

Community Events & Programming Guide
Celebrating our Country's 250 years of
innovation in Franklin, Massachusetts 2025

First Edition

TOGETHER, LET'S HONOR THE PAST, CELEBRATE THE PRESENT AND INSPIRE THE FUTURE.

FIRST EDITION FRANKLIN MA250

As we join Massachusetts in commemorating 250 years of American history, the Town of Franklin Massachusetts rich legacy—home to America's first public lending library and a symbol of progress through education, culture, and civic engagement—reminds us that the stories of the past shape the communities of today.

The Town of Franklin Department of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy asked community organizers to submit their 2025 programming for inclusion in the #FranklinMA250 program booklet. This booklet acts as both a program guide as well as sharing snippets of Franklin's extensive community history.

Programs shared in this booklet (and throughout the Franklin community) are committed to building inclusive, meaningful experiences that reflect the complexity of our shared history.

This first booklet publication has been stylized as a 'vintage academic yearbook,' highlights programs that align with the overarching historical relevance to national MA250 campaign.

Visit FranklinCulture.org to see a full listing of events and programs within Franklin.

Programs are accompanied by FranklinMA250 stickers which you can pick up in person at events. Add the stickers to your FranklinMA250 program booklets throughout the year! Each sticker represents Franklin in a celebratory way - collect them all!



HISTORIC LEGACY

Programs that celebrate local or state history, such as reenactments, historic tours, or educational talks about key moments in Massachusetts' past.

INNOVATION & INDUSTRY

Events that highlight the state's impact on industries like technology, education, healthcare, or sustainable practices, linking to Massachusetts' legacy of innovation.

REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT

Programs focusing on the Revolutionary War era, exploring themes of freedom, independence, and civic responsibility.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

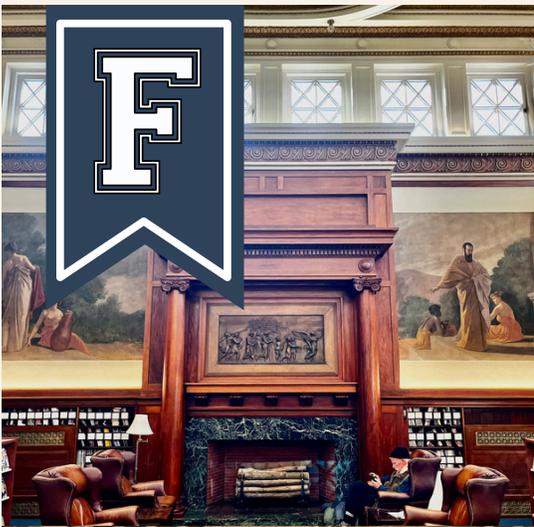
Celebrations of Massachusetts' diverse communities, arts, and traditions, including music, dance, festivals, and culinary experiences.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

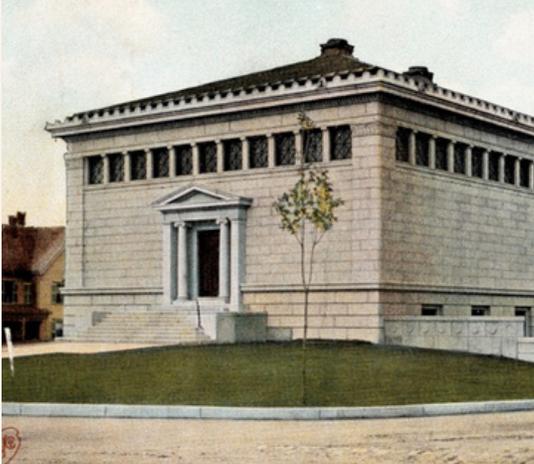
Events centered on Massachusetts' natural beauty, promoting sustainability and conservation efforts through outdoor activities, clean-up efforts, or green initiatives.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Programs that encourage community involvement, from voter education to neighborhood improvements, embodying the democratic ideals of the Revolution.



Ray Memorial Library, Franklin, Mass.



Visiting Resources



Franklin Walking Routes



Visiting Franklin's Cultural District
Includes parking, dining suggestions, and more!



VISIT THE FRANKLIN CULTURE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS
FRANKLINCULTURE.ORG/FRANKLINMA250

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & SUPPORTERS

"I am thrilled to join everyone in Franklin in celebrating our Commonwealth's 250th anniversary, an amazing milestone. Franklin is a beautiful and dynamic place, full of history, culture, and innovation. As the town grows and evolves, its rich and vibrant tradition of scholarship and community continues to be embraced and uplifted.

It is a distinct honor to represent Franklin in the Massachusetts Senate. I'm proud to have supported historic cultural programming and contemporary public art that highlights the town's character and enhances its community spaces, and secured state funding for the town's cultural festival. Franklin's storied history, wonderful people, and limitless potential make it an amazing venue to celebrate Massachusetts' first 250 years and to look ahead to the many years to come!"

Senator Rebecca L. Rausch

"Franklin – the home of the first public library in America and birthplace of Horace Mann -- is a town rich in history and exemplifies the spirit of the American Revolution – freedom, independence, and civic responsibility. The 250th anniversary reminds us of the courage and determination of those who fought for freedom and laid the foundation of our great nation. It is also a time for us to come together as a community to reflect on our shared heritage and look forward to the next 250 years of progress and unity. I look forward to journeying with you over the next two years!"

Representative Jeff Roy

A MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Residents and Friends,

As Franklin embarks on the exciting path toward celebrating our nation's 250th anniversary in 2025 and 2026 alongside the "Massachusetts 250" campaign; we are also eagerly looking ahead to our own town's monumental milestone—Franklin's 250th birthday in 2028. This historic event offers us an extraordinary opportunity to reflect on the incredible journey of our country, while also celebrating the unique role Franklin has played in shaping that story.

Franklin, with its deep roots in history and its thriving cultural spirit, has always been a beacon of resilience, creativity, and community. From being home to the first public lending library in America to the vibrant cultural district we proudly showcase today, Franklin has continuously embodied the very essence of our nation's values—innovation, unity, and progress.

As we look toward 2028, we are filled with anticipation and excitement for the events and initiatives that will bring our 250th anniversary to life.

Thank you for being part of this vibrant community. Together, we honor our past, celebrate our present, and look forward to a bright future as we approach this exciting milestone.

With pride and anticipation,
Jamie Helen, Town Administrator

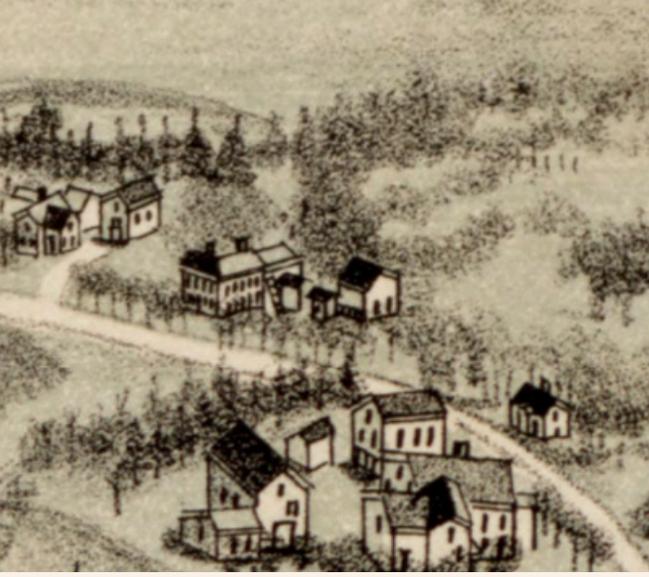
FRANKLIN'S FIRST PUBLIC ART PRESENTED AT THE FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 1901, muralist Tommaso Juglaris was commissioned to create artwork for the newly constructed Ray Memorial Library in Franklin, Massachusetts, a project spearheaded by his former student and friend, Henry Hammond Gallison. Gallison persuaded the Ray sisters, daughters of a wealthy woolen mill owner, to honor their late parents, Joseph and Emily Ray, by funding the library's construction. Designed to emulate an ancient Greek temple, the building reflected classical ideals of knowledge and civic virtue, themes that were echoed in Juglaris's mural work.

Within the Reading Room, Juglaris painted murals that celebrated the intellectual and civic achievements of Greek civilization, depicting iconic figures and allegorical scenes that symbolized the pursuit of knowledge, democracy, and cultural enlightenment. His work extended to the Memorial Hall, where he designed friezes to complement the building's classical architecture, reinforcing the Greek ideals of public service and education. Together, these artistic elements elevated the library to a space not only of learning but also of profound cultural inspiration, rooted in the timeless legacy of ancient Greece.



FRANKLIN'S FIRST PUBLIC ART PIECE,
COMMISSIONED BY TOMMASO JUGLARIS ON
DISPLAY AT THE FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY



THE HISTORY OF FRANKLIN'S REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT

Franklin, originally part of the larger town of Wrentham, became its own town in 1778 after years of petitioning. Beginning in the early 1770s, residents in the western part of Wrentham expressed growing frustration with the difficulty of traveling to the town center for meetings, particularly those related to Revolutionary War efforts and local governance. The long distances and poor travel conditions made participation in civic matters nearly impossible for many.

Residents petitioned Wrentham several times to establish a separate town, but these requests were repeatedly denied. However, by 1778, as the pressures of the Revolution mounted, the need for accessible governance became critical. In response to the persistent appeals, the General Court of Massachusetts finally granted the western district independence on February 16, 1778.

The new town was named Franklin in honor of Benjamin Franklin, symbolizing the residents' shared values of independence and intellectual progress. This decision allowed for more effective local governance and strengthened the community's ability to contribute to the Revolutionary cause.

FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS EST. MARCH 2ND 1778

In the spirit of this legacy, Franklin already boasts a range of community programs that celebrate its history, arts, and culture. As we approach the Massachusetts 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, we are working collaboratively to weave these existing programs into the broader MA250 celebrations.

By aligning local events, historical initiatives, and marketing campaigns with this statewide effort, Franklin will amplify its unique Revolutionary heritage and bring its story to a larger audience, ensuring the community's contributions to freedom and independence remain at the forefront of this historic commemoration.

Pictured: Engraving from one of Ben Franklin's book donations & snippet of the 1868 Franklin Map.

Scan the QR Code to read more of Franklin's History via "A History of the Town of Franklin, Mass: From Its Settlement to the ...By Mortimer Blake"



UPCOMING: JANUARY 2025

NOTABLE DAYS
NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
APPRECIATION DAY, JANUARY 9TH

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

JANUARY 2025

The Franklin Historical Museum | 80 West Central Street. Saturday 10am-1pm and Sunday 1-4pm.

Ongoing for the month of January:

Franklin-ventions: Revolutionary Ideas in Franklin Industries and a look at Ben Franklin's famous inventions.

'Ben Gave us Books and We Gave the World Books.' Display of Franklin-authored books, past and present.

Thursday, January 9th, 6:30pm | JUNTO A Non-Fiction Book Club. Inspired by Ben Franklin's famous Philadelphia reading group, the Junto! The January Book is Think Again by Adam Grant.

Saturday, January 11th, 11am-3pm | Ben Franklin Week Kickoff Concert at the Franklin Public Library with popular local favorite, Franklin Underground!

Sunday, January 12th, Starting at 1:15pm | Second Sunday Speaker Series

Saturday, January 18th | Short Franklin-related films.

