

## Holliston's 2026 Juneteenth celebration



Blair Square's first Juneteenth celebrants took an enthusiastic selfie, as a community of collective energy and love. Photo used courtesy of jamele adams

By BARBARA FRITTS WORBY

On June 20, 2026, Holliston celebrated Juneteenth National Independence Day at Blair Square. Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the date when Union troops arrived in Galves-

ton, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation and officially end American slavery. The master of ceremonies, jamele adams, commented on how not many towns hang the Juneteenth flag as well as the Pride flag,

as he nodded to our Blair Square flagpole. adams is a poet and a spoken word performance artist, known for his high energy and his

### JUNETEENTH

*continued on page 20*

## Construction begins on Team Hoyt Community YMCA in Ashland



Construction of the MetroWest YMCA Regional Early Learning Center in Ashland officially broke ground last month, with help from federal, state and private funds. It will be part of the future Team Hoyt Community YMCA planned along the Boston Marathon route. Photo supplied by Michael Henrich

By BRITTANY AMALFI

The MetroWest YMCA officially broke ground last month on a new Regional Early Learning Center, marking the first phase of the future Team Hoyt Community YMCA planned for Memorial Drive.

The town was happily overwhelmed as more than 75 supporters, elected officials, community leaders, donors and

### YMCA

*continued on page 4*



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**In memory of beloved writer Ken Hamwey, please see tribute on page 3.**

*This notice honors his contributions and invites readers to celebrate his legacy.*

October 14, 1943 - May 25, 2026

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# St. Mary's celebrates America's 250th with song



On May 29, the Saint Mary's Church Choir and the Saint Mary's Youth Choir, conducted by Music Director Abbey Kelley-Lanser, held a concert in honor of our nation's 250th birthday. "Virtue's Voice: Reflections on Faith and Freedom," featuring music from Handel's Messiah, Franz Biebl's Ave Maria, and several other traditional pieces. Photo by Jane Lebak

# Letter to the editor:

I appreciate the statistic but to complete the picture you should include how much Mass Save took in from all the residents who did not benefit from the program. The month after my new smart meter went in my bill doubled from \$300 to \$600. In 2023 the bill for the same use in April and May were each under \$100. Mass Save is when your neighbor gets a new heat pump for half of an overinflated price at my expense. I bet the input to the program is triple what is given back. Soooo I bet we paid 4.5 Million in to get 1.7 back in a completely unfair way. The program should not exist. It is one of the Reasons Healy refuses an audit.

The program is terrible and she needs to be investigated. The CEO OF EVERSOURCE MADE OVER \$112 Million in salary last year. They had a banner revenue year.

*Keefe Bailey  
Holliston*

## Concerts in the Park begin in July

Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors are sponsoring Holliston Concerts in the Park, on Tuesday nights, 6:30-8 p.m. at Stoddard Park. Concerts will take

place on the following nights this season:

- July 7: Big Chief
- July 14: S'Bourbon 4
- July 21: Matt York
- August 8: Colin Fields

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# Ken Hamwey, in Memoriam

*He wrote about the good*

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Ken Hamwey never missed a deadline, and he had a passion for telling a good story. Getting the word out about something or someone inspirational, conveying its importance, meant the world to him. That kind of drive, a level of investment scarcely seen in the world today, deserved your full attention. Our Town Publishing didn't just lose a sportswriter when we lost Ken Hamwey, we lost a lion-hearted wordsmith who cared deeply about the people he wrote about, and their moments of glory.

"Ken Hamwey was an amazing sportswriter and a consummate professional," said Jen Schofield, owner of Our Town Publishing. "He was someone I truly enjoyed talking with, listening to his stories, and his passion and dedication for covering high school sports was unmatched. He genuinely cared about the athletes, teams, and communities he wrote about, which was evident in his work."

"Ken was very dedicated in getting the stories," added Chuck Tashjian, who worked with Ken for many years as former publisher of Our Town Publishing. "He went above and beyond, especially with championship games. He really loved what he did. He loved writing, and he loved sports."

"He just cared about the kids. If there was anything that stood out about him it was his passion for what he did ... He cared so much about making everyone look good, and that was such a good trait, and the way he'd remember things," said Bellingham High School Football Coach Dan Haddad, who added both he and Ken were motivated by "love of the kids." Student athletes Ken interviewed would tell the coach that Mr. Hamwey was "probably the nicest guy I've ever met."

"What was unique about Ken was how he wanted to learn about me personally and what life experiences led me to where I am rather than other reporters who would just ask about jobs and responsibilities listed on a resume," says Bellingham Town Administrator Joseph Laydon, who says he truly appreciated



**Ken Hamwey October 14, 1943 - May 25, 2026**

this approach in Ken's regular Municipal Spotlight column for the *Bellingham Bulletin*.

Just 24 in 1967 when he entered the field of journalism, the young graduate of Natick High and Babson College began his career at *Framingham News*, now known as the *MetroWest Daily News*, covering the small-town beat of Millis. Ken would get the opportunity of a lifetime a year later, covering the Celtics' defeat of the 76ers in Philadelphia to win the Eastern conference one day after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. In a lifelong story of his own he'd often tell, the late, great Celtics coach and general manager, Red Auerbach, in fact, held up the press corps bus so young Ken could call in that story. Ken would move on in 1973 to the Pulitzer Prize winning *Providence Journal*, and after 35-plus years as the Night Sports Editor, he received a citation from the Rhode Island State Senate honoring his excellence as a journalist.

For many years, Ken would follow the trajectory of local sports heroes' stories in a *MetroWest Daily News* column called "Yesterday's Heroes." In semi-retirement, Ken would continue to

cover high school sports for local papers such as *Bellingham Bulletin* and *Local Town Pages* papers.

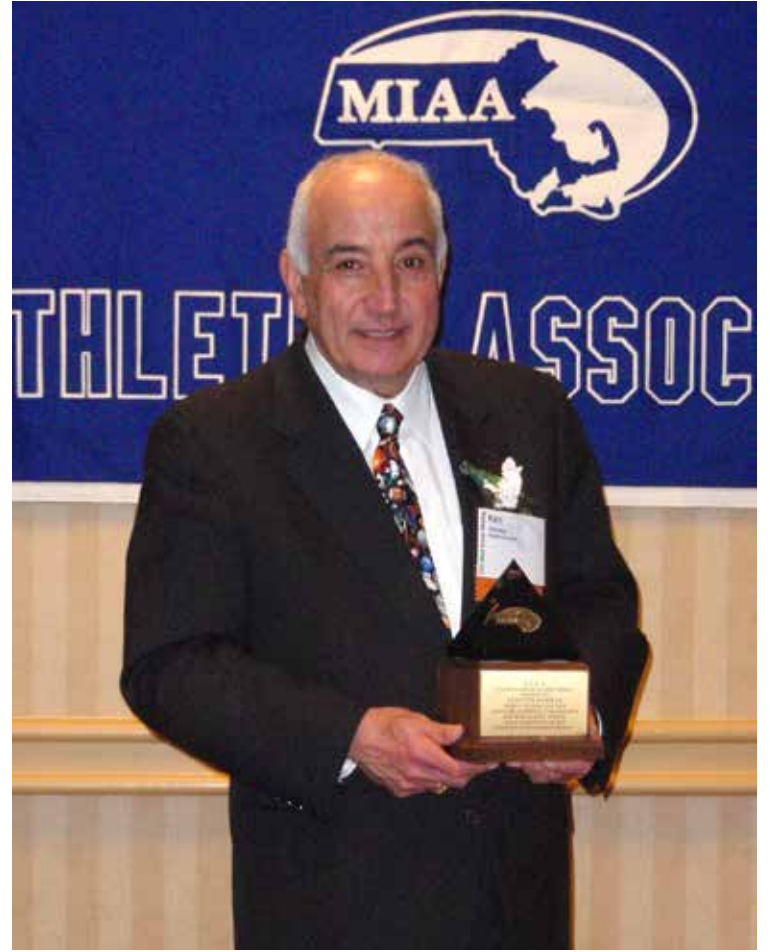
Ken was immensely proud of the recognition he received for his efforts. He was inducted into the Millis Athletic Hall of Fame in March 2022, and later, into the Bellingham Athletic Hall of Fame, and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association selected him for its Distinguished Friend Award in 2010.

