

Library 'Trail' Highlights Local and Statewide Library Riches

By CODY ROGERS

A free public library seems like such a natural idea, it's hard to believe that someone had to come up with it first. For Massachusetts and the United States, it took the generosity of founding father, Ben Franklin, who donated more than 100 precious volumes to the town named in his honor. And it took the shared wisdom of the townspeople, who voted to make the books available to any resident to borrow without charge, to make that first free, public, lending library a reality.

To celebrate that fact and the state's abiding love for books and learning, local historian, Alan Earls, supported by a grant from the MetroWest Visitor's Bureau, has created what he has calls the Ben Franklin Library Trail. He said his aim is to call attention to those first books, still proudly residing in the Franklin Public



Bibliophiles in the Commonwealth now have a resource to learn about historic libraries in their state, starting with the Franklin Public Library and its first books, donated by Benjamin Franklin. Local historian and author Alan Earls created the "Ben Franklin Library Trail" with help from a grant from the MetroWest Visitors Bureau.

Library (but no longer available for borrowing), the many other riches of the Franklin library; as well as historic libraries of the past and present across the state.

"Really, the point is to appreciate all of the state's libraries, which often boast of

wonderful architecture and art treasures, books, historical treasures, and much more," he said.

TRAIL

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Saving the Whales, One Tool at a Time

Franklin Company Partners with the Center for Coastal Studies

By JANE LEBAK

This summer, a Franklin business became an integral part of the worldwide effort to save the whales. Specifically, saving the lives of individual whales who've become entangled in fishing nets.

Doug Sandilands of the Center for Coastal Studies says entanglement is an ongoing and serious problem for whales. "Sometimes a whale gets caught in different parts of the fishing gear, or it could be anchors or undersea cables. The entanglement can go through their mouth or around their tails or



Michael Abi-Kheirs holds the frame of a telemetry buoy used for tracking distressed whales.

WHALE

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WHALE

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flippers.”

Elyse Lemery of Franklin Sheet Metal adds, “If it wraps around their mouth and their tail, the whale can die.”

Disentangling a multi-ton animal, possibly wounded or frightened, in the choppy waves of the open ocean, is no easy task. In addition to their training and certification, these disentanglement experts require highly specialized tools.

General Manager of Franklin Sheet Metal, Michael Abi-Kheirs says, “We produce nineteen different tools for disentanglement of whales, from grapples to extension poles with blades on the end, to small specialty hand-knives, to telemetry buoys that are used for tracking distressed whales as they submerge.”

The complexity is mind-boggling: knives sharp enough to slice through half-inch rope must not puncture the inflatable watercraft. They need to be made of the right alloys not to corrode in harsh conditions.

When the previous manufacturer stopped producing these tools, the Center for Coastal Studies searched for a new metal fabricator. They found their an-

swer in Franklin Sheet Metal.

Abi-Kheirs says, “We received a handful of the existing designs, but not all nineteen. For those, we had to reverse-engineer everything. Also, every manufacturer has different types of equipment and different skill sets, so we had to make them our way. Some we had to adapt to make the tools better or more easily-manufactured. It was a logistical challenge.”

Franklin Sheet Metal, whose team of fabricators has a combined seventy years of experience, surpassed that challenge.

Sandilands says, “The Center for Coastal Studies is where whale disentanglement was invented. The first was in 1984, and we got licensed officially in 1994. We’ve freed two hundred to three hundred whales, as many as a dozen in a year.”

For every whale they disentangle, many more are never reported. According to Sandilands, “About 70% of humpback whales have been entangled at least once. For right whales, it’s probably more.”

This makes their work all that more important, not just for the whale whose life is saved, but for the preservation of the species. “We collect a lot of documentation about how it became entangled, and how to prevent entanglement.”

This work is both delicate and dangerous. Civilians who see an entangled whale should never attempt to free the whale on their own. Sandilands says, “We have a hotline number, 800-900-3622. It’s really important that people call ASAP, and that they stay with the whale as long as possible.” As one can imagine, it’s hard to find a whale again in the ocean. “Report, stay with the whale, and take lots of photos.”

Once the team is onsite, Sandilands says, “We start by tying in keggings buoys to slow the whale down. Once it’s slow and at the surface, then we can start making cuts to the gear.

We’ll use hooked knives that go through half-inch lines like butter, and those go onto poles up to thirty feet long. The grapple has saved more whales than any other tool, given that it’s hard to grab the gear on an entangled whale.”

Abi-Kheirs says, “There were elements of the design that we had no clue about, like the particular angles of a grapple and the importance of being able to bend the metal to that angle. If they’re too shallow, they can’t go on. If they’re too wide, they slip off. Luckily, we have such craftsmen here that they can make it work.”

Like metal fittings through threaded holes, the pairing of Franklin Sheet Metal and the Center for Coastal Studies is a perfect fit. Abi-Kheirs says, “We’re a low-volume shop, so we can make one tool or a hundred. That’s where our niche is. Our guys are artisans and craftsmen. They really relish the complexity of it. They’re artful, so their attention to detail is incredible, and the way they finish and assemble everything is perfect.”

Sandilands says of the fabricators at Franklin Sheet Metal, “I’ve asked a lot of them, and they’ve come through at every step.”

Abi-Kheirs is proud to be part of a worldwide effort. “We send these tools all over the world. They go to Brazil, to Japan. There’s a team in Mexico that saves other kinds of whales. From this little hub, our products are sent worldwide to save whales. It’s wild to us.”

Elyse Lemery agrees. “We’re fabricating metal, but we’re actually having a positive influence in a way we couldn’t fathom previously.”

To learn more about the Center for Coastal Studies, visit <https://coastalstudies.org/>. Franklin Sheet Metal is at 231 Cottage Street in Franklin, and online at <https://www.franklins-metal.net>.



Sturgis Library, located in Barnstable Village, made the Ben Franklin Library Trail because it is housed in the oldest building housing a library in the United States, a former home and meeting house dating to the late 1600s.

TRAIL

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The Franklin Public Library is exhibit A, he says, with a modern collection of books, online resources, and even “things” that can be borrowed as well as amazing, classically inspired murals and landscape paintings dating back more than a century.

Earls cautions that the “trail” is not a literal route – like the famous Freedom Trail in Boston – but rather a listing of historic libraries and library sites, worth visiting or knowing about. The website lists many other important libraries, including a large batch of public libraries funded by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, intended to be ‘the people’s universities.’

The Ben Franklin Library ‘Trail’ takes us through an impressive selection of libraries that hold a number of “first” distinctions in Massachusetts, noted Franklin Library Director Felicia Oti. “The stories of how they came to be are as compelling as the buildings that house them; some tax-supported and others established through philanthropic giving,” she added.

“The Ben Franklin Library Trail is a must for bibliophiles as it leads them to discover other “firsts” around the state,” said Monique Doyle, a retired educator and former Franklin Library board member.

“The citizens of Massachusetts are proud of their libraries,” Doyle said. “Following The Ben Franklin Library Trail will give them greater insight into how libraries have grown to accommodate populations from the Founding Fathers and their struggles to today’s modern offerings of technology in its many forms,” she added.

One of the libraries on the Trail’s “top ten” is Sturgis Library, located, library director Lucy Loomis explained, in Barnstable Village, which is in the Town of Barnstable and in the County of Barnstable! Her library made the list because it is housed in the oldest building housing a library in the United States, a former home and former meeting house dating to the late 1600s. However, she noted, like many other libraries in the state, there is much more to the story. In addition to a healthy collection of books and other typical library offerings, Loomis said Sturgis Library also boasts records and artifacts that cover most of the history of Cape Cod as well as the maritime world beyond – and genealogical records, too, she noted.

Having a trail that brings more visibility to her library and others around the state is “Just great,” she said.

“Earls has done a remarkable job putting together an inspiring collection of historic ‘firsts’ in Massachusetts and the nation,” Oti added.

“This ‘Trail’ exemplifies how and why libraries remain firmly rooted in their communities and affirms the enduring values of stewardship, service, intellectual freedom, literacy and learning, equity of access to recorded knowledge and information, democracy, and the greater good,” Oti added.

Learn more about the Ben Franklin Library Trail at <https://www.benfranklinlibrarytrail.org> and at <https://www.metroestvisitors.org> or by emailing Franklintwofifty@gmail.com.

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Dean College History Department Celebrates 5th Annual History Reception at the Franklin Historical Museum

The Dean College history department celebrated its 5th Annual History Reception at the Franklin Historical Museum on Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

An exhibition of student work was on display, featuring presentations from students in the “Public History” course. Students had the opportunity to share their chosen topic and research question for their final projects and answer questions for attendees, which included faculty, staff, alumni, family and Franklin community members.

The keynote address was delivered by Brock Leiendecker '08, an alumnus of the Dean history program and instructor of preservation carpentry at the North Bennet Street School. Leiendecker spoke about the importance of understanding the history of buildings, including their significance to the people who used them, and preserving that history for current and future generations.

“It’s important to appreciate that we’re simply a pinpoint in the built environment we’re around every day and make sure that what we love so much about these buildings lives on,” he said.

During the reception, history majors Scott Kirshy '23 and Elena Mejorado '23 received the Laska Award from the New England History Teachers Association (NEHTA). Linda Morse, president of NEHTA, presented each student with a monetary award and complimentary membership in NEHTA.

Scott and Elena were awarded this honor for demonstrating excellence in the history classroom and for their work digitizing over 100 back-issues of the New England Journal of History during their internship with the Journal. Both Scott and Elena were nominated for this award by Dr. David Dennis, professor of history and program coordinator for the humanities, and Dr. Rob Lawson, professor of history and director of the Honors Program



at Dean. Dennis and Lawson are also on the editorial board of the New England Journal of History, which is housed at Dean and published by NEHTA.

“Scott’s sense of joyous intellectual curiosity in the learning of history has stood out from the moment he first arrived at Dean and has translated into excellent work in the classroom,” said Dennis and Lawson. “He also has gone above and beyond through his work as history peer tutor in the Theodore and Cynthia Berenson Center for Writing, Mathematics and Presentation

Excellence at Dean, and through his efforts to digitize back issues of the New England Journal of History.”

“Elena brings a sense of thoughtfulness, wit, and reflection to her study of history,” Dennis and Lawson added. “She’s not always the first person to speak out in class, but when she does speak, she commands the respect of her faculty and peers. She tackled her internship digitizing back issues of the New England Journal of History with tremendous energy and organizational skill.”

The Laska Award is given to an undergraduate with a declared major in history with a focus in United States history or university in New England to be used to further the recipient’s study of United States history. The award is named for the late well known History Professor, Dr. Vera Laska, a Kidger Award winner, and her husband Andrew J. Laska, who was a successful businessman.

To learn more, visit www.dean.edu.

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How to Get Rid of an Old Mattress – and Other Textiles, Now

BY MARJORIE
TURNER HOLLMAN,
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You may (or may not) know that a new law took effect in Massachusetts November 1, 2022 that changes what must be recycled rather than be thrown out and becoming part of what is called the “Waste Stream.” This change in the law concerning recycling will affect how you dispose of some items. We will only address textiles, including mattress disposal, in this article. Mattresses, other textiles, and food waste were specifically addressed in this updated recycling law, but commercial food waste disposal is a whole other topic.

