

It takes a village

Town celebrates collaboration for funding on local, state and federal level

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

On Friday, May 1st, Holliston celebrated the collaboration of town, local, state and federal officials to secure funding for the Holliston Downtown Sewer District Project, an investment expected to spur economic growth in the town. Attendees included town officials as well as US Congressman Jim McGovern, MA Senate President Karen Spilka and MA Rep. James Arena-DeRosa.

"Today we are here for a big announcement for Holliston," said Congressman McGovern, "The town is receiving \$1,092,000 in federal funding to be used to upgrade their



US Congressman Jim McGovern, MA Senate President Karen Spilka and MA Rep. James Arena-DeRosa joined Holliston town officials to celebrate funding invested in the Holliston Downtown Sewer District Project. *Courtesy photo*

wastewater infrastructure. And I'm proud to say we were able to secure this through the appropriation process in Washington...additional wastewater infrastructure will be built

in downtown Holliston, enabling economic growth through proper environmen-

VILLAGE

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DECA sophomores secure 2nd place win at international competition

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Holliston DECA students fared well at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Atlanta, GA at the end of April, taking home certificates and top-place finishes!

"I'm so proud of our 13 students who attended the national DECA competition (ICDC) in Atlanta," says HHS teacher and DECA advisor Robert Tivnan, "The students really did their homework, and their effort and determination really paid off. Ten of our students earned certificates of excellence, and two students earned silver (2nd place) in their category among thousands of students worldwide. This is by far our chapter's best performance in our five-



HHS sophomores took home 2nd place at the 2026 DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, among 10,000 students competing. *Photo by Margaux Pellissier*

DECA

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Full tribute in our July issue

50th anniversary for Deacon Marty Breinlinger

BY JANE LEBAK

On April 26th, Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Holliston honored Deacon Marty Breinlinger for fifty years of service as a permanent deacon.

Deacon Marty has been an integral part of the St. Mary's community since his ordination to the diaconate in 1966, so the parish went all-out for his anniversary, honoring him specially at the 11:30 a.m. Mass, giving him a painting of the first seven deacons, and also presenting him a signed letter and a Franciscan cross from Sean Cardinal O'Malley. After the Mass, the parish celebrated with a catered lunch and cake.

When Vatican II reformed the Catholic Church from 1962 to 1965, one of those reforms was the restoration of the permanent diaconate.

"It just sort of happened," Deacon Marty said with a laugh. "They announced that they were bringing back the ministry which had been gone for about a thousand years. I loved everything about it."

Forty men entered the first diaconate class with Deacon Marty. Of those 38 were ordained in 1976, five are still alive, and Deacon Marty is the only one still functioning as a deacon.

Through it all, Deacon Marty is very firm on one thing: the role of Mary Alice Breinlinger, his wife. "The story is not complete unless she's part of it."

Mary Alice Breinlinger, his wife of 64 years, says, "I supported him fully." She describes her role this way, that while Deacon Marty is taking care of the parish, "I'm taking care of him," but her role goes far beyond that. Mary Alice worked for many years as the Diocesan Family Life Director.

Deacon Marty jokes that although Mary Alice was known as "the deacon's wife" at St. Mary's, in the chancery office, he was known as "The Director's husband."

For 24 years, they ministered together, starting with marriage prep and premarital counseling. Mary Alice has a degree in social work, and worked with DSS,

helping teenage boys who'd run afoul of the law, and also with court-ordered remediation of family violence. She brought those skills to bear alongside Deacon Marty's ministry, as well. "We did a lot of work on family violence," Deacon Marty says, "going to different parishes and speaking on how to be alert for it."

During most of this time, Deacon Marty worked for Polaroid for 30 years as a chemical engineer, and after that taught at Clark for 14 years. But even there, his ministry skills came to the fore. "Part of my work there was as an ombudsman, doing conflict resolution."

When asked what is his favorite part of his ministry as a deacon, Deacon Marty jokes, "It's not homilies!" Instead, it's the more direct connection to individuals that becomes the highlight of the diaconate. "I really like doing something for individuals," he says. "I've done a fair number of weddings and a fair number of funerals." And then, "I like baptizing babies."

At one of his earliest baptisms,



Deacon Marty has been an integral part of the St. Mary's community since his ordination to the diaconate in 1966. He was honored by St. Mary's April 26th. From left, Deacon John Barry, Deacon Tim Donahue, Deacon Elcio Dos Santos, Deacon Marty, Mary Alice Breinlinger, Deacon Cleyton Moreira, Deacon Ron Dowding. Photo by Jane Lebak

before the Vatican II reforms were fully understood by the public, he was talking with a family before the ceremony and mentioned his own family. The father was surprised and thought that now there were married priests. "I had to explain early on what this was all about," he says of the difference between a deacon and a priest, "so that people would understand the different character." Deacon Marty says.

"That's what this [the diaconate] is about, taking care of people. The original concept was for St. Stephen to take care of the widows. I like to think that's what I am."

Deacon Marty looks forward to continuing his ministry for as long as possible. "It's been a real honor and a pleasure to be here at St. Mary's," he said during the speech at his anniversary. "I've loved every minute of it."



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DECA

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year history.”

“There were about 10,000 students there competing in 50 different categories. Some were participating in leadership, most were competing, and our kids just presented themselves well and had a great experience. Eleven of them were competing, some doing papers, some doing role plays. Everyone had to take a test,” says DECA advisor Mark Freeman, “They were very professional how they presented themselves and went about their business, but they were also to have fun when they were done.”

In the end, it was the youngest team members, sophomores Jacob Lawendi and Vishal Ramanathan, who took home second place in their category of Marketing Management Team Decision Making.

“Vishal and Jacob, they were the youngest kids there (from Holliston). They worked hard, took it very seriously, and everyone was so ecstatic for them when they made it to the final round,” says Freeman, “They were in a role play, handed another situation, with 10 minutes of game plan of how they were going to present what they needed to present and present it. They competed against 20 teams in their final category.”

The young team members, in fact, were surprised to even attend the DECA’s ICDC.

“Jacob and I initially did not even qualify for the international conference at states,” says Vishal, “Top 12 make finals, and then the top eight make it to internationals after their

finals roleplay. Me and Jacob got eleventh. Three teams with seniors ended up dropping out which allowed for him and I to go ... to think that we would get second at the international conference in our category ... was beyond unimaginable.”

In fact, Jacob says, he had been disappointed in the states performance, so much so that when his team got bumped to go, he wasn’t sure they deserved it. Those doubts were quelled in Atlanta, however, where the two worked well together as a team.

“The most challenging for me was by far the test and idea generation,” says Vishal, “The test accounts for one third of your score, and it’s not my strongest aspect, but Jacob always offsets my score as he regularly scores high. Aside from testing, trying to come up with slightly niche ideas is always hard because you have limited time to get visuals, your performance indicators, and an idea down, but we also have to make sure we stand out.”

“In our final presentation, we had no idea what a few of our performance indicators were since it’s almost impossible to study every single one. But this is where and me and Vishal thrive in my opinion,” says Jacob, adding, “Our strong suit has never been knowing the material inside and out, but rather presenting what we know in the most persuasive manner possible. So, I would say the most challenging part is dealing with situations where you feel underprepared.”

Because of its wording, Jacob and Vishal in fact weren’t even sure they understood the final prompt, both interpreting it differently at first. “Jacob was inconsistent on one thing, while I was



In addition to the 2nd place win by Vishal and Jacob, 10 Holliston students took home certificates of excellence, making this ICDC the Holliston chapter’s best performance ever. Photo by Margaux Pellissier

on the other side, but through listening to one another and understanding how each of us thought it out, we were able to decode what it truly meant, and Jacob had it correct all along. It was small things like that and how we worked through them that taught me the most,” says Vishal, grateful to develop those teamwork skills, as well as the chance to learn patience and composure.

Both walked away with a sense of reward.

“The experience I had there

is something I’ll never forget,” says Jacob, “I connected with colleges, businesses and CEOs from all over the country. But most importantly, I learned to never doubt myself and realized I could really do whatever I put my mind to.”

Advisor Tivnan notes that the club will “not rest on its laurels,” taking what it’s learned from this competition to apply to next year.

The new officers have already started meeting with the goal to be more successful next year

and to raise more money so it’s not a financial burden to those students who keep moving on,” adds Freeman, adding “Thank you to all those people who donated to be able to help these students go.”

Coming up, DECA will be looking for small businesses to partner with teams. Student teams, he explains, will use “program management tools to improve something at a business, whether it is increasing sales, helping to find employees, things like that.”

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'Casey at the Bat' stands again in Mudville

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Against The Lisbon Tunnelmen. At Goodwill Park, they'd catch
The win – and with a fine steed and an escort from the Blue,
An engine from the Red, and ice cream truck, White, too
The players marched in glory, in the blazing heat that day,
With Queen, the Mayor, Rep and children trailing all the way
To School Street where the wood icon had fallen once again,
A tribute to the Thayer rhyme, near stone arch he had been,
He'd been the second one to stand up right in Bobby's lot,
But rain and wind and snow and bugs had driven him to rot.
'Neath blue tarp stood an Evergreen Carving mighty tall
A mystery to those who stood around it, short and tall,
The pomp, the praise, the poem read by town historian,
A song that won a prize, a hat, 'Make Mudville Great Again,'
With bated breath, the band that gathered giggled with good cheer,
The players, every one of 'em, stepped forth up from the rear,
With 1-2-3 they tore the cover off before the crowd,
And Casey at the Bat stood once again there, tall and proud.

~Judith Dorato O'Gara



Holliston's first celebration of our country's 250th anniversary began with an old-fashioned baseball game at Goodwill Park followed by the unveiling of the third "Casey at the Bat" statue at 57 School St., created by Evergreen Carvings. Photos by Judith Dorato O'Gara

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Joanne Hulbert and Chris Cain gave a reading the iconic poem, "Casey at the Bat," by Ernest Lawrence Thayer.



