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Camp Guide
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pages



Franklin Varsity Cheer will head down to a national competition in Orlando on St. Patrick's Day (March 17th). The states-winning team will give their all in a two-day competition starting March 19th.

Franklin High Varsity Cheer Goes to Nationals this Month

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA
Franklin Varsity Cheer will head to the AmeriCheer

international competition at Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida this month, a move ap-

NATIONALS
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Franklin Senior Center Partners with Mass. Association for the Blind

Low-Vision Program Will Start Back Up on Thursdays this Month



This month, the Low-Vision Program at the Franklin Senior Center will resume on Thursdays, made stronger by a partnership with the Mass. Association for the Blind. Shown, left, is Maggie Gundersen, of the Franklin Senior Center, and Jerry Feliz, of Mass. Association for the Blind.

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Thanks to a grant from the Greater Milford Community Health Network (CHNA-6), the Franklin Senior Center will now

be working with The Mass. Association for the Blind to run its low-vision program. The program and

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NATIONALS*continued from page 1*

proved by the town of Franklin's school committee at the end of January.

"They're super excited, they've worked very hard, and they've been dreaming of going to nationals for a long time. It's not for every team to go whenever they want, but it's because they won the state title," says Karalyn Remillard, Cheer Booster president, who has two daughters on the team. The Varsity Cheer team won the Hockomock League Championship November 7th, followed by a win at states at Worcester State University on November 21st.

The team looks slightly different from the one that won in the fall. In that season, the cheerleaders cheer at football games, and they also compete, doing intense stunting, tumbling and pyramids, for example. The competition, says Remillard, takes it to a higher level in the sport, which falls under the guidelines of the MSSAA. In the winter season,

the cheerleaders cheer at basketball games as well as take part in five competitions.

The last time Franklin Varsity Cheer went to nationals was five years ago. This year, Franklin will go to nationals along with other Hockomock League towns Milford, Attleboro and Foxboro.

"This year, it's just a really good group of kids and the competition was very fierce," says Coach Doni Gill, regarding the state competition. Gill has coached three Franklin Varsity Cheer teams to their wins at the state championship, which, she says, is the biggest personal reward for her.

Gill notes that teams competing at states were all very good. Of the top teams, she says, "All those teams honestly could slip in and win. It's very competitive, but all those teams are right on our heels." Winning, however, "always feels good, not gonna lie," says Gill.

What was even more impressive, says Gill, was that Franklin Varsity Cheer had two injuries the week of the state championship. "We knew we could do it,

and we knew we had to be on our game, but losing those people was rough," she says.

Gill's athletes put in the time to be on top of their game.

"We practice five days a week, with 2-3 hours of practice, working on a two-and-a-half-minute routine compiled of jumps, tumbling and stunts. The girls, also, besides those five days of practice, spend one of those days at a gym facility to work on their tumbling," says Gill.

The competition, she notes, "gives no second chances. You have two-and-a-half minutes to hit, with no do-overs and no start overs. Sometimes it's fantastic; sometimes it's not."

Cheer competition has changed since Gill herself participated.

"It is completely different today," says Gill, who cheered in high school in Maryland in the 1980s, cheered for the New England Patriots Cheerleaders from 1997 to 2002, then coached in Grafton from 2006-2015, taking that team to win six state championships. "I probably wouldn't make the cheerleading team

today," says Gill. "It's just so athletic now, with multiple jumps. Most of my kids are gymnasts, do stunts. The endurance—you have to build." All of her athletes, in fact, run a mile or so before every practice for conditioning.

"A lot of hard work that goes into it that people don't really realize," says Gill, who was grateful that this year's team bonded so well.

"They're just a tight group of kids, they just really get along," says Gill, noting that a lot of them have been together since cheering in Pop Warner or doing gymnastics in their youth. Her captains, Ally Remillard and Shannon O'Duggan (and in the fall, Lindsay O'Brien), have been active in building team rapport with various activities for the group, which spans from freshmen to seniors. They get the team members started and going if Gill needs to work 1:1 with anyone.

"My captains are wonderful," says Gill. "They take charge when things are going bad or going great. Their leadership is really fantastic."

This group of students, she says, puts the work in. Luck has nothing to do with it.

"It doesn't just happen," says Gill. "It's the work they put in at practice, the skills and the players coming together, and choreography helps. (The coaches) clean these routines, try to make it look effortless, and that takes a lot of time."

The team will head down to the competition on St. Patrick's Day (March 17th), with the two-day competition starting March 19th.

"Nationals is a great experience, and it's going to be exciting to compete with other teams in the nation," says Gill, who says she plans to research videos of the teams the group will go up against once she knows exactly who the competition will be. "I think the competition is going to be really fierce, but it's exciting to learn what's out there. I think (the team) can get a lot from that."

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PARTNERS

continued from page 1

its services are available to blind and visually impaired seniors in the greater MetroWest area including Bellingham, Blackstone, Hopedale, Medway, Mendon, Milford, Millis, Wrentham, Norfolk, and Franklin. It is made possible through a grant from the Greater Milford Community Health Network (CHNA-6). This same program has been established and is successful in Natick, Brookline, Worcester, Pittsfield, and Harwich.

“We laid a good foundation,” said Maggie Gundersen, Social Services Coordinator at Franklin Senior Center, who has been a coordinator for The Stella Jeon Assistive Technology Center, or “Low Vision Center,” for about five years, teaching seniors with vision loss about assistive technology there to help them. “We’d taken the program as far as we could, but what I’ve come to find

is that with Mass. Association for the Blind has known all along, visually impaired individuals need to learn technology. Many are resistant, which is understandable, because they didn’t grow up with it, but if they don’t learn it they will get left behind.”

Last month, the Franklin Senior Center welcomed Jerry Feliz, of the Mass. Association for the Blind, who will be an active participant in the new partnership, directly working with seniors who have vision loss.

“Imagine if you’re totally blind, you’ve never used a smart phone before, and you’re just new to vision loss. You can’t imagine how you’re going to be able to read something,” said Feliz. “There is help to navigate those challenging, stormy waters. This is a vibrant, welcoming community, and it’s also a platform for persons with visual impairments to learn from people that have visual impairments,” said Feliz. “A lot of our volunteer trainers are people who are either totally

Blind or have some kind of visual impairment.” This creates a safe environment for people just experiencing vision loss, he says.

“A lot of times, people will come into this environment, and there’s a lack of hope, because they’ve lost the ability to read, to write, to navigate their world,” said Feliz. “They walk outside, they feel lost, but we give them a lot of hope. If you’re willing to learn how to do something a different way, you’re able to regain some of the independence you lost.”

Assistive technology plays a huge role in transitioning to vision loss, says Feliz, “If you can learn how to use it, it’s going to help you to gain a bit more quality of life, in terms of how you access the world,” says Feliz. The educator describes Apple’s innovation in this area as revolutionary to the Blindness community “without hyperbole,” he says. “We’ve taught people how to use GPS to navigate in their communities, communicate effi-

ciently with their devices via text, to make phone calls and access email with their smart devices, how to use optical character recognition, an app that will read a physical document to you.” At least 90% of this training is iOS-based, he says. Clients can also learn how to use gesture-based commands with audio, speech to text and magnification.

“I will be here to provide training for folks,” says Feliz, who says he usually begins with some simple questions and a low vision and CCTV assessment. Starting March 10th, Feliz will be at the Senior Center every Thursday, from 10-2, for one:one appointments. Anyone interested should call the Senior Center for his contact information.

Each Thursday, Feliz will also feature a Zoom presentation on assistive technology from the center, which folks can attend in person if they wish. In addition, a peer support group will meet at 1 p.m. on one Thursday a month, and a guest speaker will speak on alternate Thursdays.

“Jerry will be here as frequently as possible, but we’re going to add a peer support group, led by a mental health counselor, so you can deal with some of the emotional pieces of vision loss, and we will have a guest speaker program every other Thursday,” says Gundersen. “We’re putting you in a position where you’ll know that every Thursday, (seniors with vision impairment) can come here for something,” said Gundersen.

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Less Stress and More Success is College 101's Priority

Did you know that UCLA received 108,000 college applications in 2020 and only 15,000 students were admitted? Getting into college is more competitive than ever, and college debt concerns only add to that stress. College 101 Admissions Consultants are here to help!

Independent Educational Consultants (IEC's) Tracy Sullivan and Maryline Michel Kulewicz, self-described "college nerds," love every step of the college admissions process. They have made it their mission to help high school students and parents navigate the college application process to find the best-fit school so they can flourish in college.

Tracy and Maryline are firm believers that their college experiences changed their lives. From their perspective, a college education is an investment that will pay off for years to come, and it's important that young adults know the value they will be giving their future selves.

Tracy, a 25-year resident of Wrentham, discovered her passion for educational consulting eight years ago while helping

guide her own two children through the process and has enjoyed working with students in her community ever since. Academics are, of course, the primary consideration in the college search process; however, Kulewicz and Sullivan work to ensure that a school is a good match for the student's social and emotional needs as well, which is more important today than ever. It's the combination of all three that makes for a successful transition into college. Interestingly, the number one reason that students transfer is because the social fit was not right for them.

Kulewicz, who is a former Associate Director of Admissions at The Ohio State University and spent the last 20 years as the Director of Admissions & Financial Aid at a private school in Columbus, says that "affordability is a significant piece of the puzzle that we consider from the begin-



ning." Understanding a family's financial circumstances and priorities is important for Sullivan and Kulewicz so that they can provide realistic and affordable college options. Merit scholarships can also play an important role in college financing. The awards can result in a private school being as affordable as the student's home state university.

"We want families to have a financial plan before students receive their acceptance letters. We don't want the families saying in the spring of their students'

senior year, 'How can I afford this?' We want everyone to have realistic expectations early on," says Tracy. The two consultants recommend beginning the journey of self-discovery early. They guide sophomores, juniors, and seniors to develop a personalized college application plan. They offer three main packages. The most popular is the "Comprehensive College Plan" which covers all aspects of the admission process, working with the student until a final college decision is made. As all families have different needs and circumstances, additional packages are available such as "The Best Fit College List Plan" and "The College Essay Plan."



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"Our goal is to relieve stress for families and leave the worrying to us. The process can seem daunting at first, but if you take it one step at a time and celebrate the small accomplishments along the way, you are well prepared to finally hit that "Submit" button without "pulling an all-nighter," says Sullivan.

