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## **Holliston's Roberts Crowned Champion** at USA Luge 2025 Norton Youth **National Championships**

William Roberts of Holliston has claimed the title of 2025 USA Luge Youth B National Champion. The event was held on March 7-8 at the Utah Olympic Park in Park City, Utah, and showcased the nation's top young luge talent in a thrilling display of speed and precision.

Roberts delivered an outstanding performance, clocking a combined time of 2:55.485 over two runs. His victory not only secured him the championship but also highlighted his dedication and skill in the sport of luge.

The competition brought together athletes from across the country, all vying for the prestigious title. Roberts' achievement is a testament to his hard work, determination, and the support of his coaches and family.

"I'm incredibly proud of this accomplishment," said Roberts. "Competing at this level has been an amazing ex-

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Three winners - William Roberts of Holliston, center, has claimed the title of 2025 USA Luge Youth B National Champion. Photo source: www.usaluge.org

perience, and I'm grateful for everyone who has supported me along the way."

The event was part of the 2025 Norton Youth National Championships, which also featured competitions in other age categories. The Utah Olympic Park, a venue with a rich his-

FREE Day Shredding Day

tory in winter sports, provided the perfect backdrop for this exciting championship. USA Luge continues to fos-

ter the development of young **CHAMPIONSHIPS** 



## **Proposed DPW facility** on Prentice St. draws large crowd at site visit, public forum

#### Three-hour discussion was often contentious and emotional

#### By Theresa Knapp

On March 20, more than 100 people gathered at 212 Prentice St., the community garden at Pinecrest, for an official site visit on land the Select Board is proposing as the site for a Department of Public Works building.

The site visit included government officials, the engineering firm Weston & Sampson who were contracted by the town to conduct a feasibility study, and residents concerned about the property chosen for the facility.

The site visit was followed by a public forum meeting at Town Hall. That meeting lasted three hours and was often contentious and emotional. The conversation will continue at the Select Board's meeting on April 14.



More than 125 people attended a site visit at the Pinecrest Community Garden on March 20. The conversation continued was continued as part of a lengthy and often contentious Select Board meeting. Photo credit: Deb Moore

The Select Board and Weston & Sampson both fielded pointed questions from residents concerned about the choice of the Prentice Street location, the actual needs of the town with 100 miles of roadway, possible traffic and visibility, blasting and water contamination, safety concerns

> DPW continued on page 3

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**CHAMPIONSHIPS** continued from page 1

continuea from page 1

athletes through events like these, ensuring a bright future for the sport in the United States.

For more information about USA Luge and upcoming events, visit www.usaluge.org/.

SOURCE: USA LUGE

One winner – William Roberts of Holliston, 2025 USA Luge National Champion (Youth B, 13-14yo). Photo source: Charlie Roberts



## Holliston Town Election on May 20

By Theresa Knapp

The Town of Holliston's annual election will take place on Tues., May 20. The call for nominations closed on April 1.

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The offices available include: Moderator, 3 year term Town Clerk, 3 yrs Select Board, 3 yrs Board of Assessors, 3 yrs Board of Assessors, 1 yr School Committee, 3 yrs (2 seats) Board of Health, 3 yrs Trustee of Public Library, 3 yrs (2 seats) Finance Committee, 3 yrs (3 seats) Park Commissioner, 3 yrs (2 seats) Planning Board, 5 yrs Housing Authority, 5 yrs

The ballot will be available at www.townofholliston.us

## Train Show at Holliston Historical Society on April 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We are pleased that the Waushakum Live Steamers are once again having a train show at the Holliston Historical Society on April 26th. They have put together an event that is sure to please kids and adults. Last year, in addition to the Waushakum Live Steamers (WLS) club. the train show included the HUB Division HO scale train club's modular layout with detailed scenery, a display of Disney trains (Walt was a trainenthusiast), Thomas the Tank Engine and friends, and an O scale layout with Lego buildings, among other displays. Many of the WLS members fabricate their own steam locomotives.

Trains and displays will be in the barn, in the house, and, weather-permitting, on the lawn. Last year, many people even adults!— enjoyed rides on a larger-scale train on the driveway. There will even be a virtual train simulator where budding engineers can drive a train on a big screen. Train lovers of all ages—and scales—should find something of interest!

Admission is \$5/person, with a family fee of \$15. If you are hungry or thirsty, lunch and refreshments will be offered in the barn.

Mark April 26th on your calendar and bracket 10 AM to 4



Photos from the 2024 train show. Courtesy photos



PM. Enjoy an hour or two at the show and help support the Holliston Historical Society.

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#### **DPW**

#### continued from page 1

for students using the area as a shortcut to school, and the size and scope of the proposed 40,000-square-foot minimallyheated building that will also include the Water Department.

Holliston Select Board Chair Tina Hein explained the board had considered 11 sites in town, including repurposing the departments' current sites. She said that Weston & Sampson determined in 2022 that the Prentice Street site was the best fit because of access, flexibility of the site, and its central location.

Dave Steeves of Weston & Sampson said, "The Prentice Street site is a 70-acre parcel and what we're proposing is essentially 4.5 acres to this northern leg which would be really adjacent to the driving range for the golf course." He said they would propose a generous buffer, sound attenuation walls, and would be fully fenced in. The parcel does not include conservation land.

Steeves did say the foot and bike trails would have a crossing point from the access road to access the lower half of the site. He also said the proposed area of development would include the operational building, a salt shed, town-wide fueling station, and personnel parking.

'It's not the 'Garage Mahal' that you might be imagining," said Steeves. "It's really been honed to be as efficient, as operationally-efficient, as we possibly can because we know that size is dollars. This facility is an investment for the town and it's going to be a 50, 75, or longer-year facility evidenced by the fact that the facilities that you currently

have were built back in the 40s and 50s so we know that this has to last into the future."

Consultants from Weston & Sampson said, "The current facilities are significantly undersized. They probably outgrew those facilities 30 years ago."

The current buildings are 18,000-square-feet (DPW) and 10,000 (Water Dept.).

Regarding the Cross Street location. Hein said the town is "probably 10 years out from having access to it and we don't have that time...These are difficult decisions, I'm not going to pretend they're easy to make and that we're making the easiest one."

The engineers confirmed, "The Axton-Cross site is heavily contaminated, right next to wetlands, prone to flooding" and would take years to clean up.

Hein said she is concerned with the current facility – and is focusing on modernizing a new facility with operational efficiencies, energy efficiency, addressing environmental concerns, and vehicle storage - but also with employee safety.

"The safety of our employees is the number one priority; they're working in buildings that have code violations and other safety concerns so that is my top priority over everything else that I've named," Hein said.

When town officials were asked for clarification about employees being "at risk," Assistant Town Manager Kathleen Buckley, who is also the town's Human Resources Director, said, "I think that it's important that everybody understands that there is an urgency there. We are keeping employees safe but it is a risk for them to continue to be there because there are holes in the roof and there's no heat and

"The current facilities are significantly undersized. They probably outgrew those facilities 30 years ago." -Weston & Sampson, Engineering consultants

that." there's one bathroom...What we don't want is for the buildings

to be shut down tomorrow and then we have no interim solution. So we are working very hard to make sure that we are still in compliance with employment law."

Residents are also concerned about losing this recreational land the town purchased in the 1980s after the community banned together to save it as open space.

"I believe the people that voted then had a vision and I think the people that are here today have that same vision and they want to keep that property as open space," said one resident to a round of applause.

Resident Lucinda Coughlin gardens on the property. She says it's a beautiful place and should be preserved.

Today I was there gardening: Hawks are going over, the birds are chirping, nine cars pulled up and walked in the woods just when I was weeding today," said an admittedly emotional Coughlin. "It is a valuable resource to our town, and we can't undo it. If you go further, you're going to still see the old quarry, you're going to see the old stone factory, that's because we've already gone in there and ruined it once and it still hasn't recovered from that...I just really ask you to think about

Residents asked town officials and engineers to reconsider locations would be a better fit including properties on Cross Street and Lowland Street, to consider renovating current properties, consider installing solar parking structures to protect its current fleet, and also asked if (and how) a conservation restriction could be placed on the property.

