

Holliston's 300th Anniversary Parade Steps Off May 11 at 1 p.m.

The year-long Holliston 300th anniversary celebration continues on Saturday, May 11, with an anniversary parade for the ages.

The parade will begin at 1 p.m. and continue until approximately 3:30 p.m. with more than 80 different units participating in the 2.5 mile parade.

Parade lineup

At press time, there were 80 units enlisted in the parade including numerous floats, marching bands, antique cars, fire trucks, cranes, animals of various kinds, as well as the following:

- Shriners cycles, mini cars, marching units and motor patrol
- Concord Minutemen
- Extraordinary Arts stilt performers
- Great American Marching Band
- Lexington Minutemen
- National Lancers
- Roma Band Musicians
- Sudbury Ancient Fyfe and



Celebrate Holliston will host a memorable parade on May 11 as part of a yearlong celebration of Holliston's 300th anniversary. Parade participants will include 80 different units including horses as in previous years. Source: www.celebrateholliston.com/parade

- Drum Company
- Pat the Patriot
- Hobby Knoll Stable Clydesdales
- And much, much more

Road closures

Roads will be closed from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Summer Street to Whitney Street. Vehicles should expect delays and detours.

Parking

Spectators are encouraged to walk to the parade. Parking in public lots will be limited. Other lots and shuttles will be available.

PARADE

continued on page 2

Town Meeting to consider change to "Town Manager" form of government

Select Board calls power shift commonplace, modernizing, important

BY THERESA KNAPP

At this month's Annual Town Meeting, Holliston voters will be asked to adopt a "Select Board-Town Manager" form of government, changing the title (and some of the related duties) from "Town Administrator" to "Town Manager."

Holliston's Town Administrator form of government was established in 1994. This would repeal that action.

At a Select Board meeting on April 16, Chairperson John Cronin said, "Over the last 30 years, this position has grown and expanded as one would expect in a public entity like Holliston."

Cronin said the title "Town Manager" is "very commonplace now. Several of our neighboring communities have moved to this model. It provides more author-

ity towards the public official in this case, away from the elected officials...It is a power shift, it's designed to be a power shift."


Cronin said the draft act was modeled after a similar change recently enacted in the Town of Wayland.

Holliston's proposed 2024 Act would, among other duties, authorize the Holliston Town Manager to:

- Serve as chief administrative and operating officer of the town,
- Ensure the completion of annual evaluations of all subordinate town employees (excluding the school department),

TOWN MEETING

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PARADE

continued from page 1

Parade volunteers needed

Parade organizers need your help. In a message to the community on its planning page, the Celebrate Holliston Committee says, "It's all hands on deck for a parade of this size. Most volunteer positions can be done on the sidelines while you watch the parade. Please consider giving a few hours of your time to help us keep everyone safe at the parade."

More information

For additional and detailed information, visit www.celebrate-holliston.com. Questions can be directed to parade committee members Jake LaFlamme at celebratetohollistonparade@gmail.com, Peter Barbieri at peterbholl@gmail.com, or Bob Shore at rkshore@gmail.com.



localtownpages logo and contact information for publisher, editor, advertising sales, and creative design.

Holliston's 300th Anniversary Parade May 11, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. Includes map, route details, and legend.

HOLLISTON HOME IMPROVEMENT services list including kitchen remodeling, basement finishing, and more.

ANYTIME FITNESS advertisement featuring a group of people exercising and contact information for Shaws Plaza.

300TH CELEBRATION PARADE information including road closures, parade duration, and a QR code for more details.

HOLLISTON 300 CELEBRATION PARADE 5/11 @ 1:00 PM. Includes Holliston logo, QR code, and website URL.

New England Steak & Seafood Restaurant advertisement for Mother's Day with reservation information and seating times.

TOWN MEETING

continued from page 1

- Serve as chief financial officer of the town,
- Serve as chief procurement officer of the town ,
- Execute all grant applications, and award and execute all contracts binding the town,
- Create new departments, reorganize, eliminate or consolidate town departments or functions (excluding the school department), and
- Appoint all department heads or similar positions (excluding the school department) including police chief, fire chief, DPW director, assistant town manager.

The full proposed Act can be found at www.townofholliston.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf706/f/uploads/holl.tm_town_manager_act_3.23.24_draft.pdf

The Town Manager could be removed by an affirmative vote of the majority of the Select Board.

The Massachusetts Municipal Authority (bit.ly/MMA-MAformsogovernment) says, “A

“I look at this relationship as having a CEO who can run the day-to-day of the town, and we’re the Board of Directors.” – Ben Sparrell, Holliston Select Board member

town ‘manager’ is voting member of school committee but only on union contracts; a town ‘administrator’ sometimes serves in this role;” however, Cronin said that is not the case in Holliston. “This role will have little or no effect on the Holliston School System as well, that remains untouched; it’s very much an administrative improvement.”

Town Counsel Jay Talerman said, “I think it’s worth noting for those that see this as a significant change to Holliston, and it’s a change for sure, that this is the trend really for towns, especially towns of your size and growth pattern. Municipal law, municipal governance, has only gotten more complicated and it’s harder and harder for a volunteer form of government such as yours, in particularly a Select Board, to manage all of the various tasks that a simple

Town Administrator form of government thrusts upon you. So, I think towns that are similarly situated have moved to make their day-to-day chief executive slightly more powerful in terms of day-to-day functioning of government.”

Select Board Clerk Ben Sparrell said the current role of Town Administrator is antiquated. “I think this is something that’s important...The fact is that we’re governing our community using an act that is 30 years old and the world is not the same as it was in 1994...It’s time for us to move into the 21st century.”