The consultants cover all aspects of the search and application process with the students. Check out their website to see all of their services! However, one of their favorite tools is the assessments. "Our assessments help a student realize what their natural aptitudes are as well as their personality profile. These tools help them narrow down their choice of a potential major along with possible career paths and projected earnings," says Maryline. "Choosing the right major, one that they are really interested in, can open doors and pave their way to a fulfilling career."

"Our students are really comfortable with us and that's a really good thing," says Tracy, a self-described taskmaster who cheerfully keeps students ahead of their deadlines. "There is a lot of work to do, but you have to take time to say, 'You got your essay done on time, hooray! You got your resume done, yay!' Those are huge accomplishments that build their confidence!"

Finally, partnering with College 101 can free up families and students to enjoy that final year of high school as they deserve to. Contact them today, they are ready to support you and your student on their college search journey!

College 101 has two offices located in Columbus, OH and Wrentham, MA. They offer several packages, with varying levels of assistance. Visit www.mycollege101.com to learn more or reach out anytime via email at contact@mycollege101.com or by phone at (508) 380-3845.

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Franklin For All to Hold Public Forum March 7th

All Invited to Attend In-Person at Town Council Chambers or on Zoom

By J.D. O'GARA

Franklin is comprised of 17 base zoning districts that serve various residential, commercial, and industrial uses. How well are they working to serve residents and foster a vibrant downtown area? A new study underway by the town of Franklin and the MAPC, Franklin For All, is aiming at revamping zoning in the downtown area to “build on Franklin Center’s existing assets and overcome barriers that are preventing the area from fully realizing its potential as a vibrant, mixed-use destination. More people living in a walkable downtown means more spending at local businesses, less car trips and greenhouse gas emissions, and more interactions amongst residents which fosters a strong sense of community.”

Lily Rivera, Marketing and Communications Specialist for Franklin, explains that the Franklin For All project will specifically look at the downtown area.

“The overall concept, focusing on Franklin Center, is rezoning for diverse housing opportunities. If we have a more vibrant town center, we’re going to have a livelier downtown.” Businesses, she says, “want to be where the people are. What changes can we make in zoning bylaws to help expand (economic growth)?”

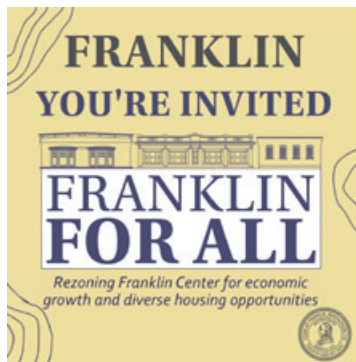
Franklin for All will continue the work of strengthening a downtown area that has a lot going for it. According to the Franklin For All page (<https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/franklin-for-all/#resources>), “Franklin is

fortunate to have a compact downtown with an MBTA Commuter Rail Station, a museum, a performing arts theater, Dean College, and a mix of restaurants and retailers. There are also events throughout the year, including the Strawberry Stroll and the Harvest Festival, that draw large crowds to the area. Significant time and resources have been devoted to enhancing the area with a focus on improving vehicular circulation and safety, increasing emergency response time, improving roadway, fostering a pedestrian environment, improving the overall appearance, and stimulating private sector investment.”

Now, Franklin For All, a three-phase project led by MAPC’s Senior Planner Emma Battaglia, seeks to modify any zoning restrictions that may be holding back the community’s vision for Franklin Center. With a growing population, the town’s recent Housing Production Plan identified the need for new and diverse housing types. Although the town has met its affordable housing requirement, it still needs market-rate and affordable housing to accommodate both downsizing seniors, young professionals, families, and the low-income folks within those groups.

With the first phase of the project, a zoning diagnostic, completed, Franklin For All is now engaged in its second phase, community visioning and the development of proposed changes.

“Four focus groups selected by the town and the MAPC began meeting in January and Febru-



ary,” says Rivera. “They include business and property owners, housing service providers and activists, developers and real estate, and residents who live in downtown area.” Coming up, the entire town is invited to take part in a hybrid forum on Monday, March 7th, at 7 p.m., either in person at Franklin Town Council chambers, or on Zoom. To register, visit [mapc.ma/franklin-forum1-reg](https://www.mapc.ma/franklin-forum1-reg).

The third phase of the project will focus on rezoning the study area based on findings and recommendations.

The Department of Planning & Community Development (DPCD) is providing project management and grant management services, as well as providing MAPC with assistance with gathering information and conducting outreach. To fund the project DPCD applied for and received two State planning grants:

- \$75,000 grant through the Community One Stop for Growth’s new Community Planning Grant Program; and
- \$45,000 grant through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs’ Planning Assistance Grant Program.

Town funds will be utilized as a match for one of the grants, and to provide additional consulting services, including a community survey which was not part of the original scope of work.

You find out more about Franklin For All at the Franklin For All Website at <https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/franklin-for-all/#resources>. You can also sign up at [\[lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/1mpnJfF\]\(https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/franklin-for-all/#resources\) to stay up to date on engagement opportunities and project updates.](https://</p>
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Again, register for the March 7th Franklin For All Public Forum Zoom Session.

here at [mapc.ma/franklin-forum1-reg](https://www.mapc.ma/franklin-forum1-reg). You can also attend in person at Franklin Town Council Chambers, 355 East Central St., Franklin.

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Book Travel Now - Time for Experience Spending

The financial industry, in particular investment management and financial planning, place limited emphasis on helping clients spend money.

There are reasons for this, advisors paid solely by % of Assets Under Management don't want assets taken out, as it results in them earning less. For financial planners, it's easier (and safer) with default emphasis on saving more for distant goals, as spending now during windows of opportunity makes analysis harder and recommendation outcomes realized.

To be fair, there are individuals who spend too much and need help saving for their priorities.

That said, my PSA for those adhering to a financial plan: **Book your travel now.**

If you think inflation in autos, housing and materials are bad, wait a few months to see the surge of pent-up demand flooding the static availability within the travel and hospitality industry.

Evidence is already showing in summer rentals, airfares, hotels, and earnings reports.

For example, Disney's Octo-

ber-December quarter reported \$7.2B in Parks & Experiences division, \$1B more than expected and double the prior-year quarter. And don't think The Mouse fails to understand its pricing power when demand surges.

Yes, the time has come for experience spending with family, friends, and loved ones.

What is Experience Spending?

A concept of having greater value for experiences versus things. Studies find people misjudge what purchases will make them happy, how happy they will feel, and how long that happiness lasts.

Spending money on experiences creates more and longer-lasting happiness than spending on material goods, which people are more prone to comparisons and buyer's remorse. Also, objects tend to deteriorate with time, while experiences can create lasting memories and become part of your identity.

Timing of experiences is critical.

Consider the family vacation to Disney, it is a different shared experience for all going when kids are 6 & 8 versus late teens.

Or the HS senior and family trip you've been meaning to do. What's their availability (and desire) once in college to go on a family trip with mom and dad? That window's closing.

Experience Spending isn't limited to just travel.

Consider having many small pleasures over a few big ones. Saving up for a big purchase is admirable. But in terms of your happiness, is this the best way to allocate finite resources? For many, happiness is more closely aligned to the frequency and variations as opposed to intensity.

Ask yourself if you'd be happier with a few big-ticket items, such as a luxury car, or rather indulge frequently in small purchases, such as cooking clubs, memberships, kid's activities, and spa days?

In closing, it's important to treat yourself and those you love along the journey of financial independence, as those opportu-



Glenn Brown

nities and their impact may not be present later. For many, now is the time to act, expect sticker shock or compromise, and enjoy making new memories.

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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Benjamin Agency Keeps Focus on the Customer

By DAVID DUNBAR

“I went to the Benjamin Agency to switch my car and home insurance from another company to Allstate,” writes Facebook poster John B. “The entire experience was really well done with a friendly and amiable staff in a couple hours. And they handled cancelling my policies with the old company.”

This is the kind of feedback co-owner Cara Benjamin loves to read. She and her mother, Celeste, opened the agency in 2006 in North Smithfield, RI. In 2020, they opened a second office in Bellingham at 72 South



Main Street.

“I tend to focus on the customer and take pride in being engaged and involved with all aspects of the business,” explains Cara. “We’re proud to represent a company that has been serving customers for more than 90 years. At our Allstate agency, we specialize in auto, home, business, life and retirement.”

Business spotlight

The Benjamin Agency has been designated by Allstate as a Premier Service agency and has a 4.6-star rating by its customers.

“Giving great customer service is our top priority,” says Cara. “We do that by making sure the customers know their options, getting customers’ questions answered quickly and accurately, and making transactions easy for the customer. Owners are on site every day.”

Facebook poster Jose G. adds: “We have had a very good experience with this insurance agency. The attention is excellent! We have a home and auto insurance package, and we couldn’t have found better insurance than this! Thanks Cara and family!”

“The most rewarding part of our job is providing life insurance to customers,” says Cara. “Explaining to them how important it is to protect their biggest asset which is future income of a lost loved one. Being there to deliver the life insurance death benefit and watch how the family reacts when they know their spouse/parent/loved one has taken care of them.”

Running the Agency, and staying in close contact with customers, isn’t the only thing Cara does. She’s also involved in the local community. “I volunteer and assist with The Moran-Ven-



Cara Benjamin (left) and her mother Celeste opened The Benjamin Agency in North Smithfield, RI, in 2006 and two years ago opened an office in Bellingham. They offer Allstate insurance including for home, business, life, and retirement.

tre Charitable Foundation and the Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island. I’m overwhelmed with joy when I contribute to helping non-profits bring awareness to a worthy cause.”

When she’s outside of the office, she enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter Mia. “We have a full house which includes a cat, a bunny and our puggle Nina,” reports Cara. “Our love for animals doesn’t end there. We also have chickens and ducks. And when I need to unwind, I enjoy all sorts of gardening, particularly vegetables.”

“One of my favorite things about living in the Northeast,” she says “is the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of nature we

have during all four seasons. There’s plenty to keep me busy at home, but when I have the time, I also like traveling around the country to experience new scenery.”

“We’re a proud family-run agency and we are excited to meet and help families in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. I strive to be a trusted Allstate agent for the community. My staff and I work hard to provide excellent customer service, so customers feel heard. We enjoy making a difference in people’s lives.”

You can contact Cara Benjamin by calling (401) 767-2061.. On Facebook search for Benjamin Allstate agency. And you can find out more by visiting www.agents.allstate.com

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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Revive, Renew and Awaken!