First—what does the law mean by “textiles”? According to the mass.gov website, “For waste disposal-ban purposes, textiles are defined as bedding, clothing, curtains, fabric, footwear, towels, and similar items. Virtually any textile can be reused, repurposed, or recycled if clean and dry. Even worn, torn, and stained items have recovery value.”

This addresses some, but certainly not all the questions surrounding this new recycling regulation. According to www.recyclesmart.org an education initiative funded by Mass. DEP, “If you’ve got clothes that are covered in paint, grease, or mold, they should also be disposed of with regular trash pickup.”

Mass DEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg stated, “Recovering textiles is an excellent opportunity for our cities and towns to reduce trash disposal from their residents at the same

time as they get paid for the valuable textiles that they recover. We are pleased to partner with this burgeoning industry to remove these valuable materials from the waste stream and put them back to work.”

What many do not understand is that recycling textiles is a money-making proposition. Companies such as Simplerecycling (which has a contract with Franklin and nearby Milford as well as other area towns) accept textiles for recycling for free. The company serving Franklin is a for-profit company. By recycling your textiles, you not only save your town money by reducing costs for waste disposal, you will also be supporting local industries that are working to develop this market of recycled textiles.

According to <https://recyclesmartma.org/faq/> “One of the biggest misconceptions about donating clothing and textiles is that items must be in good condition. It ends up, clothing and other textiles (bedding, towels, table linens, etc.) are still useful, even if they are stained, ripped, missing buttons, or have broken zippers. As long as items aren’t wet, moldy, or soaked in oil or hazardous materials, they can be donated. If they are unable to be sold for reuse locally, they may be baled and sold to export markets, made into industrial wiping cloths, or converted to fiber for insulation, carpet padding or sound-proofing material.”

Franklin’s Environmental Coordinator, Derek Adams, who manages the town’s recycling center, noted that Franklin has



Textiles, defined by Mass.gov as bedding, clothing, curtains, fabric, footwear, towels, and similar items, are among items named in a new Massachusetts law aimed at reducing the “waste stream.” These items, if clean, should now be recycled instead of thrown away.

been recycling textiles since he started his position with the town in 2020. Franklin has a system, through <https://simplerecycling.com/> for curbside pickup.

Bellingham’s Town Administrator Denis Fraine said, “Bellingham accepts textiles at our Recycling Center on S. Maple Street and has a container for them.”

So, what are you supposed to do with old mattresses? If you are purchasing a new mattress, you can request the seller take your old mattress for recycling. If it’s in good condition you may be able to donate it. Franklin’s recycling center accepts mattresses except those made of foam. Mattresses must be delivered to the Franklin Recycling center on Beaver Street. A valid recycling sticker is required for Franklin residents to access the recycling center.

In Bellingham, the waste disposal company E.L. Harvey & Sons will pick up mattresses curbside for residential customers, but you must call in the request to E.L. Harvey prior to putting the mattress and/or box spring out. There is a \$150 fee for pickup of all mattresses and box springs, including foam mattresses. Town Administrator Denis Fraine noted that “Residents can inform the mattress collector of the condition bed bugs or soiled mattress) so they understand there will be a challenge, but residents will be assessed a fee by whoever collects it. For pickup, check the town’s website for details or call E.L. Harvey & Sons at 1-800-321-3002.

Franklin’s Recycling Center is on Beaver Street, almost directly across from Beaver Pond and is open in winter on Friday and Sat-

urdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sundays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and additionally from April to November from Noon to 3 p.m. Bellingham’s recycling center is at 119 S. Maple Street. During winter (when the clocks are on standard time) the Bellingham recycling center is open only on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Summer hours include Sundays, same times.

To learn more, a number of websites offer Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), contact information to learn more if your concerns are not adequately addressed, and resources for how you can dispose of unwanted items. Check out these links:

- <https://www.franklinma.gov/2022-waste-bans/pages/recycling-center-information-specific-to-Franklin-residents>
- <https://www.bellinghamma.org/department-public-works/pages/curbside-pick-up-solid-waste-recyclables-Information-specific-to-Bellingham-residents>
- <https://simplerecycling.com/> Here’s one option for towns to sign up for free textile recycling
- <https://recyclesmartma.org/state-guide-to-information-about-recycling>
- <https://www.mass.gov/guides/textile-recovery#-consumer-textile-donation-&-recycling-> includes information about Nov. 1 ban

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Taking on the T

By GRACE ALLEN

There's a David and Goliath struggle going on right now, and a Norfolk woman is in the thick of it. Sandy DiBacco is taking on the MBTA, and she's not afraid of a fight.

On September 12, the MBTA launched a commuter rail service pilot program between South Station and Foxboro Station via the Fairmount and Franklin commuter rail lines. If this sounds familiar, a version of this service began in the fall of 2019 but was cancelled the following spring because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now it's back, albeit in a changed form, and not for the better, asserts DiBacco, who has been riding the commuter rail since 1988. While the service offers 11 inbound and 10 outbound weekday trains between Foxboro and Boston, most of those trains have been taken away at the expense of commuters using the Walpole station.

Perhaps more importantly, the new schedule creates a dangerous situation at the Walpole train station, where DiBacco catches the train to get to work in Boston. In order to get from the MBTA parking lots to the train station, commuters must cross the Foxboro line's tracks. At least twice a day, that means crossing in front of a Foxboro train to catch or get off a Walpole train.

At the Walpole station, a set of train tracks branches off of the main line and goes through the station's access road. These tracks continue to the Foxboro station, which is located at Gillette Stadium. No matter which parking lot commuters come from, they need to cross these tracks to get to the Walpole station.

While there are flashing lights and gates to stop cars from driving through, the concern for pedestrians rises as trains outbound from South Station to Foxboro

roll through just as commuters are trying to catch inbound trains to Boston. For example, at about 7:15 a.m. each weekday, a train outbound from Boston, scheduled to arrive in Foxboro at 7:30 a.m., comes right down the tracks through this road, just as pedestrians and commuters in cars are rushing to the Walpole station to catch the 7:30 a.m. inbound train to Boston.

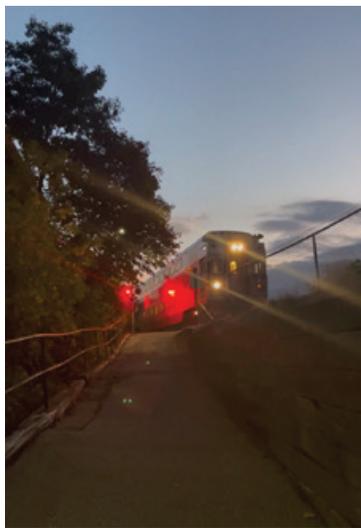
"You come up from the parking lot, you walk up the hill, and you have to cross the tracks," explained DiBacco, noting the electronic signage boards do not announce the Foxboro trains. "And people are running across the train tracks as the Foxboro train is coming. They look and figure they can make it. It's so incredibly dangerous."

It's not just an issue with scheduled commuter trains. Empty trains also move through the Walpole station for repositioning. Commuters getting off the 5:45 p.m. train from Boston to Walpole have to cross the tracks minutes before one such empty Foxboro train heading to Boston comes through.

"It's pitch black now when you get off the train," said DiBacco. "What about older people or somebody in a cast, or even someone pausing to check a text message? The Foxboro train comes just a few minutes after the commuters get off the Walpole train. I'm not even halfway down that path and that train is coming."

Over the course of the past year, the MBTA has slowly chipped away at trains on the line, including several morning inbound trains. Changes on September 12 resulted in the loss of yet another rush-hour outbound train (5:20 p.m.) from South Station that used to end in Walpole; instead, this train now goes to Foxboro.

"I personally get home 45



minutes later than I used to," DiBacco noted, who said even the conductors on her train were unaware of the abrupt schedule changes on September 12, asking the passengers why the trains were so crowded.

Given the shift of the train schedule away from stops normally made at Walpole, there are implications for overcrowding on other Franklin line trains, as area commuters are forced to turn to different ones. In addition, the MBTA added Forest Hills as a permanent stop on the Franklin line, resulting in even more passengers on already-full trains.

DiBacco, who works as a legal assistant, has started a petition, sent letters, and contacted MBTA and Keolis officials—Keolis operates the MBTA commuter rail system—to complain about the schedule changes, and more importantly, the dangerous situation in Walpole.

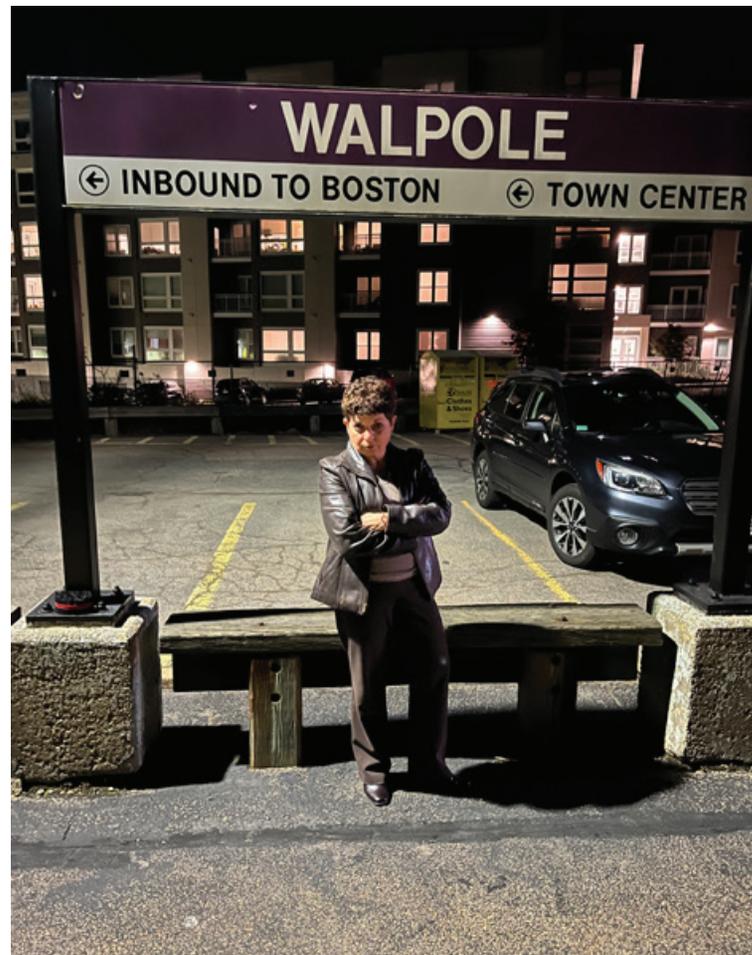
She's requested that a Keolis safety official come to the Walpole station during peak commuter hours, and has also filed a complaint with the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), which was flagged as invalid.

"I'm not supposed to file an OSHA report because I don't work for the MBTA, but I did it anyway," DiBacco said. "It's all in writing if somebody dies, God forbid."

She has notified Walpole town officials, the Department of Public Utilities Transportation Oversight Division, and has gone into the Attorney General's office to discuss the safety issue.

