

# Holliston

localtownpages

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## Olympic spirit in Holliston

By NATALEE WEBB

HOLLISTON, MAY 2026 – Young children proudly wearing their red, white, and blue, faces bright, anticipation heightened and clutching their parents' hands; jubilantly entered Town Hall to meet real-life heroes. Holliston's Sarah Baroud organized the event to recognize its Olympian residents, Bethany Hart Gerry, and Nicole Teter Downin. They and Newton's Silver medalist Genevra "Gevvie" Stone were there to inspire them.

Sarah met Bethany in Boston where they both worked in the healthcare industry. Not long after she learned that Nicole of running fame, lived in her



Last month, local families got to meet Olympians at Holliston Town Hall. (L-R) Bobsledder Bethany Hart Gerry, Silver medalist, Genevra "Gevvie" Stone and runner Nicole Teter Downin. Courtesy photo

neighborhood! Sarah got an idea, "I've got to highlight these incredible residents." She needed another speaker and Gevvie agreed to join the

panel. The plan for Holliston's youth to make a meaningful

**OLYMPIC**

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## Feasibility study funding for MSBA high school building project on May 11 warrant

By JESSICA OMMEN

The Holliston School Committee is seeking \$2.5 million in local funding to move forward with a potential high school building project following the town's recent acceptance into the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) process. The request is expected to be presented at the May 11th Town Meeting (7 p.m. at Holliston High School), where voters will be asked to approve funding for a required feasibility study—an essential early step in the MSBA program.

Holliston's acceptance into the MSBA eligibility period follows several years of applications and reflects growing recognition of the need to

address long-standing issues at Holliston High School. The building faces a range of challenges, including aging infrastructure, outdated systems, and space constraints. Identified concerns include outdated science labs, poor energy efficiency, a deteriorating roof, and a septic system in need of replacement—though septic-related work is not eligible for MSBA reimbursement.

School Committee Vice-Chair Dan Alfred described the effort as an opportunity to rethink educational spaces for modern needs, emphasizing that a new or renovated facility could be designed to better serve both students and the

**MSBA**

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# 'Soccer's Big Event' is coming to 'Boston Stadium'

## Two million people will be looking for things to do in surrounding towns

By THERESA KNAPP

*Editor's note: Due to copyright issues, the more commonly known name for the football/soccer matches cannot be used by publications outside of the official association. We are calling it "Soccer's Big Event."*

The most popular sport in the world is football (or "soccer" in the U.S.) and this year several matches of the global soccer tournament – or "Soccer's Big Event" - will be played in June and July in Massachusetts.

Boston is one of 16 cities across North America that will host matches. Specific dates for the Boston area will be announced closer to the event, but will be between June 13 and July 9.

At a recent Tourism Summit and Legislative Breakfast hosted by the MetroWest Boston Visitors Bureau, state and local officials explained how Massachusetts is preparing for the event.

The main speaker at the conference was Greta Teller of

"Bostonfwc26," the group that is overseeing local logistics for the world organization. She said there are many ways MetroWest communities can provide experiences for the millions of visitors who are expected to flood the area.

"Two million people are coming, and there are only 740,000 tickets," Teller said. "And many of those people are coming without tickets and will need things to do."

There are opportunities for communities all around Eastern Massachusetts, and beyond, to join in the festivities and revelry, Teller said, adding fans just want to be in Massachusetts to support their team, which is an opportunity for local fan festivals, fan marches, fan zones, pep rallies, watch parties, and more.

The event, Teller said, will provide a significant boost to hotels, restaurants and other local businesses; and the Bostonfwc is encouraging towns to organize fan festivals and cultural celebra-

**Many visitors know they will not get a ticket but they want to be in Massachusetts to support their team, which is an opportunity for local fan festivals, fan marches, pep rallies, watch parties, and more.**

~Greta Teller, Bostonfwc26  
<https://bostonfwc26.com>

tions in the area, and to promote those events through the organization's website and the MWVB (for free).

At the summit, it was noted that MetroWest has the largest population of Brazilians outside of Brazil, Brockton has the largest Cape Verde population outside of Cape Verde, and Worcester is home to a large Ghana population – all of which can be a consideration when organizing activities around Soccer's Big Event.

MetroWest Visitors Bureau



"Soccer's Big Event" is coming to "Boston Stadium" in June and July. Image created by Theresa Knapp using ChatGPT

Executive Director Stacey David said local towns and organizations should think about experiences visitors might enjoy and market them accordingly – anything related to arts, culture, living history, outdoor activities (trail systems) - will be a big draw.

"Think about what you have in your town, and let the MetroWest Visitors Bureau help

promote it," said David. However, the very first action anyone should take, she said, is to change all website references from "Gillette Stadium" to "Boston Stadium," which is what visitors will be searching for when planning their trip. When creating watch parties

**SOCCER**

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**OLYMPIC**

*continued from page 1*

connection with athletic greatness was underway - an avenue for the town's tykes to unite with Olympians, hear their stories, and learn life lessons in achieving goals.

Track and Field star Bethany started her career as a hammer thrower, but her employer, Joe Ronai endeared her to the sport of bobsledding. "With your power and strength, you would be great at pushing a sled!" With his help she qualified for the World Cup an international bobsledding event crucial for Olympic hopefuls. Bethany's focus led her to Italy's 2006 Olympics and the 2010 games in Vancouver. She suffered a devastating injury in Vancouver; a ruptured Achilles ending her Olympic ambitions.

"The hardest obstacle in reaching goals is self-doubt." she shared with the youngsters. Her toughest obstacle was the 20-30 weeks of training while being employed full-time with limited income and zero social life. But she beamed, "It was all worth it just to get there. My most joyous moment was walking into the stadium with the USA Olympic Team and elite athletes from around the world!" Bethany also inspired the children with "It is your grit, dedication, and perseverance that will drive you to your full potential."

Nicole Downin is 3-time USA indoor champion (2002, 2003, and 2008), 2002 Outdoor champion and a two-time Olympian (2004 and 2008). As a teenager in 1991 she won the 800-meter race at the Junior National Championship and a silver medal at the Junior Pan American games. In 2002 she broke



**Gevvie Stone with her Silver Medal from the Rio de Janeiro games in 2016.**

the Women's Indoor 800-meter event formerly held by Mary Slaney for 22 years.

An active Mom, when she is not attending to her teenaged offspring, she coaches boys' track, is a marathon runner, and fitness trainer. Her advice to the kids, "As a coach my #1 rule is to have fun!" She continued, "Whatever you choose in life it should be for you not someone else. Keep yourself grounded and keep your goal in focus."

The final speaker at this epic event was silver medalist, Gevvie Stone. Her Olympic aspirations are a family phenomenon. Both parents are USA National Team rowers. Mom Lisa Hansen scored bronze in double sculls at both the 1977 and 1978 games. She was Winsor School's Head Rowing Coach, founded the Charles River Scullers, and is co-founder of the Boston Rowing Club.

Dad Gregg did not reach the medal platform but was the top American men's sculler in his day. He missed garnering a medal by 6/10ths of ONE SECOND! Now a senior, he won the Men's Over-60 Veterans Singles at Boston's Charles Regatta in 2013. He remains a fierce competitor and is a member of the Harvard Varsity Club.

Gevvie Stone did not begin her Olympic career as a child and was termed a "bookworm." She credits her competitive path from her education at Winsor High School where she learned to row but more importantly, learned the science behind it. That knowledge led to two illustrious careers.

Stone has a myriad of athletic accomplishments. She is a three-time Olympian in the sport of rowing. She placed 7th overall in London's 2012 games and 5th in Tokyo's 2020 Olympics. She achieved her Olympic goal in 2016 winning Silver at the Rio de Janeiro games.

Gevvie faced difficult choices as she wrestled with her love for the game and her love of medicine. Being the champion that she is - she did both! Dr. Genevra Stone, MD is a Sports Medicine and Orthopedics doctor at CHA Healthcare in Cambridge.

In 2025, Gevvie received the Martin William Souders Memorial Award given for outstanding athletic achievements, ideals, and leadership from a graduate



**Organizer Sarah Baroud with her two sprogs at Holliston Town Hall.**

of a New England Independent School. The Winsor School in Boston has been educating whiz-kids since 1886.

I was amazed when Gevvie offered her medallion to the audience. Something I never imag-

ined holding, and that Olympic Silver? it was heavy - literally! It was an inspirational morning for these youths. Kudos to Sarah and the Olympians. Holliston just may have sprogs with Olympic intentions now!

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**SOCCER**

*continued from page 2*

and other events, organizers should consult the organization's public viewing regulations, including broadcast licenses, branding, etc., which can be found at <https://bit.ly/FIFA-publicViewing>.

The MetroWest Boston Visitors Bureau is available to provide assistance to local or-

ganizations. The organization promotes travel and tourism throughout the 19 towns of the MetroWest region, which include Ashland, Bellingham, Framingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Hudson, Marlborough, Medway, Milford, Millis, Natick, Northborough, Sherborn, Southborough, Sudbury, Wayland, and Westborough, according to [www.metrowest-visitors.org](http://www.metrowest-visitors.org).

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Find the Hidden Animals in This Month's Editorial Pages! There are 10 animals scattered throughout this issue's articles. Scan the QR code below and submit the list of animals you have found for your chance to win a Grand Prize of a Family 4-pack of general admission tickets to Southwick's Zoo during the 2026 season. Multiple runner-up 2-pack general admission tickets will be awarded. Submit by June 12, 2026 to be included.



# New 'Casey at the Bat' to be installed after vintage ball game May 16

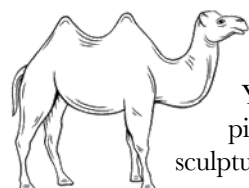
## Public invited to Mudville Base Ball Club game & following procession to install site

"He's been cremated," says Robert "Bobby" Blair.

"He" was the second "Casey at the Bat" wooden statue, located on school street, that had been created by Medway chainsaw artist Jesse Green back in 2011, but the 15-year-old carved homage to the Ernest Lawrence Thayer poem had suffered the toll of time and weather, finally falling into wooden decay this past winter.

"All the Mayor's horses and all the Mayor's men couldn't put Casey back together again," says Blair, affectionately known in town as "The Mayor of Mudville" for his civic involvement and for whom Blair Square is named.

The very first "Casey at the Bat" statue on School Street had been created by Russell Ehart, says Blair, adding he traveled to upstate New York to pick up the sculpture.



