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Postal Customer Local

February 2022

Warm Coats, Warm Hearts for Local Vets

By Judith Dorato O'Gara

On one of the coldest days so far of this winter, local veterans were given a little help staying warm.

On Saturday, January 15th, at the Bellingham VFW, Massachusetts State legislators gathered with Bellingham veterans and the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation (www.mmsf.org) to distribute warm winter coats for veterans. Coats were provided by consumers participating in generous sponsorship by the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation. (https:// www.oceanstatejoblot.com/ foundation . Consumers who purchased coats were provided with a Job Lot gift card worth the amount of the donation's value.

"We have a huge veteran population in this area," said Rep. Mike Soter (R-Bellingham). "This is the second year



On January 15th, legislators from neighboring districts worked with the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation to distribute coats to veterans provided by consumers incentivized by a grant from the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation. The event took place at the Bellingham VFW.

From left, Jim Hastings, Rep. Brian Murray (D-Milford), Bellingham VFW Commander Tom Lane, Rep. Jeff Roy (D-Franklin), Nick Paganella, Joe Ebert, Rep. Shawn Dooley (R-Norfolk), Rep. Mike Soter (R-Bellingham), Joe McKenna and Brian Scanlon. John Clancy, center.

we've done it, and I reached out to my colleagues. We had a very short window, but it's

COATS continued on page 4

METG High School Theater Festival at FHS Next Month

By J.D. O'GARA

Next month, on March 19th, Franklin High School thespians will put their techniques to the test right on their own home turf. Franklin High School auditorium will be the location of a preliminary round of the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild's (METG) High School Drama Festival on March 19th. The school has participated since 2014 in the annual festival, a competitive program that typically includes 112 one-act plays produced by member high schools. Franklin has participated in the program since 2014 and last hosted the preliminary round in 2016. This vear, 92 schools will participate, with seven schools each performing a play at Franklin High next month.

"It's been a while since we've been able to host," says drama teacher Skylar Grossman, who points out that about 15 students



FHS Theatre Company students practice the Laban movement technique in preparation for the METG High School Drama Festival. Franklin High School will host the preliminary round for participating area schools on March 19th.

will participate as cast members and 10 more will participate behind-the-scenes as crew. "We won't know which high schools are coming here until February 8th. We are preparing our one-act play called *Cave Dream*, by Alan Haehnel." When *Local Town Pages* met with Grossman, drama students

> **FESTIVAL** continued on page 2



FESTIVAL

continued from page 1

were participating in their first rehearsal for the theater festival, practicing a technique known as Laban movement, based on the teachings of Rudolf Laban (1879-1958), an Austro-Hungarian dancer, choreographer and dance / movement theoretician.

"I chose to focus on movement, because the 10 of them are playing rock creatures, playing these super fantastical characters that require them to produce strong physical and vocal choices," says Grossman. "We're starting with movement work, so they can continue to build their characters through the rehearsal process."

According to the METG website (www.metg.org), schools that advance from the Preliminary Round will compete at the 2022 High School Festival Regionals on the weekend of April 2nd and 3rd. From that round, fourteen Regional Winners will be chosen. Franklin High School made it to the regionals level two years ago, which at the time was known as semi-finals. "This year, due to a (COVIDinfluenced) truncated timeline, preliminaries are going to occur on the 19th, and the shows are adjudicated by upwards of two to three professional experts," explains Grossman. Student plays are judged on acting achievement and technical design and theatre.

"The location of regionals depend on which schools are able to host," says Grossman. In the end, three schools will be chosen according to the highest accolades.

Schools are situated based on masked or unmasked status of the show.

"It's all or nothing," says Grossman. While the nonmasked sites may feature nonmasked performers, he explains, everyone else, including crew members, will be masked.

Grossman explains that there is no monetary prize involved in the METG High School Theater Festival. "It's about honor and achievement, and the FHS Theatre Company eats, sleeps, breathes, loves the theatre festival. It's an opportunity for (students) to not only showcase their own work, but they get to watch



Franklin High thespians are preparing their submission, a one-act play entitled *Cave Dream*, for the upcoming METG High School Drama Festival, with the preliminary round taking place on their home FHS stage.

and experience other schools and their programs and what they can provide. It's so fun, it's educational, and there's a streak of competitiveness. I think that's why my kids love it so much."

The Franklin High School preliminary round is open to the public. Those that attend are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19, and there is a \$10 per show ticket fee, payable at the door, that will benefit METG.

"METG uses their funding to help provide enrichment opportunities for students, professional development opportunities for teachers and help to support scholarship initiatives for students who participate in various competitions and festivals," says Grossman.

The METG High School Theater Festival is supported in part by Cultural Council funds from Massachusetts cities and towns, local agencies which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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Community Ties and a Commitment to Customer Service: Affordable Junk Removal

Business

There are plenty of reasons to call a junk removal service. Maybe you're planning to move and need to clear out the basement and attic before your open house. Maybe you've spent way too much time at home lately and are feeling the need to declutter.

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

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

Jay Schadler started his business in 2003. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with ten trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

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

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

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

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

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

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an anony-



mous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

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

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

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston as well as Resellables, a thrift store in Bellingham. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order



a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything! For more information, contact Jay Schadler at (774) 287-1133 or visit Affordable Junk Removal online at www.takeawayjunk.com.







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Light Up Franklin on New Year's Eve held by BSA Troop 126

took place on Friday, December 31st, 2021, sponsored by the Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks 2136 in Franklin was celebrated to begin 2022 together. The aim of this event was to raise funds in support of the Franklin Food Pantry and the troop through their luminary sale. Luminary kits were sold in sets of 10 that included white bags, votive candles, sand, and instructions. Many of the Franklin residents joined the event and celebrated the holiday season by lining the neighborhood with candle luminaries!

Troop 126 sold 82 luminary kits and donated \$250 to Franklin Food Pantry. Thanks to Franklin Historical Museum for allowing the troop to use their parking lot during kits dis-

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The fundraising event that tribution. We are truly grateful for the support of this town and all who purchased a luminary kit. We look forward to continuing this event for the next year and hoping to donate more to the Franklin Food Pantry! For more details visit the Troop at Troop126Franklin.org or join our Facebook group BSATroop-126Franklin.







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COATS

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for all veterans. We wanted to make sure every veteran who needs (a coat) gets one."

Bellingham VFW Commander Tom Lane remarked that this was the first year the event was held at this location, but when Rep. Soter asked, the answer was an immediate yes, noting the organization was happy to "donate the hall and host it. It's great when you can help another veteran. You come in cold, you go home warm."

Jeffrey Roy (D-Franklin) added that the legislators themselves didn't hesitate to join the cause. "This was a bipartisan effort," said Roy, in order to support veterans in the area.

"It was great to make it so widespread," added Rep. Shawn Dooley (R-Norfolk). Dooley noted that some of his constituents went out of their way to get to Ocean State Job Lot just to participate and donate to the program.

"It made a lot of sense to regionalize this district so we could provide as many coats (to vets) as we could," said Rep. Brian Murray, (D-Milford). "I think it was a great event."

About 46 veterans signed up in advance to receive coats. Due to the extremely cold weather, a number were unable to make it to the Bellingham VFW, and so legislators from their communities planned to deliver the coats to the veterans in their districts.

The legislators also noted that the event often leaves them with some extra coats, and that any veterans who are constituents in their districts and who need a warm coat can reach out to their offices, and they will do their best to get a coat out to them.

Soter explained that the collaboration between his peers at the State House was so successful, they'll look to partner up again with MMSF's Food4Vets program and other initiatives.

Barbara Foley, of MMSF, attended the event and pointed out that Worcester County has 43,000 veterans. Her organization, serving 383,000 veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families who live in Massachusetts, aims to provide programs, services and goods that help satisfy critical needs and enhance their well-being and quality of life. Its website states:

"Each of our programs are designed to have maximum impact on the many issues Veterans and active-duty Military face. We provide solutions that make a longlasting, life-changing difference for these brave men and women."



Your Money, Your Independence

Yes, Backdoor Roth and Roth conversions are still open to all

Recall the news about Congress limiting retirement savings strategies including eligibility for Roth IRA conversions and eliminating Backdoor Roth?

Never mind.

Those were "proposals" in failed Build Back Better (BBB) legislation by the House of Representatives.

Does a revised BBB include the same proposals? Could the Senate remove during negotiations? Possible.

If passed, would it be retroactive for 2022? Very unlikely as a logistical nightmare for HR depts, administrators, IRS, and accountants.

In short, proceed as you were.

Why Roth IRAs?

Roth accounts are comprised of after-tax money and contributions offer no tax deductions.

