansfield, North Attleboro, Norton, Plainville, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Taunton, and Wrentham, with a focus in the Greater Attleboro area.

Community Health Systems, previously the parent company of Community VNA, became an independent foundation on September 1, 2021, when HopeHealth became the parent company of what is now called HopeHealth Community VNA.

"The Board of Directors wanted to honor the charitable history of Community Health Systems, which supported a wide range of activities that enhanced the health and wellness of the communities it served," said Paul

Lenahan, President of the newly formed foundation. "They felt that the best way to honor this community legacy was to create a separate foundation utilizing the organization's assets, which stand at approximately \$20M."

The Foundation expects to make grants to nonprofit organizations that support the residents from the towns historically served by Community VNA.

"The Board of Directors of the Foundation, which is composed of four former Board members of Community Health Systems, and eight community members, will soon announce a request for proposals (RFP) for our first round of grants," continued Lenahan. "We are excited to have the opportunity to assist nonprofits addressing the health challenges of the community, as they move forward from the fiscal challenges of COVID-19. Information about the RFP will be added to our website (CHS-

FOUNDATIONMA.ORG) in the coming weeks.

For more information, contact Marlene Roberti, Interim Director, at (774) 203-1304, or email CHSFoundationMA@gmail.com, or visit the website at CHS-FOUNDATIONMA.ORG.

## FISH of Franklin: Volunteers Needed!

FISH of Franklin is an organization that provides rides to Franklin residents who need help getting to their medical appointments. You can help! Volunteers aged 21 and over are needed to:

- Drive Franklin residents to medical appointments; or
- Check phone lines Monday through Friday and match requests with rides.

Each volunteer is asked to commit to one day a month to either drive or manage the phone line.

Interested in volunteering? Call Chris at (508) 553-3023.

Need a ride? Call FISH at (508) 528-2121.

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# Electric Youth 2022 to Debut at THE BLACK BOX

Electric Youth 2022 will debut at THE BLACK BOX on January 8 with two shows at 4:00 and 8:00 pm. The 2022 group of talented young singers and dancers includes Hayley Driscoll, Tatiana McAlpine, Sami Goldman, Abby Settle, Audrey Mingham, Devin DeAngelis, Finley Doherty, John Fitzhenry, Madigan Wirkus, Abby Trombert, Anya Fox, Ashley Peppin, Erin Belger, and Tzintli Cerda. Electric Youth is scheduled to tour again this summer bringing timeless hits and non-stop entertainment to venues across Europe.

Electric Youth delivers high-energy, fully choreographed performances of classic rock, contemporary pop, Broadway, and country hits for audiences of all ages. The American touring ensemble of talented singer-dancers, ages 14-18, is backed by the eight-piece Boston Show Band — world class musicians who've worked with music legends Tony Bennett, Aretha Franklin, Dizzy Gillespie, B.B. King, Diana Ross, The Temptations, Van Morrison and more. Electric Youth is trained at the Franklin School for the Perform-

ing Arts. The group has toured Europe performing in such renowned venues as Vienna's Konzerthaus, Musikverein and Schonbrunn Palace; Sanremo's Ariston Theatre; England's Arundel Festival; Disneyland Paris; and professional theatres in Bristol, London and Windsor. EY has also headlined Fourth of July shows for U.S. troops stationed in Italy at Camp Ederle, Camp Darby, and Aviano Air Force Base. The ensemble has performed on Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Seas, on Fox-TV and WBZ Radio, and at Fenway Park, Gillette Stadium, the Smithsonian Museum Theater, the United Nations and the U.S. Embassy in Vienna. Electric Youth has released six albums,



Collectively, the members of Electric Youth 2022 have performed with Broadway stars, sung the National Anthem for Boston sports teams, been selected to perform at "Broadway Sessions" in NYC, worked with choreographers from *So You Think You Can Dance*, and more. Alumni of Electric Youth have gone on to appear on Broadway, in national and international tours, television, regional theater, feature film, professional dance companies, cruise ships, and more.

including 2014's *Power Chord*, available on iTunes. Last year, EY recorded and released their a cappella single "Always Remember Us This Way" arranged and edited by Jim Hogan of a cappella sensation T.3 (available on all streaming platforms).

