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March 2023

## Franklin's Open Space – Voice Your Opinion!

By J.D. O'GARA

Franklin's working on updating its Open Space & Recreation Plan, and your input is crucial!

"We are in the midst of updating Franklin's Open Space and Recreation plan, which will outline the Town's priorities for a variety of our recreational and environmental locations, activities and more," says Franklin's Conservation Agent, Breeka-Li Goodlander, a certified and professional wetlands scientist. This town plan was last updated in 2016.

A public hearing regarding the 2016 OSRP Review and Current Priorities took place last month and others are coming up on April 25th, from 6-8 p.m. (Goals and Objectives for the 2023 OSRP) and June 20th, from 6-8 p.m. (Draft OSRP 2023 Review) at the Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St.

Although the town has held focus groups with established organizations that would be invested in outdoor spaces, "organizations and established groups like Girl Scouts or the Garden Club, or the Rod and Gun Club, people or groups that

**OPEN SPACE**

*continued on page 2*

## Franklin Schools to Hold Community Conversation on Kids Mental Health March 9th

"Too many of our young people are hiding pain behind smiling faces; too many are struggling with the stresses of daily life. We invite you to come to hear what they have to say about they are experiencing life today," says Franklin's Dr. Anne Bergen, President of the SAFE Coalition Board of Directors.

The Franklin Public Schools Mental Health and Wellbeing Task Force is excited to host their community conversation event, "THE KIDS ARE NOT ALRIGHT! WHAT THEY WANT YOU TO KNOW." On March 9th at 7 p.m. at the Horace Mann Middle School Auditorium Franklin MA 02038.

"Not in my town! Not my kid!" How often do we hear these words? We can no longer turn away from the "inconvenient truth." It is our town, and it is our kids. Through the hard work of our Mental Health and Wellbeing Task Force, and with the results of the MetroWest Adolescent Health Study, we now know how many

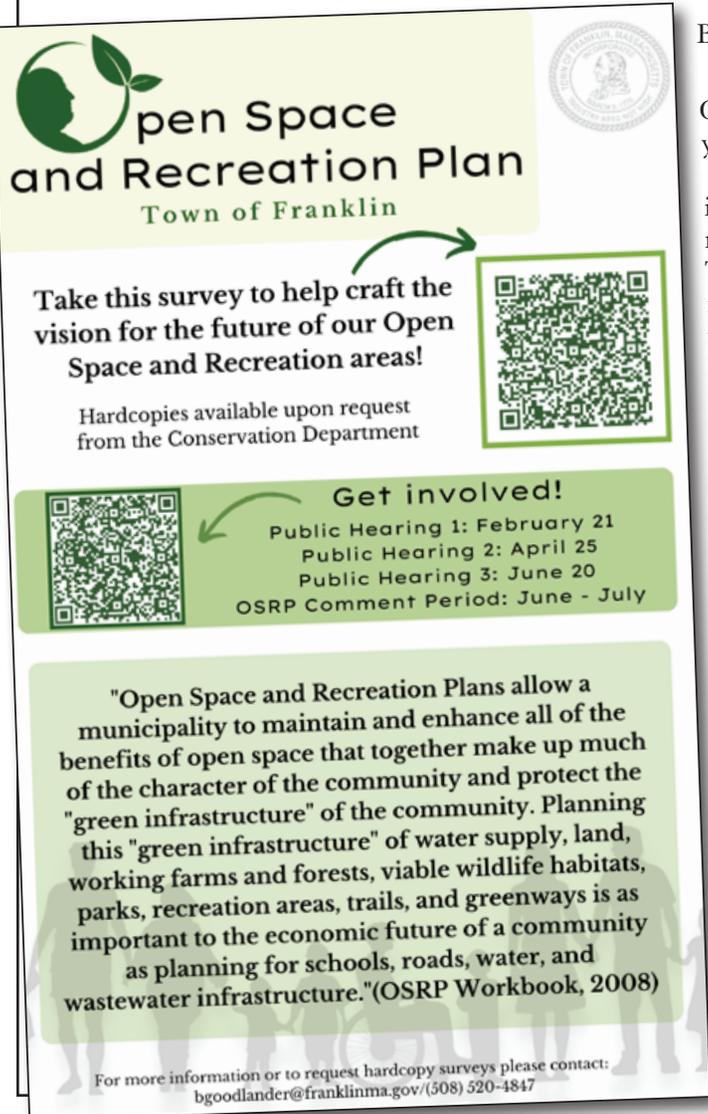
of our kind, caring, and bright students are struggling with their mental wellness.

Join us for this event, which will be led by Franklin High School and Boston College Alumni, Student-Athlete Nicole Clairmont. Nicole is a born leader and gifted speaker who will share how her rise in athletics through Division 1 high school and collegiate experiences impacted her mental wellbeing. Nicole will share the stage with current Franklin High School students who will explore how mental health and education have impacted their self-development and growth. This event aims to educate families on how their children and their peers are experiencing their own mental health challenges and will provide ways adults can support their development.

A recent poll taken at the high school highlighted these areas as current top stressors:

**CONVERSATION**

*continued on page 5*



**Open Space and Recreation Plan**  
Town of Franklin

Take this survey to help craft the vision for the future of our Open Space and Recreation areas!

Hardcopies available upon request from the Conservation Department

**Get involved!**  
Public Hearing 1: February 21  
Public Hearing 2: April 25  
Public Hearing 3: June 20  
OSRP Comment Period: June - July

"Open Space and Recreation Plans allow a municipality to maintain and enhance all of the benefits of open space that together make up much of the character of the community and protect the "green infrastructure" of the community. Planning this "green infrastructure" of water supply, land, working farms and forests, viable wildlife habitats, parks, recreation areas, trails, and greenways is as important to the economic future of a community as planning for schools, roads, water, and wastewater infrastructure." (OSRP Workbook, 2008)

For more information or to request hardcopy surveys please contact:  
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OPEN SPACE

continued from page 1

utilize open space and recreation areas for the routine basis, for the function of their mission," says Goodlander, "if any resident has questions they can give me a phone call, and I can engage with them one on one." She encourages all residents to share their own visions of open space for the town. "We're receiving feedback throughout the entirety of the process. The Conservation Commission is the lead, taking in and giving back feedback, and all Franklin residents are stakeholders."

At press time, the town had held a number of themed focus groups at Town Council Chambers and on Zoom, from 6-7 p.m., such as Sports & Recreation, Municipal Recreation Facilities and Parks, School Recreation Facilities and Parks, and the newly acquired Schmidt Farm. Upcoming this month is a focus group on the Riverbend Conservation Area on March 9th, followed by one on Maple Hill on March 23rd.

"We also have more qualitative type topics," says Goodlander, noting the state requires Franklin hold these focus groups. Upcoming topics include such topics as

climate change, forest and trees, habitat protection and accessibility.

"Every comment is going to be included in the plan," says Goodlander. "As required by the state, all written communication, all meeting minutes, are included in the plan. The state of Massachusetts will get those comments, and based on those comments, the town prioritizes projects. It helps the town understand what residents want to see for their home and then prioritize projects for the next 5-7 years." Goodlander explains it as "a plan for plans, a guidelist or checklist for the town."

Part of the OSRP process also includes technological components such as a flora and fauna survey, a look at Franklin's topology and geography, environmental resources, what Goodlander calls the "earthy good stuff," as well as an examination of Census data on Franklin's population and its demographics.

"It's a plan that takes the inventory of the entirety of Franklin but also its natural resources and environmental characteristics. How can we best utilize these resources for the Franklin community in conjunction with the natural environment?" says Goodlander.

Having an updated OSRP will also open Franklin up to grant funding.

"There are a handful of grants from the state that, to qualify, you need to have an OSRP," says Goodlander. She explains, for example, that townsfolk may decide one of the priorities for Schmidt Farm could be to develop a trail system, in which case the town could apply for a Massachusetts Trail Grant.

Paper postcard versions of community surveys can be picked up at the Franklin Municipal Building, the Franklin Recreation Dept. and the Franklin Public Library, and an online version can be found at the Conservation Commission's page on the town website (<https://www.franklinma.gov/conservation>) or here at <https://tinyurl.com/Franklin-OSRP-Survey-2023>

For updates, visit [Franklinma.gov/conservation](http://Franklinma.gov/conservation) for the latest information.

CONTACT  
BREEKA LI GOODLANDER  
BGOODLANDER@FRANKLINMA.GOV  
508-529-1845

## Open Space and Recreation Plan

Town of Franklin

FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS		OFFICE HOURS	
THEME	DATE	THEME	DATE
SPORTS & RECREATION PROGRAMS	JAN 12	SPORTS & RECREATION PROGRAMS	JAN 13
MUNICIPAL RECREATION FACILITIES & PARKS	JAN 26	MUNICIPAL RECREATION FACILITIES & PARKS	JAN 27
SCHOOL RECREATION FACILITIES & PARKS	FEB 9	SCHOOL RECREATION FACILITIES & PARKS	FEB 10
SCHMIDT FARM	FEB 23	SCHMIDT FARM	FEB 24
RIVERBEND CONSERVATION AREA	MAR 9	RIVERBEND CONSERVATION AREA	MAR 10
MAPLE HILL	MAR 23	MAPLE HILL	MAR 24
DELCARTE AND BEAVER POND	APR 6	DELCARTE AND BEAVER POND	APR 7
FORESTS, TREES, GREENSPACE, AND OTHER CONSERVATION LANDS	APR 20	FORESTS, TREES, GREENSPACE, AND OTHER CONSERVATION LANDS	APR 21
HABITAT PROTECTION, ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, OTHER CONSERVATION LANDS	MAY 4	HABITAT PROTECTION, ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, OTHER CONSERVATION LANDS	MAY 5
OPEN SPACE ACCESSIBILITY, TRAILS, BIKEPATHS, TOWN CONNECTIVITY	MAY 18	OPEN SPACE ACCESSIBILITY, TRAILS, BIKEPATHS, TOWN CONNECTIVITY	MAY 19

ALL FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS ARE FROM 6-7P IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS OR ON ZOOM.

ALL OFFICE HOURS ARE FROM 10-11A IN ROOM 326A OR ON ZOOM.

SEVEN ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AND OFFICE HOURS TO BE DETERMINED

PLEASE SEE THE POSTED AGENDA FOR THE ZOOM LINK.

