

# Welcome to 2021

Rarely has a new year been so anticipated.  
Rarely has the old year been so challenging.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 01/03/2021

**2020, good riddance!** That was the broadly shared sentiment on New Year's Eve.

Midnight came. Midnight went. The ball dropped on an evacuated Times Square. That sorry visual summed up 2020. Confetti going nowhere. No cheering throngs. Ryan Seacrest was working overtime to gin up manic excitement from - nobody. (sound effect of crickets.) The surreal scene unfolded like a bad dress rehearsal. This apocalyptic moment was 2020's parting 'gift' to the world. 2020 threw a going-away party - and nobody came. (sound effect of one feeble party horn.)

I take a few minutes to watch the ball drop every year. Underneath the noise and hoopla there is a clock-tick at the stroke of midnight; one that I just don't hear.

Can't say the 'moment' ever hits home for me at midnight. My sense of a New Year happens when that very first glimmer of predawn light arrives the next morning. This hushed, solitary waking moment, separated from all that was, is when 2021 becomes real. It is my existential, experiential journey from first night to first light.

This is the light of hope and promise. It is mine.

Now we turn to hope for 2021 - more than usual. However, we also need resolve - more than usual. Steely resolve - for our journey from darkness.

Yes, it will be darkest before the promised dawn. But, by steely resolve that dawn will surely come. That resolve is simply to be kind and considerate to others around you, be they friend or stranger.

We are resolved to defeat covid 19 in 2021. When it's gone, we can party- like it's 1999.

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# Welcome to 2021 – Part 2?

Rarely has a new year been so anticipated.  
Rarely has it begun with a flying faceplant.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 01/10/2021

It's ironic yet fitting that the start of a New Year should cap off the past four years by tacking a massive exclamation point of shame onto the outgoing administration. The time has come at long last to bring presidential chaos and insanity to a close.

This week Trump, former reality TV star, staged a new level of extreme reality TV. "Gee, what would happen if I told my mob of angry minions to overthrow Congress? Let's find out, shall we?"

Proximal causation cannot be denied. Trump as the Instigator-in-Chief did not just let this surreal mayhem happen on his watch. He made this happen. It is his fault. This travesty, sedition and insurrection is Trump's grand finale and grievous fault. Let this define his legacy.

Five people died as a direct consequence of Trump's call-to-action. Their blood is on his hands. Note that he hasn't said a word about those who died. His fault. Let this define his legacy.

375,000 Covid 19 deaths – and still climbing ever faster like a rocket. His fault. Let this define his legacy.

His constant thug-like threats against fellow Republican lawmakers. His fault. Let this define his legacy.

However belatedly, for the good of our country the major social media platforms have finally shut him down – permanently. But there are other fringe platforms out there that will happily give him the megaphone and political power that he craves.

Unless the people vote for integrity over outrageous personality, this is not over.

All of the above are facts. In fairness, if someone wishes to present some other facts, we will present them here. Want more facts? Read on.

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# Building Back Better Than Ever!

Looking back, looking ahead - things are looking up.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 01/17/2021

A year ago at this time we began worrying about this new virus cum pandemic. Eleven months ago we shut down. Our studios remain closed. They will likely remain closed well into Spring - perhaps longer. Our TV and radio studios are dark. Painful, but necessary.

Along the way we have had to pivot - shift gears - call it what you will, but this new normal that is still defining itself has forced us to revisit everything that we do. Our technical facilities and operations had to be reworked from the ground up - quickly.

First up - Get the radio station reworked to enable remote operations from homes. Franklin Public Radio relies on volunteers to create our weekly programming heard on wfpr.fm. Since last year our volunteers have risen from 17 to 30, almost double. Their programming has expanded from four days to span the entire week.

Town Chambers required a significant facility redesign to incorporate live remote interaction between residents and meeting officials via Zoom. This was done with permanence in mind, providing greatly valued, very convenient access for all. There are more planned improvements pending through Spring. We have also upgraded our website, adding live streaming in HD for all three of our channels as well as video-on-demand service for our programs and government meetings.

More recently, we have also added live high school sports coverage for parents who can't attend our Panther games. We are continuing to refine and expand this effort. We are working with neighboring towns to carry the 'away' games as well. Like our radio and government efforts, this also is a permanent change for the better.

Change happens. Each and every day we make choices - to have that change affect us as it will, or to drive that change toward a direction of our choosing; converting the daunting challenges of unexpected change into newfound opportunities for growth. Given all that has happened to us in 2020 - and all that we have made happen - and all that we will continue to make happen in 2021 - I am enthused - and grateful. IMHO, 2021 and beyond will be nothing short of amazing - for all of us.

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# Optimism!

It is a truly new, and a newly true time.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 01/24/2021

On election night we saw the numbers roll in – for both sides. Red and Blue states and counties were in a tug of war going late into the night. The results were not yet clear when we finally fell asleep. That was 2016.

The next day we entered a Twilight Zone existence. The show's creator and host, Rod Serling might have summed it up thusly.

‘Submitted for your consideration – one Donald J. Trump, citizen celebrity, famous for being infamous. A president – a man who would be king, but democracy denied him. Our cautionary tale? Careful what you vote for. You just might get it – in the Twilight Zone.’

We drifted in a twilight of dread from election to inauguration, fearing the worst. That's what we got. How bad could it be? We found out.

2020 – on election night we saw the numbers roll in – for both sides. Red and Blue states and counties, again in a tug of war going late into the night. The results were not yet clear when we finally fell asleep.

When Biden won – a shift – from Twilight Zone's last gleaming – to dawn's early light.

However, again we drifted in that twilight of dread from election to inauguration, watching the worst. We saw the public breakdown of the Leader of the Free World; a man who proved capable of delusional, deceitful, desperate deeds.

People are said to be neurotic if they constantly obsess about castles in the clouds. They become psychotic when they try to move in. The insanity defense – it's all Trump has left for his insurrection of January sixth. Let this attempted coup long be remembered as our American Guy Fawkes Day.

Now Uncle Joe's in the house. We can all finally exhale – in optimism.

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# The Race is On!

Zoomin' cars. What's not to like?

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 01/31/2021

From time to time our crew at Franklin.TV gets to work on a 'reach project'. We find a program or event that we haven't covered before where we have an opportunity to stretch our production skills. That's how we roll.



Or - in this case, how the pine cars roll. Welcome to Franklin's Pine Car Derby, 2021.

A fun Saturday shoot - a slick, thirty-five-foot race track spanning our large studio. Of the thirty awesome pine cars in the race, who emerged as the lucky winners? Check our program schedule in the weeks ahead to find out.

Next week you can also stream it on demand.

I'll admit my money is down on #28 - 'Twinkie.'  
Why? Simple. 'Cuz - Kreme filling! Uh-huh!  
A car filled with empty calories? I am so on it.  
Let the good times roll!

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# FlyPack!

It's an Entire TeeVee Station-in-a-Box.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 02/07/2021

What's a flypack? It's a highly portable, multi-camera video production system.



The design goal: As small, light, power stingy, yet capable and flexible as possible. There are ready-to-air video production systems available, but they are very limited in form and function. We wanted a true control room housed in a single go-case. That meant the custom connection of several components into a custom casing. The video switcher, video recorder, audio mixer, computers, and supporting devices are all permanently connected to each other via a wiring harness.

The flypack can be deployed on a compact 2x4 foot table - or in the back of an SUV. It requires only 160 watts (a cigarette lighter) and weighs only 40 pounds. Packed up, it's a box - 18x16x12 inches as a custom case, cut and assembled from Coroplast. It easily flops open in under a minute, and can accept 4 cameras, the 2 computers for graphics and Zoom sources, and up to 6 microphones. The only connections are the cameras, microphones and ethernet. There are also optional video Program and Zoom-screen feeds to external displays for hosts and guests on camera. Program audio is also available for a P.A. system. As a remote production system, our flypack is totally 'out there'. The typical setup time in a meeting room is 30 to 45 minutes. Laying out the longer cable runs required at a playing field takes a bit more time.

When a thing works well, do it again. So we did. We assembled two more flypacks.



After a season of successful sports events, we've made some minor improvements. With two more systems we can address the rising need to cover more simultaneous community events on the road - as we work to build back better than ever.



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# Shopping? Think Long!

Save some money, and just perhaps save your life?

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 02/14/2021

In this ever-more complicated world I seek simplicity. I like simple. It's my thing. When you discover a simpler way to do something or save some time or a few dollars, that's a good day.

It seems there's nothing simple about the C19 virus. Even in our push toward mass vaccination there is complexity. The virus threatens us with mutation, and the looming possibility that its eradication may be more complex than we thought. The end is less clear. The need to remain vigilant and distant goes on. Washing our hands, disinfecting surfaces, masking, now double-masking. The risk of contagion is rising. Yet somehow, we still need to go about the ordinary business of our daily lives.

There's a simple shopping habit I learned many moons ago. If I need one, buy three or four. Is it small? Is it inexpensive? Will it keep? How long? Will I eventually use it all? If yes, buy more. Make a checklist of these common items. Is it on sale? Bonus! This is about simplicity and efficiency - and in these times, some added safety. The store is among the most public of places that we frequent regularly. Reduce the frequency, reduce your risk of infection. Not all of us can or want to shop online.

When you do go to the store, make that trip more productive. You will find that by working the long game with your shopping list, life becomes a bit simpler (and safer). Fewer trips to the store(s) saves money through sales and BOGO (Buy One - Get One) discounts. You also save money on gas.

Most kitchens have cabinets wrapping the walls. A century ago, the typical kitchen had a walk-in pantry. Do you have space that can become a longer-term pantry? That's where you keep your checklist. That's where you can plan what to stock as you head out to the store.

Yes, this all sounds stupidly simple. Duh!  
But, here's a real statistic worth knowing.  
Trips to the store - down fifty percent.  
That saves you more time, more money -  
and these days, a bit more safety.

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# Vaccine, Anyone? Oops!

If only - Our Instant Gratification is Offline.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 02/21/2021

Soooooo, the C19 vaccine distribution in Massachusetts was expanded to include folks aged 65 and up, and another 50K doses would be available as of Thursday. The good news - and the bad news - it made another million folks eligible.

The Wednesday 11PM newscasts noted that appointments for the doses would go online Thursday at 8AM. Come 7:30AM - the state's website collapsed. Oops!