Sparrell said the Select Board should be a policy-making board and should not be doing the day-to-day work of the town. “I look at this relationship as having a CEO who can run

the day-to-day of the town, and we’re the Board of Directors – we’re overseeing, we’re making sure things are being done, we’re setting policy as appropriate, but we’re also allowing the Town Manager, in this case, to be able to handle things as appropriate, to report back to this board and to the community on the actions that are being taken, but we don’t necessarily need to be involved in the day-to-day operations of the town, it’s not appropriate.”

Vice Chair Tina Hein said, through various local government audits, the feedback remains consistent that Holliston needs to modernize its government, become more efficient, and have a more “professional” Town Hall.

Cronin reiterated that the Town Manager Act would not create any changes relative to the Finance Committee, Town Clerk, or School Department. “We recognize and value the silos that they operate in. We are not here to manage them or to usurp any authority. This role is merely designed to streamline communication, accountability, management within the Town of Holliston’s daily governance.”

If passed, current Town Administrator Travis Ahern would go through a job reclassification, according to Cronin.

Annual Town Meeting will take place on May 13 at 7 p.m. in the Holliston High School auditorium.

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Spring Cleaning is Greener with Affordable Junk Removal

There are plenty of reasons to call a junk removal service. Maybe walking through your basement has gotten difficult or there is no more room in the attic? Perhaps you are planning to move, and you need to declutter before your open house?

Figuring out who to call can be challenging. If you contact one of the big haulers, they route you to a phone center where they've never even heard of your town, plus their pricing seems vague and full of extra fees. No wonder you've let the stuff pile up—it's too much of a hassle to get rid of it!

Or you can call Affordable Junk Removal and let a local small business with deep community roots take care of everything.

Jay Schadler started his business in 2005. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer

service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with eight trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

Affordable Junk Removal specializes in house and estate cleanouts. If your garage, attic, or office is overflowing with stuff, take back your space and let the pros do the heavy lifting.

Jay and his team have handled it all. They've dismantled above-ground pools, hauled away ancient hot tubs, taken down old fencing, and stripped away worn carpeting. They'll come for a single item, or they'll clean out an entire house. And they can take almost anything. They can't accept hazardous materials, brush, dirt, or concrete, but everything else is fair game for them to take away.

Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it. He first tries to either recycle or donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

Working with Affordable

Business spotlight

Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for what you don't use.

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've also got a driveway special where they'll take away a truckload of your unwanted things if you pile it up. Or if you don't want to lift a finger, then you can point at the items, and the team will fill up their truck and haul away your unwanted things. However you do it, you're left with more space and more peace of mind.

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call



Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

And speaking of pricing, Jay is upfront about it. His website shows the truck sizes and prices, so you can save time knowing your costs before you call for an appointment. There aren't any hidden costs or surprise fees with Affordable Junk Removal.

Affordable Junk Removal is fully licensed and fully insured, and they'll treat your property with care and respect.

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even

handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

Contact Affordable Junk Removal and let a local small business take care of everything for you. Call Jay Schadler at (774) 287-1133 or visit us online at www.affordablejunkremoval.com.

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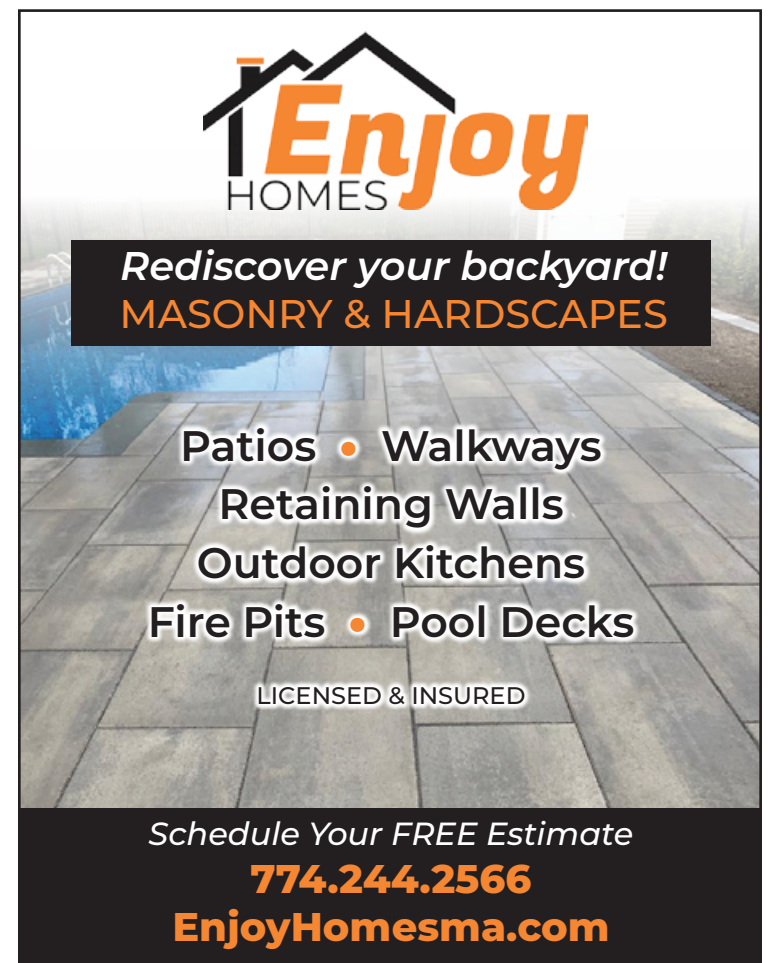
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Vesta Real Estate Group

Not just a Realtor®, but a real estate team

By JANE LEBAK

For most families, their home is not only their greatest asset, but also the most complicated transaction they've ever completed.

Liz Kelly, real estate agent with Vesta Real Estate Group, has made it her mission to support clients through that process. "Most of the time, if you hire an agent, you're hiring one person," she says. "But when you partner with Vesta Real Estate Group, you're getting all of us."