The Select Board will continue its discussion at its April 14 meeting.

A recording of the March 20 public forum can be found at bit.ly/HollistonSelect-Board03202025. Project materials can be found at https://bit. ly/HollistonNewDPWfacility.

#### What is a feasibility study?

'The feasibility study is intended to gather as much information on the sites to make a recommendation and then, as you move forward and you get funding for the next phase of design, that's when you go through the due diligence pieces... That's normal in many communities where the feasibility study gets the ball rolling then you have to get additional funding in order to complete the sound studies, in order to complete traffic studies, those are additional funds that have to be appropriated." Those funds would be appropriated by Town Meeting.

> -Weston & Sampson Engineering consultants

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## **Building a Better Home, and Stronger Community**

#### Holliston Home Expo, May 3, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Holliston HS Fieldhouse

Building relationships builds community, and there's no better way to do that than meeting neighbors, and business owners face-to-face. That was Lynne Ritucci's inspiration to create a home show in Holliston back in 2020, after she'd caught wind of the concept through a networking group.

"I thought it was a great idea, a good community event," says the Executive Partner and Realtor® with Realty Executives Boston West, where she works alongside Executive Partner and Realtor ® Timothy Swift. Her clients were always inquiring

JOHN ELHILOW, C.PED, O.S.T.

JOHN'S

about finding a good plumber or good electrician or other type of contractor. This would give them a chance to directly engage with those service providers for their home and garden. The show would not only help her clients and other homeowners, but it would also be a way to boost small businesses in town, giving people a chance to showcase locally.

"It gives an opportunity for small businesses to get in front of people," says Ritucci.

Best of all, the show would be free to the public.

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Although a pandemic harpooned Ritucci and Swift's hard work building a home show five years ago, it also highlighted the importance of connecting in-person, strengthening the concept. Now, the duo has revived the initiative, and Holliston's first home show, the 2025 Holliston Home Expo will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Holliston High School Field House.

Homeowners will connect with trusted professionals in home maintenance, landscaping, renovation, design and more. Businesses such as licensed home inspectors, solar energy experts, landscapers, builders, pest control specialists, mortgage professionals, real estate experts, and more will be gathered in under one roof, where attendees can discover valuable resources, ask questions, and explore solutions for their homes.

"It will help people to get inspiration, to get ideas," says



Realty Executives Boston West agents Lynne Ritucci and Timothy Swift will be sponsoring the 2025 Holliston Home Expo at Holliston High School Field House on Saturday, May 3rd, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Ritucci, herself a Holliston resident since 1993. Maybe they'll get the name of that plumber, she says, or maybe they'll think of putting in a patio." Face-toface interactions, she says, lead to fresh designs and concepts.

On top of that, the Holliston Home Expo will simply be a fun thing to do, with food trucks onsite offering Mexican specialties, paninis and soup, and ice cream for a sweet treat. Attendees will receive fun giveaways and can enter raffles.

Vendors, of course, will meet potential clients, build brand awareness, and generate leads, and there's still time to sign up! For a very low booth fee, vendors will receive various benefits related to the event. In order to present a variety of businesses, the Holliston Home Show will welcome up to two businesses of the same service area, so Ritucci recommends early sign-up.

The 2025 Holliston Home Expo is a free event, but donations for the Holliston Food Pantry will be gratefully accepted at the door.

For more information on the 2025 Holliston Home Expo, visit HollistonHomeExpo.com. To sign up or learn vendor details, email Lynne at lynner-itucci@gmail.com or call (508) 479-8505.

## Hopkinton Center for the Arts Sunday, April 13

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#### The Short Term Rental Report

## How to Maximize your Beach Vacation Rental Income in a Constantly Shifting Market



**Dave Menapace, President** 

Cape Cod's vacation rental market has grown more competitive, with rising guest expectations. Listing a home for summer no longer guarantees high bookings. To maximize revenue and occupancy, property owners must adapt! Implementing the strategies below will keep your rental highly profitable as we head into the summer!

### 1. Embrace Flexible Lengths of Stay

Gone are the days when weeklong stays were the standard. Today's travelers are looking for flexibility! Adjusting minimum night requirements based on demand can help fill gaps in your calendar. Midweek stays, long weekends, and shorter trips during shoulder seasons attract a wider range of guests, ensuring higher occupancy rates and increased income!

#### 2. Adopt Dynamic Pricing Models

Setting the right price is key to maximizing rental revenue. Hotels and airlines use dynamic pricing, and vacation rental owners should too. Platforms like Airbnb, VRBO, and third-party tools adjust rates in real-time based on market trends, competition, and seasonality. This ensures you maximize earnings during peak times while securing bookings in slower periods.

#### 3. Expand Your Marketing Reach

Being visible on multiple platforms significantly increases your chances of securing bookings. Listing on Airbnb, VRBO, Google Vacations, and Booking. com broadens your exposure. Additionally, having a direct booking website can reduce reliance on third-party platforms and save on commission fees!

#### 4. Invest in High-Quality Photography & Staging

First impressions matter, and stunning, magazine-quality photos can make all the difference. Professional images that highlight your property's best features—whether it's a waterfront view, a cozy firepit, or a charming Cape Cod-style interior will make your listing stand out. Proper staging, including décor that aligns with guest interests, further enhances the appeal and leads to higher booking rates.

#### 5. Enhance Outdoor Amenities

Cape Cod's natural beauty makes outdoor living spaces a major selling point! Providing a firepit for cozy gatherings, an outdoor shower for post-beach rinses, and seating areas can greatly enhance your home's appeal. One of the best investments? A hot tub!! Properties with hot tubs consistently secure year-round weekend bookings, often adding upwards of \$50,000 in additional annual revenue!

#### 6. Make Your Property Pet-Friendly

A growing number of travelers are unwilling to leave their furry friends behind. By allowing dogs, you open your home to a larger pool of potential guests. Pet-friendly rentals tend to see higher occupancy rates and can command premium pricing. Providing pet amenities like dog beds, bowls, and a designated outdoor area further enhances the experience.

#### **Stay Ahead of the Market**

The Cape Cod vacation rental market is becoming increasingly competitive, but implementing these strategies will help you stay ahead! By embracing flexibility, optimizing pricing, investing in marketing, and enhancing guest experiences, your vacation home can continue to generate strong revenue year after year. Adjusting to changing trends and guest expectations is the key to longterm success in this ever-evolving market.

This article was brought to you by Dave Menapace, a thought leader in short term rentals and President of The 5 Star Co-Host, LLC (www.5strcohost.com) in Holliston, MA. The 5 Star Co-Host is a leading vacation rental management company in New England.

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## **Donor-advised funds: A smart way to give**



Mark Freeman, CEPA

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You can find several ways to make charitable gifts - but if you're looking for a method that can provide multiple tax benefits, along with an efficient platform for giving year after year, you might want to consider a donoradvised fund.

Once you open a donoradvised fund (DAF), you can contribute many types of assets, including cash, publicly traded stocks, bonds, CDs or non-cash

items such as closely held business interests, art or collectibles. You can then decide how to invest the money, possibly following a strategy suggested by the DAF sponsor organization you've selected. The next step involves choosing which charities to support, how often to provide support (such as once a year) and how much to give each time. You're essentially free to direct the money to any charities you like, provided they're IRS-approved charitable organizations.

Now, let's look at the possible tax advantages offered by a DAF:

 $\ensuremath{\cdot}$  Immediate tax deduction – Afew years ago, changes in tax laws resulted in a vastly increased standard deduction, which, in turn, led to far fewer people itemizing on their tax returns and having less incentive, at least from a tax standpoint, to contribute to charities. But if you don't typically give enough each year to itemize deductions, you could combine several years' worth of giving into one contribution

to a DAF and take a larger deduction in that tax year. And you can claim that deduction, even though the DAF may distribute funds to charities over several vears.