Tickets for the January 8 Debut shows are available at [www.theblackboxonline.com](http://www.theblackboxonline.com) or by calling the box office at (508) 528-3370. You can follow Electric Youth on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

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# FSPA Continuing Enrollment and Presenting Student Productions

The Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) has ongoing enrollment throughout the school year. FSPA is a home for performing artists of all ages, abilities, and interests. Founded in 1985 by Director Raye Lynn Mercer, FSPA is a unique place where students can participate in an array of music, dance, and drama programs with professional instruction and extraordinary performing opportunities. FSPA offers programming for students as young as 18 months. Students are able to "discover their FSPA" and take class anywhere from one day a week to six.



students throughout the year. Throughout winter and spring of 2022, FSPA will present all student productions of the hit musical *CATS*, the ballet *Alice in Wonderland*, a play to be announced, and "Excerpts from Great Operas and Choral Works."

Students who wish to attend FSPA for academic classes as well have the option of FSPA Academy. FSPA Academy combines the flexibility of a virtual education with the practicality of a schoolroom, 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.

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. 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. FSPA instructors strive to meet the individual needs of each student, working to develop each student's abilities to their own potential. Violin Instructor Irina Faikichen speaks of the school, "I see FSPA as a second home for many students. Besides all the opportunities this school provides, I love that everybody has so much fun together. Whether in the hallways or classrooms, you can hear music, dancing, singing, and laughter."

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

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*continued from page 17*

you want to attend virtually, email [mgousie@minlib.net](mailto:mgousie@minlib.net)

**Bumbling Through the Hindu Kush: A Memoir of Fear and Kindness in Afghanistan by Author Chris Woolf, Saturday, January 22, 3:00 p.m.**

Chris Woolf was a broadcast journalist with the BBC World Service for 34 years. He worked in London, Afghanistan, southern Africa, but mostly in the United States, where he became the News Editor of public radio's main international news show, "The World." (He was on-air for many years as the show's "History Guy.") His 2021 book, *Bumbling Through the Hindu Kush: A Memoir of Fear and Kindness in Afghanistan* documents his personal experience of war and resilience. Woolf also runs a voiceover company, The Voice Depot, he co-founded here in Franklin in 2018.

**Franklin Public Library Book Club, Tuesday, January 25, 7 p.m.**

The book for discussion is *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, by Rachel Joyce.

For more information, please email [kshipala@minlib.net](mailto:kshipala@minlib.net). Book Club meetings are now taking place both in-person at the Library and on Zoom, at <https://us02web.zoom.us/join?meeting/register/tZ0kduupp-j0oGd1riTUPnGfsy7Qph0W-GxF7K>.

**Knitting Group, Fridays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**

**Take and Make Craft for Adults: Candle Making**

We'll provide votive, wax, wick, instructions and more for a fun pour candle craft for the adult Franklin community. Kits will be available at the Circulation Desk starting Monday, January 3rd.

## Freshen Your Credentials in 2022: Dean College School of Continuing Studies Enrolling for Spring Semester

Start the new year off fresh by pursuing a part-time bachelor's degree, associate degree or certificate program. The School of Continuing Studies at Dean College is currently enrolling for the Spring 2022 semester, which begins on Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

The School of Continuing Studies offers flexible options so you can complete your degree in a way that best fits your schedule. Choose from in person, hybrid or fully online courses that run over a full semester or during an accelerated quarter.

This spring, courses are being offered in Accounting, Business, Cybersecurity Studies, Early Childhood Education, Human Resources Management, Liberal Arts & Studies, Marketing, Psychology and more.

The last day to register for a Spring I course is January 14, 2022, while the last day to register for a Spring II course is March 9, 2022.

To view course times and descriptions and register for classes, visit [www.dean.edu/scs](http://www.dean.edu/scs).

**Save the Date!**

## Franklin Bellingham Rail Trail Committee 5K

**May 7, 2022**

The 11th Annual FBRTC 5K Road Race is scheduled for May 7, 2022. Registration is open! Follow this link for more information: Road Race or <https://www.franklinbellinghamrailtrail.org/event/11th-annual-fbrtc-5k-road-race/>.

