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Vol. 11 No. 11

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January 2024

Wreaths Help Honor, Remember, Teach

For the second year in a row, Holliston's Lake Grove Cemetery played host to Wreaths Across America.

Wreaths Across America started as a simple gesture of thanks that has grown into a national, yearlong movement of dedicated volunteers and communities coming together to not only remember the nation's fallen and honor their service but to teach the next generation about the value of freedom.

As part of her National Honor Society project, Holliston high school, senior Taryn Holmes organized the event.







Police Officers Serve Lunch To Seniors



There's nothing like getting into the holiday spirit by serving lunch to our favorite seniors! Several officers helped serve a hot lunch at yesterday's Senior Holiday Luncheon at the Holliston Senior Citizen. This annual tradition provides us a great opportunity to connect with those who we don't get to see often.

The food, the music, and the company are just some of our favorite things about this special event.

Special thanks to Olivia's Restaurant in Milford and Gaetano's Bakery in Holliston for all of the delicious food and pastries!





LUNCH continued on page 2





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LUNCH

continued from page 1





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Fire Dept Made Appearance At **Holiday Stroll**

Department members were on hand during the Holliston Stroll 2023; including on duty EMS personnel seen with the Holliston Lions Club mascot and Santa Claus on the ramp of the Holliston Fire Department, and later when on duty EMS personnel were joined by the weekend duty officer at Town Hall for the Tree Lighting.

Weekend Duty Officer Captain Shawn Connors, EMT Amber Hebb, EMT Rachel Crawford, EMT Jeremy Kempton, EMT Madison **Grace, Collin Connors**



(L-R) Lions Club Mascot, EMT Jeremy Kempton, EMT Amber Hebb, EMT **Madison Grace, EMT Rachel Crawford, Santa Claus**



Weekend Duty Officer Captain Shawn Connors, EMT Amber Hebb, EMT Rachel Crawford, EMT Jeremy Kempton, EMT Madison Grace, Collin Connors





Another Successful Year of Charitable Giving

\$29,000! That's how much St. Mary's of Holliston Knights of Columbus Council 14224 donated to charitable non-profits in 2023.

The council just wrapped up their donation distributions for the year with donations to the Holliston Historical Society, Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism, and their 14th annual donation to the Holliston Senior Center.

Donation funds this year came primarily from two major sources – the council's Second Annual Swing for Charity golf tournament in June and their 15th annual Charity Raffle.

This year's outstanding donation amount brings their 15-year total donations to just over \$320,000!

This year, they gave funds to these categories: veterans organizations, the senior center, food pantries, the historical society, autism research and assistance, and other smaller donations.



Doug Flutie Jr Foundation for Autism – Al Scaramella, Nick Savarese (Executive Director), Tom Brodo



Holliston Historical Society – Al Scaramella, Sheila Adams (President of HHS), Paul Saulnier

They're already developing their plans for raising more in 2024. They want golfers to mark their calendars for their Third



Holliston Senior Center – Al Scaramella, Lisa Borchetta (Sr. Center Director), Neil Svendsen (Chair of the Senior Support Foundation), Tom Anguish

Swing for Charity tournament scheduled for June 21st and to watch for their 16th Annual Charity Raffle which will run from March through early June.

Council Grand Knight Al Scaramella said they won't cease their efforts until there's no longer any need for funds by these great organizations which do so much to help others in need. With a slight smile, Al noted that he expects that the council will be doing this for a long, long time

Captain Richard Rossini Retires

Congratulations to Richard Rossini, who retired on Nov. 30, after 41 years and 5 months with the department. During his tenure, he served in multiple roles (FF, Lt, Cptn) on several companies (E1, L1); culminating in his most recent assignment as Captain of the Ladder Company.





Tips for Dry Eyes in Cold Weather

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Dryness

Community Foundation for MetroWest Announces \$735,000 In Fall Grants

The Community Foundation for MetroWest is proud to recognize and celebrate its 2023 Human Services and Arts & Culture grant partners.

The Foundation has awarded a record \$735,000 in general operating grants to 58 nonprofit organizations this fall. This investment aims to have a significant and positive impact on the MetroWest community and brings the Foundation's total impact in 2023 to over \$3.95 million.

The Foundation is proud to provide support for a range of community needs, partnering with them to help their continued progress and success.