DATES, TIMES, AND THEMES FOR ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE SUBSCRIBE TO [FRANKLINMA.GOV/CONSERVATION](http://FRANKLINMA.GOV/CONSERVATION) FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION.

THEME	DATE
2016 OSRP REVIEW AND CURRENT PRIORITIES	FEB 21
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2023 OSRP	APR 25
DRAFT 2023 OSRP REVIEW	JUN 20

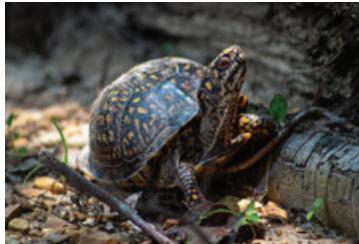
PUBLIC HEARING TIME AND LOCATIONS TO BE DETERMINED.

# Franklin's Unique Ecosystem Is Worth Preserving

Breeka Goodlander, Franklin's Conservation Agent, is busy working on getting Franklin town residents to voice their opinions

of what they see as special to the town. The wetlands scientist has a few opinions herself, however, as to what she thinks makes Franklin environmentally special.

"What I think makes Franklin most special is it has natural flood storage from the Charles River," says Goodlander, "From my standpoint, I think Franklin has this really great opportunity which many are already taking



The endangered box turtle has been found in some locales in Franklin. Photo by Joshua J. Cotton, Upsplash.com



Franklin will be installing Beaver Deceivers in an effort to work with beavers – ecosystem-supporting keystone species.

One such example of life Goodlander points out is that box turtles, an endangered species, have been found in Franklin.

"Box turtles take 15 years to reach their reproductive maturity," notes the scientist, of the significance of the find.

The presence of beavers in Franklin is also an exciting occurrence, from a scientific standpoint. Recently, Goodlander and Derek Adams, at the DPW, proposed installing a flow device into a beaver dam in town, and it was approved by the Conservation Commission.

"Because beavers are a keystone species. If you remove them, you can actually collapse an ecosystem. They actually help with biodiversity, so we want to work with them and not kill them," says Goodlander. The town will be installing two flow devices, Beaver Deceivers, within Dix Brook this spring and then a keystone fence at a culvert.

"It's a new movement, but I'm really happy people across the state are doing it," says Goodlander.

advantage of – to foster fresh water, foster the Charles by utilizing and protecting the natural resources when the Charles surges, when it has rain events. Everything in Franklin connects back to the Charles. To me, that is very special."

Goodlander talks about an event the town held last year that outlined all the vernal pools, what she called "the veins, all of the streams" leading to the Charles River.

"It was fascinating and exciting to hear residents say that all the streams led back to the Charles," says Goodlander, "Water is life!"

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# Porthouse Tax Advisors Offers Individualized Approach to Your Tax Needs

Are you prepared to handle issues with the IRS on your own? Do you have a lien, levy or garnishment on your wages? Are you a business with unpaid payroll taxes? Or are you just a procrastinator who's let things go way too long?

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 prob-

lems. 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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## FISH of Franklin: Volunteers Needed!

FISH of Franklin is an organization that provides rides to Franklin residents who need help getting to their medical appointments. You can help! Volunteers aged 21 and over are needed to:

- Drive Franklin residents to medical appointments; or
- Check phone lines Monday through Friday and match requests with rides.

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**CONVERSATION**

*continued from page 1*

- 81.1% School/Academic Expectations/Grades
- 37.2% Sports/Extra Curricular Activities
- 35.4% Friends/Relationships
- 26.7% Parents/Family

Following are some quotes from Franklin students responding to the poll:

- “Mental Health is affecting high school students at a bigger level than adults realize, and students everywhere are struggling. We need to get motivation and good study habits back after losing so many of these skills during remote learning.”
- “Students my age have very high expectations for themselves (social media, college, image, etc.) and are easily affected when teachers/

parents are really short/frustrated with them...It’s important to be careful and patient when talking to people about mental health and identity.”

- “Not every kid can function to the best of their ability everyday.”

The speaker for the event, Nicole Clermont, grew up in Franklin, Massachusetts raised by her mother Mary, father Chris, and two older brothers, Corey and Ryan. Nicole graduated from Franklin High School in 2018 as a 4-year Varsity Track and Field and Cross Country runner, serving as captain of Cross Country her Junior and Senior Year and captain of Track & Field her Senior year, with record-breaking stats.

During her time at FHS, Nicole was also a member of the Spanish National Honors Society, Peer Leader Group, 40% Club, and the S.A.F.E Coalition. Nicole attended Boston College, and

during her time on the Heights, Nicole was the 2019 USATF Junior National Cross Country Champion, earning her the opportunity to race for Team USA at the 2019 IAAF World Cross Country Championships. Nicole was a part of the BC Student Athlete Advisory Committee, as the Marketing and Communications director from 2019-2022. Nicole graduated from Boston College Magna Cum Laude in May 2022 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Applied Psychology and Human Development, and a minor in Philosophy. Nicole worked at the Hockomock YMCA as a camp counselor and the Director of Choose to Be Nice. Nicole is now pursuing her Masters in Theology at the University of Notre Dame as a part of the ECHO Graduate Service Program. Nicole currently works at St. Peter the Apostle Church in River Edge, NJ as a Faith Formation Associate as she pursues her Master’s degree.



Nicole Clermont will be the featured speaker at an upcoming Community Conversation on student mental health presented by the Franklin Public Schools Mental Health and Wellbeing Task Force. The event will take place March 9th at 7 p.m. at the Horace Mann Middle School auditorium.

# 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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# Lorraine (Nasuti) Spencer 'Earns' Boston Post Cane

This story first appeared and is used courtesy of *The Franklin Observer* (www.franklinobserver.town.news).

By ALAN EARLS

It's a New England tradition, dating back to 1909, begun as an expensive publicity stunt by the publisher of *The Boston Post* Newspaper. The paper awarded gold-headed canes to each municipality in the region, with instructions to award it to their eldest resident.

With occasional hiccups, Franklin has maintained the tradition, as have many other New England towns.

Thursday afternoon, it was the turn of Lorraine (Nasuti) Spencer, in a ceremony conducted at the Lydia Taft House, a rehabilitation and nursing center, located in Uxbridge, where she resides temporarily. The reception brought out about 20 family members and was presided over by Franklin Town Clerk Nancy Danello.

Danello, reading from a prepared statement, noted that Mrs. Spencer is Franklin's oldest resident, born May 11 1921.

"She'll be 102 in May. Mrs. Spencer was born here in Franklin on her family homestead on North Park Street, the youngest of 10 children. She has many fond memories of growing up here in Franklin during the Depression, including time spent at her family store, attending Franklin public schools and the many activities throughout the town



that she was involved in. Mrs. Spencer graduated from Franklin High School in 1939. After graduating she worked for many years in Walpole and aided in the war effort by making airplane parts.

"In 1954, Lorraine married Matthew Spencer, and together they raised seven children most still residing in Franklin. Sadly, Matthew passed away in 1972. Lorraine then began working at Dean Junior College, retiring in 1986. Mrs. Spencer has 16 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren who continue to share her love of cooking and follow her delicious Italian recipes, though never making it quite as good as she did.

Mrs. Spencer held the cane proudly and relinquished it after photos were taken, for safekeeping by the town.

State Rep. Jeff Roy also greeted Mrs. Spencer and offered souvenir greetings from the State House and his best wishes for her upcoming 102nd birthday, a remark that drew a look of incredulity from Mrs. Spencer.

Mrs. Spencer was attentive throughout the event but seemed a bit overwhelmed by all the attention and glad to settle in with family when the formalities were past.

Representative Roy told her he expected to be there for her 105th birthday. "A hundred and five," she exclaimed?



Town Clerk Nancy Danello and Rep. Jeff Roy are shown here with Franklin's current eldest resident, Lorraine (Nasuti) Spencer, who was presented the town's Boston Post Cane. Lorraine will turn 102 in a few months. Photo by Alan Earls.

## 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 McCall 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

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

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.

## Business spotlight

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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# College Accepted Students Day

The waiting game for many high school seniors is now over - the college admission letters have been posted and students can begin to explore their options! Now comes the challenging part. It is time for students to decide which college will be the right fit for them socially, academically, and financially. Attending the college's Accepted Students Day is a great way to help with the students' decision.

Accepted Students Day is designed to give potential new students an opportunity to take a closer look at the school, meet students who may enroll, and learn more about the academic program and the extra-curricular offerings. The special visit programs are offered at most colleges beginning in February through the end of April and are open to all admitted students. Many colleges will also host parent information sessions during the visit program. The event dates and details are easy to locate on the college's website. It is necessary to pre-register and the events often fill up quickly. Visiting the campus in-person is one of the best ways to determine if the school is the right fit for the student. Last year, I traveled with my nephew and his family to see one of his top choice colleges. On paper it was the perfect fit for him and he was convinced that he would be attending this college in the fall. When we left I asked him, "Can you see yourself here?" He said, "The kids look like they are having a ton

of fun - just not my type of fun!" He quickly removed the school from his list. The social fit is just as important as the academic fit. The number one reason college students transfer is for social reasons.

### A few Accepted Students Day Tips for the Students:

1. Come equipped to Accepted Students Day with your list of 4 or 5 "must haves" that you really want from your future college. What is important to you? Size of the school, proximity to home, residing in the middle of the city or near the mountains with a great college town, diversity, LG-BTQ+ friendly, academic interests, internships, fun weekend life, affordability, disability services, religion, and the list goes on.
2. With your list of top considerations, begin by finding out the pluses and minuses of each school. Take notes from each visit day and compare colleges. Location and size are key criteria that should be considered as well - is the college too far from home? Does the campus now feel too big? It would be difficult to find a school that embodies everything you want. Choose the college that fits your most important criteria.

3. The tables have turned - it is the college's turn to impress you. They will roll out the red carpet, but don't base your decisions on the amazing marching band that wowed the crowd! Dig deeper - attend a class, talk to financial aid, stay overnight with a student, talk to a professor in your major, eat in the dining hall, talk to students and ask what life on campus is like, drive through the local town, and ask about the safety protocol.
4. During the visit, ask yourself 3 questions : "Can I see myself thriving here academically and socially?" "Are my "people" here?", and "Does this college meet my family's financial budget?". You will feel much more confident with your decision.

