

Mucciarone's Goal For FHS Nine — A State Championship

By KEN HAMWEY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Alfred Mucciarone wants to take care of some unfinished business.

After Franklin High's baseball team lost, 2-1, to Taunton last year in the state championship final, the Panthers' right-handed pitcher refocused immediately and set his sights on winning the crown in his senior season.

A native of Franklin, the 6-foot-1, 185-pound Mucciarone was a key cog in the Panthers' advance to the state final. He hurled a gem against Shrewsbury in a semifinal matchup, limiting the Colonials to one hit in six innings and retiring 15 batters in a row for a 4-3 victory.

"Winning a state championship is the thing I want most," said Mucciarone, who finished



Alfred Mucciarone, who finished his junior campaign with a 6-1 record and an earned-run average of 2.05, is aiming for a state title in his final season at Franklin High.

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Franklin Food Pantry Runs May 18th Dinner and Silent Auction

By ANGIE FITTON

"Somewhere, someone's bowl is empty." This quote hits home for 514 households, over 1100 people, in Franklin, approximately 10% of the town's population. These people must use the Franklin Food Pantry to help fill their bowls. This is a reality of which we should all be aware.

Thursday, May 18th, is a night to mark on your calendar if you'd like to make a difference in the lives of those who experience food insecurities. The Empty Bowls dinner and silent auction will be held in the cafeteria of the Franklin High School from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Empty Bowls is a nationwide movement that Franklin learned of many years ago from a neighboring food pantry. The movement itself began in 1990 in a Michigan High School.

Tina Powderly, the Executive Director of the Franklin Food

Pantry, expresses admiration and thanks to Brenna Johnson, a teacher at Franklin High School who dedicates much of her time to the Empty Bowls movement. Since the inception of Empty Bowls in Franklin, Johnson has taken the reins, guiding future leaders after school all year long. The movement has become so significant in the school that participation after school occurs by class. Powderly emphasizes, "We are extremely grateful to Brenna for her professionalism, dedication and leadership in growing this movement." The Franklin Cultural Council is also an integral part of this program at the high school. "They are a consistent supporter of Empty Bowls and without them, this wouldn't be possible," Tina says.

Powderly states, "This event is near and dear to our hearts." She

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AUCTION

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continues, “None of us know who is facing food insecurity. The person beside you at the gas station could have this invisible need, going home to an empty bowl themselves.” The Empty Bowls event educates the community and youth about food insecurities and how important it is to help when possible. During the event, a simple meal of soup and bread is served in the bowls made by the high school students under Johnson’s supervision, and there is a silent auction as well. This year State Representative Jeff Roy donated a piece of pottery that he personally made.

Empty Bowls is a signature event of the Franklin Food Pantry. Though they hold events through-out the year, this one is truly focused on raising awareness. Powderly shared the story of a woman in town who has been attending Empty Bowls since its first year. This woman keeps every bowl she’s brought home empty as a reminder of those who have a hard time putting food on the table. She helps the Franklin Food Pantry regularly.

“While food donations are always welcome, monetary donations go much farther because the food pantry is able to purchase not only non perishable items, but fresh and frozen food as well, at a tax-free and highly discounted rate from the Greater Boston Food Bank,” according to Powderly. Many donors participate in The Pantry’s ‘Give Every Month’ program. Because of their generosity and regularity, the Franklin Food Pantry has the ability to budget accordingly. No one is turned away from the Franklin Food Pantry. Even if you’re not a resident of town, you will leave with a bag of food after going through the registration packet with a member of the organization. 90% of all monetary donations go towards the food and services to help clients of the food pantry.

Inflation has hit the Franklin Food Pantry as hard as it has hit everyone else. In July of last year, they were able to feed each client for approximately \$30. In December, that price jumped to \$70 per client. Donations are needed now more than ever. Donations to the Franklin Food Pantry can be made at franklinfoodpantry.org. This is also where you are able to purchase tickets to the Empty Bowls dinner and silent auction. If you have any questions and would like to speak with someone, the number to the food pantry is (508) 528-3115.

Franklin Art Association May 3, 2023 Demo Artist: Nan Rumpf



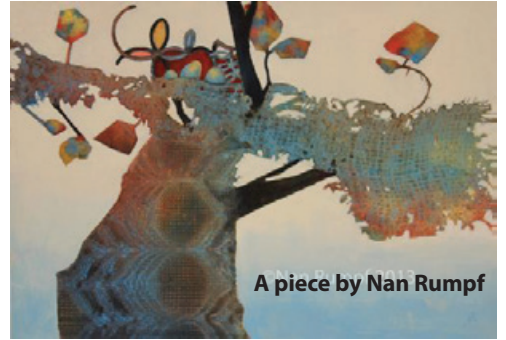
Nan Rumpf

The FAA is pleased to announce that Watermedia artist Nan Rumpf will be presenting at the upcoming 6:30 p.m., May 3rd monthly meeting at the Franklin Senior Center.

Nan Rumpf’s paintings have been exhibited at Museums in Framingham, Concord, Attleboro, and Duxbury.

She recently had a painting accepted into the American Watercolor Society’s International show in New York City and the New England Watercolor Society’s National Show in Gloucester. She has been a visiting artist at Framingham State and Med-

field High School. She was one of twenty artists chosen across the country to have a painting included in the Watercolor Artist magazine’s Best of 2021 in watercolor. She currently teaches classes in Wellesley, Needham, and Bedford and New Art in Newton. She is a board member of the WSA, and a signature member of the New England Watercolor Society and the Rhode Island Watercolor Society.



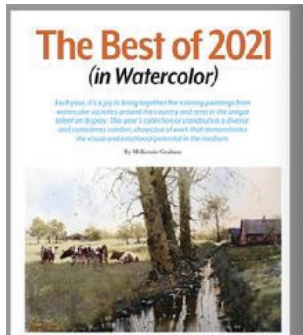
A piece by Nan Rumpf

Artist Statement

The process of painting is what most fascinates me. I like to see how watercolors and other water media react to different painting surfaces and interact with each other. Does the surface affect the edges of a puddle ... the flow of the paint ... the granulation? Does acrylic paint provide a natural resist for water-

color? Experimenting with different methods to obtain accidental texture appeals to me. What happens when you pour liquid watercolor through objects placed on top of the paper?

These experiments give me something to respond to and motivate me to continue experimenting with different painting techniques and compositions as I develop each painting. After the first experimental layer, I walk around the painted surface and look at it from different sides until I see something that I want to emphasize or see a shape that I want to develop. Sometimes a theme begins to present itself and I go with it. Making one change often strongly suggests the next. I am attempting to capture the essence of form, shape, color and value from my observations, memories, and imaginings and to explore new artistic territories.



Rumpf’s feature in The Best In Watercolor 2021

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Beautification Day Set for May 20

Get ready for spring. Volunteers are needed for the Franklin Downtown Partnership and Franklin Garden Club's annual Beautification Day in downtown Franklin on the morning of Saturday, May 20.

Many hands are needed to help plant a variety of flowers on the bridges, barrels and boxes in front of the stores.

Volunteers with trucks will meet at 7:30 a.m. at Fairmount Fruit Farm at 887 Lincoln St. to pick up trays of flowers and deliver downtown. If you don't have a truck, arrive by 8:30 a.m. at the municipal parking lot near the bridge in front of The Rome restaurant. Bring work gloves, rakes and garden tools, if you can.

Students: if you have community service hours to satisfy, this is the perfect opportunity to earn your hours. You will get a note documenting your service.

Not available to plant on May 20? Volunteer to water plants for the season. There are 18 weeks of watering needed throughout the summer months, said Eileen Mason, Beautification Day Chairperson. Pick the weeks that work for you.

This season, the Garden Club and volunteers will be planting Pink Dipladenia, Sally Fun, Deep Ocean Salvia (blue), White Wave Petunias and Juncus Grass-Corkscrew Rush. They have a lush tropical look, Mason said.

"This year's selections are somewhat new. We try to plant for the hot dry season," Mason explained. "They are drought-tolerant and should be quite showy throughout the summer." She has been in charge of this ambitious effort for more than 19 years.



Franklin High Baseball team and many other people helped on Beautification Day 2022.

If you can volunteer to plant May 20th or water this summer, email Eileen Mason at emason4234@gmail.com.

Franklin Downtown Partnership Executive Director, Lisa Piana, values the teamwork from all who come together to make this a success. "The FDP is extremely grateful to Eileen Mason, the Garden Club, DPW and the many volunteers that come out every year to plant and water the flowers in the town's center. We truly appreciate our many sponsors who support the beautification of our wonderful downtown."

Franklin DPW does their part by supplying water, hoses and mulch, Mason added. They will also clean up litter and debris in certain areas.

Franklin Downtown Partnership is grateful to the following sponsors who make the beautification effort possible.

Platinum sponsors: Camford Property Group, Inc., Elizabeth's Bagels, Eileen Mason-REMAX, Maven Hair Company, Middlesex Savings Bank, R.I. Motorsports.

Gold sponsors: Dean Bank, Notturmo Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc., PhysicianOne Urgent Care, D.G. Ranieri

Real Estate. Silver sponsors: Fenton Financial Group, Charles F. Oteri Funeral Home, Safford AXIA Insurance.

Bronze sponsors: Keefe Insurance Agency, Vet Med Pet Supplies.

The Franklin Downtown Partnership is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization made up of more than 350 business owners, residents, and community leaders working to revitalize downtown Franklin. Residents can join the Downtown Partnership for only \$25. The Partnership manages events like the Strawberry Stroll and the Harvest Festival, and initiatives such as beautification, streetscape design, greenspace, alley murals, and sculpture projects. For more information go to www.franklindowntownpartnership.org.

Save the Date for June 9 Strawberry Stroll

Put it on your calendar! The Franklin Downtown Partnership is planning its annual Strawberry Stroll, set for Friday, June 9, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in downtown Franklin. The rain date will be Saturday, June 10 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Stroll is a wonderful tradition. This year will continue to feature the very popular strawberry shortcakes supplied by Dean Bank and Dean College. Music will fill the air and more than 95 booths will be lining Main Street.

There are plenty of activities and more shopping opportunities. Visit many of the new stores filling Main Street. They will have their doors open and tables ready to offer food, drinks, books, gifts, games, clothes, and services.

"We are so excited to be hosting the annual Strawberry Stroll. The event always brings high energy from all participants and patrons and proves to be a fantastic day," said Kevin Johnson of Edward Jones, and Strawberry

Stroll Committee Chairman.

The Downtown Partnership appreciates the support of its sponsors. This year our support comes from these organizations: Gold Sponsors: Dean Bank, Dean College, Elizabeth's Bagels, Middlesex Savings Bank, PhysicianOne Urgent Care. Silver Sponsors: Elizabeth Grady, Franklin. Bronze Sponsors: Beaux Regards Photographic Art, Encore Music Academy & Recording Studios, LeafFilter Gutter Protection.

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Sharon Timlin Memorial Event: A Race to Cure ALS to be held on June 17th to benefit The Angel Fund

Mike Timlin and family will be on hand for race

This year marks the 20th year for the Annual Sharon Timlin Memorial Event: A Race to Cure ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) which will be held on Saturday, June 17th at Hopkinton High School.

The popular road race and family fun day benefits The Angel Fund for ALS Research and its research at UMass Chan Medical School. The race has raised more than \$2 million for ALS research since its inception.

The event is held in memory of Sharon Timlin, mother of former Red Sox relief pitcher Mike Timlin who was diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis,) a disease better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, in May 2001. She died less than a year later, in March 2002. The event also recognizes and honors the Timlin family's commitment to ALS research and The Angel Fund for ALS Research. Mike and his wife Dawn will be guests

of honor at the event.

"As a family, we are so thankful to have supported the Angel Fund through the Sharon Timlin Memorial 5K run," Mike and Dawn said. "The support of the town of Hopkinton has meant the world to us and we look forward to seeing you as we continue this fight against ALS. In this time, we have seen the impact of our contributions to Dr. Brown at UMass Chan Medical School in his research. We are just so thankful for all the support we have received over a 20-year period. We hope you will join us on Saturday, June 17th, 2023."

