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Bellingham's Favorite Hometown Newspaper

March 2023

## 27 Awards Presented at BHS Football Banquet

### Domercant Wins MVP, Offensive Player Honors

By KEN HAMWEY,  
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

Mental toughness, an unbreakable bond and accountability were the attributes that coach Dan Haddad emphasized at Bellingham High's annual football banquet on February 5th at Savini-Pomodoro's Restaurant in Blackstone.

His 2022 football team, which concluded its season with a 6-5 record, finished one game shy of the Tri Valley League's Small Division championship but kept the Blackhawks' tourney streak alive at four straight.

Twenty-seven awards were presented to players from middle school to the varsity level, and it was junior quarterback



Quarterback Dasha Domercant and coach Dan Haddad are all smiles as they celebrate Domercant's MVP and Offensive Player of the Year awards at Bellingham High's football banquet.

**27 AWARDS**  
*continued on page 2*

## Spring Sings and Student Shows

By ASHLEY KAZIJIAN

As our local schools prepare to come to a close for the 2022-2023 academic school year, the opportunity for students to showcase some of the hard work they put in outside the classroom comes right around the corner. Our local schools are fortunate enough to have expansive Music Departments that allow students to explore more focused areas such as jazz band, orchestra, concert bands, small ensembles, chamber music, etc., and also the opportunity to engage in the traditional school programs such as Marching Band & Color Guard, and Chorus. Theatre and Drama Clubs let creative students express themselves. Below you'll find some upcoming events to attend if you're looking for a bit of entertainment and a way to support our students:

### BELLINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

**BMS & BHS All Town Chorus Concert**  
Thursday, March 9th; 7 – 8 p.m.  
Location: Bellingham High School  
Snowdate: Monday, March 13th; 7-8 p.m.

Free admission and open to the public

**BMS & BHS All Town Band Concert**  
Tuesday, March 14th; 7 – 8 p.m.  
Location: Bellingham High School  
Snowdate: Tuesday, March 21st; 7 – 8 p.m.

Free admission and open to the public

**BHS Pops Concert**  
Thursday, May 18th; 7 – 8 p.m.  
Location: Bellingham High School  
Free admission and open to the public

**BMS & BHS Jazz And Guard Concert**  
Thursday, May 11th; 7 – 8 p.m.  
Location: Bellingham High School  
Free admission and open to the public

**SPRING SINGS**  
*continued on page 3*

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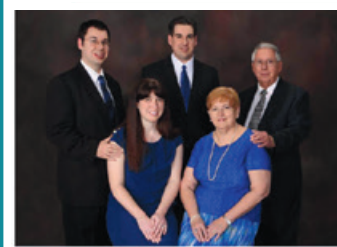
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27 AWARDS

continued from page 1

Dasha Domercant who walked away with two of the top trophies. He received the Offensive Player of the Year and the Most Valuable Player awards.

"I'm super honored to be chosen as the team's MVP," Domercant said. "I relied on hard work, determination and dedication. I just wanted our team to succeed. Winning the Offensive Player of the Year award was a blessing. I was truly surprised to win two awards."

The all-star QB called the 2022 campaign a roller-coaster season but "we stuck together and everyone was united." As for the 2023 season, he said that he and his teammates will aim to be better and will focus on winning a Tri Valley League championship.

Haddad lauded his squad for competing and playing through some difficult situations.

The Blackhawks had only four returnees on offense and four on defense. He pointed to his forces losing a key game against Dover-Sherborn. They led by 12 points with six minutes left in the game



Bellingham High's football captains for the 2023 season are, from left, Connor Kelley, Donovan Turner, Mason Jacques, and Dasha Domercant.

but they lost. Nevertheless, the Blackhawks bounced back to win three straight games. They also lost two tourney contests, but showed lots of resilience to defeat Norton on Thanksgiving Day.

Injuries are part of the game but to the Blackhawks' credit, they battled through losing six starters who missed four to six weeks of action.

Haddad said, "The 2022 team was in rebuilding mode but they overcame their inexperience by relying on mental toughness, by developing an unbreakable bond, and by holding themselves responsible."

The veteran coach also said that his players learned that mental toughness matters. "They learned that without that quality, you don't win a whole lot of games," he noted. "On the injury front, losing key players made

their replacements better and also accountable. And, our younger guys gained experience."

Haddad said the Dover-Sherborn setback would have left some teams reeling. BHS, however, didn't crumble. "We bounced back and won three straight — against Dedham, Medway and Millis," he said. "That set the tone for a winning season."

The 59-year-old Haddad, who's been the Blackhawks coach for seven years, also stressed that the 2022 contingent developed a sense of 'unbreakable brotherhood' during the season and they were willing to accept responsibility.

"They cared for one another," Haddad said, "and they held themselves accountable. They would tell me what they did wrong. I didn't have to tell them. They took responsibility for any

mistakes they made."

Next year's captains were announced and they include Donovan Turner (center, defensive end), Dasha Domercant (quarterback), Connor Kelley (end, linebacker), and Mason Jacques (receiver, cornerback). "It's a no-nonsense group that knows what needs to be done and they'll get it done," Haddad said.

The award winners:

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Lineman of the Year — Carlos Rivera.
Defensive Player of the Year — William Lahousse.
Offensive Player of the Year — Colin Piccirilli.
Team MVP — Brock Barry.

FRESHMEN

- Lineman of the Year — Jacoby McCarthy.
Defensive Player of the Year — Markus Whittaker-Sprah.
Offensive Player of the Year — Camron MacGregor.
Team MVP — Sam Sullivan.

JUNIOR VARSITY

- Lineman of the Year — Jack Davidson.
Defensive Player of the Year — Michael Demers.
Offensive Player of the Year — Zachary Berkeley.
Team MVP — Gabriel Egan, Ryan Cochrane.

VARSITY

(Comments by Haddad)

- BHS Coaches Award — Senior Ethan Silva, two-way tackle; (unselfish, did everything we asked).
Blackhawk Award — Sophomore Mason Jacques, receiver, cornerback; (hardworker who's exactly what a Blackhawk should be).
Unsung Hero — Junior Sean Dutremble, guard, defensive tackle; (doesn't look for praise, he just goes to work).
Most Improved — Sophomore Max Gamble, receiver; (stepped up when starting receivers were injured).

27 AWARDS

continued on page 3

localtownpages

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Advertisement for Bellingham Electric Appliances, featuring the company logo, 'Since 1953', and logos for Bosch, Electrolux, GE, LG, Samsung, and KitchenAid.

**27 AWARDS**

*continued from page 2*

- Rookie of the Year — Freshman Wyatt Callery, tight end, linebacker; (played both ways as a freshman, dependable, hard-working).
- Special Teams Player of the Year — Freshman Joshua Bouchard, running back, linebacker; (tough, dependable tackler, best special-teams player I've had, hard to block him.)
- Defensive Lineman of the Year — Senior Connor Lalonde, defensive tackle; led us in tackles, worked hard at his position).
- Defensive Linebacker/Back Player of the Year — Senior Gian Vaccarella, running back, linebacker; (versatile, athletic and strong).
- Defensive Player of the Year — Senior Brady Pelletier, tight end, linebacker; (solidified linebacker position when injuries occurred, dependable, hard-worker).
- Offensive Lineman of the Year — Junior Donovan Turner, center, defensive end; (never made a bad snap, dependable, aggressive, reliable).

- Offensive Back/Receiver of the Year — Senior Michael Spera, back, receiver; (hard-working deep threat with great hands).
- Pancake Award — Junior Donovan Turner, center, defensive end; (finished every block, aggressive to the whistle sounded).
- Offensive Player of the Year — Junior Dasha Domercant, quarterback; (he grew in the QB role, became a weapon when his arms and legs worked in unison).
- Team MVP — Junior Dasha Domercant, quarterback; (as he goes, so goes the team, accountable and an incredible hard-worker).

The 2022 squad possessed some valuable assets. They had good football IQs; they also were athletic, disciplined and coachable. Their work ethic was solid and they had depth.

Haddad noted that this group left a legacy and built a foundation for the future.

"They asked to be challenged more," he said, "And, they learned that to be successful key things needed to get done."

What resulted was a winning record and a fourth straight tournament appearance.

**SPRING SINGS**

*continued from page 1*

**BMS Spring Chorus Concert**  
Thursday, June 8th; 7 – 8 p.m.  
Location: Bellingham High School  
Free admission and open to the public

**BMS and BHS Spring Band Concert (grades 5-8)**  
Tuesday, June 6th; 7 – 8 p.m.  
Location: Bellingham High School  
Free admission and open to the public

**BLACKSTONE VALLEY REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL (BVT)**

**BVT Drama Club Presents:**  
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May 4th and May 5th at 6:30 p.m.  
Location: BVT cafeteria  
Tickets can be reserved through [cswan@valleytech.k12.ma.us](mailto:cswan@valleytech.k12.ma.us)

**Arts Night (featuring BVT art students, chorus, and band)**  
Friday, June 2nd; 6 p.m.  
Location: ValleyCast (Whitin Mill)  
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If you find yourself in a tax predicament, head to Porthouse Tax Advisors in Medway, Mass. They are a team of experts located at 166 Village Street across the street from the town hall.

Dawn Porthouse, a long-time Bellingham resident, started Porthouse Tax Advisors five years ago, with her main goal being to help people. She has an MBA from Babson College, an MPA from Framingham State University and a business degree from UMass Dartmouth. With nearly 20 years of experience in the financial world, you're in great hands if you go to her with your tax issues.

