

## Friends of Holliston Trails to Host Adaptive Bike Program

*Pink Granite Pedalers will offer one-hour ride along Holliston Rail Trail*

By THERESA KNAPP

The Friends of Holliston Trails organization is bringing Pink Granite Pedalers, an accessible and adaptive cycling program, to Holliston on May 4, June 21, Sept. 27, and Oct. 18.

Gretchen Rice Prieve is Vice President of Friends of Holliston Trails, and Chairperson of the Pink Granite Pedalers Adaptive Bike Program, which she says was inspired by Natick's All Aboard adaptive cycling program.



Image source:  
Facebook @HollistonTrailFriends



The Pink Granite Pedalers adaptive bike program on the Holliston Rail Trail. Image source: will be in Holliston in May.  
Image credit: hollistontrails.org/pink-granite-pedalers

"My husband and I volunteered with Friends of Natick Trails at one of their cycling events last year to learn how they were serving people with mobility differences and immediately knew I wanted to bring this program to Holliston," said Rice Prieve. "I had the opportunity to talk with participants, many of whom were seniors who hadn't been confident or able to ride a bicycle for many years. While my own mother doesn't live

## Historic Buildings Bylaw On TM Docket

Holliston has been described as a "quintessential New England town" known for its distinctive downtown and historic structures, friendly atmosphere, and community spirit. Historic buildings like St. Mary's and the Congregational Church, the buildings that house the Superette and Fiske's, Timothy Fiske House, and many more are key to establishing a sense of place and belonging. However, they are also vulnerable to modern day pressures. The Historical Commission is responding to those pressures, and our residents' interest in safeguarding historic properties, by proposing a Preservation of Historic Buildings bylaw.

The Holliston Historical Commission (the "Commission") first developed a Demolition Delay Bylaw in 2006 to preserve and protect historically significant buildings, streetscapes and neighborhoods from demolition. The intent was to give the community a greater voice in making our town a more attractive and desirable place to live and work. The proposed Preservation of Historic Buildings bylaw pro-

vides critical updates to the bylaw passed almost 20 years ago.

We are proposing three major changes to the bylaw:

- Change the bylaw structure to improve the process for applicants, the Building Inspector, and the Commission.
- Change the date of structures regulated by the bylaw from 75 years or older to those built in 1950 or earlier.
- Increase the possible delay period from 6 months to 18 months.

### Process

Based on experience, we have found that as currently structured, the bylaw does not work well for the applicant, the Building Inspector's office, or the Commission and has led to confusion and frustration on the part of all parties involved in the process. The revised bylaw will create a new application process to alert applicants to the bylaw sooner and streamline the pro-

### HISTORIC

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It takes place in the parking lot of Holliston High School from 9am to Noon.

Two large shredding trucks, from Pro-Shred, will be on site allowing you to watch your personal documents being shred right in front of you. You are welcome to bring up to 8 boxes of old tax returns, receipts, bank statements, etc.

Most tax records only have to be held for 3 years, so this is a great opportunity to safely shred those boxes of receipts that keep piling up in attics and basements.

This popular event has typically seen over 200 cars move through a fast line where volunteers unpack your car for this secure process! Vesta Realtors



are happy to help, or you are welcome to do it yourself.

The event is FREE, but we do accept donations to try to support a local group/charity every year. This year, all donations collected at the event will support our local chapter of the YMCA. Did you know they are in the planning process for a new Ashland location?

Vesta Real Estate Group is incredibly grateful to our sponsors. They have all been supporters of this event for multiple

years and we are so lucky to have their help in order to make this event possible.

Big thank you to Affordable Junk Removal, Equity Resources Mortgage, Pino Law Offices, Affordable Mold and Duct Services, and Brown & Brown Insurance.

For more information about the event visit our website at VestaMA.com or contact Vesta Real Estate Group, at Team@VestaMA.com and 774.233.1926.

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## TRAILS

continued from page 1

in this area, it's the type of program she'd benefit from tremendously. I immediately started my research last October and solicited feedback and support from different organizations (i.e. Holliston Parks & Rec, SEPAC, Holliston Youth & Family Services, Holliston Trails Committee, etc.) across Holliston."

Anyone with mobility differences, regardless of age, is welcome to participate in a one-hour session on a bike that meets their needs.

Pink Granite Pedalers has partnered with All Out Adventures, a non-profit that specializes in promoting health, community, and independence for people with disabilities and their loved ones through outdoor recreation.

"All Out Adventures will load up their truck on event day with all of the types of cycles that have been reserved and head to Holliston," said Rice Prieve. "We suggest participants arrive at the event about 15 minutes ahead of their reserved timeslot to get checked in and properly fitted by staff from All Out Adventures."

If a participant knows in advance what type of cycle would best support their needs, they can register for any of Holliston's four events at [www.hollistontrails.org/pink-granite-pedalers](http://www.hollistontrails.org/pink-granite-pedalers).

## How did Pink Granite Pedalers get its name?

Back in the mid-1800s, the Milford branch of the Boston & Albany Railroad was locally known as the "Pink Granite Line." One of the purposes of this railroad was to connect the quarries along the route, specifically Milford quarries, which mined pink granite. Pink granite was used in many development projects over the last two centuries, and is the material used to create the seating wall in front of the pavilion at Holliston's Blair Square.

-Gretchen Rice Prieve

Vice President, Friends of Holliston Trails

Chairperson, Pink Granite Pedalers | Adaptive Bike Program

If the participant is unsure about what type of cycle they need, All Out Adventures is more than happy to speak directly to the individual or family member. A skilled staff member will talk about the participant's needs and recommend the best cycle they should reserve for their adventure on Holliston's Rail Trail.

## TRAILS

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TRAILS

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The Holliston Rail Trail is a 6.7-mile trail with a flat, stone dust surface that spans the length of Holliston from the Sherborn town line to Milford. Railtrailers can shout to hear their echo through the historic Phipps Tunnel (c.1845), view the horses at Willow Brook Farm, ride across the historic 8-Arch Bridge, and generally observe wildlife and varied vegetation along the trail.

The adaptive bike program is free to participants and is funded through grants and donations. The Friends of Holliston Trails is a registered 501c3 (non-profit) organization.

“All of our programs are funded by the community by way of grant awards from organizations, sponsorships from local businesses, and many individual donations from neighbors,” said Rice Prieve. “The Friends of Holliston Trails’ Board voted in favor of funding this pilot program for 2025 and we’re actively applying for grants and seeking local busi-

*The Pink Granite Pedalers adaptive bike program will be in Holliston on May 4, June 21, Sept. 27, and Oct. 18.*

nesses to sign on as a sponsor, so we can fund this program in 2026 and beyond.”

The group is also seeking co-pilot and ride-a-long volunteers.

