

## Our Citizen of the Year

I have personally known our Citizen of the Year for decades. It would be impossible to list all of his accomplishments and contributions to Franklin, but I will do my best.

This great Franklin booster and visionary has been involved for many years with our area churches, notably the Hope Community Chapel and the Congregational Church. He was a crucial player in bringing hundreds of young people to Franklin to help elderly and disabled residents with home repairs. Pastor Glen Carter calls him "an authentic, sincere man of God".

His efforts as Sexton of the Webster Place Cemetery are legendary, even when his health has not been the best.

Our Citizen of the Year has been helpful to the elderly, the infirm, and the needy of our community - through his involvement in the TRIP Center, the Franklin VNA, and the Bread & Roses Kitchen.

He was instrumental in arranging a fundraiser for life-saving equipment at the TRIP Center. Nancy Marceau says that he "is always going above and beyond, and we certainly appreciate all he does".

He has served on the Board of the Franklin Opera House, with the Franklin Rotary, the Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee, the Franklin Planning Board, and our City Council for many, many years.

He has operated successful businesses in Franklin and literally has his finger on the pulse of our community. And that is how I met my first friend in Franklin.

When I was in my early twenties and bought my first home here, my car wouldn't start the very first week that I lived in Franklin. I went to the yellow pages and found Bob Sharon. He got my car started, got me to work on time, and never charged me a penny. He did get all of my auto repair business after that!

Please join me in congratulating one of my dearest friends, our Franklin "Citizen of the Year", Bob Sharon.