Porthouse Tax Advisors is a boutique firm which specialize in helping individuals and business owners deal with tax problems. They help people who owe significant amounts to the IRS navigate the IRS maze. "I speak government," Porthouse says. "We are local and very methodical." The first steps to helping are pulling transcripts and analyzing the severity of the situation.

Porthouse Tax Advisors does not use a "one size fits all" approach. Instead, they will use an individualized approach, where they assess your situation in stages. According to Dawn, "Everyone's tax situation is different. No two are ever the same and require different solutions."

Porthouse states she loves "helping people navigate the complexities of taxes." Her employees are from local communities, and they do not outsource



the work. Porthouse Tax Advisors is open year-round, with their busiest season being from February through May. Their hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., by appointment only. This way they can ensure each client receives the time and attention they deserve, and no one is sitting around waiting to be helped.



Porthouse also gives back to the community. She is commonly known for doing reduced tax returns through her Liberty Tax office in Franklin, Mass. for members of the Franklin Senior Center.

If you are in need of tax assistance, have any questions, or would like more information on how they can help you, contact Porthouse Tax Advisors by phone at (774) 613-2600.

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

## Business spotlight

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

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

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

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

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

Jay and his team have handled it all. They've dismantled above-ground pools, hauled away ancient hot tubs, taken down old fencing, and stripped away worn

carpeting. They'll come for a single item, or they'll clean out an entire house. And they can take almost anything. They can't accept hazardous materials, brush, dirt, or concrete, but everything else is fair game for them to take away.

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

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

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

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call



Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

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

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

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

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

junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

For more information, contact Jay Schadler at (774) 287-1133 or visit Affordable Junk Removal online at [www.takeawayjunk.com](http://www.takeawayjunk.com).

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## Bellingham Briefs

BY DAVID DUNBAR

### First Town "PrideFest" in the Works

Plans are coming together for "the first Pride Festival in Bellingham," according to Senior Center Director Josie Dutil, who is also the Chair of the Bellingham PrideFest Committee.

The Festival will be held on Saturday, June 24, from 2-6 p.m. at the Bellingham Town Common. Dutil says the family-friendly event will feature "artists, crafters, vendors, food trucks, information, and activities."

"We're hoping to bring together different generations of the LGBTQ+ community and friends of the community," says Dutil.

The search is on for vendors and sponsors. If you'd like to know more, then please contact Josie

Dutil by email at [jdutil@bellinghamma.org](mailto:jdutil@bellinghamma.org) or call (508) 966-0398.

You can also find out about sponsorship here: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8xdyrs>.

### Fraud Presentation

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, May 11th, at 1 p.m. several key Dean Bank representatives will come to the Bellingham Senior Center to talk about Fraud. They will detail fraud scenarios and possible responses and share stories of bank customers.

"We've noticed that those who engage with the fraudsters are far more likely to fall victim... and the largest group of those are 55+ in age," explains SVP Michael Carroll. Join them and bring your questions. (508) 966-0398 to reserve your spot.



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# Municipal Spotlight

## DiMartino Retires after 29 Years as DPW Director

By KEN HAMWEY,  
BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

Don DiMartino's retirement last month as Director of the Department of Public Works provides some historical significance for Bellingham and for that agency.

When the Franklin native was hired as the town's water and sewer superintendent in 1991, there was no DPW. DiMartino worked with Gerry Daigle Sr., who was the town's highway superintendent. Three years later, in 1994, the DPW was formed and DiMartino became its first director.

His retirement on February 24th not only signaled the end of a 29-year run as the department's director, but it also highlights almost three decades in a demanding role that spans a variety of wide-ranging infrastructure issues. Areas that fall under the DPW's responsibilities are roads, water, sewerage, drainage, snow plowing, park and recreation fields and cemetery maintenance.

The DPW has grown from a handful of employees in its early days to a staff of 28 currently.

"It's been a pleasure to serve the residents of Bellingham," DiMartino said. "It's been challenging but residents have shown lots of patience and understanding. When questions arose, we gave our best and most up-to-date explanations. And, for the most part, people understood our positions."

Roads repairs, water bans, and the quality of drinking water were often the primary issues DiMartino and his department faced.

"Road management consumes a big part of the director's time," he said. "Residents showed patience on repairs, safety, and traffic. 'They were aware that all the roads in town can't be fixed immediately. On water quality, we take samples constantly and follow strict federal and state regulations. If the results are above their regulations, then we mail out notices. We've got our raw water supply and no other sources to which we can turn. We treat it the best we can to get it to people's faucets. I'm pleased we've never had to issue a boil-water order.'"

Water bans, especially those that are issued early in the spring,

appear to be the new normal, according to DiMartino.

"Bans and use restrictions are driven by the state," he said. "That's who dictates outdoor water use. Unfortunately, bans will be with us more frequently now, and that looks like the standard, not the exception."

The 66-year-old DiMartino had some enjoyable times in his role but they were offset by some moments that he called "nerve-racking."

"Seeing a major construction project become a reality pleased me greatly," he said. "People probably don't realize how long it takes to go from a concept to completion. And, being a math and engineering person, I always felt comfortable dealing with budgets and cost estimates for projects."

Bellingham's snow-removal ability and its approach to keeping roads safe to travel during storms is probably the area where DiMartino and the DPW got the most praise. Nevertheless, he admitted it rates high on his list of most-challenging issues.

"Snow removal has always been a major concern," he emphasized. "Ice and snow create a cause for worrying. Nor'easters are always challenging and as the DPW's director you know that extreme winter weather conditions are a life-and-death motorist safety concern."

The downtown road-widening project at Routes 126 and 140, which has yet to be completed after 1½ years, is an example of the type of frustration a DPW chief can encounter. "It's



Don DiMartino became Bellingham's first DPW director in 1994.

scheduled to be finished by June 30th of this year," DiMartino said. "Pole removal and relocation by the utility company took lots of time. And, their schedule forced delays. That intersection is very complex with wires going in all directions."

Jesse Riedle, who had been serving as the DPW's assistant director, is now the director after a vote by the Select Board. "I have faith and confidence that Jesse will do a good job," DiMartino noted. "He's a fast-learner and he pays attention to detail."

Like DiMartino did, Riedle will be directing a DPW that has an assistant director who will supervise a project manager, a geographic information systems (GIS) manager, a general foreman and a facilities foreman.

Because there are so many areas that fall under the DPW's jurisdiction, DiMartino has

pledged to help with the transition. "I'll offer whatever assistance I can," he said. "I've been asked to be a consultant with a limited stipend."

DiMartino's future isn't set in stone, but, for now, he plans to check some boxes and see what develops along the way. "I had a hip replacement, so now I'd like to play more golf," he said. "If I get bored during the summer, a future full-time job isn't out of the question."

DiMartino, who graduated from Franklin High School, attended Merrimack College where he majored in civil engineering. After graduating No. 1 in his class, he worked for his father's company (D. DiMartino Construction Co.). "We basically installed pipes for many of the towns in the area," he said.

It's often been said that a community can only be viewed as favorable if it's strong and dependable in terms of public safety (police and fire) and its DPW. DiMartino agrees.

"The police and fire departments are the crisis response teams, and the DPW's function is to maintain a town's infrastructure," he offered.

That infrastructure covers lots of territory — like roads, pipes, water pumping stations, parks and cemeteries.

Don DiMartino was Bellingham's first DPW director, and he gave it his best shot to maintain high standards for that department.

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# BBA to Hold New Member Brunch March 8th

The Bellingham Business Association is holding its annual membership drive this month, with a NEW member brunch to be held on Wednesday, March 8th at noon at Grumpy's Restaurant & Pub, 190 Pulaski Blvd., Bellingham. Tickets are \$25 for members, and guests—potential members, eat free! RSVP at [contact@BellinghamBusinessAssociation.org](mailto:contact@BellinghamBusinessAssociation.org).

You can become a BBA member for \$75 for the remainder of this year and all of next year as well through the membership drive. Want to learn more about the Bellingham Business Association? Visit [www.BellinghamBusinessAssociation.org](http://www.BellinghamBusinessAssociation.org).

# Soter Responds to TikTok Lobbying Firm in MA

Rep. Michael Soter recently responded to the company TikTok's hiring of an independent lobbying firm in Massachusetts. The local representative recently filed "HD260 - An Act relative to protecting the residents of the Commonwealth," that mirrors bipartisan Federal legislation as well as language from New Hampshire, Utah, Virginia and North Dakota Executive Orders aimed at ensuring that government employees do not use Tik-

Tok on government devices.

HD260 would ban the use of TikTok and other social media apps controlled by foreign adversaries on all Commonwealth, county, and municipal devices. This is common sense, bipartisan legislation that will ensure that our government is taking every step to ensure the privacy and safety of the residents of the Commonwealth.

"I guess I struck a nerve," said Soter, regarding TikTok's lobby-

ing firm in the state. "TikTok is nervous that Massachusetts will join other states and the Federal government in passing, in a bipartisan fashion, measures to ban TikTok and stop the tracking of American citizens data. The Parent Company of TikTok admitted that the Chinese government, under their law, can ask for any data collect at any time. It is time to protect our citizen's data."