A co-pilot is a volunteer who will pedal with a participant on the same bike, and a ride-a-long volunteer will ride their own bicycle, alongside the participant. The benefit of having these volunteers is to assist with street crossings and offer companionship for those who are not participating with family or friends. Participants may also have a friend or family member pedal with or alongside them. There will also be volunteer crossing guards at street crossings.

For more information, visit [www.hollistontrails.org/pink-granite-pedalers](http://www.hollistontrails.org/pink-granite-pedalers).

HISTORIC

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cess through shorter decision times. The Commission would assess an application fee of \$100, which would enter a revolving fund overseen by the Commission for the purpose of documenting buildings threatened by demolition. On receipt of the application, the Commission will meet with the applicant and review their plans. If a building is determined to be not historically significant, the Commission would advise the Building Inspector and the applicant to its decision. The Building Inspector would then issue a permit to allow the demolition to proceed.

Age of Buildings Impacted

The amended bylaw would apply to all structures built before 1950—a clear and concise cutoff date, unlike the current bylaw which applies to structures 75 years or older, meaning that the cutoff date was constantly changing. Without changes to the bylaw, an increasing number of structures would be required to go through the bylaw process. Impacted areas include the Orchards, Queens, Brentwood, Stagecoach, and others. If the bylaw is not changed, 60% of Holliston residences will be subject to the demolition delay in the next 20 years, posing an inconvenience to an increasingly larger number of building

owners. As there is no consensus among preservationists on the significance of post-WWII subdivisions, including Ranch-style, Split-levels and Capes, the Commission feels that it is not appropriate to subject these properties to the bylaw at this time or in the foreseeable future.

Delay Period

If a building is determined to be historically significant and preferably preserved, the Commission would work with the applicant to document the existing structure and see if alternatives to demolition can be identified. The amended bylaw would allow for a delay period of up to 18 months to explore alternatives. Six months has not been enough time to work with property owners to find alternatives to demolition. The delay period can be lifted by the Commission at any time if a satisfactory plan is agreed upon with the

applicant and Building Inspector. Following the expiration of the delay period, if no alternative to preserve the building has been identified, the Building Inspector would issue a demolition permit. The purpose of this amended bylaw is not to permanently prevent demolitions from occurring, but to use the extended delay period to develop solutions and work together with the applicant to hopefully preserve historically significant buildings and thus maintain and enhance the fabric of our town.

The Commission encourages Holliston residents to come to Town Meeting on May 7th and to vote in favor of the amended bylaw.

More information may be found at: <https://www.townofholliston.us/historical-commission/pages/proposed-may-2025-preservation-of-historic-buildings-bylaw>

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**Jim Mazzuchelli, owner of WPC Pest Control**

Mosquito and tick populations are on the rise again as the country transitions to the Spring season. While these pests are certainly nuisances, they can also transmit harmful diseases like Zika virus, West Nile virus, Lyme disease, and more, which is why WPC Pest Control is helping to advocate for increased awareness of mosquito and tick prevention this season.

“One of the best ways to fight off mosquito and tick bites and subsequent disease transmis-

sion is to apply insect repellent before going outside,” said Jim Mazzuchelli, owner of WPC Pest Control.

Yet, many people don’t make it a priority to protect against these biting pests by taking this simple action. Those who do may not realize that there is a correct way to use repellent for it to be effective.

To properly apply insect repellent for maximum protection against mosquitoes and ticks, follow this five-step method from the National Pest Management Association (NPMA):

- 1. Look for a product containing an active EPA-registered ingredient, such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon-eucalyptus or IR3535.
- 2. Read the product label and follow the instructions carefully. If sunscreen is also being worn, repellent should be used over top of sunscreen.

- 3. Shake the product well. Then, hold it about 6-8 inches away from exposed skin and spray evenly in a sweeping motion.
- 4. Spray the palms of hands to apply the repellent to the face and ears, being sure to avoid eye and nostril contact.
- 5. Apply the repellent over clothing, which should completely cover feet and ankles.

“Another great way to avoid contact with mosquitoes specifically is to remove any standing water around the yard to deter mosquito breeding,” said, Jim Mazzuchelli of WPC Pest Control.

A licensed pest control professional can work with a homeowner to help identify these hot spots. The ultimate protection would be to have your yard treated by a professional pest control operator. You will get the knowledge and protection needed to combat these dangerous threats. Your loved ones deserve it.

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# Open Seats For May 20 Election

The following is a list of the offices:

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- Town Clerk 3 year term 1 position
- Select Board 3 year term 1 position
- Board of Assessors 3 year term 1 position
- Board of Assessors 1 year term 1 position
- School Committee 3 year term 2 positions
- Board of Health 3 year term 1 position
- Trustee of Public Library 3 year term 2 positions
- Finance Committee 3 year term 3 positions
- Park Commissioner 3 year term 2 positions
- Planning Board 5 year term 1 position
- Housing Authority 5 year term 1 position
- The Town Election is May 20, 2025.

Town Elections are non-partisan. Town Clerk’s Office, 508-429-0601.Elizabeth T. Greendale

# 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](http://www.townofholliston.us/home/news/town-meeting-is-wednesday-may-7-2025)

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# How to Cope With Market Volatility



Mark Freeman, CEPA

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The financial markets always go through periods of instability. And we may see more of that now, given concerns about tariffs, inflation and the economy. As an investor, how can you deal with this volatility?

Some investors try to take advantage of market ups and downs by attempting to follow the age-old advice to “buy low and sell high” — that is, they

seek to buy stocks when they feel prices have bottomed out and they sell stocks when they think the market has reached a high point. In theory, this is a great idea, but in practice, it’s essentially impossible, because no one can really predict market highs and lows.

Rather than trying to anticipate highs and lows, your best strategy for coping with the price fluctuations of the financial markets is to diversify your investment portfolio by owning a mix of stocks, bonds and other types of securities. Different types of financial assets can move in different directions at any given time — so, for example, stocks may be up while bonds are down, or vice versa. If you only owned one of these types of assets, and the market for that asset class was down, your portfolio could take a bigger hit than if you owned a variety of asset types.

And you can further diversify within individual asset categories. Stocks can be domestic or

international, large-company or small-company — and these groupings can also move in different directions at the same time, depending on various market forces. As for bonds, they too don’t always move in a uniform direction, or at least with the same intensity — for instance, when interest rates rise, bond prices tend to fall, but longer-term bonds may fall more than shorter-term ones, which are closer to maturity with fewer interest payments remaining. Conversely, when rates are falling, longer-term bonds may be more attractive because they lock in higher yields for a longer time. Consequently, one diversification technique for bonds is to build a “ladder” containing bonds of varying maturities.

Some investments, by their nature, are already somewhat diversified. A mutual fund can contain dozens, or even hundreds, of stocks, or a mixture of stocks and bonds. And different mutual funds may have different investment objectives — some

focus more on growth, while others are more income-oriented — so, further diversification can be achieved by owning a mix of funds.

