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St. Vincent de Paul Walk for the Poor Saturday, October 15, 2022

By J.D. O'GARA

Don your sneakers and get ready to help your neighbors! The annual St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary Parish Walk for the Poor will take place rain or shine on the morning of Saturday, October 15, 2022, from 9 a.m. to noon. The walk is SVDP's only formal fundraiser, and 100% of the proceeds go back to Franklin residents in need.

For 32 years, the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) of St. Mary Parish has been there to help people in need in Franklin regardless of race, religious beliefs or ethnic background. The group provides clothing and furniture vouchers through its SVDP Thrift Stores in Stoughton and Plainville, supplies non-perishable food and paper products from its pantry to supplement other food resources, and assists Franklin residents financially during an unexpected crisis with help paying rent, utilities,



100% of the proceeds of St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary Parish Walk for the Poor, to take place October 15th, will go to Franklin residents in need, and all are welcome to join.
Photo courtesy of St. Mary Parish St. Vincent de Paul Society.

medical bills, food and gas, car repairs and more. Last year the group helped Franklin families, including single Moms, seniors, neighbors and even those who were homeless 577 times for over \$71,000.

This year, the need is even greater. Jim Baillio, President of St. Mary's SVDP chapter, says more calls are coming in, and the need is rising.



WALK

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The Franklin Police Halloween Party will take place on Sunday, October 23rd, from 2-6 p.m. at the Franklin Police Station.
Photo used courtesy of Franklin Police.

Franklin Police Plan Halloween Haunt October 23

By J.D. O'Gara

Hey families! Rise up and creep on over to the Franklin Police Station on Sunday, October 23rd, 2022, for a Halloween monster bash, complete with bounce houses, obstacle courses, games, and other tricks, and of course, treats! The annual event will take

place from 2-6 p.m. and is great for creatures in Pre-school to 5th grade.

"Every year, or for most years, the Franklin Police Department, the Patrol Association and the Ser-

HAUNT

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WALK

continued from page 1

“We are seeing a sizable increase, especially with what’s going on in the world with inflation, and rent is going up for people, electricity is going up for people, food is always a challenge, and gas is going up. These are high priorities,” says Baillio, explaining that the first eight months of this year Franklin’s SvDP gave out over 600 bags of food and over 140 hygiene bags, about the same as they gave out in the entirety of last year.

“Coming out of COVID, there’s people who’ve lost jobs. I know they’re saying unemployment is low, but people don’t have the jobs they used to have. They might not have as high a level job or it’s more intermittent. That creates challenges for people, when they have a lot of needs and inconsistent income,” says Baillio. While last year, government stimulus money and other programs designed to offset the effects of the pandemic helped folks in need, he explains, “those have gone away now.”

“In addition to the economic situation, rent has gone up,” Rent is a huge problem, says volunteer Nancy Schoen. “Affordable housing in Franklin is at a

premium. I know there’s a very long list. We have seen some people move out Franklin, and we’ve also seen a greater need. It’s not (just) people who are on a fixed income or who are at home, but people who are working, who are struggling to make ends meet.”

St. Vincent de Paul volunteers have gone back to the work of visiting with Franklin residents who have expressed a need. Volunteers pair up to meet with their neighbors in their homes, to help assess the situation and match the residents not only with aid from their society, but also with other resources, working closely with many charitable and government organizations.”

Helping people in need maintain dignity is an important part of the work. Schoen says that having two people visit helps, and all of it is confidential.

“You’re talking to somebody; you need that extra ear; you’ve got to show empathy. We’re trying to understand where they are, and it does help to have that second person, to make sure we hear things correctly, and it makes followup better.”

“When someone calls, we try to get back as soon as possible,” says Baillio. “We’re not a social service organization, but we’re there to be a partner or a friend with someone in need.”

Baillio explains that COVID forced some changes that have helped SVDP volunteers connect folks to various resources. “Communication has been significantly enhanced, and that enabled us to continue our work consistently (during the pandemic).” Thanks to an online platform, a computer software volunteers working on a conference call can upload information immediately, as well as disperse information on resources.

Both Baillio and Schoen say the St. Mary Parish community has been very generous, for which they are grateful.

“They’ve stepped up in helping us both financially as well as food. Our food pantry is very small, and we have seen volume (get depleted) lot more than the past,” says Schoen. “We’re grateful we’re able to help a little bit, but it’s also very challenging, because there’s obviously a lot of need, and we have limited resources.”

The Walk for the Poor helps a great deal, and its new route has proved a positive move.

“Walking around the Common, we loved that idea,” says Schoen. “It’s nice to highlight the beautiful land we have in center of town and across from the church, it’s a third of a mile around the common, basically

up to about three miles. It was great to see some of the high school students, (who got community service hour) last year ... We’re very, very grateful for our support from the participants and our community.”

Walkers will receive a free t-shirt, provided by St. Mary Knights of Columbus Council 1847, who also provide bottled water.

If you would like to join the walk or support SVDP’s mission

of helping residents of Franklin in need, you may make a financial donation in either of two ways.

Send a check to: SVdP 1 Church Square, Franklin, MA 02038 OR donate **Online to the St. Mary’s SVdP team at:**

<https://www.fop-walk.org/eventlisting/eventdetail/?eventid=2750>

For questions, call SVdP at (508) 918-2291.

Franklin Historical Museum 2nd Sunday Speaker Series to Feature Ted Reinstein

On October 9th, the Franklin Historical Museum, at 80 W. Central Street in Franklin, will feature author and Chronicle personality Ted Reinstein as part of its Second Sunday Speaker Series. Reinstein will read from his book, Before Brooklyn, which highlights the unsung heroes who helped break professional baseball’s color barrier.

Doors will open at 1 p.m., and the talk will take place at 1:15 p.m. The event is free.

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HAUNT

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geant's Association get together and we run this event," says Franklin Police Officer Paul Guarino. "Years past, we've provided pumpkin painting and facepainting for the kids, and we ask that kids dress up, hand out candy and do a little friendly haunted house. We'll have jumpers (inflatables) and outside type games, cotton candy, hot dogs, and popcorn."

Guarino estimates that the event has gone on for at least 15 years, with some sabbaticals due to funding or personnel.

"All the officers that used to run it have retired, and we're trying to grab the torch and run with it," says the 19-year FPD veteran, of the Department's current staff.

The event, he says, is usually a big hit. "We go through thousands of dollars of candy, literally. It's a lot of fun, and a lot of people show up. Officers show up in costume."

Officer Guarino explains that events like the Department's Halloween party are a good way to build strong relationships with the community.

"It's a very positive event, a good way for our officers and

our organization to break down barriers between us and our community," says Guarino. "It's an opportunity for us to build relations and connections with the youth of the town and see us in a different light, other than enforcing laws. Hopefully, they'll see us as more of a community member that's looking to help and provide experiences rather than someone who's looking to get them in trouble and enforce laws."

Guarino explains that youngsters' comfort with the police can aid them if they ever need help.

"We want to build positive relationships. We want kids, if they're lost, to come to us, not fearing us. We've had this message for a long time, just in light of recent events, it's just become even more important that we continue to do these events and important that we continue to build those relationships. That's our main objective, and we really enjoy it."

For updated information about the event, visit the Franklin Police Department's Instagram (@franklinmapolice), Facebook page (franklinmapolice) or Franklin PD's web page on the town website (<https://www.franklinma.gov/police-department>).

October at Bellforge Arts Center

Oct. 1: Oktoberfest, 12 – 6 p.m., FREE

Bellforge presents Oktoberfest with cold beer, live music, traditional food, and more!

Oct. 8: Culturefest, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., FREE

Performers, kids' activities and food trucks! Free but registration encouraged. www.bellforge.org

Oct. 15: Oktoberfest, 12 – 6 p.m., FREE

Bellforge presents Oktoberfest with cold beer, live music, traditional food, and more!

Oct. 22: Oktoberfest, 12 – 6 p.m., FREE

Bellforge presents Oktoberfest with cold beer, live music, traditional food, and more!

To Get to Bellforge Arts Center:

Take Rt. 27 to Hospital Road. Make a left on Hospital Road, then a left on Service Drive.

If using Google Maps or Waze: Use 1 Service Drive, Medfield in your GPS

If using Apple Maps: Use 45 Hospital Road, Medfield in your GPS

You will turn in to the hospital grounds when you see the school buses. Drive up the hill, where you will find several available parking lots on your left. Bellforge is on the right (walk between the brick buildings) with events located outside on the grounds of the former Chapel.

For more information, visit bellforge.org/events.

47th Annual Franklin Newcomers & Friends Craft Fair

November 5th - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School
147 Pond St., Franklin, Mass.

Hosted by Franklin Newcomers & Friends Club

This popular and well-established event features hand-crafted items from 70 different artists throughout New England. Here's a small sample of what you can buy: art/photography; holiday

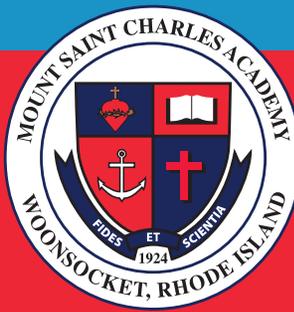
and home decor; adult and children clothing/accessories; jewelry; pet accessories.

You'll find a wonderful selection of items to give yourself or to recognize a birthday, holiday or any other special occasion.

Visit us on Facebook for more Craft Fair details: @FranklinNewcomersCraftFair

For club information visit our other Facebook page: @FranklinNewcomersFriends Club.