There has been much blaming, shaming, finger pointing and general frustration expressed in the media. The pundits were quick to hang blame on the Governor. Yes, he's the guy at the top. Yes, things could have gone better with planning phone banks and website design. However, launching an instant phone crew to answer 100,000 frantic callers or handle a million appointment requests (for those 50,000 doses). Not easy. Not at all.

Everyone is needling Charlie with pointed criticism about shots that can't come fast enough. However - even the seemingly infinite resources of our vast Internet are not actually - infinite. It has very physical limits. Anyone with techno-geek skills can use a home computer as a small internet server to host a website online. But, your typical 'high speed' Comcast connection would be swamped by only a few hundred people trying to access that awesome site. Oops!

Even with a farm of hosting servers and very wide Internet backbone bandwidth, the Massachusetts vaccination website was statistically doomed by the million new eligible applicants, all trying to squeeze through that digital doorway at once. How does Google do it? They own fifteen percent of the Internet. They are everywhere. Same with Amazon. These organizations grew over time - no instantaneous demand.

Many years ago I produced a TeeVee Bingo program. We aired only one episode. Turns out we took down the city-wide phone exchange by folks constantly redialing our call-in number so they would be ready to yell, "Bingo!" Oops!

This is a time for patience and persistence. Charlie is doing all he can.  
And if you were a lucky vaccine winner this week? Bingo!

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# QUARANTINE BINGO

donate to charity 	learn origami 	bake something 	take your temperature 	dye your hair a funky color 
read a book 	learn a new language 	order takeout 	use hand sanitizer 	create a home garden 
cancel a trip 	play an instrument 	FREE SPACE 	wear PJs all day 	stock up on toilet paper 
binge-watch TV 	rearrange your furniture 	play a video game 	practice gratitude 	meditate 
cry a lot 	make a quarantini 	journal 	thank an essential worker 	do a home workout 

Want one?

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/854307691/quarantine-bingo-quarantine-games>

# March On!

It warms me. It warms me not.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 02/28/2021

March is so fickle.  
Its promise - a tickle  
of warmer days yet to unfold.  
Yet, I remain wary  
as temperatures vary  
with tall mounds of snow getting old.

But, time finds a way  
to brighten each day  
with a little more light in the end.  
And the rising of hope  
on an ascending slope  
of optimism that we transcend.

Lest we let down our guard  
to seek Springtime's reward  
as the Winter snows fly yet again.  
Ahead? Or, behind?  
March should make up its mind  
about which season rules in the end.

For the coming of Spring  
is a time that can bring  
a new lightness and joy to the heart.  
Let this be the year  
that we be of good cheer  
as the dark days of Winter depart.

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In March we march on  
to greet April's dawn  
as our march-of-time tempo is led.  
While each day plays its arch  
we're slog-marching in March  
toward sunnier days just ahead.  
And -  
With each vaccination  
we feel jubilation  
to ease the emotional cost.  
So let this be done  
as we march toward the Sun -  
and never forget those we lost.

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# More Meetings

More Open, More Engagement.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 03/07/2021

Per Massachusetts Open Meeting Laws, many communities have their government meetings televised on a dedicated cable channel. In Franklin, it's Town Hall TV on Comcast 11 and Verizon 29.

Back in 2019 BP - (Before Pandemic) we covered the following meetings regularly:

M Planning Board  
T School Committee  
W Town Council  
T Conservation Commission - or - Zoning Board of Appeals  
Finance Committee

Recently, we've added:

Economic Development Committee  
Town Administrator's Review  
Budget Subcommittee  
Community Preservation Committee - Their inaugural meeting was last week.

Candidates' Forum - Special meetings for Town Council Elections  
Agriculture Commission - May begin soon with a limited series.

Check this week's schedule of live and replay meetings on our last page.

Today we also stream the government channel meetings live on our website. Just click on the Town Hall TV logo. Past meetings are searchable on demand as well.

Adding our live Zoom connection has been a real game changer, a meeting changer. Our government meetings, whether originating in town Chambers or remotely, Zoom makes citizen participation possible and convenient. What you see over Zoom is very much like what you see at home on TV, but you can participate easily. Just remember your Zoom etiquette. Please keep your microphone muted until you are addressed by the meeting chairperson during the public portion of the meeting. Place your computer in a quiet location that is well lit. Note that because you can see everyone - everyone can also see you.

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# Scope

This is huge!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 03/14/2021

While recording a recent session of our weekly radio program 'More Perfect Union' I noted a reaction from our roundtable panelists to my somewhat casual comment. We were discussing the nettlesome issues around the vaccine rollout. I was not criticizing either Charlie Baker or Joe Biden. I was addressing the unprecedented enormous challenges they are facing.

The key word to keep in mind: unprecedented.

The challenges of the pandemic are indeed unprecedented in scope.

When scrambling to address today's emergency today, it's almost impossible to fully anticipate the downstream emergent needs of tomorrow. "Warp Speed" was a simplistic response – throw some money at the private sector and hope. The science came through, but it wasn't backed with a forward plan for the follow-on logistics.

Scope:

Administering the three vaccines will require  $\approx 450$ MM (million) doses to  $\approx 300$ MM willing Americans. (Yes, I'm more than willing.) At 5 minutes per, that's  $\approx 37.5$ MM person/hours or  $\approx 4.7$ MM 8-hour days. That means between now and mid-June we need at least  $\approx 52$  thousand trained personnel working 7 days/week. No slack time.

A best-case working assumption – 15 workers per site. (Clearly not the case.) This means that vaccines must be distributed timely as needed to  $\approx 4$ K sites. Logistics. Considering small sites with 1 or more workers – it's more like  $\approx 20$  thousand sites? That's how Biden's team estimated a need for 20K pharmacies and health centers. The President's team clearly understands logistics, science and math.

Joe also recently arranged to stockpile vaccine for all Americans who want it by the end-of May. Now the challenge is getting that vaccine into arms. They are ramping up and organizing that Herculean effort as quickly as possible. The challenge? Create a temporary national organization having 50 thousand trained staff. All hands on deck who can vaccinate – from dentists to optometrists; from EMT's to midwives; from veterans to veterinarians.

SoW – The Scope-of-Work: The pandemic – It's big. It's complex. It's also unstable. We're asking the Biden administration to work a miracle. He promised 100 million doses in arms in 100 days. A reasonable goal, It got done by day 60. Recall that when Joe took office, he asked us all to mask up for 100 days. A reasonable request. Are we all doing our part?

During our radio session I quipped – Good, Fast. Cheap. Pick two.

You want Good & Fast? It won't be Cheap.  
You want Fast & Cheap? It won't be Good.  
You want Good & Cheap? It won't be Fast.

A corollary observation about shaping the scope of any endeavor.  
When it's all over you'll get to explain one thing:

High Expense Why it costs so much.  
Poor Quality Why it works so bad. (-and/or looks so ugly.)  
Late Timing Why it's not done yet.

The first is often the easiest to explain. We are attempting to accelerate the pace, to literally buy time. In this case, time is not only money; it's also lives. We are in an urgent fight to save lots of lives. We're scrambling to save our national economy and personal livelihoods. Time is not on our side, yet we have no other choice but to fight the good fight. Time is a terrible taskmaster. We the electorate also can be terrible taskmasters, seeking affordable, instant perfection from political leaders.

The total \$6,000,000,000,000.00 (trillion) government bailout cost will average \$1,700.00 in annualized per capita cost for every single American over the next decade. That's \$7,000.00/year for a family of four. Scope.

Consider these numbers as well:

Total Value of U.S. Homes:	\$130,000,000,000,000.00
Annual U.S. Domestic Product:	\$21,000,000,000,000.00
The Federal Government runs on	\$3,360,000,000,000.00 (16% of GDP.)

The Feds spent almost 2X their annual budget trying to save us. That's – um, a lot? More specifically, it raises the total projected Fed budget to 19% GDP for a decade. Now, to be perfectly unclear, if all the economists were laid out end-to-end, they wouldn't reach a conclusion. (- unknown) Economics is known as the dismal science, and I'm pretty dismal at it. Thus, I can't opine as to how our national economy will absorb the cost and continue to grow. However, that too, is actually possible.

Hopefully, it will grant us all brighter days ahead.

But, for now – the cost of salvation is dear, non-negotiable, but absolutely necessary.

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# I Got Shot!

And I'm celebrating.

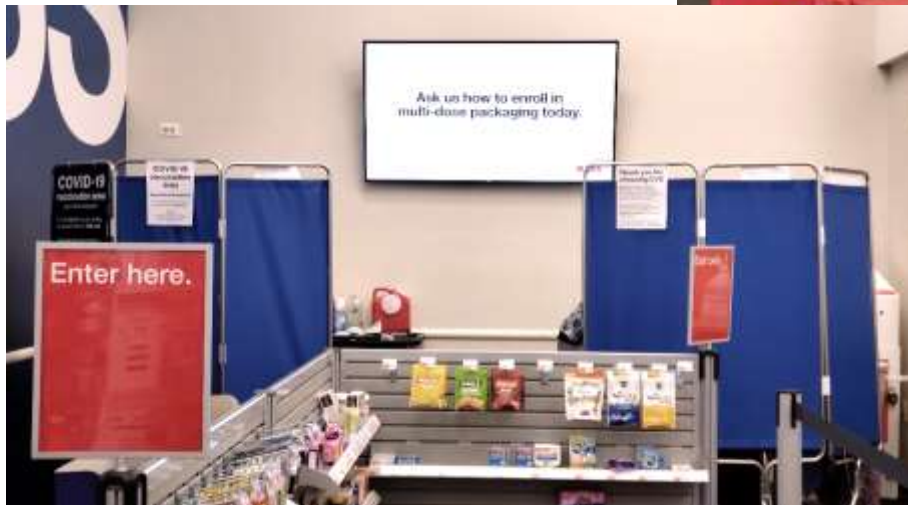
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 03/21/2021

It's true. I got shot! Right in the apothecary! A local CVS Health Hub to be specific. And, it didn't hurt one bit. I'm happily headed back for my second dose this week.



I got my first shot of the Moderna vaccine. Reserving both of my appointments on the CVS website was E-Z. (Thank you.)

There were two stations for vaccinating about two-dozen people each hour,



A year ago I opined that folks should all 'hunker up' (instead of down). Now, 'up' is near, at arm's length. Put your arms into it. Get shot. Get ahead of the virus. Get to better days ahead.



During our 15-minute wait following our shots, the staff was attentively checking in. I sense they were enjoying the positive vibes of relief from everyone.

