

Holliston localtownpages

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Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

March 1, 2026

Dr. James "Kimo" Carter Named Holliston Superintendent

By JESSICA OMMEN

On Tuesday, February 3rd, the Holliston School Committee voted to appoint Dr. James "Kimo" Carter as the district's next Superintendent. The committee voted 5-2 in favor of Dr. Carter, with a re-vote resulting in a 7-0 vote to show unanimous support for the incoming Superintendent.

Pending successful contract negotiations, Dr. Carter will be joining Holliston on July 1, 2026, leaving his role as Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning at Weston Public Schools, which he has held since 2018.

While the School Committee ultimately voted unanimously in support of Dr.



Dr. James "Kimo" Carter is poised to start his new position as Superintendent of Holliston Public Schools on July 1, 2026.

Carter, deliberation included support for finalist Dr. Jennifer Parson, current Superintendent of Plainville schools.

Tracy Floekher and Joe Paru highlighted Dr. Parson's experience as a standing Superintendent, including her experience overseeing districtwide budgets. They also acknowledged that her experience with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MBSA) would be an asset as the Holliston School District undergoes the initial stages of the program.

School Committee member Hillary Bresnahan acknowledged those strengths but spoke in favor of Dr. Carter stating, "He has done work on contract negotiations with the union, he has supported the budget pro-

KIMO

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Our Town Publishing Changes Hands, Celebrates Relocation

Tri-County Regional Chamber Facilitates Milford Ribbon-Cutting Event

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

On Friday, January 23rd, Jen and Marty Schofield, new owners of Our Town Publishing, celebrated a grand opening

and ribbon-cutting ceremony at their new location at 9 Industrial Road, Ste. 107, Milford, Mass.

CEREMONY

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Front row at ribbon-cutting, from left, Laura O'Callaghan, President & CEO of Tri-County Regional Chamber, Our Town Publishing new owners Jen and Marty Schofield, and Mass. Rep. Brian W. Murray of the 10th Worcester District.



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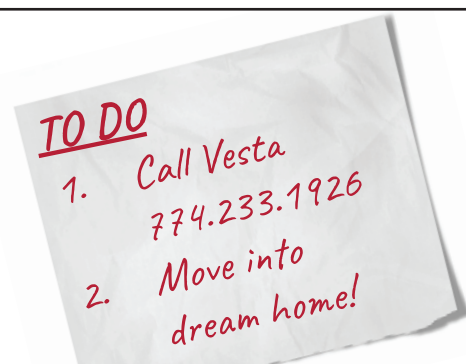


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Our Town Publishing's celebration afforded local professionals an opportunity to make connections with area businesses.

CEREMONY

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The full-service printing company provides a range of marketing services for all clients, from consumer to business, as well as publishes community newspapers reaching 28 Massachusetts towns. The reception drew many local professionals, along with Rep. Brian W. Murray of the 10th Worcester District and Laura O'Callaghan, President &

CEO of the Tri-County Regional Chamber of Commerce, who was "thrilled" to help facilitate the ribbon-cutting event.

Our Town President & CEO Jen Schofield expressed her gratitude to all who attended for their support.

"As both the owner and publisher of 16 area newspapers and a full-service print shop, Marty and I are incredibly proud of the work we do—and even more proud of the relationships that have built this business brick by brick," Schofield added, "This event is more than just showcasing our print shop, newspapers, products and services; it's about building lasting connections. Printing has always been a collaborative craft, and today is a perfect opportunity to share ideas and build new partnerships in a community we are so fortunate to be part of."

"It was wonderful to see such a strong turnout from the newspaper's clients and supporters," said O'Callaghan. "The energy in the room and the enthusiasm for networking really spoke to the respect and support Jennifer and



Marty have already earned as the new owners. And of course, nothing makes it official quite like oversized red scissors and a bright red ribbon!"

"I'm pleased to have Our Town Publishing in Milford and very impressed with the number of local community newspapers (it) publishes," said Rep. Murray, who recognized Our Town Publishing with an official citation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the celebration. Murray continued, "Today, it is so difficult to try to get current local information, and the papers that Our town puts together does just a great job of getting that information out to residents in



the community. I was also very pleased to learn of the extent of full-service printing services Our Town offers to businesses and residents in the community. It's very important for folks who have printing needs to know they'll be done locally, professionally and cost-effectively."

Rep. Murray also gave a nod to the Tri-County Chamber for helping to bring exposure and attention to local businesses such as Our Town Publishing.

Tri-County Regional Chamber's O'Callaghan extended her well wishes "to former owner Ni-

cole and her husband, Charles, on their retirement - hopefully they are enjoying their free time somewhere sunny and warm."

The Tashjians said they could not be happier to entrust the company they built to Jennifer and Marty.

"With Jennifer's 26 years in the industry and Marty's technical experience, we know our employees, and the continuation of what has been established, will have a long life for the years ahead," said Nicole Tashjian.

For more information on Our Town Publishing's full-service printing, publishing and graphic design services, visit www.ourtownpublishing.com.

To learn more about Local Town Pages' community newspapers, visit www.localtownpages.com.

For more information on the Tri-County Regional Chamber, visit tricontycounty.org.

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Ask the Assessor

BY KEVIN RUDDEN,
PRINCIPAL ASSESSOR

Question:

“I’m a senior citizen. What do I have to do to apply for the town’s Means-Tested Senior Property Tax Exemption?”

Answer:

The most important thing to do is check to see if you qualify for the state’s Senior Circuit Breaker Income Tax Credit when you fill out your Massachusetts state income tax return for calendar year 2025. The form to use is “Schedule CB.” Do this even if you don’t make enough money to file a state income tax return.

The state increases the maximum amount of this income tax credit every year. It went up from \$2,730 last year to \$2,820 this year.

Obtaining this state income tax credit means you have passed the biggest hurdle to obtain our local property tax exemption in the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2026. Almost every senior applying for this exemption so far has met all the other criteria involving annual income, amount of assets, limit on the assessed value of your house and length of time you have lived in Holliston.

If you’re one of the 33 people who received this exemption in this fiscal year, the Assessors’ Office will send you an application for Fiscal Year 2027 in late June. If you didn’t apply before, but now want to, applications will be available at the Assessors’ Office and can be downloaded from our page on the Town of Holliston’s website beginning on July 1st.

Unlike other property tax exemptions, these applications are due back by September 15th. This deadline allows us enough time to review your application and meet with the Select Board in October. The three members of that board vote each year to make the local exemption be they voted for 100% -- resulting in 33 recipients receiving reductions in their third and fourth quarter property taxes ranging from \$230 up to \$2,730.

So, remember the three steps involved:

1. See if you qualify for the state income tax credit when you fill out Schedule CB as part of your state income tax return for 2025.
2. Fill out our application, available beginning on July 1st.
3. Return our completed application to the Assessors’ Office by September 15th.

HDAAC to Hold Year in Review June 18th

Save the Date!

What: HDAAC 2026 Year in Review Celebration
When: Thursday, June 18, 2026, 6-7:30 p.m.
Where: 1750 Washington St., Holliston
Contact: Zoe Moreau, moreauz@holliston.k12.ma.us

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KIMO
continued from page 1

cess and he’s in a district with a central office, district size and a K-12 district that is a little more similar to Holliston... he could easily hit the ground running.”

Frank Ogura, agreed that it was a difficult decision but ultimately supported Dr. Carter stating “Where I landed was the emotional intelligence piece, talking about leading from the middle.”

After a short deliberation, the School Committee ultimately voted in favor of Dr. Kimo Carter.

His appointment is the culmination of months-long search process that involved community surveys, public forums, candidate meet-and-greets and a series of publicly held interviews.

A key part of the hiring process was the development of a Candidate Profile by Hazard Young Attea Associates (HYA), a national search firm that was hired by the School Committee to assist in the Superintendent Search. Using data from community feedback, HYA identified “relationship-building” as the number one priority for the district.

According to members of the School Committee, Dr. Carter demonstrated a keen understanding of relationship building and effective communication practices. At his interview on January 30th, he said, “I think many people when they talk about communication they mean that they are not being

listened to, and that is the start of any communication is good listening skills. Making sure that the person knows that you understand their point of view goes a long way.”

He advocated for an “overall district satisfaction survey” that would be sent annually to teachers, students, and families. He spoke about being very transparent about survey data, “You know, sometimes you get ugly data coming from surveys, but being very matter of fact. Okay, here’s some place that we might need to grow.”

During a brief recess at the February 3rd meeting, Dr. Carter accepted the School Committee’s offer to enter contract negotiations. “He is thrilled, and he wanted us to express his sincere appreciation to everyone. He’s very excited!” School Committee Chair Sarah Fitzgerald announced as the meeting resumed.

Prior to Weston, Dr. Carter was the Principal of Watertown Middle School for 13 years and has held various teaching positions in the classroom. He is a seasoned educator with expansive experience from classroom teaching to school and district-wide leadership.

Dr. Carter holds an Ed.D. in Educational Administration from Boston College, and Ed.M. in Educational Leadership from Harvard University, a M.A.T. in History and Education from Boston College, a B.A. from Wesleyan University, and a Massachusetts Professional Superintendent Certification.

The Holliston School Committee announced they will be arranging community meet and greets with Dr. Carter once his contract is finalized and as his start date approaches. The Holliston community is excited to welcome Dr. Carter to Holliston Public Schools.

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Wanted: Crafty Students Looking to Brighten a Senior's Day

By GRAYDON WEBB

If you asked members of the senior community what brightens their day, some may bring up memories like a particular song from their youth, or even just a stranger saying hello. But for Belmont student Nathalie Canetta, delivering smiles comes in the form of bracelets, a movement she has started through community volunteers and positive creativity. She's looking to expand the effort through students in other communities. So far, she's brought on student volunteers from Cambridge, Brighton, Burlington, Watertown and Arlington, and she's looking to expand to other Massachusetts communities.

Inspired by her youth spent at summer camps - learning how to make friendship bracelets out of string - Nathalie sought out a unique way to give back to her community and figured this commonly-shared skill could help attract others to the cause. "I think people don't think a lot about artistic ways to give back," Nathalie explained, "I think bracelets are a great way to connect with the senior community."

In mid-2024, Nathalie reached out to a number of senior facilities. Although many didn't accept handmade donations, Nathalie found three, The Veronica B. Smith Senior Center, The Brookline Senior Center, and The



Bracelets for Benefits aims to lift the spirits of seniors with friendship bracelets hand made by students. They're looking for more Mass. communities to join in.