The course is a fully supported USATF certified 5K racecourse, with timed mile markers. The 5K race begins at 8:30 a.m., followed by the family fun day activities with live music, food, games, raffles, and other activities from 8:30 to 12 noon. A Kids Color Run will held as well



Participants can register at <https://sharontimlinrace.org>. Registration is limited to 1,800 registrants and online registration closes when capacity is reached, or at 11:59pm on June 16, 2023.

The 5K race fee is \$40 for runners who register on or before May 29, 2023. Registration is \$45 after May 29, 2023. Registration for the virtual option is \$25 plus shipping. The first one thousand race participants will receive a commemorative race T-shirt and can enjoy post-race food and Family Fun Day.

Awards will be presented to the top three male and female finishers. The top three finishers in the following age groups will also receive awards: 14 and



under; 15-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69; 70-plus; male/female 80+, and wheelchair division. There will be no duplicate awards.

Runners and non-runners are encouraged to take part in the Angel Fundraising Challenge, a fun and easy way to go the extra mile and fundraise by setting up their own personalized fundraising page.

"Proceeds from this event benefit The Angel Fund for ALS Research and the UMass Chan Medical School, where worldwide groundbreaking research is being done daily," Rich Kennedy, President of The Angel Fund added. "To date, thanks to you, we've raised over \$2 million

for critical research for this devastating disease where there is no treatment or cure."

For information about the Sharon Timlin Memorial 5K Race to Cure ALS, visit the website www.sharontimlinrace.org

In addition to the Angel Fundraising Challenge, donations in Sharon Timlin's memory are also welcome and would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be made online at <https://sharontimlinrace.org>, at The Angel Fund website at www.theangelfund.org, or by sending a check made payable to The Angel Fund and mailed to The Timlin Race, 149 Wood Street, Hopkinton, MA 01748.

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GOOD DEEDS: Community Preservation Act

By WILLIAM P. O'DONNELL
NORFOLK COUNTY
REGISTER OF DEEDS

Dear Friends of the Registry, Registry Stakeholders, and Norfolk County Residents, I wanted to take a moment and share with you some history and information about the Community Preservation Act that I think you might find interesting.

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is the result of more than two decades of work to create legislation that would provide all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns with a tool to preserve their most unique natural, community, and physical infrastructures in the face of rapid expansion and development.

The CPA allows cities and towns to establish a Community Preservation Fund to preserve open space, historic preservation, affordable housing, and outdoor

recreation. The CPA Act also creates a statewide Community Preservation Trust Fund, which is managed by the Department of Revenue (DOR) and makes annual contributions to municipalities that have signed on to the CPA.

The Community Preservation Act was signed into law on September 14, 2000. Today, there are 194 Massachusetts communities that have adopted this act. Of the 28 communities that make up Norfolk County, 19 communities have adopted the law. As of December 31, 2019, fees collected for the Community Preservation Act were increased to \$50.00 for most land documents recorded and \$25.00 for municipal lien certificates. The Registry of Deeds, at no additional cost to the Commonwealth or local communities, collects these revenues once a land document is

recorded and forwards the monies to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue on a monthly basis. The funds forwarded to the Commonwealth are then redistributed back to the communities that have adopted the Community Preservation Act.

The fees for the CPA are set by the State Legislature on land documents recorded here at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds. The following chart provides an illustration of the funds generated by the CPA in your community based on recorded real estate filings for that community during the 2022 calendar year.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, which is located at 649 High Street, Dedham, is the principal office for real property in Norfolk County. The Registry is a resource for homeowners, title examiners, mortgage lenders, genealogists, municipalities, and others with a need for secure, accurate, and accessible land record information. For assistance, please contact our Customer Service Center at (781) 461-6101, or visit our website at www.norfolkdeeds.org.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA)

Surcharges By Town For Calendar Year 2022

TOWN	TOTAL
AVON.....	\$44,675.00
BELLINGHAM.....	\$157,250.00
BRAINTREE.....	\$243,450.00
BROOKLINE.....	\$359,250.00
CANTON.....	\$212,950.00
COHASSET.....	\$96,525.00
DEDHAM.....	\$191,825.00
DOVER.....	\$59,400.00
FOXBOROUGH.....	\$139,125.00
FRANKLIN.....	\$233,800.00
HOLBROOK.....	\$89,150.00
MEDFIELD.....	\$103,400.00
MEDWAY.....	\$112,750.00
MILLIS.....	\$86,175.00
MILTON.....	\$205,950.00
NEEDHAM.....	\$248,625.00
NORFOLK.....	\$99,300.00
NORWOOD.....	\$184,975.00
PLAINVILLE.....	\$71,050.00
QUINCY.....	\$528,000.00
RANDOLPH.....	\$233,800.00
SHARON.....	\$136,800.00
STOUGHTON.....	\$224,400.00
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Getting Rid of Ants, The Most Common Home Invader

WPC Pest and Termite Control reminds families that ants are more than a nuisance pest.

While homeowners across the country enjoy the warm weather and the sights, smells and activities of the season, they also must contend with increased pest activity. This season, WPC Pest Control is reminding homeowners to be on the lookout for one of the most prevalent pests – ants.

Often considered the No. 1 nuisance pest, ants also pose significant health and property risk as they destroy wood and contaminate food items. And with more than 700 types of ant species in the United States, it's not surprising that ants can quickly become a source of disgust, frustration and concern for homeowners.

"Most ants thrive in warm and moist conditions, which is why it's best to eliminate moisture or standing water near or inside the home," says Jim Mazzuchelli, Owner at WPC Pest

and Termite Control. "In some cases, the only way to completely remediate an ant infestation is to call a qualified pest professional who can locate and remove the identified species' nests."

Jim from WPC Pest Control reminds homeowners that the first step to remediation is to properly identify which ant species is present in the home.

Some of the most common home invaders include:

- **Odorless House Ants:** These ants get their name from the unpleasant odor they give off when crushed, often described as smelling like a rotten coconut. They typically nest in wall voids and crevices and prefer sweet foods.
- **Pharaoh Ants:** Pharaoh ants prefer sweets, but also consume grease and even shoe polish. They live in extremely large colonies and

keep warm near artificial heating sources like baseboard heaters and ovens.

- **Carpenter Ants:** This species hollows out nests in both dry and moist wood, though they prefer the latter. They can be particularly hard to remove since their nests can be more difficult to locate.
- **Fire Ants:** Fire ants can cause severe allergic reactions in addition to structural damage caused by chewing through the insulation around electrical wiring.

Homeowners who suspect an ant infestation should contact a licensed pest professional who can identify ant species and recommend a course of treatment. To learn more about ants, please visit www.nobugnopests.com or call (508) 366-1820 to talk with Jim.

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Walk for Peace on World Labyrinth Day

On Saturday, May 6, 2023, thousands of people will participate in the fifteenth annual World Labyrinth Day as a moving meditation for peace and celebration of the labyrinth experience. Many participants will "Walk as One at 1" by walking a labyrinth at 1:00 p.m. local time to create a rolling wave of peaceful energy passing from one time zone to the next around the globe. Whether you are familiar with labyrinths or new to the idea of non-maze labyrinth paths, all are welcome to learn more and take part.

Labyrinths are found throughout the world with the oldest dating back thousands of years. In contemporary use, labyrinths provide an opportunity for personal reflection, spiritual practice, or the reduction of stress in many different public and private settings. Over 6,000 labyrinths are listed on the World-Wide Labyrinth Locator website: <https://labyrinthlocator.com/>.

The outdoor labyrinth on the grounds of the First Universalist Society in Franklin is listed on the World-Wide Labyrinth Locator.

Join us in Franklin, MA as we participate in World Labyrinth Day. You will have the opportunity to walk an outdoor labyrinth, use a finger labyrinth, and learn about labyrinths. There will be a brief introduction to World Labyrinth Day at 12:30 p.m., after which people will be invited to walk the labyrinth. If you have walked a labyrinth many times, or if you have never walked a labyrinth, we welcome you.

This is a FREE community event for all ages.

Stop by between 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. and be a part of this moving meditation for world peace.

Contact Bobbi Tayne Gerlits with any questions at bobbigerlits@icloud.com or (508) 446-5131



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

By CHRISTIE VOGT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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

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

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

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



During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

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

Business spotlight

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

As for Franklin in particular, Schadler says they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area. The Schadlers' oldest daughter lives in Franklin, and their kids attended softball camp and learned how



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

to skate in town. Prior to starting Affordable Junk Removal, Christine worked for years in Franklin as well.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We

are really grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

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Glenn Brown

their taxes now and help reduce liabilities in the future. Aspects include lowering your AGI (adjusted gross income), leveraging tax deductions, taking advantage of tax credits, tax deferrals and timing of large purchases, sales and realization of income.

Consider potential ways to make impact for 2023:

Exercising Restricted Stock Units (RSUs) - Sold some RSUs and get a large tax bill? Connect with HR to discuss withholding options before your next exercise. Also, learn of the benefits and drawbacks of concentrated positions as well as short-term versus long-term capital gains.

Adjust your W-4 - If you got a large refund, lower your withholding and do more with your money, like ~4% money market interest. Also, if both spouses work and one is self-employed, consider raising your W-4 withholding to avoid potential penalties for underpaying estimated taxes on a growing small business.

Track Your Side Hustle - Government announced Venmo and payment apps report income for goods and services worth \$600 or more annually — a sharp drop from previous \$20,000 threshold. Panic and confusion followed, so the IRS postponed by a year.

Whether you receive a 1099-K form or not, you’ve always been obligated to report income. To help offset, get up to speed on potential deductions including expenses, amortization, and dedicated home office space.

Revisit Work Benefits - You can impact your adjusted gross income (AGI) through 401k contributions as well as funding a HSA funding, FSA for dental/vision, FSA dependent care and Commuter Benefits - especially if required to go back into the office.

While some changes can’t happen until open enrollment (and impact 2024), don’t forget if you have a life event - new child, spouse loses or changes job - you have 30 days to revisit and reset

your work benefits.

Minimize Taxes In Retirement

Taxes are inevitable with retirement savings, deferred compensation and/or pension income, but consider:

Before Retirement - Contribute to Roth 401(k) and Roth IRA (if eligible) now. After age 59 1/2 and owned for at least 5 years, withdrawals are completely tax free. Added bonus is Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) don’t exist for Roth accounts nor are balances in Roth accounts a factor in determining RMDs for your tax deferred accounts.

During Retirement - Distribute funds in certain years that you claim large deductions, such as the breaks for medical expenses or charitable gifts that temporarily lower your tax rate.

Before or During - Roth Conversion and Backdoor Roth. Yes, pay the taxes now for benefits of Roth later. Consider larger conversions in years of lower income if self-employed and/or time away from work. Also,

when 20% (or more) market corrections occur consider an opportunity to convert investments over to Roth, paying less in taxes and allowing for rebound inside Roth.

Tax planning is complex, but it doesn’t need to be complicated. Work with someone to help you save money, stay organized and reduce liabilities in the future.

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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Celebration Held for Completion of SNETT Section in Franklin

MARJORIE TURNER HOLLMAN,
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

SNETT (Southern New England Trunkline Trail) ribbon cutting celebrating the completion of the Grove Street to Prospect Street, Franklin. Franklin-Bellingham Rail Trail Committee president Cobi Frongillo did the honors of cutting the bright red ribbon on a rainy Saturday morning in late March. Multiple trail advocates, including State representative Jeff Roy, attended the ceremony. Once the ribbon was cut the group headed off to do what the trail was intended for—walking (and biking).

The rail trail committee has hopes of extending the trail back towards Franklin downtown area. Stay tuned!



R-L Cobi Frongillo (holding scissors) and State Rep. Jeff Roy, surrounded by many trail advocates and enthusiasts, celebrating the completion of the SNETT in Franklin from Grove to Prospect Street.



And the ribbon has been cut! R-L Cobi Frongillo and Jeff Roy, surrounded by many who have played important roles in getting this section of the SNETT completed.



