

The Franklin Health Department wishes to once again thank the Town Administrator and all department heads and staff for their continuing assistance and support of the Health Department throughout the year.

**Board of Health**

The three-member elected Board of Health is the policy making arm for the Health Department. The board members assist in the drafting of public health bylaws, and review all site plans for compliance with local and state public health regulations. The board presides over administrative hearings in all matters concerning Health Department licensed and permitted activities. Board members are available for consultation on issues relative to the public health as well.

Bruce Hunchard, Board of Health Chairman  
Donald Ranieri, Jr. Vice Chairman  
Philip Brunelli, Board Clerk.

**Hours of Operation**

The Franklin Health Department office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00AM to 4:00PM, Wednesday from 8:00AM to 6:00PM and Friday from 8:00AM to 1:00PM

Health Department inspection staff is available to meet with customers from 8-9:15AM and again from 3:15-4PM each day, or other hours by appointment as necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. McKearney, R.S.  
Public Health Director  
Franklin Health Department

# Franklin Animal Control

15 Public Works Way Franklin Ma.

508-520-4922

Cindy Souza

As Animal inspector , I submit my report for the year ending June 30, 2015

Barn count and inspected :

Number of :

Dairy cows	0
Beef cows	0
Goats	22
Sheep	13
Swine	1
Horses	45
Ponies	15
Mini horses	5
Chickens	105
Waterfowl	22
Rabbits	15
Llamas	1
Mule	0
Game birds	6

Animal Bites : 38 animal bites were reported. All were quarantined for a period of ten days. None were found to be rabid.

Animals tested : 18 animals were sent to the State lab to be tested for rabies. 16 tested negative and 2 tested positive.

# Franklin Animal Control

15 Public Works Way Franklin Ma. 02038

508-520-4922

Cindy Souza

As Animal Control Officer , I submit my report for the year ending June 30, 2015

Calls received and investigated	2625
Dogs picked up not claimed	3
Dogs picked up , claimed by owner	52
Dogs found off leash	104
Cats picked up	13
Other animals picked up	46
Dead animals picked up	219
Wild animals euthanized	43
Animals taken to a vet	38

Cindy Souza

# FRANKLIN HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## Summary

The Franklin Historical Commission is a volunteer committee dedicated to maintaining, staffing, and operating the Franklin Historical Museum, and to preserving the historical assets of the Town of Franklin.

## Members

Deborah L. Pellegrini, Chair  
Mary Olsson, Vice Chair  
Colette Ferguson, Treasurer  
Connie Lawson  
Phyllis Malcolm  
Bob Percy

## Associate Members

Mary O'Neill Kai Olsson Alice Vendetti

Monthly meetings of the Historical Commission are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM at the Museum and all are welcome to attend.

## Museum Open Hours

Franklin Historical Museum (admission is free)

Location: 80 West Central St., downtown, near the fire station.

Hours: Thursdays 5PM to 8PM; Saturdays 10AM to 1PM; Sundays 1PM to 4PM

Contact us:

### Franklin Historical Commission:

<http://town.franklin.ma.us/Pages/FranklinMAHistorical/historical>

### Franklin Historical Museum:

<http://franklinhistoricalmuseum.org/>

### Franklin Historical Museum Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/FHM02038>



## Overview

The Franklin Historical Museum has completed its fifth year at its new location and continues to be well received by the citizens of Franklin and surrounding communities. In the heart of the downtown, the Museum serves as a place to explore and celebrate the Town's cultural diversity, achievements, and unique place in history.

## Mission

The Franklin Historical Museum is a center for community engagement, committed to facilitating the exploration of Franklin through a local, regional, and national lens, to a multigenerational audience.

## Membership

The commission is appointed by the Town Administrator and ratified by the Town Council. We have up to 7 full time members with voting privileges along with non-voting associate members. We invite all residents, with an interest in Franklin and its history, to contact us to become associate members.

Thank you to departing members Marlene Oliver (6 years) and Minessa Konecky (1 year) for their many contributions.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to retiring member Del Arnold, a founding member of the Historical Commission, founding committee of the town museum, and for nearly 40 years a tireless advocate of the town's history, artifacts, and documents.

### **Hosting**

Commission members and volunteers take turns hosting at the museum each month during our regular posted hours of operation. We have continued to increase our hours of operation so that we are available to the public at different times. We are always looking for volunteers to help us host at the museum. It is a fun, relaxing, and a great learning experience. Try it ..... you 'll like it! For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact Mary Olsson at [maryolsson1@verizon.net](mailto:maryolsson1@verizon.net).

### **Events**

We held many events during this past year and had over 1,000 visitors at the museum. Some of the events included:

#### **Town of Franklin Birthday Party**

In March we invited citizens of Franklin who share a birthday with the town itself (March 2nd) to a celebration at the Museum. We served a birthday cake, and sang "Happy Birthday," and held a \$100. drawing among celebrants.

#### **Horace Mann Day**

In May this year, we celebrated the life and contributions of educator, legislator, and reformer Horace Mann who grew up in Franklin. The many who attended, including local officials, enjoyed a talk given by Horace Mann historian Peter Golden.

### **Antiques Appraisal Day**

This is a very popular and well attended event that we hold each year at the museum. People are invited to bring up to three (3) items to be appraised. You never know what you have until you look into it!

### **Movie Night**

In April, to commemorate the birthday of Annie Sullivan, teacher of Helen Keller and namesake of the Annie Sullivan School on Lincoln St., we showed the Oscar winning film "The Miracle Worker."

### **Displays**

#### **Wedding Gowns**

Once again, we had our famous event exhibiting gowns and weddings photographs from various time periods. Both young and old seem to enjoy this display.



#### **Veterans Uniform Display - WWI**

This year, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I, our veterans display emphasized the contribution made by Franklin veterans, and the town as a whole, in this trying time in our history.

#### **Slavery in Franklin**

Former Franklin resident Susan Elliot created and displayed an eye opening set of images and accounts of enslaved people living in Franklin in the 18th and early 19th Centuries.

## Franklin History Timeline

Commission members were able to create a comprehensive illustrated timeline of Franklin's past, from 6,000 BC to the present, and provide it for display.

## School Participation

We encourage elementary and high school student visits to the museum to learn about Franklin throughout the year. Learning about our town's history is a wonderful gateway to history as a whole. Teachers are welcomed to contact us to make arrangements to bring their class in for a visit.



## Annual Events of the Downtown Partnership

The Commission takes part in the annual events planned by the Downtown Partnership such as the Harvest Festival, and the Strawberry Festival. Our museum was opened and many first time visitors came by. In December we held an open house at the Museum during the Holiday Stroll, hosted in part by Mrs. Claus who read stories to young attendees.

## Demolition Requests

Under the demolition bylaw passed by the Town Council, the Commission is instructed to review any demolition request of a property built in 1930 or before. We look into the property to see if there is any historical significance and then make a determination as to whether the demolition should be delayed for up to a year, in order to find a suitable alternative.

The following properties were approved for demolition:

406 East Central St.	built 1922
636-664 East Central St.	built 1850
92 Wachusett St.	built 1920
652 Old West Central St.	built 1925
23 Cottage St.	built 1880
92 Pleasant St.	built 1900
36 Pinehurst St.	built 1922
221 Old Grove St.	built 1720
606 East Central St.	built 1920
150 Emmons St.	built 1910

This speaks to the ongoing issue of the disappearance of the Town's historical assets.

## Video Conversion Project

We are working with graphic artist Bob Oliver on a project to make the Franklin home movies of Stanley Chilson available to a wider audience at the Museum.

## Veteran Photograph Display

The Commission worked with Jane Curran of Jane's Frames to reproduce, remount, and reframe World War II era photographs of Franklin veterans. We are now investigating methods for best displaying these beautiful large format photo assemblages.

## The Old South Meeting House on Washington Street

The Town hired an architectural firm to do a complete physical assessment of the condition of this gem – Franklin's oldest standing house of worship. It is currently vacant, after serving as the Horace Mann Museum for more than 30 years. We continue to look into possible uses for this building on Washington Street.

## **New England Museum Association Conference (NEMA)**

Members of the Commission attended this year's conference of the New England Museum Association Conference (NEMA). Various workshops provided useful information about historic preservation and museum management.

## **Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum (FFHM)**

The Friends, along with our regular and associate members, and the generous support of volunteers, work very hard to bring special events and programs to the museum. Donations to this organization are always welcomed! Because the Friends is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, all donations are tax deductible.

We also encourage people to donate items of historical interest to the town of Franklin, at the Museum during regular hours of operation. These donations to the Friends of artifacts and written records are also tax deductible.

In conclusion, we feel that the Franklin Historical Museum and its supporters have helped us learn and treasure the town's history, and we look forward to working on additional projects in the future. We are grateful for your support and look forward to another exciting year!

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L. Pellegrini, Chairman

***The Franklin Historical Commission***

**REPORT OF THE FRANKLIN  
HOUSING AUTHORITY  
AUGUST 2015**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The following Officers were duly elected at the annual organizational meeting of the Franklin Housing Authority held on April 23, 2015.

George A. Danello, Chairman  
Christopher K. Feeley, Vice Chairperson  
Mark A. Teehan, Treasurer  
Diane Padula-O'Neill, Commissioner  
Peter L. Brunelli, Commissioner

**FHA STAFF**

Lisa M. Audette, Executive Director  
Candice Day, Administrative Assistant  
Carole Blanchard, Office Assistant  
Michael Gilligan, Maintenance Supervisor  
Frank McAvoy, Maintenance Laborer  
James Brunelli, Maintenance Groundskeeper  
Anne Ayotte, Service Coordinator

Lisa Audette, Executive Director was elected president of MassNAHRO (Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials) making her the lead advocate for public housing in Massachusetts. As president, she will lead an organization that represents more than 240 local housing authorities in Massachusetts and will preside over major changes in the delivery of housing services as a new public housing reform law is implemented.

**Modernization of the Franklin Housing Authority  
Properties**

A Contract for Financial Assistance from the Department of Housing & Community Development for the purpose of repairing components of the aged agency for their fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 was awarded to the FHA. Several projects were completed using this very timely and important funding including roofs, appliance replacement, electric panel replacement, installation of GFCI outlets and tree removal.

Also, Franklin Housing Authority was awarded \$24,795 in Health & Safety funds for flooring replacement in the community building.

**State Audit**

The Auditor's Office did an audit of the FHA for the period of April 1, 2010 through June 30, 2012. After 3 months of review, no findings were found. The Official Audit Report was issued on September 17, 2013 by the Office of the State Auditor, Suzanne M. Bump.

**FHA Property**

The Franklin Housing Authority manages 161 units of State Aided Elderly/Disabled Housing, 33 units of low income Family Housing and an 8-unit Group Home. Additionally, the Housing Authority is responsible for a four bedroom congregate facility. This program provides a shared living environment for its residents who maintain private bedrooms. Congregate housing is a shared living environment and was established for residents who are self-reliant, however may need limited support.

Franklin Housing Authority also owns two single family homes and one duplex in Franklin. These properties are reserved for lease to low-income persons and afford these families the opportunity to reside in a residential neighborhood.

Additionally, Franklin Housing Authority is developing another Chapter 689 housing facility. This housing will be reserved for clients of the Department of Development Services and will be located on Plain Street. Franklin Housing Authority expects to begin construction in late 2015.

**Special Events Noted with Appreciation**

- Rotary Club members served their annual spaghetti dinner to FHA residents and area seniors complete with all the fixings. John R. Padula was the head Chef and also provided some entertainment along with his brother Tony Dale. Rotary members cooked, served, entertained and picked up after. Rotarians always comment that the smiles and the kind words of appreciation received make their time and efforts very rewarding.

**Special Thanks**

The Board of Commissioners, Staff and Residents of the Franklin Housing Authority wish to express their thanks and appreciation to the following:

- The Clergy, a continuous support and comfort in the time of need and always.
- Franklin Senior Association Members:  
Suzanne Wade, President  
Linda Doonan, Vice President  
Joyce Hutchinson, Treasurer  
Evelyn Pelletier, Secretary  
This Association plans pizza parties, holiday gatherings, morning coffee and donuts, card parties and many more events for the enjoyment of all Franklin Seniors.
- Chairman Bob Vallee and all of the Franklin Town Council Members, Town Administrator, Jeffrey Nutting and his staff for their continued support and assistance.
- Council on Aging, Veterans Agent, SHINE Program and Food Pantry for assisting residents with health care concerns and working with the Authority to recognize needs and provide activities, nourishment and specialized services.
- Franklin Police Department, Chief Semerjian and the

entire Franklin Police Department for continuous concern, attention and response to the needs of the Authority and its Residents.

- Franklin Fire and Rescue, Chief Gary McCarraher and his department are always professional and respectful.
- Senator Karen Spilka, Senator Richard Ross, Representative Jeffery Roy for their relentless support of the Housing Programs and Bills with the best interest of our residents at heart.
- Governor Baker for his support of Massachusetts public housing.
- Norfolk County Sherriff's Department and Sherriff Michael Bellotti for including FHA in their inmate community service program.
- Dean Bank and its' President and CEO Kevin R. Goffe for the generous donation to our Senior Community Hall for the benefit of our residents.

Through the years, the community and the housing authority are finding ways to improve the quality of life for our area seniors and low-income families. With the support of the Commissioners and the community the Franklin Housing Authority continues to be a great, safe and affordable community living opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Audette, PHM, MCPPO, Executive Director  
[franklinhousing.org](http://franklinhousing.org)



## REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

If you visit the Town of Franklin website, Human Resources is found under “more”, but none of the services the Town provides can happen without the employees. The primary function of the Town of Franklin is Customer Service and that service is provided by its employees. The Human Resources Department provides Customer Service primarily to applicants, active and former employees.

During this fiscal year we began to see a transition in staff as baby boomers began to retire. This included five new full time hires in the Public Works Department, four in the Fire Department, two on the Custodial staff, and one Patrol Officer.

As the Town withdrew from Civil Service for new hires in the Police Department, we sponsored an entry level exam. Over 200 individuals tested with over 75% passing the examination. As the fiscal year closed, we have begun a review of applicants, with the goal of filling at least two positions.

There are many conversations about benefits with new hires, and they continue throughout an employee’s time with the Town, as their lives change, and still continue into retirement. All retirees from the Town and School Department are cared for in the Human Resources Department. Retirees remain active, with changes to their health insurance programs as they move around the country and become eligible for Medicare.

In addition to the mandatory participation in Norfolk Retirement System, the Town offers:

- Life Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Section 125 Flexible Spending Accounts
- Short and Long Term Disability plans
- Section 457 Savings Plans

Health Insurance continues to be a major focus of planning, budgeting and communication. Federal Health Care Reform, also known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has had a significant impact on our health insurance program and premiums as it includes per capita fees for a national study commissions.

Other than payroll, it represents one of the largest single costs to the Town. Changes at the state and federal level continue to develop, and we are watching to keep up to speed on the regulations, and working for the most cost effective way to provide comprehensive coverage to our employees and retirees.

Working with the Insurance Advisory Committee we transitioned our Health Insurance to Tufts Health Plan. This involved multiple informational meetings and having every employee and retiree complete new applications. We look forward to excellent customer service with them.

All employees, other than Police and Fire, are covered by Workers’ Compensation, a federally mandated program. Our goal is to prevent accidents and lost time from work, and to protect individuals from financial loss when there is an incident. This “no fault” insurance is designed to provide income security and medical coverage for individuals injured on the job. Since July 2011, the program has been insured with MIIA. Human Resources continues to ensure that incident reports are filed timely with Worker’s Compensation, reviewing claims and making payments directly to the employees. We are now able to file claims “on line” to get them set up quickly so employees are treated and claims processed quickly. Employees who have needed to use the services report a strong and positive experience working with claims managers. We also work with managers and employees across the Town to support safe work practices, so that the frequency and length of workers’ compensation and 111F absences are held to a minimum.

The Town of Franklin Safety Committee monitors practices and policies, with an eye to reducing hazards at the worksite.

We reviewed all benefit programs to be sure they comply with Federal and State laws. We continue to work to comply with all new reports and regulations. Over the coming year this will continue to add complexity as we coordinate changes at the Federal level with state regulations, or locally negotiated.