The Foundation has supported a wide variety of programs throughout 2023, including visual and performing arts, emergency relief, hunger relief, environmental initiatives, human services, immigrant services, historic preservation, mental health counseling, and literacy. Since its founding in 1995,

the Foundation has awarded over \$31 million to its partners to help create strong, vibrant communities for the 700,000 residents in the region.

"Our donors' unwavering dedication and support for the past 28 years has allowed us to make a significant impact on the growing needs of our community. This year has been particularly exceptional as we continue to expand our reach as a vital community partner," said Jay Kim, Executive Director of the Community Foundation for MetroWest. "As we award these grants, we are reminded of the stark disparities within our community that urgently require attention. While we are deeply proud of the support we have provided to these impactful partners, it is crucial to acknowledge that many organizations still lack the necessary resources to serve the people who live and work in MetroWest. Through our continued collaboration and support, we remain steadfast in our com-



mitment to nurturing a vibrant and thriving community across the MetroWest region."

The Foundation reviewed 150 grant applications through its programs this fall, demonstrating the depth of the unmet need in the region. The Foundation, along with many individuals and organizations, recognizes that there are dozens of deserving nonprofits still seeking funding.

"The continued disparity between the needs in MetroWest and the available resources should serve as a call to action for our community to increase its philanthropic commitment in the upcoming year," stated Susan Kavoogian, Chair of the Foundation's Distribution Committee and Foundation Trustee. "Year after year, we encounter a wide range of passionate nonprofits and innovative approaches aimed at enhancing the quality of life for our neighbors. Our goal is to fund to as many of these initiatives as possible, and as we enter 2024, we have an intensified dedication to addressing the challenges facing our region and supporting sustainable solutions."

Political Asylum/Immigrant Representation Project (PAIR) received funds for the first time this year through the Human Services process. Executive Director, Anita Sharma shared the following, "PAIR is honored to be a recipient of this generous community grant and to work as a partner with the Community Foundation for MetroWest to protect the legal rights of immigrants residing in the MetroWest area. The funds will bring strong support to PAIR's legal programs, allowing us to serve asylum seekers in need of free legal assistance and a safe haven."

The Community Foundation for MetroWest is the trusted philanthropic partner for individuals, families, and businesses in the region who are driven to enhance the quality of life for all in the MetroWest region. Since 1995, the Foundation has awarded more than \$31 million in grants to charitable organizations and currently stewards more than \$28 million in charitable assets for current needs and future impact. To learn more, visit communityfoundationmw.org or call (508) 647-2260.



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New Members Welcome to Charles River Chorale Open Rehearsals in January

The Charles River Chorale will begin rehearsals for its Spring 2024 season and is actively recruiting new members who are seeking a new community and musical opportunity. Anyone who enjoys singing is encouraged to come and join in the fun and experience of singing with a chorus.

The non-audition chorale group will begin open rehearsals on Tuesday, Jan. 23, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis. Two additional open rehearsals will take place on Jan. 30. and Feb. 6, to allow interested new

members an opportunity to explore the chorale opportunity.

Under the leadership of director Ashley Nelson-Oneschuk, the Charles River Chorale is in its 40th year as a nonprofit 501(c)3 chorale. Nelson-Oneschuk, a music professional in her 9th year with the Charles River Chorale, is also the choral director for Medway High School. Her goal for the chorale is "focused on cultivating a joyful community first, with excellent musical experiences as the vessel to achieve this."

Charles River Chorale members hail from many area com-

munities, and they range in age from teenagers to octogenarians. The group typically holds winter and spring concerts, with the Spring 2024 concert planned for Saturday, May 11, 2024, 7pm, at Medway High School. The theme of the Spring 2024 concert is *Road Trip Across America*. This program will feature music that spans time, place, and genre, assuring that both the chorus and audience will be in for a memorable musical journey.

The Charles River Chorale rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ in Millis. Mem-

bership dues for the non-profit organization support operating costs. There are no dues for high school students, and scholarships based on need are available. There is also a separate children's choir for children in Grades 2 through 6.

For more information about the organization and the upcoming open rehearsals, visit https://www.charlesriverchorale.com. Those who are interested in joining the chorale for the start of the season on January 23rd are asked to complete a short sign-up document via the attached QR code (or via this link: https://forms.



gle/6d5iNSvPUqqFx9ubA). Sponsorships and advertising opportunities are also available and very much appreciated.