Cobi Frongillo, President of the Franklin-Bellingham rail trail committee, addresses the crowd gathered for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Frongillo recapped all that has been done to create the trail so far, and what steps the committee hopes to take next, including crossing lights at the trailhead on Grove Street.



On the left, Cobi Frongillo addresses the crowd that gathered for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the completed section of the SNETT trail from Grove to Prospect Street, Franklin.

Women Take Aim

event at Fin, Fur and Feather Club in Millis

June 3, 2023 from 8:30 - 4:30
(rain date June 10)

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- No previous shooting experience is required



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What is College Demonstrated Interest?

Many families often ask us what is “demonstrated interest” in the college application process. The best analogy that we have heard to explain demonstrated interest is that it is very similar to social media - colleges love getting the likes! When a student shows demonstrated interest, it enables the college admission counselors to identify students who are seriously interested in attending their school - and colleges love to admit students who are excited about their school. And, for the student it can also often result in higher merit scholarship awards. It is a key factor that looks beyond grades and test scores and it is very easy for the student to accomplish.

Here are a few ways for students to show demonstrated interest:

1. Register for an in-person college information session and college tour. It shows real commitment when you take the time to visit the campus, and it is also a helpful way to see if the college could possibly be the right fit for you.
2. If the college is too far from home, register for a virtual info session and tour. They are just as valuable in showing demonstrated interest to the college.
3. Colleges also offer various informative virtual events that focus on majors, academic programs, financial aid, and admission details to name a few. Make sure you register!
4. Sign-up to attend local college fairs at your high school or in your community. Introduce yourself and ask thoughtful questions. If you engage in a conversation with the representative, follow-up with a thank you email.
5. Contact your regional admission counselor with questions that are not easily answered on the college’s website. You want the conversation to be productive.
6. Plan ahead with questions that you want to ask on a tour, at a college fair, or before talking with a college admissions representative. FREE resource: email tracy@mycollege101.com. to receive some sample questions.
7. If the college offers optional interviews - sign up! .
8. Submit an online request form for information from the colleges you are interested in. Search the college

name and the phrase “request for information”.

9. Open emails - colleges will often track which emails are opened, the links that are clicked on and the number of times they have been clicked, and the amount of time spent on the college website.
10. Connect on Social Media - following a college on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter is a form of demonstrated interest. It will also help you learn more about the college’s activities.
11. Be strategic when writing the college’s supplemental “Why Essay”. Colleges often rank this essay in importance above the personal statement. This is the ultimate love letter to the school. So do your homework and be very school specific.
12. Apply Early, if possible. It shows your top colleges that you are serious about attending.
13. Final tip - use the same email address throughout the college search process. It will be easier for the colleges to track!



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

There are several ways to determine how important demonstrated interest is in the application review process for a specific college. One way is through the college’s Common Data Set. Search the specific college name and the phrase “Common Data Set”. Locate section C7 in the Common Data Set and you will see the complete list of factors the college considers important when making admission decisions.

Remember that showing demonstrated interest in a college has a dual purpose - it not only shows your top colleges that you are seriously interested in them,

but you will also learn valuable information about the college to help you determine if it is the right fit for you!

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

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Pre-College Summer Programs at Dean College

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

For students interested in dance or musical theatre, the Dean Summer Arts Institute is a week-long intensive in the performing arts. Students in the dance intensive will receive conservatory training in ballet, modern, jazz, tap and related dance techniques taught by world-class faculty. In the musical theatre intensive, students will study acting, singing and dancing with renowned faculty and guest artists while learning about auditioning, picking repertoire, acting for the

camera, self-taping and rehearsal techniques.

The Dean Summer Arts Institute will run from July 30 to August 6, 2023. For more information, visit www.dean.edu/summerarts.

The Sports Broadcasting and Forensics Pre-College Summer Programs offer a great introduction to college life. Students will earn college credit for completing the program while they learn from experts in the field and get advice on the college admissions process from a Dean College admissions counselor during a free one-on-one consultation. Students will also participate in unique real-world experiences and field trips embedded into each program, with behind-the-scenes access to program-specific venues such as Gillette Stadium

and the New England Patriots training camp. Additional experiences may include trips to a science lab and police station for the Forensics program and a baseball stadium for the Sports Broadcasting program, as well as the opportunity to call live play-by-play and host talk show programs.

Two one-week sessions of each pre-college summer program will be offered. The first session will run from July 23-28, 2023, and the second session will run from July 30-August 4, 2023. Free virtual information sessions will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, May 3, 2023, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.dean.edu/summer.

The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Get Ready to Glow!

By GINA WOELFEL

Although June 21st is technically the first day of summer, we Bostonians know that Memorial Day Weekend is the true *summah* solstice. If it's sunny and 70°, we're heading to the beach!

Summer in New England is synonymous with fun. Whether you're swimming, biking or gardening, summer is the perfect time of year to relax and bask in the glow of the sun (safely, please).

The b.LUXE esthetics team wants you looking and feeling your best, so let's get your skin warm-weather-ready with these 3 essential tips for feeling confident no matter the temperature.

Summer Skincare Essentials

1. AM & PM skincare routine
2. Sunscreen (Well, duh)
3. Regular facials

Wait, what? No crazy, cutting-edge treatments? No miracle in a bottle? That's right! Say it with me now - Cleanse, protect, treat and repeat! That's it!

Unfortunately, there's no one treatment that can protect your skin or reverse sun damage, but keeping your skin healthy throughout the warmer months is easier than you think.

Summer's heat and humidity can increase sebum production. Sebum is the sticky, oily substance produced by your sebaceous glands that helps to protect your skin. Although some sebum is essential, an overproduction of it can trap heat and moisture, which leads to congestion, blackheads, and an unhappy complexion.

You wouldn't go an entire day without washing your hands, so why are you ghosting your face? Dust, allergens, sweat and makeup, SHOULD NOT be lingering about when your head hits the pillow. These freeloading

particles deserve the boot! Washing your face in the morning and night with a gentle cleanser and mid-temperature water is the foundation for all solid skin care routines. We also recommend a toner, a targeted serum and an AM & PM moisturizer. But more on that in a bit.

Recommendation #2 - Arm your skin with a great **SPF 50 - Broad Spectrum Sunscreen**. The letters SPF stands for Sun Protection Factor and an SPF 50 blocks 98% of the sun's harmful UVA and UVB rays. In general, the SPF number on your sunscreen refers to the amount of time you can stay protected in the sun without burning, compared to unprotected skin. SPF 50 allows you to stay in the sun fifty times longer than you would if you weren't wearing sunscreen.

According to skincancer.org, "Unprotected exposure to UVA and UVB damages the DNA in skin cells, producing genetic defects, or mutations, that can lead to skin cancer and premature aging." Yikes! Remember, skin can burn within 15 minutes of sun exposure, with sun being strongest between 10 AM and 4 PM during the summer months. Apply sunscreen 30 minutes before sun exposure and reapply after swimming or strenuous exercise. You'll also need to reapply throughout the day to maintain UV protection. No SPF can offer 100% protection, so for maximum gorgeousness and the ultimate in sun-safety, our esthetics team also recommends wearing a hat, polarized sunglasses and covering up with UV protective clothing. And if a summer tan is your ultimate goal, try an organic spray tan. They're quick, easy and in as little as 3 hours, your skin will have a natural-looking, bronzy glow.

And lastly, in our opinion, nothing promotes and enhances cell turnover and skin tone quite like a monthly facial. Short of

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hair & makeup



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cosmetic surgery, regular, professional facials are the best way to maintain your skin's health.

As if the relaxation of a monthly facial wasn't reason enough, scheduling and prioritizing this service will deeply cleanse and exfoliate your skin. Your esthetician will perform a full-skin analysis and determine your problem areas and goals. They'll also recommend products tailored to your specific needs. Picking these with your esthetician allows for the utmost in customization when selecting targeted, high-impact products like serums and moisturizers. The biggest benefit to having a monthly skin care routine: the deep exfoliation of a regular facial allows for those skincare products to actually do their job post-facial and penetrate your skin for maximum performance.

This month, b.LUXE is celebrating healthy skin and of course, Mother's Day with two specials that will get your skin glowing and ready for summer! (See images for details.)

Wishing you a happy Memorial Day with so much sunshine and outdoor fun - you deserve it.

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Living Healthy

iStent Inject and Microgoniomy for Glaucoma

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

What is glaucoma and how is it treated?

Glaucoma is a chronic disease defined by characteristic optic nerve damage. It is a multi-factorial disease with over 300 different anatomic variations and affects over 40,000,000 people worldwide. Glaucoma is a slowly progressive and irreversible disease and, in most cases, causes a painless loss of eyesight. It is, in short, “the silent sneak thief of sight”. The damage to the optic nerve is commonly caused by a fluid imbalance, or pressure, in the eye, as well as possible alterations in the blood flow to the optic nerve. It is well established that lowering the intraocular pressure can slow the process of optic nerve damage. The degree of pressure lowering necessary to prevent optic nerve damage is individualized for each person and

each optic nerve. The greater the optic nerve damage, the lower the intraocular pressure is needed to achieve stability and prevent further optic nerve damage and further visual field loss.

If glaucoma is left untreated you may experience vision loss and eventual blindness. Treatment strategies for glaucoma are individualized to achieve the greatest lowering of the intraocular pressure with the least amount of risk to the individual’s eyesight and well-being. Commonly, in the United States, topical medications are used as a first line of treatment. In many situations, multiple medications are tried to achieve the desired pressure level. Unfortunately, there can be difficulties with compliance, cost and side effects with many of these medications and laser therapy is commonly substituted as a first line of therapy.

What is the iStent® trabecular micro-bypass stent?

Minimally invasive glaucoma surgical procedures, so-called MIGS involve alterations of the drainage area that are performed inside the eye. The iStent® trabecular micro-bypass stent is a surgical therapy for patients who have mild to moderate open angle glaucoma and have been tried possibly on topical medications or laser therapy. It is designed to improve the aqueous outflow to better lower the intraocular pressure and reduce the need for medications. The iStent® is the smallest medical device approved by the FDA to date. It is placed in the eye into the drainage area, so-called Schlemm’s Canal through the trabecular meshwork. The iStent® is an elective procedure. The iStent® is potentially beneficial in helping to reduce the number of glaucoma medications and drops needed to control this condition.

What is microgoniomy surgery?

Microgoniomy surgery (using the iAccess trabecular trephine device from Glaukos) is another type of MIGS. This procedure provides control of the eye pressure at lower risk than more traditional glaucoma surgeries. It alters the eye’s drainage system to lower the eye pressure and reduce the need for medications. Microgoniomy can be done standalone or combined with iStents during cataract surgery in a tissue sparing fashion to improve resistance to outflow in glaucoma. This tissue-sparing procedure can help lower the pressure even more compared to implanting iStent alone. During this procedure and ophthalmologist (Eye MD/ surgeon) will make 3 trephination cuts in a part of the eye’s drainage system called the trabecular meshwork. This will allow fluid to leave the eye much easier.

Benefits (how the surgery can help)

The goal of the iStent and microgoniomy surgery is to lower your eye pressure and help preserve vision. It will not bring back vision already lost from glaucoma. After implantation, many patients are able to better control their eye pressure with fewer medications.

Risks

As with any surgery, there are risks with the iStent and microgoniomy procedure. The surgery may not lower the eye pressure or control the glaucoma even when it is properly performed. In addition, sometimes there can be complications that do not appear in the early post operative period but may develop days, months or years later. Further treatment or surgery to treat those complications may be needed. As with any intraocular surgery, there may be loss of vision, blindness,



loss of the eye, as well as bleeding, infection and injury to the eye or nearby body parts.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we use state-of-the-art technology and lasers to diagnose and treat a variety of eye problems, including glaucoma. We offer high-definition optic coherence tomography testing (OCT) that can predict glaucoma before it even happens. We also offer laser treatment when medications alone are not enough. All our offices are equipped with OCT and state-of-the-art computerized visual field testing. We operate in a state-of-the-art surgery center close to home, here at the Cataract and Laser Surgery Center of Milford. Are you still being referred to Waltham and Attleboro for your eye surgery? Call us for a second opinion! We were among the first surgeons in New England to introduce this new technology and we offer stellar outcomes closer to home. With 21 years of established experience and tens of thousands of procedures performed, we are happy to offer state-of-the-art medical and surgical eye care and now the iStent inject /microgoniomy for treatment of glaucoma closer to home than ever before.