"I donated that to Casey's (Pub), where I saw him the other day," say Blair.

The new sculpture is being carved by Evergreen Carvings in North Scituate, RI, and he'll be installed in fitting style.

On May 16, 2026, the Mudville Base Ball Club will be playing a vintage style game in celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary against The Lisbon Tunnelmen at Goodwill Park from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Residents are invited to the game as well as to a procession from the park to 57 School Street for the unveiling of Casey at the Bat #3.

"We're going to form up a procession of both ball teams," says Blair, adding he's confirmed a fire truck will take part, as well as the new "Queen of Mudville," Meghan Robshaw, and the first "Queen of Mudville," Nancy Karis, taking part. At the statue site, town historian Joanne Halpert will read "Casey at the Bat," and community members will have

a singalong of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." Blair has also invited State Rep. James Arena DeRosa, however he had yet to confirm at press time.

The event is one the events planned as "Holliston Celebrates America 250: A series of local events celebrating the 250th signing of the Declaration of Independence." Blair took the reins of the project, and the replacement of the statue and Mudville Base Ball Club game became a natural first event. The event is sponsored by the Town of Holliston, Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors, Celebrate Holliston, and Ahronian Landscaping.

Later, on June 27th, ukulele ensemble The Unlikely Strummers, (<https://unlikelystrummers.weebly.com/about-us.html>), will perform from 6-8 p.m. Then, on July 4th, says Blair, "We have a reading of the declaration of independence at Town Hall at 11 a.m. and Chris Cain, who's another "Mudvian," will be the MC," dressed in co-



lonial garb. Different individuals of note in Holliston will be asked to read one of 13 parts of the declaration, explains Blair, and for that day, Mt. Hollis Lodge agreed to put on their pancake breakfast from 8-11 a.m.

Holliston's celebration of the nations' 250th will culminate with a concert by the Claffin Hill Symphony Orchestra on the evening of August 15th. *Local Town Pages* will print more details on the concert as that date approaches.

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# Hiller's Cleaners: Committing to Quality and Detail with Full-Service Dry Cleaning

NICK SCHOFIELD,  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

George Vrahliotis, owner of Hiller's Cleaners, prioritizes customer service in his dry cleaning business.

"Quality and service always come first," George said.

His eye for detail and expertise in the industry started at a young age. Before opening his first Hiller's Cleaners location in Hopkinton, George grew up working at his father's dry cleaning business in Brookline. His father specialized in custom tailoring, and his mother was a seamstress.

"I've got dry cleaning in my blood," he said.

George opened his first location on Main Street in Hopkinton in 2001. He now is expanding the business, having leased a new space at 402 Washington Street in Holliston. The new Hiller's Cleaners takes the place of the former Colonial Cleaning Center.

George learned about the vacancy on Washington Street from a customer last year. After securing the lease, he spent several months renovating the space and held a soft



launch at the end of March. He noted that the business was fully open as of April.

Renovations to the establishment include fixes to the lobby and back areas, new flooring and counters and a brand new computer system. The improvements allow George to operate an environmentally-friendly, full-service business. Services offered in Holliston include cleaning, tailoring and alterations, stain removal and shoe repair.

"We pay attention to detail," George said. He added that he does his best to meet every customer's needs, not refusing any request. His services have a quick turnaround, too;

## Business spotlight

he noted that most items are cleaned and ready for pickup within a day or two.

"If somebody has a rush, we can take care of that request," he said.

George said pricing for dry cleaning services offered at Hiller's Cleaners is competitive, noting that he doesn't want the business to be known as a low-cost provider.

"I like people to say they come to Hiller's Cleaners because the service is great," he



George Vrahliotis, owner of Hiller's Cleaners, prioritizes customer service in his dry cleaning business.

explained.

George said that since opening in Holliston, the community already has given him a positive reception. "People have been welcoming so far," he said. He added that many people who have come in that were patrons of the former business couldn't believe the differences in the space after he finished renovating it.

As business expands at his new Holliston location, George is excited about the challenge that comes with it.

He also expressed confidence in his ability to provide quality dry cleaning services to the community.

"This is what I do best," said George.

Stop in to say hi to George at the new Hiller's Cleaners location at 402 Washington Street in Holliston. Check [hillerscleaners.com](http://hillerscleaners.com) or call 774-233-0239 for more information about services and hours.

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Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it. He first tries to either recycle or donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

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## Business spotlight

renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for what you don't use.

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

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an any-



mous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

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

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

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day

service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

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Your Money, Your Independence

# Grads: Don't Pay the Comfort Tax, Invest in the "Struggle"



Glenn Brown, CFP

Every commencement season, a familiar debate plays out: move back home to save money or head to a cramped apartment on a diet of ramen and determination?

On a spreadsheet, the live-at-home option looks like a win. By eliminating rent and utilities, the theory suggests you can save \$20,000 to \$40,000 in your first year.

Sorry Grads, but this premise rarely becomes reality. It's ironic: you rolled your eyes at professors steeped in abstract theory, yet here you are committing the same nonsense.

### The Myth of Boomerang Savings

When the Bank of Mom

and Dad subsidizes your life, psychological urgency evaporates. Without the boundary of a rent check, savings leak into high-end gyms, trips, subscriptions and tech. The justification is: "I'm suffering enough by living at home; I deserve this." Instead of a surplus, you entrench expensive habits you can't afford once you leave.

To build financial independence, you first need to take flight. Just as a plane needs the resistance of wind to generate lift, you need the friction of real-world expenses to get off the ground. Living at home removes headwinds and leaves you idling on the runway while your peers are taking off.

### The Geography of Opportunity

High-rent brain-hubs trigger the Agglomeration Effect, forcing you into a network of mentors and peers that hometowns lack. Research shows physical proximity leads to faster promotions and better career matching. You can't effectively network from your basement with AI; career-defining windows of opportunity open when you are present, both at work and socializing outside of it.

Furthermore, roommates are a masterclass in negotiation. Sharing a kitchen, bathroom

and utility bills teaches conflict resolution and accountability. These soft skills create an independence gap between those who handle their own friction points and those who have them smoothed over by parents.

### The Real Cost of Entry-Level

Manage your burn rate without suffocating your future. Aim for the 30% Rule: keep all housing costs under 30% of your gross income. In the Boston-area, this means Davis Square or Allston/Brighton, not splitting a Seaport two-bedroom.

Parents, if your graduate is complaining of costs and can't get ahead, don't pay their rent as it kills urgency. Instead, offer a one-time "get out of jail" card for a true crisis. This provides security without removing the daily incentive to work hard to change outcomes.

### Independence is a Habit

Living at home for "just a

year" often turns into three. Grads, when you live like Boomers in a cozy setup, you lose the primary engine of growth: discontent. If you aren't bothered by your surroundings, you won't hunt for a promotion or take a career risk. The most effective career coach is a little room you're desperate to leave; that daily friction creates an obsession with progress and a determination to never return.

### Advice to Class of 2026

**To the parents:** Supporting independence means letting them struggle. The best gift this May isn't their old room back (or worse, refinishing the basement); it's the belief that they are capable of building their own independence.

**To the graduates:** The money you think you'll save at home comes at the cost of your ambition. Renting a room you can barely afford in a city that excites you is a form of

aggressive investing; you are betting on your own ability to grow into future expenses.

Go find the cramped apartment. Deal with noisy roommates. The struggle of your 20's is how you get a 2X-5X return in your 30's. Financial independence isn't something you're given; it starts by choosing to outgrow the Comfort Tax.

*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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**MSBA**

*continued from page 1*

broader community. In his view, the goal is to create “learning spaces of the 21st century” and potentially transform the building into a shared community resource, “so it’s more than a school... it’s a community space.”

The proposed \$2.5 million allocation would fund a comprehensive feasibility study, a required phase in the MSBA process. This study includes hiring architects and engineers, evaluating existing building conditions, and developing multiple design options such as renovation, expansion, or full replacement. Town officials stressed that entry into the MSBA eligibility period does not guarantee project approval or funding, as the state advances only a limited number of proposals each year based on factors such as urgency, readiness, and financial feasibility.

While approving feasibility study funding does not commit the town to a construction project, it is a necessary step to evaluate options in detail and understand potential costs before any larger financial decisions are made. If Holliston ultimately advances through the MSBA process, the state could reimburse a significant portion of eligible construction costs, with reimbursement rates



**Although the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has deemed a new Holliston High School building an eligible project, a major next step in the process is a town vote on a feasibility study, which will take place at the May 11th Town Meeting.**

determined later. School Committee members have estimated that support could reach up to approximately 50 percent, depending on the final scope and approval pathway.

The funding request was discussed at a Select Board meeting on April 13, where members examined both the scale of the project and its cost. While the \$2.5 million figure prompted some questions, comparisons to other municipal projects helped provide context. For example, a recent schematic design for a much smaller Department of Public Works (DPW) facility cost roughly \$500,000, underscoring the scale and complexity of a full high school feasibility study.

A key point of discussion was how to structure funding responsibly. One proposal con-

sidered reallocating \$350,000 from an existing DPW project to help offset the study’s cost. Another suggestion involved using funds from a school roof project, though that option was ultimately not pursued by the School Committee.

Select Board Chair Ben Sparrell suggested a compromise approach: approve the \$350,000 transfer with the condition that if the feasibility study comes in under budget, any unused funds—up to that amount—would be returned to the DPW project. The intent was to balance fiscal caution with the need to keep the project moving forward, while avoiding permanent diversion of funds from other capital priorities. However, the discussion reflected some discomfort with linking unrelated capital projects in a single funding decision.

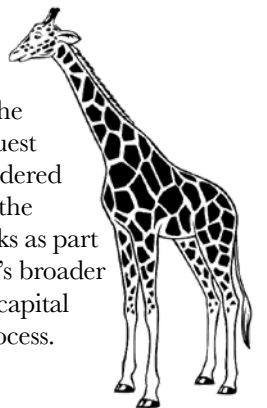


The urgency of the decision is driven by MSBA’s structured and time-sensitive process. Once a district is invited into the eligibility period, it must complete a series of requirements within a set timeframe. These include certifying compliance with MSBA rules, forming a School Building Committee with representatives from both the School Committee and Select Board, completing an Educational Profile Questionnaire, documenting maintenance practices, confirming community authorization and funding, establishing a design enrollment agreement, and executing a Feasibility Study Agreement that governs reimbursement eligibility.

