

FRANKLIN FIRST



TOWN
ADMINISTRATOR
TOWN of FRANKLIN

VOLUME 13
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2025



FRANKLIN DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP'S ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

PHOTOS BY CORY SHEA

SEPTEMBER

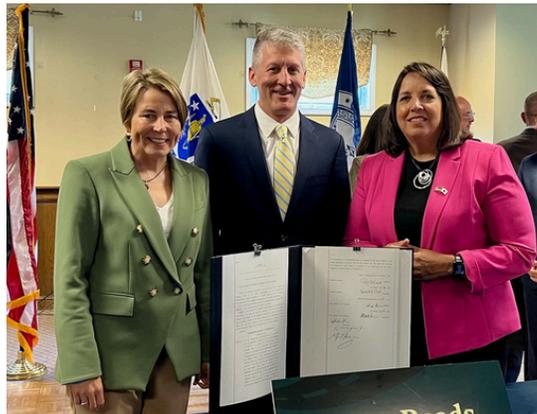
Historical Museum Cupola



The restoration of museum's cupola is complete! The completion of this Community Preservation Act funded project represents the final step of the exterior preservation of this historic building, which was Franklin's original Town Hall in 1842!

Chapter 90 Funding

Town Administrator Jamie Hellen attended a press conference to celebrate the additional supplemental apportionment infrastructure funds through the state's [Chapter 90 Program](#) of \$375,831. The original apportionment brought Franklin \$1,408,306.11. The additional apportionment, funded through the millionaires tax, brings the total FY26 allotment to \$1,784,137.23.



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR HELLEN WITH GOVERNOR HEALEY & LT. GOVERNOR DRISCOLL

Harvest Festival 2025!



DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS AT HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Saturday, September 27th the Franklin Downtown Partnership hosted Franklin's 23rd annual Harvest Festival downtown. Thousands turned out to enjoy live music, local vendors, crafts and activities, tasty treats and fun for all!

Grants and Rewards

The Town's Safety Committee was awarded a \$10,000 Risk Management Grant which was applied toward the purchase of 17 2-way radios for the Franklin Public Schools. Additionally, the Facilities Dept. received \$4,302 from Eversource as a financial incentive reward for the Town's investment in energy efficiency!



franklinma.gov

TOWN COUNCIL
[2026 Meeting Schedule](#)
[2026 Monthly Office Hours Schedule](#)
[Contact Town Council](#)

TOWN ADMINISTRATION
355 East Central St., 3rd Floor
(508) 520-4949
[Contact Town Admin Staff](#)



OCTOBER

10/22/25 Town Council Meeting Highlights [Link to YouTube meeting recording.](#) [Link to meeting agenda packet](#)

- **Swearing in of promoted Fire Department employees** - Franklin's new Fire Chief, Charles Allen, was sworn into office! Chief Allen was promoted after having been a member of the Franklin Fire Dept. for 25 years. Additionally, 2 other members of the FFD were sworn into their new positions: Sean Lovely as Battalion Chief and Jaden Brodeur as Lieutenant. Congratulations to all on these well deserved promotions!
- **Franklin's 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee Appointments** - The Town Council ratified the appointments of the 15 members of [Franklin's 250th Anniversary Committee](#). Thanks to all members for volunteering!
- **3 Presentations** - 1) [Historical Museum 2.0](#) presented by Alan Earls, Historical Commission Chair, 2) [Historic District Commission Process](#) presented by Will Lee, Historical Commission Member and Rowan Lowell, Town Archivist, and 3) [Town Council & Town Administrator 2024-2025 Goals Update](#) presented by Town Administrator Jamie Hellen.
- **Notable Legislation** - The Town Council approved the adoption of the [Schmidt Farm and Maple Hill Master Plans](#), 2 Zoning Bylaw Amendments relative to **Residential Commercial Kitchens** and 6 Zoning Bylaw Amendments comprising the creation of the **Crossing Neighborhood District!**



SWEARING IN OF FIRE CHIEF CHARLES ALLEN

10/29/25 Town Council Meeting Highlights [Link to YouTube meeting recording.](#) [Link to meeting agenda packet](#)

- **Appointments** - The Town Council ratified the appointments of Jennifer Sweeney as a member of the Agricultural Commission and Roberta Trahan as a member of the Council on Aging. Thank you both for your service to the Town!
- **The Elks Riders** presented a donation to the Veterans Services Dept. in the amount of \$2,000! The Elks Riders have been generous donors for many years and the Town is sincerely grateful for their exceptional and ongoing support.
- **Notable Legislation** - The Town Council approved the adoption of the [Cannabis Licensing Local Approval Process and Cannabis Social Equity Policy](#).