"Nobody is policing the MBTA," asserts DiBacco.

The Kraft Group, led by New England Patriots owner Bob Kraft, has partnered with the MBTA on the Foxboro pilot program, which includes free parking at Gillette Stadium for



Sandy DiBacco is bringing attention to a safety issue for commuters at the Walpole MBTA station.

commuters who take the Foxboro line. The Kraft Group owns Gillette Stadium and Patriot Place.

"Bob Kraft doesn't take the train," said DiBacco. "What business is his to ruin people's lives because he decided he wanted people to go to Patriot Place?" She added she has no issue with the special event day train service from Boston and Providence to Patriots home games.

DiBacco says both state Representative Jeff Roy and former state Representative Shawn Dooley, as well as Walpole's town administrator, have tried to schedule meetings with the MBTA, but at the time of this writing the meeting had not taken place.

When contacted, Rep. Roy said a meeting will most likely be held in the next few weeks, once a mutually convenient time and place are agreed upon.

"Having a reliable and safe public transportation system is integral for moving people," wrote Rep. Roy in an email. "It is important for economic development and is vital to our success in reducing emissions and achieving our climate goals. Our residents demand and need a public transit system that will get them safely to their destination and this will be emphasized during our meeting."

DiBacco's petition, signed by over 160 people so far, requests that the MBTA abandon the Foxboro line pilot program, calling it unfair, inconvenient, and dangerous.

"When the MBTA wants to increase fares, they hold meetings for public input," said DiBacco. "But they just changed everything for this pilot program without telling anyone. Somebody is going to die here. There is no question in my mind. Last year, in the parking lot, I slipped on black ice and broke my wrist. And the MBTA thinks it's safe to cross the train tracks as a train is coming? We live in New England."

She added, "Every agency, every MBTA and Keolis person I've contacted told me they can't do anything about it. They all tell me the same thing. And I say, you don't understand. I'm going to fight this until something gets done. I've done this sort of stuff before. I don't mind fighting. It's what I do best."

To sign DiBacco's petition, contact her at sandydibacco@yahoo.com. Or search for "Abandon Foxboro Commuter Rail Pilot Program" on Change.org.

J.D. MURPHY

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Family-run Affordable Junk Removal takes the stress out of cleanups

By CHRISTIE VOGT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible, properly disposes of non-recyclables and resells many items at the Schadlers' secondhand store, Resellables. "We opened that store in Bellingham because we hated to see things thrown away," Schadler says. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time



endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the back-end while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 17 years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place, The Corner Market in Holliston."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

Business spotlight

As for Franklin in particular, Schadler says they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area. The Schadlers' oldest daughter lives in Franklin, and their kids attended softball camp and learned how to skate in town. Prior to starting Affordable Junk Removal, Christine worked for years in Franklin as well.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

To receive a free junk removal estimate, call (774) 287-1133 or visit affordablejunkremoval.com.

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Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children and dog, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.



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College Deferrals and Denials



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

During these past several months, high school students have spent endless hours exploring college websites, visiting campuses, and preparing their college applications. Their efforts are becoming a reality as many students are now hearing from their chosen schools. Many colleges have sent Early Decision and Early Action letters over the past few weeks. There is much excitement when students receive good news, however, some will be disappointed.

The college process is not getting any easier for high school seniors. 2022 was one of the most challenging years on record. The number of submitted college applications soared at many selective colleges, partially due to the schools implementing test-optional policies, while acceptance rates shrank. Unfortunately, this resulted in a frustrating number

of deferrals and denials. Our guess is that this year will not be any different. It is hard to not take it personally, but think of it in this way, in 2022 Yale University only offered acceptance letters to 4.6% of their applicants. So, focus on what can be done. Here is my message to students:

If you were DENIED:

- Give yourself time to grieve, especially if it was your dream school. It can be a challenging time and it is OK to climb under the covers and binge watch the entire series of The Office for 3 straight days. But on day 4, make a plan.
- You are still in the game. Review your college list and determine if you want to apply to some additional colleges. It is only January 1

and there are many colleges that have Regular Decision deadlines on 1/15, 2/1, and 2/15. **FREE Resource:** email us for a list of colleges with late Regular Decision deadlines.

- There are also tons of schools that would be thrilled to have you as a student, seriously, so take the time to review what college criteria is important to you (ex, major, location, size) and where you feel like you would genuinely fit in academically, socially, and financially. Three resources to help you in the college research: collegeboard.org, Niche.com, and/or check what is offered through your high school, such as Naviance.
- When adding new colleges to your list, make sure your list is balanced with more likely and probable than selective schools. In this very unpredictable admission landscape, it is important that you are invested and engaged with these colleges.
- Finally for any new schools, review your current application and add any new information from your senior year that is not currently in the common app (awards, updated grades, interesting project) and have a 2nd set of eyes review your application.

If you were DEFERRED:

- As an FYI, there are normally 2 main reasons why a college issues a deferral- for some students their senior year academic performance is critical in the decision-making process and the college wants to review the student's 1st semester grades. Second, the student falls in the middle of the pack academically and the college wants to compare the student's application to the overall applicant pool.
- However, think of being deferred as a 2nd chance at admission and another opportunity to show off your amazing talents.
- Meet with your guidance counselor and ask for feedback. They often have strong relationships with the college admission reps and will be able to provide critical insight.
- It is essential that you keep up with your studies - your grades are the top priority when a college reviews your application.
- The deferral letter will normally include the protocol for moving forward in the application process. If the letter states that they don't want you to take any further action- then don't. However, many schools will allow you to submit additional materials, such as a new recommendation letter, an updated resume, or test scores.

You also may have the opportunity to include a personal statement to express that XYZ University is your top choice.

- If you are serious about the school, and they allow you to submit additional information- it is critical that you do it. Tip: when writing the personal statement be very specific by citing exact reasons why you and XYZ University are a good match. Also, take the time to research the school, such as, through their website or your favorite social media site. I would highly recommend visiting the campus in-person if possible or registering for a virtual tour.
- Finally, assess your current college list to determine if there are colleges already on your list where you can achieve your goals.

Remember, it is important to focus on what can be done, instead of dwelling on the "what ifs". The goal of the college process is to find and attend a college that is a right-fit for YOU where you will be happy- and with a little extra work you can accomplish this goal.

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

College 101 Admissions Consultants LLC. Website: www.my-college101.com. Email: tracy@mycollege101.com.

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Your Money, Your Independence

New Year, New You... Not True?



Glenn Brown

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

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

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

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

Bad Resolution: *Pay down debt.*

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

Better Resolution: *Execute a debt reduction plan.*

Access all debt, then prioritize on high-interest debt, variable

rates, and unsecured. If down to a 3% or lower mortgage, 2% auto loans, and a MassSave at 0%, then maintain required payments, reap benefits of low, fixed rates in an inflationary environment and allocate towards investments outpacing those rates over time.

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

Bad Resolution: *Do more for my retirement.*

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

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

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

tion steps, and track goals within timelines.

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

Now ask yourself, are your resolutions the same as last year?

What different actions are you going to take to make a difference?

Know what Einstein said about doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

Maybe it's time to socialized your goals, set monthly action items to create fresh start moments and leverage an accountability partner (i.e. Certified Financial Planner) to make your 2023 resolutions happen.

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

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

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Making New Year's resolutions to improve your financial wellness in 2023?

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

Bad Resolution: *Need to start buying "X" to grow my money.*

If you started 2022 with FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) or based new investments chasing 2021 performance, how did that work?

Freshen Your Credentials in 2023: Register for Spring Courses in the School of Continuing Studies at Dean College

Start the new year off fresh by pursuing a part-time bachelor's degree, associate degree or certificate program. The School of Continuing Studies is currently enrolling for the Spring 2023 Semester, which begins on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

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

spring, courses are being offered in Accounting, Business, Cybersecurity Studies, Early Childhood Education, English, Exercise Science, Psychology and more.

The last day to register for a Spring I course is January 13, 2023, while the last day to register for a Spring II course is March 8, 2023.

To view course times and descriptions, and to register for classes, visit www.dean.edu/scs.

Bishop Feehan Announces 1st Quarter Honor Roll Students

Honor Roll is a recognition of high performing students based on the student's overall average in any given quarter, regardless of the levels of their classes. Bishop Feehan has three levels of Honor

Roll. First Honors is awarded to students whose overall average in that quarter is grade 93.00 or higher, Second Honors is grade 90.00 or higher, and Third Honors is 85.00 or higher, with no

individual grade below 80.

Read more here. <https://bishopfehan.edlioschool.com/apps/news/article/1694168>



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Struggling to Stay Warm? Fuel Assistance Available

The Fuel Assistance Program through Self Help, Inc. is designed to provide relief to households most vulnerable to high home heating costs. The program helps low-income families and individuals (anyone 18 and older) pay for and lower the cost of heating their home in winter, even if you rent, and sometimes,

even if heat is included in your rent. This program may also help homeowners weatherize their homes, repair/replace their heating system and much more. Those wishing to apply should call the Franklin Senior Center and ask for the Social Services Department at (508) 520-4945.

Household Size	Gross ANNUAL Income 60% SMI	4 Week Gross Income (if paid 1x per month)	4 Week Gross Income (if paid weekly or BI-weekly)
1	\$42,411	\$3,534	\$3,262
2	\$55,461	\$4,621	\$4,266
3	\$68,511	\$5,709	\$5,270
4	\$81,561	\$6,796	\$6,273
5	\$94,610	\$7,884	\$7,277
6	\$107,660	\$8,971	\$8,281
7	\$110,107	\$9,175	\$8,469
8	\$112,554	\$9,379	\$8,658

Milford Regional's Annual Tree of Life Benefit Raises Nearly \$18,000 for Oliva Fund

A warmer than average December evening brought out a crowd of local residents and members of the Milford Regional Medical Center community for the hospital's Tree of Life fundraiser,

held on December 5. The annual event raised nearly \$18,000 this year and is hosted by the Milford Regional Healthcare Foundation. This is the most funding raised since the event began in 2003.

The Tree of Life honors and pays tribute to those who have been affected by cancer and benefits the Oliva Fund. Established in 2007, the Oliva Fund has been providing resources to support pa-

tients being treated at Milford Regional and the Dana-Farber/Brigham & Women's Cancer Center at Milford Regional and their families.





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Attend one of our FREE virtual information sessions to learn more:

- Information Session I: April 11, 2023, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Information Session II: May 3, 2023, 6-7 p.m.

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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

2023: Small Pivot, Big Results...

By GINA WOELFEL

Happy New Year! We hope your holidays were amazing! The last few months of the year are always a wonderful time to reconnect and celebrate with the things that bring you joy.

Now that the festivities have come to a close and the onset of winter is fully upon us, we might be feeling the effects of our end-of-year indulgences. I know I was! For the first Beauty Beat of 2023, I was tempted to go down the familiar path of the New Year's resolution. "I'll lose weight, exercise or find more "me" time." Does this sound familiar? As optimistic as we all may be with the goals we set, the fact is, more often than not, they fall flat as soon as the champagne has lost its fizz.

Quick, what were your New Year's resolutions last year? If you're scratching your head, you're not alone.