Sunday, January 19th | "Music at the Museum," Come learn about and experience the lively musical, 'Ben Franklin in Paris,' that ran for 215 performances on Broadway (1964-5)!

Thursday, January 23rd, 1:30-8pm | Ben Franklin Autobiography LIVE Readathon. Come and participate!

Sunday, January 26th, 1:30pm | Dean College Marvin Chapel [Located on the Second Floor of the Chapel Vera Meyer and Ben Franklin's Glass Armonica at Marvin Chapel, Dean College at approximately 1:30. Among Ben Franklin's most amazing inventions is the glass armonica (or harmonica). Funding from the Franklin Cultural Council made this event possible.

NOTABLE DAYS
NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
APPRECIATION DAY, JANUARY 9TH

FALLEN HEROES
JANUARY 26TH
WILLIAM O. MARTELLO, WWII

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH



"Ben Franklin Book Week was born in 2024 as "A Community Rediscovery of Ideas, Literature, and the Shared Gift of Language." In its second year, this annual event, now the whole month of January, celebrates the birth month of Benjamin Franklin, America's most inspiring 'founding father.'

Ben's gift of books to the town of Franklin led to creation of the First Free Public Lending Library in North America and set the tone for Franklin's history ever since.

Ben Franklin Month recognizes the town's ongoing book- and learning-friendly culture and the many other ways Franklin has inspired and continues to inspire creative endeavors with a growing slate of events and activities! Ben Franklin Month is led by the Franklin Historical Museum, with support from Franklin Public Library, and Dean College with grant funding provided by Mass. Cultural Council through the Franklin Cultural District Committee."

Alan Earls, Franklin Historical Commission Chair



Scan the QR Code to visit
BenFranklinBookWeek.com
Above: Match your event stickers up
to the pictures!



FRANKLIN'S PUBLIC LIBRARY | 118 Main Street

Monday January 6th 4pm | Petite Picassos

Celebrate Ben Franklin's birthday with Miss Lily by creating a painting of his famous Kite Experiment! This paint party is a great fit for children ages 6 through 12! All materials will be provided. Registration is required!

Saturday, January 11th 1-3pm | Ben Franklin Week Kickoff Concert!

It's Ben Franklin's birthday Week and the Library is kicking it off with a rocking good time with Franklin Underground in Concert! Listen and dance while getting the inside scoop on all the great events going on all around Franklin as we celebrate our namesake!

Friday, January 17th, 1pm | Ben Franklin's Birthday Bash

Join us as we celebrate the birthday of Ben Franklin himself! Music, games, costume contests, and more! No registration required!

Friday, January 17th, 1-5pm | BIG Library Book Sale

Saturday, January 18th 1pm | Adult Paint Party

Grown Ups! Are you feeling creative? Celebrate Ben Franklin's birthday with Miss Lily by creating a painting inspired by him! All materials will be provided. Registration is required!

"Benjamin Franklin believed that the only way to sustain a democracy was to educate its citizens, so our books were carefully selected for the purpose of elevating the intellect of the tradesmen, farmers, and other country folk of Franklin.

For the most part, the books contain the ideas and ideals of the philosophers of Enlightenment era--beliefs should be backed up by reason, everyone is entitled to personal liberty, religious freedom, and a representative government making fair and sensible laws. Oh, and a couple of juicy best sellers...I'm looking at you Pilgrim's Progress!

And these books became the seeds from which mighty trees, like Horace Mann, would grow. I think Dr. Franklin, if he were here today, would be very pleased with the results of his investment."

Vicki Buchanio Earls
Head of Reference Services
Franklin Public Library

Scan the QR Code to view CBS News Segment, "It happens Here" Featuring Franklin The Home of the First Public Library in America"





FRANKLIN SUPERLATIVE MOST LIKELY TO BE A BOOKWORM

Celebrating Franklin's historic landmarks and legacies.

116

TITLES DONATED

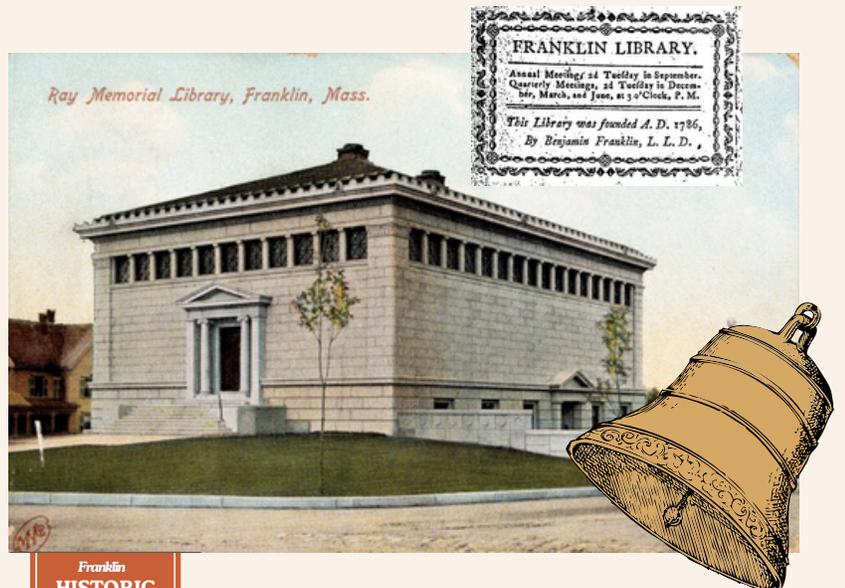
ABERNETHY'S SERMONES, TWO VOLUMES
 ADDISON'S EVIDENCES, ONE VOLUME
 AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONS, ONE VOLUME
 AMERICAN PREACHER, FOUR VOLUMES
 AMES' ORATION, ONE VOLUME
 BACKUS' HISTORY, ONE VOLUME
 BARNARD'S SERMONS, ONE VOLUME
 BARROW'S WORKS, TWO VOLUMES, FOILIO
 BELLAMY'S PERMISSION OF SIN, ONE VOLUME
 BELLAMY'S TRUE RELIGION, ONE VOLUME
 BLACKSTONE'S COMMENTARIES, FOUR VOLUMES
 BRAINERD'S LIFE, ONE VOLUME
 BURKETT ON PERSONAL REFORMATION, ONE VOLUME
 CAMBRIDGE PLATFORM, ONE VOLUME
 CHEAP REPOSITORY, TWO VOLUMES
 CHRISTIAN HISTORY, TWO VOLUMES
 CLARK'S WORKS, FOUR VOLUMES, FOILO
 COOPER ON PREDESTINATION, ONE VOLUME
 DICKINSON ON THE FIVE POINTS, ONE VOLUME
 DODDRIDGE'S LIFE, ONE VOLUME
 DUCHAL'S SERMONES, THREE VOLUMES
 EDWARDS ON RELIGION, ONE VOLUME
 EMMON'S SERMONES, ONE VOLUME
 ERSKINE'S SERMONS, ONE VOLUME
 FITCH'S POEM, ONE VOLUME
 FORDYCE SERMONS, ONE VOLUME
 FUFILLING THE SCRIPTURES, ONE VOLUME
 GORDON'S TACITUS, FIVE VOLUMES
 HEMMINGWAY AGAINST HOPKINS, ONE VOLUME
 HISTORY OF REBELLION, ONE VOLUME
 HOADLEY'S WORKS, THREE VOLUMES, FOLIO
 HOPKINS ON HOLENESS, ONE VOLUME
 HOPKINS SYSTEM, TWO VOLUMES
 JANEWAY'S LIFE, ONE VOLUME
 LARNDER ON THE LOGUS, ONE VOLUME, EIGHT VOLUMES
 LAW ON RELIGION, ONE VOLUME
 LIFE OF BARON TRENK, ONE VOLUME
 LIFE OF CROMWELL, ONE VOLUME
 LOCKE'S WORKS, FOUR VOLUMES, OCTAVO
 LYNDSEY'S APOLOGY AND SEQUEL, TWO VOLUMES
 MONTEQUIEN'S SPIRIT OF LAWS, TWO VOLUMES
 MORAL REPOSITORY, ONE VOLUME
 NEEDHAM'S FREE STATE, ONE VOLUME
 NEWTON ON THE PROPHEISIES, THREE VOLUMES
 PILGRIM'S PROGRESS, ONE VOLUME
 PRICE AND PRIESTLY, ONE VOLUME, OCTAVO
 PRICE ON LIBERTY, ONE VOLUME
 PRICE ON PROVIDENCE, ONE VOLUME
 PRICE ON THE CHRISTIAN SCHEME, ONE VOLUME
 PRICE'S MORALS, ONE VOLUME
 PRICE'S SERMONS, ONE VOLUME
 PRIDEAUX'S CONNECTIONS, FOUR VOLUMES
 PRIESTLEY'S INSTITUTES, TWO VOLUMES
 PRIESTLY'S CORRUPTIONS, TWO VOLUMES
 RIDGLEY'S WORKS, TWO VOLUMES, FOILIO
 SHEPARD'S SOUND BELIEVER, ONE VOLUME
 SPECTATORS, EIGHT VOLUMES
 STENNET'S SERMONS, TWO VOLUMES
 STODDARD'S SAFETY OF APPEARING, ONE VOLUME
 SYDNEY'S WORKS, ONE VOLUME, OCTAVO
 THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DONATION
 THOMAS' LAWS OF MASSACHUSETTS, ONE VOLUME
 WATSON'S TRACTS, SIX VOLUMES
 WATTS ON PASSONS, ONE VOLUME
 WATTS' LOGIC, ONE VOLUME
 WATTS' ORTHODOXY AND CHARITY, ONE VOLUME
 WEST AND LITTLEON ON THE RESURRECTION, ONE VOLUME
 YOUNG'S NIGHT THOUGHTS, ONE VOLUME

FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY 118 MAIN STREET

In 1778, a newly incorporated town in Massachusetts made a bold and symbolic choice to name itself Franklin in honor of Benjamin Franklin, the renowned statesman, inventor, and advocate for education and civic responsibility. As a gesture of gratitude, the town's residents requested a church bell from Franklin. However, in a thoughtful and pragmatic move, Franklin instead donated 116 books, emphasizing the value of knowledge over ceremony. This generous gift laid the foundation for what became the first public library in the United States, as Franklin's town meeting voted in 1790 to make these books available to all residents, free of charge.

This pioneering decision exemplified the ideals of the Enlightenment and Franklin's belief in the transformative power of education. The original collection included works on science, philosophy, and practical knowledge, reflecting Franklin's vision for an informed and capable citizenry.

Over time, the library grew, and in 1904, the Ray family donated the Ray Memorial Building, providing the first permanent home for the collection. The Franklin Library Association managed the library until 1981, when the Town of Franklin assumed responsibility, establishing the Franklin Public Library as a municipal department. Today, the Franklin Public Library continues to serve as a symbol of the town's commitment to education, innovation, and community, honoring the legacy of its namesake, Benjamin Franklin.



Add your event stickers from the library to this page!



FEBRUARY 2025

APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

PRESIDENT'S DAY
3RD FEBRUARY OF THE MONTH

NOTABLE DAYS
NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY
SIGNING OF THE 13TH
AMENDMENT

PRESIDENT'S DAY
3RD FEBRUARY OF THE
MONTH

FALLEN HEROES
FEBRUARY 18TH ALAN W. WILLARD, VIETNAM
FEBRUARY 22ND JAMES P. MURRAY, WWI
FEBRUARY 24TH DAVID LAUGHLAN III, WWII
FEBRUARY 26TH RICHARD L. DESPER, VIETNAM

Franklin Public Library | 118 Main

Street
Tuesday, February 4th. 7-8pm | Friends of Franklin Public Library Book Club. Friends of Franklin Library Community Room. Come join a book club hosted by the Friends of the Franklin Public Library!