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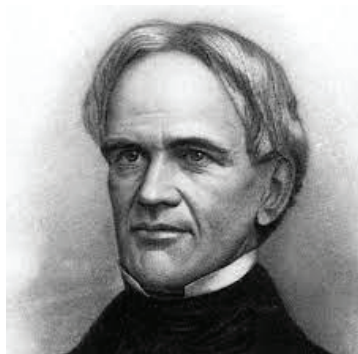
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Horace Mann Honored At The Franklin Historical Museum

This month we celebrate Franklin's Favorite son, Horace Mann. Our Second Sunday Speaker Series presentation will be *The Life of Horace Mann*. Born in Franklin and commonly known as the Father of American Education, Mann's life from a young farm boy from Franklin, braiding straw for pennies to Brown University, to the State House and beyond is a story our town can be proud of. An educator, lawyer, abolitionist, orator and statesman, Mann gave much to many in his short life. Learn about his family life in Franklin, his education, friends, loves and his strong desire to establish free education to all.

Join us for the presentation Sunday, May 14th. Doors open



Horace Mann

at 1:00, presentation starts at 1:15. Then join us for coffee and cake as we celebrate the 227th birthday of Horace Mann. Covid prevented us from celebrating Horace's 225th, and he hasn't quite forgiven us!

We invite all those visiting



Dean College Mascot

town for the 157th Commencement of Dean College to stop in for our look back on the History of Dean College. Museum Hours are Saturday 10AM-1PM and Sunday 1PM-4PM. Congratulations to all Dean Grads.

In honor of Memorial Day Weekend, the Franklin Historical



Memorial Day Graphic

Museum will be open for its regular Saturday hours, May 27th, 10 am to 1 pm, and is welcoming Veterans to drop by at the museum (always free). Any veterans interested in sharing their

stories of military service will be informally interviewed and (with their permission) recorded -- providing a chance to share their valuable recollections! For more information on this specific program, please email Alan Earls (alan.r.earls@gmail.com) or just drop by!

Visitors to the museum are asked to bring an item for the Franklin Food Pantry. Personal items such as shampoo/soap/razors/toothpaste, etc. or individually wrapped paper towels, among other items would be welcome. We also encourage visitors to browse our gift shop and make a purchase in support of the Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum and the programs they support.

Franklin Resident Starring in *Tick, Tick... Boom!*, Playing in Framingham April 27-May 6

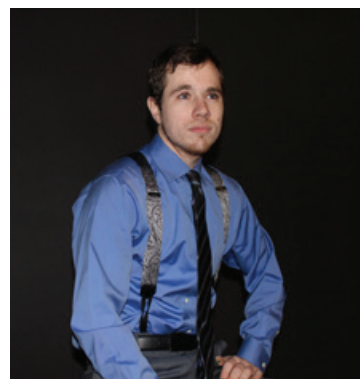
Released as a film in 2021, *Tick, Tick... Boom!* is a semi-autobiographical musical about the creator of *Rent*. Franklin resident Liam Devine is starring in A Common Thread Theatre Company's production of *Tick, Tick... Boom!*, playing at ātac in Framingham April 27-29 and May 5-6. *Tick, Tick... Boom!* is the semi-autobiographical story

of Jonathan Larson, the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning composer of *Rent*, and the sacrifices that he made to achieve his big break in theatre. The show within the show portrays the workshopping of Larson's unpublished musical, *Superbia*. Devine plays Michael, the best friend of the Larson character, Jon.

Larson wrote the book, music and lyrics for *Tick, Tick... Boom!* before his sudden death in 1996. Unlike the 2021 film starring Andrew Garfield, in this community theatre version four actors play all 10 characters. The rest of the cast is made up of Christopher Spencer of Quincy as Jon; Juliana Buckler of Holliston as Susan, Jon's girlfriend; and Jacqueline Carpino of Norton as the Susan understudy and the Pit Chorus.

The show is directed by Jacob Lavoie of Cambridge, with musical direction by Amanda Dee of Amherst and stage management by Kellen DeLaney of Framingham.

Tickets are \$25 (\$20 for students and seniors with valid ID) and can be purchased online at <https://www.acommonthreadtheatre.org/box-office>. Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening performances start at 7:30 p.m. The second weekend there is a Saturday matinee instead of a Thursday evening performance, that starts at 3



Liam Devine as Michael in A Common Thread Theatre Company's *Tick, Tick... Boom!*

p.m. The venue is located at 160 Hollis St. in Framingham. For more information, email info@acommonthreadtheatre.org.

Tick, Tick... Boom! is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (mtishows.com). This show is supported in part by a grant from the Framingham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



The cast of *Tick, Tick... Boom!*: Jacqueline Carpino, Liam Devine, Christopher Spencer and Juliana Buckler Photos by A Common Thread Theatre Company.

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Tri-County Welcomes 8 New Inductees to the Hall of Fame

Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School restarts the Athletic Hall of Fame tradition this year with a strong group of eight new members. Inductees were nominated by the public and over fifty nominations were received. A selection committee reviewed the nominees and selected the following eight new members: Joseph Pedro's commitment to the Tri-County community stretched over three decades. He was a teacher, a coach and an avid supporter of his athletes, students, and colleagues. (Science Teacher 1981 – 2015, Varsity Girls Volleyball Coach, Junior Varsity Softball Coach), Howie King's tenure at Tri-County included coaching at least one sport in every single year that he was at the school. Three decades of athletes and coaches were mentored by him. (Physical

Education Teacher 1977 – 2013, Varsity Volleyball Coach, Freshmen and Junior Varsity Boys Basketball Coach, Junior Varsity and Varsity Girls Basketball Coach, Varsity Baseball Coach, Junior Varsity and Varsity Softball Coach), William Blenkhorn Class of 1990 as an Auto Body Repair Major. Bill led by example in his dedication to his teams and his humility and sportsmanship. He worked with his peers to resurrect the wrestling team and epitomized the characteristics of a captain. (Soccer 1988 – 1989, Wrestling 1989 – 1990, Baseball 1988, Outdoor Track and Field 1989 – 1990), Jennifer (Estey) Lewis Class of 1997 in the Nursing Major. In track, Jen ran circles around her competitors, won a plethora of races, set numerous course records, earned several League All-Star

and MVP awards, and she also led the Girls Basketball team in scoring several seasons. (Cross Country 1993 – 1996, Basketball 1994 – 1997, Outdoor Track and Field 1994 – 1997), Matthew Udell Class of 2002 in the HVAC&R Career Major. Matthew shone brightest on the diamond, hitting one of the longest home runs in TC history and compiling a .396 career batting average. He was a two-time Mayflower Athletic Conference MVP in baseball and was an All-Star numerous times. (Soccer 1998 – 2001, Wrestling 1999 – 2002, Baseball 1999 – 2002), Michael Cavanaugh Class of 2009 from Plumbing. Mike tallied 245 career goals and 137 assists, which are both school records that his former Coach doubts will ever be broken. On the mat, his record is equally impressive, as he

finished fifth in the sectionals as a junior and second as a senior. (Football 2006, Wrestling 2006 – 2009, Lacrosse 2006 – 2009) Molly Marcotte Class of 2012 as a Plumbing Major. Molly was a league All-Star numerous times in both Softball and Volleyball. She was a leader who energized her teammates and demonstrated a dedication to honing her skills every day both at practice and in competitions and encouraged others to do the same. She made everyone around her better, and her teams excelled because of it. (Volleyball 2008 – 2011, Basketball 2009 – 2010, Softball 2009 – 2012), and Morgan Gould Class of 2016 from Medical Careers. Morgan's physical gifts and intellectual prowess drove her to be the best athlete possible no matter the task, and no matter the opponent. One of her coaches

said "she was the most tenacious athlete that I ever coached; male or female." (Volleyball 2012 – 2015, Basketball 2013 – 2016, Softball 2013, Boys Lacrosse 2014, Outdoor Track and Field 2015 – 2016).

The new members will be inducted on April 12th at Tri-County RVHS at 147 Pond Street, Franklin, MA at 6:00 p.m. The ceremony is open to the public and will include dinner. Tickets can be purchased on the Tri-County website for \$25.

"We look forward to restarting the tradition and welcoming new inductees every two years. The Hall of Fame is an excellent way to recognize stellar athletes and the dedicated individuals who helped them succeed," said Sara Martin, Director of Athletics at Tri-County.

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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.

Each volunteer is asked to commit to one day a month to either drive or manage the phone line.

Interested in volunteering? Call Chris at (508) 553-3023.

Need a ride? Call FISH at (508) 528-2121.

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Save the Date!

HMEA's incredABLE Day – Sunday, June 11th, 2023

Event from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Jefferson Elementary School, 628 Washington Street, Franklin, to include 11 a.m. Community Stroll, games and activities for people of all abilities. Meet famous mascots, enjoy some (free!) hot dogs, hamburgers, and chips, and spend the day with the HMEA community!

Fundraising and donations ahead of the event, and through June 30, 2023, are gratefully accepted at hmea.org/donate. Participation in the incredABLE Dream, Elite, and 50/50 raffles is strongly encouraged!

First Universalist Society in Franklin: A Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation

The First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) is pleased to announce that it has once again re-received its annual renewal from the Unitarian Universalist Association as a Welcoming Congregation. In 1993, FUSF voted to become a Welcoming Congregation and has maintained their status ever since. This means FUSF works hard to make sure lesbian, gay, bisexual,

transgender, and queer people are accepted as full members of our faith community. Being welcoming also means striving for radical inclusion, and creating spaces that honor every part of our identities, backgrounds, and experiences.

To receive designation as a Welcoming Congregation, FUSF has to complete the "5 Practices of Welcome Renewal"

every year. This past year, FUSF completed these requirements by conducting two LGBTQIA+ worship services, recognizing LGBTQIA+ Days of Observance, hosting two Out MetroWest LGBTQIA+ workshops, donating to OUT MetroWest, and supporting the Franklin LGBTQ Alliance with donations and volunteers for Franklin's Celebrate with Pride Day.

The FUSF Welcoming Congregation Team is responsible for leading the annual certification process. Some of their members are pictured below with Reverend Beverly Waring, FUSF's Interim Minister.

FUSF will hold its annual Pride Service on June 4, 2023. All are welcome and invited to attend. Details of this, or any service, can be found at fusf.org.

For inquiries please contact:
Rev. Beverly Waring, Interim Minister
First Universalist Society in Franklin
262 Chestnut Street, Franklin MA 02038
Minister@fusf.org or call (508) 528-5348

Franklin DPW Updates

Inspect your Impervious Area

Franklin property owners will be subject to a Stormwater Utility Fee (SU) beginning on or after July 1, 2023. The fee is based on impervious area per parcel (surface area that contributes to stormwater runoff because it does not allow water to absorb into the ground).

Property owners are encouraged to utilize our Impervious Area tool (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e45452a3047e4c83b27170a8f4f79aa5>) to inspect and confirm that the impervious area on their property is accurate. From there, you may calculate your stormwa-

ter fee based on the number of billing units on your property. Simply input your address using the Impervious Area tool.

Inspect your impervious area today to prevent filing an abatement later on!

Stormwater Utility Fee

Currently, funding for stormwater services is allocated to the Highway Department through the Town's General Fund. Due to the increased stormwater compliance requirements through the state, the cost associated with

stormwater services has increased. To ensure a sustainable funding structure for the future, the Town will therefore shift to a Stormwater Utility Fee.

Rain Barrel

The Spring Residential Rain Barrel Program is currently open to residents - residents can order directly from The Great American Rain Barrel Company. The deadline to order is May 7 - distribution will be May 17 from 4-6 p.m. at the Franklin DPW. (<https://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/>)

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Franklin Memorial Day Events

Friday, May 26, 9-11 a.m. Memorial Day Breakfast at the Senior Center.

Open to Veterans and community members.

