

DAILY NEWS Sunday

FALL BACK:

Did you remember to turn your clocks back one hour this morning?



SPORTS:

Whopper of a fish story: Marlins win World Series **D1**

2002 Newspaper of the Year finalist
New England Newspaper Association

www.metrowestdailynews.com

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER COMPANY • AN EDITION OF THE METROWEST DAILY NEWS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2003

★ VOL. 117 • NO. 300 • 118 PAGES • 12 SECTIONS • ONE DOLLAR AND 75 CENTS

The home of Franklin's history

After over a hundred years of use, this town's venerable facility could take on a new role

Editor's Note: This is the third in a regular Sunday series featuring our communities' town halls - past, present and future.

By Sara Withee
NEWS STAFF WRITER

FRANKLIN - It was 1891 and the School Committee, after building two new schools in previous years, still needed more classrooms for its 1,000 students.

Students at the first high school, built in 1865, had to hold classes in the girls' cloakroom. The

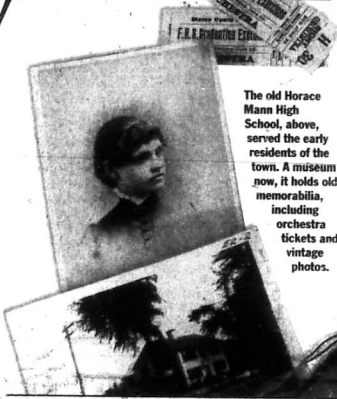
HISTORY
Town Hall, where grammar school students had been taught for three years, was in poor condition, the committee told residents.

"Within a year, two of the teachers who have taught there have been obliged to give up on account of ill health, which seemed to be fairly attributable and the injurious influence of this house," the committee wrote in Franklin's Jan. 31, 1891, Town Report. After years of pleading and warnings the town could face state fines, the School Committee prevailed. In 1893,

TOWN HALL, Page A8



The old Horace Mann High School, above, served the early residents of the town. A museum now, it holds old memorabilia, including orchestra tickets and vintage photos.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BEAR OERZ

An atrium will greet residents of Franklin when they visit the future home of the municipal offices, left. Above is the old Town Hall, which officials plan to put to good use.

'HIT LIST' AFTERMATH

Threats are now serious matters

As teen pressure grows, post-9/11 rebellions are less likely to be tolerated

By Cathy Flynn
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Jay Cohen, Ashland's new town social worker, remembers growing up in the 1960s and '70s when angry teens would publish a "slam list" of classmates they didn't like.

"Any person who got angry enough could say, 'Get away from me or I'll kill you,'" said Cohen. Back then, he added, someone caught vandalizing school property might get a strong reprimand and remember the incident as a "valuable life lesson."

Hopkinton Police Chief Tom Irvin recalls his teen years in Lincoln-Sudbury High School when classmates would draw pictures on their notebooks of students they didn't like. Some of the drawings showed the student being bombed by airplanes or hanging from a noose.

"If these were brought to an adult's attention at all - and it didn't happen often - it was dealt with by a call to the parents," Irvin said.

Today, these type of threats can be considered criminal.

In Hopkinton, a teenage girl could face charges after admitting she scribbled offensive messages on the wall of a girls' bathroom - messages that included TEEN THREATS, Page A6

"If these were brought to an adult's attention at all ... it was dealt with by a call to the parents."

Tom Irvin
Hopkinton Police chief, on responding to threats when he was young.

MILFORD

Numbers similar for School Choice

Little change in enrollment from last year

By Leslie H. Dixon
NEWS STAFF WRITER

MILFORD - Superintendent Carol Daring said the number of students who opted to leave their school district to enroll in Milford public schools under the School Choice program remains steady this year.

"It's pretty similar to last year," said Daring of the 131 new students taken in this year compared to 133 last year. The actual number the School Committee received from the state Department of Education was 128, but Daring said three more students were accepted into the system under School Choice since that notification.



