



Seniors enjoy a two-hour Showboat Cruise from Marina Bay this summer.

## QUINCY PERFORMING ARTS MAKE A COMEBACK

After struggling through the last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the performing arts are back in full swing in Quincy. Patrons can enjoy everything from comedy to Broadway music to outdoor festivals and more.

The City of Quincy has made it a priority to provide opportunities for residents to enjoy the performing arts in the heart of the city.

"I've been charged by the mayor to activate the Hancock Adams Common and other parts of the downtown area to bring performance art to the community," said John F. McDonald in his capacity as Special Events Coordinator for the City of Quincy. McDonald is also Executive Producer & Event Planner of JM Productions and Rising Stars.

The city provides a monthly event on the Hancock Adams Common, bringing in local, multicultural, and professional talent. Over the summer, the Quincy Symphony and Quincy Choral Society joined for a fun Pops concert. Another lively event included multicultural acts performing five hours of dance, music, and song.

Quincy's Annual Family Winterfest offers fun for the whole family during the Presidents' Day Weekend with outdoor interactive experiences, live music, and special performances at Hancock Adams Common, Town Hall, and Church of the Presidents. The event celebrates the two United States Presidents from Quincy—John Adams and John Quincy Adams. The winter event is scheduled to return this year.

**"We celebrate different parts of the calendar year, bringing performance artists to the community," said McDonald.**

### Productions Around Town

The JM Productions Showboat Cruises returned this summer. The final cruise of the season on September 1 featured a four-hour Labor Day cruise and fireworks. Summer voyages from Squantum Point Park in Marina Bay featured a two-hour senior citizen cruise and a three-hour evening cruise.

JM Productions has been bringing quality entertainment to audiences for 45 years. The fall season kicked off with a cabaret show called "Hey, Old Friends" at the Woodward School in Quincy on September 30. The reunion show will be the last cabaret performance for JM Productions, a casualty of the pandemic and rising costs.

**"It's a special event because for 45 years in this community—aside from the time I lived in New York City working on Broadway and other parts of the entertainment world—I had my own cabaret dinner theater production company. Covid pretty much put everybody out of business, so I had to reinvent myself and decided to give it one more try," said McDonald. Unfortunately, that part of his business will be shutting down after the show.**

"Hey, Old Friends" will be bringing back 15 guest artists from favorite cabaret and musical theatre productions over the years. The evening promises to be filled with wonderful music, funny stories, and poignant moments. McDonald himself, who worked on Broadway and taught at the Woodward School as Art Department Chair and Assistant to the Headmaster,

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**Keohane**

FUNERAL HOME  
Quincy, MA

**McDonald Keohane**

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Weymouth, MA

**Pyne Keohane**

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Hingham, MA

# WEYMOUTH CELEBRATES VILLAGES DURING 400TH ANNIVERSARY

**W**eymouth takes pride in all four of its villages—each with its own zip code! This spring and summer, Weymouth 400 highlighted Weymouth's four villages on the second Saturday of the month with the "Experience Our Villages" Festivals held in Jackson Square/02189 in May, Columbian Square/02190 in June, Bicknell Square/02191 in July, and Weymouth Landing/02188 in August.

The Jackson Square Village Festival, held on Broad Street, included amazing live music performances by Timmy Brown and WHISKEY-6 with over 40 local vendors, shops, restaurants, food trucks, and more. Herring Run Tours ran every hour.

**Nina LaRocco commented on Facebook, "Wonderful event!!! I had a great time!!! Special thanks to all the Weymouth 400 folks."**

On June 11, the Columbian Square Village Festival took place at Weymouth High School. The free, family-friendly event featured puppet shows by Harry & Good News Gus, a K-9 demonstration by the Weymouth Police Department, and live music by B-Side Charlie. The event featured more than 50 exciting vendors from zip code 02190.

The Glow Ball Tournament took place the same evening, as single players and foursomes brought their flashlights to the Weathervane Golf Club for this fundraiser for the commemorative events.