This is one of the final steps before the student leaves for college. It is bittersweet. But Accepted Students Days are a wonderful opportunity to help families feel good about their student's final decision.

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

College 101 Admissions Consultants LLC. Website: [www.mycollege101.com](http://www.mycollege101.com). Email: [tracy@mycollege101.com](mailto:tracy@mycollege101.com). Phone: 508-380-3845.

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Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

## Second Sunday Speaker Series:

### History of Franklin Written in Stone: Stories from Union St. Cemetery



Just who were the prominent people and families who helped shape our town in the early days after incorporation? The Mann Family, Oliver Dean, the Rays, Thayers, Ponds, Metcalfs, Fishers, Fletchers, etc. Many of these families sent notable men into the world as well as many who leant high standards of service to our town. They're all resting peacefully in the Union Street Cemetery, and they all have a story to share. Come learn about their lives, their influence and see the beautiful monuments and gravestones that mark their life and passing.

Sunday  
March 12, 2023.  
Doors open at 1 p.m., presentation starts at

1:15 p.m. Admission is always free.

We're collecting paper towels to donate to the Franklin Food Pantry. Please consider making a donation. When you visit and make a purchase in our gift shop, run by the Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum you help support the museum and its programs.

The Franklin Historical Museum is located at 80 West Central St., Franklin.



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



Glenn Brown

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**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.

**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.

**5. 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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## Upcoming Franklin Performances

### 2023 Musical Theater Showcase

The Franklin School of Performing Arts hosts its annual Musical Theater Showcase at THE BLACK BOX on March 2nd with shows at 5, 6:30, and 8 p.m.

**Franklin High School All Town Showcase Concert**

(Chorus/Orchestra) on March 7th at 6 p.m. at the FHS Auditorium, 6 p.m.

**Franklin High School All Town Showcase Concert**

(Band) on March 8th, at 6 p.m., at the FHS Auditorium

#### Lord of the Flies

The Franklin High School Theater Company will be putting on two performances of *Lord of the Flies*, a production of William Goldman's novel about

schoolboys marooned on an uncharted island, adapted for the stage by Nigel Williams. Performances will be on March 3rd at 6pm and March 17th at 7pm. Tickets are available at <https://our.show/ej4z57g6>

#### Spectrum

The Franklin School of Performing Arts presents *Spectrum*, performed by the FSPA Ballet Conservatory, on April 1 at 7:30 p.m. and April 2 at 2 p.m. Under the direction of Cheryl Madeux, the students represent Gerald Arpino's *Viva Vivaldi*, *Western Revelries*, *Class Concert*, and *Contemporary works*.

#### Something Rotten!

The Franklin Performing Arts Company features *Something Rot-*

*ten*, a musical comedy about a pair of brothers attempting to write the world's first musical. Performances will take place at THE BLACK BOX on March 10, 11, and 12, and again on March 17, 18, and 19. For more information, visit <https://www.fpaonline.com/events.php?id=1596>

#### Violet

The Franklin Performing Arts Company features *Violet*, a musical about a girl struck by an axe blade who seeks out a miraculous healer to make her beautiful. Performances on June 9, 10, and 11. For more information, visit <https://www.fpaonline.com/events.php?id=1597>.

By JANE LEBAK



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# Rotary Senior Brunch Returns after 2-Year Hiatus

By CODY ROGERS

Saturday, February 11, was sunny and bright and, inside the community room at Central Park Terrace adjacent to the town's senior housing, the mood was decidedly festive.

For the fifth year running, the Franklin Rotary Club sponsored and served a Valentine's Day brunch that could only be described as sumptuous thanks to the Club's talents, in particular former president Dan Gentile, who is a passionate and practiced cook.

While the majority of the 50 or so seniors served were residents of the nearby homes, all seniors in town were invited, and many came, the reputation of

the event having been well established. The Rotary team, about 10 people in total, arrived just after 8 am to set up and decorate, providing favors at each table, holiday-themed table settings, and "age appropriate" music from a large sound system that had many humming along.

Gentile's signature ham and veggie frittatas took longer to cook than expected but no one seemed to mind – there was plenty of good company and laughter and conversation filled the air.

But when the dinner bell sounded, figuratively at least, everyone jumped to get in line. Fortunately, there was a lot to choose from: the two kinds of frittatas, French toast 'casserole' (with real maple syrup), bacon, fried potatoes, muffins, pastries, juices, and, of course, coffee. And there was plenty. So much, in fact, that the Rotary offered takeout containers to anyone wanting to continue their repast later.

Rotary member Diane Padula said her father, John Padula, had started the tradition of providing special meals for seniors and, she said, she and her sister take special pleasure in helping to continue the program, which also features a pasta extravaganza later in the year.

With its motto of Service Above Self, members of the Franklin Rotary meet at The Rome Restaurant on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m., and say "We welcome those who want to meet new friends while doing good in our communities."



The Franklin Rotary Club presented its Senior Valentine's Brunch at Central Park Terrace after a 2-year break due to the pandemic.



"Service Above Self" is the motto of the Rotary Club, which meets at the Rome Restaurant the first and third Tuesday's of each month at 5:30 p.m. Here are some glimpses of this year's Valentine's brunch.

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# The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

## PAWSitively Amazing!

By GINA WOELFEL

Everyone knows that our beloved four-legged friends bring us so much joy and love, but did you ever stop to think about how they make us look and feel? Our canine companions are always loyal, warm, and wildly goofy – all qualities that help them shine as the incredible furry friends we know and love. But it’s more than just their lovable personalities that keep drawing us back in; there is a real science behind why man’s best friend can quickly become our favorite confidant. Let’s take a closer look at why exactly our dogs make us look good, feel great, and smile even wider!



always said, “Dogs are my favorite people” and judging from her house full of them, we believe her!

Heather first started her rescue journey with Joanne Hutchinson, one of the three original founders of PAWS New England. I recently interviewed Joanne and she shared with me how PAWS began and where they are today.

“Paws New England started with a small group of women who saw the need for adoptable dogs in the New England area and an abundance of dogs in our southern shelters who were being euthanized for space only, a practice that’s, surprisingly, still in use today. Rescue was in its infancy 20 years ago, so we followed the lead of some of our predecessors and began rescuing dogs from the Memphis, TN area. We rescue abandoned, neglected, and abused dogs from high-kill shelters and desperate situations and provide them with vet care, behavioral training, boarding, food, medications, and anything our dogs and foster families need to succeed! We then bring them to New England where we place them in safe, loving homes.

Joanne shared with me a picture of “Jackson” (featured above), a Golden Retriever mix who came to PAWS with a severely injured leg in need of amputation. Through PAWS, Jackson received the care he needed and was placed in his forever home this past year. These are the kinds of stories that melt our hearts. Nothing compares to the feeling of coming home

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to our loyal, tail-wagging friends and their unconditional love. Heather Cohen and I have both adopted our pups from PAWS and there’s no denying how much joy they bring to our lives.

Joanne further explained just how far PAWS has come: “Fast forward to 2023 and we’re now sending approximately 10-15 dogs per week to adopters or foster homes, which are a critical part of our organization. We’re a volunteer operation and well known for accepting dogs who’ve been injured and abused into our program and, as such, donations are the only way we can continue to assist those dogs who need us the most. 98% of every dollar donated goes directly to our dogs. We even share our tax documents right on our website.”

b.LUXE wants every dog to have an amazing home where they feel safe, loved and adored.

We know you feel the same way about your beloved pooches and hope you’ll stop in this month and grab a few beauty products to help support PAWS New England!



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**PAWSITIVELY AMAZING FUNDRAISER:** For the entire month of March, b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio is donating 10% of our retail sales to PAWS New England! For every hair, skincare, makeup and tanning product sold, 10% goes directly to our friends at PAWS!

Leading the way in all this pooch affection is b.LUXE owner, Heather Cohen, who’s been a canine advocate and dog fosterer with Paws New England for the past 20 years. She’s

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# Broadway Stars take the FPAC Stage in Something Rotten!

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will present the hilarious musical comedy *Something Rotten!* running March 10-19 at THE BLACK BOX. Set in the 1590s, brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom are desperate to write a hit play, but are stuck in the shadow of that Renaissance rock star known as “The Bard.” When a local soothsayer foretells that the future of theatre involves singing, dancing, and acting at the same time, Nick and Nigel set out to write the world’s very first musical. But amidst the scandalous excitement of opening night, the Bottom Brothers realize that reaching the top means being true to thine own self, and all that jazz.

FPAC’s production stars NYC/LA’s Robbie Rescigno and Paul Rescigno as the Bottom Brothers, Christopher Rice-Thomson (*Hamilton*, *Book of Mormon*, *Pretty Woman*) as Shakespeare, Katie Gray as Bea, Ali Funkhouser as Portia, and Mi-



chael Barra (*The Greatest Showman*, *A Bronx Tale*) as Nostradamus.

The production directed by FPAC Artistic/Executive Director Raye Lynn Mercer will feature choreography by Broadway legend Tyler Hanes. Hanes was only 17 when he was discovered by Ann Reinking while attending Broadway Theater Project in Tampa, Florida. She cast him in the first national tour of the Tony Award winning musical, *Fosse*. Following the tour, he attended Carnegie Mellon University, leaving after a year to make

his Broadway debut in the 2002 Broadway revival of *Oklahoma!* Soon after, he appeared in the original Broadway companies of *Urban Cowboy*, *The Boy From Oz*, *The Frogs*, the 2005 revival of *Sweet Charity*, and as Larry in the original revival company of *A Chorus Line*. Hanes also appeared in the Broadway companies of *Hairspray* and the 2014 revival of *On The Town*. He starred as Rum Tum Tugger in the highly anticipated Broadway revival of *CATS*, which he was nominated for a Chita Rivera Award for Outstanding Male Dancer in a Broadway show.

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

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



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# Living Healthy

## 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 see. In our center, 100% of the surgeries are performed under topical simple anesthesia.

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

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

**6. What type of technology is available at your surgery facility?** Different centers have different equipment and resources. For instance, Massachusetts has only few centers offering laser-assisted bladeless cataract surgery. This should be an option if you want

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

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

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

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



# MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER



Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D.



John F. Hatch, M.D.



Bryan Hong, M.D.



Michael R. Adams, O.D.



Shalin Zia, O.D.



