

## Special Town Meeting passes \$1.17 million override, now must pass Sept. 10 special election

BY THERESA KNAPP

At a Special Town Meeting on June 20, Holliston voters passed a \$1.17 million Proposition 2 1/2 override intended to amend the town's FY25 budget and send funds to the school department. The override must now pass at a Sept. 10 special election in order to go into effect.

This is the town's first requested override in 14 years, according to town officials.

The override included \$1,126,021 for the "School Department" to fund a school teacher contract that was settled after the town's Annual Town Meeting in May; and \$44,345 to "Personnel By-Law Chart (Town) - HR Budget," which Select Board Chair Tina Hein explained is to "mitigate the growing pay disparity" amongst 43 other employees, per an internal salary audit.

Hein said the 1.5% [cost of living adjustment] in fiscal year 2024 and 2025 has led to pay disparity and the override leads to an opportunity to address that issue.

In his presentation, Holliston School Committee Chair Dan Alfred said passing the override would:

- Increase student time on learning by 15 minutes per day;
- Put in place a process to look at potential schedule changes in the middle and high schools;

*The override must now pass at a Sept. 10 special election in order to go into effect.*

- Keep Holliston teachers competitively compensated; and
- Increase competitiveness of entry-level wages.

Alfred explained, "As far as the breakdown goes, about \$800,000 is for the teachers, \$200,000 for buses, and \$100,000 for 'other salaries.'"

"This contract is good for teachers, good for students, good for Holliston Public Schools, and good for Holliston," said Alfred.

The Holliston Select Board and Finance Committee supported the motion.

Town Meeting member Barbara Peatie proposed a motion to postpone the article indefinitely while the school committee could provide answers to various questions including how time

**OVERRIDE**  
*continued on page 2*



Past Holliston Citizens of the Year. A full list of previous recipients can be found at [www.celebrateholliston.com/previous-citizens-of-the-year.html](http://www.celebrateholliston.com/previous-citizens-of-the-year.html). Source: [www.celebrateholliston.com/vote.html](http://www.celebrateholliston.com/vote.html)

## Celebrate Holliston seeks nominations for Citizen of the Year

Celebrate Holliston is currently looking for nominations for Citizen of the Year 2024.

Do you know someone who is an extraordinary volunteer who is committed to making Holliston a very special place to live?

Nominations are open until Sept. 1 at [www.celebrateholliston.com/vote.html](http://www.celebrateholliston.com/vote.html). Forms and ballot boxes are also available at Town Hall, TC Scoops, Senior Center, and the Superette. Feel free to nominate as many people as you would like.

### Holliston Citizen of the Year 2024 nominating criteria:

- Resident of Holliston;
- Not a previous recipient;
- Someone who makes a consistent selfless contribution to the town, who has shown years of often-unrecognized contribution to making the town a better place.

**CELEBRATE**  
*continued on page 3*



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Special Town Meeting - 6/20/2024



Holliston Special Town Meeting approved a \$1.17 million operational override on June 10, 2024. To go into effect, it must also pass at a special election on Sept. 10, 2024.

Photo source: Holliston Cable Access

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**VERRIDE**

*continued from page 1*

on learning will be increased and “why they approved a contract the town cannot afford.” That motion was defeated.

After nearly 90 minutes, the article was moved and the override passed by a resounding voice vote.

Town officials say they will conduct “community conversations and discussions” between now and the September election where the question must pass to go into effect.

The full warrant article is available at [www.townofholliston.us](http://www.townofholliston.us). A recording of the Special Town Meeting can be found at [bit.ly/HollistonSTM06202024](http://bit.ly/HollistonSTM06202024)



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**CELEBRATE**

*continued from page 1*

The winners will be chosen by the Celebrate Holliston Committee at its early September meeting, and will be honored at Celebrate Holliston's 300th Anniversary and Field Day on Sept. 21.

Be sure to nominate an unsung hero of Holliston today!

**Celebrate Holliston 300th Celebration July events include:**



- July 2, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Farmer's Market
- July 4, 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.** – 4th of July Laser Show
- July 9, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Farmer's Market
- July 13, time TBA** – Olde Time Baseball Tournament
- July 16, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Farmer's Market
- July 23, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.** – Family Movie Night at The Park
- July 23, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Farmer's Market
- July 30, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Farmer's Market

Source: [www.celebrateholliston.com/300th-calendar.html](http://www.celebrateholliston.com/300th-calendar.html)

# Town holds weekly Farmer's Markets through Oct. 15

Holliston is holding a weekly farmer's market on Tuesdays through October 15.

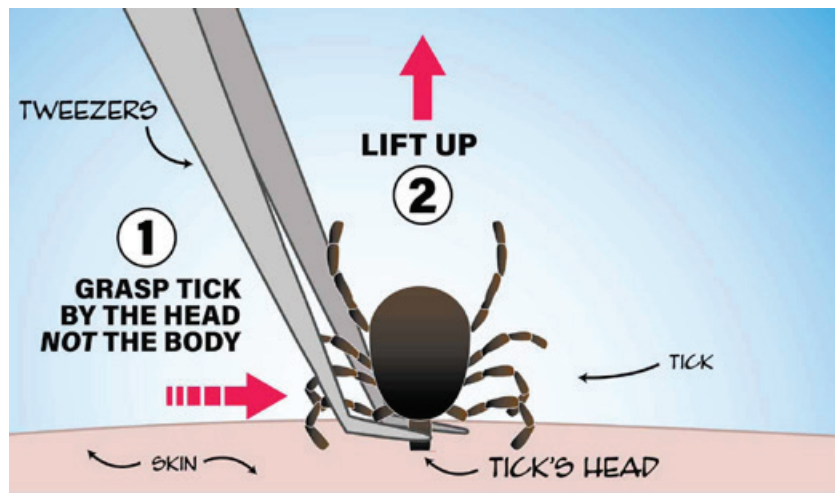
Markets are held from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Holliston Mills Building, 24 Water Street.