# Local Attorney Jason M. Carrozza Selected to 2022 Massachusetts Super Lawyers List

Attorney Jason M. Carrozza has been selected to the 2022 Massachusetts Super Lawyers list. Jason is a co-founder, along with Attorney Amy M. Antonellis, of Family Legal Partners, P.C. Family Legal Partners is a Franklin based law firm with a practice focus in estate planning, business formation, probate, trusts and estate administration. Each year, no more than five percent of the lawyers in the Commonwealth

of Massachusetts are selected by the research team at Super Lawyers to receive this honor. Super Lawyers, part of Thomson Reuters, is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The annual selections are made using a patented multiphase process that includes a statewide survey of lawyers, an

independent research evaluation of candidates and peer reviews by practice area. The result is a credible, comprehensive and diverse listing of exceptional attorneys. The Super Lawyers lists are published nationwide in Super Lawyers Magazines and Boston Magazine. For more information about Family Legal Partners, estate planning, and probate administration please visit [www.familylegalpartners.com](http://www.familylegalpartners.com)

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# Dividend Investing - Navigating Hype and Pitfalls To Get Results.

**Sleep Well At Night with This 9% Yield.**

**2 High Yields: A Bird In Hand Is Worth Two In The Bush.**

**4 High-Yield Dividend Aristocrat Retirement Dream Buys.**

**Is \_\_\_\_\_ Stock's 5.25% Dividend Yield Safe?**

With headlines like these, who needs enemies?

Dividend stocks are getting a lot of attention given how as a group they outperformed the S&P 500 Index which declined -18.1% in 2022. Witness leading dividend ETFs (exchange traded funds) from Schwab, Vanguard and iShares (BlackRock) ranging from -3% to -9% for the year, keeping 10-year annualized returns still above 10%. Add US bond market index down -13.1% due to rising rates, you can see the attraction on a relative basis.

Unfortunately, due diligence by many investors buying or selling dividend stocks is based on yield and a story with a catchy headline. They ignore a company's business model, free cash flows, payout ratios, dividend growth, stock appreciation and other key factors.

Even worse is mantra of "I don't care about the stock price, as long as I get my dividend".

Here's a few considerations I use to avoid pitfalls and manage a Dividend Growth & Income portfolio.

**1. Be diversified across industries.** Far too often see self-directed investors own 20 companies and think they're diversified. Problem is 15 are in the same sector (i.e. today it's energy, 5 years ago REITs, 17 years ago financials). Be across at least 5-6 sectors to reduce portfolio volatility throughout economic cycles.

**2. Seek total return approach.** Instead of yield alone for income, think a combination of yield, dividend growth and stock price appreciation. If you require 4% income distribution and your portfolio yields 2%, the other 2% comes from selling investments. Relatively small and can occur naturally when rebalancing to manage risk.



Glenn Brown

**3. Growth of dividends.**

Growing companies reinvest earnings into projects to increase future cash flows. Dividends come from cash flows, and many growth companies yield 1.5% or less today. Given this, these are ignored by income investors. Huge mistake, let me explain via concept of Yield-On-Cost (YOC).

**4. Yield-On-Cost (YOC).** Measures the compounding of dividend increases. Divide current dividend paid

by what you paid for the share, multiply by 100.

Real world example. Five years ago software company is yielding 1.0%, today through dividend increases YOC is 2.8%. Meaning your initial investment 5 years ago now pays out 2.8% annually even though current yield still ~1%. Bonds can't do this, they're fixed. But there's more... add 216% stock appreciation and you see the mistake of only selecting high dividend yields.

Other examples:

- Managed Care: 1.3% yield, 5-year YOC 3.9% + 131% total return.
- Environmental Industrial: 1.7% yield, 5-year YOC 3.9% + 134% total return.
- Semiconductor: 0.8% yield, 5-year YOC 3.8% + 380% total return.
- Pharmaceutical: 1.3% yield, 5-year YOC 5.3% + 394% total return.
- **Balance with consistently boring.** Boring is reliable. Boring is necessary. This

can include companies increasing dividends each year for 25 years (just 64) or 50 years (only 37). Additionally, this is also where you can add some slow growth, high-yield opportunities to help increase overall portfolio income. Again business model matters, debt matters, visibility matters.

Dividend investing can play a part in your investment and/or income distribution strategy, but it's more than yield with a story if you want results to stay invested over economic cycles.

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

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

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# Ben Franklin Charter School Catches the Lightning Thief

By JENNIFER RUSSO


Arts education greatly benefits children socially and academically. Performing arts foster presentation skills and confidence as well as improving reading and cognitive development. Perhaps this is why the ancient Greeks considered it worthy of their attention.

Each year, the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School welcomes students to audition for their Spring musical. This year, they will be performing the musical version of *The Lightning Thief*, the first book in the best-selling Percy Jackson and the Olympians series by Rick Riordan. The Broadway

rendition captures the story of Percy, who finds his way to Camp Half Blood and discovers he is a demigod, only to be accused of stealing Zeus' lightning bolt. He and his new-found friends must discover who really took the bolt and return it to Zeus before war ensues.

All in all, there are 31 cast members, made up of students in grades 6-8, as well as a student-based digital design team, prop design team and director's assistant. The students needed to audition for the production with dancing, singing and line reading in order to be selected for the cast, with rehearsals once or twice a week depending on the part they received. Gods, demigods, mythical creatures, humans, dead musicians and even a talking squirrel make up the story, which promises to be anything but boring.

"The music and storyline are exciting and well suited for students of this age," says Christopher Heater, Director of Co-Curricular Education at the



Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School Presents:  
**The Lightning Thief**  
March 3 - 2:00 PM  
March 4 - 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM

school. "The most exciting thing is the sense of accomplishment and comradery that the students create as they learn how to bring to life the words and music written on paper. There's singing, dancing, sword fights, flashy lights, a rockin' good band, a minotaur, and perhaps even a beheading!"

The Charter school is made up of students from Franklin and its surrounding towns, including Bellingham, Wrentham, Black-

stone, Medway, Milford and more. They have been working hard to make the performance a hit and welcome the public to attend.

There will be three performance times at the Charter school. Shows are on Friday March 3rd at 7 p.m. and on Saturday March 4th at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$17 a person and can be purchased at the door or ahead at [bfcpcs.org](http://bfcpcs.org).

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# Tales of America's Presidents

By DAVID DUNBAR

- Which American president had a pet alligator in the East Room of the White House?
- Which one was the shortest president?
- Which one was a frequent dueler?
- And did George Washington actually chop down his father's cherry tree?
- Oh, and who went skinny dipping in the Potomac River every morning?

Sound like a Saturday night trivia contest at the local tavern? Answers to these questions, and a whole lot more, came from a presentation at the Bellingham Senior Center around Valentine's Day last month.

Paul Arsenault, a Bellingham resident and regular at the Senior Center, has made a life-time study of American presidents. He attended UMASS Amherst and was a tax consultant before his retirement. "I enjoy my topic," says Arsenault, "and it took years of research. I always thought I could be president!"

So, about the pet alligator. It was John Quincy Adams who hosted the French Marquis de Lafayette at the White House,

and he brought with him an alligator who Adams kept in a large tub in the East Room "to scare guests."

In 1824, there was a presidential election and Adams lost to Andrew Jackson. Under the 12th Amendment at the time, the House of Representatives could choose from the top three candidates. The House, with the help of Speaker Henry Clay, chose Adams. Clay would become Secretary of State. Jackson never forgave Adams and called it a "crooked deal." Sound familiar?

The shortest president was James Madison, at five feet, four inches tall. But, he stood tall as the "Father of the Constitution," an important part of the Bill of Rights, and one of the authors of the "Federalist Papers."

During the War of 1812, the White House was set ablaze while Madison was not there. His wife, Dolly, first saved a portrait of George Washington before fleeing.

Who was the frequent dueler? Andrew Jackson, who was born in a log cabin, killed a man in 1806 and he was shot in the chest. He never totally recovered from the wound which may have led to his death 39 years later.

Jackson considered himself "a man of the people," looking

for the "rights of the common man." At his inauguration at the White House, it was filled with the common and the interior was damaged and nearly destroyed.

George Washington did not chop down his father's cherry tree. He did not throw a silver dollar across the Potomac River. However, he did have wooden teeth. (George Washington's Mount Vernon museum disputes this, however, as according to them, "Washington employed numerous full and partial dentures that were constructed of materials including human, and probably cow and horse teeth, ivory (possibly elephant), lead-tin alloy, copper alloy (possibly brass), and silver alloy.")

He was the largest distiller at the time. He never lived in the White House. And at his farewell address on September 19, 1796, he stated, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports."

Now, about the skinny dipping. Back to John Quincy Adams, who Senior Center presenter Arsenault called "strange."



Paul Arsenault, a Bellingham resident and regular at the Senior Center, has made a life-time study of American presidents. He presented some interesting facts last month, and will be doing so again on April 10th.

Adams did not like reporters. And at one of his morning dips in the Potomac a female reporter showed up and sat on his pile of clothes. Until he granted an interview, she refused to budge.

Interestingly, the first seven American presidents were all "British subjects." The first president born in the U.S. was Mar-

tin Van Buren. Two presidents, Thomas Jefferson and Adams, both died on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Arsenault will return to the Bellingham Senior Center on April 10th to continue his popular discussion of U.S. presidents, and it will be open to all.