Breakfast prepared by students from Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School's culinary department under the direction of Nancy Haney. Sponsored by the Friends of Franklin Elders.

Franklin High School choir will perform. Veteran advocate Rose Turco and State Rep. Jeff Roy will be the guest speakers

Reservations are required. RSVP to Mary at: (508) 520-4945 by May 12.

Monday, May 29, Memorial Day Parade. Starts at Dean College on Main St. at 10:30 a.m., turns onto School St. by the library, continues to the end of School street, turns right onto Route 140. Follows 140, takes a right at Beaver St. and ends at the Town Common by St. Mary's Church. There will be rifle salutes at Dean College and Union St. and St. Mary's cemeteries. Parade Grand Marshal will be Mark Ellis, Franklin Elks

Lodge Veteran Liaison and long-time Veteran Community Advocate. Local Boys and Girls Scout troops will participate along with five Franklin school bands.

The parade is being organized by American Legion Post 75, VFW Post 3402 and the Franklin Veterans' Council.

Monday, May 29, 12:00 p.m. Memorial Day Ceremony on the Town Common.

Parade Grand Marshal Mark Ellis will be the featured speaker.

American Legion Post 75 will provide a Color Guard and rifle salute.

Franklin High School band will perform the National Anthem.

VFW members will toll the bell and read the names of all Franklin Veterans who have passed since last Memorial Day, as well the names of Franklin's 45 fallen heroes who have died in combat since WWI.

To check on the parade and ceremony status in the event of inclement weather, please visit:

<https://www.franklinma.gov/veterans-services>

Upcoming Senior Center Events

The weather is getting warmer and we have lots of programming to fill the time!

Dean College Lecture Series: The Literature of Baseball on 5/4 at 1pm and Creative Writing on 5/9 at 1pm

Looking for a fun night out?! Friday, May 5th at 6:30p, a Night with Psychic Medium Cathy Ripley Greene! Call now to get your tickets! \$25/person

Need some technology assistance, specifically with iPhones and iPads- we can help! May 8th and May 22nd from 1-2:30p

Presentation with Joe Landry: History of Shoe Stores in Franklin on May 10th at 1pm

The popular program: Eat Around the World: MEXICO- Friday, May 12th at 11am.

Learn About Mexico and try delicious Mexican cuisine! \$6/ person

The Franklin Garden Club is offering a spring craft at the Senior Center on Friday May 12th from 1-3p

One Step To Safety- a prevention concept program to teach you a combination of basic strikes, tactics, and techniques, focusing on verbal and physical self defense movements, blocks, and body positions specifically for seniors! \$3/class on May 8th, 15th, and 22nd at 11:00a

Love to play Cribbage? Join our Cribbage Tournament on May 17th from 8:30-12:00. \$3 Entrance fee, chance to win cash prizes!

Hands Only CPR Class with Franklin's Fire Dept and Public Health Nurse on May 18th at 2:00p

Rainbow Cafe- all members and allies of the LGBTQ+ community are invited for friendship and conversation on Tuesday, May 30th at 2:30p

Don't Be A Beach Ball weight loss Competition from May 1st- June 9th, including weekly weigh-ins and programs to assist you on your weight loss journey. \$5/ person

Please reach out with any questions, take a look at our website for all other programs, and feel free to give us a call to register for programs at (508)520-4945!

Thanks to Yanks, a local charity dedicated to those who serve in the military, made a donation to Clear Path for Veterans New England. This donation was specifically made to support their mission to supply service dogs to veterans. In this picture is the McIsaac family, Connor, Ellie, Logan, Jacob, Maggie and Gavin, with Michael Shain, founder and president of Thanks to Yanks, with Mr. Nicholas Nadeau, a veteran and also the manager and administrator of the service dog program at Clear Path for Veterans New England. You can find information on both Thanks to Yanks and Clear Path for Veterans New England on their respective Facebook pages.



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Town Administrator Notes

Local Town Pages will discuss town updates with Franklin's Town Administrator, Jamie Hellen, each month.

Budget Hearings are coming up!

- Monday, May 8 – general government
- Wednesday, May 10 – school budgets (includes Tri-County and the Norfolk Aggie school)
- Thursday, May 11 – fire, police, public safety and public works

The Finance Committee will hold their budget committee meetings for the year," says Jamie Hellen, Franklin Town Administrator, "We break out the departments that have the largest budgets and impact the people the most." Hellen points out that all of these budget meetings will be held at 7 p.m.

in the Council Chambers, "and there will be a hybrid option, like always."

The Town Council Budget Hearings will take place on Wednesday, May 24th and Thursday, May 25th.

"On the town budget this year, the main theme is going to be we're going to finally see the effects of inflation on the town budget," says Hellen. He explains that utilities comprise over a million in increase from last year, with a rise in costs for

electricity and in gas and diesel. Inflation will also impact costs for personnel, supplies, including parts to fix vehicles and buildings, contractors, including plumbers and HVAC technicians and health insurance.

"If you think of utilities taking up a third of your revenue, and our electricity rates have been so historically low – I got a 13-cent-per-kilowatt rate— we're doing all the right things, but it's just simply a fact of math. Inflation that starts at the national level takes a good 12-18 months to settle in, but it also takes a solid year or two to climb out of it."

Hellen reassures residents that the core services people have come to expect in town, in-

cluding public safety, "are going to be here," but I think it might come as a shock to people that we're not able to expand services. We shouldn't pretend as if the sky is falling; we just need to realize that patience is required, and it's going to take us a year or two to get through this inflationary environment. A majority of the budgets are going way up, and as a result of those costs going up, there's obviously fewer dollars to go to other strategic initiatives that many in the community may want to see."

The Town Budget was released in mid-April, and Hellen recommends residents take a look at it on the town website, www.franklinma.gov.

Veteran Services Events

Friday, May 26, 9-11 a.m. Memorial Day Breakfast at the Senior Center.

Open to Veterans and community members.

Breakfast prepared by students from Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School's culinary department under the direction of Nancy Haney. Sponsored by the Friends of Franklin Elders.

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<https://www.franklinma.gov/veterans-services>

To advertise call Jen at 508-570-6544 or email: jenschofield@locaaltownpages.com

Save the Date!

**Franklin Rod & Gun Club
Fishing Derby**

53 Florence St., Uncas Pond

Saturday, June 3rd, 7 a.m.- 2 p.m.
(Rain date June 4th)

All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast, \$5,
plus pizza for lunch.

Free use of bait, gear, rod & reel while supplies
last. No license required

Trophies for 16 and under

\$10 adults, \$5 kids 12 and under

FPAC to Conclude 2022-23 Season with *Violet*

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will close out their star-studded 2022-23 season with the musical *Violet*, June 9-11 at THE BLACK BOX.

Set to Jeanine Tesori's stunning score, *Violet* tells a gripping story. As a girl, Violet was struck by a wayward axe blade when her father was chopping wood, leaving her with a visible scar across her face. With enough money finally saved, she travels across the Deep South in 1964 towards a miracle – the healing touch of a TV evangelist who will make her beautiful. Although she may not succeed in having the scar on her face healed, Violet is able to repair those scars that are lying deeper than her skin. On the way, she meets a young soldier whose love for her reaches far past her physical "imperfections."

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. The 2022-23 season featured performances by Sara Jean Ford (*The Phantom of the Opera*, *CATS*, and more), Tyrick Wiltez Jones (*Hairspray*, *Finian's Rainbow*), Michael Barra (*A Bronx Tale*), and Christopher Rice-Thomson (*Hamilton*, *Book of Mormon*, *Pretty Woman*), new

choreography by Broadway dance legend Tyler Hanes, and direction by FPAC resident artists and New York guests.

For *Violet* tickets and more information, visit THEBLACKBOXonline.com or call the box office at (508) 528-3370. THE BLACK BOX is located at 15 W. Central St. in downtown Franklin, MA.

Dean College to Hold 157th Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 6, 2023

Dean College's 157th Commencement Exercises celebrating the Class of 2023 will take place on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at Dean College, 99 Main Street, Franklin, MA.

The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. on the front lawn of Dean Hall, along Awpie Way, and will take place rain or shine. Livestream options will be available for graduates, family and friends who are unable to attend in person.

In addition to celebrating the Class of 2023, members of the Class of 1973 will be inducted into the 50th Society as part of an annual Commencement tradition. The College will also award honorary degrees to three recipients for their extraordinary accomplishments and contributions to society. Andrea Kremer, the Emmy Award-winning sports journalist, ESPN's first female

correspondent, and trailblazer in the field of broadcast journalism, will receive a Doctor of Humane Letters; Marty Walsh, the former Mayor of Boston, former U.S. Secretary of Labor, and incoming Executive Director of the National Hockey League Players Association, will receive a Doctor of Public Service; and Rutina Wesley, the award-winning actress known for her roles in "True Blood," "Queen Sugar" and "The Last of Us," will receive a Doctor of Arts.

Kremer will also present remarks at the ceremony, while student speaker Enrico Hernandez '23 will speak on behalf of the Class of 2023.

For more information about Dean College Commencement, visit www.dean.edu/commencement.

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12th Annual FBRTC 5K Road Race and Walk May 13th

Join continuing efforts to develop the Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT) into a multi-use path for Franklin & Bellingham. The SNETT is an abandoned rail bed running from Franklin through Douglas to the CT border, sections of which have become fully developed multi-use paths linking communities across southern Central Massachusetts.

The annual race starts at 9 a.m., with registration at 7:30 a.m., at the Grove Street SNETT Trailhead - Parking at Waters 210 Grove St., Franklin, Mass. Plenty of water and refreshments will be available, with awards to winners.

For more info & to learn how else you can help visit: <https://www.franklinbellinghamrailtrail.org/>

Learn More about Franklin Rotary Club!

Rotary Club of Franklin MA meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m., at the Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central Street, Franklin, MA 02038. The Rotary Club International is a non-profit organization made up of a diverse group of men and women “who come together to create positive, lasting change in our communities and around the

world.” <https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary>.

If you would like more information about their organization, please email Diane Padula at padularotary@gmail.com and she will make arrangements for you to be a guest at one of the upcoming meetings. You may also visit their website for upcoming events: <http://portal.clubrunner.ca/3689>.

Exsultet! Receives 2023 Grants

We are also very excited to share that Exsultet! have been awarded three grants for our 2022-23 season! We have recently received a grant from both the Holliston Cultural Council and Dedham Cultural Council for Community based Cultural Programming as well as the Cultural Sector

Recovery Grant for Organizations from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Exsultet! is truly grateful to the Mass Cultural Council, Dedham Cultural Council and the Holliston Cultural Council for their support and we will continue to represent the highest level of arts in our community.

Exsultet’s upcoming spring concert series, “An Evening of Roses”, is quickly approaching. Join us for a kaleidoscope of sound and emotion on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 7:00pm at First Congregational Church, 725 Washington Street, Holliston, MA and on Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at Allin Con-



gregational Church, 683 High Street, Dedham, MA. These performances will include songs ranging from the 1920s to current Broadway hits that tell the story of a woman looking for love (sometimes in the wrong places). Music of romance will fill the air.

General admission tickets are \$20; students and seniors (65+) are \$15; and children 12 and under

are free. Performances are not suitable for children under age 5. Tickets can be purchased starting April 1, 2023 through our website (www.exsultet.us) or by calling Stacey Balardini at (508) 395-5600.

Founded in 2013, Exsultet! A Celebration of Voices is an auditioned women’s chamber ensemble

combining great music and poetry to inspire audiences with adventurous and innovative concerts. Exsultet’s mission is to give women an opportunity to join together to make music, to showcase the works of up and coming composers and arrangers, to feature the talents of local musicians and actors, and to combine performance and advocacy by focusing on important community issues and partnering with other local organizations. For more details, please visit www.exsultet.us.

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3/4" Lavender Stone.....	\$80.00
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Special 3" Fill	\$22.00
Trench Sand	\$28.00
1" Dense Grade Gravel	\$25.00

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Saturday Call for Seasonal Hours / Closed Sunday

Firewood SALE!