Available items include fresh produce, prepared foods, food trucks, baked goods, and artisanal goods. Visitors can also enjoy a beer garden, petting zoo, observational beehive, vintage cars, live

music, bubbles, and more.

Source: [www.celebrateholliston.com](http://www.celebrateholliston.com)

# Tick Safety



Removing a tick with a pair of tweezers

**When it comes to protection, the most important aspect is keeping ticks from getting on to your body. When you go outside be sure to:**

Spray yourself with a bug repellent containing DEET, and wear long-sleeved pants and shirts, tucking pants into socks or shoes. When you come in from outside, remove clothing and put in the dryer on high heat. Take a shower and perform a full body check. What to do if you find a tick on you: Once found, the tick should be removed as soon as possible. Here's how: Using fine-tipped tweezers grasp the tick as close to your skin as possible, pull upwards with steady pressure, not twisting. After the tick is removed, clean the skin with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.

**Common symptoms of tick-related illness to watch for:**

- Fever
- Aches and Pains
- Headache
- Fatigue □ Muscle Aches

With Lyme Disease, you may also experience joint pain and a rash; some people may develop a Bullseye rash, but not all.

Please contact the Ashland Board of Health Office for further information or if you have any questions. (508)881-0100 x 1975.

Spring is tick season, here is what you need to know to stay safe: There are two main tick seasons during the year: The first peak starts in spring (March to early April) and continues through the summer, with most activity between June and August. These are often the top months for ticks in Massachusetts as these insects thrive in warm, humid weather.



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# Family-run Affordable Junk Removal takes the stress out of cleanups

By CHRISTIE VOGT  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you



get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible, properly disposes of non-recyclables and resells many items at the Schadlers' secondhand store, Resellables. "We opened that store in Bellingham because we hated to see things thrown away," Schadler says. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

## Business spotlight

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company



Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children and dog, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.



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with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the back-end while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 17 years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place in Holliston, The Corner Market."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to

see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

As for Holliston in particular, Schadler says they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area. "In addition to our junk removal business, Holliston residents have been so important to The Corner Market, especially during the pandemic," Schadler says. "We have really appreciated their support." The Schadlers have also sponsored and hosted monthly fundraisers for several sports teams and organizations in Holliston.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

To receive a free junk removal estimate, call 774-287-1133 or visit affordablejunkremoval.com.

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# Love music and our community? Come to the July 26 Community Sing at Holliston Historical Society!

Bring your love of music and community to the Society from 7:00-8:00 PM on Friday evening, July 26 (Rain or shine, since we will be singing in the barn)! Join friends and neighbors of all ages to sing a wide variety of favorite songs from many decades.

We're delighted to welcome Amy Conley, M.Ed., as our music-master and song-leader for the evening. Amy is a performer and teacher of music living in Milford, NH. For over 30 years she has created and worked in a variety of musical settings with all ages, from infants to seniors. Her programs always involve singing, several instruments and fun! Amy has been a preschool music specialist since 1986 and also taught Music Together programs for early childhood from 1997-2020. In 2012 she started Ukulele Rev-



olution, music school for ukulele, piano, guitar, banjo. She travels around NH and beyond to present ukulele workshops and sing-along concerts for young and old. You're invited to bring along

a picnic supper beginning at 6:00 PM. The Historical Society will be selling soft drinks and ice cream treats until 6:45. There will be seating in the barn, and you are welcome to bring lawn blankets or chairs, if you wish.

Community Sings are a great tradition in the United States and around the world. They're not concerts—everyone shares in the music-making and no experience or special talent is required! We hope many of the tunes will be familiar (patriotic, summertime, country, kids, and folk are some of the types we have in mind), and we plan to have the lyrics available.

So, let's raise our spirits and sweeten our sense of community by singing together! Hope to see you on July 26th!



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# What to know before 'reversing' your retirement



Mark Freeman

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If you've retired, you may have thought you closed the book on one chapter of your life. But what happens if you need to "reverse" your retirement?

Due to higher inflation and rising interest rates, many retirees are taking out more money from their retirement accounts than they had originally an-

tipulated. As a result, some are headed back to the workforce. If you're thinking of joining them, you'll need to consider some factors that may affect your finances.

First, if you've been taking Social Security, be aware that you could lose some of your benefits if you earn over a certain level, at least until you reach your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. Specifically, if you are under your full retirement age for the entire year, Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefit payments for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit, which, in 2024, is \$22,320. In the year you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above a different limit, which, in 2024, is \$59,520.

Social Security will only count your earnings up to the month before you reach your

full retirement age, at which point your earnings will no longer reduce your benefits, regardless of how much you earn. Also, Social Security will recalculate your benefit amounts to credit you for the months your payments were reduced due to your excess earnings. Social Security also allows you to pay back early benefits received if you withdraw your application within 12 months of starting benefits. This move could help you receive substantially higher benefits at full retirement age.

Your Social Security isn't the only benefit that could be affected by your earnings. Your Medicare Part B and Part D premiums are based on your income, so they could rise if you start earning more money. Also, your extra income could push you into a higher tax bracket.

Nonetheless, you can certainly gain some benefits by returning to the working world.

Obviously, you'll be making money that can help you boost your daily cash flow and possibly reduce some debts. But depending on where you work, you might also be able to contribute to a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. And regardless of where you work, you'll be eligible to contribute to an IRA. By putting more money into these accounts, you may well be able to strengthen your financial position during your retirement years. You might also be able to receive some employee benefits, such as group health insurance — which could be particularly valuable if you haven't yet started receiving Medicare.

In addition to the potential financial advantages of going back to work, you might get some social benefits, too. Many people enjoy the interactions with fellow workers and miss these exchanges when they retire, so a return to the workforce,

even if it's on a part-time basis, may give you an emotional boost.

In the final analysis, you'll want to weigh the potential costs of going back to work against the possible benefits. There's no one right answer for everyone, but by looking at all the variables, you should be able to reach a decision that works for you.