Furthermore, some investors achieve even greater diversification by owning alternative investments, such as real estate, commodities and cryptocurrencies, although these vehicles themselves are often more volatile than those in more traditional investment categories.

While a diversified portfolio is important for every investor, your exact level of diversification — the percentages of your portfolio devoted to stocks, bonds and other securities — will depend on your individual risk tolerance, time horizon and financial goals. You may want to consult with a financial professional about creating the diversified investment mix that’s right for your needs.

Ultimately, while diversification can’t guarantee profits or protect against all losses, it can

help you reduce some of the risks associated with investing and better prepare you to deal with the inevitable volatility of the financial markets — two key benefits that can help you over the many years you’ll spend as an investor.

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

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Edward Jones Financial Advisor  
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THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY EDWARD JONES FOR USE BY YOUR LOCAL EDWARD JONES FINANCIAL ADVISOR.

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# Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors Announce the 2025 Grant Recipients

The HNN Community Investment Committee is pleased to announce the **2025 HNN Community Grant Fund** Recipients!

**Holliston Public Library** - Museum Passes to Boston Children’s Museum, New England Aquarium, Museum of Fine Arts and Ecotarium

**Holliston Parks & Recreation** - Summer Concerts in the Park

**Holliston Community Farm** - Continued Repair/Update Barn Electrical

**Holliston Historical Society** - Shoe Shop Repair

**Downtown Marigold Project** - Growing Benches Construction

A goal of the **Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors** is to give back to our community. One of the ways this is accomplished is in the form of grants. The **HNN Community Grant Fund** money is raised during the various fundraising activities held throughout the year. The 2024 fundraising events that contributed to the **2025 HNN Community Grant Fund** were **Prize A Day for the Month of May Calendar Raffle, Touch-A-Truck, Great Pumpkin Trail Walk and the HNN Comedy Night**. HNN wishes to thank all those that attended these events as well as the volunteers who organized them.

If you would like to join us in making a difference in our community, check us out and join at [hollistonnewcomers.org](http://hollistonnewcomers.org). *HNN - Building Friendships, Building Community*

## Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors 2025 Community Grant Fund Recipients

**Holliston Public Library**  
Museum Passes  
*(boston children's museum, new england aquarium, museum of fine arts, ecotarium)*

**Holliston Parks & Recreation**  
Summer Concerts in the Park

**Holliston Community Farm**  
Continued Repair/Update Barn Electrical

**Holliston Historical Society**  
Shoe Shop Repair

**Downtown Marigold Project**  
Growing Benches Construction

*Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors - Building Friendships, Building Community  
[hollistonnewcomers.org](http://hollistonnewcomers.org)*



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The Short Term Rental Report

# Make Yourself at Home: Why Usability Is the Secret Sauce in Vacation Rentals



Dave Menapace, President

You’ve fluffed the pillows, stocked the fridge with local goodies, and picked out the perfect welcome mat—but is your vacation rental truly ready to wow?

Enter *usability experience*: the not-so-secret ingredient that transforms a good stay into a five-star memory. It’s not just about

how pretty your place looks—it’s about how intuitively it works. When guests can easily figure out how to use everything, they settle in faster, treat the home with care, and leave glowing reviews in their wake.

So, what does great usability look like in a short-term rental? Let’s dive in.

### Think Like a Guest (Literally—Go Stay There!)

Want to really know what works and what doesn’t? Stay in your own rental for a night or two. Start from the moment you park the car. Is the entry code easy to find? Can you locate the light switches in the dark? Are towels where you’d expect them to be? This firsthand experience is like gold—it reveals pain points that guests may not voice but definitely feel.

### Design With Purpose

Usability starts with design. Sure, aesthetics matter—but functionality is the real MVP. That means utensils near the stove, extra blankets in bedroom closets, and yes, the coffee machine placed where it makes sense. If guests can get what they need without asking or searching, you’re doing it right.

### Labels = Love

Nothing says “I care” like a clearly labeled light switch or a drawer marked “extra towels.” Labels take the guesswork out of navigating a new space. They help guests feel confident and competent—which, in turn, makes them feel at home.

### Essentials: Better to Overdeliver

Running out of toilet paper mid-stay? That’s a no-go. Stock-

ing your rental generously with necessities like paper goods, soap, and kitchen staples isn’t just thoughtful—it’s essential. And for larger groups? Multiply everything. No one likes fighting over the last wine glass.

### Give Guests a Map (Figuratively Speaking)

Create a simple, friendly guidebook with key info: Wi-Fi password, how to use the TV, quirky appliance instructions, and house rules. A printed copy is handy, and a digital version? Even better. Think of it as a treasure map that leads straight to comfort.

### The Takeaway: A House That Feels Like Home

When everything is exactly where it should be—and guests don’t have to think twice—they relax. And relaxed guests are

happy guests. They treat your space with respect, leave fantastic reviews, and become loyal repeat visitors.

Investing in usability isn’t flashy, but it’s powerful. It’s the kind of behind-the-scenes magic that turns a beautiful rental into a beloved one.

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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](http://www.5strcohost.com)) a leading vacation rental management company in New England.

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# Holliston Receives Fire Safety Grants for Gear and Education

In April, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that more than 300 Massachusetts fire departments would receive over \$3 million in grants to support safety equipment for firefighters and life safety education for kids and older adults.

“Massachusetts firefighters do much more than fight fires – they’re our first line of defense in any emergency,” said Gov. Maura Healey. “These grants will help firefighters protect themselves from injury and illness, rescue people in danger, and keep our most vulnerable residents safe from fires and other hazards at home. We are proud to be able to support these vital first responders who never hesitate to answer a call for help.”

The Town of Holliston received a \$4,924.32 grant for safety equipment; a \$4,700 SAFE grant; and a \$2,200 Senior SAFE grant.

The awards are drawn from three grant programs coordinated by the Department of Fire Services.

The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program (SEG) reimburses local fire departments for purchases of turnout gear, hazardous gas meters, SCBA components, accountability sys-

tems, thermal imaging cameras, and more. This round of grants will provide \$1.63 million in funding to fire departments in 266 communities. In many cases, the reimbursed purchases will help them attain compliance with Occupational Safety & Health Administration or National Fire Protection Association safety standards.

“Firefighters train tirelessly for every conceivable emergency so that they can be prepared to help those in need,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “Through this program, we acknowledge that tremendous commitment by investing in the equipment they need to be safe in any situation.”

The Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) Grant Program funds firefighter-educators who deliver age-appropriate fire and life safety education to school-age children. Since the grants’ inception in 1995, the number of Massachusetts 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. This year’s awards will deliver more than \$1.1 million to 204 local fire departments.