Even if voters approve funding and Holliston advances to the feasibility phase, the overall process remains lengthy. From

eligibility through design and potential construction, the full timeline can span several years. Any final project would require additional Town Meeting approvals and likely a ballot vote before proceeding.

For now, school officials emphasize that the \$2.5 million request should be viewed as an investment in planning rather than a commitment to construction. The feasibility study is intended to give the town a clear understanding of its options before making major long-term decisions. The funding request will be considered by voters in the coming weeks as part of Holliston’s broader budget and capital planning process.



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# What the New Home Inspection Law Means for Buyers and Sellers



Lynne Ritucci and Tim Swift

## REAL ESTATE INSIGHTS

A new Massachusetts home inspection law that took effect in October 2025 is changing how buyers and sellers approach the offer process - and it's an important shift for anyone planning to move this year.

In recent years, especially in competitive markets, it became common for buyers to waive home inspections to strengthen their offers. While this strategy helped buyers win bidding wars, it also created risk and

added pressure to make decisions without fully understanding a home's condition.

The new law aims to address that. Sellers can no longer require or accept offers where a buyer has waived their home inspection upfront. Buyers now have a protected right to conduct an inspection, helping ensure more informed decisions.

So what does this mean in practice?

For sellers, the focus shifts even more toward preparation and presentation. Without inspection waivers as a competitive tool, the condition of the home becomes increasingly important. Addressing deferred maintenance, completing small repairs, and preparing the home to show at its best can have a meaningful impact on buyer interest.

Pricing strategy also remains critical. Creating strong early activity continues to be key, as multiple-offer situations can still occur. However, offers will

now include inspection contingencies, making it important to evaluate not just price, but overall terms and buyer strength.

For buyers, this change provides an added level of confidence. The ability to conduct an inspection reduces uncertainty and allows for a clearer understanding of the property before moving forward. That said, competition has not disappeared. Well-prepared buyers who understand the market and act decisively will continue to be in the strongest position.

We are also seeing buyers and agents adjust their strategies. Rather than waiving inspections, some are focusing on flexibility in other areas — such as timing, terms, and overall offer structure — to remain competitive. One strategy buyers can consider is including a defined amount they are willing to cover for inspection-related items, helping to provide reassurance to sellers while still

retaining the protection of an inspection.

The bottom line is that the market is evolving. This new law creates a more balanced process, with greater transparency for buyers and a renewed emphasis on preparation for sellers.

As always, success comes down to strategy, preparation, and experienced guidance.

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.

Lynne Ritucci (508) 479-8505  
LynneRitucci@gmail.com  
Tim Swift (201) 394-7292  
TimSwiftRealEstate@gmail.com

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## Annual Town election May 19, 2026

The Annual Town Election will take place on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Holliston High School gymnasium. At press time, the following residents had submitted nomination papers:

- **Select Board and Highway Surveyor 3-year term, 1 position**  
Benjamin Sparrell, 9 Forest Park (incumbent)
- **Board of Assessors 3-year term, 1 position**  
Amy L.B. Gow, 480 Norfolk St. (incumbent)
- **School Committee 3-year term, 2 positions**  
Daniel Alfred, 315 High St.

- (incumbent)  
Sarah Fitzgerald, 3 Quail Run
- (incumbent)  
Jessica M. Ommen, 116 Locust St.
- **Board of Health 3 year term, 1 position**  
Audrea H. Szabatura, 31 Noel Dr.
- **Trustee of Public Library 3-year term, 2 positions**  
Robert McGrath, 17 Hemlock Dr. (incumbent)  
Audra Friend, 33 Brook St.  
Christian Stueart, 1090 Washington St.
- **Finance Committee 3 year term 2 positions**  
Meredith Anne Smith, 11

- Old Cart Path
- **Park Commissioner 3 year term 1 positions**  
Brian McDonald, 14 Howard St. (incumbent)
- **Planning Board 5 year term 1 position**

- Barbara Peatie, 166 Union St. (incumbent)
- **Housing Authority 5 year term 1 position**  
Haley Fetrow, 55 Kingsbury Dr. (incumbent)




### INTRO TO ESTATE PLANING

Join Elizabeth M. Facey, Esq. as she leads a session on the fundamentals of estate planning, designed for those who want to grow their wealth and better support their family in the future.

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## LIVING HEALTHY

# Over 50 and Tired of Reading Glasses? Refractive Lens Exchange May Be for You

By ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D.  
MILFORD FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

If you are over 50 and constantly reaching for reading glasses, you are not alone. Age-related vision changes, especially presbyopia, make it harder to focus up close. Refractive Lens Exchange, or RLE, is an advanced surgical option that can significantly reduce or eliminate your need for glasses for both distance and near vision.

### What is presbyopia?

Presbyopia is a natural part of aging in which the eye's lens gradually loses flexibility. This reduces the ability to focus on close objects, especially when reading, using a phone, or working on a computer. It typically begins in the early to mid-40s and progresses over time, often leading to increasing

dependence on reading glasses or bifocals for nearly all near tasks.

### What is Refractive Lens Exchange?

Refractive Lens Exchange is a procedure in which the eye's natural lens is removed and replaced with an artificial intraocular lens, commonly called an IOL. The procedure is essentially the same as modern cataract surgery, but it is performed before a cataract becomes visually significant.

Unlike LASIK or PRK, which reshape the cornea, RLE works inside the eye and corrects vision by replacing the lens itself. This allows correction of distance, intermediate, and near vision, depending on the lens selected.

### Who is a good candidate?

RLE is most often recommended for individuals over 50

who are frustrated with glasses or contact lenses. Ideal candidates have difficulty with near

vision due to presbyopia and may also have farsightedness, nearsightedness, or astigmatism. It is also an option for patients not ideal for LASIK because of thin corneas, dry eye concerns, or higher prescriptions.

Candidates should have healthy eyes without significant retinal disease, uncontrolled glaucoma, or other major ocular conditions. They should also understand realistic expectations, including that some patients may still need glasses for fine print or low light tasks after surgery.

### Benefits of RLE

One major benefit of RLE is freedom from reading glasses. Modern intraocular lenses can provide a full range of vision, including distance, intermediate, and near, depending on the chosen lens.

The results are long-lasting because the artificial lens does not age or change. Since the natural lens is removed, patients will not develop cataracts in the future, eliminating the need for cataract surgery later in life.

Many patients report improved clarity, brightness, and contrast with modern lens technology. Daily activities such as driving, reading, computer use,

and travel often become easier and more convenient without glasses or contact lenses.

### Insurance coverage

In most cases, Refractive Lens Exchange is considered elective and is not covered by insurance. This is because it is performed to reduce dependence on glasses rather than to treat cataracts. If a cataract is present and affecting vision, insurance may cover part of the procedure like cataract surgery. However, premium lenses and advanced technology upgrades are usually out-of-pocket expenses. Patients should review benefits in advance so they clearly understand expected costs and options.

### Risks and considerations

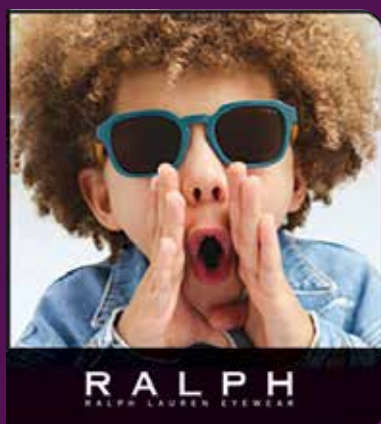
RLE is a safe and commonly performed procedure, but it carries some risks as with any eye surgery. These include infection, inflammation, or swelling, though these complications are uncommon with modern techniques.

There is a small risk of retinal detachment, particularly in highly nearsighted patients. Some patients may notice glare,



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**EYE**

*continued on page 11*

# Which retirement plan is right for your business?



Mark Freeman, CEPA

## FINANCIAL FOCUS® Provided by Edward Jones

If you're a local business owner, a workplace retirement plan can be a powerful tool – helping you manage taxes, strengthen employee retention and build personal financial security.

Many in your situation, however, assume retirement plans are complicated or only suitable for large companies. The reality is quite different. Today's retire-

ment plan options encompass businesses of every size, from solo entrepreneurs to companies with dozens of employees.

The key is understanding which plans work best for different kinds of businesses:

### Self-employed individuals or businesses without employees.

- Three commonly used retirement plans:
- Simplified employee pension (SEP) plans are relatively straightforward, low-maintenance, lower-cost and flexible on how much you contribute each year.
- Owner-only 401(k) plans are ideal if you're willing to accept additional cost and complexity in exchange for benefits like higher contribution limits and borrowing options.
- Owner only defined benefit plans work best for owners with high, steady income who want to maximize their retirement contributions and guaranteed retirement income. These plans come with required annual

funding and greater administrative complexity.

**Businesses with employees** can also consider an SEP plan, although it only allows for employer contributions. Other plan options include:

- The SIMPLE IRA (savings incentive match plan for employees) can work well for companies with 100 or fewer employees seeking a low-maintenance option. Employer contributions are required, and it has lower contribution limits compared to other plan types.
- Traditional 401(k) plans offer maximum flexibility by allowing both employee salary deferrals and employer contributions that can be adjusted based on business performance. These plans have added costs and administrative responsibilities.
- Safe harbor 401(k) plans are ideal if you want to maximize your own retirement contributions without complex testing require-

ments and you're willing to make required employer contributions.

- A cash balance plan is often paired with another plan type, such as a 401(k), to allow greater retirement savings. It works well when you have a smaller company with high-earning employees and consistent cash flow, and you're comfortable making required contributions.

Each plan type involves different eligibility requirements, establishment deadlines, contribution limits, complexity and costs. In determining a workplace retirement plan that's right for your business, you'll want to consider your number of employees, desired contribution levels, comfort with required employer contributions and willingness to handle administrative responsibilities. And, of course, the goals for your business and your own retirement are important criteria.

Fortunately, you don't have to navigate this decision alone. A

financial advisor can help you evaluate the trade-offs among different plan types and select the option that best fits your situation. They can explain how various plans work and guide you through the setup process.

Starting a workplace retirement plan is an investment in your future, your business and your employees. With professional guidance, you can find a plan that helps everyone build financial security while positioning your business for continued success.

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

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

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## EYE

continued from page 10

halos, or starbursts at night, especially with multifocal lenses.

A later occurrence is posterior capsule opacification, a mild clouding behind the implant that can develop months or years later. This is easily treated with a quick, painless laser procedure.

