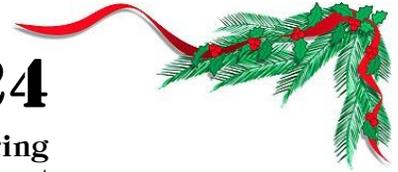




# PUTTER DAY - 2024



Celebrating Our 1<sup>st</sup> Decade of Puttering  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 12/31/2023

New Year's Day (often spent recovering from New Year's Eve) is less holiday and more hangover for some – a day of rest, recuperation (regret?). For me, 2024 marks The Tenth Anniversary of my unflagging effort since 2014 to transmogrify the empty aftermath of *New Year's Eve* – Jan 1, and set it apart to become – **PUTTER DAY**.

I know what you're thinking. It's on Monday – Ugh! Srsly? But, it's a holiday. We're supposed to celebrate **PUTTER DAY** by puttering – by doing useful stuff? Really?

In a word – Yes. That's the point.

Want a strong new year? A strong new year deserves a strong start. **PUTTER DAY!** After *New Year's Eve* is over and done, **PUTTER DAY** is that affirming, actionable start. **PUTTER DAY** is our **INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH** holiday; propelling us on to the New Year.

Dictionaries describe *to putter* (verb) as a perfunctory engagement in a desultory, yet pleasant activity. (I say, 'No.' **PUTTER DAY** is purposeful, deliberate, delightful.)

For me there is nothing perfunctory nor desultory about a full-on, earnest puttering that leads to accomplishment, an abiding sense of self-satisfaction, total control of my manifest destiny, a good reason to feel smug, and yes – all of the myriad laurels, distinctions and accolades that freely flow therefrom. (- Too much? Over the top?)

Regarding our other major national holidays, the most meaningful among them have clear purpose and a palpable sensibility. July Fourth is without question a biggie. Each of us knows in some personal, almost visceral way what it means to celebrate our hard-fought, precious freedoms. Our Spirit of Independence runs deep, and we have great empathy for those still fighting for their own freedoms. The patriotic music – 'Star Spangled Banner', 'America the Beautiful' and others fortify our depth of feeling and understanding. Memorial Day, Flag Day, Veteran's Day are all tied to July Fourth. These holidays share the gravitas and solemn gratitude reflected in their ceremony and sentiment. Music? We add 'Taps'. These other patriotic days also share our flag and its colors. Red, White and Blue swags and bunting adorn podiums and stages – the visual paradigm for patriotic days.

President's Day tries to tag along, but meaning? Gravitas? Ceremony? Nothing. All that President's Day conjures in our collective – is 'Fantastic Savings on Car Deals' – with Red/White/Blue balloons all over the showroom. Music? 'Yankee Doodle'.

**Thanksgiving** is a big day with its deep roots in family and a tradition of gratitude. Like the patriotic holidays, Turkey Day has a clear raison d'être. It's the capstone event of fall and the harvest. A bountiful table set with autumnal golds, browns and a cornucopia make up a warm visual backdrop. Then comes -

*Christmas!* Wowwerz! As holidays go, this one's the biggie. From its origin story, add 'Rudolph/Frosty' lore, a zillion 'TV Specials' for the kiddies, Mom, Dad, the whole family - the Red/Green thematic colors, the sparkling lights, the gifts and carols - *Christmas* commandeers the entire month after Turkey Day. Then -

*New Year's Eve happens to us. Partypartyparty - confetti, streamers, noise makers, sparklers and sparkly beverage toasts to our future, the countdown, a midnight smooch - and for those among us of a certain age, bedtime (Yawn! - Nighty-nigh-z-z-z-z-z-z-)*

Title Card: **The Next Morning** - Sooo - here we are. January First, the vaguely circumspect start of all things new deserves better. It's too important to be propped up against the tail end of 'The Holiday Season' like a bookend. Hence, **PUTTER DAY**. After a decade of enthusiastic Puttering on New Year's Day I wish only to share the grand opportunity to enjoy **PUTTER DAY** with you, good reader. You can do it. In fact, together, you and I can work to make the 'can-do' spirit of **PUTTER DAY** go viral across the nation - perhaps even around the globe. Putter with a pal. Just imagine all those fun projects that you could plan, organize, design, install, fix and/or improve.

To further clarify the Constructive Spirit of **PUTTER DAY** - It's about taking action. **PUTTER DAY** is not someone else's responsibility. Owning the Day means owning the opportunity to make progress, big or small, real or abstract, on Day One of the New Year. Day Two? Doesn't cut it. There's no putting off **PUTTER DAY**. The new New Year holiday needs you, my friend. So, grab that duct tape and get puttering. Put your good shoulder into it. On Jan 2nd with accomplishment and self-satisfaction, you'll know you got it right (all other failed New Year's resolutions notwithstanding).

May 2024 smile warmly, kindly upon us all.  
(If we puttered on **PUTTER DAY**, we deserve it.)

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# So – How’s It Going?

And, I Bet I Already Know the Answer.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 01/07/2024

**Procrastination.** It’s why the Christmas lights still hang from the eaves in March. If our New Year’s calendar is already littered with failed resolutions – it’s okay.

**Redemption.** It’s why we strive. Striving does not come with a guarantee or even a vague promise. However, consistent striving offers progress. **Sold.** I’ll take it.

There isn’t a New Year’s resolution that can’t be rebooted, rekindled, rededicated. Given that the perfect is the enemy of the good, then strive, but not for perfection. Strive for the moment – for the day. Tomorrow you can opt to strive for that day. Then perhaps the next day, you might go for more of the same optimistic striving. How much striving? Just enough to sense some progress. Along the way, take pleasure in small gains - small momentary celebrations; all part of your long game. (Yes, you have one. Don’t forget that.)

As for striving today; don’t sweat tomorrow or the next day or the next. Just be in today’s moment today. Striving is always a very ‘present tense’ state of being. The striver’s mindset is a subtle, sua sponte act of will.

If starting is the hard part, then that striver’s mindset is the thing within each of us that can make those hard starts – and restarts – possible. Always possible. If you accept that ‘possible’ is a constant, then you have the stuff of hope, and of striving.

For ‘always possible’ can become ‘eventual’, and eventual can become – actual.

There’s nothing sacrosanct – or magic – about the New Year – or it’s first day. The pragmatic reality – the practical magic (pragmagic?) is within us all to wake up on any morning of our choosing and quietly say to ourselves, “Today is my day.”

Although the glitter of *The Season* is done, the glow of hope and striving remains, resides, and abides – in the possibilities of every new day. **Happy New Day!**

May 2024 smile warmly, kindly upon us all.  
Now get back out there and make it happen.

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# PEG in a Nutshell – 10

The State of Streaming Media - 2024

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 01/14/2024

The On-demand Streaming Video industry has been around long enough to have a history. The novelty is long-faded, and maturing is afoot. There were late-comers to the party. Predictably, most of these more recent arrivals didn't survive because there wasn't much growth opportunity left at the buffet table. Even the players with large legacy libraries are seeing profits dwindle. Today they struggle with the same issue that legacy networks and cable carriers do. Remember, Bill Clinton's quip? "It's the economy, stupid."

In this case it's the cost of programming – quality programs that folks will seek out. No one is making any money. Their business models are being 'tweaked' (optimized). That translates into higher subscriber fees, tighter password sharing limits, and/or also including – commercials. Note that you can't skip over their ads.

The two big take-aways: New TV is becoming more like old TV, and like old TV, eventually there will be fewer streaming choices due to consolidation.

In 2018 I anticipated an asymptotic point would emerge in about 5 years. Today, the U.S. Cable TV homes that don't have streaming service is only 5 percent. That statistic clearly indicates a no-growth market – saturation – the stable asymptote.

the SVoD industry average annual churn rate for streaming services is 50 percent, meaning many services are also struggling to keep their customers. Again, offering quality 'binge-worthy' programming – consistently – is costly. Further, binge-ing is becoming restricted – fewer 'full-season drops' are giving way to '3 episode, teaser' drops, then weekly drops that 'encourage' (force) subscribers to hang on longer.