“For 30 years, the SAFE grants have delivered life-saving

lessons to Massachusetts’ kids and teens through our local firefighters,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy. “This is just one of the powerful local-state partnerships that make Massachusetts one of the safest places in the nation to live, work, and raise a family.”

In 2014, DFS launched the Senior SAFE Grant Program, which is geared toward another vulnerable population – older adults, who face a disproportionate risk of death or serious injury in a fire. Nearly \$485,000 will support alarm installation, fire safety education, fall prevention strategies, and other resources delivered by 203 local fire departments in partnership with local senior centers, councils on aging, and other community partners.

“People aged 65 and older are at greatest risk of death or serious injury in a fire at home,” said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “The Senior SAFE grants make a difference by sending trained firefighters to conduct home safety assessments, install or replace smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and help our seniors age in place safely and independently.”

SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES



## Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

The Holliston Garden Club’s annual plant sale is Saturday, May 10, from 8 a.m. to noon. We will hold this event at the Congregational Church Green



located on 725 Washington Street next to the Town Hall.

There will be a wide variety of plants from members’ gardens, nursery grown annuals and herbs as well as hanging baskets of sun and shade annuals..

We are excited to announce a new section called “GARDEN TREASURES”. This area will include gently used tools, containers, garden art and other miscellaneous garden treasures.

Cash, checks, Venmo and PayPal will be accepted for purchases.

Proceeds from this event will supplement the clubs programs and plantings around town. This is a rain or shine event.



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Your Money, Your Independence

# Battle of The Ages: Wealth Effect vs. Experience Spending



Glenn Brown, CFP

Saving money to invest is smart. Planning for the future is essential. But there's a fine line between being financially responsible and letting portfolio values drive your decisions. One of the most subtle yet impactful traps in financial planning is the negative wealth effect. This occurs when a sudden drop in your perceived net worth (like a dip in your 401k or home value) causes you to feel poorer, even if your actual income and financial stability haven't changed. This psychological shift often leads people to cut back on spending—not just on luxuries, but on the very experiences that bring meaning, connection, and joy to their lives. And that's when internal and external conflicts begin.

## The First To Go, But Should It?

When people react to a market downturn or economic uncertainty, one of the first things they scale back on is experience spending—travel, events, concerts, dining out, hobbies, and other non-essential but fulfilling activities. For many, these aren't reckless purchases; they're often the things that create memories, deepen relationships, and improve well-being. Yet the negative wealth effect convinces people that now isn't the time. "We'll go next year." "Let's wait and host a big celebration on your \_\_\_\_th birthday." "I'll take that art class when things feel more stable." Here's the rub: markets are never stable but do come back, while specific opportunities don't.

## Timing of Experiences Are Critical

Consider the family vacation to Disney, it is a different shared experience for all going when kids are 6 & 8 versus their late teens. Or the family trip with your HS senior you're planning 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. You might delay a trip only to find your health, schedule, or

relationships have changed. **A Psychological Toll** There's a hidden cost to delaying experience spending, and it's not just about missing out on fun. It can lead to a sense of stagnation, disconnection, and even regret. As humans, we are wired for novelty, connection, and purpose. When we constantly suppress those desires due to financial fear, even when we can afford it, we shrink our lives unnecessarily. Over time, this pattern will increase stress and negativity which creeps into your work and relationships. What's worse, these delays rarely improve your financial picture meaningfully. Even after skipping a few celebrations or delaying a vacation, it's not going to make your 401k come back.

## Don't Let Perception Steal Reality

The key is recognizing that the negative wealth effect is largely psychological. Your net

worth on paper will fluctuate, but if your income, emergency savings, and long-term plans are still intact, then cutting off all experience-based spending will do more harm than good. Ask yourself: "Is my fear based on the actual numbers—or how I feel about them?" If it's the numbers, then review your historical net worth data and if it's close to 12-24 months ago, know this happens and will happen again. Move on. Now if it's how you feel, then consider the sources driving your fear. If you're doomscrolling politics, maybe it's time to put the phone down, go for a walk, listen to some music and think how to move forward with your planned experience spending. Now if your budget doesn't have planned experience spending, that's another topic for another day.

## Life Moves Pretty Fast...

To paraphrase Ferris Buel-

ler, "Life moves pretty fast, if you stop until everything feels financially perfect, you could miss it". Spending mindfully on experiences that matter isn't wasteful—it's often the best investment you can make. Oh Yeeeah! 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

## Tame the Mane—We’ve Got The Secret to Smooth Summer Hair

By GINA WOELFEL

Has your frizzy hair gone rogue with a mind of its own? Don’t sweat it! When the humidity hits, **The Saphira Mineral DeFrizz Treatment** will have you smooth sailing all summer long.

Frizz and lack of definition are common struggles, especially in the summer heat for people with curly, wavy and textured hair. But now, you can say “Buh-bye” to frizz and hello to the most smooth, defined curls with the Saphira Mineral DeFrizz Treatment, **available at b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio in Medway, MA.** “My curls have never looked this good—soft, defined, and totally frizz-free,” says one happy b.LUXE client, Linda Picard.” “It’s a total game-changer for summer.

Beach days and warm summer nights are calling—and we’re here to help you look your best—effortlessly. Managing frizzy hair can feel like a full-time job, but what if we told you that you could say goodbye to frizz without losing your hair’s natural texture or integrity? Imagine a summer where your hair stays

smooth and hydrated—even in the muggy heat. We’re talking about a **quick, easy, and effective solution** for everyone—from those with tough curls to fine, damaged hair.

*Ready to learn more? Let’s dive into why the Saphira Treatment is the must-have summer service for you!*

### Frizz-Free Hair Without the Fuss

The magic behind this treatment is in the ingredients! Its mineral-based DeFrizz technology is composed of **26 Dead Sea Minerals, Lily Flower and Essential Oils.** These ingredients work together to soothe and refresh your scalp, promoting a healthy foundation for your hair. The treatment also includes **hyaluronic acid**, which is a humectant that helps seal in moisture to keep your hair hydrated, preventing dryness and minimizing frizz. It’s like a spa day for your hair!

And did we mention the diamond powder? We’re talking the fancy stuff here, folks—because diamonds are a girl’s best friend, right? The Saphira Mineral

Treatment infuses your hair with **diamond powder** for an extra dose of luxe, leaving it smoother, more radiant, and shining with a healthy, head-turning glow.

### The Difference is in the Texture

Love your waves, curls and coils? Keep them! Not to be confused with traditional smoothing or keratin treatments that relax and straighten the hair. The Saphira Mineral DeFrizz Treatment retains your natural texture while eliminating frizz, healing the hair and adding strength. A thermodynamic process occurs when the treatment is applied. One of the key ingredients, **Hyaluronic Acid** is a humectant which hydrates the hair and seals in moisture, eliminating protein bonds that create frizz. This new technology is unlike anything else on the market.