"High school sports lost a legendary storyteller with the passing of Ken Hamwey," wrote Millis Athletics on X, "For nearly six decades, Ken dedicated his life to highlighting the achievements of local student-athletes, beginning with his very first varsity football story in Millis back in 1967." Dover Sherborn Basketball also lauded his "passion and dedication for covering sports in our area...RIP."

Ken Hamwey once told Dan Haddad, "I want to write about the good."

In his own life, Hamwey, the beloved husband for 36 years of Pauline A. (Allard) Hamwey and the late Martha (Loan) Hamwey, and the loving father of Travis M. Hamwey and his wife, Katie, aspired himself to be the best person he could be, volunteering time as a coach and library trustee, devoting himself to his faith, and valuing each individual with whom he interacted. He once told me how much it meant to him that his coverage of young athletes might help them make it into college. He had an energy that drove him to weave a story of pride and potential that would shine a light on and lift up his subject. He offered such respect that you wanted to rise to be worthy of it.

"Ken was kind, dependable, and always willing to go above



**In 2010, Ken received the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Distinguished Friend Award.**

and beyond. Even shortly before his passing, while battling illness and facing deadline pressure, he completed his last three stories—a testament to his remarkable work ethic and commitment to journalism," said Schofield, adding, "He was a one-of-a-kind colleague and friend, who will be deeply missed by everyone in his Our Town Publishing family. His legacy will live on through the countless stories he told and the many lives he touched."





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YMCA

continued from page 1

members of the Hoyt family gathered at the site to celebrate the milestone, which comes after years of planning and fundraising.

The early learning center is expected to serve more than 100 children and families when it opens in September 2027.

MetroWest YMCA officials say the facility will help address the growing demand for affordable and accessible childcare and early education across the MetroWest region. Affordable and accessible childcare and education are vital for the younger generation, and the YMCA has always prioritized just that.

“This groundbreaking represents much more than the start of construction,” said MetroWest YMCA President and CEO Rick MacPherson. “It is the

beginning of a new chapter for children, families and communities across MetroWest.” Not only is this a new chapter, but it is an exciting one as more opportunities will arise for children and families.

The future Team Hoyt Community YMCA is named in honor of Dick, Rick and Judy Hoyt, whose commitment to inclusion and perseverance inspired people around the world. The planned YMCA campus will be built on 12.5 acres along the Boston Marathon route and is intended to reflect the Hoyt family’s belief that everyone should have the opportunity to participate, belong and reach their full potential.

“Seeing construction begin on this future Team Hoyt Community YMCA is an inspiring milestone for our family,” said Russ Hoyt. “We are excited about the impact this community pillar will have on people of all abilities for generations to come.”

The ceremony also highlighted the partnerships that helped advance the project, including a previously announced \$5 million federal funding award for the Regional Early Learning Center. The project has also received support from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Town of Ashland, and a number of corporate, foundation and individual donors.

Sen. Edward J. Markey, who helped secure the federal funding, said the investment will help expand access to early education and childcare for families throughout the region. “Every dollar we invest in education pays dividends for generations to come,” Markey said. “At a moment when families across Massachusetts need greater access to affordable, high-quality childcare and early education, I am grateful to have partnered with Senator Warren, Congressman McGovern, and our state and local partners to make this center a reality and create op-

portunities for children throughout MetroWest to learn, grow, and thrive.”

U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern said the center will support working families while providing children with a strong educational foundation. “It is especially meaningful that this center honors Team Hoyt, whose story continues to inspire people across Massachusetts and beyond,” McGovern said

Massachusetts Senate President Karen Spilka called the project an important investment in children, families and the future of MetroWest communities. Access to quality early education gives children a strong foundation for learning while helping parents balance work and family responsibilities. The new center is expected to expand childcare options in the region and support families facing a shortage of affordable early education programs.

MetroWest YMCA officials said the future Team Hoyt Community YMCA is being designed to serve residents of Ashland, Framingham, Hopkinton, Holliston and Sherborn. They described the groundbreaking as the result of years of work by staff, volunteers, donors and community partners.

“As the need for affordable, accessible early education continues to grow, this Early Learning Center will help provide families with the strong foundation they need,” MacPherson said. “Our work creating a more connected community is just beginning.”

The center’s mission includes a full-day early learning center and a state-of-the-art wellness center, indoor running track, outdoor trails, group exercise studios, meeting and gathering spaces, STEM and technology areas for youth, child watch/kids adventure space, full-size gymnasium, community kitchen, aquatics center, and an outdoor recreation space.



Sen. Markey celebrates the construction with Team Hoyt members. Photo supplied by Michael Henrich



EARLY LEARNING CENTER EXTERIOR cbt



EARLY LEARNING CENTER INTERIOR cbt

The childcare center will be the first phase of a 12.5-acre YMCA campus aimed at inclusion of people of all abilities. Photo supplied by Michael Henrich

For more information about the Team Hoyt Community YMCA project, visit [metrowestymca.org](http://metrowestymca.org). About the MetroWest YMCA

The MetroWest YMCA is a cause-driven nonprofit dedicated to creating healthier, connected communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. The MetroWest YMCA provides inclusive programming that strengthens the body, mind, and spirit of more than

25,000 community members annually at every stage of life—including early learning and childcare, before- and after-school programs, summer camps, fitness and wellness classes, aquatics, sports, enrichment activities, and health intervention programs. Eliminating financial barriers to engagement, the MetroWest YMCA (EIN 04-2281530) ensures everyone in the community has the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive. Visit [metrowestymca.org](http://metrowestymca.org) for more information.

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# Massachusetts homeowners may be sitting on more equity than they realize



Lynne Ritucci and Tim Swift

## REAL ESTATE INSIGHTS

For many homeowners across Massachusetts, the value of their home has grown significantly over the past several years. Yet surprisingly, many people haven't taken the time to find out just how much equity they've built. If it's been a while since you've checked, the number may be far higher than you expect.