Vesta Real Estate Group has operated in Massachusetts since 1998, not only buying and selling homes but also managing rentals and investment properties.

The five agents of Vesta Real Estate Group have more than fifty years of experience, and they all meet multiple times a week to discuss strategy and their clients' particular needs.

"Even though you're primarily dealing with one agent," says Kelly, "it's a huge benefit to have multiple experts focused on you. Plus, if for some reason I can't be available, every other agent is already up to speed on your needs."

Liz Kelly previously worked as a teacher, with a degree in psychology and a Master's in special education. After Vesta's owners, Ed and Doriane Daniels, helped sell Kelly's home,



they realized her teaching skills would be a great match for the Vesta team. "And they were right," says Kelly. "Helping people through real estate transactions is really about guiding them during what may be the most stressful time in their life." With a laugh, she adds, "I'd say my job is about 70% therapist and 30% real estate."

Selling or buying a home is not only a complicated process, but also one that involves a tremendous amount of money and a lot of emotional connection.

Kelly says, "I've had a number of clients who downsized from homes they've lived in thirty or forty years. For some of them, they've owned only this one home. They took pride in it and made memories in it, but now they're leaving, so they need a lot of support. I teach them how the market has changed. I guide them through what's become a much faster-paced process."



Meet your Vesta team: Ed and Doriane Daniels, Liz Kelly, Ashley Austin, and Steve Kirstein.

In one particular case, an elderly individual needed to move into assisted living. "I wouldn't let him be taken advantage of," says Kelly. "I attended meetings between him and the moving company to make sure of that. I went with him to his new home at assisted living to measure it and help him determine what furniture could come."

For Kelly, there's a specific joy in helping others achieve homeownership. "I love homes, and I love property. I own a rental property, and I've updated and

flipped houses. Every part of the process is exciting to me. I didn't understand until my thirties exactly how much owning property could help generate wealth for the owner, so now I educate buyers about the value of home ownership."

The Vesta team makes the time for face-to-face meetings with all their clients, not only to get to know the property, but also to assess the client's needs and identify early any special challenges and how to keep the path smooth. "It may sometimes

be a bumpy road, but there are always solutions. It's our privilege to find the right solution for your situation," Kelly says. "Our goal is to take care of you through the entire process, not just sell the house."

To meet the team who will help you buy your next home or sell the one you have, visit www.VestaMA.com, email Team@VestaMA.com, or call 774-233-1926 today.

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Holliston Annual Town Meeting is May 13

Holliston Town Meeting will take place on Monday, May 13, at 7 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

Preferred senior parking and on-site babysitting services will be available.

According to the town website, the meeting warrant was scheduled to be posted on April 25 at www.townofholliston.us

Information regarding the FY25 budget process can be

found at www.townofholliston.us/finance-committee/pages/fy25-budget-presentation-schedule-data.

You must be a registered voter to vote at Town Meeting. Visit www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/ to register to vote or check registration information.

SOURCE: WWW.TOWNOFHOLLISTON.US

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How is your retirement income taxed?



Mark Freeman

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Once you're retired, you will likely need to draw on several types of income for your living expenses. You'll need to know where these funds are coming from and how much you can count on, but you should also be aware of how this money is taxed — because this knowledge can help you plan and budget for your retirement years.

Here's the basic tax information on some key sources of retirement income:

• **Social Security** – Many people don't realize they may have to pay taxes on their Social Security benefits. Whether your benefits will be taxed depends on how much other taxable income you receive from various sources, such as self-employment, stock dividends and interest payments. You'll want to check with your tax advisor to determine whether your income reaches the threshold where your Social Security benefits will be taxed. The lower your total taxable income, the lower the taxes will be on your benefits. The Social Security Administration will not automatically take out taxes from your monthly checks — to have taxes withheld, you will need to fill out Form W-4V (Voluntary Withholding Request). Again, your tax advisor can help you determine the percentage of your benefits you should withhold.

• **Retirement accounts** – During your working years, you may have contributed to two basic retirement accounts: an IRA and a 401(k) or similar plan (such as a 457(b) plan for state and local government employees or a 403(b) plan for educators and employees of some nonprofits). If you invested in a "traditional" IRA or 401(k) or similar plan, your contributions may have been partially or completely deductible and your earnings grew on a tax-deferred basis. But when you start taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA or 401(k), the money is considered taxable at your normal income tax rate. However, if you chose the "Roth" option (when available), your contributions were not deductible, but your earnings and withdrawals are tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions.

• **Annuities** – Many investors use annuities to supplement their retirement income. An annuity is essentially a

contract between you and an insurance company in which the insurer pays you an income stream for a given number of years, or for life, in exchange for the premiums you paid. You typically purchase a "qualified" annuity with pre-tax dollars, possibly within a traditional IRA or 401(k), so your premiums may be deductible, and your earnings can grow tax deferred. Once you start taking payouts, the entire amount — your contributions and earnings — are taxable at your individual tax rate. On the other hand, you purchase "non-qualified" annuities with after-tax dollars, so your premiums aren't deductible, but just like qualified annuities, your earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis. When you take payments, you won't pay taxes on the principal amounts you invested but the earnings will be taxed as ordinary income.

We've looked at some general rules governing different sources

of income, but you should consult your tax professional about your specific situation. Ultimately, factors such as your goals, lifestyle and time horizon should drive the decisions you make for your retirement income. Nonetheless, you may want to look for ways to control the taxes that result from your various income pools. And the more you know about how your income is taxed, the fewer unpleasant surprises you may experience.

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

Mark Freeman
Edward Jones Financial Advisor
77 West Main Street,
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Holliston town election is May 21

The Holliston town election will take place on Tuesday, May 21, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Holliston High School.