Why do we set ourselves up for failure with grand promises of change? What if we took the whole idea of the resolution and tossed it out with the New Year's trash and instead, chose small, daily habit changes to jumpstart our goals? Could bite-sized portions of change be easier to swallow? Maybe if we worked smarter, not harder, our chance of success would skyrocket.

Since we're a beauty column, let's talk shop and discuss a few simple ways to amp up your glamor game and add that daily dose of self-care we all crave. No resolutions here! Just a few daily habit changes to slowly, but surely ensure better beauty results!

Hair - Create a routine that you'll stick to. Pick two to three mornings a week to wash and condition with salon quality products and leave time for a deep conditioning mask (It's only 60 seconds, ladies! You and your hair deserve that extra minute!) Check that your styling products contain a heat protectant for blowouts, curls and straightening. This will prevent heat damage and extend the life of your color services. Try to book hair appointments for at least two months in advance and priori-

tize this time. Your hairdresser's an artist who does not want to rush their masterpiece. Booking ahead relieves the stress of having to crunch in a last minute appointment and keeps this time relaxing and enjoyable for both of you.

Skin - As the temperature drops, it's not just more moisturizer that's needed to keep skin healthy. For a happy epidermis, stick to a good four-step regime and wash, tone, treat, and moisturize. Five minutes, twice a day is all it takes for vibrant, younger looking skin. To start, use a moisturizing cleanser that doesn't strip your skin of its natural oils. Micellar water is okay in a pinch, but when used on a regular basis, can leave skin under-nourished and not properly cleansed. Use a gentle exfoliant each week to buff away dry, dead skin cells. An exfoliated skin surface better absorbs products for high-impact results. Ditch low-quality moisturizers that just sit on the skin's surface and switch to repairative serums and moisturizers that contain such beneficial ingredients as hyaluronic acid, vitamin C or Bakuchiol. Targeted skincare products are meant to penetrate the skin and hydrate its deepest layers. Booking a monthly (or bi-monthly) facial is a key step to finding your best skin. Letting the pros extract and exfoliate on a regular basis helps stay one step ahead of acne, fine lines and wrinkles. Their professional grade peels and masks work wonders to revive dull, winter skin. Regular aesthetic appointments prioritize self-care and allow you an invaluable moment to shut down, relax and renew.

Coming soon! February is the perfect time to schedule yourself a little "me-time." For the entire month of February, b.LUXE is bringing back our "Red Envelope Event!" Every client with a booked facial or spray tan in the month of February receives a red envelope on the day of their service and every envelope's a winner! (*must be redeemed that day) See photo for details!

For a winter pick-me-up, don't miss our January WINTER RE-



FRESH EVENT in cooperation with the Medway Business Council on Thursday, January 11th from 6 - 8PM. Pre-registration required. Light refreshments will be served.

Our b.LUXE experts will be on-hand with demonstrations, for both men and women, on how to battle the effects of the cold, blustery weather. We'll chat about new therapeutic skin care services, as well as DIY recipes you can make at home. All are welcome to this networking event. Special: 10% OFF coupons, swag bags and a chance to win a spa gift basket! Pre-registration required *See photo for details!

Happy New Year, everyone!

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Join us in cooperation with the Medway Business Council for our **Winter Refresh** Thursday, January 11th 6-8PM

- Learn to care for hair and skin in the cold weather months
- Chat about new therapeutic skin care services and products
- DIY skincare remedies you can make at home
- Special 10% OFF coupons, swag bags and a chance to win a spa gift basket

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Coming Soon

Red Envelope Event

For the entire month of February, b.LUXE is bringing back our "Red Envelope Event!"

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Living Healthy

Decades of Service to the Community Welcoming 2023

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

Milford-Franklin Eye Center has been providing excellent eye care to the community for decades. With much excitement, we are happy to announce that we have grown to a dedicated group of 8 physicians and Optometrists in our state-of-the-art medical offices in Franklin, Milford and Millis. We are a group of eye physicians/ surgeons and optometrists offering the latest in comprehensive and surgical eye care for the entire family. 2023 is here and we would like to welcome the entire community to our offices and surgery center.

With offices located in Milford, Franklin and our new office in Millis, our own award-winning surgery center in Milford and a support staff of 50, we are proud to be the leading medical and surgical eye care center in the area and one of the major eye care centers in the State. We are

also one of the rare ophthalmology practices to own and operate our own surgical center, the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford. No longer need to travel miles and hours to have cataract surgery! Three experienced eye physicians/ surgeons and 5 optometrists are here to provide comprehensive and excellent eye care for the entire family. If your eyecare provider is still asking you to travel faraway to secure eye treatments, call us for a second opinion.

Dr. Roger Kaldawy is an experienced eye physician and surgeon and the area's only full-time specialist in corneal diseases. Having completed his training in Ophthalmology at University of Rochester and his fellowship in Cornea and Refractive Surgery at the prestigious Department of Ophthalmology of the University of Iowa, Dr. Kaldawy served as Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Boston Uni-

versity where he was Director of the Cornea and External Disease program and trained fellows and residents in Ophthalmology. Some of his trainees are now in academic and private practices in Massachusetts and around the world. Dr. Kaldawy published research articles in peer-reviewed academic journals and has been invited as a guest speaker to many prestigious academic programs in the US and around the world including University of New York, Stanford University and University of Wisconsin, Madison. Dr. Kaldawy is proud to be the first surgeon in central Massachusetts and among a handful of surgeons in the State to have performed DSAEK corneal transplantation. With special interest in cataract surgery, Dr. Kaldawy has performed over 30,000 procedures and surgeries and was the first surgeon in the area to offer the highly advanced accommodating implants. Dr.



Kaldawy was the first surgeon in the area to offer bladeless laser-assisted Femto cataract surgery. This laser procedure is offered locally at the Cataract and Laser Surgery Center of Milford.

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

Dr. Bryan Hong is our practicing vitreoretinal specialist. Dr. Hong is a graduate of Yale College and Yale School of Medicine. He completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Southern California Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute in Los Angeles, CA. He then went on to complete an intensive vitreo-retinal disease fellowship at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Hong will be providing retina care in our practice starting September 2022, and specializes in eye surgery, laser surgery, and diseases of the retina, including macular degeneration, macular diseases, vitreo-macular interface abnormalities, retinal vascular diseases, diabetic retinopathy, trauma, retinal detachments, uveitis, and cataract complications. His research interests include retinal

imaging, novel surgical techniques, and medical cost-efficacy analyses.

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

Dr. Mai-Khuyen Nguyen joined Milford-Franklin Eye Center from the New England Carpenters Benefit Fund - Vision Center, where she served as Head of Optometry. She has over 10 years of experience in comprehensive eye exams for adult, geriatric, pediatric, and special needs populations. Her experience includes performing contact lens fitting and managing contact lens complications. Dr. Nguyen is also experienced in glasses fitting and lens edging. Her charitable activities include participating in Boston Cares program and the Boston Special Olympics.

Dr. Donald L. Conn is a comprehensive optometrist offering the latest in comprehensive eye care for the entire family. Dr. Conn earned his Bachelor of Science from College of the Holy Cross in 2016. He then went on to earn his Doctor of Optometry degree from New England College of Optometry in 2021. He has completed a residency in ocular Disease and Primary care at the Bedford VA in June 2022. His clinical experience also includes clinical rotations at Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, Boston Medical Center and South Boston Community Health Center. Dr. Conn will join our team in August of 2022. He is experienced in providing care to patients of all ages including adults, geriatrics and pediatric populations. Outside of work Dr. Conn enjoys long distance running and spending time with friends and family.



MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER



Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D.



John F. Hatch, M.D.



Bryan Hong, M.D.



Michael R. Adams, O.D.



Shalin Zia, O.D.



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EYES

continued on page 13

Living Healthy

Hockomock Area YMCA Offers Free Program to Cancer Survivors

Since 2010, The Hockomock Area YMCA has been facilitating the LIVESTRONG at the YMCA program and they are pleased to announce new classes for 2023.

LIVESTRONG at the YMCA is a no-cost 12-week program designed for cancer survivors and their families seeking to regain health, build strength, and connect with other cancer survivors. Our goal is to help participants build muscle mass and muscle strength, increase flexibility and endurance, and improve functional ability. Certified YMCA fitness instructors give personal individualized instruction and are trained in the elements of cancer, post rehab exercise, nutrition, and supportive cancer care.

New Classes Announced for LIVESTRONG at the YMCA at the Hockomock Y starting January 9th:

Bernon Family (Franklin) Branch

45 Forge Hill Road
Franklin, MA
Day & Time: Mondays and Wednesdays: 6--7:30 p.m.
Day & Time: Mondays and Fridays: 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Invensys Foxboro Branch

67 Mechanic Street
Foxboro, MA
Day & Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Day & Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 6-7:30 p.m.

North Attleboro Branch

300 Elmwood Street
North Attleboro, MA
Day & Time: Mondays & Wednesdays: 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

A survivor is defined from the point of cancer diagnosis through the balance of his/her life. Are you a cancer survivor or know someone who is?

Cancer survivors are encouraged to visit www.hockymca.org/new-livestrong-classes or contact Jackie Robison, Program Coordinator at (508) 772-1310 or JackieR@hockymca.org for more information and to enroll.

Part of the Hockomock Y's commitment to strengthening community through healthy living, the program offers adults affected by cancer a safe, supportive environment to participate in physical and social activities focused on strengthening the whole person. The Hockomock Area YMCA is enrolling now for upcoming LIVESTRONG at the YMCA sessions at their branches in Foxboro, Franklin, and North Attleboro. Participants receive a free family membership to the Hockomock Area YMCA during the program.

For more information about the Hockomock YMCA, visit hockymca.org.

EYES

continued from page 12

Dr. Purvi Patel, OD originally from the tri-state area, received her bachelor's degree from The College of New Jersey in 1996 and her Doctor of Optometry from the State University of NY College of Optometry in 2000 through a joint accelerated B.S.-O.D. program. She then completed a residency in Ocular Disease and Special Testing. In 2003, Dr. Patel joined the New England College of Optometry as Clinical Assistant Professor. Through her role as Director of Eye Care Services at Whittier Street Health Center and then The Dimock Center, one of the largest community health centers in Boston, Dr. Patel brings with her teaching and leadership experience. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, with a history of publishing, presenting and lecturing. During the last 10 years, Dr. Patel has transitioned to direct care and worked in collaboration with ophthalmology. Most recently, Dr. Patel completed a postdoctoral certificate for the treatment

& management of glaucoma. Dr. Patel has clinical interests in diabetes, glaucoma, community-based eye and vision care, public health & epidemiology. Dr. Patel currently lives in Dover, MA with her husband and 3 daughters. She enjoys traveling abroad, reading and tennis.

Dr. Shalin Zia, O.D. received her Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University in 2014 and her Doctor of Optometry from Indiana University in 2018. She moved to Massachusetts from the Midwest after getting married. She is a comprehensive optometrist with solid experience in providing optometric and medical eyecare to patients of all ages. In her free time, she enjoys working out, listening to podcasts, and spending time with family.