**Bonus!** They even had yummy chocolates for us in a socially distanced waiting area. Works for me. Vaccine & Chocolates! Yes, you really should. I'll be headed back for seconds - on the vaccine. Perhaps even more on the chocolates.



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**P.S.**

Along with Spring's arrival, the vaccine's arrival is also improving, week-by-week. If you've been frustrated, or have doubts about being vaccinated, do stay the course.

And - if they don't have chocolates where you get vaccinated, just reward yourself. You deserve a little celebration.



# Video on Demand!

How to Find Your Favorite Shows.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 03/28/2021

Franklin TV  
Our TV Guide  
Our Mission  
Supporters  
Volunteers  
Bulletin Board  
News & Info  
DVDs & More  
Legal & Docs  
Contact Us  
Past Shows

If you are reading this then you are familiar with our website, and more pertinently, the second mouse-choice on our list, 'Our TV Guide'.

The other pages and choices explain who we are, what we do, along with legal docs regarding our nonprofit status, agreements with Franklin and the two cable carriers, and so on.

Under 'News & Info' you'll find newsletters that cover our entire history back to 2012 with some also gathered by topic.

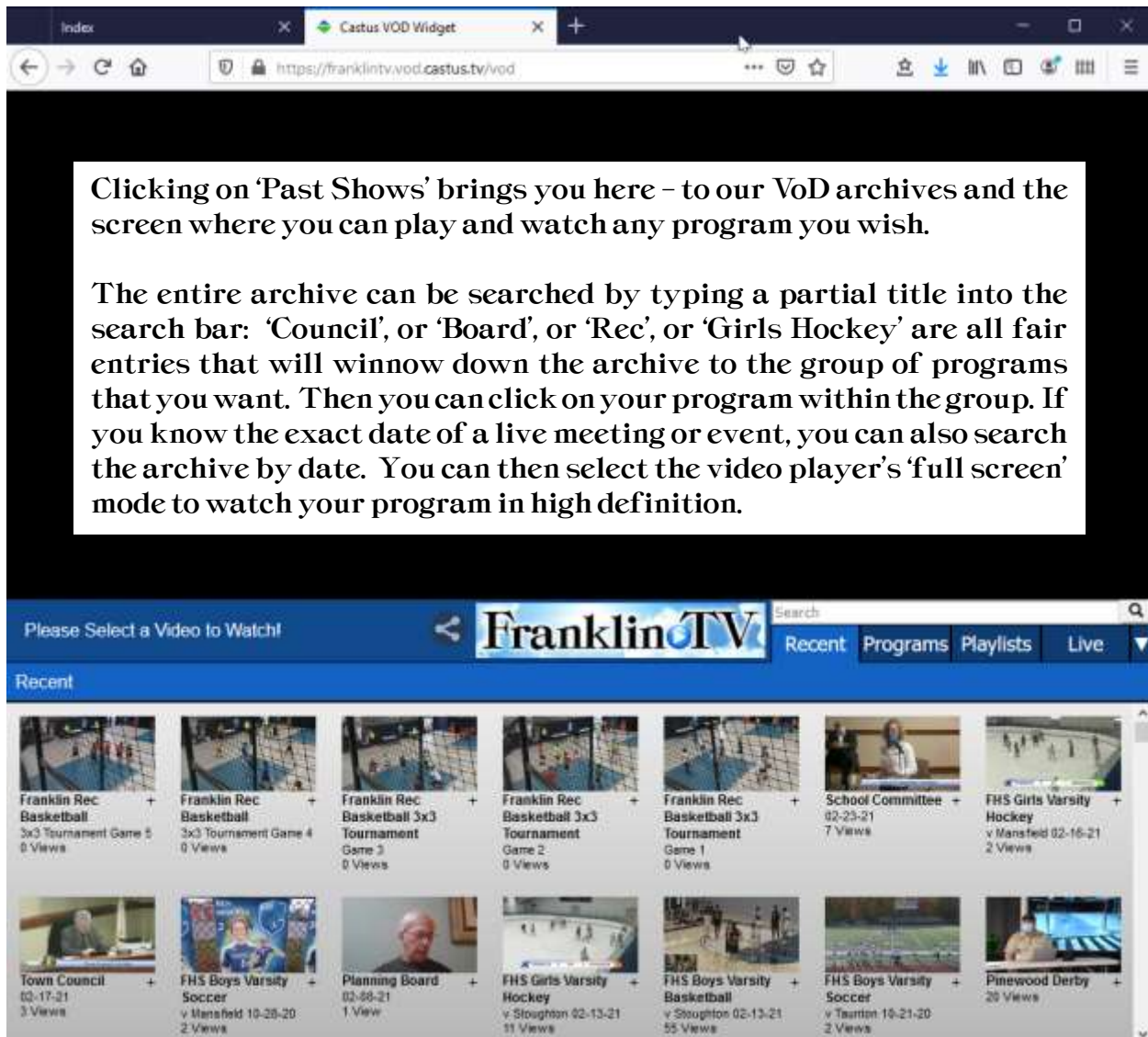
'Past Shows' - This is where you can find a favorite program that we've carried in the past year. We launched our streaming channels and video-on-demand service last July. To date we have posted over 200 programs to our online archives. Note that it takes a few days to a week for us to prepare and post new programs to our VoD archives.

We are also continually working to upload several of our past program series on cooking, health, interviews of general interest, etc. Our online video archives are destined to grow substantially over time.

As our 'Past Shows' archive continues to expand, finding exactly what you want to watch should always be easy. We are committed to that end by making certain that our programs are titled by group consistently to ensure their easy searchability.

Note that you can also watch what's on - right now - live in high definition. Just click on one of our channel logos on our website.





Happy searching - and watching.

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# WFH (Mostly)

Covid life & work, day-by-day

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 04/04/2021

The covid lifestyle is not anyone's first choice, but for those among us with past WFH experience (working from home), our disciplines return - like muscle memory. (It's like riding a bike.) In that sense, I'm fortunate.

It's oh-dark-thirty. No alarm, but I wake (sorta). In those first moments I accept each day for what it is - a gift. It is mine to make; mine to quietly savor. Mr. Coffee is my friend. I shuffle from kitchen to office. I shuffle through my email. After some thinking, writing and hitting [Send] several times, there is what needs doing - today, tomorrow, and in the days ahead. By now the Sun has decided to show up.

The week is peppered with Zoom meetings here and there. The day is peppered with typical office humdrum - pay bills, more email [Reply]. There is documenting of the technical changes that covid has wrought across our facilities. These changes have spawned a rolling rebuild over the past year. There is more planning and research for technical changes yet to come. I click-out some online orders for equipment and supplies. Boxes arrive through the week. With our studio closed, I'm 'Shipping & Receiving'.

Now and then I deliver the boxes to the studio; restart whatever stopped working; fix whatever broke. I pick up the mail. A covid-based routine.

Through the week there are small reminders. The mask and hand sanitizer hanging on the car door tell me why things are the way they are - for now. Just for now. That new normal is a-comin'. Just as I have embraced this day, so too, I shall rise enthusiastically to tomorrow, and eventually to that new normal - at oh-dark-thirty.

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P.S. While you wait impatiently for that new normal - know the days between now and then for what they are - gifts. Enjoy opening each and every one.

# When?

(Oh, I do hope it's soon.)

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 04/11/2021

When?

Members of our writer's group were popping into our Zoom meeting, and that was the first question – right after the HiHowarya.

In the pecking order of that ~~whowhatwhenwherewhy~~ key info, 'when' tends to float somewhere in the middle of the pack. But, as the word came down that the Senior Center was starting to set plans in place to reopen, that was the first question on everyone's lips. When?

Now 'When' is the kind of question that can telegraph the questioner's state of mind.

State 'A': Enthusiastic anticipation. (I can't wait!)

State 'B': Nervous apprehension. (uhh... I can wait.)

Clearly, they were all about state 'A'.

When? How soon? Now? (Oh, please let it be so.)

Well – we don't quite know yet. But, soon. (Fingers crossed.)

It speaks to the notion that getting together – socially engaging IRL (in real life) or ITF (in the flesh) is something that we all deeply dearly miss.

The Senior Center's reopening raised another question for me. How do we help those who can't physically attend? I believe that Zoom meetings are not just a service, but a societal game-changer – a social phenomenon wrought by technology.

I foresee Zoom engagement as part of many Senior Center gatherings ongoing, and we at Franklin•TV are researching how best to assist and achieve that end. We have been investigating the best video systems and tools to make this possible and ensure that Senior Center gatherings and events are more easily accessible to all.

Our Senior Center Writer's Group convenes every week on Wednesdays at 1pm. If you would like to participate in our weekly gatherings and scribblings (and we would be thrilled to have you), just let us know at: [info@franklin.tv](mailto:info@franklin.tv)

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# Got Game? Don't Let Up.

It Ain't Over Till It's Over. -Yogi Berra  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 04/18/2021

## When?

Last week I mentioned the enthusiastic responses from folks who heard that the Senior Center was reopening soon. We all want our 'normal' back – even if that new 'normal' isn't quite – uhh normal (as we remember it). We'll take it. Every week we at Franklin.TV ask the same question. When do we – can we – reopen our studio and community meeting space safely? It seems like every day we hear a mix of good news mixed with cautionary tales. Three-million-plus folks are getting vaccinated daily. Great! Infection rates are high and increasing, and new, more virulent strains are on the march – on the rise. Ugh!

The latest concern is that we are about to hit a social wall – better framed as the point where vaccine availability and convenient access are met with disinterest and reluctance. This is much too soon if we are to achieve herd immunity safely. Some are also concerned over recent news of bust-through infections. These cases happen to folks who are fully vaccinated and presumed to be immune. There have been a few thousand such cases, and among these, some hospitalizations, and under 100 deaths. These early statistics are entirely consistent with the phase 3 trial results of 94-95% protection. Although the vaccines are working as promised, and the risk is far lower, it's not zero. These few adverse outcomes are a reminder that the normal masking/distancing precautions are still prudent and necessary.

For those who put personal rights over public good – I'll offer some sports analogies.

It's late in this game. It's jump ball, and we need a 3-point buzzer-beater. We do not want to go into overtime. We have all witnessed teams that stopped playing – dropped their 'A' game in those waning minutes. We all need to play the full game. This is an elimination game, and we all need the 'W'.

If you can patiently, politely 'coach' a reluctant friend or family member to get the vaccine, you will be doing them, society and yourself a favor. Remind them that they are a dad, a brother, a son, a part of a family team that would be totally devastated by their loss. They are a part of something larger than themselves. If the virus gets ahead of us with another surge? Well – It's like déjà vu all over again.