### Quick, No-Hassle Treatment

One of the best things about the Saphira Mineral DeFrizz Treatment is how easy and fast it is—no hours spent in the salon



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or sitting under a hooded dryer. In fact, this treatment can be done in under **60 minutes**, with **no processing time required.** So, you can get an effortless, frizz-free look during your lunch break and be ready to take on the rest of your day! Plus, it’s **formulated without harsh chemicals**, so no strong smells or waiting for the treatment to “process.” Another bonus! Air drying and blowouts are so much easier! By reducing frizz, your curls and waves dry smoother and sleeker.

### Lasting Results That Will Keep You Frizz-Free for Months

Now, let’s talk about longevity. After just one treatment, the Saphira Mineral DeFrizz Treatment will leave your hair **smooth, hydrated, and frizz-free for up to five months.** That means you can enjoy beautiful hair all summer long!

### The Best Part? It Works on All Hair Types.

Tough curls, damaged strands, fine hair—you name it, this treatment’s got it covered. It’s the go-to solution for anyone looking to keep their hair healthy, shiny, and frizz-free.

### Book Your Saphira Mineral DeFrizz Treatment Today!

Go on—you deserve it! Skip the daily frizz battle and spend more time enjoying your summer. The weather’s heating up, and it’s the perfect time to level up your hair game. With the Saphira Treatment, you can finally say goodbye to frizz and hello to smooth, shiny hair—perfect for summer, and just as amazing year-round.

The Saphira DeFrizz Treatment is **priced at \$275** and **includes a full-sized Prep & Maintain Shampoo and Mineral Mist** for you to take home.

So, why wait? Book your appointment today and give your hair the **luxury treatment** it deserves.

To schedule a Saphira Mineral DeFrizz Healing Treatment, you can scan the **QR** code above, call us at (508) 321-1624 or go to **bluxe.com** to see all we have to offer.

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# It's official! Ahronian Landscaping is celebrating 40 years in business!

About this significant milestone, they happily said: "We're so proud to mark four decades of turning outdoor dreams into reality, and we couldn't have done it without YOU! Thank you to our loyal customers, hardworking crew, and supportive community for helping us grow season after season."

Ahronian Landscaping & Design specializes in high-end landscape design and build services that transform outdoor spaces into personalized retreats. For 40 years, the family-owned company has proudly served the Metrowest area and beyond, offering everything from patio installation and outdoor kitchens to fire features, water elements, and inground pools. Whether you're searching for landscaping, lawn care, or custom landscape design in Massachusetts, their team delivers unmatched craftsmanship and care. They excel in creating functional landscapes that enhance curb appeal and support year-round outdoor living.

In addition to the design and installation of these beautiful spaces, Ahronian Landscaping also maintains their customers' landscapes, with a comprehensive garden maintenance service plan that includes pruning, weeding, spring and fall cleanups, and fine gardening. They have a detailed approach to their work and take pride in transforming spaces for their clients to be able to enjoy for a long time.

It all began in 1985, when Mark and Linda Ahronian put the first shovel in the ground. Working part-time until the company grew, Mark and Linda laid bricks, raked leaves, and planted gardens out of one pickup truck in their "free" time, and accumulated a strong customer base. Over time, they were able to hire skilled employees who created a tightly knit team with a culture of hard work, professional growth, and belonging. The company credits the team's high standards for their continued expansion, but also the culture of family they have created together and all the joy and laughs they share.

Business  
spotlight



Founders, Mark and Linda Ahronian

Now, around twenty-five employees strong, Ahronian Landscaping takes on many more projects and thrives off the variety and quality of services they offer. They consider themselves a "group of doers" and work hard to ensure their clients are happy with the results.

While Ahronian Landscaping has a major presence in Metrowest yards, they are also highly involved in the community at large. Sponsoring community events and projects in town is part of the company's mission to help create vibrant, inclusive communities by developing and enhancing spaces that bring people together.

As leaders in the industry, they have a vast base of knowledge and experience, with all of their designers holding the Massachusetts Certified Horticulturist designation awarded by the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA). The company has been a member of the MNLA for decades,



The Ahronian team at the beginning of the 2025 season.

previously serving as President, and having members on the Board of Directors and numerous committees. They have a strong focus on their part in the Green Industry, because they understand that it makes an enormous difference for both them and their customers.

The company is unwaveringly committed to their core

values: quality, integrity, teamwork, efficiency, and growth. Those are the driving forces that allow them to be who they are and do what they do. They aim to foster opportunities for connection, well-being, and growth both within the company and the larger community. Their mission is to provide the best customer service through

communication, quality craftsmanship, and horticultural standards; and the impact they make motivates them to keep on building.

Here's to 40 more years of digging in, planting strong roots, and building something beautiful!

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# Holliston’s Annual Touch-A-Truck Fundraiser & Food Truck Festival is Back!

Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors (HNN) invites children of all ages to climb aboard a variety of trucks and vehicles at this year’s Touch-A-Truck Fundraiser & Food Truck Festival on Saturday, May 17, 2025. The event will run from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, rain or shine, at the Sam Placentino Elementary School, 235 Woodland Street (off Route 16) in Holliston, MA. The event will be horn-free for the first hour (10:00 am – 11:00 am), which is ideal for younger children and children with special needs. We anticipate over 50 trucks, including police & fire, heavy construction, landscaping, tree removal, and highway, will be available for children to touch, climb and explore. Bring your appetites because food trucks will be offering a wide menu of delicious options including burgers, hot dogs, BBQ, Mexican, candy, ice cream, fried dough and many other tasty treats. And there’s more! Fran Flynn the Strolling Magician will wow you with his magic tricks and

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

balloon-tying artistry (10:30 am to 1:30 pm) and DJ Danny will provide musical entertainment throughout the event. For an additional fee, and available throughout the event, Roaming Railroad will take children on a train ride and Imagine That will offer face painting. Event admission is \$10 per child (12 & under) and \$2 per adult. Proceeds support Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors’ Community Grant Fund. The HNN Community Grant Fund provides funding for important Holliston events and services, including the Holliston Parks & Recreation Summer Concert Series, Holliston Town Library free museum passes, Holliston Downtown Marigold Project, and upgrades to Holliston Community Farm. We encourage you to follow the Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors Facebook page @HollistonNewcomersAndNeighbors and our website [www.HollistonNewcomers.org](http://www.HollistonNewcomers.org) for ongoing event updates.



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# MMS Perform Annual Celebration of Spring

The Mudville Madrigal Singers, now in their thirty-second year, will soon perform their annual celebration of spring at two local churches. The program includes works by Byrd, Jannequin, Britten, Vaughn Williams, and Gershwin; and contemporary composers Lauridsen, Joel, and Busby, Bono, and Barnwell. They will sing at the Christ the

King Lutheran Church at 600 Central Street in Holliston at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 30. The next day they will be at the Congregational Church of Weston at 130 Newton Street in Weston, again at 8 p.m. Admission is free with donations gratefully accepted. They hope music-loving and spring-loving readers of this notice will attend.