After winning their baseball game at Goodwill Park, the Mudville Base Ball Club led the parade home to Mudville.



The honorary "Queen of Mudville," Meghan Robshaw, with "The Mayor" Bobby Blair.



Rep. James Arena-DeRosa, a Mudvillian himself, chats with the crowd as Jim Cormier gets ready to sing "Ode to Mudville."



Holliston Select Board member Tina Hein joined in the fun.



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Should you sell your home this summer? Some things to consider



Lynne Ritucci and Tim Swift

REAL ESTATE INSIGHTS

For many homeowners, summer feels like the natural time to make a move. The weather is warmer, school is out, and homes often look their best with green lawns and blooming gardens. But with changing mortgage rates and fluctuating inventory levels, some sellers are wondering whether this summer is truly the right time to put their homes on the market.

The answer depends on a combination of personal timing, local market conditions, and preparation. Traditionally, summer has remained a busy season for home sales in New England. Families with children often prefer to move before the new school year begins, while longer daylight hours make scheduling showings easier. Buyers also

tend to be more active during the summer months because homes are easier to view and properties generally show better in warm weather. One of the biggest advantages of selling in summer is curb appeal. After months of winter weather, homes typically look brighter and more inviting. Green landscaping, colorful flowers, and outdoor spaces such as decks and patios can make a strong first impression on buyers. Sellers who invest time in basic exterior maintenance such as mowing lawns, trimming shrubs, and cleaning walkways - often improve a property's overall appeal. Summer also provides ideal conditions for listing photos. Natural sunlight can make interiors appear larger and brighter, helping homes stand out online where most buyers begin their search. Ask your real estate agent about having a professional staging consultation to prepare your home for photos. However, summer selling is not without challenges. Competition can increase when more homeowners decide to

list at the same time. Buyers may have more choices, making proper pricing even more important. A home that is overpriced often sits on the market longer, especially as buyers become increasingly cautious about affordability. Vacation schedules can also affect timing. While buyer activity remains strong, both sellers and buyers may be traveling during peak summer weeks, occasionally slowing negotiations or scheduling. Experts say homeowners considering a summer sale should start with realistic expectations and solid preparation. Decluttering rooms, completing minor repairs, and creating a clean, neutral appearance can help buyers focus on the home itself rather than distractions. Comfortable indoor temperatures are also important during hot weather, particularly if buyers are touring multiple properties in one day. Those who still need to purchase another home could face limited inventory in certain price ranges. Current mortgage rates can make buying again less affordable.

Ultimately, the decision to sell this summer comes down to personal goals as much as market conditions. Homeowners relocating for work, downsizing, or seeking more space may find that summer offers the right combination of buyer demand and favorable presentation. While no season guarantees a perfect sale, preparation and pricing remain the keys to success. Sellers who understand the market and present their homes well often place themselves in the strongest position, regardless of the time of year. 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. Your Home Team. Lynne Ritucci 508-479-8505 LynneRitucci@gmail.com Tim Swift 201-394-7292 TimSwiftRealEstate@gmail.com

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VILLAGE

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tal management, and with this upgraded wastewater infrastructure, it will pave the way for economic development in downtown Holliston. This will draw visitors who will generate significant economic activity for local businesses, and in doing so, the project will help create new jobs as well, and by attracting both residents and visitors, this town is providing sustainable local economic growth."

McGovern lauded town leadership for this look ahead, which he admitted was "not sexy, but you can't grow without the appropriate infrastructure ... What I love about these projects, they're prime examples of true local partnerships to make every dollar go further. This is exactly what people are looking for, local government and community partners coming together to deliver smart efficient solutions that solve real problems, respect taxpayers and minimize waste, and I want to thank Karen and James for all they have done to support this in the legislature.

You can't get anything done anymore without a partnership, and I'm proud to be the wind at your back that moved this forward..."

MA Senate President Karen Spilka thanked not only Congressman McGovern but her partner James Arena-DeRosa in the House for helping secure state funding. She also thanked Town Manager Frank Gervasio and his team, the Holliston Select Board, Deputy Director Robert Walker, Economic Development Director Melanie Hamblen "and so many other who helped bring this project to fruition.

"We know it takes a village to get this done," continued Spilka, noting "This has been talked about since I became senator 20 years ago. You all deserve a round of applause. It's a great example of municipal, state and federal partnership that works well and is truly symbolic of the way Holliston works. We have been united in believing that improving our infrastructure will support residential development, diversify business opportunities, and further expand the quality of life in Holliston. The town

has done a terrific job of managing the funds they've received in the past and have used them to engage thoughtful planning and a long-term process. I'm extremely grateful to the town of Holliston and the leadership for addressing these infrastructure issues which are so critical to economic health, and it will really change downtown Holliston in the years to come, because it will bring so much vibrancy, economic development and revenue to the town."

Rep. Arena-DeRosa echoed those sentiments thanking McGovern and Spilka for being "champions for our town. We've been talking about downtown sewer and wastewater treatment since I got here in the early 90s," he said, "For anything like this to succeed, it takes this long-term collective effort, as Senator Spilka and again, I want to thank this select board and the one before them, the finance committee and the one before them as well. I want to give a shout out to John Cronin and the sewer team and the DPW, because they've been working really hard on this for several years. I know we have more

work to do...these things are only successful with partnerships bet state and local and federal government. I will continue to do what I can ... we need a vibrant downtown. We want to come up with something that works for the residents of the town as well as the business community here. If we want to grow, we want to do it in a way that's smart and wise, and having efficient wastewater is going to be an important part of that..."

Select Board Chair Benjamin Sparrell again thanked all who helped direct funds to the project, noting in particular the efforts of Facility Director James Keast, who, he said, "has done a ton behind the scenes."

Sparell continued, "I look at this as an opportunity, and this is not the culmination, this is the beginning of new things for Holliston. It's very exciting, and there's lots of work to be done, so thank you everyone and I look forward to the future of Holliston."

John Cronin, Holliston Sewer Commissioner, shared the sentiments of gratitude to all aforementioned who worked to secure

funding "on behalf of my fellow commissioners, Kevin Cornwell and Stacia Gelineau. We've been at it for about a year. We're starting at a \$7.6M project. It's not big in terms of public projects, but it is big on economic impact in this community ... I think the scale and size of this project is what's making it work. It's very scalable, it's very impactful, and we think, at the end of the day, very affordable. Our goal is to try to get this done in the next 2-3 years..." Cronin noted, "You'll hear from us in the next several months, hopefully at Town Meetings, as we begin to build out our bylaws and start building this thing, hopefully, by the end of the year."

Town Manager Frank Gervasio echoed the praise of those mentioned, from the state, federal and local community, as well as lauding efforts of his predecessor, Travis Ahern, and again, the efforts of James Keast.

Following the comments, town officials took elected officials for a walk to specific points in town to point out their vision for the town with the introduction of sewer.

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Thriving after gray divorce



Mark Freeman, CEPA

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There’s a growing trend of divorce among those ages 50 and older, often called “gray divorce.” While finding yourself in this situation can feel overwhelming, it also can be an opportunity to reclaim your independence and create a life that reflects your dreams and values.

Today, one-third (36%) of divorcing adults are 50 or older (The Journals of Gerontology, 2022) and 77% of women who experienced gray divorce remain single 10 years after divorce (“Repartnering following gray divorce,” 2019). While that might sound surprising, many women view this as a time to focus on goals, dreams and well-being without compromise.

Of course, there are financial realities to consider. Women older than 50 often experience a 45% drop in their standard of living after divorce (compared to 21% for men), and household income can fall by 23% to 40% in the first year (“The Economic Consequences of Gray Divorce for Women and Men,” 2020). So, building financial confidence isn’t just important; it’s empowering.

If you are 50 or older and recently divorced, take the following steps with your financial

advisor. You don’t have to do it all at once; small steps can help lead to greater financial security over time.

- 1. Find a financial advisor who truly listens.** If you’ve ever felt unheard or dismissed, don’t settle. Your future deserves someone who respects your voice.
 - 2. Get clear on your finances.** List your assets, debts, income and expenses to understand your financial situation — the first step toward taking control.
 - 3. Create a flexible plan.** Include your current needs, short-term goals and retirement aspirations. Instead of feeling intimidated, you can let a financial advisor help make this simple and manageable.
 - 4. Learn about money.** Read, attend workshops and join online communities focused
- on women and finance. Every bit of knowledge adds confidence.
 - 5. Build an emergency fund.** Work toward having three to six months of living expenses in a low-risk, liquid account. This may take gradual, consistent contributions, but ultimately, this cushion can help provide a sense of security as you navigate your new circumstances.
 - 6. Review insurance and your employer benefits.** Make sure your medical insurance coverage is adequate. Consider long-term care insurance to help preserve your retirement assets.
 - 7. Estate planning.** Work with an attorney to review beneficiary designations on bank and brokerage accounts while updating your will, powers of attorney and, as needed, a revocable living trust.

8. Social Security. If you were married 10 years or longer, understand your rights to Social Security benefits from your ex-spouse.

Rather than being the end, gray divorce can represent a new chapter. The future is yours to shape, and it can be as bold, bright and fulfilling as you want it to be.

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

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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

The split end fix that saves your length

We've all sat down in the salon chair and said it. "Just a tiny trim. Maybe an inch." And then your stylist holds your ends up to the light and gives you that look. You know exactly the one.

Split ends are one of the most common things we see at b.LUXE, and they're not a sign of failure. They happen to almost everyone, no matter the hair type, the length, or the effort you put into your routine. Knowing what causes them, though, puts you one step ahead.

So what's actually going on?

Each strand of hair has an outer layer called the cuticle, a protective shield made up of tiny overlapping scales. Think of it like shingles on a roof. When those scales get worn down, the inside of the strand becomes exposed, and that's when you start to see fraying, splitting, and breakage.

A few of the biggest reasons for split ends

Heat styling: Reaching for the flat iron or curling wand every morning without a heat protectant slowly chips away at that cuticle. Over time, high temperatures cause real structural damage to the strand.