Home equity is one of the most powerful financial advantages of homeownership. It represents the difference between what your home is worth in today's market and what you still owe on your mortgage. As property values have continued to appreciate throughout much of Massachusetts, homeowners have benefited from a combina-

tion of rising home prices and years of mortgage payments that steadily reduce their loan balance.

Nationally, the average homeowner has gained more than \$128,000 in equity over the past six years through appreciation and principal paydown alone. In many Massachusetts communities, where housing demand has remained strong and inventory has been limited, homeowners may have accumulated even more equity than the national average.

This accumulated wealth often goes unnoticed because it isn't sitting in a traditional savings account. Instead, it's stored in one of your most valuable assets, your home. Whether you live in the Greater Boston area, MetroWest, on Cape Cod, or in one of the state's growing suburban markets, your property's current value may be significantly higher than when you purchased it.

For homeowners considering a move, this equity can create opportunities that may not have seemed possible just a few years ago. It can provide a substantial

down payment on a new home, help offset moving expenses, reduce monthly mortgage costs on your next purchase, or even make it easier to move into a home that better fits your current lifestyle and future goals.

Equity can also serve as a financial resource for major life events. Some homeowners leverage their equity to fund home improvements, help pay for college expenses, invest in retirement planning, buy that dreamed of vacation property, or pursue other long-term financial objectives. Understanding how much equity you have is often the first step toward making informed decisions about your future.

The longer you've owned your home, the more compelling the numbers may be. If you've been in your property for more than six years, you've likely benefited from additional years of appreciation and mortgage reduction, potentially placing you in an even stronger position than recent buyers.

With home values continuing to play a critical role in house-

hold wealth throughout Massachusetts, now is an excellent time to review your home's current market value and evaluate your equity position. You may discover that you have more financial flexibility and opportunity than you realized.

If you're curious about your home's current value and how much equity you've built, a professional market analysis can provide a clear picture of where you stand in today's Massachusetts housing market. The results may be one of the most pleasant financial surprises you'll find this 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.

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### Save the dates!

## Holliston Celebrates America 250

Holliston Celebrates America 250 will celebrate our nation's birthday with several events coming up. The effort is supported by the town of Holliston, Celebrate Holliston, Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors, Holliston American Legion Charles F. Duford Post 47, Holliston VFW Post #8507, and Ahronian Landscaping.

#### On July 4th:

Start your 4th with a big, all you can eat, breakfast of eggs, pancakes, bacon, hash browns, coffee & juice, (\$15 all-you-can-eat, children 8 and under free, cash and cards accepted) at Mount Hollis Lodge from 8-10:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit local charities. Then, stroll

down to the steps of Town Hall for a very special reading of The Declaration of Independence.

At 11 a.m., on the steps of Holliston Town Hall, will be a reading of the Declaration of Independence by notable Hollistonians, with Master of Ceremonies Chris Cain.

#### On July 31:

Free concert featuring Group Therapy, a rock, pop, country, oldies and contemporary band, from 6-8 p.m. at Blair Square.

#### On August 15:

Free concert featuring the Claffin Hill Symphony Orchestra from 6-8 p.m. at Blair Square.

# Summer cleanout is greener with *Affordable Junk Removal*

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

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

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

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

Affordable Junk Removal specializes in house and estate

cleanouts. If your garage, attic, or office is overflowing with stuff, take back your space and let the pros do the heavy lifting.

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

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

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

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've

## Business spotlight

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

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

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

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

They also have a thriving



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

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the

restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

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

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## HCA outdoor summer concert series

Thanks to sponsor Dell Technologies, Hopkinton Center for the Arts (HCA) is once again offering its summer concert series on Friday and Saturday nights for the seventh year through July in its outdoor amphitheater. You only need your lawn chair, blanket, and picnic basket to enjoy an evening of rockin' good music. In case of inclement weather, concerts will take place in the HCA's air-conditioned performance space.

In addition, HCA offers a Sunday jazz series.

To make the arts more accessible to all, these concerts are on a pay-what-you-can basis, with a suggested donation of \$10-\$25. Following are upcoming performances this month:

Compaq Big Band, July 3, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Simmer Down, July 4, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Summer Sunday Jazz: Nate

Aronow Nextet, July 5, 2026, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

According to Nancy, July 10, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Chris Fitz Band, July 11, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Summer Sunday Jazz: Stoney's Wicked Din, July 12, 2026, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Los Sugar Kings, July 17, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Racky Thomas Band, July 18, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Summer Sunday Jazz: MetroWest Jazz Project, July 19, 2026, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Hip Shot Band, July 24, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Fat City Band, July 25, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Summer Sunday Jazz: Subject2Change, July 26, 2026, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tin Street Groove, July 31, 2026, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

HCA is located at 98 Hayden Rowe St, Hopkinton.

Your Money, Your Independence

# Ignore at your peril: Why fund a Trump Account for your child



Glenn Brown, CFP

Save yourself the political angst, as I'm going to educate as a fiduciary on why you should open and fund a Trump Account for your child. Let me repeat: "educate as a fiduciary."

Building generational wealth via disciplined investment, forward-thinking tax planning, and unapologetic pragmatism shouldn't be partisan. Parents and grandparents need to look past political branding and understand this financial opportunity starting July 4 through the U.S. Treasury via IRS Form 4547, then deployed to major institutions, including Schwab, Fidelity, and Vanguard.

### Reality Beyond Reels

Media outlets and social influencers are hyper-focused on flashy elements: the narcissistic naming, Michael Dell's \$6.25 billion gift, and the one-time \$1,000 newborn cash seed funded by the U.S. government for 2025-2028.

This noise has millions of parents completely ignoring the program, assuming their older children aren't eligible or out of political disdain. What a massive financial planning error.

The truth is any U.S. citizen under 18 with an SSN qualifies for a parent or grandparent established Trump Account. The real opportunity is investing up to \$5,000 annually tax-deferred, which transitions directly into a Traditional IRA in the child's name at age 18. Free of spending restrictions, this complements a 529 plan.

### Doing 10-year-old math

Say you have a 10-year-old and max contribute \$5,000 prior to each December 31 deadline until they turn 18. Your total out-of-pocket investment over those eight years is \$40,000.

Treasury mandates require these funds to be placed in diversified, low-fee index funds mirroring benchmarks like the S&P 500 (which has averaged 10.5% historical annual return since its 1957 inception). Assuming a 10% annualized return over that eight-year window, this 10-year-old's account grows to \$62,897 by age 18—meaning \$22,897 is investment growth.

### The age-18 IRA handoff

At age 18, regulations dictate the account must transition directly into a Traditional IRA under the child's control. Because your original \$40,000 in

contributions was made with after-tax dollars, it carries over into that Traditional IRA as a non-deductible basis, meaning the principal can eventually be withdrawn tax-free. Why is this important?

### The Roth conversion strategy

Instead of leaving this IRA to compound for a massive tax bill down the road, the optimal wealth-building move at age 18 is a full Roth IRA conversion. As a student entering adulthood with little to no earned income, they can exploit their standard deductions and baseline federal tax brackets to effectively neutralize the conversion tax.