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*Answers:*

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# Cataract Surgery in 2023: Questions and Options



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

Cataract surgery is by far the most common surgery performed in the United States. With advanced technology and if you choose an experienced and highly skilled surgeon, modern cataract surgery should be a rather quick outpatient and a minimal risk procedure. If you are considering cataract surgery, your expectations should not only be to improve your vision, reduce glare at night, see more vivid colors and improve your day to day activities, but you should also be given an opportunity to reduce

your dependence on glasses or contacts and in many cases eliminate this need. Your expectations should also be to have your surgery by a world-class surgeon close to where you live and not be told to travel hours for testing and surgery. Many choices exist on where to have the surgery and by whom. Here are the specific questions to ask when it's time to have the surgery:

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

remote referral is financial and business-related interest your provider has with the far-away surgeon. In many of these referrals the referring optometrist and surgeons may also be in violation of the STARK law and anti-kickback statutes. Beware referral bias. In our center, we eliminated the middleman. 100% of the surgeries are performed in a state-of-the-art facility in Milford. Very close to home. Your interest comes first.

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

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

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

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

**6. What type of technology is available at your surgery facility?** Different centers have different equipment and resources. For instance, Massachusetts has only few centers offering laser-assisted bladeless cataract surgery. This should be an option if you want to reduce dependence on glasses and treat low grades of astigmatism at the same time as your cataract surgery. Our center was among the first in the State and New England to offer this technology. Did you know that many hospitals and other centers do not offer laser-assisted bladeless cataract surgery? We do!

**7. What type of implant am I going to get?** Different lens implants can be used

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

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

**9. Will I have stitches?** It is ideal to eliminate the need for stitches such as the surgery is a no-stitch surgery. Placing a stitch can be complicated by stitch induced astigmatism, a foreign body sensation and a broken and irritating stitch. Ask your referring provider if his/her surgeon of choice is still using stitches. 100% of our cataract procedures are stitch-free.

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



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# From the Town Clerk...

Thank you to those who have returned their census forms. For those of you who haven't, please do so as soon as possible. If there are no changes at your household, simply sign and date the form and return. Included with

the census forms is a dog license application. If you do not have a dog, please recycle the form. If you do have a dog(s), kindly fill out the form and return it to the Town Clerk's office, along with proof of current rabies

vaccination certificate which is obtainable from your veterinarian. Both the census form and the dog application with rabies certificate may be returned via mail, in-person, or by placement in the blue drop box outside the front entrance of the Municipal Center. You may also apply for your dog license online by going to the Town website and clicking "Online Transactions." Once processed, dog licenses will be mailed to you. Please remember that 2022 dog licenses will expire on March 31, 2023. Application and payment for 2023 dog licenses are due by April 1st. In accordance with a new Town Bylaw, there is a one-month grace period before a late fee of \$25 per household will be assessed. Beginning in June, a one-time \$50 fine will be levied, followed by referral to the magistrate of Milford District Court. So, please apply for your dog license when you fill out your census to avoid any late charge or fine!

Nomination papers are available for our local Town Election and will continue to be until March 16th.

2023 Offices to be elected are as follows:

Select Board (2)	Kelly Grant (Incumbent)
	Donald Martinis (Incumbent)
Library Trustee (2)	Laura Howard (Incumbent)
	Macala Lamour (Incumbent)
Planning Board (1)	William R. O'Connell (Incumbent)
School Committee (1)	Lori Colombo (Incumbent)
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## 2023 TOWN ELECTION CALENDAR

Nomination Papers Available at Town Clerk's Office	February 13, 2023
Completed Nomination Papers Due Back for Certification	March 16, 2023 – 5 p.m.
Last Day to Withdraw	April 1, 2023
Last Day to Register to Vote Prior to Town Election	April 24, 2023 – 5 p.m.
Town Election at Bellingham High School	May 2, 2023

## 2023 TOWN MEETING CALENDAR

Annual Spring Town Meeting	May 24, 2023
Last Day to Register to Vote Prior to Spring Town Meeting	May 8, 2023 – 5 p.m.
Annual Fall Town Meeting	November 15, 2023
Last Day to Register to Vote Prior to Fall Town Meeting	November 1, 2023 – 5 p.m.

Daylight Savings Time begins on March 12th at 2 a.m. – don't forget to "Spring forward"!

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# Coming Up at the Bellingham Senior Center

The Bellingham Senior Center is located at 40 Blackstone St., Bellingham. Reach them at (508) 966-0398 or visit [www.bellinghamma.org](http://www.bellinghamma.org)

**GARDENING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We're getting ready for the new season. Wanna help? The garden at the Senior Center is designed to provide delicious, nourishing, free vegetables for our elders over the growing season. Volunteers are needed. On Tuesday, April 4 at 8:30 a.m., we'll begin carting away all the depleted soil in the eight 3'x8' beds. To volunteer, please leave your name and email address at the Welcome Desk or email [ddunbar@bellinghamma.org](mailto:ddunbar@bellinghamma.org) During the week of May 15, there will be a "planting event" to put in seeds, vegetable plants, and some flowers.

**POP MUSIC:** "A Journey through the Roots of American Popular Music," presented by John Waterman, "is a program of songs, stories and a slide show presentation about characters and events at the origins of the blues, rock, and country music." Please join us at 1 p.m. on Friday, March 31, for this presentation. Call the Senior Center to sign up.

**UNDERSTANDING MEDICARE:** Here's a workshop designed for you if Medicare is on your "to do" list? Don't delay, come to the Senior Center on Friday, March 27 at 11 a.m.

**THE YELLOW DOT PROGRAM:** Yellow Dot is a free program which provides first responders with quick access to critical medical information about the occupants of an automobile in the event of an accident or health emergency. Participants place a Yellow Dot Decal on the driver's side rear windshield of their cars. In the event of an emergency or accident, the Yellow Dot alerts emergency responders that inside the glove compartment there is an envelope containing the operator's medical information. The envelope has the operator's medical conditions, allergies, recent surgeries, medications, and emergency contact information.

Join us on Thursday, March 9, at 1 p.m. for a presentation from the Norfolk Sheriff's Office.

**ACCEPTING DONATIONS:** If you are doing any winter reorganizing and cleaning out of basements we are accepting donations at the Senior Center! We DO NOT accept shoes, clothing, furniture, and electrical appliances!

**SENIOR DRIVE-BY LUNCH PROGRAM** has been discontinued until March/April depending on the weather.

## EYES

*continued from page 12*

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# Bellingham Falcons Honor Athletes in Annual Banquet

By JENNIFER RUSSO

The Bellingham Falcons Youth Football and Cheer organization recently held their end of season banquet to honor the hard work athletes put in throughout the year. The program offers Bellingham children in grades K-7 the sports of flag and tackle football as well as competitive and non-competitive cheerleading. Athletes, family members and special guests arrived to celebrate over lunch in the Carriage Room at Wright's Chicken Farm and Restaurant. Each athlete was given a

\$5 Dairy Queen gift card upon arrival and were excited to see game and competition photos on a slideshow. Families also had the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for exciting items like an X-Box, an Apple Watch, Beats Headphones, a hoverboard, gift cards, next season football and cheer registrations, and more.

Greg Shannon, who recently stepped down as Board of Directors President, thanked season sponsors and spoke about the importance of youth sports for children, calling out how they promote a healthy, active lifestyle,

but also self-esteem, confidence, and leadership among other benefits. He introduced newly elected board members and encouraged parents to volunteer, making the program even stronger. Exciting Board members were then presented with a custom New England Patriots jersey and a gift card to a local restaurant.

Before calling up the athletes, the board presented the Bellingham VFW with a donation of \$1,000. Each year since 2016, the Bellingham AYFC participates in Trophies for Charity – whereby they donate the amount of money normally spent on football trophies to a charitable organization. In years past, they have donated to the Joe Andruzzi Foundation, but this year wanted to give the money to the VFW to help support the wonderful work they do for Bellingham veterans and to honor the late post commander, Tom Lane.

Each football and cheerleading team were then recognized by their coaches for their efforts and contributions for teamwork, performance, and determination. Football players received



**Bellingham AYFC presented the Bellingham VFW with \$1,000 at their recent awards banquet. Each year since 2016, the Bellingham AYFC participates in Trophies for Charity, where money that would have been spent on trophies goes instead to a worthy cause.**



**These flag football players were among the young athletes receiving awards at the recent Bellingham AYFC Awards Banquet.**

certificates and cheerleaders on the competitive teams received trophies. For those who have been in the program for five years, they received a customized Falcons jersey printed with their name. Athletes who received jerseys this year were Ricky Dell, AJ Hagopian, Carl Peskin, Mason Dellamano, Dylan Harris, Braden Sherry, Mason Dupuis, and Bristol Harper.

The 8U and 12U Cheerleading teams were recognized for their competitive wins. The 8U Cheer team took 1st in Locals and 3rd in States, and the 12U

Cheer team took 1st in both Locals and States, 2nd in Regionals, and came in 4th Place in the country at the Nationals competition held in Florida last December.

The Bellingham Falcons will be offering spring cheer and a spring football clinic. If you are interested in signing your child up for the Bellingham Falcons Football and Cheer program, registrations will be opening shortly for the spring and fall season. Find out more on facebook.com/bellinghamayfc or on the website at www.bellinghamayfc.org.