### Alternatives to RLE

Other options depend on age and vision needs. LASIK and PRK effectively treat distance vision but do not correct age-related reading vision loss after the mid-40s or early 50s.

Implantable lenses are typically used in younger patients and do not address presbyopia. Monovision, where one eye is corrected for distance and the other for near, can work well for some patients, but others may not adapt comfortably or may notice reduced depth perception.

### Final thoughts

Refractive Lens Exchange is a proven option for patients over 50 who are tired of glasses. By replacing the natural lens with a customized artificial lens, it is possible to restore a broad range of vision and improve quality of life.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we use advanced diagnostics and modern surgical techniques to achieve precise outcomes. All procedures are performed in an accredited surgery center under topical anesthesia with anesthesia professionals present for safety and comfort.

If you are over 50 and frustrated with reading glasses, RLE may be worth considering. A consultation can help determine the best approach for your vision and lifestyle goals.

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--- June 13<sup>th</sup> --- June 27<sup>th</sup> --- July 11<sup>th</sup> ---  
--- August 15<sup>th</sup> --- Sept 12<sup>th</sup> ---

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August 15<sup>th</sup> the Fragrant Hosta should be flowering!  
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June 27<sup>th</sup> will be a great time to check out the Waterlilies.

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# What's coming up at The Center

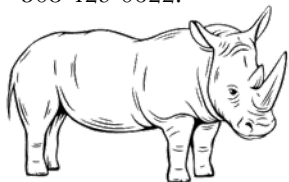
The Center, located at 150 Goulding Street, Holliston, is open Monday- Friday, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Reach them at 508-429-0622 or visit <https://www.townofholliston.us/176/Senior-Center-The-Center>.

Following are some highlighted programs coming up:

**The Painted Pine Spring Wood Craft:** Participants will make an 8.5-inch round plaque (choose from two designs). Cost is usually \$25 per person but The Center's Friends Group, SSF (Senior Support Foundation) is subsidizing \$10 a person, so pay the instructor \$15 per person during the class. Choose which wooden plaque to make when signing up.

**Holliston Garden Club, Tuesday, May 12 at 1:30 p.m.:** Please join the Holliston Garden Club as we welcome the beauty of spring and invite attendees to create their own petite floral design. Space is limited so call to sign up at 508-429-0622. This event is age and dementia-friendly.

**Live Game Show, Family Feud & Jeopardy, May 6, 12:30 p.m.:** Kevin Richman is back to play! Sponsored by the Senior Support Foundation (SSF), The Center's friends' group. Everyone will get a chance to participate, and Kevin brings great prizes. Register at 508-429-0622.



**Spring Fling Luncheon, June 3, 12-2 p.m.:** We invite you to enjoy a delicious lunch and an entertaining event featuring the JUMPIN' JUBA band, known for their blues-based roots-rock, folk, and classic rock that will have you listening and dancing. This event is made possible by a grant from the Cultural Council.

**Monthly Breakfast, 2nd Tuesday of Month, 9 a.m.:** May 12 & June 9. \$5 Thanks to the Senior Support Foundation.

**Lions Club Lunches, Seniors & Veterans Welcome** May 17 at Cole Court, Register at 508-429-6311, typically pasta & meatball, subject to change.

**June 21 Cookout at The Center, register at 508-429-0622** Call The Center to sign up.

**Writers Group, First Tuesday of Month, 10 a.m.** Join us for a gathering to practice writing skills and connect with others through written words.

**May 5** ~ A book character you'd like to meet and why.

**June 2** ~ A childhood memory you still see clearly.

**Book Club, Second Friday of Month, 1:30 p.m.**

**May 8** ~ *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore.

**June 12** ~ *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon.

Call the Holliston Library at 508-429-0617 if you need help getting these books.

**Assisted Living Group Tour Series**

Mary Ann Morse at Heritage in Framingham, Tuesday, April 14, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. Transportation is available upon request with our van service 3 days prior to event, limited to 8 participants, call 508-429-0622.

**Senior Safe Program**

This fire and fall prevention program provides grab bars and detectors for older adult residents. Thanks to a partnership with the Holliston Fire Department and the Massachusetts Senior SAFE grant, these items are provided and installed at NO COST. Excludes hard-wired detectors.

**How to Lower Your Property Taxes:** Join Holliston's Principal Assessor, Kevin Rudden, to learn about the options available to help reduce your property tax burden. Mr. Rudden will provide an overview of the Town's new means-tested exemption program and will also discuss additional tax relief opportunities, such as the Senior Tax Work-Off Program. Thursday, May 14 at 2:30 p.m. Register at 508-429-0622.

**Expressive Art Therapy Class, at The Center, facilitated by Franci Dumar of Clear Guidance, LLC:** May 19 and June 16 at 1 p.m., Expressive Art Therapy is an interactive program for adults with cognitive decline and their care partners, funded through the MCOA SIG Grant. Register for free through the Sherborn Council on Aging at 508-651-7858, or [coa@sherbornma.org](mailto:coa@sherbornma.org), or call The Center at 508-429-0622. Reach out if you require an accommodation to participate.

**Celebrating New England: A Cultural Performance, Wednesday, May 27, 1:30 p.m.,** The Holliston Council on Aging celebrates New England's cultural heritage with a performance by award-winning storyteller Davis Bates. Program Highlights Oral History Tales, songs about the sea, farming, and more. Enjoy sing-alongs and a lesson on making music with kitchen spoons, featuring a wooden lumberjack dog named Bingo. This event is age and dementia friendly.

**Hearing Aid Cleanings,** with Hopkinton Audiology Services, Wednesday, May 6 & June 3, please register at 508-429-0622.

**Estate Planning & Wealth Management, with Attorney Jay Marsden,** May 12 & June 9, register at 508-429-0622.

**Java with Jay (Zoom), May 28** ~ The Hidden Traps in Beneficiary Designations. Register and receive Zoom link by calling 508-429-0622.

**Dementia-Friendly Free Lunch & Learn:** The Holliston and Sherborn COAs have partnered on this program, funded by Bay State Federal Savings Bank Charitable Foundation.

**Community Garden Bed Preparation, May 21, 10 a.m.:** It's time to prepare the community garden beds so that The Center can provide fresh, produce. Volunteers are needed to help get the raised beds ready and to plant the crops. No gardening experience is necessary! Register at 508-429-0622 to help.

## 2026 Memorial Day activities in Holliston

Ceremonies at Town Hall will begin at approximately 11:45 a.m. on Memorial Day.

The following activities will take place leading up to Memorial Day:

**Wednesday, May 20**

Dress Squares and Outlying Cemeteries, 9 a.m., meet at 477 Gorwin Drive.

**Thursday, May 21**

Dressing of Graves, 5 p.m., meet at VFW Parking lot, 310 Woodland Street.

**Monday, May 25**

Set up at Holliston Historical Society, 547 Washington



**Friday, May 29, 12-1 p.m., Program: A Gentle Pause for Caregivers,** Host: Jill Briansky, MSW, LICSW of Purple Lotus Health Description: Relax with sound healing and guided journaling for caregivers needing a break.

**Mental Health Awareness:** Wild card is a game based on an NPR podcast hosted by Rachel Martin. Want to get to grow closer to your friends and neighbors, but you're not sure where to start? This game is for you! Skip the small talk. Pick a card! Friday, May 22 at 11:30 a.m. Register at 508-429-0622

Street, 8 a.m.

- Cemetery Visitations, 9 a.m., VFW parking lot, 310 Woodland Street.
- Lake Grove Cemetery, 9:30 a.m.
- St. Mary's Cemetery, 10 a.m.
- Form for Memorial Day Parade, 10:45 a.m., Robert Adams Middle School parking lot, 323 Woodland Street.
- Step off for Memorial Day Parade, 11 a.m., 310 Woodland Street.
- Town Hall ceremonies, 11:45 a.m., 703 Washington Street.
- Flags back to full staff, 1 p.m.

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# Voters to weigh debt exclusion override for DPW facility

At the May 11th Town Meeting, voters will be asked to approve a \$25.8 million Proposition 2 1/2 Debt Exclusion for the cost of building a new DPW facility, with voters to approve the funding at Town Election on May 19th.

The following update came from Holliston's town website in mid-April, with more information available on this page, <https://www.townofholliston.us/555/New-DPW-Facility>:

### April 13, 2026

Weston and Sampson provided their schematic design and cost estimates for a new DPW Facility to the Select Board. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$48.7 million dollars - including site work, contingencies, soft costs, and construction costs.

- Watch the recording of the Select Board at <https://tinyurl.com/hollselect-board413>
- Visit [https://www.townofholliston.us/Document-Center/View/10377/Holliston-DPW-Pre-](https://www.townofholliston.us/Document-Center/View/10377/Holliston-DPW-Pre-sentation-to-Select-Board-04-13-2026)

sentation-to-Select-Board-04-13-2026 to read the presentation.

- Visit <https://www.townofholliston.us/Document-Center/View/10382/DPW-SD-Cost-Estimate-3-23-26> to view the full schematic design cost estimate.
- The estimated on average single family tax bill will be (\$739,398 assessed value) = \$325.33. View more on the impact of the debt exclusion on property taxes at <https://tinyurl.com/dpwdebtextclusionimpact>.

In early April, 2026 - Facilities Director James Keast and DPW Deputy Director joined Chryso Lawless for a "Heartbeat of Holliston" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxywwynEzVk>) episode that shows the current conditions of the Highway Department facility.

View the DPW Frequently Asked Questions Brochure (9/19/25) (PDF).

# Holliston's first annual History Day!

**Saturday, May 2, Blair Square, Holliston**

Join us May 2nd for the Town of Holliston's inaugural History Day as we celebrate the rich heritage that makes our community unique.

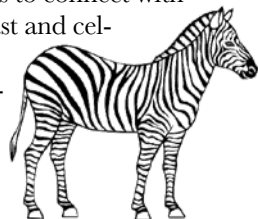
2026 Theme - Tracks Through Time: The Evolution of the Holliston Rail Trail

From the first ties and tracks in 1848 to the vibrant recreation destination it is today, the rail has always been Holliston's connection to the wider world. This year, we're looking back at how the arrival of the railroad transformed our town and how the Rail Trail continues to bring the world to our doorstep.

- Historic Walking Tours

hosted by Joanne Hulbert, Frank Chamberlain and Robert Weidknecht. 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. - Blair Square to Phipps Tunnel (and back) 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - Blair Square to 8-Arch Bridge

- Interactive Exhibits: Get hands-on with historic artifacts and displays at Blair Square.
- Community Spirit: A day for all ages to connect with our past and celebrate our future.