Due to pro-rata rules governing Roth conversions, your 18-year-old will owe ordinary income taxes only on the converted growth portion (\$22,897) on their own tax return, not yours.

Consider an 18-year-old Massachusetts student with zero per-

sonal income:

- **Federal Tax:** Standard deduction shields the first \$16,100 of growth. The rest falls into the 10% bracket, resulting in a \$680 tax bill.
- **State Tax:** Massachusetts applies its \$4,400 personal exemption, then levies its flat 5% tax for a \$925 obligation.

For \$1,605 paid in taxes, this Massachusetts 18-year-old has converted the entire \$62,897 into a Roth IRA. So, what now?

### A \$3.4 million Roth IRA by age 60

If this Roth IRA is left untouched to compound at 10% annually with \$0 further added, the account will swell to over \$3.44 million by age 60—entirely tax-free upon distribution.

The truth is \$3.4M today isn't the same as \$3.4M in 50 years. However, by demonstrating the power of compounding through incremental invest-

ment, you lay the behavioral foundation for your child to keep saving and investing during their career.

Ignore at your own peril, but be prepared in 20 years for: "Mom, Dad, what happened? Why didn't you choose to do this?"

*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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# The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

## Your Summer Beauty Capsule: less fuss, more fun

BY GINA WOELFEL

Summer has exactly zero patience for complicated beauty routines. Neither do we!

That's why we created the **b.LUXE Summer Beauty Capsule**, a collection of services and products designed to help you look polished and confident all season long.

From low-maintenance hair color and beach-proof lashes to glowing skin and simplified routines, we've rounded up our warm-weather favorites.

Think of this as your cheat sheet for an easier summer. Less time getting ready. More time enjoying everything that makes summer, summer.

### Lash Lift and Tint: the best decision you'll make before you hit the beach

No mascara. No smudging. No standing in a beach bathroom trying to fix what the ocean already ruined. And no going without the look of thick, full lashes! A lash lift and tint works with your natural lashes, lifting, curling, and deepening them so beautifully that you will genuinely forget you are not wearing a thing. Results last six to eight weeks, which in summer math translates to basically the whole season. It's easy to see why this service is a summer staple for so many of our guests.

### Brow Tint: five minutes, a whole summer of payoff

Pair your lash lift and tint with a brow tint and your face is simply done for the day. Defined brows have a remarkable way of pulling everything together, and

this quick service delivers weeks of low-maintenance payoff. It's quite possibly the most underrated five minutes you will ever spend in the studio.

### Waxing: because summer is too short for shaving

Summer was made for spontaneous plans, not daily shaving. Professional waxing offers weeks of smooth skin without reaching for a razor. Few services deliver such a big payoff with so little upkeep. Brows, lip, chin, arms, legs, bikini, you name it. One appointment and you're free to enjoy every spontaneous sundress moment the season has in store.

### Low Maintenance Hair Color: sun kissed without the upkeep

If your current color requires a standing appointment every few weeks, summer is gently suggesting you reconsider. Balayage and softly blended highlights are everything warm weather hair color should be: beautiful on day one, even more beautiful as they grow, and wonderfully low demand. Our color specialists will work with your natural tones to create something that looks as though the sun itself did the work (and only you'll know the truth!)

### Air Dry Products: your blow dryer has earned a vacation

Nobody should be standing over a heat tool when it is 85 degrees outside. The right air dry products change everything, enhancing your natural texture, taming frizz from humidity,

and turning what used to be a frustrating hair day into a rather good one. Wavy, curly, or somewhere wonderfully in between, our stylists will match you with exactly the right products and send you home with simple techniques that work. Your hair and your sanity will both benefit.

### The Power of 3 Facial with dermaplaning: because your skin deserves a moment

Our Power of 3 Facial is a results-driven treatment that combines dermaplaning, a customized brightening peel, and a soothing mask. Together, these three services gently remove dead skin cells, fine vellus hair, and surface buildup that can leave skin looking dull. Sun exposure, humidity, and heat are not exactly your complexion's best friends, making this treatment the perfect summer reset.

The result? Smoother, fuff-free, radiant skin with no harsh chemicals, no downtime, and no discomfort. Even better, your skincare products absorb more effectively, helping you get the most from your at-home routine.

If you're curious about professional skincare but aren't sure where to begin, this is an excellent place to start. Our skincare team is always happy to answer questions and help you find the treatments that make the most sense for your skin.

### Tinted SPF by G.M. Collin: never face the sun without it

If daily SPF is not already part of your routine, we say this with complete affection: it needs to be! G.M. Collin's tinted sun



protection is an award winning industry favorite that earns every bit of its reputation. It evens your skin tone, softens imperfections, and protects you from harmful rays all in one effortless step. It's the kind of product that makes you wonder what you did without it!

### Ready to build your Summer Beauty Capsule?

Your Summer Beauty Capsule does not have to include everything on this list. It just has to include what works for you. And the b.LUXE team is here to help.

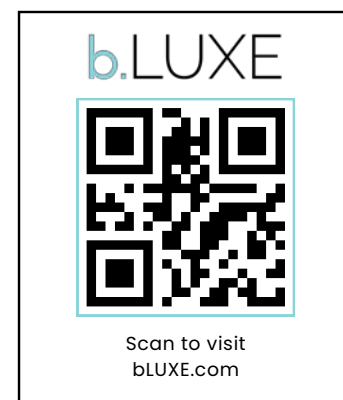
If you're not sure where to start, our team is always happy to help. Visit us at b.LUXE Hair & Makeup Studio in Medway or learn more at bluxe.com.

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## News from the Town Manager

BY JUDITH DORATO O'GARA  
**Tax Work-Off Program**

Holliston Town Manager Frank Gervasio would like residents to be aware of the town's Tax Work-Off Program. Property owners who are 60 or older as of July 1, 2026, or who are veterans, who have lived in the town for at least five years, are eligible to earn credit toward their property tax bills by doing work for town departments that need the help.

"When I came on, one person was utilizing the program," says Gervasio, "We need to make this more readily accessible, available, and known. There are plenty of people who could potentially earn up to \$1,500 off their tax bill, and we all know things are getting more expensive. It's a win-win, not only for our staff, but the folks who would be interested."

Cheryl Houle, Assistant Town Manager and HR Director, has

been working with the Senior Center, Veterans Services Office, Assessor's Office, Town Clerk and Treasurer's Office to spread the word.

"We're trying to put it wherever we see foot traffic."

The town has created a specific web page for those who are interested. Find it at <https://www.townofholliston.us/249/Tax-Work-Off-Program-FY27>.

Since there is a budgetary impact of the program, the

Tax Work-Off Program will be capped at 20 participants, says Houle.

"Our goal is to grow from 20 in future years," says Gervasio.

### HCAT "Ask the Town Manager"

Holliston Cable Access Television (HCAT) has begun a new segment entitled "Ask the Town Manager," notes Gervasio.

"The idea is to increase understanding of what our departments do and what that

means for residents and other members of the community, so folks can understand how town government works, and how it impacts them," says the Town Manager.