- Tax-free growth of earnings - Once you contribute an asset to a DAF, any earnings growth is not taxable to you, the DAF or the charitable groups that receive grants from the DAF.
- Avoidance of capital gains taxes - When you donate appreciated stocks or other investments — or for that matter, virtually any appreciated asset - to a DAF, you can avoid paying the capital gains taxes that would otherwise be due if you were to simply sell the asset and then donate the proceeds to charitable organizations. Plus, by receiving the appreciated asset, rather than the proceeds from a sale, the charitable groups can gain more from your

contribution. And you can also take a tax deduction for vour donation.

While these potential tax benefits can certainly make a DAF an attractive method of charitable giving, you should be aware of some potential tradeoffs. Once you contribute assets to a DAF, that gift is irrevocable, and you can't access the money for any reason other than charitable giving. Also, your investment options are limited to what's available in the DAF program you've chosen. And DAFs can incur administrative costs in addition to the fees charged on the underlying investments.

You may want to consult with your financial professional about other potential benefits and tradeoffs of DAFs and whether a DAF can help you with your charitable giving goals. Also, different DAF sponsors offer different features, so you will want to do some comparisons. And because DAFs can have such significant implications for your tax situation, you should consult with your tax professional before taking action.

If a DAF is appropriate for your situation, though, consider it carefully — it might be a good way to support your charitable giving efforts for years to come.

Contact Mark today to discuss this topic or any of your financial goals.

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

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The folks who run the

## Holliston Annual Town Meeting day and date changed to May 7

BY THERESA KNAPP

This year's Annual Town Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 7.

Per the town bylaws, the "Spring Annual Town Meeting shall commence on the first Monday following the first Friday in May" however "the normal Monday [is] not available," according to the town website.

At a meeting of the Select Board on Feb. 10, Chair Tina

Hein said, "That date has changed to accommodate the schedules of elected officials who otherwise had conflicts."

The meeting will take place at the Holliston High School Auditorium, and the warrant is open until March 10.

For more information, visit www.townofholliston.us/home/ news/town-meeting-is-wednesday-may-7-2025

Community Farm have been hard at work building growing benches. Those new benches will hold plants for the upcoming fundraising sales beginning April 19th & 20th from 9 am to 3 pm and continuing through the 2nd week in June. The April sales will sport basil, broccoli, pansies, swiss chard, lettuce, peas, cauliflower and other early favorites. Ensuing weeks will feature tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, summer squash, petunias, zinnias & cucumbers. In May, the farm will hold a 25% discount for all veterans on Memorial Day weekend. The discount is a nod to the Serocki family, owners of the property prior to the town purchasing It. Joseph Serocki was killed in WWII and is buried in France. The farm is located at 34 Rogers Road (intersection of Jeffrey Ave. and Whitney Street in the Lowland Street Industrial Park). Cash or checks (made out to the Town

**Community Farm to Hold Spring Plant Sale** 

of Holliston only. The seven person Farm Advisory Board is looking for two people to fill vacant positions. Just send a letter of interest to the town's select board. Volunteers (no experience necessary) to help transplant seedlings can contact Bobby Blair at Mudvillemayor57@gmail.com Its all about community folks.

CHESS

LESSONS



## **Dorothy B. Stevens Holliston Garden Club Scholarship** application deadline April 14

B. Stevens Holliston Garden Club Scholarship are due on April 14, by mail.

This scholarship was founded by Dorothy (Dot) Stevens, a former Club president who recognized the importance of preserving our natural world and whose dream it was to encourage young people to pursue careers in horticulture. The scholarship began small, with

Applications for the Dorothy money raised from raffles, plant sales, and donations, and is now \$1.000.

It is awarded annually to a candidate planning to major in Horticulture, Botany, Landscape Design Forestry, Environmental Science, Land Management or other gardenrelated field.

Holliston residents who are high school seniors or college students can apply at hollistongardenclub.org. All applications should be sent to and received in good order by the deadline, April 14. Please mail to Holliston Garden Club, Attn: Educational Grant and Scholarship Chair, PO Box 5812, Holliston, MA 01746.

If you have questions or require more information, contact the Educational Grant and Scholarship Chair Martha Pellegrino at Mmlpell@gmail.com.

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## 2025 Boston Marathon Update: A family affair as three siblings and mother prepare to run Boston Marathon in memory of Timmy O'Connell

On Monday, April 21, Holliston brothers Brendan, Matt and Chris O'Connell, and their mother, Joanne, also of Holliston, will run the iconic Boston Marathon route in memory and in honor of their brother Tim O'Connell. Tim died of acute myeloid leukemia in 2008, just 2 days after he turned 10 years old. This will be Brendan's second marathon and Joanne's eleventh marathon, the tenth time she will be running the Boston Marathon. This will be the first marathon for Matt and Chris. All of them will run for The Timothy O'Connell Foundation, a local charity dedicated to fighting pediatric cancers.

According to Joanne, "We are just weeks away from the 2025 Boston Marathon! This year is a very special year for us - Brendan, Matt, Chris, and I were all incredibly fortunate to get Marathon bibs! We will all begin the Marathon together in Hopkinton - but I think they will finish long before I do! As always, Kevin will support us as we make the 26.2 mile run. Kevin and I could not be more proud of our boys-- our young men-- and that they have chosen to honor Tim in this very special way."

In addition, Claire Picard and Brandon Murphy will be running for Tim's Team. Claire is a dear O'Connell family friend. Claire retired from the Holliston Public Schools last spring, after many years of teaching third grade in the French Immersion Program. She has taught and mentored all four of the O'Connell boys in French. Claire was Tim's tutor during his 3rd grade year and went to the family's house many times a week. Tim and Claire shared an amazing relationship and Tim inspired Claire to become the great runner she is today. Claire's husband, Allan, and her two sons, Philip and Matthew, have run the Boston Marathon for Tim's Team.

Brandon Murphy is a wonderful young man from Bellingham. He is a life-long runner. Brandon has heard about Tim and his lasting legacy of goodness from his uncle, aunt, and cousins from Holliston, the Annese Family. Brandon has always been inspired by the stories about Tim as the family feasted on Timmy Cake each Christmas. Brandon is happy to be running this year's Marathon along with his mother, Cindy.

You can support the runners of Tim's Team by visiting https://timsteam.org/event-boston-marathon or scanning the QR Code in this article. There vou will find bios of each runner and links to their individual fundraising pages. As Joanne stresses, "All dollars donated make a difference. The Timothy O'Connell Foundation donates all money raised to cancer-related causes, fulfilling the mission of the Foundation." As in past years, Tim's Team will be wearing very bright orange "I'm on Tim's Team" shirts while running on Marathon Day. Joanne says, "We wear orange for two reasons - it is the color of Leukemia Awareness AND it is Timmy's favorite color! Please look for us on the route!'

Following Tim's specific wishes, the Foundation continues its support of Make-A-Wish. Tim and his family experienced the joy of a Make-A-Wish trip in December of 2007, to Disney World. Also following Tim's specific wishes, the Foundation supports the Just For Sibs Program at Children's Hospital Boston. The Just For Sibs Program supported Tim's brothers - Brendan, Matt, and Chris - during Tim's illness. "Tim understood the great impact of that support for his brothers and for the siblings of other sick children," says Joanne. "There was nothing more important to Timmy than his brothers."

The Foundation also continues its financial support of a research project named for Tim at the University of Minnesota. Tim's oncologist at Children's Hospital Boston, Doctor Peter



Tim's Team 2025 L-R: Chris O'Connell, Brendan O'Connell, Brandon Murphy, Joanne O'Connell, Claire Picard, and Matt O'Connell.

