

Spooky Season Hits Holliston

Driving around town last month, there was plenty of spooky scenery to be found as residents prepared for Halloween!

Photos by Sean Sullivan



SPOOKY

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Raising Awareness, Celebrating Diversity

HHS Students Start First Asian American Student Association

By SUSAN MANNING

The COVID-19 pandemic brought with it unprecedented levels of physical and mental health issues.

Unfortunately, it also brought a rise in hate crimes against Asian Americans.

These crimes are one of the

reasons three Holliston High School students— Allyson Lee, Ella Roth and Annanya Gargy—decided to launch the school's first Asian American Student Association.

DIVERSITY

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SPOOKY

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DIVERSITY

continued from page 1

“Stories during Covid made an impression, especially with the Asian hate stories. She (Allyson) has always been a perfect student—never speaking out, getting good grades, not wanting to make waves. Then a raise of AAPI groups providing support to these issues,” raised her awareness of the situation, according to her father, Richard Lee.

The younger Lee, a senior at HHS, decided it was time to step up and be seen for who she was rather than trying to be like someone else.

“I started the club so Asian students at HHS can find a community with each other and embrace their Asian identity instead of just trying to assimilate with the white students. Most people wait until college to meet people with similar cultures, but I figured ‘Why wait?’” she said.

Being a senior this year, Lee wanted to start something that can create a lasting and inviting space for the underrepresented minority in the school and neighborhood.

Lee, who has lived in Holliston her entire life, said that in addition to a rise in Asian American hate crimes across the country, there has been a rise in racial graffiti in Holliston. She decided she could no longer sit on the sidelines.

She said she realized that Asian Americans are often viewed as the “model minority” and often underrepresented and overlooked and wanted to create something meaningful for the current and future students within Holliston.

“To make a community stronger, one must contribute so future generations and benefit,” she said.

So far, the club has been received with support. Her chemistry teacher, Amanda Rivera, was happy to step up and be the faculty advisor, she said. State Rep. James Arena-Derosa reached out to offer support and said he would like to pay a visit to the club in the near future.

Although membership is slow currently, the girls are pushing ahead.

“The membership has been slow, as other students don’t understand or don’t want to step out of social norms. That is the purpose of the club—to educate and provide support so these individuals can be supported,” said Lee.

The current agenda for the new group is to raise awareness and membership. Moving forward, they hope to host activities, speakers an informational gatherings.

“Right now, we are just focused on raising awareness,” said Lee.

Lee’s father said he is very pleased with what his daughter and her friends are doing.

“It makes me very proud that she had the foresight and courage to step up,” he said.

Lee said she hopes the group will leave a lasting impression at Holliston High.

“Inclusion and diversity is very important. Sharing, education and support will make us all stronger for the future generations,” she said.

Veterans Day Events

Join the remembrance activities for Veterans Day, starting with ceremonies at the Iraq/ Afghanistan Memorial at Blair Square, at 10:15 AM.

There will be a march up Central Street, to the memorial at Washington and Hollis streets, where there will be a rifle salute and Taps. Following that, there will be a short ceremony at Town Hall.

If you are unable to march, please meet at town hall at 10:40 AM. A meal in upper town hall will follow town hall ceremonies.

The event is sponsored by the Holliston Lions Club, American Legion, and VFW and is free.

Military veterans, reserve members or National Guard members, former or active are invited to attend the meal. Email Bobby Blair at Mudvillemayor57@gmail.com.

Fall Town Meeting approves seed money for electric vehicle charging units

Units proposed for municipal lots

By THERESA KNAPP

At the Oct. 16 Fall Town Meeting, Holliston residents approved \$10,000 “for the purpose of paying for the upfront costs of installation of [electric vehicle] EV charging units in municipal lots and partially offset the operations and maintenance of said EV charging units.”

The article was proposed by Town Administrator Travis Ahern who provided the following explanation on the warrant:

“The Town’s first EV charging station with a pay station for payment per kWh is set to go live on Green Street with the completion of this new municipal lot. Costs of the Green Street project were offset significantly by State funding and therefore the upfront costs of operating and maintaining EV charging stations was borne by the project.

“To progress with other publicly available pay stations for EV charging, the Town will need to

cover the upfront costs prior to executing contracts and requesting Eversource to put in the conduit needed via their Make Ready Program. These potential next locations include the municipal lot on Exchange Street (behind the Central Fire Station), the municipal building at 1750 Washington Street which is in close proximity to the Rail Trail, and Pinecrest Golf Course.”

The article passed unanimously.

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Community Ties and a Commitment to Customer Service: Affordable Junk Removal

There are plenty of reasons to call a junk removal service. Maybe you're planning to move and need to clear out the basement and attic before your open house. Maybe you've spent way too much time at home lately and are feeling the need to declutter.

But figuring out who to call can be a pain. 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 2003. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends

Business spotlight

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 ten trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

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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 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 as well as Resellables, a thrift store in Bellingham. 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!