Cambridge Homes - receptive to regular bracelet donations from Nathalie's public service organization, Bracelets for Benefits. Expanding through the use of a TikTok account and a Google Classroom for her volunteers, Nathalie has successfully grown her operation to a whopping 530 bracelets (and counting) donated through 350 hours of community service.

For students looking to get involved, all it takes is a spark of inspiration. Bracelets for Benefits has welcomed donations of string bracelets, pony beads, and now even rainbow looms,

so the possibilities are endless! As Nathalie says, "it's not the medium that counts, but the message behind it." When the donations are dropped off and the seniors are delivered the bracelets - whether that's at mealtime or during various events - knowing that their work brightened someone's day makes it all worth it for the volunteers."

Bracelets for Benefits exhibits how any person can start a movement as long as they have passion behind it. Nathalie told me, "I never would've thought to do it if I hadn't sat down and wondered what I could

possibly be doing, with my skills, to actually improve my community." She uses that drive to gather volunteers from all around the state - including local high schoolers from Franklin - who have added their own personal flair to these donated bracelets. "I think it's a great unique way. I think that makes it especially heartwarming to receive."

When asked what her plans look like going forward, Nathalie explained that while the idea of expanding - nationwide, perhaps - sounds nice, she enjoys keeping things local. "I like that it's within Massachusetts because it feels very close to home... there's that sense of tight-knitted community that comes with being students from Massachusetts." She's dabbled with the prospect of starting chapters in other states, but feels she'd rather pass her operation on to "some sort of vice president role that would take over after me, so it would be a bit more long-term." No matter how big or small the scale, Nathalie aims to keep the goodwill flowing!

If you'd like to get in touch with Bracelets for Benefits, you can follow their TikTok: @bracelets.for.benefits for information on how to get involved.

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Financial Advisor Mark Freeman Focuses on Clients' Success

Financial advisor Mark Freeman enjoys getting to know his clients. His aim is to help them clarify their objectives and then, working as partners, to create a financial plan that achieves their goals.

"I love this career because I love helping people," said Freeman. "I work for my clients because I care about them."

A Certified Exit Planning Advisor (CEPA) working for Edward Jones at his 77 West Main St., Hopkinton office, Freeman offers financial advice to business owners and individuals.

I spend a lot of time getting to know my clients. We talk about their financial challenges, and their proposed solutions. Many times I find people are focused on the wrong problem," Freeman said.

A frequent problem is minimizing taxes. He noted many clients, while saving for retirement, inadvertently create, "a tax time bomb." Freeman explained, "If you invest in a diversified portfolio year after year and don't deal with taxes while saving, it could come back to bite you in retirement," in the form of large tax bills. For other

clients, "once you establish some type of wealth, taxes become an important part of the discussion since the best way to increase wealth is by keeping more of it," said Freeman. He added, "Helping people avoid tax issues is a primary focus. I work hard to keep a client's money in their pockets and out of Uncle Sam's.

Another issue faced by many of Freeman's clients is being in a "job prison," working in a position they dislike because they feel they need the income. "But after reviewing their finances, we often find they can change careers or do something else," he said. Freeman noted he was in that same situation himself until he realized he could afford to change careers.

Freeman added, "I am also trying to make sure that my clients' money outlasts them." One of his first tasks when meeting a new client is to run an analysis of their finances to make sure their funds will support them for their lifetime.

With a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Freeman worked in two other industries before establishing his



finance career in 2017. Even though his first two jobs were outside his training, Freeman said he was hired by Edward Jones, "one, because I have the ability to analyze data quickly and, two, because I always try to figure out a better way to do things. I bring those skills to my finance clients."

Freeman also tries to understand his clients' motivations. "When I propose a plan, I ask 'how do you feel about it.' If there is something bothering you, I need to fix that," he said.

Much as he partners with his clients, Freeman has developed relationships with the towns where he works and lives. Part of the Hopkinton business community, he has supported many local organizations and nonprofits. Making their home in Hol-



The team of Financial Advisor Mark Freeman and Office Administrator MaryKate Morin of Edward Jones in Hopkinton helps clients define their objectives and develop a plan to achieve those goals.

liston since 2005, he and his wife have raised their now, college-age twins in the town. As a way to support the community and its students, Freeman currently volunteers as a business advisor

for the Holliston High School DECA Club, an international nonprofit that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality,

and management.

Summing up his work objective, Freeman said, "My job is to understand what is important to you and figure out how to make it happen."

For more information call Freeman at 508-293-4017 or email him at Mark.Freeman@EdwardJones.com..

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Middlesex Sheriff's Office HIPAA Breach Notification

Billerica, MA -The Middlesex Sheriff's Office (MSO) is today providing official public notice of the results of an investigation into a breach of security that occurred in January 2025.

Over the past year, the MSO has worked closely with state and federal law enforcement partners including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Massachusetts State Police, the Commonwealth Fusion Center and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Technology Services and Security, and two (2) leading private cybersecurity vendors to determine the extent of this event.

This comprehensive investigation and review has determined that the breach involved unauthorized access to protected health information of individuals the MSO may have previously provided medical care to. The protected health information involved varied by individual and may have included the affected individual's name, address, date of birth, diagnoses and/or other general health

information. The MSO is not aware of any unauthorized use of protected health information and has since secured the affected systems, implementing additional security measures to safeguard protected health information.

As a result of this determination, the Middlesex Sheriff's Office strongly encourages individuals whose information may have been accessed to monitor their credit reports, consider a fraud alert, and review their personal information such as bank statements and insurance records for any signs of fraud to protect themselves from potential harm.

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office has posted information regarding this incident, including steps individuals may take to request a free security freeze on their credit reports on its website at www.middlesexsheriff.org.

Members of the public who are concerned about whether their information may have been accessed may contact the MSO at cyberinquiry@sdm.state.ma.us.

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Art Blooms in Holliston

**Exhibit to Be Shown at Holliston Library
March 19-21**

By JANE LEBAK

The Holliston Garden Club is once again proud to team up with the Holliston Public Library to feature Art in Bloom, a celebration of art and flowers. For three days, from March 19th to March 21st, this exhibit, which melds the beauty of flowers with the artistry of Holliston's public school students, will be open to the public at the library.

"Designers will create a floral arrangement that complements a piece of art," says Holliston Garden Club member, Jill Malcolm, this year's Chair of Art in Bloom. "In the past, we've reached out to local artists, seniors at the senior center, or school children to gather art, and then display it for the period of the show. We have members of the club do floral designs to complement them."



The concept of Art in Bloom was introduced 50 years ago at Boston's MFA. "Designers will create a floral arrangement that complements a piece of art," says Holliston Garden Club's Jill Malcolm.

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Art in Bloom was first introduced fifty years ago by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and the unique combination of artwork and floral design has germinated local offshoots in several communities. The Holliston Garden Club has hosted Art in Bloom several times, the most recent being in 2015.

"This year, we're going to have twelve to fifteen pieces of art, and we'll focus on the schools," says Malcolm. While most pieces for the 2026 show come from the Holliston Public Schools, a few come from other artists. "We'll also include two quilts currently at the library."

The art is created first, and the floral designs crafted to match. "Some designers are very literal," says Malcolm, "and try to make a visual copy of the content of the picture. Most of the time, you

look at the painting and see the colors and the shapes, and you try to echo those colors and those patterns in the design."

While most flower shows are judged, Holliston's Art in Bloom has no judging component. It's about the artistry present in the community rather than about the competition.

Malcolm says, "We get such a personal joy out of doing this, to see the kids and the art they do, and the person who's done the flowers, and watching the parents' faces when they see the art displayed."

Malcolm believes the library is a natural match for this exhibit. "The library is such a special place in the community. It's a great place with wonderful staff—and to bring something special to the library, and to bring people to the library, that's a good thing."

The library feels the same way. Taylor Dodge, Head of Circulation and Adult Services, says, "The library is thrilled to partner with the Holliston Garden Club to reintroduce Art in Bloom to our community! Now, more than ever, we need to be reminded of the beauty that arises when people unite. I believe that the artists, the Garden Club, the library, and the residents of Holliston are beautifully embodying this spirit through their dedication and enthusiasm."

Art in Bloom will kick off with a reception on March 19th for the artists and town officials, and the exhibit will remain open until March 21st.

You can check out the Holliston Garden Club at <https://hollistongardenclub.org> for information about events and membership.

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Your Money, Your Independence

Homebuying in 2026: Smart Moves to Plan Your Purchase



Glenn Brown, CFP

March marks the start of the spring homebuying season. Sellers who waited out the slower winter months are listing homes, and some buyers wait until summer to align closings with the school year.

With mortgage rates slightly lower than 2025 peaks, timing and strategy remain critical. The Fed's latest dot plot signals gradual easing in 2026 and 2027, which could create refinancing opportunities. However, waiting for rates to drop carries trade-offs, as falling rates often coincide with rising home prices.

Before scrolling Zillow, open houses, and finding a real estate agent, let's discuss things you need to prepare.

Define your priorities

Start by listing what matters most in a home, then prioritize

#1-25, as not everything can be #1 or 1A. Consider location, bedrooms, outdoor space, remote work offices and play areas. Decide between move-in ready versus fixer-upper, quiet streets versus active neighborhoods, and public versus private schools. Don't let innovative listing photos sway your lifestyle goals and long-term needs.

Understand the local market

Research pricing trends in your desired neighborhoods. Check school ratings, public safety, property taxes, and local infrastructure plans. Also, if you don't want to live on a busy road, know the existing commercial and industrial zones.

Get pre-approved for a mortgage

Pre-approval signals to sellers that you're serious and can afford the property. Don't confuse pre-approval with ability to pay, as an underwriter is viewing your financial situation today - not what you have planned.

Explore mortgage options

Mortgage type matters more than ever in 2026:

Conventional Loans - Not backed by the government, these are offered by banks or private lenders. Down payments are 5-20% with required credit scores higher than 620, best rates for scores 780+. Benefits include

competitive rates and flexible terms, however, there are limits on the amount borrowed.

FHA Loans - Government-backed Federal Housing Administration loans are designed to help first-time homebuyers or those with lower credit scores qualify for a mortgage. Down payments are as low as 3.5% for credit scores of 580 or higher. Keep in mind, Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI) is required, which increases overall costs.