We provide benefits that are competitive with the market to attract and keep the right workforce and provide those quality benefits at the lowest cost possible.

The HR Department has continued a wellness program, offered by MIIA to the employees of the Town. The Town was awarded a commendation for its program “Excellence in Wellness, Large Trust Accounts.” These have included fitness walking, relaxation techniques, and healthy eating. This program, designed to improve health and fitness will continue next year at no cost to employees or to the Town. We hope to be able to focus future programs to target wellness issues that give rise to increased health care costs. A core of employees were enthusiastic about participation in the strength and aerobic classes, Healthy Matters heart program and an extended walking program.

In addition to active employees we are responsible for over 400 retirees of the Town of Franklin and Franklin Public Schools who have health and/or life insurance as a result of their long-term employment with the Town. We enjoy hearing about their activities after they have left employ with the town. As retirees are a very mobile population, it is our goal and mission to assist all retirees and their covered spouses with any questions they might have which includes the processing of all of their enrollment, coverage and address changes on a daily basis.

As we begin the next year our goals include:

- Work with all departments to maintain a safe work environment, to reduce lost time from on the job injuries.
- Review return to work options for employees who have been out on Workers' Compensation or 111F.
- Review best practices in the public sector and find opportunities for skill development to offer to municipal employees.
- Continue to monitor changes arising from National Health Care Reform.
- Partner with School HR activities to find service improvements and cost efficiencies.
- Deliver high quality customer service to employees, retirees, and citizens.
- Constantly monitor full range of benefit options. Focus on the Health Insurance Program.
- Identify information which can be best communicated electronically and keep web site current.
- Provide excellent service to and resolve administrative issues arising from municipal health insurance program.
- Facilitate managers using job descriptions and performance evaluations to strengthen organizational and employee performance.
- Educate employees on the Sec. 125 Flexible Spending Accounts which are available to them for medical or dependent care costs. Support managers and employees in employee relations activities.

We appreciate our employees and retirees and look forward to another year of providing timely and useful service to them.

Respectfully Submitted

Stephanie Lutz  
Human Resources Director.

#### **REPORT OF THE INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Each of the municipal and school unions, as well as retired employees has a seat on the Town of Franklin Insurance Advisory Committee. It provides recommendations to the Town Administrator on health and dental plans. Meetings are an opportunity for employees from the unions to learn about insurance products, industry trends, and to help identify ways to meet employee needs within the framework of the Affordable Care Act, Massachusetts General Law, and available financial resources.

With the further portions of the Affordable Care Act from the Federal Government on the horizon, we anticipate changes, administrative challenges, and premium increases in the coming years. The original quote for a renewal with Blue Cross Blue Shield was in the double digits – an increase unacceptable to the Committee and the Town.

With the assistance of a consultant we requested quotes from other carriers, and received a very competitive quote for nearly an identical plan from Tufts Health Plan. The Committee verified that the match with current providers was very high and elected to make the change. We sponsored informational sessions at six locations so that all employees and retirees had an opportunity to talk with Tufts representatives in person.

The Town continued a Health Reimbursement Arrangement to help offset hospital in patient costs. We are happy to report that few of our employees required in patient care.

The Town provides dental benefits on a totally employee paid basis. The Committee again selected Guardian Life Insurance as the provider for its dental plan no increase to premiums. Approximately 300 employees have elected this benefit.

The Flexible Spending Account vendor was retained. This vendor provides debit cards for employees to use for immediately payment. Employees can avoid an additional out of pocket expense by using the cards. The plan runs on a September 1 through August 31 calendar to more closely coordinate with the Health Insurance Plan and with the school year. We hope the participation in this plan will grow as employees recognize the tax savings available to them, and become more experienced in planning for medical and dependent care costs. Since this program exists on a tax exempt basis, changes at the federal level may cause plan changes. We will monitor any activity about Sec. 125 of the Tax Code to ensure we remain in compliance.

Participants on the IAC brought good questions to the process and have been very effective in exploring alternatives, and making recommendations. The IAC plans to continue its work gaining knowledge about the full insurance program. In the coming year we hope we will be able to reach out through this committee to other employees so that there is greater understanding of benefit plans.

Respectfully Submitted

Stephanie Lutz  
Human Resource Director

#### **REPORT OF THE OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) TRUST COMMITTEE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT**

The Town Council approved an OPEB Trust Committee in Fiscal year 15 to manage the funds set aside for the Town's OPEB unfunded obligation of approximately \$90,000,000. This obligation is for current and future health care cost for town and school retirees. Communities across the Commonwealth face similar problems funding this obligation. While the town is doing its best to fund this obligation it will not be achieved unless state laws are changed to ease our future obligation.

The Trust Committee met on several occasions and decided to invest with the Commonwealth's PRIT fund to get the higher rate of return on our investment that allowed by law if the town was managing the funds. Our initial allocation into the account will be over \$1,800,000.

We will continue to make requests of the Town Council to continue to fund the Trust to help meet our obligation.

Regards,

Jeff Nutting  
Susan Gagner  
Miriam Goodman  
Peter Lounsbury  
Greg McNeille  
Treasurer, James Dacey

## **Recreation Department**

**150 Emmons Street  
Franklin, MA 02038**

[www.franklin.ma.us/recreation](http://www.franklin.ma.us/recreation)

The Recreation Department is located at 150 Emmons Street. The Recreation Department offers Franklin and Medway residents a variety of programs and events for youths and adults as well as coordination of youth sports organizations field use and coordination of maintenance at athletic fields. The department operates and schedules activities for Chilson Beach at Beaver Pond, Fletcher Field, Dennis Pisani Field, Henry "Ski" Faenza Tot Lot (Nason Street Tot Lot), King Street Memorial Field, Dacey Community Field, and Meadowlark Lane Athletic Fields. The department is also responsible for scheduling the use of all school athletic fields during the summer, when school is not in session. Our department works closely with the various town youth sports organizations and Athletic Director Brad Sidwell to schedule all youth sports activities around the high school team practices and games.

### **Chilson Beach**

This year, Chilson Beach was home to canoeing, kayaking, swimming, fishing, and hiking. We continue to permit soccer, field hockey, football, boy's lacrosse and cross country running on and around the turf field. The turf field was used for NFL Flag football, Pop Warner football, Franklin Youth Soccer, and Franklin youth boys lacrosse, as well as yoga for senior citizens, tai chi, boot camp, and many other recreational activities. A portable recycled plastic walkway is on site for handicap accessibility to the water and playground area. The Franklin High School soccer, lacrosse and field hockey programs play all of their home games on the turf field as well.

### **Recreation Programs**

#### **Summer Playground Program**

An eight week playground program was held at King Street Memorial Field & Medway's Choate Park from June 22-August 14, 2015. The program hours were Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm daily. Activities included: organized games, arts and crafts, water activities, sports, and weekly visitors. The 8 weeks featured camp shirt tie dye on Tuesdays, field trips on Wednesdays, a giant slip and slide/water slide every Thursday, and Pizza day Fridays. The program grew this summer to over 1,200 registrants.

The Franklin Summer Playground Program Director this year was Kaitlyn Williamson. The

Franklin Summer Playground Program staff included: Paul and Allison O'Donoghue, Nicole Williamson, Amy Trotter, Jakob Herlitz, Nicole Ellin, Emily Allard, Aiden Gilbert, Jacob Davis, Erin Connelly, Kyle Collins, Dominic Girdini, Holly Shumway, Megan Rogers, Beth Neal, Caroline Maguire, Joe Corsi, Colin Berg, Alanna Lynch, Katherine Donoghue, and Julia Hogan

The Medway Summer Playground Program Director was Marybeth Bryne. Her staff included: John Geromini, Ryan Spillane, Alec Borkowski, Erin Robinson, Tom Robinson, Brooke Roberts, Kevin Murray, and Wayne Boone.

#### **Youth Basketball Program**

The Youth Basketball program continues to grow and now involves over 1,224 children, 133 teams, 212 coaches, and utilizes every school gymnasium in town. The Recreation department expanded its basketball program to include High School aged kids looking to continue playing. This intramural program gives kids in grades 9-12 a chance to continue playing pick up basketball on Saturday nights. The program utilizes school gyms at Parmenter, Davis Thayer, Horace Mann Middle School, Remington Elementary, J.F. Kennedy School, Keller Sullivan Middle School, and Franklin High School auxiliary gym.

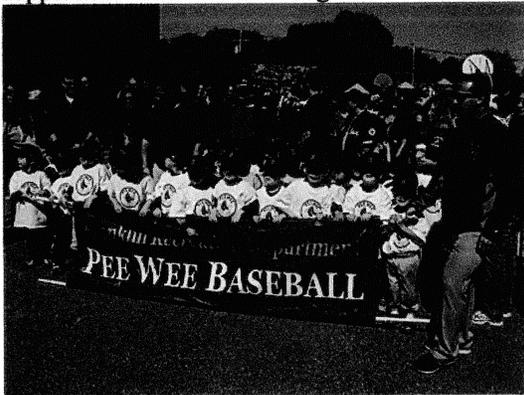
This year the youth basketball program ran from November 9th-March 1st on Saturdays. The FYBL is divided into ten divisions: Kindergarten (co-ed), 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Boys, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Girls, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys & 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls and High School Intramural division.

This year, our coordinators were Dave Angermeier 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Boys, Rich Atwood 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Girls, Bob Pingeton 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Girls, Mark Eccher & Steve Skaza 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Boys, Rick Power 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Girls, Tim Saungers 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Boys, and Mike Vinson High School Intramural League. It is because of these individuals and the volunteer coaches, that this program is a success. The K-4th grade leagues are set up as a non-competitive learning experience for the children with the focus on fundamental basketball skills. Grades 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball leagues start to teach the kids different rules, zone defense, pressing, and traits of competitive basketball. Ten players are drafted to each team and games are played weekly on Saturdays. Participation trophies are awarded to all Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade players, and a

“break-up” pizza party is held for all K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade players after the final game of the season.

### **Pee Wee Baseball**

The Pee Wee Baseball program was created in 1999 by Director, Ryan Jette. Since then, the program has grown from 26 kids to over 200 kids annually. Taking his lifelong baseball coaching experience coupled with past employment with Major League Baseball International, Ryan created a beginners baseball program that teaches kids the proper techniques of hitting, fielding, base running and throwing. This fun league features 4 practice sessions and 10 controlled games. The use of tees, soft bats and spongy balls make this program a safe and enjoyable start children ages 4-6 years old. Head Instructor Paul O’Donoghue will be on site to run the drills, organize the scrimmages, and support the volunteer coaching staff.



*Opening day march through town*

### **Kid Care Babysitting**

The Recreation Department continues to offer this 6-hour training program for kids ages 11-16 years old. Kelley Brooks teaches kids the business of babysitting while coordinating lectures on childcare, fire and police safety, nutrition, and diapering. Classes were offered monthly throughout the year and over 100 kids were introduced to the business of babysitting.

### **NFL Flag Football**

The Recreation Department teamed up with the NFL to bring this non-contact flag football league to kids aged 6-14 years old. 467 kids signed up to play each Tuesday & Thursday evening at the Beaver Pond Turf Field. Reversible NFL game jerseys, playbooks, belt/flag setup and access to the NFL Kids website gives kids the opportunity to follow their favorite player or team. Players learned the fundamentals of throwing, catching, running and teamwork. Punt, pass, and kick competition will allow kids to showcase their skills in a competition against area youths.

### **Tennis Program**

The youth tennis instructional program was offered at the Choate Park Courts in Medway. The two six-week program was under the supervision of Wesley Esthimer and John Hardesty. Classes were run at the Choate Park Tennis Courts in Medway Tuesday evenings through Thursday evenings for all skill levels. Over 50 children and adults participated in our tennis program.

### **Golf Lessons**

The Recreation Department expanded the golf lessons offered into the summer months, by offering a full or half day camp in the summer. The Recreation Department, in conjunction with Golf Professional, Mark Copithorne, offered Adult and Junior Golf instruction at the New England Country Club in South Bellingham. The lessons covered all aspects of the game of golf (putting, chipping, bunkers, irons, and woods). Registrants met one day a week for 6 weeks to practice their skills. Lessons were offered during the summer and fall season for over 340 residents attending. Express 2 day lessons were offered over April Vacation. Participants enjoyed playing the course following the six-week lesson to see what they learned.

### **Girls Lacrosse**



The Recreation Department has been running the Girls lacrosse program since 2005. The program has grown from 28 girls to over 280 girls. In 2014, our teams participated in the Founders League for the first time. This league provided better competition for our growing players. There were 3 teams at the 1st-2<sup>nd</sup> grade division. There were 4 teams at the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade division. There were 3 teams at the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade level. And there were 3 teams at the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade level. All levels had successful

seasons and played in 8 regular season games. Franklin Girls Lacrosse is one of the largest girls' lacrosse program in the state of Massachusetts.

### **ArtVenture Afterschool Studios**

After being without an art program for nearly two years, the Recreation Department recently hired a new art instructor, Anne Marie Tracey in March. 80 children from Pre-k to Middle School have signed up to take one of the many diverse art programs. ArtVenture Afterschool Studio, Artventure Preschool Studios, Art Inspired by Cake Bar, and Art Summer Camp. All art programs are held at the Recreation Department.

### **Preschool Programs**

Our Preschool classes are held in the mornings from 9:00am to 11:30am. The Recreation Department has four certified preschool instructors on staff. Gretchen McAuley & Lisa Freiwald are the two science instructors. Approximately 200 children sign up for the year round preschool science programs. Little Engineers, Mad Scientist, The Amazing Body, Travel Through Space, Science for Seedlings, and the Science, Engineering and Math Camps just to name a few. The science classes are taught once a week for seven weeks. Kelley Brooks and Nicole Nesbit are our other two certified preschool instructors. Kelley and Nicole teach our First Friends programs; Exploration Station, First Friends, First Friends Lunch Bunch and More Fun with Friends. They hold class's everyday, Monday through Friday and yearly roughly 400 children sign up to take their programs.

### **Girls Field Hockey**

Franklin Recreation offers girls youth field hockey in many formats throughout the year. The fall (August-October) are usually the months that the field hockey leagues run (K-2 grade in house, 3-8 grade travel league). School vacations (Feb-Apr), Summer (Jun-Aug) are usually the times Lisa Cropper runs camps and introductory clinics. We work closely with the FHS program Head Coach Lisa Cropper to coordinate clinics, field usage, games. The K-2 division, an in house program features practice sessions and some in house small sided games. The 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade team will play some scrimmages/games against area teams (probably 4-6 games). The 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams will play in the Walpole League with 8 games vs. surrounding towns. 190 girls comprise eight teams for the fall Field Hockey League.

### **NHL Street Hockey**



This summer, our street hockey program was better than ever with over 100 kids and 8 NHL teams represented. We hold a skills clinic for the first four sessions to evaluate the players. Then, we will break them up into equal teams so that games will be fair and fun for all. Teams play twice a week, Monday and Wednesday's. Tom Gately and David Marchand are the league coordinators and the reason why this program continues to grow. Our Street Hockey program participates at Fletcher Field.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ryan Jette  
Director of Recreation

### **Recreation Advisory Board**

The Recreation Advisory Board's purpose is to assist other town agencies in meeting the recreational needs of the community. The Board works closely with the Director of Recreation, the Town Administrator, the Department of Public Works Grounds Division, and the Athletic Director. The Recreation Advisory Board also advises the Town Administrator, Finance Committee, and Town Council regarding the expenditure of monies from the Fletcher Fund. The Recreation Advisory Board meets monthly to discuss issues pertaining to youth recreation, development of additional playing fields, field dedications, and spring/fall field allocations.

During the past year, the Recreation Advisory Board worked on the following:

1. Advised Public Works regarding safety concerns of fencing at Dacey Field, Fletcher Field and recommended replacement fencing.
2. Completed the conflict of interest law examination and submitted to Town Clerk.

3. Reviewed and commented on the 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan.
4. On-going discussions with Public Works on our successful trash and recycling program for public facilities.
5. Reviewed and accepted all field permit applications with assistance from Director of Recreation.
6. Monitor capital projects at DelCorte Recreation Area.
7. Advised Director of Recreation on Fletcher Tot Lot components.