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

Mark Freeman  
Edward Jones Financial Advisor  
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# Select Board approves downtown sites for public art exhibit

By THERESA KNAPP

At its meeting on May 28, the Holliston Select Board approved the use of the following locations as sites to host a temporary public art exhibit in the downtown area:

- Blair Square pavilion (art to be on doors)
- Electrical box at 799 Washington Street
- Electrical box at on Hollis Street

The façade of the local CVS, which is private property, will also serve as a public art site.

The exhibit is part of a Metropolitan Area Planning Council Regional Trails Creative Placemaking Strategy Grant.

The unveiling of the art is expected to be sometime in August.



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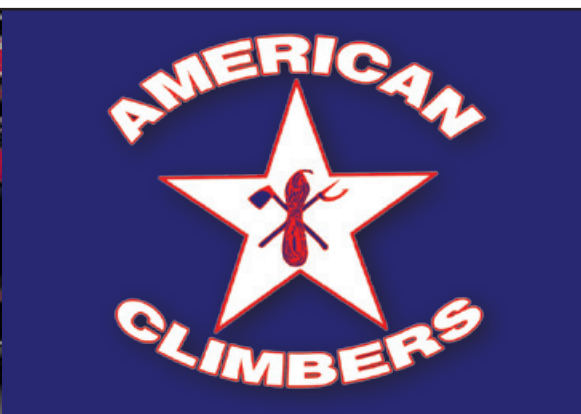






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# Joint Operations and "Thanks to Yanks" Celebrate Successful Donation Drive for Veterans and Deployed Troops

June 3rd, 2024 - Joint Operations, a prominent cannabis dispensary with three locations across Massachusetts, is thrilled to announce the tremendous success of their recent donation drive in collaboration with the

esteemed non-profit organization "Thanks to Yanks." The drive, which began on May 18th and continued until Memorial Day, generated significant donations aimed at supporting deployed troops and veterans in need.



Joint Operations District Manager Daniel Lencioni (middle) stands alongside Jillian Roberts, District Project Coordinator (right), and Mike Shain, founder of the non-profit "Thanks to Yanks" (left). They are pictured just before boxing up a significant collection of donation items gathered during a recent drive.

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7/2 - 7/8

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The initiative, which took place across all three Joint Operations locations in Mendon, Rowley, and Gardner, saw an outpouring of generosity from customers and community members alike. Jillian Roberts, District Project Coordinator at Joint Operations, expressed her gratitude for the overwhelming support: "We are deeply thankful to everyone who contributed to support our deployed troops and veterans in need. The extended donation period allowed us to gather an impressive number of essential items."

The collaboration with Mike Shain, the founder of "Thanks to Yanks," underscores Joint Operations' unwavering commitment to honoring and assisting military members, veterans, and their families. The collected items, which included toiletries, non-perishable food, and other essentials, will directly benefit those who bravely serve our nation.

"We are immensely proud to stand alongside 'Thanks to

Yanks' in this noble endeavor," stated Roberts. "Our collective efforts symbolize our gratitude and unwavering support for those who have sacrificed so much for our country. We look forward to future collaborations with Thanks to Yanks."

Joint Operations extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the donation drive, making a significant difference in the lives of our deployed troops and veterans. The community's generosity is a powerful reminder of the collective support for those who serve our nation with valor.

For further information or inquiries, please contact: Jillian Roberts at [jillroberts@jointoperations.com](mailto:jillroberts@jointoperations.com)

About Joint Operations: Joint Operations is a co-veteran owned cannabis dispensary in Massachusetts, with three locations in Mendon, Rowley, and Gardner. Their mission is to redefine the cannabis experience by providing a welcoming environment where education, fun,

and wellness intersect. Through comprehensive education initiatives, they aim to empower the public with a deeper understanding of cannabis and its potential benefits.

For more information, please visit: [www.jointoperations.com](http://www.jointoperations.com)

About "Thanks to Yanks": Thanks To Yanks is a non-political 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to supporting military members, veterans, and their families. Founded by Michael Shain in 2006, the organization began with a 9/11 Tribute Dinner to honor the sacrifices of military families in response to the 9/11 attacks. Thanks To Yanks continues to make a significant impact through its honorable initiatives, providing vital support and resources to the military and veteran communities. The organization promotes civilian respect for current and past military members, reservists, and their families, and it is

### DONATION

*continued on page 11*



Your Money, Your Independence

# Summer, Summer, Summertime - Time To Sit Back and... Experience Spend



Glenn Brown, CFP

Recall your age 21 summer? Mine had DJ Jazzy Jeff and Fresh Prince's "Summertime" as a soundtrack. Days spent gathering with friends at backyard BBQ's, a pool or restaurant patios in Portsmouth, then 6 nights a week "working" as a DJ in various clubs on Hampton Beach.

When we reminisce about our past, we recall experiences. Examine further, you'll likely realize the small windows of opportunity to enjoy them. For example, two years later I'd be in Florida, working for a minor league baseball team and able to see just one of those friends.

Life is constantly evolving, and moments once passed cannot be relived. Embracing experience spending encourages individuals to seize opportunities to enjoy life while they can. It shifts focus from material wealth to emotional wealth — the happiness,

satisfaction, and memories that come from shared experiences and personal adventures.

### Why experience spending?

Beyond the concept of having greater value for experiences versus things, studies find people misjudge what purchases will make them happy, how happy they will feel, and how long that happiness lasts.

Spending money on experiences creates more and longer-lasting happiness than spending on material goods, which people are more prone to comparisons and buyer's remorse. Also, objects tend to deteriorate with time, while experiences can create lasting memories and become part of your identity.

### The challenges of getting advice to spend money.

The financial industry, in particular investment management and financial planning, places too little emphasis on helping clients spend money for today's experiences.

There are various reasons as to why. Advisors paid solely by % of Assets Under Management don't want assets taken out, as it results in them earning less. For financial planners, it's easier (and safer) to model goals 15-20 years out, whereas spending now makes analysis harder to balance future outcomes. Furthermore, clients see the impact of recommendations immediately and can judge accordingly.

### Timing of experiences is critical.

Consider the family vacation to Disney, it is a different shared experience for all going when kids are 6 & 8 versus late teens.