Donald L. Conn, O.D.



Dr. Mai-Khuyen Nguyen, O.D.



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# Living Healthy

## Coming Up at the Franklin Senior Center

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

Take a look at our February *Senior Connections* Newsletter (<https://www.franklinma.gov/franklin-senior-center/pages/connection-newsletter>) to see all the fun happenings at the Franklin Senior Center!

- Mobile Food Pantry on Wednesday March 8th at 11 a.m. Come to receive a bag of stable items, choice of protein, and dairy items
- Page Turners Book Club pairs up with Franklin High Schools' Book Club on Friday, March 10th at 2:30 p.m. to discuss *Daisy* and *The Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid
- Get Your Irish on at the Franklin Senior Center. The Franklin Fire Dept is back to cook you their favorite Corned Beef and Cabbage Meal and play BINGO on Wednesday, March 15th at 11:30 a.m. Franklin Residents have until March 3rd to sign up for this FREE meal, then reservations open to everyone else! Call to Register now (508) 520-4945
- Meet and Greet the new Senior Center Staff on Tuesday, March 21st at 9:30 a.m.
- Pizza and Movie Night: *A Walk in the Woods* starring Robert Redford, Nick Nolte, and Emma Thompson. Thursday, March 23rd. \$3/ person
- Rainbow Café: Are you a member or ally of the LGBTQ+ community? Come for conversation and friendship with like minded people on Tuesday, March 28th at 2:30 p.m.

Call the Franklin Senior center for more information and to sign up for programs today! (508) 520-4945

## \$38 M from Fed. Govt. to Address Contaminants like PFAS in MA Drinking Water

On February 13, 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced \$38,204,000 from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to address emerging contaminants, like Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in drinking water in Massachusetts. This investment, which is allocated to states and territories, will be made available to communities as grants through EPA's Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant Program and will promote access to safe and clean water in small, rural, and disadvantaged communities while supporting local economies.

"Too many American communities, especially those that are small, rural, or underserved, are suffering from exposure to PFAS and other harmful contaminants in their drinking water," said EPA Administrator Michael Regan. "Thanks to President Biden's leadership, we are investing in America and providing billions of dollars to strengthen our nation's water

infrastructure while safeguarding people's health and boosting local economies. These grants build on EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap and will help protect our smallest and most vulnerable communities from these persistent and dangerous chemicals."

"Today's grant announcement is one significant step in EPA's comprehensive PFAS Roadmap to support our state partners as we aggressively tackle PFAS in drinking water, protect public health, and provide critical information quickly and transparently," said EPA New England Regional Administrator and Co-Chair of EPA's Council on PFAS David W. Cash. "This funding from the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* will target resources to small or disadvantaged communities most in need of assistance and will speed up our important work reducing PFAS and other emerging contaminants in drinking water, especially in communities that are challenged by lack of capacity and funding."

"Clean drinking water should be a right, not a privilege, for all people across our Commonwealth. It's time to finally make PFAS 'forever chemicals' into 'never chemicals,'" said U.S. Senator Ed Markey. "Thanks to major investments in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the EPA can now take further steps to protect the health and safety of disadvantaged and rural communities from dangerous pollutants and aging infrastructure."

"Too many children and families in Massachusetts and across the country are unknowingly exposed to dangerous PFAS contaminants that can have devastating impacts on their health and well-being," U.S. Representative Jim McGovern said. "... Today's investment provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law brings us closer to securing safe drinking water for everyone. I look forward to seeing the many positive effects this money has on our Commonwealth's communities."

### CONTAMINANTS

*continued on page 22*

### EYES

*continued from page 14*

choice is still using stitches. 100% of our cataract procedures are stitch-free.

#### 10. What will be my vision on day 1 after the surgery?

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

Cataract surgery is all about better precision, more safety and excellent outcomes. At Milford Franklin Eye Center, Dr. Kaldawy is proud to have been the first surgeon in the area and among the first in Massachusetts to offer bladeless laser assisted cataract surgery and the first surgeon in the greater Boston area to implant the PanOptix and Vivivity lens implants. We have trained local and out-of-state surgeons on how to perform cataract surgery. We offer bladeless laser cataract surgery. We implant high quality premium lenses, with correction for distance, near and everything in between. Many cases of astigmatism are no longer a problem. Our percentage of posterior capsule complications and infections is one of the lowest in the Nation. No longer need to travel hours for your cataract surgery!

We operate in a state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford offering bladeless laser cataract surgery. Our surgery center passed certification and accreditation by the most rigorous State and National accreditation agencies. 100% of the surgeries are performed under topical anesthesia, so only drops, no need for shots and no need for stitches. Brand new gorgeous office in Franklin and 2 other locations in Milford and Millis. Over 30 thousand procedures performed and 7 providers with your interest in mind offering the best cost-efficient surgical care in an ambulatory surgery center closer to home.

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Thursday, March 30, 2023 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm  
 (doors open at 6:00 pm)

Guidrey Center, Dean College, Franklin, MA

**Featured Speaker** ————— **With Panelists** ————— **Moderated by**

**Michael Bobbitt**  
Executive Director,  
Mass Cultural Council

**Edward M. Augustus, Jr.**  
Chancellor,  
Dean College

**Carolyn Cole**  
Program Officer,  
Mass Cultural Council

**Erin Lynch**  
Executive Director,  
MetroWest Visitors Bureau

**Kaye Kelly**  
Professor,  
Berklee College of Music

## MetroWest Arts & Culture Symposium March 30th at Dean College

Franklin will hold its second MetroWest Arts & Culture Symposium at Dean College’s Guidrey Center, 99 Main Street in Franklin on March 30th, 2023, from 6 -9:30 p.m. The event will feature a riveting on-

stage conversation about how arts and culture can support our local economies, even during the most trying times. Speakers will include Michael Bobbitt, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Edward

M. Augustus, Jr., Chancellor of Dean College, Carolyn Cole, Program Officer Mass. Cultural Council, Erin Lynch, Executive Director of Metrowest Visitors Bureau, and Kaye Kelly, Professor, Berklee College of Music.

The event is open and free to all, but please register at:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/metrowest-arts-and-culture-symposium-tickets-513532669037>

## Franklin Knights of Columbus Scholarship Program 2023

The Knights of Columbus 1847 St. Mary Parish Franklin is accepting applications for *The Robert Simmler PGK, Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council Scholarships*. They are offering two scholarships one in the sum of \$3,000 and the second \$1,000 scholarship. The applicants must be registered members of St. Mary’s Parish in Franklin and must be graduating from High School in Spring 2023 and progressing onto their first year of study at a 2- or 4-year college/university. All interested applicants please submit a completed scholarship application postmarked on or before the application deadline of March 24, 2023

The application form is available from the banner on the St. Mary parish website [www.stmarysfranklin.org](http://www.stmarysfranklin.org) or on the Knights of Columbus website <https://www.kofc1847.org/>. Please fill in ALL information accurately and clearly, and then submit the completed application to:

Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council 1847  
 St Mary’s Parish c/o Michael Swan  
 38 Madison Ave. Franklin MA 02038

The scholarship recipients will receive payment upon completion of their 1st semester of studies and upon proof of enrollment in the 2nd semester.

If more information is needed please contact Mike Swan: (508) 404-4792.

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## Franklin, Bellingham Police Investigating Road Rage Incident

On February 17th, at approximately 5:15 pm the Franklin Police Department responded to the area of Washington Street by the Bellingham town line for a report of a road rage incident

involving a firearm. In partnership with the Bellingham, Mass. Police, it was determined a road rage incident occurred in Franklin where a suspect fired a firearm at another vehicle and fled

from the scene. There were no reported injuries. There is no threat to the public currently. This matter remains under investigation. No further information will be given at this time.

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## March Franklin Public Library Highlights

### ESL & Adult Literacy Program

The Franklin Public Library is starting an English as a Second Language and Adult Literacy Program to serve Franklin and surrounding communities. Volunteers and students do not need to be Franklin residents. If interested, please contact Assistant Library Director Kim Shipala at [kshipala@minlib.net](mailto:kshipala@minlib.net), or fill out the registration form on the library's website .

### Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

**SITE IS OPEN - By Appointment Only!** Register for an appointment at [www.franklinma.gov/franklin-public-library](http://www.franklinma.gov/franklin-public-library) on the Library Calendar of Events! The Franklin Public Library VITA site is by appointment only and is certified for Basic returns. This program provides free tax help to people who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns, including:

- People who generally make \$60,000 or less
- Persons with disabilities; and
- Limited English-speaking taxpayers

### Special Events for Kids & Families

#### Kids Take & Makes: Rainbow Twirler!

Starting Wednesday, March 1st stop by the library to pick up your very own Rainbow Twirler kit! First come, first serve!

#### Leprechaun Scavenger Hunt! March 13-March 17

Can you find the mischievous leprechaun hiding in the library? Drop in at any point during the week of St. Patrick's Day and follow the clues to win your share of the treasure!

#### Girl Power Engineering Night! Wednesday March 22 @ 5:30 p.m.

Join Girl Scout troop #62394 and learn about women engineers! Then join in on the marshmallow toothpick tower contest!

#### The Very Hungry Caterpillar Day! Friday March 24 @ 2:30 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of caterpillar craziness! We'll have games, crafts, and more!

#### Tape Town! Saturday March 25 @10:30 a.m.

Families! Join us as we turn our big program room into an indoor summer oasis! Grab a cold drink and hit the play sand, enjoy beach balls, sandcastles, snacks, and groovy tunes!

#### Special Events for Teens

##### Teen Take & Makes: Lots O' Luck Plaque!

Starting Wednesday, March 1st stop by the library to pick up

your very own Lots O' Luck kit. Kits will be distributed on a first come first serve basis!

#### Navigating College Admissions in 2023! Wednesday March 15 @7 p.m.

A virtual seminar for all high school students and their parents. Join Ron Feuchs and Jackie Tepper, from Stand Out For College, LLC. as they help you understand how the lingering effects from the pandemic have changed the college admissions landscape. For the zoom link, email Bree at [bcomeau@minlib.net](mailto:bcomeau@minlib.net).

#### Popcorn and a Play! Wednesday Mar 22 @6:30 p.m.

Teens! Join us for an evening of snacks and acting!