2023 Disability Expo - Saturday, May 20, 2023

The 2023 Disability Expo is scheduled for individuals with disability, support persons, community partners, and more. It will be held at the Franklin Senior Center on Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Representatives are scheduled to be on site to share a variety of resources regarding disability services that are available.

Questions? call Disability Chairperson Mary O'Neill at (508) 440-1265

Download the flyer to share or as your reminder!
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X4DNe9MyhUQg6unJUrjtZw3HS71Ssbwh/view?usp=share_link



An Open Letter from the Franklin Disability Commission:

It has recently been brought to our attention that people who do not have a handicap are parking in spots designated for persons with handicaps. It is happening at some schools and at the Dean Commuter Rail Station in downtown Franklin. The Police Department can issue a citation or warning but aren't always present to witness these situations.

People naturally like to park close to their destination. They may justify taking the parking spot by saying "I'll be only about five minutes." Five minutes can

be a long time to a person who has a handicap and is waiting for that spot. It is also dangerous for school children with handicaps who may depend on the greater safety these spots provide. At some schools, the long lines of cars parked and idling at pickup time block the safe access of handicapped children, with or without parents present, to get to and from the school building and vehicles.

Recently, I had a conversation with a person who did have a handicap. This person works with other people who also have handicaps. We were in agreement that people with handicaps are sometimes treated as less than whole people. Sadly, she said it was a daily experience for her. We also agreed that parking in a handicap-designated spot is disrespectful if a person does not have a handicap.

We are all whole people. No one is less than another. In life we all face challenges uniquely our own. We all deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

When children are young it might be a good time to introduce them to the handicap sign and its meaning and help them to become sensitive to people they may not understand.

All of the residents of our Town have the human right to access their community and enjoy all the wonderful things this Town has to offer. If you do not have a handicap please do not park in handicap-designated spots. We should always be mindful of people who have disabilities.

We have a Disability Commission in Town. Please let the Commission know if anyone has concerns for themselves or others. We will make every effort to help you and resolve any issues presented to us. You may reach us at 508-440-1265. We will honor your concerns confidentially. We are here. Please know that we care.

Mary O'Neill, Chairperson, Disability Commission,

<https://www.franklinma.gov/commission-persons-disabilities>

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Hours: Monday - Thursday: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Friday: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. CLOSED Sunday

Franklin Cultural District May Events

FHS Jazz Concert - 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3 at Franklin High School, 218 Oak St, Franklin, MA 02038

FHS POPS Night / 8th Grade Side by Side Concert - 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10 at Franklin High School, 218 Oak St, Franklin, MA 02038

FHSTC performs "Get SMART" - Friday, May 19 at 7 p.m. Franklin High School, 218 Oak St, Franklin, MA 02038

Arts and Culture Listening Tour Session 3 - Fri, May 19, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Escape Into Fiction, 12 Main St, Franklin, MA 02038, USA. Creativity and Culture are important tools in community building. As the Town of Franklin embarks on the Master Plan update process, it is the perfect time to spotlight our creative community and create space to have an authentic conversation regarding the future of Arts and Culture. Which is why the Franklin Town Council has established an Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Arts and Cultural Initiatives to

host an Arts and Culture listening tour in town! Your feedback and ideas will be used to inform the direction of arts and culture for the next 10-15 years!

Writer's Quiet Space - Would you like a quiet space to hang out and write? We are offering a space for writers to get out of their routine space and write! Every Thursday from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Escape Into Fiction, 12 Main St, Franklin, MA 02038, USA. Bring Hotspot or Wi-fi as we do not provide.

Senior Scribblers Writing Group - Every Wednesday at the Franklin Senior Center. We also meet virtually, contact the Senior Center for info the last Wednesday of the month, we meet at the Franklin TV & Radio studio to record our monthly radio show.

Franklin Public Library Book Sale - \$1 books for sale May 20 at 9 a.m. at 118 Main St, Franklin, MA 02038, USA; \$5 book bags available beginning at 1 p.m.

Franklin School for the Performing Arts to present Spring Concert

The Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) will present its annual Spring Concert Performances on May 20 and 21 at the Franklin High School Auditorium. The annual performances showcase the work of FSPA's dance, musical theater, voice, and instrumental music students. Featuring FSPA students of many ages and levels, Spring Concert is presented in an audience-friendly, 90-minute format.

Prospective students are invited to take advantage of an FSPA All Access Pass for a tour of the school, complimentary trial class, and free tickets to a Spring Concert performance. Spring Concert shows provide a dynamic way to experience what the school has to offer across many dance disciplines, voice, acting, instrumental music, and musical theater programming.

Spring Concert performances will be presented on Saturday, May 20 at 4 and 7 p.m. and on

Sunday, May 21 at 1 and 4 p.m. at the Franklin High School Auditorium, 218 Oak St., Franklin.



Proudly serving more than 500 students annually from 45 communities in Massachusetts' Metro West region, the Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) is committed to quality education in the arts with exceptional curriculum, outstanding professional faculty and unwavering dedication to each and every student enrolled. Founded in 1985 by Director Raye Lynn Mercer, FSPA is a unique place

where students of all ages and levels of ability participate in an array of music, dance, and drama programs with professional instruction and extraordinary performing opportunities. With broad-based and varied curricula, FSPA guides students in the development of technique, creativity, and artistic expression to last a lifetime. FSPA's faculty boasts outstanding professional artists, performers, and teachers. Their impressive credentials are indicative of the excellent instruction available in all programs. FSPA instructors strive to meet the individual needs of each student, working to develop each student's abilities to his or her own potential.

Prospective students and families should call FSPA at (508) 528- 8668 or stop by 38 Main Street to reserve their complimentary tickets and schedule a trial class or tour of the facilities. Visit www.FSPAonline.com for more information.



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For more package info and to reserve your spot, please contact Jen Schofield at 508-570-6544 or by email at jenschofield@localtownpages.com. Only 10 available per site! They will go quick!



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Library Hours

The Franklin Public Library will be closed Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day. The Library's regular hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ESL & Adult Literacy Program

The Franklin Public Library has started an English as a Second Language and Adult Literacy Program to serve Franklin and its surrounding communities. Volunteers and students do not need to be Franklin residents. If interested, please contact Deputy Library Director Kim Shipala at kshipala@minlib.net, or fill out the registration form on the library's website .

Special Events for Kids

Kids Take & Makes: May Flowers

Starting Monday, May 1st stop by the library to pick up your very own May Flowers kit! Kits include supplies and instructions for making your very own coffee filter flowers, the perfect craft to brighten your day!! SUP-

PLIES ARE LIMITED! Kits will be distributed on a first come first serve basis!

Star Wars Droid Scavenger Hunt! Thursday, May 4th – Saturday, May 5

No registration required
Calling all Jedi! Droids are loose in the library! Can you find them all?

Jamie Barrett Concert! Saturday May 6, 10:30 a.m.

No registration required
Families! Join us for a rocking morning at the library! Local celebrity Jamie Barrett will bring the jams, and you bring your best dance moves!

Pen to Picture: A Graphic Novelist Panel! Saturday, May 13, 12:00 p.m.

No registration required
Join us as we welcome three popular graphic novelists to Franklin! Meet/Hear from Scott Magoon, Matt Tavares and Maris Wicks and participate in interactive, creative breakout sessions, photo ops and book signings!

Baby Wearing Dance Party! Friday May 12 & Friday May 26, 9:00 a.m.

No registration required
Strap your little one in and join us for music and movement together! Bond with your baby in a fun, active way for this half-hour program!!

Shavuot Celebration! Saturday May 20, 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a special celebration of the Jewish Holiday Shavuot! Learn and celebrate with crafts, snacks, activities and more!

Special Events for Teens

Teen Take & Makes: Capiz Wind Chimes!

Starting Monday, May 1st stop by the library to pick up your very own Capiz Wind Chime kit! Kits include supplies and instructions for making your very own mini wind chime, the perfect craft to brighten your day!! SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED! Kits will be distributed on a first come first serve basis!

Teen Stress Relief Night! Wednesday May 3, 6:30 p.m.

Teens! Join us for a night of relaxation and rejuvenation before your big exams!

Pen to Picture: A Graphic Novelist Panel! Saturday, May 13, 12:00 p.m.

Join us as we welcome three popular graphic novelists to Franklin! Meet/Hear from Scott Magoon, Matt Tavares and Maris Wicks and participate in interactive, creative breakout sessions, photo ops and book signings!

In the Newsroom with NBC10Boston/NECN's Susan Tran, May 15, 5:00 p.m.

Virtual Program
Meet Susan Tran, on-air reporter for NBC10Boston/NECN! We'll be discussing how Susan got to where she is, her experiences in TV media, especially as an Asian American woman, and how local news impacts our perceptions of the world around us. Bring your questions, this is sure to be a fascinating and enlightening conversation!

Brought to you in collaboration with Ashland Public Library!
RSVP: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6016811510304/WN_QF8VMnXfQUSAMh_n1_h0ug

Teen Taylor Swift Trivia! Wednesday May 17, 6:30 p.m.

Teens! Think you're the ultimate Swiftie? Join us for a night of trivia, snacks, and singalongs to find out!

Revolutionary Design: Modern Architecture in New England, May 22, 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Program
What do Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Gropius, Louis Kahn, Philip Johnson and Maya Lin have in common? Legendary architects? Yep. Innovators in Modern design? True. They all have work in New England?! Join us over Zoom to introduce each architect and explore their notable works in New England locales.

Brought to you in collaboration with

RSVP: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6616757058913/WN_pCRL4QPMTcmfz-wAnA_DcfQ

Popcorn and a Play! Wednesday May 24, 6:30 p.m.

Teens! Join us for an evening of snacks and acting! We will be reading a one act play together on the spot, and enjoying some popcorn!

Events for Adults

Adult Take & Makes: Resin Photo Magnets!

Starting Monday, May 1st stop by the library to pick up your very own Resin Photo Magnet kit! Kits include supplies and instructions for making your very personalized magnet!! SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED! 1 KIT PER PERSON! Kits will be distributed on a first come first serve basis!

What is wrong with my Houseplants?! May 4, 2:00 p.m.

Virtual Program
As with our outdoor gardens, many things can go wrong when you grow plants indoors. Learn the factors that make for happy houseplants, including light, water, and soil...and how to provide them. Common houseplant pests and diseases are also on the agenda, as well as how to treat

LIBRARY

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LIBRARY

continued from page 22

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RSVP: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6616795027780>/WN_FqTxrBCTSa_RLSedRdqog

Lotus Lantern Craft, May 6, 2:00 p.m.

Registration Required!

A Member of Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project will show us, step by step, how to make a lovely lotus flower lantern using colored paper and wire frames followed by a documentary film!

Register here: https://www.eventkeeper.com/code/ekform.cfm?curOrg=FRANKLIN&curName=2023/05/06_Lotus_Lantern_Workshop

In the Newsroom with NBC10Boston/NECN's Susan Tran, May 15, 5:00 p.m.

Virtual Program

Meet Susan Tran, on-air reporter for NBC10Boston/NECN! We'll be discussing how Susan got to where she is, her experiences in TV media, especially as an Asian American woman, and how local news impacts our perceptions of the world around

us. Bring your questions, this is sure to be a fascinating and enlightening conversation!

Brought to you in collaboration with Ashland Public Library!

RSVP: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6016811510304>/WN_QF8VMnXfQUSAMh_nl_h0ug

Rain Garden Workshop, May 18, 6:30 p.m.

Rain gardens are specially designed and planted depressions in the ground that collect, filter, and treat stormwater. Join a discussion with Franklin Dept. of Public Works on the installation and maintenance of a rain garden: site-selection, native plant choices, benefits, and more!

Revolutionary Design: Modern Architecture in New England, May 22, 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Program

What do Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Gropius, Louis Kahn, Philip Johnson and Maya Lin have in common? Legendary architects? Yep. Innovators in Modern design? True. They all have work in New England?! Join us over Zoom to introduce each architect and explore their notable works in New England locales.

Brought to you in collaboration with

RSVP: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6616757058913>/WN_pCRL4QPMTcmfz-wAnA_DcfQ

Adult Paint Party, Thursday, May 25th 6:00 p.m.