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# Swirl Into Spring with Apricot Lane

*Dresses, Sets, and a Variety of Accessories are Waiting for You!*

By JANE LEBAK

With spring around the corner and days getting longer, it's time to brighten up the wardrobe with lighter colors, breathable fabrics, and plans for warmer weather.

"Springtime means dresses," says Marta McNulty, owner of Franklin's Apricot Lane Boutique. "Last year, we became the town's dress destination, and it's easy to see why."

Apricot Lane is a sweet little boutique tucked behind the Starbucks on Route 140. Stocked with hand-selected fashions, the shop hits the sweet spot between fashionable and practical, keeping costs down and always targeted toward local tastes and needs.

This spring's dress selection covers all the bases, from formal to semi formal to casual events. Apricot Lane can outfit you for an evening wedding in Boston Common or a mid-afternoon wedding in a countryside barn. They can get you set up with a sundress for the beach or even just a t-shirt dress to run errands.

Colors this season are mostly lighter, shades of beige, pink and baby blue, and Marta's personal favorite, the combo dresses. "It's a dress which has a crochet top, tank or cap sleeves, and airy cotton from the waist down."

Another trend this season is the denim dress. "These aren't

GenX denim dresses. Blended with Tencel, today's denim dresses are light and flowy, beautifully tailored, and flattering for any figure." Marta says, "We're used to denim being bulky, but these have to be seen to be believed. Seen, touched, worn, and then loved."

For cooler evenings, you can pair the dresses with the perfect cover-up. "We have adorable shrug sweaters and little jackets. Because they're cruelty-free, vegan leather jackets are the current status quo, and we have many of those," Marta adds.

Last year, many of Apricot Lane's customers wanted outfits for country music concerts. Marta says, "We'd combine glittery tops and denim skirts, or we'd pair an airy cotton dress with a light jacket, a coordinating pair of sunglasses, and statement jewelry pieces."

Coordinating separates is Marta's specialty. Her initial experience as a visual merchandiser for both H&M and Bloomingdales taught her how to quickly pair not only colors that work together, but also interesting texture combinations and different styles. These blends create a person's own signature look. "You can come in and build an entire capsule wardrobe with several carefully-selected pieces," she says.

In choosing this spring's lineup, Marta continues Apricot



## Business spotlight

Lane's commitment to charitable causes. Beaded bracelets by Noble Venture are made by survivors of human trafficking in Nepal, Haiti, and Guatemala, and sales help them rescue other victims. Clothing from Vero Moda, a Denmark brand, is made from 100% recycled materials, and their manufacturing process is certified eco-friendly. ESW face masks are cruelty-free and also biodegradable, so after you use one, you can compost it in your yard...or even in a house plant.

"We just brought in WMP, Wear Me Pro, a line of sunglasses that makes a donation for every pair sold to the Arizona Humane Society – the state's largest no kill shelter," says Marta. "They look great, and you feel great wearing them."



The current season features Molly Bracken, Elan, Another Love, Vero Moda, Good American, Hidden, Vervet Denim, Kinsey Designs and Kendra Scott jewelry collection. "I source from all over the world," says Marta. "This year, a number of Canadian brands stood out as very high quality, and strikingly different, so I'm introducing Franklin to new brands, like DEX, R.D. Style, and B.Young. I think they're going to love them."

Stop over at Apricot Lane, at 342 East Central Street in

Franklin, to pick up a summer-accented necklace, and maybe spend an hour in the spacious changing rooms trying on every piece of your brand new capsule wardrobe. Or, just visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/apricotlane-franklin>.

Let Apricot Lane get you ready. Ready for spring, ready for concerts, ready for drinks with friends...ready for anything.

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# Struggling With Acne?

By LISA MASSIMIANO,  
LICENSED ESTHETICIAN AND  
CERTIFIED ACNE SPECIALIST

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

### What is an Acne Specialist?

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

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

### How an Acne Specialist Can Help You.

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

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

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

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

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# Spring Cleaning is Greener with Affordable Junk Removal

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

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

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

Jay Schadler started his business in 2005. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with eight trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

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

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

Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it.

## Business spotlight

He first tries to either recycle or donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

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

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

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

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

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

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the



job site clean. They can even handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in

Holliston. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

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

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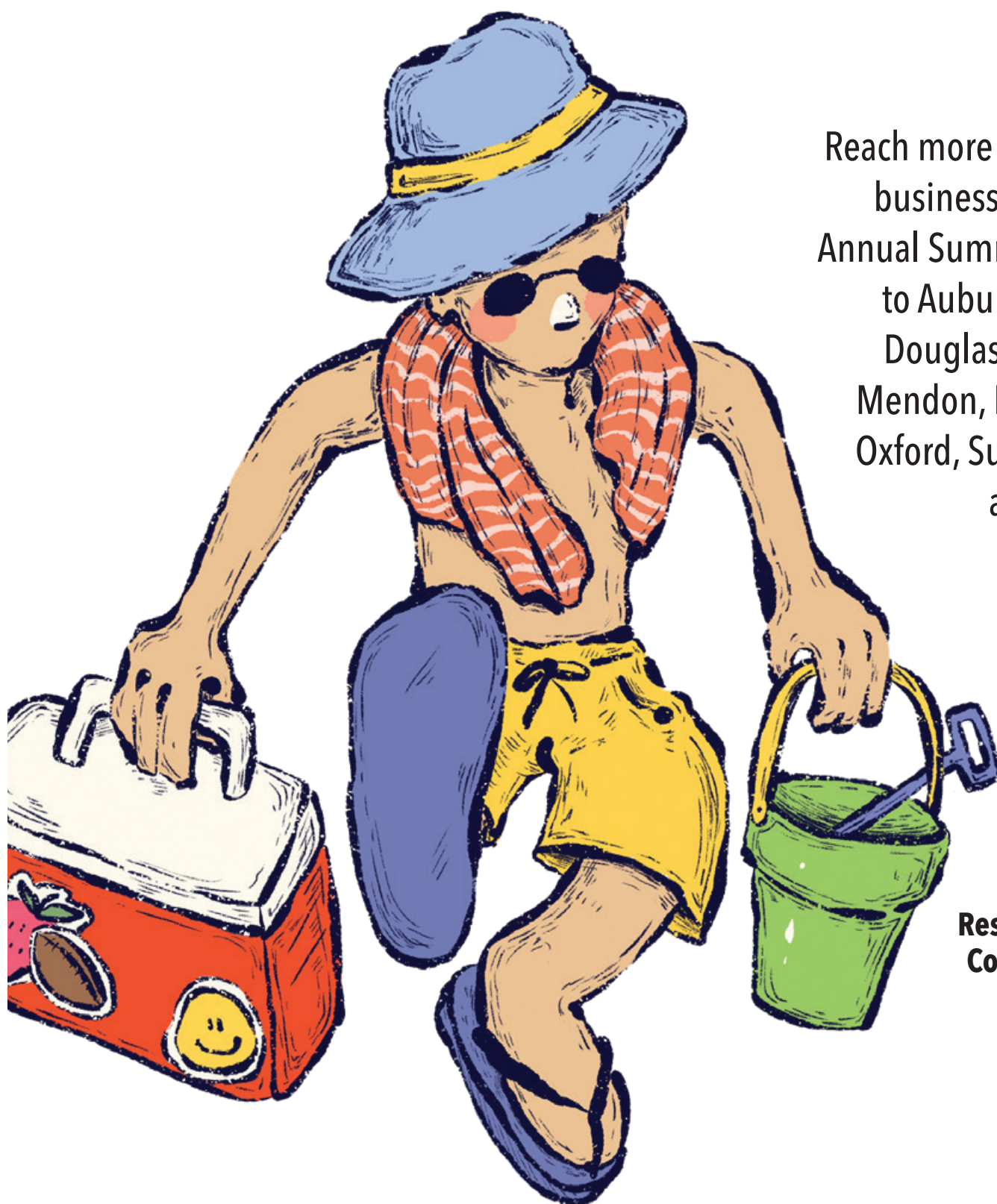
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# Holliston Senior Center