Color and chemical services: Color services and chemical treatments are some of the most sought-after services we provide, and while they create stunning results, they inherently place stress on the hair fiber. Even with a consistent conditioning routine, some level of breakage is a natural part of the process.

The environment: Sun, wind, hard water, and humidity can quietly sap moisture from your hair over time. UV exposure alone breaks down the natural keratin that keeps hair strong.

Everyday wear and tear: None of these habits feel like a big deal in the moment, but over time, rough towel drying, brushing through wet tangles, tight elastics, and even your cotton pillowcase can quietly lead to breakage and wear on the hair.

Growing your hair out: The longer your hair gets, the

older those ends are and the more they've been through. By the time your hair reaches a meaningful length, those ends can be two or even three years old. They've seen a lot... and they need more attention, not less.

That's where the right care makes all the difference. Using high-quality, reparative salon products between appointments helps keep hair stronger, healthier, and better able to handle everything we put it through.

The part no one wants to hear:

You can easily have four or more inches of damage sitting on your ends. And when you've been growing your hair out, the idea of cutting off four inches can feel like starting all over again.

This is where so many people get stuck. Keep the length and live with the damage... or cut it off and feel like you're back at square one.

At b.LUXE, we approach this differently. Instead of

"The goal isn't just to grow your hair," says Heather Cohen.

"It's to grow hair that actually feels healthy, strong, and looks the way you want it to."

treating it like an all-or-nothing situation, we create a plan. That might mean strategically removing damage over a few visits, strengthening the hair with targeted treatments, and adjusting your at-home routine so you're not undoing the progress.

Our Solution to split ends: Fix the damage. Keep the length. We'll show you how!



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Our Split End Correction Treatment is a simple \$40 add-on to any b.LUXE service with a blow dry and takes just 10 minutes. For clients growing their hair out who don't want a big chop, we remove the inch you came in for, clean up the most damaged ends, and then the treatment gets to work sealing and strengthening the rest.

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It's not magic, but it's honestly pretty close. It's the solution to the conversation we have every day... wanting healthier ends without giving up your length. Now you don't have to choose.

And here's a little gift

Every client who adds a **Split End Correction Treatment** to their service for the month of June goes home with a complimentary **Oribe Dry Texturizing Spray** in a deluxe travel size. This invisible dry hairspray builds serious volume and texture while tiny zeolite crystallines act like sponges, trapping dirt, oil, and odor. Oribe's Signature Complex of watermelon, lychee, and edelweiss flower shields hair from oxidative stress, UV damage, and the breakdown of natural keratin (**further protecting those split ends!**) It's vegan, cruelty-free, color-safe, and completely free of parabens and sulfates.

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Your Money, Your Independence

Avoid the F.I.R.E. trap: Why true independence is flexible



Glenn Brown, CFP

In the world of personal finance, few concepts have captured the public imagination quite like the “FIRE” movement (Financial Independence, Retire Early). The premise sounds intoxicating: live in extreme frugality, sacrifice your lifestyle to save half your income, hit a precise mathematical milestone, and exit the workforce forever. It looks perfect on a spreadsheet. But as a Certified Financial Planner, I see a glaring, human flaw in this hyper-fixa-

tion on a “magic number.” It turns money into a rigid prison rather than a tool for living. True financial independence isn’t about hitting an artificial finish line and pulling up the drawbridge; it is about building a life flexible enough to handle reality and generous enough to share.

The myth of the flat-line life

The fundamental math of traditional FIRE assumes your life will remain perfectly linear. It projects your future based on your current lifestyle, locking you into a permanent state of hyper-calculated spending to protect your safe withdrawal rate.

But life does not stay flat. A rigid financial plan leaves absolutely no room for the unpredictable, beautiful, and sometimes expensive shifts in our personal journeys.

What happens if you choose to care for aging parents down the road? What if you want to fund a loved one’s education, marry someone with a differ-

ent financial reality, or navigate a medical curveball? If your financial plan breaks the moment your life expands, it isn’t independence. It’s a self-imposed constraint disguised as freedom.

Reclaiming the power of flexibility

Instead of racing toward an arbitrary retirement date, a healthier approach is to design a wealth strategy around being “Work Option-Ready.”

Financial independence shouldn’t mean doing nothing; it means having the power to choose what you do, when, and with whom.

When you build a plan focused on flexibility rather than an escape hatch, you don’t have to view your career as a prison sentence to endure. You gain the agency to take a sabbatical, pivot to a lower-paying but more fulfilling role, or launch a passion project. Money is a tool for personal sovereignty, not just a metric for tracking how quickly you can stop contribut-

ing your talents to the world.

The generosity premium

Perhaps the deepest flaw of the hyper-frugal milestone mindset is its inherent isolation. When your entire identity is wrapped up in protecting a fixed lump sum, spending money becomes a chronic source of anxiety. This often forces people to say no to shared experiences or decline opportunities to support their community because any extra expense threatens their spreadsheet.

True wealth is social, not just mathematical. A sophisticated financial plan accounts for a “generosity premium.” It explicitly builds in the margin required to share your success, support causes you care about, and show up financially for the people in your life when it matters most.

True independence means having enough abundance to be altruistic without compromising your future.

Freedom is a behavior, not a metric

Do not let internet trends convince you that financial success is a race to a rigid finish line. The goal of comprehensive financial planning isn’t to cross an artificial boundary and stop living; it is to ensure your financial foundation is strong enough to weather life’s changes and flexible enough to let you live and give abundantly.

That is the kind of financial independence worth pursuing.

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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LIVING HEALTHY

A new era of hope for patients with dry macular degeneration

By Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D.
Milford Franklin Eye Center

For decades, patients diagnosed with dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD) have often faced a frustrating and discouraging reality: there were very limited treatment options available. Unlike wet macular degeneration, which can often be treated with injections, dry AMD — which accounts for approximately 90% of all AMD cases — historically offered little beyond observation, monitoring, nutritional supplements, and lifestyle recommendations. Many patients were told to simply “watch and wait” as their central vision slowly declined over time. Today, however, that reality is beginning to change dramatically.

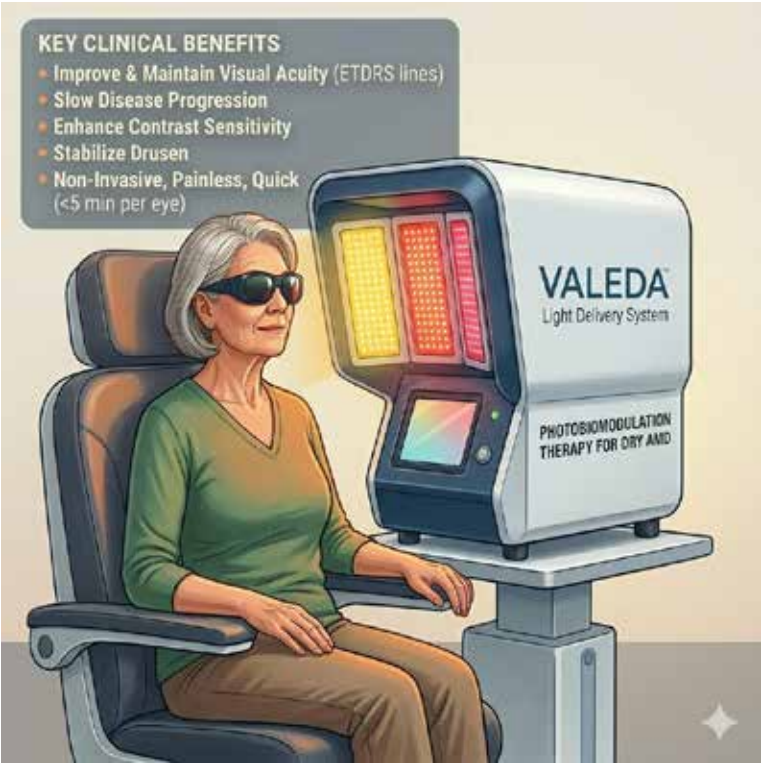
A groundbreaking FDA-authorized technology known as Photobiomodulation (PBM)

therapy is bringing new hope to patients living with dry AMD. Delivered through the Valeda Light Delivery System, PBM therapy represents one of the most exciting innovations in retina care in many years. For the first time, patients with dry AMD may now have access to a treatment shown in clinical studies to improve visual function and potentially slow disease progression.

Photobiomodulation works by using specific wavelengths of light to stimulate retinal cells and improve cellular function deep within the retina. Scientific research has shown that PBM may enhance mitochondrial activity, reduce inflammation, improve blood flow, and decrease oxidative stress — all factors believed to contribute to the progression of macular degeneration. By improving the

health and metabolism of retinal cells, PBM helps support the retina’s ability to function more effectively.

The FDA authorization of the Valeda system followed extensive scientific investigation and multiple clinical trials. The landmark LIGHTSITE studies generated tremendous excitement among retina specialists and ophthalmologists worldwide. In these studies, patients treated with PBM demonstrated measurable improvements in visual acuity, contrast sensitivity, and overall retinal function compared to untreated patients. Many patients gained letters on standardized vision testing, and some maintained these improvements over extended follow-up periods. Researchers also observed signs suggesting slower progression of retinal damage in treated eyes.



For patients who have spent years hearing that “nothing can be done” for dry AMD, these findings are incredibly meaningful. PBM therapy is changing the conversation surrounding dry macular degeneration and offering patients genuine optimism for the future.

One of the most remarkable aspects of PBM therapy is its excellent safety profile. The treatment is completely non-invasive, painless, and comfortable. There are no injections into the eye, no surgery, no needles, and no recovery time. Patients simply sit comfortably during a series of light therapy sessions that take only minutes to perform. Clinical studies have demonstrated virtually no significant side effects or safety concerns associated with treatment. This makes PBM one of the safest and most patient-friendly technologies currently available in retinal care.