Town positions on the ballot include:

- Select Board (3 year term), 2 seats
- Board of Assessors (3 yrs)
- Finance Committee (3 yrs), 2 seats
- Finance Committee (1 yr)
- Board of Health (3 yrs)
- School Committee (3 yrs), 3 seats
- Trustee of Public Library (3 yrs), 2 seats
- Trustee of Public Library (2 yrs)
- Park Commissioner (3 yrs), 2 seats
- Planning Board (5 yrs)
- Housing Authority (5 yrs)

A sample ballot was not available at press time but can be found at www.townofholliston.us

SOURCE: WWW.TOWNOFHOLLISTON.US

Holliston is now a recognized Tree City

The Town of Holliston is proud to announce (with Arbor Day approaching on April 26th) that Holliston will be celebrating the national holiday as an official #TreeCityUSA!

The announcement was posted on the town's website on April 9.

The town is now eligible for Tree City USA Growth Awards which are presented by the Arbor Day Foundation to participating Tree City USA communities that demonstrate higher levels of tree care and community engagement during the calendar year.

Special thanks to the Holliston Garden Club Treespotters for their support of tree care

work and community engagement in support of the Town's Tree City USA application!



TREE CITY USA®

The Town of Holliston is now an official "Tree City." Image source: www.arborday.org

SOURCE: WWW.TOWNOFHOLLISTON.US

Heart of the Lion Award presented to Chris Leoncini

By THERESA KNAPP

At its meeting on April 1, the Holliston Select Board unanimously approved the Heart of the Lion Award which was later presented to Chris Leoncini on April 17.

Select Board member Ben Sparrell read the dedication:

"In appreciation and recognition of his dedication to serving the community of Holliston and demonstrating this through kindness and acts of humanity, we recognize the presentation of the heart of the lion award this 17th day of April 2024 to Chris Leoncini."

The award is a Humanitarian Award presented by the Lions Club.

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By LISA MASSIMIANO,
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If you have been diagnosed with acne and haven't been satisfied with drug store products or the suggested treatment from your doctor, consider seeing an Acne Specialist.

What is an Acne Specialist?

An Acne Specialist is a licensed skin care professional who is specially trained to treat acne using a combination of clinical treatments, home care protocols and regular follow-up during the process of clearing acne prone skin.

Most physicians don't have the time to spend educating patients on the root cause of their acne. They often prescribe oral antibiotics and strong topical retinoids that can leave skin dry, red and irritated. Patients get frustrated with these side effects and stop using the products.

How an Acne Specialist Can Help You.

An Acne Specialist will assess your individual skin type, and the type of acne you have, to develop a plan of action spe-

cifically for you. They will take the time to teach you about the root cause of acne and provide information on lifestyle, diet, medications, and ingredients in makeup and skin care products that exacerbate acne. They help you to get your skin clear and teach you how to keep your acne under control.

For people struggling with acne, it can be frustrating to try and communicate with their doctor on a timely basis. My clients tell me that the best part of working with an Acne Specialist is that we are there for them to answer their questions and provide support while they go through the process of getting their skin clear.

Questions about acne? Email Lisa Massimiano, owner Skin Smart Salon and Acne Clinic at skinsmartsalon@aol.com or call 508 881-1180. Visit the website skinsmartsalon.com for information about Skin Smart's acne program and other services.

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HNN's Annual Touch-A-Truck Fundraiser & Food Truck Festival Is Back!

Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors (HNN) invites children of all ages to climb aboard a variety of trucks and vehicles at this year's HNN Touch-A-Truck Fundraiser & Food Truck Festival on Saturday, May 18, 2024. The event will run from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, rain or shine, at the Sam Placentino Elementary School, 235 Woodland Street (off Route 16) in Holliston, MA. The event will be horn-free for the first hour (10:00 am – 11:00 am), which is ideal for younger children and children with special needs.

We anticipate over 25 trucks, including police & fire, heavy construction, landscaping, tree removal, and highway which will be available for children to touch, climb and explore.

Bring your appetites because food and dessert will be available from a variety of food trucks, including All Purpose Bakery, Bird's Nest Italian Street Food, Boston Events, Fired Up Artisan Wood-Fired Pizza, Juniper Farms Ice Cream, Smokin' Food Truck and Sweetie's Candy Bus.

And there's more! JoJo the Magician will astound and a DJ will provide musical entertainment. For an additional fee, and



available throughout the event, Roaming Railroad will take children on a train ride and Imagine That will offer face painting.

Event admission is \$10 per child (12 & under) and \$2 per adult. Proceeds support Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors Community Grant Fund. The HNN Community Grant Fund provides funding for important Holliston events and services, which has included the Holliston Parks & Recreation Summer Concert Series, Holliston Town Library free museum passes, Holliston Community Farm, Holliston in Bloom as well as equipment purchases for the Holliston Police & Fire Departments.

We encourage you to follow the Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors Facebook page @HollistonNewcomersAndNeighbors and our website www.HollistonNewcomers.org for ongoing event updates.

Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors is a not-for-profit organization that coordinates charitable, civic and recreational events and activities in the town of Holliston, MA. The goal is to encourage association among community members and to foster community spirit. Membership is open to both residents and non-residents of Holliston. If you are interested in joining HNN, please visit our website at www.hollistonnewcomers.org.

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Your Money, Your Independence

Empower New Graduates with Gifts of Independence



Glenn Brown, CFP

With graduation season approaching, many friends and family members seek meaningful ways to celebrate the achievement.

While traditional gifts are always appreciated, consider something with lasting value that can help launch graduates towards financial independence.

Aside from cash or gift cards, here are some thoughtful financial gift ideas and tips to empower high school and college graduates as they embark on their next chapter.

