

## Community Support Continues for Paralyzed Wrentham Teen

BY MARJORIE TURNER HOLLMAN

The Gibson family in Wrentham is facing a future that most of us think will never happen to us. The single car accident December 14 that left King Philip Regional High School junior Landen Gibson paralyzed from the waist down has changed the future for him and his family. It has also changed the perspective of many in the community. They have moved from, “It will never happen to me,” to “This is someone we know and care about. What can we do to help?”

Landen’s aunt Rigena (Gena) Gibson has set up a GoFundMe page to offer the community a way to channel their concern in a constructive direction. Landen’s family lives in a second-floor apartment and will need to move into a first-floor apartment or house that can have a ramp. They will also need a handicapped vehicle for transport, and many



other accommodations to support him and his family as they face an uncertain future.

Tina, his mother, is the sole support of their family and will be unable to work for months, depending on what Landen’s prognosis is. They are working to figure out how to live in a world that, for them, has been turned upside down.

Landen’s eight-hour surgery at Hasbro Children’s Hospital in Providence was a success, and he has been transferred to

the Spaulding Spinal Cord Rehabilitation facility in Charlestown, MA, where he will be for an unknown amount of time. His aunt Gena noted that their family is familiar with life in a wheelchair.

“Our dad lost both his legs to diabetes before he died in 2019. But Landen is so young. It’s a different thing when your life is in front of you,” said Gena.

She continued, “It could be so much worse—we are grateful we have him with us, and it is still overwhelming. It’s a long road, not just for recovery, but for understanding, and a drastic change in lifestyle.”

We never know what each day will bring, but for Landen and his family, that uncertainty has been amplified as they deal with the reality that today, they need the community’s help. The GoFundMe page (link below) will provide funds that

**TEEN**

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## Meet Norfolk’s New Town Administrator

BY GRACE ALLEN

Justin Casanova-Davis is Norfolk’s new town administrator. He replaces Blythe Robinson, who held the job for the past three years.

Prior to coming to Norfolk, Casanova-Davis, a Whitman resident, had been Brookline’s assistant town administrator since 2018. He also served as Brookline’s acting finance director/treasurer-collector for a year and was a principal budget analyst for the city of Cambridge from 2016 to 2018. He has also been a budget analyst for the state.

Casanova-Davis recently agreed to answer some questions for readers of Local Town Pages.

### 1. How have your past municipal experiences prepared you for your new role in Norfolk?

I have been privileged to work with outstanding teams and wonderful communities throughout my career. I have been involved with nearly every facet of town administration, and I believe the number and variety of



projects I have been exposed to have prepared me for this role. My last role as Assistant Town Administrator in the town of Brookline helped me develop the requisite skills necessary to become a town administrator. My experience during the pandemic, in particular, exposed me to new obstacles and provided me with further opportunities to experience new challenges that further prepared me to become a town administrator.

**ADMIN**

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TEEN

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will all go directly to Landen's care and future needs.

We often feel helpless as we read news reports of tragedies around the world. In the case of Landen Gibson and his family, they are right around the corner from many of us.

Gena Gibson stated, "We are overwhelmed by the community's response to this tragedy. My sister and her family are relatively new to the area, and so many people have reached out with concern and support."

To help make a difference for the family, here's the link to the GoFundMe page:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/valentina-and-landen-gibson.

In addition, a meat raffle fundraiser will be held on February 18 at Dona Ana Meat & Seafood Market in Norfolk, with 100% of the net proceeds going to the Gibson family, and to the families of two other teens, Plainville residents, also injured in the accident.



Come and join us for a Meat Raffle

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

1:00 pm

On December 14th, 2022, three boys that attend KP High School were injured in a serious car accident on Cowell Street in Plainville. The three boys suffered serious injuries and this accident has affected them and their families tremendously. The parents have had to make major changes to their work schedules in order to care for their children.

Please come and join us at the Meat Raffle to support these KP families affected by this horrible accident. Our thoughts and prayers are with Landen of Wrentham, Matt and Zayvon of Plainville.

100% of Net Proceeds will be donated to the affected families.

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**ADMIN***continued from page 1***2. What do you think are the key issues facing the town, short and long term, and how would you approach them?**

Norfolk has numerous key issues it is facing in the short and long term. One of the most critical issues the town faces is the development of its Master Plan. The strategic direction of the town is an essential part of determining what the future of Norfolk looks like. Issues such as what type of development to pursue, the residential tax burden, budget priorities, and various infrastructure projects that the town is currently addressing and considering are ultimately guided by the Master Plan and provide the framework for the direction of the town for the years to come. I would be remiss not to mention the budget and municipal finance, as ultimately, that is one of the most fundamental issues the town faces.

**3. What is it about this job in particular that appealed to you?**

I was immediately interested in the town of Norfolk and this job because of the many opportunities and challenges the town faces. There are a lot of projects the town is working on, and I was interested in being in a community where various projects are on the horizon. As I researched the community and organization, I felt it would be a great fit, as my attributes and skills aligned with what I felt were needed within the organization. Norfolk has an excellent team, and its personnel is dedicated to making it the best community it can be. The Select Board provides clear direction, and ultimately the residents I interacted with in general as I was researching the community seemed passionate, respectful, and engaged. I knew I was prepared to take the next step

in my career and become a town administrator, but I wanted it to be in the right community, and Norfolk seemed like the ideal place for me.

**4. What do you think are your greatest strengths and how will you utilize them in Norfolk?**

I have a strong background in municipal finance. I have been involved with budgeting or municipal finance for over seven years. I have been honored to have received several awards based on the budget work I have done in Cambridge and Brookline, collectively and individually. So, I hope to utilize my municipal finance background with our strong finance team here. Ultimately, I hope to work on a long-term forecast for the town and improve the town's finances. But, I believe my greatest strength is that I am a people person. My leadership style is to work collaboratively. The notion of the team is fundamental to me and ultimately leads to better results, in my opinion.

**5. What are your hobbies and interests?**

I am an avid reader, I particularly enjoy books based on history, but I also enjoy reading different genres. I play basketball in my free time and have been playing with the same friends for over 20 years. Finally, I love to travel. Anytime I get the opportunity to visit a new destination or experience different cultures is thrilling for me.

**6. Is there anything else you'd like to share or let the community know about you?**

I am incredibly thankful and excited to be here in Norfolk. I am passionate about working in local government. There are a lot of opportunities here to improve the community and our organization, and I am excited every day that I get to come to work and work with our team, the Select Board, and the residents.

## Movie Night at the Grange

The Norfolk Grange invites folks of all ages to attend its showing of "The Biggest Little Farm" on Thursday, February 2. The movie will start at 7:30 p.m., shortly after Norfolk's Community Supper.

The award-winning documentary follows a couple and their dog through their successes and failures as they work to develop a sustainable farm on 200

acres outside of Los Angeles. Over the years, the desolate land they purchased, known as Apricot Lane Farm, begins to thrive as it is transformed.

Now is a great time to see the original film as its sequel is due to be released on April 22, Earth Day. View the original movie trailer on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfDTM4JxHl8>.

Donations to the Grange welcome -- pay what you like, or not at all!

Popcorn and water will be available.

The Norfolk Grange is located at 28 Rockwood Road in Norfolk.

## Tracy Grammer Returns to Circle of Friends Coffeehouse

Circle of Friends Coffeehouse, now in its 33rd season, welcomes back Tracy Grammer on Saturday, February 25 at 8 p.m. Grammer will perform with Hana Zara.

Grammer is a nationally-touring multi-instrumentalist and singer who has accompanied and opened for Joan Baez and recorded with Mary Chapin Carpenter. Grammer has become one of folk music's most beloved artists. Renowned for her springwater-clear alto, perfectly intoned violin, and guitar playing that is by turns percussive and delicate, Grammer is also a

masterful storyteller with an ease and charisma on stage as well as a riotous sense of humor.

The Boston Globe says Grammer is "one of the finest singers and musicians anywhere in folkdom." Joan Baez calls her "a brilliant artist."

Visit <http://tracygrammer.com/> to learn more about the artist.

**Save the Dates**

Two more concerts are planned for the spring at Circle of Friends.

On April 1, SheGrooves, Boston's premiere female contem-

porary band featuring Franklin's own Kaye Kelly, will perform.

On April 29, John Gorka, the man Rolling Stone magazine has called "the leading singer/songwriter of the New Folk movement," will perform.

The Circle of Friends Coffeehouse is a non-profit organization affiliated with Franklin's First Universalist Society. Concerts are held in the Society's Meetinghouse located at 262 Chestnut St. Please visit <http://www.circlefolk.org/> for tickets and more information.

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# College Talk: Grades, Courses, and Activities

While colleges review an applicant's complete file, grades, course rigor and committed interests are the three most important factors in determining the admissions decision. We recommend high school students to periodically reevaluate their progress in these areas throughout the year. How are they doing academically? Have they joined activities that they enjoy? And, are they selecting courses that are aligned with their goals? Using a checklist can help in this assessment process:



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

## • How do you get good grades?

- **Stay positive:** Getting good grades takes effort and focus, don't get down on yourself if you receive a bad test grade. Identify strategies on how to improve on future tests. Staying positive and having a plan will keep you motivated.
- **Stay organized:** Strong organization skills will result in better preparation and better outcomes. Create a dedicated work space and keep it neat. It saves time when your notes and assignments are easily accessible.
- **Super tip:** Use any type of planner to keep track of your homework, projects, and tests and their due dates. Good organizational skills can be life changing.

- **Homework:** Make your daily school work a priority. Determine a good schedule and block the time on your calendar. Challenge yourself to put your phone away - checking messages during study breaks. You will get your homework done faster!
- **Take notes in class:** Good note taking can help you become an active listener, understand concepts better, and in turn, earn better grades.
- **Ask for help:** If you are struggling, reach out to your teacher immediately- you will feel so relieved. Many schools offer free tutorial services through their honor society programs. Hiring a tutor is also an option.

- **Schedule breaks:** Take a 10-15 minute break from your studies- check your phone, get a snack, run around the block for exercise! It will refresh your mind and body and help you refocus.
- **Take care of yourself:** Eat right, exercise, and try to get 8 hours of sleep - good for your mind, body, and grades!

## • How do you select your high school courses?

Selecting the right courses is not about enrolling in the hardest courses. It is a balance of the course rigor, your interests, mental health, and time constraints.

- **High School Curriculum Requirements:** Every high school has course requirements that must be completed to graduate. Make sure you are on track.
- **Balanced course schedule:** Take courses in all of your core courses: English, Math, Science, Social Sciences, and a foreign language. Many colleges have specific admission requirements that include the number of years per subject. Research the colleges

you are most interested in and determine if you meet their minimum course requirements..

- **Progression:** Colleges like to see a continued progression in the rigor of the course and grades through your high school years. This does not mean choosing all AP courses. We advise our students to select course levels that will push them, but not shove them. For example, if a student takes 2 years of CP math and received an A both times, we would recommend taking an Honors math the following year.

- **Reflect on your goals:** Many students do not know what their major will be, but they generally know their interests. Pay attention to your goals and select your courses accordingly. For example, if you love math and you would like to end up in AP Calculus - plan the path that will get you there.