What does all this mean for local studios like us? Cord-cutting was initially a way to save on home entertainment. However, it reduces our revenue from Comcast and Verizon. Over the next 5 years we anticipate some stabilization at a revenue reduction of about 10 percent. It means keeping our operating costs down while continuing to offer the most (and best) local programs possible.



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# Just Hangin' Out

Yep. They're Hangin' in the House.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 01/21/2024



Nick Remissong, Frank Falvey and Jim Derick – just hangin'.

Don't you wish you could find something to do that's easy, fun, interesting - like just go hang out and have a great conversation with friends who get you? I mean, a real convo - one that you could record, and - BOOM! - a radio show and podcast happens.

Yes, it could happen. (If you want to come and hang out with us.)

And, it does happen. (We make it easy. We train you, and it's all free.)

That's just part of what we do at wfpr, Franklin Public Radio. It's local citizen radio. How local? It's literally YOU in the first person local. It's your voice - your program, on the air and online as your very own podcast. You get to share your thoughts and interests - speak your piece. Team up with a buddy or two, and it's even more fun. When you make radio happen you also get to do a good thing - a public good. Bonus!

So, what do you have to say about that? Email us: [info@wfpr.fm](mailto:info@wfpr.fm)

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# Still Hangin' Out, Part 2

They're Still Hanging - and Creating - in the House.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 01/28/2024



Yes, our two radio studios are wonderfully occupied - filled with fun as our radio gang volunteers get-together with their guests and with each other to make great community radio happen - for a great community, Franklin.

I'm standing in the hall between our two studios. Behind door number one: Franklin's Volunteer Information Director, Steve Sherlock convos with Franklin Library's Mitzi Gousie. Behind door number two: Dr. Anne Bergen and Jim Derick conduct an interview for the Safe Coalition.

Don't you wish you could find something to do that's easy, fun, interesting - like just go hang out and have a great conversation with friends who get you? I mean, a real convo - one that you could record, and - BOOM! - a radio show and podcast happens.

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# No More Winter

It's Official. Groundhogs Declare.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 02/04/2024



Weatherwise, the good news from Gobbler's Knob, PA is that Punxsutawney Phil hath declared that this Winter will end early. For Phil, this is an uncommon and most welcome finding. To date, he's called for more Winter 107 times and early Spring only 20 times. (Phil tends to be a bit pessimistic. He's called it correctly only 40% of the time.) That said, Phil is held in the highest esteem, as seen here.

Phil's record aside, New York City's Staten Island Chuck also declared an early Spring. Note that he's touted as the world's most accurate prognosticating groundhog. Indeed, a well-earned honorific with an accuracy above 80% dating back to his rookie days at the Staten Island Zoo in 1981.

Then there's our own Miss G., a comely young groundhog residing at the Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm in Lincoln. Her batting average? It's 64%. Not too shabby.

Taken together, their collective prognostications cannot be denied. The Northeast region is up for the pleasant arrival of Spring, sooner than later. We'll take it.

A technical note: Groundhogs do not converse via cellphones nor frequent social media or browse the internet in general. They have all arrived at their respective prognostications independently. This bodes well.

Groundhog? Woodchuck?

How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?

Or, how much ground would a groundhog hog if a groundhog could hog ground?

How much snow would a groundhog throw if a groundhog could throw snow?

But, would a woodchuck chuck or throw the snow? I don't think we'll ever know.

But, all that matters for now - be assured that Spring is at hand.

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# President's Day

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 02/11/2024

Until recently, we celebrated Washington and Lincoln as two of our most revered Presidents. Then, rather than add any more Presidents, we lumped them (and perhaps a few others) into a single holiday - President's Day. My issue with President's Day (3rd Monday in Feb) is that there's not much in the way of festivities, other than some supposedly Spectacular Savings on new cars - ('Shop now, they're going fast'). This crass car commercialism tends to make our Presidents Day seem somewhat feckless as an inspiring holiday to honor greatness in our leaders.

George Washington became our first duly elected President; he being officially sworn into office on 4/30/1789. He served two terms until 3/4/1797. From that time, 235 years ago until this very day - today - there have been 85,753 days where someone has held that august title and high office. Each one of those days is technically a President's Day, be it a good or bad one. Did Martha ever ask George, "How was your day, dear?" Probably. Each President's normal 4-year term of office is about 1,461 good and bad days long.

This is where some third-grade arithmetic kicks in to divvy up all those Presidents Day celebrations and honorifics equitably among our leaders of the free world. There are only 1440 minutes (86,400 seconds) in any day. Thus, commemorating those 85,753 presidents' days within a single holiday - leaves us with just over one second to celebrate each of those individual days. It means we can celebrate Washington and other two-termers for about 50 minutes each. Fair enough. Then there's William Henry Harrison; in office for a scant 32 days before he died. In your Presidents Day solemnities, he's good for about 33 seconds, give-take.

And along the way we come to - David Rice Atchison (8/11/1807 - 1/26/1886). He is best known for the fair claim that for 24 hours - from Sunday, March 4, 1849 through noon on Monday - he was technically by law the Acting President of the United States.

On Friday, 3/2 outgoing vice president George M. Dallas vacated his position as Senate President. Congress had already elected Atchison as the succeeding Senate President pro tempore. Inauguration Day, 3/4, fell on a Sunday in 1849 when the term of outgoing president, James K. Polk, ended at noon. President-elect Zachary Taylor opted not to take the presidential oath of office until the next day.



Per the Presidential Succession Act of 1792, the Senate president pro tempore followed the vice president in the presidential line of succession. As Dallas's term also ended at noon on the 4th, and as neither Taylor nor Vice President-elect Millard Fillmore would be sworn in to office until the next day, it was noted by Atchison's colleagues that on March 4, 1849, Atchison became the official Acting President of the United States - POTUS by default, without need for a swearing in ceremony.

Thus, within our Presidents Day party planner we should note with the greatest solemnity The Atchison Moment. Our third-grade math marks it at 5:56:15am as an official micro-holiday - at the poetic dawn of Presidents Day. It's just over a second, and I propose that we all gather on the Town Common to say his name - loudly and proudly. "Atchison". Then we crisply move on to Zachary Taylor.

The good news is that for 24 hours Atchison didn't do a single thing wrong. His blemish-free record in high office stands as the high-water mark for presidential deliberation, decorum, and accomplishment because he humbly (perhaps wisely) opted not to accomplish anything at all.

In light of Atchison's unique albeit fleetingly brief place in presidential history - I have created the Atchison Presidential Library. I have taken it upon myself to personally fund the entire project, so no taxpayer moneys are involved. I maintain the entire Atchison Library in a shoebox. It's a small piece of paper containing a note penned by Atchison himself to his personal assistant, written on Monday morning during the waning hours of his term of office. It's a shopping list - oats for his horse, some bootblack, and a firkin of whale oil, signed, D. R. Atchison.

In his memoir, Atchinson stated:

"James Polk went out of office on March 3, 1849, Saturday at 12 noon. The next day, the 4th, occurring on Sunday, Gen. Taylor was not inaugurated until Monday, the 5th, at noon. It was then canvassed among Senators whether there was an interregnum (during which a country lacks a government). It was plain that there was either an interregnum, or - I was the President of the United States, being chairman of the Senate, having succeeded Judge Mangum of North Carolina. The judge woke me at 3 AM and said jocularly that as I was President of the United States, I should appoint him as Secretary of State. I made no pretense to the office, but if I was entitled in it, I had one boast to make, that not a woman or child shed a tear on account of my removing anyone from office during my incumbency."

David Rice Atchison, the President we needed - for a day.