Investment Account. Open a brokerage account in their name and purchase one or two foundational low-cost index exchange-

traded funds (ETFs). Even better, establish small automatic monthly contributions from their and your checking accounts. Even at \$25-\$50 a month, it's a consistent reminder that demonstrates the value of saving, compounding, and choosing to invest over time.

Furthermore, encourage graduates to explore different investment options and asset classes in these taxable investment accounts. And if they make investment mistakes, good. It is better to do it at a young age with less money and responsibilities than in their mid-40's, with a family and inside their retirement accounts.

Parental IRA Contributions. Parents can contribute to their child's Individual Retirement Account (IRA) up to the child's earned income. Consider Roth IRA and its unique advantages including being funded with after-tax dollars, meaning withdrawals in retirement are tax-free. This can be incredibly beneficial for young graduates, as their income and tax rates are likely lower now than they will be in the future. By starting a Roth IRA early, graduates can maximize their tax-free growth potential over the long term.

Financial Literacy Books. Equip graduates with essential financial knowledge by gifting them books on personal finance and investing. Consider "The Total Money Makeover" by Dave Ramsey, "Poor Charlie's Almanack" by Charles Munger and Peter Kaufman or "The Millionaire Next Door" by Thomas Stanley and William Danko.

I wish I'd read 'Millionaire' in my 20's, instead of early 30's, as it provides insights into the habits and behaviors of wealthy individuals, offering valuable lessons on living below one's means, budgeting, and accumulating wealth.

Financial Planning and Investing Tools. Don't let Tik Tok or free "you-are-the-product" apps be their source of financial knowledge. Consider gifting a subscription to a financial planning app that can help track spending, set savings goals, and create budgets. These tools provide valuable insights into their financial habits and empower them to make informed decisions about their money and avoid unnecessary debt.

And for those who want to invest beyond their low-cost index ETFs, consider Investor's Business Daily or gift a year access to Seeking Alpha Premium.

Financial Advisory Services. Last year a client set up two Zoom meetings for their son, a college graduate moving to North Carolina. For the first meeting, the four of us met on an agenda mom and dad wanted covered. For the next meeting, the parents bowed out, leaving the agenda and conversation up to their son. This worked well, as he was much more engaged and has stayed connected by sending questions as they arise and sharing updates.

Entrepreneurial Resources. If the graduate has ambitions of starting their own business, even a side hustle, consider gifting business books, online courses, or membership to entrepreneurial communities. As a parent, consider the legal benefits ensuring a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) is established by paying for the initial state registration.

Building an Emergency Fund. Encourage graduates to establish an emergency fund by contributing to it yourself. Life is unpre-

dictable, and having savings set aside for unexpected expenses can provide peace of mind and prevent them from going into debt during emergencies.

Graduates who receive these gifts will not only appreciate the gesture but also benefit from the financial stability they provide as they navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

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 PlanDynamic, LLC, www.PlanDynamic.com. Glenn is a fee-only Certified Financial Planner™ helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents, and financial independence.

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Charles River Chorale to Perform at Medway High School

The Charles River Chorale and the Charles River Children's Choir are excited to present their Spring Concert on Saturday, May 11, at 7p.m. at the Medway High School Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Please visit www.charlesriverchorale.com for details or use the attached QR code.



www.charlesriverchorale.com/tickets

The theme of this season's concert is *Road Trip Across America*. The concert will feature music that spans time, place and genre as we embark on a cross-country road trip that takes the audience into the Appalachians, down into the Mississippi Delta, out to the plains and back up to NYC.

Under the leadership of director and Holliston resident, Ashley Nelson-Oneschuk, the Charles River Chorale is in its 40th year as a non-profit 501(c)3 chorale. Membership has sprung back from an all-time pandemic-related low in the 2020-2021 season and the chorale now finds itself at an all-time high membership

level.

Along with the younger children's choir, the chorale is excited and grateful to be back on stage stronger than ever to present their music to the greater community. We hope you can join us, fasten your seatbelts, roll down the windows and enjoy an incredible variety of pieces representing US history from the 1700s through the 20th century!

Mudville Madrigal Singers' Spring Concert Coming Up

The Mudville Madrigal Singers began singing together in 1992. The original members all lived in or near Holliston's Mudville neighborhood, hence their name.

Since then, they have been joined by singers from other towns and their repertoire has grown more eclectic. They sing classical music from different eras as well as arrangements of jazz standards and folk songs. (Think Voces8 or a co-ed version of the King Singers.)

They will perform their annual spring concert at the Lutheran Church on Friday, May 17, at 8 pm, and again at the Congregational Church of Weston on Saturday, May 18, at 5 pm. It will last about an hour. The program includes songs by Josquin, Jannequin, Elgar, Hindemith, Gjeilo, and Hammerstein and Kern.

Each concert is free, but donations are appreciated.



The Mudville Madrigal Singers



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Garden Club Annual Sale May 18

The Holliston Gardens Club's annual plant sale is Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to noon at the green in front of First Congregational Church, 725 Washington St.

We are excited to be celebrating our 90th Anniversary!

There will be a wide selection of perennials, container gardens

and hanging baskets. The perennials are from members' gardens.

Purchases may be made by cash, check, or credit card. Proceeds from this event will supplement the club's programs and plantings around town. This is a rain or shine event.

Town accepts deed for Beaver Brook Farm

Has been on ConComm open space list since 2013

BY THERESA KNAPP

At its meeting on April 16, the Holliston Select Board unanimously approved a deed of open

space for Beaver Brook Farm at 734 Adams Street.

The deed had previously been approved by the Conservation Commission. It is related to a

new subdivision in the area.

"It connects some already existing open space in the area," said Select Board Vice Chair Tina Hein. "And it seems like a big accomplishment because it's been on [the Conservation Commission's] open space list since 2013."