And – as always –

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# Owl-cam Sees All!

Necessity is the mother of invention.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 04/25/2021

We have all been reprogrammed by 'Le Virus'. What was is no more, and we are headed toward our new normal, whatever that might be. The term 'new normal' has become part of our viral lexicon. We say it, but what is it? No one can fully know. That said, we are already living some part of it in our day-to-day. Specifically, we have changed the way we connect and communicate, and IMHO, some of that change is here to stay. I've opined in past scribblings on this page that Zoom is here to stay. I still believe that.

Before: Me? On a video? OMG! No way! My hair! My house! I'm a mess.

After: Zoom? Yeh, fine. Let's hang out. Casual athleisure attire is de rigueur.

While laptop cams are pretty good for one-on-ones, they fall short for whole family shots and groups. Enter Owl-cam. It's a smart camera. It's wikkid soopa-smaht!

The Meeting Owl is a webcam. Like a webcam, it sees you; it also hears your voice. It has a built-in speaker system. Camera-microphone-speaker, all-in-one, and all connect to your computer with one standard USB cable. No fuss. No muss.

Owl-cam knows who is speaking in a group and shows only that person or persons to the other participants at the far end of the Zoom meeting. What is Owl-cam, and how does it work this magic? It has not 1, but 8 built-in directional microphones arranged in a circle inside its vaguely owl-like casing. Hence, its round shape.

The dome camera is actually at the top, but looks sideways for a 360-degree panorama view. The microphones inform the camera where the person speaking is seated. The camera pulls that person from the panorama image. When two people speak, it does a side-by-side split-screen image of both.

You'll see Owl-cams in action in the days ahead. We're installing some in Town Hall, the Senior Center, our own community room, and wherever future groups gather to conduct hybrid Zoom meets in our new normal.

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# Grand Opening!

Life! Coming Soon to a TV Studio Near You.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 05/02/2021

March, 2020 – we closed up shop. Our building, shuttered. Our routine, shattered. Things taken for granted were taken away. A sad, uncertain time.

As dark months crept by, the building lost its vibrance. Hibernating.

“Is this really necessary? Seems extreme.” Or, so some part of me thought at the time. We all knew little then. It’s not over just yet, but we know more now, We know what to do; what not to do, and we have vaccines and protocols.

Armed with that knowledge, we are currently planning to reopen our studio in the weeks ahead. We will do so safely with limited staff on premises, but we will be open nonetheless. I consider reopening (however cautiously) as an act of defiance. It’s a step toward some normality in a post-pandemic world.

May is a naturally optimistic month. Classically primavera, it brings us flowers and a warm hug. May encourages us to ‘do something – anything’. So, indeed we shall.

There won’t be any fanfare. No ribbon cutting, balloons, streamers or flag banners. Just unlocking the front door and turning the lights back on will be enough. We will have one or two of our staffers present during normal business hours, and our doors will be open to visitors on a limited basis. Step-by-step.

Life, albeit limited, will return as our studio opens. That’s the ‘grand’ part.

And – in this most enthusiastic month, we will remember. Memorial Day is an oddly appropriate way to wrap up May’s natural optimism. We take pause to remember our vets – and our front-line heroes in all this.

For those among them who are no longer with us, we welcome May.

Thanks to them, we get to reopen.

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# The Podcasts Are Coming!

The Dials - They Are-a-Changing - with the Times.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 05/09/2021

“Tune in next week. Same time; same station. Until then, this is [announcer’s name] reminding you to drink your Ovaltine.”

Remember being ‘Tuned in’? Unless you have an old analog radio on a shelf somewhere, we don’t tune in any more. In our digital world there’s no ‘fine-tuning’. We step-select channels. We enter numbers or a URL. We scroll links.

Radio has come a long way since it’s commercial beginning in 1922. Next year, radio will be a century old technology, yet it will continue to become ever newer as its journey continues.

Radio found its way to FM, to stereo, to digital form as HD, to the internet as streaming media - and to Podcasts; which first appeared 30 years ago, long before video-on-demand. Today, podcasting is a rapidly growing two-billion-dollar industry.

Radio first appeared in the car in the 1930’s. It constitutes a fair amount of our daily listening - as radio’s ‘drive time’.

Radio is portable, ubiquitous. Radio always finds its way to where the ears are. We at wfpr.fm are doing the same. Now you can find your way to many of Franklin Public Radio’s programs as podcasts.

What lies in the mists of the future? On-Air Radio & the Internet. **Hybrid Radio.**  
(Wait! What?)

Broadcasters will soon be transmitting background metadata along with their programs. This information will turn your radio into a multimedia player. This will find its way into your future dashboard, most likely via your smartphone as it links its phone-screen interface, widgets and all, to your dashboard’s touch screen.

That means your car also will have internet access through your phone. All of it. Car-based browsers will emerge and evolve - for driving convenience and safety.

Being ‘tuned in’ is about to see some srsly major changes.

As [announcer’s name] always says, “But wait! There’s more!”





You can look for Franklin Public Radio Programs Online at Google Podcasts, Apple Play, and wherever you get your podcasts. We will also be posting these links and more (copy/paste into your browser) on our wfpr.fm website.



### More Perfect Union with Frank Falvey

<https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9tb3JILXB1cmZlY3QtdW5pb24uY2FwdG12YXRILmZtL3Jzc2ZlZWQ?sa-X&ved-0CBYQ27cFahcKEwjwv609LnwAhUAAAAAHQAAAAAQFw>

### Franklin Matters with Steve Sherlock

<https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9mZWVkei5jYXB0aXZhdGUuZm0vZnJhbmtsaW4tbWEtbWF0dGVycy8?sa-X&ved-0CAYQrrcFahcKEwiY-unu8LnwAhUAAAAAHQAAAAAQogE>

### Talk Franklin with Steve Sherlock

<https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9hbmNob3UuZm0vcy8xNGE3MTBhYy9wb2RjYXNOL3Jzcw?sa-X&ved-0CBUQ27cFahcKEwio8Z35-LnwAhUAAAAAHQAAAAAQAg>

### Priest, Rabbi, Minister

<https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9wcmllc3QtcemFiYmktbWlualXNOZlY2FwdG12YXRILmZtL3Jzc2ZlZWQ>

### Senior Scribblers

<https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9zZW5pb3Itc2NyaWJibGVycy5jYXB0aXZhdGUuZm0vcnNmVlZA?sa-X&ved-0CB0Q27cFahcKEwi4gYrY9bnwAhUAAAAAHQAAAAAQBQ>

### Chapters with Jim Derick (Player.fm)

<https://player.fm/series/series-2920877>

### Wonderful World of Wine - with Kim Simone & Mark Lenzi

<https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cDovL2ZlZW5pb3Itc2NyaWJibGVycy5jYXB0aXZhdGUuZm0vcnNmVlZA?sa-X&ved-0CAMQ4aUDahcKEwiw-vrsqbrwAhUAAAAAHQAAAAAQEg>

### Are you dialed in?

And - as always -

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# FHS Graduation 2021!

It's an Outdoor Affair.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 05/16/2021

We began our preparations for FHS Panther Graduation 2021 several weeks ago. Every year it is our most 'mission critical' program, and we take many steps to ensure the event's success as best we can. Given that it's live, happens only once, and more than 400 graduating students have extended families and friends who are eager to watch either on cable or on our Franklin Pride live stream.

No pressure.

Prior to the pandemic we had our technical setup and production routine down pretty well. Even then, we took nothing for granted. In 2020? Well, we all know what happened. We had to record the graduation proceedings carefully over three days while all graduates were socially (and chronologically) distanced. Editing over 400 student moments timely into the final program also was a challenge.

Last year gave us a new celebration - The Panther Car Parade. We covered it live on wfpr.fm 102.9, and this year it's back by popular demand. We plan to carry the parade live on Comcast 96, Verizon 28, video streaming and on the radio as well. We'll be everywhere - in your TV set, your computer, your smartphone and your radio. The Panther Car Parade will take place the day after graduation.

Currently, graduation itself will be outdoors, live from Panther Field on Friday evening at 5pm. Of necessity, it will be a simpler affair. No procession or recession. No live band or chorus. The customary stage will be set on the track in front of the bleachers. The entire field will provide seating for graduates and their families, clustered in pods - socially distanced groups of five. The give-n-get is that, although the ceremonies are simplified, the grads do get to sit with family.

In the event that the weather doesn't cooperate, both events will shift by one day.

You can watch all the festivities - live - on our Franklin Pride Channel, Comcast 96 or Verizon 28. You can also listen - live - on wfpr.fm 102.9. We will also repeat both events the following week and post them to our Video-on-Demand service where you may also download as you wish - to have and to hold.

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# Bob Dean

**Born: November, 1946, Deceased: May 16, 2021**  
<https://www.ginleyfuneralhomes.com/obituaries.html>

First, the backstory:

For many years cable carriers were legally obligated to provision and manage a local access TV studio for free use by residents. Some still do. When Verizon came to Franklin in 2006 they offered some funding to support the existing Comcast local access studio. (We don't need two studios.) Comcast in turn wanted to do the same. So Comcast transferred its 13 main St. studio and staff over to the Town of Franklin and ultimately, from Franklin to us, a new, independent nonprofit group at the end of 2011.



Through all that time Bob was laying plans, pinching pennies, and preparing the way for the entity that would eventually become Franklin•TV. Just as things were finally coming along with the legal formation of Franklin Community Cable Access, dba Franklin•TV as a nonprofit organization with a charter, bylaws, an agreement with Franklin, etc., Bob fell ill, suffering a series of debilitating strokes early in 2012.

Bob's work was conducted in conjunction with a Cable Advisory Board that he helped to form; recruiting volunteers who helped to chart the new studio's future. Most of them continue to serve as board members for Franklin•TV.

Here, in their own words - warm remembrances of Bob Dean:

**Rose Turco:**

I recall the visit Bob made to my home, inviting me to become a board member of this new organization. Bob realized my hesitation in agreeing to something so new to me but for which he had a vision. Needless to say he was successful, and for that I am so appreciative. Here was my former student teaching the teacher!

**Pandora Carlucci:**

I remember him and the filming of town council and school committee meetings in council chambers at the Former Emmons Street town hall. He was a dedicated advocate for cable access.