A Roth offers tax-free growth potential, tax-free income distributions, and has no Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). Recall the government requires Traditional IRAs to have a percentage withdrawn each year after age 72 and made taxable, regardless of need for funds. A Roth should be the last account withdrawn in retirement. Therefore it has the longest investment time horizon and should hold more growth-oriented investments than Traditional IRAs or taxable accounts.

What is a Backdoor Roth IRA?

A legal way around the income limits (\$144K Single or Head of Household, \$214K Married, Filing Jointly for 2022) preventing contributions to Roth accounts. One contributes to a Traditional IRA, then converts to a Roth with tax implications.

What is a Roth conversion?

In moving savings from a traditional IRA into a Roth IRA, the conversion amount is taxed as ordinary income in the year of conversion.

Initially, only incomes (AGI) under \$100K were allowed to do Roth conversions, but in 2010 Congress removed income limits, allowing anyone to do Roth conversions. Ironically, Build Back Better proposed income levels to be put back in place.

Should you do a Roth conversion?

It depends. Beyond your current tax situation, age, goals, and cash to pay taxes, there are several future considerations for analysis:

- Will there be future years of lower taxable earnings to more favorably convert?
- Have you projected your RMDs at age 72 and the resulting new tax bracket?
- Will your state of residence change, if so what changes in taxation?
- Your philosophy of future taxation by governments?
- What are your estate planning wishes?

Other considerations:

The pro-rata rule and taxes. When converting, IRS combines all traditional IRA balances and asks which was nondeductible contributions, to determine what portion will not be taxable. The IRS doesn't allow for choosing to convert only after-tax money.



Glenn Brown

Best to convert at year-end. Reduces range of Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) variables and improves converting to the top of the current tax bracket. **Not all-or-nothing.** You can develop a plan to spread conversions over several years, even skip a year or two as needed pending MAGI levels and ability to pay taxes with non-IRA assets.

Before moving forward, work with your Certified Financial Planner to build your analysis. Once a Roth Conversion is done, it's done, as IRS no longer lets you unwind (recharacterize).

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 Art Association Monthly Meeting. Wed., February 2!

The Franklin Art Association will meet on Wednesday, February 2, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel Mc Cahill Street.

Refreshments and socialization will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The program will feature Beth Newman, who holds a BFA in Illustration from Rhode Island School of Design in 2003, has worked primarily in watercolor, graphic design, and mixed media (collage work), and oil painting in a more illustrative style geared for children's book illustration. She has taught in small art studios including the former Whitehall Farm Studios of Hopkinton (children and adult), independent painting workshops at Bunkhouse Creative of Holliston, and recently at the HCA. She will be discussing and demonstrating her approach to creating her works.

Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, please visit our web site at www.franklinart.org or www. facebook.com/FranklinArtAssoc FAA programs are supported by the Franklin Cultural Council, the Franklin Cultural District and the Town of Franklin.









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"Let's Talk Real Estate," Hosted by Faina Shapiro, Brings Value to Listeners

Weekly Talk Show Airs on MyFM 101.3 Sundays at 9 a.m.

Do you own your home or are you a landlord? Do you rent your home? Are you looking to buy a home? Do you need to fix, upgrade, or insure a home?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you'll want to tune in to "Let's Talk Real Estate," a new radio show airing live Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. on MyFM 101.3. Host and realty professional Faina Shapiro will feature a wide variety of experts in all fields connected to real estate.

"Anyone interested in renovating, selling, refinancing, lender information, if you own a property, are a renter, or are considering become a landlord or buying an investment property, I think you will find some value in this content," says Shapiro. "It will save you money and help you be your own advocate when it comes to real estate decisions."

Educating her clients and her students is what Shapiro does best. Nationally recognized for record-breaking transactions in buying and selling, the winner of the 2021 Chairman Circle Award (2% of all Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Network), 2020 Leading Edge Society Award, and Best of Zillow Agent, Shapiro is also a real estate investor, home stager, landlord and



property manager who serves on the Board of Assessors and Master Plan Committee in her town. A VA-certified, Luxury-Certified, and Certified Buyer Representative, Shapiro has also created a training series on Home Inspections for other Realtors in the industry with a world-renowned real estate trainer. She teaches classes all over Massachusetts in home selling, buying, real estate investing, and property maintenance, with a focus on helping homeowners save money while making the most out of their number one investment.

With her new show, she'll bring that aim and expertise to a broader audience.

Shapiro sees it as her mission to educate with a passion to help people in an industry that is money focused sometimes instead of doing the best for their clients. Featured guests will include lenders, attorneys, contractors, financial advisors, realtors and other professionals, such as home inspectors.

"I teach real estate workshops throughout Massachusetts, and that's how the radio



show came to be," says Shapiro. She'll incorporate substantive guidance from classes she has taught, fueled by her own desire to continuously learn as much as she can about the industry. "We'll produce fun content on buying, selling, investing in real estate, how to be a landlord, tenant laws, just really good information for whatever you want to accomplish in real estate," she says.

Listeners are also invited to submit questions and seek answers to problems they encounter regarding home ownership or the real estate market. Shapiro hopes "to help everyone understand how to be proactive rather than reactive" in the industry.

Shapiro loves a challenge, and this radio show reflects that spark.

"I'm always happy to work with any budget and take that



unusual house and figure out how I can go above and beyond for my clients. It's very strategic. I work as a team with my buyers and make whatever we are trying to accomplish for them effortless and enjoyable for them.

Every single transaction is different, and I take every single one as a privilege and learning experience. They are all of great value to me," says Shapiro. "I think that there's a need for what I'm going to be doing, and I'm really excited and honored to be on MyFM 101.3."

"Let's Talk Real Estate" will be available on SoundCloud and on demand in addition to live at 9 a.m. Sunday mornings. Visit https://myfm1013. com for more information. If you are thinking of selling, buying, or have a show inquiry, topic suggestions, or are a local expert in the Real Estate industry and would like to be featured on the show, please email Faina Shapiro at Faina@Bhhspagerealty.com.

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26 Franklin High School Music Students Accepted, Perform in Mass. Central District Honor Band, Chorus and Orchestra

Twenty-six members of the Franklin High School music program virtually auditioned and were accepted into the 2022 Massachusetts Central District Honor Ensembles, which took place on January 15th, 2022. Twelve of these Franklin High School students received All State audition recommendations. Due to the pandemic, the festival continued to look a bit different this year. Students participated in one virtual rehearsal with the conductor. Students were then tasked with practicing their music and submitting a

recording of their performance. Central Districts will have each part edited into a virtual audio performance.

Accepted Franklin High School students are as follows:

Central District Orchestra: Aadit Bhatia - Violin, Christopher Broyles - Viola, Shreya Choudhury - Violin, Kyle Formato - Cello, Vivienne Loukota - Viola, Jossalyn Mascio - Violin, Patrik O'Brien - Cello, Weylan O'Connell - Bass, Anton Sackley - Percussion, Pritam Sompally -Viola, Sarayu Vijayanagaram -Violin, Leo Yang - Violin **Central District Band:** Adithya Balagurumoorthy - Baritone Saxophone, Karah Bradanese - Clarinet, Thomas Bradley - Trombone, Emma Brown -Flute, Nipun Goel - Trumpet, Derek Halet - Trumpet, Joel Keller - Tuba, Sydney Lincourt - Clarinet, William Olbrys -Trombone, Lola Richardson -Flute, Zachary Simms - French Horn, Maria Zaki - Flute

Central District Chorus: Margaret Diehl - Alto

Central District Jazz Band: Colin Manocchio - Trombone, Ian Richardon - Bass





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 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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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Happy Valentines Day to Me!

BY GINA WOELFEL

It's Valentine's month...Cue the roses, the heart shaped candies and those creepy, last minute, gas station teddy bears.

Whether you're single, taken, married or dating, we all have a Valentine's Day tale to tell. Some are romantic and some are too catastrophic to talk about. I remember one particularly cute Valentine's Day early in my marriage. Our young son was just starting to walk and my husband was working two jobs to get his degree at night. We celebrated late in the evening when he got home with a decadent meal of mac and cheese and a bottle of white zin. This will be our 30th Valentine's Day together. Some have been amazing and a few have fallen flat.

I think it's difficult for two people, on one specific day of the year, to feel so romantically in sync they create a rom-com worthy event. Am I right? Life and circumstance often stand in the way, and quite frankly, the pressure for this day to be perfect is a bummer. A great example is the Valentine's Day dinner. You've made reservations, but you still wait for your table. It's clown-car packed, your dinner arrives cold and dessert is a "molten lava" hockey puck. Your romantic evening's been lost to the utopian idea of how the evening was supposed to unfold.