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focus is to serve the community. You will see us in the office, at the local supermarket and in the ER at 1 AM if there is a need for our care. Our focus is you, your vision and excellent results. We are available, in your backyard and proud to offer world class cataract surgery closer to home: Here in Milford! Our optical shop has its own dedicated lab and can cut and finish your glasses while you wait. We offer after-hours, same day emergency appointments and Saturday appointments. We have great management focused on quality customer care. 90% of our staff has been with us for over 5 years! Excellent retention of staff means outstanding loyalty and training. Eight providers dedicated to the best in eye medicine and surgery closer to home. Is your eyecare provider still recommending you travel hours to other practices and remote surgery centers? Call us: We are available to help and again in 2023 like ever before.

For more details, see our ad on page 12.

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Coming Up at the Franklin Senior Center

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

- Joe Landry presents: Local Stores and Businesses on Wednesday, January 4th at 1 p.m.
- Mobile Food Pantry: The Franklin food Pantry and Hockomock YMCA have partnered with the Senior Center once a month. Come Wednesday, January 11th at 11 a.m. to receive a bag of stable items, choice of protein, and dairy items!
- Pizza and Movie Night: On Thursday, January 12th at 4:30 p.m., come to the Senior Center for a night out to watch the new Rom/Com "Ticket to Paradise" starring Julia Roberts and George Clooney. Must call to sign up by Wednesday 1/11. \$3/person (includes pizza and a movie)
- The Franklin Police Department is cooking and serving a delicious Turkey Dinner for our seniors on Friday, January 20th at 11 a.m.! We will have Musical Singo at 11 and food will be served at noon!
- "Lucky Jack" by Sue Bacey Book Discussion and Signing on Monday, January 23rd. Join us for a riveting discussion with the author of "Lucky Jack (1894-2000) Memoirs of a WWI POW" Sue Bacey, where she will discuss and sign copies of her book, which chronicles the life and escapades of Jack Rogers, who was born in London in 1894 and passed away at age 106.
- Check out our new 12-page newsletter: The Senior Connection for more information and all of the programs here at the Senior Center!

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Franklin Fire Receives Safety Gear Grant of Nearly \$25K

Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$5 Million to 308 Fire Departments

Last month, the Baker-Polito Administration announced \$5 million in grant awards to 308 fire departments from the FY23 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program. The Town of Franklin will receive \$24,998.44. The program provides local fire departments with a variety of equipment that makes the dangerous job of firefighting safer.

This is the third year that funding has been awarded for this purpose as part of a five-year, \$25 million bond bill filed by the Administration to support firefighter safety and health in the coming years.

“We ask so much of our firefighters, and no matter how dangerous or difficult the situation, they always do whatever it takes

to help,” said (former) Governor Charlie Baker. “This program is an opportunity to make sure they are properly protected every time they answer a call for help.”

“The decision to become a firefighter is one of the bravest, most selfless choices a person can make,” said former Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “I am so thankful to the men and women who have dedicated themselves to this calling. In every city and town, these heroes drop what they’re doing and rush to help – even when it puts them in harm’s way.”

Fire departments in Massachusetts were able to apply to this program for 121 different types of eligible equipment, including ballistic protective clothing, thermal protective clothing, gear washers and dryers, thermal imaging cameras, assorted hand tools and extrication equipment, communications resources, hazardous gas meters, fitness equipment, and more. In many cases, the purchase of this equipment will help departments attain compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administra-

tion or National Fire Protection Association safety standards.

“In today’s fire service, firefighters respond to increasingly dangerous calls. Access to the proper protective gear is critical to ensure their safety and ability to meet the modern challenges of emergency response,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy. “Firefighters have a vital role in keeping our communities safe. We are pleased to show our appreciation for their courage and service by providing funding to equip them with the appropriate level of protection.”

“We now know that the occupational cancer risk caused by cumulative exposure to toxins encountered while firefighting is as great of a danger to firefighters as fire and smoke itself,” said Undersecretary of Homeland Security Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe. “This program is an outstanding mechanism to combat that risk by ensuring that firefighters are wearing modern and properly cleaned gear every time they answer a call. The long-term bene-

fits of this program to firefighters and their families will be truly immense.”

“Every time a firefighter goes to work, they could be asked to rescue a child from a burning building, clean up a spill of hazardous materials, treat a patient with a contagious medical condition, or rush into a hostile event to rescue and treat victims,” said State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey. “This program is absolutely vital to helping fire departments prepare for the vast array of hazards they face today and making sure that firefighters go home safe after every call.”

“Three years into this program now, we’re really seeing the impact that it is making out in the field,” said Shrewsbury Fire Chief James Vuona, President of the Fire Chiefs’ Association of Massachusetts. “Firefighters are responding to calls with the proper protective gear and tools, which makes their jobs much safer. The firefighters of Massachusetts and their families are grateful for this investment in their health and safety.”

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Franklin Art Association Welcomes Artist Katie Kindilien

The Franklin Art Association is excited to announce that painter Katie Kindilien will be the Demo Artist at the January 4, 2023, 6:30 p.m. monthly meeting at the Franklin Senior Center. The Public is invited to attend. Examples of her work can be found at www.katiekindilien-fineart.com.

and study art from around the world. She received her Masters in Art Education from Southern Connecticut State University and taught elementary and middle school art in New Haven for 25 years.

Katie Kindilien grew up in Norwalk, CT and currently lives in New Haven. She received her undergraduate degree in painting from Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia. A year spent studying in Rome became a lifelong inspiration to paint and travel



Local Charter School to Hold Informational Event



The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School will be holding two enrollment information sessions for families interested in learning more about the school. BFCCPS is a regional public charter school for students in Kindergarten through Grade Eight.

Information sessions and building tours will be held on January 21st and February 11th from 10 to noon. Speakers will include members of the BFC-CPS Administration, parents of students at the school, teachers, and alumni. Building tours will be led by BFCCPS alumni and

current middle school students. Due to the pandemic, these sessions have been held virtually the last two years, so we are thrilled to welcome families to meet with us in person again this winter!

BFCCPS is located at 500 Financial Park in Franklin, please note that all traffic must arrive at the property via the entrance on Washington Street and Financial Park (there is no access to the property from the gate at Grove and Financial Park.)

Families can also learn more about the school's mission, history and enrollment process on the website at www.bfccps.org.

Franklin Church Announces Parent Support Group

Support Group for Parents of Children Struggling St. John's will present a support group for parents of children struggling with mental health, with Mental Health, Autism, ADHD, or other Challenges:

Love Parenting is a 6-week series created by Collette Potts, who also created the Love First children's curriculum that we use. Rev Kathy will moderate this group on Thursdays, Jan 12- Feb

16, 2023. Contact her if you are interested.

<https://lovefirstresources.com/loving-parenting/>

For more information:

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Electric Youth 2023 to Debut at THE BLACK BOX

Electric Youth 2023 will debut at THE BLACK BOX on January 21 with two shows at 4:00 and 8:00 pm. The 2023 group of talented young singers and dancers includes Tatiana McAlpine, Audrey Miningham, Devin DeAngelis, Finley Doherty, John Fitzhenry, Madigan Wirkus, Abby Trombert, Anya Fox, Ashley Pepin, Erin Belger, Tzintli Cerda, Hannah Connors, Macie Hoben, Anna Linde, and Mason Sanford. Electric Youth is scheduled to tour again this summer bringing timeless hits and non-stop entertainment to venues across Europe.

Electric Youth delivers high-energy, fully choreographed performances of classic rock, contemporary pop, Broadway, and country hits for audiences of all ages. The American tour-

ing ensemble of talented singer-dancers, ages 14-18, is backed by the eight-piece Boston Show Band — world class musicians who've worked with music legends Tony Bennett, Aretha Franklin, Dizzy Gillespie, B.B. King, Diana Ross, The Temptations, Van Morrison and more. Electric Youth is trained at the Franklin School for the Performing Arts. The group has toured Europe performing in such renowned venues as Vienna's Konzerthaus, Musikverein and Schonbrunn Palace; Sanremo's Ariston Theatre; England's Arundel Festival; Disneyland Paris; and professional theatres in Bristol, London and Windsor. EY has also headlined Fourth of July shows for U.S. troops stationed in Italy at Camp Ederle, Camp Darby, and Aviano Air Force Base. The ensemble



has performed on Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Seas, on Fox-TV and WBZ Radio, and at Fenway Park, Gillette Stadium, the Smithsonian Museum Theater, the United Nations and the U.S. Embassy in Vienna. Electric Youth has released six

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

platforms).

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

Tickets for the January 21 Debut shows are available at www.theblackboxonline.com or by calling the box office at (508) 528-3370. You can follow Electric Youth on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

New Members Invited to Charles River Chorale Open Rehearsals

The Charles River Chorale will begin rehearsals for its spring 2023 season and is actively recruiting new members who are

seeking a new community and musical opportunity.

The non-audition chorale group will begin open rehears-

als on Tuesday, January 17 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis. Three additional open rehearsals will take place on January 24, 31, and February 7 to allow interested new members an opportunity to explore what the chorale has to offer.

Under the leadership of director Ashley Nelson-Oneschuk, the Charles River Chorale is in its 39th year as a non-profit 501(c)3 chorale. Nelson-Oneschuk, a music professional in her 7th year with the Charles River Chorale, is also the choral direc-

tor for Medway High School. She 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.

Charles River Chorale members hail from many area communities, and they range in age from high school students to octogenarians. The group typically holds winter and spring concerts, with the spring 2023 concert planned for Sunday, May 4.

The Charles River Cho-

rale 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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Interfaith Teen Climate Change Group Continues at St John's

We had a small initial gathering with great discussion about how youth can make a difference in the fight against climate change. We watched a video of teen Swedish Climate Activist Greta Thunberg. The group is interested in learning more about Climate Justice - how climate change affects the poorest

peoples disproportionately. Join us for the next meeting on Sunday, January 22 at 7 p.m. at 237 Pleasant Street in Franklin.

St. John's will also offer a simple, informal service geared for children on two Saturdays per month, beginning January 14th and 28th at 5 p.m. The services will include stories, crafts or other

activities, easy fun songs, and a simple Eucharist (Communion) totalling about 40 minutes.

For more information: Call (508) 528-2387, email Rector@StJohnsFranklinMA.org, Like us on Facebook and Twitter, or visit www.stjohnsfranklinma.org.

January 2023 Franklin Public Library Highlights

The library will be closed on Sunday, January 1st and Monday, January 2nd for New Year's Day. The library will be closed Monday, January 16th for Martin Luther King Day.

Franklin Library Book Sale

Friday, January 20th, 1-5 p.m.,
Saturday, January 21st, 9 a.m.-noon

All books are just one dollar! Bag Sale - \$5 A Bag—Saturday, January 21st, from 1-4 p.m. Volunteer Tutors Needed for ESL & Adult Literacy Program. Volunteers must have a high school diploma or equivalent, have patience, and be able to speak English clearly. Prior teaching experience not required. Volunteer Tutors will be given training and all supporting materials will be provided. The time commitment is one orientation session, 18 hours of tutor training, and to meet with your student 2 hours per week for one year. Volunteers and students do not need to be Franklin residents. If interested, please contact Assistant Library Director Kim Shipala at kshipala@minlib.net, or fill out the registration form on the library's website.

