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Local

## Town officials vote not to purchase 799 Washington Street

Select Board chair describes opportunity as 'right project at the wrong time'

By THERESA KNAPP

At its meeting on Feb. 12, the Holliston Select Board voted to 1 in favor, 2 opposed, to not purchase the property at 799 Washington Street on which stands a former Gulf gas station in the downtown area. The town had been offered the opportunity to purchase the property for "up to \$700,000."

At a meeting in January, Economic Development Coordinator Melanie Hamblen presented possible uses for the "blighted property," which the board considered.

The tally for the vote was Select Board member Tina Hein in favor and members Ben Sparrell and Chair John Cronin opposed.

Sparrell said, "I think it's an interesting project, an in-



Former Gulf gas station at 799 Washington Street, Holliston. The Select Board voted 1-2 not to purchase the property, calling it 'the right project at the wrong time.' Image source: Google Maps

teresting idea to look at that; it is certainly a piece of property that's disappointing to drive past on a daily basis, but I'm not sure I'm comfortable with the Town being the actor here at this time. I think it might be a timing issue, maybe at another time it might be a better option but I'm not comfortable, this doesn't sit right with me for a variety of reasons. I'm looking forward to seeing

what someone will do with it I'm not sure the town is the right actor to do it."

Hein was in support of the purchase. "For me, I see this as a capstone project for the work that we've been doing for a number of years in the downtown area. When you

**VOTED**

*continued on page 2*



## Welcome Home

There was a special celebration in town earlier this year.

Habitat for Humanity dedicated a new house for Rebecca—one that is a safe and affordable single-family home.

Rebecca, a single mom, and her two teenage daughters, Sarah and Kate, recently moved into the home.

Rebecca has lived in the town of Holliston since 2000 where her daughters have grown up and attended Holliston Public Schools. When the girls were little, it was very hard to secure housing that she could afford, and simultaneously pay for childcare. After a string of several severe hardships, her housing situation became unstable and financially unattainable. Her family lived in a home

owned by her brother.

Due to work relocation and financial commitments, however, he needed to sell the home and Rebecca had to seek alternate housing. This left Rebecca nervous and vulnerable, as she knew there was limited affordable housing in Holliston, the town she and her daughters called home for over 20 years.

Rebecca was thrilled when she found out her family was chosen to live in the affordable single-family Habitat home in Holliston. It meant that she could continue to provide for her daughters in the town where they spent all of their formative years. It is a town they love and

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

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continued from page 1

look at Blair Square, the improvements there; when you look at Central Street and the improvements that are coming to the streetscape by way of sidewalks, crosswalks, and the like; and then the branding effort that will address wayfinding signage and so on; and then you look at what's at the other end down at 9 Green Street with the new parking and EV [chargers], and the yet-to-be-brought-to-the-community the Creative Placement Workshop that will really enliven and reinvigorate the space to public art. So, this is a capstone project for all of that, the town has been committed to it, and the opportunity presented to us, although it came suddenly and not necessarily anticipated, it is one that we have to take seriously."

Hein also said this type of project is called out in the town's Economic Development Plan, a plan that led to the hiring of the

town's Economic Development Coordinator. "So I am in support of this for those and many more reasons."

Cronin said the project had been discussed at Select Board and Finance Committee meetings, and the board had received a great deal of public comment. "All in all, I would say there was enthusiasm to do something with the property."

"This evening, in Executive Session, I was explaining to my peers that, although I'll be leaving the board in a few months, I'll be leaving behind a very aggressive agenda that I'm sure they'll be embracing over the next several years." He listed numerous town projects in queue for the next three to five years, and said, "I characterize this project as 'the right project at the wrong time.'"

After the failed vote, Cronin said, "Again, with some regret, we hope that, down the road, the seller has some ideas about how to improve the property and will do so without delay."

# Holliston Democratic Town Committee Announces 2024 Town Caucus

Holliston Democratic Town Committee (HDTC) members are hosting the 2024 Democratic Town Caucus to select delegates to attend the Massachusetts Democratic State Convention.

The caucus will convene at 10:30 AM, Saturday, March 16, at Holliston Town Hall. All Democrats registered to vote in Holliston are invited to participate and are encouraged to run for convention delegate. The convention will take place June 1 at the DCU Center in Worcester.

The caucus is open to the public and press, but only Holliston's registered and pre-registered Democrats are eligible to run and vote. Pre-registered Democrats must be at least 16 years old on the caucus date. Same-day registration is allowed. Those running as a delegate or alternate should be present at the caucus to be elected. However, if there are not enough candidates present to fill all delegate and alternate positions, two-thirds of those present and voting may move to have a candidate's name placed in nomination despite the candi-

date's absence, provided that the candidate has notified the Chair of their interest in running.

Holliston Democrats will vote to elect 10 delegates and 4 alternates to represent Holliston at the convention. Those not selected as a delegate or an alternate, and who meet the qualifications, can apply separately to be an add-on delegate in the following categories: youth, minority, disabled, LGBTQ+, or ask about being a convention volunteer. Access the 2024 Call to Convention here: <https://massdems.org/massdems-convention>.

Registration will open at 10 AM. The caucus will begin at 10:30 AM. The caucus doors will close at 10:45 AM. Everyone waiting in line to register at 10:45 AM will be admitted to the caucus. Anyone admitted after 10:45 AM will be designated as a guest and will not be able to run for delegate or to vote.

For more information, visit [www.hollistondems.org](http://www.hollistondems.org). While not required, if you plan to run for a delegate or alternate seat, please fill out this form: <https://>

[bit.ly/HDTC-Caucus](https://bit.ly/HDTC-Caucus). This will help volunteers plan ahead for an efficient caucus.

### About the Holliston Democratic Town Committee:

The Holliston Democratic Town Committee is a community of friends and activists. We encourage citizens to register, to vote, to work for candidates they support, and to serve on local boards and committees by running for office or volunteering. We advocate for the causes and concerns that matter to us locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. We promote discussion on issues and work towards government that is fair and transparent in its dealings with the public. We represent the principles of the Democratic party by electing delegates from the community to participate in party activities and decision-making at the state and national levels.

For further information, please visit [www.hollistondems.org](http://www.hollistondems.org).



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Chuck Tashjian

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**Send Editorial to:**  
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**Advertising Sales**  
Susanne Odell Farber  
508-954-8148  
[sue@odellconsult.com](mailto:sue@odellconsult.com)

**Advertising Director**  
Jen Schofield  
508-570-6544  
[jenschofield@localtownpages.com](mailto:jenschofield@localtownpages.com)

**Creative Design & Layout**  
Michelle McSherry  
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### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

*continued from page 1*

in which they feel supported.

During the move-in event, a ceremonial key passing took place, and light refreshments were available. Among those who were present, and spoke, were Debbie Maruca Hoak, Executive Director, State Rep. James Arena-DeRosa, Bryan Clancy, President, Holliston Housing Trust, and Board President, Julie Davenport. The homeowner, Rebecca, who has moved into the home with her daughters, also spoke.



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# How can women bridge the retirement gap?



Mark Freeman

## FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Provided by Edward Jones

March 8 is International Women’s Day, a day for celebrating all the accomplishments of women around the globe. But many women still need to make up ground in one key area: retirement security.

Women’s challenges in achieving a secure retirement are due to several factors, including these:

- **Pay gap** – It’s smaller than it once was, but a wage gap still exists between men and women. In fact, women earn, on average, about 82

cents for every dollar that men earn, according to the Census Bureau. And even though this gap narrows considerably at higher educational levels, it’s still a source of concern. Women who earn less than men will likely contribute less to 401(k) plans and will ultimately see smaller Social Security checks.

- **Longer lives** – At age 65, women live, on average, about 20 more years, compared to almost 17 for men, according to the Social Security Administration. Those extra years mean extra expenses.
- **Caregiving responsibilities** – Traditionally, women have done much of the caregiving for young children and older parents. And while this caregiving is done with love, it also comes with financial sacrifice. Consider this: The average employment-related costs for mothers providing unpaid care is nearly \$300,000 over a lifetime, ac-

ording to the U.S. Department of Labor — which translates to a reduction of 15% of lifetime earnings. Furthermore, time away from the workforce results in fewer contributions to 401(k) and other employer-sponsored retirement plans.