In North Weymouth, the Bicknell Square Village Festival was held beachside at Wessagusset Beach. The 02191 festival included Trolley Tours, live music by SPX and Donnie Norton, and food from local restaurants with over 40 vendors from North Weymouth. The Historic Trolley Tours featured visits to Abigail Adams Birthplace, Webb State Park, Civil War Memorial, Old North Cemetery, Woodlands/Wessagusset Settlement, and more. There were Historic reenactments at Wessagusset Beach



*Weymouth 400 celebrated all four local villages, starting with the Jackson Square Village Festival held on Broad Street in May.*

and Old North Cemetery as well as kids' games and face painting.

The Weymouth Landing Village Festival featured great family activities, including a stilt walker, a living statue of Maria Weston Chapman, kids' games, and face painting. Held at Tufts Library and Weston Park, the 02188 festival provided awesome live music by Annie Brobst and Pat Dowling Music as well as shops, restaurants, food trucks, and more than 40 vendors.

## Even More Celebrations of Weymouth

Settlers arrived in Weymouth in 1622, making it the second oldest community in Massachusetts. As Weymouth reaches this historic milestone, the Weymouth 400 organization is hosting community events all year, including a series of commemorative events over the next four years.

The organization kicked off in May with weekly Food Truck Fridays, which

continue every Friday night through October 14, rain or shine. Food Truck Fridays often include live music and laser light shows. Special Friday night events over the past summer have included movie nights, Teacher Appreciation night, and Christmas in July.

**The popular Water Lantern Festival will be held October 8 at George Lane Beach in North Weymouth. This inspiring event voted #1 by USA Today, will bring together people of all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life to join in one emotional and memorable night! The magic of the Water Lantern Festival includes food trucks, music by the Loveland Hill Band, and an incredible sight as thousands of floating lanterns reflect messages of love, hope, and happiness. Participants can purchase a lantern to participate in the launch.**

**For more information, visit <https://weymouth400.org/event/weymouth-400-water-lantern-festival-2022/>**



# Plant.Grow.Share. Free Gardening Workshops Held in May

**H**eld in Weymouth and Quincy in May, Plant.Grow.Share. hosted two free gardening workshops led by local organic farmer Jon Belber of Holly Hill Farm, Cohasset. Attendees learned about vegetable gardening and received a free plant seedling from Holly Hill Farm, donated by Keohane Funeral Home.

The workshops and seedlings helped neighbors grow more produce at home in order to share their harvest with the food pantries at Interfaith Social Services and Weymouth Food Pantry. Fresh produce is part of a healthy diet and much appreciated by the clients who receive food from the local pantries.

Plant.Grow.Share. is a fresh food initiative for our local food pantries co-sponsored by Keohane Funeral Home, Interfaith Social Services, and the Weymouth Food Pantry to encourage backyard growers to donate produce to local food pantry clients.

**"Plant.Grow.Share. is a wonderful partnership that provides fresh fruits and vegetables to families in need and does so in a practical and environmentally sound way," said Joe Reardon, V.P. for Community Development and Advance Planning at Keohane Funeral Home.**

Special thanks to Jon Belber, Holly Hill Farm, Old South Union Church, and Kennedy Senior Center for supporting the workshops, as well as the many people who attended!

## Get Involved

For those who would like to help, the food pantries are happy to receive donations of both home-grown produce, fresh store-bought produce, and monetary donations.

"Donations of fresh produce and food items are always welcome. We also want supporters to know that we have incredible spending power with their monetary donations. We're able to stretch their donated dollars much further than they would be able to at the local grocery store," said Jennifer Sammons, Communications Manager at Interfaith Social Services.