The Franklin Historical Museum | 80 West Central Street

Ongoing Exhibitions, Ending on February 23rd:

- Franklin-ventions: Revolutionary Ideas in Franklin Industries
- 'Ben Gave us Books and We Gave the World Books'

Sunday, February 9th Sunday Speaker Series: Dean College Professor. Dr. Rob Lawson, presents "History in Our Backyard!"

Sunday, February 16th, 1:15pm | "Third Sunday" Music at the Museum program - In honor of Black History Month the museum will show the short film, The Cry Of Jazz, a 1959.

Thursday, February 20th, 4-6pm | 'Pop Up' Exhibition - "This Love" Collection of mixed media artwork created by Artist Amy Adams. It is an interpretation of poems collected, childhood memories, and forms of love.



Learn more by scanning
the QR Code

Below: Match your event stickers up to the pictures!



FRANKLIN FIRE HEADQUARTERS 40 WEST CENTRAL STREET

February 19th, 3-4:30pm | EOC Classroom

This class teaches participants how to recognize cardiac arrest and effectively perform hands-only CPR in order to save a life. This class is for educational purposes only and participants will not receive a CPR certification. Sign up in the QR Code.



Learn more by
scanning
the QR Code

Safe Coalition 31 Hayward St, Franklin, MA

SAFE is a nonprofit dedicated to compassionate, judgment-free support for individuals impacted by substance use, mental health challenges, and related concerns

Ongoing Wednesday's

SAFE Office | WhyTry is a free, one-day prevention program for any youth open to learning about decision-making and building personal resiliency. This program equips students with practical, evidence-based tools to build resiliency, improve problem-solving, strengthen relationships, and foster motivation for success. See QR code for details on how to participate.

Ongoing Friday's, 8:30am-12pm

SAFE Café | Our weekly coffeehouse is open to anyone who would like companionship, judgement-free conversation; a chance to meet our staff, tour the office, get more info on what SAFE does & how to get involved; or just a place to hang out Friday mornings with a warm cup of coffee.



Learn more by
scanning
the QR Code

THE FRANKLIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Franklin Historical Museum was originally founded in 1972 at the former Old South Congregational Meeting House on Washington Street. It was intended to be a way to collect and preserve the history of the Town of Franklin and moved to its current building, the town's original, Town Hall, in May of 2010. It houses a collection of approximately 4,000 objects dating from the last 300 years to the present, including furniture, paintings, textiles, agrarian tools, photographs, instruments, and historical documents. Some items related to indigenous peoples are believed to be much older. The building itself was constructed in 1842.

The programs and exhibitions of the FHM tell the stories of the Town with the aim of bolstering a greater understanding and enduring respect for its peoples and its history. The Museum's programs usually include a monthly Second Sunday Speaker Series, elementary school field trips, and participation in Town cultural festivals such as the annual Harvest Festival. The permanent exhibits housed in the FHM include a timeline of Town history, a tribute to Town veterans, a Federal Parlor room based on one of the Town's oldest home, and a timeline of the life of its most famous son, Horace Mann, who was born in Franklin in 1796. The FHM also creates temporary and revolving exhibits which have included Franklin Bridal Gowns, Military Uniforms Then and Now, A Tribute to Eddie Grant (Major League Baseball player born in Franklin who died a hero in World War I), Elections in Franklin, and Women in Franklin.



FRANKLIN SUPERLATIVE REMINDE YOU WHERE YOU CAME FROM

Celebrating Franklin's historic landmarks and legacies.

Add your event stickers from the historical museum to this page!



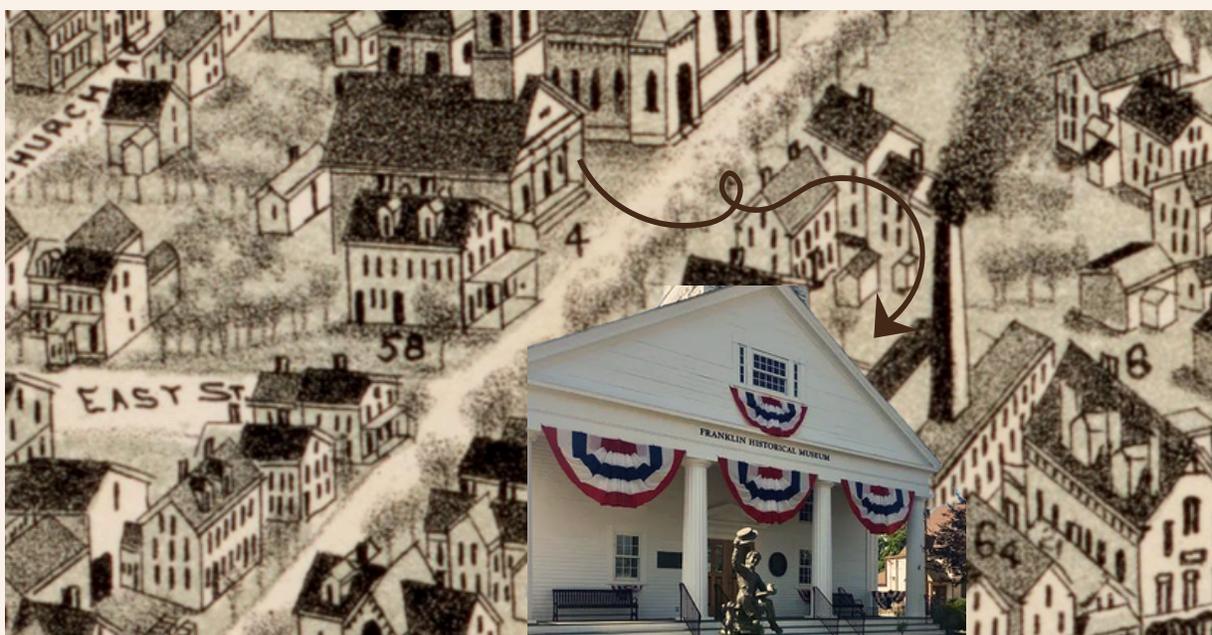
Learn more by scanning the QR Code

FRIENDS OF THE FRANKLIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Paula Vozzella, President
Warren Revell, Vice President
Debbie Pellegrini, Treasurer
Sandra Howard, Secretary
Elaine Costello
John Yoder

THE FRANKLIN HISTORIC COMMISSION

Alan R. Earls, Chair
William J. Lee, Secretary
Randy La Rosa, Member
Phyllis Malcom, Member
Scott Mason, Member
Paul M. Pisani, Member
Janice K. Prentice, Member



The Historical Commission provides for the preservation, protection, and development of the historic and archaeological assets of Franklin. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Library Room of the Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St.

The activities of the commission encompass many areas including: research on places of historical or architectural value, working with the State Archaeologist in conducting surveys and reporting on sites, supporting educational activities, establishing historic districts, providing information for genealogical searches, and operating and maintaining the Franklin Historical Museum.



Learn more by scanning the QR Code

MARCH 2025

APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

FALLEN HEROES

MARCH 10TH MARSHALL E. ROLLINS, WWII
MARCH 10TH JOHN A. SCHUR, WWII
MARCH 18TH ELTON E EKSTROM, WWII
MARCH 30TH W. FRANKLIN LYNCH, WWI

Franklin Historical Museum | 80 W Central Street

Sunday, March 2 | Town of Franklin's 246th Birthday

Saturday, March 8th | International Women's Day

Sunday, March 9th | Second Sunday Speaker Series Joe Landry



Learn more by
scanning
the QR Code

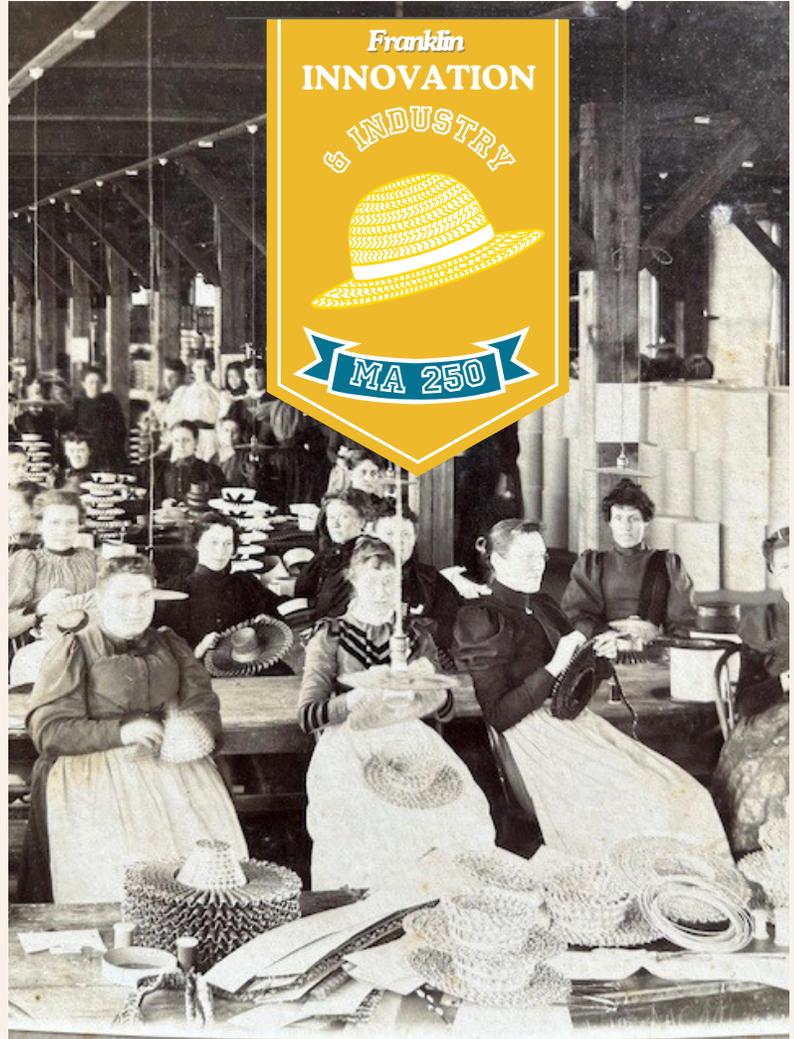
The History of Straw Hat Making in Franklin

In the early 19th century, Franklin, Massachusetts, became a center for straw hat manufacturing, a craft that showcased the ingenuity and entrepreneurship of its residents—particularly two women, Betsy Metcalf and Louisa Harding. These visionary women are credited with starting the straw hat making trend that would significantly impact Franklin's local economy.

In 1798, a young Betsy Metcalf crafted her first straw hat, using local materials and a technique she adapted from observing imported bonnet styles. Her innovative design was practical, fashionable, and affordable, quickly catching the attention of others in the community. Inspired by Metcalf's success, Louisa Harding expanded the practice, organizing local women into small-scale production groups. Together, they turned hat making into a cottage industry that offered supplemental income to families in the area.

Straw hat making soon became a thriving local enterprise, with Franklin women braiding straw and weaving it into hats that were in demand across New England. This work provided a rare opportunity for women to participate in the economy during a time when their roles were largely confined to the domestic sphere.