Patients often ask who may qualify for treatment. In general, the best candidates are individuals with early to intermediate dry AMD who are beginning to experience symptoms such as blurry central vision, difficulty reading, trouble driving at night, decreased contrast sensitivity, or distortion in vision. Patients with drusen deposits or non-central geographic atrophy may particularly benefit from evaluation. Determining candidacy requires a comprehensive retinal

examination and advanced retinal imaging performed by an experienced eye specialist.

Milford Franklin Eye Center is proud to be among the very first centers in Massachusetts — and among the earliest centers in the United States — to offer this revolutionary FDA-authorized technology. In fact, MFEC is the fourth center in Massachusetts to acquire the Valeda PBM system. Remarkably, many major hospitals and eye centers in Boston still do not yet offer this breakthrough treatment. Milford Franklin Eye Center has always remained committed to bringing the most advanced and innovative technologies directly to the communities we serve so patients can receive world-class care closer to home.

This commitment to innovation reflects the core mission of MFEC: providing exceptional eye care using the latest advancements in medicine while maintaining the personalized attention and compassion of a community-based practice. Our goal has always been to empower local patients with access to the same cutting-edge technology available at leading centers across the country, without requiring long-distance travel for specialized care.

Patients diagnosed with dry AMD are strongly encour-



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Holliston Pride schedule

Sunday, June 14, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Blair Square

11 a.m. – Noon, Opening Program
Music: Diverse Holliston & Friends
Together Again, Seasons of Love
Poem: Roots and Rainbows
Alex Phair
Welcome
Rep. James C. Arena Derosa
Diverse Holliston Choir & Friends
Over the Rainbow
Community Connections:
Amber Ahronian
Diverse Holliston Choir & Friends
True Colors, Survivor Medley
On Hope
Wil Reynolds
Diverse Holliston Choir:
A Million Dreams, Brighter Days,
On Strength & Resilience
Barb Worby
Diverse Holliston Choir:
Rise Up, This is Me
Poem: Together, We Shine
Hailey Worby
Diverse Holliston Choir & Friends
Crowded Table, Here Comes the Sun, Stand By Me, This Little Light
12:30 – 2 p.m.: & 2:30 – 3 p.m. Live Music by Ricardo

Barraza
2 – 2:30 p.m.: Story and Song Time with Andrea McCoy, Children’s Librarian
2:30 – 3 p.m.: Pup Dance Floor and Proud Pup Parade
Pride Plaza:
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.: HolliPride Table: raffle, pins & flags!
12 – 3 p.m.: Rainbow Craft Tent: Coloring Pages, Coaster Painting, BlackOut Poetry, Pride Flag themed God’s Eyes
12-3 p.m.: Pride Parlor: Pride Tattoos, Manicures, DIY Rainbow Hair Craft, Jewelry Making
The Party Green:
12-3 p.m.: Lawn Games
2 – 2:30 p.m.: Doggie Dance Floor
2:30 – 3 p.m.: Proud Pup Parade (rail trail) with Prizes
Vendor Village:
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.: Explore a lively mix of local vendors, organizations, many who offer free fun activities.
Parking for Pride:
There is limited parking at Blair Square. Additional options include the public parking lot behind the Fire Station at 44 Exchange St. and Adam’s Middle School at 323 Woodland St.

How to control the deadliest animal on the planet!



Jim Mazzuchelli, owner, WPC Pest and Termite Control

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

“One of the best ways to fight off mosquito and tick bites and

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

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

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

Look for a product containing an active EPA-registered ingredient, such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon-eucalyptus or IR3535.

Read the product label and follow the instructions carefully. If sunscreen is also being worn, repellent should be used over top of sunscreen.

Shake the product well. Then, hold it about 6-8 inches away from exposed skin and spray evenly in a sweeping motion.

Spray the palms of hands to apply the repellent to the face and ears, being sure to avoid eye and nostril contact.

Apply the repellent over clothing, which should completely cover feet and ankles.

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

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

For more information, visit nobugsnopests.com to schedule a complete inspection and treatment. WPC Pest Control is located right here in Hopkinton!

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EYE
continued from page 10

aged to contact our office for an evaluation, consultation, or second opinion regarding PBM therapy. Many optometrists and ophthalmologists may not yet offer this technology or may not yet be familiar with the newest treatment advances available for dry macular degeneration. PBM therapy represents a true revolution in eye care because it offers something patients with dry AMD have rarely had before: hope for preserving — and in some cases improving — vision.

Milford Franklin Eye Center is also proud to provide on-site retina specialty care through Dr. Alyse Richard, a highly trained retina specialist dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of retinal diseases including dry and wet macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, retinal

vascular disease, retinal tears, and other complex retinal conditions. Dr. Richard combines advanced subspecialty expertise with compassionate, patient-centered care and is committed to helping patients preserve their vision using the latest evidence-based treatments available today.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with dry AMD, now is the time to learn more about this exciting breakthrough. Early evaluation and treatment may make a meaningful difference in preserving vision, maintaining independence, and improving quality of life. Time equals vision. Patients are encouraged to contact Milford Franklin Eye Center for immediate appointments and second opinions regarding this revolutionary new technology that is changing the future of dry macular degeneration care.

For more details, see our ad on page 10.

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Unearthing history – Central New England Relic Hunters

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Is it a trinket or is it a treasure? With the new friends they've made, the knowledge they've gained, and the chance to spend a lot of time out in the natural world, Jim Riendeau and Joe Bustamonte have certainly stumbled upon a priceless gold mine. In January, the two brothers-in-law, Bellingham residents, started a regional metal detecting club, Central New England Relic Hunters, that meets at the Bellingham Sportsman Club every second Monday, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Each month, they show off what they've found, vote on their favorites, hold a raffle and even conduct a food drive for Loaves & Fishes Pantry in Bellingham. To date, over 49 "detectorists" have joined, some local, and some from places as far as New Hampshire and Connecticut.

"It is such a really cool hobby. It's lots of fun and great people," says Riendeau, who got his brother-in-law Joe, president of the club, hooked on the hobby. The group, says Riendeau, has found relics and coins from around the area, involving historical societies and the local coin shops in identifying finds. One member, he says, "found a coin worth over \$50K (an Oak Tree Shilling, a very valuable and rare coin minted in Massachusetts Bay Colony issued from 1660 to 1667, according to Numismatic Guaranty Company NGC®, www.ngccoin.com), and we also have found some George Washington buttons (made for Washington's inauguration in 1789), worth around \$5K."

The value is beside the point

for many, however, says Riendeau. "We all do it for the love of history of what we find and also the history of the towns we find stuff in," he says.

The group conducts about three or four outings together each year, careful to be sure to get permission, to pick up trash along the way, and to leave no trace of digging. The effort is worth the occasional brush with poison ivy.

On their first outing this year in Wellesley, John Silva, of Attleboro, found a Mexico Colony Spanish 8 Real, minted when Mexico was a Spanish colony (<https://bullionexchanges.com>).

There's more to it than just wandering around waiting for machines to beep. Bustamonte explains the detectorists will drive around and look for stone walls in historic areas.

"That's all boundary lines, so you go onto the old maps, and you try to research what was there 100 years ago, 200 years ago. It's a lot of checking war sites, Puritans, colonists."

Buried metal objects turn up in unlikely spaces, he says, "You never know where you'll find it. You don't know if there was a horse rider and it fell out of his pocket."

A simple beep from the metal detector opens up a meandering path of investigation. The items found may be historic in nature, but modern technology plays a big role in identifying both sites to search as well as the unearthed finds.

"If it's public, we research (the land) through apps," says Bustamonte, adding, "We do a lot of computer work."

Oxford resident Robin Ri-



Members of Central New England Relic hunters meet monthly in Bellingham, but go on group outings a few times a year. Here they are at Wellesley Town Forest.



In Bellingham, this silver match stick case was found off of high street behind the softball fields.



Among the small round pieces of metal these detectorists have found have been a George Washington button, created for Washington's inauguration in 1789, a Mexico Spanish real, used from the 16th century until 1897, and an Oak Tree Shilling, minted in Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 1600s. Members have found George Washington buttons in MetroWest towns. Bustamonte explains these were made for Washington's inauguration in 1789. Photos used courtesy of Joe Bustamonte

vera, who's pursued this hobby for about 16 years, explains the apps use LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), which uses pulsed laser light to produce 3D information about an area. "We use it in grayscale. It shows you indentations in the land, so if there is an old foundation in the middle of the woods, you're apt to see a black square there."

Rivera, who lives behind historical Main Street in Oxford, has had the opportunity to metal detect some of her neighbor's properties for years. She recently found a small metal bird, and after researching, she discovered

it was a sewing bird women used in the 1850s to hold fabric onto the sewing table, so their hands could be free.

Most of the items Rivera finds on the private properties the owners don't want, but in one case in which the property was owned by successive generations of a family, Rivera found a pocket watch. The property owner was able to find an old photo of an ancestor with that watch, so that item still remains with the family.

Many in the club enjoy it so much they join several metal detecting clubs. Marty Conceicao,

of Carver, is one of them. He joined this one to meet new people interested in metal detecting, "and to metal detect areas I haven't done before." His friend, Steve Hassell, of Brockton, also belongs to a few clubs. "It's a fun time to be out and great people," says Hassell.

Bustamonte concurs, saying the club is about "Friendships, laughter, and amazing finds. We're bringing history back to life, one hole at a time."

Find out more about Central New England Relic Hunters or reach out to them on their public Facebook page.

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What's coming up at The Center

The Center, located at 150 Goulding St., 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:

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, June 9, 9 a.m.: \$5 Thanks to the Senior Support Foundation

Lions Club Lunches, Seniors & Veterans Welcome, 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. June 2 ~ A childhood memory you still see clearly.

Book Club, Second Friday of Month, 1:30 p.m.: June 12 ~ *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Call the Holliston Library at 508-429-0617 if you need help getting these books.

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.