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## Calendar

**January 4**

**Rotary Club of Franklin, MA meeting, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**, Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central Street, Franklin, email Diane Padula at [padularotary@gmail.com](mailto:padularotary@gmail.com)

**January 6**

**Dark Journeys: Urban Legends with Jeff Belanger, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.**, Franklin Public Library

**January 7**

**18th Annual Gary Mirliss Memorial Blood Drive, 11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**, 299 Creek St. Wrentham, MA, [https://donor.kraftfamilyblooddonorcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/2793](https://donor.kraftfamilyblooddonorcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/2793)

**January 8**

**Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council 1847 of Franklin Annual Free Throw Contest, registration 3 p.m.**, contest to follow 3:30 p.m., Franklin YMCA, Hockomock YMCA, 45 Forge Hill Road, Franklin, event open to boys and girls aged 9-14 as of 1/1/22. More information through Mike Perkins (508) 446-2865 or [knightsofcolumbus1847@gmail.com](mailto:knightsofcolumbus1847@gmail.com)

**18th Annual Gary Mirliss Memorial Blood Drive, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.**, 299 Creek St. Wrentham, MA, [https://donor.kraftfamilyblooddonorcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/2774](https://donor.kraftfamilyblooddonorcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/2774)

**January 9**

**Franklin Historical Museum Second Sunday Speaker Series: Dennis J. Sardella, PhD, presents "Byzantine and Russian Icons."** Doors open 1 p.m.; presentation 1:15 p.m., 80 West Central St., Franklin

**January 14**

**Franklin Library Book Sale, 1-5 p.m.** All books \$1.

**January 15,**

**Franklin Public Library Book Sale, 9 a.m. to 12 Noon.** All books \$1. Bag sale \$5 a bag 1-4 p.m.

**January 16**

**Happy Birthday, Ben!, 1 p.m.**, Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin, celebrate the birthday of Benjamin Franklin with cake!

**January 18**

**Rotary Club of Franklin, MA meeting, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**, Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central Street, Franklin, email Diane Padula at [padularotary@gmail.com](mailto:padularotary@gmail.com)

**January 19**

**Franklin Newcomers & Friends meeting, 7:30 p.m.**, Upstairs at 3 Restaurant, 461 W. Central St., Franklin, this month is game night, also a collection for the Franklin Food Pantry of the following: shampoo (8 oz-24 oz), conditioner (8 oz-24 oz), disposable razors, hand and body lotion (8 oz-24 oz), liquid hand soap (6 oz-24 oz), Scott's toilet

paper (single WRAPPED roll 1000 sheets), cleaning wipes, all-purpose cleaner spray (32 oz), ajax or comet cleansers. All welcome.

**January 22**

**Bumbling Through the Hindu Kush: A Memoir of Fear and Kindness in Afghanistan by Author Chris Woolf, Saturday, 3 p.m.**, Franklin Public Library

**January 25**

**Franklin Public Library Book Club, 7 p.m.**, selection: *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, by Rachel Joyce.

**January 29**

**A Novel Occasion, 12-2:30 p.m.**, virtual live experience with best-selling authors, Alka Joshi, Gregg Hurwitz, Jamie Brenner, Katherine Center, Kerri Maher, Linda Castillo, Steven Rowley, Vanessa Riley, and Viola Shipman (Wade Rouse). Fundraiser for Friends of Millis Public Library. \$50 tickets at <https://www.anoveloccasion.com/>

**January 30**

**LiveARTS String Quartet, 3 p.m.**, First Universalist Society of Franklin, 262 Chestnut St, Franklin, [www.liveartsma.org](http://www.liveartsma.org).

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# LiveARTS Returns to In-Person Concerts in January

## January 30th Show to Feature LiveARTS String Quartet

After running a successful series of Zoom concerts from April, 2020 through February 2021, we at LiveARTS are very grateful and excited to be resuming IN-PERSON concerts at the First Universalist Society of Franklin, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin, beginning January, 2022!

We kick off our Winter/Spring 2022 series on January 30 with the return of our string quartet-in-residence, the LiveARTS String Quartet, featuring violinists Gregory Vitale, Katherine Winterstein, violist (and LiveARTS Board member) Donald Krishnaswami, and cellist Jan Müller-Szeraws.