#### Events for Adults

##### Mid-Week Reset Wednesday March 1st 7 p.m. No registration required.

Join us for a mid-week breather at our guided meditation. This event is open to all levels and no prior experience is required.

##### Historical Sites of Massachusetts Series March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 12:00 PM Virtual Events

Brought to you with Tewksbury Public Library Enjoy a Luncheon Talk on Multiple topics from our National Parks Service! Presentations are:

March 1: 'Olmsted's Life & Legacy' by Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/1216757242761/WN\\_Vw-FcvdvHSquShJu5rg6s7A](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/1216757242761/WN_Vw-FcvdvHSquShJu5rg6s7A)

March 8: 'Past & Present Here Unite' by Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/5016757242878/WN\\_GM-J6VZ8iQWm-Ahj5XwUFzQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/5016757242878/WN_GM-J6VZ8iQWm-Ahj5XwUFzQ)

March 15: 'Explore The Black Heritage Trail' by Boston African American National Historic Site

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/8916757242975/WN\\_8\\_5PCIFxTQe-Z91evD-pvIQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/8916757242975/WN_8_5PCIFxTQe-Z91evD-pvIQ)

March 22: 'Stories from The Whaling Port' by New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/7216757243070/WN\\_i5r2HklqSICEtQ8qi6zi6g](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/7216757243070/WN_i5r2HklqSICEtQ8qi6zi6g)

March 29: 'From Beals St. To The White House' by John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/2816757243159/WN\\_d8CYB3VITFalQwewDwpC4Q](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/2816757243159/WN_d8CYB3VITFalQwewDwpC4Q)

#### YA Book Adult Club (for adults!) Tuesday, March 7th 7 p.m.

No registration required.

March Book: *Improbable Magic for Cynical Witches* by Kate Scelsa

#### Peonies: Love of My Life March 7th 7 p.m.

No registration required.

Go back in time to the origin of peonies and learn a bit about their history. The "how to" part of this presentation will teach you to select, install, care for, and divide these beautiful and much-loved plants. Lead by Christine Paxhia; Milton Garden Club Member, Master Gardener, and Garden Club of America Photography Judge.

#### Irish in America Concert March 11th 3 p.m.

A musical journey celebrating the 'Irish in America', for all ages! Irish immigrants captured the heart of the nation with their mix of Irish jigs, ballads, folk songs, storytelling, and humor.

#### An America Divided March 14 7 p.m. Virtual Event

Join Emma Green in this exploration of the ways that Americans are divided - politi-

cally, religiously, economically, communities, and even families. What has caused these ruptures and what are some ways for us to come back together?

RSVP at [https://us06web.zoom.us/join/3316717232220/WN\\_w2fjNmER0-OLQzFdkqx-A](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/3316717232220/WN_w2fjNmER0-OLQzFdkqx-A)

#### Cassatt & Company: The Women Impressionists March 20 3 p.m. Virtual Event

You've heard of Monet, Renoir, and Degas. Leading men of the Impressionism movement, but what about the women? Join us online for a journey of discovery with Jane Oneail through the works of Marie Bracquemond, Berthe Morisot, and more!

RSVP at [https://us06web.zoom.us/join/3216757052274/WN\\_2IsBq\\_WPQn6f3K1FxFH-by6g](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/3216757052274/WN_2IsBq_WPQn6f3K1FxFH-by6g)

#### Board Game Group, Tuesday, March 21st 6:30 p.m.

All ages welcome! No registration required!

#### Sustainable Edible Landscaping March 25 11 a.m.

Join Naturalist and Landscaper John Root to learn about the variety of beautiful and edible plants that are hardy for our region of the world. Begin your more sustainable, eco-friendly yard adventure here! Want to listen in? Join over zoom on the Calendar of Events at [www.franklinma.gov/franklin-public-library](http://www.franklinma.gov/franklin-public-library)

#### Community Conversations! Thursday March 30 @6 p.m.

Folks of all ages are welcome! This month's topic: Food Insecurity!

#### Genealogy Club, Thursday, March 30, 6:30 p.m.

DNA & Endogamy: Making sense when your matches don't make sense, with Dr. Adina Newman. First floor meeting room, near School St. entrance.

**Zoom option:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82256936182?pwd=VmE5YTFkUzlwVWVTVvMmxjTWtrS2t3QT09>

#### Chess Group, Sundays, 2-4:30 p.m.

All ages and ability levels are welcomed.

#### Book Sale

##### Franklin Library Book Sale

Friday, March 17, 1-5 p.m., Saturday, March 18, 9 a.m. - noon

##### Bag Sale - \$5 A Bag—Saturday, March 18, from 1-4 p.m.



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# Not Just for Newcomers . . .

Come join your Franklin friends and neighbors at the Franklin Newcomers and Friends Club March Meeting. This month we're having a game night . . . come have fun, socialize and get to know new friends.

Join us at Escape Into Fiction Book Store, 12 Main Street, Franklin on Wednesday, March 8th at 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Come early and browse/shop the store or grab a bite beforehand nearby. No need to be a newcomer to the area, come make connections in your community.

We are a multi-generational, member-driven organization, offering a wide range of activities, and are always excited to welcome new faces and new ideas. Residents of Franklin, or any surrounding town that doesn't have a Newcomers Club, are welcome to join us.

We are so thankful for the generosity and kindness that April Rock, Owner, Escape Into Fiction, has bestowed on us this year. She's more than humble so it might not be known to you how generous she is to our community. Teachers especially should know that she keeps a Teacher Wish List at the register. All Teachers are welcome to sign up. If you are a teacher, April is an amazing resource for you and your classroom.

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

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



## LiveARTS Presents ...

*A Young Artist Showcase, March 12, 3 p.m.*

LiveARTS presents a *Young Artist Showcase*, featuring students of Victor Rosenbaum, and members of the Schubert Club and the Chaminade Clubs of Attleboro and Providence, RI. The performance takes place at First Universalist Society of Franklin, 262 Chestnut St. Visit [www.liveartsma.org](http://www.liveartsma.org) for information.

## BankNewport Names Pamela LaBreche

*Vice President, Business and Commercial Lending Officer*

**NEWPORT, R.I.** - BankNewport is pleased to announce that Pamela LaBreche has been named vice president, business and commercial lending officer. In her new role, LaBreche is responsible for working with the Bank's branch managers, residential lending officers, merchant services and cash management partners to assist business clients throughout Rhode Island in achieving their financial goals.

Prior to joining BankNewport, LaBreche was vice president, business development officer for the Northeast region at Citibank, where she specialized in healthcare practice finance. She also served as vice president, business development officer at Navigant Credit Union in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

A native of Franklin, Massachusetts, Pamela resides in Cumberland, Rhode Island.

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

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# The Friends of Franklin Library

## Friends of Franklin Library Awards Scholarship

Gwenne Balcius has won The Friends of Franklin Library Scholarship in Memory of Wilma Winters. Balcius, a 2022 Franklin High School graduate, received \$1,000 toward the cost of her college education.

Balcius was selected as the contest winner based on her essay about someone who inspired her. Rather than identify a lone individual, Balcius wrote about the many librarians she encountered during her military family's moves from California to Virginia to Massachusetts.

"I ask you to consider the collective influence of every librarian I crossed paths with over the course of my life ... the librarians with their subtle encouragement as I checked out mountains of books in Carlsbad, the librarian who became one of my first friends in Chesapeake, and the librarians who helped me feel at home in a place I knew I wouldn't stay long," Balcius wrote in her winning essay.

Now in her first year at Clark University in Worcester, Balcius is studying education with plans to pursue an advanced degree in library science. Her goal is to one day become a librarian as inspiring as the ones who influenced her along her own journey.

"In 2022, we received over 30 applications to review and essays to read," said Lisa Rein, president of FoFL's board. "The prompt we chose this past year reflects the continuing challenges from a pandemic and the heroes who help us navigate difficult situations. Gwenne's essay was so heartfelt and aligned well with her affection for libraries and the librarians who work there."

The Friends of Franklin Library, an independent, non-profit organization committed to supporting the Franklin Public Library, established its scholarship program in 2014. The annual scholarship is part of several efforts undertaken to honor the late Wilma Winters, a longtime



Members of the Friends of Franklin Library's board recently presented Gwenne Balcius, left, with a check for winning the Friends' annual essay contest.

Franklin resident and library supporter. Winters, who had a long career in higher education, worked for many years as a librarian, including at Boston University Medical School

and Harvard's School of Public Health. She spent her retirement years volunteering at the Franklin Public Library.

The scholarship program has assisted college-bound Frank-

lin students in each of the past eight years. It will be awarded again this year to a member of the Class of 2023. Essay entries will be coordinated through the school's guidance department.

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# Ballet Franklin at FSPA to present "Spectrum"

Ballet Franklin, the ballet conservatory at the Franklin School for the Performing Arts, under the direction of Cheryl Madeux, will present "Spectrum" a diverse program of ballet repertoire at THE BLACK BOX on April 1 and 2.

The Ballet Franklin students will present Gerald Arpino's Viva Vivaldi, Western Revelries, Class Concert, and Contemporary works. In addition to choreography by Cheryl Madeux, a former dancer with American Ballet Theatre, Joffrey Ballet, and Hartford Ballet, the concert features Donna Bonasera's fun an energetic ballet "Western Revelries." Ms. Bonasera is best known in the dance world for training dancers of the highest level technique, including Ms. Madeux,

and her memorial choreography for both the ballet and musical theatre stage. She received her diploma from the Russian Choreographic Schools in Russia and is constant evolving and developing proper dance training programs based on the Vagnova Method of Classical Dance and Music Theatre.

Ballet Franklin offers the highest quality of classical ballet education and training in the area. They also provide their dancers with a wide variety of performance opportunities for all ages and levels interested in the study of classical ballet. Ballet Franklin graduates and students have been accepted to some of the most prestigious trainee, college, and summer ballet programs available.



The scope of the curriculum provides unparalleled opportunities for dancers to pursue programs tailored to their inter-

ests, abilities, and needs. From beginner students seeking to establish a solid foundation in classical ballet technique, to advanced dancers focused on refining artistry, musicality, and performance qualities, all will find a home to train, grow, and develop at Ballet Franklin.