Let's also not forget that many people love their uncoupled existence and aren't racing to change their Facebook status to "in a relationship". Shouldn't we have the option to choose "In a relationship with myself"? Shouldn't that be the most important relationship in our lives?

I think the Valentine's Day message for 2022 should be "Love Yourself". I know, totally corny (but soo true)!

Here's something to ponder... If you don't love and respect yourself first, how can you give love to others? How can you receive affection and take in all the wonderful things it has to offer if you don't believe you deserve it in the first place?

Let's flip the narrative on this Hallmark Holiday and fall head over heels in love with ourselves! Make a list of your favorite things and GO! Mani/pedi - Check. Movie and takeaway - Check. Luxurious spa facial and lash extensions - Check, check! Go on, kick up your heels with your besties and laugh till it hurts! Soak up the love from all who make you feel warm and fuzzy inside! Valentine's Day shouldn't only exalt romantic love. All love is powerful and poignant and deserves a creepy gas station teddy





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bear, too. Remind yourself how fab you really are and that your special someone is facing you in the mirror!

Treat yourself this month! You're worth it!

*We've decided to extend the Golden Ticket Giveaway through February! January was a challenging month and many of you had to reschedule. You can fill out a ticket at the salon and enter for your chance to win! Winner announced on March 1st. Good luck!

Happy Valentine's Day, everyone!

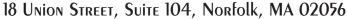


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Commonly Asked Questions

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

When eye drops or laser treatment are unable to adequately lower eye pressure, goniotomy

can be considered. Goniotomy may allow for eye pressure control with or without the use of glaucoma medications. For patients who qualify for the procedure, goniotomy provides an alternative to bleb-forming glaucoma surgeries or tube shunts.

How does goniotomy work?

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becular meshwork). This allows the fluid to leave the eye more easily, and lowers the eye pressure.

What are the steps of surgery?

The surgery is performed in the operating room under anesthesia. The eye is cleaned and numbing medication is applied. An instrument then opens the eyelids. Tiny incisions are made in the front of the eye, and a special lens is placed on the eye to visualize the eye's natural drain. A portion of the wall blocking the drain is removed. An open channel is created, allowing fluid to leave the eye. The goniotomy procedure takes about 20 minutes, but will take longer if performed along with cataract surgery.

What will I feel during and after the surgery?

You may see bright lights during the surgery, but should not feel any pain. You will be discharged with a clear plastic shield over the operated eye. An adult will need to drive you home since you received sedative medications.

What happens to the eye after surgery?

Fluid leaves the eye through the open channel that is created in the eye's natural drain. This lowers the eye pressure, and one or more glaucoma medications may be stopped after surgery.

How often will I be seen after surgery?

You will see your doctor the first day after surgery, about a week later, and a few weeks after that. Depending on how your eye

heals, additional or fewer visits may be needed.

What eye drops will I use after surgery?

Most patients will be asked to use a steroid and antibiotic eye drops. The frequency of the taking the steroid eye drops depend on the amount of the eye inflammation.

Can I stop my glaucoma drops after surgery?

Your doctor will tell you which drops to continue using and how often at each visit depending on how your eye is doing. Sometimes patients are able to reduce the number of eye drops they are taking. Even if you are taking the same glaucoma medications after the procedure, the surgery is a success if your pressure is lower. The need for eye drops long-term after this treatment varies greatly and depends on your type of glaucoma and the rate at which it is progressing.

Will goniotomy cure my glaucoma?

The simple answer is no. Glaucoma is a chronic disease that requires constant monitoring and treatment. The goniotomy procedure will help to lower your eye pressure. However, it will not reverse any loss of vision that has already occurred.

What happens if gonitomy does not work?

Whether or not medications or an additional procedure will be needed after GATT depends on what is considered a "safe"



Living Healthy

New Leadership Team Hired at Franklin Senior Center

This winter, Franklin Senior Center will see some new faces!

The Town has hired Danielle Hopkins as the new Director for the Franklin Senior Center replacing the recently departed Director Erin Rogers. Danielle is coming to Franklin from Atria Senior Living in Hopedale as the Memory Care Unit Director, where she coordinated the daily responsibilities of the unit, including activities, events, meal delivery, and crisis management She has also served as the Chair of the South Worcester County Alzheimer's Partnership for the last four years. Prior to that, she worked as a Music Therapist for numerous for-profit and nonprofit organizations. She has a passion for programs and services that assist the growing challenges the community faces with neurological decline in elders.

Danielle is a 2006 graduate of Franklin High School and is an active member of the Franklin community. She was a swim team member and is now Assistant Coach of the Hockomock Area YMCA (HAY) Forge Park location for almost 12 years.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Therapy from Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania and she is also a certified Dementia Practitioner.

The Town has also hired Christina LaRose as the Deputy Director of the Franklin Senior Center. Christina arrives in Franklin by way of the Foxborough Senior Center/Council on Aging. Christina has worked at the Foxborough Center for the past three years as a Community Services Social Worker and Transportation Coordinator. She helped coordinate the fleet of vans for senior services in Foxborough and hopes to bring that experience to Franklin in the hopes of reestablishing trips and events for seniors in the future. Prior to Foxborough, Christina worked for various social service organizations, including HES-SCO Elder Services, South Shore Mental Health Crisis Team Clinician and South East rehab, as well as serving as a part-time activities coordinator at the Medfield Council on Aging.

Christina has both a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in Social Work from Bridgewater State University. She obtained her clinical license in social work in 2017. She is currently working on her Independent Clinical Social Worker license. She also has certifications in CPR/First Aid, ServSafe, Mental Health First Aid and dementia friendly training.

Please stop by and introduce yourself to Danielle and Christina!

Common Grounds Cafe Update

The Center deeply regrets that the Common Grounds Cafe will be closed until further notice. Due to staffing shortages, COVID-19 cases and some minor building renovations (which have all been affected by the labor shortage), the Cafe will remain closed at least through February.

We deeply apologize for this inconvenience. However, the new staff and Town Administration will be working throughout 2022 to improve operations at the Cafe and believe this temporary break will result in a better and more robust experience when it reopens.

The Center would like to note the Cafe will still be offering hot coffee daily for free and anyone is welcome to stop by and BYOF (bring your own food) if folks still want to gather and socialize with friends.

If anything changes to this schedule of events, the Town will make a phone call to all seniors alerting them of any changes. We greatly appreciate your patience!

Five-Year Strategic Plan

Given the recent staff changes, the new leadership team at the Center and the Town Administrator will be working with the Franklin Council on Aging and Friends of the Franklin Elders on a five-year strategic plan for the Senior Center. The Town has never done a strategic plan for the Center. Now is the time!

The new staff will be leading a series of citizen surveys and listening sessions for seniors and citizens in town to offer feedback about what they would like to see at the Center. This will be your opportunity to offer comments about the activities, programs and ideas that you like and also offer feedback on what could be improved or what is not working.

The Center hopes to begin this process later this winter, so please check back to the senior center newsletter or stop by the Center to inquire. The Center is extremely excited to hear everyone's feedback.

EYES

continued from page 10

pressure for your eye, how much your eye scars, the type of glaucoma you have, and more. After surgery, we will continue to monitor you closely so we can adjust therapy if needed.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, Dr. Kaldawy was among the first surgeons in the area to offer Goniotomy. We perform the procedure in a state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford and closer to home. With this cen-

ter 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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Learn to Cope is a non-profit organization that offers familyfocused peer support for parents and loved ones of those impacted by substance use disorder. LTC offers FREE weekly online ZOOM meetings where members gain education about the disease of addiction, share their

experience as family members, exchange resources and most importantly, share hope.

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Follow us on Facebook, "LTCHope" or Instagram, "l2c_ hope"

ZOOM Meetings Monday -Thursday Weekly, 7-8:30 p.m., (Spanish-Speaking Wednesday) and 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month (National Meeting)

of greater Boston for over 20 years

January 2022 Press Release February at Franklin Public Library

Library Hours

The Franklin Public Library will be closed Monday, February 21 for Presidents' Day. Regular hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 1:30-5 p.m.

Homework Help Program

The Franklin Public Library's free Homework Help program for grades 1-8 takes place Monday-Thursday, 3-5 p.m. Application forms are available at the Circulation Desk and at https:// www.franklinma.gov/childrenteen-services/pages/homeworkassistance-program.

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 by reading and discussing a common book. The featured book is *The 71/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* by Stuart Turton.

The library will be hosting a discussion of the book on Tuesday, March 22nd at 7 p.m.

Special Events for Kids & Families

• Kid's Take & Make: Disney Friend Magnets!