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# A Quiet Week?

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 02/18/2024

“Well, it’s been a quiet week in Lake Wobegon.” This was the leadoff line to launch into Garrison Keiller’s wildly cheeky stories from ‘back home’ on his weekly NPR radio program, ‘A Prairie Home Companion’. There are indeed actual quiet weeks. They do exist. Even in our modern, digitally fast-paced, urgent world of business, there’s a saying that sums it all up.

“I wish like Hell it would slow down and I’m deathly afraid it will.”

In what might be viewed as ‘a quiet week’ there is necessary activity. It might not be filled with the flashy headliner action that offers up bragging rights. Rather, it’s the week that’s filled with all the nameless, (often thankless) invisible tasks and projects that make those notable, (braggable?) weeks possible. The highlights:

**Sunday:** Gather and file all radio station program, transmitter and ‘Emergency Alert’ test logs for the previous week. Verify that the transmitter is in good order. Update financial forecast information for our monthly board meeting.

**Monday:** Review and finish preparing information for the noon board meeting.

At 1:30p meet with MIAA to plan for upcoming ‘Power rankings’ programs.

At 4p, investigate audio issues in the Town Hall Chambers TV control room.

**Tuesday:** Scan/organize invoices, receipts, statements, notices and other docs. Prepare all 2023 business files for our annual audit.

**Wednesday:** Work with Dell computer’s technician to replace a failed graphics card in Edit system 1. Coordinate the updates for our central video file servers.

**Thursday:** Record our radio program, ‘More Perfect Union’. Coordinate updates for our LAN device addresses and access codes.

**Friday:** Meet with Jim Derick, Nick Remissong and new volunteers for wfpr.fm.

Design, install new video distribution gear and wiring to update our program control system for Zoom meetings in the Town Hall Training Room.

**Saturday:** Prepare our program schedule and post online for the upcoming week – and write the weekly background story that you are now reading.

The days are also peppered with ongoing staff discussions about upcoming dates and programs. All in, it’s a humdrum ‘quiet’ week. A good week. One that makes those other weeks possible. Even in such a (supposedly) quiet week we wonder, “Where does the time go?”

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# A Not So Quiet Week?

Last week was a quiet week. This one? Not so much.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 02/25/2024

I think I'll describe this week as a 'push' week. A push to get ahead technically while preparing for big upcoming projects. Thus, a busier week.

**Sunday:** Same, same. Like every other Sunday morning. Gather and file all radio station program, transmitter and 'Emergency Alert' test logs for the previous week. Verify that the transmitter is in good order.

**Monday:** A holiday? Srsly? An opportunity to catch up on more paperwork.

**Tuesday:** This one was a big push. We've been revamping our larger studio with six 85-inch background displays. When you line 'em up, they create an impressive amount of visual real estate to fill with graphics and camera images. We have plans for upcoming larger musical projects in our large studio. Now that the displays are mounted and movable, time for some signals wiring. We also re-mounted and tuned up the five 65-inch displays in small studio.

**Wednesday:** Review/submit timesheets to payroll. Purchase memory cards at Micro Center for our 4 edit systems. Record a pre-show interview segment with Meredith Perri and Bob Baldwyn for the Saturday MIAA bracket reveal programs. Radio production studio is dead. Power distro failed again. Replace UPS and rewire power distro. Reset the audio console and test all CPU systems. Reset Off-Air signal monitor and transmitter controls interface.

Meet with MIAA for last prepro discussions regarding Saturday broadcasts. Prepare bracket graphics in Excel and format for HDTV for bracket reveals.

**Thursday:** Begin updating edit systems with more memory. Begin preparing the small studio signal management for Saturday's broadcasts. Work on rehearsal and prepro for a new cooking series that starts production in a week or so.

**Friday:** Get commissary and cleaning items at Stop&Shop. Clean up the kitchen (dishes/pots/pans) after the cooking show rehearsal. Check the restrooms. Take out trash. Meet with Jim Derick, and our newest FM volunteers to acquaint them with our radio studio and editing systems. Finalize the signal flows for Saturday's live programs and run and troubleshoot technical rehearsals with Chris Flynn. Prep our weekly online TV schedules.

**Saturday:** 7:30am call time. Prepare to go live - statewide - with our first MIAA bracket reveal programs. Several other PEG studios will carry our programs live.

It's around this time each week I ask myself the same unanswerable question:  
"Where does the time go?"

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# The MIAA Bracket Reveal

For High School Sports – This is a Big Event.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 03/03/2024

I ended last week with:

**“Saturday: 7:30am call time. Prepare to go live – statewide – with our first MIAA bracket reveal programs. Several other PEG studios will carry our programs live.”**

I'm pleased to report that in a 'first' at Franklin.TV, working with MASSLive.com and MIAA (Massachusetts Interscholastic athletic Association), our studio was connected across the state via several other PEG facilities, and over the internet via YouTube LIVE. We conducted two one-hour broadcasts hosted by Meredith Perri of MASSLive, along with Franklin.TV's Jay Horrigan and Pete Royce. Thanks to Jim Clark and Steve Dubzinski at MIAA for their work on the stats and brackets.



In the studio, L to R: School Sports Historian, Michael Richard, Jay Horrigan and Meredith Perri interview a student athlete. Chris Flynn is at the studio controls.

All in, more than 3,000 folks statewide; athletes, athletic directors, coaches, and others, tuned in to Franklin.TV or their local cable station, or they watched online via YouTube Live to see the MIAA results immediately as they were released.

Events like this are also opportunities to produce more challenging 'reach' projects that advance our studio capabilities and staff skills. We're already planning more technical updates to facilitate and improve our future Live MIAA events.

Let the word go forth – from MIAA.

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# Shelley Otis

Harp Beats - in our studio

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 03/10/2024



Harp Beats: Fabio, Rich, Sandy and Shelley Otis

Shelley Otis and Harp Beats, launched our first 'Musical Mastery' studio session last week. The result will be a full CD album of contemporary music featuring Shelley on harp.

There are few instruments that are more moving and emotionally rich than the harp. And there are few harpists as accomplished as Shelley.

In the weeks ahead watch for our new series 'Music Mastery' on All-Access, Franklin.TV.

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# Linda Waters

We're Cookin' Again.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 03/17/2024

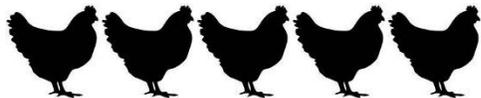
Our Franklin TV kitchen is serving up 3 new chicken dishes in the weeks ahead.



Tim and Linda - cooking it all up in the kitchen.

Linda Waters builds confidence in college grads and young professionals through her cooking sessions and, well - Not gonna lie. We got to enjoy the delicious results. Linda and Tim whipped up 3 excellent chicken dishes - 'Marry Me' Chicken, Chicken Parm, and Chicken Marsala.

I rate them all at 'Five Chickens'.



Yep. It's all good.