PRESENTATION OF ELKS RIDERS DONATION CHECK

Accessibility Ramp Ribbon Cutting and Mural Unveiling at Franklin MBTA Station!

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate accessibility upgrades at the Dean MBTA station and the unveiling of public art. This exciting event was attended by Senator Rausch, Representative Roy and MBTA officials in addition to members of Town staff, Town Council, Disability Commission and other community stakeholders. Accessibility upgrades include a new platform as well as improved lighting, signage, parking and more. [Click here](#) for the MBTA's write-up on these wonderful accessibility improvements!

Additionally, the unveiling of the Franklin / Dean train station mural, funded by a State public art earmark and painted by local artist Kayla Nisbett, was celebrated by all. [Click here](#) for more information on the Dept. of Arts, Culture & the Creative Economy page of the Town website!



MBTA ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES RIBBON CUTTING



FRANKLIN / DEAN TRAIN STATION MURAL AND ARTIST KAYLA NISBETT



Crossing Neighborhood Tour

Following the celebration at the MBTA, Secretary Augustus joined for a tour of the Crossing Neighborhood area to discuss housing, recreation and other issues related to the new vision of the district.



NOVEMBER

11/12/25 Town Council Meeting Highlights

[Link to YouTube meeting recording](#) [Link to meeting agenda packet](#)

- **The newly elected members of the Town Council** were sworn in by the Town Clerk. Bobby Delorco was elected Chair, Gene Grella was elected Vice Chair, and Ted Cormier-Leger was elected Clerk. The Council voted to adopt the Procedures Manual of the Franklin Town Council.
- **Town Council Orientation** – Town Attorney Mark Cerel and Town Administrator Jamie Hellen led an orientation for the Town Council to publicly engage in a Question and Answer session around the core elements of the responsibility of the Town Council.
- **FY26 & FY27 Budget Timeline** – During the Town Administrator’s Report, Jamie Hellen gave an update on the [FY26 & FY27 Budget Timeline](#).

11/19/25 Town Council Meeting Highlights

[Link to YouTube meeting recording](#) [Link to meeting agenda packet](#)

- **Appointments** – The Town Council ratified the appointments of Elizabeth O’Day as a member of the Cultural Council, Jennifer D’Angelo as a member of the Finance Committee, and Brandon Carrico as a member of the Historical Commission. Thank you all for your service to the Town!
- **Notable Legislation** – The Town Council approved the [Town’s participation in the Group Insurance Commission](#). Additionally, the Council approved the [withdrawal of Town Council support](#) of the proposed Chapter 40B affordable housing project located at 444 East Central Street. (To see the ZBA’s final decision please [click here](#)).

2025 Local Election

The [2025 biennial local election](#) took place on November 4th. Congratulations to all new and reelected Town officials!

Board of Assessors – Christopher Feeley

Town Clerk – Nancy Danello

Town Council – Jane Callaway-Tripp, Theodore Cormier-Leger, Robert Dellorco, Gene Grella, Caroline Griffith, Michael LeBlanc, Stephen Malloy, Maxwell Morrongiello, Kenneth Ojukwu

Board of Health – Diane Daddario

Planning Board – Mark Mucciarone, Eric Steltzer, William Lee
School Committee – David Callaghan, Al Charles, Paul Griffith, Reis Hansen, Stephen Karunakaran, Nadia Mausolf, Ruthann O’Sullivan

Franklin Ridge Senior Housing

[The Town is excited to announce](#) that after 11 years of groundwork, the Franklin Ridge Senior Housing project has secured all necessary funding and approvals to commence construction! This 3-story, 60-unit affordable senior housing complex is expected to open in late 2027.