Volunteers Needed for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

Learn more & Sign up at: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/irs-tax-volunteers>

Massachusetts Center for the Book 2023 Reading Challenge

January: A book with 100 pages or less. If you are looking for a fun, unique reading challenge to take on in 2023, Massachusetts Center for the Book has you covered. Check it out today! <https://www.massbook.org/readingchallenge>

Special Events for Kids & Families

Kids Take & Makes: Snowflake Sun Catchers!

Starting Monday, January 9th stop by the library to pick up your very own Snowflake Sun Catcher kit!

Kits include supplies and instructions for making a colorful snowflake to brighten your days!! SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED! First come first serve!

Doggie Tales! Monday, January 9th and January 23rd @4 p.m. (1st

grade +)

Improve your reading skills and make a new friend by reading aloud to a trained therapy dog! REGISTRATION REQUIRED. SPOTS ARE LIMITED. Register on our website.

Rockabye Beats Concert! Saturday January 14th @10:30 a.m.

Family Book Tasting Event! Wednesday January 18th, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Kid's Paint Party! Saturday, January 7th @ 1 p.m.

FOR KIDS AGES 5-11! REGISTRATION REQUIRED!! With Denise Palmieri, step-by-step paint party specifically for kids! The same painting will be taught at the January and February event - please only register for 1 date through the events calendar our website.

Lunar New Year Celebration! Saturday January 28th @10:30 a.m.

Special Events for Teens

Teen Take & Makes: Snowman Sidekick!

Starting Monday January 9th stop by the library to pick up your very own Snowman Sidekick kit. SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED! First come, first serve!

Maureen Johnson in conversation with Jennifer Lynn Barnes! January 4 @ 7 p.m.

Virtual Author Event

Get some face time with YA authors Maureen Johnson and Jennifer Lynn Barnes; as Maureen Johnson launches her latest book in the Truly Devious series, and Jennifer Lynn Barnes is fresh off the release of her latest Inheritance Games book!

Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/3116709442377/WN_Rj2-SumZQqWKGQ107_lbhA

Teen Interactive Jane Austen Movie Screening! Wednesday Jan 25 @5:30 p.m.

Teens! Join us for a special interactive screening of a Jane Austen film adaptation, chosen by you!

Events for Adults

New Year Duck Hunt!

Bookish Duckies have set up shop throughout the Library! Follow us on our social media channels to get clues to where they might be! When you find

a duck bring a picture of it and where you found it to the circulation desk and fill out a quick slip of paper to be entered into the Duck Hunt raffle at the end of the month!

Adult Take & Makes: Table-Top Snowman!

Starting Monday January 9th, stop by the library to pick up your very own Table-Top Snowman kit. SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED! LIMIT 1 PER PERSON! First come-first serve!

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

Community-wide Read! Winter 2023

Beginning January 1, 2023, copies of *Kindred: A graphic novel adaptation* by Octavia E. Butler, adapted to a graphic novel by Damian Duffy and John Jennings will be available. Find out more on the library's website. *Kindred: A Graphic Novel Adaptation* is also available on Hoopla!

Friends of the Franklin Library Book Club, Tuesday, January 3rd 6:30 p.m., *Beloved* by Toni Morrison

Maureen Johnson in conversation with Jennifer Lynn Barnes!, Wednesday, January 4th @ 7 p.m.

Virtual Author Visit in collaboration with Tewksbury Public Library

Get some face time with YA authors Maureen Johnson and Jennifer Lynn Barnes; as Maureen Johnson launches her latest book in the Truly Devious series, and Jennifer Lynn Barnes is fresh off the release of her latest *Inheritance Games* book!

Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/3116709442377/WN_Rj2-SumZQqWKGQ107_lbhA

Friends of Franklin Library Meeting, Wednesday, January 4th 7 p.m.

Contact us at: fofl02038@gmail.com Follow us on Twitter: @FriendsFranklin

Author Janis Robinson Daly, Thursday, January 5th, 7p.m.

Author Janis Robinson Daly will be here at the library to do a presentation on the genealogical journey that led her to write her novel, *The Unlocked Path*. Free to everyone, no registration needed.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83013837127?pwd=UHBwaU12NEx3NIN2cCtkR3JjNVdGdz09>

Adult Crafts, Sunday, January 8th 2 p.m. Registration Required. Enjoy watercolor birds!

Register here: http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/ekform.cfm?curOrg=FRANKLIN&curName=2023/01/08_Watercolor_Class_for_Adults

Chess Group, Sundays, January 8 & 22, 2-4:30 p.m.

Democracy Talks: Immigrants' Rights, Tuesday, January 10th 7 p.m., Virtual Event in collaboration with Watertown Free Public Library

On September 14, 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis (FL) routed approximately 50 asylum seekers from San Antonio, TX, to Martha's Vineyard, MA. Professor Sarah Sherman-Stokes, associate director of the Immigrants' Rights & Human Trafficking Clinic at Boston University School of Law, will share the legal implications of DeSantis's actions and current issues in asylum law and policy.

Register Here: https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/webinar/register/9716709615295/WN_X4iRHK6kRqSS-91W-0ouag

Table Top, Tuesday, January 10th & 24th 6 p.m. Registration Requested!

Table Top Role Playing Games for Adults!, Email mgouise@minlib.net for more info!

Maker Meditation, Saturday, January 14th 2 p.m.

Come to the library for simple projects to practice useful skills and give our buzzing brains some rest!

Remote Option Available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErdOirrD-koG9O95nFFclA7vrGFz4Y-FiEB4>

ESL & Literacy Volunteer Tutor Orientation, Saturday, January 14th, 3 p.m.

All who are interested in becoming a Volunteer Tutor for our ESL & Literacy Program are welcome to attend and learn more about the program.

Board Game Group, Tuesday, January 17th 6:30 p.m.

Genealogy Club, Thursday, January 19th, 6:30 p.m., Basic Genetic Genealogy with Dr. Adina Newman. First of a 5-part "Genetic Genealogy" series with Dr. Newman. Free and open to anyone interested, no registration required.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89722066111?pwd=QzFFRFJURmIlsanoyZzY0MS8vUEszZz09>

Franklin Public Library Book Club Tuesday, January 24, 7 p.m.: *Hamnet*, by Maggie O'Farrell.

Hopepunk with Writers Renan Bernardo, Brianna Castagnozzi, Susan Kaye Quinn, and T. K. Rex Tuesday, January 24, 7 p.m.

Virtual Event in collaboration with Watertown Free Public Library

Register here: https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/webinar/register/9216709615810/WN_TV9EwW_STMGGpdhtLl-vfRA

Organization Seminar with Danielle of Oasis Organizing Solutions, Saturday, January 28, 2 p.m.

In person or Remote: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIVce-vqz0rGtA0YRft_XXOIWcgFlxnYMz8

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Baypath Humane Society of Hopkinton is dedicated to

providing shelter, care, humane treatment, and loving homes for stray or unwanted companion animals. We seek to serve our community by fostering relationships, promoting education, and making a positive impact on pet overpopulation. To learn more, visit <https://baypathhumane.org>, find us (@BaypathHumane) on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest.

We are currently closed for public drops ins. That said, we are actively taking in, caring for and rehoming cats and dogs. We answer phones between the hours of 9 and 5 on weekdays and 10 and 4 on weekends. Reach us at (508) 435-6938.

November Saw Decrease in Overall Norfolk County Real Estate Activity

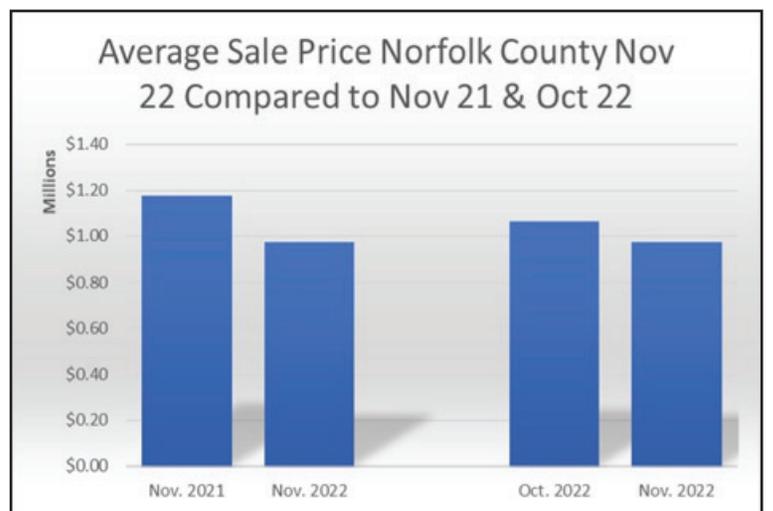
Norfolk County Register of Deeds, William P. O'Donnell, reported that Norfolk County recordings for the month of November 2022 indicate a significant decrease in overall real estate activity, particularly mortgage activity and the average sales price for residential and commercial property, as compared to the November 2021 numbers.

In November, there were 9,015 documents recorded at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, a 37% decrease from November 2021 and virtually no change from October 2022.

"The real estate market is showing the strains of continually rising interest rates and inflation, which is putting a damper on the amount of money consumers can save," said O'Donnell. "Total document volume is down significantly compared to November, 2021, but shows a lesser decrease when compared to last month's statistics in October 2022. One of the components of document volume, the number of deeds recorded, indicates a decrease in property sales from last year."

The number of deeds for November 2022, which reflect real estate sales and transfers, both commercial and residential, show a decrease of 27% from November 2021 and a decrease of 7% from the previous month of October 2022.

Sale prices for November appear to have dropped significantly compared to November 2021. The average sale price in November was \$973,133, a 17% decrease from November 2021 and a 9% decrease from October 2022. The total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales is down, decreasing 42% from



one year ago and decreasing 18% from last month.

"Consumers seem to be less willing to borrow with interest rates approaching and exceeding 7%, and the drop in average sales prices indicates sellers are adjusting prices to compensate," noted O'Donnell. "According to the numbers we are seeing at the Registry, we are recording well under half the number of mortgages compared to November 2021."

Overall lending activity showed a continued downward trend for the month of November. A total of 1,357 mortgages were recorded this month, 58% less than a year ago at the same time and down 8% from last month.

"The rising cost of living and increasing interest rates that the country is facing now are having an impact on the local real estate market," noted O'Donnell. "A continuing cause for concern in Norfolk County is the number of pending foreclosures. While the number of notices to foreclose have come down slightly from last month, they are still significantly higher than in November 2021,"

said O'Donnell. "This indicates that more of our neighbors are facing financial challenges going forward. O'Donnell continued, "We will continue to track these numbers."

For the past several years, the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has partnered with Quincy Community Action Programs (617-479-8181 x376) and NeighborWorks Housing Solutions (508-587-0950) to help anyone facing challenges paying their mortgage. Another option for homeowners is to contact the Massachusetts Attorney General's Consumer Advocacy and Response Division (CARD) at 617-727-8400.

"If you are having difficulty paying your monthly mortgage, please consider contacting one of these non-profit agencies for help and guidance," said Register O'Donnell.