Expressive Art Therapy Class, at The Center, facilitated by Franci Dumar of Clear Guidance, LLC: June 16 at 1 p.m.: Expressive Art Ther-



The Center. Photo by Wendy Watkins

apy 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, or call The Center at 508-429-0622. Reach out if you require an accommodation to participate.

Hearing Aid Cleanings: with Hopkinton Audiology Services, Wednesday, June 3, please register at 508-429-0622.

Estate Planning & Wealth Management: with Attorney

Jay Marsden, June 9, register for 30-minute sessions at 508-429-0622.

Java with Jay (Zoom): The Family Meeting: How to Talk to Your Kids About Your Estate Plan: June 25, 9:30 a.m., 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.

Movement and Music Host, Friday, June 26, 12-1 p.m.: Jose Soto, CDP, Neighborhood Director at Wingate Residences at Needham Description: Enjoy music and movement for the soul. Sherborn Town Hall, 2nd floor, 19 Washington Street. To register and RSVP for Lunch: *Call 508-429-0622

Consumer Protection Presentation, June 11, 11:30 a.m.: MetroWest Local Consumer Program, which works

in cooperation with the MA Attorney General's Office on consumer matters, will present current scam trends how to spot and avoid a scam where to report if you believe you've been scammed. A light lunch will be provided. Register at 508-429-0622

Therapy Gardens Boston Tea Party: June 4, 1:30 p.m.: More than a protest—this program explores tea's role in Boston's identity, colonial life, and global trade, with samples of some of the teas thrown into Boston Harbor. Sponsored by Cornerstone in Milford and Right at Home: in home care & assistance. Register at 508-429-0622.

Intro to Bocce by Mass Senior Games, 1 p.m., Tuesday, June 9: Medals for men and women 40-49. 50+ are in 5-year age groups. Online registration at <https://tinyurl.com/Hollistonbocce>. Register or call 413-366-1147 for more info visit www.MASeniorgames.org

Parents! Take the HDAAC bi-annual Parent Survey!

The Holliston Drug & Alcohol Awareness Coalition (HDAAC) is conducting their bi-annual Parent Survey and would appreciate any parents in Holliston taking 5 minutes to fill it out and share it with someone else. Thank you so much! <https://forms.gle/ZGc-ZgJqTdSFekUFUA>



Learn more about HDAAC at their website, <https://hdaac.org>, or follow HDAAC-Holliston Drug & Alcohol Awareness Coalition on Facebook or Instagram @hollistonDAAC.

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Metrowest Regional Fan Zones announced

FRANKLIN, MA – The MetroWest Boston Visitors Bureau, in partnership with the City of Marlborough and the Town of Franklin, in April announced plans for a coordinated MetroWest Regional Fan Zone initiative at two locations to celebrate the 2026 FIFA World Cup™ and bring a major tournament viewing event to the region.

“The World Cup is a hugely unifying global event, and this initiative brings that energy directly to MetroWest,” said Stacey David, Executive Director of the MetroWest Boston Visitors Bureau. “By working together across communities, we’re creating a regional hub where residents and visitors can experience the excitement of the tournament and celebrate together. It’s also an opportunity to showcase the region, encouraging visitors to stay, explore, and support local businesses while generating meaningful economic impact across MetroWest.”

Each Fan Zone will feature live match broadcasts on a jumbotron, surrounded by an outdoor festival with a beer garden, food trucks, arts & crafts and other vendors, and family-friendly activities. Organizers expect the events to draw thou-

sands of attendees daily across the two locations. Together, the sites will serve as a regional gathering place for spectators, offering one of the state’s most significant organized opportunities to experience the excitement of the FIFA World Cup™ close to home.

Located just minutes from matches being played in Foxborough, the Fan Zones will provide an accessible and welcoming option for those looking to take part in the tournament atmosphere, whether attending a match at the stadium or not.

Marlborough’s Fan Zone will take place June 11–13 at Kelleher Field, with livestreams of:

- Mexico vs. South Africa (June 11)
- USA vs. Paraguay (June 12)
- Brazil vs. Morocco and Haiti vs. Scotland (June 13)

Franklin will host the second Fan Zone on June 24–25 at the Franklin Town Common and adjacent Hayward Manor,



featuring:

- Switzerland vs. Canada and Scotland vs. Brazil (June 24)
- Ecuador vs. Germany and Tunisia vs. Netherlands (June 25)

“As we celebrate America’s 250th anniversary, Franklin is proud to ‘Welcome the World’ to our Town Common, which has long been a place where our community comes together,” said Cory Shea, Director of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy for the Town of Franklin. “This Fan Zone blends the excitement of a global event with the warmth and tradition of a New England town, offering a family-friendly gathering place where residents and visitors alike can share in a truly special experience.”

Match selections across both locations were curated to reflect the diverse and passionate soccer communities throughout MetroWest and the Greater Boston area, highlighting teams with strong local followings and broad international appeal.

Additional details, including other watch parties and soccer-related programming throughout the region, will be available in the official Fan Zone Guide, to be released in the coming weeks at www.metrowestvisitors.org/world-cup. The guide will be available in English, Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese.

Local retailers, arts and crafts vendors, and nonprofit organizations are invited to participate. Vendor applications are available at www.metrowestvisitors.org/fan-vendors. Businesses may also host interactive activity or brand activation booths; more information is available at www.metrowestvisitors.org/fan-activations.

Holliston Lions give awards, plan carnival



The Holliston Lions Club recently posted this year’s Heart of a Lion Award recipients: Sheila Joslin (pink shirt) and John Cronin (blue shirt).

The Holliston Lions Club will be sponsoring their annual carnival at Holliston High School

again this year. The dates are July 8 – July 11. The Holliston Lions tent will feature drinks, hot dogs, burgers, sausage subs, nachos and Holliston Lions Chili.

Visit the Holliston Lions at hollistonlions.org and find them on Facebook.



Photo credit: Tony Mistretta

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SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones

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Holliston residents received over \$1.7M in Mass Save incentives last year

BY GRAYDON WEBB

Mass Save has released its Annual Impact Report for 2025, and savings are in abundance! For those unaware of the program, Mass Save is a collaborative effort between six of the state’s energy providers - including Eversource, National Grid, Berkshire Gas, Cape Light Compact, Liberty, and Unitil. Each year, these companies work with Mass Save to help communities lower their electric and gas bills through eco-friendly upgrades and overall improvements that some may overlook.

With the help of Mass Save sponsors, residents received over \$3.6 billion in benefits in 2025, through household changes like weatherizing homes and installing heat pumps. We spoke with a representative from Eversource - Energy Efficiency Manager, Stephanie Terach - to learn more about how these

incentives are helping local communities, and how to take advantage of such offers. “The great thing is that it’s open to almost everyone,” Stephanie tells us, “If you get a gas or electric bill from one of these sponsors, you’re eligible!”

On each electric or gas bill, customers pay mandatory energy efficiency charges (EECs) calculated based on use. EECs are set at a specific level in the proposed plans in cents-per-kilowatt-hour (or ¢/kWh) for electricity and dollars-per-therm (or \$/therm) for natural gas. Funds collected from these EECs pay for the majority of Mass Save incentives, according to Mass.gov.

As for Mass Save benefits in residential homes, our local community has seen a significant amount of savings this past year. Holliston alone received a whopping \$1,744,646 in Mass Save incentives with Eversource, including both electric

((\$836,196) and gas (\$908,450). Eversource tells us one of the easiest ways to save money is by scheduling a Home Energy Assessment, in which the company examines a home to locate any areas of improvement. This could range from finding a room that lacks insulation to changing a showerhead to something more energy efficient. In many cases, Eversource will provide these upgrades on the spot, with no additional charge.

It really is that easy, and with Mass Save, these companies have been able to provide towns all across the state with efficient energy-saving methods. “It’s not just about residential homes,” says Stephanie, “we have had some local community parishes participate... a popular restaurant chain... a New England-based grocery store...” These improvements can be something as simple as lighting upgrades to larger projects like insulation and

heating systems. With the help of Mass Save sponsors, these businesses can make energy efficiency a reality, all the while saving money and resources for their staff and other tasks.

Even the smallest improvements can lead to a more energy- and cost-efficient lifestyle. Eversource shared with us that through their Demand Response program, customers last summer lowered electricity consumption by 210 MW on the hottest days – which is enough energy to power over 100,000 homes. Their smart thermostats help homes and businesses by automatically shifting the heating/cooling systems, in turn saving their customers money in energy costs. The sponsors of Mass Save have helped countless members of the community receive such improvements and update their homes with cheaper, cleaner solutions.

The goal of Eversource and

the sponsors of Mass Save is to be as accessible to their community as possible. As Stephanie puts it, “There isn’t one specific income or age requirement to get started. We really want the entire community to feel like they can take advantage of this.” Even low-income and moderate-income customers can receive offers if they qualify for higher incentives, which only helps more with community outreach. Both homeowners and renters alike are eligible, as well.

So how can one get involved? Well, there is a website – Mass-Save.com – where one can get more information on the brand and its sponsors, as well as inquire about taking advantage of the incentives. There is also a telephone number: 1-866-527-SAVE (7283), and of course, if you are already a customer of any Mass Save sponsor, they can assist in connecting you to the benefits of Mass Save.

HNN to hold annual touch-a-truck 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 and 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 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

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Town Meeting advances school study, FY27 budget and senior tax relief

By JESSICA OMMEN

Residents moved through a lengthy warrant at Town Meeting on May 11, approving a range of financial, infrastructure and school-related articles — including funding for a major high school feasibility study that officials say could position the town for significant state reimbursement in the future.

Finance Committee members emphasized the town's strong AAA bond rating at the beginning of the meeting, noting that maintaining favorable credit helps support large-scale debt projects such as future improvements at the high school and Department of Public Works facilities.

The School Committee also presented updates on district successes, highlighting continued support from PTO initiatives and community engagement efforts.

A major focus of discussion centered on Article 25, the proposed feasibility study for a potential new school project. Superintendent Dr. Jordan de-

scribed the study cost as a “reasonable and fiscally responsible number” when compared with similar districts.