**Goals of the Recreation Advisory Board**

- Development of multi purpose facilities in various locations of town.
- Continued partnership with the Department of Public Works Grounds and Maintenance Division, and their efforts to maintain all town and school fields.
- Bring all recreational facilities into compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act, making facilities accessible to all users.

Members of the Recreation Advisory Board are: Chairman; Wayne Simarrian, Larry Pollard, Mark Eccher, Kinjal Patel, and Robert Dellorco. Ex-officio members include: Doug Dean FYBO, Mark Scagliarini FYSA, A.J. Grant Pop Warner Football, Rick Power Franklin Girls Softball, Tom O'Rourke Franklin Boys Lacrosse, and Brad Sidwell FHS Athletics.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne R. Simarrian  
Chairman

## REPORT OF THE FRANKLIN CULTURAL COUNCIL 2014-2015

Franklin Cultural Council began 2014-2015 concluding the extremely successful Ladybug Project, which enabled over 50 local artists and businesses to participate in a publicly accessible and popular exhibit that was steered ably through the summer by previous FCC Chair Claire Griffin. The council saw the project through to its fruition in October 2014 when the FCC hosted a public event celebrating ‘Ladybug Spots’ and had all the ladybugs on display together in one place for the last time.

Mrs. Griffin’s chairmanship of the FCC was completed in October 2014, and was celebrated at the reception which was generously hosted by The Franklin Art Center.



At a subsequent event held at the Franklin Municipal Building, State Representative Roy and Senators Ross and Spilka were in attendance to present one of the Ladybug sculptures to The Town of Franklin as an ongoing reminder to residents and public servants, of the power of petition to local, state and national government in defense local Heritage and the development of Arts, Sciences and Culture within the increasingly urbanized community.

The FCC would like to acknowledge the assistance into the fall of 2014, of Claire Griffin, Chair 2013/2014, Kathy Ginley 2011/2015 Secretary, Marybeth Fraser 2011/2014 Treasurer, Rev. Bob Johnne 2013/2014, Janet Norman 2011/2014, Cat Colson 2013/2014 and Beth Simon.

2015 brought a change in leadership and new members to the FCC. The Town Franklin Cultural Council is currently represented by:-

Kai Olsson Chair, Teresa Burr, Anne Knapp, Justin Haslett, Gia Podobinski, Ian Kabat, Madison Weber and Karen Wellerson-Juhl.

In October 2014 the council solicited local groups to submit grant applications for FCC funding. At its December meeting FCC Members reviewed 73 grants and voted to fund 38 programs. At our annual allocation meeting in Franklin, funding was approved at the same level as in the previous year. In total the sum of \$7172.00 was distributed amongst thirty-eight applicants including The 4th of July Coalition, Concerts on the Common, Horace Mann Middle School, Live Arts, various Franklin Public School PCC’s and more. On June 24<sup>th</sup>, the Cultural Council honored the 2014-2015 award recipients, at a special reception hosted by The Franklin Art Center. Amongst others in attendance were Town Administrator Jeff Nutting, Town Clerk Debbie Pellegri and State Representative Jeff Roy.

The FCC would like to note that on numerous occasions and at various similar events, its members have taken opportunity to inform our local and State Representatives of the widespread popular demand by individuals and cultural organizations for an increase in funding for community events in the area. We would like to also acknowledge that our local and State Representatives are aware of these community aspirations and work diligently to address public concerns.

The FCC is presently reviewing proposals for a sculpted structure to honor local schoolmistress Palma Johnson and her 1974 2nd Grade Kennedy Elementary School class, who instilled “Ladybug pride” from the classroom to the State House and back to the town of Franklin. The FCC will also continue to review various projects should unencumbered funds become available at the conclusion of the FY15 fiscal year. We will continue to report the results of upcoming cultural requirement surveys to the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Kai Olsson FCC Chairman

Applicant	Discipline
Attleboro Arts Museum	Arts
Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary	Science
Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School	Arts
Franklin Performing Arts Company	Arts
Horace Mann Middle School PCC	Arts
Concerts on the Common	Arts
Claflin Hill Music Performance Foundation	Arts
Southeastern Massachusetts Community Concert Band	Arts
Bridgewater Antiphonal Brass Society	Arts
Rachel Daly	Arts
Steffi Langston	Arts
Attleboro Arts Museum	Arts
Horace Mann MS/MA Educational Theater Guild	Arts
Symphony Nova-Neponset Valley Philharmonic Orchestra	Arts
Duane Sullivan	Arts
Mass Audubon Society Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary	Science
Norfolk Cooperative Preschool	Arts
Lisa Armstrong	Arts
Live Arts	Arts
Hellen Keller Elementary School	Humanities
Hellen Keller Elementary School	Science
Franklin Fourth of July Coalition	Arts
Franklin Art Association	Arts
Friends of Franklin Historical Museum	Humanities
Annie Sullivan Middle School	Science
Annie Sullivan Middle School	Humanities
Prolatio Singers and Players	Arts
Lisa Armstrong	Arts
Franklin Art Association	Arts
Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School PCO	Arts
Friends of Franklin Historical Museum	Humanities
Prolatio Singers and Players	Arts
Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School PCO	Humanities
Sullivan Middle School^Annie	Science
Sullivan Middle School^Annie	Humanities
Helen Keller Elementary School	Humanities
Oak Street Elementary School PCC	Arts
Franklin Concerts on the Common	Arts
Philip Hall	Arts
Franklin 4th of July Coalition	Arts
Bay Colony Productions, Inc.	Arts
Neponset Choral Society, Inc.	Arts
Janet Applefield	Humanities
Metrowest Symphony Orchestra Inc.	Arts
Fruitlands Museum	Arts
Ed Cope	Arts
John Root	Science

## REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

The Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund was formed to create, preserve, acquire, finance, refinance, renovate or construct property within the town of Franklin so that such property will be substantially available as residential property for low and moderate income persons and to further provide mechanisms to ensure such use.

The Trust and the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School have progressed building the house on Beaver Court. Expected completion is fall 2015. Once completed, the Trust will have a lottery to award the house to an income and asset qualified family.

The Trust has begun a program where they seek Request for Proposals for homes to purchase. The Trust will purchase the gently used home, spruce it up and resell it as an affordable home to an income and asset qualified household. So far we have sold two homes to income and asset qualified households with a third one on the way.

Ongoing, Franklin Heights, a development off of Lincoln Street, will market affordable two bedroom town house condominiums. There is a Chapter 40B development, Weston Woods that has received a comprehensive permit for a 236 unit apartment complex. 25% will be affordable.

We look forward to the coming year with hopes for the continued production of affordable housing in the Town of Franklin.

It is our pleasure to submit this report for your review.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Vericker  
Judith Pfeffer  
Mary Anne Bertone  
Maxine Kinhart  
Jeff Nutting

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

### The Franklin Senior Center

The Franklin Senior Center is located at 10 Daniel McCahill Street and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Center provides programs, services and activities along with outreach, information and referral to serve the needs of older adults, people with disabilities and their families.

The Senior Center offers health screening and wellness, nutrition, social service coordination, socialization, recreation, transportation, educational programs, a supportive day program, respite care and volunteer and intergenerational opportunities.

The Center's mission is to enhance the independence and quality of life for Franklin's older adults by:

- Identifying the needs of this population and creating programs that meet those needs.
- Offering the knowledge, tools and opportunities to promote mental, social and physical well-being.
- Advocating for relevant programs and services in our community.
- Serving as a community focal point for aging issues and as liaison to local, state and Federal resources for older adults and their families.

### Highlights

This year, we introduced evening hours by extending the Center's hours to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings from April through October. During this time, we offer activities such as Zumba, Yoga, Billiards, an Open Art Studio and various presentations and classes.

The **Stella Jeon Memorial Lecture Series** with Dean College was inaugurated with a lecture on Criminal Forensics presented by Dr. Jessica Pisano. These lectures will be offered twice a year in collaboration with Dean College as a memorial tribute to the late COA member, Stella Jeon.

We introduced a monthly **Memory Cafe** for those with dementia and their care partners. This is a social event where those with Alzheimer's or a related dementia and their care partners can socialize and have fun, which helps ease the stress of caregiving.

We initiated a **Veterans History Project** in collaboration with **Franklin TV**. The Veterans History Project is a program of the Library of Congress, which catalogues recorded interviews with our nation's veterans. Franklin TV videotapes interviews with veterans who want to tell their stories, and these videotapes are then sent to the Library of Congress and archived for posterity.

We hosted a luncheon presentation with **Milford Regional Hospital** entitled *Stroke Awareness*, which provided valuable information about prevention, identification and treatments of stroke.

In collaboration with the **Franklin Food Pantry** and the **Neighbor Brigade**, we provided Emergency Kits to help elders prepare for a natural disaster. The kits were generously funded by the **Franklin Rotary Club**.

Several new activities were introduced at the Senior Center including: Flower Arranging classes, a Puzzle Play-off, Fashion History lectures, a Senior Art Exhibit, Mah Jong Instruction, Genealogy classes, and Cardmaking classes.

The **2014 WMRC Senior Expo** was hosted by the Senior Center. This event featured 35 exhibitors, health screenings, and a senior fashion show.

We said a sad “Farewell” to **Veterans Agent Bob Fahey** after many years of dedicated service, and we welcomed **Dale Kurtz** as his replacement.



**The Franklin Council on Aging: front row, Mary Hick, Barbara Deely, Dave Cargill; rear, left to right, Lyn O’Brien, Bob Crowley, Ken Norman (Chair), Lester Quan, Suzanne Wade and Paul O’Connell.**

### Caregiver Support

In order to provide effective care for a loved one, caregivers need to care for themselves. The stress associated with caregiving can be detrimental to health, family, work, finances and social lives. Research shows that caregivers are more likely to: have symptoms of depression or anxiety, have a long-term medical problem, have higher levels of stress, spend more days sick with an infectious disease, and be at higher risk for mental decline, including problems with memory and paying attention.

To support both caregivers and their loved ones, we offer the following services:

- **Supportive Day Program**, “The Sunshine Club” offers a structured, stimulating day program for frail elders, and respite for their caregivers. This program enhances the quality of life for participants who enjoy fun activities, socialization and gentle exercise.
- **Companion Caregivers** is an in-home service that provides a companion for frail elders and respite to their caregivers. The program is grant funded, which helps us to keep the costs of the program affordable for caregivers.
- **Caregivers Support Group** is facilitated by two moderators who have completed a training program with the Alzheimer’s Association. The group meets biweekly.
- **Memory Café** is a place for those with Alzheimer’s or a related dementia and their care partners to socialize.
- **Lectures on Caregiving** included *Living with Alzheimer’s for Late Stage Caregivers*, presented by the Alzheimer’s Association and *I Remember Better When I Paint*, a film and lecture about the positive impact of art on people with dementia.



**The Center’s Weight Loss Support Group (TOPS) meets weekly.**

### Health & Wellness Programs

Healthy Aging is the development of optimal mental, social, and physical well-being and function in older adults. Senior Centers are well positioned to advance this model and our Health and Wellness Program is an vital component in achieving this goal.

The program provides chronic disease self-management, fall prevention, physical activity, healthy eating, social connection and community engagement. The Center’s Health & Wellness program offers the following:

- **Health Clinics:** Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar, Podiatry, Flu Vaccinations, and Vision & Hearing screenings.
- **Evidence-based programs:** Developed through rigorous research, these programs provide clear physical, psychological, and social benefits with measurable outcomes. This year we offered *A Matter of Balance* and *My Life, My Health*.
- **Fall Prevention:** Home Safety Assessments evaluate elders’ home environments to determine if the risk for dangerous falls can be reduced. Based on this evaluation, installation of grab bars and adaptive devices are provided free of charge.
- **Fitness:** Cardio Tone & Stretch, Zumba, Yoga, Tai Chi, Chair Exercise, Walking Club, Bocce, Line Dancing, Chair Volleyball, and Meditation are offered.
- **Support:** Low Vision, Weight Loss, and Caregivers Support Groups; individual consultations with our Health & Wellness Nurse.
- **Education:** Monthly presentations such as *Tips for Healthy Living*, *Statins & Cardiovascular Health*, *Neuromuscular Diseases*, *Diabetes Facts*, *Strategies to Conquer Arthritis Pain* and *Eat a Rainbow Nutrition*.

The Center offered two evidence based programs, a Matter of Balance (fall prevention) and My Life, My Health; a six-part seminar, Living Your Best Life Now; Fall Prevention Screenings; a Holiday Weight Maintenance program, a Flu Vaccine Clinic, and ongoing Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar clinics over the course of the year.

### **Outreach/Social Service Coordination**

The Center's Social Service Coordinator serves not only the elderly and people with disabilities, but younger residents and families as well. She can provide assistance in obtaining housing, employment, home care services, tax abatements, long-term care placement, prescription drug programs, and many other programs and services. The Coordinator makes home visits to homebound residents to assess needs and make referrals.

The Coordinator can help seniors and others access several social benefit programs, including Food Stamps, Fuel Assistance, Mass Health, Supplemental Security Insurance and many other public benefits.

The Senior Center also offers a monthly legal clinic, and the SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Elders) program, which provided assistance with health insurance questions and problems for 142 elders last year.

Free income tax preparation assistance was provided by the Senior Center for 75 seniors and by the AARP for 109 seniors. An information session providing assistance to seniors in obtaining real estate tax abatements and the State's Circuit Breaker tax credit was also offered. Our volunteer completed Circuit Breaker Tax Credit returns for 66 elderly residents, resulting in a total of \$64,328.00 in senior tax relief.

### **Nutrition**

The Center's *Common Grounds Café* is a hub of activity where old friends meet and new friends are found. The Café offers seniors a nutritious, affordable breakfast and luncheon in a social setting. The Center also hosts monthly theme parties with live entertainment and a 3-course meal. The Café and our monthly parties afford seniors a great opportunity to share social interaction while enjoying a delicious, affordable meal.

### **Transportation**

Accessible transportation is available to Franklin's elderly residents and people with disabilities through GATRA, the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority. Dial-A-Ride, which provides door-to-door service, is available to Franklin's older residents within Franklin or out-of-town within a 15 mile radius. GATRA also offers the Franklin Area Bus, a fixed-route bus through town.

Long distance transportation for medical appointments to Boston and other destinations is also available through GATRA. GATRA transportation can be scheduled by calling 1- 800-698-7676.

This year GATRA added a new service called the Tri-Town Connector, which takes riders from Franklin to Patriots Place Marketplace and Medical Centers in Foxboro.

The Council on Aging works closely with GATRA to assure optimal access to, and quality of both Dial-A-Ride and the fixed bus route services for senior riders and people with disabilities. The Senior Center also offers weekly recreational trips at an affordable price for older adults and people with disabilities.

### **Educational Programs**

We offer instruction and educational programs in many areas of interest including the following:

- *Computer, Tablet & Smart Phone Instruction*
- *Italian Conversation Group*
- *Current Events Discussion Group*
- *CPR Certification*
- *Painting Instruction*
- *Woodcarving Instruction*
- *Knitting & Quilting Instruction*
- *Arts & Crafts Instruction*
- *Writers Group – Senior Scribblers*
- *Book Discussion Group*
- *Cribbage Instruction*
- *Mah Jong Instruction*
- *Smart Driver Classes*
- *Art Appreciation Classes*
- *Chess Instruction*



*Our friendly volunteers provide great service at the Common Grounds Café.*

### **Social and Recreational Programming**

Ample research has concluded that social interaction is as important as exercise in improving mood and quality of life for the elderly. The Senior Center encourages social engagement by offering a variety of social and recreational activities.

The Center's Café and social events foster social interaction along with many other social and recreational opportunities offered at the Center. Some of these include: cards, board games, arts & crafts, bingo, pool/billiards, movies, day trips and our chorale group.

### **Friends of Franklin Elders**

The Friends of Franklin Elders, Inc. (FOFE) is a private, non-profit organization, which was founded to assist the Franklin Senior Center with funding. The Friends supplement town funding for the Senior Center by funding programs, services, and equipment. FOFE provides crucial funding to the Senior Center by helping to fund salaries for our Grill Cook and Health & Wellness Nurse along with several other expenses.