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# Live Sports Radio

Coming to you from Tsongas Arena.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 03/24/2024

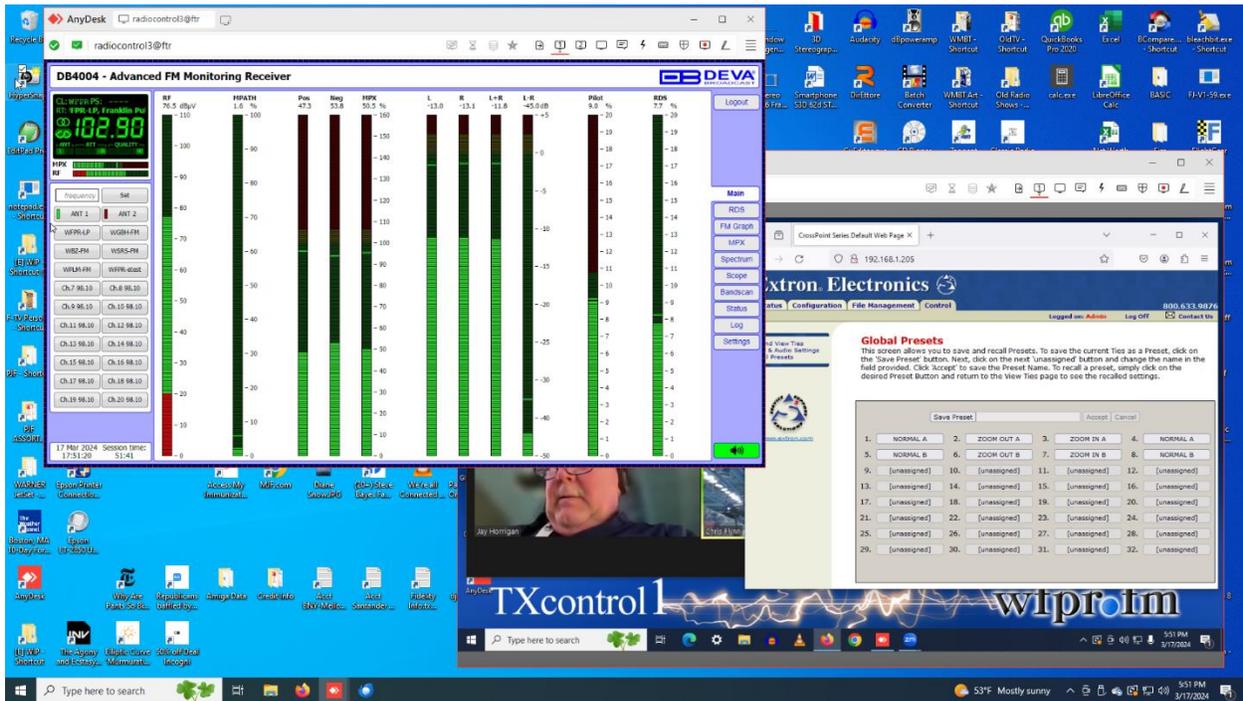
Last week we were not allowed to cover the State Roundball Finals because we were blacked out by the NFHS network. <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/>

We cablecast and live-stream as many Franklin games as possible. All for free. NFHS live-streams the big high school sporting events – for a subscriber fee.

For those of you who missed it, this week:

Sunday, 7:30 pm FHS Boys Varsity Basketball State Finals 03-17-24  
Monday, 7:00 pm FHS Boys Varsity Basketball State Finals 03-17-24  
Thursday 10:00 am FHS Boys Varsity Basketball State Finals 03-17-24

That said, we're hoping to come to some accommodation with NFHS in the future. We did cover the game live on Franklin Public Radio as an 'experimental' 'B' plan. Lots of laptop computers were involved to broadcast the event – as a Zoom meeting. Our sports guys, Jay Horrigan and Pete Royce were at the mic in Tsongas. I was at home as the Zoom host. Another laptop at our wfpr transmitter site was 'listening'. The whole enchilada was connected up by still more remote computers.



It Takes a Village – of Computers.

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# Millis Berfield Studio Session

We brought 'em back for more.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 03/31/2024

Frank Falvey finds things. Interesting things - and people. Couple of months back Frank invited Ken Porter and Bo Veaner on his program - The Millis Berfield Band. Ken bills himself humbly as the 'Ber' part. I guess someone has to be.

I'm good with that obfuscatorily confusive honorific. Ken wears it well.

That said, we invited 'em back for a full album session in our large studio. They brought reinforcements as well. A lovely marimba player and a floutist. Bonus!



The group sounded wonderful as we laid down track after track of excellent music. It's all headed your way in April as part of Franklin.TV's Music Mastery series. Watch for it in our weekly Program Guide.

And thanks to Frank for a good 'Get'.

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# Nothing To Do?

Check out the Town's calendar.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 04/07/2024

Don't know what to do? Don't know what's happening?

14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>Chess Group</b> 2:00pm <b>Eid Celebration!</b> 2:00pm	<b>Closed: Patriot's Day</b> <b>Italian Novel Reading</b> 9:30am to 10:30am <b>Hair Dresser/Barber</b> 10:00am <b>Poker</b> 10:30am <b>Line Dancing</b> 11:00am <b>Trivia</b> 1:00pm <b>Chair Volleyball</b> 1:00pm to 2:00pm <b>American Mah-Jongg</b> 1:00pm to 2:00pm <b>Pool Night</b> 4:00pm to 5:00pm <b>Cribbage</b> 5:00pm	<b>Cribbage</b> 9:00am to 10:00am <b>Busy Bee</b> 9:30am to 11:30am <b>Low Impact</b> 9:30am to 10:30am <b>Cool Cruisers</b> 9:30am <b>COA Meeting</b> 10:00am <b>Hand &amp; Foot</b> 10:00am to 12:00pm <b>Senior Players</b> 10:30am <b>Toe Jam Puppet Band!</b> 10:30am <b>Hearing Clinic</b> 10:30am <b>Legal Clinic</b> 1:00pm <b>BINGO</b> 1:00pm to 2:00pm <b>Chess</b> 1:00pm to 3:15pm <b>Cribbage Instruction</b> 1:00pm to 2:00pm <b>Quilting</b> 1:00pm to 2:00pm <b>Toe-Tapping Tots</b> 4:00pm <b>Code Club</b> 4:00pm <b>Table Top</b> 6:00pm <b>sustainability Subcommittee</b> 6:00pm	<b>Blood Pressure and Sugar Testing</b> 9:30am to 12:00pm <b>Walking Group</b> 9:00am <b>Travel Opportunities 2025 (Int'l and Domestic)</b> 9:30am <b>Chair Yoga</b> 10:00am to 11:00am <b>Knitting</b> 10:00am to 12:00pm <b>Scrabble</b> 10:00am to 12:00pm <b>Asian Mah-Jongg</b> 10:00am to 11:00am <b>Ed Popielarczyk Magic Show!</b> 10:30am <b>Pound Fitness</b> 11:00am to 12:00pm <b>Franklin Q &amp; A</b> 11:00am <b>Bridge</b> 12:00pm <b>Memory Café</b> 1:00pm <b>Pokeno</b> 1:00pm to 3:00pm <b>Mindful Moments</b> 1:00pm <b>Petite Picassos!</b> 1:00pm <b>Thriving Solo</b> 2:00pm <b>Cardio Fusion</b> 4:00pm to 5:00pm <b>Bookworm Bounce</b> 4:00pm <b>Dementia Caregiver's Support Group</b> 6:00pm <b>Wire Wrapping for Teens!</b> 5:30pm <b>Master Plan Committee</b> 6:30pm <b>Finance Committee Meeting</b> 7:00pm	<b>Senior Coffee Hour w/ State &amp; Local Officials</b> 9:30am <b>Blood Pressure and Sugar Testing</b> 9:30am to 12:00pm <b>Town Council Office Hours at the Sr. Center</b> 9:30am <b>Cribbage</b> 9:30am to 10:00am <b>Busy Bee</b> 9:30am to 11:30am <b>Low Impact</b> 9:30am to 10:30am <b>Tummy Time</b> 9:30am <b>Discussion Group</b> 10:00am to 11:00am <b>Bible Study</b> 10:15am to 11:15am <b>The BenAnna Band!</b> 10:30am <b>Notary Services</b> 10:30am <b>Poker</b> 12:00pm to 2:00pm <b>BINGO</b> 1:00pm to 2:00pm <b>Tai Chi</b> 1:00pm to 2:00pm <b>Cribbage</b> 1:00pm to 2:00pm <b>Thinking Money for Kids!</b> 1:00pm <b>Home Safety &amp; Fall Prevention</b> 1:00pm <b>Dating your Device: Phone</b> 2:30pm <b>Game Bytes</b> 4:00pm to 5:00pm <b>Artsy Afternoons</b> 4:00pm to 5:00pm <b>Toe-Tapping Tots</b> 4:00pm <b>How to Steal a Masterpiece</b> 6:30pm <b>Conservation Commission Meeting</b> 7:00pm	<b>Cafe Closed</b> 8:00am <b>Cribbage</b> 9:00am to 12:00pm <b>Political Discussion</b> 10:00am <b>Woodcarving</b> 10:00am to 1:00pm <b>Hand &amp; Foot</b> 10:00am to 12:00pm <b>Knitting Group</b> 10:30am <b>Move Along</b> 10:30am <b>Rock N' Roll: Volunteer Appreciation Brunch (Invite Only)</b> 10:30am <b>Hand &amp; Foot Instruct</b> 11:00am to 12:00pm <b>T.O.P.S</b> 12:30pm to 2:00pm <b>Book Sale</b> 1:00pm to 5:00pm <b>Clone of Bridge Instruction</b> 1:00pm <b>Pokeno</b> 1:00pm to 3:00pm <b>Darts</b> 1:00pm to 2:00pm <b>Diamond Art</b> 1:00pm to 2:00pm <b>Mobile Mini Golf!</b> 1:00pm to 4:00pm <b>Book Sale</b> 1:00pm to 5:00pm <b>People Pleasing</b> 1:00pm <b>Silvertones Choral Group</b> 2:00pm	<b>Book Sale</b> 9:00am to 12:00pm <b>Fairytale Fun!</b> 10:30am <b>Kids Paint Party!</b> 1:00pm to 3:00pm <b>Bag Sale</b> 1:00pm to 4:00pm