- **Do what you love:** We encourage students to follow their passion. However, enroll in classes for the right reasons. As an example, if you love fashion, and design clothes in your free time, take the Fashion Design Course. However, if you are taking it at the expense of a more challenging course that is more appropriate for you - reconsider your choice.

- **Seek guidance:** Keeping your work/life balance is important. Consult with a guidance counselor or a teacher regarding the appropriate course selection for your interests and overall goals.

## • How do you select the activities that are right for you?

- **Enjoyment:** Engage in activities and hobbies that interest you and where you enjoy spending time. Ultimately, you will want to commit more of your time.

- **Depth:** Colleges would prefer to see depth and commitment to a few activities rather than joining many activities where you don't have time to participate. Engage in a meaningful way. Tip: Sign-up as early as possible, but remember that it's never too late to join.

- **Qualities:** Colleges look for students who demonstrate leadership, initiative, community service, good work ethic, and social responsibility. Review your current activities and ask yourself - what is missing? Could you help with a local charity or apply for a part-time job? Perhaps you can run for an office in one of the school clubs, or teach young students art? There are many organizations that offer internships that focus on specific interests. There are too many opportunities to list here! **FREE resource:** send me an email, and I will provide our google doc of possible activities to explore.

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

College 101 Admissions Consultants LLC. Website: www.mycollege101.com. Email: tracy@mycollege101.com. Phone: 508-380-3845.

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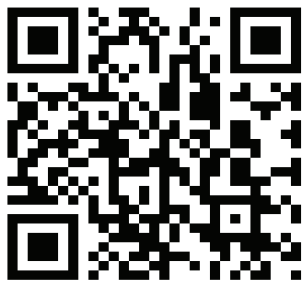
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## Dean College Presents: “Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play,” February 23-26

The School of the Arts at Dean College will perform “Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play” from Thursday, February 23 through Sunday, February 26.

Permeated with the idea that we turn to art in times of immense difficulty, this 2013 black comedy by Anne Washburn tells the story of a group of survivors shortly after a global catastrophe. As a way of making sense in a world that no longer makes sense, they recreate their vanished world through storytelling (some of it featuring Bart Simpson) and turn pop culture of one era into the mythology of another.

“Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

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

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

To learn more about the show and to purchase tickets, visit [www.dean.edu/boxoffice](http://www.dean.edu/boxoffice).

## Wrentham Designated as Green Community

The town of Wrentham has been designated as a Green Community by the state.

In a letter sent by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER), Town Administrator Kevin Sweet was notified of the new designation for the town on Tuesday, Dec. 20.

“The Town of Wrentham has been working hard to foster and cultivate a greener and cleaner community for our residents and businesses, and this designation is a direct testament to all of the work we’ve been able to accomplish thus far,” Town Administrator Sweet said in a statement.

The DOER Green Communities Division provides technical assistance and financial support for municipal initiatives to improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy in public buildings, facilities, and schools.

There are five criteria to be a Green Community. Meeting those criteria qualifies communities for state funding to increase their efforts. The criteria are:

- Provide as-of-right siting in designated locations for renewable/alternative energy generation, research & development, or manufacturing facilities.

- Adopt an expedited application and permit process for as-of-right energy facilities.
- Establish an energy use baseline for municipal buildings and facilities, and develop a plan to reduce energy use by twenty percent after five years.
- Purchase fuel-efficient vehicles when available and practicable.
- Minimize life-cycle energy costs for new construction homes and buildings; one way to meet these requirements is to adopt the new Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) Stretch Code.

According to Town Administrator Sweet, Director of Planning & Economic Development Rachel Benson and Director of Facilities and Capital Planning Chad Lovett were instrumental in leading the Town of Wrentham to achieve Green Community status.

Along with this designation, the Town of Wrentham has been awarded a grant of \$144,600. The grant will be used towards the costs of energy-saving projects. As part of the process to apply to become a Green Community, the town has identified more than thirty projects to assist in reducing the town’s energy usage.

## Thank You from FAFC

To the Editor:

The Friends of Adoption and Foster Care (FAFC) in Wrentham would like to thank all who donated to our recent backpack drive. More than 100 children will benefit from these backpacks filled with school supplies, toys, pajamas and personal care items. For a child placed in DCF’s care, these gifts are a tremendous comfort. Thank you so much!

Donations can still be placed in our bin at the back of St. Mary Catholic Church in Wrentham. We also take diapers, wipes, and baby formula. For more information, visit the website of the Plainville Wrentham Catholic Collaborative at [pwc.church](http://pwc.church), or email Jane at [jsvel@yahoo.com](mailto:jsvel@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,

The Friends of Adoption and Foster Care

## 19th Annual Gary Mirliss Blood Drive Extended

By GRACE ALLEN

Last month’s Gary Mirliss Blood Drive has been extended through February. Donors can visit the Kraft Family Blood Donor Center, located at 450 Brookline Ave., Boston, and donate in memory of Gary Mirliss, a Norfolk resident who passed away from leukemia at age 50.

To schedule an appointment to donate blood, call 617-632-3206. Donors are asked to inform the front desk when they arrive that they are donating in memory of Gary Mirliss.

After his death in 2001, Gary’s family decided to honor his memory and give back to the hospitals that cared for him during his illness by establishing an annual blood and bone marrow registry drive. The drive would also epitomize his outlook on life: always try to help others.

Gary Mirliss was treated at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, undergoing a bone marrow transplant and numerous blood transfusions during the course of his illness. Those two institutions,


along with Boston Children’s Hospital, are the recipients of the annual blood drive, which has impacted thousands of people battling cancer. One unit of blood can help 4 children or 2 adults.

Next year’s blood drive is already set. Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 6, 2024 for the 20th annual event—but it’s not too late to give blood this year, too.

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## Secure Act 2: Electric Boogaloo?



Glenn Brown

Sometimes it's best to not have a sequel.

Still, Congress delivered us one with "Secure Act 2.0" in December.

The original Secure Act was released three years ago. It began with 417-3 House vote in May 2019, advanced by the Senate cramming into the 2020 budget and concluded with Congress cheerleading the delay of Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) by 18 months to age 72 and providing greater access to 401(k) for part-time employees.

Those are good things, but hidden in plain sight was the dis-

mal plot - the death of 'stretch' IRA and creation of the 10-Year Rule, which included liquidating inherited non-spousal (children) Roth IRAs.

See Congress had wanted to speed up tax revenues. What better way than forcing a 25 year old, regardless of financial situation, to liquidate mom or dad's inherited IRA or Roth IRA by age 35 instead of during their retirement years.

How does this help secure retirement for future generations? Or benefit hardworking Americans who sacrificed, saved, planned and proactively paid taxes years, in some cases, decades sooner than needed?

So, with this precedent, how does their latest Secure Act 2.0 look?

In a word: better.

Here are some early awards:

**Most Widespread Impact** - RMDs from retirement accounts increase to age 73 from 72 beginning January 1, 2023. It will increase to age 75 in 2033. That said, just because you can delay doesn't mean you avoid being required to take greater amounts later. In fact, it can accelerate and put some into higher tax brackets without

planning.

**Most Significant Benefit** - Roth, Roth, and more Roth. These changes all appear to be good news for those seeking planning opportunities.

Creation of SEP Roth IRAs and SIMPLE Roth IRAs as well as employer contributions (aka 401(k) match) will be permitted to deposit matching and/or nonelective contributions to employees' designated Roth accounts. There is a caveat, the match would be included in the employee's income in the year of the contribution. Ditto for amounts deposited into SEP Roth IRAs and SIMPLE Roth IRAs. Still, great to have choice.

**Surprising 2024 Newcomer** - In 2024, "high wage earners" will be required to use Roth option for catch-up contributions to 401(k), 403(b), and 457(b) plans, but not for IRAs.

What's Congress's definition of a high wage earner here?

\$1,000,000?

\$400,000?

Nope, here it's \$145,000.

A caveat if you're self-employed individual (sole proprietors and partners) it is specific language of wages (which you don't earn), thus it appears can

still make pre-tax catch-up contributions if income from self-employment is over \$145,000.

**Future Star** - After 15 years of a 529 plan being opened, unused assets can be rolled over to a Roth IRA for the beneficiary (child). Now, it is subject to annual Roth contribution limits and an aggregate lifetime limit of \$35,000. Still, this is a great idea, as you can help a young adult grow a Roth IRA, while they use funds for other savings or pay off liabilities.

**Closing Credits** - Secure Act 2.0 has dozens for nuances and benefits for student loans, emergency savings in DC plans, automatic enrollment, annuity options, qualified charitable distributions, solo 401Ks, surviving

spouse benefits and more. Best to consult your Certified Financial Planner to learn more.

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](http://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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## February Program Highlights at the Wrentham Senior Center

Pre-registration is required for some of these programs. RSVP to 508-384-5425 or register at the Wrentham Senior Center, 400 Taunton St., Wrentham.

Wednesday, February 8 at 1 p.m. **Caregivers Support Group** Monthly support group with Metacomet Public Health Alliance. Pre-registration requested.

Thursday, February 9 at 11 a.m. **Norfolk County Register of Deeds** Register William P. O'Donnell will address topics related to consumer issues and concerns that affect property owners.

These topics include homestead protection, mortgage discharge, deeds, registry news, and more. Lunch will be provided. Pre-register at least a week in advance.

Thursday, February 9 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. **Low Vision Support Group** Held at the Franklin Senior Center with transportation available for Wrentham residents. Call the Senior Center for more information.

Thursday, February 9 at 3:30 p.m. **Book Group** "Clark and Division," a mystery by Naomi Hi-

rahara, a Los Angeles journalist and crime writer, is this month's selection. The historical fiction book chronicles the experiences of a Japanese American family in 1944, after they were released from detention where they were held since the aftermath of Pearl Harbor.

Friday, February 17 at 10 a.m. **Movie & Pizza**. Join us for the movie, pizza, or both. Movie will be listed on the February calendar. Pizza is \$4, payable at sign-up.

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### Guest Column

## The Santos Syndrome

By G. GREGORY TOOKER

It is truly amazing. Newly-elected U.S. Representative George Santos of New York, despite a completely bogus resume, was able to be elected to the House of Representatives. How, we ask, could this happen when it is presumed that the veracity of every candidate's credentials for national office are thoroughly reviewed? This immediately brings to mind another logical query: how many other political office holders are, to some degree, guilty of the same behavior?

At some point in our lives, we all fall victim to an urge to exaggerate the facts. The spectrum that ranges from embellishment to fraud has no clear divisions, demarcations that neatly categorize transgressions enabling us to chastise or prosecute the perpetrator. That spectrum is not permanent in nature; it is subject to great flexibility, depending upon the tolerance level a particular culture is willing to accept. During the administration of the most recent former president, that tolerance level was stretched to the limit, as falsehood after falsehood was revealed. Almost imperceptibly, a national numbness seemed to set in and we began to carelessly tolerate deviation from the truth.

So along comes candidate Santos, feeling confident that a grossly fictitious resume will sail through the process without notice. Incredibly, he was right. And to add insult to injury, there are those in the Congress who argue that Mr. Santos should be given the chance to demonstrate his authenticity before we pass final judgment. If this suggested new standard is allowed to exist, your writer suggests it will constitute one of the final nails in democracy's coffin.