Or the HS senior and family trip you've been meaning to do. What's their availability (and desire) once in college to go on a family trip with mom and dad? That window's closing.

### It's not limited to just travel.

Saving up for a big purchase is admirable. But in terms of your happiness, is this the best way to allocate finite resources? For many, happiness is more closely aligned to the frequency and variations as opposed to intensity.

Ask yourself if you'd be happier with a few big-ticket items, such as a luxury car, or rather indulge frequently in small purchases, such as cooking clubs, memberships, kid's activities, and spa days?

### Financial considerations.

While experience spending prioritizes moments over materialism, it also requires mindful financial planning of your resources. Budgeting involves allocating funds for activities that align with personal values and goals. It encourages responsible spending by focusing on the long-term benefits of enriching experiences while balancing your financial stability and security.

For instance, imagine parents trying to make up for lost time, now wanting to take the family on a luxury vacation. Sure, they could choose to do that. But would it have been better to have done prudent financial planning all those years of sacrifice by assessing current financial health, setting a realistic budget, and exploring cost-effective alternatives that still deliver a memorable experience? Furthermore, this approach removes the build-up of unrealistic expectations and places the focus on making memories together.

I hope you enjoy your "summer, summer, summertime" and may you have "time to sit back and unwind" together.

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

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of PlanDynamic, LLC, [www.PlanDynamic.com](http://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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# The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

## The b.LUXE Mature Makeup Makeover

By GINA WOELFEL

### EMBRACE YOUR AGE WITH CONFIDENCE

b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio believes that age is just a number and women at every stage in life deserve to feel beautiful and confident in their makeup. Mature skin is unique, and what worked in our 30s may differ from what's best for us in our 40s and 50s. And as we reach our 60s and 70s, our makeup needs will change again. That's why we're thrilled to introduce our exclusive Ma-

ture Makeup Makeover Service, a tailored offering designed to address the specific needs of mature women.

Renowned Makeup Artist Madison Elliott is the face of the new Mature Makeup Makeover. With extensive experience in the industry, Madison has worked with numerous celebrities, fashion icons, and top brands. Her specialty is enhancing natural beauty and empowering women to embrace their unique features with grace and confidence.

Madison Elliott - "I started doing makeup because I loved



seeing people's reactions when they saw themselves for the first time in the mirror. I love that every client sitting in my chair feels like my friend when we're finished. Not everyone knows makeup, and learning the proper techniques can be overwhelming. I love teaching makeup! It makes me so happy when my clients tell me they love the eyeliner trick I taught them or that the foundation we chose feels so natural. When they tell me they love how they look, it's the most wonderful reminder of why I chose to be a makeup artist."

There's been a noticeable shift in recent years in social media, television, and advertising to better showcase and represent older women. New makeup companies are targeting the 40-plus age group, which shows progress in providing products for those of us with a few more smile lines. However, there is still much work to be done in makeup and department stores nationwide. While these products are a welcomed addition to our mature makeup selection, it would benefit cosmetic companies to educate their salespeople on appropriately recommending and applying their products to older skin.

We designed our Mature Makeup Makeover to help you perfect the techniques that address age-related makeup concerns and focus on the colors, textures, and methods that best complement your style for every occasion. Our bodies typically begin to slow down collagen production in our mid to late 20s or early 30s. Around the age of 40, the decline in our collagen levels can lead to common signs of aging, such as wrinkles, fine lines, and sagging skin. Menopause can further contribute to these changes and also impact facial volume. Adjusting our cosmetics and application approach to better suit our current needs allows us to emphasize our favorite features and feel more confident and comfortable with our outward appearance.

This month, Madison worked with one of our favorite, long-time clients, Deborah Sweet, for a session to discuss her makeup concerns and questions for someone over 50. Madison covered every aspect of makeup with Deborah, from product selection to application techniques, including brush and sponge selection. See Deb's before-and-after photos above or scan the QR code to visit our before-and-after gallery at bLUXE.com.

Deb Sweet - "Madison was incredible to work with! I've never had a makeover before and was initially a little uncomfortable with the idea. Madison immediately put me at ease. She helped me feel like I belonged in her chair and shared her passion and insight every step of the way. Madison's makeup expertise left me feeling like the best version of myself and has also carried over into my daily routine. I wouldn't hesitate to spend time in her chair again!"

### Mature Makeup Makeover

90 Minutes \$175 with a \$25 Cosmetic Credit

You'll receive a personalized consultation with Madison, a personal makeup bag analysis, a skincare and prep tutorial, practical makeup techniques and application, tips and tricks for emphasizing your best features, a take-home step-by-step guide to your makeover, and confidence-boosting results you'll love!

b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio believes that beauty is ageless and that all women should embrace their age with grace and confidence. We're here to help you do that!

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# Save the Date: Hazardous Waste Day Collections will be Aug. 3

Holliston residents can drop off household hazardous waste on Sat., Aug. 3, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Robert Adams Middle School 323 Woodland Street. For more information, includ-

ing a list of materials that can be collected, visit [bit.ly/Holliston-HazWasteDay](http://bit.ly/Holliston-HazWasteDay). Note, Holliston is part of a consortium and residents are eligible to attend other events listed below. If you would

like to go to another town, please go to the Select Board's office to get a voucher to attend.

SOURCE: WWW.TOWNOFHOLLISTON.US

## DONATION

*continued from page 8*

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## Would you like to receive your Holliston Senior Center newsletter digitally?

The Senior Center is happy to send you our newsletter to your email inbox, if you prefer. It is good for the environment and you will receive it sooner since you do not need to wait on the mail!

If you would like to join our email list, please email our Assistant Director, Amanda at [boralassaa@holliston.k12.ma.us](mailto:boralassaa@holliston.k12.ma.us) or call us at 508-429-0622



## Meet Beautiful Aspen

Baypath Humane Society introduces Aspen, a beautiful and affectionate 4-year-old lady looking for her forever home.

Aspen loves to snuggle and enjoys spending time with her humans. She is moderately active, smart, and enjoys training. She knows commands like stay, come, down, sit, and place.