By GINA WOELFEL

We've had some beautiful, spring-like days these past couple of weeks with the kind of weather that makes you want to ditch your winter clothes and get outside. New England's climate is fickle, though. Valentine's Day weekend was a gorgeous 60° for Saturday and a snowy, 32° for Super Bowl Sunday. That's a crazy temperature shift, even for the northeast! Now, I know there's a few of you out there who thrive in this sub-zero climate, strapping snowboards and skis to your feet, only to hurl yourselves down a mountain. To you I say, with a full heart of admiration, to each his own. I'll take my snow by the fire, curled up and cozy and leave the extreme winter sports to the hardier folks.

But as a Bostonian, I do admit, anything above 30° is practically summah, and 60° is downright balmy, so those few sunny days were a pleasant break from this particularly cold and dry season. I normally like to get out and walk, but with so many days in the single digits, I found myself spending much of my time indoors.

If you're like me, some days I don't look up from my computer till well past noon, only to grab a quick lunch, say hello to my family and sit back down again. This past season, those few days be-

came most days and I was feeling stuck and sluggish. It was time for a change, but, as we know, change is difficult. By the end of last year I was feeling uninspired and consciously didn't make any large New Year's resolutions knowing that, far too often, these grand modifications fall flat.

March has always felt like a healthy exhale to me. It's the month we wake from hibernation and feel the first hint of Spring. Each extra minute of sunlight slowly retakes the day and it's warmth nudges Earth into a time of renewal.

2022 felt like the perfect time to make some very small, but monumental changes in my life. I bought a watch. Not an old-school Timex watch, but one that gives me healthy reminders to stand, breath and take mindful minutes. You wouldn't think that this little device could get me out of my winter funk, but it helped. I took those mindful minutes, I stood and stretched and breathed deeply and oddly enough, I started to feel better. I also joined the YMCA and swim two days a week. I try for three, but my goal was two and I've stuck with it.

I've become more cognizant of my screen time and where my focus is. Working in social media and marketing has made this my most difficult resolution, but I'm trying to be more present and enjoy my life past the blue screen.



scan for more info

And lastly, I decided that I want to experience something wonderful every day, every month and every year of my life. Perhaps, I've just been able to mine out a bit more gratitude for the things I already had? I'm not really sure, but I do know that something as simple as the smell of spring feels like a gift and I consider that a wonderful part of my day.

We'd love for you to experience something wonderful this month!

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Franklin Downtown Partnership Announces 2022 Events & Meeting Dates

The dates for Franklin Downtown Partnership events and meetings during 2022 have been set.

The Strawberry Stroll is back for the first time in two years since the pandemic. It is scheduled for Fri., June 10, with a rain date of Sat., June 11. During this year's Strawberry Stroll, the Franklin Downtown Partnership will also be unveiling the Ladybug Cultural & Historical Trail.

The Harvest Festival is set for Sat., Oct. 1, with a rain date of Sun., Oct. 2.

"We are thrilled to be able to bring back both our signature events this year," said Franklin Downtown Partnership Executive Director Lisa Piana. "It takes many volunteers and business sponsors to pull these events together and we're grateful for their assistance."

General meetings of the Partnership are scheduled on April 7,



June 2, Sept. 8 and Nov. 3. Meetings begin at 8:30 a.m., last one hour, and are held on Zoom.

The Partnership works with the Franklin Garden Club to deck out the downtown with seasonal decorations. The 2022 Spring/Summer Beautification Day is scheduled for Sat., May 21. The Autumn/Winter Beautification Day is Sat., Nov. 19. Groups are encouraged to volun-

teer and high school community service hours are available.

Sponsors are needed for the Partnership's 2022 events. Please contact the Partnership office at downtown.franklin@yahoo.com if you're interested in sponsorship.

The Franklin Downtown Partnership invites all Franklin businesses and residents to join the Partnership even if they are not located in the downtown area. Visit www.franklindowntownpartnership.org for more information.

The Partnership reminds residents to shop local to support our Franklin businesses. The Franklin Downtown Partnership is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization made up of more than 350 business owners, community leaders and residents working to stimulate economic development downtown and create a positive impact throughout the area.

Knights of Columbus to Hold Palm Sunday Food Drive April 9 & 10

The Knights of Columbus (Sacred Heart Council, Franklin MA) is holding our annual Spring Fundraiser at St. Mary Church in Franklin, MA for those who are in need. All proceeds will benefit the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The Knights will have a table set up outside the church after Mass on Saturday, April 9th and after each Mass on Palm Sunday, April 10th. They will be selling Stop & Shop gift cards (5% of sale benefits St. Vincent).

In recognition of significant need, we are also suggesting a second way you can share your generosity: by donating one or more of the gift cards you purchased (100%

of donated cards benefits St. Vincent). Simply drop a purchased gift card into the Donation Box.

ONLINE GIVING OPTION: If people would prefer to contribute online, please visit our Website www.kofc1847.org. Online orders will accept Credit Cards. On the website there will be a link(s) to Donate Food Cards - Easter Food Card Drive. (Please note that the website will accept donations for this food card drive from March 3 until Palm Sunday April 10.)

We thank you in advance for your continued compassion and charity for those less fortunate.

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Tax Preparation with Liberty Tax

Local tax professionals help navigate an increasingly complicated system

Winter brings two things to Massachusetts: snow, and tax preparation.

“Everyone can benefit from a tax professional’s help,” says Dawn Porthouse of Liberty Tax in Franklin. “This is true of individuals, but it’s even more true of small businesses.”

Tax professional and local small business owner, Dawn Porthouse opened the Franklin office of Liberty Tax in 2018 and has been helping Metrowest area families and businesses with their taxes ever since.

“It starts with a free consultation to determine a client’s needs,” says Porthouse. “Many individuals and small business owners come to me thinking we just fill out their forms, but then they realize all the other ways a tax professional can help them grow their business.”

For example, Liberty Tax can manage a business’s bookkeeping year-round, or handle payroll.

Porthouse says, “The tax code is not only complex but in the past few years it has undergone significant changes. Because of that, it’s not always apparent what a person or a business should do. Two clients can be similar in income and family size but have very different tax situations, which is why it’s so important to involve an expert.”

Liberty Tax in Franklin offers services that extend well beyond tax season such as IRS transcript monitoring, tax planning, and assistance with federal and state tax issues.

Porthouse says, “When a small business reaches a certain point, the owner wants to focus on growing the business rather than ‘working in’ the business.” Most owners begin by handling the back end work themselves, acting as the bookkeeper and payroll manager. After the first couple of years, bringing in an expert frees up the owner to do what they do best, and follow their passion. That way, their time is spent on their area of expertise, which in turn brings in more income and allows the business to flourish.

Moreover, once a business had grown to the point of hiring employees, the owner needs a plan for handling payroll and dealing with the many regulations from both Massachusetts and the federal government. “Massachusetts makes it complicated,” says Porthouse. “We’ll keep you in compliance.”

Dawn Porthouse has an MBA, MPA, and has obtained her Enrolled Agent (EA) license from the IRS. The EA allows her to represent taxpayers before the IRS. “I worked in the research industry for a long time preparing and managing federally-



funded projects but was looking for something more. While I completed my MBA at Babson College, I started to work for a tax office and found that I enjoyed preparing tax returns and learning about taxes. The main thing I realized is that it’s not just about taxes, it’s about giving individuals and small business owners peace of mind when they fully understand their tax situation.”

When a taxpayer receives a letter from the IRS, before even opening the envelope, panic sets in. Porthouse says, “One of the first things I tell them when they call is to take a deep breath: we’re on their side. I will research the problem, discuss solutions, and then educate them on how to avoid similar issues in the future.”

Staying on the right side of the IRS is in every business’s best interests.

Keeping on top of changing regulations is a challenge in and of itself. “Last year, Congress altered the tax laws right in the middle of tax season. Moreover, those changes were retroactive,



meaning anyone who’d already filed may have to go back and amend their returns. We handled all of that for our clients so they could rest easy. We may be looking at a similar situation this year if Congress passes legislation which includes retroactive provisions such as the Build Back Better bill..”

Since taxes are inevitable, it makes sense to have an ally who can provide a roadmap to help

families and businesses navigate them. Porthouse says, “I educate my clients. I make sure they understand this year’s return and help them plan for next year’s. I’m passionate about helping clients achieve their financial goals.”

For more information, visit Liberty Tax at <https://www.libertytax.com/income-tax-preparation-locations/11369> or call the office at (508) 528-6000.

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Living Healthy

Home Remedies for Simple Eye Problems

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

Many eye problems need an ophthalmologist's medical knowledge. But there are eye problems that you can treat safely at home, as long as they are simple. Here are a few problems that can re-

spond to home treatment, with tried-and-true remedies.

Black eye

You can usually treat a black eye at home. But if there are more serious symptoms of black eye, see an ophthalmologist. These signs include: blurred/

double vision; blood in the eye; or an inability to move the eye.

To reduce swelling and ease pain the first day, apply an ice pack to the eye for 15 to 20 minutes at a time, once every hour. If you don't have an ice pack, use a bag of frozen vegetables or ice cubes wrapped in cloth. The



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cloth protects your skin from freezing. Don't put a raw steak or other raw meat on your eye. Despite what you've seen on television and in the movies, there's no scientific basis for this. In fact, the bacteria in raw meat poses a high risk of infection.

Pink eye (also known as conjunctivitis)

A virus causes most cases of pink eye. These cases don't respond to antibiotics. Viral conjunctivitis will disappear on its own. Have your ophthalmologist diagnose your particular case. Reduce the discomfort of conjunctivitis by applying cool compresses to the eye.

If your conjunctivitis is bacterial, follow your treatment plan. This usually involves antibiotic eye drops. In either case, you should take steps to reduce the chance of passing the problem on to someone else. Conjunctivitis is highly contagious. Follow these tips to prevent the spread: Don't share towels, handkerchiefs or cosmetics. Change pillowcases frequently. Wash your hands often.

Eye allergy and seasonal allergy

Just as you can get nasal allergies, you can get eye allergies that leave your eye red, itchy and teary. Limiting your exposure to the source of your allergy — whether it's pollen, pets or mold — can help relieve symptoms. If you can't remove the source entirely, there are ways to reduce its effect with eye allergy treatments.

If pollen bothers you: Don't use a window fan, which can draw pollen into your house. Wear sunglasses when you go outside.

If dust is the problem: Use allergen-reducing covers for your bed. Use artificial tears, which temporarily wash allergens from your eyes. Use over-the-counter

anti-allergy eye drops to lessen the symptoms.