Ultimately, these issues can leave women with a retirement security deficit. Here are some moves that can help close this gap:

- **Contribute as much as possible to retirement plans.** Try to contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. Your earnings can grow tax deferred and your contributions can lower your taxable income. (With a Roth 401(k), contributions aren’t deductible, but earnings and withdrawals are tax free, provided you meet certain conditions.) At a minimum, contribute enough to earn your employer’s matching contribution, if one is offered, and

try to boost your contributions whenever your salary goes up. If you don’t have access to a 401(k), but you have earned income, you can contribute to an IRA. Even if you don’t have earned income, but you have a spouse who does, you might be eligible to contribute to a spousal IRA.

- **Maximize Social Security benefits.** You can start taking Social Security at 62, but your monthly checks will be much bigger if you can afford to wait until your full retirement age, which will be around 66½. If you are married, you may want to coordinate your benefits with those of your spouse — in some cases, it makes sense for the spouse with the lower benefits to claim first, based on their earnings record, and apply for spousal benefits later, when the spouse with higher benefits begins to collect.
- **Build an emergency fund.** Try to build an emergency fund

containing up to six months’ worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account. Having this fund available will help protect you from having to dip into your retirement accounts for large, unexpected costs, such as a major home or car repair.

It’s unfortunate, but women still must travel a more difficult road than men to reach retirement security. But making the right moves can help ease the journey.

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

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

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# Renting Out Your Vacation Home is a Breeze With The 5 Star Co-Host

By LINDA CHUSS

Have you ever considered, even daydreamed about, having or investing in a vacation home you could rent out? But did you then become daunted by how to keep it safe and rented out when you were not around? Or maybe you already have your own place to escape to but feel managing the guest rental process is overwhelming or unrewarding. That's where The 5 Star Co-Host comes in – helping people establish or elevate the performance of their own short-term rental vacation properties.

Based out of Holliston, long-time residents Kim and Dave Menapace founded The 5 Star Co-Host. With the team they built, they not only manage vacation rentals for other owners but also offer related consulting services. “We started the business after learning through the experience of renting out our own Cape Cod beach cottage and Maine ski house,” said Kim. “Some people we know here in town and where our properties are share the concerns we learned to handle, so we saw a niche where we could help. We’ve worked hard to become top notch and continue attending training sessions as well as network in the short-term rental community. Other owners can expedite their learning from our expertise.”

“We’re passionate about creating amazing vacations for guests, giving them a space for lifelong memories to happen,”

Dave said. “Some people even get engaged or married at our properties. Reading the guest reviews is extremely fulfilling. They say directly or indirectly it’s evident how much The 5 Star Co-Host cares.”

Kim added, “We’re also committed to providing a hassle-free and rewarding result for owners we work with. The owners want to provide a good experience to their renters, but some are just busy. Our property management business lets them benefit from their investment without putting in all the time it takes to communicate with guests, coordinate cleaners, replenish supplies, and more. This is a boutique business for us though, as we only manage select vacation properties in our existing markets: Massachusetts or Maine.

“Some owners want to remain hands on but reduce the time required, or make it more worthwhile. Our consulting practice is geared to them. We help them build or improve their listings, strategize on pricing, obtain compelling photos, and facilitate the use of tools like Wi-Fi locks, virtual welcome guides, and automated guest messaging. In refining their processes, they gain confidence.”

“Owners around the country have responded enthusiastically to us as coaches,” Dave noted. “People hear about us from referrals, and from the ‘Hassle Free RE’ podcast we host as well as our new ‘STR Success’ live-streaming sessions on Facebook.

## Business spotlight



Or they know us from our books, ‘Creating a Life of Abundance’ and ‘Hospitable Hosts 2’.”

The Menapace’s stay on top of developments in the industry to benefit their clients. “Local vacation travel has slowed, coming off historic highs during the pandemic,” Kim said. “We help owners adjust to continue having a top-producing rental. Another area we keep a pulse on is regulations for short-term rentals and provide guidance to navigate through that.”

To anyone with an existing second home who wants to do more with it, contact The 5 Star



Dave and Kim Menapace help other vacation home owners make the most of their short term rental offerings

Co-Host to explore your options. For those considering acquiring a vacation home to rent out, Dave shared, “We can help as you get started so you can achieve your goals.” The hurdles may be unfamiliar to a new owner, but with advice from the experts at The 5 Star Co-Host, they are readily manageable.

For more information, see 5strcohost.com and use the Contact Us page to reach them. To get tips and learn more from discussions, on Instagram follow @dave\_menapace, or on Facebook follow Dave Menapace.

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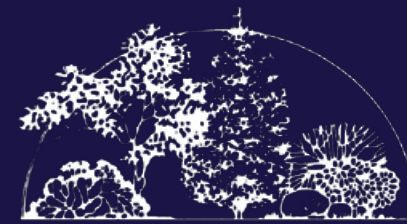
Tickets are available for this Holliston 300th Anniversary event at town hall on Sunday, March 17, at 9 am.

Come watch local pols and notables match wits along with a full Irish breakfast.

Town Moderator Bill Mayer will have the honor as master of ceremonies.

Tickets available at the town clerk’s office or at the Holliston Superette. Half the tickets for the 135 available seats have been sold.

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# Celebrating Women's History Month, Holliston looks to its archives

## Historical Society shares glimpse of lives of historic Holliston women

March is Women's History Month, a time to consider the impact that women have had on history.

A look at Holliston's women of the past tells us a lot about what it was like for women living in Holliston – the challenges of the times, and the impact women made on local history. They have many stories to tell. Looking back through Holliston's three centuries of history reveals many of these forgotten heroines.

Life in Holliston, especially for the ladies, was not always a comfortable existence. Previous histories written in the 19th and early 20th town histories seldom mentioned women. The ladies of Holliston formed religious, charitable, suffrage and anti-slavery societies. Newspaper articles featuring them were few, but the scant few of the articles do manage to give us hints about their existence. For instance, there were stories about their legal status.

### Hint to Engaged Young Ladies

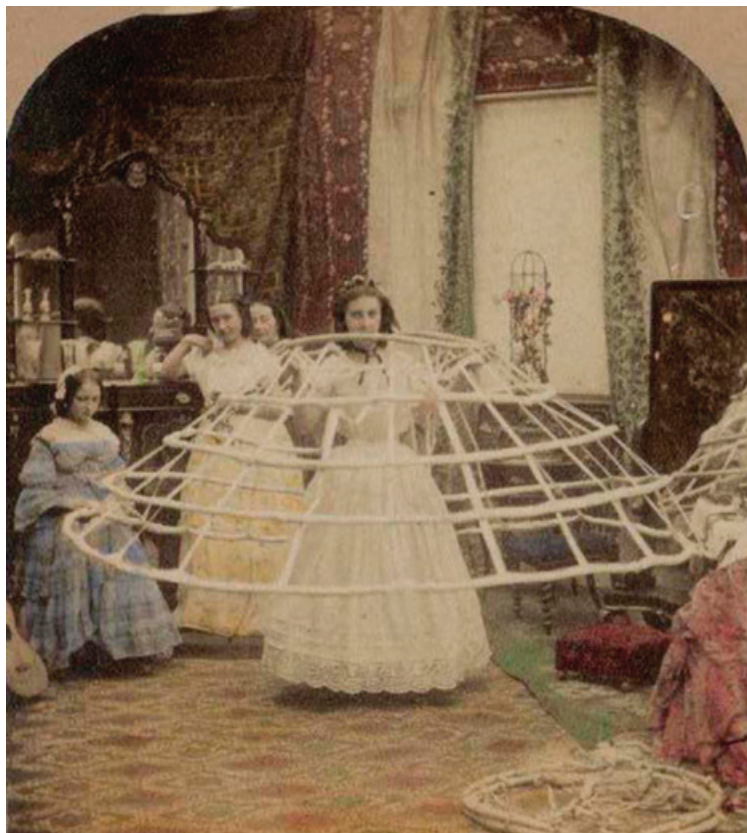
It is probably not generally known that when once a woman has accepted an offer of marriage, all she has or expects to have, becomes virtually the prop-

erty of the man thus accepted as a husband, and no gift or deed executed by her between the period of acceptance and the marriage, is held to be valid; for were she permitted to give away or otherwise settle her property, he might be disappointed of the wealth he looked to in making the offer. The Holliston Transcript, Dec. 27, 1856.