The first episode, featuring Holliston Conservation agent Tyler Skrzyptec, first aired in mid-June. Gervasio explains

**TOWN MANAGER**

*continued on page 9*

# Four stages of raising confident, money-smart kids



Mark Freeman, CEPA

**FINANCIAL FOCUS®**  
Provided by Edward Jones

Good financial habits are a little like brushing your teeth. When you learn them early, they become second nature, and you carry them with you for life. And while money can feel complicated, especially today, the foundation starts simply.

Parents can begin the conversation with very young children, and young adults can build on those basics as they take on more responsibility. Step by step, these habits create confidence that helps build longterm financial security and a more fulfilling life.

The following are the four key stages of financial growth.

**Stage 1:** For very young children, the goal is to make money feel simple and manageable. A great place to start is with three jars labeled “Spend,” “Save” and “Share.” When kids can actually see their money grow or shrink, the idea starts to make sense. Saving also introduces them to goalsetting, and working toward paying for a small toy or outing teaches patience. Most important, you’re helping your children see money as a tool they can understand easily and use with confidence.

**Stage 2:** If you have tweens

(children roughly 9 to 12 years old), they’re usually ready for slightly bigger financial ideas. This is a great time for them to earn money through chores or small jobs, helping them see the connection between effort and reward and building a sense of ownership. Conversations about needs versus wants also become more meaningful, because kids are now making real choices with money they earned themselves. Your tween may be ready for a simple savings account to watch their savings grow, or a reloadable cash card for spending.

**Stage 3:** By the time teens reach high school or young adulthood, budgeting becomes essential. This doesn’t need to be overly strict or complicated. A simple system that helps them track deposits and withdrawals can make all the difference. Whether they use an app, a paper notebook or

a spreadsheet, the real goal is awareness. Teenagers also benefit from learning how credit works. Understanding how to build a healthy credit score and how to use credit wisely protects them from costly mistakes in later life.

**Stage 4:** Then come the early working years, when habits shift from learning to building. One of the smartest steps at this stage is paying yourself first. Automatic transfers to savings or retirement accounts help establish stability without extra effort. Even small retirement contributions matter more than most people realize, because time allows compounding to do the heavy lifting. This is also when young adults can start organizing their money into different buckets for rent, automobile payments, emergencies, retirement and everyday spending. These habits help lay the groundwork for financial

freedom down the road.

Throughout every stage, the theme is confidence. Each small success creates a sense of control and each good habit makes the next one easier. Over time, these habits turn into a lifetime of financial security and fulfillment. When you start strong and stay consistent, money becomes a tool that helps your children support the lives they want.

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

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

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## TOWN MANAGER

*continued from page 8*

the feature will explain some of the processes the conservation commission has such as Notice for Intent, and Request for Determination, “so folks can understand in plain language what departments are working on.”

The video segments will be under “featured videos” at the HCAT website, [www.hcattv.org](http://www.hcattv.org) and will also be available as a podcast. You can also find them under “Holliston Hub-HCAT” on YouTube.

### Cross Street/DPW update:

“In preparation for the May 2026 Town Meeting, we had anticipated that we would be proposing the development of a new DPW facility on Arch Street,” says Gervasio, noting that about 10 months of public dialogue and feedback has determined Arch Street as a desired location. However, he says, a few weeks before Town Meeting, news that the land court process for Cross Street, a location previously considered, was coming to a close, paused the process.

“We received notice just

before Town Meeting that we’re nearing the end of legal process,” says Gervasio, “Understanding we are the stewards of public resources and trust, we wanted to have a very well-thought-out process to present to the town for consideration. The Select Board opted to pause and allow for the Cross Street proceedings to unfold before making the decision.

The Cross Street location, he says, is still owned by Axton Cross. If the property is claimed, not only do back taxes need to be paid, but potential significant environmental concerns from the former chemical processing site must be dealt with.

“I will say we have been working hand in hand not only with the Mass DEP, but also with the Federal EPA on these next steps, and so, we will be making a very careful evaluation of the site,” says Gervasio. The environmental concerns at the location, approved by the town for a DPW site in 2023, are deeply underground, he says. The process of environmental testing at the site would begin in earnest if and when the town takes formal ownership of the property, which is could take place by the end of the summer.



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## LIVING HEALTHY

# Understanding macular degeneration:

## Causes, symptoms, and new treatment options

By ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D.

### What is macular degeneration?

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is one of the leading causes of vision loss in adults over the age of 50. The disease affects the macula, the central portion of the retina responsible for sharp, detailed vision needed for reading, driving, recognizing faces, and performing daily activities. Although AMD usually does not cause total blindness, it can significantly impair central vision and reduce independence and quality of life if not diagnosed and treated early.

AMD develops from aging changes within the retina combined with genetic and environmental factors. Over time, retinal tissues become less efficient at clearing waste products, leading to deposits called drusen

beneath the retina. Several risk factors increase the likelihood of developing AMD, including advancing age, family history, smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity, ultraviolet light exposure, and poor nutrition. Because early AMD can progress silently, routine eye examinations remain essential for early detection.

### Common symptoms of AMD

Patients with macular degeneration may experience blurred central vision, distortion of straight lines, difficulty reading, trouble recognizing faces, dark or empty areas in central vision, reduced color sensitivity, or an increased need for brighter lighting. Symptoms may develop gradually or suddenly depending on the type of AMD involved.

There are two primary forms of AMD: wet macular degen-

eration and dry macular degeneration. Although both affect the same part of the retina, they behave very differently and require different treatment approaches.

### Wet macular degeneration: the more serious form

Wet AMD is less common but far more aggressive and dangerous. In wet AMD, abnormal blood vessels grow beneath the retina and leak blood or fluid into the macula, causing rapid and potentially permanent vision loss if treatment is delayed. Patients may suddenly notice

wavy vision, blurred central vision, distortion, or dark spots that worsen over days or weeks. Because vision can deteriorate quickly, wet AMD requires urgent evaluation and treatment.

Fortunately, major advances in retinal medicine have dramatically improved outcomes for patients with wet AMD through the use of intravitreal injections. These specialized medications are injected directly into the eye and work by reducing abnormal blood vessel growth and leakage. These treatments have revolutionized wet AMD care and have helped many patients stabilize or even improve their vision.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, patients with AMD have access to advanced retinal diagnostics and modern injection therapies using the latest evidence-based treatments available today. Early diagnosis remains critical because time equals vision.

### Dry macular degeneration: the most common form

Dry AMD accounts for approximately 85–90% of all cases of macular degeneration and progresses more slowly than the wet form. In dry AMD, retinal cells gradually deteriorate over time, leading to progressive central vision loss. Although it is generally less aggressive than wet AMD, dry AMD can still significantly affect quality of life and independence.