She walks well on a leash and is calm during car rides. Though she's a bit anxious when meeting new people, she quickly warms up with reassurance and enjoys attention and praise. Aspen loves showing off her zoomies and is eager to continue building confidence.

She is house-trained, does well when left alone, and is a wonderful house guest in her foster home. Aspen would thrive in a loving home with someone who can continue her training and provide lots of cuddles.

If you're ready to welcome a sweet, snuggly companion, apply today to adopt Aspen at [www.baypathhumane.org/available-dogs](http://www.baypathhumane.org/available-dogs).

Also, Aspen's adoption fee has been waived thanks to a generous sponsor, making it the perfect time to bring this sweet soul into your home!



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# Select Board Welcomes Dimmick, Appoints Hein as Chair

By THERESA KNAPP

At its meeting on May 28, the first since the town's annual election, the Holliston Select Board welcomed Damon D. Dimick to the table.

Dimick was elected to the board after a close race. He was ultimately declared the winner of the seat after a recount confirmed he won by one vote.

The board also reorganized and selected Tina Hein as Chair; Benjamin Sparrell as Vice Chair; and Damon Dimick as Clerk.

# Monday and Wednesday Lunch Menu

Monday & Wednesday meals are a \$3 donation

Please call the CENTER at least 2 business days in advance for reservation at 508-429-0622.

**Monday, July 1:** BAKED HADDOCK, Multi-grain Rice, Steamed Zucchini, and Apple Pie.

**Wednesday, July 3:** CHEF SALAD, Minestrone Soup, Fresh Berries and Lemon Sorbet.

**Monday, July 8:** PASTA PRIMAVERA CHICKEN, Cucumber Salad, Vanilla Cake.

**Wednesday, July 10:** BLT on Wholegrain Toast with Broccoli Cheddar Soup and Fresh Fruit Cup.

**Monday, July 15:** PULLED PORK, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Corn Bread, and Frozen Yogurt.

**Wednesday, July 17:** TURKEY BURGER with CHEESE on WHOLE WHEAT BUN, Sweet Potato fries, Steamed Green Beans and Oat-meal Cookies.

**Monday, July 22:** SPINACH & CHICKEN FETTUCINI ALFREDO with Tomato-Mozzarella Salad, and Fresh Cut Cantaloupe

**Wednesday, July 24:** EGG SALAD SANDWICH ON WHOLEGRAIN BREAD, Chips, Vegetable Soup and Dessert.

**Monday, July 29:** HAM, BROCCOLI and CHEDDAR QUICHE, Garden Salad and Frozen Fruit Pops.

**Wednesday, July 31:** Summer Sizzler\*\*\* Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Hot Dogs, Pasta Salad, Garden salad, Watermelon and a Frozen Treat.

A \$5 donation requested. RSVP by July 23 508-429-0622

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(Excludes special, "holiday" Luncheons. One lunch per member, per year!!)

# Have you read the new Town Administrator's newsletter?

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

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

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

To subscribe, visit [www.townofholliston.us/subscribe](http://www.townofholliston.us/subscribe)

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# 'The Center' seeks public input on new logo

## Current logo is outdated, does not reflect current programming

By THERESA KNAPP

The Holliston Senior Center, known as "The Center," is seeking ideas for a new logo.

The current logo, which is outdated and seldom used, needs updating, says Holliston Senior Center Director Lisa S. Borchetta, and town officials have turned to the public for its help.

"The Council on Aging and The Center are currently in the process of updating and re-branding our front-facing materials to reflect the broader reach of services and programs that are offered here," said Borchetta, noting they are looking for "a visual symbol that captures and enlivens the image of the diverse and vital residents we serve; images speak volumes!"

The Center is not just for senior citizens as it serves people over a five-decade age span, and a new logo should reflect that.

"We have members here in their 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, and occasionally 100s," said Borchetta. "Holliston's 55+ population is currently about 24% of the total population, and that number is expected to grow to 35% by 2030."

The new logo be used for print and promotional materials, social media, etc., and the contest is open to anyone of any age and any town. The new name and tag line is:

### The Center

**Where Age Inspires Endless Possibilities...Connect, Learn, Thrive**

Said Borchetta, "We know there are many talented and creative folks out there who would love the opportunity to participate in an enduring, public project like this and we want to give the residents and creative folks of all ages the opportunity



The current logo for "The Center" in Holliston needs updating, existing versions are blurry and unusable. The public is encouraged to submit innovative and distinctive suggestions by Aug. 31.

Source: [www.TownPlanner.com](http://www.TownPlanner.com)

to participate in this exciting opportunity."

"The Council on Aging is really excited to be taking on this extensive review of The Center's messaging and looks forward to reviewing the submissions," said Borchetta.

The deadline for submissions is Aug 31. Entrants are encouraged to create "an innovative, distinctive logo" and submit it to [cainy@holliston.k12.ma.us](mailto:cainy@holliston.k12.ma.us) and/or [borchettal@holliston.k12.ma.us](mailto:borchettal@holliston.k12.ma.us). The Council on Aging will review submissions and decide how they would like to proceed. All entries become the property of the Town of Holliston.