**The 8U and 12U teams were recognized at the banquet. The 8U Cheer team took 1st in Locals and 3rd in States, and the 12U Cheer team took 1st in both Locals and States, 2nd in Regionals, and came in 4th Place in the country at Nationals in Florida last December.**



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# The 2023 Peeps Diorama Contest!

The BWOT will be hosting a PEEPS Diorama Contest in April. Make an original shoe-box-sized diorama with the Easter candies—PEEPS! —as the main characters. Community members of all ages, businesses, school classrooms, groups & organizations are all encouraged to enter. Get creative with your PEEPS! Use the next few weeks to design and create your own

diorama in hopes of winning the coveted, “PEEPles Choice Award.” Entries will be displayed in the library. Registration, contest rules and categories will be announced in future articles and on our Facebook page. For ideas, Google Peeps diorama.

Contact us at bwotmaevents@hotmail.com and visit us on Facebook.



The BWOT invites community members, businesses, school classrooms and other groups to enter April's PEEP Diorama Contest. Get creative! Shown, an entry from a 2014 Washington Post Peep Diorama Contest.

## Letters from the Easter Bunny

Bet you know someone who would love to get a letter from the Easter Bunny! The Easter Bunny is so busy preparing for the big day the Bellingham Women of Today will be helping him send personal letters to anyone on your list. The cost is \$2 for each letter or three for \$5. Send the name and address of recipient along with your name and phone number, including any information you would like added to the letter with check made out to BWOT to BWOT, PO Box 405, Bellingham, MA 02019 before March 25st.

Contact us at bwotmaevents@hotmail.com and visit us on Facebook.

## It's Going to be a Hoppy Time in Bellingham

The Bellingham Women of Today will welcome the Easter Bunny for their annual Muffins with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 25th, from 9 – 11:30 a.m. at St. Blaise Church Hall, 1158 S. Main St., Bellingham.

Admission fee is \$5 per child with a maximum charge of \$15 per family. Children can meet the Easter Bunny while you are welcome to take your phone or camera photos. We will offer muffins, bagels, juice, milk and coffee. Food and beverage items are \$1-\$2 each. There will be free crafts and coloring pages for kids as well as raffle baskets. All proceeds will benefit local BWOT charities. Contact us at bwotmaevents@hotmail.com and visit us on Facebook.

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## Ladies of St. Anne Easter Raffle

Plans were made at the February meeting to raffle several Easter Baskets, some for adults and some for children. Donations to fill the baskets will be accepted until the March 9th meeting so the completed Easter baskets can be displayed when tickets are sold before and after weekend masses at St. Blaise beginning March 11th. The raffle drawing will be on April 2nd and will benefit the Scholarship Program and St. Blaise parish.

We want to remind graduating seniors and students in college/technical universities that

applications are currently available at the entrances to St. Blaise and at saintblaise.org on the Ministries page under Ladies of St. Anne.

The March meeting theme is "March Madness" to include the excitement for sports continuing or beginning, celebrating Saints or new season of gardening, is March 9th, 7 p.m., in the parish hall. Wear your favorite team clothes, gardening clothes, or create a fun outfit to show your personal "madness" season preference. Hope to see you there!

## Bellingham Lions 2022 Holiday House Decorating Contest Winners

The Bellingham Lions would like to thank all who participated in the 2022 Bellingham Lions Holiday House Decorating Contest. This year's winners were:

Third Place 18 Flagg Drive  
Second Place 58 Box Pond Road

First Place 16 Old Elm Street, shown



First place winner of the 2022 Bellingham Lions Holiday House Decorating Contest. Photos used courtesy of Bellingham Lions Club.



## Bellingham Education Foundation (BEF) Presents "90's Night Out" March 31st

Dig out those old grunge and early hip hop favorites you stored away as the century changed and join the Bellingham Education Foundation for "90's Night Out" scheduled for March 31st, 2023 at the Coachmen's Lodge, 273 Wrentham Rd., Bellingham.

This year's theme will be everything 90's. 90's attire is encouraged! Light appetizers will be served along with a cash bar. There will be music, raffles, auctions, and more! Tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. Tickets will be on sale soon. All proceeds benefit

the BEF's grant fund to benefit Bellingham Schools.

The Bellingham Education Foundation (BEF) supports innovation in Bellingham schools. To learn more, visit [www.belledfound.org](http://www.belledfound.org) or find them on Facebook.

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## Artist Robin Wessman at March Franklin Art Association Meeting

The Franklin Art Association welcomes Robin Wessman to be the featured artist on March 1st, 6:30 p.m., at the Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin. Robin is a contemporary realist artist who paints a variety of subjects including still life, landscapes and portraits. His paintings are fueled by imagina-

tion, experience, and a continuous drive to create paintings that have the potential to go beyond the obvious and inspire viewers to see more.

Meetings are free and open to the public. The Franklin Art Association is sponsored in part by the Franklin Cultural Council.

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# Bellingham Lions Announce Spring Golf Classic

The Bellingham Lions Club 2023 Spring Golf Classic will be held on Monday May 22, 2023, at New England Country Club. This tournament is to benefit scholarships for local high school seniors and local charities.

Sponsors are sought at the Platinum (\$1,000), Gold (\$500), Eagle (\$250), Birdie (\$150) and Par (\$150) levels. Lunch is included with all sponsorship levels.

More information can be found on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BellinghamMALions> or you can email us at [BellinghamMALions@outlook.com](mailto:BellinghamMALions@outlook.com).



Sponsor Registration



Tournament Registration

# Lions' Santa Ride Yields \$1,000 for Food Pantry

The Bellingham Lions would like to thank everyone who donated to the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry during their ride around town with Santa. Due to your generosity the Bellingham Lions were able to donate \$1,000 to the food pantry who helps those in need within our community.



From left to right, Rosemarie Marsh, Coordinator of the Food Pantry, Robin Ewing Co-President of the Bellingham Lions and Sue Durkin, Director of the Food Pantry



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# Bellingham Public Library News & Events for March

For updates to library programs and services, please see the library website, [www.bellinghamlibrary.org](http://www.bellinghamlibrary.org). Click on the red alert banner.

## Winter Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday & Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Mass. Memories Road Show Bellingham Historical Photo & Video Database Online!**

In November of 2022, the Bellingham Library hosted the Mass. Memories Road Show, a statewide, event-based participatory archiving program that documents people, places, and events in Massachusetts history through family photographs and stories. Archivists and public historians in University Archives and Special Collections in the Joseph P. Healey Library at UMass Boston organized this free event. The Bellingham Collection is

available at: <https://tinyurl.com/mr3zsuuu>

## Special Programs

### Bellingham is Open for Business Programs

The library has updated our website, <https://www.bellinghamma.org/library/pages/business-resources>, with information for local businesses and entrepreneurs, including a full schedule of workshops through June. Each month we will have at least two workshops that will help businesses and entrepreneurs expand their knowledge and skills.

In addition, on April 29th we will be hosting Bellingham Business Expo. Applications to participate are available at the above website on the Business Expo section of that web page.

Here are the programs we are offering in March. Both programs will be hybrid (in-person and on Zoom), with a limit of 12 people in person. When you register you will be asked if you are coming in person or virtually, so registration is required!

These programs are made possible by a federal Institute of Museum and Library Services grant the library was awarded, through the Library Services and Technology Act. The grant is administered by the Massachusetts

Board of Library Commissioners.

### Social Media for Business – Wednesday, March 15th at 6 p.m.

We'll explain the difference between personal and business accounts and cover the most common business social platforms including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and Snapchat. Learn about privacy settings, linking your social accounts, advertising and managing multiple accounts. Will also cover tools to create content for social media pages.

### Graphics & Design for Business – Tuesday, March 21st at 6 p.m.

This session will take a closer look at some of the tools available for creating content for your business. We'll demonstrate some projects created with PowerPoint, Canva, Flixpress and others. You'll learn how to create some basic projects.

### Virtual 50+ Job Seekers

#### Networking Group – March Topics:

- **Developing a Resume, Part 1, Wednesday, March 1st, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am or Wednesday, March 8th from 6-8 p.m.**
- **Developing a Resume, Part 2 – Wednesday, March 15th from 9:30 am to 11:30 am or Wednesday, March 22nd from 6-8 p.m.**

This program will continue through June with two new topics each month.

To register for each workshop, go to the library calendar, select the workshop date and click on the link to register directly via Zoom.

### Create a Trivet or Coasters with Fabric – Monday, March 20th at 6 p.m.

Join Ana Mendes, owner of AfonsoWay, for a do-it-yourself fabric covered tile coaster/trivet class. All materials will be supplied, and class is free. For older teens and adults. No children allowed in the room as a hot glue gun will be used. Registration necessary, space limited. Program is funded by the Friends of the Bellingham Library.

### Ukrainian Easter Egg Decorating Program – Wednesday, March 29th at 6 pm.

Learn about the colorful world of Pysanky, the Ukrainian art form in which an egg is designed with traditional folk motifs

using wax and dyes. No experience necessary. All materials included. This class is for adults only, ages 18 and up. Space limited, registration required!

## March Children's Program Schedule

Here's our new schedule for March with Miss Laura's new programming included!

### Sensory Story Time with Miss Melissa – Mondays & Wednesdays at 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

For children ages 2-5 of all abilities. Space is limited and registration is required for each session, so please register early!

### Magic: The Gathering Club – Mondays at 2:30 p.m.

For grades 4-8. Magic is the ultimate tabletop game, combining the skills of strategy, probability, reading, math, bluffing and more for a fun and engaging experience like no other. Please register.