For more information, contact Jay Schadler at (774) 287-1133 or visit Affordable Junk Removal online at www.takeawayjunk.com.

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Holliston Chosen Again For Location Of Wreaths Across America

National nonprofit Wreaths Across America (WAA) announced that Lake Grove Cemetery in Holliston, MA has once again joined in the mission to Remember, Honor, Teach, as an official location for 2023. This is the second year that the cemetery will participate in this national program.

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. This year, there will be more than 3,700 participating locations placing veterans' wreaths on National Wreaths Across America Day – Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023 – with more than two million volunteers coming together.

The goal for Lake Grove Cemetery is to raise enough funds to exceed last year's number of 200+ sponsored veterans' wreaths to lay at the headstones



of all the local heroes laid to rest there, to ensure that the individuals who served to protect the freedoms of our country never be forgotten and to bring the community together in patriotic commemoration. We look forward to seeing you on Dec. 16.

The ceremony is to begin at 10 a.m. with the laying of wreaths to follow.

"We are forever grateful for the thousands of supporters who dedicate their time, energy, and resources to fulfilling our mission all year long," said Karen



Worcester, executive director, of Wreaths Across America. "These individuals and their communities know the value of remembering the fallen, honoring those who currently serve, and teaching the next generation about the sacrifices made for our freedom every day, and because of their continued support, Wreaths Across America continues to grow and touch new people each year."

My name is Taryn Holmes, I am a senior at Holliston High School, and I am, again, the Location Coordinator for this event

I am doing as a National Honor Society Project. Those interested in volunteering for Wreaths Across America or sponsoring a wreath for Lake Grove Cemetery you can scan our QR code or visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MALAGV to learn more.

Also, consider becoming a local sponsorship group. Thank you to our current sponsoring groups, the Jason Russell Society Children of the American Revolution, Mount Hollis Lodge A.F. & A.M., and the Old Middlesex Chapter Sons of the American Revolution. National Wreaths Across America Day is a free event open to all people.



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Town Meeting passes all articles except one to install temporary signalization at Whitney and Washington Streets

Citizens' petition opposed to pipe gate on Lowland Street also passed

By THERESA KNAPP

On Oct. 16, Holliston voters held a Fall Town Meeting at which all articles passed with one exception: a request for temporary signalization of Whitney Street at Washington Street (near Creative Playthings on Route 16). During a 40-minute discussion, residents agreed that current traffic is a problem but expressed concern that adding more signalization will only com-

pound the problem.

Below are the articles with a general description and whether the article passed or failed. The detailed warrant can be found at bit.ly/HollistonTMoct2023.

- 1. General Stabilization Fund (Transfer to Fund, \$250,000) - passed
- 2. Pension Stabilization Fund (Transfer to Fund, \$250,000) - passed

- 3. Capital Expenditure Fund (Transfer to Fund, \$250,000) - passed
- 4. Capital Budget (\$1,260,800) - passed
- 5. Sidewalk and Ramp Repairs & Reconstruction (Year 2, \$900,000) - passed
- 6. Temporary Signalization of Whitney Street at Washington Street (\$150,000) - after 40-minute discussion, FAILED: 89 in favor, 145 opposed
- 7. Establish Opioid Settlement Stabilization Account - passed
- 8. Opioid Settlement Stabilization Account (grant transfer to newly-established fund, \$61,500) - passed
- 9. Envisioning Future Holliston Presentation of Town-Wide Strategic Plan - presentation only, no vote taken

- 10. Architectural and Conceptual Design of Senior Center Improvements (\$25,000) - passed
- 11. Community Preservation Committee (\$14,325 total); repair/repainting of the ell of the Asa Whiting House (\$11,000), and partial repairs to cornice/soffit of the Historical Society barn (\$3,325) - passed
- 12. Historic Commission Survey & Planning Grant Match (\$15,000) - passed
- 13. Transfer to EV Charging Revolving Fund (\$10,000) - passed
- 14. Tree Bylaw (General Bylaw) - passed
- 15. MBTA Zoning & Mapping, Professional Services (unfunded mandate, \$50,000) - passed
- 16. Town Zoning Map Adoption - passed
- 17. Conveyance of Land of Low Municipal Value (15

Winthrop Street, to correct long standing lot line conflicts) - passed

18 All-Alcohol Liquor License (Special Legislation by petition, for Central Cafe & Convenience, 92-94 Central St.) - passed

19. Lowland Street Citizens' Petition (to advise the Select Board that the citizens of Holliston do not support the installation of a locking pipe gate or any barrier intended to restrict vehicular traffic in any capacity at any point along Lowland Street) - after a nearly-one-hour presentation, passed: 126 in favor, 59 opposed (non-binding)

Also on the warrant was a 15-minute informational presentation by Envisioning Future Holliston.