Every student is encouraged to audition for FPAC Holiday Productions' *The Nutcracker*, which is performed with a professional orchestra and special guest artists, such as Boston Ballet Principals Erica Cornejo and Paulo Arrais and Soloists Dalay Parrondo and Bradley Schlagheck. Conservatory dancers have the extra opportunity to participate in Ballet Franklin's Spring Ballet Production as well as audition for FSPA ensembles

and dance company opportunities offered throughout the year. The programs are designed to expand knowledge of the classics and explore contemporary ballet and original works by faculty or guest artists. Past Spring Ballet productions have included *Alice in Wonderland*, Prokofiev's *Cinderella Suite*, *Coppelia*, *Graduation Ball*, Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, *Les Patineurs*, and Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*. Repertory Concerts include classical and contemporary original works.

For "Spectrum" tickets and more information on Ballet Franklin, the ballet conservatory at the Franklin School for the Performing Arts, visit [balletfranklin.com](http://balletfranklin.com) or call (508) 528-8668.

## Adopt-A-Hydrant

Great neighbors do great things...like adopting a fire hydrant during the winter months! The Franklin Department of Public Works has created a program that gives residents the opportunity to help the Fire Department ensure hydrants are clear and visible after a snow storm. If you happen to have a neighbor who you know is unable to clear a hydrant near their property themselves, you can let DPW know, and they will mark it as high priority on the map. Community service hours are also available. Learn more about the Adopt-A-Hydrant program at <https://www.franklinma.gov/water-sewer-division/pages/adopt-hydrant> and sign up today!



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**CONTAMINANTS**

*continued from page 15*

“Families in Massachusetts’ Fifth District know all too well the reality and risks of PFAS contamination,” said U.S. Representative Katherine Clark. “I am proud to have joined President Biden and Democrats in Congress in securing transformative resources to combat this crisis through our historic Infrastructure Law. This latest investment will soon be put to work detecting and removing pollutants – helping ensure that every Massachusetts family has access to clean, safe drinking water.”

“The Healey-Driscoll Administration is grateful for this important funding from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This will support the ongoing work to ensure clean and safe drinking water in small and disadvantaged communities,” said Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “Massachusetts leads the nation in addressing PFAS contamination and supporting local water

suppliers and this federal investment will continue the Commonwealth’s efforts to protect the public health.”

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$5 billion over five years to help communities that are on the frontlines of PFAS contamination reduce PFAS in drinking water. EPA announced the funds for Massachusetts as part of an allotment of \$2 billion to states and territories that can be used to prioritize infrastructure and source water treatment for pollutants, like PFAS and other emerging contaminants, and to conduct water quality testing.

EPA is also releasing the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant Implementation document. The implementation document provides states and communities with the information necessary to use this funding to address local water quality and public health challenges. These grants will enable communities to improve local water infrastructure and reduce emerging contaminants in drinking water by implementing

solutions such as installing necessary treatment solutions.

Today’s actions represent a significant milestone within the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitments to combat PFAS pollution and safeguard drinking water, and specifically EPA’s October 2021 PFAS Strategic Roadmap. Under the Roadmap, EPA is working across the agency to protect the public from the health impacts of PFAS. EPA has taken a number of actions to deliver progress on PFAS including:

- **Proposing to designate two PFAS as CERCLA hazardous substances.** If finalized, this will be a critical step toward increasing transparency around releases of PFAS and holding polluters accountable for cleaning up their contamination.
- **Releasing drinking water health advisories.** Acting in accordance with EPA’s mission to protect public health and keep communities and public health authorities informed when new science becomes available, the

Agency issued drinking water health advisories for four PFAS.

- **Laying the foundation to enhance data on PFAS.** This included an order under EPA’s National PFAS Testing Strategy requiring companies to conduct PFAS testing, and nationwide sampling through the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule for 29 PFAS in public drinking water systems .
- **Expanding the scientific understanding of PFAS.** The Agency issued more than 30 scientific publications by EPA researchers and released EPA’s PFAS Thermal Treatment Database.
- **Translating the latest science into EPA’s cross-agency PFAS efforts.** This included updating EPA’s contaminated site cleanup tables, developing new PFAS methods and conducting toxicity assessments, and issuing draft national recommended water quality criteria to protect aquatic life.

- **Continuing engagement with the public.** EPA’s PFAS work was informed by public webinars, stakeholder meetings, Congressional testimony, and engagement with EPA’s federal advisory committees.

In addition to this new grant, EPA is also working to propose a PFAS NPDWR in the coming weeks. The draft proposed rule is currently undergoing interagency review and EPA will issue the proposed rule for public comment when it clears the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The agency anticipates finalizing the rule by the end of 2023.



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## Interfaith Teen Climate Group Joins Mass Youth Climate Coalition at State House

Our interfaith climate group from Franklin travelled to Boston for a march and rally on February 7th. We also met with Rep. Jeff Roy's chief of staff to speak about several bills that need support in the legislature this session. Check out:

<https://www.wvlp.com/news/state-politics/high-school-students-advocate-for-climate-justice-at-state-house/>

All are welcome to our next meeting on Sunday, March 5th at 7 p.m. at St John's Episcopal Church, 237 Pleasant Street in Franklin.

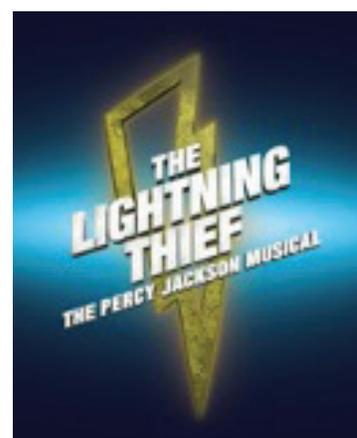
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## Join Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School for *The Lightning Thief*, *The Percy Jackson Musical* March 3&4

The Fine and Performing Arts Department at the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School is pleased to announce upcoming performances of "*The Lightning Thief*, *The Percy Jackson Musical*" to be held in the school's Learning Commons at 500 Financial Park in Franklin.

Performances will be held on Friday, March 3rd from 7-9:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 4th from 2-4:30 p.m. and March 4th from 7-9:30 p.m. The public is invited and welcomed to attend the show! Tickets are priced at \$17 for adults and \$13 senior citizens and students. Tickets are available online at [www.bfccps.org](http://www.bfccps.org).

"As the half-blood son of a Greek god, Percy Jackson has newly-discovered powers he can't control, a destiny he doesn't want, and a mythology textbook's worth of monsters on his trail. When Zeus's master lightning bolt is stolen and Percy becomes the prime suspect, he has to find and return the bolt to prove his innocence and prevent a war between the gods. But to succeed on his quest, Percy will have to do more than



catch the thief. He must travel to the Underworld and back; solve the riddle of the Oracle, which warns him of betrayal by a friend; and come to terms with the father who abandoned him. Adapted from the best-selling book *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan and featuring a thrilling original rock score, 'The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical' is an action-packed mythical adventure "worthy of the gods" (Time Out New York).

The production is under the direction of BFCCPS's Fine and Performing Arts Director

Mr. Christopher Heater with a cast comprised of 32 students in grades Six through Eight. The cast is supported by a live orchestra and a dedicated 23-member backstage student crew.

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School has been in operation since 1995 and provides a well-rounded, rigorous academic program designed to educate the whole child. BFCCPS's educational philosophy, which is centered around strong core academic subjects, as well as yearlong courses in art, music, languages, technology, and physical education, integrated character education and community service, and strong parent partnerships, has led to local, state and national recognition.

If you'd like to learn more about the educational mission of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School please contact the school's Marketing Coordinator, Joanne Basile, at [jbasile@bfccps.org](mailto:jbasile@bfccps.org) or (508) 541-3434 x140.

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# Fisher College Announces Educational Partnership with Big Y

## Employees and Families Offered Discounted Tuition Rates & Online Courses

(Boston, MA.) - The Fisher College Graduate Professional Studies (GPS) department is proud to announce its educational corporate partnership with Big Y Foods, Inc., a grocery chain of stores committed to making a difference in the surrounding communities.

Through its Corporate Advantage Program (CAP), Fisher College will offer online courses to employees of Big Y Foods, Inc. to provide them with new skills and knowledge to help strengthen their company. Fisher College will offer discounted tuition rates for Big Y Foods, Inc. employees and their immediate family members and will work to identify courses and develop programs that fit within the needs of Big Y Foods, Inc.

"We are excited to partner with Fisher College and offer our employees a tremendous opportunity to further their education. We strive to offer various benefits to our employees and look forward to sharing this newest collaboration," said Aimee Diliberto, Manager of Employee Experiences.

"Big Y is one of the biggest and most respected companies in the Commonwealth, and we welcome their employees and their families to Fisher College and look forward to helping them expand upon their educational and professional goals," said Steve Rich, President, Fisher College.

The Big Y Foods, Inc. partnership follows a list of Fisher College corporate educational partnerships that allows a gen-

erous reduction in tuition in the GPS Online Division for their employees and their immediate family members.

- **Spectrum Health Systems, Inc.** is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals impacted by substance use and/or mental health disorders.
- **Victory Programs, Inc. of Boston** is a nonprofit company that has been helping individuals and families in crisis for almost for nearly 50 years.
- **Eliot Community Human Services** operates in 95 locations in Massachusetts. Its mission and organizational philosophy are guided by compassion, respect, and dignity for its employees and the people they serve. Their 2,000-plus employees help

over 50,000 families and individuals each year and provide state-of-the-art, evidence-based programming and services.

- **Visiting Nurse Associations of New England (VNANE)** is a membership association and the largest network of home health care providers in the northeast.
- **NWN Carouse!** is the leading Cloud Communications Service Provider (CCSP) delivering integrated Hybrid Work experiences for the top 5,000 education, commercial, enterprise, and public sector organizations across North America.
- **Cataldo Ambulance**, headquartered in Somerville, is the largest 911 responder in Massachusetts.

• **High Point & Affiliated Organizations** is a health and human service agency whose mission is to treat and prevent substance use disorders and mental illness.

• **Walden Behavioral Care** is an affiliate program of Monte Nido & Affiliates that offers specialized eating disorder support at all levels of care for individuals of all genders.

• **Riverside Community Care** is a community-based nonprofit organization serving more than 40,000 people a year in Massachusetts, offering a wide range of innovative and compassionate behavioral healthcare and human services.