Then, on March 13, we continue our series with the return of international concert pianist Michael Lewin. Mr. Lewin was scheduled to perform in-person in April, 2020, and very kindly and with great versatility moved over to the Zoom platform to share his artistry with us. We are



pleased to be able to welcome him back to play for us again -- this time in person!

Finally, in a special FUNDRAISER CONCERT on April 10, our audiences will be treated to the artistry of violinist Nicholas Kitchen and cellist Yeesun Kim, both members of the famed Borromeo String Quartet. They will be joined by pianist (and LiveARTS Board member) Ann Sears. The ensemble will perform an all-Beethoven program. (This fundraiser concert was previously scheduled as a

Zoom event for April, 2021, but was rescheduled to 2022 so we could present these remarkable musicians in person.)

### About LiveARTS:

LiveARTS, a nonprofit, nonsectarian affiliate of the First Universalist Society in Franklin, is supported in part by grants from the Cultural Councils of Franklin, Norfolk, Wrentham, Milford, Norton, Foxboro, Walpole and Mansfield -- local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For

more information, visit [www.liveartsma.org](http://www.liveartsma.org).

### COVID RESTRICTIONS

By order of the Massachusetts Covid Team, masks are required to be worn at all LiveARTS events, whether vaccinated or not. If you are not prepared to

abide by this requirement, please do not purchase tickets.

Also please note that due to current attendance restrictions imposed by the performance venue, a maximum of 75 attendees is allowed at LiveARTS events.

## Franklin Now Offering eBill & No Fee for ACH

The Treasurer/ Collectors office reminds residents that they offer the convenience of online payments through UniPay. Take advantage of some great features including scheduling payments, saving payment information, viewing payment history and setting payment reminders. Best of all, you can now receive your bill, completely paperless!

To pay your taxes have your bill and checkbook or credit card in hand, and then

- 1) Go to: <https://www.franklin-ma.gov/>
- 2) Click on Payments & Permits Tab
- 3) Select the bill you would like to pay.
- 4) Complete each screen to process your payment.

For the residents' convenience, the Town is waiving the ACH fee when paying by electronic check. UniBank, our banking partner, will charge a nominal processing fee for credit card payments. A fee schedule is located on the welcome page for your convenience.

# 2022 CAMP GUIDE

It's never too early to plan for Summer Camp! We all know space fills up fast and parents are looking for all kinds of options — sports, STEM, overnight and day camps and everything in between — and we want to help you promote your offerings. Reach more than 87,000 with our new Camp Guide!

Coming March 2022  
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# Sports

## Vinson A Key Component for Franklin Boys Quintet

By KEN HAMWEY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

It's obvious why Sean Vinson is a captain for Franklin High's basketball team — he's got the right stuff.

The 6-foot-3, 180-pound senior forward is a high-quality leader, has a relentless work ethic, believes in accountability and relies on preparation. The 18-year-old also has passion for basketball, and he does the nitty-gritty things that win games.

All those attributes surfaced last year in the Panthers final game of the Covid-riddled season against Stoughton. That's when momentum said, "I'm on Sean's side."

"I came off the bench, scored 12 points, hit two three-pointers, and grabbed 6 rebounds," Vinson recalled. "I was firing on all cylinders, causing some deflections and getting a block and a steal. We won, 77-67, and that victory enabled us to finish the season with a winning record (6-5). I got a taste of what success feels like after that game, and I also felt like I had built some momentum."

Vinson applies all the valuable qualities he relies on in athletics to the classroom where his intensity and focus translate to a 3.84 GPA. He's a National Honor Society student who participates in SADD, (Students Against Destructive Decisions), DECA (business club) and the Young Investors Club. Planning on majoring in marketing, he's considering attending Providence College, Fairfield or the University of Connecticut.

Before a decision is made on his collegiate venue, the Franklin native will continue to make basketball a high priority. His team goals for the next three months are to not only qualify for the tournament, but also to contend for the state championship. He also lists winning the Kelley-Rex Division title as another objective.

"Improving as the season moves along is very important," Vinson indicated. "We want to

be peaking at the right time. My individual goals are to be an effective and efficient scorer, average about 12-13 points and be a major contributor on defense. To be a league all-star would be great, but the team's welfare remains my No. 1 priority."