Superintendent Carol Daring

The count of how many students left Milford to enroll in other school systems is now taking place. Daring said the DOE's official notification of those numbers is not expected until December.

The School Choice program, instituted by the state a decade ago, allows parents to send their children to schools in communities SCHOOL CHOICE, Page A9

FINDING A FINAL RESTING PLACE

Many town cemeteries have no more room for burials

By Laura Crimaldi
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Less than a month before cancer took his life, Larry Gibley told well-wishers at the Coachmen's Lodge he hoped Bellingham would be his eternal resting place.

"My life in Bellingham goes back 37 years. That's more than half my lifetime," said Gibley, the late selection, cable talk show host and town moderator. "To my friends, my family, my neighbors and to all the people that take care of me, all I can say is thank you, thank you, thank you."

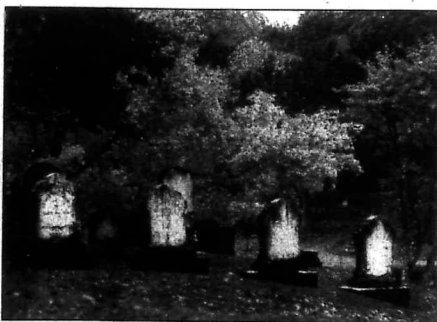
Nearly two years later, a portion of Gibley's cremated remains have been scattered in Bellingham, but whether a cedar chest holding his ashes will be buried there soon is unclear.

"The town's burial grounds pose part of the problem."

"They do need cemeteries," said Gibley's widow Maryann Wilber-Gibley.

While a suitable burial ground stumped Gibley's family, other area towns must get creative to ensure grave lots will be available for years to come.

In Milford, cemetery commissioners are follow-CEMETERIES, Page A10



STAFF PHOTO BY BEAR OERZ

Pine Grove Cemetery in Milford has opened a columbarium, which can hold up to 160 urns of cremated remains.



INSIDE



WEATHER/A11
Today: Cloudy, chance of rain. 64.

DAILY NUMBER 1244

Automotive	K1-16	Lottery	A2	Real Estate	G1-10
Business	E1-10	Movies	C2-4	State	A3
Crossword	5	Obituaries	B8-9	Stocks	E7-9
Local News	B1-10	Opinion	H1-6	World & Nation	A4-5



DUTY-FREE DAYS
Senate floats plans to have two shopping days with no sales tax. Story, Page A3.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE



Consul, right, of Framingham, his son Iván, 1, and wife Isabel Cerda, wait in line to get visa cards issued by the Mexican consulate during the consulate's stop at the Latin American Center in Framingham yesterday.

Mexican nationals get help extending stays

Consulate visits Framingham, aids with paperwork

Laura Crimaldi
 Framingham - Mexican nationals from across the state completed a day of visit paperwork at the Consulate of Mexico in Framingham yesterday. The consulate's political affairs division is extending stays for Mexican nationals living in the United States. The consulate's first visit to MetroWest, representatives renewed passports for one- and five-year periods and issued matriculas consulares - an identification card for Mexican nationals living in the United States. Fleet Bank accepts the matricula consular to cash checks and send money to Mexico, Yescas said. The consulate holds its next satellite hours on Nov. 22 in Providence, R.I., Yescas said. Morse hopes the consulate can return to Framingham four times a year. "It's just so nice to offer this so people don't have to go to Boston," she said. (Laura Crimaldi can be reached at 508-626-4416 or lcrimaldi@ec.com)

A new chapter about to unfold in Franklin

TOWN HALL. From 11 Horace Mann High School went up across the street from old Town Hall, with purchase of the land and construction costing \$34,000.

The 110 years since has seen much of the town's history there, with another school for fifth- and sixth-graders and the current Franklin Municipal Building.

But Franklin now has more than 30,000 residents and officials say it's time to leave 150 Erasmus St. for new quarters a mile away.