To watch the recording of the meeting, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDNZcTx4RD0

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Stop Making Sense: Massachusetts Updates Estate Tax Laws



Glenn Brown, CFP

It's taken 2 years, but Massachusetts lawmakers finally provided legislation for Governor Healey to sign on October 4th impacting the lowest (worst) U.S. estate tax threshold as part of a "\$1 billion tax relief package".

There are several positives in this package. Benefits for expanded childcare credit (over 30% of package), seniors, renters, septic systems, low-income housing, commuters, and short-term capital gains reduced from 12% to 8.5%.

Recall an estate tax may be owed based on net value of the estate of a deceased person be-

fore distribution to non-spousal heirs. To calculate net value, add all assets (real estate, investments, IRAs, small business, life insurance proceeds, personal property etc.) minus liabilities.

Key facts on MA update:

- Estate tax exemption rises to \$2 million from \$1 million, first increase since 2006.
- Provides a uniform credit of \$99,600.
- Eliminates "the cliff effect" when all assets were taxed if over threshold.
- Retroactive for estates of decedent's death on or after January 1, 2023.
- Filed 2023 estate tax returns or estimates paid are entitled to a refund.

This Must Be The Place (Naive Melody).

Before celebrating a victory for the Commonwealth by echoing legislators that this "doubles the previous threshold", understand there are only 12 states in the U.S. that still tax estates.

Yes, you can live in 38 other states and pay \$0 state estate tax regardless of your wealth.

Furthermore, the federal estate tax exemption is now \$12.92 million, over 6X greater than MA. For most, there's little concern of having a life's work of earning, planning and saving being taxed upon death by the federal government.

Same As It Ever Was, Same As It Ever Was...

The new \$2M threshold moves MA from tied for 49th worst to 48th of U.S. states.

Consider actions of other states since 2018 per taxfoundation.org.

New Jersey and Delaware eliminated their estate tax.

Vermont raised to \$5M, Maine \$6.4M, New York \$6.58M and Connecticut now aligns to federal government's \$12.92M.

Additionally, Illinois (\$4M) and Oregon (\$1M) legislators have proposals to increase to the federal government's \$12.92M or higher.

Take Me To The River (or another state)?

How quickly can one's estate exceed \$2 million in MA?

Consider the median single-family home sale price in Middlesex County is \$845,000. Add savings, 401(k), 403(b), any insurance proceeds, value of a small business, maybe a generations Maine lake house... it can add up.

Connect with an estate planning attorney. New laws and life events are opportune times to connect as well as provide an updated net worth and review your process. Remember, revocable living trusts bypass probate, not estate tax laws.

Know your net worth. Run updated estate tax estimates after \$99,600 credit applied. MA is still a graduated tax rate starting 0.8% up to 16%. For example, \$3M is now ~\$82,400 in MA estate taxes, \$5M is ~\$292,000 taxes, and \$10M is ~\$968,000 taxes.

Plan to be agile in retirement. Connection to seasons, family and friends can be strong. However, proper planning can cre-

ate alternatives for residency in 38 states to no longer deal with state estate tax or 5% MA state income tax (make that 9% if earning over \$1M).

At \$10M net value, does one put \$1M towards a new or 2nd home in another state, declare residency so heirs receive this value? Or stay in Massachusetts to pay ~\$1M in estate tax?

As a fiduciary, it's a responsibility to educate on the possibilities for those interested.

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 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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Holliston to conduct inventory of historic places

Town Meeting passed matching funds

By THERESA KNAPP

Holliston Town Meeting passed Article 12 which appropriated \$15,000 to match grant funds from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to conduct an inventory of historic places in downtown Holliston.

In support of this article, the Historic Commission said:

“Holliston’s historic resources are currently under- or un-documented. The last systematic effort to document historic buildings, cemeteries, landscape, and objects took place in the 1980s. Some places that we consider

significant today have never been documented. Historic preservation has also changed since the 1980s, and the standard for documenting a historic place exceeds the capabilities of the volunteer historical commission.

“The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) provides federally funded, reimbursable 50/50 matching grants to towns to complete this work through the Survey and Planning Grant

program. MHC matches successful applicants with approved consultants and would support the Holliston Historical Commission in managing the work. The survey will focus primarily on buildings located on Central, Norfolk, and Railroad Streets; undocumented buildings on Washington Street or other nearby streets may also be added on the advice of the consultant and as funding permits.

“The project will complete the state register of historic places documentation for approximately 100 structures and provide a foundation for future preservation planning including demolition delay decisions and supporting the goals developed in the Town’s strategic planning process.”

The article passed unanimously.

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Town Meeting approves funds to investigate improvements to senior center

By THERESA KNAPP

Holliston Fall Town Meeting unanimously approved a Select Board request for \$25,000 to “engage an architectural firm to perform conceptual designs of options to maximize and optimize the space at the town’s senior center.”

On the warrant were comments from the Council on Aging who said the study “is a vital step in our growth and transformation efforts.” They said the review could identify immediate safety concerns,

efficient space utilization, cost savings, accessibility issues, and improve community engagement and morale.