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- Draft and pass the clean energy and offshore wind bill
- Finalize the Roadmap Bill on climate change
- Pass legislation on sexual violence on higher education campuses
- Pass legislation increasing transparency and financial reporting requirements for higher education institutions
- Pass legislation that increased civic engagement and transparency by creating a searchable online database of legal notices
- Fight for health care reform
- Support Veterans through the Valor Acts and funding for memorial walkway
- Help seniors with Housing, Tax Relief and state funding for Senior Centers

- Pass legislation lowering thresholds on specialty license plates, making them available to smaller charities and causes
- Brought civics education back to our public schools so young people will understand the importance of participating in government

Locally, he has:

- Worked to maintain high quality of the school systems
- Helped families with substance use disorder by co-founding the SAFE Coalition and delivered \$250,000 in state funds
- Led legislative effort to create a Regional Dispatch Center for Franklin, Norfolk, Wrentham and Plainville
- Advocated for Cultural District in Franklin

- Aided in re-opening a factory in Franklin to manufacture PPE
- Delivered local aid for schools, roads, infrastructure, public safety, arts and recreation
- Delivered improvements to Commuter Rail Service and infrastructure
- Delivered funding for SNETT tunnel under Prospect Street, parking at Franklin State Forest, and improvements to recreational spaces in Medway
- Helped thousands of constituents with issues involving unemployment, health care, human services, and other matters with state agencies



A 10-year history of delivering local aid for Franklin and Medway:

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| <p>\$28,574,921 - Chapter 70 (Franklin)</p> <p>\$10,564,089 - Chapter 70 (Medway)</p> <p>\$10 million - Reconstruction of intersection at Pleasant & Chestnut Streets, Franklin</p> <p>\$2.42 million - Improvements to the MBTA commuter rail station in downtown Franklin</p> <p>\$2.2 million - Intersection and roadway improvements along Grove Street in Franklin</p> <p>\$1.3 million - Environmental Bond Bill for improvements to SNETT trail tunnel</p> <p>\$1 million - Sidewalk and pedestrian safety improvements in Medway</p> <p>\$917,261 - Chapter 90 road funding for Franklin</p> <p>\$700,000 - expand the SNETT trail from Grove Street to Union Street</p> <p>\$600,000 - Franklin Food Pantry Building Project</p> | <p>\$500,000 - Route 109 access improvements at Choate Park</p> <p>\$395,749 - Chapter 90 road funding for Medway</p> <p>\$350,000 - Grant for improvements to Medway parks</p> <p>\$275,000 - Grant for Black Box Theatre</p> <p>\$250,000 - Opioid epidemic funds for SAFE Coalition</p> <p>\$200,000 - King Street Park improvements in Franklin</p> <p>\$200,000 - Medway THRIVE program</p> <p>\$183,000 - Franklin Green Community grant</p> <p>\$170,000 - Medway public safety equipment</p> <p>\$135,000 - Accessibility and safety improvements at the Lovering Heights Senior Citizens Complex in Medway</p> <p>\$100,000 - Dept. of Public Services building in Medway</p> | <p>\$100,000 - Parking lot at Franklin State Forest</p> <p>\$100,000 - Medway Community Farm</p> <p>\$100,000 - Franklin Downtown Partnership</p> <p>\$100,000 - NE Center for Children Program at Parmenter Elementary in Franklin</p> <p>\$75,000 - Zoning audit and bylaws modernization grant</p> <p>\$70,000 - Quiet Zone study for Franklin commuter line</p> <p>\$70,000 - Mental health screenings in the Franklin public schools</p> <p>\$65,000 - New firefighter headsets to help prevent hearing loss</p> <p>\$60,000 - Solar lighting and traffic controls</p> <p>\$58,500 - Development of outdoor fitness programming at the Medway senior center</p> <p>\$58,000 - Franklin schools substance abuse task force</p> | <p>\$50,000 - Veteran's Memorial pathway</p> <p>\$50,000 - MetroWest Veterans District</p> <p>\$50,000 - Replacement of the playground at Fletcher Field in Franklin</p> <p>\$50,000 - Vaping prevention program in the Franklin public schools</p> <p>\$50,000 - Accessible van for Tri-County School</p> <p>\$50,000 - Horace Mann statue in Franklin</p> <p>\$25,000 - Moving Vietnam Wall in Medway</p> <p>\$25,000 - Charles River Meadowlands</p> <p>\$22,000 - Upgraded communications technology for Medway Fire</p> <p>\$21,000 - Senior citizen health program in Medway</p> <p>Funding for lights at Franklin Sculpture Park</p> <p>Restore funding for Franklin Housing Authority</p> |
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The Importance of the Supplemental College Essays

Every part of a successful college application requires equal attention: a balanced college list, a well-written personal statement, and a robust activity resume, all the while keeping an eye on the deadlines. However, one of the most important parts of the application is the supplemental essays and unfortunately many students just don't devote enough time to them. The supplementals rank in importance with the GPA and course rigor.

Super tip #1: Absolutely do not wait until the last minute to answer your supplemental college essays. Just like Murphy's Law, 2 exams and a major project will be due on the college application's submission date.

Supplemental essays are located in the Common Application on the college's specific information page OR on the college's website. It is a way for the admission staff to get to know the student better. The college admission staff usually writes these questions, so it would make sense that they are very interested in the students' answers! Student responses to the college supplemental questions help the admissions team determine the level of interest a student has for their school. With that in mind, colleges care tremendously about their yield (percentage of accepted students who enroll) as it helps predict what courses they can offer, tuition, and housing availability. So, a well-researched and well-written essay could tip the scale in the student's favor.

Generally, the most selective schools will contain several supplemental questions. Although, the good news is some schools don't require any. On average, a

student will complete 5 supplementals, again, generally more if applying to a higher number of selective colleges. A rule of thumb to control the number of supplemental essays is to create a balanced college list - an even amount of likelys, probables, and selective/reach schools. Colleges update their supplemental questions on August 1st. Three of the most common essay prompts are: "Why do you want to attend our college?", "What is your favorite extracurricular activity and why?", and "What is your intended major and why?".

Super tip #2: If the supplemental essay is optional and the school is a top interest to you-- then it is not optional.

I am going to dive deeper into the "Why" essay, but the approach can apply to most questions in preparation for an interview or researching a major.

"The Why Essay" tips:

- "The Why Essay" is your opportunity to convince the admissions committee that you are a good fit.
- Do not think of "The Why Essay" as the "Why this college is perfect for me" essay. As Nicole Buenzli from Union College perfectly stated, "You probably don't need to tell us about the beautiful Nott Memorial. I pass the Nott every day, it's on every brochure we create, and we all know it has 16 sides. Instead, think of this as a 'Why we are perfect for each other' essay".
- Do your research and be specific. For example, you could state, "I want to go to

XYZ College because of the amazing Economics Department". But even better - research the college website, look up syllabuses, and cite a specific Economics class they offer and how you would benefit from it. If studying abroad is important - be specific. For example, state that you want to participate in their May-mester program to study sea turtles in Costa Rica.

- Make your answers unique, which is the combination of in-depth knowledge of the college and a compelling demonstration of personal interest. Do not mention the weather, location, ranking, or reputation because it is what everyone else is writing.
- The supplemental essays offer an opportunity for the admission staff to learn something different about you - so avoid repeating your personal statement message.
- Do not reiterate facts or copy information from the website - it may show that you read



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

through the website, but the college prefers to see how you relate to their college.

How to research for "The Why Essay?":

- Go deep into the college website - so much interesting information.
- Research the Fiske Guide to Colleges 2023 or The Princeton Review - The Best 388 Colleges 2023.
- To learn more about student perspectives, visit Niche.com or Unigo.com.
- Visit campuses in-person, attend a college virtual tour, or visit social media sites, such

as YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, or Facebook.

- Email or call the admission office or the regional college admissions representative (staff is listed on the college website) and ask thoughtful questions, not questions where answers can easily be found on their website. College representatives like hearing from students and the regional representatives are the ones who will often read your application and will remember your name.

I have only skimmed the surface of ways that students can approach the supplemental responses. Please contact us if you would like our FREE supplemental essay document. Good luck and enjoy the journey!

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Dean College Presents: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, October 20-23, 2022

The School of the Arts at Dean College will perform *The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Comedy for Serious People*, from Thursday, October 20 through Sunday, October 23, 2022.

The fashionable Jack and his friend Algernon pretend to be someone else in trying to avoid burdensome social obligations. Meanwhile, Cecily and Gwendolen are both in love with the same mythical suitor.

When all four arrive at Jack's country house on the same weekend, it soon is bedlam. Originally produced in 1895, this high farce with its clever dialogue, wry wit, and elaborate plot twists is Oscar Wilde's most enduring and popular work.

The Dean College production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* will take place in the Main Stage in the Dr. Paula M. Rooney Student Center at Dean College, 109 West Central Street, Franklin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, with 2:00 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday.

Dean College welcomes children and families to all of our performances, provided patrons have complied with all safety guidelines. However, infants and children under 2 years of age are not allowed in the theatre, and children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. All patrons must have their own ticketed seats; lap sitting is not permitted.

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

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Eye Opening Costs At Open Enrollment?

Pop Quiz: Per U.S. government data, over past 12 months (8/21 - 8/22) which has increased the most in price?

- A) Household Energy
- B) Unleaded Regular Gasoline
- C) Bread
- D) Health Insurance

In fairness, you've experienced A) 21.2%, B) 24.1%, and C) 16.2%, however for many fall brings Open Enrollment to work benefits so sticker shock of D) 24.2% health insurance has yet to be realized.

That's right, health insurance increased ~3X greater than 8.3% US inflation and same as gas. Think of the promotions or actions you've taken to save \$5-15 at the pump. Well, this is greater for family paying \$500 a month on a corporate health plan and facing ~\$1,440 annual increase.

What can you do?

Understand Plan Changes & Your Situation: In a PPO due to your doctor, but you've visited him/her twice in the last 3 years? What's the highest annual out-of-pocket medical expenses total the last 3-5 years? Expect high

out-of-pocket expenses in 2023? These and other questions will help you run the numbers.

Case for High Deductible Health Plans (HDHP): People get scared by maximum out-of-pocket costs for HDHP and dub HDHP "for the healthy and wealthy". Yes, a PPO will have lower maximums and deductibles, but you're guaranteed to pay more to obtain.

Compare PPO costing \$247 biweekly with \$6,000 maximum out-of-pocket versus HDHP at \$142, a \$13,000 maximum out-of-pocket, and employer providing \$1,500 to enroll in Health Savings Account (HSA).

PPO guarantees \$6,422 paid in premiums while HDHP is \$3,692 less \$1,500 given by employer to contribute to HSA, thus equals \$2,192 or \$4,230 less than the PPO. Thus, maximum out-of-pocket expenses differential is \$2,770 and not \$7,000. Furthermore, you'd need \$10,230 of out-of-pocket medical expenses to make this PPO breakeven with this HDHP.

About Health Savings Accounts (HSAs): Tax-exempt savings plans paired with a HDHP meeting certain criteria. HSA is not "Use It or Lose It" like Flex Spending Account (FSA)

and upon leaving a company or retirement, you maintain your HSA.

Key HSA facts:

- In 2023, individual can contribute \$3850 and family up to \$7,750.
- Over age 55 an additional \$1,000.
- All contributions are tax-free: federal, state, and FICA (Social Security and Medicare).
- No federal taxes on HSA funds spent on qualified health care expenses.
- Excess HSA funds can be invested for tax-free growth to compound for years.

Unlike other tax-advantaged savings plans, HSAs offer "triple tax benefits": tax-free contributions, tax-free earnings, and tax-free distributions.

Get The Tax Savings: Consider a family in 24% tax bracket contributing \$4,000 to HSA, it would be tax savings of \$1,466 (\$960 federal 24% + \$200 state MA 5% + \$306 FICA 7.65%). Earners in 32% bracket can max out 2023 contributions and gain tax savings of \$3,460.

Set Some Time and Seek Help: Open enrollment is the



Glenn Brown

without needing a life event. Beyond insurance and retirement benefits, these elections help maximize your savings, estate planning and taxes for 2023 and beyond.

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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Dean College Ranks Among the Best Regional Colleges

Dean College, a private, residential, college founded in 1865 and located in Franklin, Massachusetts, is proud to have once again been ranked among the Top 30 Best Regional Colleges North by *U.S. News & World Report* in its 2022-2023 Best Colleges rankings. This is the 12th consecutive year that Dean College has placed on the Best Colleges list.