# Carpenter Ants: A Serious Threat to MetroWest Homes



**Jim Maxxuchelli, owner, WPC Pest and Termite Control**

In Massachusetts, homeowners face unique pest challenges due to our changing seasons and moisture prone climate. While many people dismiss ants as a minor annoyance, carpenter ants are one of the most destructive pests affecting homes in the MetroWest Area.

We regularly see carpenter ant infestations throughout MetroWest—and the damage

they cause can be extensive if left untreated. Said, Jim Maz-zuchelli from WPC Pest and Termite Control, Inc.,

### Warning Signs Homeowners Should Watch For

- Large black or reddish ants, often active at night, inside your home
- Winged ants (swarmers) appearing indoors in spring
- Piles of sawdust like debris near baseboards or windows
- Faint rustling sounds inside walls
- Ant trails from basements, kitchens, or exterior siding
- These signs should never be ignored—especially in homes with moisture issues or older construction.

### Why DIY Treatments Often Fail

Over the counter sprays and baits may kill visible ants but rarely address the nest hidden deep within walls or structural wood. In many cases, improper

treatment allows infestations to spread and continue causing damage. Effective carpenter ant control requires professional experience, proper identification, and targeted treatment.

At WPC Pest and Termite Control, Inc., we understand the specific pest pressures MetroWest homeowners face. Our experienced technicians use proven methods to locate carpenter ant nests, eliminate infestations at the source, and help prevent future problems.

If you suspect carpenter ants—or want peace of mind before damage worsens—don't wait.

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# RAMS students earn chance to go to Washington for NHD nationals

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

How many of you have heard of Abraham Flexner or his influence on medical education in the United States? Well, Robert Adams Middle School students Lucas Zhang and Sam Giesecke, who teamed up as a National History Day (NHD) team, could tell you all about it. Competing in this academic competition at the Junior level, they created a website about how Flexner's report influenced the way doctors are taught and certified. Their efforts were recognized at a regional competition in March and a states competition in Winchester on April 11th, and they have been invited to National History Day in DC (<https://dchistory.org/nhd>) in Washington, D.C. from June 14th-18th.

Holliston High School student Josh Zhang, who qualified for NHD nationals as a sixth grader in Arlington before moving to Holliston when he was in 8th grade, started the club at Holliston High School last year. He served as a student advisor to his younger brother, Lucas, and Sam.

"The rules are the same for middle school and high school," explains Zhang,



but just separated by age. "For this competition, you can either create a documentary, a website, an on-stage performance, a research paper, or a poster exhibit," he explains. "This year's theme was 'Revolution, Reaction, Reform' in history. You'd pick a topic that suits the theme, using primary sources, secondary sources, analyzing and creating a project build on your historical thesis. And so, the middle school team did a project on the Flexner Report, a medical report that reformed medical education in the United States."

Bella Ramsey, the Holliston High School teacher Josh approached to be the NHD advisor last year, lauds Lucas' and Sam's effort. She served as advisor to the middle school boys, where no established club currently exists at the middle school level in town.

"Looking at the work they had done, I'm just so impressed with the independence that they showed throughout this project. I don't know many middle schoolers who would feel comfortable interviewing a professor from Harvard Medical School ... and they spoke to multiple experts in their fields, even crafting interview questions." Even the topic, she says,



Robert Adams Middle School students Lucas Zhang and Sam Giesecke competed in the National History Day (NHD) state competition on April 11th, winning in their category. They now have the chance to go to Washington, DC to compete. Photo by Josh Zhang

was arguably a difficult one.

"Our group wanted to look at how medicine really changed from a very chaotic world to a more, like, clean and safe one," says Lucas Zhang, 11 years old, who approached Sam to join his team. He came across reference to the Flexner report as he was reading an article about medicine. "It was the main document that reshaped the whole world of medicine," he says.

Sam Giesecke, 12 years old, says, "I've always been

interested in medicine, and I also wanted to test my ability and see what I could do. I also thought it was a pretty good idea to do this for the future."

Both boys say they put several hours of work into the project per week, on top of other extracurricular activities. They are excited, if a little nervous, at the prospect of presenting to judges in DC.

"I think it's insane we actually made it to nationals and we're going to go to Washing-

ton, DC to compete. Being able to do that is just really cool," says Sam.

"It's such an amazing program," says Ramsey, noting that there are only three teams total in Holliston right now, with two at the high school. She hopes more students will participate. "It offers so many great skills for students," she says, "They really have to work hard even to get recognized at the regional level. To get recognized at the state level, they have really accomplished something."

The middle schoolers could use help with the costs of heading to nationals. If you are interested in helping support them, reach out to Mrs. Ramsey ([ramseyb@holliston.k12.ma.us](mailto:ramseyb@holliston.k12.ma.us)).

In the meantime, check out their project at <https://site.nhd.org/40176967/home>.

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## Farm girl on the front lines: Deborah Sampson's secret!

Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Historical Society Barn

Please join the Holliston Public Library, the Friends of the Holliston Public Library, and the Holliston Historical Society in the Historical Society's barn on May 20th at 6:30 p.m. to meet the woman who hoodwinked George Washington's army. A Massachusetts native, Deborah Sampson is the only woman known to have disguised herself as a man and serve as a soldier in the Continental Army without getting caught! Janet Parnes of Historical Portrayals by Lady J, Millis will portray Deborah Sampson. This program is free and is suitable for children ages 7 and up.

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Deborah is coming to tell her story. Learn about the close calls, mountainous obstacles, and head-scratching conundrums this farm girl faced as, without support from family or friends, she risked humiliation and imprisonment to help free the colonies from English rule. Find out the story-behind-the-story of this principled, dangerous deception and the character of the quiet rebel who pulled it off.

Janet Parnes has taken delight in educating, entertaining, and inspiring audiences with portrayals of underappreciated American women for more than 15 years. Using extensive research, attention to detail,



Janet Parnes dressed as Deborah Sampson, a soldier in the Colonial Army.

and writing talent, Ms. Parnes has created historically accurate performances that whisk audiences back into life into the Colonial, Federalist, Victorian, and World War eras and make them feel as if they are chatting with a friend. Learn more about Janet Parnes at <https://www.women->

[history.com/](https://www.history.com/)  
The Holliston Historical Society is located at 547 Washington Street. The program is free and open to the public and will be followed by a social hour and refreshments. No registration is necessary. We hope to see you there!

## Olympian DiGregorio to attend USA Luge recruitment event in Medway May 16-17

The White Castle USA Luge Slider Search, using sleds on wheels to find future national team members and Olympians, will slide into Medway on May 16-17, 2026, at the McGovern Elementary School, 9 Lovering Street, Medway.

White Castle, the nation's first fast food chain, has been the exclusive sponsor of the Slider Search since 2017 and hosts the luge team's off-season recruitment efforts. The sessions are free, and all participants receive a White Castle USA Luge Slider Search T-Shirt.

USA Luge's primary recruitment event, targeting boys and girls ages 10-13, will be held

on the McGovern Elementary school grounds. Three clinic times are offered each day: 9 to 11 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 2 to 4 p.m.

Slider Search graduates include Medway native and two-time Olympian Zack DiGregorio, who along with doubles partner Sean Hollander, placed eighth in men's doubles luge at the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Games. DiGregorio will be on-site at the Medway Slider Search to coach participants and meet members of the community.

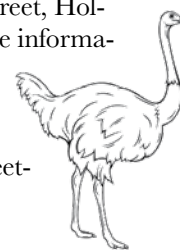
To register, please log on to: <https://www.usaluge.org/try-luge/slider-search/#Register> or call 1-800-USA-LUGE to register.

## WSP's *The Curious Savage* May 1 & 2

The Washington Street Players will be present two final showings of *The Curious Savage*, by John Patrick, directed by Karen Dinehart, on Friday and Saturday nights, 8 p.m., May 1st and 2nd.

All performances will be

at Holliston Town Hall, 703 Washington Street, Holliston. For more information, visit the WSP website, <https://www.washingtonstreetplayers.org/>



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# HYFS & HDAAC are celebrating Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health Awareness Month (MHAM) was established to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness and to support individuals and families on their mental health journeys. The Holliston Drug & Alcohol Awareness Coalition (HDAAC) and Holliston Youth and Family Services (HYFS) recognize MHAM every May to decrease stigma about promoting the vital role mental health plays in our overall health and well-being. We also highlight resources and information to support our community members who may need assistance.

This year, we are also aligning with Mental Health America's More Good Days, Together initiative, which reminds us that mental health looks different for everyone, and that even small moments of connection, support, and progress can help create more "good days." A good day does not have to mean perfect or happy. It can mean feeling calm, supported, or simply getting through a challenge.



Mental health and substance misuse are closely con-

**MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

| SUNDAY                                         | MONDAY                                   | TUESDAY                                    | WEDNESDAY                                | THURSDAY                         | FRIDAY                                   | SATURDAY                                          |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
|                                                |                                          |                                            |                                          |                                  | Light it up Green @Blair Square 1        | May Miles For Minds (5k) @Blair Square, 9:30 AM 2 |
| Children's Mental Health Awareness Week 3      |                                          | National Teacher Appreciation Day 5        | Family Trivia @Rushford & Son's. 6 PM 6  | Walk, Bike, Roll to School Day 7 |                                          |                                                   |
| National Prevention Week 10                    | Town Meeting (wear green!) @HHS, 7 PM 11 | Miss Jackie's Story Hour @Library 10 AM 12 |                                          | Art Saves Lives @HHS, 5 PM 14    | HHS Prom! 15                             | Community Dinner @Christ the King Church, 5 PM 16 |
| SafePlace Parent Meeting @Ben Speaks, 11 AM 17 |                                          |                                            | Mental Health America Webinar, @12 PM 20 |                                  |                                          |                                                   |
|                                                | Memorial Day 25                          |                                            |                                          |                                  | 8th Grade Community Service Day @RAMS 29 |                                                   |
| World No Tobacco Day 31                        |                                          |                                            |                                          |                                  |                                          |                                                   |

Together in Partnership

**HYFS** **HDAAC**

Holliston Youth and Family Services | The Holliston Drug & Alcohol Awareness Coalition

nected in both adults and youth. Individuals may turn to alcohol or drugs as a way to cope with things like depression, anxiety, trauma, or stress. In some cases, substance use can also contribute to or worsen these mental health challenges. This relation-

ship is often a pattern, making it harder to break free without support. Early prevention, open conversations, having a trusted adult to talk to, and access to mental health resources are essential to promoting overall well-being and reducing the risk of

substance misuse.