The COA said the study could also help with strategic planning, modernization, sustainability, grant and funding eligibility, local economic development, interagency collaboration, adaptability, and political leverage.

The article passed unanimously. For details, visit bit.ly/HollistonTMoct2023.

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Holliston Pantry Shelf marks 30th anniversary, community needs have grown 20% since January

By THERESA KNAPP

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Holliston Pantry Shelf. Founded in 1993, the Pantry has evolved from a little cupboard of food in the Town Hall basement to its first small storefront on Water Street to today's downtown location on Charles Street. And through the generosity of many community members, the Pantry proudly stands ready to serve any community member in need.

"Last year, we served 233 families, which is about 450 individuals," said Pantry Shelf President Karen Jewett. "The Pantry Shelf serves any Holliston resident who is in need. Period. We have a simple application process at the Town Hall and welcome any community member who is struggling with food insecurity to reach out to us for assistance."

The Pantry offers shoppers "a grocery store experience where Holliston residents are able to select from close to 500 quality food items; they also offer personal care items like shampoo, laundry detergent, soap and toothpaste," says www.holliston-pantryshelf.org.

Jewett said confidentiality is of the utmost importance at the Pantry.

"One of the most important concepts we live by at the Pantry is that difficult times could fall on any one of us without notice. Our hope is that we are a go-to for people who struggle with food insecurity. In Massachusetts, 1 in 3 families struggles with food insecurity. We know the effects of this are so very impactful on people's well-being, mental health, and financial security. We want our residents to know they have a place to turn to for support and smiles."

The Holliston Pantry Shelf serves anyone in need of assistance which includes families who have lost their jobs, elderly people who struggle with inflation and mobility, adults with disabilities, individuals who face cancer treatments rendering them unable to work, families who have legally emigrated from their home countries for safety in the US, and people who work full-time jobs who simply cannot afford the cost of food and living expenses.

Jewett noted that, over the past nine months, they have seen a 20% increase in shoppers and, in comparison to last year, the Pantry's cost for purchasing food and the cost of Pantry utilities and maintenance has increased 30%.



One of the Pantry's generous donors is Griffin Electric who has, for more than 10 years, provided backpacks and school supplies for each school-aged child within the Pantry. Courtesy photo

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pantry has not held any of its annual community events, however, on Dec. 13 they will be hosting Pasta with Santa at Anthony's on the Green. Later, on Feb. 9, they will also bring back their Souperbowl dinner at St. Mary's Church.

PANTRY

continued on page 10



Girl Scouts collecting and bringing food over the summer. Courtesy photo

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PANTRY

continued from page 9

Winter coat drive

Currently, the Pantry is collecting adult winter coats to benefit patrons of the Pantry. New coats in adult sizes Small to XXL can be dropped off in Holliston at Coffee Haven and Bazels.

If you need assistance

The application is simple and quick, and can be found at www.hollistonPantryshef.org/to-receive-assistance. Any Holliston resident in need of assistance is encouraged to apply.

Volunteers needed

Volunteers must be 16 or older; there are some opportunities for children under the age of 16.

Ways to volunteer include working a regular shift during hours of operation (many different shifts available); becoming a member of the Food Crew, in-taking groceries and restocking shelves; driving to pick up groceries; or baking or helping out at special events and fundraisers.

For details, visit www.hollistonPantryshef.org/support-the-Pantry

Donations needed

Donations can be made at www.hollistonPantryshef.org/donate-1 by credit card or Paypal. Checks can be made payable to "Holliston Pantry Shelf" and mailed to Holliston Pantry Shelf, PO Box 6662. Ongoing monthly contributions are also accepted. Ways to donate include making



Local Knights of Columbus recently donated \$13,000 to the Pantry after a recent golf tournament. Courtesy photo



Girl Scouts collecting and bringing food over the summer. Courtesy photo

a general monetary donation, sponsoring a family, or giving a gift in memory of – or honor of – a specific person.

A special thanks at the holidays

Jewett said, "We are blessed to have the support of many organizations in town to help out our families. Each year the Holliston Newcomers support our

Thanksgiving Basket/gift card program, the Lions host 'Operation Mittens,' and the Knights of Columbus host a golf tournament to benefit the Pantry. The schools are also wonderful supporters of the Pantry. They collect items each month and the Girl Scout troops gather the items and bring them to the Pantry. The Girl Scouts do so much to support the Pantry, including

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Source: www.hollistonPantryshef.org

this summer they attended the Summer Concert Series in the Park to collect food and donations for the Pantry."

There are several generous business owners and municipal offices in town "who support the Pantry either through food drives, supporting community fundraisers, or their generous monetary donations," said Jewett, adding special thanks to Griffin Electric for their quiet and unwavering support.

"The Pantry is clearly near and dear to them," said Jewett. "They support us financially but also by supporting our community events and ongoing programs. For example, each year (for well over 10 years) Griffin Electric has provided backpacks and school supplies for each school-aged child within the Pantry."