The craft flourished for decades, with Franklin gaining a reputation for its high-quality straw hats. The efforts of Betsy Metcalf and Louisa Harding not only sparked a local economic trend but also highlighted the potential of women as entrepreneurs and contributors to community growth. Today, their legacy endures as a symbol of Franklin's entrepreneurial spirit and the pivotal role of women in shaping its history.



Scan the QR code
for more details.

Buy your tickets to the Black Box Theater, "Little Women" coming up in June 2025.

The Franklin Historical Museum is excited to present a special pop-up exhibit at The Black Box Theater, showcasing archives from the era in which Little Women is set. This display will feature artifacts, photographs, and documents that offer a glimpse into 19th-century life, providing historical context to the world of Louisa May Alcott's beloved novel.

1798-1840'S

- Betsy Metcalf, a young Franklin resident, crafts her first straw hat using locally sourced materials. Her innovative design inspires others in the town to take up straw hat making.

Early 1800s:

- Louisa Harding expands on Metcalf's work, organizing women into small-scale production groups, turning straw hat making into a cottage industry in Franklin.

1820s-1830s:

- The demand for straw hats grows, and Franklin women begin producing hats for sale in nearby cities. This early cottage industry becomes a key economic activity for the town.

1840s:

- The success of home-based hat making leads to the establishment of small workshops. These workshops centralize production, increasing output and improving quality control.

1850'S-1890'S

1850s:

- Larger hat manufacturing factories begin to emerge in Franklin, responding to the growing market demand for straw hats. This marks the transition from a cottage industry to industrial-scale production.

1860s:

- The Civil War era creates new opportunities for Franklin's hat manufacturers, as straw hats become popular accessories for women in the North.

1870s-1880s:

- Franklin is recognized as a regional hub for hat manufacturing, with several factories employing both men and women. Straw hats are exported beyond Massachusetts, enhancing the town's reputation in the industry.

1890s:

- Changes in fashion trends begin to impact the demand for straw hats. Some factories diversify their products or close operations as the industry faces challenges.

1900'S

Early 1900s:

Hat manufacturing in Franklin declines as new fashion trends favor different materials and styles. Industrial advances also shift production to larger urban centers.

Today:

While the hat manufacturing industry no longer thrives in Franklin, the town remembers its unique contribution to regional commerce. Betsy Metcalf and Louisa Harding's pioneering efforts remain a celebrated part of Franklin's history, showcasing the resourcefulness and entrepreneurial spirit of its residents.

This timeline highlights the rise and eventual decline of Franklin's hat manufacturing industry, reflecting both the town's ingenuity and its ability to adapt to changing economic landscapes.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY THROUGH ART

MARCH 5TH, 2025

The Town of Franklin is excited to welcome Michael Bobbitt, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and Emily Devlin, LICSW, Head of Strategic Partnerships & Clinical Innovation at Art Pharmacy, for a Community Conversation on how the arts can play a vital role in supporting health and well-being in Franklin.

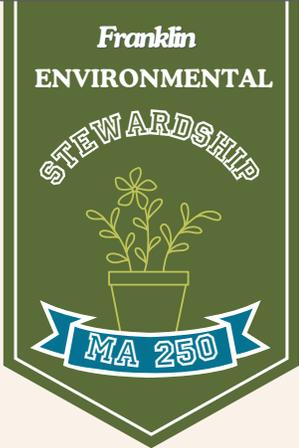
With funding from the Town's opioid settlement funds, Franklin is launching Art Pharmacy—a nationally recognized program that connects individuals to arts and cultural engagements as a tool for healing, social connection, and overall wellness. The Town's is piloting a program in Franklin specifically for substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support.

We are seeking partners from across Franklin's arts, culture, and social services sectors to help bring these programs to life. Whether you're part of a cultural organization, a wellness or mental health provider, a social services agency, or a business focused on community well-being, this is an opportunity to collaborate and make a difference.



Town of Franklin Art Pharmacy





THE FRANKLIN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

The Conservation Commission is the official agency specifically charged with the protection of Franklin’s wetland resource areas, Conservation Areas, and Open Space. The Commission also advises other municipal officials and boards on conservation issues that relate to their areas of responsibility.

The first powers given to the Commission (ref Conservation Commission Act of 1957 - MGL Ch.40 sec. 8C) focused on "promotion and development of natural resources...and protection of watershed resources". In 1972 Conservation Commissions were authorized to administer the State Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch 131 sec. 40), the first act of its kind in the nation. Additionally, the Conservation Commission is charged with administering the Town's Wetland Protection Bylaw (Codebook, Chapter 181). (Approximately 40% of the communities in the Commonwealth have enacted some form of local wetland protection bylaw.)

The Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act prohibits any filling, excavation, or other alteration of the land surface, water levels, or vegetation in wetlands, floodplains, riverfront areas or other wetland resource areas regardless of ownership without a permit from the local Conservation Commission. There are many procedures for various proposed activities. The Conservation office would be glad to describe and explain which is best for your circumstances.

Conservation Director, Breeka Li Goodlander
Chair, Jeffrey Livingstone
Vice Chair, Mark C LePage

Commissioners: Micheal R. Rein, Richard Johnson, Lui Scot Puga, Nicole Chiamonte and Roger Trahan



FRANKLIN SUPERLATIVE MOST DOWN TO EARTH

Celebrating Franklin’s historic landmarks and legacies.

Celebrating Earth Month with clean ups, educational events, citizen science kits, and a bioblitz! Visit the Conservation Department website for full program details by scanning the QR code below, or visit: franklinma.gov/conservation



Scan QR for conservation webpage.



FRANKLIN SUPERLATIVE MOST LIKELY TO BE OUTSIDE

Celebrating Franklin’s historic landmarks and legacies.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Recreation Department is committed to provide quality recreational programs and facilities to the residents of Franklin. By providing consistency, dependability and an obligation to our residents and the programs they partake, we strive to elevate the quality of life for our community.

Objectives | The Recreation Department is a service-based department. We work interactively with local sports associations, school departments, individual Town residents, private groups, church and civic groups, as well as other Town departments. In the course of a given year, over 8,000 people are affected by Recreation operations. Our clientele continues to increase each year. Recreation is responsible for scheduling all fields, playgrounds, and courts.

The Recreation Department continues to serve the residents in the area of recreation and leisure services. Our department handles everything from sporting activities for children, to families in need.



Director, Ryan Jette
Deputy Director, Kim Carney
Program Coordinator, Sean Fitzpatrick
Administrative Assistant, Sheila Adiletto





EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

APRIL 2025

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of Franklin's Earth Day Clean-Up! Originally founded in 2000 by Alan Earls, Paula Lombardi (DPW), and Ryan Jette; this annual event has brought the community together for decades to help keep Franklin clean and green.

This year, we'll gather on Saturday, April 19th, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Beaver Pond. Organized by the Franklin Recreation Department and Department of Public Works (DPW), the event kicks off early, with setup beginning at 8:00 AM. Volunteers will find a large map of Franklin highlighting over 30 cleanup sites across town, categorized by family-friendly and adult-appropriate locations. We provide disposable gloves, trash bags, and community service certificates for students and company employees fulfilling service requirements.

Throughout the morning, DPW crews coordinate waste collection, ensuring filled trash bags are removed promptly. Larger items—including tires, washing machines, bikes, construction debris, and thousands of nips—are gathered in Bagsters at Beaver Pond, which are removed the following week. In peak years, we've collected nearly two tons of trash, though thanks to our ongoing efforts, that number has decreased closer to one ton. Visit the Town of Franklin's Recreation page for more details on how to participate.

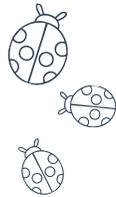
We're proud of how Franklin's Earth Day Clean-Up has grown over the years and invite everyone to join us in making a difference. Thank you for being a part of 25 years of environmental stewardship in Franklin!

Franklin Sculpture Park

Accessible Earth Day Clean Up. Visit the Department of Arts Culture and the Creative Economy for more information.

Saturday, April 19th, from 10-11am

Rain date, April 26th 10-11am Check website for weather updates and event changes.



COMMISSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

The primary function of this Commission is to advocate for persons with disabilities as needed in the Town of Franklin and to educate others on sensitive issues in dealing with the disabled.

The Commission keeps the Town Administrator informed on issues and new laws and requirements under the Americans With Disabilities Act.

The Commission also acts as a resource center for those who may require services or have concerns.



Scan the QR code for more details.

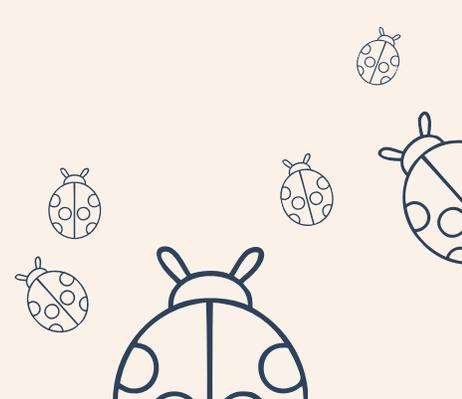
Meets monthly, 7pm
1st Thursday of every month.
Club House Meeting Room
Central Park Terrace Apartments



DISABILITY EXPO: APRIL 26TH | FRANKLIN SENIOR CENTER 10 DANIEL MCCAHERN ST

Franklin Disabilities Commission invites the public to the 2025 Disability Expo presented at The Franklin Senior Center. This event will have numerous exhibitors set up at tables that you can visit. Learn about their local resources, activities and supports.

- For all ages and abilities.
- The goal is to gather together those who work with and, advocate for persons with Disabilities and circulate information of services available to those in that community and their families.
- Vendor tables are free to exhibitors. You may also provide the Commission with brochures for informational purposes to pass out to attendees.





BIRTHPLACE OF THE STATE BUG & HOME OF THE LADY BUG STROLL

APRIL 2025

In 1974, a group of forward-thinking Franklin students made history by successfully lobbying for the ladybug to become the official state bug of Massachusetts.

The idea began as a classroom project at the Kennedy Elementary School with Ms. Palma Johnson leading students, where students learned about civic engagement and the legislative process.

With determination and teamwork, they petitioned lawmakers, presenting their case for the ladybug as a symbol of beauty, resilience, and environmental importance.

Their efforts captured the attention of the Massachusetts legislature, and the ladybug was officially designated the state bug later that year. This inspiring story showcases how young voices can make a lasting impact on state history.

On March 20, 1974, dressed in their finest ladybug attire, the students went to the State House to support their Ladybug Bill. A month later, on April 17, 1974, Governor Francis W. Sargent signed the bill that made the ladybug the state insect of Massachusetts.

On the 40th anniversary of this achievement, the Franklin Cultural Council and The Rotary Club advanced a public art project in honor of the Kennedy Elementary second grade class, their teacher, and the Ladybug.

The art project involved the participation of artists and businesses in the creation of 25, two-foot tall, fiberglass Ladybugs. Over time, the Ladybug sculptures were installed at public buildings, businesses and private residences.

In 2019, the Franklin Downtown Partnership (FDP) considered gathering the Ladybugs in downtown Franklin, the heart of Franklin's Cultural District. They envisioned a trail that would feature 17 of the original Ladybug sculptures, several murals, and three bronze statues. Named the Ladybug Cultural and Historical Trail, visitors and residents would connect with Franklin's culture and history while shopping, dining, and visiting downtown. In 2021, the FDP formed a committee to develop the project. The FDP unveiled the Ladybug Trail at its Strawberry Stroll on June 10, 2022.