# VOAMASS Expands Leadership Team with Three Key Appointments

Volunteers of America of Massachusetts (VOAMASS), a Jamaica Plain nonprofit that creates opportunities for individuals through residential and outpatient behavioral health treatment, re-entry for justice-involved individuals, veteran services and senior living, today announced the expansion of its leadership team with the appointment of Erin Donohue Lanzo as Chief Strategy and External Relations Officer; promotion of Mindy Miller to Chief Operating Officer; and hiring of Kellie Caldwell, of Franklin, Mass. as Vice President of Human Resources.

"These three key appointments add to the depth and ex-

perience of the senior leadership at VOAMASS," said President and CEO Charles Gagnon. "Individually, Erin, Kellie and Mindy are exceptional leaders and people. Together on the VOAMASS executive team their creativity, strategic insight and institutional knowledge will carry us forward ensuring that we are continuously building on the high-quality, compassionate, person-centered services offered by VOAMASS."

Donohue Lanzo, a trained social worker, has two decades of experience in the behavioral health and social services sectors, will direct and implement strategy for the agency and lead

its communications, public affairs and development programs. She joins VOAMASS after 10 years with the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP), most recently leading communications and special projects.

In this newly created position, Donohue Lanzo is responsible for managing public relations, marketing and events, and oversees a comprehensive development program, which includes grant writing and fundraising. The role also has significant responsibilities in the areas of human resources, volunteer recruitment and management, payer relationships and corporate partnerships.

As COO, Miller, who has been with VOAMASS since 2011, uses her years of programmatic and operational leadership experience to oversee program planning, development and implementation across multiple service areas, including residential treatment, outpatient behavioral health, veteran services, and re-entry. This includes the implementation and compliance for a diverse portfolio of state contracts and federal grants.

Prior to becoming COO, Miller served as Vice President of Integrated Services and was responsible for the integration of behavioral health services

throughout the organization; configuring the agency's electronic health record system; guiding VOAMASS as a trauma-informed care organization; and continued implementation of evidence-based practices.

Miller was honored this spring with a 2022 National Leadership Award from Volunteers of America. She earned a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Colorado, a Master's Degree in Forensic Psychology from Roger Williams University, and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Mental Health Counseling from Bridgewater State University. She is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) and Licensed Substance Use Disorder Counselor (LADC1).

As Vice President of Human Resources, Caldwell plays an integral role in shaping, changing, and reinforcing agency culture. Her goals are to create a positive employee experience and to equip leaders to develop teams providing excellent and compassionate care to all of the 3,500-plus individuals served by the organization. Before joining VOAMASS, Caldwell spent over 15 years with human services nonprofit South Middlesex Opportunity Council in Framingham, working her way up through a series of administrative and leadership roles, most recently serving as Senior Director of Human Resources.

Caldwell is a member of the Society of Human Resources Management.

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## The Millis Cultural Council Presents The Art of Living Festival

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# Sports

## Outright State Hoop Title Would Suit Peterson

### Franklin High All-Star a Quality Captain

By KEN HAMWEY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Winning a state basketball championship outright this month would be the perfect outcome for the Franklin High girls basketball program. And it would also be a welcomed achievement for Katie Peterson.

A 6-foot quick forward, Peterson was a freshman call-up in 2020 when the Panthers compiled a 26-0 record and were one victory away from a state title. All they had to do was defeat Andover, but the Division 1 matchup was canceled because of the coronavirus. All the other state finals also were called off. Favored to win the title, Franklin had to settle for co-champion status.

A year later, in 2021, the virus turned into a pandemic. All schools played an abbreviated schedule, and there were no playoffs. Peterson played meaningful minutes as the Panthers finished at 10-0. Then, as a junior in 2022, Peterson led the squad to decisive victories over Braintree and Lincoln-Sudbury in the early rounds of the tourney. A clash against Springfield Central, however, ended any title thoughts as FHS lost, 61-42.

A dynamic midfielder in lacrosse, Peterson, who's earned a scholarship to play lacrosse at UMass-Amherst, again experienced disappointment. The Panthers lost by a goal in the state title game against Westwood, 10-9, when she was a sophomore, and last year the Panthers lost in the round of eight to Lincoln-Sudbury.

Five legitimate chances to claim a state crown ended with only a co-championship.

"We had quality teams my first three years in basketball," Peterson said. "We had players who were talented and invested in the game. Last year was disappointing. We worked so hard in practice and in games, and to see it end earlier than we expected was a tough pill to swallow. Three years ago, we were all prepared for the final, but it never happened."

Losing to Westwood in lacrosse was difficult, because the Wolverines captured the state

crown by scoring in the final 10 seconds. Peterson, however, remains optimistic that Franklin will again be a prime contender for a state title in basketball.

"My team goals at the start of the year were to dominate the Kelley-Rex Division, win that crown, then go deep in the tourney and strive to win it," said the 17-year-old Peterson, who's a co-captain. "Winning it all is a realistic goal. We started the season as a young team with potential and a strong work ethic. Now, we've become a close-knit group with good team chemistry."

The Panthers' record at *Local Town Pages* deadline was 15-2 and they clinched the Kelley-Rex Division championship.

A Hockomock League all-star last year, Peterson averaged 15 points and 7 rebounds a game as a junior. "My personal goals at the start of this season were to be an all-star again, average a double-double, increase my rebound numbers and be a captain who leads on and off the court and who is supportive and communicative. To repeat as an all-star would mean I'm helping my team benefit."

At *Local Town Pages* deadline, Peterson was averaging 15.7 points and 8.8 rebounds a game. She was scoring at a 53 percent clip inside the three-point arc.

Coach John Leighton labels Peterson as "an all-around competitor with lots of grit."



Franklin High's Katie Peterson, who can play either forward position, is a very capable jump shooter.

"Katie can score from the perimeter or inside, and she rebounds effectively," he said. "She also does all the ugly stuff (blocks, steals, assists and deflections). She drives well and can shoot threes. In practice, there's no letup. She wants to win every possession. Her high basketball IQ, mental toughness and instinctive nature make her a special player."

Peterson, who can also play power forward, relies on an aggressive, up-tempo style.

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

Peterson's favorite competition came against Oliver Ames last year.

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

When it comes to being calm in key situations, Peterson is a fan of Bridget Leo, a senior point guard who's also a captain, praising her teammate's whole court play, aggressive style and great



Franklin High's Katie Peterson will be playing lacrosse next year for UMass-Amherst

passing and finishing and also calling Leo "a great teammate and leader."

Peterson, who has a 4.5 GPA, plans to major in business at UMass. She earned a scholarship for lacrosse, and besides being a midfielder, she can also play as an attack or defender.

Peterson has high praise for Leighton and lacrosse coach Kristin Igoe.

"Coach Leighton is a great motivator who pushes us to be competitive and to work hard every day," Peterson said. "He puts in so much time and effort to help us improve. Coach Igoe is also a good motivator who cares about her players and helps them get to a higher level."

Relying on an athletic philosophy that focuses on winning, reaching one's potential and having fun, Peterson says "what's important is to work as hard as possible to get results."

Valuable life lessons can be learned in athletics and Peterson lists three that she's embraced. "Sports have helped me to sharpen my leadership skills and my work ethic," she emphasized. "Another key is learning how to handle challenges."

Katie Peterson has a plethora of skills but it's her passion to compete that will be a major plus in the tourney. She wants the opportunity for the girls' basketball team to complete some unfinished business and win a state championship outright.

4

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## Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School Names Franklin Student Sabra Flanagan Class of 2023 Valedictorian,

The Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School District is pleased to announce the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2023. Sabra Flanagan, of Franklin, has been named Valedictorian, and Jennifer Kalick, of North Attleboro, has been named Salutatorian.

Tri-County's Valedictorian, Sabra, is a Legal and Protective Services student and maintains the highest cumulative GPA of 4.457. Sabra has challenged herself throughout her high school career by including both Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses in her academic schedule. Since her junior year, she her schedule has included one-hundred percent honors and AP level classes. During her junior year, Sabra was awarded with the Certificate for Academic Excellence in Science and a Certificate

in Vocational Excellence in Legal and Protective Services.

In addition to mastering rigorous academic classes, Sabra can be found playing Varsity Soccer in the fall and as the Captain of the Varsity Lacrosse team in the spring. She also interns at the Clerk's Office at the Wrentham District Court to gain hands-on experience in the Legal and Protective Field.

Sabra is looking forward to pursuing a degree in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Tri-County's Salutatorian, Jennifer Kalick, maintains a cumulative 4.43 GPA as a Health Careers student. Jennifer secured her spot on the High Honor Roll for both freshman and sophomore year and the Honor Roll her junior year. She also serves as a National Honor Society mem-

ber since her junior year. Jennifer received the Certificate for Academic Excellence in Social Studies her junior year.

While maintaining a demanding academic schedule, Jennifer has earned real-world experience at The Village at Willow Crossings as a Resident Care Associate in Mansfield, MA. Here her numerous certifications which include: Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), COVID-19 Caregiver, Alzheimer's Association Person Centered Dementia Care, American Heart Association Heartsaver First Aid CPR/AED help her excel in her position.

Jennifer plans to pursue a degree in Nursing from Penn State University.

"Sabra and Jennifer embody the Tri-County motto, 'Work Hard, Today Counts.' They strive for excellence each day



whether in the classroom or in the community. We are proud to recognize their hard work and dedication which has earned them top spots in their class," said Karen Maguire, Superintendent.

As Valedictorian and Salutatorian, Sabra and Jennifer will lead the graduation procession and are scheduled to address their classmates at the Commencement Ceremony scheduled for Thursday, June 8, 2023.

## Milford Regional Names Anthony Consigli Incoming Chair

More than 125 people attended Milford Regional Medical Center's January 23 Annual Meeting of the Corporation, held via Zoom. In addition to discussing the recent challenges within the healthcare care industry and Milford Regional's Year in Review, the hospital's 2023 Milford Regional Medical Center and Milford Regional Physician Group Board of Trustees

officers were introduced by outgoing Board chair Laura Mann.

"These are difficult times for hospitals everywhere and having involved and dedicated Board members to assist the leadership of the hospital is so very critical," said Mann, who served on the Board for the last nine years and was the first woman chair. "I'm proud of the steps the Board has taken in recent years to diversify

and involve so many new community members and the success of our hospital is the result of the hard work of our employees, our leadership and the Board."