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Concert May 4

Exsultet! presents "You Are The One" Holliston, MA - Sweet romantic harmony will fill the air at Exsultet's spring concert series. Exsultet! will perform "You Are The One" on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 7:00pm at First Congregational Church, 725 Washington Street, Holliston, MA. Relive the excitement of dating and finding "The One" with our concert of Broadway and movie hits! Travel Over the Rainbow and through the Seasons of Love

while enjoying familiar songs from past and present. General admission tickets are \$20; students and seniors (65+) are \$15; and children 12 and under are free. Performances are not suitable for children under age 5. Tickets can be purchased starting April 8, 2024 through our website (www.exsultet.us). Founded in 2013, Exsultet! A Celebration of Voices is an auditioned women's chamber ensemble combining great music and poetry to inspire





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audiences with adventurous and innovative concerts. Exsultet's mission is to give women an opportunity to join together to make music, to showcase the works of up and coming composers and arrangers, to feature the talents of local musicians and actors, and to combine performance and advocacy by focusing on important community issues and partnering with other local organizations. For more details, please visit www.exsultet.us.



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Registration is \$125
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Register at finfurandfeather.us

Senate Authorizes \$375 Million for Local Transportation Infrastructure

Chapter 90 funding would support cities and towns with road and bridge construction, public transit improvement, and EV infrastructure

The Massachusetts Senate unanimously approved \$375 million in bond authorizations for statewide transportation projects, including the state's Chapter 90 program, which would create a reliable funding source for local infrastructure investments like roads, bridges, regional transit equipment and infrastructure, bicycle infrastructure, and electric vehicle infrastructure, among other things.

Projects funded by the annual legislation often improve quality of life for residents in every region of the state, and many play a role in environmental mitigation.

Every city and town in the Commonwealth would receive a share of \$200 million in funding to be used on maintenance and construction of roads and bridges. \$150 million would be allocated equally to six programs targeting specific transportation infrastructure, and \$25 million would be allocated to cities and towns through the rural roads program.

"Getting around our communities is a fundamental part of everyone's day," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "Whether the commute takes you on the sidewalk, through a bike lane, across a small bridge, onto your Regional Transit Authority, or to the T, your journey should be quick and safe. By passing today's legislation, we are empowering our cities and towns with the funding to make improvements to the infrastructure our residents travel on, regardless of where they go and how."

"Our transportation infrastructure is so vitally important to the state's economy, and this Chapter 90 funding addresses

many outstanding issues in keeping the Commonwealth's roadways, bridges, and public transportation system in peak operating condition. I'm pleased that over \$375 million has been allocated to municipal roadways, local streetscape improvements, and enhancements to our mass transit system," said Senator Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

"The annual authorization of the Chapter 90 program provides cities and towns with the state funding they need to most effectively address their transportation infrastructure needs," said Senator Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn), Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation. "This \$375 million total investment in both Chapter 90 and additional grant opportunities funds tangible improvements across our entire transportation network—including roads, bridges, access to mass transit, and sidewalks."

Of the \$375 million in total authorizations, the legislation would allocate \$25 million to each of the following programs that target specific infrastructure areas:

- **Municipal Bus Enhancement Program**, which provides grant funding to build out infrastructure related to mass transit by bus.
- **Mass Transit Access Grant Program**, which provides grants for design and construction improvements to access commuter rail stations or other mass transit stations, such as parking lots, drop-off and pick-up zones, bike storage infrastructure, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- **Municipal/RTA EV Grant Program**, which provides grants to Regional Transit Authorities and municipalities for the purchase of electric vehicles and related charging equipment.

A previous version having been passed by the House of Representatives, the legislation now awaits final enactment in each branch, before being sent to the Governor's desk for her signature.

Retired Deputy Fire Chief Moore passed away Served on Holliston Fire Department for 37 years

On April 12, the Holliston Fire Department announced the passing of Retired Deputy Chief Arthur "Jim" Moore (1940-2024).

According to the department's Facebook post, "The Deputy joined the department in April 1985, rising quickly through the ranks of the suppression force, being promoted from Engine 1 Captain to Deputy Chief/EMS Supervisor in 2001, the position from which he retired in January 2023."

On April 19, the Holliston Police Department posted photos and video of the funeral procession through downtown, and a message that said, "Thank you for your dedicated service to our community, Dep. You are deeply missed."

According to his obituary, "Jim was the owner of Competitive Centerless Grinding in Holliston for 40 years. He was a member of the US Airforce, serving as a Fire Suppressionist in the airfields. He proudly



Retired Deputy Chief Arthur "Jim" Moore passed away on April 12. He served on the Holliston Fire Department for 37 years before retiring last year. Source: Facebook: @HollistonFire

served on the Holliston Fire Department for 37 years."

His full obituary can be found at www.chesmorefuneralhome.com/obituaries/jim-moore/20157/, and donations in his name can be made to Holliston Fire or Ambulance, 59 Central Street.

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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

We're Celebrating This May! Awards, Moms & You!

By GINA WOELFEL

We're proud to announce that b.LUXE has received its second honor from Salon Today Official and named a top honoree in this year's prestigious SALON TODAY 200 Awards. This industry recognition is a testament to our team's collective efforts, dedication and customer loyalty.

Now in its 27th year, Salon Today is a national publication that gathers data to establish vital salon business benchmarks. It recognizes owners and their teams for their business acumen and creates a forum for sharing proven business strategies.

This is our second win with Salon Today. In 2021, we were recognized as one of the top 20 salons in the US in their "SALONS OF THE YEAR" competition, held post-pandemic as a check-in to measure the beauty industry's response and recovery from COVID-19.

To be recognized in this year's competition, a salon or spa must demonstrate several best practices that propelled the business's overall trajectory. As winners in the 2024 SALON TODAY 200 "GROWTH" category, we grew our company remarkably between 2022 and 2023. This success is a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence and continuous improvements, ensuring that we always deliver the best to our clients, whose trust and support have been the cornerstone of our success.