Stye (also called hordeolum)

While a stye may look nasty, it's usually harmless and goes away within a week. You can treat it at home by running a washcloth under warm water, wringing it out and placing it over your closed eye. When the washcloth cools, repeat the process several times, up to four times a day for at least a week. The heat will help unblock the pores in your eyelash area. Don't wear eye makeup or your contact lenses while you have a stye. And don't pop or squeeze the stye. Doing so can spread infection to surrounding areas of your eye. Shampooing with tea tree shampoo can also help.

Eye strain

Many people have symptoms of eye strain, because of long hours of computer use, reading and driving every day. In most cases, there are simple things you can do at home, work, and while driving to ease eye strain symptoms. These include: resting your eyes, using artificial tears, wearing computer glasses, and wearing sunglasses.

Bags under the Eyes

What we often call "bags under our eyes" is actually sagging skin under the eyes. It is a common complaint, and one that often accompanies the aging process. As we grow older, tissues around the eye gradually weaken and sag. This loss of skin tone allows fat to shift forward into the lower eyelids, making them look puffy and swollen. Fluid can also pool in this area and contribute to the puffy appearance.

Certain home remedies can help lessen or eliminate the puffi-

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EYES

continued from page 12

ness of under-eye bags and the appearance of shadows. Wet a clean washcloth with cool water. Place the damp washcloth around your eyes for a few minutes, applying very gentle pressure. Do this while sitting upright. Make sure you get enough sleep. Sleep with your head raised slightly. Try to avoid drinking fluids before bed, and limit salt in your diet. That can help reduce fluid retention overnight that can lead to bags under your eyes. Quit smoking. Try using makeup concealer to cover shadows under your eyes.

Use Common Sense for Your Eye Health

With any of these conditions, see your ophthalmologist right away if the symptoms worsen or don't go away, or if your vision is affected.

Some eye problems you should never treat on your own.

If you experience any of these, you should seek medical

attention right away: Blurriness. Double vision. Pain in your eye. Serious eye injuries.

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Franklin Downtown Has a Business Growth Spurt

By J.D. O'GARA

Lisa Piana, Director of the Franklin Downtown Partnership, says she is "thrilled" at what she is calling a "business boon" in the heart of Franklin. In fact, six new businesses call downtown Franklin home, and with a new Ladybug Cultural and Historical Trail, and new alleyway murals, there is a lot to discover in downtown Franklin!

Established to foster greater vitality in the downtown commercial district, the Franklin Downtown Partnership (FDP) has been planning for this moment of tremendous growth in the downtown for the 20 years it has been in existence, says Piana. "Over these many years, the FDP has been diligently putting in the infrastructure, working with town officials, improving the streetscape, meeting with builders, and hosting downtown

events," she writes.

Lily Riviera, Marketing and Communications Specialist for the Town of Franklin, also attributes the growth to a few initiatives the town of Franklin took to make the community welcoming to business. Some of the new businesses, in fact were part of the Pop-Up Shop grant initiative.

"I think it was a good way for people to get integrated into the community," says Riviera.

Riviera notes that her predecessor, in fact, created a business guide to help opening businesses in Franklin get to know not only the community, but the various steps they must take to establish their business of preference in the town.

"Obviously, opening a business, there are a lot of different steps," says Riviera. "Anne Marie broke down zoning and more, in a simplified way, guiding them

through a very layered process. That's something that's been a resource."

Riviera also points out that, following a market study the town did with the MAPC, Franklin conducted Business Listening Sessions during the pandemic, to determine how best to help local business thrive. That helped steer the Pop-Up Shop grant initiative, and now the town is working on a Franklin for All study with the MAPC, to more clearly establish a vision for the downtown center and adjust zoning toward this effort. This work helps in the long run, she says. The public is invited to take part in a forum to be conducted in Town Council chambers at 7 p.m. on March 7th.

"These are good tools for businesses to use," says Riviera. "As a business owner, you need to look at ...how unique your business proposal is in the town you're going to operate in. If you're a coffee shop in a town with a lot of coffee shops, it's going to be harder for you."

The new businesses located in the Franklin downtown area include:

- Birchwood Bakery and Kitchen, 17 E. Central St., Franklin, offers breads, salads, baked goods, sandwich-

es, yogurt parfaits and more.

- Briller Boutique, 70 E. Central St., Franklin, will be opening soon and will sell women's clothing and accessories.
- Escape Into Fiction, 12 Main St., Franklin, sells a variety of fictional books.
- Greco Design Co., 2A Main St., Franklin, offers unique home decor items and handmade gifts.
- I Have Coins and Collectibles, 15 Main St., Franklin, carries coins, Pokémon cards, comic books, Star Wars and other collectibles, as well as offers free appraisals.
- Zuzu's Petals & Cafe, 19 Dean Ave., Franklin, is a full-service florist and offers a variety of gift items.

"We really encourage residents to stroll the downtown and appreciate all it has to offer," said Lisa Piana, executive director of the FDP. "Small businesses add so much to our community. We encourage residents to support Franklin businesses and shop local whenever possible."

Escape Into Fiction originally occupied a storefront on the edge of the downtown through

the town's pop-up shop grant initiative last year. "The first time I drove down Main Street and saw the unoccupied storefront at 12 Main Street, I knew that I needed to have it," April Rock, owner of Escape into Fiction. "We really wanted to be in the downtown so we can be part of the entire community, not just on the outskirts."

Rock worked with town officials, business owners and the FDP to secure her new space. "The networking with the FDP helped us continue to stir interest and get people excited about establishing a bookstore in downtown Franklin."

Roberta Trahan, vice president of the FDP and lifelong Franklin resident is delighted to see the growth in downtown Franklin.

"The FDP Mission has always been to develop and support an attractive and vibrant downtown," Trahan said. "The addition of these new businesses, coupled with the support of the many businesses that have been downtown for some time, will continue to work towards this goal. We are so excited for this continued growth!"

For more information about the Franklin Downtown Partnership, please visit www.franklindowntownpartnership.org.

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2022

CAMP GUIDE

How to handle the summer camp questions in the pandemic era

Children make cherished memories at summer camp, where many youngsters first discover passions and hobbies they will enjoy for the rest of their lives.

Summer 2020 was a camp season unlike any other. Some camps closed their doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while others downsized their offerings in an effort to keep campers safe while still providing them with a much-needed outlet. As the 2021 summer camp season approaches,

parents may be a little less hesitant about sending their kids to camp than they were a year ago. The rollout of COVID-19 vaccines has helped millions of people return to some semblance of normalcy, and that rollout has put summer camp back in play for families.

Choosing a summer camp is not always so easy, and it might be especially tricky as the world slowly

continued on next page

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CAMP QUESTIONS

continued from previous page

emerges from the pandemic. The following are some tips for parents as they consider if camp is a good idea this summer.

- Consider your comfort level. It's understandable if parents are hesitant about sending their youngsters to camp this summer. In fact, some camps may still be closed while others may only offer limited day camps this summer. Parents should consider their comfort levels before enrolling kids in camp. Vaccines have proven effective, but COVID-19 hasn't gone away, and some regions have yet to vaccinate teenagers. Vaccines also have yet to be offered to children under 16. Parents can ask themselves how comfortable they are sending kids to camp, and if they're hesitant to do so they can explore their alternatives.
- Ask children if they want to go to camp. Everyone is experiencing some measure

of pandemic-related burn-out, and that includes kids. Kids may be sick of wearing masks at school all day and, even if they have loved camp in the past, may not be looking forward to wearing masks all day at camp this summer. Others might not be experiencing such burnout and may see camp as a way to quell boredom at a time when boredom has seemingly lingered over every day. Either way, solicit kids' input and let them know their feelings matter regardless of which side of the fence they're on.

- Inquire about safety protocols. When researching summer camps, ask about the safety protocols each camp will have in place. Will masks be mandatory for both campers and staff? How much direct interaction will campers have with each other? Have staff members been vaccinated? What measures are being taken to keep kids safe? Camps should have detailed protocols and share those protocols with parents upon request.



- Ask about alternatives. If parents and/or children are hesitant about attending camp in person, ask camp officials if there will be any virtual events or programs this summer. Some camps may be organizing activities like craft projects online, and that can help kids overcome the boredom of being stuck at home all summer.

Summer camps may not be fully back to normal in 2021. However, families likely won't have to go without access to summer camps for the second consecutive summer.

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the **MetroWestYMCA.org**

5 reasons why summer camp is a good choice for kids

Summer vacation offers students a respite from lessons and the routine of school. Children might once have eagerly awaited those final days of classes so they could lounge poolside, skip rocks across ponds and spend the long days



of the season playing with friends. But many of today's youngsters spend much of their summer vacations indoors playing with their digital devices.

Perhaps that's why one of the last vestiges of the classic summer vacation escape — summer camp — remains such a viable option for parents who want their children to get outdoors once the school year ends.

Although kids needn't be in camp all summer long, a week or two can benefit campers of all ages. The following are five reasons why summer camp might be the right fit this year.

1. Explore talents. Summer camps help young people explore their unique interests and talents. Under an organized, yet often easygoing, camp schedule, kids can dabble in sports, arts and crafts, leadership, community support, and so many other activities that may not be fully available to them elsewhere.

2. Physical activity: Lots of camps build their itineraries around physical activities that takes place outdoors. Campers may spend their time swimming, running, hiking, playing sports, climbing, and so much more. This can be a welcome change for kids accustomed to living sedentary lifestyles. Regular physical activity has many health benefits and can set a foundation for healthy habits as an adult.

3. Gain confidence. Day and sleepaway camps offer campers the opportunity to get comfortable in their own skin. Camps can foster activities in self-esteem by removing the academic measures of success and fill in with noncompetitive opportunities to succeed. Campers learn independence, decision-making skills and the ability to thrive outside of the shadow of their parents, siblings or other students.

4. Try new things. Camp gives children the chance to try new things, whether that's learning to cook, exploring new environments or embracing a new sport or leisure activity. Opening oneself up to new opportunities can build character and prove enlightening for children.

5. Make new friends. Camp is a great place to meet new people and make lifelong friends. Campers flood in from areas near and far. This provides kids with a chance to expand their social circles beyond their immediate neighborhoods and schools.

Camps benefit children in a variety of ways. Lessons learned in camp can strengthen values, build confidence, develop coping mechanisms when adversity strikes, and enable campers to make lifelong friends.

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SESSION 1: July 18th – July 22nd, 2022

SESSION 2: August 8th – August 12th, 2022

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Single Session: \$460 (\$440 if you register and pay by 06/01/2022)



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Factors to consider before choosing a summer camp

Adults often look back fondly on their childhood experiences at summer camp. Camps can provide the opportunity to form lifelong friendships and discover rewarding hobbies that can enrich campers' lives for decades to come.