Stories mentioned other aspects of women's lives – not surprising, even about their clothes.

### Crinoline

Quite a lively controversy is in progress concerning this fashion of female attire. If we may venture to touch so delicate a topic, we would say that a moderate use of this article gives a very graceful air to the figure, and is unquestionably far more conducive to health than the quantities of skirts and bishoply appendages which previously weighed down and encumbered the form. We believe in hoops; only, kind ladies, don't expand them too widely. There is only so much breadth to our house-doors, church-aisles, and side walks; and please do not use it all up yourself, when others may be waiting for a chance to move on. The Holliston Transcript, July 25, 1857.



"Coloured stereocard depicting a woman being dressed in a crinoline, by an unknown photographer" though likely published by the London Stereoscopic Company, London. Source: www.rarehistoricalphotos.com

script, July 25, 1857.

The lives of women in America, and in Holliston as well, began to change in the 1850s – what with those legal and cultural circumstances driving many women to – politely, usually – rebel. What taught women to speak out more forcefully was

the suffrage movement. Many of the old laws began to disappear due to the strong support of women who learned how to organize with the abolitionist societies in Massachusetts. One Holliston woman, "C.C.M" – likely a pseudonym – published a long tirade forcefully advocating for the right to vote. Here is an excerpt of that long tirade published in a local newspaper on Oct. 17, 1871:

*"But how much freer do we stand to-day before the nations of the earth?"*

*But little. The country has been rid of a terrible pest in the shape of slavery, but woman is still held in subjection without a voice in her government; and she may accumulate property, while man --- that little, puny being, man --- who thinks himself almost a god, will extort from her as high a tax upon it as possible in order to further his own sordid self-interest and selfish ends.*

*That women will have the right of suffrage is only a question of time; then I say to the women of the country, Demand your just rights."*

Life was often difficult for women in Holliston. Many had to find a way to survive on their own. Some were lucky to have family to help with support. Some did not. All their stories are thought-provoking. Here is another snippet from a local newspaper:

Sept. 24, 1898: A lady in East Holliston, whose husband has been absent for 14 years, was surprised one afternoon this week by his unannounced return. He stopped only an hour or two, and on leaving left five twenty-dollar gold pieces with the daughter. He said he had been living in Dakota and owned a nice farm there.

Reading through the archives of Holliston's history, one develops a great respect for the many brave women of Holliston living in a time of few supports and overwhelming challenges. May we honor them all during this 300th year celebration.

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE HULBERT OF THE HOLLISTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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# The Future of Home Heating: A Game-Changer for Homes in Massachusetts



Ryan McKernan

carbon emissions, cold climate heat pumps are becoming the go-to choice among Massachusetts homeowners.

So, what exactly are heat pumps? Well, you can think of them as the superheroes of home heating! They have the power to heat and cool your home all in one system, and at remarkable energy efficiency levels, saving you money. Heat pumps are the new standard when replacing a heating or cooling system, and here's why: They offer versatile and energy-efficient alternatives to traditional heating systems such as oil and gas furnaces or boilers. Unlike these conventional systems, heat pumps do not generate heat by burning fossil fuels; instead, they transfer heat from one place to another. This allows them to provide both heating and cooling capabilities, making them a year-round solu-

tion for indoor comfort. Better yet, there are options for all the different style homes we have here in Massachusetts.

Let's explain how they work in a bit more detail: In colder months, a heat pump extracts heat from the outdoors and transfers it into the home, providing cozy warmth. During the summer, the process is reversed, as the heat pump extracts heat from the indoor air and transfers it outside, effectively cooling the home. This dual functionality eliminates the need for separate heating and cooling systems, simplifying maintenance and reducing equipment costs.

One of the primary benefits of heat pumps is their high energy efficiency. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, heat pumps can deliver up to three times more heat energy than the electrical energy they consume.

This efficiency is achieved by utilizing the heat transfer process, rather than relying on the combustion of fuel. Consequently, heat pumps can significantly reduce energy consumption and lower reoccurring utility bills.

This eco-conscious approach aligns perfectly with Massachusetts' commitment to combating climate change and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. By embracing heat pumps, homeowners can actively contribute to a greener future while enjoying a comfortable living environment. They can also take advantage of the Mass Save program designed to further incentivize the adoption of heat pumps.

The Mass Save program offers substantial benefits to homeowners who make the switch. Homeowners can receive up to \$10,000 in rebates and a 0% loan. Additionally, there is a

\$2,000 federal tax credit, making the initial investment even more affordable. These incentives not only help homeowners make the switch to energy-efficient systems but also contribute to the overall reduction of energy consumption and carbon emissions in the state. It's like a financial boost from the green heavens!

Looking to find out more about cold climate heat pump installation and design? Contact Pro Comfort Control, a trusted expert, located in Framingham. With years of experience in home heating and air conditioning, our team of professionals specializes in providing tailored solutions to meet the unique needs of each home. Contact us at 508-301-3955 or see us online at ProComfortControl.com.

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## PROFESSIONAL INSIGHTS

As we strive to find more sustainable and efficient ways to heat our homes, heat pumps have emerged as the leading solution for the future. With the advancement of technology and the growing concern for reducing

## Announcing Second Quarter Honor Roll

### Holliston students make honor roll

Dr. Jacob Conca, Head of School at Xaverian Brothers High School, is pleased to announce that the following students have been named to the honor roll for the second marking period of the 2023-2024 school year.

#### Holliston students include:

- Santiago Feeney, Ryken Honors, grade 8
- Sebastian Bureau, Ryken Honors, 12
- William Byers, First Honors, 8
- Zachary Fondo, First Honors, 10
- Tyler Hothem, First Honors, 11

- Nathan Denehy, First Honors, 12
- Connor Walsh, Second Honors, 11

The Xaverian Brothers High School honor roll has three designation levels: Ryken Honors (all marks are A- or above), First Honors (all marks are B or above), and Second Honors (all marks are B- or above).

SOURCE: FACEBOOK @XAVERIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL

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# Frances (Fanny) Wadsworth Valentine

In honor of Women's History Month, this article was submitted by Cliff Wilson, President of the Ashland Historical Society.

Fanny Wadsworth Valentine (name on birth record) was born April 5, 1880, on Mt. Bowdoin Terrace in Dorchester, Mass., the daughter of George Albert Valentine and Anna Elizabeth Loring. To simplify matters for the rest of this article, it should be noted that her grandfather John Tyng Valentine was the first cousin of William Price Valentine who, at the time of Fanny's birth, owned what we now call the Valentine Estate on West Union Street in Ashland.

At 18 years old, she graduated from Girl's Latin School and enrolled at Smith College in Northampton. Frances was captain of the Pomeroy Delta Sigma basketball team. She graduated from Smith in 1902 and maintained a lifelong connection to the school.

In May of 1905, she was at the Grafton Country Club's horse and hound show along with President Garfield's son and Senator Hanna's son and in April of the same year she was a bride's maid at the wedding of Elizabeth Whitin in Whitinsville. Her father, George, died in 1907. In 1910, she was still living with her mother, brother, and sister-in-law in Boston. In 1912, the family moved to Westerly, RI, where Frances took up

the occupation of farming.

In 1914, Frances, at the age of 33, moved to Washington, DC, and was employed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics. She began to travel the country, gathering information on minimum wages, wages paid to women, health issues, and workman's compensation. As the United States entered World War I, Frances was in Kansas, recruiting women to go to New Jersey to peel tomatoes for the canning industry. But this was evidently not enough support for Frances. In March of 1918, she joined 18 other "Smith Girls" in France, driving supply trucks for the ravaged villages. In May of the same year, she was in the Somme district in France, 10 miles from the advancing enemy line. Although ordered to retreat, Frances and her friends felt they could not leave the peasants alone. They spent two days under fire evacuating villages and bringing the French to safe quarters. In October, Frances and two of her friends left the unit and joined the American Women's Hospital Service, driving ambulances for the French army.