Register O'Donnell concluded, "Property sales prices appear to be dropping as a result of consumers not willing to purchase property with mortgage rates above 7%."

To learn more about Registry of Deeds events and initiatives, like us on Facebook® at facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds or follow us on Twitter® at twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds and Instagram® at Instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds. Learn more at www.norfolkdeeds.org.

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Franklin School for the Performing Arts Welcomes New Families in the New Year

The Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) is still enrolling in the new year and offering complimentary trial classes to interested students. Prospective students are invited to make an appointment to come in person for a tour and to discuss program options.

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



ers. Their impressive credentials are indicative of the excellent instruction available in all programs. FSPA instructors strive to meet the individual needs of each student, working to develop each student's abilities to his or her own potential.

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

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

BLACK BOX, home of the Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC), a 200-seat flexible theater located behind FSPA, provides a professional venue for FSPA student productions, while FPAC offers opportunities by audition for student performers. Auditions for FSPA's 2023 spring productions are being held on

students are eligible to participate in these performance opportunities.

For more information about FSPA and its programs, visit www.FSPAonline.com, call (508) 528-8668, or stop by 38 Main St. in Franklin. You can follow FSPA on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

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David Corcoran '88, Inducted into BC High School Athletic Hall of Fame

Boston College High School is proud to announce that Franklin resident David Corcoran '88 was recently inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame.

David Corcoran was the backbone of the 1986 and 1987 Eagles soccer teams. In a five-overtime victory against a high scoring Falmouth High School club, Corcoran – a two-time team co-MVP – played shut-down defense to move on to the next round of the state tournament. Although the team lost to a tough Natick squad in the South Sectional Quarterfinals, the team established itself as a formidable opponent for years to come.

In 1988 as team captain, Corcoran led the Eagles to a 14-0-1 record, finishing as Catholic Conference Champion for the second year in a row. Corcoran saw success throughout his playing days and was a two-time Catholic Conference All-Star, two-time First-Team Eastern Mass All-Star, and a Patriot Ledger All-Scholastic member. He continued his Catholic education at Providence College where he was a three-year starter on successful Friars' soccer team.

Corcoran was inducted alongside the following 2022 honorees,

each of whom was recognized for their significant contributions to the BC High athletic program:

- Michael Kenney '93, Wrestling
- Brian Fitzgibbons '01, Football & Lacrosse
- Frank Ustach '01, Sailing
- Brian O'Hanley '03, Hockey & Baseball
- Tom Conley '08, Football & Baseball
- Jake O'Brien '08, Basketball
- Andrew Tallman '10, Track & Football

In addition, the Paul J. Hunter '53 Man for Others Award, given annually to a person who shows leadership in community, church, and profession, was presented to Tom Cotter '06. The James E. Cotter '55 Courage Award, which is presented to a member of the BC High community in recognition of courage in the face of adversity, tenacious spirit, and force of will, was presented to Richard Gill '58.

For more information about Boston College High School, visit bchigh.edu.



Updates from the Office of Jake Auchincloss

Congressman Speaks on Climate, Housing and January 6th Committee Findings

On December 19th, Congressman Jake Auchincloss (D, MA-04), released the following statement in response to The January 6th Committee making criminal referrals against former President Donald Trump:

“The bipartisan January 6th Committee has affirmed, via thorough and transparent fact-finding, that Donald Trump committed insurrection. The Department of Justice should prosecute him. Congress should enact the Electoral Count Act Reform to prevent another constitutional crisis.

“And the American people, of all political persuasions, should heed Abraham Lincoln’s warning: ‘If destruction be our lot we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen we must live through all time or die by suicide.’ Donald Trump

tried to be the ‘finisher’ of our democracy. He must never again hold public office.”

HUD

The day after the midterms, Congressman Auchincloss hosted an affordable housing conference in Attleboro with his friend and partner, Juana Mathias, HUD regional administrator. They spoke with housing officials and developers across the district about the programs and funding available for affordable housing development.

Climate

Last month, Congressman Auchincloss hosted a conference on climate action and clean energy at Olin College of Engineering in Needham. Across three panels of experts, participants covered Massachusetts



Shown, Congressman Jake Auchincloss speaks at an affordable housing conference he hosted with HUD officials in Attleboro last month.

policy & industry; clean energy science and technology; and international affairs.

For updates on what Congressman Jake Auchincloss is doing, visit <https://auchincloss.house.gov> or connect with him on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or YouTube.

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- **WHY YOU NEED A DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY**
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Sports

Spillane Returns to Coach FHS Ice Hockey Team

By KEN HAMWEY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Chris Spillane's return as Franklin High's ice hockey coach was announced last August, and the news no doubt got veteran Panther fans thinking about what his teams achieved during his two decades at the helm.

The 56-year-old Spillane coached the Panthers for 20 years, starting in the 1999-2000 season. His tenure was dynamic — guiding the program to a state championship in 2016 by defeating St. Mary's of Lynn. There were four more Boston Garden appearances that ended with second-place tourney finishes and one Super 8 berth. His 20-year regular-season record was an amazing 332-115-45, a winning percentage of 74.

A 30-year veteran of the Franklin Police Department, Spillane retired as a sergeant last July. And, now that his children no longer are competing in sports, he decided to coach again.

"I thought I was done, but I'm excited to be back," said Spillane who was a captain and a two-time Hockomock League all-star when he played for Franklin. "I still feel like I did during my first-year coaching. I'm ready to help our kids to become good players, and I'll challenge them to be the best student-athletes they can be."

When Spillane played center for the Panthers, he was challenged by legendary coach Bob Luccini. "We lost in the state tourney final to Falmouth when I was a sophomore, but we captured the crown a year later by beating them when I was a junior," Spillane recalled. "I was a play-making center."

Competing at 5-foot-9 and 150 pounds, Spillane had 8 goals and 15 assists as a sophomore. As a junior, his numbers jumped to 27 goals and 15 assists, and he concluded his senior campaign with 30 goals and 49 assists. At UMass-Boston, he finished with 130 career points in a three-year career that ended with an all-star berth as a senior.

During his 20 years at Franklin's helm, Spillane never felt his team was in rebuild-mode. "We were all about reloading," he said.

Replacing Anthony Sarno, who's moved on to coach Brookline High, Spillane inherits a team that finished 13-8-1 overall last year. The squad qualified for the tourney but lost to Hingham in the second round.

"Our team strengths are experience, depth, athleticism, and skating ability," Spillane said. "We've got 12 returnees with varying degrees of experience, and we've got three top-notch lines. I'd label us as a fast-pace, competitive team."

With that said, Spillane's goals for his 21st year are "to improve daily, compete for the Kelley-Rex Division title, and go on a lengthy tournament run."

His team, no doubt, has embraced those objectives, especially his captains — seniors Ben Jaroz (right wing) and Ryan Sicchio (center) and junior Logan Marchand (defenseman). Jaroz and Sicchio are two-time captains.

"The captains are good, strong leaders," Spillane said. "Ben has a high hockey IQ and has a physical presence on offense. He had 9 goals and 8 assists last year. Ryan is a playmaker but can also finish plays on offense. He can skate, sees the ice well and relies on good instincts. He had 6 goals and 15 assists last year."

Spillane likes Marchand's defensive versatility. "Logan is a very good, two-way player who's strong on the blue line and a presence on offense. He's solid in transition, is physical, and can move the puck well."

Four junior forwards who'll be key components are Anthony Lampasona (left wing), Ben Paterson (center), Dylan McEvoy (left wing), and Dan Daley (right wing).

"Anthony can play well in any zone, especially on defense," Spillane said. "He's the complete package — he can battle in the corners, likes physical contact, is a strong skater and favors an up-tempo style. Ben was our fourth-leading scorer with 8 goals and 14 assists last year. A finesse player, he sees the ice well, distributes the puck to the wings effectively, and has a good wrist shot."

McEvoy and Daley have similar attributes and Spillane admires their approach. "Dylan and



Chris Spillane guided the Panthers to a state championship in 2016 when Franklin defeated St. Mary's of Lynn.

Dan have great potential and lots of passion for hockey," he noted. "They're well-skilled and will be contributors in key situations."

At Local Town Pages' deadline, Spillane was still assessing his team's goaltending. Three candidates are in the mix to start. They include junior Colby Wagner and sophomores Jack O'Connor and Joe Torracco. "They're competitive nature is strong and they've all got ability," he offered.

Spillane's assistant coaches are David Marchand and Jake Brightbill (varsity assistants) and jayvee head coach Mike Green, whose assistant is Ryan Spillane (coach's son).

Relying on an athletic philosophy that focuses on three aspects — winning, making sure his players reach their potential and enjoy their athletic experience — Spillane says: "We always play to win but reaching one's potential and having fun are necessary ingredients that lead to victory. And, valuable life lessons can be learned by competing in sports. I hope my players learn that teamwork is essential, how to lead, how to overcome adversity, rise to any challenges that occur, and how to make their teammates better."

The state title victory over St. Mary's in 2016 was a big thrill for Spillane as he neared the end of his first stint as Franklin's coach. But, it's not No. 1.

"The top thrill I had in my first 20 years coaching was the opportunity to have a day-to-day interaction with the players," he offered. "I got to see them grow, not only as improved hockey players, but I also got to see them grow into young responsible adults."

Spillane's return to coaching was delayed when Franklin's opener against Newburyport was postponed because that team was dealing with illnesses. The Panthers then faced non-league foe Gloucester after Local Town Pages deadline.

When the Panthers get rolling, there's one sure thing — if their results are anything like what Chris Spillane achieved in his first 20 years on the job, then Franklin's opponents will be dealing with a plethora of challenges.

Happy *New Year* from **2023**

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Haidri Named Branch Manager at Franklin's Bristol County Savings Bank

Bristol County Savings Bank (BCSB), headquartered in Taunton, Massachusetts, announces the appointment of Amman A. Haidri to the position of Branch Manager at its Franklin, Massachusetts office located at 375 W Central Street. Haidri is responsible for the management of branch operations, customer relations and new business development.



Taunton and Sharon, Massachusetts; and Small Business Banker at Bank of America in Boston, Massachusetts.

For more information on Bristol County Savings Bank, visit www.bristolcountysavings.com.

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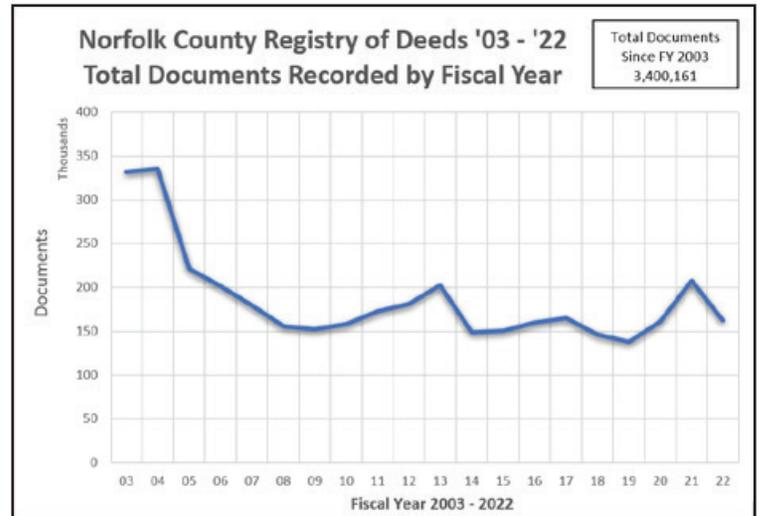
How Norfolk County Land Documents are Recorded

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell recently explained the behind-the-scenes process that happens each day at the Registry of Deeds as the trained Registry staff record documents as expeditiously and accurately as possible.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds receives and records hundreds of thousands of documents each year. These documents are delivered in person, by mail, or electronically. It is the main resource for attorneys, title examiners, surveyors, mortgage lenders, municipalities, homeowners, and others with a need for secure, accurate, and accessible land record information.