This year, the Friends funded the Stroke Awareness Luncheon and purchased specialized equipment to assist those with impaired vision with reading printed material. The Friends also funded our annual Veterans Breakfast, our Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, entertainment for social events, and many other expenses.

The Friends publish our monthly newsletter, *The Franklin Connection*. In collaboration with the Benjamin Franklin Charter School, FOFE provides gifts to 40 homebound elderly residents during the holiday season.

#### Tax Work-Off Program

Franklin offered a Tax Work-Off Program for senior homeowners aged 60 and over. Seniors could take a credit of up to \$800.00 off their real estate taxes by working in various town departments at the minimum wage. This program provides important tax relief to senior citizens, while supplying the town with knowledgeable workers. In 2014, ninety participants worked for a total of 8,310 hours at a total cost of \$65,684.00. Senior workers were placed in the Library, Treasurer/Collector’s office, the Recreation Department, the DPW, the Assessors’ office, the Building/Inspection office, the Senior Center and several schools.

#### Volunteers

The Senior Center is only able to offer this diversity of programs and services through the generosity of our volunteers. Without their commitment and support, many of our activities would cease to exist. The Council on Aging and staff are genuinely grateful to all our dedicated volunteers.

Volunteers donate their time working in our gift shop, café, Supportive Day Program, as instructors, and in many other capacities. Last year, 114 dedicated volunteers contributed 11,007 hours of service to the Senior Center.

Each year, we honor our volunteers for their steadfast service at our annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, which is generously funded by the Friends of Franklin Elders.

#### Intergenerational Activities

The Senior Center enjoys many intergenerational activities with students of all ages. The results are always positive with glowing feedback from youngsters and elders alike. These activities help to create a sense of community, improve self-esteem in both generations, and dispel age-related stereotypes.

The Tri-County Technical Regional Vocational School Health Services students visited the Center biweekly to assist with activities; they also hosted a Health Fair.

National Honor Society students at Franklin High School hosted their annual *Spring Fling* for seniors with a free luncheon, entertainment by talented students, and generous raffle prizes which the students solicit from local merchants.



*Students from the Tri-County Vocational School volunteer to wrap gifts for seniors at the holidays.*

Our Supportive Day Program enjoys monthly visits with students from the Early Child Development Program. Horace Mann students visited on regular basis to offer instruction to seniors about smart phones and tablets. Our seniors mentor students at the Parmenter School’s *Book Buddies* program.

#### Amenities

Some further conveniences offered at the Senior Center include:

- Hairdresser/Barber/Manicurist
- “Ben’s Bounty” Gift Shop
- Free Medical Equipment Loans
- Free use of fitness equipment
- Franklin Connection Newsletter
- “Senior Circle” Cable Program
- Recycling – Batteries & light bulbs
- Adaptive Assistance Lending library
- Low Vision video magnifiers

#### Funding & Partnerships

The Center’s total funding from all sources was \$366,103.00 last year. When broken down, this includes 43% from the Town’s General Fund, 39% from the Town’s Revolving Funds, 10% from the state’s Elder Affairs grant, 6% from the Friends of Franklin Elders and 2% from the MetroWest Health Care Foundation.

The Council on Aging was also awarded a grant from the **Fletcher Hospital Fund** to provide scholarships for our Companion Caregiver services. And we were delighted to host a concert by the Southeastern Massachusetts Community Concert Band, funded by a generous grant from the **Franklin Cultural Council**.

This year we collaborated with the Franklin Fire Department to promote their Home Visit Program, which provides Wellness Visits and Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detector installation, testing and battery maintenance. We also introduced the Cops Corner, where a police officer visits the Center monthly to address the questions or concerns of seniors. The Franklin Police Patrolmen’s Association officers offer a holiday luncheon at the Senior Center every year, along with educational presentations and Bingo parties.

**REPORT OF THE FRANKLIN DISABILITY  
COMMISSION  
Annual Report 2015**

We work with the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office and the Franklin Police to create awareness of scams and fraudulent schemes to reduce elderly victimization and enhance the safety of older adults. The Sheriff's Office also sponsors the **Yellow Dot Program**, which furnishes a sticker for an elder's vehicle that directs first responders to the driver's medical information in the glove compartment.

The Sheriff's Office and the Franklin Police Department also manage the **Project Lifesaver** program, which recovers elders with dementia who may wander. The program provides subscribers with a wrist bracelet with a radio transmitter. Should the subscriber wander, a search and rescue team is deployed to track the signal. The program is available to elderly residents suffering from dementia.

**Plans for Growth**

The statistics are indisputable. Immense growth in the elderly population is already changing plans, policies and programs throughout the country. According to the UMass Gerontology Institute, the population of residents over 60 years old in Franklin, which was 4,400 in 2010, is projected to increase to 6,667 by 2020, an increase of 52%. They project that the over 60 population will further increase to 9,213 by 2030, when it will comprise 27% of Franklin's total population.

This extraordinary growth will create new demands for services and programs that address the needs of this growing population. When our building was completed in 2007, the plan wisely called for space to be "roughed in" on the upper level for future growth. The completion of that space is scheduled to be finished in 2016.

Some components of the space include a room for fitness equipment, multi-purpose space, additional space for crafts, our café and gift shop, and the new Stella Jeon Adaptive Assistance Lending Library.



***Puzzle Play-Off participants keep their minds sharp with challenging puzzles.***

As we enter the latter half of the decade, this expansion leaves the Senior Center well-positioned to address the needs of our burgeoning elderly population. We aspire to create a community that fosters independence, engagement, support and connection for older adults and their families.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Alves,  
Senior Center Director

**Our Role:**

The Franklin Disability Commission serves and advocates for Town residents who have disabilities. The Commission meets the first Thursday of the month, except for July. The meetings are held at Central Park Terrace community room starting at 7 PM.

**Current Members:**

Mary O'Neill – Chairman  
Lucy Negrone – Vice-Chairman  
Martha Murray - Clerk Lorraine McLaughlin Michael Furilla  
Deb Bean  
\*\*one vacancy  
\*\*no ADA Coordinator is currently appointed

**Contact Information:**

Meeting minutes are posted to the Franklin Town Web site by Mr. Nutting's office. The Commission can be contacted by leaving a message with Maxine Kinhart, the Administrative Assistant to Mr. Nutting.

**FY 2015:**

During the course of this past year, the Commission investigated several complaints of lack of adequate access and non-compliance with ADA and/or AAB regulations. Most were resolved by discussion with the business owner.

Residents continue to complain of mailboxes and basketball hoops being mounted in the middle of sidewalks, thus restricting adequate access. The Commission will continue to discuss this with Town officials and will seek advice from the Massachusetts Office on Disability.

The Commission continues to assist town Residents in locating resources and helping to advocate for their particular needs. The Commission has attempted to advocate for residents living in a specific local public housing location. At this time, the residence is reportedly unsanitary.

This year, the Commission advocated for an accessible beach chair to be placed at the Chilson Beach location. Such a chair enables safe accessibility down and into the water. *RandomSmiles* graciously agreed to donate the chair. At this time, there are no lifeguards at Chilson beach, which has inhibited Commission efforts to make the chair available. For this reason, this chair is going to be donated to the Lake Pearl beach in Wrentham. "The Mobi- Chair® was designed with everyone in mind. Wheelchair users, people with special needs, or even children can benefit from the convenience, portability and comfort of the Mobi-Chair®. The aluminum frame and stainless steel parts are corrosion free from salt water and the floatational wheels and armrests provide an unprecedented experience due to their stable

buoyant design. The Mobi-Chair® is suitable for use at the beach and in swimming pools.” \*

\*source: <http://www.mobi-mat-chair-beach-access-dms.com/range-us/mobi-chair-floating-beach-wheelchair/>



The Commission looks forward to continuing to build partnerships with Town agencies. We look forward to continuing to assist residents in locating resources for people with disabilities. Feel free to visit one our meetings or to contact us through the Town Administrator’s office.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary O’Neill, Chairman  
Martha Murray, Clerk

## **REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Department of Planning & Community Development (DPCD) maintains a professional staff that provides the Town of Franklin with a wide array of planning services. DPCD’s mission is to plan and implement comprehensive policies and initiatives that work to fulfill the land use-related goals of the people of Franklin. We make every effort to maintain the character of the community while enhancing its economic vitality.

DPCD’s activities and services include, but are not limited to, comprehensive planning economic development, subdivision plan, site plan and conservation plan review, historic preservation, downtown revitalization, zoning by-law and subdivision regulation development, brownfields redevelopment, affordable housing, open space and wetlands preservation, public transportation, transit oriented development, and sustainable development including use of smart growth and low impact development concepts. The Department regularly identifies and sources funding for various community development projects and activities.

DPCD balances its approach to these initiatives through long-term planning and public participation.

### **Department Personnel**

The DPCD’s staffing reflects the diverse skills needed to complete the many activities and roles the Department participates. DPCD’s staff consists of the following:

Bryan Taberner, Director  
Beth Wierling, Town Planner  
George Russell, Conservation Agent  
John Allen, Program Coordinator  
Kathy Celorier, Conservation Secretary and  
Administrative Assistant

The DPCD manages an Intern Program to assist DPCD staff and other Town departments with administrative and technical assistance. The work performed by DPCD interns is extremely important to the Department’s productivity. Interns work on a wide range of community development and economic development issues.

### **Support of Town Boards, Commissions and Committees**

DPCD personnel provide staff support to several boards, commissions and committees, including the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Design Review Commission, Technical Review Committee, and the Town Council’s Economic Development Sub-committee. Approximately 60 to 65 percent of the Department’s total staff hours are utilized on Planning Board and Conservation Commission related issues. In addition, DPCD staff occasionally provide professional technical assistance to other public entities including Town Council, Zoning Board of Appeals, and various ad hoc committees including the Town’s Master Plan Committee.

### **Site Permitting and Guidance**

DPCD is not a permit granting authority; its function during the permitting process is to integrate laws, regulations and plans with the Town’s goals to ensure that the best interests of the Town and its residents are served. DPCD personnel organize and attend meetings, provide technical assistance, offer professional opinions, and guide developers, businesses and residents through the Town’s various permitting processes.

### **Conservation**

DPCD provides support to the Conservation Commission, as provided by MGL Chapter 131, Section 40. Conservation Staff, specifically the Town’s Conservation Agent, is responsible for speaking for the Conservation Commission when they are not present (see separate Conservation Commission Report). Although not a permit authority, the Conservation Agent does have limited police powers to regulate already approved Conservation Commission activities, stop unauthorized activities and to promote and develop the natural resources of Franklin and

its wetlands, streams, brooks, ponds, lakes and watersheds. In addition, Conservation staff provides administrative support and reviews applications being presented to the Conservation Commission, as well as provides professional support to other Town Boards, Commissions and Departments.

### **Comprehensive Planning and Zoning**

DPCD is responsible for traditional land-use related activities including updating the Town's plans, and amending and creating zoning bylaws. A description of zoning and land use issues worked on by DPCD during the 2015 fiscal year is summarized below.

During the 2015 fiscal year DPCD worked on amendment of several sections of Franklin's Zoning Bylaw. This included Zoning Amendments 14-42, 14-743 and 14-744, which were needed to correct references and inconsistencies in the Town's Zoning Bylaw. As a result of public meetings and a response to a Request for Proposals for sale and development of the Pond Street property, DPCD developed and submitted to Town Council Zoning Amendment 14-745, which added multi-family housing by special permit to the Office Zoning District.

Since Town Council adopted the Town's updated Master Plan in 2013, DPCD staff has worked towards implementation. During FY15 DPCD provided Town Council with an update summarizing the status of the Master Plan's implementation.

The Town held a Zoning Workshop in March 2015 to review potential zoning changes, including Actions proposed within the 2013 Master Plan; issues discussed included the Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District; Senior Village Overlay District; Commercial I Zoning District; Multi-family Zoning; and Accessory Dwelling Units. DPCD was tasked with developing a zoning map amendment, which would allow multi-family housing in an industrially zoned area along Dean Ave. A map amendment has been drafted and will be before Town Council for consideration during July 2015.

### **Planning and Implementation of Community Development and Economic Development Projects**

Each year the DPCD works on many community and economic development initiatives. The Department develops strategies, proposes policies, bylaw changes and Town Council resolutions, manages projects, and seeks grants in efforts to balance Franklin's community livability and its economic viability. DPCD encourages responsible community development that meets the goals and objectives of the Town's various planning documents, and the State's Sustainable Development and Smart Growth Principles. Some of DPCD's more important recently completed or ongoing projects and initiatives are summarized below.

*Regional Planning.* DPCD attends meetings and works on various regional planning issues with a variety of regional organizations, including Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the Southwest Area Planning Committee, I-495/MetroWest Corridor Partnership, and the I-95/495 South Regional Technology Economic Target Area's Coordinating Council. In addition, the DPCD occasionally supports the initiatives of other regional organizations including the Franklin Bellingham Rail Trail Committee, Friends of the SNETT, the MetroWest Tourism and Visitors Bureau, and a workforce development advisory committee established by Employment and Training Resources in Framingham.

*Downtown Revitalization.* For several years the Town of Franklin has made revitalization of Downtown Franklin a major focus and has worked to improve the Downtown in a variety of ways. The revitalization of Downtown Franklin must be carefully planned to ensure that improvements positively impact the entire community. During the 2015 fiscal year DPCD worked on several projects related to implementation of the *Franklin Center Plan*, which was developed in 2002 and 2003 to provide Town officials with a vision and basic strategy for revitalization of Downtown Franklin.

One component of the Franklin Center Plan is Cultural Uses. The issue of *cultural economic development* has been a focus for DPCD in recent years. During FY14 DPCD worked with the MetroWest Tourism and Visitors Bureau and Franklin Downtown Partnership to develop a brochure map of Downtown Franklin; the map was printed and distributed in the first quarter of FY15. During FY15 DPCD continued to work with the MetroWest Tourism and Visitors Bureau on a variety of cultural economic development marketing activities. In addition, DPCD provided limited assistance to the Franklin Cultural District Committee, which is a group of individuals and organizations that are attempting to create a State designated *Downtown Franklin Cultural District*. A cultural district is a specific geographical area that has a concentration of cultural facilities, activities, and assets. It needs to be walkable, easily accessible, easily identifiable to visitors and residents, and serve as a center for cultural, artistic and economic activity. The goals of a Cultural District are to encourage business and job development, attract artists and cultural enterprises, establish the district as a tourist destination, preserve and reuse historic buildings, enhance property values, and foster local cultural development.

The Town of Franklin's *Downtown Roadway and Streetscape Improvement Project* is an integral part of the Town's strategy for Downtown revitalization. The improvement project includes improvements to the traffic pattern of Route 140 in the Downtown Franklin area, installation of interconnected traffic signals with emergency preemption system, period lighting, traffic calming devices, resetting curbs where needed, ADA compliant sidewalks, resurfacing of streets, and landscape improvements and street furniture. The Project represents a substantial public

investment in the Downtown's future and economic viability, and is expected to spur on private investment. Construction of this important multi-year project began in 2014.

During the first half of FY15, DPCD provided substantial technical assistance towards implementation the Town's *Franklin Solar Challenge*. The initiative is similar to the state's Solarize Mass program, which provides discounts to encourage residents and small business owners to install solar panels. Public meetings were held in the first quarter of FY15 to inform and educate the public. During the second quarter of FY15 DPCD worked with a group of residents to obtain the services of a solar panel installation contractor, SolarFlair, who began installing solar panels late in the 2014 calendar year; the more people ordering a solar panel installation the better the unit pricing. As of June 2015 SolarFlair had already signed solar panel installation contracts for well over 100 kW of capacity.

*Tax Title Properties.* As in past years, DPCD again worked with other Departments assessing the Town's *Tax Title Properties*. Each year recommendations are developed for a number of these properties, and DPCD submits the work to the Town Administrator and Town Council for consideration.

DPCD works regularly on a wide range of *economic development* projects and programs, and is one of DPCD's top priorities, second only to providing excellent administrative and technical assistance to the Town's boards, commissions and committees.

Potential benefits to the Town from successful implementation of DPCD's *Business Retainage and Attraction Initiatives* are significant. These efforts focus on increasing the value of Franklin's commercial and industrial tax base, filling the Town's empty and underutilized industrially zoned buildings, and attracting the right mix of companies to the community.