Nearly every parent would like to see his or her child grow up with a well-embedded sense of right and wrong, a clear understanding of the importance of telling the truth. Native American culture had harsh methods of dealing with tribal members equipped with a forked tongue. They understood the destructive consequences such behavior could have on the welfare of the tribe and nation. It is time that America take a long look in the mirror and return to the principles our forefathers strove to uphold.

## King Philip Regional High School Announces Its 2022-2023 Term 1 Honor Roll

### Grade 12 – High Honors

Aleksia Andoni, Alexander Antinoro, Lauren Barriero, Helena Bekele, Jordan Brady, Thomas Brewster, Leah Burke, Ella Butler, Kari Calderone, Trinity Calcaux-Bourque, Emily Campbell, Melissa Canning, Lauren Casper, Lorelei Casper, Ashley Clemon, Michael Craig, Gavin Croke, Sarah Cullen, Callie Cummings, Anna Curley, Aedan Derfler-Murphy, Camdyn Evans, Hailey Eykel, Akachi Ezuma-Ngwu, Katherine Fisher, Keegan Fletcher, Michaela Flood, Caroline Freese, Ryan Gately, Nathan Gebhard, Jason Gonatas, Danielle Gresham, Charlotte Griffin, Aidan Harrington, Avery Hayes, Jackson Hom, April Hooper, Ikbal Turag, Norah Jackson, Richard Jeanetti, Ava Jobity, Finnuala Keefe, Audrey Kelley, Matthew Kelley, Ryan Kelley, Caroline Kenyon, William LaPlante, Nicholas Luna, Owen MacKenzie, Sydney Marland, Zachary Matta, Ella McDonnell, Jack McKenna, Flannery Miller, Maxwell Miller, Juliet Modena, Brooke Noonan, Andrew Obara, Ian O'Neill, Dilara Onur, Shantal Onur, Connor O'Reilly, Raadhay Patel, Declan Pepper, Ella Pisani, Kathryn Quinn, Charlotte Raymond, Melanie Redlitz, Cecilia Saliba, Alea Shammass, Samantha Shore, Kayla Simas, Kevin Smith, Samantha Sweetman, Nathan Sylvén and James Vinson.

### Grade 11 – High Honors

Madison Almeida, Rachel Bailer, Daniel Bertoldi, Mara Boldy, Ananya Boominathan, Sarah Brown, Sydney Burch, Shaylee Cahoon, Dean Cardner, John Chisholm, Victoria

Cosmo, Isabelle Crowley, Anna Daniele, Luke Danson, Hannah Doherty, Nolan Eck, Ashleigh Rose Guenette, Meghan Hessler, Charlotte Holmes, Abigail Hoyt, Chadi Isreb, Lakshya Jain, Nicholas Kansab, Trinjan Kaur, Ryan Keller, Thomas Lomuscio, Ryan Mahoney, Parker Malagrifa, Jack McCreedy, Isabella McFarlane, Noah Minkwitz, Warren Mischley, Andrew Morrison, Oran Rawson, Braedon Reilly, Brady Ricci, Ryan Saenz, Mason Sanford, Tessa Sarkar, Beck Sawtelle, Allison Smith, James Soifer, Samarth Sreenath, Zunairah Syeda, Ryan Taylor, Ian Thompson, Victoria Tristao, Jake Van Hoesen and Kylie Watson.

### Grade 10 – High Honors

Aidan Alvezi, Madison Asprelli, Kendra Barrett, Megan Boie, Keegan Burns, Allison Cecere, Brady Collins, Lily DePippo, Keira Evans, Sophia Evans, Hadi Faraj, Christopher Federico, Samantha Feuer, Drew Herlin, Gavin Hickey, Lillian James, Sarah Joy, Cheyanne Kelley, Noah Lerner, Addison Lewis, Nicholas Mandel, Rhianna Mason, Aidan McCarthy, Makenzie McDevitt, Aidan McDonagh, Claire Newcom, Caitlin O'Brien, Erin O'Donnell, Cole Pacheco, Sophie Peck, Allyson Pochay, Anna Poggi, Maja Straszynska, Margaret Sweeney, Anna Vinson and Lucy Weineck

### Grade 9 – High Honors

Jaydon Ajoy, Nakshatra Arun, Luke Bailer, Justin Basile, Lucy Beaupre, Jillian Berry, Erin Berthiaume, Sonny Bianculli, Colin Brady, Ryan Brown, David Bru-

tus, Jacoby Cady, Allie Carew, Aidan Carone, Mandy Chen, Allison Cleasby, Isabella Coliflores, Nathan Crisci, Matthew Crotty, Alexandra D'Amadio, Chase Davit, Teaghan Derfler-Murphy, Kaitlynn Dorcil, Leah Flynn, Nora Garland, Faith Garvey, Sophia Giancioppo, Alexandria Gill, Lauren Griffin, Jack Haltom, Lusia Harmon, Noam Hasson, Phoebe Jones, Miller Kananowicz, Jinan Khannouchi, Cecelia Kilroy, Abigail Lefebvre, Grace Lehan-Allen, Ella Lussier, Audrey Lutfy, Kelsey Lynch, Ava Magnussen, Lauren Majer, Gregory Manley, Ethan Martin, Griffin McCreedy, Sara McKenna, Molly Milici, Cecelia Mullen, Lauren Obara, Kaitlyn O'Hara, Asher Poynot, JoHanna Ragan, Danielle Redlitz, Ayla Ricci, Logan Riley, Joshua Schmid, Brenton Schneider, Dylan Sestito, Aiden Shaughnessy, Matthew Shore, Rivya Shrivastava, Jason, Silva, Sophia Small, Pranav Srinivasan, Christopher Stock, Samantha Torricelli, Jett Tucker and Ella Wehmeyer.

### Grade 12 – Honors

Jared Ali, Olivia Ali, Ava Allen, Olivia Androozzi, William Astorino, Emerson Baker, Hailey Beane, Kassia Beck, Juan Bedoya, Adam Benredda, William Birmingham, Grace Berry, Matthew Bixby, Sean Bodensiek, Allison Boie, James Boldy, Jaclyn Bonner, Lauren Brady, Troy Breen, Katelyn Buban, Andre Bubluski, Benson Bulloch, Robert Casper, Erika Cebrowski,

### HONOR ROLL

*continued on page 21*



# Notable People of Wrentham

As part of Wrentham's 350th anniversary celebration, the committee planning this year's events has asked residents to submit memories of significant people and places in the town's history. Following is a submission the anniversary committee shared with Local Town Pages.

## Brother Dominic (George) Mihm

*A Peaceful, Loving, Friend & Companion to all in Wrentham and Beyond*

Brother Dominic (George) Mihm was born in Washington, D.C. on August 12, 1919, the second of six children. After graduating from high school in 1938, he asked to join Maryknoll and was sent to Venard College in Clark's Summit, Pennsylvania by way of preparation for their seminary. After the successful completion of his first year there, his Superiors suggested that his health might not hold up under the rigors of missionary life in foreign countries. He then returned to Washington, where he became the Assistant Manager of the carriers for the Washington Star. He later went to work with a construction company and could boast that he helped to build the Pentagon in his own hometown.

On one occasion he hitchhiked with a friend up to New England to visit relatives there. Finding themselves one night stranded in a heavy downpour, they took refuge in a nearby monastery, which put them up for the night. It was at our Lady of the Valley, Trappist Monastery, Rhode Island, that he found his home and vocation in life – a Trappist monk.

On January 14, 1945, he was sent to the monastery of Our Lady of the Prairies in Manitoba, Canada for training in animal husbandry, which would remain his favorite work throughout his life. After six months he returned to the Valley to continue his work managing the barn. It was in his capacity of Dairy Manager that he was instrumental in the purchase of a farm in Wrentham in 1946 from the Garelick Dairy in Franklin for the establishment of what would become the first convent of Cistercian nuns in the U.S.: Mount Saint Mary's Abbey.

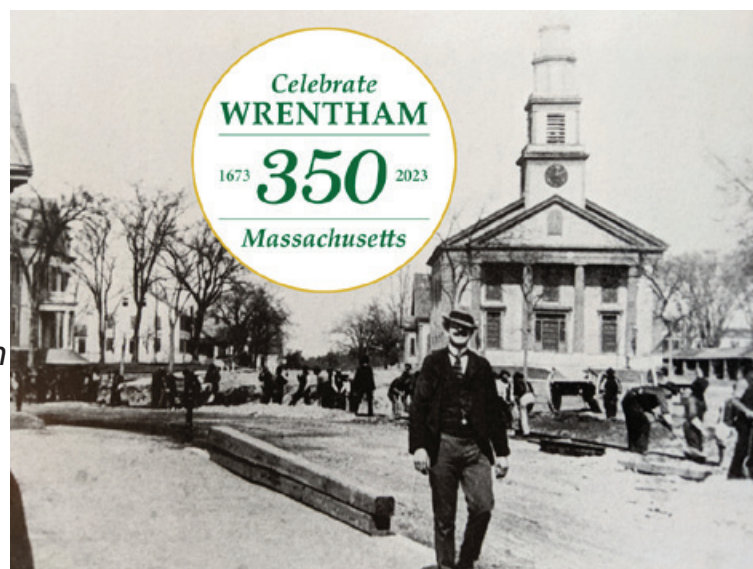
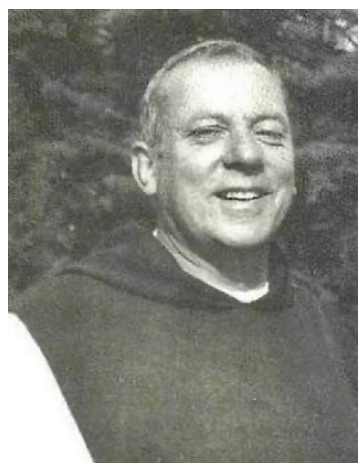
Throughout these early years, he continued to help the sisters at Wrentham after the inauguration of their monastery in 1949, paying periodic visits to inspect their herd. In early January his Abbot

of Spencer, MA asked him to go to Wrentham for a few weeks. These "few weeks" would be transformed as if by magic into 40 years! And so, Dominic took up residence there and began to assist the sisters in their farm operation on a permanent basis. This would be the beginning of long years of dedication to the sisters and their monastery, to Wrentham friends and families.

In addition to his work on the farm, Dominic played a significant role in making contacts between the monastery and its neighbors in the Wrentham-Franklin area, often offering skilled assistance to farmers who needed help. Little by little Dominic became a beloved figure in the entire region. Many of those who came to know him offered their own services to help the sisters in their various needs. Dominic organized all these activities.

A series of serious heart attacks in December 1986 caused him to cut back on heavy physical exertion and to give up his role as Director of Farm Operations at the convent. Undaunted by this limitation, however, he found other less strenuous ways to contribute, putting to good use his veterinary skills for the benefit of the sisters as well as of the monastery's friends in the vicinity. One of his favorite chores up until a year or two before his death was the weekly collection of bread and pastry goods that had gone beyond their expiration date. These were donated to the monastery by several local bakeries for feeding the herd. Dominic saw to it that some of this was given to the needy.