- Starting Tuesday, February lst, pick up your very own Disney Friend Magnet kit! Kits include supplies and instructions. SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED!
- Marble Run Challenge! Tuesday, February 1st - Friday, February 25th

Special program brought to you by our VolunTeens! Register, pick up your kit and complete the tasks to earn materials that you will use to build your very own marble run! Then test your design on the 26th!

- Lunar New Year Scavenger Hunt! Saturday February 5th
- Galentine's Day! Saturday, February 5th @1-3 p.m.

Drop-in and spend some time crafting with your favorite gals! We'll have different crafts and a nail polish station!

- Baby Sensory! Saturday February 19th @9:30 a.m.
- 45-minute baby sensory program! Babies under 2 are welcome and encouraged! (Older siblings can bring along a stuffed toy or baby and play along!)

• Winter Beach Party! Saturday February 19th @10:30 a.m.

Families! Join us as we turn our big program room into an indoor summer oasis! Grab a cold drink and hit the play sand, enjoy beach balls, sand castles, snacks, and groovy tunes!

• Tea Dragon Society Tea Party! Saturday February 19th @3 p.m.

Join us for a celebration of the lovely graphic novel series, including games, crafts, and tea!

- Twos-Day Scavenger Hunt! Tuesday February 22nd Tuesday 2/22/22! Find 20 "22s" hidden around the children's and teen rooms!
- Pumpernickel Puppets! Tuesday February 22nd @10:30 a.m.
- Weekend Wiggles! Saturday February 12th and February 26thth @10:30 a.m.

A weekend storytime for littles and their grown-ups! Ideal for children ages 2-5!

• Stuffed Animal Sleepover! Wednesday February 23rd @6 p.m.

What kind of trouble can a bunch of stuffed animals cause in an empty library? Let's find out! Bring one of your favorite stuffed friends for a cozy storytime, then leave them in our care for the evening!

- Slime Time! Thursday February 24th @1 p.m.
- Marble Run Showcase! Saturday, February 26th @ 1 p.m.

Special Events for Teens

- Teen Take & Makes: Nail String Art!
- Pick up your own kit. SUP-PLIES ARE LIMITED!
- Tea Dragon Society Tea Party! Saturday February 19th @3 p.m.
- Crime Time Mysteries! Saturday February 12th @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 "episodes."

Events for Adults

Take and Make Craft for Adults: Argyle Heart Wreath (one kit per person)

Alice's Ordinary People with filmmaker Craig Dudnick, Tuesday, February 8, 7 p.m.

Alice's Ordinary People is a documentary about Alice Tregay – a woman who refused to stand still for injustice and brought others together to change what was. Her remarkable story spans the historic period from the marches of Dr. King to the election of Barack Obama. The film can be watched for free on Kanopy but it is not required. For more information, please visit imaginevideo.org and click the tab for Alice's Ordinary People. To register, please visit https:// us02web.zoom.us/meeting/ register/tZAvce2prz8iH9fU-F5Y1U8zbml9FFQh9wVdk.

Sen. Edward M. Brooke: the First African American Elected to the Senate, Tues., February 15, 7 p.m.

Local historian Alan Earls, will deliver a slide presentation covering Brooke's fascinating life and, in particular, his role in Massachusetts and his visit to Franklin!

Franklin Public Library Book Club, Tuesday, February 22, 7 p.m. The book for discussion is *The*

Vanishing Half, by Brit Bennett.

Book Club meetings are now taking place both in-person at the Library and on Zoom. To participate through Zoom, please register at https://us02web.zoom. us/meeting/register/tZ0kduuppj0oGd1riTUPnGfsy7Qph0W-GxF7K.

Knitting Group, Fridays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.



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Governor Baker signed An Act concerning genocide education on December 22nd, 2021. Local Rep. Jeffrey Roy (D-Franklin), was lead sponsor of the House bill. 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. It 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, the Genocide Education Project, and over 60 coalition members.

Dean Bank Announces Changes to Board of Directors

and CEO of Dean Bank, in Franklin, announced a number of changes to the bank's Board of Directors following its Annual Meeting on January 12, 2022

Christine Molla of Wrentham, Mass. was elected to the bank's Board of Directors; becoming the first female Director in the bank's 132-year history. Goffe stated, "Christine's contributions to the greater Franklin community are well-documented. She's been a leader in the local small business community as Broker/Owner of Costello Realty for years. Her commitment, her passion for service and her enthusiasm

Kevin R. Goffe, President made for an ideal candidate to serve on the bank's Board. Becoming the first female director makes it all the more impactful. Our customers will be wellserved with the addition of Christine to the Board."

Daniel J. Ranieri of Bellingham, Mass. was elected as the bank's Chair of the Board of Directors. A former member of the Bellingham School Committee and former State Representative, Ranieri has served as a Dean Bank Director since 1994. Goffe stated, "Dan's has been a valued member of the bank's Board for the past 28 years. I congratulate Dan and look forward to working with him in his new role."

Goffe also announced the retirement of Wayne Cottle of Franklin, Mass. from his role as Chair of the Board/Director; ending a tenure of service to the bank and its customers that began when hired as its president in 1976. Wayne retired from the bank in 2014 but remained as a Director; a span of over 45 years of service.

During his tenure, he has focused his energies on advancing the role and responsibility of community banking at the local, state and national levels. A passionate advocate for community banks, Wayne was an active member of the Community Bank League of New England / Mass Bankers Association. He was an active participant in industry affairs and testified on behalf of community banks before both the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Banks and Banking and the US Senate Banking Committee in Washington.

Cottle tirelessly represented community banks nationally as well. He served as National Secretary and Executive Committee member of the Independent Community Bankers of America in Washington. He served as Chairman, Mutual Bank Council and worked with mutual institution executives nationally on issues of concern.

Goffe stated, "Wayne has been the face of community banking in our area for a half

a century. He grew Dean Bank from an institution with about \$5 million in assets and cared for his customers and his community with passion and with integrity. Wayne's positive impact will be felt for many years to come and the bank is better for his presence here. Wayne's oversight and guidance will be deeply missed."

Dean Bank, founded in 1889, is a Massachusetts state-chartered, mutually owned institution with assets approaching \$450 million. The bank has offices located in Franklin, Blackstone, Bellingham, and Mendon. As a member of both the FDIC and the DIF, the bank's deposits are insured in full.

Franklin Garden Club Explores Interior Plant Landscape Design

The Franklin Garden Club will sponsor a program on "Interior Plant Landscape Design" on Tuesday, February 1, at 7 p.m. at the Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill Street, Franklin, MA. The program will be presented by Bellingham resident Jen Kuse, who is experienced in designing indoor and outdoor plantscapes and gardens for both private homes and commercial buildings. She also oversees the highly successful Franklin Food Pantry community garden. The program is open to the public at no charge.

Kuse's presentation will include the following topics: information on the benefits of plants, including tropical plants, the most commonly used interior plants; examples of plants that do the best indoors; conditions and care required for plants; how to deal with common diseases and pest problems; organic methods



for integrated pest management; basic design ideas for the home and office; and where to obtain tropical plants. The program will include an opportunity to obtain plants used in the presentation with proceeds going to the Franklin Food Pantry.

Kuse, a graduate of Dean College, has more than 25 years of experience in designing plantscapes and gardens, primarily through her affiliation with the Interiorscapes Division of Central Nurseries of Johnston, RI

In addition to its monthly programs, the Garden Club supports several service activities including planting and maintaining the Franklin Town Common gardens and the planters at the Franklin Library, sponsoring an annual scholarship, distributing pine tree seedlings in the elementary schools, and sponsoring special projects with other community organizations. The Franklin Garden Club, founded in 1987, became a member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts in 2015. It meets the first Tuesday of the month at the Franklin Senior Center, from September through June. Find Franklin Garden Club on Facebook.



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Dean College to Open New Admissions Visitor Center for Prospective Students

Franklin, MA (January 5, 2022) 7 p.m. Dean College is preparing to open a new Admissions Visitor Center to elevate the college tour experience for prospective students and their families and better accommodate the thousands of visitors who come to Dean each year.

Located at 137 School Street, the new Admissions Visitor Center will offer one central place that makes it easier for visitors to get to Dean, park at the building and be greeted by Admissions staff. The building will host daily campus tours, info sessions, local groups, presentations, admissions interviews and more. Located across the street from the Dean College Children's Center and residence halls, it will also provide a more convenient starting point for the campus tour and improve upon the overall visitor experience offered by Ray House, the current Admissions building.

The Admissions Visitor Center will be staffed Monday through Friday and for weekend events. The building will undergo cosmetic updates and technological upgrades before it opens later this year.

To learn more, visit www. dean.edu.