Gordon, is now at the University of Minnesota. He is studying the FLT-3 mutation that so impacted the course of Tim's cancer. In addition, The Foundation continues to support the National Bone Marrow Donor Program, as well. Tim was the recipient of an almost perfectly matched bone marrow donation from a stranger.

The Foundation takes great pride in its Scholarship Program. To date, nearly \$165,000 has been donated to Holliston high school students who plan to study in health-related fields. "We are thrilled to help students become doctors, nurses, physical and occupational therapists, pharmacists, researchers, and other caregivers. It is an honor to be able to give back to our supportive community in this way," says Joanne. The Timothy O'Connell Foundation has raised more than \$1.35 million dollars over the last 16 years, all of which has gone directly to support the Foundation's goals. Please consider helping further the mission of the Foundation by making a donation in support of this year's Marathoners.



## Travel "Far and Wide" with Exsultet!

Music lovers are invited to embark on a musical journey! Exsultet presents the concert series "Far and Wide", an enchanting concert showcasing diverse songs and global melodies. Join us on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 2:00pm at First Parish of Westwood, 252 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA and on Sunday, April 13, 2025 at 2:00pm at First Congregational Church, 725 Washington Street, Holliston, MA.

The repertoire features beloved classics and cultural gems, such as *Sweet Caroline* and *Eleanor Rigby*. Soulful traditional songs like *Loch Lomond* and Down in the *River to Pray* will transport listeners to a unique musical landscape, celebrating the unifying spirit of music across cultures. The event promises to enrich audiences with captivating harmonies and powerful performances. Don't miss this vibrant celebration of global music and the power of women's voices.

General admission tickets are \$20; students and seniors (65+) are \$15; and children 12 and under



Exsultet! will perform "Far and Wide" on April 13 in Holliston. Courtesy photo

are free. Performances are not suitable for children under age 6. Tickets can be purchased beginning March 10, 2025 through our website (www.exsultet. us) or at the door prior to the performance.



#### Your Money, Your Independence

## **Portfolios Care About Asset Allocation, Not Your Emotions.**



**Glenn Brown, CFP** 

Investing is a journey with greed, fear and uncertainty creating market fluctuations and volatility to portfolio values. While the cause always changes, one thing remains constant portfolios don't care about your emotions.

#### Sounds harsh? Maybe.

Consider the last time your investments performed based on how you feel? This isn't the chicken or the egg. Investments don't react based on how you feel, they react to your actions and choice of asset allocation or lack thereof.

#### What is Asset Allocation?

Asset allocation is a foundational strategy of dividing an investment portfolio across different domestic and international asset classes—such as stocks, bonds, real estate, hard assets, and cash equivalents—to balance risk/reward and reduce volatility. This allows investors to participate in returns over time by staying invested throughout market, macroeconomic and geopolitical cycles.

#### **This Time is Different!**

Really? Let's take a trip down memory lane the past 25 years.

Recall Y2K, Four Horsemen, Dot.com Bubble, 9/11 Recession, Iraq, No Income Verification Mortgages, \$150 Oil, Housing Bubble, Financial Crisis, 0.1% Cash, Great Recession, Quantitative Easing (QE), Flash Crash, QE2, Debt Ceiling, Government Shutdown, Greece, Taper Tantrum, QE3 - Shock & Awe, FANG, Brexit, 2016 Election, Tax Cuts, China Trade War, 9 Fed Rate Hikes, COVID Shutdown, 3X Stimulus, 9% Inflation, Ukraine, 10 Fed Rate Hikes, 2022 Non-Recession, Magnificent 7, Trump II. Throughout all these events, asset allocation ensures not all investments in a portfolio are moving in unison.

Asset allocation is not influenced by emotions; it is a strategically, diversified portfolio spread across different asset classes to help smooth out market fluctuations and reduce overall risk. For example, if stocks are down, then bonds or real estate or gold may be performing well to help offset.

### stocks, bonds, real estate, hard assets, and cash equivalents—to Allocation.

Many believe investing in the S&P 500 index is the same asset allocation. It's not.

Being broadly diversified across U.S. large companies represents one asset class. Due to an average annualized return of  $\sim$ 13.9% over the past 15 years, recency bias has investors "setting it and forgetting it".

#### Asset Allocation at Work.

Most under age 45 (and some older) don't recall "The Lost Decade" when the S&P 500 index total return including dividends from 2000-2010 was -9.1%. Correct, \$1 million invested on Y2K was ~\$910,000 ten years later.

Elsewhere from 2000-2010, positive returns and outperformance was captured in index funds of developed international stocks, emerging market stocks, U.S. small cap stocks, U.S. highyield bonds, U.S. REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts), commodities, gold, cash and U.S.

bonds.

Speaking of the U.S. Aggregate Bond index, \$1 million invested became ~\$1,840,000. Because of this divergence, the S&P 500 index didn't catch up to the U.S. Aggregate Bond index until 2017, or 17 years later. If you're in the distribution stage of your life (i.e. retirement), that's not good.

Asset allocation models vary and ideally are based on timelines for the need of funds in a financial plan, not your age. How one invests a Roth IRA, Traditional IRA or taxable brokerage account could be different and should align with "when" and "how much" the plan projects to draw from each account.

#### Ignore at Your Own Risk.

When investors ignore asset allocation, they risk making decisions based on emotion. During market highs, greed sells lagging asset classes. During downturns, fear sells into panic without a plan back into the long-term strategy. These emotional responses create market timing and remove your foundation.

So remember, during times like these, your portfolio cares about asset allocation — a foundational strategy to help you manage risk, smooth out market volatility, and stay on track to meet timelines of your financial goals.

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

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of PlanDynamic, LLC, www.PlanDynamic. com. Glenn is a fee-only Certified Financial Planner<sup>™</sup> 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 bLUXE *beauty beat* Gray-Blending for Women: Embracing Your Gray Hair in 2025

By GINA WOELFEL

You may remember our "Gray-Blending" article from last March. Since then, a growing interest in blending gray hair has been all over social media. You've got questions, and we've got the answers! Here's your updated guide to gray-blending, with everything you need to refresh your look in 2025.

The world of hair color is undergoing a significant shift, with more women opting for grayblending techniques instead of fully covering their gray hair. While gray-blending has been around for years, a surge in demand for low-maintenance hair color has brought this innovative technique into the spotlight. By seamlessly blending natural grays with soft highlights and translucent color, gray-blending creates a fresh, modern look that feels soft and natural. Unlike traditional hair dyes that often leave a harsh line of regrowth, gray-blending offers a lived-in style that celebrates the beauty of aging, giving women more freedom and flexibility with their hair coloring routines. Women aren't just accepting their gray hair-they're embracing it as a symbol of strength, confidence, and individuality!

## The Classic Approach to Gray Coverage

For years, there were three basic levels of gray coverage:

**Full Coverage:** This allover, one-process coloring technique provides 100% gray coverage. Imagine wearing opaque wool tights. This application creates a uniform color that matches either your natural shade or your desired color but often results in a noticeable line of regrowth at the roots.

- **Demi-Permanent Coverage:** This method uses less pigmented dye to offer about 80% gray coverage. It provides a softer approach, allowing some natural gray tones to show through, similar to wearing sheer, colored pantyhose.
- No Coverage: This approach is a full gray embrace that leaves your natural gray and silver hair to take center stage. Using a clear gloss and brightening shampoo can eliminate brassiness and add shine. It's like wearing sheer, nude pantyhose—subtle, simple, and naturally beautiful.

Modern hair dyes offer a broader spectrum of colors and a more vibrant finish than their predecessors but still require salon visits every 4 to 6 weeks. Many women continue to use the same hair color for years, believing that their natural shade remains unchanged, even though their original hair color has likely shifted significantly.

It's easy to fall into a routine with hair coloring. While full coverage may have worked in the past, it's important to consider whether it remains the best option for you today.