Coach C.J. Neely not only likes his captain's approach, but he also admires Vinson's commitment and passion for basketball. He's acutely aware that since all five of last year's starters have graduated, Vinson will be counted on in a variety of ways.

"Sean earned playing time towards the end of last season because he did all the things we needed," Neely said. "He got offensive and defensive rebounds, set screens, took charges, and became a lock-down defender. This year, he's getting scoring opportunities. An unselfish player, he's got a motor that's always running. I never worry about his effort, and I know he'll make a major impact for us this season."

Vinson's strengths are his athleticism, a high basketball IQ, his quickness on drives and an instinctive nature. Passing is another plus. His style emphasizes fast-break basketball on offense and an aggressive nature on defense.

"I like playing quick forward because I can battle with the big guys and also switch to defending guards," Vinson offered. "The position helps me to be more well-rounded."

Now in his second varsity season, Vinson intends to take advantage of his offensive opportunities. His off-season regimen no doubt has been a huge asset in sharpening his shooting touch. "I worked during the spring, summer and the fall on my shooting," he noted. "I played AAU ball, took shots at home, played in the summer league, and dribbled in my basement. I even watched videos."

Being a captain does have special meaning, but he points to Franklin's tourney victory over Natick his sophomore year as his No. 1 thrill.



**A captain, Sean Vinson vows to lead by example and to be supportive of his teammates.**

"I was promoted to the varsity at the end of the regular season," he said. "I didn't play against Natick, but we won a close, exciting game. It was an incredible experience."

Vinson will also be ultra-supportive of all this year's players, especially in his role as a captain. "I'll be exuberant for a player who makes a great play, and I'll also be vocal and communicative," he emphasized. "I'll lead by example, but I'll also hold myself and my teammates accountable."

Two teammates Vinson knows will be top-shelf contributors are senior co-captain Will Tracey and senior Evan Dasilva. Both are guards. "Will is a phenomenal athlete. He was injured last year but we're banking on him to make key plays. Evan is also athletic and he's a dynamic defensive player. He takes pride in facing challenging matchups."

Vinson also admires his parents (Kathleen and Mike), who've been supportive and encouraging. His father has been a force for Franklin basketball. "He started the high school recreation program in 1990, coached teams in the youth league and was president of CYO basketball," Vinson said. "And, he organized a basketball tourney for the Jimmy Fund."

Winning in competitive sports defines Vinson's athletic philosophy.



**Sean Vinson, facing defensive pressure, looks to find an open teammate.**

"Winning is the most important thing," Vinson said. "It's hard to have fun when you lose. Some say that reaching your potential is more important, but I don't put a ceiling on potential. No one should stop trying to excel once they get to a certain level. I want to exceed expectations."

Vinson has learned valuable life lessons through sports.

"A strong work ethic is very important," he said. "Nothing

beats preparation. Sports also help us to be good teammates, to be leaders and to be accountable. Coach Neely has a quote that I strive to emulate. He says: 'act how you want to be remembered.'"

The Panthers and Vinson will be remembered often if their season opener is any indication of what's to come. At *Local Town Pages* deadline, Franklin defeated Canton, 60-52.

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# HAPPY New Year 2022

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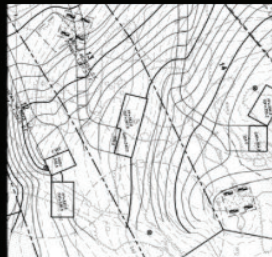


36 Forest St.  
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130 Mechanic St.  
Foxboro

### Active



Amberfields-  
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Wrentham



111 Stone Ridge Rd.  
Franklin

### New

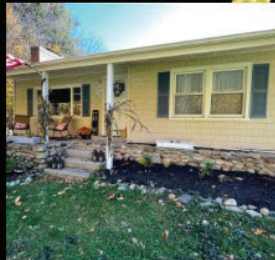


Amberfields-  
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### Sold



462 Pleasant St..  
Franklin



108 High St.  
Plainville  
(Buyers)

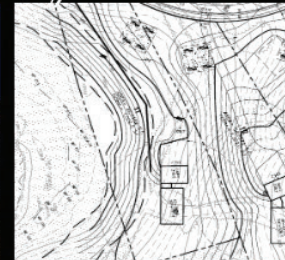


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(Buyers)

### Pending



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# Real Estate Corner

## The Boston Globe Names RE/MAX Executive Realty #1 Midsize Company in Massachusetts!!

RE/MAX Executive Realty is thrilled to be named #1 Midsize Company in Massachusetts!