Jumbo Loans - A type of mortgage that exceeds the conforming loan limits set by the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA). Down payments are often 20%+ with higher credit scores, incomes, and investment assets.

Adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs): Lower initial rates for five, seven or 10 years, then adjust with market conditions. Good if you plan to refinance or move within that time frame.

Tip for 2026 buyers: Consider an ARM with the intention of refinancing in two to five years

if rates drop. Locking a lower rate now with a plan to refinance later could save thousands, but ensure your budget can handle potential adjustments.

Plan for full costs

Beyond the down payment, budget for closing costs such as escrow, prepaid interest and other fees. These can add \$5,000-\$15,000. Some costs can be rolled into the mortgage, but get a detailed lender breakdown to avoid surprises.

Factor in future refinancing if you plan to take advantage of rate drops. This can positively affect monthly affordability and long-term planning.

Align homebuying with your financial plan

The real peace of mind comes after moving in. Planning ahead helps ensure your new home supports your financial goals.

- Adjust your monthly budget for mortgage, insurance and taxes

- Plan short-term renovations or upgrades
- Build contingencies for unexpected expenses or family changes

With a clear plan, you can confidently buy a home that aligns with both lifestyle and long-term financial independence.

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™ helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.

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

By CHRISTIE VOGT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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

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

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly

approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible and properly disposes of non-recyclables. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the backend while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 21 years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also



been able to buy a pizza place in Holliston, The Corner Market."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

As for Holliston in particular, Schadler says they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area. "In addition to our junk removal busi-



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

ness, Holliston residents have been so important to The Corner Market, especially during the pandemic," Schadler says. "We have really appreciated their support." The Schadlers have also sponsored and hosted monthly fundraisers for several sports teams and organizations in Holliston.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people

and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

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

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Why Do Some Metrowest Homes Sell in Days — and Others Sit?



Lynne Ritucci and Tim Swift

REAL ESTATE INSIGHTS

In every market, we see it happen. One home hits the market and is under agreement in a matter of days. Another, seemingly similar property, lingers for weeks — sometimes months — with price reductions and limited activity.

So what makes the difference?

It's rarely just luck. And it's almost never just the market.

1. Pricing Strategy Sets the Tone

The first two weeks on market are critical. That's when a listing receives the most attention — from buyers, agents, and online traffic.

Homes that sell quickly are almost always priced strategically from the start. That doesn't mean pricing low. It means pricing in alignment with current buyer behavior, recent comparable sales, and real-time competition.

Overpricing, even slightly, can cause buyers to hesitate. Today's buyers are well-informed. They've seen the data, watched price reductions, and understand value. If a home feels overpriced, they often wait — and when a property sits, it can create the perception that something is wrong, even if it isn't.

The result? The seller may ultimately accept less than they would have if the home had been positioned correctly from day one.

Buyers form opinions within seconds. Professional photography, thoughtful staging, decluttering, and minor repairs can dramatically influence how a home is perceived.

2. Preparation Matters More Than Ever

Homes that sell quickly typically show clean, bright, and move-in ready — even if they aren't brand new. Simple updates like fresh paint, improved lighting, and refreshed landscaping often yield strong returns.

On the flip side, homes that feel cluttered, dated, or poorly

presented online may struggle to generate showings. In today's digital-first environment, buyers decide whether to visit a home based on what they see on their screen.

3. Marketing Reach and Exposure

Exposure matters. A sign in the yard and an MLS listing are not enough.

Homes that move quickly are supported by strong marketing: professional photography, video, social media targeting, agent-to-agent outreach, and strategic open houses. The goal is to create early momentum and concentrated demand.

When the right buyers see a home quickly — and see it presented well — activity follows.

4. Buyer Psychology Is Real

There is a natural energy around a new listing. When buyers see strong showing activity or multiple offers, it creates urgency. When a home sits, that urgency disappears.

Days on market influence perception. The longer a home is listed, the more buyers wonder why.

The Bottom Line

Homes that sell in days are not accidental successes. They are the result of thoughtful pricing, careful preparation, and intentional marketing.

Homes that sit are often victims of overpricing, under-preparation, or limited exposure — all of which are preventable.

In today's market, success isn't about testing the waters. It's about launching with a clear strategy from the very beginning. When the details are aligned, the results tend to follow.

Lynne and Tim are proud Holliston residents and a trusted Real Estate Team, always happy to help with any Real Estate needs. For additional information or questions, please contact Lynne or Tim.

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Women of Holliston: Past, Present, and Future

By JESSICA OMMEN

March is Women's History Month, and we are celebrating the women who have shaped Holliston's past, present, and future. From a trailblazing scholar to an inspirational business leader to a history-making 8-year old, we honor these pioneering women of Holliston.

Kate Sanborn (1839-1917)



Sanborn was a prolific writer, scholar, and teacher. Born in Hanover, NH to Mary Ann Webster Sanborn and the esteemed English Professor Edwin David Sanborn, whom Dartmouth College's Sanborn House is named after, she was educated almost exclusively by her father.

Sanborn began supporting herself at the age of 17 with

her written work and went on to land teaching roles at Mary Institute, Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn, and Smith College in its early days. From there, she went on a lecturing tour, eventually writing over 40 lectures. Among her best-known works was *Adopting an Abandoned Farm*, which she wrote about when she settled into an abandoned farm in Holliston, near the present-day Fatima Shrine.

At the farm, she continued writing, practicing agriculture, and hosting social gatherings surrounded by books. Her brother once described her as "a pioneer in opening the paths of independent work for women."

Sanborn eventually moved her farm to current-day Medway, which is where Erin Defoyd began her journey into what she calls "the wilderness."



Erin Defoyd



Much like Sanborn, Defoyd opened her barn doors to friends, family, and community members for over a decade, creating a space where people could gather, collaborate, and connect.

From Defoyd's backyard barn grew a movement and, in 2020, in the midst of a global pandemic, she opened the doors to the old bank building in the center of Holliston. Creating a space for connection during a time of mandated quarantines may have seemed impossible, but Defoyd pivoted her business to focus on the retail-side long enough to keep the lights on. And in February 2021, she was finally able to open the doors and create the space for connection that everyone, at the time, desperately needed.

Today, if you drive through the center of town at night, most of the business windows will be dark, but so often Erin's light is still on. Inviting the community to gather and make the old bank building a space for everyone to share.

But the building isn't where Defoyd's story lies. Her mark on Holliston lies within her ability to inspire and motivate women, many of whom are just beginning to dive into their own business ventures whether they are leaving a corporate job behind, are empty nesters, or anything in between.

"I care deeply about community and connection, sisterhood and stories, and I believe that there is tremendous beauty and growth when we gather, share, listen, learn and love one another."

At a recent gathering, Defoyd spoke about her corporate career, "Nobody was ever interested in getting to know you as a person." That is precisely what makes Erin's space so special: it is a place for women and business owners to network on a personal level. Instead of focusing solely on professional credentials, she has created an environment that gives women the freedom to be their authentic selves in their work; a space where deep meaningful friendships can blossom.

Her space isn't just for business owners. Women gather in the old bank building to shop, connect, learn, and inspire. Since opening the doors, Erin has hosted events that give back to the community in meaningful ways. This fall, she partnered with Holliston Youth and Family Services to create a series of "Tough Topic Parent Meet-Ups." She has also partnered with members to host a Women's Winter Clothing Drive supporting the Safe Exit Initiative which supports women who have been rescued from sex trafficking.

Defoyd's passion and commitment to helping women ascend in their work and their personal lives is an inspiration and a gift to the Holliston community.

"I did not create this space for me...I created it for us...a collective us," she says, "This is your space to collect, imagine and create. Together, we'll brave the wilderness as we share our passions, stories, gifts and talents."

Andreina Gratton



Like the talented 8-year old Andreina Gratton who is shaping the future of Holliston sports. Last fall, Andreina was recognized as Holliston's first female to score a touchdown for Holliston Youth Football. Andreina's accomplishment is an inspiration to young girls and women alike, especially her mother, Shannon Gratton who had wanted to play football as a child.

"I always thought it would be cool to start a girl's football league. It never even occurred to me to play with the boys!" she said through proud eyes. "Between her [Andreina's] teammates and coaches, they don't even blink an eye, they just accept her."

According to her mother, Andreina played flag football the past few years and couldn't wait to start tackle like her older brothers. On the day of her touchdown, Andreina was playing quarterback. Her mother recalls her coach saying, "This is your chance," and she ran it in, making history in Holliston.

Currently, Andreina is one of two girls in the league. Registration for the fall opens on March 1st and her mother, who serves as President of Holliston Youth Football, encourages boys and girls of all ages to register.

From the fields of Kate Sanborn's Breezy Meadows Farm to the Holliston football field these Holliston trailblazers are not just an integral part of Holliston's history, they are an inspiration to girls and women across generations.



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Ease the Squeeze on Your Retirement Income Plan



Mark Freeman, CEPA

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Rising prices may not dominate headlines the way they did a year or two ago, but if you're retired, you're probably still feeling them. Even when overall inflation cools, the costliest expenses — like health care, utilities, insurance and property taxes — tend to rise faster than broad inflation numbers sug-

gest. That creates a squeeze that can make you question whether your income plan is built to last.

Fortunately, you often can adjust without drastic cuts that affect your lifestyle. Start by understanding where the pressure comes from and how to build more flexibility into your plan.

Inflation hits retirees differently. You've likely noticed your grocery bill, prescription drug costs and heating expenses haven't returned to "normal." Even small increases compound over time and can chip away at your buying power.

If your income plan was created years ago, it may assume lower inflation or relatively stable price increases over time. Recent years have shown that's not always the case.

Why some income plans feel strained. Any plan relying on fixed withdrawals or rigid budgets can feel tight when living costs rise. If you're drawing

from investments, you may hesitate to increase your withdrawals because of market volatility. And if you depend on fixed income sources like Social Security or a pension, yearly cost of living increases may not keep pace with your expenses. You might live 25 to 35 years in retirement, giving small annual cost increases decades to add up.

What you can do without sacrificing stability. A few adjustments can help you stay ahead of rising costs and maintain your financial confidence.

First, review your withdrawal strategy. Ask your financial advisor about flexible approaches that increase income when markets and portfolios perform well and pull back during tougher times. This protects your long-term plan with room to respond to rising prices.

Next, rebalance your portfolio. You may uncover opportunities to shift toward investments with more consistent income or

better tax efficiency. Sometimes a small tweak can generate extra cash flow without increasing overall risk.