In 1920, the French government honored Frances with an individual citation, as follows:

"Miss Frances Valentine, American member of the American Red Cross of New York: Under shell fire during the of-

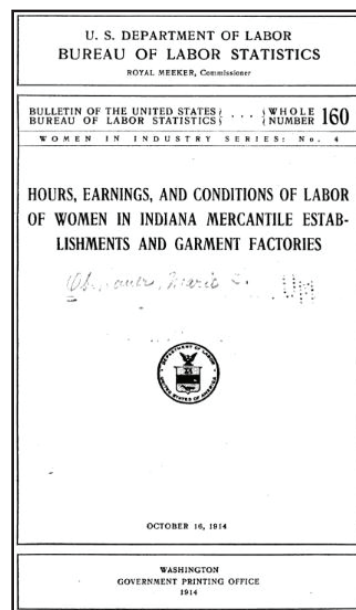


**Frances (Fanny) Wadsworth Valentine (1880-1959).**  
Source: Ashland Historical Society

fence of March and April 1918, she helped with the evacuation of the sick, aged, and children and with the establishment of canteens and rest huts on the Montdidier, Poix, and Beauvais fronts. She has had nearly three years' service and had actual charge of the reconstruction and relief of 30 villages."

After returning from the war, Frances again took up her job with the Department of Labor. In 1922, she went to Pennsylvania to study the living conditions and costs in the coal mining communities.

In March of 1924, Frances bought two parcels of land on West Union Street in Ashland. One parcel contained 12 acres, the other contained 30 acres. She moved into the house across the street from the Valentine estate and began to farm



**Hours, Earnings, and Conditions of Labor of Women in Indiana Mercantile Establishments and Garment Factories, 1914, co-authored by Frances Wadsworth Valentine during her work with the U.S. Department of Labor. Source: <https://curiosity.lib.harvard.edu/women-working-1800-1930/>**

in Ashland on land that past-generations of Valentines had owned.

In 1927, Frances, representing the General Federation of Women's Clubs of America, went to

Alabama to study the use of hydro-electric power in providing electricity to rural communities. She took special interest in the farms and their use of electricity.

Frances was elected to the executive committee of the American Red Cross, Ashland Chapter in 1929. They had just set up their headquarters at the new Telechron clubhouse on Main Street. That same year she purchased an additional 129 acres of land adjacent to her farm. Today, the Ashland Community Center is located on a portion of that property.

Along with her farming, she continued her work with the Department of Labor, supervising many surveys mostly regarding health.

World War II obviously brought many changes to the labor market as many workers joined the armed forces. Farm labor was no exception. The country still needed a food supply. Frances was appointed to represent the Women's Bureau of the Labor Department on the regional labor supply committee. Recognizing the need to use women in the farm labor force, Frances opened her house to a dozen or more Smith College students and assisted training them in farm work as part of the newly formed Women's Land Army. She continued her work with the Labor Department trying to determine the fate of the women as the men returned from the war.

Frances continued to live in Ashland until her death on Feb. 5, 1959, at 78 years old.

## Memorial bench at Town Hall to be dedicated to Henry and Jackie Dellicker

BY THERESA KNAPP

At its meeting on Jan. 29, the Holliston Select Board approved a request to dedicate a bench outside town hall to Henry and Jacqueline Dellicker, who passed away in November and December respectively.

"We are requesting the dedication of a bench, the black bench that is on the side of town hall, to be dedicated to our grandparents, Henry and Jackie," said their granddaughter, Anna Dellicker. "As many of you know, they were very dedicated town servants, and this is a small thing that we wanted to do in their honor."

Select Board member Ben Sparrell supported the request. "I think it's a wonderful way to remember and to honor the great things they did for the community so I think it's a great idea and I'm fully in support."

Select Board member Tina Hein was also in support. "Your grandparents would be so proud of all of you up there [on Zoom], speaking in such an eloquent way and making such a beautiful request in their memory."

Select Board Chair also supported the request.

A formal dedication of the bench will be held later this year.

## Corner Spot News

It is that time of year again...time to plan for the 7th season at the best spot in Ashland! We are planning another great season of events that you are sure to love. If you are a business/vendor, food truck owner or musician and would like to pop up and join the fun please email Beth at [breyolds@ashlandmass.com](mailto:breyolds@ashlandmass.com) and let us know!

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S P R I N G

Mar. 2nd	For The Love of The Game - AYBS
Mar. 24th	Holi Event
Apr. 24th	Ashland Indian Holi Event
Apr. 20th	Earth Day Event
May. 18th	CultureFest
Jun. 1st	Opening Day
Jun. 14th	Pups on the Spot
Bi-weekly Open Mic Nights starting June 6th	

F A L L

Sep. 6th	Back to School Movie Night w/ ABA
Sep. 7th	PorchFest
Oct. 5th	Dragonfly Street Faire
Oct. 19th	FallFest

For more information check out [thecornerpotashland.com](http://thecornerpotashland.com), and to stay up to date on all things The Corner Spot, follow us on Facebook and Instagram!



Your Money, Your Independence

# At or Near Retirement? Time to Say Bucket!

Those at or near retirement face many decisions.

Transitioning from a paycheck that builds savings to taking distributions from a lifetime of investing is a top challenge.

Retirees view risks differently, including market volatility, sequence of returns, interest rates, inflation, health, and longevity to outlive money. Still, the greatest risk is behavioral as gone are the days of throwing new money at poor planning and decision making.

Some retirees completely change strategies. Others attempt to align investments to high yields (and unintended risks) to meet income needs. Many overcompensate to a feel-good cash amount.

While noble, these “retirement strategies” lack in spending expectations, aspirational goals, variables, and opportunity costs. When market, economic or political turmoil depresses portfolios, fear drives many to react irrationally. This leaves them without a strategy and no new money to throw at poor planning and decision making.

How to approach a sustainable retirement income strategy?

**The Bucket Strategy.** In its simplest form, it’s a retirement income strategy based on segmenting assets to when they’re being spent. This creates a cash cushion to cover income gaps early in retirement years, while maximizing remaining assets over longer periods.

Time horizons and number of buckets are flexible, to start I propose 3 buckets.

**Bucket #1 needed in 1-3 years** is cash, money market and CDs in a taxable account. Liquidity, safety, and low taxation to access



Glenn Brown, CFP

funds are key.

**Bucket #2 needed in 4-6 years** is a mix of investment grade bonds, low-volatility stocks and hard assets diversified across ETFs (exchange-traded funds) in taxable accounts and traditional IRAs.

**Bucket #3 needed in 7+ years** is a mix of diversified growth investments and if applicable, real estate, concentrated stock, and legacy investments across taxable, traditional and Roth IRAs. Given Roth IRA’s tax-free benefits, these are the last funds to access.

As time moves forward, buckets are replenished in a tax efficient manner by either selling, transferring, and/or distributing (i.e. RMDs) assets from Bucket #3 to #2 and Bucket #2 to #1.

Easy? Let’s discuss critical prerequisites.

**Know your income gap.** “We spend \$8K a month, so we need \$96K income a year.” No, spending doesn’t equal income needs. Say a spouse receives \$20K in social security and other gets \$35K starting next year. So Year 1 income gap is \$76K (\$96K - \$20K) while Year 2 is \$41K.

**All work and no play...** What of your aspirational goals in retirement? Don’t wait until 75 to start, instead spend ahead and under control by planning a block of years and \$ amount. For example, “From ages 62-72, add \$20K extra per year for more travel.”

**What of future liabilities?** A mortgage ending? New vehicles needed? A remodel or home repair? Moving to reduce costs and taxes? Assisted living? Gifting to help adult kids?

**Build your cash flow analysis.** By factoring income sources, assets, growth rates, planned distributions, living expenses, one-off expenses, liabilities, inflation, and taxes, we see positive or negative cash flows this year and in future years.

Negative cash flow, a.k.a. your income gap, varies each year.

Consider:

- 2024 -\$52K
- 2025 -\$44K
- 2026 -\$65K
- 2027 -\$34K
- 2028 -\$21K
- 2029 -\$24K

Bucket #1 is \$161K, #2 has \$79K and #3 is remaining assets seeking long-term growth.