And lastly, Jewett thanks the more than 100 volunteers who support the Pantry in a variety of ways.

Food items needed at the Pantry:

- Campbells Chunky Soups
- Progresso Soups
- Tuna (5 oz.)
- Cookies
- Snacks
- Juice Boxes
- Pasta
- Paper Towels

"We are fortunate enough to remain open for our shoppers five days per week [Mon. to Fri.] because of the many volunteers who show up each week to work a two-hour shift at the Pantry. The 'behind the scenes' workers are truly the backbone of the Pantry; they work when no one sees them to receive inventory, stock shelves, make volunteer schedules, complete reports and balance finances, correspond with our many donors, keep us present on social media, and so many other jobs that often go unseen...The list goes on and on and each job, whether small or large, puts all the pieces of the puzzle together for us to serve our neighbors in need."

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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 goals.

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

familiar: stocks, bonds, mutual 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 investments:

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 you defend yourself somewhat against interest-rate movements. When interest rates fall, you'll still have your longer-term

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:

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Edward Jones Financial Advisor
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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Big Thanks...

By GINA WOELFEL

I recently sat down with Heather Cohen, the owner of b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio in Medway. We had a chance to catch up and reflect on 2023 and what a crazy, wonderful year it's been, with so much to be grateful for!

During our talk, Heather shared that one of her favorite things to do in the fall is to take long walks with her dogs. "I hike my dogs most mornings, but our autumn hikes are my favorite. The air is crisp, and my pups love playing in the crunchy leaves." She also shared that it's her time to disconnect from her "salon" brain and focus on other aspects of her life beyond the day-to-day operations of her studio. The beginning of November is the calm before the busy holiday season, and Heather likes to take this time to reflect on how grateful she is for everything in her life. "Well, I'm blessed with my family, friends, and dogs. I have a tight-knit group of people who really support and love me, and that's allowed me to work as hard as I have."

As a child, Heather's family sometimes depended on their local church and community services to make ends meet. Despite their financial struggles, she never went without or felt ashamed of needing assistance. "In hindsight," she explains, "that helping hand was a blessing in disguise because it taught me the importance of taking an active role in my community and

giving back. I didn't know the significance of it at the time, but now, those acts of kindness speak volumes, and I'm extremely grateful for them. We organize volunteer opportunities at the salon for our staff to participate in, cutting hair for the Franklin Senior Center, packing food and raising money for The Franklin Food Pantry, working with PAWS New England, and donating yearly beauty scholarships to our sister school in Cancun, Mexico, who we visit each year to bring new supplies and teach classes. I'm really impressed with how our staff always joins in. If it's important to our community, it's important to b.LUXE."

During our conversation, we discussed the keys to running a successful beauty salon with over 30 talented and influential women. Heather expressed her gratitude towards her employees: "They're the backbone and heart of b.LUXE. I'm fortunate to have the creative and management teams that I do! They are the best in the business, and their incredible talent and work ethic inspire me to set the bar higher and consistently exceed expectations. We didn't become Massachusetts' most highly-rated salon just by chance! We made that happen together."

Heather also expressed her gratitude towards John Green, the owner of Medway Mills, where her salon is located. This historic, eight-acre complex is surrounded by wooded grounds, with Chicken Brook flowing directly underneath the salon.



"John has done an excellent job preserving the property's natural charm while incorporating beautifully landscaped grounds, stone walls, and flower gardens to welcome visitors to the Mill. This year, he added an upper parking lot to accommodate the overflow. Our customers love the timeless atmosphere here."

Heather has great affection for the whole Medway Mills family. "The businesses here work well together, and it's a great place to work." Three beauty and wellness businesses located at the Mill have provided Heather with an enormous amount of support and inspiration - Chat Noir Nails, whose owner is Jillian Lustgarten Cohen, Molly's Apothecary, owned by Ann Fisher, and Drift and Oak Yoga, whose owner is Bianca Fantoni. "We share many of the same customers and work together to grow each other's clientele." She praises these businesses for helping women under-



stand their worth and enhancing the community. "To me, they define Girl Power, and I'm so proud of that. I couldn't ask for better women to work alongside."

"The Local Town Pages" deserves a HUGE shoutout, too!" exclaims Heather. "We love our BEAUTY BEAT column, and without this community paper, we'd lose our direct line to our customers. "We've really enjoyed these conversations with existing and potential clients, especially those who've never visited our studio. It's been a friendly opportunity to introduce ourselves and connect with so many wonderful people."

Happy Thanksgiving from our family to yours.
The b.LUXE Team

Visit our website at bLUXE.com or scan the QR code to see our specially-priced, holiday gift card specials and our BUY 3, GET 1 FREE Retail Sale!

"I need a book to list how many people I'm grateful for!" says Heather. "But I guess it really just boils down to community. I'm really very, very grateful to this community for bringing b.LUXE into the fold and embracing it the way that they have. Thank you..."