300th celebration anniversary events start this month

Sept. 21 - Celebrate Holliston

Sept. 14 – Horse Show

Field Day

New Year's Eve event kicks off a year of festivities

By Theresa Knapp

The Town of Holliston will celebrate its 300th anniversary of incorporation next year, on Dec. 3, 2024. Over the course of the year, "Celebrate Holliston" will be hosting several events, starting on New Year's Eve:

Feb. 1, 2024 – 300th Anniversary Gala

March 17 - Saint Patrick's Day Breakfast Roast

May 11 - Parade

May 25 – Golf Tournament

June 23 – Strawberry Festival with the Historical Society

July 4 - Laser light show



July 13 - Olde Time Baseball Tournament

July 18 - Family Movie Night on the Green

Aug. 1 - Day at the Lake

Aug. TBD – Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra concert at Blair Square

Oct. 1 – Holliston's Very Own Cabaret

Nov. 2 - Encampment Impression

Dec. 3 – Anniversary Cake Celebration

For more information and details, visit www.celebrateholliston. com/300th-anniversary.html Image source: www.celebrateholliston.com





Thanks To Yanks Helps Military Families Enjoy The Holidays

Giving to the local post is a long standing Thanks To Yanks holiday tradition. They help defray the cost of their Thanksgiving/holiday outreach to feed local military families.

For more information, please visit Thanks To Yanks on Facebook.





Left to right are Robert Russo Sr., Eric Ruscitti, Maggie McIsaac, Thanks To Yanks volunteer Tim McDonough, and Robert Pava



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Should you invest ... or speculate?



Mark Freeman

FINANCIAL FOCUS

You'll find some big differences between traditional and speculative investments — and knowing these differences can matter a great deal when you're trying to reach your financial

To begin with, let's look at the basic types of traditional and speculative investments. Traditional investments are those with which you're probably already

funds, government securities, certificates of deposit (CDs) and so on. Speculative investments include cryptocurrencies, foreign currencies and precious metals such as gold, silver and copper.

Now, consider these three components of investing and how they differ between traditional and speculative invest-

The first issue to consider is risk. When you own stocks or stock-based mutual funds, the value of your investments will fluctuate. And bond prices will also move up and down, largely in response to changing interest rates. However, owning an array of stocks — small-company, large-company, international, etc. - can help reduce the impact of volatility on your stock portfolio. And owning a mix of short- and long-term bonds can help vou defend vourself somewhat against interest-rate movements. When interest rates fall, you'll still have your longer-term

familiar: stocks, bonds, mutual bonds, which generally — but not always - pay higher rates than short-term ones. And when interest rates rise, you can redeem your maturing short-term bonds at potentially higher rates.

> With speculative investments, though, price movements can be extreme as well as rapid. During their short history, cryptocurrencies in particular have shown astonishingly fast moves up and down, resulting in huge gains followed by equally huge, or bigger, losses. The risk factor for crypto is exacerbated by its being largely unregulated, unlike with stocks and bonds, whose transactions are overseen by well-established regulatory agencies. There just isn't much that investors can do to modulate the risk presented by crypto and some other speculative investments.

> A second key difference between traditional and speculative investments is the time horizon involved. When you invest in stocks and other traditional investments, you ideally

should be in it for the long term it's not a "get rich quick" strategy. But those who purchase speculative investments want, and expect, quick and sizable returns, despite the considerable risk involved.

A third difference between the two types of investments is the activity required by investors. When you're a long-term investor in traditional investments, you may not have to do all that much, once you've built a portfolio that's appropriate for your risk tolerance, goals and time horizon. After that point, it's mostly just a matter of monitoring your portfolio and making occasional moves — you're not constantly buying and selling, or at least you shouldn't be. But when you speculate in crypto or other instruments, you are constantly watching prices move — and then making your own moves in response. It's an activity that requires considerable attention and effort.

One final thought: Not all speculative instruments are

necessarily bad investments. Precious metals, for instance, are found in some traditional mutual funds, sometimes in the form of shares of mining companies. And even crypto may become more of a stable vehicle once additional regulation comes into play. But if you're investing for long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement — rather than speculating for thrills and quick gains, which may disappear just as quickly you may want to give careful thought to the types of investments you pursue.