### The Center

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<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:30 Coloring &amp; Coffee 11:00 Yoga 12:00 <b>Weekly Lunch***</b> 1:00 Tai Chi 1:30 Games Day</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>10: 00 Writer's Group 10:00 <b>Coffee with HPD</b> 10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt 11:00 <b>Rainbow Coffee Hour</b> 12:00 Zumba Gold</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>11:00 Yoga 12:00 <b>Weekly Lunch***</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>  <p><b>Center Closed</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Center Closed in observance of the July 4th holiday!</b></p>	
<p>9:30 Coloring &amp; Coffee 11:00 Yoga at <b>Christ the King Church</b> 12:00 <b>Weekly Lunch***</b> 12:30 <b>Senate President Spilka's Office - Listening Hour</b> 1:00 Tai Chi 1:30 Games Day</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>10:00 <b>Legal Advice with Marsden Law PC***</b> 10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt 12:00 Zumba Gold 1:30pm <b>Library Training***</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>11:00 Yoga at <b>Christ the King Church</b> 12:00 <b>Weekly Lunch***</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>9:00 Pilates 10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt 1:00 Mah Jongg Open Play</p> 	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>1:00 Tune Timers</p>	
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:30 Coloring and Coffee 11:00 Yoga 12:00 <b>Weekly Lunch***</b> 1:00 Tai Chi 1:30 Games Day</p> 	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt 12:00 Zumba Gold</p> 	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>11:00 Yoga 12:00 <b>Weekly Lunch***</b> 12:00 <b>SHINE***</b></p> 	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>9:00 Pilates 10:30 <b>Vet's Coffee</b> 10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt 1:00 Mah Jongg Open Play</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>10:00 Functional Fitness for the Brain &amp; Body 10:00 <b>Grief Support Group***</b> 1:00 Tune Timers</p>	
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:30 Coloring and Coffee 10:00 <b>Legal Advice with Attorney Bergeron***</b> 12:00 <b>Weekly Lunch***</b> 1:00 Tai Chi 1:30 Games Day</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt 12:00 Zumba Gold 1:30pm <b>Historian Presentation: Forgotten Patriots: Little Known Heroes of the American Revolution***</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>9:00 <b>Podiatry***</b> 9:30 Walking Fitness 12:00 <b>Weekly Lunch***</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>9:00 Pilates 9:30 <b>Java with Jay***</b> 10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt 12:00 <b>Lunch &amp; Movie***</b> 1:00 Mah Jongg Open Play</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>10:00 Functional Fitness for the Brain &amp; Body 12:00 <b>Dementia Friendly Lunch*** at Sherborn Town Hall</b> 1:00 Tune Timers</p>	
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:30 Coloring and Coffee 11:00 Yoga at <b>Christ the King Church</b> 12:00 <b>Weekly Lunch***</b> 1:00 Tai Chi 1:30 Games Day</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>10:00 Meditation at <b>Christ the King Church</b> 10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt 12:00 Zumba Gold</p> 	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>11:00 Yoga at <b>Christ the King Church</b> 12:00 <b>Summer Sizzler cookout***</b> 12:00 <b>SHINE***</b></p>		<p><b>***RESERVATIONS ARE REQUESTED IN ADVANCE. CALL THE SENIOR CENTER AT 508-429-0622</b></p>	



# Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards \$1.6 Million in Fire Safety Grants

## Holliston Fire Department Receives Funding for Fire & Life Safety Education

The Healey-Driscoll Administration today announced that 214 municipal fire departments across Massachusetts will share \$1.6 million in competitive grants to support fire and life safety education for school-age children and older adults.

Holliston received \$4700 for the SAFE program, and \$2200 for the senior SAFE program.

Since 1995, the Department of Fire Services' Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) grant program has supported firefighter-educators who deliver age-appropriate fire safety education to kids and teens across Massachusetts. In that time, the number of children who die in fires has dropped to historically low levels, from two dozen or more per year to zero for nearly three consecutive years.

"The SAFE grants have been helping local fire departments deliver life-saving lessons to Massachusetts' young people for nearly 30 years," said Governor Maura Healey. "This year's awards continue that legacy of fire safety education for our most vulnerable residents and their families. Our Administration is committed to helping every community protect its residents through public safety programs like this one."

In 2014, DFS launched the Senior SAFE program, which is geared toward another vulnerable population – older adults,

who face a disproportionate risk of death or serious injury in a fire.

"Senior SAFE connects firefighter-educators with senior centers, councils on aging, and other community-based resources in a unique state-local partnership," said Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll. "Effective safety education, smoke and carbon monoxide alarm installation, and other grant-funded services are helping to keep our seniors safe at home."

In FY24, 214 municipal fire departments will split \$1,138,565.58 in SAFE funding and/or \$492,179.29 in Senior SAFE funding. Another 12 departments will share funding for regional SAFE and/or Senior SAFE programs.

"Fire safety education is a smart investment in the safety of our residents and the livability of our communities," said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy. "Children and older adults are historically the most at risk in a fire, but the SAFE and Senior SAFE grants are helping to provide them with the tools to protect themselves and their families."

"I'm deeply grateful to the trained firefighter-educators who are the backbone of the SAFE and Senior SAFE programs," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "They've reached hundreds of thousands of youngsters

and seniors with lessons that have prevented untold tragedies. I truly believe these grants are a key factor in making Massachusetts one of the most fire-safe states in the nation."

The S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE programs are funded through legislative earmarks to the Executive Office of the Public Safety & Security, and they are administered by the Department

of Fire Services. For more fire service grant opportunities, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/grants-for-fire-departments>.

## Boys of Summer

Holliston seniors baseball team played their final game of the season last month.



## HDAAC 2024 parent survey is open through Aug. 2

The Holliston Drug and Alcohol Awareness Coalition (HDAAC) 2024 Parent Survey is open through Aug. 2.

The purpose of the survey is to collect data and information to help direct Drug Free Communities grant funds and opioid abatement money into free community

The 24-question survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and can be found at [bit.ly/HDAACparentsurvey2024](https://bit.ly/HDAACparentsurvey2024)

If you have questions, or would like more information, contact Zoe Moreau, Coalition Coordinator, [moreauz@holliston.k12.ma.us](mailto:moreauz@holliston.k12.ma.us).



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# DPH Report: MA Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths Decreased 10% in 2023

## Drop in Fatal Overdoses Largest Decline in MA in 20 years

Opioid-related overdose deaths in Massachusetts decreased by 10 percent in 2023 – the largest single-year decline in two decades – according to preliminary data released today by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).

There were 2,125 confirmed and estimated opioid-related overdose deaths in 2023, which is 232 fewer than in 2022, when Massachusetts had a record 2,357 fatal opioid-related overdoses. Last year's opioid-related overdose death rate also decreased by 10 percent to 30.2 per 100,000 people compared to 33.5 in 2022.