Rather than sell or move new town offices there, Franklin hopes to use the municipal building in a new way: as landlord.

"From a developer's standpoint, it has traffic and that's certainly what commercial developers want," said Town Administrator Jeff Nutting. "Clearly, there is an asset here that the town has and we can tap into that asset to bring in revenue for taxpayers."

Old Town Hall

Once part of Wrentham, Franklin became a town in 1778. Despite initial plans to incorporate as Exeter, residents named the community for Benjamin Franklin, hoping he would give the town a bell in return.

But with "sense being preferable to sound," Franklin gave the town 110 books instead, laying the foundation for the nation's first public lending library.

Town operations took longer. Franklin had no municipal headquarters until 1842, when sawmill owner Erastus Metcalf built the old Town Hall on land donated by fellow businessman Alexander DeWitt, said Barbara Smith, chairwoman of the Franklin Historical Commission.

From 1888 to 1891, grammar school students were moved there for lack of other space, according to town reports.

"They could not crowd 75 or 80 pupils in a room large enough for only 50," the school committee wrote in the Jan. 31, 1889, Town Report.

In the early 1900s, the 80 West Central St. building was used largely for celebrations and gatherings.

Selectmen met through the 1930s on the second floor of "Bank Block," a large brick structure along Depot Street that housed First National Bank, Dean Co-operative Bank and Benjamin Franklin Savings Bank, according to Smith.

Other town offices remained outside for longer. When attorney George Diana served as town clerk from 1942 to 1971, he performed his duties from his law office above the present-day Reunions restaurant, Smith said.

By 1978, most of Franklin's offices had moved to old Town Hall. The building soon proved too small for the needs of the town's 18,000 residents, especially for public hearings, said Albert Brunelli, a selectman from 1970 to 1978.

"There wasn't enough meeting space," said Brunelli, who was Franklin's treasurer-collector from 1980 to 1992.

Residents agreed. That April, Town Meeting approved a new charter creating a town council-town administrator government along with a \$698,000 plan to remodel the Horace Mann School across the street, adding the wing that now holds the town clerk's office.

New Municipal Center

After years of building new schools, the Town Council adopted a \$200 capital program two years ago to help plan for Franklin's other needs. On the top of that list: a new municipal center.

The town has moved toward this with its \$3 million purchase of the Pastorello Building at 355 East Central St. A \$2.2 million contract, begun in September, is slated for completion next June.

Plans call for the town clerk, assessor and treasurer-collector to work on the first floor, sharing a vault and a drive-through window for residents to drop off payments. Building and planning offices will be nearby.



Work continues on the new municipal building in Franklin, above. The current municipal building is adorned with a plaque honoring education pioneer Horace Mann.



Work continues on the new municipal building in Franklin, above. The current municipal building is adorned with a plaque honoring education pioneer Horace Mann.

On the second floor, the Town Council will meet in a room that can hold 90 people, nearly double the occupancy of the current meeting space. The town and school business and technology offices will sit across the hall.

Town Administrator Nutting and Superintendent of Schools David Grisaffi will work in adjacent offices on the third floor.

The 25,000-square-foot building will give the town more space and parking, officials say. The current municipal building has 57 spaces for 65 employees; the Pastorello Building has 107 spaces of its own and shares eight with a neighboring property.

But more importantly, town councilors say, the building will help close the divide between town and school operations.

"The fact that we can bring both parties into one place so there's a lot of dialogue and discussion will be an asset," said Town Council Chairman Julio Renzi.

"In the past, there's been a lot of 'us and them,'" Town Councilor Judith Porel Pfeiffer agreed. "It should be 'us.'"

Along with better communication, the move will save the town the \$50,000 it pays to lease school administration offices each year.

At some point, officials also hope to save money by consolidating the town and school business and technology departments.

"First we're going to physically locate them together, then we're going to integrate them into a single operation," Nutting said. "That's going to take longer."