As part of DPCD's efforts to market the Town of Franklin, DPCD staff develops press releases, economic development marketing brochures, and various economic development advertisements for industry periodicals. During FY15 DPCD focused much of its efforts on the life sciences/biotechnology industry. Towards the end of the fiscal year DPCD staff began working with professors and students from Dean College and the Franklin Downtown Partnership's Executive Director on development of a marketing program for Downtown Franklin. The project includes developing a distinct Downtown Franklin "brand", marketing and graphic materials, and a related implementation strategy, in attempts to attract customers and visitors to ensure the Downtown's economic viability during the construction of the Downtown Improvement Project.

In partnership with MassDevelopment and the Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD),

DPCD developed and manages the *MassDevelopment - MOBD - Town of Franklin Business Visitation Program*, which is intended to make local research and development and manufacturing companies in Franklin aware of State technical assistance programs and financial resources that can be made available to further their development, and to raise awareness of DPCD as a resource for local businesses. In addition, DPCD works regularly with MOBD, MassDevelopment, and other agencies in efforts to attract the right mix of companies to Franklin's industrial and commercial areas.

Franklin is part of the *I-495/95 South Regional Technology Economic Target Area*, and as such can offer businesses looking to start up or expand in Franklin one of the most attractive incentives a Massachusetts community can offer a business, a *Tax Increment Finance Agreement*. The Town of Franklin supports the use of this local tax credit for a wide range of development projects, including projects that create a significant number of livable wage jobs for Franklin residents, support innovative technology, and result in redevelopment of empty or underutilized industrially zoned properties, or development of new facilities. Once a business negotiates a tax increment finance agreement with the Town of Franklin it may qualify for a state investment tax credit for qualifying tangible/depreciable assets, as well as other significant tax incentives.

Working towards redevelopment of town-owned properties is a regular DPCD activity, and continues to be a high priority. During FY2014 DPCD developed a *Request for Expressions of Interest* (REI) for future redevelopment of 150 Emmons Street, site of the former Municipal Building. The Town's goals for this important parcel are "Redevelopment of the site into a key gateway into Downtown Franklin, which will maximize short-term and long-term benefits to the Town and its residents. Expressions of Interest were due during the first quarter of FY15, which influenced the development and distribution of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for sale and reuse of the property, which included demolition of the former municipal building. Proposals in response to the RFP were due during December 2014. One Proposal was received, and the Proposer/Developer began performing due diligence activities; a final Purchase and Sale agreement will likely be executed in FY16.

Also during 2015 DPCD continued to work with other Town staff, consultants, and the EPA to move forward redevelopment of the Town's "*Nu-Style*" Property. The Nu-Style Property at 87 Grove Street consists of two parcels totaling 1.2 acres. The property is contaminated with a variety of hazardous materials. Demolition of the main Nu-Style building was completed within FY13; demolition was required in order to access and analyze soil and water under the building to assure that the full extent of soil and water contamination is known. Preparing the site for redevelopment is expensive, and DPCD has sought funding and technical assistance from a variety of sources in recent years. DPCD secured EPA technical assistance to assess the

quality of ground water at the Nu-Style site; several monitoring wells were drilled and two rounds of water samples were analyzed. In addition, the EPA performed indoor air quality assessment activities in an adjacent privately held building to assure contaminated soil and ground water on the Nu-Style property is not negatively impacting adjacent properties. Building II, a smaller dilapidated mill building on the back of the Nu-Style property became the focus of DPCD efforts during the second half of FY15.

DPCD will continue to undertake a wide range of community and economic development projects, programs, and planning initiatives that will keep the Town’s goals and objectives current and representative of Franklin’s needs and desires. DPCD is proud of its accomplishments and welcomes public input on all of its efforts to improve the quality of life for the residents of Franklin.

Respectfully submitted,

Department of Planning and Community Development Staff.

**REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD**

The Planning Board, as established by MGL. Ch. 41 sec.70, is responsible for “...making plans for the development of the municipality, with special reference to proper housing of its inhabitants.” The Board is charged with administering the State’s Subdivision Control Law (MGL. 41 Ch.81K) and the local subdivision rules and regulations (Chapter 300). The Board makes recommendations to the Town Council on Zoning By-Law amendments and may at its own discretion adopt new subdivision regulations. The Board is also designated as the permitting authority for various site plan and special permit submittals under the local Zoning Bylaws (Ch. 185).

The Board works together with the Department of Planning and Community Development, the Department of Public Works, and Town Administration. In addition, the Board receives recommendations from the Design Review Committee on building design, elevation, and signage for commercial site plan permits and from the Conservation Commission on wetland related issues.

In the first quarter of FY2015, the Planning Board reviewed and issued decisions for several pending projects from FY2014. These decisions included The Village at Cooks Farm, a site plan/special permit to allow 55 single-family dwelling units (condominium ownership) on a single lot and development of 648 Old West Central Street, the location of Starbuck’s and Noodles Restaurant.

The Planning Board issued approvals for 8 special permits associated with 6 site plan applications. Special Permits were granted for uses ranging in the following categories: vehicular service establishment (VSE, drive-through), off-

street parking area, multi-family condominium use, modification to a Senior Village site plan, motor vehicle service repair facility, mutli-family use and impervious coverage.

Notable approvals occurring in 2015 were the Midas Muffler site plan/special permit at 529 West Central Street and Definitive Subdivision approval for Winter Garden Estates. Winter Garden Estates also began construction, receiving a surety estimate and receiving lot releases.

The Planning Board also voted to endorse (9) nine 81-P plans an increase from last year and accepted nine (9) Form H - Certificate of Completions. Acceptance of a Form H indicates all site work has been completed according to previously approved Site Plans by the Planning Board. Severe winter conditions in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY15 delayed construction of many projects approved in FY14 causing many sites to remain unfinished in the early 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FY15. The Planning Board is working with site developers to finish many outstanding items at sites such as seeding and plantings that were delayed by weather and issue certificates of completion in early FY16.

The Planning Board has, and will continue to focus on updating the existing zoning by-laws to more accurately define the needs and goals of the Town. The Planning Board referred many significant Bylaw changes to the Town Council including allowing multi-family development at the Town owned Pond Street Property. It was hoped by allowing this use, the Town would broaden its ability to market this valuable property and find a suitable buyer.

The Board continues to help property owners make the desired changes and improvements to their properties while fostering responsible growth and development in the Town of Franklin.

The Planning Board typically meets twice a month on Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Municipal Building. All Board meetings are open to the public, and are televised via Community Cable Access.

Planning Board Activity (July 2014 through June 2015):

<b>Decision - Approval</b>	<b>Total FY 2015</b>
<i>Preliminary Subdivisions</i>	
<i>Definitive Subdivisions</i>	
<i>Definitive Subdivision Modifications</i>	
<i>81-P Plans (ANR)</i>	
<i>Site Plans</i>	
<i>Site Plan Modifications</i>	
<i>Limited Site Plan Modifications</i>	
<i>Special Permits</i>	
<i>Scenic Road Work Permits</i>	
<i>Street Acceptance Recommendation</i>	
<i>Certificate of Completion</i>	
<i>Zoning Bylaws</i>	
<i>Bond Releases</i>	
<i>Acceptance of Bonds</i>	

### **Planning Board Membership**

The Planning Board consists of five members and one associate member. The associate member participates in all hearings but only votes on Special Permits if one of the members is unable to act. The Board members are elected and serve 4-year terms.

Current Planning Board Members:

**Anthony Padula, Chairman**

**Joseph Halligan, Vice Chairman**

**John Carroll, Clerk**

**Gregory Ballarino**

**William David**

**Gregory Rondeau, Associate Member**

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Padula, Chairman

Please visit our website for additional information including application forms, and regularly posted agendas and meeting minutes at:  
[town.franklin.ma.us/Pages/FranklinMA\\_Bcomm/planning](http://town.franklin.ma.us/Pages/FranklinMA_Bcomm/planning).

## 2014 PLANNING BOARD DECISIONS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATIONS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
A:		
B:		
Benchmark Investments XI,LLC	Benchmark Assisted Living-Forge Hill Harbor/ 4 Forge Hill Rd., Forge Pkwy – Ltd. Site Plan Mod.	3/24/2014
Bogan, Michael	Bogan Estates – Preliminary Subdivision	3/24/2014
	Bogan Estates – Definitive subdivision Mod	6/2/2014
	Washington St.-Lot 1 – 81 P Plan-Cert to Vote	7/21/2014
C:		
Columbia Wegman Franklin, LLC	Emeritus At Franklin, 656 King St.- (Ltd Site Plan Mod)	4/28/2014
D.		
D’Errico, Joel	Countryside Estates-Cert. of Vote-Waiver/Denied	6/16/2014
E.		
F.		
First Class Marble & Granit	60 Earl’s Way – Ltd.Site Plan Mod.)	09/08/2014
Franco Ruggles St. Realty Trust	14 Ruggles St. – Sp.Permit/Site Plan –Withdraw	5/12/2014
Franklin Childrens School,Inc.	“Playground Area-900 Chestnut-Cert.Of Vote/ Limited Site Plan Modification	8/18/2014
Franklin Performing Arts Co.	15 W.Central St., Black Box-Ltd.Site Plan Mod. (Withdrawn )	8/13/2014
Franklin Retail,LLC	648 Old W. Central St.-Town Of Franklin, ( Cert. Of Vote-Sp. Permit/Site Plan )	8/4/2014
	648-650 Old W. Central St.- (Special Permit- Impervious Coverage)	8/4/2014
	648 Old W. Central St. -81-P/Cert. of Vote	9/22/2014
Franklin TV	23 Hutchinson St.- Cert.of Vote/Ltd.Site Plan Mod	6/2/2014
Franklin TV	23 Hutchinson St.-Cert.of Vote/Ltd Site Plan Mod.	11/3/2014
French, Deana & Michael	7 Great Pond Rd. & Franklin Rod & Gun Club- 81-P Plan Cert. Of Vote- Endorsed	1/6/2015
G.		
H.		
Habitech Homes	Villages At Oak Hill – Certificate Of Vote- Special Permit/Site Plan Modification	11/3/2014
I.		
J.		
K.		
Kaplan, Rick	308 W. Central St. – Cert. Of Vote/ Special Permit/Site Plan	2/10/2014

L.			
Lockewood Building Corp.	Winter Garden Estates –Cert of Vote/ PRELIMINARY Subdivision Plan		8/18/2014
	DEFINITIVE Subdivision Plan		8/21/2014
M.			
Marguerite, John E.	Mount View Farms- Cert of Vote/ DEFINITIVE Subdivision Mod.		8/18/2014
Marino, John E.	76 Chestnut St./ 81-P Plan-Endorsed-(ANR)		3/25/2013
Morse, Patricia	Spring St.-Lot 1 -81-P Plan/Cert of Vote		9/8/2014
N.			
New England Treatment Access	N.E. Treatment Access Cultivation Facility- Cert.ofVote/Ltd.SitePlan Mod.		3/24/2014
New England Treatment Access	Cert.ofVote/Site Plan-5 Forge Pkwy		1/21/2014
O.			
Oteri Funeral Home	81-P Plan-Rescinding of Subdivision- 19 & 23 Cottage St.		10/8/2014
Oteri Funeral Home	Cert.ofVote-Sp.Permit/Site Plan 33 Cottage St.(Endorsed)		9/20/2014
P.			
Planet Automotive Sales,LLC	400 & 406 E.Central St. – 81-P Plan/Cert. of Vote (Endorsed)		11/3/2014
Planet Automotive Sales,LLC	Planet Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram 400&406 E.Central St.-Cert.ofVote-Site Plan		10/6/2014
R.			
S.			
Shay, Greg/GPS Partners,LLC	“Plan of Land in Fkln.MA”-Cert.of Vote/ Rescission of Prestige Hill Subdivision & Covenant		4/7/2014
T.			
TMC Environmental/Matt Clark	19 National Dr.- Cert. of Vote/Ltd. Site Plan Mod.		10/6/2014
Tri-County Reg. Vocational School	147 Pond St./Cert.ofVote-Endorse/Ltd.Site Plan Mod		3/24/2014
U.			
V.			
Villages at Cooks Farm, LLC	East Central St./ 81-P Plan –Revised		11/3/2014
Village at Cooks Farm,LLC	634-664 E.Central-Cert.ofVote/Sp.Permit/Site Plan Multiple,Single-Family Dwelling Units in Residential VII Zoning District		8/4/2014
W.			
Walsh Brother Building Co.	Uncas Ave. Ext.- Cert. of Vote – Definitive Subdivision Mod.		1/27/2014
Walsh Brothers Building Co.	Uncas Ave. Ext.-Application Submitted in 2012 Subdivision Modification-Withdrawal		2/10/2014
Wise Eye Care, Inc.	76 Chestnut St.-Wise Eye Care- Cert. of Vote - Site Plan		4/7/2014

## REPORT OF THE NORFOLK COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

The Norfolk County Advisory Board is composed of a representative from each Norfolk County Municipality. The executive authority (Selectman, Mayor, Manager, etc.) of each municipality appoints its own representative annually. Each municipality and their representative's vote on the Advisory Board is weighted in accordance with the valuation of the assessment of the combined land values in that community.

The Advisory Board receives its authority from Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 35 Section 28. A special legislative act for Norfolk County, Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1989, allows the individual municipality's executive authority greater flexibility in their appointment to the Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board also receives reports and makes recommendations on other matters affecting the County and its municipalities.

The Advisory Board has a staff of one person, the Financial Coordinator, and acts in the capacity of an executive secretary. The Financial Coordinator also serves as an assistant to the County Director of Operations.

The Norfolk County Advisory Board is also a resource for member communities. Both public officials and citizens are encouraged to contact the Advisory Board on any relevant matter or concern.

The Advisory Board meets approximately six times per year, usually at the Norfolk County Agricultural High School in Walpole. The principal responsibilities of the Advisory Board are to review and approve County finances.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter E. Padula, Esq.  
Town of Franklin Representative  
Norfolk County Advisory Board

## REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT



I would be remiss if I did not thank the members of the Franklin Police Department for their fine work throughout the year. Once again, were it not for the hard work and dedication our Police Officers have for their jobs and the Franklin Community we would not be hailed as one of the Safest Places to Live in Massachusetts for the 2015 Year. This by the way is the third such distinction in as many years.

It goes without saying that you, the Community Members and Residents of Franklin play a very large part in this distinction. The phrase "voluntary compliance" comes to mind. The meaning is just that and it is a credit to all of you who live, work and travel through our Community.

Town Government also plays a significant role in the designation as a "Safest City". The decisions at the government level affect each and every one of us daily. There are those who may criticize, but the proof is in the pudding, Franklin is a fine community to live and raise your family in. We offer any number of extracurricular activities for our young people and with the most recent forming of our Opioid Abuse Coalition Franklin has shown its willingness and concern to address the more serious issues faced by society today.

I've learned many things since becoming your Chief of Police. First and foremost is that there are more often than not three sides to any given story and that it is naïve to believe that any one person can satisfy or make everyone happy. I speak not only for myself but for my police employees as well, men and women that I work very closely with on a daily basis. We face head-on the challenges of trying to always "get it right"; something I say to you in all confidence that we do very well. To think differently of your Police Officers is a disservice.

If you have a question, complaint or misunderstanding I encourage you to call my office @ 508-440-2709 and we can have a discussion that will answer all of your questions so you may have a better understanding of the police department's mission and position.

The dynamics of our Society have made us realize that arrest and detention is not the one and only answer for

society's ills. Don't get me wrong because there are those incidents in which arrest and detention are the only answers, but to that end we need to listen, seek out appropriate resources for those in trouble and point them in the right direction. Policing has become much more of an "Outreach" style of profession as opposed to the old days of strictly being a Law Enforcing profession and that balance can oftentimes be very difficult. As we move forward time and experience will tell us if this approach has been a turn for the better.

I thank you all once again for a challenging and rewarding year as Chief of Police.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephan H. Semerjian, Chief of Police

### FRANKLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

An integral part of the Franklin Police Department, the Communications Division, consisting of six full time and three part time civilian dispatchers, acts as the liaison between the public and various divisions throughout the Police Department. The dispatchers are responsible for answering 911 calls, business calls, officers requiring assistance/information, assisting the public walking into our lobby and maintaining an electronic record of all activity.