GRAY-BLENDING INFORMATION

#### Why is Gray-Blending For Women So Popular?

Embracing natural gray hair can be challenging for many women. Transitioning from a solid hair color to gray is often a significant emotional commitment. The rising popularity of gray blending offers a modern way to integrate gray hair with your natural or chosen color. It's an excellent option for those looking for a low-maintenance way to incorporate more gray into their style without immediately making a complete silver commitment.

#### How To Transition To Gray-Blending

For clients who've been coloring their hair for years but want to gray-blend or transition back to their natural color, there are several options available:

#### 1. Highlights and Lowlights:

If you're looking to minimize the appearance of gray roots, a stylist can strategically apply highlights or lowlights around your face, which softens the look of regrowth and adds dimension without creating a stark line of demarcation. Additionally, incorporating a few carefully placed highlights near your part can lift gray strands closer to your silver color. At the same time, a toner (used after bleaching or coloring to help neutralize brassiness and unwanted undertones, resulting in a more desired and customized color) can help unify the overall appearance.

**2. The Big Chop:** If you're ready to take the plunge,



cutting your hair short and allowing it to grow out naturally is a great option. It typically takes about 1.5 years for your hair to reach shoulder length, but regular trims can help eliminate any unwanted color.

3. Complete Silver Transformation: For many, the desire to go completely silver in one sitting is tempting. While some can achieve this in one session, it's a lengthy and costly process that can take up to 12 hours and may not always provide the results you expect.

Regardless of your method, a toner or tinted gloss is always recommended to ensure maximum brightness and a beautiful finish.

## The Timeline for Gray Blending

The timeline for transitioning to gray hair varies for each individual. Factors such as your hair's health, the coloring method you choose, and the rate at which your hair grows will all influence your journey. Your stylist will typically want to see at least three to four months of hair regrowth to assess your gray pattern. While this timeline can differ from person to person, it serves as a general guideline that helps your stylist create the most effective color plan for you moving forward.

Once you start the transition process, you can expect your maintenance and upkeep to be about eight to twelve 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.

The best part? Nothing is permanent! If gray blending isn't your style, you can always return to your traditional color. Your stylist supports you every step of the way and ensures you look and feel your best.

#### Curious How Gray-Blending Can Work For You?

Visit b.LUXE Hair & Makeup Studio for a complimentary color consultation. Our expert stylists will help you navigate the world of gray-blending and find the perfect solution for all your needs.

2025 is the year for you to embrace your gray hair with style and confidence!

Scan the QR code for more information about gray-blending, including before-and-after photos of real clients. To book a consultation, go to bLUXE.com.

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## 'Art in Bloom: Peace, Love and Understanding' exhibit at HCA from April 29 to May 29

The Hopkinton Center for the Arts (HCA) will hold its 20th annual Arts in Bloom exhibition from April 29 to May 29 at the Lotvin Family Gallery, Hopkinton Center for the Arts, 98 Hayden Rowe St., Hopkinton.

This year's event will be juried by the renowned Joseph Fontinha. Fontinha will curate the exhibition and select six exceptional works to receive awards, with cash prizes totaling over \$1,000 for the winning artists.

Additionally, members of the Hopkinton Garden Club will select up to eight pieces of art to create complementary garden displays. These garden pieces will be showcased during a public reception on Friday, May 9th, at 6 PM.

Joseph Fontinha, initially trained and educated as an oil painter, has recently expanded The Lotvin Family Gallery is open

Mon. – Fri. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Source: www.hopartscenter.org

his artistic practice to include video, installation, animation, and performance-based work, all deriving from his background in painting. Fontinha holds an MFA in Visual Studies from Lesley University, an MA in Art Education from Boston University, and a BFA in Studio Art from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. His work has been exhibited in numerous galleries. With 23 years of experience as an educator, Fontinha now serves as the Director of Fine and Performing Arts K-12 for the Fall River Public Schools district.

Entry to view the exhibition is always free. The HCA is pleased to offer private and group docent tours upon request. For more details, call 508-435-9222 or visit our website at www.hopartscenter.org Thank you to our sponsors Weston Nurseries and Angel's Garden Center.

### About Hopkinton Center for the Art:

- Vision: The region's cultural destination—where passions emerge and the creative spirit thrives.
- Mission: Serving individuals of all ages, cultures, and artistic abilities across the MetroWest region, the HCA develops artistic skills, offers outstanding performances and art exhibitions, and enables visitors to experience art in all forms. Under one roof, we celebrate art through classes and events in visual art, theater, music, dance, ceramics, writing, and film.

## About the Lotvin Family Gallery:

Learn about art and learn through art—at any age. Look, imagine, discuss, write, and make. The Lotvin Family Gallery is a space where contemporary art and learning meet. We believe that artists are educators, cultural workers, researchers, public intellectuals, and activists who help us see ourselves and the world in new ways.

SUBMITTED BY THE HOPKINTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS



## Holliston to Gather to Commemorate 'Shot Heard Around The World'

The Charles F. Duford Post #47, American Legion and the Leonard D. Chesmore Post 8507, VFW will hold a commemorative gathering on April 19th, at 7 am in front of Holliston Town Hall. The ceremony will include a Betsy Ross flag raising, speeches, floral tribute at the small minuteman monument, firing squad salute, and taps according to Legion Commander Martin Spellacy. The early morning remembrance reflects the actual time 250 ago that colonials engaged British forces at Lexington and Concord. a mere 19 miles distance The public is invited to attend.

Coffee and donuts will be served in the select board room following the ceremony.



## Walk'n Mass 10k, 5k, soup social on April 5

On Saturday, April 5, the Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club invites walkers to complete a 5km (3.1 mile) or 10km (6.2 mile) walk route in Holliston. This is a walk-at-your-own pace, just-for-fun event "in your own backyard."

The start point is the First Congregational Church at 725 Washington St. Registration for the 10km walking event is from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and registration for the 5km walking event is 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. The walk times are staggered so that walkers will finish shortly before noon when the soups are served.

The participation fee is \$4 per person.

The 5km and 10km walk routes are mostly on paved sur-

faces with a few slight inclines suitable for baby strollers, but difficult for wheelchairs due to some missing curb cuts..

The 10km walk comprises two loops. The first loop is the 5km route which traverses the downtown venturing into the Mudville neighborhood, a tribute to Casey At The Bat and Rita's Labyrinth. Walkers will head to Arch Street, walking under a 1-arch railroad bridge (listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the smallest railroad bridge in the world). Weather and trail conditions permitting, walkers will head up to the Upper Charles Rail Trail and walk over the renovated 8-Arch Bridge/ Bogastow Brook Viaduct, originally built in 1846 by the Boston and Worcester Railroad over the brook.

The second loop of the 10k route includes two gentle hills and is on paved surfaces. The route travels through the Thomas Hollis Historic District with stately antique colonial homes dating to the early 19th century.

Walkers are invited to join fellow walkers for Walk'n Mass's Soup Social which kicks off our walking season. If you would like to contribute an appetizer, soup, bread or dessert please notify the contact person Beate Hait. No nuts please as the facility is nut-free.

Volkssporting events sponsored by Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club promote fun, fitness



and friendship through noncompetitive walking and biking to the public. There is also an achievement awards program through the AVA: America's Walking Club (ava.org). For further information contact Beate at (774) 292-9098 or beateh1@aol.com. Additional information at www.walknmass. org for this event and others.

## Holliston receives \$6,400 financial literacy grant

The State Treasurer's Office of Economic Empowerment (OEE), in partnership with the Division of Banks (DOB) and the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation (OCABR), announced the 2024-2025 recipients of the Financial Education Innovation Fund Grant.

Holliston High School received a grant in the amount of \$6,400. Following a competitive application process that concluded in November, the state agencies awarded grants to 58 schools, totaling \$201,272. This funding will allow Massachusetts high schools and special education programs to host financial education fairs, known as Credit for Life Fairs, for their students.

Of the 58 recipient schools, six received funding as Seed Applicants and will host fairs for the first time.