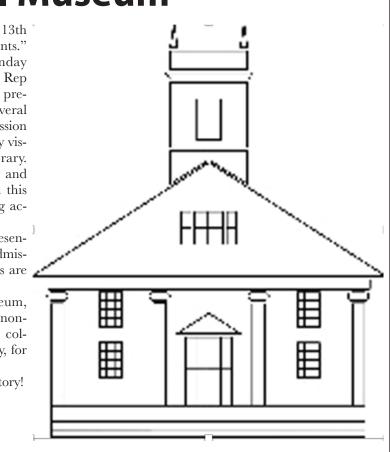
February at the Franklin Historical Museum

Join us Sunday, February 13th for "Love letters to Presidents." This month's Second Sunday Speaker Series features State Rep Jeffrey Roy, with this timely presentation. Over the past several years, Jeff has made it his mission and goal to travel the country visiting each Presidential Library. His travels, his impressions, and his stories will be shared in this educational and entertaining account of his quest.

Doors open at 1 p.m., presentation starts at 1:15 p.m. Admission is always free, donations are always welcome.

When visiting the museum, please consider donating a nonperishable food item, in the collection box in the front lobby, for the Franklin Food Pantry.

Come in and find your history!





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- · Get unmatched instruction by leaders in their respective fields.
- Commuter: \$1,250*
 Overnight: \$1,500*

Pre-college programs available to high school students ages 14+. For those students looking to stay overnight, housing will be provided by Dean College.

DEAN.EDU/SUMMER

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Local Charter School Music Teacher Selected, Performed in Rose Parade

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School is excited to announce that Emily Warren, our Grade Six through Eight music teacher participated in the Rose Parade as a member of Saluting America's Band Directors. Miss Warren applied for the program and was selected to participate in the marching band and will represent Massachusetts and will be playing the baritone.

This was a marching band made up of 275+ band directors from all 50 states, Canada and Mexico. It is the first time in Rose Parade history that a per-

forming group was both a float AND a marching band (all other groups have been either a float or a band) and it was the first marching band of its kind in history.



We were thrilled to see Miss Warren participating in this band, which vas a tribute to band dicectors across the country and paid tribute to the exceptional instruction, character development and inspiration provided by music educators everywhere. The show aired on New Year's Day morning on ABC, NBC, Hallmark Channel, and Univision.

A huge congratulations to Emily!



You can learn more about enrollment at the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School which is currently accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year at www.bfccps.org/ info .

Become a Paramedic Through the Dean College School of Continuing Studies

Passionate about providing patient care and interested in becoming a paramedic? Through the School of Continuing Studies, Dean College offers a Paramedic Training Program in partnership with EMTS Inc.

Through the program, you will learn how to provide the most advanced level of prehospital emergency patient care to acutely ill or injured patients in a variety of settings. You will study an in-depth approach to anatomy and physiology, cardiac treatment and advanced cardiac life support, medication administration, advanced airway management, technical rescue, EKG interpretation and treatment, management of medical and trauma emergencies and more. Students will complete didactic, lab sessions, clinical and field in-



ternships to receive an in-depth education, clinical experiences and practical application.

The Paramedic Training 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.

The Paramedic Training Program will run from May 16, 2022, through April 4, 2023. Classes will be held on the Dean College campus Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., with lab sessions held Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Clinical and field internships will be arranged with EMS services in all areas of Eastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod and the Islands, Metropolitan Boston, and the North and South Shores. Sites will be assigned and coordinated on an individual basis to

accommodate students' various schedules.

Virtual info sessions will be offered from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22 and Wednesday, May 4, 2022.

To learn more, visit www.dean.edu/scs.



To Advertise Call Jen Schofield at 508-570-6544

Franklin Performing Arts Company to Stage NYC Cabaret

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC), Franklin's own professional theater company, will stage a cabaret performance on February 21st at The Green Room 42, one of New York City's most beloved venues, at 7 p.m.

The evening will feature FPAC performers, alums, and guests including Broadway stars Tyler Hanes, Sara Jean Ford, Emily Koch, Jim Hogan, Clay Rice-Thomson, Nyla Watson, Audrey Cardwell, Liz Byrne, and more as they celebrate the Franklin Performing Arts Company at The Green Room 42 in NYC, hosted by Your Broadway Buddy Ben Cameron and directed by FPAC Artistic/Executive Director Raye Lynn Mercer. In-person and live-stream tickets available.

FPAC has a long history of bringing Broadway talent to Franklin for roles in musicals and plays, special concerts, and more. The February 21st show brings the Franklin Performing Arts Company to New York City. The Broadway stars featured in the lineup have all graced THE BLACK BOX stage in Franklin. Tyler Hanes, with 10 Broadway credits, brought his solo show to THE BLACK BOX in 2018 and has frequently taught at the Franklin School for the Performing Arts.

Sara Jean Ford, who starred as Christine in The Phantom of the Opera, also brought a solo show to Franklin and headlined FPAC's "Broadway in Franklin Weekend." Emily Koch (Elphaba in WICKED on Broadway) and Jim Hogan (of viral a cappella sensation T.3) starred in THE BLACK BOX Sings... WICKED with Hogan also bringing his group T.3 to perform multiple concerts.

Clay Rice-Thomson, currently in Moulin Rouge, choreographed FPAC's productions of Mary Poppins and Matilda and performed in Legally Blonde and Christopher Rice's The Tappy Christmas Special: LIVE! alongside fellow February 21st headline Liz Byrne (Baby It's You). Nvla Watson, most recently seen on Broadway in Waitress, visited Franklin last spring to sing Medda Larkin in THE BLACK BOX Sings... Newsies. Audrey Cardwell, currently in the revival of The Music Man starring Sutton Foster and Hugh Jackman, starred as Vivienne in FPAC's production of Legally Blonde.

For in-person and live-stream tickets, visit FPAConline.com. Follow the Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) on social media for updates on upcoming performances. FPAC's homevenue is THE BLACK BOX, located at 15 W. Central Street in downtown Franklin.



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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Tri-County RVTHS Collaborates with NASA HUNCH

TC Students Will Design & Build Wire Ties for International Space Station

Tri-County RVTHS's Engineering major participates in the HUNCH Designing and Prototyping Competition each year and was proud to have three teams of finalists in 2021. Their hard work and dedication was evident to Stacy Hale, HUNCH Founder, when he selected Tri-County as one of the school's to participate in a special project, the designing and building of EVA Wire Ties. These wire ties are used on the International Space Station (ISS) when an astronaut goes on a spacewalk for a repair. Wire ties are wrapped around cable bundles used during battery replacements.

Hale visited Tri-County in November of 2019 to work with the students for three days. During this time students learned the specific and critical specifications required for the wire ties and created a computer-aided design (CAD). The students worked alongside Stacy building, inspecting, and performing quality control measures to ensure each piece was the exact size and shape required.

Tri-County was one of a handful of schools selected throughout the country to work on this project. Our students from the class of 2021 and 2022 manufactured approximately 250 wire ties using an assembly line process. Most, if not all, are currently being used on the ISS.

Hale returned to Tri-County to have a storage locker used in the ISS signed. The honor is used to recognize the hard work and dedication during the manufacturing. The storage lockers are filled with goods that are being shipped up to the ISS and then used to send refuse back to Earth.



The students in photograph 3 from L to R are: Maxwell Rounds (Franklin), Tony Botteri (Walpole), Rick Hamilton (North Attleboro), Stacy Hale (NASA), Tyler McKinnon (Franklin), James Gingras (Millis), Brian Belanger (Plainville)

For rates and info on advertising your business,

please call Jen at 508-570-6544 or email: jenschofield@locaaltownpages.com



Senator Karen E. Spilka Reveals She Suffered Mild Stroke

Following is a recent statement from the Senator's office:

I want to thank everyone who wished me well this past month during my recovery. Your support is greatly appreciated and continues to be a source of strength.

I have advocated for people to share their personal stories my whole career, and so, I decided today to share my experience as well. In mid-November, I was diagnosed by my doctors as having had a mild stroke. My symptoms, a severe headache and nausea, were not the typical signs of stroke. As they worsened, I canceled a planned trip to Washington, D.C. on November 15. The next day, I sought medical care. I returned to working in a remote capacity the following day and have been working with colleagues and staff throughout my recovery. I am feeling stronger every day, and my doctors expect a full recovery within a matter of weeks. I am grateful to the medical professionals I have worked with for their assistance, especially as many have worked tirelessly throughout this pandemic to care for those with COVID-19.

I wanted to share my story today in a televised interview, accompanied by this statement, because I wanted people to see firsthand that I'm doing well. I also feel it would be a missed opportunity not to speak up. I hope that by telling my story, I can help raise awareness about those who have survived and thrived after experiencing stroke, and encourage those who are experiencing symptoms to seek help immediately.