**NEW! Rhyme Time with Miss Laura – Mondays at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesdays at 11 a.m.** Intended for ages 3-5 but bigs and littles welcome. Drop in, no registration! No class March 6th!

### Ring a Ding – Tuesdays & Fridays at 10 a.m.

For ages 0-5. Songs, a story, music, instruments, and beach balls = a lot of noisy fun! Join us! No registration required.

### Baby Time – Wednesdays & Fridays at 11:30 am

For children under 2, older siblings welcome. Songs, stories, and play/discussion time for you and your baby/toddler. Drop in! No class on March 17th.

### Monster Squad – Thursday, March 2nd at 4 p.m.

Are cryptids real? Do monsters exist? We will review the "evidence" of these mysterious creatures. We will do some theme related STEAM activities too! For ages 8 – 12, Grades 2 - 6. Registration is required, maximum of 12 participants.

### 1st Saturday Family Fun - Build a Leprechaun Trap! – Saturday, March 4th at 10 am

It's time again for those silly Leprechauns to come to our homes and try their tricky ways on us! Miss Laura will give you a "gold coin" to bait your trap.

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FOR UPDATES

## Storm Drains are NOT for Dumping!

Have you ever wondered what happens to the water flowing down a storm drain after a storm? Stormwater, the runoff water after it rains or snows, flows from parking lots and streets into storm drains so that the pavement won't be flooded. Underground pipes then channel the stormwater directly to the nearest waterway, usually with little or no treatment. So whatever flows down a storm drain comes out in a nearby waterway, such as a wetland, stream, pond, or the ocean.

**Please help keep our local waters clean:**

- ♣ Never dump anything down storm drains – this includes litter, sand, leaves, pet waste, motor oil, or paint.
- ♣ Clear sand, leaves, litter, debris, and snow away from storm drains.
- ♣ Support municipal efforts to conduct regular street sweeping and catch basin cleaning.
- ♣ Participate in a neighborhood cleanup or storm drain marking project.

For more information, visit our community's website or go to [www.stormwatermatters.org](http://www.stormwatermatters.org).



**Storm Drains empty into Waterways!**

**LIBRARY**

*continued from page 20*

**Homeschool Meet Up – Thursday, March 9th at 6 p.m.**

Join us for a meet up to discuss ideas, resources, and other subjects important to our local homeschool families. Miss Laura will be present to assist with any research and information that may be needed.

**Building & Engineering Fun – Thursday, March 16th at 4 p.m.**

Drop in for an opportunity to create, engineer and build. Multiple different building materials will be available (Legos, K'nex, etc) and you can free build or try to solve a building challenge. Items may be displayed, space permitting, for a month until the next meeting when you can build something new! Ages 6 - 12 / Grades 1 - 6.

**Starlight Story Time – Thursday, March 23rd at 6:30 p.m. Ages 1 - 100 everyone is welcome!**

**After School Programs**

No Fun Fridays on March 17th, as it is a school half-day.

- **After School Kids (ASK)** – for grades 4-6. When school is in session, ASK meets Monday-Thursday from 2:30 p.m.- 4:45p.m. Registration is required for this program. Questions? Contact Diane Nelson, dnelson@cwmar.org. Parents/caregivers of all registrants are signed up for our Constant Contact Newsletter.
- **Teen Room Activities** – for grades 7-12. When school is in session, Teen Room Activities are available Monday-Thursday from 2 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. No registration needed to at-

tend this program. Questions? Contact Amanda Maclure, amaclure@cwmar.org.

**Other Adult Programs**

Additional details of these programs are available on the library calendar (<https://bit.ly/3xMECCt>)

- **Book Club** generally meets on the first Monday of the month. Email Reference Librarian Cecily Christensen at cchriste@cwmar.org for details.
- **Friends of the Library** generally meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Email library@bellinghamlibrary.org for details.
- **The Library Board of Trustees** generally meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Email library@bellinghamlibrary.org for details.
- **Adult Writing Group** will now meet at the Bellingham Historical Museum on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. Email marjorie@marjorieturner.com for details.
- **Bellingham Skein Artists Meet at the Library!, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.,** Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, informal group of knitters, crocheters and other skein artists in Teen Room of the library
- **Yoga** – The library is hosting Tuesday morning and Thursday evening yoga classes. Check the library calendar for details. Space limited, so registration required.

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# BVT's Superintendent's Dinner March 16

## Make Your Reservations Today for School Fundraiser by and for Students

Journey to the Polynesian Islands this spring by attending the 29th annual Superintendent's Gourmet Dinner held at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) on Thursday, March 16. The competition center will be transformed into a tropical dining oasis.

"Polynesian" is the theme the students have chosen for this year's event. A variety of dishes on this theme will complement carefully selected wines. The evening will begin with a social hour at 5 p.m. with champagne & hors d'oeuvres, followed by a multi-course dinner at 6 p.m.

The gala event is a significant fundraiser for the school, which invites the Blackstone Valley to celebrate quality career and technical education each spring with a lavish reception and an elaborate dinner. This five-star dining experience is planned, prepared, and served by students, faculty, and graduates of the Culinary Arts program and, by design, gives current students a taste of the skills necessary for success in the food, beverage, and hospitality industry.

Tickets which are \$140 per person or \$1,300 for a table of ten, may be obtained by calling (508) 529-7758 x3020. After confirming your reservation, a check payable to Blackstone Valley Tech and mailed to BVT c/o Anne-Marie Colonero, 65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA 01568, will hold your seat.

The Culinary Arts students look forward to welcoming you to this special event, so don't delay; call today. Aloha!

# Tri-County Regional Chamber Offers Employers Advice

Being a business owner is tough, before you even put your feet on the ground in the morning, you need to make sure you can make payroll, pay for health insurance, worry about retaining/finding employees...it's not for the faint of heart!

We know what you're going through and our goal is to help you sleep better at night. There are so many perks to being a Chamber member, and today we will discuss three very important benefits that just may make your life a little bit easier.

## 1. Delivering a Health Care Solution to Our Members

Speaker: Mike McMullin, Valley Insurance Partners

One of the best ways to recruit & retain top talent is through attractive employee benefits. However, healthcare and employee benefits have grown to a top 3 expense that is rising by double digits each year – impacting your company's bottom line. Chamber members can now access an innovative self funded benefits solution that delivers stable monthly funding, the CIGNA national network of providers and plan designs you choose.

## 2. Multiple Employer Aggregation Program (MEAP): A 401(K) for Members

Speaker: Gregg Katz, Katz Financial Services

We have partnered with Lincoln Financial, a nationally recognized leader in retirement planning services to develop this unique program that leverages the strengths of group participation to provide a cost-effective and easy way for you to implement a turnkey 401(K) employee program.

## 3. When You're Compliant, you're protected! Free HR Services

Speaker: Mike McMullin, Valley Insurance Partners

When it comes to HR and compliance, there's a lot at stake and you need to get it right, that's why we partnered with Valley Insurance Partners & Mineral. Mineral's next-level solutions allow you to build a solid HR foundation for your company, avoid hefty penalties and resolve little workplace issues before they ever become big ones.

Find out more about the Tri-County Chamber at <https://www.tricountychamberma.org>.

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# Sports

## Junior Guilmain Brings Experience to Bellingham Hockey

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Bellingham's Ayden Guilmain first stepped onto the ice to learn how to skate around the age of five years old, and it wasn't too long after that he wanted to play hockey just like his father.

"My dad played hockey, and I guess that influenced me to give it a try," Guilmain said. "Once I started playing I enjoyed the environment of being in the rink playing with the older kids."

Since the beginning days of his hockey career, Guilmain found that he really enjoyed the sport; his continuous play had him moving up the hockey ladder as he got older, and soon he was playing for a club team, the Rhode Island Saints out of Warwick. Playing for the Saints was the high level of play that he needed to get ready for his high school career with the Black Hawks. Guilmain found himself playing for the Saints from August to November until the high school season began.

For the majority of his hockey life, the now Bellingham junior skated as a forward, primarily a center. When younger coaches would try him out in various positions looking to see where he would fit in best. The ultimate result was he was best fitted as a forward.

While he could have played as an eighth grader for Bellingham, he held off until his freshman campaign because he felt he was too young.

"In high school you're playing against 17- and 18-year-olds, when you're only a 14-year old freshman. It's all very intimidating, but the players were all welcoming," he said.

As a freshman, he didn't expect to get a ton of playing time, he was just looking to get enough to learn and adjust to the varsity level of hockey. That season, Bellingham found themselves short one defenseman, and the coaching staff felt that Guilmain would be the perfect move.

"The coaches thought that I as a fast skater and would make a good defenseman," Guilmain said. "I was the sixth defenseman that year, so I saw some minutes



**Ayden Guilmain got an early chance to play varsity for Bellingham Hockey. The junior enjoys leading younger team members.** Photos used courtesy of the Guilmain family



on the ice, but there were five older defensemen ahead of me getting most of the playing time."

According to the now junior, the varsity athletes were much faster and stronger than he was, so it was definitely a tough introduction to the high school sport. However, getting those precious minutes helped his game and prepared him for this sophomore season.

Although he was unsure of just where he would be playing in the ice for the Blackhawks, he continued to practice as a forward with the RI Saints, and luckily Bellingham had a bunch of defensemen join the team that year, so he was moved back to his forward position.