**Wes Rea:**

Unlike some of you who knew Bob from town, I did not know him other than his name and his association with the public access studio. Once it was clear that Franklin Cable TV was going to be created and become an independent entity [from Comcast], I contacted Bob and asked to be involved. He was a little hesitant and maybe a little suspicious- "Who was this guy that wanted to get involved in local TV?" At the time I was a relative new comer, had only been in Franklin for 23 or 24 years. But after we talked, he welcomed me into the group. He was protecting something that was not only important to him but so important to the Town of Franklin. Bob was a ground-breaker, and Franklin was lucky to have him. And although I knew him for only a short while, I consider myself lucky for that time.

**John Milot:**

He started me filming at the church every other week.  
Really a great person!

**Jay Horrigan:**

I was lucky enough to have met Bob and worked with him at the old Franklin TV. And, like Ken, I remember clearly him pulling up to me in his truck asking me to help him with creating the new version of Franklin TV. Back then there were only a few of us that "worked" for Franklin TV. He and I, and also Ken spent a ton of time reading and going over by-laws Bob created to present to the town about this new TV concept. We sat in meeting after meeting with Jeff Nutting among others. It was a great experience, and I learned a lot from Bob. The big thing he taught me was to be careful saying 'yes' when someone pulls up alongside you, hands you an envelope with bylaw ideas inside and says, "No, no, this won't take up any time at all!" I am so glad I did it, and I am even more thankful for the time I got to spend with Bob, and the knowledge he tried to pass along.

**Ken Norman:**

Jay, I cannot take any credit for the by-laws. I came on board after the Corp was formed in Nov 2011. I do remember asking Bob if there was any heavy lifting (figuratively) about joining. At the time I was actively involved in several projects. Bob of course said, "No, just a few meetings a year." Next thing I know Bob has had a stroke, and I am now the President of a new Corporation I knew nothing about. It has been one of the best jobs I have had in town. Building the new studio on Hutchinson St. with Peter was the most rewarding. I only wish Bob could have seen and enjoyed the ground work he had set out for us.  
My advice: Watch out for guys in pickup trucks.

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# Memorial Day

Memorial Day, May 30, 2021

This weekend the weather might be variable, but it still serves as a gateway to a socially glorious Summer – a return to Summer’s past – to gatherings with family, friends and neighbors. – to pre-covid community. Let Old Glory wave on high in slow motion, celebrating our newfound freedom to socialize once again.



This year we can remember not only our valiant soldiers who gave their lives on the front lines of freedom, but also our valiant front-line responders who died fighting the virus with courage and great compassion for others – for the sick and dying.

What can we do to honor them? Even though things are improving, keep a mask at the ready for situations where appropriate, where compassionate, where you can demonstrate kindness to others who may be immunocompromised. Wear it when and where socially warranted – for your family, for friends, for total strangers.

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. Consider wearing your mask – as a declaration and decoration – as a blue badge of courage – and caring.

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# Congrats to the Grads of 2021

They have persevered through a year like no other.

Well, they did it. The Senior Class of 2021 has officially graduated and brought an end to a school year that was anything but normal. The year was all about being patient – adapting to unpredictable events. So too, the ceremonies were very much like the year. Facing the possibility of a rainout, the outdoor field ceremonies were held off by two hours to let the threatening clouds pass. Being patient – adapting to unpredictable events. – the necessary theme of the year.



As in years past, at the end the students would march out in recession to meet families in the parking lot. Didn't happen. Instead, their families immediately ran to meet them on the field. No more patience. They and their families became the unpredictable event – in the very best sense. Just like that – their year was done.



Thanks to our stalwart TV crew (I don't get to use the word 'stalwart' often), Keith Palmieri, Chris Flynn, Scott Tooker, Li Wang, Chris Leverone and Bill Hurley, we adapted and navigated our way through the festivities as an unpredictable event. Clearly, this year's Franklin Seniors are now well prepared to do the same.

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# Somewhere In Between

Or - Why Do I Feel Undressed? 06-13-2021

As I approach [Store Name - Home Depot, Target, CVS] I stop halfway across the parking lot. Turn around and head back to the car. Again.

Forgot my mask. We are at an in-between time where covid mandates and rules have softened to become guidelines, recommendations - courtesies. While things are getting better and optimism is on the rise, so is confusion. Do I still mask?

To mask, or not to mask -  
that - is the question:

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
the slings and arrows of outrageous infection,  
Or to take arms against a sea of virus  
And by masking - end them.  
To live - to weep  
for those now lost upon the shoals  
of sorry happenstance and doubt  
in science that hath shielded us  
as guide - to light our pathway out.

We are in the churlish waters of change as our new normal envelopes us. Although I'm fully vaxxed, I keep a mask with me - as a courtesy where socially appropriate. If it makes others feel more comfortable, I'm good with it. A social grace.

We're continuing to rework our facility to better accommodate how programs will be produced in a future that still carries some unknowns, and we continue to adapt. We adapted our way in. We adapt our way back out. Reopening does not mean simply unlocking the front door. Our Community room will now support hybrid Zoom meetings as an option for our guest groups. Our radio programs will as well. There will also be production practices yet to be defined in our TV studios.

The world is forever changed. We're just not quite certain as to how. But, with change comes opportunity. We intend to find it and seize it. At the moment, we may be 'in between', but we are looking and leaning forward.

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# The Dawning of a New Day?

Juneteenth – Looking back, looking forward 06-20-2021

As I sit in my office staring at a sunrise on a Saturday morning, musing and typing away, it is literally the dawn of a new day. A lovely day.

It's also a brand-spankin'-new federal holiday. It is officially – Juneteenth.

This day commemorates June 19, 1865, when, more than a month after the last battle of the Civil War, Union soldiers informed the slaves of Galveston, Texas that they were at last emancipated. The date has been celebrated by black Americans ever since; first in Texas and eventually throughout the US. Whether you call Juneteenth Emancipation Day, Freedom Day or our second Independence Day, Juneteenth is one of the most important anniversaries in our nation's history.

There are those among us who cringe and fret over a holiday that calls attention to the past – to the darkest days of our nation's history. I submit for consideration that every holiday has its *raison d'être* – a profound purpose to be fulfilled.

*We celebrate* – on July 4<sup>th</sup> – This year the festival returns to Franklin.

*We commemorate* – on Memorial Day – and honor those who served our country.

*We rededicate* – with each New Year – resolving to advance our better natures.

Now on every Juneteenth, let us not only commemorate long delayed independence of all, but embrace the opportunity to *accelerate* the just and equal enjoyment of that independence for all. Let Juneteenth lean forward into a better future. Let Juneteenth ask its essential perennial question, "How can we all work to eliminate pernicious systemic racism and advance genuine social and economic justice and true equality for everyone?"

We should all see Juneteenth as more than a 'black holiday', but a joyful journey for all of us toward the perfection of 'freedom and justice for all'.

Let Juneteenth be an action item. In the fullness of time every Juneteenth will come to represent the dawn of a new day. A lovely day – for everyone.

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# Live Sports Coverage

It's a big change for the better 06-27-2021

Back in February we scrambled for ways to cover the FHS Panthers upcoming spring sports season - live. Covid made it a mission critical push. Only one parent was allowed to accompany any student athlete to his or her game. The other parent? Family? Friends and neighbors? Nope. Too bad.

We hastily hustled our TV Flypacks together, and we were off to the races - (or to whatever our first event was).

We also began live streaming all three of our channels online - directly from the front page of our website: Franklin.TV - (Just click on the channel of your choice.) We've done all we can to make it easy.

The response has been both surprising and quite gratifying. We've received phone calls and emails inquiring about almost every game. Even out of the darkness of our Covid winter, something good has emerged as part of our new normal. We are still perfecting our coverage - still working from wherever an event originates to make our internet connections back to our main studio (and you, our viewers) as reliable as possible. The internet being what it is, there might be some occasional bumps in the road ahead, but we'll keep doing all we can to bring live event coverage to everyone.



We also post all games to our Video-on-Demand system about a week later. Look for your favorite game or event on our website under 'Past Shows'. There'll be more live sports and events all Summer long. Wherever it's happening, that's where we'll be.

And - as always -

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# Franklin•TV Annual Meeting

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 07/11/2019

This year our Annual Open Board Meeting will be conducted as a neighborhood block party at our 23 Hutchinson St. studios.

**Join us, Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.**

**If you plan to attend, please RSVP by August 15 to:**

**[info@franklin.tv](mailto:info@franklin.tv)**

It's open to all Franklin businesses and residents. We'll meet-and-greet and enjoy refreshments starting at 3:00pm. Come hungry and enjoy some great barbeque. You can also tour our studios, and learn about Franklin•TV and wfpr•fm. We'll also review our progress during the past year and discuss plans for the future. At our meeting you may cast a vote for new and/or renewing board positions. This year we will vote to extend Jay Horrigan's board position for an additional three years.

**Excerpt from FCCA bylaws:** (Available on our website.)

Section 15. Election of Director by the Membership (a) Members shall be notified by the Clerk of the election of a director by the Membership at the Annual Meeting. Said notice shall be in accordance with the notice provisions of Section 4 of this Article IV. (b) Any eligible voting Member may be nominated for election to the position of Director by: (i) Written notification to the Clerk no later than seven (7) days prior to Annual Meeting; or (ii) By nomination from the floor of the Annual Meeting made and seconded by no less than three (3) eligible voting members.

Our facility enables us to provide full production support for Franklin residents and groups who wish to create TV and radio programs. Thanks to our board members who contribute their time and energy to help make Franklin•TV all that a public access studio can be. If you would like to become involved either as a volunteer or produce your own TV or radio programs at Franklin•TV and wfpr•fm, just send an email to: [info@franklin.tv](mailto:info@franklin.tv) with your contact information. You can also call us to discuss and explore your ideas. 508-541-4118.

Please join us at our Franklin•TV event. Again, it's Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 3:00pm. We'll have tours of our facility, some good eats, and you can meet our board and staff. Our brief open meeting begins at 4:00pm. Come meet, greet, and learn all about local TV and radio in Franklin.

See you then.

And - as always -

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# E Pluribus Unum - ?

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 07/18/2019

These days it feels a bit more like E Unibus Plurum. Out of one nation's goal to achieve herd immunity and protection for all, there are many divisive opinions. So many opinions are sadly conflated by so much misinformation and myth. Yes, we are all entitled to our own opinions, but not to our own facts. Facts are facts.

Fact: The vaccines work - remarkably well.

Fact: They are up to 100 times safer than risking infection.

These next few weeks are mission critical for those who have yet to be vaccinated. Note that it takes 2 shots and 5 to 6 weeks to achieve full immunity. That puts any protection for the unvaccinated into late August - when health experts fear the rising worst wave through September and on. If you are not yet vaccinated, this should be tops on your to-do list.