Any survey of Dominic's activities would be incomplete without a mention of one of the activities closest to his heart for many years, the cancer support group of Saint Aidan's Parish, Rhode Island. Not only did Dom participate in its regular meetings, but he also organized various activities of the group,



such as a yearly visit to Saint Joseph's Abbey. Most important of all, he visited members who were ill or dying. Faithfully he assisted at the funerals of those who died, where he was usually called upon to serve as acolyte for the function. When asked how a funeral went, his frequent reply was, "I was on the altar."

Of the 55 years Dom lived as a professed monk, forty of them were spent in Wrentham, a strong proof of his love and dedication to Mount Saint Mary's Abbey. It was for this reason that he asked to be buried there. This did not mean, however, that his love for his own monastery was in any way lessened. Dom was a man who united rather than separated. He served as a link between the two monasteries, and the people of Wrentham and Franklin. Many times when neighboring farmers, whose cows, and even cats, were having difficulty giving birth or needed advice and support for one reason or another, Brother Dominic would be called upon any time during night or day to give them a helping hand. Many a person would knock at his door needing a word of comfort, a bed for the night, or a little money for food. He never refused those who came seeking him for support, a word or simply just a little time to speak with him. He was

a well-known unofficial "confessor" to many a renegade person. They could share any problems with him and know it would be safe with him. It was thanks to Brother Dom in part that over the years the bonds between us have grown stronger and stronger.

In his own life he also united a love and dedication to manual labor with great devotion to prayer, lectio, and the Liturgy. For years he rose each morning at 2:00 a.m. to pray in his favorite armchair in the sacristy until the Vigil service at 3:15, at which he also assisted. He then returned to his chair until Lauds and Mass. An important function, which Dom conducted to perfection, was his role as Master of Ceremonies in the sanctuary during Mass. The end of a hard day's work once again found him in his favorite chair waiting for Vespers to begin. Complines brought an end to his day and, only then, would he head back in his old car

to the Chaplain's house.

Brother Dominic died on March 10, 2001. During the night and day of his wake it was obvious many of his friends had come to say a final private 'farewell' and to the sisters' dismay one or two of his friends clipped a little of his hair to keep as a keepsake! His funeral on March 14 was the largest congregation we have ever had. The celebrant at the beginning of the homily at the funeral mass looked around the church and said, "Brother Dom would love this. He loved big crowds." There were 170 guests, all his Wrentham and beyond Wrentham friends whom he had supported in one way or the other, and ninety monks and nuns, making a total of 260 guests with him at his farewell Mass and funeral.

Beyond all that can be said of his goodness, many will have their own sheaf of memories of his kindnesses to themselves as well as the inspiration that came to them as part of knowing him.

*From Mount Saint Mary's Abbey.*

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## Paying For College CAN Be Less Taxing

### Education Tax Rules

Parents facing college expenses have several provisions in the tax law to consider. The benefits don't apply to all, but there is something of interest for many families.

### Tax credits

The American Opportunity Tax Credit (formerly The Hope Credit) is available for certain tuition and fees, and it allows you to reduce taxes annually up to \$2,500 per student for four years of college. The credit is equal to 100% of the first \$2,000 of qualified expenses and 25% of the next \$2,000, per student.

*The Lifetime Learning Credit covers any year of post-secondary education, with a maximum credit of \$2,000, no matter how many students in the family are eligible.*

Both the American Opportunity Tax Credit and lifetime learning credits phase out for taxpayers with higher incomes.

### Other Education Tax Incentives

**Education savings accounts.** You may establish an education savings account (previously called an education IRA) with a nondeductible contribution for any child under 18. The annual contribution limit is \$2,000. Funds can accumulate and be paid out tax-free for qualified college expenses, including tuition, fees, books, supplies, equipment, and certain room and board costs. The funds can also be used to pay for elementary and secondary (K-12) school expenses at public, private, or religious schools.

Eligibility for an education sav-



ings account starts phasing out at \$110,000 of AGI for single taxpayers and \$220,000 for married folks.

**Individual retirement accounts (IRAs).** Existing IRAs can also be a source of college funds. You may make withdrawals before age 59½ without penalty for amounts paid for college or graduate school tuition, fees, books, room and board, supplies, and equipment.

**Education savings bonds.** Interest on Series EE and Series I bonds issued after 1989 is nontaxable when used to pay tuition and fees for you or your dependents. This tax break begins to phase out once income reaches certain levels.

**Section 529 plans** allow individuals to set up an account on behalf of someone else (say a child or grandchild) that can be used to pay college expenses. There are two types of plans:

*Prepaid tuition plans* are designed to hedge against inflation. You can purchase tuition credits, at today's rates, that your child can redeem when he or she attends one of the plan's eligible colleges or universities.

Both state and private institutions can offer prepaid tuition programs. Using tuition credits from these programs is tax-free.

*College savings plans* are state-sponsored plans that allow you to build a fund to pay for your child's college education. Your contributions are not tax-deductible, but once in the plan, your money grows tax-free. Provided the funds are used to pay for qualified college expenses, withdrawals are tax-free. Qualified expenses include tuition, fees, books, supplies, and certain room and board costs. Private institutions are not allowed to set up college savings accounts.

*If you are looking for an alternative to 529 Plans to save for college education, something that will not be reported on EAFSA, please contact me to discuss.*

**Student loan interest deduction.** Interest on certain student loans can be deducted whether or not you itemize your deductions. The maximum deduction is \$2,500 per year over the loan repayment period and income phase out rules apply here as well.

**Other tax benefits.** Most scholarships remain tax-free, nontaxable employer-paid tuition may be available, and education expenses related to your job still may be deductible.

When you start examining your situation, remember that many of these provisions are designed so that you can't benefit from more than one in any given year. We can help guide you through the maze and help ensure that you receive the maximum possible benefit.

Jeffrey Schweitzer can be found at Northeast Financial Strategies Inc (NFS) at Wampum Corner in Wrentham. NFS works with individuals and small businesses providing financial and estate planning, insurance, investments and also offers full service accounting, bookkeeping, payroll, income tax preparation, and notary public services. For more information, stop by the office, call Jeffrey at 800-560-4NFS or visit online - [www.nfsnet.com](http://www.nfsnet.com)

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## FSPA Musical Theater Students to Present *The Addams Family*

The Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) will present featuring an all-student teen cast on February 10 and 11 at 7:30pm at THE BLACK BOX.

, a comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family, features an original story and it's every father's nightmare: Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family—a man her parents have never met. And if that wasn't upsetting enough, Wednesday confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before—keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's "normal" boyfriend and his parents.

FSPA's youth musical theater students will present a musical revue entitled "Family Reunion" on February 11 at 2:00 and 4:00pm at THE BLACK BOX.

With extensive programs in music, dance, and drama all housed under one roof, FSPA is uniquely positioned to offer an immersive interdisciplinary musical theater experience. Younger students explore the exciting world of musical theater with an introduction to basic skills in singing, acting, and dancing, while older and more advanced students build upon this foundation with increasingly challenging repertoire, technique, and scene work. Musical theater history and audition technique round out the department's hands-on, multi-disciplinary opportunities. Alumni of FSPA's Musical Theater program have gone on to perform on Broadway, in national tours, regional theater, TV/Film, cruise ships, and other venues around the world.

Enrollment at FSPA is ongoing; prospective students are invited to stop by 38 Main Street for a tour, complimentary trial class, and more information. For tickets to *The Addams Family* and more information on FSPA's offerings, visit [www.FSPAonline.com](http://www.FSPAonline.com) or call 508-528-8668.







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# Franklin Newcomers Club Announces Feb. Meeting

*Not Just for Newcomers, and Not Just for Franklin Residents!*

Join Franklin friends and neighbors at the Franklin Newcomers and Friends Club February meeting at Escape Into Fiction Book Store, 12 Main Street, Franklin on Wednesday, February 8 at 7 p.m.

Club member Gloria Lee, a licensed acupuncturist, is going to share information about her

field. She'll be happy to answer any questions you may have about acupuncture. 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 newcomer's club, are welcome to join us.

We are so thankful for the generosity and kindness that April Rock, owner of Escape Into Fiction, has bestowed on us this year. She's more than humble so it might not be known to you how generous she is to our community. Teachers especially should know that she keeps a teacher wish list at the register. All teachers are welcome to sign

up. If you are a teacher, April is an amazing resource for you and your classroom.

Look for us on our Meetup and Facebook pages for more information: <https://www.meetup.com/Franklin-Newcomers-Friends> and <https://facebook.com/FranklinNewcomersFriendsClub>.

## Wrentham Parking Ban

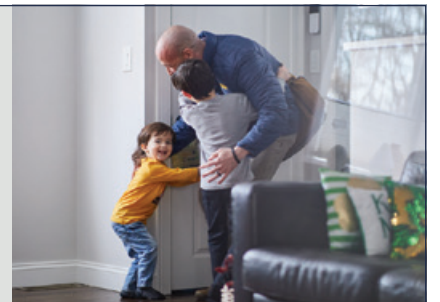
Residents are reminded that the winter parking ban is in effect until April 1.

No overnight parking is allowed on town streets from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

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- 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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# Senior Breakfast Kicks off Town's Anniversary Year

The Wrentham 350 Committee held its first event of the year on January 8. The Senior Breakfast, held at the Senior Center, acknowledged and honored the town's older residents. Food, entertainment, and more were on tap as volunteers and even Cruiser, the town's community resource dog, helped create a memorable day to kick off Wrentham's 350th anniversary celebrations.

*Photos courtesy of Wrentham350.com*



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# Baker-Polito Administration Awards Nearly \$2M in Fire Education Grants

## Record Number of S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE Grants Awarded in FY 2023

On January 3, the Baker-Polito Administration announced that 266 municipal fire departments will receive \$1.9 million in grants to fund fire and life safety education for children and older adults, setting a new record for the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) and Senior SAFE programs. The previous record of 253 communities was set in FY 2018.

The Norfolk Fire Department and Wrentham Fire Department each received \$3,781 in S.A.F.E. grant money, and \$2,077 in Senior SAFE grant money.

“For more than 25 years, the S.A.F.E. grant program has provided hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts students with fire and life safety lessons that last a lifetime,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “We are glad that this year’s awards will support consistent, statewide, professional safety education in a record number of communities.”

The average number of children who die in fires annually has dropped by nearly 80% since the S.A.F.E. program began in FY 1996, and Massachusetts recently went nearly three years without losing a child to fire. The Senior SAFE program was launched

in FY 2014, funding fire safety education for another vulnerable population – seniors, who face a disproportionate risk of dying in a fire at home.

“The Senior SAFE grants support home visits, smoke and CO alarm installations, and fire safety presentations delivered by firefighters in partnership with service providers,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “Their valuable program gives older adults the tools, knowledge, and strategies to stay safe and independent at home.”

This year’s awards will provide \$1,103,488 in S.A.F.E. funding for 262 fire departments; \$562,194

in Senior SAFE funding for 265 fire departments; and \$252,783 for regional trailer props used by multiple fire departments to teach and demonstrate fire safety skills. Every department that applied for a grant received funding.

“The S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE grants represent a smart investment in fire safety,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence M. Reidy. “Youngsters and older adults are historically at greater risk in house fires, but that risk can be reduced through the targeted outreach, education, and awareness programs like these.”