If you would like to discuss your personal situation with a financial advisor contact:

Mark Freeman Edward Jones Financial Advisor 77 West Main Street, Hopkinton, MA 508-293-4017 Mark.Freeman@edwardjones.com

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Holliston dog licenses now available

the Town Clerk's Office.

Spayed/neutered dogs are \$15 each and unspayed/unneutered dogs are \$20. Rabies vaccination must be up-to-date; if not, the town will need a certificate.

Ways to license:

• In person at Town Clerk's Office

- Holliston's 2024 dog licenses are now available in By mail with the application found at bit.ly/ HollistonDogLicenses
 - Online at https://unipaygold.unibank.com/ default.aspx, if the rabies information is correct

For more information, contact the Town Clerk's Office at 508)-429-0601.

Source: www.townofholliston.us





Everyone welcome at free community dinners

By Theresa Knapp

Each month, the Christ the King Lutheran Church in Holliston hosts a community dinner at no cost for anyone who would like to attend.

"We started last March and about 35 people attended," said Dale Hava, Vice President of the Congregation, noting they now have approximately 60 guests each month. "We attribute the growth to word of mouth from those who attend and increased publicity that we generate...We are seeing many repeat diners and often they bring new people with them."

Hava, who lives in Milford, says the event is open to anyone from any town. He notes that some people come from as far away as New Bedford, and nearly half of the dinner guests live in Milford.

"We have a large following from Milford, many of whom go to the Milford Senior Center on a regular basis. We also draw quite a few people from Hollis-



Each month, the Christ the King Lutheran Church in Holliston holds a free community dinner each month for anyone interested in a good home-cooked meal and/or fellowship. Courtesy photo

ton, Medway and Millis. Most of the people are senior citizens, must we have a growing number of younger families who come on a regular basis; this past month we had four or five young children and their parents."

The home-cooked meals are prepared by members of the

congregation. The menu varies monthly but always includes "all the fixings" and dessert.

Hava says the dinners are for everyone interested in a good meal. The gatherings are not religious-related and are merely hosted in the church's "fabulous space that lends itself nicely to



A group of Milford residents at the December community dinner in Holliston. *Courtesy photo*

events like this" since the hall can seat up to 160 people.

Hava says, "It is an opportunity for people to get out for an evening, enjoy a good meal and meet new friends. There are many folks out there who can use a good meal and we hope to provide that on a regular basis."

The next Community
Dinner is Sat., Jan. 20,
at 7 p.m. at Christ the
King Lutheran Church,
600 Central St. Holliston.



Student's senior project aims to 'elevate the online reading and note-taking experience'



By Theresa Knapp

Samhitha Thatavarthy is a senior at Holliston High School where her senior project is the creation of "SimpleReads," a Google Chrome Extension designed to "elevate the online reading and notetaking experience."

"This project stands as both an embodiment of my passion for innovation and a valuable asset for students," said Thatavarthy, who lives in Ashland. She has a provisional patent for her invention.

Thatavarthy says SimpleReads' two core functions are a notepad feature, and a blur-and-zoom func-

For the notepad feature, Thatavarthy explains that, with the click of a button, users can activate a notepad while browsing online. This notepad seamlessly saves notes to Google Docs, ensuring they are readily accessible when returning to a website. Each website visited generates a new Google Doc, with the website's name as the document title.

For the blur-and-zoom feature, SimpleReads empowers users to customize their reading experience by adjusting the number of visible

SimpleReads: How it works

- 1. Download the Google Extension.
- 2. Click the SimpleReads extension at the top of your screen to enable it. It should turn
- 3. Choose the tools you want to use (Zoom/ Blue, Notes, or both).
- 4. If using both tools, hover your mouse over any body of text to adjust the SimpleReads pop-up lines' visibility and text size.
- 5. Using Notes, click near any line of text, and the notepad appears on the right side of the
- 6. Type in your notes and press enter.

lines and font sizes on any website.

up with the idea because of per-

lenge of reading comprehension

while nurturing my creativity. It

was during these formative years

that I conceived an innovative con-

cept – a tool that could selectively

sonal experience.