<https://www.franklinma.gov/calendar> (Check it out.)

The Town's official calendar lists much of the goings-on across our fair zipcode. There's a lot of opportunity to discover more about Franklin in these daily columns.

<https://www.franklinma.gov/calendar/upcoming> (Also worth checking.)

<https://www.franklinculture.org/things-do/pages/calendar>

And - for more in-depth info - every day:

<https://www.franklinmatters.org/>

Now you know.

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# Eclipse

It Happened!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 04/14/2024

Major networks covered the eclipse - live - from several locations across the U.S. TV stations along the path of totality had their own local news teams weighing in. Good coverage. Lots of fanfare and cheers. Then - on to the next news cycle.

Franklin.TV was also covering the eclipse - at the precise centerline of totality, four miles North of St. Albans, Vermont. Precise? Within a hundred feet or so, in the Champlain Country Club's parking lot. This is where the more seasoned and serious eclipse trackers headed. For some, this was their third. Others, their fifth. We interviewed several as they set up computerized tracking systems. We learned much about eclipses, the science, and the humanity as well.

*"Lots of folks headed to the park in downtown St. A's. That's gonna be a mosh pit. This is exactly where you want to be."* (Good advice.)

The experience of totality is quite literally other worldly.

While Sun and moon may be small against the sky, the vast scope of it completely envelopes you because the entire sky above becomes as dark as a new moon night. (Only a new moon can eclipse the Sun.) Then, the unexpected. We were on somewhat higher open ground at a golf course. While we were centered in the deep cone of totality, the far horizon all around us was still lit, and we experienced a glorious, 360-degree wraparound 'sunset' effect.



Our new friends - the eclipse chasers went silent, some had tears of joy. We were all totally together in the moment. They're also providing some additional images. Our eclipse special will be completed later this year. What might we reveal? For now, we'll just have to keep you in the dark.

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Our Community Access  
**FranklinTV**

# Override?

Come Wednesday.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 04/21/2024



A Joint Meeting of the  
FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL & FRANKLIN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
[A quorum of the Franklin Finance Committee will be in attendance]

Meeting Agenda  
April 24, 2024  
Franklin High School Auditorium  
218 Oak Street  
7:00 PM

**A NOTE TO RESIDENTS:** All citizens are welcome to attend public meetings in person. There will be no Zoom option for this meeting; however, to view the live meeting remotely citizens are encouraged to watch the live stream on the Franklin Town Hall TV YouTube channel or the live broadcast on Comcast Channel 9 and Verizon Channel 29. Meetings are also archived by Franklin TV on the Franklin Town Hall TV YouTube channel and shown on repeat on Comcast Channel 9 and Verizon Channel 29 for those who miss the live meeting.

## 1. INTRODUCTION BY THE TOWN COUNCIL & SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

## 2. PRESENTATION

a. Town Administrator, Jamie Hellen & Superintendent of Schools, Lucas Giguere

## 3. DISCUSSION & PUBLIC HEARING

a. To discuss the public opinion of an operational override.

## 4. ADJOURN

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# Override? Part 2

A Big Turnout

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 04/28/2024

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Tom Mercer opened the meeting shortly after 7pm.

4. ADJOURN – 10:40pm.

Jamie Hellen and Lucas Giguere framed the issues and presented the numbers, followed by 2 hours of public comments. Some were reasoned. Others, less so. There is a strong causal link between money and passion.

Parents want better for their kids. Retirees want to rein in their taxes. Town and School services struggle to bridge that divide. I tallied over 400 in the auditorium. Another 300-ish watched online. Many more watched our Town Hall TV channel.

We all struggle to make a buck. We also struggle to spend less of it. The Town – the people who watched – and – even us at Franklin.TV. We know well how everyone works to make ends meet. We're in the same position. As a nonprofit organization, we benefit from Town services, like everyone else. We volunteer to pay taxes to the Town – like everyone else. We cost the Town – nothing.

All of our financial support comes from cable TV – Comcast and Verizon. As more viewers 'cut the cord', canceling their cable service, we receive less support.

When folks want to watch big events (like the budget meeting) they call for details.

"How can I watch the meeting?"

"We'll show it on Comcast channel 9 and Verizon 29."

"– I don't have cable."

"You can also watch us live on our Youtube channel."

I provide details, explaining how to find our live streams on the internet – for free. As Franklin's local TV studio, do we at Franklin.TV provide value? Consider that the 'fair market' rate to televise this meeting alone was well over \$20,000 dollars. That funding has to come from...

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# Chris Stearns

20 Years of Franklin Meetings

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 05/05/2024

"Whereas, Chris Stearns became employed by the Town of Franklin in 2004, when we managed the cable TV studio via our then Cable Advisory Board; and

Whereas, even earlier - Since 1997 - a time when TV cameras were big, heavy, and needed lots of light - Chris Stearns was actively involved in pioneering Citizen TV through our local cable studio, starting with Charter Cable, as well as working at the Town's Comcast studio at 13 Main St., prior to joining Franklin TV; and

Whereas, throughout his years with the Town of Franklin, and Franklin TV, he has covered many meetings at the Town of Franklin's old Town Hall, and still remains a steady and reliable producer and director of government meetings within the Town of Franklin; and

Whereas, Chris Stearns has adapted readily to the added challenges of the digital world, by adding Zoom access for folks at home, and online streaming in high definition, while working with a consistently positive spirit, week in & week out.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN TO ALL  
That Chris Stearns is hereby commended and recognized by the Town Council of the Town of Franklin for his twenty years of faithful and unwavering service to the community and to Franklin TV."

Thanks, Chris. Well done.