Our work has a purpose and is meaningful, Helping and caring for others is what we are all about.

While our "work" may be the foundation of RE/MAX Executive Realty, our heart of our organization is our people. We truly believe our agents and our employees are the heart and soul of our company. We are blessed with an amazing group of people who create a culture and an environment of honesty, professionalism, collaboration, generosity, and fun! We are so grateful to have and support each other.

After researching and surveying over 80,000 employees in Massachusetts this past year, the Boston Globe along with Energage (an employee research and consulting company) compiled data and information to create

a list of the Top Places to Work.

RE/MAX Executive Realty was recognized as the BEST place to work in MA for mid-sized companies. WOW...this is a truly an amazing recognition for everyone at RE/MAX Executive Realty.

Thank you to our team at RE/MAX Executive Realty, you make extraordinary things happen every day!

RE/MAX Executive Realty is one of the largest real estate companies in Metrowest. Our award winning professional associates average over 10 years of real estate experience - more than twice the industry average. With extensive knowledge of the home buying and selling process our associates can help you navigate the real estate market in these challenging times. We have 7 offices in the Metrowest area to serve our clients: Framingham, Franklin, Grafton, Holliston,

Hopkinton, Marlborough, and Westborough. Our experience is never far away. To find one of our award winning associates go to our website [www.remax-executiverealty-ma.com/](http://www.remax-executiverealty-ma.com/)



### New SRS Designee

Hillary Swenson Corner with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Commonwealth Real Estate has been awarded the Seller Representative Specialist (SRS) designation, the premier seller agency designation in the country. The SRS is conferred by the Real Estate Business Institute (REBI) and is an official credential of the National Association of REALTORS®. Hillary joins an elite group of real estate professionals from around the world who have earned the SRS designation. All were required to successfully complete comprehensive coursework in seller representation, demonstrate significant seller representation experience and expertise, and subscribe to the REALTOR® Code of Ethics.

Hillary is a long-time Norfolk resident and an award-level sales associate at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Commonwealth Real Estate. She was named a Top Producer by Boston Magazine in 2021. Her other accreditations include Luxury Specialist, Relocation Specialist, and Accredited Buyer Representative. She is a hard-working fulltime agent who offers the highest quality service to all her clients.

SRS is wholly owned by REBI and focuses specifically on representing the real estate seller. Formerly the Council of Real Estate Brokerage Managers (CRB), REBI is a not-for-profit affiliate of the National Association of REALTORS®. You may contact REBI by calling 800-621-8738, e-mailing [info@rebinstitute.com](mailto:info@rebinstitute.com), or visiting REBIstitut



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[emason4234@gmail.com](mailto:emason4234@gmail.com)

"Eileen was such a great choice for our family. She was very dedicated. She did not rush us to make a decision, helped us think through pros and cons of the places we visited, was very available to visit properties with us and was super patient. Extremely professional and on top of everything related to the process. Would recommend her in a heartbeat!"  
*Juliana & Lester*

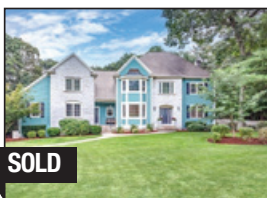
# Happy New Year!



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"I highly recommend Susan Morrison for your realtor needs. As a seller, I found Susan exceptional in her expertise to sell our home. She thoroughly explained every step of the process and was available to us whenever we had questions."  
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SOLD

Susan Morrison

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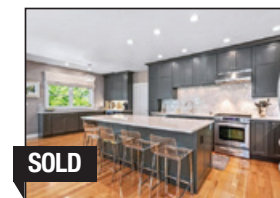
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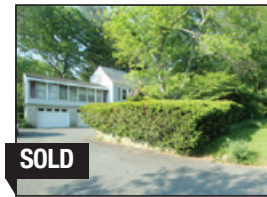
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