About midway through the season, Guilmain was promoted to the first line to play center between two senior wingers. He realized that his hard work had finally paid off, and he was getting the chance to show what he could do.

"It was still a challenge as I'm a smaller guy, weight wise," Guilmain said. "I was able to put up good numbers that year, but I also played with two talented seniors on the wings that really pushed me to be my very best."

This year, he's playing with two new wingers but is once

again succeeding. At press time, the first line center had scored 6 goals and added 3 assists for Bellingham.

"He's a very good player that possess a high hockey IQ with the skills to play the game," Bellingham Coach Brad Kwatcher said. "Ayden is a quiet kid for the most part, but he's a hard worker and a battler for us. He's also a two-way player (who) continues to help out on getting back and playing defense."

Bellingham has a lot of players gracing their lineup this winter, and Guilmain has remained steadfast to helping the younger players get stronger and grow as hockey players.

"I remember when I was their age. Experience is a big part of their growing, I grew so much as a player between my first and second years," he said. "I want to go out there and work hard while pushing myself to be a leader on this team. The younger kids seem to look up to me seeing how hard I work and I think it influences them to do the same."

Although Bellingham is not having an overall fantastic season, Guilmain really wants to be part of a team that can eventually put together some wins and make it into the State Tournament.

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# Sports

## ACL Surgery Will Force Jackson into Rehab Mode

### Soph Sees Future Success for BHS Girls Five

By KEN HAMWEY,  
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

The Bellingham High girls' basketball team, which started the 2022-23 season with a new coach in Bob Pingeton, was eager to show it could improve on the previous year's 5-15 record. And, with only two seniors on the roster, the girls were ready to prove they could compete vigorously in spite of having a plethora of underclassmen in the rotation.

An opening night 49-36 victory over Nipmuc in a non-league game was a sign that maybe rebuilding the program wouldn't be such a Herculean task.

Four consecutive losses, however, followed. But, when the school's annual Hutchinson Memorial Tournament got underway after Christmas, optimism and hope were in the air.

Unfortunately, Maya Jackson, the team's highly-skilled guard-forward, suffered a non-contact injury in the second quarter against Douglas. She went up for a pass and came down hard, injuring her right knee.

Sidelined for a month before she could get an MRI, Jackson, her coach and teammates hoped that the three dreaded letters — A-C-L — wouldn't be uttered.

They were.

"I got the results the last week of January," Jackson said. "I suffered a torn ACL, and I'll likely be sidelined for nine months (surgery is scheduled for March 16). As soon as I got hurt, I was disappointed. I was playing well

against Douglas (six points in the first quarter). And, before I got hurt, I felt like I could contribute and have a solid season. Our team was just starting to show progress."

The 5-foot-10 Jackson, who's only a sophomore, was averaging 13 points and 10 rebounds during her five games before the injury.

"It's tough to lose Maya," Pingeton said. "She's a huge asset for us in the frontcourt. A potential Tri Valley League all-star, she can rebound, score, block shots and cause deflections."

Jackson, who was born in Germany, grew up in Europe. Since both her parents chose military careers in the Army, she showed resilience attending different schools in different towns and cities. "I spent time in Europe," she said. "I first started playing basketball at 12 and have played at the club level."

Her team-first approach and passion for basketball are ingredients that both her coach and teammates admired.

A varsity starter as an eighth-grader, Jackson averaged seven points and five rebounds as a freshman. Pingeton could tell early on that her ability would be a key for his rebuilding squad.

"Maya is a hard-worker who has a high basketball IQ, good technique, and she's able to score on a jump shot or a drive," he said. "A good finisher, she's disciplined, rebounds very well and can shoot three-pointers. She's an even-keel competitor."



Maya Jackson averaged 13 points and 10 rebounds before an ACL injury ended her sophomore season.

Jackson's teammates took care of business after she left the Douglas game. They rolled to a 52-28 triumph, then captured the tourney championship by edging Ursuline Academy, 43-40.

"Everyone will have to step up," were the words Pingeton emphasized after losing Jackson. He's acutely aware that her loss dampened the season, but he also knew that his younger players would gain experience and build confidence in her absence.

"Maya's loss affected wins and

losses this season," he said, "but the program will progress and be stronger in the long run. I'm excited about next year. Maya will return, and our experience and depth will improve. We're trying to rebuild this program so it'll be competitive from year to year. We finished the regular season with two eighth-graders on the team."

After capturing the Hutchinson Tourney title, the girls have struggled, going winless in 13 games.

Meanwhile, Jackson, who vows to be motivated and intense during her rehab stint, is already talking about her goals for next year.

"First, I want to be totally healthy and ready to compete," she emphasized. "Then, I'd like to see us be competitive in the TVL Small Division and qualify for the playoffs. I also want to be more communicative. A tourney berth is realistic because we'll have talent, experience, and depth. A commitment to work hard during the summer will also be a plus."

Her rehab regimen will include riding a stationary bike,

physical therapy, and squats. "I can deal with the physical part of rehab but the mental part will be tough," she said. "There's the unknown and the fear of getting hurt again."

The 16-year-old Jackson showed lots of class by attending every practice and every game after her injury. She likes her coach's motivating style and respects all her teammates, especially two backcourt players — senior co-captain Kylie Walden and sophomore Calleigh Elder.

"Coach Pingeton knows the game and knows how to motivate his players," she emphasized. "He's persistent but not aggressive, and he brings out the best in his players."

"Kylie is a great leader and an all-around player. She's a good shooter, she's aggressive on defense and passes well. Calleigh is very quick, she can pass or score effectively and is aggressive on both ends of the court."

Jackson hopes she can recover from surgery in time to play volleyball in the tourney, if the Blackhawks qualify. A three-time TVL all-star as an outside hitter, she says basketball is still her favorite sport, and she plans to continue playing in college.

"Basketball is so much fun," she said. "It's up-tempo and there's options. I enjoy driving for a basket and drawing a foul. Or driving, then kicking it out to a teammate for a jumper. On defense what's enjoyable are blocks and steals."

Calling her parents (Travis and Adriana) role models because of their support and encouragement, Jackson relies on an athletic philosophy that focuses on reaching her potential and having fun. "If that's occurring, then winning will follow," she said.

Several life lessons Jackson has learned from playing volleyball and basketball are to always give 100 percent, to be a good teammate and to think team first.

"Another great lesson is how to deal with and overcome adversity," she emphasized. "Adversity helps to be resilient and to be able to bounce back."

That final life lesson will be crucial for Maya Jackson in the days ahead.



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# 20 Blackstone Valley Tech Nursing Students Pinned

It requires a solid education, skill, and compassion to become a nurse and care for patients. The Moonlight Program in Practical Nursing at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) is challenging and rewarding. Its graduates will tell you that pursuing life-changing training takes perseverance, dedication, and hard work.

The adult evening program recently recognized the achievements of the Class of 2023 during a pinning ceremony held at the school. Twenty proud graduates were pinned and received their nursing certificates, marking the culmination of one and a half years and over 1,090 hours of instruction balanced with work and family obligations.

The ceremony began with a warm welcome from Practical Nursing Coordinator Joann L. Monks, MBA, MSc, RN-BC, RMA, who spoke highly of the program and the accomplishments of the graduates, faculty, and staff to meet the objectives of the program. Monks said, "This class is beyond prepared to test for the National Council Licensure Examination-Practical Nurses exam. We're proud of all you have accomplished in our time together."

Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick spoke about the need for skilled nurses.



**The PN Class of 2023 includes:**  
**Prosper Amoah (Worcester); Dawn Atchue (Grafton); Michaelis Ateawung (Milford); Lisa Barton-Ramos (Clinton); Ashley Cormier (North Brookfield); Kerry Devine, (Uxbridge); Emily Donnelly (Millbury); Mary Driscoll (Milford); Jaqueline Eller (Natick); Catherine Kagunda (Worcester); Jill Keddy (Shrewsbury); Michelle Kluesner (Milford); Emmanuel Leke (Milford); Jane Natabi (Natick); Kaleigh Ndawula (Northbridge); Kristina Perham (Douglas); Kelly Schroeder-Mullett (Bellingham); Amanda Scott (Northbridge); Tracey Silva (Framingham); and Tawanda Small (Norwood).**

He said, "Well-trained, you are a valuable resource for the residents, hospitals, and health care providers of the Blackstone Valley and beyond." He also recognized two students, who chose to attend BVT not once but twice, graduates of BVT's Health Services program, Amanda Scott (*Class of 2004*) and Emily Donnelly (*Class of 2019*).

Class President Mary Driscoll gave a Class Address. The guest speaker, Assistant Nursing Director at Sterling Village, Jonathan Boutwell, LPN, congratulated the graduates on their journey to becoming nurses and making a difference. In addition to the presentation of the certificates and pins, faculty and legislative awards (the Massachusetts House

of Representatives Muradian, Murray, and Soter) provided certificates, and Prosper Amoah, Catherine Kagunda, and Tracey Silva received the Faculty Recognition Award. Representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Senators Ryan Fattman and Michael Moore congratulated the graduates on their chosen professions and promising careers as nurses.

To learn more about the Practical Nursing program that serves adult learners in District, out of District, and out of State, visit [www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/practicalnursing](http://www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/practicalnursing).