Finally, look at your income sources. You may be less affected by rising costs if you delay taking Social Security, work a part-time job, add inflation-protected bonds or create predictable lifetime income with annuities, if they're appropriate for your situation.

Don't overlook health care: Health care costs often grow faster than general inflation. Medicare premiums and out-of-pocket expenses can rise annually, and the need for long-term care remains a big financial uncertainty for retirees. Building health care-specific inflation into your plan now can help prevent surprises later. Any savings you have in a health savings account can help you cover health care costs. And many pharmaceutical companies offer financial assistance programs to help

pay for costlier medications.

Stay flexible and informed: Today's retirements look different from those of even a decade ago. The key is staying flexible, reviewing your plan regularly and making small adjustments before pressure builds. A financial advisor can help you find the right approach to navigating rising costs without disrupting the life you've worked hard to build.

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

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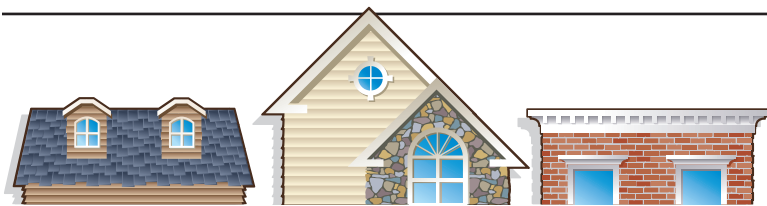


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How Much Home Can I Afford?

By the third quarter of 2025, the tide seemingly began to turn in regard to a housing market that had been marked by limited inventory since the onset of the



COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. According to market indicators from Redfin, the National Association of REALTORS® and Homes for Heroes, by the summer of 2025 things began to shift in regard to inventory (9.4 percent increase year-over-year). Prices also began to level

off, as the median existing home price in the United States was \$435,300 in June 2025, which marked a 2 percent increase from the previous year. Price reductions also became more common compared to 2024, signaling a cooldown in some segments.

Although affordability concerns still persist, many people may finally be ready to enter the home-buying arena. When doing so, it's essential prospective home buyers recognize how much they can comfortably spend on a home. Most experts suggest buyers combine lender affordability guidelines with an assessment of one's personal budget. These factors can help individuals determine a reliable budget when shopping for homes.

- Debt-to-income ratio: Lenders use various parameters to identify a borrower's creditworthiness. That includes figuring out a person's debt-

to-income ratio (DTI). Wells Fargo says DTI can be calculated by adding up all of a person's monthly debt payments and dividing them by gross monthly income. That number is multiplied by 100 to get a percentage. The lower the DTI, the less risky one is to lenders.

- The 28/36 rule: Part of the DTI equation may include the 28/36 rule utilized by many mortgage lenders. This is a standard guideline that can help one see if it's possible to afford a home loan. The 28 percent is allotted housing costs. The monthly housing expenses (principal, interest, taxes, homeowners insurance, private mortgage association fees) should be no more than 28 percent of one's gross monthly income. One's total monthly debt

payments, including housing, car, loans, student loans, and credit cards, should be no more than 36 percent of the gross monthly income. So if a prospective home buyer earns \$10,000 per month, or \$120,000 per year, the housing costs should not exceed \$2,800. Total debt payments, including housing, should not exceed \$3,600 per month.

- Personal budget considerations: Lenders may allow borrowers to borrow a certain amount of money, and buyers then go out and spend that much on a home. But to avoid living paycheck to paycheck and having all of one's money go toward a home, it is best to account for personal spending habits and savings goals. It's important to have an emergency funds account to pay for unexpected things like home repairs, or to account for instances when income may decline. Ongoing costs to manage the home also merit consideration, as do utilities and future renovations.
- Income-to-home price ratio: Some people abide by another general guideline to

shop for a home that costs no more than three to five times their annual household income. That means with an annual income of \$100,000, one should aim for a home priced between \$300,000 and \$500,000. The specific range will also depend on a person's existing debt.

- Interest rates and other factors: The interest rate on home mortgages as well as down payment also must be considered. Resources like Bankrate and Zillow provide home affordability calculators that will factor in interest rates, terms of a loan, down payment, and property taxes. Buying a home when interest rates are high means spending more over the life of the loan. Also, how much one puts toward a down payment has a big impact. Aiming for 20 percent means avoiding paying for private mortgage insurance (PMI).

There is no fail-safe way to determine how much home you can afford. Many factors are in play and are exclusive to buyers in the market for a new home.



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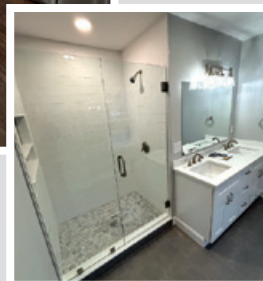
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Did you know?

The market research experts at Business Research Insights report that the three-season sunroom market size is projected to nearly double between 2025 and 2035. BRI reports that 65 percent of homeowners prefer cost-effective sunrooms when seeking to extend their living space. The popularity of sunrooms can be traced to a number of variables, including year-round access to a home's surrounding landscape. That access might be hindered if the only spaces to experience nature is a patio, deck or another traditional type of outdoor living space. But sunrooms, particularly those equipped with heating and cooling, can bring homeowners in touch with nature during times of year when they might otherwise be compelled to steer clear of their outdoor living spaces due to less welcoming weather.

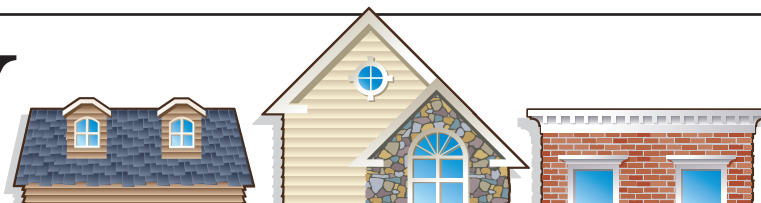
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HOME REVIEW



Planning for the Future with Flexible Living

BY TRACY LAROSA

The way we think about housing is changing—and flexibility is at the heart of it. Today’s buyers are no longer focused on the biggest home possible. Instead, they’re thinking ahead: how they want to live now, and how their needs may evolve over the next 10, 20, or even 30 years.

Less space, but better

One of the most noticeable shifts is a desire for less space, but better space. Many homeowners are intentionally downsizing or choosing homes with smaller footprints that are easier to maintain. One-level living is especially popular, offering convenience, accessibility, and long-term comfort without the need for stairs. Ranch-style homes, first-floor primary suites, and layouts with minimal level changes are in high

demand—and for good reason. They support aging in place while remaining functional for all stages of life.

Equally important is the rise of multi-purpose rooms. Homes no longer need a formal dining room that’s used twice a year or a dedicated guest room that sits empty most of the time.

Instead, buyers are looking for rooms that can adapt:

- A guest bedroom that doubles as a home office
- A dining area that functions as a workspace or homework zone
- A den or bonus room that can serve as a playroom for young children now and a media room for teens later

This flexibility allows homeowners to make the most of every square foot, adjusting how

they use their space as their lifestyle changes.

ADUs

Another major trend shaping future-focused housing is the growing interest in Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). An ADU offers incredible versatility. For many families, it’s a smart way to plan across generations. An ADU can house young adult children just starting out, potentially provide rental income to offset rising homeownership costs, and/or serve as a comfortable space for aging parents who want independence while remaining close to family.

Over time, the roles can reverse. Adult children may transition into the main home while older parents downsize into the ADU, maintaining proximity without sacrificing privacy. This kind of multigenerational



Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) offer incredible versatility – for many families, it’s a smart way to plan across generations.

living is becoming increasingly common, especially as Massachusetts ranks in the top 10% of the most expensive states in the country. With the cost of living continuing to rise, families are rethinking traditional housing models and embracing solutions that offer financial flexibility and long-term stability.

Ultimately, these housing

trends reflect a smarter approach to homeownership—one that prioritizes adaptability, efficiency, and thoughtful planning. Flexible layouts, multi-purpose rooms, one-level living, and ADUs aren’t just trends; they’re practical tools for building a home that works for you now, and well into the future.

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You've booked your appointment and gathered your inspiration. But have you ever wondered what happens on our end before you even walk through the door? At b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio, the magic doesn't begin when you sit in the chair. It starts long before that.

We asked some of our team to share how they prepare for each guest, and their answers were a beautiful reminder of why our clients keep coming back.

Madison: The Researcher



For Madison, preparation goes far beyond checking the appointment schedule.

"I always review the client's history and notes. If I can, I reach out to previous stylists who have worked with the client and check on formulas, hair type, length, texture, anything I need to know about their hair or them personally."

"Sometimes I ask about their interests or their vibe so the appointment feels more comfortable and less like meeting a stranger for the first time. I even do this with my longtime clients. I still check and update their notes every time."

— Madison Elliott, Stylist

For first-time guests, Madison also explains the salon layout so you never feel out of place asking for water or finding the restroom. It's a small detail that helps turn a first visit into a lasting relationship.

Sam: The Organizer

For Sam, a great appointment starts with thoughtful preparation before you arrive.

"I prep my station with all my tools before you walk in, and I check your service history so I can suggest little extras that'll make your hair even better. I also double-check if you're new

to me or returning so I can greet you the right way."

— Sam Dutton, Junior Stylist



That preparation means you're stepping into a chair that's already ready for you, with a stylist who's ideas you'll love.

Sandra: The Curator



Sandra arrives with a vision already forming, supported by deep product knowledge.

"Before a client's appointment, I'll save reference photos that might be a great fit for them. I also decide on retail products I'd recommend, so I'm ready to talk through what will keep their hair looking its best between visits."

— Sandra Wilkey, Senior Stylist

The goal is simple: you leave feeling great about your hair and confident keeping it that way between visits.

Heidi: The Connector



Heidi believes the best appointments begin with comfort and connection.

"I like to think of a funny

story about myself before I start with a client so she knows she can relate to me. I think it's very important to be relatable and to have fun so the comfort level is there from the start."

"I also make sure I have plenty of options saved on my Pinterest, new trends, upcoming colors, and cuts that are on point right now, especially if someone comes in with no idea what they're looking for."

— Heidi McDade, Senior Stylist

Her mix of fun and inspiration keeps the vibe easygoing and helps clients step outside their comfort zone in the best way.

Emma: The Hostess



Emma's preparation blends technical readiness with genuine warmth.