HYFS & HDAAC have partnered on a number of initiatives this month to support Holliston and uplift all of our mental health. See our calendar of events here.

Holliston Youth and Family

Services offers a diverse range of services and innovative interventions to support children, adults, and families affected by various life experiences, emphasizing clients' strengths and holistic well-being. FREE to all Holliston residents!

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

- Have an Upcoming Event?
- Do you have a concern about things happening around town?

**EMAIL US & LET US KNOW!**

**Editor@HollistonTownNews.com**

## Check out the new facilities!

The Goodwill Park project is coming along, according to a social media post by the Holliston Recreation Department. On March 30th, prefab bathroom facilities arrived!

Source: Holliston Recreation Department Facebook page



**SOUR GRAPES** by Tim Jones

I'LL HAVE THE DAILY SPECIAL, PLEASE.

WE DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIALS TODAY, AESOP.

YOU'LL HAVE TO PICK FROM THE MAIN MENU UP ON THE WALL BEHIND ME. THE CAFE DOESN'T OFFER SPECIALS ANYMORE, SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?

OH, NOTHING SPECIAL.

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# Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors Announce the 2026 HNN Community Grant Recipients

The HNN Community Investment Committee is pleased to announce the 2026 HNN Community Grant Fund Recipients!

- Holliston Public Library** - Museum Passes to Boston Children's Museum, New England Aquarium, Museum of Fine Arts and Ecotarium
- Holliston Parks & Recreation** - Summer Concerts in the Park FOWL (Friends of Winthrop Lake) - Lake Management Study
- Neurodiversity Support for Children** - Fundraising Event Contribution
- Pincrest Golf Course Advisory Committee** - Stone Structure Restore



HNN - Building Friendships, Building Community

**Celebrate Holliston 250 - America250 Concert**

A goal of the Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors is to give back to our community. One of

the ways this is accomplished is in the form of grants. The HNN Community Grant Fund money is raised during the various fundraising activities held throughout the year. The 2025 fundraising events that contributed to the 2026 HNN Community Grant Fund were Prize A Day for the Month of May Calendar Raffle, Touch-A-Truck, Great Pumpkin Trail Walk and the HNN Comedy Night. HNN wishes to thank all those that attended these events as well as the volunteers who organized them.

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

# Diverse Holliston presents Mythbusters 2.0 – the sequel

## Real talk about LGBTQ+ identities

Sunday, May 3, 12-1 p.m.  
Unitarian Universalist Area Church  
11 Washington St., Sherborn  
Do you ever wonder what all these letters mean? Does it seem like these letters and all the terms are always changing and it's impossible to keep up? Join us for a safe space to learn everything you ever wanted to



know but were afraid to ask. LGBTQ+ Mythbusters 2.0 event will feature Dr. Barbara Fritts and her team of fabulous panlists who will answer questions and go deeper into the

original material. Topics may include childhood gender development, sex vs. gender, gender presentation vs. gender identity, and more.

You will leave this presentation empowered with knowledge to bring back to your relationships and loved ones. You don't want to miss this one!

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# Struggling With Acne?

By LISA MASSIMIANO,  
LICENSED ESTHETICIAN AND  
CERTIFIED ACNE SPECIALIST

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

### What is an Acne Specialist?

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

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

### How an Acne Specialist Can Help You.

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

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

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

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

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# CALENDAR

## May 1

Washington Street Players present *The Curious Savage*, by John Patrick, 8 p.m., Holliston Town Hall, 703 Washington St., Holliston, <https://www.washingtonstreetplayers.org/>

Small Works Reception and Fundraiser, 6-7:30 p.m., Lotvin Family Gallery, Hopkinton Center for the Arts, 98 Hayden Rowe St., Hopkinton, <https://canvas.hopartscenter.org/events/43>

## May 2

May Miles for Minds 5K & 3K, 9:30 a.m. start, Blair Square, 126 Central St., Holliston, event benefits Ben Speaks, <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Holliston/MayMilesForMinds>

Holliston History Day, Historic tours starting at Blair Square at 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m. a& 3:30 p.m., as well as interactive displays and community spirit

Washington Street Players present *The Curious Savage*, by John Patrick, 8 p.m., Holliston Town Hall, 703 Washington St., Holliston, <https://www.washingtonstreetplayers.org/>

Fairy Walk 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Holi Festival of Colors Celebration, 12 p.m.-1 p.m., Bellforge

Arts Center, 45 Hospital Rd., Medfield, Free, [www.bellforge.org](http://www.bellforge.org)

Charles River Chorale Spring Concert, "It's About Time! A Journey Through Memory & Moment," 5 p.m., Medway High School Auditorium, 88 Summer St., Medway, tickets at <https://our.show/crc-springconcert>

MassBay Community College Spring Open House, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., 50 Oakland St., Wellesley, \*Prospective students can RSVP at [massbay.edu/OpenHouse](https://massbay.edu/OpenHouse) or email [admissions@massbay.edu](mailto:admissions@massbay.edu).

## May 3

Diverse Holliston presents Mythbusters 2.0 – the Sequel: Real talk about LGBTQ+ identities, 12-1 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Area Church, 11 Washington St., Sherborn

## May 4

Morning Book Club, Monday, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, *All Creatures Great & Small* by James Herriot

She Can Do It: Real/Reel Women & Midcentury Mysteries, 6:30—7:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington

St., Holliston, with mystery and suspense authors Janet Raye Stevens and Sharon Healy-Yang, please register.

## May 5

Stony Brook Camera Club meeting (Zoom), "Flower Photography" with Padma Inguva, [www.stonybrookcc.com](http://www.stonybrookcc.com)

## May 9

Art from the Inside, 12-1:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, creative works from book lovers behind bars

## May 11

Alcohol Ink Art Workshop, 5:30—7:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, please register.

Town Meeting, 7 p.m., Holliston High School auditorium, 370 Hollis St., Holliston

## May 12

Mystery Book Club, 11 a.m. -12:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, *Iron Lake* by William Kent Krueger

Stony Brook Camera Club meeting (Zoom), Member Competition- Image of the year, [www.stonybrookcc.com](http://www.stonybrookcc.com)

## May 16

Holliston Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, 8 a.m.- 12 p.m., Congregational Church Green, Washington St., Holliston, [www.hollistongardenclub.org](http://www.hollistongardenclub.org) or follow Holliston Garden Club on Facebook

Community Dinner, 5-7 p.m., Christ the King Lutheran Church, 600 Central St., Holliston, free

Music, Poetry, Stories, Games, 6:30 p.m., (performer sign up at 6 p.m.), Rushford & Sons, 747 Washington St., Holliston, monthly inclusive open mic event co-hosted by HolliPride, Rushford + Sons, and Sing for Your Soup features local bands, the DH Choir, Voices of Change. All welcome.

Stony Brook Camera Club meeting (Zoom), "Planning Astrolandscape Photos" with Manish Mamtani, [www.stonybrookcc.com](http://www.stonybrookcc.com)

## May 19

Tuesday Matinee, 12:30—2 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston,

*The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared*, Rated R (2013)

Annual Town Election, 7 a.m.- 8 p.m., Holliston High

School gymnasium, 370 Hollis St., Holliston

## May 20

Farm girl on the front lines: Deborah Sampson's secret, 6:30 p.m., Holliston Historical Society Barn, 547 Washington St., Holliston, presented by Holliston Public Library, the Friends of the Holliston Public Library, and the Holliston Historical Society

## May 25

Town Memorial Day Observances, 11 a.m. parade step-off from VFW, 310 Woodland St. to Town Hall, 703 Washington St., Ceremony begins at 11:45 a.m.

## May 26

Stony Brook Camera Club meeting (Zoom), Image Makers \_ Member Presentations, [www.stonybrookcc.com](http://www.stonybrookcc.com)

Bellforge Arts Center Balance in Nature: Mind-Body Movement, 10-11 a.m., Bellforge Arts Center, 45 Hospital Rd., Medfield, Free, [www.bellforge.org](http://www.bellforge.org)

## May 30

A Tasting of Teas from India, Japan and China, 10:30 a.m.—12 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, Please Register

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# Holliston Public Library May Adult Programs

752 Washington Street  
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**Monday, May 4**  
**Morning Book Club, 11 a.m. — 12:30 p.m., All Creatures Great & Small by James Herriot**

**She Can Do It: Real/Reel Women & Midcentury Mysteries, 6:30—7:30 p.m., Please Register**

Join mystery and suspense authors Janet Raye Stevens and Sharon Healy-Yang for an engaging, multi-media event revealing some intriguing inspirations for creating a mystery set circa WWII. Using film clips, anecdotes, and excerpts from their books, Janet and Sharon talk about 1940s women in real as well as ‘reel’ life and how these smart, stylish, and wise-cracking gals in books and film inspired their own 1940s-set mysteries.

**Saturday, May 9**  
**Art from the Inside, 12-1:30 p.m.**

Art from Inside is a curated selection of works that PBP’s readers and book requestors have sent to us over the course of many decades, often



as a token of gratitude for a shipment of books. Many pieces are explicitly book-themed, depicting reading as a temporary escape from the confines of prison or as a vehicle for growth, learning and rehabilitation. Books are liberating for our readers in both senses. Without access to the internet, books often take on a significance to incarcerated people that folks on the outside struggle to understand. The pieces in this exhibit also showcase the detailed techniques that can be achieved with the simplest tools, most commonly ball point pen and pencil. Art from Inside shows how much talent, creativity and human potential resides behind bars.

**Monday, May 11**  
**Alcohol Ink Workshop, 5:30—7:30 p.m. Please Register**

In this hands-on Alcohol Ink Art Workshop, participants will explore the vibrant, fluid nature of alcohol inks while learning techniques such as blending, layering, and controlled movement. Using non-traditional tools and surfaces, patrons will experiment with color, texture, and composition to create unique abstract artworks. This workshop en-

courages creative risk-taking, process-based learning, and self-expression, making it accessible and engaging for artists of all experience levels.