It also means that masks will likely return as the new fall fashion.

Conversely, for those who still don't wish to be vaccinated, if at the least, you wear a mask then you are doing the right thing for others while you exercise your right. Thank you.

However,  
in our collective fight against the virus,  
are you choosing to die on the field of battle?

Fight for yourself, your family, your friends.  
Take up arms (the left or right one) against the  
invisible enemy - the real enemy - the virus,  
and give it your best shot - or two.

I pledge allegiance to the mask  
and the United Safety of America.  
And to the protection for which it stands.  
One nation, invincible  
with immunity and vaccines for all.

And - as always -  
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# We Are Convened

In Order to Form a More Perfect Union

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 07/25/2021



Zoom is the new normal for our weekly Radio Roundtable, More Perfect Union.

The good news - it works remarkably well, enabling the four of us to find an hour in our full calendars to gather and open the floor to vibrant discussions on all manner of issues. We recorded this episode about election reform on Friday morning.

Some weeks might begin with, "Not sure what I can bring to this week's discussion." Then we start recording and the conversation flows. Jeff Roy, Dr. Natalia Linos and Dr. Michael Walker-Jones all begin to spark off each other, and I (upper right) am happy to draft in the wake of their brilliant insights. Next thing we know - another easy hour has rolled by, and we are all just a bit smarter for the discussion.

You can get a little smarter along with us. Search for wfpr.fm's 'More Perfect Union' wherever you get your podcasts.

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# Goodbye, July

July, we hardly knew ye. Now August is upon us.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 08/01/2021



Print the page, hold fairly close and stare far beyond it to see it in 3D.

This idyllic stereogram is how most of us envision July. 72 and sunny with a hint of sultry haze. Here, a family enjoys ice cream at Kimball Farm in Lancaster, MA.

This is the Summer we long for in the depths of February. This year? Not so much. More than the usual wet gray days, July might be in the same lingering covid funk that many are experiencing. Perhaps August will be more considerate. Whatever good weather August may bring, make the most of it, appreciating the good days and moments as they may come – as Summer slips by – again – all too soon.

It would be nice if Autumn could get it together before Winter shows up. It would be better still if we could all get it together by having everyone be vaccinated. In these impatient, aimlessly angry times it would also be especially nice if all of us could strive to be ‘72 and Sunny’ in our comportment toward others. That striving ought to be part of our new normal – and well worth the effort. So, even if you are still wearing a mask in tight quarters (thanks), smile. It shows.

And – as always –

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# Oops! Change in Plan.

Our Annual Meeting & Block Party - Not Happenin'.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 08/08/2021

There's a cinematic trope that begins, "Just when you thought it was safe to go out." It's Ba-a-a-ack! Standard issue 'B' disaster and monster flicks are promoted this way. The title for this one? "*Revenge of the Unvaccinated.*" (They walk among us.)

Covid/Delta is on the rise. Thus, opting for abundant precaution, we are prudently cancelling our Annual Meeting and Block Party. That said; New Plan!

A mobile vaccination clinic at Davis Thayer, Wednesday, Aug 25, from 10a to 3p. This event is ably orchestrated by Franklin's Health Director, Cathleen Liberty. It's a great thing - the right thing - for folks 12 and up, and we're helping out.

It's our Franklin Health Department's,

## SOCIALLY DISTANT ICE-CREAM SOCIAL!

Enjoy some free ice cream with your vaccination.

Flavors: Vanilla Vaxx Strawberry Shot Pfizer Pfudge  
(J&J Jimmies, optional)

Register - and get stoked for ice-cream.  
Get vaxxed, too - all for free, all for fun,  
~ at ~

Franklin's Socially-Distant Ice-Cream Social!  
Beat the virus. Get vaccinated.  
*Together, We Can lick This Thing.*



Please register to be vaccinated (either Pfizer or J&J):  
<https://www.franklinma.gov/home/news/covid-19-mobile-vaccination-clinic>

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# Time for Ice Cream!

Let's Get Social (almost!)

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 08/15/2021

Franklin's Socially Distanced

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 25

10 AM - 3 PM

DAVIS THAYER PARKING LOT

### Fab Franklin Flavors

Vanilla Vaxx  
Strawberry Shot  
Pfizer Pfudge

J&J Jimmies (Optional)  
Get stoked for ice cream  
Get Vaxxed too, All for free, All for fun!

Together, We Can Lick This Thing

Please register to be vaccinated (either Pfizer or J&J):

<https://www.franklinma.gov/home/news/covid-19-mobile-vaccination-clinic>

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# Time for Ice Cream! 2

Let's Get Social (almost!)

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 08/22/2021

Our *Socially Distant Ice-cream Social* is still on for Wednesday at Davis Thayer. The fun days of Summer are winding down, and you can get vaccinated and get free ice-cream – before school starts. The weather is also looking good. Sunny and high 80's. Perfect ice-cream weather.

Vaccinations for 12 and older, plus masks all contribute to our lower rates of covid infection. Massachusetts is fairing better than many states thanks to the hard work of our local and state officials. We can all help ourselves, our families and our friends by embracing the notion that public health is more important than the minor inconvenience of masks and the extreme assertion of individual rights.

### III. Policy Revisions & New Policies - New Discussion Item A. EBCFA Masks-Face Coverings

The line item (A) above was one of several topics at a recent School subcommittee discussion. These are usually low-key, even sleepy affairs. Even though they are posted and open to the public, they take place to almost no one's attention or concern, but this one produced a surprisingly virulent response over masking. Chambers was at capacity, with an additional remote 200 participants on Zoom.

The findings of this subcommittee will be taken up at the next School Committee meeting on August 24, 7pm, and as usual, Franklin.TV will cover it live, and also make it available for On Demand replay.

In the meantime, do consider wearing a mask as an act of civic kindness, and getting vaccinated. We're doing all we can to help out. At our Vaxx and Ice-cream Social – we're all chill.

Please register to be vaccinated (either Pfizer or J&J):

<https://www.franklinma.gov/home/news/covid-19-mobile-vaccination-clinic>

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# Time for Ice Cream! 3

We Got Social – at a Distance.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 08/29/2021

Our *Socially Distant Ice-cream Social* took place at Davis Thayer on Wednesday.



Cathy Liberty on WCVB, Channel 5, talking about the importance of vaccination.



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# Dale Kurtz

Serving Those Who Served  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 09/05/2021



Since 2015 Dale Kurtz has been Franklin's Veterans' Service Officer. We at Franklin•TV worked with Dale to cover key veterans' events and gatherings on Memorial Day, Veteran's day and other occasions. Dale also interviewed veterans and discussed veteran related services on his program, "Veterans' Call". As Dale faces retirement he sat with our Chris Flynn to discuss his role - and veterans.

Dale grew up in a coal town - Newcastle, PA. Through good grades and good football he was offered opportunities at several good schools, some ivy as well. He opted for military service and found his way to West Point in the late sixties to early seventies. He returned to service at Fort Hood, Texas, then moved on to White Sands, eventually retiring from service as captain.

We at Franklin•TV wish Dale all the best,  
and a special *Thank You for your Service*.

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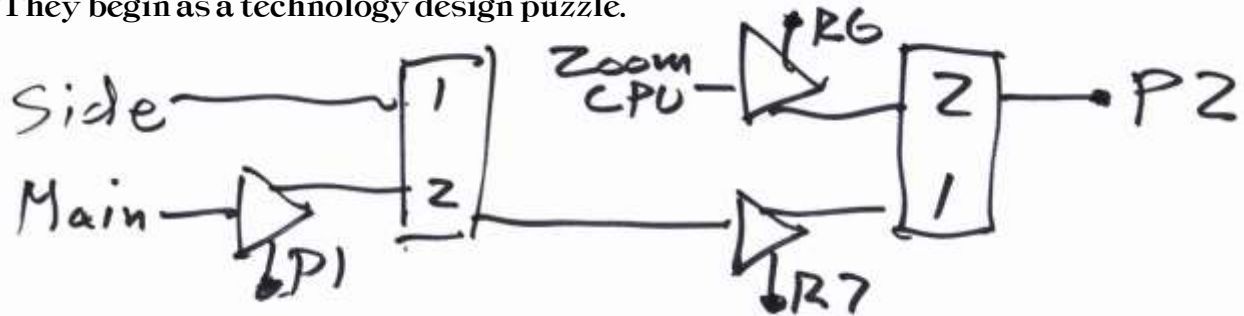
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# Refinements

Refinements – They Keep on Keepin’ on.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 09/12/2021

They begin as a technology design puzzle.



This one was a request. “Can we project presentations from two different desks?”

The research begins as details fall into place. It has to be automatic. No extra steps. It should just happen. There is a search for the optimal techy parts (if they exist), and some back-o-the-envelope scribbling. There is more scribbling – to seek a reduction to essence. Overdesigning something is as bad as coming up short. Along the way, other opportunities for enhancement emerge. Tech manufacturers call this expanding utility ‘feature creep’, but it’s a necessary part of getting it right. When it’s finally done and done, something elegant emerges. It’s inscrutable to others, but when techno-geeks like me see a final scribble such as this – we see art.

What does this scribble do? It automates the video projector assignments in Town Chambers. It also makes sure that video signals from various computers go to the proper switching destinations so folks at home are seeing Zoom or Powerpoint or the various cameras as necessary. It all just happens. As it should be.



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# Wine & Blues

Because, hey! – Wine & Blues.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 09/19/2021



So, what say we start with a little wine?

Our amazing wine experts Mark Lenzi of franklinliquors.com and Kim Simone of vinitaswineworks.com have been talking wine for almost 4 years now. Every single episode of The Wonderful World of Wine is a 'spirited' adventure (rimshot).

This year their podcast is nominated as a national finalist for a People's Choice Podcast Award (Fingers crossed).

You can listen to Mark & Kim on wfpr.fm 102.9 – Wednesdays at 10a/1p/7p.

This week Jim Derick and Todd Monjur get even more serious Talkin' bout the Blues. They will be expanding their authoritative blues program to two hours. I'm down with that.

Check it out – Mondays at 9a/12/6p.

So, pour a glass, turn up the earbuds – and chill.  
Because, hey! – Wine & Blues.