In addition, Dean's ranking of No. 2 in the Best Regional Colleges North for Best Undergraduate Teaching is testament to its faculty's commitment to an elevated learning experience.

Dean College's ranking attests to **The Dean Difference**. That philosophy encompasses the way the entire Dean community cares for and commits to each other through experiential learning and mentoring, faculty and staff engagement, strong academic support and workforce preparation.

The College's goal is to guide our students along the path of connecting what they learn to how they live – all within a community of care.

The faculty and staff at Dean provide activities and employ practices to help ensure high levels of student success. More information about **The Dean Difference** is easily accessible by contacting the Dean College President's Office at president@dean.edu.

U.S. News & World Report, a major publisher of news and information, has published its Best Colleges Ranking for nearly 40 years. It uses quantitative measurements as reliable indicators of academic quality.

For more information on the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, visit www.usnews.com/best-colleges. For more information about Dean College and our engaged, community of care, please visit www.dean.edu.

Some Openings Left at BFCCPS

Special Lottery Will Close October 11th

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School (BFCCPS), located in Franklin, Massachusetts, has a limited number of openings for students to join the Grade 8 class starting in October 2022. Founded in 1995, BFCCPS is one of the oldest and most successful charter schools in the state of Massachusetts.

Siblings of currently enrolled students will have priority enrollment status; thereafter applicants from all 13 communities in the school's district will have an equal chance at securing a spot for their child through this special enrollment lottery for Grade 8. Applicants from outside of the region (who reside within the state of Massachusetts) will be eligible for enrollment should additional spaces remain after all sibling and regional applicants have been placed.

The school provides a well-rounded, rigorous academic program designed to educate the whole child providing yearlong courses in art, music, languages,

technology, and physical education. The school's integrated character education, community service, and strong parent partnerships, have led to local, state and national recognition. BFCCPS alumni continue to excel during their attendance at local public high schools as well as independent high schools.

A family who enrolled for Grade 8 last year shared the following:

All of the enrollment details, including applications can be found on the school website at www.bfccps.org. Please note that the applications for this special lottery will come to a close on October 11th, 2022 at 9 a.m. and the enrollment lottery will take place on October 12, 2022.

If you'd like to learn more about the educational mission of the school or have enrollment related questions please contact the school's Communication Coordinator, Joanne Basile at jbasile@bfccps.org or (508) 541-3434 x104.

About the Benjamin Franklin Charter School

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School's mission is to assist parents in their role as primary educators of their children by providing students with a classical academic education coupled with sound character development and community service. Our mission is supported by four distinct, yet interconnected pillars that provide for a collaborative, rigorous education for all students. These pillars guide, direct and define the school in all it does.



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Shawn Dooley: Best Choice for State Senate

Have you seen the impressive list of endorsers for Shawn Dooley for State Senate?

Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Governor Bill Weld, along with a slew of local officials, the National Federation of Independent Business (the nation's largest small business organization), and many of our local police and fire unions are among the groups who have lined up to support Shawn.

Why are so many people including Gov. Charlie Baker getting behind Dooley in his bid for the State Senate?

As Shawn says himself, "We need to get back to a common sense, people focused approach to governance in this country. The extremes on both sides are destroying our great country and I firmly believe that 90 percent of us are in the middle and we need to stop playing into the nonsense of the fringe that only seek to divide."

As a State Representative, Shawn Dooley has a proven track record of putting people ahead of politics, working to grow our economy, supporting our local police, helping taxpayers, and so much more. He has been an independent voice.

He also has the experience we need. Shawn currently serves as the ranking member on the Joint Committee on Financial Services; the Joint Committee on Public Health; the Joint Committee on Election Laws; and the House Committee on Federal Stimulus Oversight. Additionally, Shawn had the special honor of being selected by the Chief Justice of the Trial Court to serve as the non-attorney member on the Child Support Guidelines Task Force.

On the other hand, his opponent, Rebecca Rausch, brags (during non-election years) that she is the furthest left person in the Senate. She was the leader of the defund the police movement in the Senate which would have decimated our local police. Her extremism doesn't stop there. Rausch tried to end qualified immunity (the good Samaritan law) for police officers. No good deed would go unpunished!

As our next State Senator, Shawn Dooley will bring his tireless work ethic and common-sense approach to the job. Unlike his opponent, he is not beholden to any special interest groups so we can always count on him being our independent voice.

Shawn's focus is to make Massachusetts affordable for all of us. As a former small business owner with 17 years of financial industry experience, he understands what a tremendous impact unchecked inflation and overzealous tax policies can have on families. That's why he will work to lower our tax burden. He is the only candidate in this race that supports suspending the gas tax and sending the 3 billion dollar surplus tax revenue back to the taxpayers.

To keep our economy rolling and avoid a recession, Shawn is committed to supporting small businesses that create the majority of new jobs in Massachusetts.

Just as important as economic issues, Shawn will work to strengthen public safety. Having served as an On-Call Firefighter/EMT for the Plainville Fire Department and as the Senior SAFE Coordinator, he is committed to supporting our first responders who put their lives on the line to keep us safe. As our



Senator, Shawn will support our local police by giving them the proper funding, increase training, and the tools they need to protect our community.

Whether it is supporting our police, lowering the tax burden, helping the economy or putting people ahead of politics, Shawn Dooley is the only candidate with a proven track record that we can trust. His agenda is our agenda – not the special interest groups. Shawn Dooley is the best choice to be our next State Senator.

For more information visit Dooley4Senate.com

This article is Paid for by Committee to Elect Shawn Dooley

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Charles River Chorale Rebuilds After COVID

New Members Welcome to Open Rehearsals this Month

BY GRACE ALLEN

No doubt about it, the pandemic decimated community choruses. But a local group, the Charles River Chorale, is looking towards the future and actively recruiting new members, banking on the hope that COVID is finally in the rearview mirror.

The non-audition chorale group is in the midst of open rehearsals for its 39th season. The two remaining open rehearsals will take place on Oct. 4 and Oct. 11 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis.

Anne McKee has been singing with the Charles River Chorale for close to a decade. The Norfolk resident, an at-large board member for the organization, says prospective members don't have to be professional singers or even have performed with a chorus in the past to join.

"If you enjoy any kind of music, singing in a group is just fun," she said. "It's different than singing alone. The beauty of music is when you put voices together, because the sound that comes out is so joyous. And when we're together and sing-

ing, any stress goes out the window."

The group is under the direction of Ashley F. Nelson-Oneschuk, a music professional in her 7th year with the Charles River Chorale. She is also the choral director for Medway High School.

Nelson-Oneschuk says the pandemic put a lot of things in perspective for music educators.

"More than ever I am focused on cultivating a joyful community first, with excellent musical experiences as the vessel to achieve this," she said.

During the height of the pandemic, the Charles River Chorale met virtually. Through Zoom sessions, group members individually recorded themselves singing and then that music was combined electronically into full choral renderings for several virtual concerts. Not everyone was comfortable with the together-but-apart way of performing, however, and membership declined.

"The group that remained after the proverbial waters had receded represented what I felt was the heart and soul of the group—in musicality but more so in passion and dedication,"

explained Nelson-Oneschuk.

Wrentham resident Brenda Trapani is entering her eighth season with the Charles River Chorale. She sang in high school choir and later participated in musical theatre. After a span of years without participating in any music groups, she decided to join the Charles River Chorale with a friend. Trapani says director Nelson-Oneschuk has cultivated an atmosphere of enthusiasm and a desire to improve among members.

"She's a great leader, great teacher, and very patient," said Trapani. "She instills in you a desire to practice your music in between rehearsals. She teaches breathing techniques which then help you to carry notes for longer. She's an excellent choir director."

Bob Archibald is the new chairperson for the Charles River Chorale. The Franklin resident joined in 2019 and says he was "smitten" with singing in a chorus again for the first time since high school. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Archibald is confident in the future of the organization.

"I am immensely proud of Ashley, Greg Quilop (our outgoing chair), our Board, and all of our members for leading us through these past few years," he said in an email. "My role as the



incoming chairperson is to guide us through a rebuilding process that is already well underway. We look forward to welcoming back those who could not participate during the last few years. We have a wonderful group of singers who enjoy each other and love Ashley's approach in guiding us to be our best."

This past May, the remaining chorus members came together on stage for the first time in 2.5 years for a performance themed "Hope, Joy, and Friendship Move us Forward." Rehearsals were conducted with safety in mind, said McKee, who noted that Nelson-Oneschuk employs COVID safety practices determined by the CDC and the Massachusetts Teachers Association.

Charles River Chorale members hail from several area communities, and they range in age from high school students to octogenarians. The group typically holds winter and spring concerts, with the next concert scheduled for Sunday, December 4 at 2 p.m. at Medway High School.

As the chorus is set to mark almost four decades of making

music, the organization is poised to recover from the last few challenging seasons and emerge stronger than ever. Music, after all, can connect and bring people together, but most of us would agree that it's much better in person.

"This coming year is set to be a rebirth," said Nelson-Oneschuk. "We are thrilled to welcome back many former members ready to return, as well as many new faces whose choirs did not survive the pandemic, and others who want to find a new community and musical opportunity."

The Charles River Chorale rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ in Millis. Membership dues for the non-profit organization support operating costs. There are no dues for high school students, and scholarships based on need are available. There is also a separate children's choir for children in Grades 2 through 6.

For more information about the organization and the upcoming open rehearsals, visit <https://www.charlesriverchorale.com>. Sponsorships and advertising opportunities are available.

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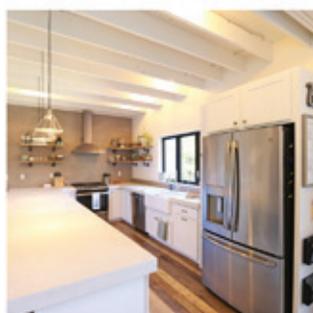
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19th Annual Harvest Festival October 1st!

Franklin Downtown Partnership's annual Harvest Festival arrives early this year as the first Saturday in October arrives October 1! This family-fun community event has a rain date of Sunday, October 2.

The Harvest Festival will be held in downtown Franklin from noon to 5 p.m. on Main Street, Dean Avenue, West Central Street, and Depot Street, as well as the large parking area behind Rockland Bank.

Visitors to the Harvest Festival will enjoy local entertainment, a variety of food from local restaurants, kids' crafts, painting and balloon art, specials from downtown merchants, and artwork and crafts by area artisans. There will be more than 150 vendors booths!

"The Harvest Festival is the Franklin Downtown Partnership's opportunity to invite people to gather downtown and have fun experiencing the local businesses throughout our community," said Scott Martin, president of the Franklin Downtown Partnership and Harvest Festival chair. "The mix of activities and entertainment we have will make this community event special for all ages, while showcasing the wonderful shopping and dining opportunities downtown."