“While we are encouraged by the overall decrease in overdose deaths, this report also is a reminder of the work that we still need to do to bring deaths down for all people and all areas of the state,” said Governor Maura Healey. “Our administration re-

mains committed to prioritizing prevention, treatment and recovery efforts to address the overdose crisis that continues to claim too many lives and devastate too many families in Massachusetts.”

“Our administration continues to invest in community-level supports rooted in destigmatizing substance use disorder by meeting people where they are and understanding the ways in which factors such as housing and economic insecurity intersect with health,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “We are hopeful that the numbers released in today's public health report signal a downward trend for fatal overdoses statewide.”

Preliminary data from the first three months of 2024 indicate a continued decline in opioid-related overdose deaths in Massachusetts, showing 507 confirmed and estimated deaths,

a 9 percent drop compared to estimates from the same time last year.

The decline in opioid-related overdose deaths last year was significant among white non-Hispanic men, whose overdose death rate declined 16 percent between 2022 and 2023, from 48.2 to 40.4 per 100,000 people. The data also show Black non-Hispanic residents continue to be disproportionately impacted by fatal opioid overdoses. Among Black non-Hispanic men, the rate of opioid-related overdose deaths increased from 80 per 100,000 in 2022 to 84.6 in 2023. American Indian non-Hispanics, along with Black non-Hispanic men and women, had the highest opioid-related overdose death rates last year among all racial/ethnic groups.

Looking at geographic diversity, the state's most rural areas continue to record the highest opioid-related overdose death rate at 35.6 per 100,000 residents compared to urban, suburban, and less rural areas.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration will continue initiatives to address the disproportionate impacts of fatal opioid overdoses on communities of color and in the most rural areas of the state. These investments include increasing access to peer-led spaces (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/peer-recovery-support-centers>) to support those in recovery, funding for low-threshold housing and services, expanding access to medications for opioid-use disorder, expanding the Black and Latino Men's Re-entry program, and developing a women's re-entry component. The administration's Fiscal Year 2025 budget proposes investing more than \$700 million for programs focused on substance addiction prevention, treatment, and harm reduction.

Drug overdose deaths in Massachusetts trended lower than nationwide figures last year, according to preliminary data released last month by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Nationwide, overall drug overdose deaths in 2023 were estimated to have dropped 3 percent compared to 2022, and 11 percent in Massachusetts. Deaths from opioid overdoses nationwide fell an estimated 4 percent in 2023, according to CDC.

The decline in opioid-related overdose deaths in Massachusetts in 2023 occurred despite a drug supply that continues to be heavily contaminated with fentanyl.

“Every overdose death is tragic, preventable and unacceptable,” said Secretary of Health and Human Services Kate Walsh. “While we are proud and encouraged that fewer Massachusetts residents were lost to overdose last year, we know that inequities persist, and our work is not done. Our understanding of where gaps in treatment and services occur, and the people who we are not

yet reaching, drives our work and helps focus our efforts. That said, we are heartened by these results and will continue to build on our evidence-based approach as we build a network of community-based, low-threshold harm reduction treatment and recovery programs across our state ...”

“It is heartening to see this significant decrease in fatal overdoses – a direct result of the ongoing hard work in our communities to reach those struggling with substance use disorder,” said Department of Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. “To sustain these hard-won gains, we must focus even more deeply on the populations that have not yet seen such dramatic improvements ...”

Massachusetts continues to invest in evidence-based harm reduction interventions to reduce fatal overdoses, increase awareness around the tainted street drug supply, and increase access to low-threshold services. This includes expanding access to naloxone, fentanyl test strips, and sterile consumption supplies. In 2022, DPH launched the Community Naloxone Purchasing Program to increase distribution of free naloxone through organizations, and directed funding to expand the state's overdose prevention helpline, SafeSpot (1-800-972-0590, [www.safe-spot.me](http://www.safe-spot.me)).

As part of DPH's ongoing commitment to transparency and data-sharing, the Opioid-related Overdose Deaths reports will be transitioned from their current format and incorporated into public-facing online dashboards.

Learn more about the Healey-Driscoll Administration's opioid overdose strategy at [www.mass.gov/doc/healey-driscoll-administration-opioid-strategy-june-2024/download](http://www.mass.gov/doc/healey-driscoll-administration-opioid-strategy-june-2024/download).

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# Sports

## Season of a Lifetime

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

When Holliston's girls' lacrosse coach, Ally Jacobs, had to leave the position due to her fulltime job, the Panthers were in need of someone to take over and fill her vacancy.

Senior midfielder Kaitlin O'Connell, who was returning to the team to play the sport in her senior season begged her mother to apply for the position. Kelly O'Connell was more than happy to apply but told her daughter that because she had only coached youth lacrosse that if anyone with more experience applied, they would most likely get the job over her.

O'Connell got the Panthers head coaching job but was apprehensive as to what she was getting into.

"I was beyond thrilled and excited to get the job, but I was always very nervous as I had never coached high school sports, I was just a youth lacrosse coach," the new varsity coach said. "It was exciting to get back into coaching and to be able to coach my daughters (senior Kaitlin and sophomore Lindsay) as well as all the girls that I had coached through the youth lacrosse program was unbelievable."

Coaching in the Holliston youth lacrosse program, O'Connell was very familiar with a large number of the girls who would play on the varsity team and those girls were more than excited to have her coach them once again. According to the new coach, it was more than heartwarming and it made her realize that she had made a good decision.

While it turned out to be a good move, O'Connell found herself in a predicament in the beginning trying to balance her job with the team's schedule. Once she got her practice plans in order, she found things weren't all that tough.

"The girls were all hard working and a pleasure to coach," O'Connell said. "It ended up being fun."

Along with Holliston JV Coach Paul Hickey, who would act as her varsity assistant, the two entered O'Connell's inau-

gural season with the Panthers just looking to improve upon last year's 7-9 regular season record and having only lost only two seniors from that team she was hopeful that the Panthers could accomplish that.