LADY BUG STROLL: APRIL 26TH

3rd Annual Ladybug Trail Spring Walk on Friday, April 26 (rain date: April 27)! As Franklin welcomes the new season, local businesses, cultural institutions, and artists will come together to create a fun and engaging experience for the community.

Explore interactive activities at Dean College, the Franklin Public Library, and the Franklin Historical Museum, while at least 15 retailers offer treats, discounts, and promotions to visitors. Along the way, walkers will search for Franklin's signature fiberglass ladybug sculptures hidden throughout the downtown area, tying together 25 historical and cultural sites within the Franklin Cultural District.

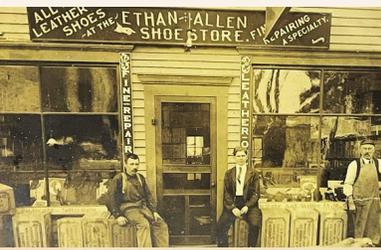
Pick up a trail map at the Franklin Historical Museum, the library, or participating businesses to guide your journey. "The Ladybug Trail Spring Walk is a perfect way to celebrate spring and experience everything downtown Franklin has to offer," said Lisa Piana, Executive Director of the Franklin Downtown Partnership. "With a mix of new and established shops, as well as rich cultural and historical landmarks, the trail offers a fantastic way to explore our community."

This event is sponsored by Middlesex Savings Bank and Eileen Mason at RE/MAX Executive Realty, who generously supported the production of the Ladybug Trail map. The Franklin Downtown Partnership, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, works to revitalize downtown Franklin through events, beautification projects, and cultural initiatives. The Partnership organizes beloved community events such as the Strawberry Stroll, Harvest Festival, and the Ladybug Historical & Cultural Trail.



Scan the QR code for more information on the Franklin Downtown Partnership's Lady Bug Stroll.





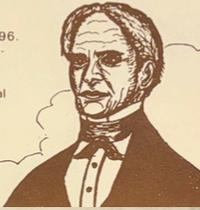
INDUSTRY NEED NOT WISH

MAY 2025

Ben Franklin's saying, "Industry need not wish," encapsulates the idea that diligent effort and hard work eliminate the need for wishful thinking. It suggests that when people focus on industriousness, persistence, and productivity, they create opportunities and success rather than relying on luck or idle dreams. This principle reflects Franklin's broader philosophy of self-reliance, discipline, and the virtues of labor.

Honoring American Education

Horace Mann, father of American Education, was born in Franklin, Mass. on May 4, 1796. He was an abolitionist, congressman, humanitarian, first Secretary of the Massachusetts School Board, and an educational reformer. His dictum was, "I am ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity."



"Industry need not wish" comes from a famous Franklin essay called "The Way to Wealth" (1758), which is written in the voice of "Poor Richard" and is kind of a compilation of advice from issues of Franklin's "Poor Richard's Almanac". The full quote is; "So what signify wishing and hoping for better times? We may make these times better, if we bestir ourselves. 'Industry need not wish' : and those who live upon hope will die fasting."

Franklin strongly believed that there is no success without hard work (industry), so don't be sitting around waiting for wealth and success to come looking for you. (And don't even get him started about money management!) Another great quote from that same section of The Way to Wealth is, "laziness travels so slowly, that poverty soon overtakes him".

"Basically, Franklin was all about improvement, whether it was for some day to day problem (houses are getting struck by lightning and burning down? Invent the lightning rod and organize the first fire department!) or just making yourself a better person (Franklin's "13 virtues"). Basically, never stop learning, never stop growing, and make a better life for all." Vicki Buchanio Earls, Head of Reference Services, Franklin Public Library

- APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS
- NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH
- NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK (3RD WEEK IN MAY)
- NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS MONTH
- FALLEN HEROES
- MAY 11TH CHARLES CHRISTAKES, WWII



THE FRANKLIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM 80 WEST CENTRAL

Sun May 4: Horace Mann's Birthday (229th)

Sun May 11: Second Sunday Speaker Series

Sun May 18: International Museum Day | Memorial Day themed exhibit of uniforms and militaria through the 30th

ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION CORNERSTONE TO FRANKLIN HISTORY

Horace Mann, a Franklin native, is celebrated as "The Father of Public Education" for his transformative work in establishing a free, universal, and nonsectarian education system in the United States.

Born in 1796, Mann believed education was the great equalizer—a tool to combat poverty and foster democracy. As Massachusetts' first Secretary of Education, he championed the creation of public schools, improved teacher training, and equal access to education for all children.

His legacy endures in Franklin and beyond, reminding us that investing in education strengthens communities and builds a brighter future for everyone.

The books donated by Benjamin Franklin to America's first lending library in Franklin greatly influenced Horace Mann's education and shaped his vision for public schooling. Works like Locke's Works and Montesquieu's Spirit of Laws reinforced his belief in education as a fundamental right essential for democracy. Blackstone's Commentaries and Thomas' Laws of Massachusetts deepened his understanding of law and civic responsibility, while religious texts like Abernethy's Sermones shaped his view on moral instruction in schools. Literary and philosophical works, such as Pilgrim's Progress and Watts' Logic, fostered his commitment to reason and critical thinking in education. These books laid the foundation for Mann's advocacy of universal, non-sectarian public education, making Franklin's library a key influence in his groundbreaking reforms.



Scan the QR code for more details.



**HORACE
MANN BORN
ON
MAY 4TH
1796**

MAY THE 4TH BE
WITH YOU





Our Spring 2025 program is now open! Visit the Great American Rain Barrel website to purchase your rain barrel. Deadline for ordering is April 27th and pickup will be at the DPW Admin Building (257 Fisher St) on May 7th from 4-6 pm. Questions regarding the rain barrel program can be emailed to Kate Hinckley at khinckley@franklinma.gov. Scan the QR codes for more details.

STAMP OUT HUNGER



FRANKLIN FOOD PANTRY | 341 W Central Street

The Franklin Food Pantry, which provides supplemental food assistance to households in Franklin, Massachusetts, is partnering with Franklin Letter Carriers for the Stamp Out Hunger food drive.

On Saturday, May 10, 2025, Franklin residents are encouraged to leave a bag of nonperishable food items by their mailbox.

Letter carriers will collect the donations and deliver the items to the Franklin Food Pantry. The letter carrier led event will help fill The Pantry shelves and assist neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. Scan the QR codes for more details.

EMPTY BOWLS



Since 2016, the Franklin Food Pantry has partnered with the Franklin High School Empty Bowls Club for the annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser to bring awareness to food insecurity and hunger in the community. The event takes place in May at Franklin High School and includes a simple supper of soup and bread. Club members provide attendees a handcrafted ceramic bowl as a reminder that somewhere, someone's bowl is empty. Money raised from the event which helps The Pantry purchase food and personal care items, offer programs and services, and support daily operations.

Empty Bowls is a grassroots effort by artists and crafts people in cities and towns around the world to feed people experiencing hunger. Scan the QR codes for more details.



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

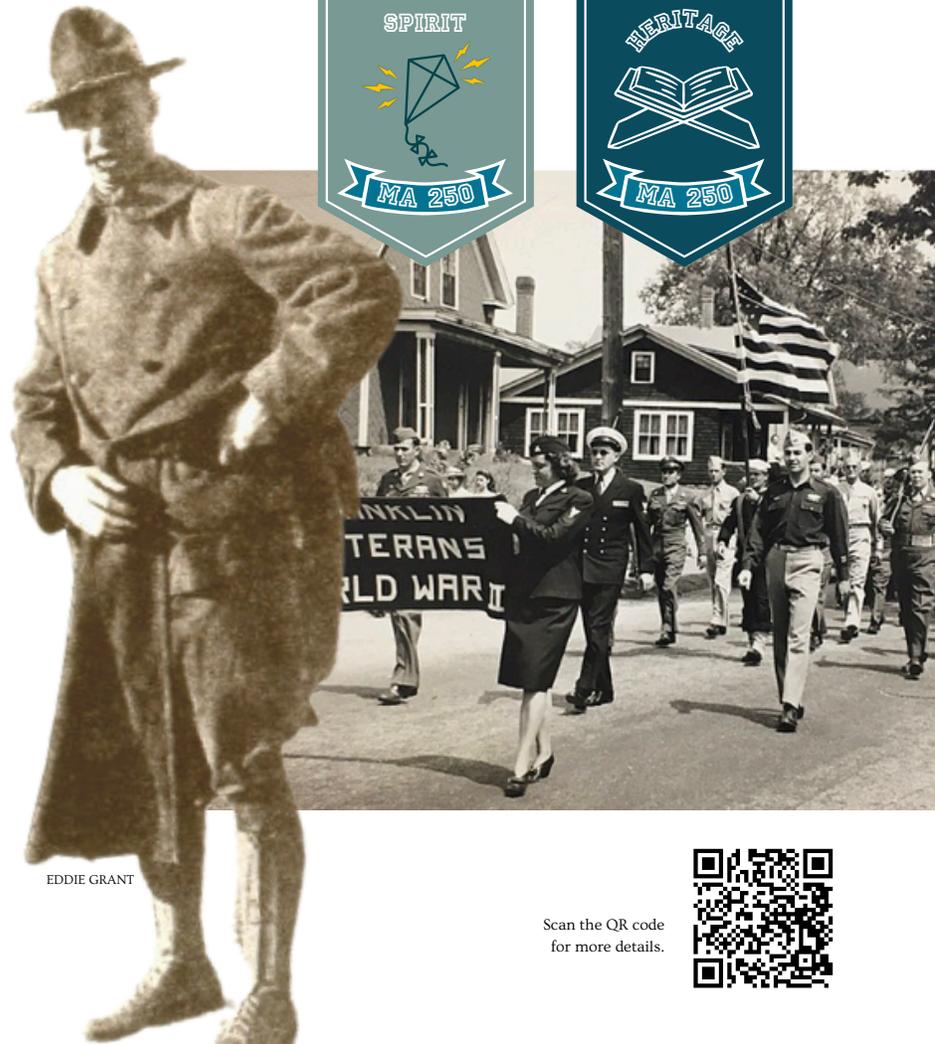
“For me, Memorial Day is a time to pause and deeply reflect on the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform to preserve our freedom. Some, like Franklin's 45 Fallen Heroes, paid the ultimate price for their courage. Their lives, full of the promise of youth, were tragically cut short, and we should always honor them and keep their memory alive. For many, Memorial Day is also a time to remember our friends, family, and community members who nobly served, and are no longer with us. May we never forget their bravery, resilience, and patriotism, as an example for all to follow.”

Shannon Nisbett, Director of Veterans Services

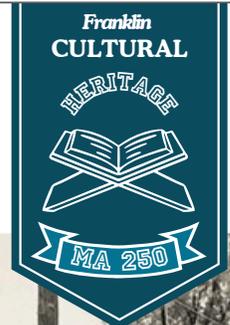
The Franklin, MA Memorial Day parade is led by the American Legion "Eddie Grant" Post 75 and the VFW Post 3402.

- Ceremony on the Town Common:
- Welcome
- Raising of the Colors
- Pledge of Allegiance
- National Anthem
- Invocation
- Speakers
- Proclamation
- Remarks
- Placing of Wreaths
- Reading the Honor Roll
- Ring of the Watch
- Taps

- Lead Organizations:
- The parade is led by the American Legion "Eddie Grant" Post 75 and the VFW Post 3402.
- Route:
- The parade typically begins at Depot Street and the MBTA lot, continuing to the Common for further ceremonial activity.