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Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors is helping to provide gift cards to those in need through the Holliston Pantry Shelf and other local organizations that support the Holliston youth such as Head Start and Wayside Youth & Families. Many families have depended on these gift cards to make their Thanksgiving Day a special one, so we are once again asking for monetary donations to support these efforts.

To donate, visit the HNN Donations webpage <http://www.hollistonnewcomers.org/donations> and select Thanksgiving or if you would prefer to mail your donation, please send a check made out to Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors to Katrine Giroux, 147 Mohawk Path, Holliston and note that it is for Thanksgiving. HNN would like to thank all the businesses and individuals that have already donated.

We are also collecting handmade Thanksgiving Cards which can be dropped off at 922 Highland St., Holliston - a bin will be at the front door. Please submit your donation or drop off your cards by Sunday, Nov. 13. If you have any questions, please email thanksgivingbaskets.newcomers@gmail.com.

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Holliston Cultural Council

The Holliston Cultural Council is accepting applications through October 17. If you or your group has a project that will enrich Holliston's artistic and/or cultural life, and you could use some modest financial support, please consider applying at <https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/>

The application process is easy and all takes place on line. No professional grant-writing experience necessary. If you have questions, contact the Council's chair, Steve Durning, at steve.durning@gmail.com. Thank you!

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Garden Club Hosts Speaker Nov. 3

Stacey Alleva Lee of Paeonia Designs in Framingham will be the featured speaker at the Holliston Garden Club's Open Meeting on Nov. 3 at 6:30PM at Father Haley Hall, St. Mary's Church in Holliston. She will be focusing on "A Century of Flowers" in celebration of The Holliston Garden Club's 90th Anniversary. Throughout the evening refreshments will be available along with a raffle table that will include Stacey's floral designs.

A former civil engineer, Stacey has always had a lifelong interest in flowers, sustainability and design. She sources flowers from several farms, greenhouses,

her mother's gardens along with her own. Flowers are more than an occupation; they are a passion that she enjoys sharing with others.

The Holliston Garden Club is excited to be bringing back the Open Meeting after a three-year hiatus due to COVID. We hope that you will join us.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 the day of the event. Advanced tickets can be purchased in Holliston at Debra's Flowers and Arcadian Farms. You may also purchase tickets by logging onto www.hollistongardenclub.org and click on the link to buy tickets, through Club Members and at the door.



Senate President Selects Boston Honey Company for Manufacturing Award

Holliston-based family business is a leader among family-owned, environmentally friendly manufacturers in MetroWest

Senate President Karen E. Spilka selected Boston Honey Company, a Holliston-based, family-owned manufacturer, to receive a Massachusetts Manufacturing Award.

The company was awarded the honor at the 8th Annual Manufacturing Awards Ceremony, which was held on September 19th at Polar Park in Worcester. The event was organized by the Massachusetts Legislative Manufacturing Caucus, as part of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's "Manufacturing Mash Up."

"Boston Honey Company is well known in the MetroWest business community as a fixture among family-owned and envi-

ronmentally conscious manufacturers," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "They are one of so many small business successes from our region and around the state, and I am thrilled to select them for a manufacturing award this year. I want to thank the Massachusetts Legislative Manufacturing Caucus and caucus Co-Chair Paul Feeney for their work highlighting all our state's world-class manufacturers."

Boston Honey Company began more than two decades ago when owner Andy Reseska purchased a small number of beehives. Since then, the business has flourished, and their honey and honey products can be found in supermarkets and at farm stands around New England.

The company is devoted to environmentally conscious and sustainable beekeeping practices and has established apiaries across Massachusetts to offer crucial crop pollination services to local farms.

"We are honored to be nominated by Senate President Spilka to receive the 2023 Massachusetts Manufacturing Award from the Legislative Caucus," said Andy Reseska, President of Boston Honey Company. "We have been a commercial honey producer for twenty-three years, and we are just thrilled to be acknowledged by Senate President Spilka for our determination and commitment to keep honeybees within the Commonwealth producing Massachusetts honey, while providing crop pollination to our region's growers."



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For 2022, all the 21 Medicare drug plans have preferred pharmacies as do several Medicare Advantage plans. You should check that the pharmacy you currently use is the best one to use with your plan; plans can change their preferred pharmacies from year to year. By using a preferred pharmacy, you may save money!

Trained SHINE volunteers offer free, confidential counseling on all aspects of Medicare and related health insurance programs. To schedule a SHINE appointment, call our Senior Center at 508-429-0622. For other SHINE related matters, call 1-800-243-4636. Once you get the SHINE answering machine, leave your name, number and town. A volunteer will call you back, as soon as possible.