“This feasibility study is proof to the state that there is a real need for a new school,” Dr. Jordan said.

Officials explained that participation in the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) process could result in approximately 50 percent reimbursement of eligible project costs if a future school project moves forward.

The feasibility study would include a broad team of consultants and specialists, including a project manager, architects, civil and structural engineers, educational programmers and cost estimators. Estimated costs presented at Town Meeting included:

- Project manager: \$400,000
- Architect: \$900,000
- Civil engineering: \$300,000
- Educational programming: \$200,000

- Cost estimating: \$200,000
- Contingency, legal and administrative fees: \$500,000

Officials clarified that MSBA-related administrative fees are owed to the state, though they are not charged directly by the MSBA itself.

Town leaders compared the proposal to recent feasibility studies completed elsewhere in Massachusetts, including Medford (\$3 million), Milford (\$2.75 million), Burncoat Senior High School (\$3 million), West Boylston (\$2 million), Norwell (\$1.5 million) and Keefe Technical School (\$2 million).

Several speakers warned that delaying action could substantially increase future construction and repair costs.

“The longer we wait, the more expensive it could get,” officials said during the presentation.

The town also reviewed the estimated cost of maintaining the current school building over the next five to 10 years. Officials projected approximately

\$31 million in needed repairs and upgrades, including HVAC systems, plumbing, roof work, generators, windows, doors, flooring, parking lots and septic infrastructure.

After discussion and amendments centering around funding sources, Article 25 ultimately passed with an amendment and was met with applause from attendees.

Residents also approved the town's FY27 omnibus operating budget under Article 17 following discussion surrounding school spending and long-term planning.

Among other notable votes:

- Article 4 “Revolving Fund Spending Limits” passed with an amendment reducing Pine Crest Golf Course funding from \$400,000 to \$250,000.
- Article 16, a senior tax relief measure, passed with applause. Officials said 33 residents are currently eligible and qualifying seniors could save hundreds of dollars annually,

while the average tax impact to others would amount to only a few cents per year. “Who is lobbying for this? I am,” said the town's principal assessor. “The people who benefit from this really do need it. We just want to keep people in their homes.”

- Article 23 addressed preservation work on a historic rock pile dating back to the early 20th century. Officials said the structure has become a safety concern and proposed stabilization work and fencing to prevent further deterioration. They added that removing the feature could ultimately cost more than repairing it. The measure passed.
- Article 24 was approved, establishing a sewer district for the downtown area.

Town officials said the meeting reflected continued efforts to balance fiscal responsibility with long-term investment in infrastructure, schools and community services.

‘Embrace Your Quilty Creativity’ program Tuesday, June 9 in Franklin

FRANKLIN – Yankee Quilters, a nonprofit quilt guild, will present a program by Janet Elia on inspiring quilt projects at its meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 9, at Emma's Quilt Cupboard in the Horace Mann Plaza, East Central Street in Franklin. Elia is a quilter, instructor and lecturer from Taunton. Her slide show will reveal her creative process

and her sources of inspiration to develop quilting motifs and designs. To see photos of Janet's work, visit <https://janetanncreations.blogspot.com>. This program is open to non-members for a one-time fee of \$5.

The June meeting will also include the organization's annual “Strawberry Social,” which wraps up the program year,

dates for summer events, and a report on the many quilts donated for charity in the past six months.

Yankee will hold a summer “staycation” open to all quilters Friday, July 31 to Sunday August 2 at Christ The King Lutheran Church in Holliston. Cost for 3 days of quilting space is \$125 for non-members (\$100 for

members). Annual membership for the 2026-2027 program year will be \$40 for new members and includes an embroidered name badge. Contact yankeequilters11@gmail.com, call 508-657-4770 or mail payment in full to PO Box 53, Franklin, MA 02038.

For information about other events, please contact Yanke-

equilters11@gmail.com.

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



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Coming up at Diverse Holliston

Mi C.A.S.A. Es Su Casa

June 7, 6-8 p.m.

Holliston Senior Center

A Fundraiser sponsored by The First Congregational Church in Holliston and Temple Beth Torah to support our immigrant friends and neighbors. Hearty appetizers and desserts from local immigrant owned businesses, Cash bar. \$50 per person. Check the CASA website soon for more details.

Save the Date:

Holliston Juneteenth

June 20, 10-12 a.m.

Blair Square

Join the Holliston Public Library and Historical Society for a community reading of Frederick Douglass's “What to the Slave

is the Fourth of July?” — volunteers are needed and welcome. To get involved, contact us at info@diverseholliston.org.

Singing for Our Neighbors:

Sue Horowitz & Eric Kilburn

Concert to Benefit Casa

June 14, 7 - 9 p.m.

Congregation Beth El, Sudbury

Join Sudbury United Methodist Church, Congregation Beth El, and Temple Beth Am of Framingham for an evening of heart-stirring, thought-provoking, toe-tapping music, as they build communal support and power together to fund critical services for MetroWest immigrant families. For more information on Diverse Holliston, visit www.diverseholliston.org.

Ask the assessor

By KEVIN RUDDEN, PRINCIPAL ASSESSOR

Question:
“Does the town have a program allowing seniors to work off part of their property taxes?”

Answer:
Yes. The town’s Senior/Veteran’s Tax Work-Off Program offers seniors (people age 60 or older) and veterans an opportunity to perform work in Town departments that can reduce their property tax bill by up to \$1,500 per year.

Applications for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027) will be available beginning July 1st at the Center on Goulding Street, the Veteran’s Services office at 1750 Washington Street and at the Human Resources and Assessors’ offices in Town Hall. The goal is to enroll up to

20 people in the program. The Town will try to match any areas of expertise that the participants might bring to the program with Town departments’ needs. Participants will be required to reapply each year.

Participants can complete up to 100 hours of work at the rate of \$15 per hour for the fiscal year. Per Massachusetts Law (Chapter 184, Section 52 of the Acts of 2002), the property tax reduction earned by the taxpayer (or their proxy) is not considered income or wages for state tax. However, these amounts are subject to federal taxes, FICA, and mandatory retirement withholdings.

Applicants must own their own homes and have lived in Holliston for at least five years.

Wanted: HCA Volunteer Production Crew

Got stage fright? No worries—you can still be a star behind the scenes! Hopkinton Center for the Arts (HCA) community theater thrives on creativity, and we need awesome folks like you to help with sets, props, costumes, lighting, and

sound. Whether you’re a teen or an adult, there’s a place for you in the magic-making. So come join the fun—no acting required, just enthusiasm! Email Paulc@hopartscenter.org if interested in volunteering.

Stony Brook Camera Club wraps up year with June dinner

The Stony Brook Camera Club will meet in person twice this month, wrapping up its September to June schedule for the year. The Thursday in-person meetings are held at the Anglican Church of the Redeemer, 195 Main Street, Franklin, MA. All meetings feature speakers, competitions, image studies, and discussions of general interest. We also sponsor a number of photography activities and workshops. SBCC includes and welcomes members of all abilities.

• June 4: Women vs. Men - Member competition



• June 11: Business meeting and End of Year dinner
Meetings will resume in September.
Visit www.stonybrookcc.com for more information.

HDAAC & HYFS seek participants for paid focus groups on SUD

HDAAC & HYFS are seeking community members to participate in two important paid focus groups this summer. Your voice can directly help guide how Holliston invests opioid abatement funding to better support prevention, recovery, and healing in our community.

We are recruiting for two groups:

- Individuals with lived experience
 - People currently in recovery
 - People working toward recovery



- Individuals impacted by substance use disorder or opioid use disorder
- Family members and loved ones
 - Those who have lost a loved one to opioid use disorder
 - Those who have supported or are supporting a loved one struggling with substance use disorder

Fill out the interest form by scanning the QR code or search

forms.gle/TuWYp7GWa3GH-FoSj6

For any questions on either survey, please contact Zoe Moreau at moreauz@holliston.k12.ma.us or call 508-429-0620 ext. 3.



Attorney Robert Jubinville enters race for Norfolk County District Attorney

Robert Jubinville, a veteran defense attorney and current Clerk-Magistrate, has announced that he will be a candidate for Norfolk County

District Attorney. The only career defense lawyer in a field otherwise composed entirely of prosecutors, the longtime Norfolk County resident, U.S.

Army veteran and former member of the Governor’s Council chose to run over deep concern over declining public confidence in the office.

6/1-6/5



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This publication is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$602,337 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

CALENDAR

June 1

Morning Book Club, 11 a.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston

June 4

Stony Brook Camera Club member competition, 7:30 p.m., Anglican Church of the Redeemer, 195 Main Street, Franklin, www.stonybrookcc.com

June 6

Classical Guitar Recital with Francesco Barone, 1 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston
Blood Drive, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Mt. Hollis Lodge AF & AM, 647 Washington St., Holliston, walk-ins welcome. All donors must bring photo ID.

June 7

Mi C.A.S.A. Es Su Casa, 6-8 p.m., Holliston Senior Center, 150 Goulding St., Holliston,
Fundraiser for CASA sponsored by The First Congregational Church in Holliston and Temple Beth Torah to support our immigrant friends and neighbors, appetizers and desserts from local immigrant owned businesses, \$50 pp. Check the CASA website https://www.mwc-casa.org.

June 8

Holliston Lions Club/Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Charity

Golf Tournament, 7:45 a.m. shotgun/scramble, Pinecrest Golf Course, 212 Prentice St., Holliston (June 1 registration deadline)

June 9

Mystery Book Club, Tues., 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, “Happiness Falls” by Angie Kim
Tri-County Regional Chamber Taste of Tri-County, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Tangerini’s Farm, 139 Spring St., Millis, regional restaurants, bakeries, farms & breweries offer samples, \$20 per ticket, https://www.tricountychamberma.org/taste-of-tri-county
“Embrace Your Quilty Creativity,” 7 p.m., Yankee Quilters program with Janet Elia, Emma’s Quilt Cupboard, Horace Mann Plaza, E. Central St., Franklin. Members free, non-members \$5.