Thatavarthy, 17, said she came

"As a child, I faced the chal-

7. Access your earlier notes by pressing on the pop-up in the notepad.

- 8. Once done, click the enabled button to turn
- 9. Reload your Google Drive/Google Docs for the new Google document to show up.
- 10. The Google document is visible with the website link as the title, where all your notes
- 11. Taking notes on multiple websites will generate multiple Google documents, one for each
- 12. When revisiting the same website and signing in with the same email, notes are saved back into the same Google document.
- 13. When revisiting the same website, the notes will be saved on the notepad pop-up.

SOURCE: SAMHITHA THATAVARTHY, SIMPLEREADS CREATOR AND HOLLISTON HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

highlight lines in a book, allowing She says that, years later, during me to concentrate on a single line her sophomore year of high school, at a time. Additionally, I dreamt of she decided to use online technola feature that would enable me to ogy to bring her idea to life. Her goal was to "create a platform that take notes within the book, seamwould be accessible to all, free of lessly transferring my thoughts beyond its pages. At the tender age charge, to assist as many individuals of seven, I named this concept the as possible in their reading endeav-'Reader Keyder' and documented ors," and today it has more than 300 users, including 85 active users.



Samhitha Thatavarthy is a senior at Holliston High School where her senior project is the creation of SimpleReads, an online reading and note-taking aid. Courtesy photo

Thatavarthy says that, among the many SimpleReads users, are members of the Holliston School District.

"I've had the privilege of presenting SimpleReads in various Holliston High School classes. I've had the honor of presenting it to the entire faculty and will soon introduce it to the middle school faculty."

She also says she has a data privacy agreement approved by the Holliston School District which "allows schools in all of Massachusetts and into the East Coast to implement it without requiring additional approval.'

For more information, visit simplereads.org/. To download the app, visit bit.ly/SimpleRead-







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The b.LUXE **beauty beat**

"Can you squeeze me in?" Sure we can!

By GINA WOELFEL

Even though "squeeze" is not our preferred term at b.LUXE to describe how we work your appointment into our schedule; it is what we do. "Squeeze" may imply that your appointment is rushed or lacks attention to detail, but that's never the case. We understand how important your hair is to your self-confidence and know that you want to look and feel your best.

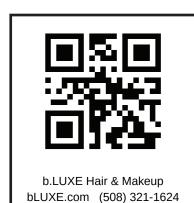
Clients often wait to book an appointment because they're uncertain about their schedules or when their hair needs servicing. These are entirely valid reasons to delay booking. However, if you need a last-minute appointment, stylists often book out weeks in advance, and it can be challenging to find larger blocks of time for colors and cuts.

As much as we'd like to wave a magic wand and create your desired appointment, it may not be possible with your regular hair stylist. But fret not! With our creative scheduling, we can slide you into our rotation with the same high-quality service, regardless of your last-minute booking.

At b.LUXE, our stylists are categorized into four levels: training stylists, junior stylists, stylists, and senior stylists. If you're unable to book an appointment with your regular provider, there's no need to worry. You can always choose to receive services from another stylist without feeling uncomfortable. In fact, we encourage it! We believe in working together as a team and never refer to clients as "mine" or "yours," only "ours." If you have to book with someone else or even a hairdresser who's at a different level, our junior staff works under the supervision of our senior stylists. They'll have all the details from your last visit, which we meticulously record every time you have your hair done. So, if you're flexible with whose chair you sit in, we can easily fit you in.

b.LUXE offers the most comprehensive educational experience to graduates and students close to completing their cosmetology studies in Massachusetts. Every Monday, we provide hands-on education in the salon

b.LUXE hair makeup skincare tanning



to ensure that our assistants receive practical training to get them on the floor as soon as possible. Our experienced senior staff supervises the assistants and trains them in the most cutting-edge techniques in the industry. We believe in providing a complete beauty experience to our junior team members, which includes assisting our stylists with their scheduled clients. This symbiotic relationship expands our availability and allows our more



experienced staff to get you into their chair while passing on their knowledge and skills to the assistants

We can also offer you two separate appointments with two different stylists on the same day or, if needed, on two separate days. This flexibility is particularly helpful for important occasions when two mini-appointments are the perfect solution. We maintain an active waitlist and cancellation list that are updated daily, so it's essential that we have your most up-to-date contact information on file.