Come June 2024, review and confirm your spending rate, rerun cash flow with updated values, then raise 50% of 2027 (~\$17K) from Bucket #2 to #1. In most tax efficient manner, move 50% of 2029 (~\$12K) from Bucket #3 to #2.

Rinse/Repeat every 6 months for ongoing 2.5 to 3 years of cash to cover income gaps. This reduces fear and large withdrawals, provides lifestyle confidence, and participates in long-term invest-

ment growth over market cycles.

More to consider than space allows, so speak with your Certified Financial Planner.

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 PlanDy-

namic, 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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# Newcomers Club Continue Easter Basket Donations

Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors say “Think Spring and Easter!”

Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors is once again helping the Holliston Pantry Shelf with Easter Gifts! Donations are being accepted through March 17th so that we can provide the gift cards to the families before Easter.

HNN is asking for monetary donations to purchase gift cards for children 0 – 17 years old (\$25 value.)

We do not have a count yet - so we don’t know our goal - but you can donate online at <https://hollistonnewcomers.org/Donate> and select Easter

Baskets, or you can mail a check to Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors, PO Box 6581, Holliston and indicate Easter Gift on the check. If you have any questions, please email: [committee.newcomers@gmail.com](mailto:committee.newcomers@gmail.com)

Be a part of putting a smile on the faces of so many deserving kids in our community. The HNN Easter Gift committee thanks you in advance for your support!

**Tricia**  
Easter Basket Committee  
[Tricia.Benson.tbens@comcast.net](mailto:Tricia.Benson.tbens@comcast.net)

# Restoring An Old House: The Squire Bagley House, March 19 at 7 p.m.

On March 19, we welcome Holliston resident, Denis Semprebon, owner of Beacon Hill Restoration, to the Holliston Historical Society. Denis will speak about his work restoring the Squire Bagley House in Amesbury. As per the website, www.longyear.org,

Built circa 1780, this house was expanded over the years to meet the growing needs of the Bagley family. Squire Lowell Bagley married Sarah Osgood in 1811, and the couple raised three daughters here — Emmeline, Mary, and Sarah. It was their daughter Sarah who, nearly fifty years later, offered shelter here to Mary Baker Eddy.

In an interview with Stacy A. Teicher (article from May 2022 found at www.longyear.org/learn/research-archive/an-old-house-made-new/), Denis said preserving historic houses is “very rewarding, because you’ve left your mark.” In her article, Ms. Teicher writes:



As the owner of Beacon Hill Restoration, Denis was equipped with decades of experience renovating historic buildings. Longyear hired him to serve as a preservation consultant, and he and his staff mentored the Longyear staff as they trained them in preservation techniques. He guided the project as longtime issues surfaced, including rot, caused by moisture and insects, that was hidden in parts of the 18th-century timber frame....

The goal was to save as much original fabric as possible, and when original material wasn’t available, Denis found the most historically accurate replacements....To structurally repair damaged cornerposts, the crew spliced in new wood—a technique that reminded them of working on a three-dimensional puzzle. And just as the Bagleys would have done, Longyear purchased many of its supplies nearby. Board sheathing was custom-made at the Bartlett Sawmill in neighboring Salisbury, Massachusetts, based at a family farm



that goes back more than 10 generations. The nails used on the exterior came from Tremont Nail in Mansfield, Massachusetts, which still makes steel-cut nails the way it did in the mid-1850s.

We hope you will join us for what should be an interesting talk about this project! Refreshments will follow the talk which will be held in the Great Room of the

Asa Whiting House.

Now owned by the Longyear Museum, a museum founded by Mary Beecher Longyear to advance the understanding of the life and work of Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of Christian Science, the Squire Bagley House is open to the public in the summer months.

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## Thanks To Donates Girl Scout Cookies

In this picture Violet Guenon, a member of Girl Scout troop 64082 Holliston, is seen donating Girl Scout cookies collected. These cookies are donated to Thanks To Yanks. Pictured also is Michael Shain, the founder and president of the local charity dedicated to serve those who serve. This Taste of Home will be sent to those deployed, said Shain. For more information about Thanks to Yanks, please like them on Facebook.



# Holliston 300th Celebration adds events to calendar, erects banners

By THERESA KNAPP

The Holliston 300th Celebration committee was before the Select Board on Jan. 29 when the board approved the committee's request to erect avenue banners for the rest of the calendar year.

The committee also shared the updated list of events with the board which include:

- March 17, St. Patrick's Day Breakfast
- April 26, Arbor Day 300th Tree Planting
- May 11, Parade
- May 24, Golf Tournament
- June 23, Strawberry Festival
- July 4, Laser Show
- July 13, Olde Time Baseball Tournament
- July 23, Family Movie Night
- Aug. 1, Day at the Lake
- Aug. 17, Caflin Hill Orchestra
- Sept. 8, Horse Show
- Sept. 21, Field Day
- Oct. 6, Girl Scouts Fall Festival
- Nov. 2, "Encampment Impression"
- Nov. 30, Holiday Stroll
- Dec. 3, 300th Anniversary Cake Celebration

A full list of events can be found at [www.celebrateholliston.com/300th-calendar.html](http://www.celebrateholliston.com/300th-calendar.html)




*Greetings from the Holliston 300 Celebration Parade Committee. We are a group of dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers, leading the way toward the best parade Holliston has seen in...well 300 years! Our goal is to gather a diverse collection of entries to amaze the hometown crowd for hours and we need your help!*

**Who can join? YOU can join!**

- Get together with neighbors & friends to create a float celebrating what makes Holliston great.
- Do you have a vintage car, truck, antique horse drawn carriage? Show it off in the Holliston 300 Celebration Parade.
- Are you a member of a team, club, hobby group? Show your team pride.
- Do you have a business? Get the word out to all of Holliston with a parade float.
- Artist group, theater group, singing group...we invite you to join the parade!

*Get ready. The parade begins Saturday, May 11, 2024, 1:00 PM*

*Have an idea of how you would like to participate?*

**Sign up today.**  
 Contact Peter Barbieri [peterbholl@gmail.com](mailto:peterbholl@gmail.com)  
 Jake LaFlamme [celebratehollistonparade@gmail.com](mailto:celebratehollistonparade@gmail.com)



**JOIN THE PARADE**

## Holliston dog licenses due April 30

Dog licenses for 2024 are now available in the Town Clerk's Office. Spayed/neutered dogs are \$15 each and unspayed/un-neutered dogs are \$20. Rabies vaccination must be up-to-date; if not, we will need a certificate. You may license in person, or by mail with the application below, or online with UniPayGold if the rabies info is current. Please call the Town Clerk's Office at 508-429-0601 with any questions.

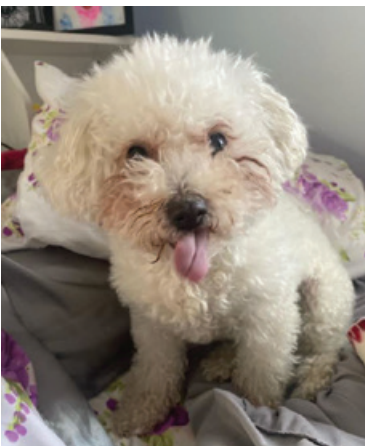
State law requires all dogs six months or older must be licensed each calendar year.

A fine of \$50 will be due on all unlicensed dogs beginning May 1.