Choosing a summer camp is no small task, as the options at families' disposal range from overnight camps to weekday afternoon camps to camps that specialize in certain programs, such as music or dance. Cost also is likely to factor into families' decisions, as the American Camp Association notes that cost can vary greatly depending on which camp families choose. For example, the ACA notes that the average daily fee at a resident camp is \$85, while the same fee at a day camp is \$43.

When looking for a summer camp for kids, families should make the decision together. Kids should be involved in the selection process, as they're more likely to have an enjoyable camp experience if they had a say in where they will be

spending their summers. The following are some factors families should consider as they look for summer camps, courtesy of the ACA.

Kids' interests

The ACA urges parents to consider the child's interests and personality before choosing a summer camp. Parents might want their children to attend the same summer camp they visited as youngsters, but each child is different. Just because mom and dad liked a particular camp does not mean their children will. The ACA notes that summer camps should align with children's interests and maturity level.

Locale

Locale may only be a consideration for families considering overnight camps. Kids will likely be familiar with the locations of local day camps, but overnight camps might be set in mountain ranges, near the ocean or environments less



familiar to youngsters. Kids who love the ocean might benefit from oceanfront camps that focus on marine biology, boating or other activities involving

the water. In the same vein, youngsters who like camping and hiking might be more likely to embrace camps located in mountainous regions.

Session length

Camps may last as little as one week or up to a couple of months. Session length should be considered by families looking at both local day camps and overnight resident camps. Parents who want their children to enjoy a largely schedule-free summer might not want

to commit their children to lengthy camp sessions, even if those sessions are close to home. If parents think their children can benefit from the same structure they're accustomed to during the school year, then an overnight camp that stretches for several weeks might be what they're looking for.

Summer camps give kids a chance to make memories that will last a lifetime. Choosing the right camp is an important decision that parents and kids should make together.

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MetroWest Visitors Bureau Announces Mini Grant Program

The MetroWest Visitors Bureau (MWVB) announced today that their annual mini grant program is now accepting applications. Designed for marketing projects that will promote tourism in MetroWest, mini grants are available for funds up to \$5,000 each. The MWVB will consider applications for projects devoted to marketing a MetroWest event, attraction, business, service, or cultural or recreational offering.

The applicant does not need to be a 501(c)3 charitable organization but must be based in one of the 19 towns that comprise

MetroWest or be devoted to attracting potential visitors to those 19 towns.

Eligible projects include brochures, print or online advertising, social media, websites, apps, and other print materials. The marketing project must be targeted, at least partially, at potential visitors who live more than 50 miles from the event or business location.

Grant applications can be submitted at www.bit.ly/mini-grant2022 and will be reviewed on a rolling basis from now until April 1. Awarded grant funds

must be spent prior to June 30, 2022.

For questions, or to discuss your project idea prior to submitting an application, please contact MWVB Executive Director Erin Lynch at erin@metrowest-visitors.org.

The MetroWest Visitors Bureau promotes travel and tourism throughout the 19 towns of the MetroWest region: Ashland, Bellingham, Framingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Hudson, Marlborough, Medway, Milford, Millis, Natick, Northborough, Sherborn, Southborough, Sudbury, Wayland, and Westborough. For more information, please visit the MWVB website at www.metrowestvisitors.org.

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March at the Franklin Historical Museum

SECOND SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES MARCH 13 – Chris Woolf

Bumbling Through the Hindu Kush – A Memoir of Fear and Kindness in Afghanistan

What happens when a regular person accidentally finds themselves lost in the middle of a war? In 1991, BBC journalist Chris Woolf travelled to Afghanistan. The government in Kabul was fighting for survival, after the withdrawal of its superpower patron; in this case, the Soviet Union. The parallels to today are extraordinary.

Woolf was visiting a colleague, Chris Bowers, to see what the life of a foreign correspondent was like. They hitched a ride with an aid convoy and bumbled straight into the war. They survived minefields, artillery, armed

robbery. They were trapped in no-man’s land during a battle, and even escaped from detention by the secret police. They kept going, despite the horror and terror. There was no choice.

Amid the darkness, Woolf discovered the generosity and hospitality of ordinary Afghans, eager to share what little they had with strangers in peril. Along the way, they became the first journalists to pass through the battle lines from Kabul to meet with legendary warlord Ahmed Shah Massoud, and carried home a vital message for the peace process. They met with Soviet POW/MIAs and recorded messages for loved ones.



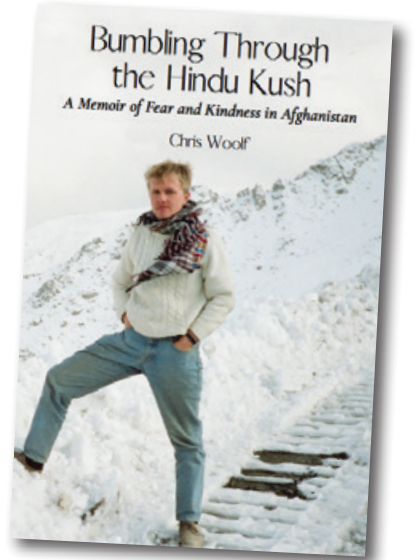
Woolf shares an intimate portrait of first encounters with death and real fear. He explores the lingering effects of trauma, and explains how he put his experience to good use. He introduces just enough of Afghanistan’s history, geography, culture and politics for audiences to understand what was going on around him. He also makes a few comparisons and contrasts between the situation in Afghanistan then and now. Chris’ book by the same title was published in October 2021 and is available in paperback; Kindle e-book; audiobook (narrated by the author).

Doors open at 1 p.m., the presentation starts at 1:15 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum.

When visiting the museum, please bring a non-perishable food item for the Franklin Food Pantry. Admission is always free.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FRANKLIN!

Where are you celebrating your birthday? The Franklin Historical Museum is the place to be to celebrate the 244th birthday of the Town of Franklin. In the midst of our young country’s Revolutionary War, the residents of the western precinct of Wrentham established their own charter and the town of Franklin was incorporated on March 2, 1778. All are welcome to stop in for a piece of cake and catch up on Franklin’s history. Residents sharing the same birthdate have



received special invitations to share their mutual birthday together. All attendees sharing the same birthday as the town will be entered into a drawing for a bank note with none other than Ben Franklin’s photo adorning it! The fun starts at 1 p.m., Sunday March 6th with the drawing held at 1:45.

This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum. When visiting the museum, please bring a non-perishable food item for the Franklin Food Pantry. Admission to the museum is always free.



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On a Mission to Combat Veteran Suicide

BY GRACE ALLEN

After three military friends killed themselves in one month, David Campisano knew he had to do something. In April of 2020, the Army veteran and former Norfolk resident started 22Mohawks, a non-profit committed to raising awareness around veteran suicide.

Campisano served his country from 2001 to 2016, and after his honorable discharge he returned home and slipped back into civilian life. He was one of the lucky ones. Since the global War on Terror began in 2001, over 60,000 American soldiers have died in combat. While that number is stunning enough, it's eclipsed by the number of military veterans who have committed suicide in the same time frame. By some accounts, it's close to 120,000. On average, 22 veterans commit suicide each day.

"Veterans are trained not to ask for help. They're trained to suppress emotions and not show weakness because there's this stigma," said Campisano. "You're



From left, David Campisano, the founder and president of 22Mohawks, with Stacey Coyne, the organization's CEO, and Mike McGee, the first veteran to receive a dog through 22Mohawk's Pups for Vets program. Photos courtesy of 22Mohawks.

in the military, you get hurt and you're in pain but you're not going to tell anyone and you drive on. And that actually works very well when you're in the military. But when you get out, that doesn't work anymore. Some of the most A-type, hard-charging

people I know took their own lives."

22Mohawks began with a few events to gather veterans together in an effort to provide support and create community over shared experiences. But after the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan last year, Campisano was inundated with calls from veterans having difficulty processing the end of the war. He decided to create a website to get more visibility for the organization, and also to announce that he would help veterans get emotional support dogs as quickly as possible. There is a two-year waiting list for a dog through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

"The website went up and within two days we got a phone call from a veteran asking for a dog," recounted Campisano. "He was in bad shape, so I went to the local shelter, bought a dog, and drove it to his house."

That veteran was Michael McGee.

"22Mohawks sprang into action after I reached out to them," said McGee, a Marine Corps veteran now living on Cape Cod. "The days were getting harder and harder to fight through, but because of their intervention, today I feel confident in my ability to keep fighting on. They helped me understand that it's okay to reach out for help and their generosity and selflessness has given me

a new outlook on life."

22Mohawks partners with Professional Canine Services in Middleboro to provide free lifetime training for the dogs, which Campisano gets from area shelters. Since September of 2021, 22Mohawks has placed on average one dog a week with veterans through its Pups for Vets program. If a dog is available, any vet that needs one will get it at no cost within 24 hours. (There can be up to a three-week wait if dogs are not available.) Veterans are responsible for the dog's medical bills and food, although 22Mohawks provides the first week of food for free.

Campisano and his team are working with local VA offices to become the first point of contact for veterans returning home after a tour of duty. Their goal is to provide support for vets in any way possible, although suicide awareness and prevention remains the organization's primary focus.

Rachel El Massih, the Public Relations Director for 22Mohawks, said Campisano is always taking phone calls from veterans he doesn't know, and often they simply want someone to talk to who understands what they're going through.

"Dave doesn't have a clinical background," said El Massih. "He's just a fellow veteran and I think that makes a difference for people. And that's what we want veterans to know, that we're just a phone call away, providing peer-to-peer support."

22Mohawks will help veterans navigate the mental health system, too, if they want or need more support than the organization can provide. Vets are often referred to a direct contact at Home Base, a Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital program dedicated to healing the invisible wounds of war for service members and veterans of all wars. There is no cost for services provided by Home Base.

There is also no cost for the yearly events 22Mohawks holds for veterans, which include a NASCAR racing experience, a tandem parachute jump, and a firearm safety certification course. Veterans are chosen by lottery to attend.

The goal of the veteran-focused events, according to Stacey Coyne, 22Mohawks' CEO, is to create social connections and camaraderie while providing an out-



Coyne and Campisano, along with Allyson Shean, right, the Pups for Vets program's Lead Ambassador, with a pup recipient.

let for veterans and their families to express themselves.

"We are family-based and we encourage veterans to bring their spouses and children," Coyne said. "Because it's not just about the veteran. The spouse may not understand what the vet is going through and maybe these events will help them see the challenges their spouse is facing."