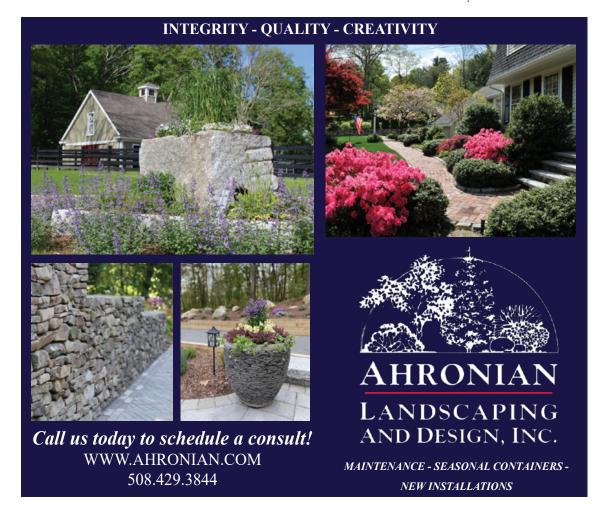
What we hope you take away from this month's Beauty Beat is that with a little bit of communication and some flexibility, we can help you get your hair done and love how it looks!

We are delighted to share that our studio has had its most successful year to date in 2023, and we cannot wait to reveal what we have in store for you in next month's Beauty Beat (It's Galentine's Day!!!) We owe our success to our amazing clients and readers who have always supported us, and we hope to give back to you even more in 2024!

Happy New Year! The b.LUXE Beauty Team

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Your Money, Your Independence

If You Fail To Plan, You Are Planning To Fail.



Glenn Brown, CFP

Making New Year's resolutions to improve your financial wellness in 2024?

Do they look familiar to last year's?

As Ben Franklin repeatedly said, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail".

Let's help you start by recognizing questionable resolutions, including three destined for failure plus what should be considered for successful planning outcomes.

Bad Resolution: Need to start buying "X" to grow my money.

Before buying "X", how does fit into your investment strategy within your financial plan?

Over the last 4 years, crypto, I bonds, meme stocks and cash

have had their shiny object moments with investors chasing.

If to start 2023 one moved their investment strategy to cash based on 2022 performance of stocks and bonds, well... past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Yes, interest rates rose, and one could find ~4-5% CD's. Yet, through December 15, 2023 on Year-To Date returns, several equity indices have significantly outpaced, and certain bond indices have done as well or better.

Recall as treasury yields fall in anticipation of Federal Reserve action and/or economic outlook, bond funds and ETFs participate in this inverse relationship - interest rates fall, bond prices rise. When bond prices rise, this increases the value of bond funds/ETFs. Just like in 2022, when rates rose, value of bond funds/ETFs fell.

Better Resolution: Need to save _____ % and take _____ risk with investments to reach _____ goal.

To truly build assets, you need to save a specific percentage each year, take opportunistic or measured (less) risks AND invest towards your established goal(s), not performance that occurred the year before or one market benchmark.

Bad Resolution: Pay down debt.

Sounds important, but is it? It depends. Tax deductions, interest rates, duration, fixed or variable, inflation, deflation, depreciation, and impact to your future cash flow ensure all debt is not equal.

Better Resolution: Execute a debt reduction plan.

Access all debt, then prioritize on high-interest debt, variable rates, and unsecured. If down to a 3% or lower mortgage, 2% auto loans, and a MassSave at 0%, then maintain required payments, reap benefits of low, fixed rates in an inflationary environment and allocate towards investments outpacing those rates over time.

An exception, if not at ~40% home equity ownership, can make a case to get there and open a HELOC. Beyond flexibility to access equity built and lower total interest paid, can eliminate the opportunity costs of a large cash position for the "what ifs" in life.

Bad Resolution: *Do more for my retirement.*

Buy a lottery ticket, as greater chance of success than this vague "lose weight" resolution tossed by January 10th.

Better Resolution: *How do I retire at 55 or semi-retire in 5 years.*

Now you're analyzing cash flows, balance sheet, contribution rates, investment allocations, taxation, work benefits, college funding, planning for the unexpected and desired lifestyle with expenses in retirement. You'll establish a set of base facts, allowing to then create scenarios, see projections, reverse engineer action steps, and track goals within timelines.