"The importance of having knowledgeable staff members, like we have here at the Registry, can't be understated; it is vital not just to the functioning of the Registry but to the individuals who rely on the accurate recording of land documents," said Register O'Donnell.

Whether the document in question is a deed, mortgage, homestead, mortgage discharge, or any other type of land document, the staff at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds is trained to quickly recognize the



type of document in order to properly index it among the millions of documents archived at the Registry.

"As the depository of over 8 million land documents, there are certain basic steps that need to be followed when submitting a land document for recording," Register O'Donnell further noted, "First and foremost, the document needs to be associated with one of the twenty-eight communities comprising Norfolk County. In addition, the document must be an original; we will not record photocopies or documents submitted via fax. Please note that in many cases,

land documents require signatures to be notarized before they are recorded."

There are two categories of land records in Massachusetts: recorded and registered. All land is in one category or the other, but it is possible for a single parcel to include both types. Recorded land comprises about 80% of the property in Norfolk County. Recorded land instruments are assigned a book and page number, while registered land documents are given a document number and noted on a certificate of title.

DOCUMENTS

continued on page 26

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

Calendar

January 3

Friends of the Franklin Library Book Club, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Beloved, by Toni Morrison

January 4

Franklin Art Association meeting, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, www.franklinart.org or find them on Facebook

Maureen Johnson in conversation with Jennifer Lynn Barnes!, 7 p.m., Franklin Public Library Virtual Author Visit in collaboration with Tewksbury Public Library, Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/3116709442377/WN_Rj2-SumZQqWKGQ107_lbhA

January 5

Author Janis Robinson Daly, Thursday, 7 p.m. Franklin Public Library, presentation on the genealogical journey that led her to write her novel, *The Unlocked Path*, Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83013837127?pwd=UHBwaU12NEEx3NIN2cCtkR3JjNVdGdz09>

January 7

19th Annual Gary Mirliss Memorial Foundation Blood Drive, 8

a.m.-3 p.m., King Philip Middle School, 18 King St., Norfolk, https://donor.kraftfamilyblood-donorcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/3118

January 8

Adult Crafts, Sunday, January 8th 2 p.m. Registration Required Enjoy watercolor birds!

Register here: http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/ekform.cfm?curOrg=FRANKLIN&curName=2023/01/08_Watercolor_Class_for_Adults

January 10

Democracy Talks: Immigrants' Rights, Tuesday, January 10th 7 p.m., Virtual Event in collaboration with Watertown Free Public Library, On September 14, 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis (FL) routed approximately 50 asylum seekers from San Antonio, TX, to Martha's Vineyard, MA. Professor Sarah Sherman-Stokes, associate director of the Immigrants' Rights & Human Trafficking Clinic at Boston University School of Law, will share the legal implications of DeSantis's actions and current issues in asylum law and policy.

Register Here: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/webinar/>

register/9716709615295/WN_X4iRHK6kRqSS-91W-0ouag

January 11

Franklin Newcomers & Friends meeting, 7 p.m., Escape Into Fiction Book Store, 12 Main Street, Franklin, more information at <https://www.meetup.com/Franklin-Newcomers-Friends> <https://facebook.com/Franklin-NewcomersFriendsClub>

January 14

Maker Meditation, Saturday, 2 p.m., Franklin Public Library, come to library or Remote Option Available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErdOirrDkoG9O95nFFclA7vrGFz4Y-FiEB4>

January 17

Charles River Chorale non-audition chorale group open rehearsal, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis. New singers encouraged to come.

January 19

Genealogy Club, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library: Basic Genetic Genealogy with Dr.

Adina Newman. First of a 5-part "Genetic Genealogy" series. Free, no registration required. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89722066111?pwd=QzFFRFJm1sanoyZzY0MS8vUEszZz09>

January 20

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

January 21

Electric Youth 2023, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 W. Central St., Franklin, www.theblackboxonline.com or (508) 528-3370

Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School enrollment information session, 10 a.m. - noon, 500 Financial Park, Franklin (traffic must arrive via entrance on Washington St. and Financial Park), www.bfccps.org

Franklin Library Book Sale, 9 a.m. - noon, bag sale 1-4 p.m.

January 23

Open for Business Grant Kick-Off Event: Turning Your Passion into Your Profession with Jeff Belanger, 6:30 p.m., Bellingham Public Library

January 24

Franklin Public Library Book Club Tuesday, January 24, 7 p.m.: Hamnet, by Maggie O'Farrell

Virtual Program, Hopepunk, with Writers Renan Bernardo, Brianna Castagnozzi, Susan Kaye Quinn, and T. K. Rex, 7 p.m., through Franklin Public Library in collaboration with Watertown Public Library, Register here: https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/webinar/register/9216709615810/WN_TV9EwW_STMGGpdhtLlvfRA

Tuesday, January 24, 7 PM **Charles River Chorale non-audition chorale group open rehearsal, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.** at the Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis. New singers encouraged to come.

January 31

Charles River Chorale non-audition chorale group open rehearsal, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis. New singers encouraged to come.

Not Just for Newcomers . . .

Come join your Franklin friends and neighbors at the Franklin Newcomers and Friends Club January Meeting. After a busy Holiday season, we do not have a speaker planned . . . we're having a strictly social gathering. Join us at Escape Into Fiction Book Store, 12 Main Street, Franklin on Wednesday, January 11th at 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Come early and browse/shop the store or grab a bite beforehand nearby.

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>

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Franklin Business Collects for Hope for Heroes

Costello Realty Franklin has again partnered with Thanks To Yanks, a local military focused charity in support of homeless veterans In this photo, Michael Shain of Thanks To Yanks, Christine Molla, Caroline Molla both of Costello Realty and John Milot a local veteran and an ad-

vocate for veterans are seen at Costello Realty ,with donated items .For many years Costello has supported the annual Hope for Heroes drive by making a substantial final donation as well as collecting items for veterans in need. Please visit Thanks To Yanks on Facebook.

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Real Estate Corner

DOCUMENTS

continued from page 22

All land documents, both recorded and registered, are indexed with the names of all parties, the property address, and the type of document. The indexing process includes three stages: first entry, which adds the document type and grantor, usually the person who signs the document; second entry, which verifies the first entry, adds a description, and adds a book and page reference when necessary; and document processing, which puts all the documents that have not been e-filed in order and scans them into the computer system. Once the scanning process is complete, all documents, including e-files, are verified to ensure accuracy.

The resulting images are available for viewing and printing from public access terminals at the Registry and on the internet. In addition, the Registry

microfilms all documents and continues to produce record books. Since 2003, the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has recorded over 3.5 million documents.

“It should also be noted that the Registry does not draft land documents. The Registry of Deeds is in the business of recording land documents only. If an individual is unsure if a drafted land document, particularly a deed, is in proper order, it may be prudent to have a lawyer familiar with real estate law review the document for its accuracy. A simple mistake on a deed, for example, could lead to a major problem.”

Register O'Donnell concluded by stating, “Our trained recording staff is more than happy to record your land documents. Land documents are recorded in an expeditious manner once they arrive here at the Registry.”

To learn more about these and other Registry of Deeds events and initiatives, like us on Facebook at facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds and/or Instagram at Instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds is located at 649 High Street in Dedham. The Registry is a resource for homeowners, title examiners, mortgage lenders, municipalities and others with a need for secure, accurate, accessible land record information. All land record research information can be found on the Registry's website www.norfolkdeeds.org. Residents in need of assistance can contact the Registry of Deeds Customer Service Center via telephone at (781) 461-6101, or email us at registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.

A Novel Occasion, January 28, 2023

Tickets for the 3rd annual “A Novel Occasion” are on sale now. This fundraising event, hosted by The Friends of the Millis Public Library, is on Saturday, January 28, 2023, from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET.

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

This year's bestselling authors include: Alka Joshi, Brendan Slocumb, Fiona Davis, Hank Philipp Ryan, Jamie Brenner, Jeanine Cummins, Julie Clark, Piper Huguley, Tia Williams, Viola Shipman (Wade Rouse).

Tickets are available now to this amazing one-of-a-kind event (early bird \$60 per person through January 13, 2023) after the 13th of January, tickets are \$75 per person until sold out. Purchase tickets for this fundraiser at <https://www.anoveloccasion.com/>

Happy New Year!



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Happy New Year

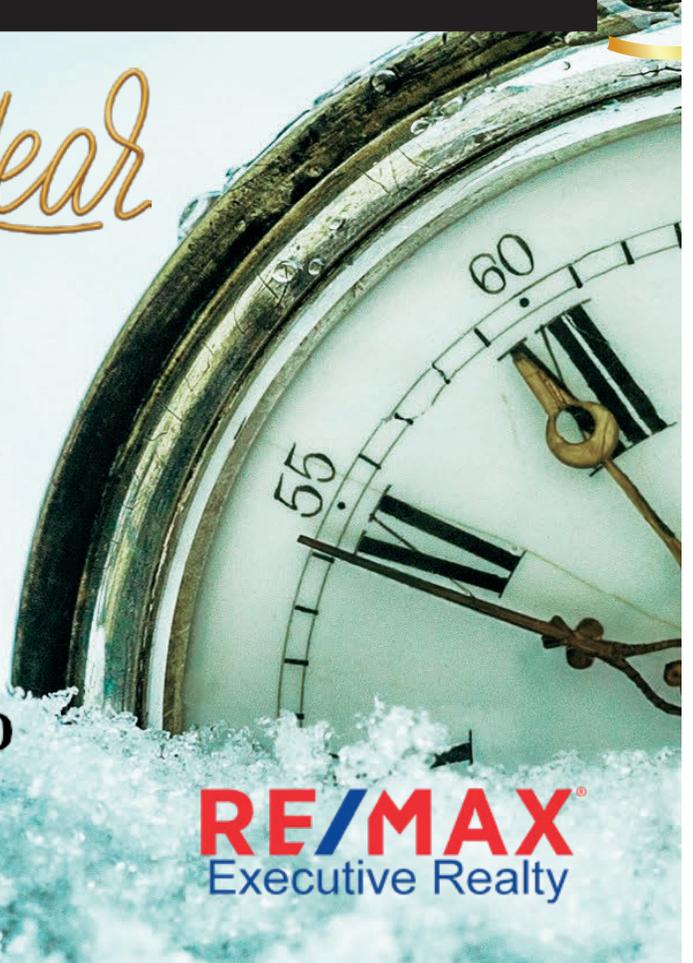
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