And – as always –

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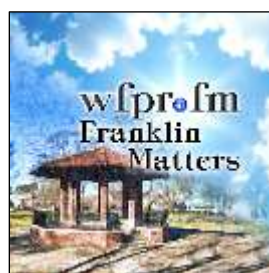
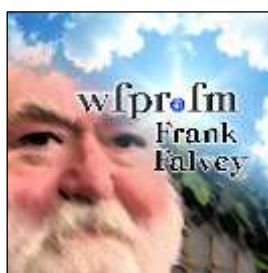


# Demand!

Videos on Demand – and now, Podcasts on Demand.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 09/26/2021

The media world keeps expanding. Our services keep expanding. And with that, the work to support them, but expand we must. People demand on demand services. This week we have added audio podcasts to our wfpr.fm website. Not only can you listen live, anytime, anywhere, you can now listen to any of wfpr.fm's past programs – on demand, as audio podcasts.

Our entire podcast library is online at wfpr.fm. Click on 'Past Shows'. Easy! They are also posted on Franklin Matters.



That's a lot of podcasts. Like the old George Carlin skit on those *Fabulous TV Music Collections: Every Recording Ever Made*. "Take a 10 year sabbatical and listen to these fine recordings."

**Question:** Is podcasting in your future? What would your podcast sound like? We can help. Let's discuss. You could be on the radio – on demand – and in demand as a podcast.

Call us at 509-541-4118, or email us at: info@wfpr.fm, or info@Franklin.TV

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# Harvest Festival!

A lovely day for a stroll- all around downtown.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 10/03/2021



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Indeed. Perfect weather and a strong desire to get out and enjoy the day brought out the crowds. All in all, a great turnout with lots of booth exhibits, food, and fun things to see, buy and do.

## Franklin Downtown Partnership Presents

# 18th Annual Harvest Festival

**Saturday, October 2nd**

**Rain Date, October 3rd**

**Downtown Franklin**

*In the center of the Cultural District*

**12:00 - 5:00 pm**

**Live Music:**

**Dancing On Dean featuring Ben Gardner's Boat and The Driftwoods**

**Over 160 vendors, crafters and food booths**



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# Are You a Candidate?

There's a large field of hopefuls this year.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director, Franklin•TV & wfpr•fm 10/10/2021

Candidates for local office are out and about, meeting with citizens and discussing the issues. Our own Steve Sherlock and Frank Falvey have met with many of them along the way. Tune in to their comments on Franklin•TV & 102.9 wfpr•fm. Also visit *FranklinMatters.org* any time for all the latest. Then cast your vote on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Who is running for which office? Here's a link:

<https://www.franklinma.gov/town-clerk/news/local-election-11-2-2021-official-list-candidates>

Currently, there are 12 candidates for the 9 Council seats. There are also 12 candidates for School Committee. Notably, three seasoned and dedicated committee members have opted to retire their positions: Committee Chair Dr. Anne Bergen, Judy Pfeffer and Tim Keenan. As dedicated volunteers, they provided able their able oversight during the difficult pandemic period. Our thanks and best wishes to them.

As in years past, there is a Candidates' Night planned – live from Town Chambers. Candidates present their credentials, goals for Franklin's future. There will also be a candidates' event at the Senior Center. More details on these events to come.

We will also be rebroadcasting these events on All-Access TV and Town Hall TV until the election. Check next week's guide for details.

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# Candidates Night 2

There's a large field of hopefuls this year. Meet them all.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director, Franklin•TV & wfpr•fm 10/17/2021

Candidates for local office are out and about, meeting with citizens and discussing the issues. Our own Steve Sherlock and Frank Falvey have met with many of them along the way. Tune in to their comments on Franklin•TV & 102.9 wfpr•fm. Also visit *FranklinMatters.org* any time for all the latest. Then cast your vote on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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Currently, there are 12 candidates for the 9 Council seats. There are also 12 candidates for School Committee. Notably, three seasoned and dedicated committee members have opted to retire their positions: Committee Chair Dr. Anne Bergen, Judy Pfeffer and Tim Keenan. As dedicated volunteers, they provided their able oversight during the difficult pandemic period. Our thanks and best wishes to them.

There is a Candidates' Night planned – live from the Senior Center. Candidates present their credentials, goals for Franklin's future. Watch our All-Access Channel, Comcast 8 or Verizon 26 on Thursday evening at 6:30pm. The Conservation Commission's meeting will be on the Town Hall channel, Comcast 11 or Verizon 29 at 7pm as usual.

We will also be rebroadcasting these events on All-Access TV and Town Hall TV until the election. Check next week's guide for details.

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# Candidates Night 3

There's a large field of hopefuls this year. Meet them all.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director, Franklin.TV & wfpr.fm 10/24/2021

Who is running for which office? Here's a link:

<https://www.franklinma.gov/town-clerk/news/local-election-11-2-2021-official-list-candidates>

From this week's All-Access channel schedule, here's when you can see the candidates on Comcast 8 or Verizon 26..

## Saturday

5:30 pm Candidates Night 10-14-21

## Sunday

12:30 pm Candidates Night 10-14-21

9:00 pm Town Candidates Forum 10-21-21

## Monday

9:00 am Candidates Night 10-14-21

5:00 pm Frank Presents: Beth Wierling

5:30 pm Frank Presents: Dashe Videira

6:00 pm Frank Presents: Mark Bisson

6:30 pm Frank Presents: Dashe Videira

7:00 pm Frank Presents: Ted Cormier-Leger

7:30 pm Frank Presents: Cobi Frongillo

8:00 pm Frank Presents: Jennifer Williams

## Tuesday

10:00 am Frank Presents: Beth Wierling

10:30 am Frank Presents: Dashe Videira

11:00 am Frank Presents: Mark Bisson

11:30 am Frank Presents: Dashe Videira

12:00 pm Frank Presents: Ted Cormier-Leger

12:30 pm Frank Presents: Cobi Frongillo

1:00 pm Frank Presents: Jennifer Williams

**Wednesday**

**6:30 pm Candidates Night 10-14-21**

**Thursday**

**5:30 pm Frank Presents: Beth Wierling**

**6:00 pm Frank Presents: Dashe Videira**

**6:30 pm Frank Presents: Mark Bisson**

**7:00 pm Frank Presents: Dashe Videira**

**7:30 pm Frank Presents: Ted Cormier-Leger**

**8:00 pm Frank Presents: Cobi Frongillo**

**8:30 pm Frank Presents: Jennifer Williams**

**9:30 pm Town Candidates Forum 10-21-21**

**Friday**

**8:30 am Frank Presents: Beth Wierling**

**9:00 am Frank Presents: Dashe Videira**

**9:30 am Frank Presents: Mark Bisson**

**10:00 am Frank Presents: Dashe Videira**

**10:30 am Frank Presents: Ted Cormier-Leger**

**11:00 am Frank Presents: Cobi Frongillo**

**11:30 am Frank Presents: Jennifer Williams**

**Saturday**

**5:30 pm Candidates Night 10-14-21**

**This is the last full week before the big Franklin Vote on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. It's a big field of hopefuls. Tune in to their comments on Franklin•TV & 102.9 wfpr•fm. Also visit *FranklinMatters.org* any time for all the latest. Then cast your vote on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Want to know who most folks are considering? Click on 'Past Shows' on our Home Page. Look at the number of views for each candidate.**

**And - as always -**

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# Election Night

This is big.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director, Franklin•TV & wfpr•fm 10/31/2021

It's a big year for casting a big vote for a big field of candidates. Yes, big. We've been fortunate to bring the many candidates to the fore thanks to our tireless citizen media and information V.I.P.s, Frank Falvey, Steve Sherlock and Jim Derick. What they do for us - and for Franklin is big.

They are the engine of Local Access TV and Public Radio. They bring their wisdom, energies, and enthusiastic dedication to keep us informed. They believe in this grand experiment of America - in the democracy that we all idealize - that we all believe in - that we cherish and want.

To 'want' is a start. To get and keep that 'want' requires participation. Ben said it, "*Industry Need not Wish.*" A healthy democracy requires the industry of the many, and your vote matters. You can express your appreciation for our volunteer media V.I.P.'s - and for our candidates - many seeking volunteer positions. They put in their time and industry to make Franklin work. You can help. Vote.

Your vote is big - because it's local. Local government is where your vote matters most. Your vote is a most joyful obligation and privilege. There are few private, sacred moments in life that are more satisfying than that pause, standing before the ballot box, completed ballot in hand, when you declare your wish and submit your considered choice. It's a good time. It's free. Don't miss out.

Please vote. It's big.

Tune in to 102.9 wfpr fm for the election results after the polls close.

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# Endemic? Srsly?

The end is nigh – umm, or not. (Wait! What?)

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director, Franklin.TV & wfpr.fm 11/07/2021

There's a new word in town. Endemic. What does that mean? The not so great news is that science – and the more astute among us – are coming to grips with the notion that Covid 19 is the guest that just won't leave. We now know how this ends. Truth? It doesn't. It lingers. It simmers. We won't get to achieve (and celebrate) true herd immunity after all. The virus – and its variants yet to be – will be perniciously permanent.

However, with vaccines and follow-up treatments available, not every C19 case is created equal. Breakthrough cases are much milder; 10,000 vaccinated cases cause a tiny fraction of hospitalizations and deaths vs 10,000 unvaccinated cases. With endemicity—when nearly everyone has baseline immunity from either infection or vaccination—the U.S. could still be facing tens of millions of infections from C19 every year, thanks to waning immunity and viral evolution.

For context, the endemic flu sickens 10 to 40 million a year, and through science we mitigate its impact. The 1918 flu killed 800,000 in 2 years among 100 million Americans. C19 will likely claim a similar number among 360 million of us. The 1918 flu was almost 4 times more deadly. The infected turned purple from oxygen starvation; dying within a day. Yet, then as now, masks were an issue of heated debate.

So, what's the callous money play here? Bet on science. That's what the stock market is doing. It's telling us that the virus is here to stay, and mitigation will become a matter of ongoing personal vigilance. Our annual flu shot might include C19. Conversely, C19 treatments in capsule form might also be developed for the flu. The war on vaccines is a false flag. Please vaccinate. It's science. It's safe. It's the smart play.

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# Still Growing

The Only Constant is Change

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director, Franklin•TV & wfpr•fm 11/14/2021

There are brief moments when I believe (mistakenly) that at some point (Soon?) our technical facilities will be finalized and complete. Silly me.

When Franklin•TV began in 2012 it was crude - steampunk compared to today's digital world. We simply played back DVDs and video tapes over three standard TV channels provided by Comcast and Verizon. Done.