Aggressive timelines create urgency, leading to actions that bring you closer the ultimate retirement accomplishment - choice.

Now ask yourself, are your resolutions the same as last year?

What different actions are you going to take to make a difference?

Know what Einstein said about doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results

Maybe it's time to socialize your goals, set monthly action items to create fresh start moments and leverage an accountability partner (i.e. Certified Financial Planner) to make your 2024 resolutions happen.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of Plan-Dynamic, LLC, www.PlanDynamic.com. Glenn is a fee-only Certified Financial PlannerTM helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.

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Real Estate Corner

Recent Home Sales

Date	Holliston	Amount
12/15/2023	662 Central Street	\$765,000
12/13/2023	10 Pine Oak Street	\$988,000
12/12/2023	256 Fiske Street	\$655,000
12/05/2023	200 Jerrold Street	\$655,000
12/04/2023	375 Concord Street	\$630,000
12/04/2023	48 Roy Avenue	\$485,000
11/30/2023	441 Chamberlain Street	\$510,000
11/30/2023	125 Brooksmont Drive	\$740,000
11/29/2023	167 Dalton Road	\$800,000
11/28/2023	65 Bradford Jay Road	\$500,000
11/22/2023	1282 Highland Street	\$715,000
11/21/2023	219 Shaw Farm Road	\$645,000
11/20/2023	1575 Highland Street	\$850,000
11/20/2023	3 Norfolk Lane	\$530,000

Holliston Annual Town Meeting warrant now open

The Holliston Select Board voted on Dec. 4 to open the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting to be held on May 13, 2024.

Articles should be submitted to the Office of the Select Board by Mon., March 11 by 4 p.m.

Other important dates include:

- Annual election: Tues., May 21, 2024
- Fall Town Meeting: Mon., Oct. 21, 2024

For more information, including how to submit an article for consideration, contact Town Administrator Travis Ahern at ahernt@holliston.k12.ma.us or Town Clerk Elizabeth Greendale at greendalee@ holliston.k12.ma.us.

Source: www.townofholliston.us

In search of: Holliston's 'significant' trees

The Holliston Garden Club (HGC) Treespotters Committee and Friends of Trees are working to identify "significant" trees on public land. This new project will list and identify Holliston's largest living creatures, our trees, in order to document them as part of our town's history and preserve them.

To nominate a tree or group of trees for special recognition, visit bit.ly/HollistonSignificant-

Source: www. TOWNOFHOLLISTON.US



The property at 219 Shaw Farm Road in Holliston recently sold for \$645,000. Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages

Have you read the new Town Administrator's newsletter?

The Town Administrator Newsletter recently debuted under the moniker, "Holliston Hometown Newsletter."

Town Administrator Travis Ahern told the Select Board at its March 7 meeting that the quarterly newsletter already had 857 people subscribe as of that date.

The eight-page electronic document includes information for town meeting, updates on town projects, important deadlines, lists seasonal jobs, and much more.

To subscribe, visit www.townofholliston.us/subscribe



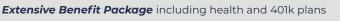












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Sports

Holliston Six Aims To Improve, Get To Next Level

17 Seniors Will Provide Experience

By KEN HAMWEY Staff Sports Writer

Derek Bedard's first two years as Holliston High's hockey coach have been difficult adventures — a 1-17-1 record in his first year, then a 3-16-1 mark last year. Those numbers seem to suggest he's in for another tough campaign.

Perhaps, but consider his team goals for this season.

"First, we want to be competitive," Bedard said. "We also must be prepared and that occurs by improving daily. Plus, we've got to get close games to go our way." Last year, the Panthers lost four one-goal games.

His objectives are low-key, realistic and definitely can be achieved. And, if they are, then, as an old song suggests: "This could be the start of something good."

The 27-year-old Bedard, who played hockey for four years at Holliston and was a two-year captain, firmly believes that achieving his goals "will get the Panthers to the next level in the near future." Simply defined, the next level is battling for the Tri Valley League Large Division title and qualifying for the playoffs.

Team strengths sometimes offer clues about a squad's fu-

ture. Entering the season, the Panthers had assets that give Bedard cause for some optimism.

"We've got experience," he emphasized. "Seventeen players return with different degrees of experience. We've also got a good work ethic, the kids are coachable and have built team chemistry. They're mentally and physically tough and our defense should be effective."