"Before you even walk through the door, I've already done a little homework. I check who's coming in so your color formula is prepped and I'm ready to hear the latest about your trips, pets, and life updates. Then I make sure my station is fresh and clean so you can sit down, relax, and have the best time in my chair."

— Emma Ford, Junior Stylist

That attention to detail makes every visit feel like catching up with a trusted friend who also happens to do incredible hair.

Monique & Corinn: The Sanctuary Keepers



Our estheticians know that skincare is as much about the experience as it is about the results, which begins long before a facial ever starts.

"Before you even come in, I turn on the bed warmer, heat up the oils and stones for your hand and foot treatment, and adjust the lighting so it's calm and comfortable. And I always put out a call button so you can take your time getting settled and ring me when you're ready."

— Monique Laquerre, Master Esthetician

"I get the space ready with soft music, the sound machine, and a light room spray so everything feels clean and peaceful. I want the room to feel like a total escape the second you walk in."

— Corinn Bradford, Master Esthetician

Corinn is also certified in Reiki and Oncology Facial care, supporting clients with specialized skin needs and creating a truly inclusive experience.

MaryAnn: The Welcome



Before you even reach the styling chair, your experience at b.LUXE has already begun.

"My greeting helps set the tone for the entire appointment: friendly, upbeat, and very welcoming. We take pride in our part of the service cycle."

— MaryAnn McNally, Front Desk

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SCAN TO VISIT b.LUXE

ment guests feel the warmth and intention behind every visit.

Heather: The Owner



"I started b.LUXE because I wanted a place where everyone feels taken care of, plain and simple. We are a full hair, makeup, skincare and wig studio with an incredibly talented team, and that makes me so proud every day. We learn together, we grow together, and we show up for every single client," Heather shares.

For Heather, that sense of care extends beyond beauty services and into supporting clients through life's more personal moments.

"And for anyone going through hair loss, I want them to know we have a safe, judgment-free, compassionate space here where we truly get it. We just want people to feel good."

— Heather Cohen, Owner & Wig Specialist

Your Visit, Our Priority

The truth is, we love what we do and we love our clients. When you walk through our doors, you're not just another appointment. You're the reason behind every detail we prepare. At b.LUXE, luxury isn't just in the décor, it's in the care, the creativity, and the experience created just for you.

We'd love to welcome you in.

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Humor to Take Stage at March 10th Yankee Quilters Program

Franklin, MA - Yankee Quilters welcomes the talented quilt artist and speaker Barbara Graceffa to its meeting on Tuesday, March 10th at 7 p.m. at Emma's Quilt Cupboard in the Horace Mann Plaza in Franklin. This will be an amusing program of Barbara's personal stories, insider jokes, silly poems, games, and trivia on fabric stashes, messy sewing rooms, UFOs, quilters' husbands, and more - guaranteed to tickle your funny bone! Great fun for quilters of all experience and styles.

A member of the New England Quilt Museum's Teachers League, Barbara is an award-winning quilter and teacher, talented interior decorator, and published author who has taught quilters in the United States, Canada, Europe, and the Middle East. She has been honored with four solo exhibits. Her quilts hang in local and international juried quilt and art shows. They have appeared in local and national print publications and on local cable and PBS TV networks. Two quilts reside in museums in Boston and Ohme, Japan with others in private collections from Paris and Madrid to San Francisco and Sao Paolo, Brazil. Barbara is based in Quincy.

- All welcome. Non-member fee is \$5 for this special program. New members always welcome. Dues for new members are \$40 a year.
- Quilters from new to experienced are welcome to attend Yankee activities throughout the year. A major focus every year is the creation of dozens of quilts which are provided to cancer patients and other families in need.

- In addition to monthly meetings on the second Tuesday in Franklin, the group offers speaker programs, member "show and tell" demonstrations and opportunities to sew together throughout the year including three-day local "staycations" throughout the year, including on April 10th-12th in Holliston. Registration deadline for the April event is March 15th.
- For information about these and future events, please contact YankeeQuilters11@gmail.com.

Yankee Quilters Guild is a 501-c-3 charitable organization based in Franklin with members throughout the region. The Guild meets on the second Tuesday each month at Emma's Quilt Cupboard in Franklin, Horace Mann Plaza, East Central Street, Franklin in space generously donated by the store. Donations to the Guild are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by current law.

McGovern Secures \$1.092M for Downtown Sewer Project

Momentum Builds for Revitalization Initiative

Holliston, MA - January 30, 2026 -The Town of Holliston today announced that Congressman James McGovern has officially secured \$1.092 million in Congressionally Directed Spending to support the Town of Holliston's Downtown Revitalization Sewer Initiative Project. This funding is in addition to the \$1.5 million in grant funding awarded for the project from the state's Executive Office of Economic Development in November 2025.

"This funding creates real momentum for making downtown sewers a reality, and will continue meaningful progress towards our community's goal of bringing new residential and economic development opportunities to the downtown", said John Cronin, Chair of the Holliston Sewer Commission.

"The Town extends its deepest appreciation to Congressman McGovern, Senator Warren, and Senator Markey for securing these funds, and are grateful



for their continued support of this project. We look forward to continuing to work together with our federal and state delegations and other community stakeholders to bring sewer infrastructure to downtown Holliston", said Benjamin Sparrell, Chair of the Holliston Select Board.

For more information on the downtown sewer project, please visit the Town's website, www.townofholliston.us. Holliston residents and other stakeholders are encouraged to stay engaged in this initiative as it moves forward.



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Holliston No Kings 3, Peaceful Standout, March 28

Holliston and Ashland area activists welcome the public to No Kings 3, a series of peaceful demonstrations on Saturday, March 28. We gather in support of our democratic ideals and the safety and well-being of our neighbors. The Holliston stand-

out will be held on Washington Street in front of Town Hall at 1:30 p.m. The Ashland time is to be determined.

For details, see mnwactionhub.blogspot.com.

Register at www.nokings.org.



Photo of Oct. 18 'No Kings 2' rally in Holliston. Source: Holliston Democratic Town Committee

History of Dolls Talk at Holliston Historical Society March 29

On Sunday, March 29 at 2 p.m., please join us at the Holliston Historical Society for a fun-filled walk down memory lane with a presentation of dolls from the mid-1800s through the 1960s. We are happy to welcome Janice McIntyre, owner of Jenny Baby's Doll Hospital in Hopkinton, Mass. She will give a presentation on the history of dolls over six decades and discuss the way dolls were made and how that process has changed over time.

Enjoy antique bisque dolls from Europe, Shirley Temple dolls, Ginny dolls, Tiny Tears, Madame Alexander and many more on display. You may see your favorite childhood doll! Janice has 20 years of doll repair and restoration experience and was featured on the television show Chronicle on WCVB. Janice has collected dolls for as many years and loves to share them and their history.

Feel free to bring your special doll to share with everyone at the end of the presentation. The audience will have a chance to win a new doll too!



This program will be held at the Holliston Historical Society, 547 Washington Street in the Asa Whiting House. The Historical Society is a non-profit group whose mission is to preserve Holliston's history and share it with our community.

Programs are open to the public and are generally followed by a social hour and refreshments. We hope you will see something of interest and join us soon.

For more information on the Holliston Historical Society, visit www.hollistonhistoricalsociety.org.

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Thimble Pleasures Quilt Show March 14th & 15th

Looking for a fun way to chase away the mid-winter doldrums, come to the Thimble Pleasures Quilt Show to be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 14th and 15th at Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School in Upton. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On display will be over 200 quilts including challenge quilts and round robins. Also included will be Silent Auction items, Basket Raffles, a Quilter's Boutique, and a spectacular Raffle Quilt. The show will also feature a variety of vendors including Appletree Fabrics, Molly's Apothecary, Camp Wool, Quilt Lily Designs, Quilt Corner Studio, Angel Hair Alpacas, Fabritique, Quilters' Loft, Ask Adele, Chevere on the Run, The Fudge Lady, Anthony's Sewing Machine Service, Alex's Blade Sharpening, Under the Woolen Willow, Author Kathryn Myeki, and Wood Turnings by Cynthia.

This year's special fundraiser is Home Base an organization to aid veterans in dealing with the invisible wounds of war. Items made by guild members in patriotic colors will be available for sale to support this organization. Raffle tickets will be available for the guild's raffle quilt, Dresden Bloom, which will be awarded at the close of the show on Sunday. A concession stand is also available. Admission is \$10 and children 18 and under are admitted free. A children's scavenger hunt is available free to all children during the show. Free parking is also available on site.

Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club 5K & 10K Walk March 28th

Annual Memorial Walk Kicks Off Season, Followed by Soup Social

The Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club invites walkers to complete a 5K (3.1 mile) or 10K (6.2 mile) walk route in Holliston, Mass on Saturday, March 28, 2026. This is a memorial walk for Chuck Lipson, a long-time walker, volunteer, and club member. This is a walk-at-your-own pace, just-for-fun event "in your own backyard."

The start point is the First Congregational Church, 725 Washington Street, Holliston, MA 01746. Registration for the 10km walking event is from 9-10 a.m. and registration for the 5km walking event is 10:15-11:00 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 5K and 10K walk routes are mostly on paved surfaces, with a few slight inclines suitable for baby strollers, but difficult for wheelchairs due to some missing curb cuts.

The 10K distance comprises two 5K loops. The first 5K loop is mostly on flat, paved surfaces, with a portion on the stone dust path of the Upper Charles River Trail. This loop heads back to the rail trail, over the 8-arch Bogastow Brook Viaduct, past Blair Square, and under the 1-arch railroad bridge into the Mudville neighborhood. A tribute

to Casey at the Bat and Rita's Labyrinth will be seen here. 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).

The second loop of the 10K route passes The Superette in downtown Holliston, historic homes dating to the early 19th century, and also the Mudville neighborhood before reaching Pleasure Point Beach on Lake Winthrop.

Walkers are invited to join fellow walkers for the Walk'n Mass's Soup Social which begins at noon and 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 non-competitive 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.

Temple Beth Torah Invites All to a Purim Celebration

Temple Beth Torah will be hosting a Purim Celebration on Monday, March 2nd, from 5-7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Torah, 2162 Washington St., Holliston. All Are Welcome!

At 5 p.m., there will be a family pizza dinner with a suggested donation of \$5 per person.

At 5:30 p.m., fun will include:

- Purim Play (Spiel) and Interactive Megillah Reading
- Costume Contest
- Face Painting
- Hamantashen & Purim Treats
- Fun and Games for All Ages

Please RSVP to Jane.kohuth@bethtorah.org.