This past fiscal year our dispatchers kept busy processing 5,987 emergency 911 calls, 74,468 business line calls and 72,824 radio transmissions. They also made 30,343 entries into our computer aided dispatch/records management computer systems.

If you have an emergency any time, day or night, and call 911, rest assured you will be connected to a professional well trained dispatcher ready to assist you.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gary M Premo*  
Communications Director

#### Arrest/Complaint Summary

94C Violations near Schools, Parks or Playgrounds	2
A&B on Police Officer	2
A&B with Dangerous Weapon	11
Abuse Prevention Order, Violate	13
Aggravated Statutory Rape	8
Alcohol From Open Container in MV, Drink	2
Assault	3
Assault and Battery	18

Assault and Battery (DOMESTIC)	25
Assault and Battery on Family/Household Member	3
Assault on Family/Household Member	1
Assault w/Dangerous Weapon	5
Attempt to Commit Crime	1
B&E Daytime for Felony	2
B&E for Misdemeanor	1
B&E Nighttime for Felony	8
BB Gun/Air Rifle, Minor Possess	1
Blocking Intersection	2
Break into Depository	5
Carrying a Gun or Weapon on Campus	1
Check, Forgery of	4
Check, Utter False	4
Child Endangerment	5
Child, Permit Substantial Injury to	10
Civil Rights Violation	1
Conspiracy	6
Conspiracy to Violate Controlled Subst Laws	8
Contractor Prohibited Acts; Violations	1
Contribute to Delinquency of Child	2
Credit Card, Improper Use Over \$250	1
Credit Card, Receive Stolen	2
Criminal Harassment	1
Dangerous Weapon, Carry	1
Deface Property	4
Destruction of Property - \$250, Wanton	2
Destruction of Property +\$250, Malicious	12
Destruction of Property, -\$250, Malicious	4
Disorderly Conduct	11
Disorderly Conduct on Public Conveyance	2
Display Gen Dist Plates	1
Distribution of Class A Substance	2
Distribution of Class D Substance	3
Disturbing the Peace	13
DPW Regulations	1
Failure To Produce License/Registration	1
False Name To A Police Officer	1
Firearm, Carry Without License, 3rd Off.	1
Firearm/Ammunition/Mace without proper license	2
Furnishing Alcohol to Minors	2
Home Improvement Contractor, Unlicensed	1
Improper Equipment	8
Improper Operation of MV, Allow	1
Indecent A&B on Person 14 or Over	2
Inspection/Sticker, No	17
Knowing Present Where Heroin Kept	2
Larceny by Check over \$250	2
Larceny From Building	2
Larceny from Person	1
Larceny Over \$250	15
Larceny Over \$250 by False Pretense	3
Larceny Under \$250	4
Leave Scene of Property Damage	10

Lewd, Wanton & Lascivious Conduct	1
Lewdness, Open and Gross	2
License Not in Possession	1
License Revoked, Operate MV With	9
License Suspended, OP MV With	32
License Suspended, OP MV With, Subsq. Off.	3
Lights Violation, MV	1
Liquor to Person Under 21, Sell/Deliver	1
Liquor, Person Under 21 Possess	7
Liquor, Person Under 21 Procure	1
Manufacture of Class C Substance	2
Marked Lanes Violation	11
Mayhem	1
Mental Health Evaluation	1
Motor Veh, Larceny of	1
Murder, Attempted	1
Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle	3
Noisy and Disorderly House, Keep	2
Number Plate Violation	1
Number Plate Violation, Attaching Plates	6
Obstruction of Justice	2
Operating to Endanger	11
OUI Drugs	3
OUI Liquor	10
OUI Liquor & Serious Injury	1
OUI Liquor, 2nd Offense	5
OUI Liquor, 3rd Offense	2
Poss Class A w/Intent to Distribute	5
Poss Class C w/intent to Distribute	2
Poss Class D w/intent to Distribute	6
Possession Class A Substance	7
Possession Class B Substance	7
Possession Class C Substance	3
Possession Class D Substance	2
Possession Class E Substance	5
Receive Stolen Property +\$250	1
Recreational Veh, Negligent/Reckless Operation	1
Recreational Veh, Operate on Public Way	1
Red Light Violations	2
Registration Suspended/Revoked, OP MV With	24
Residential contracting agreements, Failure to Com	1
Resisting Arrest	5
Robbery, Armed & Masked	3
Robbery, Unarmed	2
School, Disturb	3
Seat Belt, Fail to Wear	1
Shoplifting by Asportation	8
Shoplifting by Asportation, 3rd Off.	2
Shoplifting by Concealing Mdse	3
Speeding	5
Speeding in Violation Special Regulation	9
Stealing a Registration Plate	1
Stop for Police, Fail	3

Stop/Yield, Fail to	5
Strangulation or Suffocation	2
Texting While Oper MV	1
Threat to Commit Crime	5
Trafficking in Marijuana	1
Trespass	11
Uninsured MV/Trailer	27
Unlicensed Operation	17
Unregistered MV	12
Use MV Without Authority	1
Violation of a Harassment Prevention Order	1
Wanton/Malicious Injury Real/Personal Property	6
Witness, Intimidate	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>617</b>

**REPORT OF THE FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

**Charting the Future**

**Franklin's Community Vision**

“To be a vibrant community that supports the arts, non-profit organizations, higher education and businesses in an atmosphere that allows growth and prosperity while at the same time conserving our heritage, natural resources, and history. We will build on and celebrate our uniqueness as a community and maintain the quality of life that is a strength and competitive advantage.”

**Franklin Public Library Vision**

Franklin Public Library strengthens the Town of Franklin’s culture of learning, innovation and engagement.

**Highlights & New Services:**

**Facility**

Plans to address code issues, renovate and expand the facility are underway. The Library is profoundly grateful for the hard work and diligence of the Building Committee.

**Services:**

Sunday hours have made easy, continuous and convenient access to the library possible for all Franklin residents.

**Collections - The Digital Branch**

Expanding access and resources beyond the physical building is a library priority. In 2015, the library added five new databases, bringing the library’s digital collection to eight. In addition to the e-**book** collection from Overdrive, **Hoopla** for e-audio books, music and movies, and **genealogy and Ancestry**, Franklin residents of all ages now have unlimited access, anytime, anywhere to online resources for research, education, personal growth and entertainment.

## New databases

1. **Rosetta Stone.** With a simple log-in through the Library, Franklin residents now have the freedom to learn a new language free of charge whenever, wherever, they choose from the leading provider of online services designed to help people master a new language. The Rosetta Stone can be accessed on almost any device with a mobile app. and provides instant feedback, fun activities and expert guidance for differing learning styles or core lessons that build reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

11. **Learning Express Library** an online test preparation database with over 800 practice tests and self paced study opportunities to help Franklin Residents achieve their educational and career goals free of charge. Featured resources include:

### 1. Adult Learning Center

- Build math, grammar, writing and reading skills.

### 2. Become a U.S. Citizen

- Prepare for the Citizenship Exam
- Get a Green Card

### 3. College Center

#### Math Skills Review

- Algebra
- Basic Math
- Calculus
- Geometry and Measurement
- Trigonometry
- Statistics
- Logic and Reasoning
- Quantitative Comparison and Word Problems

#### Reading Skills Review

- Reading Comprehension
- Vocabulary and Spelling

#### Grammar and Writing Skills Review

- Grammar
- Writing
- Public Speaking

#### Science Skills Review

- Chemistry
- Biology

#### Prepare for Graduate School Admissions Exams

- GMAT Preparation
- GRE Preparation
- LSAT Preparation
- MAT Preparation
- PCAT Preparation

#### Prepare for College Placement Exams

- ACCUPLACER Preparation
- ASSET Preparation
- COMPASS Preparation
- College Placement Preparation eBooks

#### Prepare for the CLEP\* Exams

- CLEP\* Preparation

## 4. College Preparation Center

### Prepare for Your ACT Test

- Prepare for Your ACT Test
- ACT Practice Tests

### Prepare for Your SAT Test

- SAT Test Preparation Tutorial
- SAT Practice Tests

### Prepare for your AP\* Exam

- Practice for Your AP Exam
- AP Exam Preparation eBooks

### Prepare for Your PSAT/NMSQT Test

- Practice for Your PSAT/NMSQT Test
- PSAT/NMSQT Test Preparation

### Prepare for Your TOEFL Test

- Practice for Your TOEFL Test

### College Admissions Essay Writing

- Learn to Write a College Admissions Essay

## 5. High School Equivalency Center

### Build Your Basic Skills

- Build Your Reading Skills
- Build Your Writing Skills
- Build Your Math Skills
- Build Your Grammar Skills
- Build Your Vocabulary and Spelling Skills

### Prepare for the GED® Test

- Learn About the New GED® Test
- Reasoning through Language Arts
- Mathematical Reasoning
- Science
- Social Studies

## 6. School Center

### Elementary School

- Math Skills Improvement
- Reading Comprehension Skills Improvement

### Middle School

- Math Skills Improvement
- Reading Comprehension Skills Improvement
- Writing and Grammar Skills Improvement
- Social Studies Skills Improvement
- Vocabulary and Spelling Skills Improvement
- High School Entrance Exams Preparation

### High School

- Logic and Reasoning Skills Improvement
- Math Skills Improvement
- Reading Comprehension Skills Improvement

- Science Skills Improvement
- Social Studies Skills Improvement
- Statistics Skills Improvement
- Trigonometry Skills Improvement
- Vocabulary and Spelling Skills Improvement
- Writing and Grammar Skills Improvement

## 7. Career Center

### Learn More about a Career

- Allied Health
- Caseworker
- Culinary Arts
- Firefighting
- Green Careers
- Homeland Security
- Law Enforcement
- Legal
- Nursing
- Teaching
- Career Information for Veterans

### Prepare for an Entrance Exam

- Prepare for Allied Health Programs Entrance Tests
- Prepare for Nursing School Entrance Tests

### Prepare for an Occupation Exam

- Allied Health
- Air Traffic Controller
- Civil Service
- Commercial Driver's License (CDL)
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts
- Emergency Medical Services
- Firefighting
- Homeland Security
- Law Enforcement
- Postal Worker
- Nursing
- Real Estate
- Plumbing
- Teaching

### Join the Military or Become an Officer

- Prepare for the ASVAB
- Prepare for the Military Flight Aptitude Tests
- Prepare for the Officer Candidate Tests
- Prepare for the CFAT

### Job Search and Workplace Skills

- Improve Your Job Search, Interviewing, and Networking Skills
- Build Your Workplace Skills

## 111. Reference USA

Reference USA is the premier source for consumer and business information. With access to over 24 million US businesses it is a valuable tool for students, job seekers and small business owners/entrepreneurs.

## 1V. Zinio - Magazine newsstand

The world's largest newsstand offering free full color to digital magazines from the library's collection of popular titles with no holds, no checkout periods, and no limits to the number of magazines that Franklin residents can download. Zinio can be accessed on variety of devices including iPads, iPhones, Android, Macs, and the PC.

## V. America's GenealogyBank with America's Obituaries and Dearth Notices

This new database is now available to Franklin residents with your Minuteman Library Card, *America's GenealogyBank* provides Web-based access to nearly 241 million of United States core genealogical records from 1690 to the present day. Most of these sources are unique to this collection and are difficult to find on microfilm or in print.

Through basic name search or advanced search options, genealogists can find and browse digital images of obituaries, marriage notices, birth announcements, casualty lists, military and government documents, and other essential primary sources. It also provides the full text of modern U.S. newspaper obituaries and death notices, as well as enhanced Social Security Death Index (SSDI) records.

By searching more than 151 million records found in more than 4,600 historical U.S. newspapers and other sources, researchers can quickly find their ancestors in obituaries, marriage notices, birth announcements and other items.

### To access databases

Go to [www.mln.lib.ma.us](http://www.mln.lib.ma.us)

Click on Databases

Enter your library card number, and select the database.

## Outreach - Partnering with the Schools

Outreach efforts to the Franklin Public Schools, the Charter School and Tri-County included:

- Library visits to the schools to read, share information and meet with parents.
- School Library orientation programs and tours.
- Library card campaigns at the schools.
- Teen book discussion group.
- Sharing programming information and services with the schools.
- Regularly scheduled reading programs at the Library.
- Library's year round 'get ready for kindergarten' program.
- Free Tutoring/ homework assistance for students in grades 2-8.
- Free books for Franklin school teachers for their classrooms at the library's monthly book sales.
- Library books /digital collections developed to assist students complete assignments throughout the school year.
- Summer reading programs and lists
- Hosting the Charter School Art show for the sixth year in a row.

### **Programs**

In FY2015, the Library offered nine powerful weekly programs designed to increase reading readiness, support school readiness, improve learning outcomes, teach technology and programming skills and create informal learning environments for tweens and teens.

In addition, three monthly clubs (Lego club, genealogy club, adult coffee and craft) transformed library visits into teachable moments and social gatherings for youngsters, families and adults.

Monthly adult programs included author visits, ghost stories, computer workshops and open computer labs.

### **Special thanks**

#### **The Franklin Library Association gift**

We are very grateful to the **Franklin Library Association** (FLA) whose generous donation of **\$28,750** allowed us to expand the digital collection and purchased 15 laptops, 15 chrome books, a digital cart, a 3D printer and supplies. Their generosity provided the financial support needed to establish Technology Talk for teens and tweens, technology workshops for adults and an open computer lab.

#### **The Friends of the Franklin Library Gift**

All of the 2015 Summer programming has been funded through a generous donation of **\$10,000** by the Friends of

the Franklin Library. We are thankful for their financial support and commitment to the Library.

#### **The Town Council for the FY2016 Budget**

Town Council approved a 2% increase of the FY 2016 budget. Although this modest increase is \$271,024 short of the \$962,020 Municipal Appropriation Requirement, we are grateful for the stability and continuity it provides.

**Digital Credit Union's \$4,000** gift will significantly impact Library Services.

The **Mom's Club of Franklin North's** donation of **\$250** for improvements in the Children's room is welcome and inspiring.

The Library values the vision set forth by the Library Board of Directors, the continued support of the Town Council, Finance Committee, Town Administrator, the Friends, the Franklin Library, the Franklin Library Association, our hard working staff and volunteers.

#### **Exploring additional funding revenue streams going forward**

The Library Board has begun exploring the establishment of a Foundation to support the Library's capital and the operational needs.

Programming in Pictures









Respectfully submitted,

Felicia Oti  
Library Director

## REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works provides a wide range of services to the residents of Franklin. It is organized into seven (7) Divisions:

1. Administration
2. Engineering
3. Highway and Grounds (including Highway Maintenance and Construction, Central Motors, Snow & Ice Control, Parks, Town and School Grounds Maintenance and Forestry/Insect Control)
4. Water (including ground water withdrawals, water treatment and distribution)
5. Sewer
6. Solid Waste and Recycling (including the operation of the Beaver St. Recycling Center)
7. Street Lighting

### DPW ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The major functions of the Administrative Division includes developing capital projects, long range planning, intergovernmental relations and compliance, grant writing, processing various private construction permits, drain layer licenses, purchasing, budgeting, accounting and payroll, and multiple forms of utility billing.

#### Capital Projects

The Administrative Division, in conjunction with Engineering and the operating divisions, develop major capital projects.

- The HPP reconstruction of the downtown corridor continued throughout the year. The object of this work is to improve traffic flow through the downtown area and create an area that expands pedestrian access and is business friendly. This project will provide two-way traffic on Route 140 and will include the burying of utilities, period lighting, planters, sidewalks, brickwork, curbing and parking improvements in addition to an improved transition with Dean College.

The DPW continues to design and construct long-range projects over the next three to four years. Progress on specific capital construction projects is outlined in subsequent portions of this report.

It is important to note that many of these projects are performed by existing staff members and save significant amounts of money by avoiding the need to contract out these services. The process of planning, designing, permitting and constructing these projects is an arduous task

that requires a great level of coordination and cooperation between DPW divisions and other state, municipal and federal departments.