| Older American's Month   |   | MAY   |   | National Better Hearing Month   |  |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  |  |
| <b>***Means Reservations are Requested in Advance. Please call 508-429-0622</b>  | <div>OLDER AMERICANS MONTH</div> <div>FLIP THE SCRIPT ON AGING: MAY 2025</div>  |   | <div>1</div> <div>9:00 Pilates<br/>10:30 Energy Focus Movement</div> <div></div> <div>1:00 Mah Jongg Open Play</div>   | <div>2</div> <div>10:00 Brain &amp; Body Wellness Exercise<br/>10:00 <b>Dull Men's Club</b><br/>1:00 Tune Timers</div> <div>Join us at our Open House, Saturday, May 3 from 11am to 1pm at THE CENTER 150 Goulding St.</div>                      |  |
| <div>5</div> <div>9:30 Coffee &amp; Coloring<br/>11:00 Yoga<br/>12:00 <b>Lunch***</b><br/>12:30 <b>Spilka's Office - Listening Hour</b><br/>1:00 Tai Chi<br/>1:15 Games Day</div>  | <div>6</div> <div>10:00 <b>Writers' Group</b><br/>10:00 <b>Coffee HPD</b><br/>10:30 Energy Focus Movement<br/>11:00 <b>Rainbow Coffee</b><br/>12:00 Zumba Gold</div> <div></div> | <div>7</div> <div>9:30 Walking Fitness<br/>10:00 <b>Hopkinton Audiology Cleaning***</b><br/>10:45 <b>Hearing Health Presentation***</b><br/>11:00 Yoga<br/>12:00 <b>Lunch***</b><br/>12:00 <b>SHINE***</b><br/>1:30 <b>Memory Café</b></div> <div></div> | <div>8</div> <div>9:00 Pilates<br/>10:00 <b>Meet the Candidates</b></div> <div></div> <div>10:30 Energy Focus Movement<br/>1:00 Mah Jongg Open Play</div>  | <div>9</div> <div>10:00 Brain &amp; Body Wellness Exercise<br/>10:00 <b>Dull Men's Club</b><br/>1:00 Tune Timers<br/><b>1:30 Book Club</b></div> <div></div> |  |
| <div>12</div> <div>9:30 Coffee &amp; Coloring<br/>11:00 Yoga<br/>12:00 <b>Lunch***</b></div> <div></div> <div>1:00 Tai Chi<br/>1:15 Games Day</div> | <div>13</div> <div>9:00 <b>Monthly Breakfast***</b><br/>10:00 <b>Legal Advice***</b><br/>10:30 Energy Focus Movement<br/>12:00 Zumba Gold</div> <div></div>                      | <div>14</div> <div>9:00 <b>Podiatry***</b><br/>9:30 Walking Fitness<br/>11:00 Yoga<br/>12:00 <b>Lunch***</b><br/>1:00 <b>COA Meeting</b></div>  | <div>15</div> <div>9:00 Pilates<br/>9:30 <b>SSF Meeting</b><br/>10:30 Energy Focus Movement<br/>11:00 <b>Veterans Group</b></div> <div></div> <div>1:00 Mah Jongg Open Play<br/>1:30 <b>What's My Line**</b></div> | <div>16</div> <div>10:00 Brain &amp; Body Wellness Exercise<br/>10:00 <b>Dull Men's Club</b><br/>1:00 Tune Timers</div> <div></div>                          |  |
| <div>19</div> <div>9:30 Coffee &amp; Coloring<br/>11:00 Yoga<br/>12:00 <b>Lunch***</b><br/>1:00 Tai Chi<br/>1:15 Games Day</div>   | <div>20</div> <div>10:00 Meditation<br/>10:00 <b>Notary Service***</b><br/>10:30 Energy Focus Mvt<br/>12:00 Zumba Gold<br/>1:30 <b>Architectural History: a Virtual Presentation from Ancient to the Modern World***</b></div>                                      | <div>21</div> <div>9:30 Walking Fitness<br/>10:30 <b>Care Continuum Panel***</b><br/>See more on page 9<br/>11:00 Yoga<br/>12:00 <b>Lunch***</b><br/>12:00 <b>SHINE***</b></div>  | <div>22</div> <div>9:00 Pilates<br/>9:30 <b>Java with Jay***</b><br/>10:30 Energy Focus Movement<br/>1:00 Mah Jongg Open Play<br/>1:30 <b>Healthy Eating on a Budget***</b></div> <div></div>                      | <div>23</div> <div>9:30 <b>Select Chat</b><br/>10:00 Brain &amp; Body Wellness Exercise<br/>10:00 <b>Dull Men's Club</b><br/>1:00 Tune Timers</div>   |  |
| <div>26</div> <div><b>Center Closed Memorial Day</b></div> <div></div>  | <div>27</div> <div>10:30 Energy Focus Movement<br/>12:00 Zumba Gold<br/>1:30 <b>Mosquito Control Presentation***</b> Call 508-429-0622 to register</div>  | <div>28</div> <div></div> <div>9:30 Walking Fitness<br/>11:00 Yoga<br/>12:00 <b>Lunch***</b></div>  | <div>29</div> <div>9:00 Pilates<br/>10:30 Energy Focus Movement<br/>1:00 Mah Jongg Open Play<br/>1:30 <b>Open Play Games with Light Refreshments***</b></div>   | <div>30</div> <div>10:00 Brain &amp; Body Wellness Exercise<br/>10:00 <b>Dull Men's Club</b><br/>12:00 <b>Lunch &amp; Learn***</b> In Sherborn,<br/>1:00 Tune Timers</div>  |  |



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# The Corner Spot CultureFest

The Corner Spot is back for Season 8 and the #bestspointownjust keeps getting better! All of the events you know and love will be making a comeback: Culture Fest, Opening Day, Earth Day, Pups on the Spot and more! We're excited to be introducing some new events, vendors, performers and food trucks this year to keep things exciting all season long!