Photo by Jane Kohuth

Grapevine to Say Goodbye

Last month, Diane Marrazzo, longtime owner of the Grapevine, shared she would be retiring in a social media post:

"Dear valued customers, friends, and community.

After much reflection I have decided that the time has come for me to Retire and close this chapter of my life.

I had 40 wonderful years between Millis and Holliston of owning and operating The Grapevine. I will be stepping away from the business on March 15th 2026.

What began as a small retail shop grew into something far greater than I ever imagined. Over the years, The Grapevine has been more than a place of business, it has been a place of connection, conversation, and community! I am deeply grateful to every customer who walked through our doors trusted us with their business and became part of our story!

To all the gals that have worked at The Grapevine past and present, thank you for your dedication hard work and loyalty. You were the heart of this store and I could not have done this without you!

Running The Grapevine has been the greatest privilege of my life. The relationships built, the memories made and the support received over four decades will always stay with me!

While I am looking forward to Retirement from The Grapevine I will truly miss the daily interactions and familiar faces.

Thank you for supporting The Grapevine for the last 40 years! Your kindness and support made this journey meaningful beyond words!

With sincere gratitude
Diane

PS. I'm not retiring from Sweeties Candy Bus, we will still be making events a little "Sweeter."

PSS. If you miss my comfy Jammie's bottoms, I still have my boutique at Market Street Creatives, Torrington Ct. We will happy to ship them."

From her work promoting Holliston businesses to her community connections and heartfelt conversations, Diane will be missed. We wish her a wonderful retirement!

University of New England Names Local Dean's List Students

Biddeford & Portland, ME - The following students from Holliston have been named to the University of New England's Dean's List for the fall semester 2025:

- Rylie Harrington
- Nicholas Reffel
- Owen Zakrzewski

Dean's List students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

For more information, visit www.une.edu.

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The Blurry Truth: Understanding and Addressing the Rise of Refractive Errors

BY: ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D.
MILFORD FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

Have you noticed more people wearing glasses these days? It's not just a feeling. Refractive errors, those eye conditions that blur our vision, are becoming increasingly common, particularly nearsightedness (myopia). This article explores what these errors are, why they're on the rise, and what we can do about it.

What are Refractive Errors?

Our eyes are intricate organs, acting like sophisticated cameras. Light enters, is bent (refracted) by the cornea and lens, and ideally focuses perfectly on the retina, the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye. This focused image is then sent to the brain, allowing us to see clearly.

Refractive errors occur when the eye's shape prevents light from focusing correctly on the retina, resulting in blurry vision. Common types include:

- **Myopia (Nearsightedness):** Close objects are clear, but distant objects are blurry. This happens when the eye is too long, or the cornea is too curved, causing light to focus in front of the retina.
- **Hyperopia (Farsightedness):** Distant objects are clear, but close objects are blurry. This occurs when the eye is too short, or the cornea isn't curved enough, causing light to focus behind the retina.
- **Astigmatism:** Vision is blurry or distorted at all distances. This happens when the cornea or lens is irregularly shaped, preventing proper light focus.
- **Presbyopia:** This age-related condition makes focusing on close objects difficult. As we age, the lens loses flexibility, hindering its ability to change shape and focus up close. This is why many over 40 need reading glasses.

Why the Rise?

The increasing prevalence of refractive errors, especially myopia, is a global concern. While the exact causes are still being researched, several factors are believed to contribute:

- **The Screen Time Surge:** Our modern lives involve significant screen time – smartphones, tablets, computers, and televisions. This constant close-up focus strains the eyes and may contribute to myopia development and progression.
- **The Great Outdoors:** Studies suggest that spending time outdoors, especially in childhood, has a protective effect against myopia. The wider range of distances the eyes focus on outdoors, along with increased natural light exposure, may be beneficial.
- **The Genetic Factor:** Genetics play a significant role. If your parents or siblings have myopia, you're more likely to develop it.



- **The Urban Influence:** Urban environments often have limited green spaces and encourage indoor activities, potentially contributing to the myopia rise.
- **Lifestyle Shifts:** Changes in diet, like increased processed food consumption, and reduced physical activity may also play a role, though more research is needed.

What Can We Do?

While we can't entirely eliminate the risk, we can take steps to minimize the impact and potentially slow myopia progression:

- **Limit Screen Time:** Encourage children and adults to take regular breaks. A helpful tool is the 20-20-20 rule: Every 20 minutes of screen time, take a 20-second break to look at something 20 feet away. This allows the eye muscles to relax and refocus, reducing strain.
- **Embrace the Outdoors:** Aim for at least 1-2 hours of daily outdoor activity, especially for children.
- **Maintain a Healthy Lifestyle:** A balanced diet and regular physical activity are crucial.
- **Regular Eye Exams:** Comprehensive eye exams are essential, especially for children. Early detection and treatment are key.
- **Corrective Lenses:** Glasses or contacts are the most common and effective correction.
- **Myopia Control:** For children with progressive myopia, doctors may recommend treatments like at-

ropine eye drops, multifocal contact lenses, or orthokeratology.

- **Surgery:** Refractive surgery like LASIK or PRK may be an option for some, but consult with an eye doctor to discuss risks and benefits.

The Future of Vision Care:

Researchers are actively exploring new prevention and treatment methods, investigating the roles of genetics, environment, and lifestyle. New technologies, such as advanced lens designs and drug therapies, are also being developed.

The increasing prevalence of refractive errors is a significant public health issue. By understanding the causes and taking proactive steps, we can protect our vision. Remember, regular eye exams are essential. If you have any concerns, consult an eye care professional.

Milford-Franklin Eye Center: Your Partner in Eye Health

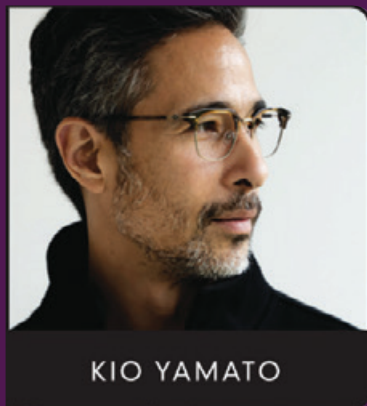
At Milford-Franklin Eye Center, our dedicated team of ophthalmologists and optometrists, supported by highly trained staff, are available to treat various eye problems, including refractive errors. We offer a dedicated optical shop with a children's boutique, providing quality glasses and contacts. We also provide world-class cataract surgery and advanced treatments, including procedures that can eliminate the need for glasses in select cases. All surgeries are performed in our accredited surgical facility. Our in-house optical shop crafts glasses while you wait, and new patients receive a complimentary pair of select frames. We offer after-hours, same-day emergency appointments and Saturday availability. With over four decades of dedicated service, Milford-Franklin Eye Center is committed to delivering advanced eye care close to home.

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CALENDAR

March 2

Clafin Hill Symphony — A Vehicle of Community in Central Mass, with Clafin Hill Symphony Orchestra, Paul Surapine, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, registration required, www.hollistonlibrary.org

Purim Celebration, 5-7:30 p.m., Temple Beth Torah, 2162 Washington St., Holliston

March 3

Terrarium Workshop with Tower Hill, Tuesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, registration required, www.hollistonlibrary.org

March 5

Stony Brook Camera Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Anglican Church of the Redeemer, 195 Main St., Franklin, member competition, more info. at stonybrookcc.com

March 7

Diverse Holliston Choir International Women's Day Concert and Sing for Your Soup house band, 12:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, no registration required

March 10

Mystery Book Club, 11 a.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, *The Savage, Noble Death of Babs Dionne* by Ron Currie

March 12

Stony Brook Camera Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Photojournalism by Peter Pereira, Zoom, stonybrookcc.com

March 15

Free Children's Magic Show for Children of First Responders, Veterans and Those Currently in Uniform, 12 p.m., doors open 11:30 a.m., The Italian Vets, Milford, tickets required, email info@thankstoyanks.org, sponsored by Thanks to Yanks and Milford Federal

March 16

History Book Club, 10:30 a.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, *The Russo-Ukrainian War* by Serhii Plokhy

Needle Felted "Painting, Jen from the Felted Bee, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, please register, www.hollistonlibrary.org

March 17

Tuesday Matinee, 12:30-2 p.m. Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston *The Quiet Man*

March 18

Holliston High School Band and Chorus Concert, 7 p.m., Holliston High School, 370 Hollis St., Holliston

March 19

Art in Bloom opening night, 6-8 p.m. presented by Holliston Garden Club, Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, refreshments will be served

Stony Brook Camera Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Image Study, Zoom, stonybrookcc.com, stonybrookcc.com

March 20

Art in Bloom exhibit, presented by Holliston Garden Club, Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, during library hours

March 21

Art in Bloom exhibit, presented by Holliston Garden Club, Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, during library hours

Holliston Lions 21st Annual Winning O' the Green, 6 p.m., Portuguese Club of Milford, 119 Prospect Heights, Milford, only 300 tickets sold, \$10K win, price includes chance to win and dinner for two, <https://www.cognitofirms.com/MD33LionsClubs1/HollistonLionsClub-10KRaffle>

March 26

Stony Brook Camera Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., New Member Showcase, Zoom, stonybrookcc.com

March 27

Exsultet! Spring Concert, 2 p.m., First Congregational Church, 725 Washington St., Holliston, tickets at www.exsultet.us

March 28

Holliston "No Kings" Demonstration, 1:30 p.m., Holliston Town Hall (out front), 703 Washington St., Holliston, details at mnwactionhub.blogspot.com, register at www.nokings.org

Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club 5K (3.1 mile) or 10K (6.2 mile) walk route in Holliston, (in memory of Chuck Lipson), First Congregational Church, 725 Washington Street, Holliston, 10K registration 9-10 a.m., 5K registration 10:15-11 a.m., \$4 pp, questions to Beate at (774) 292-9098 or beateh1@aol.com. Additional info. at www.walknmass.org. Followed by soup social at noon.