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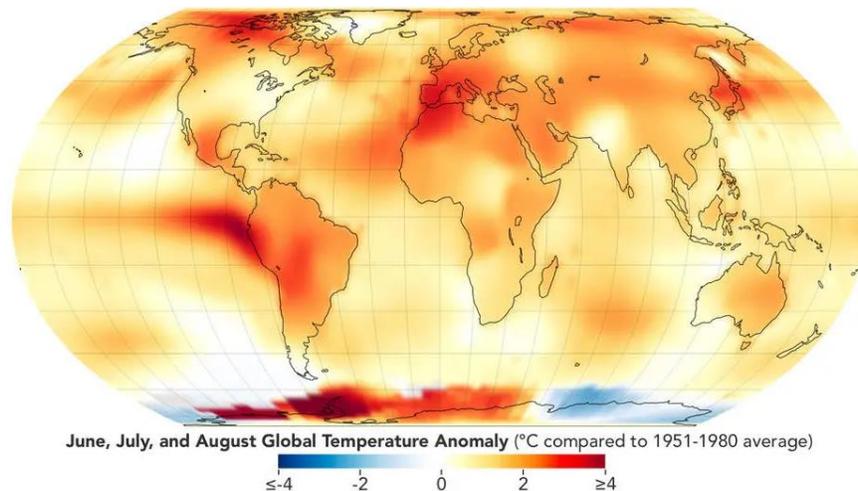
# Summer Days Ahead

Horological Summer is here - 90 longest days  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 05/12/2024

Memorial Day weekend is touted as the unofficial start of Summer across the U.S., but the official start of the season? It depends. The Summer solstice occurs on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 4:51 P.M. EDT. This is when **Astronomical** Summer begins. Some finer points to note - The Sun actually rises at its earliest about a week before and sets at its latest about a week after. This is because of the Earth's slightly elliptical orbit. (Google: analemma)

**Horological** (Solar) Summer refers to the 90 longest days of the year from May 6 to about August 5. So - Solar Summer is already here, and ushering in:

**Meteorological** Summer - which is fast approaching. This is the 91-ish days of the year containing the warmest weather - from June to August. The time difference between Horological and Meteorological Summer is about 3 to 4 weeks, give-take. This is the typical lag in the worldwide weather system and the Sun's local effects.



The hottest day of the year on average - is July 21<sup>st</sup>. The 'hottest day' in any year can occur at any time between late June and most of August, depending on the weather and location. The hot 'Dog Days of Summer' run from Jul 3 to Aug 11-ish. This year, with El Nino still in effect, we might see some records broken - again. The last two Summers were recorded by NOAA as the hottest yet.

Perhaps call the HVAC folks to run a health check on your air conditioning?

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# Porch Fest

Music - All Over Town

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 05/19/2024

The musicians are coming! The musicians are coming! On porches everywhere. On Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, get ready for a 'neighborhood block party' all over town. It's Franklin's first-ever Porchfest - a huge music jam. I count at least, umm - 50? Here they are, all jammed onto 1 page. We'll record as many as we can. (Whew!)

- 270 Cottage St 2:00 - 4:00 The Bittas - 5:00 - 6:00 W.M.D.  
60 Dean Ave 2:00 - 4:00 Dave Warner Band  
148 Dean Ave 1:00 - 2:00 Railroad picker  
17 E Central Street, Birchwood Bakery 12:30 - 1:30 Jack & Aida  
16 Fales Street 1:00 - 3:00 Matt Tremble - 4:30 - 6:00 A Touch of Grey  
85 Hillside Rd 12:00 - 1:00 Berkshire Valley Boys - 2:00 - 4:00 Lincoln Street Groove Project  
94 Hillside Rd. 4:30 - 6:00 Orange Squeeze  
9 Lincoln Street 12:00 - 1:00 Garden Of Hedon - 3:00 - 4:00 The Pub Kings  
5:00 - 6:00 The Zajac Brothers Band  
18 Lincoln Street 1:00 - 3:00 Dom DeBaggis - 3:45 - 5:45 Joe Marino  
270 Main St. 12:00 - 1:00 Mark Legere - 2:00 - 4:00 Bucketlist  
164 Main Street 12:30 - 1:15 Jeff Roy of Ben Gardner's Boat  
1:45 - 2:30 Great Highland Bagpipe Player - 3:00 - 4:30 Critical Mass  
171 Main Street, Federated Church 2:15 - 3:00 Ben Levy - 5:00 - 6:00 Average Joel  
36 Main Street, Intermission Cafe 12:00 - 6:00 FSPA Faculty, Students & Alumni  
118 Main Street, Public Library 12:00 - 1:00 Musical Memories with John & Linda  
2:00 - 3:00 The Bad Apples - 4:30 - 6:00 Spunky Bliss  
201 Main Street, Town Common Gazebo 1:00 - 3:00 Franklin Public Schools Music  
5:00 - 6:00 South Street Six  
27 Marvin Ave 2:00 - 3:00 LIZ's KID - 5:00 - 6:00 Mike Mainuli  
35 Marvin Ave 1:00 - 2:00 Cabana Knights - 3:00 - 4:00 Moonshot  
14 Orchard Street 4:00 - 5:00 Heath Nisbett - 5:15 - 6:00 Rayna Nisbett  
17 Park Rd 5:00 - 6:00 Ayre Time  
24 Pearl Street 1:00 - 3:00 The Franklin Underground  
99 Pleasant St 1:00-3:00 AK Cody & Wicked Northmen - 3:30-5:00 Grab the Wheel  
237 Pleasant Street 12:00 - 1:00 Grey Cats Band - 2:00 - 4:00 Wild Sundays  
28 Queen Street 12:00 - 1:00 Sun Of Sound - 2:00 - 4:00 Slow Train  
248 Summer St 2:00 - 4:00 According to Nancy - 5:00 - 6:00 Alfred Be Loud  
80 W. Central St., Historical Museum 12:00 - 1:00 Jamie Barrett  
2:00 - 3:00 Metrowest Symphony ensemble  
4:00 - 5:00 Greenwich Bay Brass ensemble  
39 Union St 1:00 - 2:00 Kaye Kelly with Innovover  
80 Union St 2:00 - 3:30 The KO Trio  
17 Union Street 4:00 - 6:00 Dave Bauer & Diet Soda  
305 Union Street 2:00 - 3:00 DERT

Wowwerz! Who knew there was so much talent?

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# Memorial Day

The Origin Story

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 05/26/2024

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared it should be May 30. It is believed the date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, and centered around the mourning- draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of General Lee. Various officials, including General and Mrs. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR came through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. By the end of the 19th century Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. It was not until after World War I that it was expanded to honor those who died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act," P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity" by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

And so we pause to give deepest thanks to all who made the highest sacrifice.

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# FHS Graduation

Go, Panthers!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 06/02/2024



**Graduation 2024.** This year the weather gods smiled upon us, and the evening was perfect. All in, the ceremony began at 6:30pm and clipped along briskly; wrapping up with graduation caps aloft shortly after 8:00pm.

**Hats off - to our 2024 Panthers.**

**And thanks to our Franklin.TV crew: Chris Flynn, Chris Leverone, John Milot, Marc Berman, Taylor Tremblay, and Panther TV's Matt Geisinger. Heather Moreau.**

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# Tri-County Graduation

Go, Cougars!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 06/09/2024



**Graduation 2024.** This year the weather gods smiled upon us, and the evening was perfect. All in, the ceremony began at 6:00pm and clipped along briskly; wrapping up with graduation caps aloft shortly before 8:00pm.

Hats off - to our 2024 Cougars.

And thanks to our Franklin.TV crew: Chris Flynn, Chris Leverone, Meredith Roberts, Jared Ware, Taylor Tremblay, and Tri-County's Christopher Cadorette.

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# PEG in a Nutshell, Part 1 1 (of 3)

Stream On?

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 06/16/2024

The streaming media industry is maturing. It's also reaching a saturation point. This is becoming manifest by the higher viewer churn among streaming providers, the melding of some stream services into 'bundle subscriptions', and increasing monthly fees by those enviable players at the top of the industry. Some of that increase is profit taking, (because they can). Much of it is just trying to stay ahead of increasing program costs. Streamers face the same program cost challenges as Comcast & Verizon for original content.

