



AGE-FRIENDLY

Franklin County & North Quabbin

What is Age & Dementia Friendly Franklin County & North Quabbin?

We make it easier for older adults to stay connected, active, and supported.

[The Regional Action Plan](#), developed by local partners & residents, offers a roadmap for making our community an even better place to grow older.



Franklin County Village Forum

People from across Franklin County and the North Quabbin region gathered at the [Greenfield Public Library](#) for the Franklin County Village Forum. The energy in the room was unmistakable—people were eager to share updates, connect with each other, and talk about what's working (and what's not) as local Villages grow and evolve. New to the Village Model? [Click here for more information.](#)

The theme was something vital of the success of Villages everywhere: partnerships. Villages are built on the idea of neighbors helping neighbors, but they don't operate in a vacuum. We talked about ways Villages can collaborate with senior centers, councils on aging, first responders, [digital equity groups](#) and organizations like LifePath to strengthen our communities. Resource providers also shared insights on digital equity, caregiving, and reducing social isolation.

One of the best parts of the day was seeing new connections happen in real time—people swapping contact info, brainstorming collaborations, and realizing they weren't alone in the challenges they face.



Dementia-Friendly Communities:

How can we become Dementia-Friendly?



Over 6 million Americans, including 10-14% of Massachusetts residents 65+, are living with Alzheimer's, and over 11 million are their unpaid caregivers – an escalating health crisis that affects many. By better understanding dementia and how it affects people, we can make a difference for individuals and communities.

A dementia-friendly community is informed, safe, respectful of individuals living with dementia, their families and caregivers, and provides supports that foster quality of life.

In this workshop we'll learn about Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia, and discuss steps we can take to improve our ability to support and care both for those living with dementia and their caregivers, including practical tips to be more inclusive of those affected by dementia in the physical environment, communications, and community life.

PRESENTER: Meg Ryan, Regional Public Health Nurse, FRCOG

WHO IS INVITED: Town staff and volunteers who work with or on behalf of the public, and all community members interested in ensuring our towns are Dementia-friendly

In-person:

Thursday, March 13, 2025

(Snow date: Tuesday March 18)

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. workshop; 12-1 lunch and networking
J.W. Olver Transit Center Allen Conference room.

OR

Zoom:

Wednesday, March 26

10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.



Organized by Mass in Motion Franklin County, Franklin Regional Council of Governments

In-person option: Thursday March 13 (snow date March 18) from 10-12, with lunch/networking time provided from 12-1, John W. Olver Transit Center. [Register HERE](#)

Zoom option: Wednesday March 26 from 10-12. [Register HERE](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Launchpad Grant Program to Support Digital Equity

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) has launched the **Launchpad Program**, a \$9.44 million grant to support digital equity across Massachusetts. Funded by the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**, it covers digital literacy, device distribution, Wi-Fi access, and more. Eligible community-based organizations and municipalities must submit a concept paper by April 25. Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal by July 16. [Click here for details](#). An informational webinar will be held on March 12 at 1:00 p.m.

MassVets Benefit Estimator Launched to Help Veterans Access Financial Aid

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has launched the MassVets Benefit Estimator, a tool to help veterans and families quickly determine eligibility for Chapter 115 financial assistance.

Chapter 115 provides state-funded aid for daily living expenses, medical costs, rent, and more. The 2024 HERO Act expanded benefits, preventing eligibility loss due to cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) and enabling direct deposit for faster payments.

Veterans can use the estimator at vets.mass.gov and apply through their local Veterans' Service Officer (VSO). For assistance, call (617) 210-5480.



we want to
**hear
from
you!**

**HOW CAN TRANSPORTATION
OPTIONS BE IMPROVED
IN FRANKLIN COUNTY?**

Take a survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LLQBQDV>

Scan here:



Project led by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and funded by the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC). The NADTC is administered by Easterseals and USAGing, with funding from the Federal Transit Administration and guidance provided by the Administration for Community Living.

For more information, please contact Megan Rhodes, Livability Program Manager, FRCOG at mrhodes@frcog.org.



Caring for the Caregiver Webinar Series

WEBINAR TOPIC

Introducing the *Dementia Care Planning Toolkit: A Resource for Individuals and Their Care Partners, Families, and Care Providers*

WHEN

Thursday, March 20, 2025
12:00 - 12:40 PM

REGISTER

Scan the QR code below or click here:
bit.ly/March2025CaregiverWebinar



The Dementia Care Planning Toolkit

If you care for someone with dementia or live with dementia yourself, join this webinar to discover how this toolkit can help you take an active role in dementia care planning. [Click here](#) or scan the QR code to the right to access the toolkit.

Together, we can ensure that everyone affected by dementia has access to the care and support they need. Please join us to be part of the conversation!



About the Caring for the Caregiver Webinar Series

Are you a family caregiver living in Massachusetts? The Executive Office of Aging & Independence (AGE) is here to be your partner in managing any emotional, physical, and/or financial stress that can come from caring for a loved one.

AGE partners with the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative to bring you the Caring for the Caregiver Webinar Series. This virtual series connects family caregivers in Massachusetts with information and resources regarding their caregiver responsibilities, as well as tips to care for themselves.



Our thanks to the Age & Dementia Friendly Franklin County & North Quabbin steering committee members:

- Michael Archbald - Foothills Health District
- Jean Dodge - LifePath's Rainbow Elders
- Lynne Feldman - LifePath
- Mary Giannetti - Heywood Healthcare
- Cathy Savoy - Athol Council on Aging
- Denise Schwartz - OASIS Council at Greenfield Community College
- Meg Ryan - FRCOG
- Rachel Stoler - FRCOG
- Phoebe Walker - FRCOG



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