For all its amenities, older residents can remember times when the town never would have considered moving so close to the Wrentham town line.

Brunelli, 76, recalls in the 1940s, the land was known as Paine's horse farm.

"I can remember when I was a small kid, the train used to come in full of horses," he said. "They would bring horses in by train and then they would bring the horses right up (Rte.) 140 toward Wrentham to Paine's Farm."

Moving history downtown

As town employees relocate to the Pastorello Building next summer, town councilors will be busy planning other moves.

The town's 2020 plan also calls for construction of a new public works garage, Nutting said, and an architect will likely be hired in 2004.

In the interim, a lease must be secured for the public works and engineering departments - now in the basement of the current municipal building.

Nutting said he wants to find these departments a temporary home shortly after other departments move so a new tenant can take over the municipal building as soon as possible.

While undecided about what kind of tenant they want at the site, town councilors agree the decision is an important one, affecting both the town's ability to pay off the Pastorello Building and the health of its downtown.

"The current town hall at that corner, it can be a key, kind of making a snowball effect, if we can get the right people there," Renzi said.

Across the street from the municipal building, Franklin's Council on Aging is planning its own move to the Four Corners Professional Building. This means the old Town Hall will need also need a new tenant.

Smith, the Historical Commission chairman, hopes to move the town museum there from the South Franklin Congregational Church on Washington Street, its home since 1922.

"It needs more space because now if we get anything, it has to be stored because there's just no floor or wall space left," she said.

Moving to the old Town Hall would increase awareness of the town's collection, Smith said, and is fitting given it is "the greatest example of Greek Revival architecture in town."

As for the church, it was deemed to the town with the condition that it goes back to the Congregational Church if Franklin stops using it for a year, Smith said.

The Historical Commission used to open the church, built in 1856, for Christmas Eve services and weddings until 1992, when its museum collection grew too large.

Smith wants to avoid losing the church by bringing weddings back. Under the town's watch, religion won't restrict access, she said.

"People could have weddings here and it wouldn't matter what faith you were," she said. (Sara Withee can be reached at 508-634-7546 or swithee@com.com)

Wal-Mart says it will cooperate probe into illegal workers

Bartels
 245 employees at stores across the country. "We are doing a very thorough investigation with our own stores so we understand what happened and make sure that if we need to take pro-active, corrective steps, we will do that," Wal-Mart spokeswoman Mona Williams said Friday.

"If we find workers that are undocumented we would terminate them immediately," Williams said.

Investigators told The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity that they gathered recordings from wiretaps that indicate Wal-Mart executives knew the company's subcontractors used illegal workers.

Though contract cleaning crews were the focus of Thursday's sweep, Williams said Wal-Mart employees at stores in Arizona and Kentucky were among those arrested.

Approximately 10 Wal-Mart associates were arrested during the raids yesterday," she said. "These are people who used to be part of the outside cleaning crew, and when we took that in-house, these folks were simply hired on as employees. They got caught up in the immigration sweep."

Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer and the largest private employer in the United States with 1.1 million domestic employees, has instructed store managers to preserve all relevant documents.

HEALTH, WEALTH, AND THE ENVIRONMENT
 a free symposium featuring informative roundtable discussions on health, wealth, and the environment
Wednesday, October 29, 2003
 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
EcoTarium
 222 Harrington Way, Worcester
Keynote Speaker: Katherine Upchurch, MD
 Associate Chief, Dept. Rheumatology,
 New Treatment Options for Rheumatic Diseases
 Complimentary lunch, Tai Chi demonstration,
 and tours of the EcoTarium provided.
 Hosted by the Arthritis Foundation and the EcoTarium.
ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION
ECOTARIUM
 A Center for Environmental Education
 222 Harrington Way, Worcester, MA 01609
 www.ecotarium.org
 508-766-9449 ext. 136 - amurphy@arthritis.org

OCT 26 2003