I am proud of what we have accomplished in the Senate and energized by the work ahead to support the residents of our Commonwealth. We have important work to do on mental health care, childcare, our climate and much more. As we move into a new year, I look forward to running for re-election in 2022 and having the opportunity once again to lead the Senate as Senate President.

I would like to thank my family for always being there for me as well as my Senate colleagues, my staff, and my partners in government for their continued support.

Stroke Symptoms

By learning and sharing the F.A.S.T. warning signs, you just

Call 911 if these signs are

might save a life from stroke.

F.A.S.T. Warning Signs:

to spot a Stroke

smile uneven?

downward?

speech slurred?

• T = Time to call 911

Use the letters in F.A.S.T

• F = Face Drooping – Does

one side of the face droop

or is it numb? Ask the per-

son to smile. Is the person's

• A = Arm Weakness – Is one

arm weak or numb? Ask

the person to raise both

arms. Does one arm drift

• S = Speech Difficulty - Is

present

Other Stroke Symptoms

Watch for Sudden:

- NUMBNESS or weakness of face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body
- CONFUSION, trouble speaking or understanding speech
- **TROUBLE SEEING** in one or both eyes
- **TROUBLE WALKING**, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- SEVERE HEADACHE with no known cause

If you or someone near you is experiencing stroke symptoms, act F.A.S.T. and call 911 to seek treatment immediately.

Source: American Heart Association



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FANN Planning Community Action Day

The Franklin Area Nonprofit Network Steering Committee is currently underway preparing for a 'community action day' sometime in 2022. Stay tuned for information on this as it develops. You'll have time to prepare to participate.

Visit www.franklinareanonprofitnetwork.org for updates!



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Column: Senator Rausch's Mid-Session Beacon Hill Review

Senate, I am proud to share several 2021 accomplishments:

Safety for You and Your Family: My priority has been advocating for measures that keep you and your family safe and stable throughout this public health crisis. Last year alone, my team and I worked to be accessible with monthly virtual office hours, senior coffees and two legislative forums and helped more than 500 constituents access government benefits and supports, including unemployment assistance and food security.

In addition to crafting and advocating for school masking legislation and the COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Act, I also worked in partnership with public health experts, community organizations, and legislative colleagues to pressure the Baker administration to implement policies to keep our communities safe and local economy afloat. We achieved universal masking in K-12 schools, paid time off for families and caregivers taking children to COVID-19 vaccinations, implemented a COVID vaccine pre-registration system for mass vaccination sites. and delivered a multi-pronged

As your advocate in the State COVID-19 Action Plan to the Governor.

Safety also means addressing violence and discrimination. We have seen an alarming spike in antisemitism, racism, and xenophobia. It is our collective responsibility to call out hate and injustice. I collaborated with Robert Trestan, Executive Director of ADL New England, to pen a GBH commentary piece explaining the rise in antisemitism within the antivax movement in Massachusetts and our nation. As your State Senator, I have publicly condemned abject acts of hate, offered to engage in constructive dialogue in communities, secured funds toward diversity, equity, and inclusion work in our district, and voted for the Genocide Education Act, now law.

Funding Our Communities' **Recovery:** The Legislature passed a \$4 billion bill to allocate federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to equitably invest in our recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. This bill delivers broad spectrum supports for our communities' health, including mental and behavioral health, housing security, our environment, and workforce development. I secured numerous amendments, including targeted funding to assist women re-entering the workforce, providing posttraumatic stress care for medical personnel, and \$1,000,000 in investments for local housing, transportation, water infrastructure, and other projects in our district.

In the FY 2022 budget, I secured \$500,000 for district projects, a pilot program for a statewide youth mental health support text line, funding for the Department of Public Health to hire personnel with expertise in combatting vaccine hesitancy, funding for New Hope's new domestic violence shelter, and an updated facility for the Attleboro Center for Children.

Legislative Victories: Many bills are moving through their respective committees. Committees must take action on every timely filed bill by February 2, 2022, so expect an increase in floor votes and legislation headed to the governor's desk.

My Senate colleagues and passed comprehensive election reform legislation in October. The bill provides election day voter registration, permanent mail-in voting, improved jail-based voting access, and upgrades to our elections infrastructure. My amendment work elevated issues like ballot drop box ratios and paid time off for voting. We also passed the Mental Health ABC Act to improve access to culturally competent care, boost our Commonwealth's mental health care workforce, reduce barriers to emergency treatment, and more. This month, we again passed a bill to make government-issued IDs more accessible to people experiencing homelessness. These bills await action by the House.

As Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (ENRA), I also worked to pass the law that improves conditions for egg-laying hens while keeping eggs available and affordable.

Moving Forward: There is still much to be done. This session I filed more than 40 bills designed to advance election reform, good governance, public health, reproductive justice, climate action, and intersectional justice and equity. In January, my lead climate action legislation cleared the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy.

It is my great honor to represent the Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex District in the Massachusetts State Senate. Please reach out to me at (617) 722-1555, my email is becca.rausch@ masenate.gov, and you can sign up for a personal office hours appointment at beccarauschma. com/office-hours. My upcoming virtual office hours will take place Monday, February 7 from 5-6 p.m.





Hours: Monday - Thursday: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Friday: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. CLOSED Sunday

Not Just for Newcomers ...

We welcome you to come join your friends and neighbors at the Franklin Newcomers and Friends February Monthly Meeting. Meet us upstairs at "3" Restaurant on Wednesday, February 16th at 7:30. We are pleased to announce that Caleigh Keating will be joining us. Caleigh is the Youth Services Librarian at the Franklin Public Library, considered to be America's first public library. Library Director Felicia Oti may join her. We always look forward to hearing updates on programs and services at both our library and the Minuteman Library Network. This is a great opportunity to learn about this crown jewel in our community.

No need to be a newcomer to the area . . . and no need to RSVP. 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.

Residents of Franklin, or any surrounding town that doesn't have a Newcomers Club, are welcome to join us the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Occasionally, special circumstances may cause us to switch Wednesdays. We run our meetings September through May. We also hold many fun and varied events throughout the year to stay connected. We meet at "3" Restaurant, 461 W. Central Street, Franklin, upstairs in a private room. Hot and cold appetizers and beverages are provided. So come join us on the 3rd Wednesday at "3"!

Look for us on our Meetup and Facebook pages for more information.

https://www.meetup. com/Franklin-Newcomers-Friends https://facebook. com/FranklinNewcomers-FriendsClub

Winter Storm Overnight Parking Ban in Effect through April 15

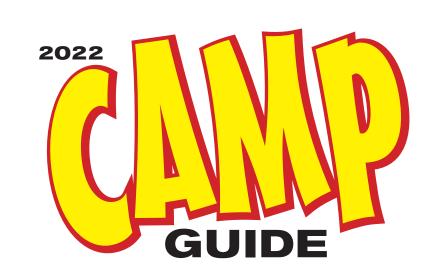
The purpose of the winter storm overnight parking ban shall be to provide for the safe movement of police, fire and emergency medical service vehicles during snow and ice storms and otherwise provide for public safety during winter weather conditions. The parking ban shall also serve to enhance the capability of the Public Works Department to remove snow and ice from the roadways effectively and efficiently.

A winter storm overnight parking ban shall automatically take effect upon occurrence of any of the following:

- Snow, sleet, or freezing rain has fallen, or is imminent.
- The National Weather Service and/or local television and/or radio stations or other media are reporting commencement of snow, sleet, or freezing rain within the local area or are predicting that snow, sleet, or freezing rain will begin in Franklin within 12 hours.

The parking of any motor vehicle within the layout or rightof-way of any public street or any roadway open to the public is prohibited between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. while a winter storm parking ban is in effect. The Franklin Police Department shall enforce the provisions of this article and shall be solely responsible for issuance of tickets and authorization of towing.





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!

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Berry Insurance Donates \$1500 to Franklin & **Bellingham Rail Trail Committee**

Big THANK YOU to Berry Insurance for \$1,500 donation to our committee!

Did you know that for every referral their clients give them, they donate \$10 for charity? This year they collected \$1,500 and we are the lucky recipients. Thank you.



Co-owner of Berry Insurance Chris Pintarich and FBRTC Assistant Secretary Renata Gilarova.

Dean College Announces 2022 Pre-College Summer **Programs**

Dean College will offer two pre-college programs for high school students this summer: Sports Broadcasting and Forensics.

Designed especially for high school students, our pre-college programs offer a great introduction to college life. Students will have the opportunity to learn from experts in the field, participate in unique real-world learning opportunities, and experience activities outside the classroom with fellow students.

Students will also earn college credit for successful completion of the program, as well as get advice on the college admissions process from a Dean College admissions counselor during a free one-on-one consultation.