EDDIE GRANT



Scan the QR code for more details.



POW/MIA MEMORIAL DAY & VETERAN'S DAY PRESENTATION

"We would like to open our Veteran's Day Recognition by honoring those many thousands of United States service men and women who are either POW's or Missing in Action.

At the present time, there are 81,000 WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Cold War veterans who are still missing. The Defense Department POW/MIA Action Agency estimates that 38,000 of these are recoverable. For many of us, memories of the Vietnam War are still fresh in our minds. 1,559 of our Brothers are still missing from that war.

In 2023 the Agency recovered 127 of our fallen, 88 from WWII, 35 from Korea, and 4 from Vietnam, whose remains have been repatriated and returned to their families. In September of 2024, the remains of Pvt. Erwin King who was killed in the Battle of Guadalcanal was returned to Clarksburg, Massachusetts in the Berkshires to full military honors.

And so, we honor them, and all yet to be found, today. Please direct your attention to my (left or right). You will notice a table set before you, raised to call your attention to its purpose. It is reserved to honor our missing comrades. This table is set in every dining facility on every United States military base, and every Navy ship, anywhere in the world.

POW/MIA Table Presentation

Let us remember the men and women prisoners of war from all branches of the service who are too often forgotten. Our comrades may not be with us today, but their Empty Chair symbolizes our timeless wait for their return.

The Small Table is set for one, representing the frailty of one prisoner, alone against his or her suppressors. The Table is round, showing our everlasting concern for our POW/MIA'S. The Tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. The Single Red rose signifies the blood they have shed In sacrifice to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America. This rose, reminding us of the family and friends of our missing comrades who are not among us today. A Slice of Lemon on the plate reminds us of the bitter fate of those missing, captured and held as prisoners in foreign lands. A Pinch of salt denoting the tears of our missing and their families, who long for answers after decades of uncertainty. The Holy Bible represents the strength gained through faith in our country, founded as one nation, under God, to sustain those lost from our midst. The Lighted Candle reflects the light of hope which lived in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation. The Glass is inverted. They cannot toast with us today.

Let us remember and never forget their sacrifices. Now, please raise your water glasses to toast America's POW's and MIA's. Please honor and remember them."



TOWN OF FRANKLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Throughout its history, the Franklin Police Department has evolved to meet the changing needs of the community. The department emphasizes collaboration and partnership with residents to enhance the quality of life in Franklin. Their mission statement reflects this commitment: "The mission of the Franklin Police Department is to work collaboratively in partnership with our community to enhance the quality of life in our town, while maintaining order and protecting the people we serve.

THOMAS J. LYNCH, CHIEF OF POLICE
JAMES M. WEST, DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE
JASON C. REILLY, LIEUTENANT
ERIC J. ZIMMERMAN, LIEUTENANT
KRISTIN DONOVAN, FIREARMS
LICENSING/ADMINISTRATION

FRANKLIN SUPERLATIVE MOST LIKELY TO KEEP THE PEACE

CELEBRATING FRANKLIN'S HISTORIC
LANDMARKS AND LEGACIES.

TOWN OF FRANKLIN
POLICE DEPARTMENT
WEBSITE





Benjamin Franklin, renowned for his many contributions to society, founded the first volunteer fire department in 1736 in Philadelphia. Concerned about the devastating fires that plagued urban areas, Franklin established the Union Fire Company, which served as a model for fire safety and community collaboration. This pioneering spirit of volunteerism and commitment to public safety remains an enduring legacy, deeply resonating with communities across America.

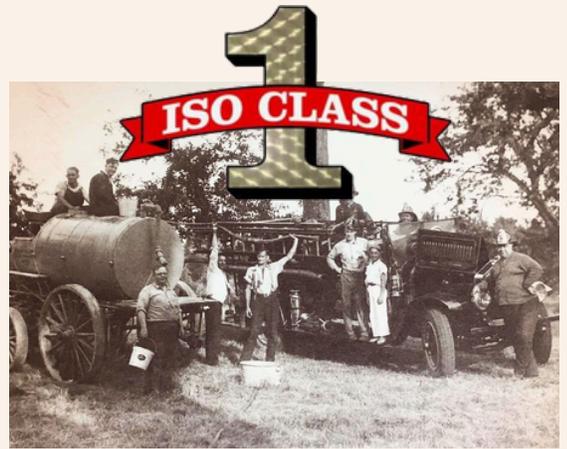
The Franklin Massachusetts Fire Department proudly reflects this heritage of excellence. Established in 1894, the department has a rich history of dedication to public safety and innovation. Over the years, it has evolved from a volunteer brigade to a modern, full-service department that exemplifies professionalism and service to the community.

The Franklin Fire Department has received prestigious recognition for its high standards in emergency response, fire prevention, and community engagement.

With a legacy rooted in Franklin's own historical milestones—including its transformation into a thriving community that values education, public service, and resilience—the Franklin Fire Department stands as a testament to the values Benjamin Franklin championed.

As Franklin, Massachusetts, prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2028, the town takes pride in honoring its fire department's role in protecting and serving the community for over a century.

TOWN OF FRANKLIN FIRE DEPARTMENT



FRANKLIN SUPERLATIVE MOST LIKELY TO ANSWER THE CALL

Celebrating Franklin's historic landmarks and legacies.



Town of Franklin Fire Department webpage

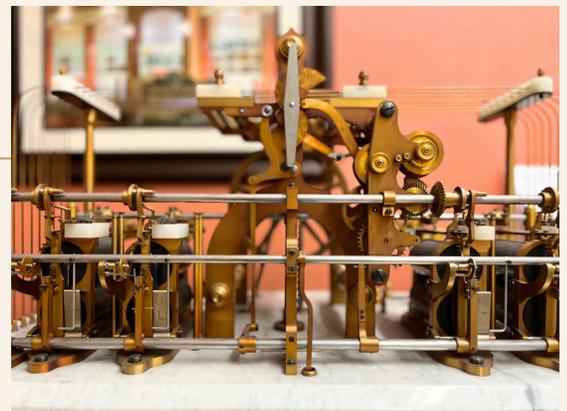
- JAMES MCLAUGHLIN, FIRE CHIEF
- JOSEPH BARBIERI, DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
- JAMES KLICH, DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
- WILLIAM BLANCHARD, EMS BATTALION CHIEF
- TRACEY HOSFORD, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
- DOUG PERRO, SAFE OFFICER

UPCOMING JUNE 2025

APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS
NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH
PRIDE MONTH

NOTABLE DAYS
FLAG DAY, JUNE 14TH
JUNETEENTH, JUNE 19TH
NATIONAL PTSD AWARENESS DAY, JUNE 27TH

FALLEN HEROES
JUNE 1ST William G. Hosford, WWII
JUNE 5TH Frank Gryzboski, WWII
JUNE 12TH Lloyd M. Ellis, WWII
JUNE 14TH Timothy J. Hayes, WWII
JUNE 15TH Elijah H. Coldwell, WWI
JUNE 20TH Edward A. Kelly, WWII
JUNE 24TH Baldo S. Lazzarini, WWII



JUNE 2025



Scan the QR code for more details.

LITTLE WOMEN | THE MUSICAL THE BLACKBOX 15 W CENTRAL STREET

FPAC presents the musical adaptation of Little Women June 6-8 at THE BLACK BOX! Based on Louisa May Alcott's life, Little Women follows the adventures of sisters Jo, Meg, Beth, and Amy March. Jo is trying to sell her stories for publication, but the publishers are not interested - her friend, Professor Bhaer, tells her that she has to do better and write more from herself. Begrudgingly taking this advice, Jo weaves the story of herself and her sisters and their experience growing up in Civil War America.

Little Women embodies the complete theatrical experience, guaranteeing a night filled with laughter, tears and a lifting of the spirit. The powerful score soars with the sounds of personal discovery, heartache, and hope - the sounds of a young America finding its voice.

Adding to the excitement, Franklin, Massachusetts, played a role in Greta Gerwig's 2019 film adaptation of Little Women! Several scenes were filmed right here in town, including those at the historic Wrentham Road rail crossing, where Jo March (Saoirse Ronan) runs along the tracks with pages of her manuscript.

A pop-up exhibition coordinated by the Franklin Historical Museum in The Blackbox lobby offers a unique opportunity to explore both the real history of the Little Women era and Franklin's connection to the film. Don't miss this chance to step back in time and celebrate our town's place in cinematic history!



FRANKLIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Pop Up Exhibition at The Blackbox

June 7th opening reception Exhibition Fakes and Forgeries...
Opening of exhibit with Art Association

Sun June 8: Second Sunday

Speaker Series -Possibly AE on Charles Partridge Adams

Fri. June 13 Strawberry Stroll (and art exhibit open)



Scan the QR code for more details.



FRANKLIN PORCHFEST PORCHES ALL AROUND FRANKLIN

Saturday, June 7th 12-6pm
Franklin Porchfest is a free, community-driven music festival where local musicians perform on porches, driveways, and lawns throughout Franklin. This lively event brings neighbors together to celebrate live music in a relaxed, outdoor setting, transforming the town into a walkable stage for diverse musical acts. Families, friends, and music lovers can explore different performances while enjoying the vibrant cultural spirit of Franklin.



or visit
franklin.porchfest.info

PRIDE FESTIVAL

JUNE 21ST, 2025

Celebrate with Pride is a free public festival to recognize and honor the diversity of sexualities and gender identities found in the community of Franklin and surrounding towns. Local businesses, non-profit organizations, crafts people, artists, musicians, and attendees of all ages gather to create a joyful celebration of LGBTQ+ and Franklin pride.



Scan the QR code for more details.



PHOTOS BY NICOLE VAN DER WAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Franklin LGBTQ Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that was established in 2022 to support, raise awareness of, and build connections within, the greater Franklin LGBTQIA+ community. We celebrate gender and sexual diversity in Franklin all year round by regularly organizing book club discussions, game nights, arts-and-crafts workshops, and much more. Every June, we also organize a pride celebration in Franklin Town Common that features food, live music, family activities, and outreach opportunities for local businesses and nonprofits. Membership is always free, and all of our events are always open to the public. We invite you to join us at one of our upcoming events listed below!



STRAWBERRY STROLL JUNE 13TH 2025

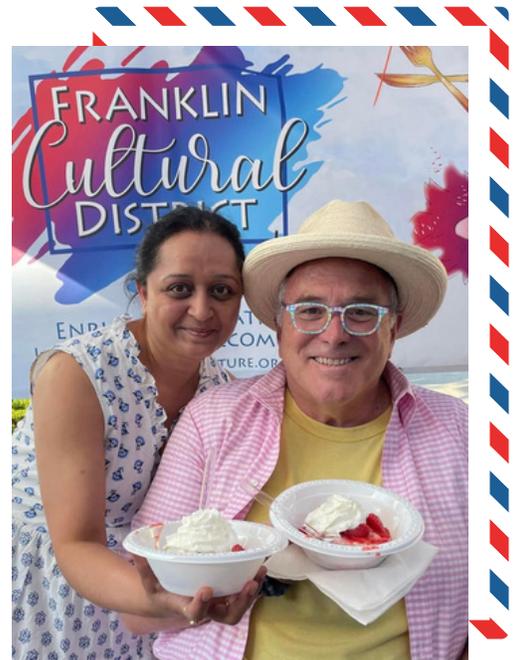
A strawberry, like small business economic growth, starts as a tiny seed—full of potential but requiring the right conditions to thrive. With careful nurturing, steady investment, and a supportive environment, it blossoms, sending out runners that create new opportunities.