Entertainment sponsored by Dean Bank will be provided at the Dancing on Dean stage featuring live music from Ben Gardner's Boat. MyFM will be broadcasting live at the intersection of East Central and Main Streets. The Franklin Fire Department will have its firetrucks out at its headquarters with Sparky giving out plastic fire helmets to children. The Franklin Historical Museum will offer balloon animals and free popcorn from an old-fashioned popcorn machine. Franklin Art Association member and owner of Painting Venus, Amy Adams, will be painting live during the Harvest Festival. The Franklin Art Association will host an art show and sale in the Rockland Trust Annex as well as its gallery in Escape Into Fiction Bookstore.

A special "Taste of Franklin" area offering a variety of local foods will be located behind Rockland Trust. Also, check out the special fall food specialties at the Dean Bank tent. Proceeds from that tent benefit the FDP.

A Tyrolian Festival will be held at THE BLACK BOX. This event will celebrate Austria and the upcoming Franklin Performing Arts Company production of The Sound of Music. Entertainment will feature a traditional oom-pah band as well as preview excerpts from The Sound of

Music. The Intermissions stage will also offer entertainment.

The last day to register for booth space is Sept. 15, but organizers expect to sell out sooner. Downtown store-front businesses must register to ensure store-front space. Booths are assigned on a first-come first-serve basis. View the registration link at <http://bit.ly/FranklinHF>. Email Harvest Festival Vendor Coordinators Roberta Trahan and Pandora Carlucci at fdpevent@gmail.com with questions about booth spaces. Scott Martin, president of the FDP, is once again chairing the Harvest Festival.

"We hope that people will take the opportunity during Harvest Festival to visit local businesses, including many of the new shops that have made downtown their home," said Franklin Downtown Partnership Executive Director Lisa Piana. "As always, we thank our local business sponsors who make this event possible!"

The Partnership welcomes business owners to help support the Harvest Festival while gaining publicity for their businesses by becoming sponsors. Please email

the FDP office at downtown.franklin@yahoo.com to learn about sponsorship opportunities.

Many businesses have already agreed to sponsor the Harvest Festival. To date, Harvest Festival sponsors include Platinum level sponsors Dean Bank, Dean College, PhysicalOne Urgent Care, RI Motorsports, and Safford AXiA Insurance. Silver sponsors are Arcadia Dental, Camford Property Group, Hockomock YMCA, Middlesex Savings Bank

and Rockland Trust. Bronze levels sponsors are Beaux Regards Photographic Art, Chestnut Dental, Digital Federal Credit Union, Keefe Insurance Agency, and LeafFilter. Mint Dental of Franklin is a Friends level sponsor.

The Franklin Downtown Partnership, www.franklindowntownpartnership.org, is a nonprofit, 501©3 organization made up of more than 400 business owners, community leaders and residents working to stimulate economic development downtown and create a positive impact throughout the area.

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Living Healthy

World-Class Eyecare and Cataract Surgery Closer to Home

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

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

on where to have the surgery and by whom. Here are the specific questions to ask when it's time to have the surgery:

1. Why are you referring me to this surgeon? Your optometrist may ask you to travel miles and hours away from home to have your surgery with a particular surgeon of their choice. When you have experienced surgeons within minutes from where you live and when those top-notch ethical surgeons with excellent nationwide reputation will perform your surgery in a state-of-the-art surgery center closer to home. Ask your provider why they want you to travel hours and miles away. Unfortunately, if you dig enough, you will find the only reason for this remote



referral is financial and business-related interest your provider has with the far-away surgeon. Beware of referral bias. In our center, 100% of the surgeries are performed in a state-of-the-art facility in Milford. Very close to home. Your interest comes first.

2. What is my cost? Did you know that when your optometrist refers you to a surgeon who will perform your surgery at a hospital your insurance deductible and co-insurance will be higher at a hospital? If this is happening to you, we are available for a second opinion! All our surgeries are performed at an ambulatory surgery center in Milford with potential cost savings to you.

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

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

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

6. What type of technology is available at your surgery facility? Different centers have different equipment and resources. For instance, Massachusetts has only few

centers offering laser-assisted bladeless cataract surgery. This should be an option if you want to reduce dependence on glasses and treat low grades of astigmatism at the same time as your cataract surgery. Our center was among the first in the State and New England to offer this technology. Did you know that many hospitals and other centers do not offer laser-assisted bladeless cataract surgery? We do!

7. What type of implant am I going to get? Different lens implants can be used during cataract surgery with different materials, quality and ability to reduce your need for glasses. Ask your referring provider about his/her surgeon choice of implants. Our center was the first in the greater Boston area to offer the new diffractive and extended-focus implants. With those implants you can see clearly at distance, close and intermediate like your phone and computer screen with little or no dependence on glasses.

8. Will my need to wear glasses be reduced? Cataract surgery is a wonderful opportunity to limit or eliminate your need for glasses. As the surgeon removes the cataract, there is an opportunity to replace the cloudy lens with a special high-tech implant able to achieve this goal. Ask your referring provider about his/her surgeon of choice ability to achieve those goals. Our center has many happy and glasses free patients.

9. Will I have stitches? It is ideal to eliminate the need for stitches such as the surgery is a no-stitch surgery. Placing a stitch can be complicated by stitch induced astigmatism, a foreign body sensation and a broken and



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EYES

continued on page 13

Living Healthy

EYES

continued from page 12

irritating stitch. Ask your referring provider if his/her surgeon of choice is still using stitches. 100% of our cataract procedures are stitch-free.

10.What will be my vision on day 1 after the surgery? One of the measurements defining quality of outcomes after cataract surgery is the quality of vision on day 1 after the surgery. Surgeons should strive to make the vision correct to as close to best as possible on day 1. Ask your referring provider about his/her surgeon of choice ability to achieve this outcome. Our center has many patients with happy 20/20 vision on day 1 after cataract surgery.

Cataract surgery is all about better precision, more safety and excellent outcomes. At Milford Franklin Eye Center, Dr. Kaldawy is proud to have been the first surgeon in the area and among the first in Massachusetts to offer bladeless laser assisted cataract surgery and the first surgeon in the greater Boston area

to implant the PanOptix and Vivity lens implants. We offer bladeless laser cataract surgery. We implant high quality premium lenses, with correction for distance, near and everything in between. Many cases of astigmatism are no longer a problem. Our percentage of posterior capsule complications and infections is one of the lowest in the Nation. No more need to travel hours for your cataract surgery! You do not even have to travel to Attleboro! We operate in a state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford offering bladeless laser cataract surgery. Our surgery center passed certification and accreditation by the most rigorous State and National accreditation agencies. 100% of the surgeries are performed under topical anesthesia, so only drops, no need for shots and no need for stitches. Brand new gorgeous office in Franklin, a second location in Milford and a third in Millis. Over 30 thousand procedures performed and 8 providers with your interest in mind offering the best cost-efficient surgical care in an ambulatory surgery center closer to home.

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Fire Officials: Counterfeit and Unlisted Alarms May Not Protect You

Massachusetts fire officials are asking the public to look twice when purchasing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, especially when buying online. Always look for a mark confirming that your alarm is listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Intertek ETL and choose alarms from a well-known national brand.

Rowley Fire Chief Mark Emery, State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, and Shrewsbury Fire Chief James Vuona, president of the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts, issued the reminder after members of the Rowley Fire Department recently identified multiple alarms with counterfeit marks during separate residential inspections. The alarms had been purchased through online retailers.

“We discovered these counterfeit alarms during inspections prior to home sales, but there may be many more that we haven’t seen,” said Chief Emery.

“It’s important that every residence has working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and it’s equally important that these alarms be reliable. Alarms that aren’t tested by an independent laboratory may not protect you when you need them most.”

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code and State Building Code require that all smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, and combination alarms be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. Currently, only Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and Intertek

Testing Services NA, Inc. (Intertek) are permitted to test and list smoke and/or CO alarms in the United States. The thorough review process these laboratories use helps ensure that alarms will accurately detect hazards, alert the consumer promptly, and perform other critical functions. Inspectors have found counterfeit alarms purchased online that do not detect hazards as advertised.

To learn more about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, visit the Department of Fire Services’ website.

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Earning his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine, Dr. Kiernan completed his orthopedic surgery residency at UMass Memorial.

Dr. Kiernan looks forward to taking care of patients with a variety of hip and knee problems (such as arthritis) and other joint conditions. His practice focuses on partial and total knee and hip replacement including revision procedures. In addition, Dr. Kiernan specializes in a direct anterior approach to joint reconstruction, resulting in decreased post-operative pain and faster recovery.



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FPAC to present *The Sound of Music* Starring Broadway's Sara Jean Ford

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will present *The Sound of Music* at THE BLACK BOX in Franklin, MA October 14-23.

Broadway's Sara Jean Ford stars as Maria Rainer. Ford is best known for starring as Christine Daaé on Broadway and in the National Tour of the world-wide sensation *The Phantom of the Opera*. Also on Broadway she's been seen in *CATS* (Jellylorum), *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Smitty), *A Little Night Music* (Mrs Anderssen, Anne/Petra cover), and *Finian's Rainbow* (Arlene, Sharon cover). Off-Broadway she starred in *The Fantasticks* (Luisa, Revival Cast Recording) and appeared in Broadway in Chicago's *WICKED* (Glinda/Nessa Rose cover). Ford has previously brought her solo show to THE BLACK BOX and has headlined the FPAC Gala and Broadway Weekend. She is on the Broadway Faculty for Voice

and Acting at the Franklin School for the Performing Arts.

Ford stars opposite FPAC favorite Nick Paone as Captain von Trapp. The cast also features Tyrick Wiltez Jones (Broadway's *Hairspray*, *Finian's Rainbow*) as Max, NYC's Jillian Paige as Elsa, and opera singer Shauna Martin as Mother Abbess.

FPAC's production is directed by Artistic Director Raye Lynn Mercer and features music direction by Hallie Wetzell and choreography by Christopher Rice-Thomson (Broadway's *Book of Mormon*, *Pretty Woman*, *Hamilton* on tour).

The von Trapp family will be played by FPAC Apprentices Tatiana McAlpine (Liesl), Mason Sanford (Friedrich), Finley Doherty (Louisa), Julian DiChiara (Kurt), Aida DiChiara (Brigitta), Colette Lelievre



drade, Tim Ayres-Kerr, Mike Baratta, Melissa Baratta, Greg Dutton, Jason Frigon, Kim Frigon, Audrey Miningham, Lindsay Tomas, Michele Webster, Hailey Hulbig, Addie Abstoss, Elena Baker, Katie Bird, Hannah Connors, Helena Cornwell, Amelia Dahlheimer, Ameline Eastman, Barea Frigon, Macie Hoben, Anna Linde, Kate Settle, Angelina Willey, Devin Curley, Devin DeAngelis, Emmett Eastman, Matthew Packard, and Maggie Friedman.