## BVT Budget Subcommittee to Hold Public Hearing March 23

### School Looks for Public Support

UPTON – As the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District 2022-2023 Budget Subcommittee prepares the FY24 annual budget, it remains committed to building a sustainable operational budget, mindful of its obligation to complement assessments requested of its thirteen member communities.

While there are many steps to creating an operational budget, the Budget Subcommittee embraces a multifaceted, mindful approach involving collaboration among its school community members and informed stakeholders. From October to March each year, the Subcommittee has several working sessions to

review, examine, and modify its proposed budget, which is submitted to the District School Committee for approval before it seeks districtwide support.

The FY24 proposed budget includes multiple mitigation strategies to reduce assessments. For example, BVT has secured in excess of \$2 million in competitive grant funds. But grant funds, by design, do not serve as a renewable source for daily operational expenses. Therefore, blending local assessments with secured grant resources is highly beneficial. These external resources are only one of many cost-effective avenues pursued. Vocational-technical staff consistently work

with facility personnel and students to make self-improvements to the nearly 60-year-old facility.

The cost-effective approach of consistently competing and securing external revenue dollars has not gone unrecognized by the Finance Committee members who annually review the proposed budget request. Several have referred to the approach as wise and savvy.

The Budget Subcommittee is building a plan worth supporting. There will be a Public Hearing on March 23, 2023, beginning at 5 p.m. in the Media Center at the school, 65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA. It is an opportunity for residents to consider the proposed FY24 Budget, which puts real resources behind supporting student success.



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## Library Resources of the Month – Genealogy

The Bellingham Public Library subscribes to three online resources to help with your genealogy research: Ancestry.com, HeritageQuest, and Fold 3. All three of these resources can be accessed in the library on both the library computers and on our WiFi network using your own device. The library's website also provides a link to the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds genealogy page, which you can access from any location with an Internet connection.

Ancestry.com is the world's largest online family history resource. It gives access to hundreds of years of history in billions of historical documents and millions of historical photos from all over the world. Access vital records, census lists, immigration records such as passenger lists, military records, directories, African American and Native American records, and more! Images of original documents enhance research. You can search over 30,000 Ancestry.com record collections and 11 billion records with the click of a button, from as far back as the 1500s to the 2000s.

HeritageQuest contains census records, family histories, military and bank records, city directories, and more! Access to census records include U.S. Federal Census Records going back as far as 1790, Canadian Census Collection 1825-1921, and the U.S. Indian Census Rolls 1885-1940. Military records contain a premier collection of Revolutionary War records called the U.S. Revolutionary Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900. Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1874, is a great source for genealogists researching their African American heritage. You are also able to search the Social Security Death Index 1935-2014, and city directories from 1821-1989. Search HeritageQuest's many records to reveal your family's story!

Fold 3 features premier collections of original military records. These records include the stories, photos, and personal documents of the men and women who served in the military. Many of the records come from the U.S. National Archives, the National Archives of the

U.K., and other international records. The records at Fold 3 help you discover and share stories about these everyday heroes, forgotten soldiers, and the families that supported them.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Genealogy Resources consist of land documents dating back to 1793, deeds, mortgages, death certificates, plans of land, and old city/town atlases, along with other documents that are useful in examining the past. These records can provide a vast amount of information for those wishing to conduct genealogical study. For instance, land records can be especially useful to help establish the whereabouts of a person at a particular time and place. Deeds, used in conjunction with other documentation, can bridge gaps in historical research when other records fail to do so.

To access these resources, go to the Bellingham Library's website at [www.bellinghamlibrary.org](http://www.bellinghamlibrary.org). Click on the Online Resources tab, and then click Genealogy/Ancestry.com.



## BVT Robotics Team Receives \$3,000 Grant from Bayer Fund

### Support STEM Education through FIRST® Robotics

The robotics team at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) is the proud recipient of a grant. Bayer Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer, recently awarded a one-time \$3,000 grant supporting Team 61, The Intimidator's participation in the FIRST® Robotics competitions to enhance their skills in science and engineering.

Bayer Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where Bayer customers and employees live and work by providing funding for food and nutrition, education, and community development projects. This grant will allow students to participate in FIRST® Robotics educational programs and competitions. FIRST® enables teams of students to compete with others in building, designing, and programming their own robots to perform preassigned tasks, giving students a chance to get involved with real-world engineering.

"As a Bayer Fund grant recipient, Team 61 will enhance their skills in science and engineering,"

said Robotics Team Advisor Michael Norton. "Our students will participate in FIRST® Competitions in March utilizing the Bayer Fund funding at the 2023 NE District SE Mass Event FIRST Robotics Competition in Bridgewater, MA, and the Western NE Event in Springfield, MA."

Bayer Fund's sponsorship of FIRST® Robotics teams continues the nonprofit's intentional support of programs that improve STEM education. Over the past five years, Bayer Fund has contributed over \$35 million to STEM outreach efforts.

"The FIRST® Robotics program helps provide the necessary skills for young students to become STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) leaders," said Al Mitchell, President of Bayer Fund. "This program not only inspires innovation but provides life capabilities such as communication and self-confidence. Bayer Fund is proud to provide grants to student teams to encourage their development into future scientists, engineers, and computer programmers."



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# Calendar

### March 1

**Developing a Resume Part 1 (Virtual), 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**, through Bellingham Public Library and 50+ Jobseekers Network, Register at [www.bellinghamlibrary.org](http://www.bellinghamlibrary.org), visit library calendar, select the workshop date and click on the link to register directly via Zoom.

### March 3

**Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School presents *The Lightning Thief*, 7 p.m.**, 500 Financial Park, Franklin, Mass., Tickets \$17, can be purchased at door or at [bfccps.org](http://bfccps.org)

### March 4

**1st Saturday Family Fun - Build a Leprechaun Trap! 10 a.m.**, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, Drop in.

**Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School presents *The Lightning Thief*, 2 & 7 p.m.**, 500 Financial Park, Franklin, Mass., Tickets \$17, can be purchased at door or at [bfccps.org](http://bfccps.org)

### March 6

**Bellingham Public Library Book Club**, Email Reference Librarian Cecily Christensen at [cchriste@cwmars.org](mailto:cchriste@cwmars.org) for details.

### March 8

**Bellingham Business Association Membership Brunch, 11:30 a.m.**, \$25 members, guests-potential members free, Grumpy's Restaurant & Pub, 190 Pulaski Blvd., Bellingham. [contact@BellinghamBusinessAssociation.org](mailto:contact@BellinghamBusinessAssociation.org)

**Developing a Resume Part 1 (Virtual), 6-8 p.m.**, through Bellingham Public Library and 50+ Jobseekers Network, Register at [www.bellinghamlibrary.org](http://www.bellinghamlibrary.org), visit library calendar, select the workshop date and click on the link to register directly via Zoom.

### March 9

**Ladies of St. Anne Meeting, 7 p.m.**, St. Blaise Parish Hall, 1158 S. Main St., Bellingham, wear your favorite team clothes, gardening clothes, or create a fun outfit to show your personal "madness" season preference.

**BMS & BHS All Town Chorus Concert, 7-8 p.m.**, Bellingham High School

**Adult Writing Group, 6:30 p.m.**, Bellingham Historical Museum, 3 Common St., Bellingham, Email [marjorie@marjorieturner.com](mailto:marjorie@marjorieturner.com) for details.

### March 14

**BMS & BHS All Town Band Concert, 7 p.m.**, Bellingham High School

### March 15

**Social Media for Business, 6 p.m.**, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, Hybrid program, in-person and Zoom (see [www.bellinghamlibrary.org](http://www.bellinghamlibrary.org) for details), Limit of 12 in-person participants

**Developing a Resume, Part 2, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**, through Bellingham Public Library and 50+ Jobseekers Network, Register at [www.bellinghamlibrary.org](http://www.bellinghamlibrary.org), visit library calendar, select the workshop date and click on the link to register directly via Zoom.

### March 17



### March 20

**Create a Trivet or Coasters with Fabric, 6 p.m.**, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, hosted by Ana Mendes, owner of Afonsoway

### March 21

**Graphics & Design for Business, 6 p.m.**, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, Hybrid program, in-person and Zoom (see [www.bellinghamlibrary.org](http://www.bellinghamlibrary.org) for details), Limit of 12 in-person participants

### March 22

**Developing a Resume, Part 2, 6-8 p.m.**, through Bellingham Public Library and 50+ Jobseekers Network, Register at [www.bellinghamlibrary.org](http://www.bellinghamlibrary.org), visit library calendar, select the workshop date and click on the link to register directly via Zoom.

### March 25

**Muffins with the Easter Bunny, presented by The Bellingham Women of Today, 9 - 11:30 a.m.**

St. Blaise Church Hall, 1158 S. Main St., Bellingham. \$5 per child, maximum charge \$15 per family. Food and beverage items are \$1 - \$2 each. Free crafts and coloring pages and raffle baskets. Proceeds benefit local BWOT charities. Contact [bwotmaevents@hotmail.com](mailto:bwotmaevents@hotmail.com) and visit us on Facebook.

### March 29

**Ukrainian Easter Egg Decorating Program, 6 pm.**, Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, learn about the colorful world of Pysanky, the Ukrainian art form in which an egg is designed with traditional folk motifs using wax and dyes. No experience necessary. All materials are included. Adults only. Space limited, registration required.

### March 31

**90s Night Out, Fundraiser for Bellingham Educational Foundation**, Coachmen's Lodge, 273 Wrentham Rd., Bellingham,

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