#### Grant Writing

The Town received an EPA 319 grant for stormwater improvements valued at over \$100,000.00

The Town received an \$118,000.00 grant to improve stormwater water infiltration at various locations.

The Town partnered with the Charles River Watershed Association, which received a \$30,000 grant to conduct rain garden trainings for the residents of Franklin.

The Town received a \$20,000.00 grant to offset the cost associated with the purchase of compactors to increase the recycling rate at the Beaver Street Recycling Center.

#### Permits and Long Range Planning

The Town of Franklin, along with the towns of Bellingham and Milford, were the only three communities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts placed under a Residual Designation Authority (RDA) by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to mitigate phosphorus loading into the Charles River Basin. It is estimated the Town of Franklin may need to spend upwards of \$135 million to implement all the measures that EPA feels would be required to meet phosphorus reductions. DPW staff members have been working with the Towns of Bellingham and Milford, and State and Federal officials in conjunction with private land owners and business representatives to oppose this action based upon the unnecessary economic hardship it would create for the community. The EPA has acknowledged our concerns and we continue to wait for a final permit.

The Town of Franklin also continues to oppose the implementation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II and pending Phase III Stormwater Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) as required by the EPA. Phase II required the Town to highly regulate and monitor stormwater throughout the Town at a significantly increased cost. Phase III is projected to include increased regulatory requirements and cost even more. The Department will continue to refine and improve adopted regulations and practices to improve the stormwater in Franklin while minimizing the associated costs.

Long range planning is critical in the area of Public Works and must be accomplished consistently in order to ensure that the Town water, sewer and roadway infrastructure can support the needs of our residents. With the success of the 20/20 Plan, the Town Council authorized additional funding for waterline replacement and the improvement of roadways on sections of Lincoln St, East St, West St, Daniels St, Summer St, Lewis St, Crescent St, Anthony Rd, Carmine Dr., and Conlyn Ave. This work has commenced and is expected to be completed within the next two years. With that funding already allocated, the Town Council continued with additional funding for the waterline replacement and road reconstruction of the Northgate Rd neighborhood, Cleveland Ave neighborhood, Cottage St area, Squire St areas, sections of Maple St, Ruggles St area, sections of

Partridge & Elm Streets, Skyline Dr. neighborhood, Oak St Extension, Marvin Ave area and the Stanford Rd area.

The DPW has continued to work with both the DEP and the Massachusetts Department of Recreation and Conservation to facilitate the final closing and capping of the Beaver Street Landfill Site.

The Town of Franklin has continued to work with other area Towns and conservation groups towards insuring that regional water supplies are protected.

### **Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Program**

The single stream automated solid waste and recycling program continues to be a very successful program in reducing costs, improving recycling rates and providing greater convenience for users. Additional landscaping improvements have been made to the Beaver St. Recycling Center to make the facility more attractive and customer friendly.

### **Hails and Farewells**

With all the losses of the previous year, the DPW was able to hire some new employees. This included: Mr. Justin Pothier on the highway crew, Mr. Michael Ciallella on the highway crew, Mr. Scott Mathews on the grounds crew, Mr. Kevin Bariteau on the water crew and Mr. Stephen Freiberg as a new mechanic.

With gains, there are always losses

Ms. Linda Feeley, DPW office manager, a long time dedicated employee who worked for the department for over 23 years! She was an extremely talented and knowledgeable employee with a great sense of humor and smile to match that will be missed by all. Mr. David Seale, an excellent mechanic retired. Mr. Philip Vondras, a member of the grounds crew also left to pursue other ventures.

### **Thanks**

As the Director, I owe many thanks to my entire staff as they make this whole department work and serve all residents in a timely manner. Everyone is committed to providing extraordinary service to the Town in the most cost-effective manner possible.

The Town Engineer Mr. Mike Maglio, Budget & Administration Manager Ms. Kathy Mooradd, Director of Operations Mr. Deacon Perrotta, Highway and Grounds Superintendent Mr. Carlos Rebelo, and Water and Sewer Superintendent Laurie Ruzala are all dedicated professionals that put in so much extra time and effort to make this Department a success. The Town and I are very fortunate to have such talented individuals to work with.

I would also like to thank, Paula Juarez, Sandy Wedge, and Lynne Marchand who support the Administration Division. Additionally, a big thanks to our part-time staffers Pam Vickery and Kim Leonard in the Administration Division. These individuals respond quickly and with courtesy to thousands of requests for assistance and information throughout the year.

Continued thanks go to Mr. Christopher White, the Town's Solid Waste Coordinator. Even though his position is a part time one, he gives his heart and soul and spends much of his

personal time to insure that the solid waste and recycling program is a success.

I would especially like to thank the "Crew" and the mechanics that work out of the DPW garage. These are the gentlemen that are not always seen, but provide the day-to-day services that are all too often taken for granted. They pump, treat and deliver safe drinking water; they care for parks and ball fields, and they maintain the roadways, repair and sustain all Town and school vehicles and handle all our waste. They are always available, day and night, and work long hours to assist in any emergency situation whether it is snow removal, water breaks, sewer backups, wind, lightning storms and flooding, among many others. They are all extremely professional and dedicated to their jobs. I cannot thank them enough.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Cantoreggi II  
Director of Public Works

Kathy Mooradd  
Budget & Admin Manager

*"Gettin' It Done"*

### **ENGINEERING DIVISION**

During the fiscal year 2015 the Engineering Division managed a very active Capital Improvement Project schedule to the town's infrastructure. Capital Improvement Projects substantially completed this past year include:

- Conlyn Avenue, Anthony Road, Carmine Drive, and a portion of West Central Street Waterline and Drainage Improvements
- Panther Way Sidewalk Extension
- Lincoln Street Culvert Replacements
- Lincoln Street and Daniels Street Roadway Improvements
- Crocker Avenue and Hill Street Waterline Improvements
- Lewis Street, Cook Street, and Summer Street Waterline Improvements
- Lincoln Street Bridge Scour Protection, Joint Project with the Town of Medway and MassDOT.
- 2014 Roadway Improvement Projects including: Kathleen Drive, Fannie Way, Park Road, Brielle Way, and paving on Populatic Street, Moore Avenue, Miller Street, Forest Street, and Pleasant Street along with other miscellaneous repairs.

- Cleveland Avenue and Gallison Street Waterline Improvements

The Engineering Division completed in-house design drawings and specifications for the following projects:

- Cleveland Avenue and Gallison Street Waterline Improvements
- 2015 Roadway Improvements Project including: Betten Court, Corrine Road, Harborwood Drive, and Oak Street.

Capital Improvement Projects currently under construction or out for bids include:

- Lewis Street Roadway Improvements
- Northgate Neighborhood Waterline Improvements
- 2015 Roadway Improvements Project including: Betten Court, Corrine Road, Harborwood Drive, Oak Street, and the Senior Center Parking Lot expansion
- Conlyn Avenue, Anthony Road, and Carmine Drive Roadway Improvements

At the end of the fiscal year, the division included the following full-time staff.

- Michael Maglio, P.E., Town Engineer
- Jay Mello, P.E., Assistant Town Engineer
- Warren Groth, Engineering Assistant
- Bill Wengers, Construction Inspector
- Kate Sjoberg, GIS Manager

The Engineering Division also has its own experienced seasonal Resident Engineer Staff that inspects and monitors Capital Improvement Projects resulting in a significant cost savings to the Town of Franklin.

In addition to the public projects highlighted above, the division was involved in many other projects and provided engineering services to other Town departments, boards, and entities. These services include mapping, surveying, and preparation of conceptual designs, property research, cost estimating, developing charts/graphs, and review of contracts.

The Engineering Division provides technical reviews of all proposed new private commercial projects and residential subdivisions and submits recommendations to the Town Council, Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Board of Appeals.

The Town's Geographic Information System (GIS) also falls under the Engineering Division.

A geographic information system is a computerized system designed to collect, store, manipulate, analyze, manage and visually present geographic spatial data. The Town of Franklin retains a GIS that is used to meet the needs of departments, boards, committees, professionals and citizens. The GIS Division updates and maintains numerous spatial databases and is committed to expanding the information available to the public in a simple and economical approach.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Maglio, P.E.  
Town Engineer

## HIGHWAY & GROUNDS DIVISION

The Highway and Grounds Division major functions are:

- General Highway
- General Grounds
- Central Motors
- Tree Program
- Snow and Ice program

### General Highway Work

#### Roads Crack Sealed and Rubber Chip Sealed

Donato Drive, Elizabeth Ave., Catherine Ave., MaryEllen Lane, Margarets Cove, Crystal Pond Lane, Lasden Brothers Way, Emilio Drive, Ivy Lane, Wilson Road, Teri Way, Taft Drive, Indian Lane, King Philip Road, Dutchess Road, Cortland Road, Empire Drive, Koshivas Road,

#### Roads Crack Sealed

Union Street, Upper Union, Cottage Street, Peck Street, Wyllie Court, Wyllie Road, Beech Street, Pine Street, Highland Ave., Brook Street, Symmes Road, Pasture Way, King Street, Chestnut Street

### Annual Maintenance Works

Centerlines of roads, crosswalks and stop lines were painted as needed. Highway crews installed and/or repaired street signs as necessary. Traffic signals were repaired and maintained. All streets in the town were swept. Brush cutting was performed in the town right-of-way. Catch basins were cleaned throughout town and reconstructed as needed. Crews repaired and/or rebuilt sidewalks, patched potholes and other road imperfections in addition to grading and repairing gravel roads.

The Highway and Grounds Division responded to calls from residents 24 hours a day concerning drainage, brush, road repair, etc. and assisted other town departments when called upon.

### Recycling Center

- The Recycling Center appearance has improved with the addition of a retaining wall, new fence landscaping and new entrance sign. Also, service road entrance was repaved.

### **General Grounds Work**

The Highway and Grounds Department maintains the following fields and Town properties: Fletcher Field, Theron Metcalf Field, King Street Memorial Park, Nason Street Park, Sculpture Park, Delcarte Park, Police Station, Fire Stations 1 & 2, Senior Center, Museum, Recreational Department, Red Brick School House, Municipal Building, Chilson Beach, Dacey Field Complex, Meadowlark Field, Keller Sullivan, Remington Jefferson School, Town Common and two synthetic fields located at the High School and Beaver Pond.

The Highway and Grounds Department works closely with the School Administration to provide a clean safe environment for students on school grounds.

The Highway and Grounds Division perform numerous maintenance practices on school grounds including:

- Weekly mowing and trimming
- Pruning trees and shrubbery
- Weeding and mulching planting beds
- Playground maintenance
- Fertilizing athletic fields
- Insect and weed control
- Maintenance on the High School synthetic field
- Trash and recycling
- Irrigation installation and repairs
- Field preparation for all High School sports programs
- Parking lot asphalt repairs
- Snow removal
- Fence Repairs
- Sidewalk repairs

### **Town Parks and Field Improvements**

The Highway and Grounds Department renovated two baseball fields, with the financial assistance from Franklin Youth Baseball. These fields were located at Fletcher Field, and Remington Jefferson School. Also, a number of Soccer Fields throughout town were renovated with the cooperation and financial assistance from Franklin Youth Soccer. Also, with the financial assists of Franklin youth softball and the town two new softball dugouts were built at the Remington Jefferson softball fields.

I want to give a special thanks to Ryan Jette and all the Franklin Youth Leagues for all their cooperation and support.

### **Sculpture Park**

The town has also added a new park located on Panther Way near the police station. The Park official opened on August 26, 2014 and has been a huge success. The park is landscaped with a great walking path with many Sculptures for viewing. The park also has a great picnic area with tables. We hope to continue to add new Sculptures in the future.

### **Central Motors/Equipment Maintenance**

Central Motors has a permanent staffing level with only three mechanics. They perform tire repair and replacement, scheduled maintenance and specialized maintenance and repair. The 100+ pieces of DPW equipment which they maintain includes heavy duty trucks, pickups, cars, street sweepers, riding lawn mowers, backhoes, loaders, pumps, sewer jet machines, and miscellaneous other pieces of equipment. In addition to the DPW equipment, they maintain 19 vehicles for the Fire Department, 27 Police Department vehicles, 2 Assessors Department vehicles, Building Department vehicles, Board of Health vehicles, Council on Aging bus, 9 school vans and all school equipment such as trucks, blowers, etc., as well as assisting many other departments throughout the town.

### **Tree Program**

The Division trimmed and pruned trees, removed decayed trees or trees deemed to be safety hazards. The Parks and Ground Department also responded to residents calls on all tree safety concerns.

Protects all Shade Trees under M.G.L. Chapter 187.

### **Snow & Ice Removal Operations – FY15**

- The winter season was above average for snow accumulation, a total of 95 inches were recorded.
- Snow and ice operations started on 11/26/14 with a 2” sleet and snow event.
- There were a total of 23 snow and ice events with the last one ending 3/29-2015
- The Members of the Highway and Grounds Division, Mechanics, Water/Sewer Divisions and 68 contractors are involved to keep roads clear of snow and ice during major storms.

### **Miscellaneous**

Election Set-Up: The Highway and Grounds Department works with other DPW departments and the Town Clerk to prepare for elections at the New High School Gym for every election in the Town of Franklin.

Flags: Crews raised and lowered flags in the downtown for State and National holidays and funerals of veterans.

4<sup>th</sup> of July: The Highway and Grounds Department along with other DPW departments works annually with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Coalition

Town Beautification and Events: Crews assisted the Beautification Committee in placing the planters, assisted the Holiday Committee by erecting the annual Christian and

Jewish decorations at the Town Common and assumed responsibility for the installation and removal of the Bandstand on the Town Common for the Concerts on the Common events and assisted with the annual Strawberry Festival. The town also installed more permanent Holiday lights on the town common.

Public Out Reach: Hosted the annual “Touch a Truck” at the DPW facilities, assisted with the bi-annual Town Library book sale, supported numerous volunteer events.

I wanted to give a special thanks to my two foremen, mechanics and crew for all their hard work and effort. Additionally, I would like to thank my fellow managers for all their support. Finally, I would like to thank the clerks for their support in handing the never ending calls from residents asking for assistance.

I would also like to give thanks to the whole DPW Department for their time, effort and skills during snow operation. This is truly a professional department that is dedicated to making the roads safe in Franklin during the snow season.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Rebelo  
Highway and Grounds Superintendent

**WATER & SEWER DIVISION**

Laurie J. Ruzala, P.E., Superintendent

The Water & Sewer Division had an active year during 2014. The Water & Sewer Division is responsible for the supply of water for all purposes to residents, commercial establishments and industries in Franklin, adhering to all State and Federal regulations, and maintains adequate water supply and pressures for fire protection. This Division is also responsible for the collection of wastewater from residential, commercial and industrial sources and transmission of such wastewater to the Charles River Water Pollution Control Facility.

Other responsibilities of the Water & Sewer Division are capital planning, yearly budgeting, ordering and maintaining an adequate inventory of supplies, developing plans and specifications to meet the needs of the Division, including review of plans and specifications prepared by outside consultants.

Total water production in calendar year 2014 was 959,114,000 gallons which is an average daily demand of 2.6 million gallons per day. The maximum day demand of 3.68 million gallons in one day took place on July 29, 2014.

**Water & Sewer Personnel**

Department personnel consist of a Superintendent, a ten man water section and a five man sewer section. Also, six summer employees were on board to supplement our regular crews with maintenance duties.

The Department also relies on automation to provide 24 hour supervisory control over both water and sewer facilities. The Department is continually updating the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system

to provide a more comprehensive and thorough overview of daily water and sewer operations.

**Precipitation**

Precipitation records compiled at the DPW Garage on Public Works Way totaled 51.7 inches from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

**2014 Monthly Precipitation Totals**

Month	Inches
January	3.19
February	5.02
March	4.76
April	4.02
May	3.78
June	2.84
July	4.69
August	3.26
September	0.65
October	6.51
November	5.25
December	7.73

**Water Facilities**

The Franklin water system includes twelve wells; six water storage tanks located at Bald Hill (Tia Place), Franklin Industrial Park, Forge Hill Road, Hillside Road (two), and Pleasant Street; eight booster stations located at Berkshire Drive, Franklin Industrial Park, Iroquois Road, Jefferson Road, Lyons Street, Pleasant Street, Washington Street and Susan’s Way. The town also operates a state of the art Ultra Filtration treatment plant at Public Works Way.