**Tuesday, May 12**  
**Mystery Book Club, 11 a.m. — 12:30 p.m., Iron Lake by William Kent Krueger**

**Monday, May 18**  
**History Book Club, 10:30—11:30 a.m., Please Register, Newton and the Counterfeiter: The unknown Career of the World’s Greatest Scientist by Thomas Levenson**

**Tuesday, May 19**  
**Tuesday Matinee, 12:30—2 p.m.**

*The 100 Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared*

Come to the library the third Tuesday of every month and watch a new movie! This month’s showing is *The 100 Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared*. Allan Karlsson is a 100-year-old explosives expert who is so bored in a retirement home that he jumps out of a window. As he begins an unexpected adventure, he reminisces about key moments in his life which were also key moments in world history. Running time 1 hour and

54 minutes. Rated R (2013)

**Wednesday, May 20**  
**Farm Girl on the Front Lines: Deborah Sampson’s Secret, 6:30—7:30 p.m.**

**Location: Holliston Historical Society’s Barn, 547 Washington Street**

Join us in the Holliston Historical Society’s Barn as we meet the woman who hoodwinked George Washington’s army! A Massachusetts native, Deborah Sampson is the only woman known to have disguised herself as a man and serve as a soldier in the Continental Army without getting caught! In honor of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Deborah is coming to tell her story.

Find out the story-behind-the-story of this principled, dangerous deception and the character of the quiet rebel who pulled it off.

Janet Parnes of *Historical Portrayals by Lady J*, Millis will portray Deborah Sampson.

The Holliston Public Library is proud to offer this program in partnership with the Holliston Historical Society and the Friends of the Holliston Public Library.

**Saturday, May 30**

**A Tasting of Teas from India, Japan and China, 10:30 a.m.—12 p.m. Please Register**

Back by Popular Demand! Discover the rich and diverse world of teas from India, Japan and China in this guided tasting class. Led by Sandeep Hazarika, we will be tasting a total of 5 teas: two bold, malty Assam teas—famous as the foundation of English and Irish Breakfast blends, one delicate, aromatic Darjeeling tea often called the “Champagne of Teas”, one traditional Japanese Sencha green tea and one mid roasted Oolong tea from China. As part of the class, we will explore the origin, history, and cultural significance behind each one.

Throughout the session, we’ll discuss the traditions that shape the flavor and character of every tea you will be tasting. Handmade biscotti from Bakers Lane Biscotti will also be served with the teas.

**Friends of Holliston Public Library**

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, please visit the Holliston Library website: www.hollistonlibrary.org

## Holliston Garden Club Annual Plant Sale May 16

Holliston Garden Club members are planning their annual plant sale, in which members sell a wide variety of plants from member gardens as well as nursery-grown annuals, will take place from 8 a.m.- noon on May 16th, on the Congregational Church green.

The Holliston Garden Club is over 90 years old. In addition to maintaining town plantings and providing an annual scholarship and an educational grant for local groups offering horticultural education opportunities, the club also participates in civic

events. Last month, the group presented “Designing Landscapes for Wildlife” at The Center in Holliston, with Tia Pinney from Massachusetts Audubon Society. In March, the Holliston Garden Club hosted an Art in Bloom event at the Holliston Public Library, featuring art by RAMS and HHS students as well as local artists, with arrangements created by garden club members.

Find out more about the club on their website at <https://hollistongardenclub.org>, and follow them on Facebook.

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# Ommen to run for Holliston School Committee seat

Jessica Ommen is seeking a seat on the School Committee with a platform focused on transparency, amplifying community voice, thoughtful planning, and strong collaboration. The longtime Holliston resident and active volunteer brings extensive experience in communications and community engagement. Ommen serves as Director of Communications for the PTO and as Communications/PR Director for the Holliston Music & Arts Parent Association. She is also a board member of the Holliston Cultural Council and has contributed to local governance through her role on the Policy Advisory Committee.

Ommen has additionally served as a parent representative for SEPAC during the Miller Assistant Principal

search, helping interview candidates with a focus on special education and social-emotional learning. Prior to her volunteer work, she was a Project Manager pursuing her PMP certification, experience she says informs her structured and strategic approach to problem-solving.

She says these combined roles have prepared her to promote open dialogue, informed decision-making, and inclusive leadership—qualities she believes are especially important as Holliston enters the MSBA process. While she views the possibility of a new high school as both exciting and overdue, Ommen emphasizes that any project must move forward with transparency, collaboration, and careful planning to ensure it reflects the needs and priori-



ties of the entire community.

Ommen has three elementary-aged children in the Holliston Public Schools and a vested interest in the future of the district. To learn more, visit [www.jessforholliston.org](http://www.jessforholliston.org).

# HNN to hold annual touch-a-truck Sunday, June 14

HOLLISTON, MA—Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors (HNN) invites children of all ages to climb aboard a variety of trucks and vehicles at this year's Touch-A-Truck Fund-raiser & Food Truck Festival on Sunday June 14, 2026. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine, at the Sam Placentino Elementary School, 235 Woodland Street (off Route 16) in Holliston. The event will be horn-free for the first hour (10 a.m.- 11 a.m.), ideal for younger children and children with special needs.

We anticipate over 30 trucks, including police & fire, heavy construction, landscaping, tree removal, and highway, will be available for children to touch, climb and explore.

Bring your appetites, because food trucks will offer a wide menu of delicious options.

And there's more! DJ Danny will provide musical entertainment throughout the event. For an additional fee, and available throughout the event, Roaming Railroad will take children on a train ride, and Imagine That will offer face painting.

Pre-Sale Event admission is \$10 per child (ages 1-12) and \$2 per adult. Day-of admission is

\$12 per child (ages 1-12) and \$3 per adult. Proceeds support Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors' Community Grant Fund. The HNN Community Grant Fund provides funding for important Holliston events and services, including the Holliston Parks & Recreation Summer Concert Series, Holliston Town Library free museum passes, Holliston Downtown Marigold Project, and the new Holliston Bike Park.

We encourage you to follow the Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors Facebook page @HollistonNewcomersAndNeighbors and our website [www.HollistonNewcomers.org](http://www.HollistonNewcomers.org) for ongoing event updates.

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

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HOLLISTON SPORTS

# Holliston boys' track running in the right direction

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

With the Holliston boys' track team numbers improving, Coach Nicole Downin is looking for the team's attitude and demeanor to help build the spirit and moral. If the boys' outdoor track and field team can continue to build that team culture that the coach is looking for, the league meets and titles will eventually come.

"I've seen significant improvement from that first year. The team bought into what we were doing, and things are moving in a positive direction," the Panther Coach said. "You still need to come to practice, otherwise you won't compete in meets. Communication is a big part, and if you commit to the team, you will get it back."

Downin will be relying on four seniors to lead the team this spring. Max Harrington and Luke Burgett will also have the captains' responsibilities in addition to taking part in their respective events.

Harrington has improved all four seasons, with his times running the mile and 2-mile. According to the coach, the senior captain is a hard-working individual who brings a positive attitude to his running. During the recent winter season, the senior finished fourth in the 2-mile in the Division 4 Tournament with a time of 9:48.02. Last year during the outdoor season, he posted his personal best in the mile with a time of 4:37.06. Harrington is also part of the 4-x mile relay that set the Holliston school record in 2024 with a time of 19:21.39.

As the season gets underway, Harrington, who will continue to run next year at Wentworth, is set on breaking the school records in the two events. The mile record is 4:24.5 and he is approximately 13 seconds away from that time, while he is nine seconds off the 2-mile record of 9:39. Downin is optimistic that the senior will definitely be able to accomplish his goals if he stays positive and healthy, as it is not that far outside the scope of his athletic ability.

Burgett is a great leader but has unfortunately not been able



Max Harrington aspires to break the HHS record for the one-mile this year.

to stay healthy over the past few years.

"Luke has been injured the majority of the time since I've been the coach, (Downin is entering her third season with Holliston) but this year, he is injury-free and running fast and will be someone to watch this year," Downin said. "He had such promise and was a great middle school runner going into the ninth grade. This, his senior year, is his time to shine in both the mile and 2-mile, although he has not run either event since his freshman year."

Sprinter Ronan Florendo is another senior who will be looked upon highly this season to improve upon his times while helping the team succeed. Currently, Florendo has a personal best of 23.14 in the 200 and a time of 51.95 in the 400 sitting just outside the school record of 49.8.

Downin believes that the senior can get his times down into the low 50's running the 400 this spring but is unsure that he can lower it enough to break the school record. While the school record may not be in his sight, he should be a State Contender and qualify for the Division 4 State Meet. The Panther coach is also encouraging Florendo to attempt running the 800 this year. Florendo, who will be attending the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, will continue his running on the club level.

Rounding out the seniors who

will be relied upon to get the team to the finish line will be Austin Rodenhiser. In addition to running track, Rodenhiser has also played football for Holliston. His speed and athleticism on the gridiron has translated nicely to the track, where he has a personal best in the 100 at 10.99 seconds. He also takes part in the long-jump (21'-9.25") and is a member of the 4x100 relay team, which is historically one of the best in the league.



Shown are Holliston boys' track captains Luke Burgett, left, and Max Harrington, right. Photos used courtesy of Nicole Downin

Rodenhiser should once again be able to qualify for both events at the Division 4 State Tournament, where he finished seventh last year in the 100 and 11th in the long jump.

Two seniors who could have an opportunity to make impact on the team's ability to get in the win column are Leo Ross (100 and 400 hurdles) and Joel Burgett (800). Downin will also have a lot of incoming freshmen this season who possess a lot of

talent and they should help immensely.

"It's going to be really fun to see what we can accomplish this season," the coach said.

With the seniors taking the lead, Downin has faith in her squad. If they can all stay healthy, are good teammates and commit to the team, then it is very possible to do well in a very tough Tri-Valley League. She is hoping for a top three finish.

## MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

Mercury is an element that can be harmful to human health and the environment if not disposed of properly.