The Sound of Music runs October 14-23 at THE BLACK BOX. The final collaboration between Rodgers & Hammerstein was destined to become the world's most beloved musical. Featuring a trove of cherished songs, including "Climb Ev'ry Mountain," "My Favorite Things," "Do Re Mi," "Sixteen Going on

Seventeen," and the title number, *The Sound of Music* won the hearts of audiences worldwide, earning five Tony Awards and five Oscars. The inspirational story, based on the memoir of Maria Augusta Trapp, follows an ebullient postulate who serves as governess to the seven children of the imperious Captain von Trapp, bringing music and joy to the household. But as the forces of Nazism take hold of Austria, Maria and the entire von Trapp family must make a moral decision.

The Franklin Performing Arts Company at THE BLACK BOX is a professional Equity theater producing musicals, plays, and more, featuring Broadway stars, professional and regional performers, and emerging artists.

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A beginner's guide to fall planting and maintenance

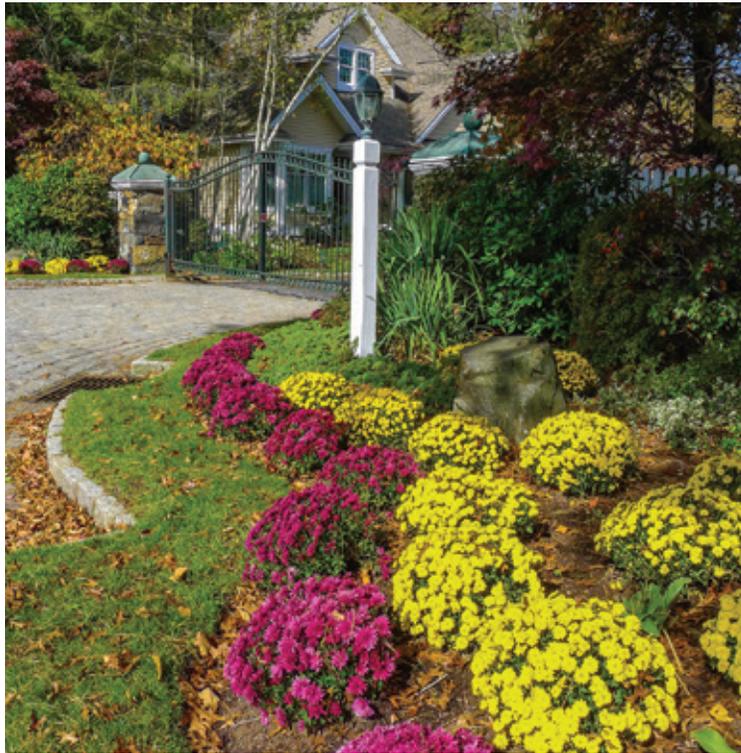
Spring and summer are perhaps the busiest times of year for gardeners. However, fall also is a prime time to tend to gardens.

The tree and bare root retailer Bower & Branch advises that soil temperatures in many regions of the country may still be warm enough to encourage root growth well into the start of winter. Furthermore, fall is often the ideal time to plant, fertilize and keep a garden going or to get a head start on next year's bounty.

Here are some tips to make the most of the fall gardening season.

- Think about fall annuals and bulb planting. Near the end of September, start planting cool-weather-loving pansies and violas for pops of color as summer flowers fade. Also, it's a good idea to stock up on bulbs that will bloom in the months to come before they sell out in stores. Wait until the temperatures really cool down before planting them in desired spots for spring sprouts.

- Sow salad seeds. Lettuce, spinach, radishes, and arugula tolerate cooler temperatures. Try new and interesting lettuce varieties and enjoy salads well into the fall season.
- Take inventory of the sun. Positioning a garden carefully means maximizing hours of sunlight, which begin to dwindle in the fall. Experts say gardens grow best in sunny locations that receive six hours of direct sunlight each day. This is where container gardens can be helpful, as they allow gardeners to move plants into spots that will get ample sunlight.
- Fill in landscaping gaps. Some fall plants can add color around the landscape and brighten up homes to add curb appeal. In addition to pansies and violas, asters, kale and chrysanthemums are fall blooms. Keep in mind that mums can come back year after year.



So take them out of those flower pots and get them into the ground. They can be enjoyed next year as well, sprouting in early spring and developing leaves and buds through late summer.

- Clean up unwanted growth. Fall is an ideal time to cut back spent vegetable plants and get rid of errant weeds. Rather than bagging leaves, mow them with a grass catcher and then add the

mix to a vegetable garden as an excellent soil insulator. The nitrogen and carbon will fertilize the soil, enhancing growing possibilities and limiting weed growth.

- Propagate plants in the fall. As temperatures gradually begin to cool, start taking cuttings from perennials, gathering seed pods from azaleas and rhododendrons and dividing hardwood cuttings, says the resource Gardening Know How. Consult with a garden center or horticulturist on the proper ways to propagate stems using rooting hormone and other techniques.
- Continue to water plants. Water is essential in the fall and winter as roots can still be growing. Gradually reduce watering duration as plants go dormant.

Fall planting and maintenance can extend gardening season and improve the chances of growing a healthy spring garden.

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Robert “Rob” Greene founded the company in 1980 and runs it today with his son Robert Jr. “Robbie.” Their goal is to provide top-notch workmanship at an affordable price.

“I decided to start my own business after I noticed that homeowners were being charged very high prices for a mediocre job,” says Rob. “This bothered me. I knew that if I could offer customers an exceptional job with fair pricing, that I could make a difference.”

Rob himself started roofing at the age of 13 with his father for his father’s construction company. Rob learned everything about roofing from the “great old-timers” who were up on the roof working right along with Rob, teaching him everything he now knows.



Today, Robert Roofing is fully licensed and insured, and performs work on residential and commercial buildings plus new construction. They have an “amazing crew” that offers various types of roofing (asphalt, rubber, low-slope, specialty shingles, etc.) as well as other services including gutter installation, new downspouts, vinyl and wood siding, coil stock metal coverage, soffits, and chimney repointing and flashing.

Did you know fall is peak roofing season? Rob says it is

Business spotlight

very important to have your roof evaluated before the cold winter months. If you need a new roof, or roof repairs, now is the time to do it.

“It’s easy to brush off some minor wear and tear water damage or damaged shingles but these are strong indicators that you need to replace your roof.

“Robert Roofing and Gutters is everything you want a contractor to be: Honest, reasonably priced, expert in what he is doing. Nothing flashy, just good work.”

David Williams

Don’t wait until spring to replace your roof, as doing so can exacerbate your problems. Any damage that you’ve discovered can only get worse during the winter with freezing rain, ice, snow and sleet. It’s best to be proactive instead of dealing with emergency roof repairs at the last minute.”

Robert Roofing will try their best to restore your roof and not sell you a new one. But if you need a new roof, their expert installers will make sure the job is done right the first time.

For the warmer months, Rob stresses the importance of roof ventilation which can also help with energy savings.

“The proper roof ventilation allows proper airflow between the attic and the outdoors. If a roof isn’t properly ventilated, hot air can become trapped inside the attic and cause your entire house to heat up gradually like any oven. This puts a huge strain on your home’s cooling system and leads to a noticeable rise in your monthly energy bills.”

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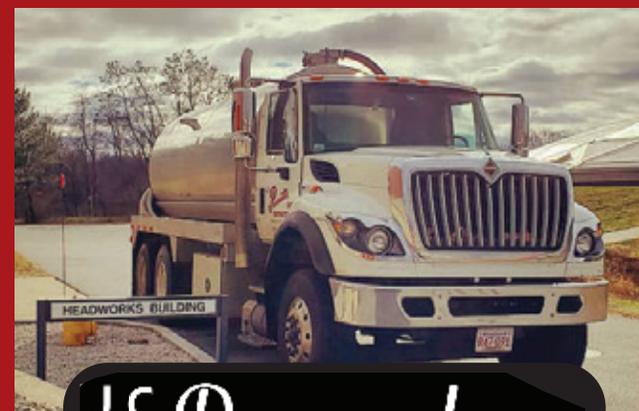


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Under Pressure gets homes ready for the holiday season

By CHRISTIE VOGT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In anticipation of fall bonfires, winter holiday gatherings and cold weather challenges, exterior cleaning company Under Pressure is busy preparing and sprucing up homes for the season. “The work we do is like a tune-up of the house from top to bottom, from roofs to gutters to windows to patios,” says owner Mark Mercer. “We’re helping people to love their home again, especially around the holidays, and to refocus attention on the importance of the health of a house.”

Mercer says that cleaning exteriors in late summer and early fall is an optimal time because houses stay cleaner for longer due to less pollen, landscaping debris and humidity-induced mildew. Under Pressure is also able to wash surfaces later in the year — even as temperatures drop to the 30s — thanks to water heating mechanisms in its trucks. “Winter is long, and homeowners should be asking themselves at this time whether their house is prepared for the

Business spotlight

changing weather ahead,” Mercer says.

In addition to washing, Under Pressure offers shrink-wrapping to protect outdoor furniture, water features, garden monuments and other items that need to be shielded from the elements. “Shrink-wrapping is a great alternative to covering things with weatherproof fabric, which often gets chewed through by critters,” Mercer says. “Shrink-wrapping also saves space because we can push everything into one tight bundle in your yard rather than having your patio furniture take up square footage in your garage or basement.”

Under Pressure also offers safe and efficient ice dam and snow removal services. Its gentle but powerful steam method quickly remedies problematic areas on roofs without damaging a home’s structure.



Routine maintenance and cleaning services like these are important, but Under Pressure is also eager to bring a bit of magic to customers this year in the form of custom-designed holiday lighting. “We are really excited about this new offering,”

Mercer says. “It’s amazing what you can do with a home nowadays with new light technologies, and customers have been asking us for years for a service like this.”

Under Pressure’s team has gone through weeks of training and safety courses in order to design and install holiday lights that cater to customers’ imaginations. “The designs are only limited by homeowners’ creativity,” Mercer says. The company uses LED lights and can illuminate an entire house with one extension cord and a timer. Homeowners don’t have to worry about maintenance or storage either; Under Pressure

will take the lights down at the end of the season and store the equipment until homeowners want to reinstall a display in the coming year.

“We can decorate homes for Halloween, Christmas, Hannukah, New Years — any winter holiday that people want to celebrate,” Mercer says. “Holiday lighting creates a special feeling; there’s just something about the warmth that it brings to a place.”

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Fireplace trends help create attractive, comfortable rooms

Fireplaces are useful features in a home. Fireplaces are sources of ambient heat and also add style to indoor spaces.

Fireplaces can complement just about any interior style. Fireplaces can be traditional and burn wood or connect to a home's natural gas supply for on-demand ambiance. What's more, fireplaces may come in vented or ventless varieties, depending on homeowners' preferences and what is allowed by community building codes. That means a chimney or flue may not be needed — expanding the list of rooms where a fireplace can be installed.

Certain trends have emerged among fireplace fans in recent years. Here's a look at what's getting consumers fired up about these home decor elements.