Franklin Public Library in the News!

The Franklin Public Library was featured in the [November 23rd edition of the Boston Globe](#) for their remarkable exhibition “Visions of a Master: Tommaso Juglaris at the Library and Beyond”! Congratulations to Vicki Earls, Felicia Oti, and the entire Library team for bringing this vision to life! We encourage everyone to read the article [linked here](#).

CSX Rail Trail

Pictured to the right: Congressman Auchincloss, Representative Roy, Senator Rausch, Franklin Children’s Museum, Rick Kaplan, Town staff and the Franklin-Bellingham Rail Trail Committee gathered to celebrate the acquisition of the final stretch of railbed that will connect the Crossing Neighborhood and Downtown Franklin to an 80 mile State owned recreational trail for walking and biking!



The Countdown is on to Franklin’s 250th Anniversary! Franklin’s 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee held its kickoff meeting on November 20th, marking the official start to the planning of this exciting, milestone celebration, with 833 days to go until March 2, 2028!

Firefighter Memorial

The Franklin Fire Department held their annual Firefighter memorial on November 2nd in honor of the brave men and women who have lost their lives in the line of duty.





PHOTO BY KAYLA NISBETT

DECEMBER

12/03/25 Town Council Meeting Highlights [Link to YouTube meeting recording.](#) [Link to meeting agenda packet](#)

- **FY26 Tax Classification Hearing** – The Town Council held a [public hearing](#) on the issue of allocating the local property tax levy among the 5 property classes for FY26. All five Tax Classification resolutions were approved.
- **Discussions** – Town Administrator Jamie Hellen led discussions on the Five Year Fiscal Forecast as well as staffing in the in the Town Administration Department. Related materials are all [linked to the agenda](#).

12/17/25 Town Council Meeting Highlights [Link to YouTube meeting recording.](#) [Link to meeting agenda packet](#)

- **Proclamations** – The Town Council recognized the 8th Grade Franklin Panthers Football Team, the FHS Cheerleading Team & the FHS Girls Volleyball Team on their exceptional, championship 2025 seasons!
- **Appointments** – The Town Council ratified the appointment of Christopher “Kit” Brady as a member of the Council on Aging. Thank you, Kit, for your service to the Town!
- **License Transactions** – The Town Council approved renewal of all alcohol licenses in Franklin, which expire annually on December 31st.
- **4 Presentations / Discussions** – 1) [Snow & Ice Program](#) – presented by Brutus Cantoreggi & Carlos Rebelo, 2) [Social Equity Policy](#), 3) [Town Charter](#), 4) [Citizen Satisfaction Survey](#) – all presented by Jamie Hellen.

Franklin welcomes the Marmol Family!

The property located at 762 Washington St., formerly owned by the Town of Franklin and known as the “Old South Church”, is under renovation by Old Colony Habitat for Humanity to become a beautiful single-family home for a local family in need. We are excited to share that a family has been selected! Welcome, Marmol Family! To learn more, see this [press release and YouTube video](#), and here is another great video from [Habitat for Humanity’s LinkedIn page](#).

Pictured to the right, FPS Superintendent Lucas Giguere & Town Administrator Jamie Hellen with Old Colony’s Kim Thomas, CEO, and Brenda McDonough, President of the Board of Officers, met with Sally Marmol and daughter Amelia, to welcome them to the Town and Schools.



Franklin Gets Festive!

Senior Center’s Winter Wonderland

Winter Wonderland was a meaningful and memorable evening for our community, welcoming more than 500 residents to the Senior Center during a season that can be joyful for some and difficult for others. We know the holidays can be especially challenging for older adults and those feeling isolated, and this event was intentionally designed to create a warm, inclusive space centered on connection and belonging. While the Senior Center’s mission is rooted in serving older adults, Winter Wonderland also invited the broader community to come together across generations — sharing music, activities, and holiday cheer. The strong turnout and community involvement reinforced the Senior Center’s role as both a vital resource for seniors and a welcoming gathering place for all.