LGBTQIA+ Bereavement Support Groups
The LGBTQIA+ Bereavement Support Group is the first statewide initiative to address loss in the LGBTQIA+ community. The program is funded by the Department of Public Health and it is facilitated by The LGBTQIA+ Aging Project. All groups require pre-registration. For more information on the LGBTQIA+ Bereavement Program contact Bob Linscott at 857.313.6578 or blinscott@fenwayhealth.org

Weekly Zoom Drop-in Group for LGBTQIA+ Older Adults
Since the very beginning of the pandemic, the Aging Project has offered a weekly Zoom drop in group for LGBTQIA+ older adults. These are informal discussion groups that keep people feeling connected during these challenging times. One group meets on Mondays from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM, and for those who like a smaller group, there is a second drop in on Thursdays from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

New members are always welcome and can be matched with a current member to talk before their first group if that feels more supportive.

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8122111111>

Holliston receives \$30,000 municipal road safety grant

In October, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that 186 Massachusetts towns and cities will receive grant funds to support traffic safety enforcement and outreach programming. The federal awards total upwards of \$5.4 million invested in local roadway safety initiatives.

The Town of Holliston received \$29,884.14.

A total of \$5,449,584.03 was awarded through the FY24 Municipal Road Safety Grant Program. The program is administered by the Office of Grants and Research (OGR) and utilizes funds awarded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The annual program provides funding to municipal police departments who propose traffic safety projects in their community, including high visibility enforcement patrols, equipment to enhance road safety such as digital speed signs, pedestrian and bicyclist safety initiatives and public outreach campaigns intended to educate community members

and youth about roadway safety.

“Whether by vehicle, bicycle or foot, everyone has the right to travel safely through our communities,” said Gov. Maura Healey. “Through this program, we were able to award grants to every community that requested funding. The education, enforcement and outreach initiatives supported through these grants will help ensure safer roads for all.”

“Aggressive and dangerous driving are a threat to every road user. Providing local law enforcement agencies with the resources necessary to enforce traffic laws and educate members of their communities about distracted, impaired and aggressive driving is vital to ensuring the public’s safety,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy. “These grants allow towns and cities to approach traffic safety initiatives in ways that make the most sense for the community’s needs.”



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Sports

Holliston Volleyball Team Eyes Lengthy Tourney Run

By KEN HAMWEY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Bob Scumaci took the coaching reins of the Holliston High volleyball team last year two weeks before the season started, making it difficult to build team chemistry quickly and to thoroughly assess his players' talents and what positions they should play.

That squad, to its credit, compiled a 6-12 record and received a tourney invite that was short-lived. The Panthers bowed to Weston in the first round of the playoffs. However, when Scumaci had ample time preparing the Franklin High freshman girls team for battle in 2021, he guided the Panthers to a 15-0 record.

"This season I knew the players and had time to assess the varsity program to fill the vacancies of our graduated seniors," Scumaci said. "During the summer we opened the gym for training to provide a safe place for workouts and I knew that I had returning players who were kind, smart and hard-working."

This year's team, which had an 11-2 record at Local Town Pages deadline, is in excellent position to not only qualify for the state tourney, but also to receive a high seeding. The Panthers were No. 5 in the Division 3 power rankings at the paper's deadline.

"Our goals at the start of the season were to win the Tri Valley League's Large Division, get

to the playoffs and go deep," Scumaci said. "Those goals are lofty but also realistic. The girls have shown a desire to win and they all want to have some fun along the way."

Whether Holliston can secure the division title remains to be seen but one thing is for sure — the Panthers are a much-improved team.

"What's made the season a plus is our overall team strengths," Scumaci said. "We had nine girls returning from last year and that's given us experience and depth. Mental toughness is also an asset. The girls are aggressive and strong-willed. We're athletic and fast, rely on a strong work ethic and our team chemistry is a huge strength."

Another plus is Holliston's senior captains — Annie Vallatini (middle hitter), Ava Darling (middle hitter), and Emelia Weiseth (setter).

"They all have different leadership styles and they're all very skilled," Scumaci noted. "Ava leads by example, Annie, who's in her second year as a captain, has the ability to recruit, and Emelia leads by example, is vocal and supportive."

Scumaci likes what Vallatini and Darling bring to the table as middle hitters. "Annie has a high volleyball IQ, is consistent and very athletic. She's adept at scoring and serving. Ava hits hard, plays strong and jumps well. She's athletic, coachable and very upbeat."



Coach Bob Scumaci has Holliston's volleyball team well-positioned as it prepares for the state tournament.

Weiseth has all the necessary skills to excel as a setter. "Emelia has a high volleyball IQ, too," he said. "A very good all-around player, she's quick, provides strong hits, has good court sense and great instincts."

The Panthers' other seniors — Vanessa DeSimone (libero) and Lucie Barrie (outside hitter) — are key contributors.

"Vanessa is fast, a great passer whose good hands enable her to hit hard," Scumaci offered. "She's an athletic player with outstanding volleyball instincts. Lucie has very fine overall skills. She's a hard hitter, very coachable, and she jumps and blocks very effectively."