The fun kicks off with Earth Day on Saturday, May 10th, followed by CultureFest on Saturday, May 31st. These two events mark the official start of another unforgettable season at The Corner Spot.

Don't miss a beat—check out our full calendar, sign up for event reminders, and connect with us on social media through our website: [thecorner-spotashland.com](http://thecorner-spotashland.com).

Come for the events, stay for the vibe. It's going to be a great season at The Corner Spot.

# Garden Club Sale

The Ashland Garden Club is hosting its annual spring plant sale on Saturday, May 17.

On sale will be sun and shade perennials, as well as other plants.

The sale will be held rain or shine, from 9 AM to noon. It will be held in Montenegro Square, across from the Ashland Public Library.

For more information, visit [ashlandgardenclub.com](http://ashlandgardenclub.com).



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# Sports

## A Wonderful Surprise

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The 2024 boys tennis season wasn't not one that Holliston wants to remember. The Panthers endured a year of struggles and finished with only a single win against 13 losses. With the poor season now in its rearview mirror Coach Jay Dupuis is rather optimistic about the upcoming season despite the Panthers losing their number one singles player to graduation.

"Everyone else is back, plus we have a bunch of bright new additions," Dupuis said. "We're going to be a really young team, but I am super excited about what I've seen so far."

This spring the Holliston starting lineup will include two returning seniors, who will each be playing as half of the two doubles teams. The other five starters will include a first-year sophomore and four freshman as well as another freshman looking to crack the starting lineup definitely giving Dupuis a very young team. However, while the team may seem young on paper, their talent is off the charts and translates exceptionally well on the courts.

Senior co-captains Sohan Javali and Sebastian Dumont will each anchor one of the Panthers doubles teams. Javali (last years seconds singles) will be paired with freshman Denis Grishechkin while Dumont (last year's third singles) will be playing with freshman Nayan Alluri.

"I like the leadership that Sohan brings being paired at first doubles with Nayan, who is young but comes with a lot of experience. Besides I've always thought that Sohan was better suited for doubles," the Panther Coach said. "So far the second doubles team have been doing a real good job together."

While the Holliston Coach had no idea that Grishechkin was coming out for the team this spring, he is extremely happy that he did. The freshman gives

the Panthers yet another talent young athlete with a good forehand as well a backhand. Dupuis loves the fact that his consistency is excellent and he does not make unforced errors.

Scheduled to play first singles will be first year tennis player Cody Bloom. Unfortunately, Bloom will be sidelined for the team's first match with an injury but he coach believes he'll be back sooner than later.

"When he is healthy, he's one of the best players in the entire state, let alone the league," the Holliston Coach said. "He is a phenomenal athlete and probably the best I have ever coached during my four years at Holliston. He is a true number one and glad that he decided to come out for the team for the first time."

Returning to the team after a two-year absence is Mark Merlis. As a freshman Merlis was one of the first to sign up but later went on to work with a personal trainer. Merlis brings a great knowledge of the game to Holliston as well as court coverage and will be holding down the second singles spot this season for the Panthers.

"Mark is a very serious tennis player, who knows that he is only going to improve his game by playing against the likes of Cody," Dupuis said. "He has an excellent game and can do it all. His backhand is one of better ones I've seen and it's the strength of his game."

Freshman Zackary Zurita-Gavikov will start the season in the third singles position, while Denis Grishechkin will hold down the third spot. Zurita-Gavikov is already an excellent tennis player, but according to the Coach he will eventually be a phenomenal talent on the court.

"His forehand is unreal and he has a great knowledge of the game," Dupuis said. "I saw him as a seventh grader and was amazed; I couldn't wait for him to get to the high school to play



for me."

In addition to the seven starters, Dupuis has two other freshman standing in the wings looking to battle it out for a spot in the starting lineup. Anshul Vompolu is another young tennis player with a bright future ahead of him as is Vishak Raja, who the coach sees as an opposing young man at the net who is fearless, but raw. However, with some training he'll be able to take his game to the next level. Vompolu has the ability to cover the entire court and his first and second serves are top-notch. Dupuis likes his knowledge of the game and knows that the freshman will be pushing the other players in challenge matches to get playing time.

"Last year things were cut and dry with our players, this year things could turn on a dime," the Panther coach said. "We have several outstanding freshman, which is leaving me excited about the season. I think that we're going to surprise a lot of teams this year."

Being that the team did not qualify for the State Tournament last year, which is Dupuis number one goal this year – get into the tournament and let's see what happens. After that, he would love to see the team staying competitive with each and every match they play and finally wants to win more games than they lose. Dupuis feels that if the team can accomplish the last goal it will be a really big surprise to the rest of the Tri-Valley League.

"I am really looking forward to an exciting year. The captains are excited, the young kids are excited and I'm excited," he said. "We have some good talent and a season to look forward to. Having solid returners as well as true tennis players is giving me a lot of hope. If we stay healthy, we're going to surprise a lot of teams."

Despite opening the season with a loss, the Panthers were able to tie last years win total with a 4-1 win over Norwood in only its second game of the season.

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# Real Estate Corner



The 4-bed, 2-bath, 2,669-square-foot house at 192 Adams Street in Holliston recently sold for \$855,000.  
Image credit: www.zillow.com. Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages

## Recent Home Sales

| Date       | Holliston             | Amount      |
|------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 04/17/2025 | 280 Washington Street | \$750,000   |
| 04/14/2025 | 22 Winston Road       | \$1.215 mil |
| 04/14/2025 | 246 Fiske Street      | \$677,000   |
| 04/14/2025 | 343 Washington Street | \$810,900   |
| 04/11/2025 | 613 Norfolk Street    | \$790,000   |
| 04/07/2025 | 42 Hollis Street      | \$715,000   |
| 04/07/2025 | 58 Ruth Ellen Road    | \$800,000   |
| 04/01/2025 | 54 Westfield Drive    | \$460,000   |
| 03/31/2025 | 20 Regency Drive      | \$305,000   |
| 03/28/2025 | 192 Adams Street      | \$855,000   |
| 03/27/2025 | 7 Cottage Drive       | \$510,000   |
| 03/26/2025 | 32 Garrett Way        | \$699,900   |
| 03/24/2025 | 16 Sawyer Circle      | \$710,000   |
| 03/21/2025 | 17 Smithhurst Drive   | \$725,000   |

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