The 2023 Milford Regional Medical Center and Milford Regional Physician Group Board of Trustees slate of officers include Chair Anthony M. Consigli (Consigli Construction Co., Inc.), Vice Chair Brian J. Earley (NPP Development/Kraft Group), Clerk Denise Brookhouse (Koopman Lumber Company), and Treasurer Gordon A. Lewis III (Altman and Company).

Consigli is the chief executive officer of Consigli Construction Co., Inc., one of the largest general contractors in the northeast and headquartered in Milford. He has served on the Milford Regional Medical Center and Milford Regional Physician Group Board of Trustees since 2019 and on the Milford Regional Healthcare Foundation Board of Trustees from 2004 through 2016. Recently, Consigli and his wife, Susan, chaired the hospital's Mélange 2022 Gala benefit, which raised a record-breaking \$1.1 million.

"I'm very proud to be serving as Board chair," Consigli said. "Milford Regional is fortunate to have so many valued community



members who have supported the hospital since its founding nearly 120 years ago."

In addition to the Board officer slate announcement at the meeting, President and Chief Executive Officer Milford Regional Medical Center and Healthcare System Edward J. Kelly reflected on the challenges the healthcare industry has faced over the last year, explaining COVID-19 continues to be at the forefront of those challenges. Consequently, like most hospitals, Milford Regional faced high patient acuity and volume and staffing issues throughout 2022.

According to Kelly, the pandemic also caused significant financial impacts to the hospital, resulting in a \$14 million operating loss in 2022. "Many of the contributing factors of this loss were out of our control," he

explained. "So, our focus was to look at what we could control, and largely it was to take care of our community in the COVID-19 era."

Despite those challenges, Kelly highlighted a number of Milford Regional's accomplishments in 2022.

In addition to Kelly, Chief Medical Officer Peter Smulowitz, MD, MPH and Milford Regional Physician Group President Patrick McSweeney, MD presented at the meeting.

Smulowitz reflected on the difficulties both patients and medical staff faced in 2022 as the third year of COVID comes to an end. He also spoke on this winter's "tridemic" of COVID, influenza and RSV, which severely impacted emergency department wait times and placed a difficult burden on the clinician workforce. McSweeney discussed clinician recruitment efforts over the last year, naming more than 30 new providers who have joined the Milford Regional team.

To view a recording of Milford Regional's Annual Meeting of the Corporation, visit [foundation.milfordregional.org](http://foundation.milfordregional.org). To view Milford Regional's FY 22 Annual Report, "Community at Our Core," visit [milfordregional.org](http://milfordregional.org).

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## Dean College Presents March Theatre and Dance Performances

The School of the Arts and the Joan Phelps Palladino School of Dance at Dean College will perform a number of productions in March, including *Pippin* and the "Choreographers' Concert."

The Dean College production of "Pippin" will take place from March 22-26, 2023. Performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, with 2:00 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday.

Studded with pop-style musical gems, *Pippin* is an allegory of a young prince in search of himself. Longing to find passion, adventure, or anything else that will make him feel extraordinary, Prince Pippin goes to war to prove his loyalty to his distracted father, King Charles. The prince falls in love with Catherine, a widow with a young son, and struggles to decide whether he should settle down and pursue a peaceful life or continue to make magic with a dazzling troupe of performers. *Pippin* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

The Dean College production of "Choreographers' Concert"

will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1, 2023. Student choreographers will have selected works showcased and adjudicated by renowned industry professionals in this two-night opportunity. You will have the chance to see the creative talents of emerging student choreographers in a full production setting. Friday evening's presentation will feature live commentary from the guest artists following each work, while the program will be reprised as a regular concert on Saturday evening.

Both productions will take place in the Main Stage in the Dr. Paula M. Rooney Student Center at Dean College, 109 West Central Street, Franklin.

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

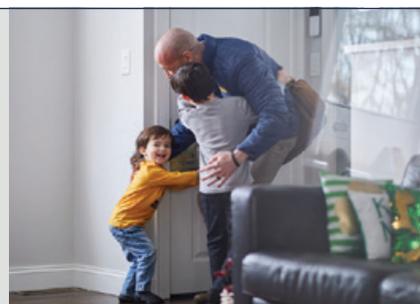
To learn more about the show and to purchase tickets, visit [www.dean.edu/boxoffice](http://www.dean.edu/boxoffice).



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## Calendar

### March 1

Mid-Week Reset, 7 p.m. No registration required, Guided meditation at Franklin Public Library

### March 2

2023 Musical Theater Showcase, The Franklin School of Performing Arts, 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 8 p.m. THE BLACK BOX, 15 West Central St., Franklin

### March 7

Peonies: Love of My Life, 7 p.m., Franklin Public Library, learn how to select, divide and care for these flowers, Lead by Christine Paxhia; Milton Garden Club Member, Master Gardener, and Garden Club of America Photography Judge.

Franklin High School All Town Showcase Concert, 6 p.m. at the FHS Auditorium, 6 p.m.

### March 8

Franklin High School All Town Showcase Concert (Band), 6 p.m., FHS Auditorium

Franklin Newcomers Meeting, 7 p.m., Escape Into Fiction Book Store, 12 Main Street, Franklin

### March 9

"THE KIDS ARE NOT ALRIGHT! WHAT THEY WANT YOU TO KNOW." 7 p.m., Horace Mann Middle School Auditorium, 224 Oak St., Franklin

### March 11

Irish in America Concert, 3 p.m. No registration required, all ages, Franklin Public Library

### March 12

Franklin Historical Museum 2nd Sunday Speaker Series presents History of Franklin Written in Stone, Stories from the Union Street Cemetery, 80 W. Central St., Franklin, Doors open at 1 p.m., presentation 1:15, donations of paper towels to donate to Franklin Food Pantry encouraged

### March 14

An America Divided, 7 p.m., virtual event, Franklin Public Library, Join Emma Green in this exploration of the ways that Americans are divided - politically, religiously, economically, communi-

ties, and even families. What has caused these ruptures and what are some ways for us to come back together? RSVP at [https://us06web.zoom.us/join/3316717232220/WN\\_w2fjNM5ER0-OLQzFdkqx-A](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/3316717232220/WN_w2fjNM5ER0-OLQzFdkqx-A)

Navigating College Admissions in 2023! 7 p.m., Franklin Public Library

### March 17

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

### March 18,

Franklin Library Book Sale, 9 a.m. -12, Franklin Public Library

### March 22

Dean College presents Pippin, 7:30 p.m., [www.dean.edu/box-office](http://www.dean.edu/box-office)

### March 23

Dean College presents Pippin, 7:30 p.m., [www.dean.edu/box-office](http://www.dean.edu/box-office)

### March 24

Sustainable Edible Landscaping, 11 a.m., Join Naturalist and Landscaper John Root to learn about the variety of beautiful and edible plants that are hardy for our region of the world. Begin your more sustainable, eco-friendly yard adventure here! Also on Zoom at [www.franklinma.gov/franklin-public-library](http://www.franklinma.gov/franklin-public-library)

Dean College presents Pippin, 7:30 p.m., [www.dean.edu/box-office](http://www.dean.edu/box-office)

### March 25

Dean College presents Pippin, 2 & 7:30 p.m., [www.dean.edu/box-office](http://www.dean.edu/box-office)

### March 26

Dean College presents Pippin, 2 p.m., [www.dean.edu/box-office](http://www.dean.edu/box-office)

### March 30

Metrowest Arts & Culture Symposium, "Uplifting the Arts: the Intersection of Culture and Economy," 6:30 p.m.- 9 p.m. (doors open 6 p.m.), Guidrey Center, Dean College, Franklin, free, open to all

Community Conversations! 6 p.m., Franklin Public Library, topic: food insecurity

# Real Estate Corner



**Jim Hanewich**  
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## Get Rain Barrel Ready

The Spring Residential Rain Barrel Program (<https://www.franklinma.gov/stormwater-division/pages/rain-barrels>) is currently open to residents - residents can order directly from The Great American Rain Barrel Company. The deadline to order is May 9 and pick up will be at the DPW Admin office (257 Fisher St) on May 17 from 4-6 p.m. Order your rain barrel today at <https://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community>.

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### CENTURY 21

## Home Loan Education Seminar Coming up in Franklin

On March 15th, Michael Shain, of Bay Equity Home Loans will host a Home Loan Education Seminar. The seminar runs from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School, 147 Pond Street in Franklin.

A panel of experts, including an attorney, a real estate agent, and a home inspector will join Mike to discuss and answer questions about the home buying process including mortgage programs and the importance of credit.

Registration is required. The \$20 course fee supports Tri-County Adult Education Programs.

To register, call (508) 528-5400, ext. 119, email foley@tri-county.us, or register at <https://tri-county.us/>. Click on "Adult Education" then "Click Here - Spring 2023 Register Today" and search "Home Buyer Seminar."

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

Call Jen Schofield at **508-570-6544** to run in our Real Estate Corner

# Happy St. Patrick's day!

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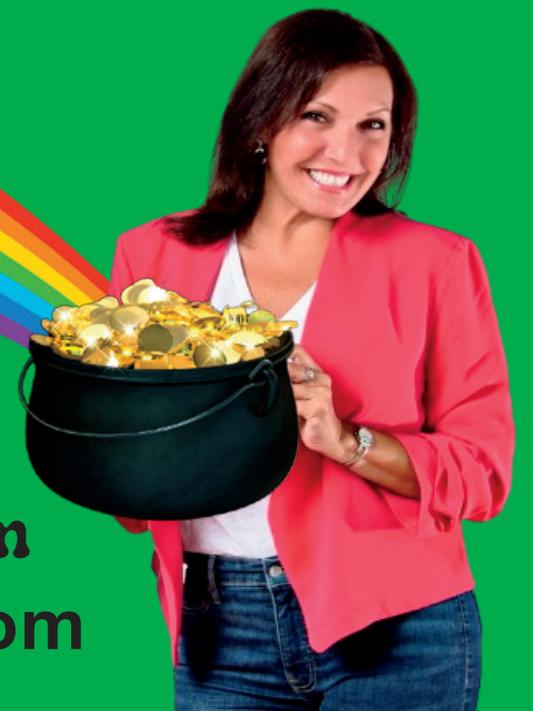


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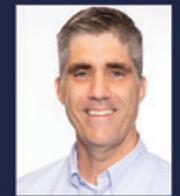
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