Juniors Ashley Rokus and Veronika Stasevich are dependable outside hitters. "Ashley is improved and hits hard," Scumaci said. "She can jump and block and has great passion for the game. Veronika can play in the back row. She also loves the game. She hits hard, distributes the ball effectively and is very coachable."

Junior Aila Montvelia is a right-side hitter who "can crush the ball," according to Scumaci. "Aila is a very athletic, smart player who's able to jump and hit hard," he said.

Juniors Isabelle Glenn-Smith and Michaela McGovern are middle hitters who have similar strengths. "Both are great blockers," Scumaci said. "Isabelle is



The 2023 Holliston High volleyball team is a veteran squad that relies on experience and depth.

very athletic and hits hard while Michaela can hit and block because she's so strong."

Junior Shea Aldredge adds some versatility to Holliston's roster, playing defensive specialist or libero. "Shea is fast, has quick hands and hits and passes well," Scumaci noted. "She's an all-around competitor with a great personality."

The Panthers' two sophomores — Grace Whitten (setter) and Autumn Smith (defensive specialist/libero) — are promising young players with bright futures.

"Grace has good hands, is fast and quick and just a good volleyball player," Scumaci said. "Autumn is really fast and quick, has a great attitude, gets to the ball quickly and is a great passer."

Scumaci has very capable assistants in jayvee/varsity assistant Joel Bernstein, freshman coach Beth Smith, and Chris Perry, who's coaching at the middle school level. "Joel gets the girls ready for varsity competition, Beth teaches her players to love the game and Chris is in a key role at the middle school."

Scumaci's athletic philosophy stresses working hard, reaching one's potential and having fun. "Winning occurs because our girls are eager to win," he emphasized.

One life lesson that Scumaci stresses is striving for a strong work ethic that enables players to develop their skills and achieve their goals. "Being good teammates is another lesson that can be learned in athletics," he said.

The 64-year-old Scumaci is a native of Yonkers, N.Y., where he played football and baseball at Roseville High School. An accounting major at Fordham University in New York, he worked as the chief financial officer for Sepracor of Marlboro, a pharmaceutical company. Now retired and living in Hopkinton, he's married and the father of two sons and a daughter.

"I coached and studied volleyball at the club level when my daughter played," he said. "After my first year at Franklin, I decided to get involved at the varsity level. I wanted to implement strategies, drill techniques and be a decision-maker."

Holliston's volleyball program should have a positive future with Bob Scumaci at the helm. Holliston Athletic Director Matt Baker thinks so.

"It was great to hire a coach from Franklin, which has one of the top programs in the state," Baker emphasized. "Bob is a student of the game and has a tremendous amount of knowledge."

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Real Estate Corner



The 3-bed, 2-bath, 1,748 sf house at 131 Jennings Road in Holliston recently sold for \$675,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com

Recent Home Sales

Date	Holliston	Amount
10/18/2023	131 Jennings Road	\$675,000
10/05/2023	15 Birchwood Road	\$850,000
10/02/2023	1385 Washington Street	\$640,000
09/29/2023	76 Brook Street	\$613,000
09/26/2023	19 Partridge Way	\$1.20 mil
09/22/2023	223 High Street	\$559,000
09/22/2023	38 Westfield Drive	\$676,000
09/20/2023	70 Birchwood Road	\$1.10 mil



Call Susanne at 508-954-8148 to run in our Real Estate Corner

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.

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Washington Street players perform 'Circle Mirror Transformation'

Holliston's own Washington Street Players are putting on the play "Circle Mirror Transformation," by Annie Baker.

The show, directed by Holliston resident Cindy Bell, includes the following cast members:

- Randy Divinski
- Lynda Slocomb
- Sylvia Paladino
- Amy Rochford
- James Parr

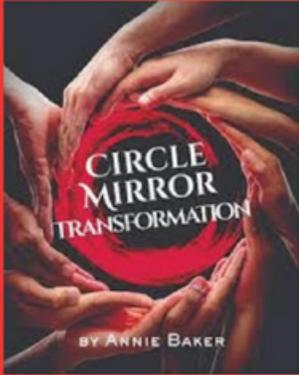
Produced by James Parr, the performance dates are Nov. 3 and 4, at 8 PM. Performances are held at the Holliston Town Hall.

In Shirley, Vt., Marty, an acting teacher, holds an "Adult Creative Drama" class at the local community center. The people who sign up for the class are Schultz, a recently divorced carpenter; Lauren, a reserved



high school junior; Theresa, a former actress; and Marty's husband James. Marty takes the "students" through various acting and dramatic exercises; they act like trees, beds, and baseball gloves. In one exercise, they act as one another and tell their life

stories. As a possible romance begins each of the group slowly reveals themselves. In a final exercise, Lauren imagines herself meeting Schultz in 10 years and they tell each other what has transpired.



Circle Mirror Transformation
 By Annie Baker
 Directed by Cindy Bell
 October 27 & 28
 November 3 & 4
 8PM
 Holliston Town Hall



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