22Mohawks also holds fundraisers open to the public, with the proceeds going towards the organization's Pups for Vets program, as well as to the yearly veteran-focused events. Upcoming fundraisers include an open skate night on March 26 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Skating Club of Boston in Norwood, as well as a trivia night on April 8 from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Norwood Elks.

Campisano and his senior leadership at 22Mohawks hail from Millis, Franklin, Walpole, Norwood, and Wrentham. And while the organization is currently Massachusetts-based, Campisano will try to help any veteran who needs support.

"We want veterans to know that there's a group of people that can be there for them for anything," he said. "If they're having a bad day, they can call us and we'll have a conversation and maybe they'll realize it's not actually a weakness to reach out. We all get sad and we all get depressed. So let's talk, because we don't want anyone else dying by their own hand."

To contact 22Mohawks, call (617) 680-9852 or (781) 251-9212. Campisano can also be reached via email: dave@22mohawks.com.

Visit the group's website at <https://22mohawks.com> for more information about the organization, including upcoming fundraisers and events for veterans, or to make a donation. Their online shop has gear available for purchase to help raise awareness about the organization and veteran suicide.



A recipient of the Pups for Vets program with Campisano, Charlie Young (rear), and Patrick Martin. Young and Martin of Professional Canine Services provide life-time training for the dogs.

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Not just for Newcomers . . .

We are pleased to announce that Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator, and Dr. Sara Ahern, School Superintendent, will be speaking at our March meeting. Our town budget, construction, commercial and residential development are just some of the topics that Jamie will address. There's also a lot going on in the school system for Sara to discuss.



Franklin Newcomers and Friends March Monthly Meeting. Meet us upstairs at "3" Restaurant, 461 W. Central St., Franklin on Wednesday, March 23rd at 7:30, one week later than our usual 3rd Wednesday of the month. Hot and cold appetizers and beverages are provided. No need to

There will be no shortage of topics. Come bring your questions! It's an informal meeting and a great opportunity to practically have a one-on-one conversation with these community leaders.

We welcome you to come join your friends and neighbors at the

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. We run our meetings September through May, typically meeting the 3rd Wednesday of the month. We also hold many fun and varied events throughout the year to stay connected.

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

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

Franklin Art Association Monthly Meeting March 2

The next Franklin Art Association monthly meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2nd at the Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St, Franklin.

Our guest demonstrator will be acclaimed artist Dave Kaphammer, who has been painting in pastel for about 18 years. Kaphammer is a signature member of the Pastel Society of America, the current President of the Pastel Painters Society of Cape Cod (PPSCC), and a Master Circle member of the International Association of Pastel Societies (IAPS).

"Strong light and cast shadows can make the most ordinary scenes appear magical to me. Late afternoon light breaking through trees, reflecting off water, bouncing off cars, or streaking across a snowy landscape – makes me happy and hopeful. That delightful feeling is what I try to convey in my work."

Plan to join us for what promises to be an exciting evening of art.

The meeting will also be live-streamed on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7298884226>.

Ash Wednesday and Ash Sunday at St John's

Join us for the traditional Ash Wednesday service on March 2nd at 7 p.m. for imposition of ashes and the beginning of a holy Lent. Or, for a family-friendly version the following Sunday, March 6th at 10 a.m.

St John's Episcopal Church, 237 Pleasant Street, Franklin

For more information:

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Dean College Children's Center Now Enrolling for Fall 2022

The Dean College Children's Center, a childcare program that has served families in Franklin and surrounding communities for generations, is now enrolling for Fall 2022.

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

Personalized tours following all health and safety protocols are also now available. Masks and proof of vaccination are required. Parents of children ages 2.9 through 6 years old are encouraged to bring their child

to explore the school and learn more about our program.

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

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

Dooley to Run for MA State Senate in Newly Created District

State Representative Shawn Dooley (R-Norfolk) announced today that he will seek election to the Massachusetts State Senate this November for the newly created Norfolk, Worcester, and

Middlesex District. He currently represents the 9th Norfolk District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and the new Senate district will encompass all but one precinct from his current House seat.

Representative Dooley was first elected to the 9th Norfolk in a special election in January of 2014 and has since been re-elected four times. Shawn lives in Norfolk with his wife, CiCi Van Tine, a family law attorney who currently serves as the Chair of the Town of Norfolk's Select Board. They have 4 children. He also serves as an on-call Firefighter/EMT with the Plainville Fire Department.

The Dooley for Senate campaign launched their new campaign website www.Dooley4Senate.com as well as a campaign kick-off video "People Not Politics."

The cities and towns of the newly formed Norfolk, Worcester, and Middlesex Senate District include: Bellingham, Dover, Franklin, Medfield, Milford, Millis, Needham, Norfolk, Plainville, Sherborn, and Wrentham.

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://](https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary)

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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 Hopedale | Medway/Millis | Natick
 Norwood | Norfolk/Wrentham

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.

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Seeks Artifacts, Oral Testimonies & Requests for Research of Families' Fates from NE Residents

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum will present a live virtual program, "Preserving Holocaust History: Collecting Artifacts and Researching Fates," for New England residents on Wednesday, March 9th, from noon to 1 p.m., as part of its ongoing efforts to rescue the evidence of the Holocaust.

"Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19

pandemic, the Museum is in a race against time to collect Holocaust artifacts and oral testimonies," Ross said. "The Museum is now focusing its efforts within the New England region and is offering specialized one-on-one appointments for people interested in donating artifacts or researching their family history."

Immediately following the March 9th program, the Mu-

seum will offer participants the opportunity to schedule personal appointments to discuss donating artifacts to the Museum, contributing oral testimony, or requesting assistance researching family fates.

To RSVP for this free program, advance registration is required:

ushmm.org/events/new-england-collections

FPAC to present *The Drowsy Chaperone* starring Broadway's Ben Cameron and Emily Koch

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC), Franklin's own professional theater company, will present *The Drowsy Chaperone* starring Ben Cameron and Emily Koch March 12-20 at THE BLACK BOX.

Ben Cameron (Broadway's *WICKED* original cast, Footloose, Aida) stars as Man in Chair alongside Emily Koch (Broadway's *WICKED*, *Waitress*) as the title character. With choreography by Clay Rice-Thomson (Broadway's *Moulin Rouge*, *King Kong*, *Newsies*, *Matilda*), the star-studded production also features Nick Rehberger (Broadway's *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Glass Menagerie*) as Robert, Sam Seferian (Broadway's *Pretty Woman*) as George, Ali Funkhouser as Janet, Nick Paone as Aldolpho, Paul Rescigno and Robbie Rescigno as The Gangsters, and Kaley Were as Kitty along with an ensemble of local talent including apprentices from the Franklin School for the Performing Arts. The production will be directed by Raye Lynn Mercer with musical direction by Hallie Wetzell.

Winner of five Tony Awards, including Best Book and Best Original Score, *The Drowsy Chaperone* is a loving send-up of the Jazz Age musical, featuring one show-stopping song and dance number after another. With the house lights down, a



man in a chair appears on stage and puts on his favorite record: the cast recording of a fictitious 1928 musical. The recording comes to life and *The Drowsy Chaperone* begins as the man in the chair looks on. Mix in two lovers on the eve of their wedding, a bumbling best man, a desperate theatre producer, a not-so-bright hostess, two gangsters posing as pastry chefs, a misguided Don Juan, and an intoxicated chaperone, and you have the ingredients for an evening of madcap delight.

FPAC's *The Drowsy Chaperone* runs March 12-20 at THE BLACK BOX in Franklin, MA. Masks will be required for all patrons, regardless of vaccination status, except while actively eating or drinking. Tickets available at THEBLACKBOXonline.com or by calling the box office at (508) 528-3370. THE BLACK BOX is located at 15 W. Central St. in downtown Franklin, MA.

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March at the Franklin Public Library

Book Sale

Franklin Library Book Sale

Friday, March 18, 1:00-5:00 p.m. Saturday, March 19, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

All books are just one dollar!

Bag Sale - \$5 A Bag—Saturday, March 19, from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Come fill a brown bag with all the books you can!

One Book, One Community Winter 2022

The Franklin Public Library is having a Winter 2022 One Book, One Community program to bring the community come together through the reading and discussing a common book. We'll be reading *The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* by Stuart Turton. Please visit our One Book, One Community webpage to learn more. The library will be hosting a discussion of the book on Tuesday, March 22nd at 7 p.m. For more information, please contact Assistant Library Director Kim Shipala at kshipala@minlib.net. Book Club meetings are now in-person at the Library and on Zoom. To participate through Zoom, please register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81111111111>.

Special Events for Kids & Families

March Madness Character Challenge!

Our favorite characters are competing again in the hopes of being crowned Franklin's Favorite Character! 2018 - Harry Potter; 2019 - Gerald and Piggie; 2020 - Dog Man; 2021 - Curious George; 2022 - Who will win? Only YOU can decide!

Kids Take & Make: Pot of Gold!

Starting Tuesday, March 1st stop by and pick up your very own Pot of Gold Kit. SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED!

Tape Town! Saturday, March 5th @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.

Baby Sensory! Saturday March 19th @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!)

Rainbow Scavenger Hunt! March 14-19!

Can you find all of the colors of the rainbow hidden around the children's and teen rooms? Find every color to win your own pot of gold!

Encanto Fiesta! Saturday March 19th @10:30 a.m.

Families! Join us for a special fiesta celebrating the film, family and casita everyone is loving lately!

Weekend Wiggles! Saturday March 12th and March 26th @10:30 a.m.

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

Kids Paint Party! Saturday March 26th @1 p.m.

Join local instructor Denise Palmieri for this step-by-step paint party specifically for kids! All materials provided, but space is limited! Register on our website to reserve your spot. For Ages 5-11!

Special Events for Teens

Teen Take & Makes: Chalk Boards!

Teens! Starting Tuesday, March 1st stop by the library to pick up your very own Chalk Board kit. SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED!

Python Problem, Saturday, March 5, 2 p.m.

A Python challenge to: Learn some new expressions, Code new applications, or Fix broken code.

Crime Time Mysteries! Saturday March 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."

As You Wish: An Interactive Princess Bride Viewing! Saturday March 19th @3 p.m.

Join us for a special viewing of a cult classic movie, complete with props and snacks and interactive fun!

Teen Paint Party! Thursday March 31st @5 p.m.

Teens! Join local instructor Denise Palmieri for this step-by-step paint party for teens! All materials provided and you'll get to take home your very own Owl painting! Ages 12+

Events for Adults

Take and Make Craft for Adults: Macramé

Kits will be available starting March 1st at the Circulation Desk. Supplies are limited. One kit per adult.