Holliston Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, 6-10 p.m., DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 11 Beaver St., Milford, tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/HollAthHOF2026>, info. at hollistonhof@gmail.com

March 29

"Dolls from the mid-1800s through the 1960s," with Janice McIntyre of Jenny Baby's Doll Hospital in Hopkinton, 2 p.m., Holliston Historical Society, Asa Whiting House, 547 Washington St., Holliston

Exsultet! Spring Concert, 3 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield, tickets at www.exsultet.us

April 2

Investment and Fraud Advice with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Thursday, 2-4 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston

April 6

Morning Book Club, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, *We All Live Here* by Jojo Moyes

27th Annual Charles River Earth Day Cleanup April 24th

Boston, MA – The 27th Annual Charles River Earth Day Cleanup will take place on Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25, 2026, and volunteer registration is now open at CharlesRiverCleanup.org! This much-loved event brings together over 3,500 community volunteers each year.

“We are so grateful to the thousands of volunteers who turn out to remove trash from the banks and parks and roadways near the Charles,” said

Emily Norton, Executive Director of Charles River Watershed Association. “We look forward to the day when this cleanup isn’t necessary, but until then, this amazing turnout demonstrates how much people care about a clean, healthy Charles River.

“The Charles River Earth Day Cleanup invites the community to give back to the river and parks that are a centerpiece of the community. When volunteers participate



in the Charles River Cleanup, they join a movement to help improve the health of the Charles River and park ecosystem,” said Charles River Conservancy Executive Direc-

tor Laura Jasinski.

“We are so grateful to the thousands of volunteers who turn out to remove trash from the banks and parks and roadways near the Charles,” said Emily Norton, Executive Director of Charles River Watershed Association. “We look forward to the day when this cleanup isn’t necessary, but until then, this amazing turnout demonstrates how much people care about a clean, healthy Charles River.

To get involved, learn more and register for the Earth Day Charles River Cleanup at <https://www.charlesrivercleanup.org>. The Charles River Cleanup is coordinated by the Charles River Conservancy, the Charles River Watershed Association, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, the Esplanade Association, and the Waltham Land Trust, in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Holliston Public Library March Adult Programs

752 WASHINGTON ST.,
HOLLISTON, 508-429-0617
WWW.HOLLISTONLIBRARY.ORG

Morning Book Club, Monday, March 2, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

12 Years a Slave by Solomon Northrup

Claflin Hill Symphony — A Vehicle of Community in Central Mass, Monday, March 2, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The conductor and founder of the Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra, Paul Surapine, will share how Claflin Hill came to be, what it has become in the region, and how unifying a cultural edifice can be to the growing community. Based in Milford, MA and under Surapine's direction and guidance, Claflin Hill has become one of the most prolific producers of world-class musical performance throughout Central Mass. and provides performance opportunities year-round to almost 200 world-class professional musicians throughout the region. Register for your spot today!

Terrarium Workshop with Tower Hill, Tuesday, March 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Led by instructors from the New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, make your very own terrarium and learn how to care for it! Adult program. Please register!

Honoring Women with Music

Celebrate International Women's Day with Music! Saturday, March 7, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

This special musical event features the Diverse Holliston Choir and our friends, the Sing for Your

Soup House Band—a talented four-piece acoustic family band from Holliston.

The Diverse Holliston Choir will perform inspiring songs that highlight themes of perseverance, support, and community, honoring the strength and unity of women everywhere. Sing for Your Soup will share a lively set of folksy covers and original songs, celebrating women and the spirit of coming together.

Mystery Book Club, Tuesday, March 10, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Savage, Noble Death of Babs Dionne by Ron Currie

History Book Club, Monday, March 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

The Russo-Ukrainian War by Serhii Plokhyy

Needle Felted "Painting," Monday, March 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

We've got our beloved and talented Jen from the Felted Bee coming back to get us ready for spring with some Needle Felted "Painting!" She'll be instructing how to create a lovely bunch of spring flowers by using wool, bamboo frames, and felting needles! Please register!

Tuesday Matinee, Tuesday, March 17, 12:30-2 p.m.

Come to the library the third Tuesday of every month and watch a new movie! This month's showing is *The Quiet Man*. After accidentally killing an opponent in the ring, boxer Sean Thornton leaves America and returns to his native Ireland, hoping to buy his family's homestead and live in peace. Running time 2 hours and 9 minutes. Rated PG (1952.)

Art in Bloom Opening Night! Thursday, March 19, 6-8 p.m.

Art in Bloom Exhibit: Thursday, March 19—Saturday, March 21, Library Hours

Art in Bloom returns to the Holliston Public Library! A lovely way to mark the beginning of Spring. This event is brought to us by the Holliston Garden Club. It is a cultural program in which floral designers create arrangements inspired by the art of Holliston residents. Light refreshments will be served.

Early April Adult Programs:

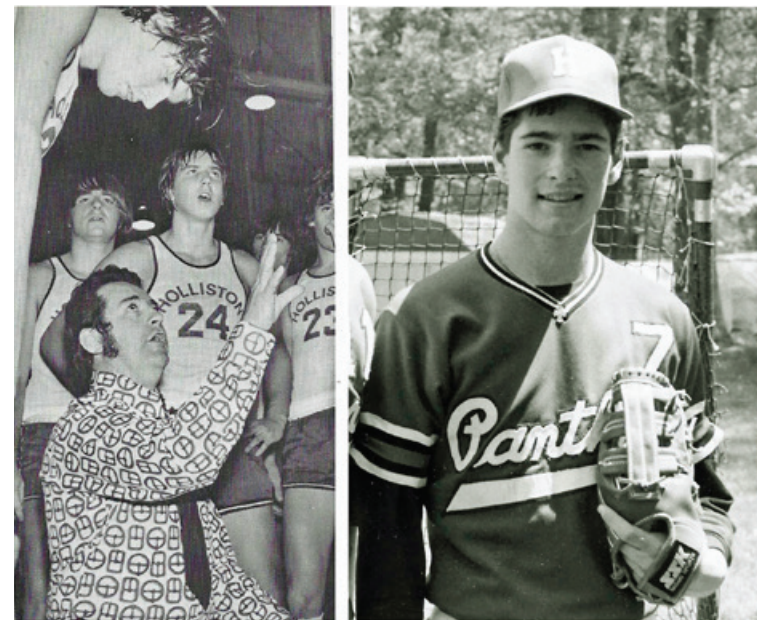
Investment and Fraud Advice with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Thursday, April 2, 2-4 p.m.

Jennifer Brady, an attorney from the Boston regional office of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) will be here to discuss financial investment advice and fraud detection and prevention. In this presentation you'll learn some basics about investing and saving as well as about fraud scams - which are much more common than you think! Get advice you can trust to protect your hard-earned money. Bring your questions as there will be time for a Q & A!

Morning Book Club, Monday, April 6, 11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

We All Live Here by Jojo Moyes
Programs are largely supported by the Friends of the Holliston Library. We are grateful for your donations to help support these programs. To donate or become a member, visit the Holliston Library website: www.hollistonlibrary.org

Holliston High Athletic Hall of Fame Induction March 28



Tickets are now available for the Holliston High School Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony to be held Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 6-10 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel, 11 Beaver St., Milford. Scheduled for induction are the following:



Team:

1972 Boys Spring Track Team – State Champions

Coaches:

Tish Willis – Girls Soccer
Tom Keough – Boys Basketball

Student/Athletes:

Ron LaPointe '75 – Football, Basketball, Baseball
Ron Bilodeau '77 - Wrestling
John Caffrey '77 – Football, Basketball, Spring Track
Barbara Meehan '85 – Softball, Volleyball, Track, Basketball
Doug Carroll '91 – Football, Indoor Track, Hockey, Baseball
Michelle McAteer '02 – Field Hockey, Softball
Matt Bellomo '08 – Football

Join us as we honor and celebrate the outstanding athletes, coaches, and teams who have left a lasting mark on our school's sports history. This event promises to be a night filled with nostalgia, cheers, and well-deserved recognition. Witness the induction of our esteemed athletes, coaches, and teams into the Athletic Hall of Fame as they take their place among the legends of Holliston High School sports.

Don't miss out on this special occasion to show your support with fellow fans and alumni. Let's come together to applaud the achievements and contributions of these exceptional individuals. Mark your calendars for a memorable evening of sportsmanship, camaraderie, and pride at the 2026 Holliston Athletic Hall of Fame Induction!

The event will include a buffet dinner, cash bar, and 50/50 raffle. After dinner, there will be a slideshow presentation and the induction of the coaches, athletes, and inductees.

Please email hollistonhof@gmail.com with any questions.

Ticket information and availability can be found on the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/HollAthHOF2026>

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Sports

Hockey Player Samantha Kelley Aspires to Play at Collegiate Level

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Growing up Samantha Kelley had a father and uncle who enjoyed playing hockey, as well as watching the Boston Bruins on TV. In doing so, she became extremely interested in the sport, and by the age of 6, she was suiting up herself. In the early years, she would play for the Natick Comets but was always looking forward to playing on the high school level.

Defense would become her position, and she loved the physical aspect of the position, while also being able to help out her goalie. While in the middle school, she would play on the co-ed team during her sixth, seventh and eighth grade years. In eighth grade, she really wanted to play for the high school, but the Ashland co-op team didn't have any waivers in place for athletes that age, so she just had to wait another year before she could skate with the high school team.

When she finally made it to high school, Samantha knew that she would have to play for the co-op team if she wanted to play hockey at that level.

"I was extremely nervous going in as I didn't know a lot of the girls," Kelley said. "Luckily, I was paired with Lauren Bosworth on defense and saw how she put the entire team on her back, and I wanted to do the same in the future."

As a freshman sitting on the bench, Kelley found herself getting really nervous when her coach told her that she was up next. Although the nerves were running through her body, she was excited to get her first chance to play high school hockey and eventually ignored the nerves and gave everything that she had while on the ice.

Kelley, who is looking to bring a physical presence to the game, was stunned when she learned that the coaching staff named her an Assistant Captain to this year's team.

"I was very surprised, espe-

cially being a sophomore, but to be trusted to lead the team was a big honor," she said. "With that, I knew that I was going to have to step up and be that leader the coaches thought I could be."

As a freshman last winter, Ashland found themselves one win shy of advancing into the State Tournament, and Kelley found it difficult at first, but then realized that you can't always qualify. This year, she believes that the team should be able to get into the Tournament and hopefully do some damage once there.

While the team is looking to prolong their season into the playoffs, Kelley herself is hoping that she can ramp up her play and be able to capitalize on scoring her first high school goal. Being one that likes to rush the puck up the ice, she noted that one of her big goals would be putting the puck behind a goaltender.

"Her shot has come a long way," said Ashland Coach Lynn Pecci. "And this year, we are looking for that to be one of her strong points to help us on the offensive side of the puck."