“The S.A.F.E. and Senior

SAFE programs bring trained firefighter-educators together with children and older adults to deliver age-appropriate fire and life safety lessons,” said State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey. “Fire service programs like these are part of the reason Massachusetts is one of the most fire-safe states in the nation, and I’m very glad that more communities than ever applied for this year’s grants.”

The S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE grant programs are funded through legislative earmarks to the Executive Office of the Public Safety & Security, and they are administered by the Department of Fire Services.

# Save the Date for Wrentham’s Annual Town Election

Wrentham’s annual Town Election will be held on Monday, April 3, 2023. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voter registration will be held on Friday, March 24, 2023.

To obtain nomination papers, visit the Town Clerk’s office at 79 South Street in Wrentham.

Nomination papers are due on February 13, 2023, and 50 signatures will be required, but 55 signatures are recommended.

The following elected offices are open:

- Board of Assessors: 3-year term, 1 position open

- Board of Health: 3-year term, 1 position open
- Constable: 2-year term, 1 position open
- Fiske Library Trustee: 3-year terms, 2 positions open

- King Philip Regional School Committee: 3-year term, 1 position open
- Moderator: 1 year term, 1 position open
- Planning Board: 3 years term, 2 positions open

- Select Board: 3-year term, 1 position open
- Wrentham Elementary School Committee: 3-year term, 2 positions open

For more information, call 508-384-5415 or email [cthompson@wrentham.gov](mailto:cthompson@wrentham.gov).

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

## Norfolk Police Warn About “Grandparent Scam”

Norfolk Police Chief Timothy Heinz recently cautioned residents about an increasingly common scam in Massachusetts in which criminals often target elderly individuals.

In a so-called “grandparent scam,” scammers call an individual and inform them that a relative has been arrested — sometimes in a foreign country. The scammers may pose as the relative of the victim or a lawyer. The scammers then request bail payment in cash or in the form

of a pre-paid gift card, given to a person posing as a courier or bail bondsman who arrives at the victim’s home. In an alternative approach, the scammers request money be transferred via a wire service, such as Western Union.

The Norfolk Police Department has received reports of this scam circulating within the community in recent weeks. Norfolk Police urge all residents to remember that detainment of a person can be confirmed with the arresting police department

or through the local district court clerk’s office. Bail is never paid via courier, gift card or wire service.

### Avoiding the “Grandparent Scam”

If someone calls or sends a message claiming to be a family member or a friend desperate for money:

- Resist the urge to act immediately, no matter how dramatic the story is.
- Verify the person’s identity by asking questions that a stranger could not answer.
- Call a phone number for your family member or friend that you know to be legitimate.
- Check the story out with someone else in your family or circle of friends, even if you’ve been told to keep it a secret.
- Don’t wire money or send a check or money order by overnight delivery or courier.
- Report possible fraud at ftc.gov/complaint or by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP.

Anyone who has questions or feels as if they may have fallen victim to a scam are urged to contact the Norfolk Police Department at 508-528-3206.

## FPAC to present *Something Rotten*

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will present the hilarious musical comedy *Something Rotten!* March 10-19 at THE BLACK BOX. Set in the 1590s, brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom are desperate to write a hit play, but are stuck in the shadow of that Renaissance

rock star known as “The Bard.” When a local soothsayer foretells that the future of theatre involves singing, dancing, and acting at the same time, Nick and Nigel set out to write the world’s very first musical. But amidst the scandalous excitement of opening night, the Bottom Brothers

realize that reaching the top means being true to thine own self, and all that jazz.

The production directed by FPAC Artistic/Executive Director Raye Lynn Mercer will feature choreography by Broadway legend Tyler Hanes. Hanes was only 17 when he was discovered by Ann Reinking while attending Broadway Theater Project in Tampa, Florida. She cast him in the first national tour of the Tony Award winning musical, *Fosse*. Following the tour, he attended Carnegie Mellon University, leaving after a year to make his Broadway debut in the 2002 Broadway revival of *Oklahoma!* Soon after, he appeared in the original Broadway companies of *Urban Cowboy*, *The Boy From Oz*, *The Frogs*,



the 2005 revival of *Sweet Charity*, and as Larry in the original revival company of *A Chorus*

*Line*. Hanes also appeared in the Broadway companies of *Hairspray* and the 2014 revival of *On The Town*. He starred as Rum Tum Tugger in the highly anticipated Broadway revival of *CATS*, which he was nominated for a Chita Rivera Award for Outstanding Male Dancer in a Broadway show.

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

For tickets and more information for *Something Rotten!*, visit [THEBLACKBOXonline.com](http://THEBLACKBOXonline.com) or call the box office at 508-528-3370.

## Dean College Offers Summer Programs in Sports Broadcasting and Forensics

Is your high schooler interested in learning more about careers in sports or forensics while getting a taste of college life? This summer, Dean College will offer two pre-college programs in Sports Broadcasting and Forensics.

The Sports Broadcasting and Forensics Pre-College Summer Programs offer a great introduction to college life. Students will earn college credit for completing the program while they learn from experts in the field and get advice on the college admissions process from a Dean College

admissions counselor during a free one-on-one consultation. Students will also participate in unique real-world experiences and field trips embedded into each program, with behind-the-scenes access to program-specific venues such as Gillette Stadium and the New England Patriots training camp. Additional experiences may include trips to a science lab and police station for the Forensics program and a baseball stadium for the Sports Broadcasting program, as well as the opportunity to call live play-by-play and host talk show programs.

Two one-week sessions of each pre-college summer program will be offered. The first session will run from July 23-28, 2023, and the second session will run from July 30-August 4, 2023.

Free virtual information sessions will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, May 3, 2023, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.dean.edu/summer](http://www.dean.edu/summer).



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# The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

## Galentine's Day - February 13th

BY GINA WOELFEL

February 13th is National Galentine's Day! Ok, ok...not officially, but UNOFFICIALLY, Galentine's Day is celebrated on February 13th, the day before Valentine's Day.

February is the month of love and Galentine's Day fits right in! We shower our significant others with gifts and cards on the 14th, but 24 hours earlier is all about our equally important relationships: our girlfriends! Galentine's Day brings together the ladies in our lives we love and lean on the most - our ride or die BFF's (you know who you are...)

You may recall that last year's Beauty Beat focussed on self-care. Well, we've made the executive decision that hanging with your besties is the best self-care there is!

We were actually inspired to write a Galentine's Day Beauty Beat when two best friends recently booked a facial day together at our b.LUXE studio. Estheticians, Colleen and Monique took such great care to pamper and beautify these two lovelies, the smiles on their faces said it all. They'd thoroughly enjoyed a day of self-care made all the more amazing by doing it together.

This holiday is the perfect opportunity to indulge in the YOU-time you need with the people who always have your back, the people who keep you laughing and who never let you down. Whether you're single or in a relationship, the best things in life are better with friends, and isn't that worth celebrating?

As much as we'd love to, not all of us are in the position to book a crazy girls trip to Paris (sorry SJP) or even a weekend away, but there are many fun and unique ways to celebrate your friendship that, with a little planning, can be almost as fabulous as Paris!

Here are a few ideas for you and your queens to kick up your heels and celebrate!

- Mimosas and pancakes - Have all the toppings and break out the crystal!
- Slumber party - Tell the gents they need to scoot and queue up your favorite films.
- Plan the perfect hike - Map out a new and exciting route and pack a lunch of your favorite munchies to snack at the summit.
- Zoom Happy Hour - No time to go out? Put the kids to bed and dial in!
- Friends Facial Day - Well, of course this is a b.LUXE favorite!! Our spa loves when friends book together! Facials are so great, why not bring a friend?? Tandem facials are a double shot of fun and leave you feeling like you're taking care of yourself, as well as your bestie!

### POP UP PROMO ALERT!

On February 13th, for one day only, get a \$50 Galentine's Day Spa Gift Card for only \$40! 12 hours only, from 9AM - 9PM, online purchases only. Buy as many as you like, but only one Galentine's Spa Gift Card per appointment. Scan QR code to be brought to our website and click "E-Gift Cards" from the menu to purchase.

Read on about our other spa special that's happening for this month!

### The Red Envelope Event!

For the entire month of February, every client with a booked facial or spray tan will receive a red envelope at their appointment and surprise...

### EVERY ENVELOPE'S A WINNER!

Prizes include b.LUXURY Facials, facial add-ons, spa products, spray tans and coupons! There's even a grand prize, golden ticket winner! Don't miss out and book today, space is limited.

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(\*Red Envelope prizes must be used on the same day as your booked service, they're non-transferable, and have no cash value.)

Now, of course we haven't forgotten about you, February 14th! Our gift cards are always available for easy purchase online and are the perfect way to say Happy Valentine's Day to all your special someone's. You all know how much your wives, mothers and significant other's LOVE them! So, grab your honey the gift they really want. Hint! Hint!

We hope Galentine's/Valentine's Day finds you celebrating with all the people and things that you love and wish you a joy-filled February filled with love, light and magic! (And pancakes and mimosas...)

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# Living Healthy

## Home Remedies for Simple Eye Problems

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

Many eye problems need an ophthalmologist's medical knowledge. But there are eye problems that you can treat safely at home, as long as they are simple. Here are a few problems that can respond to home treatment, with tried-and-true remedies.

### Black eye

You can usually treat a black eye at home. But if there are more serious symptoms of black eye, see an ophthalmologist. These signs include: blurred/double vision; blood in the eye; or an inability to move the eye.

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

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

### Pink eye (also known as conjunctivitis)

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

If your conjunctivitis is bacterial, follow your treatment plan. This usually involves antibiotic eye drops. In either case, you should take steps to reduce the chance of passing the problem on to someone else. Conjunctivitis is highly contagious. Follow



these tips to prevent the spread: Don't share towels, handkerchiefs or cosmetics. Change pillowcases frequently. Wash your hands often.

### Eye allergy and seasonal allergy

Just as you can get nasal allergies, you can get eye allergies that leave your eye red, itchy and teary. Limiting your exposure to the source of your allergy —

whether it's pollen, pets or mold — can help relieve symptoms. If you can't remove the source entirely, there are ways to reduce its effect with eye allergy treatments.

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

If dust is the problem: Use allergen-reducing covers for your bed. Use artificial tears, which temporarily wash allergens from your eyes. Use over-the-counter anti-allergy eye drops to lessen the symptoms.

### Stye (also called hordeolum)

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

### Eye strain

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

### Bags under the Eyes

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

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

### Use Common Sense for Your Eye Health

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

Some eye problems you should never treat on your own.

If you experience any of these, you should seek medical attention right away: Blurriness. Double vision. Pain in your eye. Serious eye injuries.

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**EYES**

*continued on page 17*



# Living Healthy

## Slip Sliding Away

As winter forges on, we are forced to deal with ice and snow and poor weather conditions. We have to be vigilant with our driving and certainly walking on icy streets. Slips and falls, and especially auto accidents, can create more damage than just a bump and a bruise. If you are experiencing the following symptoms for more than three days from an accident or fall, you should seek professional help: back pain, neck pain, headaches, nausea, difficulty concentrating, focusing with reading, or difficulty sleeping.