**Important links:**

[https://www.townofholliston.us/sites/g/files/vyhlif706/f/uploads/mail\\_in\\_dog\\_registration\\_form.pdf](https://www.townofholliston.us/sites/g/files/vyhlif706/f/uploads/mail_in_dog_registration_form.pdf)

<https://unipaygold.unibank.com/default.aspx>



Be sure to register your dog before April 30. Photo credit: Kathryn Enos



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**National Women's History Month**

**March 2024**

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	<p><b>***RESERVATIONS ARE REQUESTED IN ADVANCE. CALL THE SENIOR CENTER AT 508-429-0622</b></p>			<p>1 9:30 Select Chat 9:30 Friday Crafters 1:00 Tune Timers</p>
<p>4 9:00 AARP Tax Service*** 9:30 Coloring and Coffee 11:00 Yoga Zoom Only 12:00 Weekly Lunch*** 1:00 Tai Chi 1:30 Games Day</p>	<p>5 10:00 Coffee with Holliston Police 10:00 Writers' Group 10:00 Legal Advice with Marsden Law PC*** 10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt 12:00 Zumba Gold</p>	<p>6 9:30 Walking Fitness 11:00 Yoga 12:00 Weekly Lunch*** 12:30 Line Dancing Intro*** 1:00 BINGO</p>	<p>7 9:00 Pilates 9:30 Blood Pressure Clinic 10:30 Energy Focus Movement 1:00 Mah Jongg Lessons***</p>	<p>8 9:30 Friday Crafters 1:00 Tune Timers 1:30 Book Club: The Violin Conspiracy  <b>Clocks Spring Forward Saturday 3/10/2024</b></p>
<p>11 9:00 AARP Tax Service*** 9:30 Coloring and Coffee 11:00 Yoga Zoom Only 12:00 Weekly Lunch*** 1:00 Tai Chi 1:30 Games Day</p>	<p>12 9:00 Monthly Breakfast*** 10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt </p>	<p>13 9:30 Walking Fitness 10:00 Hopkinton Audiology Cleaning*** 11:00 Yoga 12:00 Saint Patrick's Luncheon*** 2:00 COA Meeting</p>	<p>14 9:00 Pilates 10:30 Energy Focus Movement 1:00 Mah Jongg Lessons***</p>	<p>15 9:30 Friday Crafters 1:00 Tune Timers  <b>Saturday March 16 Lunch from the Lion's Club at Senior Center</b></p>
<p>18 9:00 AARP Tax Service*** 9:30 Coloring and Coffee 11:00 Yoga Zoom Only 12:00 Weekly Lunch*** 1:00 Tai Chi 1:30 Games Day</p>	<p>19 10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt 12:00 Zumba Gold 1:00 Medicare Presentation*** </p>	<p>20 9:30 Walking Fitness 9:30 Mindful Eating*** 11:00 Yoga 12:00 Weekly Lunch*** 12:30 Line Dancing*** 1:00 BINGO 1:30 Delicious Diabetic Desserts***</p>	<p>21 9:00 Pilates 9:30 Blood Pressure Clinic 9:30 Vet's Coffee Hour 9:30 SSF Meeting 10:30 Energy Focus Movement 1:00 Mah Jongg Lessons***</p>	<p>22 9:30 Friday Crafters 1:00 Tune Timers</p>
<p>25 9:00 AARP Tax Service*** 9:30 Coloring and Coffee 10:00 Legal Advice with Attorney Bergeron*** 11:00 Yoga Zoom Only 12:00 Weekly Lunch*** 1:00 Tai Chi 1:30 Games Day</p>	<p>26 10:00 Meditation 10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt 11:00 Prism Coffee Hour 12:00 Zumba Gold</p>	<p>27 9:30 Walking Fitness 9:30 Mindful Eating*** 11:00 Yoga 12:00 Weekly Lunch*** 12:30 Line Dancing*** 2:00 "Greatest Sitcoms of all Times"****</p>	<p>28 9:00 Pilates 9:30 Java with Jay*** 10:30 Energy Focus Movement 12:00 Lunch &amp; Documentary***</p>	<p>29 9:30 Friday Crafters 12:00 Dementia Friendly Lunch*** 1:00 Tune Timers</p>

# Senior Center

Monday & Wednesday meals are a \$3 suggested donation and includes a beverage. Please call the CENTER at least 2 business days in advance for reservation at 508-429-0622.

- Monday, March 4  
BAKED MAC & CHEESE, Green Beans, Salad, Warm Brownie with a la mode
- Wednesday, March 6  
MEATBALL SUB, Sweet Potato Fries, Cesar Salad, Fresh Fruit
- Monday, March 11  
BAKED FISH, Clam Chowder, Rice Pilaf, Broccoli, Pond Cake with Strawberries
- Wednesday, March 13:  
Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon: A DELICIOUS CORNED BEEF, Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots, Irish Soda Bread and Decorated Cupcakes for dessert.
- Monday, March 18  
GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH, Dill Pickle, Tomato Soup, Tossed Green Salad, Dessert
- Wednesday, March 20  
MEAT LOAF, Mashed Potatoes, Squash, and Fresh Fruit
- Monday, March 25  
CHICKEN A LA KING over Biscuits, Vegetable Soup, Chocolate Cake
- Wednesday, March 27  
TUNA SALAD SANDWICH, Broccoli Cheddar Soup, Chips, Tapioca Pudding

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# Henry and Jackie Dellicker dedicated many years of service to Holliston

Henry and Jacqueline "Jackie" Dellicker were devoted to the Town of Holliston until their passing in November and December, respectively, after moving to town in 1958 where they raised their five sons, according to a letter to the Select Board from the Dellicker grandchildren asking to dedicate a bench outside Town Hall to them.

"Where both Henry and Jackie truly left their mark on Holliston is through service and commitment to the town. They each served on almost too many boards and committees to list, ready to help with any event, milestone, or issue facing the committee."

Jackie served as Town Clerk and Town Moderator. She was on the Holliston Pantry Shelf board, PTA, Women's Club, League of Women's Voters, Council on Aging, Republican Town Committee, Senior

Support Foundation, Holliston Cable Access TV, Holliston Library Committee, the Citizen Scholarship Committee, and was a Boy Scout den mother.

Henry served on the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Select Board (as chair during Holliston's 250th and 275th anniversary celebrations). He was president of the Kiwanis Club, chair of the building committee for both the former and current police stations and the building of Holliston High School, Cub Master for Pack 74, Little League umpire, and chair of the Council on Aging. He also volunteered at town elections.

They were both named Citizen of the Year, Jackie in 1998 and Henry in 2003.

"Holliston has been shaped by Henry and Jackie. Our town is stronger and better for their years of service and commitment. They dedicated their entire adult lives to the town and

each of them carried the spirit of Holliston with them until their last days," said the grandchildren in their letter. "A bench in their honor will be a lasting reminder of and tribute to their service and dedication to the town. Future generations of Holliston will enjoy a Superette sandwich, watch a town parade, or take in the views of our beautiful town on a warm spring day while sitting on this bench. While they may never have met Henry and Jackie, they will know their names — the names of two people who embodied everything we all know Holliston was, is, and will continue to be for years to come."

The bench request was approved and will be formally dedicated later this year.

SOURCE: HOLLISTON SELECT BOARD MEETING, JAN. 29, 2024

## PLEASE RECYCLE

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# The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

## Gray Blending: A New Way to Embrace Your Gray

BY GINA WOELFEL

Once upon a time, spotting your first gray hair felt like the beginning of the end, especially for women. In an age-obsessed society, women have felt the need to maintain a youthful appearance, and aging was often considered taboo.

However, nowadays, women are pushing back and embracing their gray hairs and the number of years it took to earn them! Accepting your gray has become synonymous with self-love and a more natural approach to beauty. We all age, so let's celebrate it!

Women, in particular, are often judged based on their appearance. Interestingly, the pandemic sparked the modern gray hair movement, prompting women to embrace their natural hair color. When salons closed, women had to skip their monthly color retouches. It was a challenging time, but we were resilient and adapted. With no end in sight, our roots grew in, and when one inch turned to three, many women saw their natural color for the first time and loved it. Their gray hair was beautiful, and the time spent away from judgment and scrutiny allowed them to reconnect with their natural selves.

We understand that not everyone will give up hair coloring and accept their gray hair. It's a big commitment that requires both emotional and aesthetic considerations. For many women, to stop coloring their hair altogether would be difficult. Unlike pandemic times, we're out in the world each day, and having half our hair without color could be quite an adjustment.

### Here's an analogy of the three levels of basic gray coverage.

1. Full coverage covers 100% of the gray with a one-process color. Think of this as wearing colored wool tights.
2. Demi-permanent coverage covers about 80% of your gray using a less pigmented dye. This process lets some

of your natural tone and gray hair show through. Think of this like wearing sheer, colored pantyhose.

3. No coverage, allowing your natural gray and silver color to come through completely, but glossing the hair to add shine, tone and eliminate yellow and brassy tones. Think of this like wearing sheer, nude pantyhose.