Just as a strawberry patch expands, interconnecting vines and producing a bountiful harvest, a strong small business ecosystem fosters new ventures, strengthens communities, and creates a ripple effect of prosperity. When cultivated with dedication and resilience, what starts as a single strawberry—or a single small business—can flourish into a thriving, interconnected network of growth and abundance.

The Franklin Downtown Partnership Strawberry Stroll is a beloved annual event that kicks off summer in downtown Franklin. Featuring fresh strawberry shortcake, live music, local vendors, family-friendly activities, and special promotions from downtown businesses, the stroll brings the community together for a fun and festive evening. Hosted by the Franklin Downtown Partnership, this event highlights local businesses, strengthens community connections, and celebrates the charm of Franklin's Cultural District.



Scan for the Franklin Downtown Partnership Info



JULY 2025

NOTABLE DAYS

INDEPENDENCE DAY, JULY 4TH

NATIONAL MOON DAY [APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING 1969] JULY 20TH

NATIONAL DISABILITY INDEPENDENCE DAY, JULY 26

FALLEN HEROES

- JULY 5TH HOWARD T. FEELEY, WWII
- JULY 17TH GERALD M. PARMENTER, WWII
- JULY 18TH ALESANDRO PATETE, WWI
- JULY 18TH PATRICK RISTAINO, WWI
- JULY 30TH ANTHONY J. MUCCIARONE, WWII



FRANKLIN'S 4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL

The Franklin July 4th Coalition is made up of community volunteers.

Our sole mission is to preserve the annual celebrations for the town of Franklin. We hope you come and enjoy yourselves. We rely entirely on fundraising events and donations to provide the fireworks, music and events.

We need your help. A small tax deductible donation will help us reach our fundraising goal and allow us to keep the celebration an exciting town wide event.

- JULY 3RD, 6-10PM
- JULY 4TH, 12-10PM
- JULY 5TH, 2-10PM
- JULY 6TH, 12-10PM
- JULY 7TH, 12-6PM



FRANKLIN4TH.COM

Scan the QR code for more details.



TOWN OF FRANKLIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works mission is to support and enhance the quality of life for the Town of Franklin's residents, businesses and visitors by providing well planned, environmentally sensitive, cost effective infrastructure and services to promote public health, personal safety, transportation, and economic growth.



Administration, Engineering, Highway and Grounds, Water, Sewer, Solid Waste and Recycling

The Town of Franklin's Department of Public Works (DPW) has a long history of serving the community by maintaining and improving essential infrastructure and public services. From its early days managing roads and sanitation to its modern role overseeing water distribution, stormwater management, waste collection, and public spaces, the DPW has been a cornerstone of Franklin's growth and development. Over the years, the department has expanded its operations to meet the town's evolving needs, embracing new technologies and sustainable practices to ensure efficiency and environmental responsibility. Today, Franklin's DPW continues its commitment to maintaining the town's infrastructure, enhancing public safety, and improving the quality of life for residents through dedicated service and innovation.

FRANKLIN SUPERLATIVE MOST LIKELY TO MOST LIKELY TO SAVE THE DAY (AND THE ROADS!)

Celebrating Franklin's historic landmarks and legacies.



AUGUST 2025

NOTABLE DAYS

- NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY, AUGUST 7
- WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY, AUGUST 19
- WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY, AUGUST 26

NATIONAL WELLNESS MONTH NATIONAL WATER QUALITY MONTH

- #### FALLEN HEROES
- AUGUST 15TH JULES PERRET, WWII
 - AUGUST 15TH ROBERT R. PIRELLI, IRAQ
 - AUGUST 20TH EDWARD C. DAILEY, WWII
 - AUGUST 22ND JOHN W. WYLIE JR., WWII



Concerts on the Common | Town Common

Throughout July and August, Franklin hosts "Concerts on the Common" on most Wednesday evenings.

These events feature kid-friendly entertainers from 6:00 - 6:30 PM, followed by professional bands from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Residents and visitors are encouraged to bring blankets and picnics to enjoy music under the stars.



Scan the QR code for more details.



Franklin Historical Museum | 80 West Central Street

Sun Aug 10: Second Sunday Speaker Series

India Independence Day II

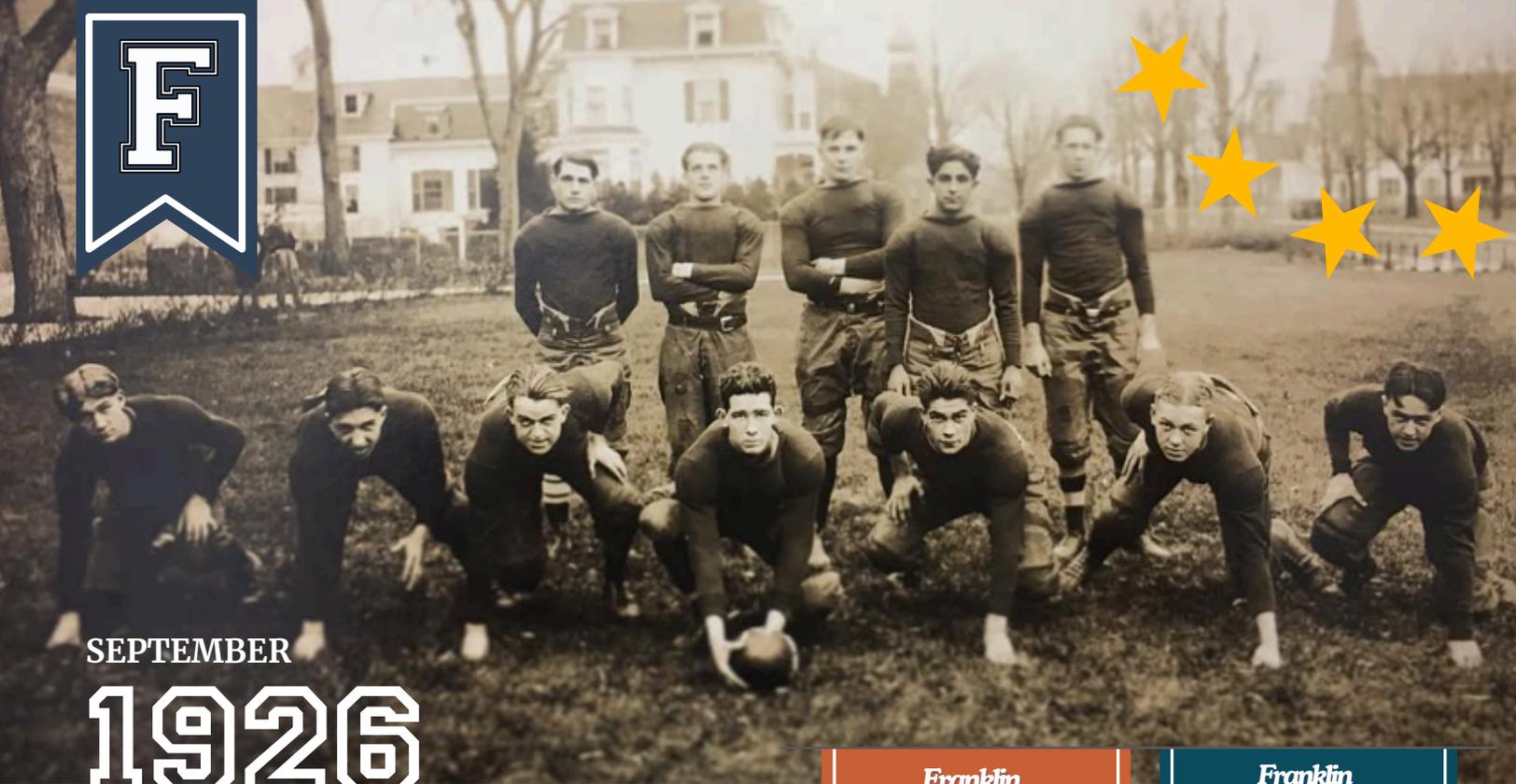
Celebrating India's Independence Day

Franklin commemorated India's Independence Day with a special event. The program included opening remarks, the national anthems of both the USA and India, an overview of Indian culture and history, dance performances, and introductions to yoga, meditation, and Ayurveda. This celebration highlighted the cultural ties between the two nations and provided an interactive opportunity for attendees to engage with presenters.



Scan the QR code for more details.



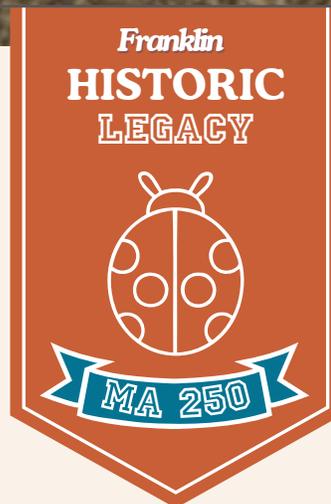


SEPTEMBER 1926

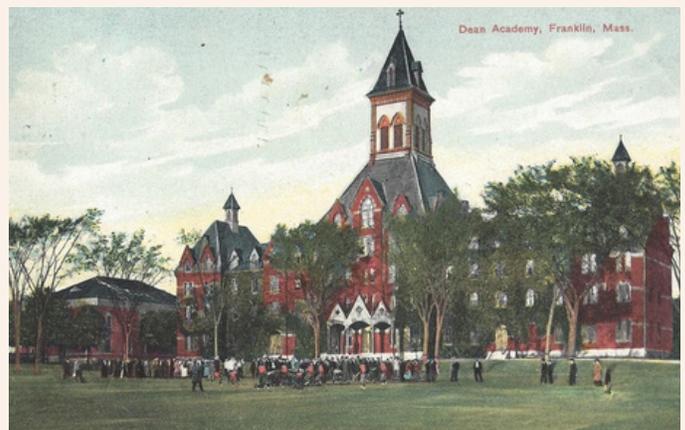
NEARLY 100 YEARS OF FOOTBALL IN FRANKLIN

Sports have always played a vital role in bringing communities together, fostering pride, camaraderie, and tradition. These historic images of Franklin High School's football teams serve as a reminder of how high school sports, in all their forms, unite generations of residents. From the cheers on the sidelines to the bonds formed on the field, court, and track, these activities create cherished memories and instill values of teamwork, perseverance, and school spirit.

Athletics are deeply woven into Franklin's cultural history, reflecting the town's enduring commitment to excellence, community connection, and the joy of shared experiences.



1932



Scan the QR code for the town of Franklin High School Athletic Department

Karrah Ellis, Director of Athletics
Susan Jacobson, Athletics Secretary
Jennifer Edmunds MS, ATC, Head Athletic Trainer

SEPTEMBER 2025

NOTABLE DAYS

LABOR DAY, FIRST MONDAY IN SEPTEMBER
 NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTIONAL AWARENESS DAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH
 PATRIOTS DAY/NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE, SEPTEMBER 11TH
 CONSTITUTION DAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH
 WORLD PEACE DAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST
 NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS
 NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

FALLEN HEROES

SEPTEMBER 9TH DAVID BULLUKIAN, WWII
 SEPTEMBER 18TH LEVI PIERI, WWI
 SEPTEMBER 21ST LAWRENCE E. GARRON JR., VIETNAM
 SEPTEMBER 21ST ALFRED L. MUCCIARONE, WWI
 SEPTEMBER 25TH FRANK J. SMITH, WWI



Franklin Arts and Culture Symposium
 September 18th & 19th, Scan the

QR code for more details.