Michael H. was rear ended while stopped at a red light. He immediately felt a twinge in his neck and his lower back, but thought it was ok. As time went on, however, the pain intensified and he started to get headaches. Since he didn't normally get headaches, he knew something wasn't right.

A friend told him to seek the help of Dr. Goldstein at The Holistic Center at Bristol Square. Dr. Goldstein performed a consultation and examination and explained how he could eliminate his discomfort and pain. Once under care with Dr. Goldstein, Michael's symptoms started to resolve. His headaches became less frequent and were less intense until they went away altogether. His neck and lower back pain improved with chiropractic adjustments and a home exercise program. Today, Michael has resumed all the activities he enjoyed prior to the accident.



Dr. Rochelle Bien & Dr. Michael Goldstein

If you have had a slip and fall, or have been in an auto accident and are experiencing symptoms call The Holistic Center at Bristol Square, at (508) 660-2722 and book an appointment today. The Center is located at 1426 Main Street in Walpole.

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### EYES

*continued from page 16*

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## Preschool Registration Opens for Tri-County RVTHS Early Education Program

Hands-on education is a critical part of vocational high schools and Tri-County Regional Vocational High School is looking forward to welcoming a new group of children to the Tri-County Children's Center.

The Early Education Program prepares high school students for various careers working with young children. The ability to work directly with preschool children within the on-campus facility located in Tri-County Regional High School, 147 Pond St., Franklin, allows students to acquire skills and confidence in teaching.

Tri-County Children's Center is led by three highly qualified teachers in the Tri-County Early Education Program and assisted by students in the Early Education major. The preschool sessions are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:50 to 11:20 a.m. for the three-day program. Class size is limited to 30 children and tuition is \$36.00\* per week (\*subject to change).

Placement is limited to the residents of the 11 towns within the Tri-County District: Franklin, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Norfolk, North Attleboro, Plainville, Seekonk, Sherborn, Walpole, and Wrentham. Admission is decided through a random drawing which will take place on Monday, March 6, 2023. Names not selected in the drawing will be placed on a waiting list.

Registration began on Monday, January 23, 2023. Applications will be accepted through Friday, March 3, 2023. Registration is limited to children who are at least 3 years of age by September 15, 2023. Birth certificates for children being registered must accompany all registration forms. Enrollment is limited to two years or part of two years for the preschool program, as long as the child is age eligible.

For more information about Tri-County's preschool program, visit <https://tri-county.us/tri-county-childrens-center/>.

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For more information, or to schedule your insert, please contact Jen Schofield at 508-570-6544 or by email at [jenschofield@localtownpages.com](mailto:jenschofield@localtownpages.com)

## “Suits for Success” Program Donates to United Parish’s Thrifty Threads

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O’Donnell donated 12 winter jackets, 10 full suits, and more than 45 other articles of business attire to United Parish of Brookline’s Thrifty Threads through the “Suits for Success” program last month.

The often-taken-for-granted suit or dress clothes hidden away in the back closet and only occasionally seeing the light of day may seem to some like an unfortunate necessity. However, for those struggling on the path to success, the cost of a suit can be an unsurmountable barrier.

“It’s hard to move forward if you don’t feel good about yourself, and this gives people a chance to look good, feel good, and grow as an individual,” said Louise Bowler, Thrifty Threads Team Leader.

Thrifty Threads provides inexpensive clothing to anyone who needs quality attire. Proceeds from the thrift store sup-

port United Parish’s outreach and social justice programs. The organization also passes on more than half of the donations it receives to non-profit organizations working directly with people in need.

Register O’Donnell remarked, “We’re happy to assist Thrifty Threads. I thank all those who donated to our ‘Suits for Success’ program, and I hope other local residents and businesses will consider making a clothing donation. The program is truly needed, and it’s a great resource for the community.”

The “Suits for Success” program, developed by Register O’Donnell, partners with groups like Father Bill’s & MainSpring, Needham Community Council, Suits and Smiles, Interfaith Social Services, InnerCity Weightlifting, VA Boston Healthcare System, Voluntary Service Program, New Life Furniture Bank of Massachusetts, and United

Parish’s Thrifty Threads. The mission of “Suits for Success” is to collect donations of suitable clothing to be distributed to individuals who may need appropriate attire for employment interviews.

Since the Registry started the “Suits for Success” program in February 2009, it has collected more than 9,000 articles of clothing.

“Receiving donations like this means a lot and it’s important,” said Bowler. “This may give someone who is looking for a job now the confidence they need to take the next step.”

Thrifty Threads is located within United Parish and is open Fridays and Saturdays, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., and is fully operated by a team of dedicated volunteers.

“During the past decade, we have learned that programs like ‘Suits for Success’ work,” said O’Donnell. “This program has given many people a valuable



Register of Deeds William P. O’Donnell shows Louise Bowler, Thrifty Threads Team Leader, one of the suits being donated through the “Suits for Success” program, last month.

resource to help them on the path to success and may ultimately help them achieve self-sufficiency.”

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, located at 649 High St., Dedham, is the principal office for real property in Norfolk County. The Registry is a resource for homeowners, title examiners, mortgage lenders, municipalities, and others

with a need for secure, accurate, and 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 at (781) 461-6101 or by email at registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.

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## Sports

# KP's Cloutier: An Intense Wrestler Who's on a Mission

By KEN HAMWEY  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Colby Cloutier had a dynamic run as a sophomore last year in the post-season wrestling tournaments but he's acutely aware there'll be no guarantees this month when the Division 2 Central Sectional playoffs get underway on Feb. 11.

Competing for King Philip Regional last year in the 152-pound weight class, Cloutier rolled to three straight triumphs in the sectional, finished first and advanced to the state tourney where he posted a 3-2 record. Those numbers gave him a fifth-place finish and enabled him to advance to the all-state meet, but two straight losses ended his impressive run.

Now, the 5-foot-9, 163-pounder will be battling in a different weight class (160), knowing the task ahead will not only be challenging, but most likely more difficult. At Local Town Pages deadline (Jan. 15), Cloutier had a 19-1 dual-meet record.

"It definitely will be challenging," Cloutier said, "because I have a reputation of being successful. But, on the plus side, I'll be more relaxed. I know what to expect after last year's meets and I'll be highly motivated after going 0-2 at all-states."

The 17-year-old Cloutier relies on a style that blends being aggressive with being patient. "I like starting aggressively but I'm also patient, always waiting for an opportunity to defeat my opponent," he said.

A native of Wrentham, Cloutier's sophomore season ended with a 26-8 overall record. The attributes he banked on to compile 26 victories included a relentless work ethic, a high wrestling IQ, sharp technique, strength, mental toughness and athleticism. "Mental toughness is important because it helps me to maintain my weight and it enables me to stay calm and composed," he offered.

Now, as a junior, Cloutier is a captain and he's very cognizant about the responsibilities of that leadership role. "Leading by example is a big key and I strive to be communicative and supportive," he noted. "I'm honored to

have been chosen a captain."

Last year's tourney results left little doubt that Cloutier leads by example.

"Colby approaches every aspect of his life the same way he approaches wrestling — complete and total devotion to the task at hand," said John Adams, KP's wrestling coach. "As an athlete he's a technician and he's always evolving; he has unlimited potential. As a leader, he is second to none. I'm proud of him. He's an exceptional young man."

Cloutier's team goals at the start of the season were to compile a plus-.500 record, aim to be competitive in the Hockomock League's Kelley-Rex Division, and to qualify at least half of KP's lineup for the state tourney. At Local Town Pages deadline, the Warriors had a 5-4 dual-meet record and they were first at the Midland Duals at Quabbin Regional High School.

"We're young — a sophomore-junior team — but we've got talent, some experience and depth," Cloutier said. "A good amount of our wrestlers were part of last year's team that went 16-5."

Cloutier says his team goals are also his individual goals but he's got two other objectives that are personal. "I want to be the best captain I can be and I want to be a state champion."

Appreciative of his coach, Cloutier also lauds two teammates for their contributions to the team — junior Jared Shapiro and freshman Griffin McCready.

"Jared has passion for wrestling, he's motivated, relies on good technique and he's a quality teammate," Cloutier said. "Griffin has a strong work ethic, is technically sound and has experience from the youth league. As for coach Adams, he's an excellent motivator who strives to help us reach our potential and he stresses technique."

A good student, Cloutier hasn't decided on a college or his major but he definitely wants to continue wrestling collegiately. Calling his parents (Eileen and Bob) role models for their support and encouragement, Cloutier's success stems



Colby Cloutier likes the valuable life lessons that can be learned from wrestling.

from a competitive philosophy that focuses on reaching his potential and having fun.

"If those two things are in the mix, then winning will follow," he said. "My father coached me in the youth league and he deserves credit for any success I've had. He taught me to be strategic, motivated and technically sound."

Cloutier, who started wrestling as a four-year-old, has competed at the club level for 11 years. Last year, he competed in club tourneys in Maryland, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania.

"I'm passionate about wrestling," he said. "It's both a team sport and an individual sport. Going one-on-one in individual bouts and winning provides points for the team. I also like the sport because it teaches valuable life lessons, like developing a strong work ethic, how to be a good leader and how to overcome adversity and challenges."

Earlier this season, Cloutier finished first at 160 pounds in the Milford Tournament and the Dan Balboni Holiday Classic. He labels a "leg rider" as his favorite move.

"It involves wrapping my legs around an opponent's body and aiming for back points or a pin," he said. When he's asked



Colby Cloutier, left, is a relentless wrestler who won a sectional championship as a sophomore.

about his best match, there's no hesitation. His final bout in the sectional last year is the choice.

"I beat Erin Cashton of Sharon," Cloutier said. "The victory gave me the sectional title, it qualified me for the state playoffs and it was satisfying because he beat me during the regular season."

As the post-season tourneys approach, Cloutier is hopeful another lengthy run is in the cards. His prime objective is to advance to the state playoffs and be crowned a champion at that level.

"I went 3-2 in the states last year but the matches I lost were close," he recalled. "I could have done better. And, even though I advanced to all-states, I lost twice. The experience I gained at both of those tourneys was great but I remain highly motivated."

Colby Cloutier is a study in desire, determination and dedication. A state crown will satisfy one of his objectives but he knows the sectionals come first.

That's where his journey begins.

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# Real Estate Corner

## Wrentham Senior Center Seminar on Reverse Mortgages (HECM)

Michael Dunsky of Fairway Mortgage will provide information on Reverse Mortgages (HECM)

**What is a HECM Reverse Mortgage Loan?**

**How does an HECM work?**

**What are my options for receiving HECM proceeds?**

**What are common uses of an HECM?**

**How does and HECM get paid back?**

**Who owns the home me or my bank?**

**What are basic eligibility requirements?**

**Are HECM proceeds considered income?**

Michael will answer these questions and more. Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 11AM.

Michael Dunsky is a VP & Senior Loan Officer at Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation. He joined the mortgage industry in 1988 as a processor and, later, an underwriter before



becoming a loan officer in 1992. Throughout his career, he has earned spots among Mortgage Executive Magazine's top 1% of loan officers, as well as the Scotsman Guide's top 200 loan officers.

Michael credits his success with always putting the client's needs first. He considers himself, above all, an educator and is committed to helping his clients find the right loan option for their situation. Between his many



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repeat clients and frequent referrals—including to his clients' children—Michael has created a reputation for providing an exceptional lending experience.