Donations of fresh produce from your garden or supermarket for Interfaith Social Services can be dropped off at 105 Adams Street in Quincy from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday, Thursday and Friday, and until 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Donations of fresh produce for the Weymouth Food Pantry are accepted at all three Pop Up Pantry locations or at their warehouse:

**TUESDAYS** 10:00 to 11:00 AM at The First Church at 17 Church Street, Weymouth

**THURSDAYS** 10:00 to 11:00 AM at Crossroads Worship Center at 241 Broad Street, Weymouth

**SATURDAYS** 10:00 to 11:00 AM at Old South Union Church at 25 Columbian Street, S. Weymouth

**TUESDAY TO FRIDAY** 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at 40B Reservoir Park Drive, Rockland



PLANT.  
GROW.  
SHARE.

**MONETARY DONATIONS CAN BE MADE BY VISITING THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:**

**INTERFAITH SOCIAL SERVICES**  
<http://interfaithsocialservices.org/donate/>

**WEYMOUTH FOOD PANTRY**  
<https://www.weymouthfoodpantry.org/donation-page>



*Farmer Jon Belber of Holly Hill Farm led free gardening workshops for the Plant.Grow.Share. program.*

**FOR QUESTIONS OR TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Joe Reardon, Vice President for Community Development and Advance Planning at Keohane Funeral Homes, (617) 773-3551

Rick Doane, Executive Director of Interfaith Social Services, (617) 773-6203

Pam Denholm, Executive Director of the Weymouth Food Pantry, (781) 635-7783

# Food Insecurity Continues to Increase in Massachusetts



Interfaith Social Services operates a food pantry which serves ten towns on the South Shore.

**R**ising inflation and the termination of relief benefits has disproportionately hurt people with lower incomes and people of color. These factors along with recovery from the last two years of the pandemic have contributed to an increase in food insecurity.

According to the Greater Food Bank of Boston, one indicator of increased need in Massachusetts has been pantry usage, which has remained higher than pre-pandemic levels. Pantry demand has increased in recent months with Latinx and households with children showing the biggest percentage increase in usage from 2020 to 2021.

**"In the history of our organization, we have never seen so many people reaching out for help, especially for food. We were already serving record-setting numbers of people before inflation started impacting lives and gas prices increased. Since April, each month we have been serving 20 percent more households compared to the previous year," said Rick Doane, Executive Director of Interfaith Social**

**Services, which operates a food pantry in Quincy. It serves ten towns on the South Shore and is celebrating its 75th anniversary.**

## Second Annual Report on Food Insecurity, Equity, and Access in Massachusetts

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) published its second annual Massachusetts statewide survey on food insecurity, equity, and access to hunger-relief assistance programs. The new study was conducted in late 2021 and early 2022 to expand on the findings of the first survey. The goal was to identify the prevalence of food insecurity during the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as gaps and disparities in food assistance use in order to increase awareness and develop data-driven recommendations to increase food equity and access.

"The preexisting inequities and gaps in food access that were exacerbated by the pandemic persist in our state, continuing to disproportionately and detrimentally affect Massachusetts' most vulnerable residents," said Catherine D'Amato, GBFB

*GBFB estimates that 1.8 million adults in Massachusetts experienced food insecurity in 2021.*

President and CEO. "In the face of the highest increase in food costs we've seen in 40 years, which is contributing to the enduring inequity and unprecedented need for food assistance, we remain committed to our mission of ending hunger alongside our network of partners throughout Massachusetts."

GBFB estimates that 1.8 million adults in Massachusetts experienced food insecurity in 2021. The survey found that food insecurity rates were highest among Latinx adults, Black adults, people who identify as LGBTQ+, and adults with children.

But it's not all bad news. GBFB reports, "Over the last two years, varying attempts to measure the prevalence of food insecurity indicate that, while the need for food assistance has increased, the extraordinary public and private response, and investments in the federal and charitable food systems, have helped cushion the otherwise devastating blow of the pandemic for millions of Americans."

The study included recommendations for improving the food assistance experience in Massachusetts with the goal of increasing awareness and support, decreasing inequities in food access, and improving the experiences of those receiving the services of hunger relief organizations.