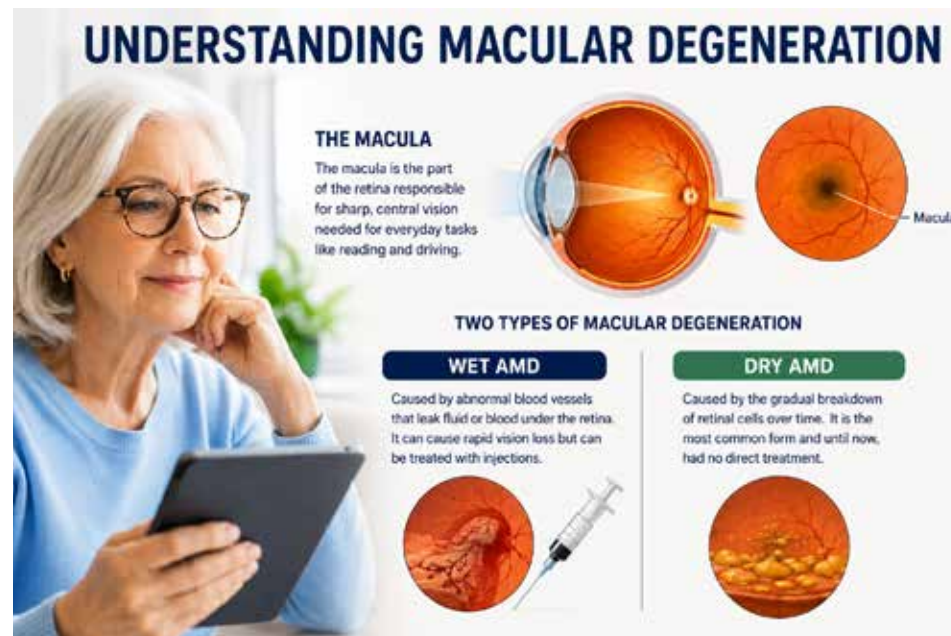
Traditionally, ophthalmologists often had difficult conversa-

tions with patients diagnosed with dry AMD because there was no direct treatment available for the disease itself. Patients were commonly told, “You have the dry form of macular degeneration. Unfortunately, there is no treatment available.” While vitamins, lifestyle modifications, smoking cessation, and monitoring could sometimes slow progression, there historically has been little available to directly target the disease process.

### A new breakthrough: PMB therapy for dry AMD

That is now beginning to change with the emergence of PMB therapy, one of the most exciting recent advances in ophthalmology for dry macular degeneration. PMB represents a promising new treatment option that offers hope to patients who previously had limited choices beyond observation and supportive care. This innovative technology may help slow disease progression and preserve functional vision in patients with dry AMD.

Milford Franklin Eye Center is proud to be among the first practices in Massachusetts to offer PMB therapy and currently remains the only practice in the area providing this advanced treatment option for dry AMD patients. This reflects the practice’s commitment to bringing state-of-the-art retinal care



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**EYE**

continued on page 11

# Mosquito spraying Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Holliston

## Central Mass. Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) sets tentative schedule

According to a tentative schedule posted by the Central Mass. Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP), mosquito spraying will take place in Holliston areas on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in July.

The spray is a non-residual pyrethroid called etofenprox, Trade name Zenivex E4.

The schedule is subject to change due to weather and current mosquito populations.

To view tentative spray areas, visit [www.cmmcp.org/2066/Tentative-Spray-Areas](http://www.cmmcp.org/2066/Tentative-Spray-Areas) or call 508-393-3055



after 3:30 p.m. each day. Please press "0" at the prompt to hear a recorded message.

Homeowners may opt to exclude their property from spraying. To learn more about this option, visit [www.cmmcp.org/1526/Pesticide-Exclusion](http://www.cmmcp.org/1526/Pesticide-Exclusion).

For more information, visit the CMMCP website at [www.cmmcp.org](http://www.cmmcp.org).

### EYE

*continued from page 10*

and innovative technology to the community.

#### On-site retina specialty care

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. Having on-site retina specialty care allows patients to receive comprehensive retinal evaluations, advanced imaging, injections, monitoring, and ongoing

treatment in one convenient location.

#### Early evaluation can preserve vision

Macular degeneration remains one of the leading causes of vision loss in older adults, but advances in retinal care are rapidly transforming outcomes for patients. Early evaluation and treatment can make a meaningful difference in preserving vision, maintaining independence, and improving quality of life.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with dry AMD, now is the time to learn more about this exciting breakthrough in treatment. 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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# Keefe Tech celebrates the Class of 2026



ASHLAND, Mass. - Keefe Regional Technical School celebrated its 205 graduates in the Class of 2026 tonight at the Warren Conference Center in Ashland. The class leaves prepared for a wide range of paths: 61% will pursue post-secondary education, 37% are entering the workforce or apprenticeships, and 2% will serve in the military. Destinations include MIT, George Washington University, UMASS Amherst, IBEW Local 103 and the United States Armed Forces.

Jessica Zanchi of Holliston, valedictorian and Programming & Web Development

graduate, is headed to MIT. "At Keefe, I learned how to balance AP classes, sports and work without sacrificing the things that matter to me," said Zanchi. "I was able to succeed academically and still show up fully in the rest of my life. That balance is something I will carry with me for a long time."

Victoria Silveira Graumann of Framingham, salutatorian and Health Careers graduate, will attend Clark University. Class Counsel representative Brody Cashman of Ashland will attend George Washington University.

The Class of 2026 also marked a milestone for Keefe

Tech as the first class to include graduates from the school's HVAC-R program. "This program represents what Keefe Tech is all about: connecting students to growing workforce opportunities in our communities," said Joe Flynn, Director of Career and Technical Education. "HVAC-R is a high-demand field, and we are proud to prepare students to step directly into that need."

Keefe Regional Technical School serves students from Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton and Natick. To learn more about Keefe Regional Technical School, visit [keefetech.org](http://keefetech.org).

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# Holliston shows its pride

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Holliston celebrated its LGBTQ+ community on Sunday, June 14 at Blair Square with song and crafts, games and stories, pups and poems, nonprofit and vendor booths, and allies. After an opening program that included music by Diverse Holliston Choir & Friends, who would perform several numbers throughout the event, Rep. James Arena-DeRosa offered the welcome.

"I cannot think of anything more personal or more reflective of personal freedom than choosing to love who you want to love, and I cannot think of anything more personal or reflective of personal freedom than choosing to live whatever lifestyle sings to you and who you are as a human being ... These are the things we need to continue to celebrate - everybody for who they are," said Arena-DeRosa, who pointed out that Massachusetts was the first state to make marriage equality part of the law.

"Western civilization is still standing...and we have learned that whoever you choose to love does not impinge on my or anybody's choices on who they love. How you choose to live your life does not impinge on the way I choose to live my life..." He encouraged that when disagreements occur, "let us agree we're going to approach those issues with care and empathy and concern for all, and we're going to care and try to problem solve



The atmosphere of Holliston Pride was a congenial one, at every booth.



Andrea McCoy, Children's Librarian, offered a Story and Song Time.



The Diverse Holliston Choir & Friends performed several numbers throughout the day. Interested in joining? Reach out to [diversehollistonchoir.org](http://diversehollistonchoir.org).