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Attendees are asked to pre-register either by phone at 508-384-5425 or in person at the Wrentham Senior Center at least one week prior to each seminar. Anyone with questions about current seminars or ideas for future topics can call Rose Stavola at 508-507-1853.

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# Real Estate Corner

## HONOR ROLL

continued from page 8

Alexandria Cloutier, Sydney Cloutier, Ja-Kai Correio, Matthew Crago, Rachel DeFlaminis, Adriana Disla, Jacquelyn DuBois, Lilly Dubovsky, Joshua Dwinell, Hayden Emery, Ikechi Ezuma-Ngwu, Miles Gallagher, Luciana Galvez, Catharine Gebhard, Alison Gendrolis, Meredith Giesler, Willem Granese, Maggie Griffin, Katrina Groom, Jessica Guidice, Hope Hamilton, Ethan Hancock, Philip Harmon, Kathryn Hazel, Liam Hickey, Paxton Hubert, Ryan Hurwitz, Nicala Iantosca, Noah Ihley, Ahunna James, Mal-lory Johnston, Grant Kinney, Owen Kiss, Lauren Klein, Owen Klobucher, Thomas Laight, Ava Lanza, Julia Lanza, Grace Lawler, Anthony Lawson, Amelia Lerner, Elizabeth Lewis, Precious Gabri-elle Llaga, Alexander Luna, John Luskin, Abigael Lyons, Caitlin MacKay, Marcello Madrazo, Thomas Martorano, Jake Mazur, Ryan McGill, Aidan McLaughlin, Thomas Meader, Carson Meier, Connor Mello, Abdisal-am Mohamed, Margaret Murphy, Bridgett Nally, Luke Nixon, Aidan O'Neill, Kevin O'Neill, Spencer Orzell, Collin Peck, Haven Pelaggi, Gerald Pender-gast, Victoria Petrillo, Meredith Pfeiffer, Laina Pizzi, Eva Potts, Katarina Precobb, Ava Quinlan, Matthew Rando, Violet Rizzo, Nathan Rochon, Gabriella Ro-driquez, Caroline Sawyer, Emily Sawyer, Brendan Sencaj, Andrew Seropian, Christopher Sesay, Benjamin Simmons, Vivian Squit-teri, Luke Stehley, Alexander Stock, Sydney Tardanico, Molly Tharrett, Matthew Thompson, Evan Trujillo, Alexander Viscusi, Gregory Walker, Libby Walsh, Benjamin Watson, Isabelle Watson, Ilah Weiblen, Elizabeth White and Dylan Woods.

### Grade 11 – Honors

Leah Abrams, Brady Ander-son, Luke Anderson, Rebecca An-der-son, Keira Barr, Skyler Barry, Isabel Becker, Benjamin Berry, Jack Berthiaume, Rowan Boulger, Cherish Bourne, Lilianna Bren-neis, Ari Butler, Peter Cataldo, Colby Cloutier, Trevor Clyde, Gillian Comeau, Callie Connolly,

Grace Cory, Margaret Crisafi, Edward Crisci, Eliot Davis, Julia DeVasto, John Dowling, Meghan Dowling, Kaylee Dugan, Saman-tha Eaton, Sariah Estime, Vincent Faria, Emilia Faust, Lindsey Field, Maeve Finn, Liam Foley, Anthony Fraone, Jackson Frye, Nathaniel Garstka, Samantha Harkins, Lau-ren Harper, Lilli Hickey, Joshua Hill, Jackson Hoitt, David Hol-land, Kelly Holmes, Kunsheng Huang, Marisa Hughes, Sabrina Ivins, David Izzo, Mason Jacobs, Nathan Johnson, Marly Kanano-wicz, Ava Kelley, Kyle Kelloway, Gianna Kelly, Cameron Kizik, William Knott, Hadley Kozola, Isabel Lafond, Heidi Lawrence, Alyssa Legere, Camron Lehan-Allen, Caden Leonard, Jamie Levesque, Olivia Luiz, Ava Lutfy, Henry Lynch, Erin Mahoney, Caroline Makuch, Leo Manning, Hadley Mattson, Cullen Mc-Carthy, Neelam McGrath, Ilyas McKenna, Nicholas McNeil, Lily McNulty, Emily Melanson, Shea Mellman, Kylie Menendez, Willam Menice, Avelia Miller, Delaney Muldowney, Timothy Mullen, Samuel Nagggar, Liam Nolan, Katharine O'Neil, Ryann O'Sullivan, Madison Paschke, Emily Piverger, Zachary Pon-tes, Stephen Quartarone, Anna-Li Quinn, Mary Quinn, Luke Reagan, Taylor Regan, Amelia Richter, Ava Rietz, Julia Rioux, Sawyer Rock, Molly Rogoff, Ryley Ryan, Madison Schoener, Merla Schulze, Caitlyn Sencaj, Jared Shapiro, Andrew Sherry, Cameron Smith, Abigail Stierer, Luke Sullivan, Meghan Sulli- van, Caitlyn Thompson, Abigail Thoren, Blake Tocci, John Truitt, Travis Unterweger, Savannah Vi-gevani, Stephen Viola, Rylie Wes-ley, Cole Yadisernia and Emily Zappala.

### Grade 10 – Honors

William Abbate, Jolie Arce, Aiden Astorino, Fiona Bailey, Paige Ballantyne, Varsha Baskar, Alex Bering, Caroline Blakes-ley, Mellysa Botelho Godoi, Lily Brideau, Megan Burke, Dante Calderone, Austin Cannon, Jayden Carreiro, Neela Caruso, Mikayla Coffin, Julia Cohn, Sophia Collins, Mary Conniff, Tristan Cornell, Lucas Crivello, Kaitlyn Cullen, Jaelyn Dang, Masen DePasquale, Kyle Dickin-

son, Ava Doggett, Edward Dolan, Ashrith Epuri, Ryan Evans, Jack-son Fornash, Nolan Franz, Jillian Giesler, Ian Gill, Kevin Gillis, Sarah Glaser, Veda Gogineni, Allison Graham, Nicholas Gro-ver, Guilhermina Guimaraes, Camryn Hagerty, August Ham-ilton, Jessica Hansen, Sarah Hayes, Sarah Hedberg, Emily Heslin, Madeline Hill, Isabella Hix, Alexandra Hogan, Jordan Host, Samantha Hughey, Ni- cole Ibrahim, Jack Jamgochian, Cormac Janssen, Davonte John-son, Austin Kanabay, Landon Keays, Thomas Kilroy, Sierra King, Ciara Kissell, Arjun Kollu, Shelby Konosky, Ryan Labell, Alexandra LaBerge, Brady Lafer-riere, Andrew Laplante, Morgan LeBlanc, Nadine Lioufsi, Isabella Lolos, Danielle Lomuscio, Vic-toria Luna, Abigail MacDonald, Mary MacEachen, Giovanni Madrazo, Lily Magnussen, Ol-ivia Marchette, Grace McGour- thy, Emma Meier, Halle Miller, Gavin Moore, Charles Morris, Aarshe Murlu, Emme Norgren, Sayan Panda, Sydney Paquette, Kaitlyn Parish, Andrew Paulhus, Alexandria Pauline, Nathaniel Pennini, Jacson Perchard, Ol-ivia Petrillo, Siniah Pierre-Louis, Avery Reda, Haleigh Ricci, Ava Sansoucy, Hayden Schmitz, Bridget Scott, Lily Sedam, Vasant Sekula, Harshita Singh, Sophia St. Clair, Gavin Steidel, Patrick

Sullivan, Isabelle Taylor, Sydney Thoren, Owen Troutman, Neal-abh Weake, Loden Wells, Fadel Wilayah and Denzyl Wilson.

### Grade 9 – Honors

Evgenia Adamos, Evan Allen, Srithika Amirineni, Dylan An-der-son, Annabelle Andre, Amber Astin, Ryan Barker, Ella Beatty, Violet Berthiaume, Emily Billin-gton, Felicia Bishop, Jacob Booth, Louise Bourque, Rory Bresson, Ethan Buban, Ryan Burns, Paul Byrne, Rose Campbell, Henry Campbell, Olivia Cannella, Jay Capriotti, William Castro, Kait-lyn Ceurvels, Lex Chatham, Sean Clancy, Brycen Cloutier, Benja-min Cochran, Joshua Cochran, Kieran Coen, Finn Cumming-ham, Andre Cunningham, Alex-andra Curry, Gregory D'Aiello, Dylan Daley, Sean Daley, Kyle Danson, Chloe Davis, Christo-pher DelVecchio, Aidan DeVasto, Leo Dowling, Ariana Dubovsky, Shayne Dugan, Marcus Florindi, Adam Francis, Thomas Frazier, Zachary Gebhard, Michael Gen-drolis, Bayley Graham, Ryan Greenwood, Jack Gresham, Leah Hayes, Brady Herlin, Kyle Hig-gins, Brian Hitchen, Courtney Holland, Emma Honeycutt, Cris-tiana Hutchinson, Audrina Jaber, Lily Jacobson, Rayhan Kanaabi, Madison Keough, Liam King, Cole Kotkowski, Caitlin LaPlante, Halle LeBlanc, Katherine LeB-

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## King Philip Middle School announces its 2022-2023 Trimester 1 Honor Roll

### Grade 8

#### Highest Honors

Alexandropoulos, Rihanna; Amidon, Marina; Beatty, Anna; Bollu, Shreyas; Bonaceto, Brianna; Bostrom, Benjamin; Bouffard, Garrett; Brideau, Julia; Chavers, Olivia; Cleverdon, Ashley; Cordahi, Jad; Costa, Mia; Coutchie, Tessa; Davis, Benjamin; Dawe, Amelia; Diamond, Jake; Flaherty, Madisen; Ford, Robert; Forrester, Aidan; Freeman, Lilian; Gebhard, Alexandria; Greaney, Ashlyn; Greenberg, Quinlan; Hatami, Nathanael; Hollowell, Isla; Houlding, Hayden; Hoyt, Elijah; Hughey, Luke; Hunt, Hollis; James, Liam; Karavasieladis, Angelina; Kelley, Katelyn; Keswick, Caitlin; Kuzmeskas, Carly; Lagasse, Jamie; LaPlante, Molly; Lewis, Courtney; Mahoney, Faelyn; Maksakova, Arina; Marrone, Ryan; McDuff, Tayla; McHugh, Grace; Michenzie, Emily; Miles, Eric; Modena, Alice; Morgan, Ella; Moriarty, Bella; Morris, Emily; Moses, Sebato; Muse, Molly; Newcom, Lauren; Noonan, Ava; O'Brien, Rylie; Pasquantonio, Nova, Rose; Podzka, Kathryn; Polce, Kyle; Quinn, Abby; Roach, Henry; Salguero, Menfhis; Senthil, Kumar, Sangeetha; Shrivastava, Aarit; Soares, Grady; Soifer, Cole; Sperling, Kellan; Sreenath, Swathi; Steck, Erin; Talat, Daaia; Townsend, Adeline; Ward, Brayden; Wistran, Ashley; Ye, Anran; Young, Angela.