- **Minimalist style:** Many fireplaces are designed in neutral colors with minimal trim that directs focus on the fire and not the appliance. When the fireplace is not in use, it blends in with surroundings and will not compete for attention with other design elements.

- **Convertible fireplaces:** Homeowners can choose between open or sealed fireplaces. A convertible fireplace enables homeowners to

have the best features of these options. A convertible fireplace can be converted to wood from gas, or the opposite, in as little as 30 minutes.

- **Nature-inspired materials:** Natural stone continues to be a material of choice in fireplace surrounds. Light colors work well for a fireplace, and also fit with today's lighter color interior design preferences. Natural stone also works perfectly with both contemporary and rustic decor.

- **Vintage fireplaces:** Vintage continues to be a buzzword in 2022, and the choice to go vintage also applies to fireplace styles. A room decorated in vintage elements can be complemented with a vintage fireplace or one designed to look vintage.

- **Integrate into wall decor:** Fireplaces that are built right into a wall save space. One can have a television and a fireplace on the same wall. These types of fireplaces work well in modern home designs. Other fireplaces may be built into bookshelves or other wall features.

Fireplaces can improve the appeal of a home. Various trends are popular this year, making fireplaces highly coveted features.



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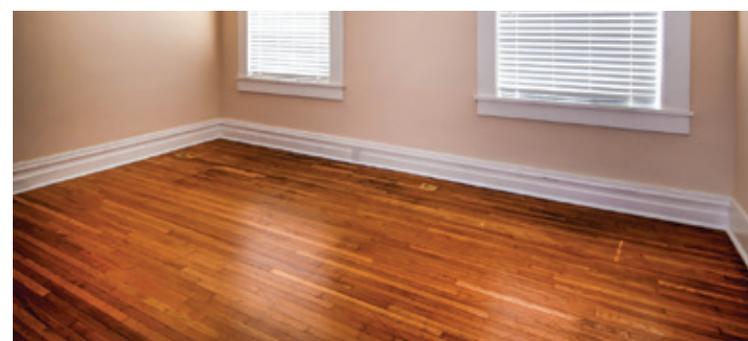
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Wood floor installation dos and don'ts

Jaw-dropping features can sell a home in a heartbeat. A penthouse apartment with floor-to-ceiling windows and a panoramic view of a city skyline likely won't prove a hard sell, nor will a home with an infinity pool overlooking a landscape of rolling hills. As awe-inspiring as such features can be, some more subtle components, such as authentic hardwood floors, also can do much to make a home more appealing to prospective buyers.

home renovation experts at BobVila.com, squeaky floors could be an indication that the subfloor has begun to warp or twist. Sinking floors are another indicator of deteriorating subfloors. Subfloors should be somewhat level before new hardwoods are installed, so DIYers should inspect and address subfloor issues before installing new flooring.

DO expose wood flooring to the elements in your home prior to installation. The home im-



Hardwood flooring is a sought-after commodity. Data from the National Association of Realtors indicates that 54 percent of home buyers are willing to pay more for hardwood floors. In fact, NAR figures indicate that 28 percent of buyers between the ages of 35 and 54 consider hardwood floors "very important" when looking for a home. Homeowners who are considering selling their homes, or those who simply want to upgrade their existing flooring, may want to consider installing hardwood flooring. Though it's a project best left to professionals, hardwood flooring can be installed by skilled DIYers. In such instances, homeowners may want to keep these dos and don'ts in mind.

DO hire a professional if you have limited or no DIY flooring experience. Hardwood flooring installation is not generally a project for novice DIYers. Hardwood flooring projects may present some common challenges, but no two homes are the same. So unless they have prior experience installing floors in multiple rooms or homes, homeowners may save themselves time, trouble and a significant amount of money hiring a professional to do the job.

DON'T ignore the subfloor. New hardwoods won't erase the problem of subfloors in poor condition. According to the

improvement resource BuildDirect recommends acclimating hardwoods to the space where they will be installed. Skipping this important step could result in gaps during the winter and cupping over the summer. To acclimate hardwoods, open the boxes and spread them out for about a week while running the air conditioner or heater at normal levels. When storing hardwoods prior to installation, avoid keeping them in potentially moist areas like a basement.

DON'T skimp on tools. A DIY hardwood flooring installation might be less expensive than hiring a professional, but homeowners should resist any temptation to increase those savings further by purchasing less costly tools or fewer tools than is necessary to complete the job. BuildDirect notes that DIYers will need at least a miter saw, table saw, cleat-nailer or stapler, finish nailer, compressor, jamb saw, chalk line, nail set, and tape measurer when installing hardwood floors. Purchase all necessary tools and read product reviews to ensure each tool is up to the task.

Wood floors can be awe-inspiring. Some homeowners can install such flooring on their own, and the project can be much easier if they learn as much about installation as possible prior to beginning the project.



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Signs your gutters are in need of repair

Fall is a great time to tackle projects around the house. The weather each fall allows homeowners to make improvements to their homes' exteriors without worrying about extreme heat or cold, while interior projects like painting are made easier because homeowners can open the windows to allow for proper ventilation.

Fall also marks a great time to prepare for upcoming projects that can make winter work that much easier. For example, fall is a great time to take stock of your gutters so you can address any issues before leaves begin to fall or the first snowstorm touches down. Compromised gutters can contribute to water issues in basements and adversely affect a home's foundation if not addressed immediately, so it behooves homeowners to learn the signs that gutters are in need of repair or replacement.

- **Gutters hanging off the home:** Gutters were once installed predominantly with spikes. However, many industry professionals now install gutters with hanger brackets. Why



the change? Spikes loosen over time, leading to the gutters hanging off the home. That can contribute to serious issues if left untreated. Gutters hanging off the home need not necessarily be replaced, but rather secured to the home, ideally with hanger brackets instead of spikes. Brackets hook into the front of the gutter and are then screwed into the fascia of a home. A professional who specializes in gutter repair can perform this task relatively quickly, and it's an inexpensive yet highly effective solution.

- **Gutter separation:** Gutters that are no longer fastened together can leak and contribute to issues that affect the home's foundation, siding and appearance. Clogs and the accumulation of debris can cause gutters to separate because they are not designed to hold too much weight. Replacement of separated gutters may or may not be necessary depending on how big the problem is and the condition of the existing gutters. If

replacement is not necessary, separated gutters may be remedied by securing the joints, another relatively simple and inexpensive fix.

- **Peeling exterior paint:** Paint that appears to be peeling off of your home may indicate that water is seeping over the edge of the gutter closest to your home. When that happens, water is coming down the side of the house, causing the paint to peel. In such instances, replacing the gutters is often necessary.
- **Basement flooding:** Not all signs of deteriorating gutters are outside a home. Many a homeowner has been flummoxed by flooding in their basements, and such flooding can be caused by aging, ineffective gutters. That's because deteriorating gutters sometimes allow water to leak near the foundation of a home, contributing to basement flooding.

Fall is an ideal time to inspect gutters and have any issues fixed before leaves begin to fall or harsh winter weather arrives.



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Make Time to Sew

Yankee Quilters Set Plans for a "Staycation" October 21-23 in Holliston

Do you love to quilt or sew but just can't find the time to make the projects you love? Give yourself the time to sew and surround yourself with fabric and quilters in October.

Yankee Quilters Guild, a local quilt group, invites quilters to reserve a space for your sewing machine at a weekend staycation on Friday, October 21st to Sunday, October 23rd at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Holliston. Participants bring their own sewing machine and projects with tables, irons, and cutting space available in a large, bright space. A crock-pot dinner on Friday night, pizza on Saturday night and a bagel breakfast on Sunday are included.

The three-day event cost is \$95 for non-members or \$50 for one day, including a one-year activity fee. Members cost is \$70 for three days or \$25 for one day only. Reservations and advance payment are required.

For hours and registration information, contact Anita Stolle at (508) 321-1757 or anitastolle@gmail.com.

The guild's regular October meeting on Tuesday, October 11th will include a potluck dinner and information about upcoming programs and trips, including a getaway to the Berkshires in March.

For more information about the organization, please follow Yankee Quilters' Facebook page.

Yankee Quilters Guild is a 501-c-3 charitable organization based in Franklin with members throughout the region. The Guild meets on the second Tuesday each month at Emma's Quilt Cupboard in Franklin, Horace Mann Plaza, East Central Street, Franklin in space generously donated by the store. Donations to the Guild are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by current law. For more information about the organization, see Yankee Quilters' Facebook page.



Yankee Quilters Show Work Completed: Members of Yankee Quilters Guild showed off quilts completed for charity donations and family members at September 13th meeting in Franklin. Left to right: Susan Speers, Franklin; Anita Stolle, Medway; Diana Hatch, Holliston; and Cindy Lynch, Monson.

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Franklin Comes Out for 2nd Cultural Festival

By J.D. O'GARA

The second Franklin Cultural Festival, presented by the Franklin Cultural Council took place on Saturday, September 10th, with warm, sunny weather and even an even bigger crowd than last year. The event, which featured artists, entertainment and cultural organizations within the town of Franklin, was

also supported by the Town of Franklin and many business and individual sponsors, as well as a line item in the state budget, secured by Sen. Rausch.

To find out more about the Franklin Cultural Council, visit <https://www.franklinma.gov/cultural-council>, or find them on Facebook.

Here are a few glimpses of the day.



Local businesses and individuals who donated to the event were honored with a Community Unity garden.



Over 52 artist booths were featured.



A community Indian showcase gave audience members a taste of an Indian wedding celebration.



Members of the Franklin Cultural Council volunteering for the event, pulled off a great celebration!



The Community Cultural Lane featured nonprofits with a focus on arts and culture.



SheGrooves, a group of female Berklee professors including Franklin Cultural Council's Kaye Kelly, performed at the festival.



Franklin residents and neighbors turned out in droves for the event.



Members of the Rhode Island Latin Dance School taught festival attendees a few salsa moves before the band played.



The Eguie Castillo and the Mar del Norte Salsa Orchestra came back this year to the delight of the crowd.



TEN31 Productions, Inc. provided living statues for the event.



All enjoyed the international cuisine provided by local food trucks.



Franklin Art Association members shared information about their group.

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Franklin School of the Performing Arts was part of the Community Cultural Lane.



FHS band members enjoyed displaying their talents.



Franklin TV covered the event and had a booth in the cultural lane.



Santa Foundation Annual Fundraiser Proves Fun for All

By J.D. O'GARA

The Santa Foundation, a (501c-3) organization based in Franklin, held its annual fundraiser at the La Cantina Winery in Franklin on Friday, September 9th, 2022. The event, with auctions and live entertainment, raises funds to help provide families in need in Franklin and surrounding towns at Christmas time. The foundation, established over three decades ago, has also helped families in crisis

get through difficult times with help for fuel bills and other utilities and backpacks for school. Last year, the organization supported over 550 families.

This month, the foundation will embark on the sale of its \$20 annual November Raffle Calendar. Come November, those who have purchased a calendar will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win the prize for that day.