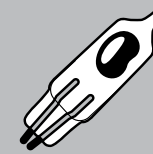
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| 4/16/26  | 53 Regal St.            | \$640,000   |
| 4/14/26  | 48 Hemlock Dr.          | \$590,000   |
| 4/14/26  | 44 Baker St.            | \$675,000   |
| 4/9/26   | 50 Morgans Way          | \$1,160,000 |
| 4/9/26   | 37 Garrett Way, #37     | \$687,500   |
| 4/6/26   | 45 Wendy Ln.            | \$2,000,000 |
| 4/3/26   | 261 Rolling Meadow Dr.  | \$950,000   |
| 4/2/26   | 33 Garrett Way          | \$620,000   |
| 3/30/26  | 54 Garrett Way          | \$730,000   |
| 3/25/26  | 154 Union St.           | \$1,200,000 |
| 3/20/26  | 269 Concord St.         | \$675,000   |
| 3/16/26  | 147 Turner Rd., Unit 80 | \$225,000   |
| 3/6/26   | 160 Winter St.          | \$734,400   |
| 3/5/26   | 7 Lone Oak Circle       | \$970,000   |
| 3/4/26   | 358 Underwood St.       | \$575,000   |
| 3/4/26   | 140 Concord St.         | \$573,000   |
| 3/2/26   | 11 Wingate Rd.          | \$830,000   |
| 02/26/26 | 152 Turner Rd., Unit 13 | \$229,900   |
| 02/20/26 | 151 Mohawk Path         | \$1,510,000 |
| 02/17/26 | 75 Ridge Road           | \$546,000   |

Source: zillow.com Compiled: Local Town Pages

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## Ask the Assessor

By KEVIN RUDDEN, PRINCIPAL ASSESSOR

**Question:**

“If I received an exemption on my property taxes, why do I have to apply for it again?”

**Answer:**

Exemptions – which are “a release or discharge from the obligation to pay all or a portion of a local property tax” (Massachusetts Department of Revenue definition) – are authorized under Massachusetts state laws, which require that people apply annually for them.

If you’re a Holliston homeowner who already is receiving an exemption, the Assessors’ Office will mail you a new application form every year in late June so that you can apply for

the new fiscal year (Fiscal years run from July 1st to the following June 30th).

You have until the following April 1st to submit your application. However, if you want to see the exemption reflected in your “actual” tax bills (the third and fourth quarter bills mailed to you in late December), the Assessors’ Office needs to receive your application before Thanksgiving.

The only exemption application with a different deadline is Holliston’s Senior Means-Tested exemption – based on the state Senior Circuit Breaker Income Tax Credit. The Assessors’ Office needs to receive this application by mid-September.

The exemptions available to

Holliston homeowners primarily are for seniors and veterans. Certain non-profit, charitable groups also qualify for exemptions, but have different applications and deadlines.

In Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025), the Board of Assessors approved \$245,896.08 in exemptions to 111 Holliston residents.

If you have moved to Holliston from another state, please remember that available exemptions differ from state to state.

A list of what exemptions are available to Holliston residents can be found on the Assessors’ page (<https://www.townofholliston.us/188/Assessors>) on the Town of Holliston’s website.

### Save the Date!

## Celebrate Holliston announces its 35th Annual Field Day, Damigella Field

Holliston, MA - Celebrate Holliston is excited to announce that its 35th Annual Field Day will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2026, with a rain date of September 26, 2026. This beloved community tradition returns with all the favorites that make the day such a highlight for residents of all ages.

We are thrilled to bring the festivities back to Damigella Field, thanks to the incredible support of the Town of Holliston and the Parks and Recreation Department.

This year’s celebration will once again feature:

- A lively parade showcasing local groups and organizations
- A bustling food court with offerings from local vendors
- Inflatables and activities



- Entertainment throughout the day
- A showcase of some of Holliston’s special organizations and businesses

Celebrate Holliston is powered by the people who love this town. The Committee is actively seeking new members and volunteers who want to give back, get involved, and help shape one of Holliston’s most cherished annual events. Field day is not

possible without all the community support - we also welcome new and existing sponsors whose generosity help make Field Day possible each year!

About Celebrate Holliston  
Celebrate Holliston is a volunteer-run, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting civic pride, supporting community initiatives, and celebrating the spirit of Holliston. Proceeds from Field Day are reinvested into the town through grants, beautification projects, and community programs.

For more information about volunteering, sponsoring, or participating in Field Day, please contact Celebrate Holliston ([celebrateholliston@gmail.com](mailto:celebrateholliston@gmail.com)) or visit us at [www.celebrateholliston.com](http://www.celebrateholliston.com).

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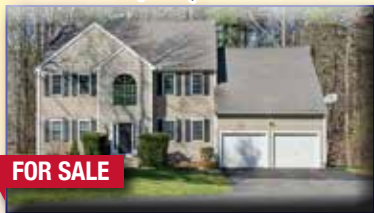
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melissaKaspert@gmail.com



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# April Showers Brought May Buyers! Now is a GREAT time to sell!

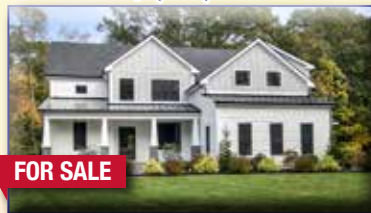
320 Lincoln Street Northbridge  
\$825,000



FOR SALE

LYDIA RAJUNAS

2 Emerald Drive Hopkinton  
\$2,199,000



FOR SALE

KATIE MCBRIDE

49 Stoneybrook Holliston  
\$699,900



FOR SALE

LYNN ROSSINI

11 Regal Street Holliston  
\$495,000



FOR SALE

LYNN ROSSINI

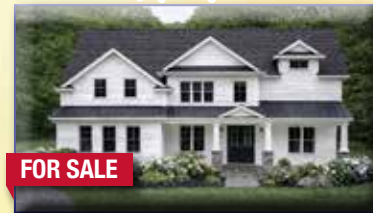
9 Hunter Lane Medway  
\$1,050,000



FOR SALE

TEAM RICE

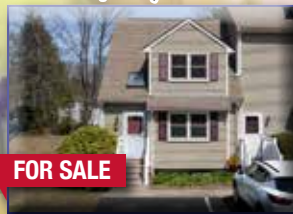
4 Emerald Drive Hopkinton  
\$1,999,900



FOR SALE

KATIE MCBRIDE

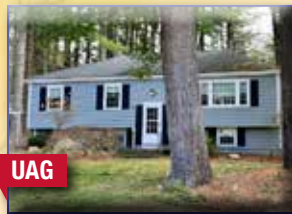
1 Heritage Drive Medway  
\$450,000



FOR SALE

TEAM RICE

58 Cranberry Lane  
Holliston



UAG

LYNN ROSSINI

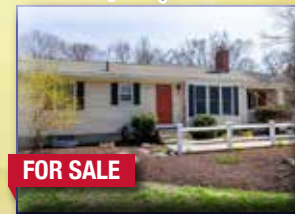
4 Waterfall Lane  
Milford



UAG

MELISSA KASPERN

6 Priscilla Road Medway  
\$690,000



FOR SALE

TEAM RICE

49 Brook Street  
Shrewsbury



SOLD

LYNN ROSSINI

107 Dorset Road  
Holliston



UAG

MELISSA KASPERN

Lot 2 Hanlon Road Holliston  
\$400,000



FOR SALE

KATIE MCBRIDE

26 Elder Street, Unit 2  
Boston \$500,000



FOR SALE

MELISSA KASPERN

72 Fisher Street Medway  
\$630,000



FOR SALE

TEAM RICE



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# The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

## When Your Hair Stops Feeling Like You

It doesn't usually happen all at once.

It's subtle at first.

Your hair doesn't fall the same way it used to.

Your ponytail feels a little thinner.

The volume you used to count on just... isn't there.

You try a new product. Switch your shampoo. Blame the weather. Blame your water.

But something still feels off.

And eventually, the thought crosses your mind:

**Why doesn't my hair feel like mine anymore?**

At b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio in Medway, this is one of the most common conversations we have with our clients. Not always out loud. Sometimes it's said quietly. Sometimes it's not said at all.

But we see it.

"We can usually tell within the first few minutes," says owner Heather Cohen. "A guest will sit down and say, 'I don't know what's going on with my hair lately,' and what they really mean is... something has changed."

And they're right.

Hair changes more than people expect it to. It responds to hormones, stress, age, illness, and lifestyle. Even subtle shifts in your body can affect the thickness, texture, and manageability of your hair.

The challenge is, most people don't have the language for it.

So it gets labeled as frizzy. Flat. Thin.

Or the one we hear most: "I just have bad hair."

But that's almost never the full story.

"Hair doesn't just suddenly become 'bad,'" Heather explains. "There's always a reason. And once you understand that, everything starts to make more sense."

Sometimes, it comes down to the haircut. A shape that works with your natural texture, not against it, can completely change how your hair behaves day to day.

For curly and wavy hair especially, our signature b.LUXE Curly Cut is designed to enhance your pattern, shape, and overall fullness. This multi-stage cutting approach is tailored to how your curls actually live, helping bring back movement, definition, and that effortless bounce so many clients feel they've lost. It also includes a styling lesson, so you can recreate the look at home!

It can also be your routine. Many clients jump from product to product hoping for a change, but small adjustments in how you blow dry or style your hair can make a bigger difference than switching products ever will. At your next appointment, ask your stylist to walk you through their techniques so you can recreate that fresh-from-the-salon feel at home.

And sometimes, the issue starts at the scalp.

The scalp is skin, and just like the skin on your face, it can become congested. Product buildup, hard water minerals, and excess oil can block follicles and weigh hair down, leading to that dull, limp feeling so many people describe.

At b.LUXE, our Scalp Spa Treatments are designed to gently exfoliate, reset, and rebalance the scalp so hair can grow and perform the way it's meant to. With consistent treatments and the right at-home clarifying care, many guests begin to notice improved fullness and a healthier texture over time.

And then there are the moments when the change feels different. More noticeable.

You see more hair in your brush. A little less density at your hairline. Not dramatic. Just enough to make you pause and think... Okay, something is definitely going on.

For many women, this isn't just about hair.

It's about identity.

We hear it every day:

"My hair is so limp lately."

"I don't know how to style it



## SOMETHING'S OFF

why doesn't my hair feel the same anymore?

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anymore."

"I used to love my hair."

And underneath all of that, there's often something deeper. A quiet disconnect from the version of yourself you're used to seeing.

The good news is, there isn't just one solution.

There are options. More than most people realize. And you don't have to navigate it alone.

After taking a closer look at your scalp health, haircut, and routine, we can guide you toward personalized solutions, including our wig and topper services for those experiencing thinning or looking for added fullness and flexibility.

"We're not here to change how you look," Heather says. "We're here to help you feel like yourself again."

And if you're thinking, I'm not there yet... you're not

alone.

Most people aren't. Until they are.

And when they are, the most common thing we hear is:

"I wish I had known about this sooner."

If your hair has been feeling different lately... harder to manage, less full, not quite like it used to... You don't have to figure it out on your own.

Sometimes, all it takes is the right conversation.

You're always welcome to start that conversation with us here at b.LUXE.

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