Two one-week sessions of each program will be offered. The first session will run from July 24-29, 2022, and the second session will run from July 31-August 5, 2022.

To learn more, visit www. dean.edu/summer.



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February 1

Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St.,

Franklin, "Interior Plant Land-

scape Design" presented by Jen

7:30 p.m. Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central St., Franklin, email

Diane Padula at padularotary@

gmail.com if you are interested

February 2

ing, 6:30 p.m. business; 7 p.m.

presentation, Franklin Senior

Center, 10 Daniel McCahill

St., Franklin-and on Zoom at

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82

181910922?pwd=ME9aTGtvR

February 7

Franklin Art Association meet-

Franklin Rotary Club, 5:30-

Kuse.

in attending.

Franklin Garden Club monthly meeting, 7 p.m., Franklin Senior

Calendar



February 15

Franklin Rotary Club, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central St., Franklin, email Diane Padula at padularotary@ gmail.com if you are interested in attending.

Senator Edward M. Brooke: the First African American Elected to the Senate, 7 p.m., presented by Alan Earls, Franklin Public Library

February 16

Franklin Newcomers Meeting, 7:30 p.m., upstairs at 3 Restaurant, 461 W. Central St., Franklin; featured speaker, Caleigh Keating, Youth Services Librarian at Franklin Public Library, hot and cold appetizers and beverages provided. https:// www.meetup.com/Franklin-Newcomers-Friends https:// facebook.com/FranklinNewcomersFriendsClub

February 18

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Franklin Library Book Sale, 1-5 p.m. All books are just one dollar!

February 19

Franklin Library Book Sale, 9 **a.m. – noon,** Bag sale 1-4 p.m.

February 21

Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) cabaret performance at The Green Room 42, New York City, 7 p.m. For in-person and live-stream tickets, visit FPAConline.com.

February 22

Pumpernickel Puppets! 10:30 a.m., Franklin Public Library

Franklin Public Library Book Club, 7 p.m., selection, The Vanishing Half, by Brit Bennett, person at library or on Zoom at https:// us02web.zoom.us/meeting/ register/tZ0kduuppj0oGd1ri-TUPnGfsy7Qph0WGxF7K



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hours, 5-6 p.m., via phone call or video conference, open to residents from any part of the Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex District. Sign up for 15-minute slot at https://www.beccarauschma.com/office-hours

February 8

Alice's Ordinary People with filmmaker Craig Dudnick, Tuesday, February 8, 7 p.m., Alice's Ordinary People is a documentary about Alice Tregay a woman who refused to stand still for injustice and brought others together to change what was. The film can be watched for free on Kanopy prior to the program, but it is not required. To register for the program, visit https:// us02web.zoom.us/meeting/ register/tZAvce2prz8iH9fU-F5Y1U8zbml9FFQh9wVdk.

FSPA Students Learn from Broadway Stars

Over MLK Weekend, students from the Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) were visited by Broadway professionals. FSPA Musical Theater students of all ages took Song Interpretation, Monologue and Scene Work, and Theater Dance classes with Broadway stars at their very own campus in downtown Franklin.

The instructors for this year's Intensive were Carrie St. Louis (WICKED, Kinky Boots, Rock of Ages), Tyrick Wiltez Jones (Hairspray, Finian's Rainbow, Bat Out of Hell), Christopher Rice-Thomson (Hamilton on tour, Book of Mormon, Pretty Woman), Tyler Hanes (CATS, Oklahomal, A Chorus Line, Fosse, and many more). Additionally, the students had a virtual Q and A session with NYC casting director Bob Cline.

and A session with NYC casting director Bob Cline. The weekend concluded with a showcase for the Guest Teach-

ers and FSPA Faculty which was live-streamed to students' families, FSPA alumni, as well as a panel of staff from Broadway Artists Alliance in NYC. From this showcase, some FSPA students will be selected to go to NYC in February to study at the Broadway Artists Alliance Winter Workshop.

"It's a really special place," says frequent FSPA Guest Teacher and Broadway Faculty Member Tyler Hanes who most recently starred on Broadway as The Rum Tum Tugger in the revival of *CATS*. "What is happening here is so unique and really is paving the way for the next generation of artists. It is an honor any time I get to come here and work with these talented students."

The Franklin School for the Performing Arts currently has alumni working on Broadway, off-Broadway, in National Tours, on film, TV, professional opera, ballet and dance companies, cruise ships, and regional theater across the country. In addition to frequently bringing in new industry guests for master classes and intensives, FSPA boasts a yearround roster of FSPA Broadway Faculty. Nine Broadway professionals are available to enrolled students for private coaching via Zoom. Coachings are available for singing, acting, dance, and self-marketing in the theater industry. The FSPA Broadway Faculty includes Ben Cameron, Sara Jean Ford, Tyler Hanes, Jim Hogan, Emily Koch, Kara Lindsay, Kevin Massey, Christopher Rice-Thomson, and Clay Rice-Thomson.

For more information on programs at the Franklin School for the Performing Arts, visit www. fspaonline.com, call (508) 528-8668, or stop by 38 Main Street in Franklin, MA. Enrollment is ongoing and new students are invited to take a complimentary



TOP - the Guest Teachers give notes at the showcase, BOTTOM LTO R: Carrie St. Louis, Tyrick Wiltez Jones, Tyler Hanes, Christopher Rice-Thomson

trial class. Follow FSPA on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

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.





Sports

FHS Hockey Team Striving to Get Positive Results

Panthers' Schedule Is Challenging

BY KEN HAMWEY, Staff Sports Writer

The boys hockey team at Franklin High gets high marks for its efforts as the 2021-22 regular season heads for the finish line.

Coach Anthony Sarno's Panthers, who had a 6-5 record at *Local Town Pages* deadline in spite of a very challenging non-league schedule, are well-positioned to achieve the goals he listed at the start of the campaign.

"Our first objective is to be an opponent that's difficult to play in all three zones," Sarno said. "Then we want to win the Kelley-Rex Division title for the 11th straight season and qualify for the playoffs. We can be the division champs and qualify for the tourney as long as the players continue to pay attention to detail, grow as a team and trust each other."

The Panthers are a young team and they're still in the process of developing and gaining experience. They lost 16 players from last year's team to graduation and Sarno's roster has 14 first-year varsity skaters. But, when it comes to hockey, Franklin has a rich tradition and a penchant for excellence. It's a squad that still has the necessary assets.

"We've got lots of speed and some size," said Sarno, who's in his third year as coach. "Our skating ability is strong and we're skilled. And, I like our physical and mental toughness. As for experience and depth, we're working to improve in those areas. We'll continue to rely on our upperclassmen and their leadership."

The Panthers leadership team consists of six captains. The seniors are forward Dylan Marchand, right wing Justin Magazu, and defensemen Aiden Hunt and Jack MacKinnon. The juniors are left wing Ryan Sicchio and right wing Ben Jarosz.

"Dylan was our leading

scorer last year," Sarno noted.

"He's got speed and he's shifty. A three-year veteran, he's very talented, has a great shot and is a great skater. Justin also has speed and is good around the puck. A strong shooter and skater, he isn't afraid of going into the corners. Aiden has moved from forward to defense. Still learning his new role, he stays within the realm of his skill set, and he's consistent. Jack has been recovering from shoulder surgery. He's our only returnee on defense. Poised and patient at the blue line, he's a skilled skater who moves the puck well."

The junior captains are also key components. "Ryan has an excellent hockey IQ," said Sarno, who previously was Weymouth High's jayvee coach and varsity assistant. "He's wellrounded, instinctive, a very good passer and play-maker. Ben is big, strong and can mix it up in front of the net. Another player with a high hockey IQ, he's got an incredible shot and he can pass and check."

Two seniors — left wingers Christian Shabbick and Dom Lampasona — have experience and some key strengths.

"Christian is a terrific supportive player," Sarno said. "Strong and physical, he can pass and back-check. He sees the ice well and has good awareness. Dom has incredible speed and is always around the net. He's always a threat in the offensive zone."

Goalie Cole Pouliot-Porter, left wing Anthony Lampasona, and defenseman Logan Marchand headline a group of eight sophomores.

"Cole is technically sound, has good instincts, is skilled and continues to improve daily," Sarno said. "Anthony is one of our top scorers. He's strong, shoots with accuracy and is rugged in the corners. Logan is solid on the blue line. He's strong and hits hard. The rest of our sopho-



Franklin High's hockey captains, from left, are Aiden Hunt, Ryan Sicchio, Dylan Marchand, Justin Magazu, Ben Jarosz, and Jack MacKinnon.

mores are developing, getting playing time and becoming key pieces of the puzzle."