To find out more, or to donate, visit www.sfjoy.org.



Ken Barney provided music for the fundraiser.



The Santa Foundation was begun by the late Robert Sullivan and his wife, Cindy. Members of their family (some shown here), continue the tradition. From left, Bob Vozzell, Pat Timmons, Cindy Timmons, and Dick Timmons.



Josh Dale, of Papalia's Woodfired Pizza, left, shown with Dick Timmons, provided pizza for the event.



Past and current Middlesex Savings bank employees attended the event to support The Santa Foundation. From left, Michelle Caddell (outgoing Board member for Santa Foundation), Dick Timmons, Jyoti Sachdeva, Dandi Bouvier, Lou Azevedo, and Gary Donelan

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Calendar

October 1

Franklin 19th Annual Harvest Festival, presented by Franklin Downtown Partnership, 12-5 p.m., Franklin town center, cultural district, over 160 vendors, crafters, food booths, Dancing on Dean featuring Ben Gardner's Boat and The Noyz. Rainedate: October 2

Tyrolean Festival, 1-6 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, live oompah band, serving Austrian & local beer, wine & food

Oktoberfest, 12-6 p.m., FREE Bellforge Arts Center presents Oktoberfest with cold beer, live music, traditional food, and more! Take Rt. 27 to Hospital Road. Make a left on Hospital Road, then a left on Service Drive. Google Maps or Waze: Use 1 Service Drive, Medfield in GPS Apple Maps: Use 45 Hospital Road, Medfield in GPS

Blessing of the Animals service, 5 p.m., front lawn of St. John's Episcopal Church, 237 Pleasant St., Franklin, bring animals, leashed and otherwise secured

October 2

LiveARTS Performance
LiveARTS String Quartet, joined by pianists *Victor Rosenbaum* and *Ann Sears*, and introducing emerging artist *Nathan Krishnaswami*, tenor. 3 p.m., First Universalist Society in Franklin at 262 Chestnut St., Franklin, www.liveartsma.org

October 2-30

St. John's 3rd Annual Pumpkin and Gourd Sale, St. John's Episcopal Church, 237 Pleasant Street, Franklin Mass., good photo opportunity, sustainably grown, Monday-Friday 4-6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday noon-4 p.m.

October 4

Free Legal Clinic 6-8 p.m., Dedham District Court, 631 High Street, Dedham, Mass., for those in need of legal assistance.

October 5

Franklin Art Association meeting, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, artist presentation at 7, features discussion and demonstration of methods and techniques by Kendra Bidwell Ferreira. www.franklinart.org

Writing Group, 6-8 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, contact Nora Kennedy (774) 222-3626, noramijk@gmail.com

Ghosts and Legends with Jeff Belanger, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin,

October 8

Tootsie Roll Drive, 4:45-5 p.m., St. Mary's Parish, The Sacred Heart Council #1847, Knights of Columbus annual "Tootsie Roll Drive" for individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

October 11

Yankee Quilters Guild meeting, Emma's Quilt Cupboard, Franklin, more information at Yankee Quilters' Facebook page.

October 12

Franklin Newcomers Meeting, 7 p.m., Escape Into Fiction, 12 Main St., Franklin, all Franklin residents and those in neighboring towns without a newcomers' club welcome

October 14

Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) presents *The Sound of Music*, 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, starring Broadway's Sara Jean Ford as Maria, www.fpaconline.com

October 15

St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor Walk, 9 a.m.-noon, St. Mary's Parish, benefits people in need in Franklin, open to all, walk circles Town Common, registration at 8 a.m. or register online at www.fopwalk.org/eventlisting/eventdetail/?eventid=2750

DPW Touch a Truck event, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (rain date October 16), Franklin DPW, 257 Fisher St., Franklin, Hydrant Paint winner will be announced during this event at noon.

Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) presents *The Sound of Music*, 2 & 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, starring Broadway's Sara Jean Ford as Maria, www.fpaconline.com

October 16

Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) presents *The Sound of Music*, 2 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, starring Broadway's Sara Jean Ford as Maria, www.fpaconline.com

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October 19

Town of Franklin Health Fair, 3-6 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

October 20

Dean College presents *The Importance of Being Earnest*, 7:30 p.m., www.dean.edu/boxoffice (children aged 2-16 must be accompanied by adult)

October 21

Dean College presents *The Importance of Being Earnest*, 7:30 p.m., www.dean.edu/boxoffice (children aged 2-16 must be accompanied by adult)

Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) presents *The Sound of Music*, 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, starring Broadway's Sara Jean Ford as Maria, www.fpaconline.com

Bellingham Education Foundation presents *Harlem Wizards*, 7 p.m., Bellingham High School, all ages, \$18 general admission, link to tickets at Bellingham Education Foundation Facebook page or at <https://harlemwizards.thundertix.com/events/202694>

Bellingham Lions Paranormal Event, doors open 6:30 p.m., event starts at 7 p.m., Bellingham V.F.W. Post 7272, 940 S. Main St., Bellingham, hear paranormal experience from top paranormal investigators, \$20, send check to Bellingham Lions, PO Box 382, Bellingham, MA 02019 no later than Monday, Oct. 17 or visit FB page for QR code

October 22

Trunk or Treat!, 10:30-12:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library parking lot, 118 Main St., Franklin, Dress up and join us in the library parking lot for a safe, little-kid friendly afternoon of trick-or-treating, decorated trunks and activities, held indoors in case of rain

Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) presents *The Sound of Music*, 2 & 7:30 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, starring Broadway's Sara Jean Ford as Maria, www.fpaconline.com

Dean College presents *The Importance of Being Earnest*, 2 & 7:30 p.m., www.dean.edu/boxoffice (children aged 2-16 must be accompanied by adult)

Senate President Spilka's 55+ Health & Wellness Fair Keefe Regional Technical School, 750 Winter St., Framingham, www.karenspilka.com/fair

October 23

Franklin Police Halloween Party, 2-6 p.m., Franklin Police Station, 911 Panther Way, Franklin, costumes encouraged, trick-or-treating, Halloween fun

Dean College presents *The Importance of Being Earnest*, 2 p.m., www.dean.edu/boxoffice (children aged 2-16 must be accompanied by adult)

October 25

5th Annual Taste of Millis, presented by Tri-County Regional Chamber of Commerce, 5:30 p.m., Encompass Fitness, 27 Milliston Rd., Millis, \$20, showcase of area restaurants, portion of proceeds to Millis Ecumenical Food Pantry

October 27

Franklin Community Conversation, 7 p.m., Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, topic: The Politics of Book Banning

November 5

47th Annual Franklin Newcomers Craft Fair, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School, 147 Pond St., Franklin, over 70 artists

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FSPA Welcomes Tyrick Wiltez Jones to Broadway Faculty

The Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) has announced the addition of Tyrick Wiltez Jones to the FSPA Broadway Faculty. The ten Broadway professionals are available to enrolled students for private coaching via Zoom. Coachings are available for singing, acting, dance, and self-marketing in the theater industry. Additionally, the Broadway faculty will be featured in FSPA's master class programs in Franklin and New York City.



Tyrick Wiltez Jones has been seen in the Broadway productions of Hairspray and Finian's Rainbow, Off-Broadway in Bat Out of Hell, and on tour in Miss Saigon, Seussical, and more. Jones will be available for Dance and Acting coachings. He will be in residence in Franklin while he is featured as Max in The Sound of Music with the Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) at THE BLACK BOX.

Ben Cameron from the original Broadway cast of WICKED, Footloose, and Aida coaches students in Voice and Dance. Sara Jean Ford, a former Christine

in Phantom of the Opera who also appeared in Finian's Rainbow, CATS, How to Succeed..., and A Little Night Music offers Voice and Acting coachings. Tyler Hanes, most recently seen on Broadway as the Rum Tum Tugger in CATS as well as Oklahoma!, Hairspray, The Boy from Oz, and more coaches Voice and Dance students. Jim Hogan currently appearing in the original Broadway cast of Kimberly Akimbo, also seen in the national tours of Waitress, Phantom of the Opera, and Spring Awakening, offers Voice and Acting Coach-

ings. Emily Koch who starred as Elphaba in WICKED and Jenna in Waitress also coaches Voice and Acting students. FSPA is happy to have Kara Lindsay who originated the role of Katherine in Disney's Newsies and appeared

as Glinda in WICKED and Cynthia Weil in Beautiful coaching students in Voice and Acting. Kevin Massey, star of Disney's Tarzan, A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, and more also coaches Voice and Acting students. Christopher Rice-Thomson from the tour of Hamilton and the Broadway companies of The Book of Mormon and Pretty Woman and of #TAPPY fame offers coachings in Voice, Dance, and self-marketing in the theater industry. Closing out the roster, Clay Rice-Thomson from Moulin Rouge, Disney's Newsies, Matilda, WICKED, and KING KONG coaches Voice and Dance.

Relationships with the Broadway community have been de-

veloped through programs in Franklin including FSPA's Broadway Boot Camp, the annual Broadway Weekend, and classes offered in conjunction with THE BLACK BOX Broadway Series. "We are thrilled to offer this unique opportunity to our students," says FSPA Director Raye Lynn Mercer. "It is very exciting that these acclaimed performers have taken a special interest in our students and our school's curriculum."

To coach with the FSPA Broadway Faculty, students must be enrolled at FSPA in the corresponding disciplines. For more information about the offerings at the Franklin School for the Performing Arts, call 508-528-8668 or visit www.FSPAonline.com.

Franklin Troop 126 Scouts Philmont Trip - Peak Perfection

"Troop 126 Scouts can challenge themselves on high adventure trips such as the 7-day trek to Philmont. These trips reinforce all the skills Scouts can learn about backpacking safely to what to do if caught in a lightning storm. The Scouts work as a team to get things done and develop strong leadership skills that become life skills." – Scoutmaster

In early August 2022, two crews led by 20 scouts and adult leaders from Franklin's BSA Troop 126 completed a rugged, week-long backpacking trip in the Rocky Mountains of northern New Mexico. Scouts aged 15-17 carried all food, water, clothing, shelter, and supporting items while hiking 35 miles through the mountains. They stopped at checkpoints to participate in outdoor activities and to perform conservation project work at Philmont Scout Ranch, a 150,000-acre wilderness backcountry area, one of



also contributed to the conservation project to build/rehabilitate trail systems for areas damaged by fire in 2018.

The Scouts worked hard for almost 2 years in the making from lottery to participation, to planning and fundraising. They organized fundraisers like crafts, and disc golf tournaments and worked on applications for grants to collect required funds for the trip. Scouts worked on preparation hikes, gear evaluations, travel, and logistics with their adult leaders' guidance.

four high adventure camps run by Boy Scouts of America.