#### High Honors

Antonellis, Ryan; Arriaga, Andy; Babbitt, Pearl; Balunos, Donnelle; Barry, Emmette; Beachkofski, Liam; Beck, Erin; Becker, Jack; Borden, Michael; Boucher, James; Boucher, Jack; Bourdeau,

Olivia; Brown, Marleigh; Burke, Adrian; Callahan, Jordyn; Campbell, Paige; Cardona-Ortez, Brianna; Cecere, Tyler; Cederbaum, Bailey; Chard, Colin; Charland, Avery; Chisholm, Harrison; Chmielewski, Shane; Cleasby, Olivia; Collins, Kayla; Collins, Natalie; Collins, Owen; Connolly, Kerin; Crosbie, Gavin; Crowley, Nathan; Da Silva, Laura Valentina; D'Aiello, Alexander; Davis, Michael; DeCarteret, Ty; Donahue, Kelly; Donegan, Ellie; Dow, James; Edmunds, Max; Foley, Zachary; Fox, Lillian; Giampa, Ava; Grace, Erin; Gross, Zara; Harlow, Katelyn; Hasson, Alida; Henderson, Maddock; Hickey, Alexandra; Hull, Leah; Hurwitz, Owen; Ibrahim, Rita; Jacobs, Hadley; Jacobsen, Emily; Jamgochian, Iver; Joseph, Michael; Jusczyk, Malia; Kane, Addison; Kavanah, Rowan; Kolluri, Tanmayee; Kwiatek, Noah; Labell, Alex; Labriola, Matthew; Laight, Olivia; Lawler, Brendan; Lawrence, Kiera; LeBlanc, Molly; Leite, Christian; Lombardo, Charles; Loomer, Owen; Loughlin, Rose; Lutfy, Thomas; MacDonald, Andrew; MacDonald, Brayden; Marchand, John; Marchand, Ryan; Marshall, Luca; Mason, Oscar; McCrave, Mallory; McDonald, Ella; McKillop, Rylan; Michienzi, Rebecca; Mollica, Wesley; Montfort, Taj; Moon, Charlie; Moore, Matthew; Morneau, Andrew; Mros, Leila; Mucciarone, Gia; Mui, Brendan; Mullaney, Victoria; Murk, Cameron; Murphy, Benjamin; Murphy, Lucy; Murphy, Molly; Nelson, Erik; O'Neil, Amie; O'Sullivan, Teagan; Parenteau, Berkeley; Parker, Brodie; Pauline, Marissa; Pollender, Darcy; Pompei, Abigail; Raymond, Lucas;

Reynolds, Liliana; Richard, Cooper; Richard, Drew; Rohrs, Donovan; Rosario, Julian; Ruiz, Jemma; Saenz, Alex; Schweitzer, Neila; Simmer, Brayden; Sisti, Olivia; Smith, Benjamin; Sullivan, Addison; Sullivan, Ryan; Tammineni, Tanvi; Van Hoesen, Max; Vasconcelos De Souza, Maria Clara; Waldner, Ryleigh; Walker, Julia; Wells, Hunter; Wetmore, Julia; Whalen, Brody; Wolff, Ethan; Wolloff, Paige; Yanni, Mia.

#### Honors

Duffy, Jake; Fitzgerald, Elin; Keleher, Liam; McNamee, Ryan; Morando, Francesca; Roche, Michael; Troutman, Chase; Zimmerman, Kaylee.

### Grade 7

#### Highest Honors

Anderson, Benjamin; Astin, Adrian; Babbitt, Phoebe; Barton, Amelia; Bernier, Michael; Bishop, Sabrina; Burke, Shannon; Canty, Catherline; Caravaggio, Anthony; Cardoso, Ryan; Carone, Gavin; Cemerski, Andrey; Cervantes, Aeson; Charland, Tyler; Civilinski, Colby; Coffin, Brendan; Costantino, Olivia; Dang, Jordan; Derfler Murphy, Liam; Desrosiers, Matthew; DuBois, Rachel; Faille, James; Fisher, Ashton; Fitzgerald, Cadence; Godfrey, Alayna; Guasch, Elianna; Hall, John; Hamilton, Norah; Hartford, Jacob; Howitt, Madison; Jones, Sophie; Kania, Daniel; Kavanah, Addison; Keighley, Sadie; Kosar, Charlotte; Kouame, Amari; Kozik, Landon; Kozik, Rylan; Lee, Payton; Lefebvre, Ella; Lopes, Julia; Mandel, Mia; Mansour, Moreen; McGourthy, Anna; McLaughlin, Dennielle; McManus, Caitlyn; Morales, Alani; Musial, Mary; Palson,

Maxwell; Pandit, Suneel; Patel, Heer; Petrillo, Gabriella; Pettit, Anna; Pruell, Emerson; Reilly, Adelyn; Richard, Lily; Ritchie, Lauren; Roach, Matigan; Sanford, Kaylee; St. Laurent, Madalyn; Steidel, Lyra; Taylor, Finn; Tezber, Sophia; Thomas, Emily; Tully, Olivia; Weiblen, Emma; Wilayah, Diana; Wilson, Madison.

#### High Honors

AlSara, Muhja; Anderson, Riley L.; Andrews, Annabelle; Astorino, Claire; Bacon, Chloe; Barletta, Elizabeth; Bass, Taylor; Bobulis, Isabella; Brenneis, Aidan; Burns, Emma; Byda, Gavin; Cannella, Noelle; Carty, Tristan; Cemmerski, Luka; Cereno, Shaine; Chalmers, Brady; Chapin, Madison; Ciavola, Jason; Connor, William; Covell, Lorelai; Cox, Ronan; Curran, Annabelle; Dangelo, Tess; Darling, Colton; De Medeiros, Julia; De Souza, Victor Emanuel; DeBaggis, Maxwell; Doire, Cooper; Dolan Bourke, Owen; Dumay, Zion; Ebert, Lucas; Eck, Brennan; Evans, Kyle; Evans, Meghan; Faford, Cole; Farrell, Jack; Ferreira, Zachary; Finnegan, Gavin; Fisk, Garrett; Flynn, Mallory; Franciosa, Marco; Frazier, Vivian; Garland, Nathan; Ghostlaw, Lucy; Gill, Ryan; Gilmore, Joseph; Guinan, Aisling; Hamilton, Noah; Hanf, Courtney; Haviland, Matthew; Herlin, Delaney; Heslin, Sage; Hodgman, David; Hostetler, Jacob; Howitt, Reese; Huot, Hallie; Idahosa, Iwinosa; Jasset, Gianna; Jelloe, Louis; Johnson, Madison; Kania, William; Keays, Mia; Kelly, Edward; Kennedy, Jacoby; Kracher, Kayla; Kunicki, Addison; LeBlanc, William; LeFleur, Connor; Letscher, Austin; Liptak, Reilly; Llaga, Joel

Michael; Lomuscio, Samantha; Lopes, Liliana; Lubin, Esther; Lussier, Kellan; MacEachen, Mark; Marella, Brian; Marella, Chad; Marks, Charlotte; McEvoy, Joseph; McHugh, Patrick; McLeish, Annie; McNulty, Michelle; Melise, Brayden; Miller, Evan; Montfort, Noa; Moore, Shaelyn; Murray, Cheyenne; Murray, Jason; Napier, Caroline; Nardelli, Nicholas; Neelon, Patricia; Nichols, Madeline; Niedzwecki, Emma; Obin, Christopher; O'Brien, Chad; O'Brien, Nora; O'Brien, Turlough; O'Connell, Declan; O'Donnell, Molly; O'Hara, Konnor; O'Neil, Lily; Paulhus, Jacob; Payne, Tyson; Pedro, Jordan; Pontes, Anna; Poynot, Jesse; Quintal, Leah; Quintin, Ava; Reda, Emerson; Robinson, Isla; Rogers, Luke; Rose, Paxton; Routh, Matthew; Sesay, Nadia; Silva, Eriana; Simone, Ewan; Sweeney, Molly; Talat, Hadee; Turner, Ava; Valkov, Preslav; Visser, Colin; Wainwright, Olivia; Wambolt, LeaAnne; Weineck, Elizabeth; Whiting, Savannah; Wilson, Jack; Woodward, Mackenzie; Wynn, Jillian; Zaffalon Godoi, Gabriel.

#### Honors

Armour, Jacob; Atakian, Vanessa; Beaulieu, Isabelle; Borst, Hadley; Brown, Christopher; Cardona Medrano, Natasha; Castaneda, Kevin; Chorney, Jacqueline; D'Andrea, Benjamin; Foley, Elliott; Green, Kylie; Guasch, Katalina; Heinselman, Brayden; Holmes, Carter; Host, Abigail; Janssen, Penelope; Kembler, Brynn; Loring, Allison; McGowan, Colleen; McNeil, Robert; McRell, Peyton; Nichols, Eleanor; Poska, Drew; Stephenson, Christian; Willette, Nicholas; Wosny, Ryan; Zahner, William.

# Real Estate Corner

## December Real Estate Activity

Norfolk County recordings for the month of December 2022 indicate a continued decrease in overall real estate activity, with significant drops in mortgage activity and the average property sale price as compared to the December 2021 numbers, according to Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell.

In December, there were 9,429 documents recorded at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, a 37% decrease from December 2021 and a slight increase of 5% from November 2022.

"The real estate market is feeling the effects of inflation and steadily rising interest rates, which is limiting how much money customers can save," said O'Donnell. "The total number of documents is much lower in December 2022 than it was in December 2021, but the change from last month is less pronounced. The number of recorded deeds, which is one measure of document volume, shows a drop in real estate sales from the previous year."

Sale prices for December appear to have dropped significantly compared to December 2021. The average sale price in December was 936,804, a 38% decrease from December 2021 and a 4% decrease from November 2022. The total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales is down, decreasing 59% from one year ago and decreasing 2% from last month.

"With interest rates approaching and exceeding 7%, consumers appear to be less inclined to borrow, and the decline in average sales prices suggests sellers are lowering pricing to compensate," noted O'Donnell. "According to the data we have at the Registry, we are recording significantly fewer mortgages than in December 2021."

Overall lending activity showed a continued downward trend for the month of December. A total of 1,383 mortgages were recorded this month, 53% less than a year ago at the same time, but up 2% from last month.

"The increasing cost of living and rising interest rates that the country is currently experiencing have an effect on the local real estate market," noted O'Donnell. "The number of pending foreclosures in Norfolk County is a continuing source of concern."

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has been closely monitoring the foreclosure market. In December 2022, there were 4 foreclosure deeds recorded as a result of mortgage foreclosures taking place in Norfolk County, whereas in December of 2021 there were 7 recorded. However, in December of 2022, there were 40 notices to foreclose, the first step in the foreclosure process, significantly more than the 19 recorded in December of 2021.

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.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, located at 649 High St., Dedham, is the principal office for real property in Norfolk County. The Registry is a resource for homeowners, title examiners, mortgage lenders, municipalities, and others with a need for secure, accurate, and accessible land record informa-

tion. All land record research information can be found on the Registry's website, [www.norfolkdeeds.org](http://www.norfolkdeeds.org). Residents in need of assistance can contact the Registry of Deeds Customer Service Center at (781) 461-6101 or by email at [registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org](mailto:registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org).

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