Holliston's three senior captains — defensemen James Givens and John Piselli, and wing Cole Sanara — provide talent and leadership.

"James is a four-year veteran who's aggressive and relentless in his approach," Bedard offered. "He competes hard on every shift, is a strong skater, and he leads by example and by being vocal. John is a threeyear veteran who's coachable and works hard. Calm, cool and collected, he competes in a controlled manner. Cole, who had five goals and five assists last year, is in his fourth year. A fast skater, he forechecks and back checks. I want his offensive game to get to the next level."

Another wing, junior Colby Ullmann, is a top-six forward. "Colby is big, not afraid of contact, and digs in the corners," Bedard noted. "He's aggressive and he's got a good wrist shot."



Third-year coach Derek Bedard is optimistic that his Holliston hockey team will use a variety of strengths to help the Panthers improve on last year's record.

Senior George Gabriel and junior Luiz Campos are centers who'll be counted on.

"George is a smooth skater and a solid stick-handler," Bedard said. "And, he's got scoring ability. As a sophomore, he had four goals and showed promise. Luiz has a high hockey IQ and a nose for the puck. A three-year varsity player, he skates well and has a good, hard shot. A shoot-first player, he gets his shots on net."

A pair of defensemen — sophomore Grady Lukis and junior Evan Kuharich — are assets on the back line.

"Grady got lots of ice time as a freshman," Bedard said. "A defensive defenseman, he has a high hockey IQ, is physical and rugged in the corners. He wins the one-on-one battles and is a top-notch penalty killer. Evan also got lots of time on ice last year. He's physical, hits hard and handles the puck effectively. An assistant captain, he's also a capable penalty-killer."

Sophomores Brogan Roche and Cullen Ford are wings who showed promise as freshmen.

"Brogan is a two-way player who had a goal and seven assists last year," Bedard said. "He's got a high hockey IQ, handles the puck well and can find the next quickly. Cullen is a utility player who can also play defense. He demonstrates good offensive ability, can skate well and has a hard wrist shot."

Junior Caleb Greenberg, who's in his first varsity year, is handling the goal-tending



Holliston's four captains include, from left, Evan Kuharich (junior, assistant), and seniors Cole Fanara, James Givens, and John Piselli.

chores. "Caleb has a great attitude and he's working to sharpen his instincts," Bedard said. "He's very athletic and knows how to put his body in the right position."

The Panthers' assistant coaches are Chris Johnson (defense) and Mike Donovan (special teams and defense) Both played hockey for Holliston.

Bedard's athletic philosophy focuses on winning, reaching one's potential and having fun competing. "Winning is important and if our players are realizing their potential, then we can win," he emphasized. "And, if we're winning, then they'll be enjoying their time on ice."

Life lessons learned in athletics that Bedard hopes his players will embrace are being accountable, communicative and having a strong work ethic. "Accountability leads to being responsible," he noted. "Communication is necessary on the ice and it'll help in one's future job. A strong work ethic, or going the extra mile, will always be a plus, especially in the work-place."

Bedard graduated from Holliston High in 2015 and has a solid hockey pedigree. His family's hockey roots at Holliston also run deep.

Competing at 5-9 and 170 pounds, he averaged 20 points

during his final three campaigns. And, as a sophomore and senior, he was a prime contributor in helping the Panthers qualify for two tournament berths. His father (Mike) and his brother (Jason) both played hockey for Holliston.

"My father graduated in 1982 and my brother graduated in 2011," Bedard said. "All three of us played defense and we all wore No. 2. I went to Merrimack College but was unable to play hockey because of knee and shoulder injuries I suffered in high school. I got my degree in business administration and graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2019."

Bedard works as a senior analyst for Tech Target, a marketing software company.

Before taking Holliston's head-coaching reins, Bedard was a Panthers' assistant for three years, working for Dan Geary and Mike Dutcher.

Now in his third season, Bedard labels this year's team as "gritty." The Panthers will be forechecking and back-checking and they'll be deliberate. A possession game will define them.

The coach also is hoping that his squad will bounce back from a slow start, which left Holliston at 0-2, losing to Norton and Hopkinton at Local Town Pages deadline.





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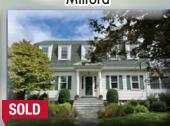
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