Before arrival at Philmont, the crew stopped at the stunning Red Rocks Amphitheater, watched the Rockies game, toured Denver, and enjoyed ziplining. At Philmont, the scouts went hiking from 7500-11,700 feet of elevation along with activities like rock climbing, blacksmithing, archery, black powder rifle shooting, and exploring the gold mine. They

If you are curious to learn more about our troop, stop by one of our meetings on Tuesday night (except for the first Tuesday of the month) at the Franklin Elks Lodge between 7 and 8:30 p.m., or email: Troop126Scoutmaster@gmail.com. Also, visit us @ <https://troop126franklin.org/about-us/>, (Facebook) bsatrop126franklin.

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Franklin Touch-A-Truck October 15th at DPW

The Franklin DPW, 257 Fisher St., Franklin, will host a Touch a Truck event on October 15 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (rain date October 16). The event will feature a variety of various town trucks as well as some food truck available.

The fire hydrant paint winner will be announced during this event at noon.

Sports

FHS Girls' Soccer Team Has Plenty of Strengths

Coach Returns after Serious Injury

By KEN HAMWEY, STAFF
SPORTS WRITER

The Franklin High girls' soccer team has a different look than last year's squad — veteran coach Tom Geysen has returned after suffering a leg injury that forced him to miss the 2021 season.

The 78-year-old Geysen, who's guided the Panthers to 33 tourney berths in 37 years and led Franklin to a state championship in 2012, underwent surgery for a fractured femur (thigh bone). Geysen's rehab, which took six months.

In his absence, jayvee coach Jodi Klein did a solid job as the Panthers posted a 14-1-1 record, then went 1-1 in the state tourney where they were eliminated by Brookline.

Geysen, who also has coached boys' track for almost 30 years, is pleased to return to soccer.

"I'm happy to be back, feeling really blessed," he emphasized. "I saw as many games as I could last year, whether I was in a wheelchair or using a cane. The girls are passionate about soccer, and I wanted to share their passion with them. My family is most important, but the best part of my day is being with the kids."

Although the new season is young, one thing that hasn't changed is the Panthers' relentless nature that's been a key to the program's success. At Local Town Pages' deadline, Franklin was off to a good start, winning its opener against Oliver Ames, 2-0.

Geysen's 22-player roster has a plethora of strengths, and he's quick to list them.

"We've got players who are athletic, have a high soccer IQ, are technically sound, are mentally tough, and rely on team chemistry," he said. "We've also got experience and depth."

Geysen's top goal for his squad is to win the Hockomock League's Kelley-Rex Division. And, he also wants the girls to be playing their best against elite opponents.

"If we achieve those objectives, then we'll be ready for the

challenges the tourney presents," he noted. "We hope we can go on a run, but it takes both luck and being good to win a state title. That's not something I think about at this point in the season."

Franklin's leadership team starts with its captains and seniors Bridget Leo (midfielder) and Norah Anderson (center back) get high marks.

"Both lead by example, are athletic and four-year veterans," Geysen said. "Bridget is capable on offense and defense. She's instinctive, has a high soccer IQ, her field sense is good and she's tactically strong. Norah is a league all-star who's tenacious on defense, technically sound, smart, physical and mentally tough. She knows how to stop an offensive attack."

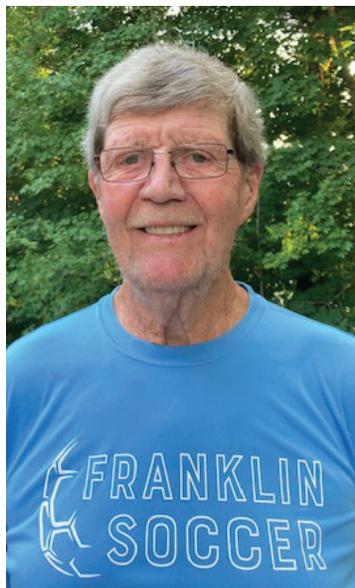
Hockomock all-star Anya Zub led the team in scoring last year (20 goals, 5 assists) and the junior striker again is a major key to Franklin's offense. "Anya is a terrific scorer," Geysen said. "She's got speed, is aggressive and feisty. Very competitive, she's as good a field player as I've ever had."

Another all-star who'll be counted on heavily is junior goalie Rachel Welch. "Rachel was both a league and an Eastern Mass. all-star," Geysen said. "She was the best goalie in the league last year, (with) an instinctive nature, good hands, she's fearless and vocal. Technically sound, she punts the ball to the midfield effectively."

Three senior midfielders Geysen can rely on are Tori Carmignani, Avery Greco and Chloe Stavely.

"Tori has a nice touch on the ball," he said. "She's a four-year veteran who can also play wing. Her field awareness, technique and skills are strong, and she's got passion for the game. Avery is aggressive and very quick. She's coachable, aggressive and has a strong work ethic. Chloe is quick, technically sound on defense, and physical. Not afraid of contact, she's good in transition."

Other seniors include Katie Ewald (defender), Haylie Aniki (goalie) and Hailey Baima (for-



Coach Tom Geysen has guided the Franklin High girls soccer team to 33 playoff berths.

ward).

"Katie is a three-year veteran who's grown into the defender we thought she'd be," Geysen offered. "She's smart, deceptively quick, tactically sound and not afraid of contact. Haylie (Aniki) is a back-up goalie who's fearless, instinctive and relies on sound technique. She's got strong hands and plays the ball well. Hailey (Baima) has good game sense at forward, she's reliable and knows where to play the ball."

Three capable juniors include forward Olivia Costa, center back Maddie Horton and defender Lily Deforge.

"Olivia has improved greatly," said Geysen. "She's got speed and good moves. Maddie is steady, physical and reliable. A fine decision-maker, she's an effective positional player. Lily is a strong and tough defender who's improved, is athletic and consistent."

Two other juniors include midfielder Selene Hammad and defender Alli Powderly. "Selene is a tactical player who's smooth with the ball and solid in transition," Geysen said. "Alli has finesse, she reads the play well, is reliable, steady and skilled."

Two sophomores in the mix are forward Kelly O'Connor and newcomer Eiley Cinelli at defender. "Kelly can score," Geysen said. "She can change speeds quickly, play a physical or finesse style, and is a nightmare for defenders to mark. Eiley is new and



The captains for the Franklin High girls' soccer team are Bridget Leo, left, and Norah Anderson.

still learning, but she's got size, no fear of contact and is eager to learn. She's got a strong leg and can shoot."

Franklin's program has two jayvee coaches, and Geysen is glad he's got Klein and Jen Duncan on board. "They're both very capable and know how to teach the game," he said.

A native of Charlestown, Geysen strives to instill the importance of effort. "There's not much fun in losing but players have to understand that losing is part of sports," he said. "If the girls give me their best effort, that

usually results in winning. And, the life lessons they can learn as competitors are how to overcome adversity, how to be good leaders and teammates, how to manage their time and how to set goals."

Franklin's girls will strive to achieve the goals Geysen has laid out. They know King Philip and North Attleboro will aim to unseat them as Kelley-Rex Division champs (three straight years). And, they'll no doubt be at their best against elite teams. As for the state tourney, ask Tom Geysen about that next month. When it really matters.

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Not Just for Newcomers . . .

The Franklin Newcomers and Friends Club will hold their next monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12th at Escape Into Fiction at 12 Main St in Franklin.

Please join us! No need to be a newcomer to the area. Come make connections in your community.

We are a multi-generational, member-driven organization, offering a wide range of activities, 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.

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

<https://www.meetup.com/franklin-newcomers-friends/>
<https://facebook.com/FranklinNewcomersFriendsClub>

Commercial Properties

ACTIVE LISTING FOR SALE

844 Franklin St., Unit 5,
 Wrentham - \$230,000



COMM. OFFICE CONDO

221 West St., Unit 2,
 Milford - \$220,000



COMM. OFFICE CONDO

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480 W. Central St., Unit 2,
 Franklin - 1600SF, \$15/SF +NNN



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111-C E Central St, 445SF,
 \$800/MO, includes utilities



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16 Cottage St,
 700SF, \$1000/Mo + NNN

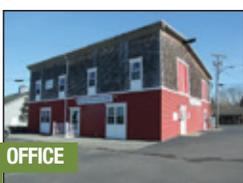


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Show Your Pet Some Love Special Pet Blessings on October 1st

Love your pet? Come to St. John's Church, 237 Pleasant St., Franklin, for a special Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 1st during the 5 p.m. worship service on the front lawn of the church.

The Rev. Kathy McAdams will lead the service that includes a special blessing for all pets in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, who is associated with the pa-

tronage of animals and the natural environment. Bring your dog, cat, bird, goat or whomever is your beloved pet (on a leash or in carriers, please). Favorite stuffed animals and photos of pets are welcome, too!

For more information contact St. John's Episcopal Church at (508) 528-2387, visit www.stjohnsfranklinma.org or like them on Facebook: St John's Episcopal.

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 Real Estate Corner**

Call Jen Schofield at
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PENDING!
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ACTIVE!
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Real Estate Corner

Franklin Art Association Welcomes Members, to Meet Oct.5

The Franklin Art Association monthly meeting will take place on October 5th at 6:30 p.m. at the Franklin Senior Center. The program will feature a discussion and demonstration of methods and techniques by Kendra Bidwell Ferreira. Kendra's work is mainly contemporary colored pencil using ordinary subjects and compositions to portray them in an extraordinary way. Colored pencils allow her to combine the expressiveness of painting with the control of drawing. A recording of her demo will later be posted to the Franklin Art Association's YouTube channel and at www.franklinart.org.



Kendra received a good foundation in drawing in high school, then went on to earn her BFA from Massachusetts College of Art with a concentration in printmaking. She is a



signature member of the Colored Pencil Society of America and holds a second signature status (CPX) in exploratory mediums with colored pencil. Kendra is also a Fellow Member of the American Artists' Professional League, and an artist member of Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club and Providence Art Club. Kendra's work has been included in many national and international art exhibitions and she has received numerous awards for her work.

All meetings are free and open to the public. The Art Association is supported in part by grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Franklin Cultural Council and the Franklin Cultural District.

The Pumpkins Are Coming!

The 3rd Annual Pumpkin and Gourd Sale is open all month long from October 2nd through the 30th at St. John's Episcopal Church, 237 Pleasant Street, Franklin.

The front lawn at St. John's Church will have a large display of pumpkins and gourds of all sizes, colors and textures. Your kids will have fun picking out their favorite.

Put it on your calendar: Monday-Friday 4-6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday noon-4 p.m.



The pumpkin patch will be on the front lawn at St. John's Episcopal Church, 237 Pleasant Street, Franklin MA. Great photo opportunity for your kids and family!

In addition to supporting the Navajo Nation in New Mexico, your purchase also supports St. John's Church and its work right here in our community.

For more information, call (508) 528-2387, email: Admin@StJohnsFranklinMA.org, visit us on Facebook at St. John's Episcopal Church, or see www.stjohns-franklinma.org.



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32 Field Cir.
Wrentham



AmberFields - Lot 19
Wrentham



4 Shepard Rd.
Franklin



108 Lincoln St.
Franklin



12 Residential Ln.
Blackstone



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