For decades, these three techniques were the standards for covering your gray, with most women opting for full coverage. This all-over, one-dimensional color application can be as light or dark as your natural or current color allows, but it will leave a hard line of regrowth at your roots. Modern formulas offer a wider range of hues and are more prismatic than their predecessors, but this technique still requires an appointment every 4-6 weeks. Many women, believing they still match their natural color, have dyed their hair this way for years. So many years, in fact, their original hair color has completely changed. But it's easy to get stuck in a rut. One process coverage works, but is it the best coverage for you now?

Gray, silver, and platinum hair is all the buzz, with more and more women ditching high-maintenance, monochromatic tones for more lived-in looks. Now, more than ever, you've got options.

### Have you heard about "Gray Blending?"

Gray blending is an umbrella term that describes the many techniques used to disguise and incorporate your gray hair. Without a hard line of regrowth, it's a more natural-looking alternative.

Gray blending techniques incorporate foil highlights and lowlights that vary in weight and placement to provide a highly customized color unique to you. There's gray blending for blonde hair and gray blending for dark hair, as well as auburn and red hair. Gray blending uses multiple shades of hair color to create a

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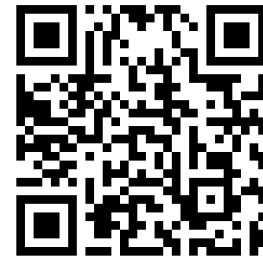


gradual transition that incorporates your gray hair with your natural color (or chosen base color.) With this multi-tonal technique, gray hairs aren't covered; they're enveloped within the pattern of color, resulting in a softer, more natural look that needs less maintenance than one-process color. You can choose to maintain your gray-blended look or use this process to slowly transition towards all gray.

### For clients who've been dyeing their hair a darker shade for years and want to grow out their natural color, you have a few options:

1. Using your previous color as a guide, your stylist can highlight or lowlight just around your face. Lowlights use the same technique as highlighting to apply color but use darker tones for depth and dimension. This method breaks up your gray regrowth and avoids a hard line of demarcation. It also allows clients with longer hair to pull it back in a ponytail, disguising their gray in the back.
2. Your stylist can also select a few areas where your gray hair is growing in, like through your part and around your face, and place a few strategically painted highlights they'll lift close to the color of your silver hair. A toner should then be applied to unify color, tone brassiness, and add shine.

Visit Our Gray Blending Page For More Info



Visit Our Website at bLUXE.com to Book an Appointment



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3. Choosing to stop dyeing your hair altogether is another option. Your hair grows about 1/2" to 3/4" per month, so growing your hair to a manageable, shoulder-length bob takes approximately a year and a half without intervention. Many people cut their hair short to remove most of the dyed hair and then let it grow out while getting regular trims to remove the remaining colored portions. Once the dyed hair is gone, your natural hair color can grow as long as desired.

4. Dying your entire head silver in one session is definitely an option, but one that comes with a few caveats. Many clients are curious about how long this process takes because they've seen incredible mega-transformation on social media. While it's technically possible for some people's hair to lift enough artificial color in one session, this level of alteration is uncommon. Despite online videos that seem to show quick and easy solutions, the truth is that these types of color appointments are costly and can take 10 to 12 hours in your stylist's chair, with no guarantee of the desired results.

5. We recommend a toner or tinted gloss for all gray-blending methods and existing gray clients. Natural gray hair can be yellow, brassy, or even mousy-brown. A toner will brighten and balance those undesirable tints, adding a mirror-like shine.

6. The timeline for hair regrowth varies from person to person and depends on factors such as the health and length of your hair, the coloring technique you and your stylist choose, and how quickly you want to achieve your desired transformation. Your stylist will likely want at least three to four months of regrowth to see your gray pattern. This time is not 100% necessary, but it allows your stylist to create the most effective color plan for you.

Once you start the transition process, you can expect your maintenance and upkeep to be about 8 to 12 weeks apart, depending on your chosen method. Typically, it takes about 3 to 4 salon visits to complete the process and get your hair to the desired state.

And remember, nothing is ever permanent! If gray blending isn't your thing, you can always go back. Your stylist is here for your aesthetic and whatever makes you feel most beautiful!

If you're curious about gray blending and would like more information, scan the QR code above to visit b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio's Gray Blending page that features before and after transformations.

b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio also offers complimentary color consultations.

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# Bishop Feehan Announces Second Quarter Honor Roll 2023-2024

## Holliston resident on list

Bishop Feehan Vice Principal for Academics Charlotte Lourenco is proud to announce the Honor Roll students for the second quarter. Those students include Susannah Butler, grade 9, of Holliston, who received Second Honors.

Honor Roll is a recognition of high-performing students based on the student's overall average in any given quarter, regardless of the levels of their classes. Bishop Feehan has three levels of Honor Roll. First Honors is awarded to students whose overall average in that quarter is grade 93.00 or higher, Second Honors is grade 90.00 or higher, and Third Honors is 85.00 or higher, with no individual grade below 80.

For the entire honor roll, visit [www.bishopfeehan.com/apps/news/article/1885477](http://www.bishopfeehan.com/apps/news/article/1885477)

# Want to know more about Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors?

Whether you've recently moved to Holliston, just moved across town, or have lived in Holliston for years - Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors is a place to get to know your neighbors and give back to our great community. HNN is a not-for-profit organization that coordinates charitable, civic, and recreational events and activities. And no - you don't have to be new to be a newcomer. There is no time limit on when you can join or for how long you can be a member.

Our fundraisers like the Great Pumpkin Trail Walk & Touch A Truck events support community organizations including Hollis-

Book Club and Children's Playgroup with plans are underway for more fun get-togethers.

**Want to know more?** Join us at our **General Meeting Social** on **Wednesday, March 27th** from **7:00pm-8:00pm** at the **Holliston Historical Society Asa Whiting House**. Meet the Executive Board and Activity Committee members and hear how HNN might be the place for you. Coffee and a dessert table will be available. For more information, email [hnnexecutiveboard@gmail.com](mailto:hnnexecutiveboard@gmail.com) and check us out at [hollistonnewcomers.org](http://hollistonnewcomers.org).

Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors - Building Friendships, Building Community



HNN gives back by coordinating the Thanksgiving & Easter drives for the Holliston Pantry Shelf as well as Thanksgiving Meals for Seniors delivering a holiday meal to their homes.

ton Parks & Recreations Summer Concerts & Holliston Public Library Museum Passes. Plus there are many member groups and events for both adults and children including a monthly

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# Holliston Fire Department receives grant for safety equipment

In February, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced \$5 million in awards to 321 Massachusetts fire departments through the state's Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program.

"Every single day, firefighters across Massachusetts put themselves in harm's way to protect their communities," said Governor Maura Healey. "They deserve our thanks and our

support. The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program is just one way we can express our appreciation for that selfless dedication."

As part of the reimbursement grant program, Holliston received \$19,000.

Fire departments across Massachusetts were invited to apply to the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program, which provides reimbursement on

purchases of 135 different types of eligible equipment. Eligible items include hoses and nozzles, turnout gear, ballistic protective equipment, gear washers and dryers, thermal imaging cameras, hand tools and extrication equipment, communications resources, hazardous gas meters, and more. In many cases, the purchase of this equipment will help departments attain compliance with Occupational

Safety & Health Administration or National Fire Protection Association safety standards. This is the fourth year that funding has been awarded through the program.

"The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants are an investment in the health and safety of Massachusetts firefighters," said State Fire Marshal Jon Davine. "The flexibility of the program is especially valuable because it allows each department to make purchases based on their specific needs and resources. It has become a vital part of the way the Massachusetts fire service pre-

pares for the constantly evolving threats in the world around us."

"Firefighters who have the proper protective gear and contemporary rescue tools are much better able to protect themselves and the residents they serve," said Hyannis Fire Chief Peter Burke, President of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts. "These grant awards will have immeasurable impacts on public safety in Massachusetts for years to come."