Prior to the season getting underway, Kelley would try to push the puck up the ice while playing for her club team, the Junior Crusaders out of Worcester. The sophomore was looking to bring a different aspect to her high school season.

"Club hockey is a little faster and more physical," she said. "I was looking to bring this style of play to my high school season."

Looking back on her time on the ice playing defense while growing up, it was around the age of 10 when Kelley fully realized that she had a talent to play the back-end position. While playing U10 hockey she found herself being called up to play with the U12 girls, and while she was capable of playing with these girls, she always took to the ice to give her maximum effort.

"The difference in her play this year is that she is more confident in her game, but some-



Holliston sophomore Samantha Kelley was named Assistant Captain of the Ashland co-op hockey team this year.

times can get in her own head," Pecci said. "She is a great person and player, and I think highly of her. She is still coming into her own, but I only expect her to get better as the years go by."

Kelley and her teammates are still fighting to earn that spot in the Division 2 State Tournament at the end of the year. Although only a sophomore, she would like nothing more than to play Division 3 on the colligate level.

"I cannot see myself giving up hockey; it is something that

brings me a lot of joy," Kelley said. "I will be a lot of effort to get to play hockey in college, but

I am planning on working as hard as I can to make it become a reality."

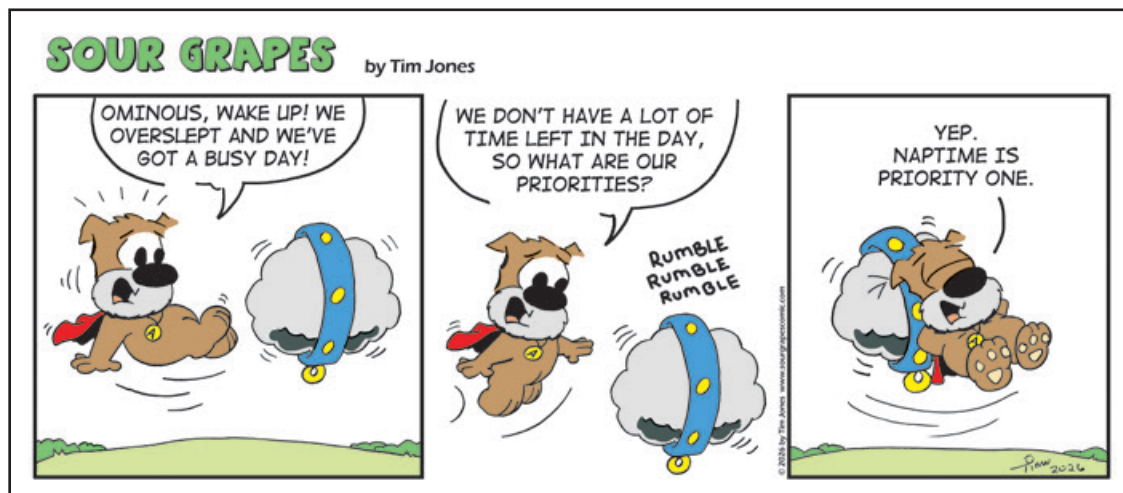
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Event includes silent auctions, a 50/50 raffle.

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Purchase tickets at <https://www.cognitofirms.com/MD33LionsClubs1/HollistonLionsClub10KRaffle>

Or scan QR code.



SCAN TO BUY TICKETS

Diverse Holliston Choir Plans Concert at Library March 7th

The Diverse Holliston Choir is planning a concert on March 7, 2026, at Holliston Public Library, at 12:30 p.m. The “International Women’s Day Concert” will include favorites such as “Respect,” “I’m Every Woman,” “I will Survive,” and more.

The choir rehearses Tuesdays, 5:30-6:15 p.m. at 24 Water Street Mill, Studio 3-4, with a break the week of February 18th.

If you are interested in joining, reach out to sarastalnakergmail.com or text or leave a voicemail at (774) 231-0401.



The Holliston Pride celebration, Hollipride, is also being planned for Sunday, June 14, 2026, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Blair Square. The event will include live music and dance, a

pup parade, vendors, storytelling, arts and crafts, and a beauty parlor. Visit www.hollipride.org or email hollistonpride@gmail.com for more information.

Exsultet Receives Grants, Announces March Concerts

Exsultet! is proud to announce that we have received grants from both the Natick Cultural Council and the Holliston Cultural Council. The Natick Cultural Council provided funding for our Winter Concert, “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” and the Holliston Cultural Council is supporting the entire 25-26 season. In these challenging times, we appreciate our local Cultural Council support that allows us to provide music that uplifts and soothes the soul.



We would also like to thank all of our sponsors who reached out to support the group on Giving Tuesday. As a nonprofit organization, Exsultet! relies on the generosity of individuals like you to make our performances possible. We know there

is much competition for your philanthropy, and we are deeply appreciative of your continued support.

Finally, thank you to all of the attendees, musicians, and singers who made our “Baby, It’s Cold Outside” concerts such a success!

For more information on Exsultet, visit www.exsultet.us or find the group on Facebook.

The Door is Always Open! Join us in March for our concerts.

Concert Dates:

Friday, March 27, 2026, 2:00pm
First Congregational Church
725 Washington Street, Holliston

Sunday, March 29, 2026, 3:00 pm
Trinity United Methodist Church
361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield

Volunteer Nurses Needed for “Ann O’s Watch”

In 2021, the St Elizabeth’s Medical Center staff was devastated by the tragic loss of their friend and colleague Ann O’ Flaherty RN. Ann was a nurse at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital for over 30 years. Since Ann dedicated her life to the nursing profession, St Elizabeth’s honoured her with the Nightingale Tribute at her memorial service. The Nightingale Tribute offered by the Nurses Honor Guard, pays homage to a fellow nurse at the end of their life and recognizes their accomplishments and commitment to the nursing profession.

The Nightingale Tribute was developed by the Kansas State Nurses Association in 2003 to be

used to honor deceased nurses. The ceremony includes a short synopsis of the nurse’s career and the reading of the poem, She Was There by Duane Jaeger, RN, MSN. A white rose is placed on the casket and the ringing of a triangle signals a “Final Call to Duty.” During these readings, a porcelain Nightingale Lamp with a white candle is lit in the nurses’ honor. When the nurse doesn’t respond to a third and final call to duty, they are relieved of their duties, and asked to rest in peace. The candle is extinguished and the lamp is presented to the family along with roses to signify the nurses’ devotion to their profession. The service takes about five

minutes and can be tailored to fit the beliefs of the nurse being honoured and/or their family.

Nurses Honor Guard Chapters exist across the United States. In 2022, Massachusetts Nurses Honor Guard Chapter was developed in Ann O’ Flaherty’s memory, “Ann O’s Watch”. Many thanks to Ann’s family for allowing the Guard the privilege to respect Ann’s memory in this way.

If you are interested in incorporating the Nightingale Tribute into a loved one’s final services, or if you are interested in serv-



ing as a volunteer who delivers Nightingale Tribute, please contact help@nursehonor-guardma.com

If you want more information or to request our services, volunteer, or donate Please visit our website:

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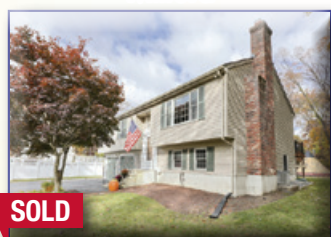
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Tri-County Regional Chamber Annual Family Fest & Home Show March 21st

The Tri-County Regional Chamber is thrilled to announce its highly anticipated Family Fest & Home Show, taking place on Saturday, March 21st, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School in Upton. This FREE, high-energy community event brings together local businesses, families, food, and fun — all under one roof.

The Family Fest & Home Show is more than just an expo — it's a celebration of the local community. Each year, thousands of attendees come out to explore vendor booths, discover new products and services, and connect directly with area businesses. For exhibitors, it's a powerful opportunity to build visibility, strengthen relationships, and showcase what makes their business unique.

There truly is something for everyone:

- Meet the Easter Bunny and enjoy free photos
- Balloon artistry and entertainment
- Face painting, games, and interactive activities for kids
- Giveaways and family-friendly fun throughout the event

One of the most popular highlights of the day is the Mac & Cheese Championship. Local restaurants and chefs go head-to-head, serving up their best mac and cheese creations. Attendees taste and

vote for their favorites at no cost — making it a delicious and competitive crowd favorite.

According to Chamber President & CEO Laura O'Callaghan, events like Family Fest & Home Show are more important than ever.

"In today's economic climate, creating opportunities for local businesses to connect directly with local customers is essential. This event gives our members an affordable, high-impact way to grow their visibility while celebrating the strength of our community."

Attendees can explore home improvement resources, shop local vendors, and enjoy a lively, welcoming atmosphere designed for families and professionals alike.

Whether you're a business owner looking to expand your reach or a family looking for a fun Saturday outing, the Family Fest & Home Show promises a day full of connection, opportunity, and community spirit.

For more information or to register as a vendor, visit: www.tricountychamberma.org/family-fest

The Tri-County Regional Chamber currently represents members from the towns of Bellingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Medway, Milford, Mendon, Millis, and Upton but is committed to doing business throughout Norfolk County and beyond. Visit them at www.tricountychamberma.org.

Holliston Student Athlete Makes Dean's List

Beverly, Mass. — Over 400 Endicott College club and varsity student-athletes were named to the 2025 Fall Dean's List. Highlighting honorees were 78 student-athletes who achieved a 4.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) for the semester. Among them was Declan Donagher, Fr.,

Men's Soccer, Holliston, Mass.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no grade below a "C," have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester.

Celebrate Holliston Donates to Holliston Bike Park

In February, organizers of the planned Holliston Bike Park announced on their website, www.hollistonbikepark.org, that Celebrate Holliston had generously donated \$1,000 to support the Holliston Bike Park.

"Thanks to contributions from our individual donors and organizations like Celebrate Holliston, we've now raised nearly \$10,000 toward bringing the Holliston Bike Park to life. Every dollar helps us get closer to construction and to creating a safe, fun space for riders of all ages," noted the update.

If you would like to support the Holliston Bike Park, click or share:

<https://tinyurl.com/HollBikePark>

To learn more about the Holliston Bike Park project's progress, visit www.hollistonbikepark.org.

You can learn more about Celebrate Holliston and how to get involved at celebrateholliston.com and follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/celebrateholliston.

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