For the second year, participating schools that have a large population of low-to-moderate income students will receive an additional \$500. Seventeen schools received this additional funding to bring much-needed financial education to students in the state's most vulnerable communities. "Financial literacy is the foundation for a more stable future, and Credit for Life Fairs empower our students with the tools they need to succeed," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "These hands-on experiences give young adults the confidence to navigate real-world financial challenges and make informed decisions as they step into adulthood."

SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF THE TREASURER AND RECEIVER GENERAL OF MASSACHUSETTS

## Holliston Garden Club Educational Grant applications due April 14

Did you know the Holliston Garden Club offers education grants in the amount of \$500?

Grants are awarded annually to Holliston residents or organizations that seek to provide children with educational projects in horticulture or garden-related subjects.

Funded grants have supported the planting of tulip bulbs in the Placentino School courtyard, several High School greenhouse projects, and window box planting projects with elementary special needs students.

Holliston residents and organizations are eligible to apply at https://hollistongardenclub. org/scholarship-and-grants/. The deadline for applications is April 14.

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## A Prize A Day for the Month of May Calendar Raffle!

## Nipmuc Territory Land Acknowledgement **Ceremony on April 12**

The Hopkinton Center for the Arts (HCA) and the Town of Hopkinton invite families to join a special land acknowledgment ceremony with us and the Nipmuc Tribe on April 12th at 1:00 PM. The event will be held at 98 Hayden Rowe Street in Hopkinton and is a wonderful opportunity for families to come together to honor and learn about Hop-

COMFORT CONTROL

kinton's indigenous history. The Natick Nipmuc Tribe will be organizing music, storytelling, an exciting drum performance, and more.

Kelly Grill, Executive Director of HCA, shared, "This event allows us to acknowledge the land's original Nipmuc heritage while bringing the community together to explore the tribe's traditions. We are also very thankful to the Town of Hopkinton for their amazing support in making this event possible."

The ceremony is planned to take place outside in HCA's amphitheater, but if the weather doesn't cooperate, it will move indoors to the HCA performance space. It's completely free and welcomes people of all ages.



Want to be one of the lucky winners? Purchase one or more calendars at hollistonnewcomers.org (\$15 for 1 calendar with discounted prices for multiples) and wait to see if your name is picked. You can buy as many calendars as you want and you can win twice on each calendar - how fun is that!

HNN would like to thank the local businesses that have donated helping to make this fundraiser a success including BDR Automotive, Big Y, Cheryl Cohen Mosaics Art, E-Z Way Car Wash, HNN Book Club, Holliston True Value Hardware, Janine's Jewelry, Lyric Photos, Muffin House Cafe, Oliva's Market, Panera Bread, Prana Center, Red Heat Tavern, Salone de Bella, Soul Spirit Studio, T.C. Scoops, The Candy Cottage, The Grapevine, The Wine House and Wegman's

Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors is a not for profit all volunteer organization that coordinates charitable, civic, and recreational events and activities in Holliston. Through the years, the HNN Community Grant Fund has awarded grants to Holliston Parks & Recreation free summer concert series, Holliston Public Library Museum Passes, Holliston Police & Fire Departments, Holliston Community Farm, amongst others.

Learn more and join us at hollistonnewcomers.org - Building Friendships, Building Community.



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## **Project Just Because** fundraiser on April 12

Project Just Because helps families in need with food, clothing, cancer items, toiletries, diapers, school supplies, birthday gifts for children, holiday gifts, and so much more. We help families restart their lives who have been victims of domestic abuse, fires, floods, and other natural disasters. We have over 950 families visit us each week, many from Holliston and surrounding areas.

Please come support us at our biggest fundraiser of the year right here in Holliston at Anthony's on the Green on April 12th. The auction night will have over 60 auction items, appetizers, music, cash bar, and surprises. To purchase tickets, visit

https://secure.frontstream. com/spring-spectacular-2025

SUMMER CAMPS One summer, memories for life!

## A Winning Addition – Dr. Kylee Eagles Brings Sports Medicine and Nutrition Expertise to Medway

#### By Jennifer Russo

If you have ever experienced muscle or joint pain, you know that it greatly impacts quality of life. It can limit mobility, make daily tasks seem almost impossible to complete, and cause an incredible amount of frustration and stress. Maybe it was a rotator cuff tear in a baseball game or a pulled hamstring while out on your morning jog. Perhaps it was a strained back muscle caused by shoveling snow, knee pain caused by something you aren't sure of, or a case of tendonitis or arthritis. Whatever the malady, it is important to seek the care of a specialist to analyze the root cause so that further damage is avoided.

Dr. Kylee Eagles, renowned for her expert and compassionate care on the South Shore, has recently moved her practice to Medway, offering a welcoming space nearby for those looking to heal, regain their mobility, or achieve their personal health

## Business <mark>sp⊗tlight</mark>

goals. She is looking forward to continuing along the path that she believes she was born to follow.

"I grew up in the healthcare world, with both of my parents being chiropractors. I remember when I was twelve, I was helping my dad over the summer and one of his high school patients had some shoulder pain during a personal training session. He took him aside and adjusted his rib since it had misaligned, and I remember looking at him and telling him that this was what I wanted to do. I thought it was awesome that the patient was able to continue with his workout and not cause any additional injuries because of a doctor having that knowledge and fixing it right away. Every decision I have



made since that moment has been toward becoming the best sports medicine doctor I can be," shares Dr. Eagles.

And she truly loves what she does, believing that medicine isn't just about treatment, but build-

New SPORTS MEDICINE PRACTICE IN MEDWAY Get Back to Doing What You Love

Muscle and joint pain can hold you back from the activities you enjoy, making even simple daily tasks feel challenging.

Dr. Kylee Eagles is here to help. Treating patients of all ages, she specializes in managing musculoskeletal conditions, reducing pain, and improving mobility — so you can get back to living life to the fullest.

Board-certified in family medicine, sports medicine, and obesity medicine, Dr. Eagles offers a unique blend of expertise. She is certified in sports nutrition and has advanced training in exercise physiology, osteopathic manual therapy, trigger point therapy, nerve blocks, and ultrasoundguided diagnosis and treatment.

Whether you're an athlete looking to return to peak performance or someone seeking relief from chronic pain, Dr. Eagles provides personalized care and empowers you with the tools to stay active and feel your best.

Kylee Eagles, DO

Schedule an appointment by calling 508-321-2844



in Medway

68A Main Street, Suite 101A • Medway, MA 508-321-2844 • milfordregionalphysicians.org

ing strong and meaningful relationships with her patients. With everything she learned in school, her residency and fellowship, she still credits patients with teaching her new things every day.

"I believe in lifelong learning. You need to constantly learn new things in order to be great at what you do. In medicine, there are always advancements being innovated every day. Sometimes I will have patients come in with a unique issue and I'll investigate treatment options. If there is a new procedure that I think would be beneficial to them, I will do everything to learn that procedure so I can help. I want to fix their problem, that is my ultimate goal," says Dr. Eagles.

Dr. Eagles is triple board certified in family medicine, sports medicine, and obesity medicine, and has an additional certification in sports nutrition, so comprehensive care is the main focus of her practice.

"If an athlete has an injury or finds that there are repetitive injuries, it is critical to get to the root cause of the problem. Sometimes there is a nutrition deficiency, or they are not fueling themselves properly, or another issue that needs to be addressed. So, factoring in the nutritional conversations are just as important," shares Dr. Eagles.

As a runner, weightlifter, and former competitive swimmer herself, she genuinely strives to ensure that her patients have all the tools they need to remain strong and healthy. Understanding what her patients are going through, she will try to find ways to help them (both athletes and non-athletes) stay active so that they don't become sedentary and find themselves injured again.

"We aren't meant to sit still. Not being active throughout our lives causes all of the side effects of that. Obesity, depression, diabetes, heart disease, joint pain, and even anxiety can all be caused by not moving our bodies. And injuries often happen when someone isn't being consistent in their movement," says Dr. Eagles.