In addition, the Town of Franklin is in a cooperative program for the operation of monitoring river and pond levels in the Charles River at Medway, Miscoe Brook in Franklin and Kingsbury Pond in Franklin by the U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division. A gauging station, which monitors the flow of the Charles River, is located on Bent Street and at Dix Brook on South Street.

**Sewer Facilities**

The sewer collection system includes twenty-three pump stations located at Ainsley Drive, Anthony Road, Bridle Path, Charles River Drive, Dawn Marie Circle, East Central Street, Franklin Industrial Park, Grove Street (two), Jackson Circle, Jefferson Road, Kenwood Circle, Miller Street, Milliken Avenue, Monterey Drive, Oxford Drive, Palomino Drive, Public Works Way, Red Gate Lane, Sahlin Circle, Squibnocket Road, and Washington Street.

**Water & Sewer Statistics**

Miles of water mains .....	160
Number of fire hydrants .....	±2,000
Number of water services .....	9,608
Miles of gravity sewer .....	±110
Miles of force main sewer .....	±10
Number of sewer manholes .....	±2,050
Number of sewer connections .....	7,300

### **Water Pump Station Operators**

Our Pump Station Operators monitor the daily operation of ten water well pumping stations with chemical feed facilities, one water treatment plant, eight water booster stations and six water storage tanks. Included in the daily operations are the monitoring of chemical feed systems and the maintenance of all pumps, electric motors, and standby power supplies.

Water Pump Station Operators record all daily pumping records and chemicals fed into the water distribution system. These records are submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) on a monthly basis. Our Operators also sample Franklin's water for bacteria once a week, for a total of over 65 samples each month. The samples are tested by a state-approved laboratory for reporting to MassDEP. The pH of the water system is monitored daily. Fluoride, which is continuously added to the Town's water distribution system, is sampled and tested daily to ensure that the amount of fluoride added to the water is within acceptable limits set by the Department of Public Health as mandated by the Center of Disease Control.

### **Sewer Pump Station Operators**

The Sewer Pump Station Operators keep pumping and maintenance records and monitor and maintain the daily operations of twenty-three sewer pump stations. This includes performing maintenance and repair on all sewer pumps, grinders, electric motors air compressors, and standby power supplies to ensure that these facilities are kept in good operating condition. The Sewer Pumping Station Operators are responsible for maintaining flows in all transmission mains and unclogging these mains with sewer jet machines whenever the need arises.

### **Water & Sewer Maintenance Crews**

Water & Sewer Maintenance crews are responsible for the maintenance and repair of all water and sewer infrastructure. The crew's responsibilities include the maintenance and repair of water mains, water gate valves, water service shut-offs and fire hydrants. The staff also maintains and repairs gravity sewers, sewer manholes, and sewer easements. The Water & Sewer Maintenance Crews are responsible for maintaining records of all existing water and sewer services for private contractors, utility companies, engineering firms, and the general public.

Our crews continued to perform the annual hydrant flushing program to help ensure high quality water and reliable fire hydrants. Our staff flushed approximately 2,000 fire hydrants. As a result of this flushing program, the maintenance crews repaired twenty fire hydrants. Our Water & Sewer Maintenance crews are also responsible for the repair of sewer manholes and the jetting of numerous sewer and drain lines ensuring operability of the drain and sewer system.

Crews repaired twelve leaks in conjunction with our leak detection program; three fire hydrants, and nine water services. Our leak detection program surveys over 158 miles of water main annually. This feat is accomplished using the latest electronic leak detector using audio frequencies created by underground leakage. Digital leak noise correlators were used when needed to pinpoint leak

locations. The survey resulted in finding one leak in approximately every 13.1 miles of main surveyed.

Field crews were also instrumental in testing new water mains on Harborwood Drive, Betten Court, Conlyn Avenue, Anthony Road and Carmine Road and at the new Franklin High School. Testing ensures that water mains were installed properly by pressure testing and water quality is acceptable by chlorinating and testing mains prior to putting them into normal operation in the distribution system.

Water & Sewer crews responded to over 550 service calls including but not limited to water and sewer mark outs, water leaks, frozen services, plugged sewers, trench repairs. Lastly, and most importantly our crews repaired six main breaks and sixteen service leaks not related to the leak detection survey last year. As expected these events happen at the least opportune times. Late night, early morning, week-ends, during snow storms or below freezing temperatures seem to beckon these emergency situations. In all circumstances our Water & Sewer Maintenance crews answer the bell and perform expletory work under the most severe conditions and complete them in a timely and most importantly safe manner.

### **Water & Sewer Activities**

Project and plan reviews conducted by the Water & Sewer Department included;

- Coronation Drive, Northgate Road, Regent Circle, Royal Court, Parliament Drive water main
- Cleveland Avenue and Garrison Avenue water main
- Red Gate Sewer Pump Station grinders
- Phase 4 Sewer construction

Our crews were also responsible for installing over 800 feet of new water main on Baron Road. This in-house project improved fire protection through the installation of larger diameter water main and new fire hydrants and improved water reliability by replacing water main that was prone to breaks.

The Water & Sewer Department strongly believes in educating its' work force. The Department holds memberships in the New England Water Works Association, Massachusetts Water Works Association, Plymouth County Water Works Association, New England Water Pollution Control Association and the American Water Works Association. All these resources are used to help train and educate our employees.

As a result of a "Team Effort" demonstrated by all the Water & Sewer Department employees, we are able to provide excellent customer service.

I would like to extend a special thank you to the DPW administrative staff and each member of our crew including Foreman Dave Allard, Foreman Tom Grundstrom, Crew Leader Steve Carlucci, Scott Smith, Jay Simons, Peter Freitas, Buddy Lowell, Steve Nunnery, J.P. MacNeil, A.J. Tetreault, Jake Standley, B.J. Santo Domingo and Kevin Bariteau for all their hard work and dedication to the Department throughout 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Ruzala  
Water & Sewer Superintendent

## SOLID WASTE DIVISION

The responsibilities of the Solid Waste Division include oversight of the waste and recycling contracts, waste reduction initiatives, and management of the Beaver Street Recycling Center.

The Automated Cart System continues to drive cost effective enhancements such as:

- Ease of auditing and accounting
- Increase of business recycling via carts
- Expansion of recycling at fields, Common, Dog Park and other municipal areas
- Manage trash more effectively at common areas including fields
- Increase usage of Recycling Center
- Meet State recycling regulations

Recycling initiatives include recycling awareness, business recycling programs utilizing the cart system and continued expansion of the school programs and Beaver Street Recycling Facility.

The Beaver Street Recycling facility continues to see increased usage and enhancements including:

- Site improvements
- Expansion of HHW to include oil based paints, stains, thinners

- Mattresses, box springs and carpet recycling
- Composting with ability to recoup costs
- Cardboard compactor
- Styrofoam recycling
- Dedicated computer and printer recycling
- Printer toner and ink cartridges
- Rigid plastic recycling
- Standardized policies and procedures

Over 50 tons of rigid plastic is recycled at the center, all of which previously went in the trash stream. The 40 foot Styrofoam container filled is recycled at least once a month. Recent value enhancements at the Recycling Center include: Oil based paint, lacquer, thinners and chemicals; Mattresses, carpet and box springs.

The Recycling Center will continue to be a focus for additional recycling initiatives and improvements as required for disposal of many categories of waste.

Fiscal year 2015 Curbside collection of trash, recycling and yard waste was provided by Waste Management.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White  
Environmental Affairs Coordinator

# **PURCHASING DEPARTMENT**

## **GOALS**

- *The office function involves assisting other departments to ensure the highest quality of services and supplies for the best price and in compliance with applicable procurement laws.*

## **THE PURCHASING EXPERIENCES**

The Office tackled a few unique bids this fiscal year including the High School turf field, school photography and other services for the entire School District.

The Town continues to benefit from the Massachusetts School Building Assistance (MSBA) online reimbursement payment system. The Town hired Owner Project Manager, Daedalus Projects for both work on the Senior Center addition as well as a Town Library reconstruction project.

The Town participates with membership in several consortiums to achieve the maximum savings in bulk procurements. Items netting saving include Road Salt and fuel.

## **GREEN EFFORTS**

The office continues to adopt environmentally friendly procedures, working to digitize documentation and further minimize the amount of paper utilized for various procurements.

Purchasing maintains a recycle tote for the daily collection of empty toner cartridges. We work closely with the Facilities Department to get the empties over to the Beaver Street Recycling Center each month.

## **OBJECTIVES**

Promote fair, prompt and courteous consideration to all suppliers. Observe the highest ethics in all transactions and correspondence.

Respectively submitted:

John Bugbee  
Chief Procurement Officer  
Town of Franklin



## REPORT OF THE VETERANS' SERVICES OFFICER

The Veterans' Services Officer (VSO) advises, counsels and assists Veterans and their dependents in recognition of their service to our nation. Responsibilities of the VSO include educating veterans and their dependents about the benefits available to them, dispensing state-sponsored Veterans Benefits under M.G.L. Chapter 115, and assisting Veterans and their dependents or survivors in obtaining Federal Benefits or entitlements which they have earned.

Franklin Veterans and their families were well served for over 14 years by Mr. Bob Fahey. Bob retired as the VSO on 30 April 2015. Bob was my mentor for four years and I am honored to carry on the service Bob provided to the Veterans and their families here in Franklin.

I was appointed as Franklin's Veteran Service Officer as of 1 May 2015. Prior to this appointment, I was the Veterans Service Advocate for Norfolk County. Norfolk County is the only county in the Commonwealth to have dedicated Veterans Services. Through an agreement between the Town and the County, I am able to continue to support the VSO's in the 28 cities and towns of Norfolk County while primarily serving the Franklin Veterans' community.

The current veteran population in Franklin is 1,269 which is about 3.8% of the town's population. The veteran population in Massachusetts is about 5.7% of the state's total population. There are over 300 veteran widows in Franklin.

### Franklin Veterans by Age:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Total</u>
90 +	39
75-89	324
65-74	367
<b>Total 65+</b>	<b>730</b>

As our veterans and their dependents/survivors age, there are more demands for benefits provided by the Commonwealth's Department of Veteran Services and the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Office contacts for the VSO in the past year were 599.

Massachusetts Veterans Benefits vary according to need and income. The benefit ranges vary from \$1,000 to \$20,000 annually. The larger amounts are usually of a short duration. In 2014, there were 26 recipients of M.G. L. Chapter 115 benefits; 16 of whom were veteran's widows.

Applications for VA benefits continue to rise and are the most common appointments for the VSO. Benefits applied for include: service-connected disability compensation,

widows pensions, burial benefits, aid and attendance for wartime veterans and their widows. VA claims may be processed through the VSO office. The various forms and documentation required for an application can be confusing. As the VA moves to a paperless claims process, it is critical to have the documentation required for each claim to be complete and accurate upon the initial submission.

In 2014, 286 Franklin Veterans and beneficiaries received over \$3,064,700 in annualized VA payments. This has a significant positive impact on the lives of the recipients as well as for the local economy.

### Veterans Day Breakfast

The Franklin Veterans' Day Breakfast was held at the Franklin Senior Center on Friday, 7 November, 2014. We thank the Friends of Franklin Elders for sponsoring this event. Bob Fahey hosted the breakfast and introduced our speaker Mr. Sam Bernstein a Marine Corps veteran of the battle for Iwo Jima. Sam spoke of the challenges of fighting on the island and how he and his comrades made it through the battle. It was an emotionally charged speech. We were thankful to have such personal insight into the battle.

During the program, all attending veterans and their wives and widows were recognized. The Lyricists from Franklin High School led us in the National Anthem and provided musical interludes for the audience. It is important that our community continue to recognize those who have served our nation in peacetime as well as in war.

### Memorial Day Breakfast

Our deceased veterans were recognized at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Breakfast on Friday, 22 May 2015 at the Franklin Elks Lodge #2136. I hosted the event as the Franklin VSO. Bob Fahey led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the program. The names of Franklin's war dead were read followed by the sounding of Taps performed by a member of the Franklin High School band. The Melodic Minors from Franklin High School led us in the National Anthem and provided musical interludes for the audience during the program. Our speaker for the program was Mr. John Spruyt, Director of the Massachusetts National Cemetery.

### Community Support

Veterans' Services thanks these faithful supporters:

- The Franklin Garden Club for the care and maintenance of the Veterans' Memorial on the town common.
- Franklin Lodge of Elks 2136, BPOE for their continued sponsorship of the Veterans' Memorial Day Breakfast, the fuel assistance program for needy veterans and their families and all of their good work in support of our veterans.

- Franklin VFW Post 3402 for their assistance with the placement of Memorial Day flags on the graves of our deceased veterans and their ongoing support and attention to Franklin’s veterans.
- Franklin American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75 for their support of the Memorial Day and Veterans Day Breakfasts and their support of our veterans at our local VA hospitals.
- The Friends of Franklin Elders for their support of the Veterans’ Day Breakfast at the Senior Center.
- The staff of the Franklin Senior Center for their daily support of Franklin Veteran Services.

Although, federal and state definitions of veterans are very specific as to time and component served for qualification for benefits, I hold to this definition of a veteran:

A veteran – whether active duty, retired, National Guard or Reserve – is someone who at one point in their life wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount of “up to and including my life”

I am honored to serve Franklin’s veterans and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale L. Kurtz  
Veterans’ Service Officer

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

### **Annual Revaluation Update**

The revaluation of all real and personal property in the Town of Franklin was completed Fall 2014 in preparation for Actual Fiscal Year 2015 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter tax bills. Following is a brief review of that achievement.

### **Data Collection**

Thirteen years have now passed since we installed the real estate valuation and assessment administration software developed by Patriot Properties, Inc. Because our start-up data was from a different form of valuation system and most of our data had not been refreshed in nearly ten years, it was necessary to complete a town-wide data recollection program prior to finalizing the FY 2005 valuations. Patriot Properties was hired for this task. Over the past 10 years, our appraisal staff has performed the on-going property exterior measuring and interior inspecting for all real estate classes. Such reviews are done for the Department of Revenue (DOR) required cyclical program, as well as for building permitted changes, pre-appraisal and abatement verifications.

### **Field Review**

In addition to individual property on-site review, field reviews are required periodically to check for obvious data accuracy and consistency. This drive-by review provides another level of assurance that when valuation schedules are applied, the results will be “Fair and Equitable”.

### **Commercial/Industrial/Apartment Valuations**

Annually there are analyses of sales data as well as income & expense market data. The Board contracted Patriot to work with our Director to establish an income approach to value for each property. All requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue were met through final approval of the FY 2015 valuations.

### **Sales Analysis**

The majority of the sales analysis was completed by September 2014, and the interpretation of sales continued through the next two stages of valuation. The town-wide program resulted in a valuation system that was applied uniformly throughout the town, while reflecting all the adjustments warranted individually and by neighborhood, to result in “Full and Fair Cash Values” as per Massachusetts General Law.

### **Value Generation**

A system of valuation was established based on valid property sales and where applicable the income approach to value. These schedules concluded from the market were then uniformly applied to all taxable and exempt real property.

### **Final Value Review**

Final reviews were completed in preparation for the DOR review. These include studies of various computer-generated reports to check for value consistency, final field checks required, and for DOR documentation and its analyses.

### **DOR Review & Final Approval**

Any on-site and statistical reviews by the DOR took place from April to September 2014. The appraisal staff provided files, generated property records, answered questions and addressed any concerns. At the conclusion of the DOR review, we were granted approval authorizing public disclosure.

### **Public Disclosure**

The DOR approved valuations were available for disclosure to the property owners. While the administrative staff provided property record cards and general data reviews, the appraisers conducted informal hearings on valuations.

### **Personal Property**

Business assets and those of utilities are reviewed for valuation as taxable Personal Property. For fourteen fiscal years we have engaged the specialized services of Real Estate Research Consultants (RRC) in the discovery and valuation of these accounts. These services have served us well, resulting in DOR approval and consistently defensible valuations. Also, considerable new growth has been certified annually. Additionally, the RRC Personal Property Software installed in our office has benefited us. The personal property valuation formulas are very straightforward, and the administrative capabilities have met our needs.