For a full list of recipients, visit [bit.ly/FirefighterSafetyEquipGrants2024](http://bit.ly/FirefighterSafetyEquipGrants2024)

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# Real Estate Corner

## Recent Home Sales

Date	Holliston	Amount
02/13/2024	62 Locust St.	\$610,000
02/12/2024	58 Avon St.	\$1.00 mil
02/12/2024	71 Winter St.	\$543,000
02/09/2024	147 Turner Rd. #62	\$205,000
02/05/2024	300 Concord St.	\$500,000
01/25/2024	229 Dalton Rd.	\$765,000

## Select Board approves 3% water rate increase, average household to see \$20 annual increase

By THERESA KNAPP

At its meeting on Feb. 5, the Holliston Select Board held a public hearing and unanimously voted to increase the FY25 water rates by three percent.

Town Administrator Travis Ahern explained, "It's a 3% increase on the four tiers. The only change to the flat fees is to go from \$7.50 to [\$8.00] for the water meter fee. The net impact to a user of 90 HCF [aka 9,000 CF] which is equivalent to 67,325 gallons per year... that's set to be a household by

the AWWA [American Water Works Association]...the net impact of that one change, the 50 cents increase on the meter fee, and 3% increase on the tiers, for a 90 HCF user is projected to be an increase of 2.18 percent."

Select Board member Tina Hein specified that the 2.18% rate increase translates to an average increase of \$20.27 per year per household.

The rates go into effect on July 1, 2024.

To see view the detailed worksheet, visit [bit.ly/HollistonWaterRatesFY25](http://bit.ly/HollistonWaterRatesFY25)

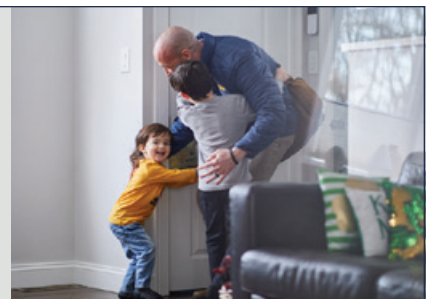


The 2-bed, 2-bath, 1,630 square foot house at 71 Winter Street in Holliston recently sold for \$543,000.. Source: [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com) / Compiled by Local Town Pages

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# Sports

## Simpson Eclipses 1000 Points

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

On Tuesday Jan. 30, Holliston's Megan Simpson was able to put forth the ultimate revenge on the Norwood girls' basketball team.

Playing in front of the Mustangs home crowd, the Holliston point guard stole the ball in the defensive zone and ran the length of the court to put in a layup that would push her varsity career scoring total over 1,000 points.

Ironically, it was Norwood who first started to put a lot of pressure on the Holliston athlete when she first took to the court as a freshman.

"As a freshman I was able to score pretty well against the TVL (Tri-Valley League), but it was Norwood that was the first team to face guard me," Simpson said. "They were putting everyone on me everywhere I went, they always had someone on me, so it was ironic that I eventually scored my 1,000 point against them."

Despite the Mustangs shadowing the Panther guard all over the floor, her Holliston teammates would help her to get open and score and if she didn't have the opportunity, she'd dish it off to a teammate to whom would be able.

To be able to do it against Norwood was sweet revenge.

"Prior to the Norwood game, my father had mentioned it to me how they had started a trend



within the rest of the league and the way that they guarded me," she said. "It was crazy how it all matched up and it was against them when I hit my 1000 point."

Scoring 1000 points as a varsity basketball player wasn't something that was ever on Simpson's radar. However, after improving her 13.2 points per game as a freshman to 20.7 the following year.

"I had never thought about it until my sophomore year when I was the second leading scorer in the TVL (Simpson currently leads the league this year averaging 19.6 points per game). It was then I stated to realize that it was a possibility of it happening," she said. "I started to notice the banner in the gym at practice with all the names of those who had already accomplished the feat and my teammates would continually remind me that my name was going to eventually be up there."

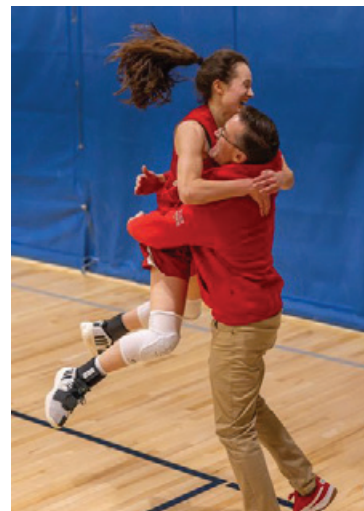
Going into the Norwood game the junior needed only a mere 3-points to put her name on the Holliston banner with the likes of Kara Wolters, who went on to win championships with UCONN, Team USA in the Olympics and in the WNBA. Simpson knew that it was going to happen and most likely in the first quarter.

"It was really nerve-wracking; there was a huge crowd of family and friends that traveled to Norwood," Simpson said. "If we had been at home, it would have been much more of a larger crowd, but it didn't matter as the people that were close to me were there."

According to the junior, she just wanted to take the court and play Holliston basketball. She didn't plan on forcing anything, she just wanted to take her normal shots and play her game. On the play before she hit Holliston immortality, she was fouled and hit both of her free-throws to put her within one point.

Back on defense, Simpson stole the ball and took it full court for the lay-up and realizing what she had just accomplished went running and jumped into her father's arms on the sidelines. The game was stopped, and she was recognized and given the game ball.

"It was an amazing feeling and after I hit the shot, I ran over to my father and gave him a big hug as he's been my number one supporter," she said. "The team then ran over to me and we all celebrated. This means a lot to me, all the hard work I put in to



get to this moment, especially only being a junior. I couldn't have done this without my family, coaches, and teammates."

While Simpson may have never thought about this moment, Holliston Coach Kurt Lorenzen knew that he had a special talent in the young guard that came to him three years ago.

"You could tell right away that she was a skilled basketball player, especially on offense," the Panther Coach said. "Megan likes to create her own shot and you can sense her scoring ability as a younger player. Her main attribute is her competitiveness to win."

Basketball was brought into her life at a very young age; her father had played in college and her brother in high school so it was inevitable that she would be encouraged to play herself. The family didn't have to push too hard as she soon found that she loved the sport.

"It's a team sport that everyone must contribute to be successful," she said, "There is no break in the game; defense

quickly turns into offense and being a really competitive person, I liked that fact."

Simpson would begin her basketball career playing in the Holliston Youth Basketball League before joining a club team, the Bay State Jaguars in middle school. Having played for the Jaguars she found herself truly grateful as it was an important facet in her adjusting to high school basketball.

As she entered high school and prepared for tryouts, Coach Lorenzen had reached out to the incoming freshman having seen her play with the middle school team. At this point Simpson had a good feeling that she'd be on the varsity team, but not in the capacity that she eventually ended up in.

"I had an important role on the varsity team, which was a surprise, but it gave me the confidence that I needed to play on this level," Simpson said. "Originally there was a little bit of pressure as I had to go out and perform well in this fast-paced game with a bunch of juniors and seniors."

Luckily, she found out quickly that her new teammates were all supportive and welcoming to her. Now, three years later they are celebrating her success.

With roughly a year and half of basketball games with Holliston, at the time of this writing, Simpson is trying to look into the future to see what the rest of her career will look like.

"By the end of my senior year I could have around 1500 points, but it all depends," she said. "This was something that I never dreamed about and although it is a relief that it is over my main focus is back to the team and having success on the courts. I'm not worried about what my totals are like."

Although basketball has been her one and only sport since she entered high school, the junior is unsure if it will be part of her life after graduating from Holliston. At this time, she has not decided if she wants to play on the collegiate level, but if she does it will just be another big accomplishment in her career.

## Hall Of Fame Induction Tickets Available

Tickets are now available for the second annual Holliston High School Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony to be held Saturday, March 23, at 6PM at the DoubleTree Hotel in Milford.

Scheduled for induction are former baseball coach Harvey Krupnick and cross-country coach Phil Ryan. Former student athletes to be inducted are Tom Laronga '53, Bill Gillin '71, Dave Caligaris '74, Meg Patterson '98, Katie Hall '00, and Shawna Rossini '03, along with the 1987 state champion baseball team and 1997 state champion field hockey team.

Tickets are available online at <https://gofan.co/event/1366150?schoolid=MA14592> Pricing is \$75/ea, with tickets for prior inductees and members of newly inducted teams \$45/ea



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