This accomplishment would not have been possible without our community, our team, and the support of our fabulous clients. Your unwavering loyalty has made us the most lucky, appreciative, badass group of women in the beauty business!

But what does this recognition mean for you, and why is this your sign to make us your new salon?

b.LUXE offers a luxurious experience that sets us apart from other salons. We provide a wide range of beauty services, including hair cutting, coloring, smoothing, extensions, styling, skincare, spa treatments, spray tanning, waxing, and lash extensions.

To ensure that your visit is nothing short of amazing, our team follows a comprehensive set of standards called the "b.LUXE Service Cycle." This guideline provides a detailed itinerary for each guest and guarantees consistent, exceptional care from check-in to checkout. We always anticipate your needs so you can relax and enjoy your visit. We offer five separate seating areas where you can enjoy refreshments from our custom coffee bar. We also provide complimentary "Luxury for Everyone" services, such as moisturizing glove treatments, BEFORE OIL scalp services, and hot stone foot treatments for our facial guests. Our extra amenities promise to make your appointment unforgettable.

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Girl Scouts Team Up With Thanks To Yanks, Send Cookies To Deployed Soldiers

Pictured left to right are Kathryn Walker, Payton Fasulo, Michael Shain of Thanks To Yanks and Lillyanne Straight, the Brownies are from Troop 65217 Milford, they are donating cookies to Thanks To Yanks to be sent to those deployed.

Thanks To Yanks is a local charity that serves those who

serve in the military and the families that love and support them.

Girl Scout cookies to those deployed has become a tradition for the charity says Shain and he adds that local residents are very generous in our support of those who serve. For more information like them on Facebook.

Baseball/Softball Parade on May 5

The Holliston Youth Baseball/Softball Parade will take place on May 5, starting 1 p.m.

The parade leaves the Placentino School onto Woodland

Street, right onto Church Street, through St. Mary's parking lot, then right onto Elm Street, then left onto Grove Street to Linden Street to Damigella Field.

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6	7	8	9	10	
9:30 Coloring & Coffee 11:00 Yoga 12:00 Weekly Lunch*** 1:00 Tai Chi 1:30 Games Day 	10:00 Writer's Group 10:00 Coffee with HPD 10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt 11:00 Rainbow Coffee Hour 12:00 Zumba Gold	9:30 Walking Fitness 10:00 Hopkinton Audiology Cleaning*** 11:00 Yoga 12:00 Weekly Lunch*** 12:30 Line Dancing 1:00 Nutrition Check-up presentation***	9:00 Pilates 10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt 1:00 Mah Jongg Open Play 	10:00 Functional Fitness for the Brain & Body (FFBB) 1:00 Tune Timers 1:30 Book Club: 	
13	14	15	16	17	
9:30 Coloring and Coffee 11:00 Yoga 11:30 Coffee with Town Candidates 12:00 Weekly Lunch*** 1:00 Tai Chi 1:30 Games Day Town Meeting at High School, 7pm	9:00 Monthly Breakfast*** 10:00 Legal Advice with Marsden Law PC*** 10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt 12:00 Zumba Gold	9:30 Walking Fitness 11:00 Yoga 12:00 Weekly Lunch*** 12:30 Line Dancing 1:00 COA Meeting 1:00 BINGO 2:00 iPhone & iPad basics class***	9:00 Pilates 9:30 SSF Meeting 10:30 (New Time) Vet's Coffee 10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt 1:00 Mah Jongg Open Play	10:00 Functional Fitness for the Brain & Body 1:00 Tune Timers	
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Sports

Track For the Future

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Rowan O'Brien had taken up soccer at a very young age and thought that this was going to be his sport growing up, but after finding track, things changed for the better.

Instead of kicking a ball around the field, he decided that kicking it into high gear and running past other runners was now his go-to sport.

"It was in sixth grade when I felt that I needed to get in condition for soccer and figured that running track would help me out on the field," O'Brien said. "Running definitely helped my soccer game; I was originally the slowest on the team and had the worst stamina of anyone, but track changed all that for the better."

Track made such an impression on the young athlete that by the time he concluded his freshman soccer season with Holliston he knew that it was time to kick the sport to the curb.

Soccer on the high school level was not what he was used to and was a hard decision to give it up after having played it for 10 plus years, but track Coach Aaron Ladd made the full transition easy and comfortable for the freshman.

"Running high school track was a big commitment, but one that I was willing to take on," O'Brien said. "In high school I was running six days a week and focusing only on that one sport. One of the biggest differences was we had never tracked our mileage in middle school, and I started running 20 miles a week when I first started high school and I'm up to 35 now, with a peak of 50 in the summer."

Having discarded soccer in the fall, O'Brien joined the cross-country team. Once again Coach Ladd was a big proponent of getting him to take on the sport. O'Brien noted that the coach was a huge part of him running cross country, but he also had teammates who were encouraging him to run.

"My track teammates that also ran cross country kept asking me to join, telling me to join

and that I'd be a valuable piece, the last piece that they needed to be successful," O'Brien said. "Although I was only the seventh runner, joining cross-country was the right choice and I am happy with my decision."

During his first season running cross-country for the Panthers the team didn't accomplish what they had set out to do but did find themselves in a better position with O'Brien. The following season Holliston was the Division 2B runner-up; the highest the team has ever finished. O'Brien also broke the Holliston home course record with a time of 17:08 running the 5k.

"That race was different as I didn't know my time as I had stopped wearing my watch during meets because if I had noticed I was running slower it started to affect me and not in a good way," he said. "I was grouped with four Westwood runners and saw myself falling behind at the 2-mile marker. With about 3/4 of a mile to go I started out kicking them one by one and eventually won the race."