Safer Spaces Project (SSP) "an intentionally interfaith and spiritually inclusive support and advocacy group for queer identifying youth, friends, their families, and allies," shared info. [www.saferspacesproject.org](http://www.saferspacesproject.org)

## PRIDE

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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:  
**The Center Lunch, Monday & Wednesday:** The menu is on our website or pick up a copy at The Center. <https://www.townofholliston.us/176/Senior-Center-The-Center> Each meal is \$5. Register at 508-429-0622 two business days ahead.

During your birthday month one FREE lunch is provided to help you celebrate. Excludes special luncheons.

**Ice Cream Social, July 22, 1 p.m.:** Join us for a delightful ice cream social with caricature artist Alex Alderete from Dr. Cornfish Caricatures (caricature limit 25 people, sign up early). Event made possible through the generous support of the Senior Support Foundation and The Willows and Whitney Place

at Medway. Register at 508-429-0622.

**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

**July 7:** What historical event would you have liked to witness firsthand?

**August 4:** Are there any superstitions that you believe in?  
**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, July 21, 1 p.m.:** Expressive Art Therapy is an interactive program for adults with cognitive decline and their care partners, funded through the



MCOA SIG Grant. Register for free through the Sherborn Council on Aging at 508-651-7858, or [coa@sherbornma.org](mailto:coa@sherbornma.org), or call The Center at 508-429-0622. Reach out if you require an accommodation to participate.

**Hearing Aid Cleanings:** with Hopkinton Audiology Services, July 15 and August 19, please register at 508-429-0622.

**Dementia-Friendly Free Lunch & Learn, TUESDAY, July 28, 12-1 p.m., Hand Drumming:** The Holliston and Sherborn COAs have partnered on this program, funded by Bay State Federal Savings Bank Charitable Foundation. Sher-

born Town Hall, 2nd floor, 19 Washington Street. To register and RSVP for Lunch: Call 508-429-0622

**Durable Medical Equipment Loans:** The Center loans durable medical equipment by appointment ONLY. All equipment MUST be cleaned & sanitized prior to returning.

The Center accepts donated equipment in CLEAN, LIKE-NEW condition. Please call first!  
**Jannabis Wellness Hemp CBD Info Presentation, Thursday, July 9, 11:30 a.m.**

Preserving Family Memories, Wednesday, July 29, 1 p.m.: Presentation explores how media types age, the risks they face, and how to safeguard them for future generations. With Jeffrey Gordon from Home Video Studio-Metrowest. Register at 508-429-0622.

**Farmers' Market Coupons:** Each year, The Center receives a limited number of Farmer's Market coupons for adults aged 60+ who meet income eligibility requirements.

These coupons are typically available late July and can be used at several farmer's markets, including Holliston, Hopkinton, Millis, and more.

**Watercolor Painting Class: Wednesday, July 1 & 15 and August 5 & 19, 1 p.m.** (limit 12 sign up early!) Instructor Liz de Lemos, apron recommended. Sign up at 508-429-0622.

**Good as New Garage Sale is Coming, Saturday, September 12, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

All proceeds benefit The Center's programs, classes and events.

Donation drop off dates: August 25 & 27 and September 1 & 3 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All donated items must be in good or new condition and limited in size.

Volunteers are needed! Help is also needed on donation days August, Friday, September 11 and Saturday, September 12 for set up, staffing sales areas, food preparation and service. Please email Sheila to volunteer: [sheiladjoslin@gmail.com](mailto:sheiladjoslin@gmail.com).

## Middlesex Sheriff's Office warns of ongoing scams

**\$12,500 in losses reported since mid-May**

BILLERICA, Mass. – The Middlesex Sheriff's Office (MSO) is warning residents of continuing arrest and warrant scams targeting Middlesex County residents.

Between May 14-June 8, the MSO received 28 reports of individuals posing as deputies and trying to scam residents out of money via phone. In four instances, residents reported being scammed out of a total \$12,500.

Losses in the four cases ranged from \$500-\$7,000.

In each of the cases in which losses were reported, the victims were told they had missed either state or federal jury duty and were required to pay fines in order to avoid arrest. In three of the cases, individuals were directed to cryptocurrency machines to make the payments, while the fourth victim was told to set up a digital

checking account.

"The Middlesex Sheriff's Office will never threaten arrest over the phone, by text or via email," said Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian. "And we will never, ever demand payment for outstanding fines or fees using cryptocurrency, gift cards or other similar forms of payment. These are tell-tale signs of scams, and we want you to hang up right away and report it to authorities."

The cryptocurrency kiosks located in communities throughout the Commonwealth have become favorite tools for scammers who frequently direct targets to the machines to make payments for fake fines and fees. Legislation supported by Sheriff Koutoujian is currently pending that would ban the kiosks in Massachusetts. The Middlesex Sheriff's Office will not

direct individuals to pay fines through cryptocurrency.

Anyone who may have lost

money in a similar scam involving individuals posing as members of the Middlesex

Sheriff's Office is encouraged to notify the MSO at 781-960-2800.

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# HNN holds annual touch-a-truck

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

The weather was warm, but bright and sunny on Sunday, June 14, 2026, when the Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors (HNN) held its annual Touch-A-Truck Fundraiser & Food Truck Festival at the Sam Placentino Elementary School on Woodland Street.

Trucks included police & fire, heavy construction, landscaping, tree removal, and highway, as well as a fun Roaming Railroad. DJ Danny provided musical entertainment throughout the event. For an additional fee, and available throughout the event, and Imagine That offered face painting.

Proceeds from the event 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.

The 2026 Gold Event Spon-



The annual HNN touch-a-truck helps support Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors' Community Grant Fund.



Children enjoyed climbing aboard Holliston Fire and Police vehicles.

Princess or heavy equipment operator? Sisters Maisie, 3, and Nora, 5, prove it's both!

HNN

continued on page 15

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Kids enjoyed the Roaming Railroad.

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**HNN**

*continued from page 14*

sor was Authentic Auto Body, and the following donated to the event as well:

A Soul Spirit Studio, b.luxe. Hari & Makeup Studio, The Candy Cottage, Cheryl Cohen Mosaics, Cozy Crumb Kitchen, EZ Way Car Wash Milford, Fiske's General Store, Goldfish Swim School - Milford, Holliston Hardware, Lyric Photos, Muffin House Medway, Noun Photo Studio, Red Heat Tavern Milford, Roche Bros. Supermarkets Wine House, Twist Bakery & Yama Fuji Medway.

Learn more at the Hollis-

ton Newcomers & Neighbors Facebook page @Holliston-NewcomersAndNeighbors and its website, [www.HollistonNewcomers.org](http://www.HollistonNewcomers.org).

*About the Holliston Newcomers*

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



The event was as much fun for shutterbug parents as it was for the kiddos.



Imagine That provided facepainting for the day.



Ice cream!

**Holliston Police issue important reminder:**

**E-Motos/Mopeds on the Rail Trail**

With the nicer weather and increased use of the Rail Trail, it is important to remember its rules for everyone's safety.

From the Holliston Trails site (<https://www.holliston-trails.org/our-trail>):

trails.org/our-trail):

E-bikes are permitted (Class 2 and below) and speeds must be kept low, below 20 mph.