Sarno, who relies on a versatile style of play, believes in balancing an up-tempo approach with a possession game. He also believes in scheduling strong non-league games. Franklin's slate includes talented sextets like Catholic Memorial, Malden Catholic, St. John's of Shrewsbury, St. John's Prep of Danvers, Belmont and Hingham.

"Playing strong teams gets us battle-tested coming down the wire," he emphasized. "We want to be experienced for the playoffs."

Winning is important and obviously is a key element in Sarno's athletic philosophy, but he also stresses the need for his players to reach their potential.

"I want our players to develop good habits, and that includes improvement in the classroom," he noted. "I want our kids to become good citizens. And, I hope they learn valuable life lessons from hockey — like overcoming adversity, how to be a good teammate and how to sharpen their leadership skills."

Acutely aware that Franklin's Hockomock League schedule is no walk in the park, Sarno is quick to credit all of the Panthers conference foes, especially King Philip.

"They're all tough opponents," he said. "Whether it's the Davenport Division or the Kelley-Rex teams, it's always a battle. They're well-coached, and there's parity in the league. King Philip is always a formidable challenge because they've got heart, speed and balance."

Sarno's assistants have been effective in ensuring that nothing gets overlooked. They include Mike O'Neil, his jayvee coach and varsity assistant, and his brother Steve. "Mike focuses on the defense and Steve monitors the offense," Sarno said.

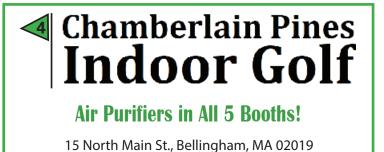
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Since Sarno's arrival, Franklin has continued its winning ways. His first year resulted in a tourney berth that ended in the state's final four. The Panthers defeated King Philip and Natick before bowing out in a loss to Archbishop Williams. Its record that season was 14-8-1 overall. Last year, with COVID-19 in the headlines, the Panthers finished 10-1 and shared the Kelley-Rex title with King Philip. There was no state tourney.

Although there likely will be some challenges ahead, Sarno says: "I'm optimistic we can weather whatever obstacles come our way."

Those obstacles include ultrastrong opponents. And some have already appeared on Franklin's schedule.

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Burning Season is between January 15 and May 1; Permits Required

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Please note that obtaining a permit is not permission to burn on any specific day. You must call the Burning Permit Line (508) 553-5574 in between 9 a.m. and noon each day to see if burning is allowed. You do not need to leave a message.

Visit https://franklinma.viewpointcloud.com/categories/1087 to apply or visit the town website at www.franklinma.gov and visit Franklin Fire Department's page to find the link.

Open Burning Requirements and Responsibilities

Open burning under poor atmospheric conditions can create a smoke nuisance, aggravate health and respiratory conditions. If not done properly and controlled, it can also endanger life, real property, and woodlands. For these reasons, open burning is closely regulated in Massachusetts by multiple regulatory organizations.

Commercial Properties

Burning rules include:

- Brush, cane, driftwood, forestry debris, agriculture-related materials, agricultural land clearing only, and fungus-infected Elmwood are allowed under the following conditions:
- Burning must be at least 75 feet from any dwellings.
- Burning must be carried out between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily. The fire must be extinguished by 4 p.m.
- Burning must begin by noon.
- A water source to control and extinguish the fire must be present.

Burning of the following materials is PROHIBITED and may subject you to revocation of your permit and/or a fine:

- Grass, hay, leaves, and stumps. YOU MAY NOT BURN LEAVES.
- Tires
- Construction materials and lumber
- EACH day of burning, you must
- Call (508) 553-5574 each day in between 9am and noon to see if burning is allowed.
- Have a means of controlling the fire, such as a garden hose, pressurized water pump, shovels and rakes, with sufficient help.
- Attend fire at all times
- Extinguish the fire fully by 4 p.m.

The Fire Chief maintains the right to revoke any permits or to cancel any permits due to high forest fire danger or to deny a permit to any person who he believes will not follow the Open Burning Requirements and Responsibilities or to any person who has violated these requirements in the past.

Safety Tips

- Never use gasoline or other flammable liquids to start a fire.
- An adult must attend the fire until it is extinguished.
- Watch the wind and be prepared to extinguish the fire.
- Don't delay a call for help if the fire gets out of control. Don't hesitate to contact the fire department.
- Select a location away from utility lines.
- Burn one small pile and add to it.
- It is recommended that you burn upon sandy or gravely land free from living or dead vegetation.

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Please be considerate to your neighbors and your surroundings. Creating a nuisance is grounds for permit revocation.



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Recently, Thanks To Yanks a scarfs to me distributed to military families in need. In this pic-Barbara Shain, Michael Shain

Thanks To Yanks and Elaine Kraimer. for more information on Thanks To Yanks, please like them on Facebook.

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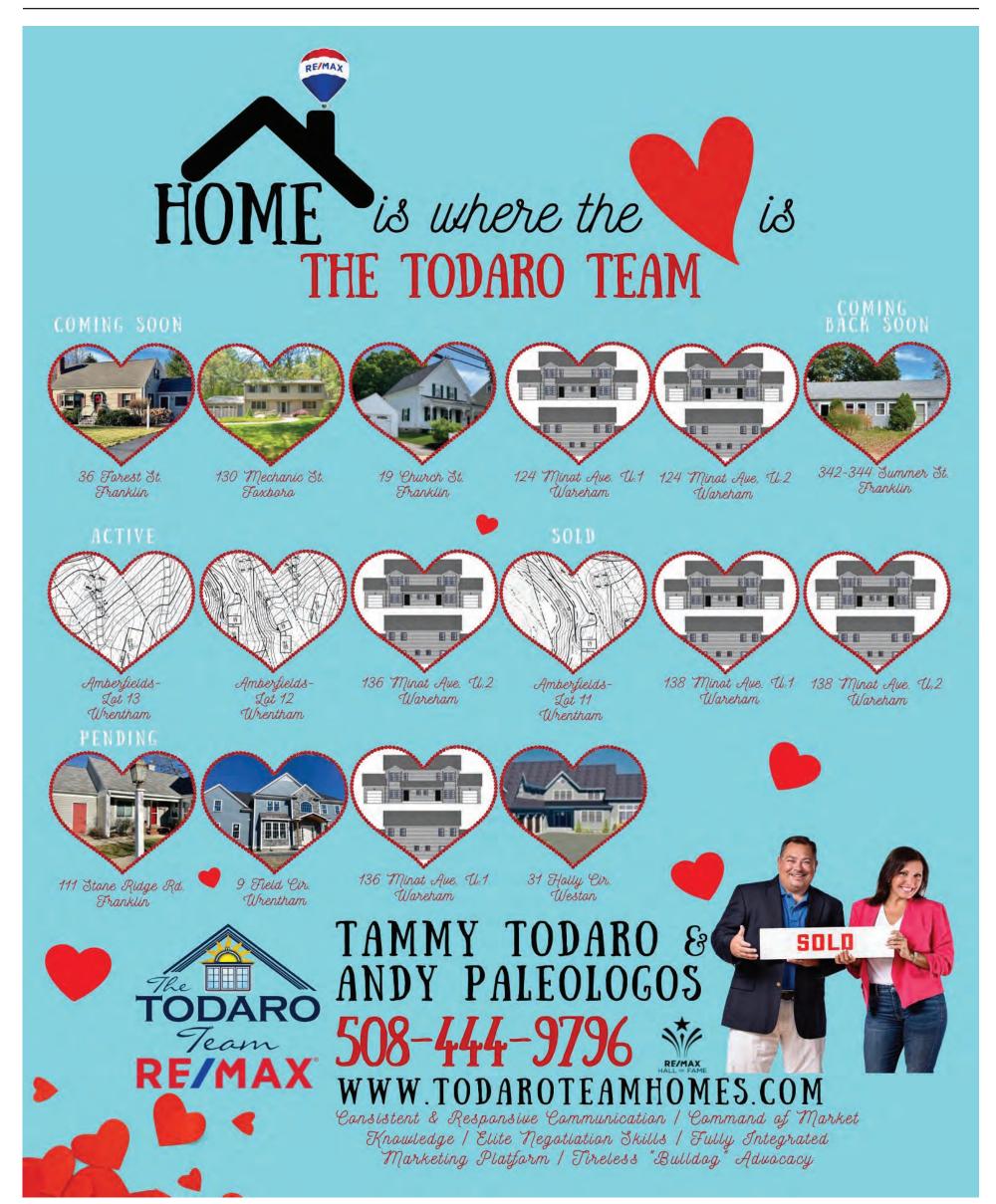
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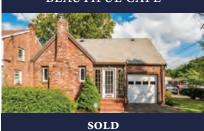


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