Increasingly, cord-cutters who have left their cable carriers are finding it more difficult to keep streaming home entertainment costs down. If you seek variety then you likely have 3-5 streaming accounts. The giant savings are not quite so giant anymore. It's also a hassle to constantly start/stop/restart/stop/re- uh... and you get the idea. (Because there's always another 'must-see' series 'coming soon'.)

We at Franklin.TV have been streaming lots of programming as well - but our live event streams are free on all three of our channels. Comcast and Verizon pay us an Access fee. The streaming companies; Netflix, AppleTV+, Prime, et al do not pay us. This where things may change in the next year or so. Massachusetts is examining the streaming industry, as have almost half the states across the U.S. Many states are implementing an entertainment tax on video streaming and online gaming. This tax is the digital equivalent of the entertainment tax on tickets to live events. The tax is distributed in various ways by the states. Much of the proceeds go to support PEG studios like ours because we suffer losses as more viewers abandon cable.

There is legislation pending on Beacon Hill in both MA House and Senate that would collect a streaming entertainment tax and apply it expressly to support local PEG studios great and small (like ours) across the state. When? Perhaps in the next year or so the proposed bills will be up for a vote.

Consider all that we do for localism and for Franklin's spirit as a great community to live and work in - the public and civic events, all those school sports, the many government meetings, our public radio station and more. It all requires support.

We would greatly appreciate yours.

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# Waffle Wednesday!

It happened – on Thursday? That’s Okay.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 06/23/2024

What’s important is that it happened. (And, who doesn’t like waffles?)

Before covid brought the world to a halt we produced programs at our studio more often than we do these days. It’s not that we’re not busy. We’re still as busy as ever shooting programs and events on location (often live) all over Franklin and beyond. Add some necessary ‘work-from-home’ capability that helped us get through the pandemic, and our staff presence in the building is less these days than it was in 2019. Back then, we would meet in our TV kitchen for Waffle Wednesday. It was an opportunity to meet, socialize. bond. talk shop, set schedules and share skills. Whether at home or at work, family and friends tend to gather in the kitchen.



Here are all the fixins and mixins for our Waffle Wednesday gathering. Every high level corporate strategy meeting should be as tasty. Makes for good attendance. I cooked up a dozen waffles for the staff, and our tradition of meeting, learning, and planning for upcoming events while breaking brea- erm, waffles – is rekindled. Please pass the maple syrup.

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# Go Fourth, and Celebrate!

May the Fourth Be With You!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 06/30/2024



If there's a town in America that knows how to party on our nation's birthday, it's us, right here in Franklin. From July 3 through July 7, we party, party, and party. How does this huge party come together? We thank the Franklin July 4<sup>th</sup> Coalition.

For a complete schedule of events and festivities, visit [www.franklin4th.com](http://www.franklin4th.com)

Hint: It's a lot.

We'll do our best to cover it all on Franklin.TV.

It's a lot of music - for 5 straight days. Bring a blanket or lawn chair to the Common. It's a lot of decadent food, rides, amusements, and festivities. It's a lot of fireworks - starting at 10 pm, Saturday night at the high school. All in, it's a lot of fun.

That said, It also takes a lot of planning, work and funding. Private funding - from generous sponsors and individual donations.

While you're visiting their website to plan your own family activities on the Fourth, consider making a donation. Big or small, it all helps to ensure that next year, America's birthday party can continue.

I'll have a corn dog and funnel cake, please.

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# Breakfast Anytime!

We're in the kitchen with Linda Waters.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 07/07/2024

The advertising world claims that:

“Breakfast –  
It’s the most important meal of the day.”

Uh-huh. Hence, the Pop-tart?  
We can do better, people.

That is precisely what Linda Waters did during our recent day in the kitchen. She made breakfast magic with some new twists on bacon (literally).

And, her take on pancakes and potatoes?  
Yes! They were totally to die for.

We must note, incidentally, that there is no difficulty scheduling our staff to work on our cooking shows.  
Gee! I wonder why.

They already have their sights (and their taste buds) set on Linda’s next scheduled production in mid-July.

If you have talent in the kitchen and a desire to share your skills – know that our hungry crew is highly motivated to make your cooking show dreams come true. Just give us a call. We will make it happen.

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# Our Open Board Meeting

It's Happening. August 17<sup>th</sup> at Our Studio  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 07/14/2023

This year our Annual Open Board Meeting will take place as part of a neighborhood block party at our 23 Hutchinson St. studios.

**Join us, Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.**

**If you plan to attend, please RSVP by August 9 to:**

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

It's open to all Franklin businesses and residents. We'll meet-and-greet and enjoy the day starting at 3:00pm. Come hungry and enjoy some great food and music. You can also tour our studios and learn about Franklin•TV and wfpr•fm. We'll also review the past year's progress and plans for the future. At our meeting you may cast a vote for new and/or renewing board positions.

**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.

Thanks to our board members who contribute their time and energy to help make Franklin•TV all that a public access TV studio can be. If you would like to become involved either as a volunteer or to create 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 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 3:00pm. Our brief open board meeting begins at 4:00pm. Come meet, greet, chow down, have fun, and learn all about local TV and radio in Franklin.

See you then.

And - as always -

Thank you for listening to wfpr•fm.

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# Citizen TV

It's What We Do.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 07/21/2023

Abigail Drake called us. She wanted to be on TV. More specifically, she wanted to create a TV program - a presentation about recycling fabric and fast fashion as part of her Gold Star scouting project. Could we help her with that?

Yes. It's what we do. It's local community television. It's citizen TV.



It's the promise of access to public media - available to anyone. Public Access TV. It began as the dream of a New York City film maker, George Stoney 50 years ago. In that earlier TV era video cameras and editing equipment were expensive and hard to come by - let alone access to a TV channel. Citizens could learn the basics of video craft - shooting and editing scenes to produce their own TV programs. Times have changed. The video equipment has changed, but the mission remains. Today, everyone has a smartphone camera, a laptop, and streaming media on the internet. What more do you need?

A studio? Graphics? Creative guidance? A technical crew? Yes. It's what we do.

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Our Community Access  
**FranklinTV**

# Our Open Board Meeting – and Good Eats

It's a Block Party. August 17<sup>th</sup> at Our Studio

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 07/28/2023

This year our Annual Open Board Meeting will take place as our neighborhood block party at our 23 Hutchinson St. studios. Come one. Come all. Come Hungry.

**Join us, Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.**

**If you plan to attend, please RSVP by August 12 to:**

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

It's open to all Franklin businesses and residents. We'll meet-and-greet and enjoy the day starting at 3:00pm. Enjoy some great food, music and fun. You can also tour our studios and learn about Franklin•TV and wfpr•fm. We'll also review the past year's progress and plans for the future. At our meeting you may cast a vote for new and/or renewing board positions.

**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.

Thanks to our board members who contribute their time and energy to help make Franklin•TV all that a public access TV studio can be. If you would like to become involved either as a volunteer or to create 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 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 3:00pm. Our brief open board meeting begins at 4:00pm. Come meet, greet, chow down, have fun, and learn all about local TV and radio in Franklin.

See you then.

And- as always -

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# Town Hall Overhaul

New Trimmings and New Tech

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 08/04/2023

It's been twenty years-ish since Franklin government moved into the Municipal Building, and time for a refresh. For us it meant uninstalling and removing our 19 microphones, 7 cameras, and 5 displays – everything – from Chambers. Then the main dais and desks could be removed for painting and carpeting.



It means that in the ordering of tasks we are ‘first out – last in’. No one can do their thing until we remove all of our wiring, and we can't reinstall our gear until all the work is done. There's an axiom about audio and video systems. It takes only a few hours to remove everything. Done. But it takes days to reinstall and test to ensure that everything works as before. That said, as of Friday evening, we're ready.

Along the way we also installed new tech. Over the years our Chambers system has had many adds and upgrades. Zoom systems – new control systems, and so on were installed in limited ways to avoid disrupting scheduled meetings. The renovation enabled us to reroute and upgrade signal cables through floor, ceiling and walls and add flexibility to enable future changes.