June 11

Stony Brook Camera Club Business meeting and End of Year dinner, 7:30 p.m., Anglican Church of the Redeemer, 195 Main Street, Franklin, www.stonybrookcc.com
14th Annual Information Security Summit, co-sponsored by Towerwall and MassBay Community College, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., MassBay Community College, 50 Oakland St., Wellesley Hills,

MA, open to anyone interested in the latest developments in cybersecurity, visit www.towerwall.com for tickets.

June 13

Curiouser and Curiouser: Fountain Street Artist Members Exhibition Opening Reception, Hopkinton Center for the Arts Lotvin Family Gallery, 98 Hayden Rowe St
Hopkinton, exhibit runs June 2-25, 2026
Opening Reception: Saturday, June 13th, 6-8 p.m.
6th Annual No Fame Games, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Fino Field Annex, Milford, all-ages sport festival that follows the model of the Scottish Highland Games. Tickets at www.sitickets.com/nofamegames.

June 14

Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors (HNN) Touch-A-Truck Fundraiser & Food Truck Festival, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine, Sam Placentino Elementary School, 235 Woodland St., Holliston. Horn-free for the first hour (10 a.m.- 11 a.m.). Buy tickets at https://www.hollistonnewcomers.org/event-6605555 .
Holliston Pride Celebration 2026, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Blair Square, Opening ceremony 11 a.m.-noon, live music, dance, vendors, pup parade, storytelling, arts & crafts, beauty parlor

June 15

History Book Club, Mon., 10:30-11:30 a.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, “City of Fortune, How Venice Ruled the Sea” by Roger Crowley

June 16

Tuesday Matinee, Tues., 12:30-2 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, Eleanor the Great, Rated PG-13 (2025)

June 17

Creative Writing Group, 6:30—7:45 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston

June 19

Juneteenth Festival with Medway Marches, Bellforge Arts Center, 45 Hospital Rd., Medfield, free but please register, www.bellforge.org, annual festival celebrates Black culture, creativity, and excellence while honoring the history and significance of Juneteenth.

June 20

Holliston Juneteenth, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Blair Square, Holliston Public Library & Historical Society present a community reading of Frederick Douglass’s What to the Slave is the Fourth of July? Contact info@diverse-holliston.org to volunteer.

Free Community Dinner, 5-7 p.m., Christ the King Lutheran Church, 600 Central St., Holliston. Call 508-429-5705 if you need a ride.

Open Mic Night @ Rushford & Sons Brewhouse, 6 p.m. signups, music 6:30 p.m., 747 Washington St., Ste. A, Holliston, Hosted by the Sing For Your Soup house band & Hollipride. All instruments other than full drum kit are welcome.

June 22

Virtual program, Celebrating America’s 250th: “Boston, 1776” with author J.D. Dickey, 7-8 p.m., through Holliston Public Library, Registrants will receive a link to access the Zoom Webinar via email.

July 4

Mt. Hollis Lodge Pancake Breakfast, 8-10:30 a.m., Mt. Hollis Lodge AF & AM, 657 Washington St., Holliston, special 250th celebration breakfast, \$15 all-you-can-eat, 8 and under free, cash & card.
Holliston 250th Celebration Reading of Declaration of independence, 11 a.m. Holliston Town Hall, 703 Washington St., Holliston, includes Chris Cain, in colonial garb, 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 8-11 a.m.

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Holliston Public Library May Adult Programs

**752 Washington Street
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Morning Book Club: Mon., June 1: 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
“Lady Clementine” by Marie Benedict

Classical Guitar Recital with Francesco Barone, Sat., June 6: 1-2 p.m.

Classical Guitarist Francesco Barone will present a recital including music from the standard classical guitar repertoire. Background information will be given on all the pieces being performed, and the recital is open to audiences of all ages. The feature piece will be Andrea Clearfield’s *Reflections on the Dranyen*. Clearfield is a living female composer whose piece is inspired by and seeks to imitate the Tibetan dranyen.

Mystery Book Club, Tues., June 9, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.:
“Happiness Falls” by Angie Kim.

Let’s Go for a Walk... on the Appalachian Trail! Sat., June 13: 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Please Register.

One woman traded her routines for a backpack and a winding footpath stretching across 14 states.

On the Appalachian Trail, she learned that the hardest steps often lead to the most unexpected transformations. Join Susan Leo-Johnson as she shares her journey on trail, and

learn what it takes to thru-hike the world’s oldest continuous footpath. This engaging visual and tactile presentation offers audiences a glimpse into what it’s like to be a thru-hiker on the Appalachian Trail. Through a blend of photographs, historical insight, and personal experiences, this informative program is designed to both enlighten and inspire.

History Book Club, Mon., June 15: 10:30-11:30 a.m.:
“City of Fortune, How Venice Ruled the Sea” by Roger Crowley.

Micro-Adventures in Massachusetts, Mon., June 15: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Please Register

Kick off the summer season by learning about some of the best day trips Massachusetts has to offer! Experienced hiker, outdoorswoman, and author Alison O’Leary provides a virtual tour of a dozen day trip options in Massachusetts that are sure to excite your family and provide memories for years to come.

Tuesday Matinee, Tues., June 16: 12:30-2 p.m.

Come to the library the third Tuesday of every month and watch a new movie! This month’s showing is *Eleanor the Great*. After the death of her oldest friend, 94-year-old Eleanor Morgenstein moves from Florida to New York City for a fresh start. Wandering into a support group for Holocaust survivors, she tells a tale that takes on a

dangerous life of its own. Running time 1 hour and 38 minutes. Rated PG-13 (2025)

Creative Writing Group, Wed., June 17: 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Frederick Douglass: What it means to be a slave on the Fourth of July - a Juneteenth Program

Sat., June 20: 10-11:30 a.m., Location: Blair Square, Holliston

Please join Diverse Holliston and the Historical Society for a public reading of “What it means to be a slave on the 4th of July” by Frederick Douglass.

Celebrating America’s 250th: “Boston, 1776” Virtual Program with author J.D. Dickey

Mon., June 22: 7-8 p.m.

* Registrants will receive a link to access the Zoom Webinar via email.

We are so pleased to be starting this nine-week series to celebrate the 250th anniversary



Holliston Public Library. Photo by Wendy Watkins

of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and who would be better to kick it off than author J.D. Dickey discussing his book, “Boston, 1776: A Rogue Tour of Revolution City.” Relive the chaos, courage, and color of the American Revolution’s capital city while meeting those who led the fight

in the nation’s War of Independence.

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 Police Dept. seeks re-accreditation

HOLLISTON, MA (MAY 11, 2026) - Police Chief Matthew Stone is pleased to announce that assessors from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission are scheduled to conduct an assessment of the department, to include policies and procedures, operations and facilities beginning on Tuesday, June 16, 2026. The assessment is expected to last three days. Verification by the Assessment Team that the department meets the Commission’s standards is part of a voluntary process to gain state Accredita-

tion -- a self-initiated evaluation process by which police departments strive to meet and maintain standards that have been established for the profession, by the profession.

Accreditation status requires that the department meet 257 mandatory standards, and at least 69 of 125 optional standards.

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Boston Red Sox honor Susan Langer as 'Most Valuable Educator'

The New England Center for Children® (NECC®) is proud to announce that longtime educator and pioneer in autism education, Susan Langer, has been named a "Most Valuable Educator" by the Boston Red Sox. Langer was honored on the field at Fenway Park prior to the Red Sox game on Saturday, April 18.

Every Saturday home game, the Red Sox honor local educators who go above and beyond in their field with a pre-game ceremony. Langer's recognition reflects nearly five decades of transformative contributions to the field of special education and to NECC, where she began her career in 1976—just one year after the organization was founded.

"What defines Sue's career is her unwavering commitment to students and educators alike," said Dr. Jessica Sassi, President and CEO. "Her impact is seen not only in the programs she helped build, but in the generations of teachers she has mentored and inspired."

Starting as a classroom teacher working directly with children with autism at a time when effective educational models were still emerging, Langer played a foundational role in shaping what high-quality autism education looks like today. Working hands-on with students, she helped build instructional practices rooted in data, collaboration, and continuous

learning—principles that remain central to NECC's approach.

With a bachelor's degree from Hamilton College and a master's degree in special education from New York University, Langer settled in at NECC teaching, mentoring staff, and expanding programming. She became one of the organization's first Board-Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) and co-authored NECC's first research publication in the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* in 1985, helping establish the organization's strong research foundation.

Throughout her career, Langer has been instrumental in NECC's growth from serving six students to supporting thousands across a wide range of ages and abilities. She helped design parent training programs that strengthened partnerships between families and educators, ensuring that progress extended beyond the classroom.

Langer also played a key role in developing NECC's patented Autism Curriculum Encyclopedia (ACE), a comprehensive software system that provides curriculum, lesson plans, and data collection tools to educators. Her emphasis on measuring student progress through direct, observable assessment has influenced educational practices far beyond NECC.

In addition to her work within the organization, Langer is the



In April, the Boston Red Sox named Susan Langer "Most Valuable Educator." Photo provided

author of *Teaching Essential Discrimination Skills to Children with Autism: A Practical Guide for Parents and Educators*, a widely respected resource in the field. She has taught in graduate programs, led workshops for public schools, and consulted internationally, always focused on translating research into practical strategies for educators and families.

Langer's legacy lives on in the countless students she has supported and the educators she has trained, who continue to carry forward the high standards, evidence-based practices, and deep compassion she in-

stilled.

Her recognition as a Boston Red Sox "Most Valuable Educator" is a fitting tribute to a career dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with autism and advancing the field of special education.

About The New England Center for Children

NECC is one powerful place where compassion meets curriculum, and science drives innovation. An award-winning autism education center and research institute, NECC offers a comprehensive continuum of

services, including day and residential programs, partner classrooms in public schools, global consulting, and the ACE® ABA Software System (www.acenecc.org), supporting educators and learners worldwide.