Join local instructor Denise Palmieri for this unique paint party for adults! We will be testing out different paint pouring techniques to create abstract artwork! All materials will be provided and you'll get to take home your very own pair of painting! REGISTRATION REQUIRED! All attendees must be at least 18.

Genealogy Club, Thursday, May 25, 6:30 p.m. The Art of Finding Living People

Our DNA series with Dr. Adina Newman wraps up with this presentation. Each program is stand alone, so it's not necessary to have attended the other presentations. This program is free and open to all who are interested. No registration required.

Franklin Public Library Book Club Tuesday, May 22, 7:00 p.m.

The book for discussion is Interior Chinatown, by Charles Yu.

Every day Willis Wu leaves his tiny room in a Chinatown SRO and enters the Golden Palace restaurant, where Black and White, a procedural cop show, is in perpetual production. He's a bit player here too, but he dreams of being Kung Fu Guy-- and he sees his life as a script. After stumbling into the spotlight, Willis finds himself launched into a wider world than he has ever known, discovering not only the

secret history of Chinatown, but the buried legacy of his own family, and what that means for him in today's America.

For more information, please contact Deputy Library Director Kim Shipala at kshipala@minlib.net.

Events for All Ages

Lotus Lantern Craft, May 6, 2:00 p.m.

Registration Required!

A Member of Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project will show us, step by step, how to make a lovely lotus flower lantern using colored paper and wire frames followed by a documentary film!

Register here: https://www.eventkeeper.com/code/ekform.cfm?curOrg=FRANKLIN&curName=2023/05/06_Lotus_Lantern_Workshop

Spring Health Fair, May 22, 3:00 p.m.

Join us for Local Vendors • Petting Zoo • Farm Stand • Refreshments • Health Services • Face Painting • Raffles & Give-aways • Kids Zone • Activities • Education for all ages • and More!

The Petting Zoo is by registration.

RSVP HERE: https://www.eventkeeper.com/code/ekform.cfm?curOrg=FRANKLIN&curName=2023/05/24_Spring_Health_Fair

"50 Hikes in Eastern Massachusetts" with Author Madeline Bilis, May 23, 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Program

Just in time for summer! We are looking forward to chatting with author Madeline Bilis about her book "50 Hikes in Eastern Massachusetts". Hopefully, we'll all feel motivated to dust off our hiking shoes and hit the road!

Brought to you in collaboration with Ashland Public Library

RSVP: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4116806470782?WN_066FNRNpT8Oa1432C6sWcg

Book Sale

Franklin Library Book Sale Friday, May 19, 1:00-5:00 p.m. Saturday, May 20, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

All books are just one dollar!

Bag Sale - \$5 A Bag—Saturday, May 20, from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Come fill a brown bag with all the books you can!

MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

Mercury is an element that can be harmful to human health and the environment if not disposed of properly.

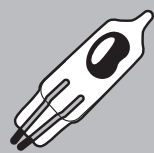
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House, Senate Enact \$388.6 M Supplemental Budget

The State House and Senate recently enacted a \$388.6M supplemental budget to support free school meals program, family shelters and other critical funding needs. Spending bill also extends remote meetings until 2025 and outdoor dining until 2024. State Representative Michael Soter (R-Bellingham) recently joined with his House colleagues to \$388.6 million supplemental budget that funds critical state programs and services while temporarily extending several pandemic-era policies, including authorizing municipalities to continue providing for remote participation in public meetings until 2025. House Bill 3548 was approved unanimously on a vote of 153-0 in the House of Representatives and 39-0 in the Senate on March 23, and is now on Governor Maura Healey's desk for her review and signature. The supplemental budget incorporates aspects of two bills previously filed by Governor Healey to offset funding shortfalls in several state programs and to recapitalize other state initiatives

through bond authorizations. Representative Soter said House Bill 3548 will help address food insecurity issues by providing \$65 million to fund the free school meals program through the end of the current academic year. It also includes \$130 million for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to ensure that families in need have access to healthy food options, now that the additional federal benefits allotted during the pandemic ended on March 2. Another \$2 million is included to reimburse SNAP recipients who were the victims of benefits theft.

Housing and shelter programs are also a focus of the new supplemental budget. Representative Soter noted that House Bill 3548 includes \$45 million for emergency family shelter assistance, along with \$15.7 million for the Residential Assistance to Families in Transition (RAFT) program. House Bill 3548 also takes steps to support childcare providers who have struggled during the pandemic. The bill authorizes \$68 million for the

Commonwealth Cares for Children C3 Stabilization Grants program, which helps early education and care providers cover their day-to-day operational and workforce costs. According to Representative Soter, the supplemental budget offers assistance to municipalities by allowing the continued use of remote and hybrid meetings of public bodies, as well as reduced quorum requirements for town meetings, until March 31, 2025. It also authorizes a one-year extension of outdoor dining options for restaurants, and gives them the ability to continue serving cocktails, beer and wine in conjunction with food takeout orders until April 1, 2024. The bill also permanently authorizes public corporations and non-profits to hold certain meetings remotely. In addition, it permanently allows notaries public to conduct remote online notarization using communication technology and directs the Secretary of State to implement regulations relative to remote notarizations by January 1, 2024. In addition to the \$388.6

million in direct spending, House Bill 3548 authorizes \$740.3 million in borrowing for multiple state programs, including:

- \$400 million for MassWorks, which provides infrastructure project grants to cities, towns and public entities;
- \$140 million for the Clean Water Trust;
- \$1 million for grants and technical assistance to municipalities and regional applicants to support planning and locally-driven initiatives related to community development, housing production, workforce training and economic opportunity, child care and early education initiatives and climate resilience initiatives;
- \$34 million to provide assistance to projects that will improve, rehabilitate or redevelop blighted, abandoned, vacant or underutilized properties by increasing housing production,

supporting economic development projects, and increasing commercial building accessibility to persons with disabilities;

- \$8 million for the Smart Growth Housing Trust Fund;
- \$125 million for the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation for a matching grant program for tech-based innovation;
- \$14 million for the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation for a matching grant program for manufacturing;
- \$9.3 million for the Massachusetts Broadband Incentive Fund;
- \$15 million for higher education manufacturing grants; and
- \$30 million to fund broadband infrastructure for public entities

MWPC Endorsement Applications Open through May 5th

The Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus (MWPC) Political

Action Committee's (PAC) New Endorsement and Re-Endorse-

ment Applications are now open for the 2023 municipal elections!

The MWPC PAC is a non-partisan, pro-choice organization dedicated to helping build gender parity in government. The women we endorse prioritize empowering other women and dismantling systems of oppression. Through our endorsement, we aim to help elect these women to build representative governance by identifying leaders who will act with care, urgency, and competence.


Applications will close at 11:59 p.m. on May 5th. If you are running for re-election and have been endorsed by the MWPC PAC before, please fill out the re-endorsement application. If you have not previously been endorsed by the MWPC PAC or are running for a new seat, please fill out the new endorsement application.

Find more information at <https://mwpc.org>.

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Sports

MUCCIARONE

continued from page 1

his junior campaign with a 6-1 record and an earned-run average of 2.05. "I've been thinking about it since we lost to Taunton."

The 18-year-old Mucciarone, who'll be competing for UMass-Lowell next year, is acutely aware of what's needed for a successful tourney run. "It's about doing all the things necessary to get to the final," he emphasized. "It'll take focus and determination in practice, in the classroom and in regular-season games. Preparation and execution are vital."

Mucciarone's two key statistics as a sophomore were just as impressive as his numbers as a junior. He had a 6-1 record and an E.R.A. of 2.01 during a season shorted because of covid-19. And, although he struck out 56 hitters and walked only 6 as a junior, he struck out 28 as a sophomore and walked 11.

Honored to be a captain this year, he's a two-time Hockomock League all-star who'll likely earn that accolade a third time. But, what makes Mucciarone a breed apart is what occurred after his freshman year. He committed to attend UMass-Lowell on a scholarship.

"We didn't have any spring sports my freshman year because of covid," Mucciarone recalled. "But, I was playing AAU ball and that summer and I pitched a no-hitter against a team coached by Ken Haring, the UMass-Lowell coach. His son played on the team."

"After that 10-0 victory, coach Haring saw me compete a few more times. I eventually toured the campus in Lowell and was offered a scholarship that summer. He was impressed with the no-hitter. It may have been a coincidence but the timing was great. He told me there were no guarantees but he felt I could make an impact."

Mucciarone's two seasons as a starter have played a role in the Panthers' regular-season and tourney success. Franklin was 16-2 his sophomore year and advanced to the sectional final where it bowed to Xaverian. The Panther were 23-4 overall last year.



Franklin High's Alfred Mucciarone will be pitching for UMass-Lowell next spring.

"Alfred is a very special kid," said Franklin coach Zach Brown. "He's a fierce competitor and a tremendous teammate. A captain who leads by example, he's supportive of his teammates and he's also very humble. He relies on a fastball that's been clocked at 92 mph. He'll mix in a change-up, a cutter and a slider. His control is exceptional, he works hard on his mechanics and he's able to overwhelm the strike zone."

Mucciarone's style varies depending on the situation. "I'm aggressive when I'm ahead on the count," he said. "When I'm behind on the count, I'll analyze the hitter more and think about how he reacted on the previous pitch."

Three strengths that have led to his success are a high baseball IQ, pin-point control and leadership.

"I strive to be sharp on my mechanics," he said. "My control keeps hitters off balance and, as a captain, I lead by example, always trying to display what Franklin High baseball is all about. I'm also a supportive captain, especially with our younger players."

Mucciarone, who started playing baseball at five years old in the Franklin Youth League, has been on the AAU circuit for eight years. Now, in his final cam-

paign at the interscholastic level, his goals are obvious.

"I want to win the Kelley-Rex Division title, get to the tourney and win the state championship," he reiterated. "The key is to keep improving daily and peak at play-off time. My personal goals are to be the best captain I can be, improve on my pitching stats and aim to be a league all-star again."

At Town Pages deadline, he had a 2-0 record, 20 strikeouts and an E.R.A. of 0.00. One of his wins came against Foxboro, last year's Division 3 state semi-finalist.

Mucciarone says all his objectives are realistic. "We can win the state title because we've got experience and talent," he emphasized. "Our younger players are capable and we've got good senior leadership."

Three seniors Mucciarone believes will be major contributors this season are captains Eisig Chin (right-fielder) and Jase Lyons (utility player) and center-fielder Ryan Gerety.

"A leader by example, Eisig, who's heading for Stonehill next year, is a power hitter and a quality fielder," Mucciarone noted. "Jase is versatile, able to play in the outfield, infield or at D-H. He's a contact hitter who's a vocal leader. Ryan has great speed, can hit and is our leadoff



Franklin's Alfred Mucciarone relies on a fastball that's been clocked at 92 mph.

guy. He'll be going to Northeastern."

Mucciarone is a fan of his coach, calling him "a role model."

"Coach Brown comes to work every day with lots of energy," Mucciarone said. "He knows the ins and outs of baseball and his comments are always motivating."

Mucciarone, who's other role models are his parents (Lisa and Matthew), relies on a competitive philosophy of winning, reaching his potential and enjoying his athletic journey. "I've learned some valuable life lessons from sports," he offered. "Athletics have taught me how to be a leader, how to be a good teammate and how to overcome adversity. Mental toughness is an attribute I've learned from sports."

Mucciarone displayed his share of mental toughness last summer when he compiled a 5-1 record for Franklin's American Legion squad that won the state championship.

"That was a great feeling," he said. "And, it was good for the town, especially after losing to Taunton in the state tourney."

Being a contributor on a championship team didn't surprise Brown.

"When Alfred committed to UMass-Lowell after his freshman year, there was a lot of talk about good he could be," Brown recalled. "There was hype and there was plenty of pressure. Now, as a senior captain, he's the ace of our staff."

That status isn't surprising but it sure is deserving.



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Register O'Donnell Reports on March 2023 Real Estate Activity in Norfolk County

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reported that Norfolk County recordings for the month of March 2023 indicate a continued decrease in overall real estate activity, with significant drops in mortgage activity and the average property sale price as compared to March 2022.