A Wreath Of Franklin

The [second annual A-Wreath-Of-Franklin](#) was held on December 13th! This successful event was led by Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy Dept. Director Cory Shea in partnership with the Cultural Council, Cultural District Committee, and Downtown Partnership. The full day of family fun included a pop-up market at the Black Box featuring over 20 local artisan vendors, a pancake breakfast at the library with music by Jamie Barrett, ornament decorating, wreath voting and more!



PHOTOS BY KAYLA NISBETT

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS!

Town Administrator Jamie Hellen achieved the [Credentialed Manager designation](#) from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA)! To be eligible for the [ICMA credential](#), recipients must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government and a demonstrated commitment to high standards of integrity, lifelong learning and professional development. This is a significant and rare accomplishment, as Jamie is one of only 40 local government officials currently credentialed in Massachusetts. Congratulations, Jamie!



Pictured above, 3rd from right, **Franklin Senior Center's Supportive Day Coordinator, Kathleen Laughran** achieved her MCOA Program Manager Certification. This accomplishment reflects her dedication, leadership, and commitment to excellence in serving older adults. Congratulations, Kathleen!



Pictured above, **Supportive Day staff Kathleen Laughran and Amanda Rabbit** presented upon request at the MCOA conference with over 500 in attendance. They provided a comprehensive description of Franklin's program and how other municipalities could replicate it. Great job, Kathleen and Amanda - way to set the bar!



DEPARTMENT UPDATES!

Treasurer/Collectors Department

NEW LOCKBOX PAYMENT ADDRESS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY!

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR FILES & ENSURE YOU ARE MAILING PAYMENTS TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

**TOWN OF FRANKLIN
PO BOX 848220
BOSTON, MA 02284-8220**

To ensure the proper processing of payments, **it is imperative the full address with the zip code extension is used.**

Payments can still be made at the Treasurer/Collectors office with check, cash or credit/debit card
Mon/Tue/Thu 8am – 4pm, Wed 8am – 6pm, Fri 8am – 1pm
or online at Unipay:

<https://unipaygold.unibank.com/customerinfo.aspx>

Passport Office

Need a Passport? Need a Passport Photo? Need Both?

WE CAN HELP!

DS-11 applications are accepted at the Passport Office located at the Franklin Town Hall.

If you need photos to complete the DS-11 application process or just a photo for a renewal, we offer these services right on site! How convenient!

All appointments can be scheduled at passports@franklinma.gov

Questions? Passport Acceptance Agent Sue Reagan will be happy to help you. **Please call Sue at 508-553-4890.**

***Remember: Passports must be valid for at least 6 months past the return date of your trip.**

HAPPY & SAFE TRAVELS!

New Municipal Aggregation Energy Supply Agreement

In late Fall the [Town announced a new power supply agreement](#) with First Point Power with rate of 13.9 cents per kWh would commence in November. This rate is locked in through November 2028 and is 1.2 cents less than the previous rate of 15.1 cents per kWh contracted with Dynege Energy. The energy supplied through the new contract meets Massachusetts' renewable energy requirements at 63% renewable (69% in 2026). Alternatively, Franklin residents will also have the option to utilize energy that is 100% renewable and locally sourced at a rate of 16.6 cents per kWh.

Please visit the [Municipal Aggregation page on the Town website](#) for program enrollment instructions and detailed information.

EV Charging Stations Go Live

On October 1st the Town of Franklin began charging a fee of \$0.35 per kWh up to 4 hours (\$1.00 per additional hour) for the use of Town's AmpUp EV charging stations. Here is a [link to the press release](#) which includes details and instructions.

Police Station Building Committee Website Launch

The Police Station Building Committee launched a new website dedicated to the Police Station building project. Residents who wish to stay informed of the plans, progress and community impact of Franklin's new police facility should visit

<https://www.franklinmapoliceproject.com>.

What's ahead in early 2026 ➔

January 14th the Finance Committee will discuss the economics of development and reviewing the FY26 Capital Plan.

January 21st the Town Council will feature a comprehensive presentation on infrastructure needs.

February 4th the Town Council will review the FY26 Capital Plan and see an updated FY27 budget model.