Although he was able to cross the finish line before anyone else, he had no idea that he had just set the course record. He knew that he had just put forth one of his best races on the course, but without his watch he didn't know what his time was, and no one was telling him what it was. Finally, they realized O'Brien's time was record breaking and the course now belonged to him. O'Brien also is part of the 4x800 relay team that owns the school record of 8:34.32.

"Rowan is super invested in the sport," Ladd said. "As a freshman he was a little tiny kid, but it has been fun to watch him grow over the last four years. He's bigger and faster - originally, he was a fair runner, but nothing to write home about, but he has truly turned into a runner."

Coming into the spring track season, where he will run the 800 and mile, he is looking to lower both of those times. Currently running the mile at 4:47, he would like to reduce that time



When his high school career comes to an end in a few months he may be saying goodbye to his friends and teammates, but he will not be saying goodbye to track. O'Brien will be running for Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Ct.

"If you told sixth grade me that I would be running track in college instead of playing soc-

cer I'd call you crazy," he said. "Although it is not what I envisioned back then, it will be a great experience the next four years."

With Sacred Heart on the horizon, O'Brien still has a few months left here in Holliston to lower his times and maybe even break another record or two before he leaves.



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Real Estate Corner



The 3-bed, 2-bath, 1,690 square foot house at 100 Concord Street in Holliston recently sold for \$546,500. Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages

Recent Home Sales

Date	Holliston	Amount
04/16/2024	116 Courtland St.	\$750,000
04/16/2024	241 Oak St.	\$1.10 mil
04/16/2024	147 Turner Rd. #97	\$226,000
04/12/2024	8 Travis Rd.	\$699,900
04/11/2024	233 Mill St.	\$795,000
04/11/2024	19 Katie Way	\$1.60 mil
04/05/2024	100 Concord St.	\$546,500
04/04/2024	3 Sawyer Cir.	\$700,000
03/27/2024	51 Pleasant St.	\$350,000
03/27/2024	9 Sawyer Cir.	\$714,236
03/26/2024	193 Gorwin Dr.	\$665,000
03/26/2024	164 Prentice St. #2	\$265,000
03/20/2024	3 Wingate Rd.	\$554,900
03/19/2024	129 Mill St.	\$775,000
03/18/2024	5 Sawyer Cir.	\$698,000

MASSACHUSETTS

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Students and families in Holliston are encouraged to walk, bike, and roll to school to promote a safe, healthy, and active lifestyle.

Wednesday, May 1
from 8AM - 6PM

TABS Matter: Shriners' Year of Impact in 2024

So far in 2024, the Shriners have made a significant impact by assisting 28 children through their TABS program. The program, which collects aluminum tabs from cans, receives immense support from individuals, organizations, like local Masonic Lodge and companies such as Medway Oil and owner Jeffrey Mushnick, a 20+ year Shriner as well as his brothers and cousins.

The Shriners' efforts translated into tangible help, with \$426,000 spent on the medical needs of these children. One of the key initiatives is the collection

of tabs at Medway Oil, located at 37 Broad St in Medway, MA, **aiming to fill five 55-gallon drums!!**

The Aleppo Transportation Fund, a crucial arm of the Shriners, also had a remarkable year, assisting hospitals with the cost of transporting patients. Approvals were granted for various cases, including a 3-year-old boy from Guatemala with severe flame burns, a 1-year-old from Mexico with extensive burn injuries, and two siblings from Mexico injured in a house explosion.

In addition to these cases, Aleppo approved funding for sponsorships, covering costs like food, air transportation, ground transportation, lodging, visas, passports, and miscellaneous expenses for patients requiring repetitive treatments.

The fund also supported patients requiring surgery and specialized medical care, including a 7-year-old boy from the Dominican Republic needing elbow surgery in Philadelphia, an 8-year-old boy from Colombia needing three orthopedic surgeries, and an 11-year-old girl from Ecuador requiring a below-knee amputation and fitting with a prosthesis.

The Aleppo Nobility's successful fundraising efforts allowed for substantial donations to both the Boston and Springfield hospitals, further enhancing their impact in the community. Overall, well over \$500,000 was approved in funding, highlighting the significant contributions of the Shriners and their supporters in making a difference in the lives of children in need.

To drop off your collected TABS and support The Aleppo Transportation Fund, please visit your local drop off site: Medway Oil, 37 Broad St., Medway MA. To learn more about The Aleppo Transportation Fund, please see: The Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund Travels - Nobles - Aleppo Shriners.)

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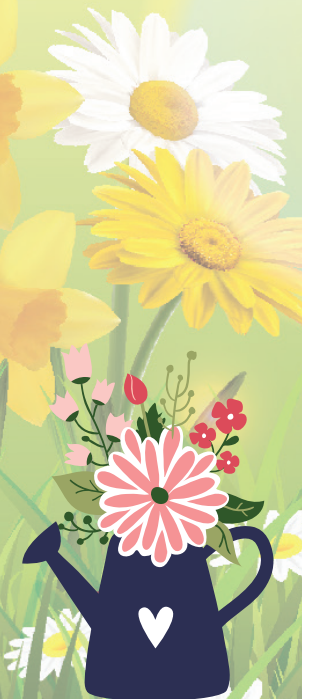
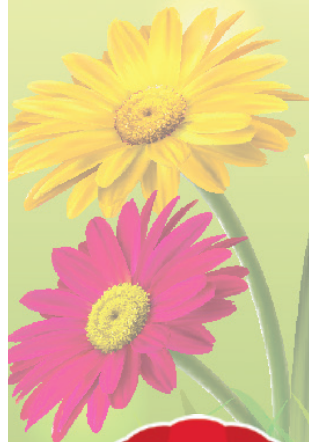


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ILLUSTRATION BY ROMAN KAPLAN MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN



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