"Spring has arrived, ushering in a new home-buying season, which is reflected in March's rise in real estate activity over the previous month," said Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell. "As compared to last year, however, we are still seeing significant decreases in the number of documents filed."

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds recorded 8,541 documents in March 2023. This was 31% less than in March 2022 and 27% more than in February 2023.

"Despite easing inflation, high food and energy costs are still limiting customers' ability to save money," said Register O'Donnell. "The number of recorded deeds, which is one measure of document volume, shows a drop in real estate sales from the previous year."

The number of deeds for March 2023, which reflect real estate sales and transfers, both commercial and residential, was 1,250, a decrease of 17% from March 2022 and an increase of 29% from the previous month of February.

"Although home prices have fallen significantly, they are still higher than pre-pandemic averages, with March 2023 home prices 34% higher than March 2019," O'Donnell went on to say, "The lack of available real estate inventory is likely one reason why property prices are still higher than they were before the pandemic, along with the desire to live in local communities."

Sale prices for March appear to have dropped compared to March 2022. The average sale price in March was \$886,486, a 21% decrease from March 2022 and a 6% decrease from February 2023. The total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales is down, decreasing 38% from one year ago and increasing 34% from last month.

"A continued decline in the number of deeds and mortgages recorded at the registry may in-

dicade that homeowners who took advantage of lower interest rates in 2020 are hesitant to make moves with average mortgage interest rates above 6%." O'Donnell added, "Although average sales prices are declining, current homeowners and first-time buyers may be holding out hope for lower interest rates."

Overall lending activity showed a continued downward trend for the month of March. A total of 1,280 mortgages were recorded this month, 47% less than a year ago at the same time and up 41% from last month.

"According to the data, we are recording significantly fewer mortgages than in the past, which can be attributed to a number of factors that the country is experiencing right now, such as the rising cost of living and a spike in mortgage interest rates," explained O'Donnell. "These aspects of the economy can affect the local real estate market."

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has been closely monitoring the foreclosure market. In March 2023, there were 4 foreclosure deeds recorded as a result of mortgage foreclosures taking

place in Norfolk County, whereas in March 2022, there were 5 recorded. However, in March 2023, there were 30 notices to foreclose, the first step in the foreclosure process, significantly more than the 11 recorded in March 2022.

"The substantial increase in the number of these notices is troubling. It suggests that more of our neighbors may have financial difficulties in the future," said O'Donnell. "We will continue to monitor these figures."

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

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

Register O'Donnell concluded, "The limited inventory of available property on the market and the high demand for homes are likely factors in keeping property values above pre-pandemic levels, while the decrease in prices may be due to homebuyers' reluctance to take out mortgages at current interest rates."

To learn more about these and other Registry of Deeds events and initiatives, "like" us on Facebook at facebook.com/norfolkdeeds. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @norfolkdeeds.

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

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Worship Services for Children offered on Selected Saturday Evenings

Rev Kathy offers a simple, informal service geared for young children at both Grace and St John's. The services include stories, crafts or other activities, easy fun songs, and a simple Eucharist (Communion) totaling about 30 minutes.

All families are invited to join us Saturdays at 5pm:

April 22, 29 and May 27 at Grace Episcopal Church, 104 N Washington St, North Attleboro

April 15 and May 20 at St John's Episcopal Church, 237 Pleasant St, Franklin

For more information, call (857) 237-9428 or email Recor@StJohnsFranklinMA.org

Register O'Donnell Promotes Massachusetts Homestead Act

Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell today reminded Norfolk County homeowners about the importance of filing for Homestead Protection.

O'Donnell noted, "If you own a home, and it is your primary residence, you have an automatic homestead exemption of \$125,000. However, if you file a Declaration of Homestead at the Registry of Deeds, the exemption increases to \$500,000. The Homestead Law provides a homeowner with limited protection against the forced sale of their primary residence to satisfy unsecured debt up to \$500,000 if they have filed. This is especially important when you consider that for most of us, a home is our most valuable asset. Consumers should take steps to protect that asset."

Another feature of the Homestead Law is the allowance for the filing of an Elderly Homestead Declaration, which defines an elder as a person who is 62 years of age or older and provides protection of \$500,000 for each qualified person.

The Register further noted, "In March of 2011, the Homestead Law was updated so that a valid Homestead is not terminated when refinancing a mortgage. Other changes that took place back in 2011 state that a Homestead can provide protections for a primary home even if it is held in a trust. The definition of a primary residence was also expanded to include a manufac-

tured or mobile home."

A Declaration of Homestead also protects the sale proceeds if the home is sold for up to one year after the date of the sale or on the date when a new home is purchased with the proceeds, whichever comes first. Additionally, if the home is damaged by a fire, for example, the insurance proceeds are protected for two years after the date of the fire or on the date when the home is reconstructed or a new home is purchased, whichever is earlier.

While the Homestead Statute provides important protections for homeowners, it is important to note that certain debts are exempt from protection under the Homestead Act. These include federal, state, and local tax liens, as well as mortgages contracted for the purchase of a primary home and nursing home liens. Most other mortgages, debts, and encumbrances existing prior to the filing of the Declaration of Homestead, along with probate court executions for spousal and child support, are also not covered under the Homestead Protection Statute.

Declarations of Homestead are recorded at the Registry of Deeds for a state-imposed fee of \$36.00. Additional information about the Homestead Law and the forms are available at no cost by going to the Registry's website at www.norfolkdeeds.org.

Register O'Donnell concluded, "I want to reiterate that a Homestead provides limited

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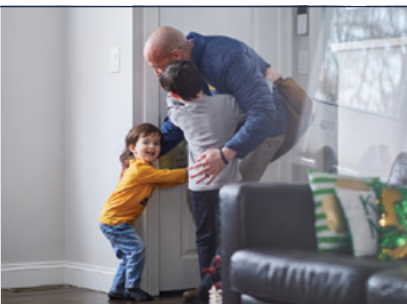
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Interfaith Teen Climate Change group continues monthly

Join us on the first Sunday of each month to learn and plan advocacy toward slowing Climate Change to save our planet, and for Climate Justice (mitigating the effects of Climate Change on poor and BIPOC communities) in Franklin and beyond. All young people and

adult advisors are welcome, regardless of religious affiliation. Join us Sunday, May 4th at 7pm at St John's Episcopal Church, 237 Pleasant Street in Franklin.

For more information, call (857) 237-9428 or email Recor@StJohnsFranklinMA.org

MetroWest Boston Visitors Bureau Meeting June 20th

The Annual Meeting of the MetroWest Boston Visitors Bureau will take place on Tuesday June 20th from 8:30 – 10 a.m. Please mark your calendar, as we hope you will be in attendance! You will hear from our featured speakers, Senate President

Karen E. Spilka and Framingham State University President Nancy Niemi. There will also be an update from our team with regard to increasing travel and tourism throughout the MetroWest region.

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Coming Up at Bellforge Arts Center

The following events are free, but registration is encouraged. Visit <https://bellforge.org>.

FieldFest Music Festival

Local music is one of the heartbeats of Bellforge Arts Center, and we kick off the 2023 live music season with performances by bands from the "Bellforge Triangle" of Boston, Worcester, and Providence. Catch Jennifer Tefft, Shotgun Waltz, and others for an afternoon of engaging alternative rock sounds.

Saturday, May 6, 12-5 p.m.

Fun at The Forge

Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The kids take the spotlight for our annual event focusing on the younger generation. A true all-ages afternoon, join us for magic, music, face-painting, and plenty more to keep both the kiddies and the adults entertained.

New Life 5K

Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Join us as we team up with New Life Furniture Bank for this annual 5k around the expansive Medfield grounds. For non-runners, we'll have TrillFit keeping the campus active and beat going strong with free cardio classes.

Pride Celebration

Saturday, June 10, 12-7 p.m.

Bellforge Pride is a joyful event honoring the equality, visibility, and acceptance of our LGTBQ+ community members and allies. All are welcome at this family-friendly, fun and free celebration. Live music will range from alternative to indie to pop; lineup coming soon!

Juneteenth Celebration

Saturday, June 17, 12 -7 p.m.

All are welcome to join us for our annual Juneteenth Celebration at Bellforge, an afternoon of art and music that showcases and celebrates Black excellence. There will be live performances of rising New England talent, homegrown DJs keeping the beat strong all day long, and community vendors offering retail, food, and beverage.

Summer Sounds

Wednesday, June 21, 5-8 p.m.

Summer Sounds is the perfect mid-week getaway right in our own backyard. Join us after work until dusk for a free evening of food trucks, beer garden vibes, lawn games, and live music performances from rising homegrown bands and artists. All ages, Wednesdays, all summer.

To Get to Bellforge Arts Center:

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

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

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

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

For more information, visit bellforge.org/events.

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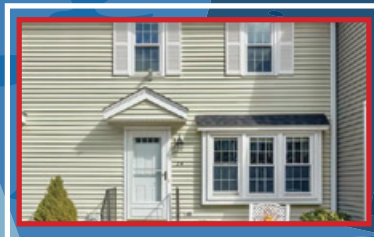


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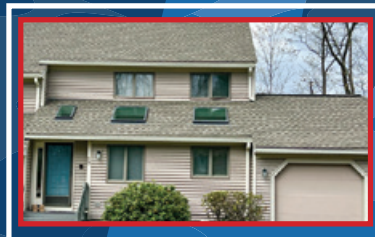


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Real Estate Corner

Senate President Spilka to host Mental Health Event for Parents & Caregivers

Massachusetts Senate President Karen E. Spilka has announced that she will offer an online educational session, titled *Mental Health Essentials for Parents and Caregivers*, presented by the Mental Health Collaborative (MHC). This free webinar will provide the audience, particularly those with children in grades six through 12, the tools they need to understand their children's stress, identify emotional and behavioral health issues and their treatments, and empower them to obtain and maintain good mental health for themselves and their loved ones, and much more.

"As a community, we are more aware of the need for mental health care than ever, in part because the challenges we face are too big to be ignored," said Massachusetts Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "Last year, my priority legislation to

deliver nation-leading reforms for mental healthcare in Massachusetts, the Mental Health ABC Act, was signed into law. It's so important that the changes which this new law sets in motion reach families throughout Massachusetts. In the communities I represent, parents and caregivers have shared concerns with me about their children's mental health and their family's ability to access quality mental health services. This seminar is designed to assist with both."

"Our mission is to build resilient communities through mental health education and awareness," said Abbie Rosenberg, Founder and Executive Director of Mental Health Collaborative (MHC). "Mental Health Literacy—which covers four components: decreasing stigma, promoting and maintaining good mental health, understanding mental ill-

nesses and their treatments, and increasing knowledge of when, where, and how to get help—is a foundational need and right of every individual."

Mental Health Collaborative (MHC) is a Hopkinton-based nonprofit organization that serves educators, school districts, and families across the country by teaching Mental Health Literacy.

The webinar will be available online on May 8, 2023, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Live translation will be available in Portuguese, Spanish, and American Sign Language (ASL). Attendees can RSVP at www.karenspilka.com/mentalhealth.

Mental Health Essentials for Parents and Caregivers is part of the Senate President's #MetroWest-Kids initiative, which for six years has offered programs related to mental health, social-emotional

learning (SEL), and related topics for audiences in the MetroWest region. For the first time, this

year's program will be available to statewide audiences.

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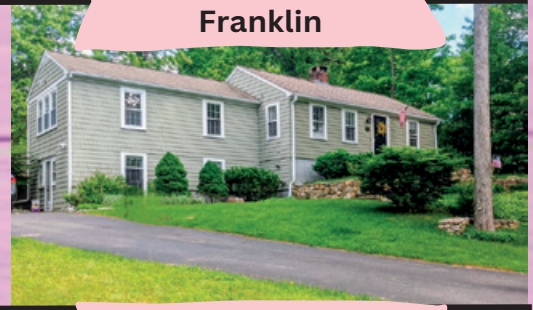
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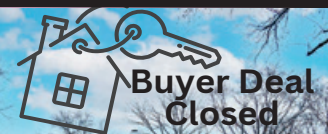
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