Creativebug database

Love crafting? Check out the CREATIVEBUG database! Available to Franklin residents with a valid Minuteman Library Network library card.

Celebrating Ireland in Story & Song, Saturday, March 5, 3 p.m.

Celtic music with 'Celebrating Ireland in Story & Song'. Phil Edmonds (originally from County Clare), is an (alleged) leprechaun

who plays the tin whistle and button accordion. Kevin Fallon (by way of county Roscommon and Mayo) is a soulful guitarist, fiddler and singer. Mary King (Up Donegal & Cavan) joins in with the fiddle, Celtic Harp and voice. She also teaches a beginning Irish step 1/2 hour before the program. This program is in-person, free, and open to the public. For more information, visit <https://marykingharpist.com/celebrating-ireland/>.

Indoor Seed Starting with Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens, Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m.

For more information, visit <https://www.blackstonevalleyveggiegardens.com/>.

Before Brooklyn: The Unsung Heroes Who Helped Break Baseball's Color Barrier with Author Ted Reinstein, Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 p.m.

In April of 1945, exactly two years before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in major league baseball, liberal Boston City Councilman Izzy Muchnick persuaded the Red Sox to try out three black players in return for a favorable vote to allow the team to play on Sundays. The Red Sox got the much-needed vote, but the tryout was a sham; the three players would get no closer to the major leagues. It was a lost battle in a war that was ultimately won by Robinson in 1947

Computer Confluence Saturday, March 19, 3:30 p.m.

Basic Computer skills for the digital age! If you have a topic you would like covered at a future program please email mgousie@minlib.net with suggestions.

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Franklin Receives S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE Awards from State for Fire Education

The Baker-Polito Administration has announced that 234 municipal fire departments will receive \$1.8 million in grant funding to support fire education programs for children and older adults across Massachusetts.

Fire departments in 227 communities will receive Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) and Senior SAFE grants; one community will receive a S.A.F.E. grant only; and six communities will receive Senior SAFE grants only. Franklin Fire Department will receive \$6,275 as a S.A.F.E. grant to teach grades K-5 fire safety lessons and for 8-10 visits to the technical high school teaching various aspects of fire prevention, as well as \$3,255 as a Senior

SAFE grant for senior center presentations and home visits with smoke/CO alarm installations.

“The Department of Fire Services’ S.A.F.E. grant program continues to make effective fire safety education available to hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts kids,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “Thanks in part to these grants, Massachusetts has raised a generation of fire-safe families and we are glad to continue those efforts with today’s awards.”

The average number of children dying in fires annually has dropped by 78% since the S.A.F.E. Program began – a decline almost 30% greater than the decline in fire deaths over-

all. In light of that success, the Department of Fire Services launched the Senior SAFE Program to provide firefighters with funding to deliver fire safety education to older adults, who face a disproportionate risk of dying in a fire.

The S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE programs are funded through legislative earmarks to the Executive Office of the Public Safety & Security, and they are administered by the Department of Fire Services. A full list of recipient department and their awards can be found here. For more fire service grant opportunities, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/grants-for-fire-departments>.

Rausch to be receive award at Progressive Mass Gala



State Senator Becca Rausch (D-Needham) will be among a handful of honorees at this year’s Progressive Mass Gala on March 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Rausch represents the Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex District which includes the towns of Bellingham, Dover, Franklin, Medfield, Milford, Millis, Needham, Norfolk, Plainville, Sherborn, and Wrentham.

Progressive Massachusetts (“Progressive Mass”) is a state-wide, member-driven grassroots organization committed to fighting for a vision of shared prosperity, racial and social justice, good government, and environmental sustainability in Massa-

chusetts.

Keynote speakers at this year’s virtual event will be U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, and Rev. Rahsaan Hall.

This year’s honorees include Rausch, Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia, Worcester School Committee Member Tracy O’Connell Novick, and Massachusetts Voter Table Executive Director Beth Huang.

To register for the gala, visit <https://www.progressivemass.com/2022gala/>

For more information on Progressive Mass, visit www.progressivemass.com

Franklin Resident to Participate in Boston Online Art Show

Boston’s Society of Arts & Crafts launches their 2022 programming with a new exhibition in the popular “CraftBoston Online” format. “CraftBoston: Pins + Needles” opens online and is fully shoppable here on the Society’s website from March 4, 2022 through April 17, 2022.



The show features almost 80 national artists bringing intricate techniques and unexpected materials to all kinds of wearable art, including pins, brooches, scarves, and jewelry. One participating artist is a Franklin resident:

- **Kate Jones** received a BFA from Massachusetts College of Art and Design, studied at Parsons, and has lived in Massachusetts for thirty years. She is currently the Department Chair of Visual Art for Medfield Public Schools. Kate’s work merges biological and mechanical forms, and she’s inspired by clean lines.

Visit societyofcrafts.org for more information about the show.



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FSPA Ballet Conservatory to hold annual Summer Intensive

Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) Ballet Conservatory will hold its annual Summer Intensive. The intermediate/advanced Pre-Professional four week program will run June 27-July 21 for ages 12 and up. The three week Young Intensive will run July 5-21 for ages 8-11.

The pre-professional summer intensive offers a four-week program for the dedicated and serious ballet student wanting to further ballet training and performance skills. Both programs offer a rigorous schedule of classical ballet technique, pre-pointe/pointe, modern, jazz, pilates, acting, a professional dance photo shoot, and dance history. Students are divided by their current ballet level for technique, pointe, select variations, and choreography to ensure and maintain a challenging curriculum for every dancer all while enjoying camaraderie in a friendly environment.



FSPA's Ballet conservatory Program offers classical ballet education of the highest quality. Under the direction of former American Ballet Theatre (ABT) dancer Cheryl Madeux, an extensive range of training and performance experiences provides exceptional opportunities for students of all ages and levels interested in the study of classical ballet. The FSPA Ballet curriculum is based on the foundations of the ABT Na-

tional Training Curriculum. All teachers on the FSPA Conservatory Track have been certified in the NTC program.

For more information about FSPA's Ballet Conservatory program, evaluation for the Summer Intensives, or other classes in the performing arts, call (508) 528-8668, or stop by 38 Main Street in Franklin. Follow FSPA on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. FSPAonline.com.

Sen. Lesser, Rep. Roy Host Virtual Roundtable on

Manufacturing Growth, Job Opps

Senator Eric P. Lesser and Representative Jeffrey N. Roy, Co-Chairs of the Joint Legislative Manufacturing Caucus, recently joined Waters Corporation President and CEO Dr. Udit Batra for a virtual convening with key leaders in the region to discuss ways to train and develop skilled workers for new manufacturing technologies across Massachusetts.

Within one hour, key leaders and stakeholders were introduced, connected, and shared suggestions and resources to address this topic.

In attendance were Rosalin Acosta, Secretary of Labor & Workforce Development; Edward Augustus,

City Manager of Worcester; Fred Clark, President of Bridgewater State University; Dr. Mike Fitzpatrick, Superintendent Director of Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District; Tim Murray, President and CEO of Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce; John Regan, President & CEO of Associated Industries of Massachusetts; Jeffrey Thielman, President & CEO of International Institute of New England; and William Watkins, Director of Workforce Development of the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts.

Summer GUIDE

Think Summer! Warm weather. Beaches. Golfing. Hiking. Outdoor dining. Are you looking forward to it as much as we are? Then promote your business and events with our inaugural Summer Guide – jam-packed with things to do this summer. Just add warm weather!

Coming June 2022
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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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Calendar

March 1

Franklin Rotary Club, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central St., Franklin, for info., please email Diane Padula at padularotary@gmail.com and she will plan for you to be a guest at one of the upcoming meetings.

March 2

Veterans Coffee Social, 10 a.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, please bring proof of COVID-19 vaccination or wear a mask

Franklin Art Association monthly meeting, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin or on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7298884226>. Featured artist is Dave Kaphammer.

March 5

Celebrating Ireland in Story & Song, Saturday, 3 p.m., Franklin Public Library, features

Celtic music with 'Celebrating Ireland in Story & Song' with Phil Edmonds (originally from County Clare), Kevin Fallon (by way of county Roscommon and Mayo), and Mary King (Up Donegal & Cavan) on fiddle, Celtic Harp and voice. For more information, please visit <https://marykingharpist.com/celebrating-ireland/>.

Tape Town! 10:30 a.m., family program at Franklin Public Library, bring your own toy vehicle and cruise along the "roads" of tape and interactive play stations.

Claffin Hill Symphony Orchestra presents Winter Romance, 7:30 p.m., Grand Ballroom of Milford Town Hall, www.claffinhill.org or (508) 478-4924, program supported by Mass Cultural Council

March 6

Happy Birthday Franklin, 1 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin, have some cake, celebrate 244th birthday of the Town of Franklin. Those with March birthdays entered to win a prize.

March 8

Indoor Seed Starting with Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens, 7 p.m., Franklin Public Library

March 12

FPAC presents The Drowsy Chaperone starring Ben Cameron and Emily Koch, 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin. THEBLACKBOXonline.com or call box office at (508) 528-3370. Masks will be required for all patrons, except while actively eating or drinking.

March 15

Before Brooklyn: The Unsung Heroes Who Helped Break Baseball's Color Barrier with Author Ted Reinstein, 7 p.m., Franklin Public Library

Franklin Rotary Club, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central St., Franklin, for info., please email Diane Padula at padularotary@gmail.com and she will plan for you to be a guest at one of the upcoming meetings.

Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild 2022 Quilt Show, Visions of Hope, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, 65 Pleasant St., Upton, \$10, children 18 and under free

March 18

Franklin Library Book Sale, 1-5 p.m.

FPAC presents The Drowsy Chaperone starring Ben Cameron and Emily Koch, 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin. THEBLACKBOXonline.com or call box office at (508) 528-3370. Masks will be required for all patrons, except while actively eating or drinking.

Second Sunday Speaker Series, Bumbling Through the Hindu Kush - A Memoir of Fear and Kindness in Afghanistan, with Chris Woolf, doors open 1 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin

Michael Lewin, piano, 3 p.m., presented by LiveArts at First

March 19

FPAC presents The Drowsy Chaperone starring Ben Cameron and Emily Koch, 2 & 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin. THEBLACKBOXonline.com or call box office at (508) 528-3370. Masks will be required for all patrons, except while actively eating or drinking.