Thanks to Kevin Harn and Mike D'Angelo for their excellent, timely project management. Now – it's back to business as usual.

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# Our Open Board Meeting!

It's a Block Party. August 17<sup>th</sup> at Our Studio  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 08/11/2023

This year our Annual Open Board Meeting will take place as our neighborhood block party at our 23 Hutchinson St. studios. Come one. Come all. Come Hungry.

**Join us, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.**

It's open to all Franklin businesses and residents. We'll meet-and-greet and enjoy the day starting at 3:00pm. Enjoy some great food, music and fun. You can also tour our studios and learn about Franklin•TV and wfpr•fm. We'll also review the past year's progress and plans for the future. At our meeting you may cast a vote for new and/or renewing board positions.

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# Our Open Board Meeting – Big Fun.

We gathered on August 17<sup>th</sup> at Our Studio  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 08/18/2023

This year our Annual Open Board Meeting took place as our neighborhood block party at our 23 Hutchinson St. studios. We had 40-ish folks who all had great eats.



Thanks to our board members who contribute their time and energy to help make Franklin•TV all that a public access TV studio can be. If you would like to become involved either as a volunteer or to create 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.

Hope to see you next year.

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# 1A v AI

## The First Amendment Requires Genuine Intelligence.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 08/24/2023

This election cycle is at risk. Perhaps more than ever. Regardless of your choice for candidate, please consider the sources of your information. Has what you read or heard been responsibly curated - vetted by professional and objective journalists?

Artificial Intelligence is a new and powerful arrow in the quiver of those who seek to deceive us. We must meet AI with GI, Genuine Intelligence, born of experience, wisdom and a healthy investigative skepticism.

We all know that we can't yell, "Fire", in a crowded theater. It would produce a serious harm. That practical example limits the first amendment. AI begs the question about outright lies, deception and resulting harms in more abstract form. AI lies can cause serious harm to democracy. Perpetrators should be charged. Claims about first amendment rights should offer no safe harbor.

Now that the RNC and DNC are past, the real war of words will be in full force and effect all the way to November. Many words will come from questionable sources.

Bad actors seek to erode our confidence in American politics and all sources of information, true or not. The overarching effect is to discredit everything that we hear so that no one will believe anyone about anything - resulting in voter apathy. That's their goal.

So they would hope.

But diligence - personal due diligence - can prevail. Your vote is too precious to squander. Vote wisely. The road to every election is paved with sacrifice. Let's all do our part to apply genuine intelligence.

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# Summer, We Hardly Knew Ye.

September

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 09/01/2024

It was spring. I blinked. Then I saw a few leaves just starting to turn. Nnnoooo!

LaborDay already? Can it be? What happened to Summer? In part - I spent too much of it working indoors. In part - the heat. Summer is like porridge. No one wants it too hot or cold. To really be 'Summer', weather is Sunny, balmy and 72-76 degrees. That's the claim in Summer's brochure.

September can be a reflective month. Revisiting Summer days. Summer moments and experiences. It's also the beginning of Autumn; a transitional period between the extremes of Winter and Summer. It's also a return to reality. It's sweater weather, leaf-peeping, the onslaught of pumpkin-spice flavored everything. We shift into that 'Okay, moving on' mode where we have to ramp up work and things to do before Winter sets in.



As we enter this month and season of change, perhaps something that Labor Day could use is a good 'greeting'. Other holidays have such exchanges of well wishes. There's Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, etc.

'May your labors be happy? Joyful? Abundant?'

How's about - "Autumn's peace?"

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# Town Council

Venimus, Vidimus, Concurrimus

We Came, We saw, We Concurred

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 09/08/2024

Franklin.TV appeared before Wednesday's Town Council meeting to provide an update on our status and activities. After a long (90-minutes) and somewhat contentious discussion regarding liquor license transfers we provided a crisp Powerpoint overview (10 minutes) leading to the key take-away that we and the Council seek the support of our Beacon hill legislators regarding House and Senate Bills that would shore up our dwindling income from cable access fees.

Our presentation on YouTube begins at 1:48:45 in Wednesday's meeting, and the Powerpoint that we presented is also at the end of this week's Program Guide.

The Council members were most supportive of our efforts and in complete agreement regarding voicing their support for these pending bills.

Both House and Senate bills are crafted in identical language, and the House bill is also available at the end of this Program Guide. The streaming industry would bear the costs and pay the same access fees that cable carriers currently provide. This would offset our increasing losses from cord-cutting and ensure our future.

You can help preserve and support local media in Franklin by contacting your MA legislators and voicing support for these bills.

The Council also concluded with their regular approval of town transfers to us of the quarterly access funds collected by Comcast and Verizon.

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# A Grand Quest

MyFM's Quest for the Best

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 09/15/2024

On Thursday evening, we joined Milford's WMRC MyFM to support their annual gala to crown the 'Quest for the Best' across a variety of small business categories. Radio station? Local shop? Law office? Real estate agent? Every local business, (many often family owned) strives mightily every day to be valued by customers and community - to make a positive difference while making enough to get by.

That sentiment - recognition and support for local businesses - is at the center of MyFM's philosophy. Per the FCC's mandate, broadcasters have an obligation to serve their communities, *'in the public interest, convenience and necessity'*. Work hard to do well by doing good. This is why MyFM has been recognized for fourteen straight years by peer members of the Massachusetts Broadcasters Association as the best small local station in Massachusetts. Well deserved.



This year MyFM's fourth annual Quest for the Best gala at Milford's DoubleTree Hilton filled the grand ballroom with 450 local business owners in attendance. There were well beyond 600,000 independently audited votes to determine the winners. A huge community response.

Big? Small? Doesn't matter.

It's about being the best.  
Congratulations to MyFM  
and to all of the winners.

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# And so – Here We Are.

Random thoughts – as Summer '24 is in the books.  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 09/22/2024

Another Summer ends. Another Autumnal equinox takes place. According to The Old Farmer's Almanac, it's Sunday 9/22 at 8:43 AM. The best way to observe the moment is to find an old farmer – and sip coffee together. Then go out into the fields and harvest stuff until nightfall. I suggest harvesting pumpkins, which command a premium in Autumn. Everything edible or drinkable has to be pumpkin flavored. Then there's that peak halloween demand. Yep, pumpkins.

Note the full Moon nearest to the autumnal equinox is noted as the "Harvest Moon!" It has to do with old farmers! They don't want to work more than necessary. I get it. Near the fall equinox the full Moon rises around sunset for several nights in a row, providing old farmers with just enough extra light to finish harvesting pumpkins and 'maximize their pumpkin yield' before the killing hard frosts set in.



Then, supply in hand, the Old Farmers get together to create demand for pumpkins. Their Pumpkin PR press begins with their Almanac and spreads from there. It's a highly coordinated pumpkin power play that keeps their farm stands busy deep into November – all the way to Thanksgiving.

There is much folk wisdom to be drawn  
from hanging out with Old Farmers.  
Hence, their almanac?  
Pass that pumpkin pie, please.

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# Becca Rausch

Her visit to the Franklin Senior Center  
by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 09/29/2024

On Tuesday 9/24 Franklin's Senator Becca Rausch visited us at the Senior Center.

Her presentation and Q&A began at 6pm. There were an estimated 25-30 folks in attendance, and many more watching via our All-Access cable channels Comcast 6 and Verizon 26 as well as our YouTube All-Access livestream.



To see a repeat of Becca's presentation check this week's All-Access channel Program Guide. You can also find it posted on our All-Access YouTube channel.

Go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwk4f4znjus>

As one of our callers noted, "I like to be informed, and there's so much noise out there that I appreciate opportunities to hear directly from the candidates."

Amen to that astute notion.

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