**For more information, read the new study, "Opportunities to Improve Food Equity & Access in Massachusetts"**



# ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HARBOR ILLUMINATION IN HULL

From A Street Pier to James Landing, over three miles of the shoreline along Hull's bayside was aglow with over 1,000 red flares on July 30. With idyllic summer weather and clear skies, an estimated 5,000 spectators, families, friends, and visitors were on hand to witness this solemn event. It began with a recitation of all those who are remembered or celebrated with a "Forever Flare" that will be lit each year in perpetuity.

"The Harbor Illumination is a tradition that began in 1881 as an end-of-summer celebration initially organized by the Hull Yacht Club. The tradition trickled off with occasional celebrations from time to time throughout the 1980s and 1990s. In 2009, the tradition was once again revived as part of the Hull Lifesaving Museum's 30th Anniversary 'Maritime Festival.' It has continued non-stop since, making this year the thirteenth consecutive celebration," said Corinne Berry Leung, Director of Advancement & Communications, Hull Lifesaving Museum.

Proceeds of this annual event are used to support the exhibits and programs produced throughout the year for the Hull Lifesaving Museum. The Harbor Illumination is also an opportunity for



Over three miles of Hull's bayside was aglow during the Harbor Illumination this summer.

those unfamiliar with the Hull Lifesaving Museum to visit the museum.

## Forever Flare Memorial 2022

The Forever Flare Memorial presentation was given by Funeral Director Apprentice Frank Maggiore of Pyne Keohane Funeral Home when the flares were lit on A Street.

During his remarks, Frank said, "Each of these flares is a dawn. A chance to

bath in the light after a very long night and to remember the bright shining love that we had and still have for those that have gone before us. A reminder that although someone has passed, their light lives on. It lives in our hearts, words and actions. It keeps us company during those long nights. And although these flares will flicker and dim, the love that they represent will never fade, and the darkness to come afterward will not stop the rising sun."

For more information, please visit [www.lifesavingmuseum.org](http://www.lifesavingmuseum.org)

## Quincy Performing Arts Make a Comeback

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will be making an appearance. For more information, visit <https://www.jmproductionsresents.com/events>

If you like to laugh, the Quincy Comedy Festival kicked off this summer and continues into the fall. Produced by JM Productions, The Boston Comedy Festival, and The Marriott Boston Quincy, the funny festival features several comedians, including Kelly McFarland, Tony V, and Ken Rogerson. To complete a great night out, ticket holders can get discounts on dinner and overnight stays at the Marriot.

And in an exclusive, we are happy to report that the Quincy Comedy Festival

will be ringing in the New Year at the Marriot in a New Year's Eve Special. Because of his relationship with The Boston Comedy Festival, McDonald said, "Our intention is to shake up this market on the South Shore." The show will feature both local and national talent.

The comedy shows will continue in 2023. "We hope to bring in some heavy-hitter national acts," McDonald said.

If Broadway is more appealing, JM Productions is presenting A Broadway Concert Series on November 10 at the Church of the Presidents with members of the cast of "Newsies." And Broadway's own Liz Calloway will be kicking off the holiday season with the Rising Stars singers on November 27 at the Marriot Boston Quincy. Rising Stars is a tuition-free

program for students in grades 5 to 12 to learn the ins and outs of being a professional performing artist through a Master Class run by a Broadway performer.

## Future of the Arts in Quincy

The City of Quincy has been considering a community arts and culture center for years, and McDonald has been a long-time, staunch advocate. Several attempts have been made and failed over the years, but there's renewed hope that it will become a reality over the next decade due to the commitment of Mayor Thomas Koch and his administration.

**"For the first time, most people in the community who are connected to the arts are excited that this is going to come to pass," said McDonald.**

# How to Choose a Funeral Home When Transferring Advance Plans



*Our Vice President for Community Development and Advance Planning, Joe Reardon, meets one-on-one with families who are looking to transfer funeral plans.*

**T**here may be times you'll need to consider transferring your advance funeral plans—for instance, if you move away or your funeral home closes or changes hands. You may wonder if your money is safe and how to choose the right funeral home. We talked with Joe Reardon, Vice President for Community Development and Advance Planning, to get some answers.