Computer Confluence Saturday, 3:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library, basic computer skills for the digital age

Franklin Library Book Sale, 9 a.m. to 12 Noon, Bag sale 1-4 p.m.

March 20

FPAC presents The Drowsy Chaperone starring Ben Cameron and Emily Koch, 2 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin. THEBLACKBOXonline.com or call box office at (508) 528-3370. Masks will be required for all patrons, except while actively eating or drinking.

March 22

One Book/One Community, 7 p.m., Franklin Public Library, community discussion of *The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* by Stuart Turton. For more information, contact kshipala@minlib.net. Book Club meetings in-person at the Library and on Zoom. To participate through Zoom, please register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7298884226>. Book Club meetings in-person at the Library and on Zoom. To participate through Zoom, please register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7298884226>.

Franklin Newcomers Meeting, 7:30 p.m., upstairs at 3 Restaurant, 461 W. Central St., Franklin, featured speakers Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator, and Dr. Sara Ahern, School Superintendent

March 23

Franklin Library Book Sale, 1-5 p.m.

FPAC presents The Drowsy Chaperone starring Ben Cameron and Emily Koch, 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin. THEBLACKBOXonline.com or call box office at (508) 528-3370. Masks will be required for all patrons, except while actively eating or drinking.



For rates and info on advertising your business, please call Jen at 508-570-6544 or email: jenschofield@locaaltownpages.com

Thanks to Yanks Donates to Milford Legion's Troop Fan Mail

Pictured is Michael Shain the founder and president of Thanks To Yanks, a local charity that supports those who serve in the military. Recently, a donation was made to the American Legion Post #59 Auxiliary to support their efforts with Troop Fan Mail, an ongoing mission to write cards and holiday wishes throughout the year to those who serve. Thanks To Yanks is proud to support such a noble idea said Shain.

For information regarding Thanks To Yanks, please like them on Facebook.



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 right-of-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.

Dean College Presents: *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, March 30-April 3, 2022

The School of the Arts at Dean College will perform *How to Succeed in Business Without Really*

Trying on Wednesday, March 30 through Sunday, April 3, 2022. Big business means big laughs

in this classic satire of big business and all it holds sacred. A tune-filled comic gem that took Broadway by storm, winning both the Tony Award for Best Musical and a Pulitzer Prize, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* is an irreverent and tuneful romp, jam-packed with sly, swift, and sharp jabs to the funny bone and an exhilarating score by Frank Loesser. The story follows the rise of J. Pierrepont Finch, who climbs the corporate ladder from lowly window washer to high-powered executive, tackling such familiar but potent dangers as the ag-

gressively compliant "company man," the office party, backstabbing coworkers, caffeine addiction and, of course, true love.

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

The Dean College production of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* will take place in the Main Stage in the Campus Center at Dean College, 109 West Central Street, Franklin at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday through Saturday, with matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Dean College welcomes families and guests over the age of 12 to all our performances, provided patrons have complied with all COVID-19 safety guidelines.

To learn more about the show and all safety policies, and to purchase tickets, visit www.dean.edu/boxoffice.



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Sports

Panthers' Peterson Hopes to Finish Hoop Tourney Run

By KEN HAMWEY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The Franklin High girls' basketball team is ready for some unfinished business.

Two years ago, in 2020, the Panthers were preparing for the state tourney championship final, but the Mass. Interscholastic Athletic Association stepped in two days before the playoff finale and canceled all post-season play because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Franklin, which had compiled a 26-0 record, was declared a co-champion along with Andover.

Then, as the epidemic evolved into a pandemic in 2021, winter sports were played, however, schedules were cut in half and tournaments were off — for all sports. The Panthers again were unbeaten at 10-0.

So, here we are in 2022 with Franklin once again a legitimate contender to capture a state crown. The Panthers, who had a pair of games postponed because of COVID-19, were 16-0 at *Local Town Pages* deadline. The players and coach John Leighton remain hopeful of finally getting an opportunity to win a state title.

Junior forward Katie Peterson, who leads the team in scoring and rebounding, puts Franklin's past in perspective with these words: "All we're looking for is a chance to finish the run."

Peterson, who's averaging 15.7 points and 7 rebounds a game, was a freshman call-up in 2020 and was a solid contributor on last year's squad.

"We've got the talent to advance deep in the playoffs," said Peterson, who also excels in lacrosse. "We're all excited and ready to compete. Two years ago, we were all prepared for the final, but it never happened."

The six-foot Peterson, who competes in club basketball and lacrosse, is a versatile competitor who'll play a key role in the post-season for Leighton's forces. She's got all the key attributes.

"Katie can play either forward position," Leighton said. "An all-around talent, she's athletic, has speed, strength and



Katie Peterson is closely guarded in game against Oliver Ames but her 16 points helped Franklin win the contest, 51-48. Photos courtesy of Hockomocksports.com

quickness, she's mentally tough and has a high basketball IQ. She's not only a smart player, but she's very instinctive and has excellent court sense."

Peterson, who has a scholarship to play lacrosse for powerhouse UMass-Amherst, relies on an aggressive, up-tempo style.

"I like playing in the front-court because I can use a spin move to get open in the post and take up-close shots," she offered. "Or, I can be on the perimeter and either shoot or drive. I like a fast-pace game, running on breakaways and using speed to beat opponents off the dribble. I enjoy playing all over the place."

Peterson enjoyed competing against Oliver Ames last December in one of Franklin's early-season contests. She calls the encounter "my favorite game."

"We beat them in overtime," she noted, "in a game that was competitive and pressure-packed. We kept our winning streak alive. I was able to force a turnover with 16 seconds to go with our team up by a point. I was fouled and went to the line for two shots. I sank both, putting us up by three. We won, 51-48, and although I scored 16 points, I was more pleased with the way I handled the pressure. They're a quality team."

Peterson's other goals, besides a deep run in the tourney, are to win the Kelly-Rex Division title



Katie Peterson is on the move in one of Franklin's lacrosse matches last year. She'll be playing for UMass-Amherst after graduation.

and to help the Panthers "be the best we can be." As far as leading the squad in scoring and rebounding, that's not a priority. "If I lead in those categories and become a Hockomock League all-star, I'd be humbled by that. All-star honors would mean I've contributed and helped our team to be successful."

Three teammates Peterson admires for their contributions are senior co-captains Olivia Quinn (forward) and Stefany Padula (guard), and junior point guard Bridget Leo. "All three are hard-workers who want the best for our team," Peterson said. "They're consistent and they contribute both on offense and defense."

Besides excelling in basketball, Peterson is also dynamic on a lacrosse field. She's a midfielder but can also compete as an attack or a defender. She also participates in unified basketball. In all three venues, Leighton coaches her. He's an assistant in lacrosse for head coach Kristen Igoe.

"Coach Leighton is a great motivator who pushes us to be competitive and to work hard every day," Peterson said. "He puts in so much time and effort to help us improve."

Academically, Peterson is on another level. She's got a 4.5 GPA and has a scholarship to play lacrosse at UMass-Amherst where she'll major in business.

"Sports have helped me to sharpen my leadership skills and my work ethic," she emphasized. "Another key is learning how to handle adversity. Sports can help players get through and cope with difficult times."

Calling her parents (Deric and Beth) role models for their support and encouragement, the Kentucky native (she and her family moved to Franklin when she was three) enjoys participating in school activities that include peer leadership, Best Buddies and community service. She also is active in DECA (business club).

"Katie is a wonderful teammate," Leighton said. "She's a natural at making everyone comfortable in unified basketball. "And, she knows how to build team unity. If she chose to play basketball in college, she could easily help a team, but she's very adept at lacrosse, where her size and speed are definite assets."

Katie Peterson's versatility and her passion to compete will be a difficult combination for Franklin's tourney foes to deal with, and she wants the opportunity for the girls' basketball team to complete some unfinished business.

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Educational Mortgage Seminars to be offered in March

Michael Shain of Bay Equity Home Loans will host home loan education seminars March 9 and March 23 at the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School in Franklin.

Registration is required. Course fees are donated back to Tri-County Adult Education Programs.

March 9: 6:30 to 8 p.m.: Understanding and using your VA home loan guarantee (\$15) - Available exclusively to active-duty personnel, veterans, reservists and National Guard, as well as surviving spouses of veterans, VA loans can be used for purchases or refinances. Down payments are as low as 0 percent, with no private mortgage insurance.

March 23, 6:30 to 8 p.m.: Homebuyer Boot Camp (\$20) - A panel of experts, including an attorney, a Realtor, and a home inspector will join Mike to discuss and answer questions about the entire home buying process including mortgage programs and the importance of credit.

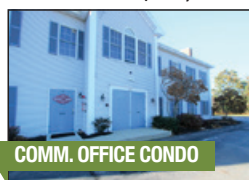
To register, call (508) 528-5400, ext.126, or register at www.tri-county.us. Click "Adult Education" then "Registrar Online and Course Information" then "Course Category Search." Scroll down to "Home and Garden" to find both courses.

For more information, contact Mike at (508) 330-8487 or mshain@bayeq.com.

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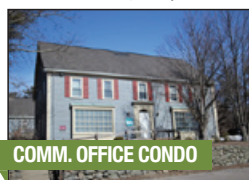
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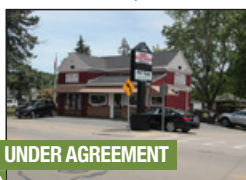
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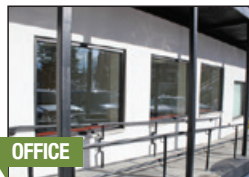
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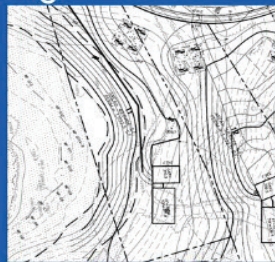
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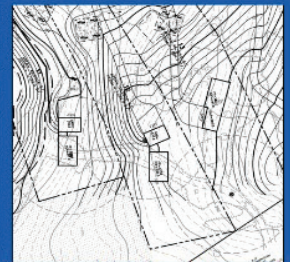
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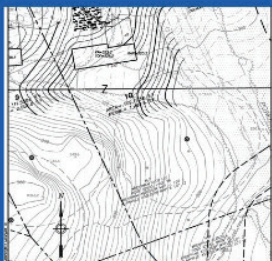


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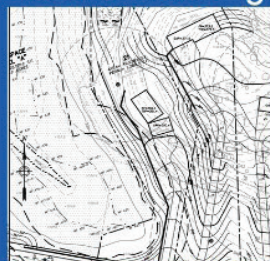


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