The decade has been a whirlwind of technical change and growth. It hasn't let up. Today is about multimedia, multichannel, multiplatform publishing. Multi-challenges. (Yikes!) Our old SDTV channels live on. Now we also stream our programs and live events over the internet in High Definition. We also provide Videos-on-Demand, we broadcast on the FM dial (102.9) 24/7. We produce and post many new podcasts each week on our radio website, wfpr•fm. We've also seen requests for copies of our shows shift from DVDs to High Definition Downloads.

Sooooo- what's upcoming? What else are we working on? Instant On Demand Video posting immediately after each live meeting and event. Expanded government meetings and live location events coverage. Adding closed captions to many of our programs. This in turn will provide text of interviews and meetings via Franklin Matters.

We are also expanding our network to studios in nearby towns. More sports events are being cablecast regionally. Yes, we are still growing, and that doesn't happen by standing still - not even for a brief moment.

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# Still and Ever, Thankful – V2.0

Why? Because I Can Choose to Be So. I Am Compelled.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 11/21/2021

My thoughts from last Thanksgiving. Sadly, they are all the more pertinent.

An understatement: 2020, (and now 2021 as well) has been a year like no other. War weary as we are after 2 years, masking and boosters remain essential.

At some point around Thanksgiving 2019 is when it began: That first infection. We celebrated 2020's sparkly arrival as a New Year in customarily festive fashion, gathering with family and friends. Gathering – one of our joyous pastimes, now gone. We have lost much in these recent years. Friends. Loved ones. Livelihoods. Businesses. Trust. Last year it was 250,000. Now there are over 750,000 empty seats at the family table this year. However, statistics ring hollow to those who must endure these devastating losses personally. How do they give thanks?

In such a year as this one where hardship surrounds us all, we have to look within. What lies within us that we can be thankful for? What shred of resilience can we muster in order to still be thankful? Hard times offer no easy answers.

First, it's difficult to be thankful; to engage in thanks-giving without some practice. Rising with the first glimmer of each day I am thankful and grateful for its promise. I take in that early moment with gratitude. The day will bring forth other moments. My task? Convert those moments flowing from my future into memories – good ones. A day well spent.

This daily practice of thankfulness for time's open-ended future, for opportunity, for that which is yet to be, gradually becomes a habit, then a mindset. Time is the greatest gift I could ever imagine. And so, apart from present circumstance, I remain thankful for the possible, for those future better days of my own making.

Admittedly, the gift of future time has been stolen from so many who have passed.

May you find some time for thanks.

May you find some thanks for time.

I wish you health, wealth, wisdom and love.

And time, precious time for all of the above.

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# Franklin v King Phillip—a Win!

Booyahh for our Panthers.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 11/28/2021

The start? Déjà vu – all over again. Ugh!

King Philip forced a quick Panthers three-and-out. Then KP's Gately sailed up the middle for 64 yards. Three plays later, senior QB Charlie Grant shot straight to Drew Danson deep in the end zone for first blood in under four minutes.

Then more bad news. The Panthers fumbled on first carry (oops) and KP glommed the ball in Franklin territory. Four plays put the Warriors on the 1 yard line. Two more, and Grant smuggled it in for a 14-0 lead with 6 minutes remaining in Q1.

Then, that first ray of hope.

Panthers pulled a perfect flea flicker to Gulla and back to Jared Arone, then to Shane Kindred for a huge 85-yard touchdown with a minute and change remaining in Q1. The Warriors blocked the point, but Franklin was on the board – and in the game, 14-6. That's how the tide begins to turn. (Yesss. We can do this.)

Panthers brought focused football, pulling to 19 – a point under a tough Warrior team over the next 2 quarters. More touchdowns both ways in Q3. The last, with a 2-point conversion put Panthers up 27-20 going into Q4. With 2 minutes remaining, Franklin senior Jack Marino denied King Philip's 4th and 1 try, locking up the Panthers 27-20 win over the Warriors in their 61st traditional Turkey Day tussle.

With this win, Franklin clinches its first-ever Hockomock League Kelley-Rex division title and first league crown since 2009. (Congrats!) It also snaps a 10-game Thanksgiving skid and an 18-game overall streak to the Warriors.

Yes, we'll have another round of stuffing, thank you very much.

Big congrats to the Panthers for a great day of winning football.

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# Franklin•TV Annual Meeting

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 12/05/2021

This year our Annual Open Board Meeting will be conducted online only as a virtual meeting via Zoom, the link is: 857 7708 6916

**Join us, Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.**  
Questions? Email: [info@franklin.tv](mailto:info@franklin.tv)

It's open to all Franklin businesses and residents. Learn more about Franklin•TV and wfpr•fm. We'll review our progress during the past year and discuss plans for the future. At our meeting you may cast a vote for new and/or renewing board positions. This year we will vote to continue Jay Horrigan's board position for an additional three year term.

**Excerpt from FCCA bylaws:** (Available on our website.)

Section 15. Election of Director by the Membership (a) Members shall be notified by the Clerk of the election of a director by the Membership at the Annual Meeting. Said notice shall be in accordance with the notice provisions of Section 4 of this Article IV. (b) Any eligible voting Member may be nominated for election to the position of Director by: (i) Written notification to the Clerk no later than seven (7) days prior to Annual Meeting; or (ii) By nomination from the floor of the Annual Meeting made and seconded by no less than three (3) eligible voting members.

Our facility enables us to provide full production support for Franklin residents and groups who wish to create TV and radio programs. Thanks to our board members who contribute their time and energy to help make Franklin•TV all that a public access studio can be. If you would like to become involved either as a volunteer or produce your own TV or radio programs at Franklin•TV and wfpr•fm, just send an email to: [info@franklin.tv](mailto:info@franklin.tv) with your contact information. You can also call us to discuss and help you develop your program ideas. 508-541-4118.

See you then.

And - as always -

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# Meeting v Party?

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 12/12/2021

This year our Annual Open Board Meeting was conducted on Thursday evening (12/9) as a virtual gathering via Zoom. Normally this event is conducted during the Summer months. This year we were planning a block party. It would have been a great opportunity to enjoy time with neighbors and friends. (Sigh!)

The unpredictable rise/fall/rise of covid waves has wreaked havoc with lives and plans. Despite covid, we did meet our annual obligation to meet. We gathered to reaffirm (resoundingly) Jay Horrigan as a board director.

(Note that I no longer capitalize the word 'covid'. IMHO, it doesn't deserve it.)

Stubbornly, covid has had its way; wantonly forcing many scheduled events to be cancelled, including ours. (Sadly, no Christmas party this year - no merry for us.)

A virtual Christmas party? It rings hollow. In a scant 3 weeks we will ring in a New Year. Ringing in a new year is an opportunity to embrace optimism. Let it be thus. Ringing out an old year? The last couple of years get the buzzer.

Although we can't party on, we can opt to soldier on. Onward is what we all must do.

Party or not - I recommend being steadfastly 'onward' - jingling all the way.

May 2022 be a year that smiles warmly, generously upon all of us.

And - as always -

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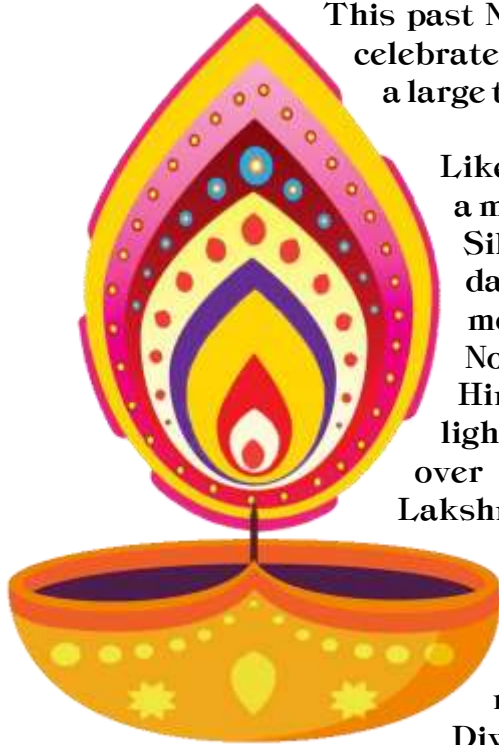
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# Diwali!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 12/19/2021

This past November the Franklin Library held an event to celebrate a holiday for the first time. Diwali! They enjoyed a large turnout of about 400 celebrants.



Like so many of our late fall and winter holidays, it is a major festival of light celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists. Diwali usually lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika (between mid-October and mid-November). One of the most popular festivals of Hinduism, Diwali symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Diwali is widely associated with Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity,

In the lead-up to Diwali, families will prepare by cleaning, renovating, and decorating their homes and workplaces with diyas (oil lamps) and rangolis (colorful art circle patterns). During Diwali, people dress up their finest clothes, illuminate the interior and exterior of their homes with diyas and rangoli, dedicating ceremonies to Lakshmi, goddess of prosperity and wealth, lighting fireworks, and enjoying gatherings with family, friends and feasts where sweets and gifts are shared.

Much about the Diwali celebration sounds familiar. As it should. During these darker days we all seek the same thing: Light, goodness, enlightenment, and the peace and joy that (hopefully) comes to all of us.

Annnnd - I get to add a new holiday icon to my traditional embrace of all below.  
Happy Diwali - to all.

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# In Between!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 12/26/2021

This is that 'in-between' week. Christmas has happened. New Year's Eve and Day – straight ahead. Afterglow? Aftermath? There is more 'in-between' this year than normal. We are in between the festive tidings of the season and the cautionary tales of the next viral wave – Omicron! Omigod! We are testing – and being tested.

Essential workers at hospitals and airlines are testing positive. The travel plans for many are being disrupted at the last minute or worse, en route.

Family gatherings are incomplete or canceled outright. This where Zoom and Facetime fall short. While they are useful for conveying information, they can't deliver the warmth of physical presence – a simple handshake, a knowing nudge, a boisterous backslap, a hug.

We weary of it, but we make the necessary choice every day to keep on keepin' on.

Please choose one:

- A. Keep on.
- B. Keep on.
- C. Keep on.

Srsly?

As the holidays, the merriment, even that good will – all recede in the rear-view, the year ahead can be shaped for the better by us. While we choose to keep on, we can also choose to do so in kindness. Kindness is a superpower that we never ever lose. We just need to exercise it regularly to stay in top shape emotionally.

Keep to kindness. It makes the rest of all that keepin' on a little easier.

May 2022 smile warmly, kindly upon us all.

And – as always –

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