NECC is based in Southborough, Massachusetts USA and operates the Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Special Education in Abu Dhabi, UAE, as well as Clinics in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Learn more at www.necc.org, or watch a short video about the Center, narrated by Jon Stewart, at www.onepowerfulplace.com.



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Senior/Veteran's Tax Work-Off Program for Fiscal Year 2027

The Town is pleased to introduce the Senior/Veteran's Tax Work-Off Program for Fiscal Year 2027, offering eligible homeowners a meaningful way to reduce their property tax bill while contributing to the community.

Under the program, senior and veteran participants may perform work in various Town departments in exchange for a property tax reduction of up to \$1,500. For FY2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027), the Town aims to enroll up to 20 participants. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis

and approved as all requirements are met.

Participants may complete up to 100 hours of service during the fiscal year at a rate of \$15 per hour. The Town will make every effort to match participants' skills and experience with departmental needs, creating a mutually beneficial experience.

In accordance with Massachusetts law, the tax reduction earned through the program is not considered income for state tax purposes. However, participants should be aware that earnings are subject to federal taxes, FICA, and mandatory

retirement withholdings. Participants (or approved proxies) are required to complete standard employment forms and must reapply annually to continue in the program.

This program reflects the Town's commitment to supporting seniors and veterans while benefiting from their valuable skills and experience.

For more information or to apply, please visit our website at www.townofholliston.us/249/Tax-Work-Off-Program-FY27 or contact the Human Resources Office at 508-474-3335 or the Center at 508-429-0622.

HOLLISTON SPORTS

Alluri one to watch as he rises in tennis rankings

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Growing up sports was definitely not on his radar, and he wasn't interested in pursuing it, but thankfully his father put a tennis racket in his hands and got him onto the court. Nowadays, Holliston sophomore Nayan Alluri is making his mark on the courts and moving his way up the Panthers' depth chart on the tennis team.

"It was around the fourth grade when my dad made me play tennis," Alluri said. "I wasn't into sports, but he pushed me to play, and eventually, I was enjoying the sport and wanted to get better."

Now, Alluri is a two-sport athlete, also running track in the winter for conditioning purposes to get ready for the spring tennis season.

The summer prior to his entering eighth grade, a revelation came to him, and he realized that he should focus more on his tennis career and improve upon his skills as high school was right around the corner. That summer, he participated in tennis club with different towns and coaches to bring his game up to the next level to be ready to try out for the high school team.

"I knew the high school team was not that great, only one win, so there would be opportunities," he said. "During my freshman year, I really wasn't sure of what to expect. I was definitely nervous, as I had never tried out for a sport before."

Alluri made the team, and although he was hoping that he'd be a starter for the Panthers, he knew that there was a lot of talent on the Holliston roster, so he really wasn't sure what was going to happen.

Coach Jay Dupuis would slot the freshman primarily as seconds doubles players with an occasional first doubles opportunity. That year, the first-year varsity player basically went about his business on the court, but when he wasn't involved in a game, he was watching the older kids who were playing singles and absorbing whatever he could from their play.

According to the Holliston Coach, Alluri was a very dynamic young player who was battling to move up the team rankings. As part of the Holliston doubles team, he was able to go 10-5 last spring. Although having a partner helped him to improve his games, his goal was to become a singles player his sophomore campaign, a place that he believes he would thrive.

With the graduation of the seniors and a few upper classmen not returning, the young racket wielder knew that he had a shot at making his dream come true. Dupuis moved Alluri out of doubles play this year and inserted Alluri into third singles where, at the time of this writing, was 4-2.

"As a singles player, I wanted to go out and do my best and help the team succeed and hopefully go onto the tournament," Alluri said. "This year, I feel more knowledgeable on the court, but I am continuing to learn each day."

Last year, Holliston went 9-5 on the season and made its way into the Division 3 State Tournament as the eighth seed advancing into the Elite 8, where they would ultimately fall to the number one and eventual Division 3 State Champion, Bedford.

Having made his way into



For Holliston sophomore Nayan Alluri, a push toward tennis turned out to be the right direction. Photos by and used courtesy of Jay Dupuis



the singles rotation, Alluri would love to keep improving his game and move further on up the ladder.

"As one of our top three singles players, he brings a talent to the court," the Panther Coach said. "He has a very good all-around game, and I am excited to see him continue to develop his skills over the

next three seasons."

While his coaching is looking to see what he can do next, Alluri is hoping that he can become a role model to the younger tennis players on the team, much like the seniors did to him as a freshman. Not only the help in his game, but also the little things, like giving car rides and creating team bonds.

Although it is still 2-plus years before Alluri gets to walk across the stage to receive his diploma, his ultimate goal on the tennis court would be to continue to improve so that he can take that next step and play the game he was pushed into on a higher level. However, only time will tell if he improves his skills to be able to accomplish such a feat.





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5/14/26	13 Karen Cir.	\$590,000
5/14/26	25 Irving Place	\$867,000
5/13/26	62 Ashland St.	\$1,050,000
5/04/26	18 Northway St.	\$750,000
5/01/26	244 Rolling Meadow Dr.	\$890,000
4/30/26	51 Burnap Rd., Apt. 3	\$279,000
4/30/26	67 Mohawk Path	\$1,670,000
4/24/26	99 Goulding St.	\$673,550
4/24/26	1 Danforth Dr.	\$1,630,000
4/23/26	6 Skyview Ter.	\$775,000
4/23/26	731 Norfolk St.	\$1,160,000
4/22/26	22 Greenview Dr.	\$700,000
4/16/26	53 Regal St.	\$640,000
4/14/26	48 Hemlock Dr.	\$590,000
4/14/26	44 Baker St.	\$675,000

Source: zillow.com Compiled: Local Town Pages

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Holliston resident one of three named to Lawrence P. Cohen Memorial Scholarship Foundation board

CANTON, MA (April 22, 2026) — The Lawrence P. Cohen Memorial Scholarship Foundation is proud to announce the appointment of three new members to its Board of Directors: Kerry Collins, Dina Reiss, and Ashleigh Powers. Each brings a unique perspective and a shared commitment to advancing the foundation’s mission of supporting students through educational scholarships and opportunities.

Founded in memory of Lawrence P. Cohen, the organization is committed to honoring his legacy by supporting students in pursuit of their academic goals. Through scholarships and community-driven initiatives, the foundation continues to reduce financial barriers and help empower the next generation.

The addition of Collins, Reiss, and Powers represents a significant step forward as the foundation broadens its reach and deepens its impact across the communities it serves.

Kerry Collins is a seasoned executive with more than 20 years of leadership experience spanning professional sports, nonprofit organizations, and community engagement. She spent over two decades with the Boston Bruins, most recently serving as Senior Director of Community Relations, where she led community strategies, athlete-driven initiatives, and partnerships supporting youth, families, veterans, first responders, and individuals fac-

ing illness. Known for building impactful collaborations, Collins currently serves on several nonprofit boards and remains deeply committed to service and mentorship.

Dina Reiss brings more than 25 years of experience in marketing and brand leadership across agency, production, and client-side roles. Her career includes positions at Hill Holliday, Arnold Worldwide, Cramer, and Aetna CVS Health. She currently serves as Vice President of Brand at Bright Horizons, where she leads brand strategy and storytelling for a mission-driven organization. A graduate of Boston University’s School of Communication, Reiss offers deep expertise in brand building and audience engagement.

Ashleigh Powers is an experiential strategist and founder of Insieme, a company focused on fostering human connection through events and employee engagement. With a background in experiential marketing, event production, and storytelling, she has partnered with leading global brands and notable talent to create impactful, connection-driven experiences. A former scholarship recipient herself, Powers brings a personal understanding of the



Dina Reiss, of Holliston, was recently named to the The Lawrence P. Cohen Memorial Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors.

Photo provided

foundation’s mission and a passion for creating opportunities that bring people together.

“Kerry, Dina, and Ashleigh each bring a deep commitment to community and a passion for education,” said Neil Cohen, Founder of the Lawrence P. Cohen Memorial Scholarship Foundation. “Their perspectives will be instrumental as we continue to honor the foundation’s legacy and expand opportunities for students.”

Through scholarships and community support, the Lawrence P. Cohen Memorial Scholarship Foundation remains committed to reducing financial barriers and creating pathways for students to succeed. The organization continues to build on its mission by fostering partnerships, engaging donors, and identifying students who demonstrate both need and promise.

For more information about the Lawrence P. Cohen Memorial Scholarship Foundation, including how to apply for scholarships or support its mission, please visit www.lpcohenfoundation.org.



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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 of-

- ferings 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 vol-



unteer-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) or visit us at www.celebrateholliston.com.

MassBay launches Apprenticeship Degree Program to meet urgent workforce needs

WELLESLEY HILLS, MA – MassBay Community College is one of six Massachusetts community colleges launching apprenticeship degree programs that combine paid, on the job training with academic coursework. The programs provide students with direct pathways into high demand careers while helping employers address critical workforce shortages across the Commonwealth.

MassBay began enrolling students in its Behavioral Health apprenticeship degree program in fall 2025 with 33 currently enrolled students. The program will expand to include Medical Assisting in summer 2026 and Extended Certified Nursing Assistant in fall 2026.

While apprenticeship degrees are new in Massachusetts, the model builds on a proven approach long used in the skilled trades and adapts it for fields

with urgent and sustained workforce needs. The six Massachusetts community colleges are receiving funding through multi year grants as part of a statewide initiative backed by more than \$6 million from the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation and Accelerate the Future. The funding is accelerating the launch of apprenticeship degree programs across the Commonwealth.

Participating institutions include MassBay Community College, Bunker Hill Community College, Quinsigamond Community College, Middlesex Community College, North Shore Community College, and Northern Essex Community College. MassBay is among the first institutions to enroll students, with additional colleges launching programs beginning in fall 2026.

For more information, email apprenticeships@massbay.edu.

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