## Does it matter if someone has already prepaid when transferring advance plans?

It doesn't matter, but when people prepay for a funeral, they want to know that their money is safe if they move or if the funeral home goes out of business. The money is always safe, because it's held in a trust. Even if a funeral home closes or the person relocates, the funds are still there and the arrangements are still in place—they just transfer the contract. Many families are unaware of that fact.

**We just want people to know that these contracts are transferable and that the money you set aside is safe.**

## When should someone consider transferring plans?

In our experience, people will transfer their plans most often because they're moving, and they want to have that plan available to them, wherever they go. For instance, if they are moving to a senior living community near their daughter in another state, they can transfer an existing advanced contract to a funeral home near where they will be living to make sure that their arrangements are carried out and that the financial resources are there to do it.

The other time to transfer plans is if a funeral home goes out of business, when they will be faced with choosing a different funeral home. In Massachusetts, it is required under state laws and regulations that each person holding a contract with that funeral home must be

notified by certified mail that the business is closing and be advised that they should transfer their contract to another funeral home.

Most people don't expect a funeral home to close when making arrangements, although some do ask about it. That's why when Keohane is writing advanced contracts, I always tell people that their contract is transferrable if you ever move or if the funeral home goes out of business.

## How do you choose a funeral home and what is the process of transferring funeral plans?

We encourage families to choose a funeral home based on fit. There are two P's to consider: People and Place. Are the funeral directors and other members of the team competent, compassionate, and willing to take good care of you? The other consideration is place. Are the facilities well maintained, and do you feel comfortable there? We encourage families to meet with funeral homes so that they can get a feel for the people and the place. The transfer process is very simple. It's just a matter of signing a couple of documents.

## What other areas of funeral care should be considered when transferring plans?

Because funeral services have changed so dramatically over the past number of years, it is important for families to consider how that funeral home will fulfill their needs. The day of the cookie-cutter funeral is long gone. Now, families are looking for more personal and meaningful ceremonies. We find families are looking for a ritual observance, but they don't want a religious service. So, when choosing a funeral home, consider whether that funeral home is able to meet your wishes, or if it is a funeral home that isn't flexible or keeping up with the needs of today's families.

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## OUR TEAM

### Elizabeth Gribaudo



for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Austin as well as Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown. She was an Account Manager for an insurance company that specialized in tuition reimbursement. Her employment history includes many years of bartending and serving as well.

"I enjoy many aspects of my position but having a great working relationship with my colleagues and knowing we are helping families during a difficult period



Liz Gribaudo keeps the office at Keohane Funeral Home running smoothly.

Elizabeth "Liz" Gribaudo has been at Keohane Funeral Home for a little over a year. As Office Manager, Liz keeps the Weymouth office running smoothly and the administration process operating efficiently. Her duties include answering the phones, setting up the initial appointment for funeral directors to meet with new families, and providing overall assistance to funeral directors and apprentices as needed. She's also responsible for obtaining and processing death certificates, preparing all paperwork for funerals, scheduling workers and equipment for funerals and visiting hours.

"Liz has taken a keen interest in learning all our systems so that families receive everything from us on a timely basis. She has also been directly involved in assisting family members with their special requests. Liz is eager to learn new concepts and put them into her daily routines," said Co-President John Keohane.

Before joining the Keohane team, Liz had a variety of employment experiences. She worked in Summer and After School Care programs at the South Shore YMCA, taught blind and visually impaired students at both Texas School

of their lives as they grieve and honor the memories of their loved ones is what I love about my work. I truly believe in treating everyone who comes into our care with dignity and respect, and I think that is a philosophy shared by everyone that I work with at Keohane," Liz said.