Franklin Historical Museum | 80 West central Street
 Sun Sept 14: Second Sunday Speaker Series
 Sat. Sept 28 Harvest Festival



Scan QR code for more details.

HARVEST FESTIVAL



The Franklin Downtown Partnership plays a leading role in organizing the Harvest Festival, one of Franklin's most anticipated community events! Each fall, the festival transforms downtown Franklin into a lively celebration featuring local businesses, artisans, food vendors, entertainment, and family-friendly activities.

As a nonprofit dedicated to the revitalization and economic growth of downtown Franklin, the Franklin Downtown Partnership brings together businesses, community organizations, and residents to create an event that highlights the heart of the town. The Harvest Festival not only supports local entrepreneurs but also fosters a sense of community spirit by providing a space for neighbors to connect, shop, and enjoy the vibrant cultural scene of Franklin.

From live music and performances to seasonal treats and unique shopping experiences, the Harvest Festival is a true celebration of Franklin's small-town charm and dynamic business community.



Scan for the Franklin
 Downtown Partnership
 Info



OCTOBER 2025

APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS
NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

NOTABLE DAYS

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY, OCTOBER 5TH
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY / COLUMBUS DAY,
OCTOBER 15TH
WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY, OCTOBER 10TH
NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY, OCTOBER 11TH
HALLOWEEN, OCTOBER 31ST

FALLEN HEROES

OCTOBER 5TH EDWARD L. GRANT, WWI
OCTOBER 6TH SHAYNE M. CABINO, IRAQ
OCTOBER 10TH EMILIO DADARIO, WWI

Franklin Public Library | 118 Main Street

Join us for a special Diwali celebration for the whole family, including diya painting, dancing, kids activities, henna, a photo booth and more! Scan QR code for more details.



Franklin Police Department 911 Panther Way

The Franklin Police Department invites you to this years Halloween Party! Enjoy an afternoon of games, treats, and the "Halls of Justice" Haunted House! Scan QR code for more details.



NOVEMBER 2025

APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
NATIONAL VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES MONTH
NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH
NATIONAL ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

NOTABLE DAYS

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS, NOVEMBER 1ST-2ND
ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 4TH
VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11TH
WORLD KINDNESS DAY, NOVEMBER 13TH
THANKSGIVING DAY, NOVEMBER 27TH
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY, NOVEMBER 28TH
SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH



FALLEN HEROES

NOVEMBER 6TH JAY STONE DAVIS, WWI
NOVEMBER 7TH LAWRENCE J. CLARK, WWI
NOVEMBER 11TH DANIEL E. MCCAHERILL, WWII
NOVEMBER 30TH ROBERT L. CUMMINGS, WWII



Scan QR code for more details.

VETERANS BRICK WALKWAY TOWN COMMON

The Veterans Brick Walkway on the Franklin Town Common stands as a lasting tribute to the men and women who have served in the military, honoring their sacrifices and dedication to our country.

The walkway, which is lined with personalized engraved bricks, offers residents and visitors a chance to reflect on the bravery and commitment of local veterans. Each brick represents a veteran's service, creating a meaningful connection to Franklin's rich history of military service. The walkway serves as a place of remembrance and gratitude, not only for the veterans who have served, but also as a symbol of the community's enduring respect for those who have defended our freedoms. It is a cherished landmark on the Town Common, inviting all who pass by to pause and remember the sacrifices made in service to the nation.





VETERANS SERVICES

NOVEMBER 2025

The VFW and American Legion Posts, under the auspices of the Franklin Veterans' Council, have created a Memorial Program that will recognize and honor Franklin's 45 Fallen Heroes on the anniversary of their deaths each year. Conceived and spearheaded by Ernest Carruthers, Commander of VFW Post 3402 and Dick Hynes, Vice Commander of American Legion Post 75, the program launches on January 26, 2024.

On that date, a red, white and blue memorial wreath will be placed on WWII Veteran William O. Martello's pedestal on the Veterans Memorial Walkway on the Town Common, for the day. A bugler will play "Taps" and a short reading about Martello's service will be given. Martello, an Ensign in the U.S. Navy, died at Anzio Beach in Italy when his landing craft struck a mine.



Scan the QR code for more details.

Veterans' Coffee Socials

Our Veterans' Coffee Socials are held on the first Wednesday of every month at the Franklin Senior Center at 10am and catered by Starbucks. Come and enjoy some coffee, pastries, and camaraderie with your fellow Veterans!

Tune It Out Guitar for Vets

Calling all Veterans who want to learn to play guitar! Tune It Out is a recreational guitar program led by volunteer instructors to teach Veterans guitar skills. Players of all levels are welcome, and guitars can be provided upon request. Classes are held at the Franklin Senior Center every Tuesday from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, with breaks during winter and summer holidays.

FRANKLIN SUPERLATIVE MOST LIKELY TO HONOR OUR HEROES

Celebrating the commitment of Veterans Services in supporting and honoring those who have served our country, ensuring their legacy is preserved in Franklin's community.

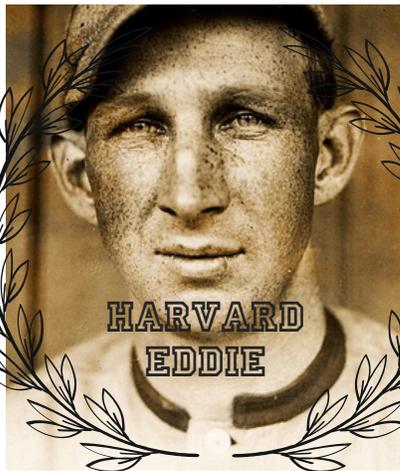
EDDIE GRANT | DIGITAL EXHIBITION

Eddie Grant, affectionately known as "Harvard Eddie," led a life marked by notable achievements both on and off the baseball field. Here are some key highlights

- Born on May 21, 1883, in Franklin, Massachusetts, Grant attended Dean Academy before enrolling at Harvard University. He graduated with an undergraduate degree in 1905 and a law degree in 1909. Honor States
- Baseball Career: Grant played as a third baseman in Major League Baseball from 1905 to 1915, with teams including the Philadelphia Phillies, Cincinnati Reds, and New York Giants. He was known for his defensive skills and base-stealing prowess.
- Military Service and Ultimate Sacrifice: Demonstrating his patriotism, Grant enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War I, serving as a captain in the 77th Infantry Division. He was killed in action on October 5, 1918, during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive while attempting to rescue the "Lost Battalion."
- Legacy and Memorials: In honor of his sacrifice, a monument was unveiled at the Polo Grounds in 1921. Additionally, the Edward L. Grant Highway in The Bronx and Grant Field at Dean College bear his name, commemorating his contributions both as an athlete and a soldier.



Scan the QR code to see digital exhibition.



National Native American Heritage Month

The town of Franklin, Massachusetts, is situated on the ancestral lands of the Pequot and Narragansett tribes, whose history and culture have shaped the region long before European settlement.

As one of the oldest communities in the country, Franklin's relationship with Indigenous culture is rooted in the land and its people. The Pequot and Narragansett tribes lived in this area, utilizing its rich natural resources for sustenance, trade, and cultural practices.

Today, the town honors this history by acknowledging the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples to the region, striving to build awareness and foster respectful dialogue about their heritage, traditions, and the ongoing impact of their culture. By recognizing and preserving this legacy, Franklin not only celebrates its diverse past but also works toward a more inclusive and informed future for all its residents.



Visit Franklin Historical Museum for more programming & history!



DECEMBER 2025

FALLEN HEROES

DECEMBER 6TH HARRY R. BEAN, KOREA
DECEMBER 28TH CHARLES E. MASON, WWII
UNKNOWN, ALBERT E. JOHNSON, WWI

NOTABLE DAYS

WORLD AIDS DAY, DECEMBER 1ST
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, DECEMBER 3RD
PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY, DECEMBER 7TH
HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, DECEMBER 10TH
BILL OF RIGHTS DAY, DECEMBER 15TH
WINTER SOLSTICE, DECEMBER 21ST
CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25TH
KWANZAA, DECEMBER 26TH - JANUARY 1ST
NEW YEAR'S EVE - DECEMBER 31ST

APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS

UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH
NATIONAL GIVING MONTH



Get ready for an incredible season of holiday magic in Franklin! Our community is gearing up for a festive lineup of events for November and December 2025, bringing together music, arts, holiday traditions, and family fun.

From wreath-making workshops and dazzling tree lightings to joyful caroling and special performances of The Nutcracker, there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Expect returning favorites like "Christmas on the Common," the "A-Wreath-of-Franklin" celebration, and cozy storytime events with Mrs. Claus at the Franklin Historical Museum.

Plus, new surprises are in store to make the season even more special! Stay tuned for official dates and details coming soon—follow along at franklinculture.org and on social media so you don't miss a moment of the holiday magic! Scan the QR code for more information.

Santa Story Walk at the Franklin Public Library. Free and open to the public. Join us at the library for a special indoor version of a beloved tradition! Follow the pages of a cozy winter story, enjoy crafts and activities as you move through our winding line of holiday fun, and make your way up to meet the big guy himself

Beautification Day with the Franklin Downtown Partnership & the Franklin Garden Club, (Volunteer Opportunity).

Mrs. Claus visits the Franklin Historic Museum. (Free and open to the public).

Christmas on the Common, 4-6pm, Free and open to the public! For more information check: christmasonthecommon.my.canva.site Santa and Mrs. Clause arrive on a firetruck at 4pm! Each child will receive a gift from Santa + tasty treat. Children can exchange letters with Santa!

A-Wreath-of-Franklin Sip, Shop, Stroll & Roll in Downtown Franklin. Live music, shopping and specialty offers from stores downtown! Free and open to the public + shop local!

The Nutcracker, Franklin School of Performing Arts, See website for showtime details. Tis the Season, Franklin School of Performing Arts. Visit website for showtime details and tickets.

Winter Stroll at the Franklin Senior Center, Free and open to the public! It is a multi-generational, FREE event for everyone in the community. We have 20+ decorated trees, Inflatables, Santa and Mrs. Claus, Elvis singing Holiday songs, FFD Touch a Truck, A craft room for the kids, Hot chocolate, cider and cookies plus MORE!



THANK YOU



Photo Credits | The Franklin MA250 brochure proudly features photographs sourced from the extensive archives of the Franklin Historical Museum and their vibrant Instagram page (@FranklinHistoricalMuseum). Many of these images showcase the remarkable work of Stanley Chilson, a passionate and accomplished amateur photographer whose dedication to documenting the everyday life and landscapes of Franklin during the early-to-mid 20th century has left an invaluable visual legacy. Chilson's work captures the essence of the town's rich history, highlighting its people, traditions, and transformations over the years. We extend our gratitude to the Franklin Historical Museum for preserving these treasures and allowing us to celebrate Franklin's past through their shared imagery.

TOWN OF FRANKLIN SUPERLATIVE
MOST LIKELY TO THRIVE IN HISTORY AND
THE FUTURE

this book belongs to
benny franklin

Ben! great
birthday
party!
Excited for
2028