The Panthers went 8-10 during the regular season and was .500 in the Tri-Valley League and qualified for the Division 3 State Tournament earning a 15 seed. The Coach was aright with the team's seeding, the only issue she had was that once they defeated Dedham in the first round was who they had to play in the second round.

"The downfall was our second game," she said. "We had to drive two hours to Newburyport, had a little over an hour lightning delay only to get a beating (17-2) before driving 2 hours back home. It was a long ride knowing that we were going to get our butts kicked, but we were proud of the girls in getting there."

If it's any consolation Newburyport, the number two seed in the tournament, was getting ready to play in the State Championship game at the time of this writing was averaging 17 points a contest while only giving up 2.5 goals a game.

Playing in the TVL, Holliston found themselves with a rather tough schedule this season, especially to begin. The Panthers quickly found themselves in a negative hole at 1-5 to open the season. Despite the frustrating start O'Connell was optimistic with the teams they would square off against next. They did find themselves losing a few games here and there by one or two goals to teams that they should have beaten.

During O'Connell's first year with Holliston the Panthers were led by the team's quad-captains in Jenna Quatromoni (attack), Brooke Reiss (defense), Ella Goughan (defense) and Izzy Broschik (attack). The four not only kept the team motivated and ready to play, but allowed the Coach to occasionally bounce ideas off them.

Goughan played an outstanding defense for the Panthers and was saddled with stopping the opposition's top players. She



would generally play the entire game. Broschik was one of a handful of club players to grace the Holliston roster. The attacker, who netted 23 goals and 12 assists, will be moving on to play lacrosse at the University of New England next year.

In addition to the seniors, O'Connell had a strong junior presence on the squad, which bodes well for next season. Ava Lombardi led the team with 40 goals and 23 assists, while Andersen Hastings chipped in with 35 goals and 16 assists and was the Panthers only representative to the TVL All-Star team as a midfielder. Kaitlyn Quealy posted 24 goals and 18 assists, but also was a key contributor in the draw circle where she recorded 60 draw controls.

"She was a threat on attack, but very strong on defense for us," the coach said. "Playing both ends she was our MVP and

best all-around player; providing the effort on attack and defense while also making some great passes and possessing great stick skills."

Kaitlin O'Connell, although playing in her one and only high school season, is one of the faster players on the team and used that speed to defend some of the top players in the league. In doing so, the senior was able to keep those players' numbers down.

Sophomore Amelia Laingen was the Panthers last line of defense playing solid between the pipes. Last spring the club trained goalie, and was used sparingly for most of the season, but once she got her chance, she took over the position over the last third of the season. The keeper recorded 204 saves for the Panthers.

With this season all but wrapped up, O'Connell will face a much tougher challenge come next spring in her second season

at the helm. Holliston is graduating 11 seniors, including 6 starters, from this years roster. While the coach believes that the mid-field and attack positions would return very strong, it is the defense that is going to need some help.

Holliston is going to need some of the younger girls to step up next season. According to O'Connell, they have the potential with all the girls who didn't get as much playing time this season but will definitely see the field more next year.

As she begins to think about her second season with Holliston, season one will be one that the O'Connell never forgets.

"This was truly an opportunity of a lifetime to be able to coach both of my daughters as well as 15 girls that I had coached in youth lacrosse for six years," she said. "I will never forget this special season."

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# Real Estate Corner



The 3-bed, 3-bath, 2,911 square foot house at 55 Woods Crossing in Holliston recently sold for \$1,080,055. Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages

## Recent Home Sales

Date	Holliston	Amount
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06/14/2024	40 Union Street	\$661,000
06/14/2024	151 Cedar Street	\$575,000
06/11/2024	54 Balancing Rock Drive	\$632,000
06/07/2024	45 Morgans Way	\$1.13 mil
06/07/2024	14 Vine Street	\$965,000
06/07/2024	40 Foxwood Cove	\$900,000
05/31/2024	55 Robin Hill Road	\$1.10 mil
05/30/2024	31 Arch Street	\$740,000
05/28/2024	52 Burnap Road #2	\$290,000
05/23/2024	91 Gretchen Lane	\$1.45 mil
05/22/2024	55 Woods Crossing	\$1.08 mil

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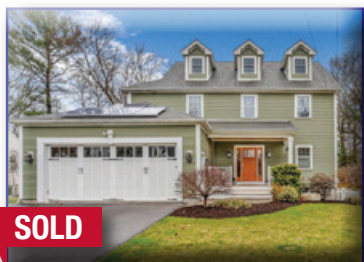
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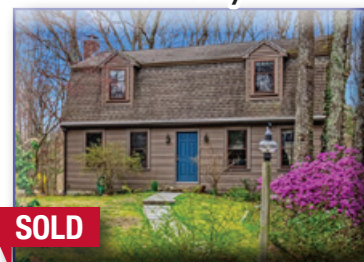


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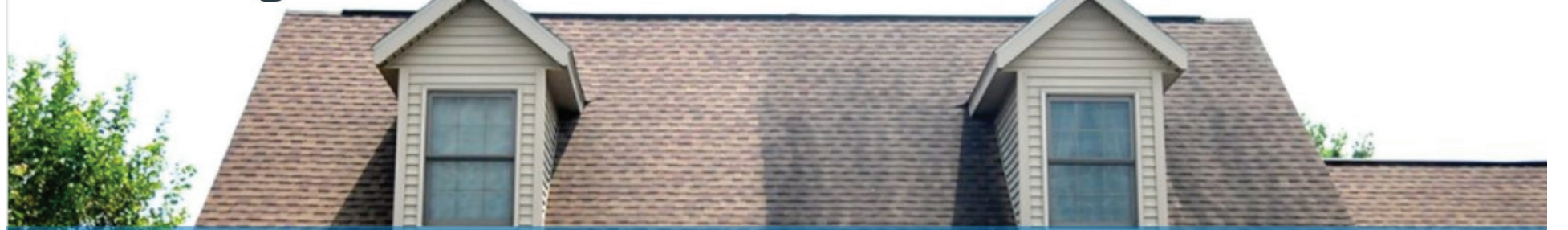


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