*"Liz has taken a keen interest in learning all our systems so that families receive everything from us on a timely basis....Liz is eager to learn new concepts and put them into her daily routines," said Co-President John Keohane*

Liz grew up in Squantum and attended Quincy Public Schools, graduating from North Quincy High School. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Outside of work, Liz enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and boyfriend, Jon. Liz is a dog lover to the highest degree and refers to dogs as 'Miracles'. She enjoys spending time with her Nola. After a hiatus, Liz picked up running again and is in training for an upcoming 5k and 10k road race and also hopes to complete an eighth half marathon in the fall.

## How to Choose a Funeral Home When Transferring Advance Plans

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We pride ourselves in staying up with industry trends, particularly when it comes to caring for families that don't want a traditional funeral or do not want an earth burial and may be choosing cremation.

We believe that if we provide all the options, they will be able to create something with our help that is going to serve their needs and allow them to

go through the experience in a way that is going to be helpful to them. Not all funeral homes do that.

### Do you consider Keohane experts in transferring plans?

I would say yes. Because I specialize in advance planning, I've done this many, many times, and I can focus strictly on the needs of the family who is looking to transfer their contract. I don't have to worry about other needs that arise at the funeral home.

For more information on how to choose a funeral home when transferring advance funeral plans, please contact Joe Reardon, Vice President for Community Development and Advance Planning at Keohane Funeral Homes at (617) 773-3551



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

## *What Does a Personalized Funeral Look Like?*



There are many ways to personalize funeral and memorial services, such as incorporating music from a marching band, jazz band or bagpipers.

There is no one way that a personalized funeral is conducted because funerals that are tailored for an individual are as unique as the life that they celebrate. At Keohane, the most important goal when planning a memorable service is sitting down with the family to discuss their loved one and finding personal ways to honor the singular life lived. Once we learn about a person and their interests, we can make suggestions on how to incorporate those details. We discuss the various options with the family and personalize a service based on specific needs, traditions, and life passions.

**"There are many ways to personalize funeral and memorial services. As funeral professionals, we are able to have conversations with families in order to tailor a ceremony that is perfect for their needs," said Co-President John Keohane.**

Whether a family chooses cremation or traditional burial, the funeral service or memorial service can be personalized to bring closure to the family and honor their loved one regardless of the final disposition.

### How We Can Personalize a Funeral Service

Our staff works with each family to plan a personal and significant celebration of their loved one's life. Our funeral directors have incorporated innovative ideas into funeral services to honor a loved one's unique qualities, traits, and interests. Examples include incorporating special clothing; favorite music; beloved holiday traditions; and unique

vehicles. We've arranged celebrations to take place in local taverns, outdoor facilities, and individual homes.

Here are some innovative ways that we've honored loved ones to make the funeral service personal and unique:

**Clothing** — For one special service, our funeral assistants dressed as superheroes in honor of a little boy who passed and adored superheroes. Favorite colored shirts are another way to commemorate a loved one. We've also included favorite sports team colors into a funeral service or visitation.

**Music** — For music lovers, options include bagpipers, a marching band, and a New Orleans Jazz band. Playing a wedding song as loved ones exit from the service is another way in which we've personalized a funeral.

**Vehicles** — We've had 18-wheeler trucks parked in front of the funeral home to honor a beloved driver. Funeral processions led by motorcycles, antique cars, or a sailboat on a trailer represent other ways to symbolize a loved one's special interests.

**Other Personal Touches** — Personalized services can include framed photos or a memory board; special poems and memorial verses; a favorite candy that invokes a memory of the deceased; video tributes; hobbies and crafts; and much more.

### Personalized Services Bring Healing and Meaning

A personalized funeral service brings closure and meaning to friends and family while celebrating a unique individual and honoring the values of the family left behind. At Keohane, we know that the most meaningful funeral services celebrate the unique life of an individual. The more personalized the funeral service, the more healing to friends and family who realize that the life of their loved one has been truly honored.

For more information on how to personalize a funeral, please contact us at any of our locations to speak to one of our knowledgeable funeral directors or call 1-800-Keohane (800-536-4263).