When might you seek treatment for pain? Here's what to pay attention to.

"Any sharp pains, stiffness, weakness or limitations to being able to move around easily are red flags," she says. "Early care can ensure the ability to stay strong and active, enjoying all of life's moments as they come."

Dr. Eagles is now accepting patients of all ages at her new office, located at 68A Main Street in Medway. The building also includes a lab, x-ray, and urgent care so patients don't need to travel to multiple locations for treatment. Call to schedule an appointment at (508) 321-2844 or visit https://www.milfordregionalphysicians.org/doctors/eagleskylee-do for more information.

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## **Charity Season Begins at** Home, Knights of Columbus fundraisers underway

For the past 17 years, the St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Council has been raising funds to help various charitable organizations. Last year alone, they donated \$40,000 to mostly local non-profits, bringing their seventeen-year donations to \$360,000! They're at it again as they have started their 2025 fundraising campaigns with two of their well-known campaigns: their 4th Annual Swing for Charity Golf Tournament and their 17th Annual Charity Raffle - both culminating during their golf event on June 20th.

The Swing for Charity Golf Tournament, which is held at Pinecrest Golf Club, sold out last year and players had a great time playing golf and enjoying the fine luncheon and prizes afterward. There are several event challenges during the round of golf as well as many prize drawings during the luncheon -providing an excellent day for all the players. This year's player cost remains at \$125 per person (\$500 per foursome) – including golf, cart, and lunch. Tee-off is a Shotgun Start at 8:00 AM. For someone who only wants lunch, the price is \$50. Tournament Chair Tony Polise said they're still looking for various sponsors, including the \$2,000 Presenting Sponsor, \$1,000 Lunch Sponsors, \$500 Cart Sponsors, and

\$150 Hole Sponsors. Sponsors and players can register at Kof-Cswingforcharity.com or contact Tony Polise at (508) 654-0020. Funds from the event will be donated to the Holliston Pantry Shelf and The MetroWest Veteran's Emergency Assistance Fund.

has also kept their price structure level with the cost of tickets at \$5 each or a book of 5 tickets for just \$20. Entrants have chances at five prizes from \$1,000 to \$100 although Raffle Chair Tom Anguish notes that most people don't expect to win; they donate because of where the funds will be distributed - the Holliston Senior Center, Doug Flutie Foundation for Autism, the O'Connell House, veterans, food pantries, and other smaller charitable donations. In addition to personal sales by the Knights, they will be selling tickets in Downtown Holliston on May 10th, Shaw's in Medway on May 23-24, Roche Brothers in Millis on May 30-31, and finally at Shaw's in Ashland on June 7-8. The prizes will be drawn at the Golf Tournament on June 20th.

All in all, the Council once again has big plans to raise a lot of charitable funds to aid local organizations this Spring. And, with your support for both of these great events, you and they can make it happen.

The Council's Charity Raffle



## Library stuffed animal sleepover a wild success

#### BY THERESA KNAPP

The Holliston Public Library was the site of a recent Stuffed Animal Sleepover.

About a dozen animals attended the all-night event where attendees helped return books, worked at the puzzle table, colored, played games, had a tea party, and played in the kitchen.

Later in the evening, the guests rode the elevator to the Adult Circulation Desk and even visited the third floor, something typically not allowed during the day.

At bedtime, the guests joined one of the library's book clubs and chose a few of their favorite books, like How to Catch a Unicorn, for the librarians to read to the group. Everyone was so exhausted from the fun that they slept straight through the night, then were picked up by their person in the morning.

ADDITIONAL

LOCATION

at Quinsigamond

State Park, Worcester offering Rowing Camp,

Spring & Fall Crew Teams



A good time was had by all. To view the photo album from the event, visit

bit.ly/HollistonLibraryStuffedAnimalSleepover



or call

.757.2140



## **Moran graduates from Firefighting Academy**

Holliston Firefighter Justin Moran of Engine 1 graduated on March 5 from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program.

The members of Call/ Volunteer Recruit Class #116 graduated at the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services' main campus in Stow.

Graduates have completed 240 hours of training on nights and weekends. Upon successful completion of this program, all students have met the national standards of NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications. They may additionally seek certification



to the level of Firefighter I/II and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations Level by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. Source: Facebook @ Hollistonfire



Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

## Middlesex Sheriff's Office warns community of ongoing scam attempts

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office (MSO) continues to urge residents to be aware of ongoing scam attempts targeting residents using sophisticated tactics via text, call, email, and online platforms.

Among the fraudulent schemes the MSO is warning of are jury duty and arrest scams. In these scams, perpetrators claim individuals have missed jury duty or threaten arrest over the phone for failing to pay fines or fees. The scammers advise individuals to make payments using unconventional methods like cryptocurrency or gift cards - or surrender themselves to law enforcement agencies at specific locations. In these cases, the perpetrators will often use the name of current or retired law enforcement professionals.

The MSO Administrative Office and Inner Perimeter Security (IPS) Unit field calls weekly from residents targeted by scammers claiming to be members of the MSO and other law enforcement agencies. Please remember that no legitimate law enforcement agencies will contact you this way.

In addition to jury duty and arrest scams, the MSO warns residents to be cautious of:

• IRS impersonators:

 The IRS advises people to beware of impersonators demanding immediate payment or threatening arrest. Check for odd or misspelled website links that can direct you to harmful sites.

• Road toll scams:

Scammers have been attempting to steal money and sensitive information by sending texts claiming drivers have unpaid tolls. The texts prompt individuals to pay their bill to avoid excessive fees.

• Bank scams:

 You may receive a call, text, or email claiming to be from your bank asking if you made suspicious charges on your card. Scammers try to trick you into providing sensitive information, like account numbers or security codes, to "verify" that the charge was fraudulent. This can allow scammers to then access your funds.

The MSO encourages residents to learn the tell-tale signs

of a scam, including, but not limited to:

- Unsolicited calls, texts, or emails from people, especially if they request private information, like your social security number or bank account information.
- Requests to send payment using unusual methods like gift cards, cryptocurrency, or wire transfers.
- High-pressure scenarios where you are encouraged to send payment as soon as possible.
- Spelling errors in emails and text messages.

If you are suspicious, the MSO encourages you to hang up the phone or halt correspondence with the individual and contact local authorities. Residents who receive scam calls in which individuals falsely identify themselves as MSO deputies or officers may contact the MSO at (978) 667-1711 and ask to speak with the Inner Perimeter Security Unit.

As part of the MSO's Law Enforcement and Residents Networking (LEARN) initiative, the MSO is proud to provide presentations to the community that cover the common and emerging scams targeting residents; tips to avoid falling victim to scammers; and red flags to look out for.

Organizations interested hosting a presentation can contact the MSO's Director of Community Affairs Ken Doucette at KDoucette@sdm. state.ma.us for more information.

## The Charles River Chorale Celebrates 40 Years of Music with Magical Spring Concert

The Charles River Chorale is excited to present its Spring Concert, \*If You Can Dream It, You Can Do It: 40 Years of Making Music Magical\*, on May 3rd at 5:00 PM at the Medway High School Auditorium. This special event marks the chorale's 40th anniversary, celebrating four decades of community and song. Under the direction of Ashley Nelson-Oneschuk, the 100-member chorale will perform a powerful mix of Disney classics, traditional choral pieces, and pop songs that highlight the themes of hope, dreams, and the power of believing.

The concert will also feature Grammy-nominated Recording

Artist and NBC's The Voice Finalist Michelle Brooks-Thompson, whose soulful renditions will elevate the evening, and a performance by the Children's Choir, adding a vibrant, intergenerational touch.

"This concert celebrates 40 years of sharing the power of music with our community," said Nelson-Oneschuk. "We're thrilled to mark this milestone with a performance that highlights the strength of hopes and dreams."

For more information and ticket details, visit our link: https://www.charlesriverchorale.com/tickets or access the QR code provided.



## **Sports**

## **Wolfgang Takes Her Gymnastics Above and Beyond**

By Christopher Tremblay, Staff Sports Writer

Gymnastics is a sport that includes physical exercises requiring balance, strength, flexibility, agility, coordination, artistry and endurance designed to develop strength and coordination. Individuals perform optional and prescribed acrobatic feats mostly on special apparatus in order to demonstrate strength, balance, and body control.

Holliston's Greta Wolfgang was a lifetime soccer player when she was first exposed to gymnastics while watching the Olympics. The sport immediately caught her attention and she wanted to further look into it.

"I had only been involved in sports with balls, but after seeing gymnasts, I thought that it was cool," she said. "All the flipping around they were doing really fascinated me and it was something that I really wanted to give a try."

Wolfgang got involved with recreational gymnastics and by the age of ten she was participating with Elite Gymnastics on a competitive level. In the early stages of her gymnastics, she got involved with the basics but found that the floor exercise and the vault would become her favorite events.

"I enjoyed the performing aspect of the floor as it was more complex and allowed you to dance and tumble to music," she said "The vault was running as fast as you can then jumping and flipping. Gymnastics surprisingly came natural to me."

In the early days, everyone was doing the same floor routine, but when she was able to move up to the next level she was able to pick out her own music and have a choreographer help with the routine while still having input into it. Wolfgang's first routine with her choice of music was a medley from the Dream Works movie 'How to Train Your Dragon.'

"Finding the right music was tough. I was sitting in my mother's office going through music, I had picked out a lot of differ-



Greta Wolfgang of Holliston on the balance beam. Courtesy photos

ent music but received a lot of no's on using it," Wolfgang said. "Eventually 'How to Train Your Dragon' passed."

Wolfgang's music tastes have since changed and she is now using a hip-hop medley from DMX for her routines. While the floor exercise involves more complicated skills, the Holliston senior is confident in her abilities.

"You have to tap into what you feel comfortable with and go with that," she said. "Your body knows where it has to go; when you're younger, it's a little more awkward, but you learn about yourself."

Her other favorite event was the vault and although, as a kid, it was basically vaulting into squishy mats, she has since moved on in the event. She noted that now it's sprinting toward a table where you have to push yourself off while doing flips and while in the air, you hope for the best. Having done it for so long, she doesn't even second guess herself anymore, she knows her body will do the rest once she gets into the air.

In addition to the events she loves taking part in, she also competes in the beam and bars although both are intimidating.

"The beam is daunting but satisfying when you do well. You're 4 feet high and on a 4-inch-wide beam trying to keep your composure, but when you get through it, it's a very cool feeling," Wolfgang said. "The bars and I have a love/hate relationship. It is definitely not my favorite, but I try. Like the beam, if you're successful it's a good feeling but there are a lot of scary skills and a lot can go wrong."

Participating on the Medway-Holliston-Medfield-Millis co-op team, she was once again reunited with Coach Breanna Vacca.

"I had the opportunity to coach her when she first started competing in gymnastics," the



MHMM gymnastics coach said. "Greta is a very strong competitor on both the floor and vault."

While Wolfgang's skills shine through for the gymnastics team, so does her compassion for human beings. In 2022, Holliston resident Jacqui Rossini passed away. She was a close friend of Coach Vacca's and was also a gymnastics judge at many of MHMM's meets throughout the years.

"When Jacqui passed away two years ago to lung cancer, it was Greta who came to me with the idea of holding a competition in her memory," Vacca said. "Last year, we had three teams attend and this year it increased to seven teams taking part in the Invitational."

During the inaugural Invitational in 2024, the squad was able to raise \$2,000 for the Dana Farber Institute in Jacqui's name. This year, keeping with the tropical theme once again (Rossini loved going to Aruba), seven schools decided to participate to celebrate her memory at the Invitational in hopes of eradicating cancer.

Wolfgang knew Rossini as a judge who participated in a lot of the MHMM meets she got to know her in that way, but her death was something that everyone took hard.

"I knew that Coach Vacca was very close to her and she would occasionally help us out at practice. It was tough when we lost her," Wolfgang said. "She had done so much for us, and I thought it was only right to give back and honor her with an Invitational."

This year, the Jacqui Rossini Invitational went to two sessions with three teams participating in the morning and another four in the afternoon. MHMM was able to raise \$4,000 this year, doubling last year's contribution.

With the MHMM season finished, Wolfgang is not in the position to be able to commit to a college where she can take part on the gymnastics team, but she does plan on joining a club team wherever she decides to attend.

## Real Estate Corner



**The 4-bed, 5-bath, 4,577-square-foot house at 3 Summit Pointe Drive in Holliston recently sold for \$1,525,000.** *Image credit: www.zillow.com. Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages* 

## **Recent Home Sales**

Holliston	Amount
3 Summit Pointe Drive	\$1.53 mil
178 Louis St. #R (.54 acres)	\$174,900
8 Lone Oak Circle	\$957,000
150 Rolling Meadow Drive	e \$1.01 mil
354 Gorwin Drive	\$762,500
75 Turner Road	\$605,000
615 Norfolk Street	\$799,000
117 Marilyn Street	\$694,000
3 Mill St. Lot #3 (.92 acres)	\$425,000
477 Norfolk Street	\$860,000
63 Westfield Drive	\$777,000
62 Ridge Road	\$940,000
	3 Summit Pointe Drive 178 Louis St. #R (.54 acres) 8 Lone Oak Circle 150 Rolling Meadow Drive 354 Gorwin Drive 75 Turner Road 615 Norfolk Street 117 Marilyn Street 3 Mill St. Lot #3 (.92 acres) 477 Norfolk Street 63 Westfield Drive

## Adaptive bike program coming to town in May

## Pink Granite Pedalers allow those with mobility differences to utilize Rail Trail

The Friends of Holliston Trails is partnering with All Out Adventures (AoA) in 2025 to enable neighbors with mobility differences to explore the rail trail on wheels. Seniors, adults, and kids with mobility differences are encouraged to register.

The Pink Granite Pedalers adaptive bike program will be in Holliston on May 4, June 21, Sept. 27, and Oct. 18. Each ride is a one-hour session, leaving from Blair Square.

The event is free to participants and registration is required. Registration links are unique to each date. Please note that AoA is managing the registration for our events, so you'll be directed to their website.

AoA will provide skilled staff to outfit riders. Upon registering, AoA will be available to discuss the unique requirements of each rider, then bring the appropriate bike on event day.

Pink Granite Pedalers event dates will offer a variety of different volunteer and sponsorship opportunities for neighbors. For more information, visit www.hollistontrails.org/contact.



The Pink Granite Pedalers adaptive bike program will be in Holliston in May. Image credit:



Pink background - Instagram @hollistontrails White background – hollistontrails.org

Looking to advertise your business? Contact Susanne: 508-954-8148 sue@sodellconsult.com



## MAPC scholarship deadline April 18

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council is offering a new scholarship to a high school senior, in the Greater Boston region, who is interested in the field of planning.

The \$1,000 "Planning Our Communities: Reimaging the Region" scholarship can be used at a college or university of the recipient's choice.

Graduating high school seniors from a secondary school from Holliston, or any of the 101 cities and towns in the Greater Boston region (see full list at bit. ly/MAPCscholarship), who are committed to advancing a more equitable, sustainable, collaborative, and climate-friendly region through studies in the fields of Climate; Community Engagement; Community, Housing, and Economic Development; Environmental Protection; Geographic Information System (GIS) and Spatial Analysis; Inclusive Mobility and Transportation; Municipal Governance; Planning; Public Health; Public Policy; and/or Sustainable Development and Preservation.

The deadline to apply is April 18, 2025.

For more information, including the application and guidelines, visit bit.ly/MAPCscholarship.