Other motorized vehicles, including Class 3 e-bikes and

e-motos/mopeds, are prohibited on the Rail Trail.

If you're unsure whether your e-bike qualifies as a Class 3 e-bike or an e-moto/moped, please refer to the graphic here.

	CLASS ONE	CLASS TWO	CLASS THREE	E-MOTO/MOPED
Power	1 battery icon	1 battery icon	1 battery icon	2 battery icons
Min Age	N/A	N/A	TBD	16+
Max Speed	20 MPH	20 MPH	28 MPH	28-65 MPH
Helmet Required	16 & Under	✓	✓	✓
Type	Bike	Bike	Bike	Vehicle
Pedal Assist	✓	N/A	✓	N/A
Throttle	N/A	✓	Varies	✓
Ride On Sidewalk	NO	NO	NO	NO

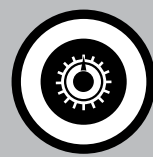
**SAFETY NOTES:**

- SPEED:** 2x your speed; 4x your STOPPING DISTANCE
- MASS:** 2x your weight; 2x your STOPPING DISTANCE
- CONDITIONS:** When weather & road conditions change, BIKING ABILITIES can change
- BRAKING ABILITY:** Age, experience, & braking force impact your STOPPING POWER
- REACTION TIME:** Distractions, such as phones, music, & fatigue, delay your RESPONSE TIME

**MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM**

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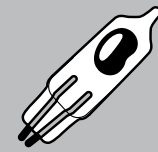
**Mercury is found in products such as:**



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Thermometers



Mercury Switches



Fluorescent Lamps

Please contact your local Board of Health or Department of Public Works for information on where to safely dispose of these items.

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# Holliston Memorial Day 2026

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Morning rain didn't stop Holliston from recognizing those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Both the morning's cemetery visits and the parade went on, despite the downpours that began the day. The 2026 Memorial Day ceremony, however, did take place inside rather than outside Holliston Town Hall, after wreaths were placed by VFW Post Commander David DeGanne and American Legion Post 47 Commander Martin Spellacy.

Stephen Bradford served as Officer of the Day, followed by an invocation by Father Mark Coiro of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Speakers Rep. James Arena-DeRosa and Holliston Select Board's Ben Sparrell, followed by the 2026 Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshall and Navy veteran Kristine Westland, who pointed out that this year was not only the 250th anniversary of our nation but also the 25th anniversary of 9/11, saying, "May we never forget those who lost their lives



The 2026 Holliston Memorial Day Parade was a go despite inclement weather.



Rep. James Arena-DeRosa and Holliston Select Board Chair Ben Sparrell spoke solemnly at the ceremony.



Steve Bradford served as Officer of the Day.

for this country." Ronald Turcotte, VFW Chaplain, read the names of Holliston veterans who've passed on since last year.

The Sutherland Bagpipe Band played a rendition of "Amazing Grace," followed by

"Taps," performed by Ally Forbes and Elena Matskas, and Adele Boggas sang the National Anthem.

Fr. Timothy Ferguson, Pastor Emeritus at St. George Orthodox Church gave the benediction, after which the

parade re-formed and continued to the Holliston Historical Society, where lunch was served to veterans and other parade participants.

## MEMORIAL DAY

*continued on page 17*

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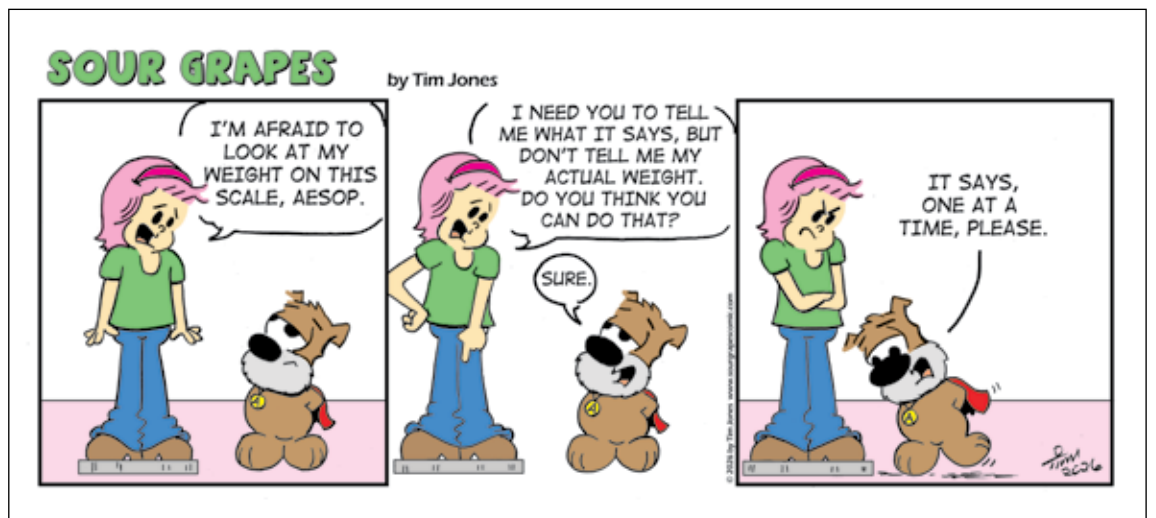
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MEMORIAL DAY

continued from page 16



Charles Nickerson, at over 100 years old, was honored as Holliston's oldest veteran. His wheelchair was pushed in the parade by Holliston fire deputies Mark Dellicker and Alan Greendale, Sr. and accompanied by Holliston Girl Scouts Violet Grenon and Sarah Cullen.



Holliston's young musicians marched, but were not able to play, this year.



Children eagerly awaited their small town's parade.



Holliston Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts took part to honor fallen veterans.



Holliston Fire showed their respects to fallen vets.



This year's Grand Marshal was Navy vet Kristine Westland.

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# CALENDAR

## July 1

Franklin 4th of July celebration, Franklin Town Common, Carnival Hours: 6-10, Wrist bands: 6-10, Music: 6-10, 6 p.m.: Ricky Brennan, Jr., 8 p.m.: GQ & The Lady

## July 2

Franklin 4th of July celebration, Franklin Town Common, Carnival Hours: 6-10, Wrist bands: 6-10, Music: 6-10, 6 p.m.: Garden of Hedon, 7:15 p.m.: Ozzie Tribute Band, 8:30 p.m.: The Zajac Brothers, Fireworks: 10 p.m.

## July 3

Franklin 4th of July celebration, Franklin Town Common, Carnival Hours: 12-10, Wrist bands: 12-5, MEGAPASS: 12-10, Music: 12-10, 12 p.m., Two Guys Who Like Sharks, 1:30 p.m., Midnight Ride, 3 p.m., George Cross Project, 4:30 p.m., Attleboro School of Rock, 6:30 p.m., Full Circle, 8 p.m., Jeff Pitchell

## July 4

Mount Hollis Lodge all-you-can eat breakfast, 8-10:30 a.m., 657 Washington St., Holliston, \$15, kids 8 and under free

Holliston Celebrates 250: Reading of Declaration of Independence, 11 a.m., Holliston Town Hall, 703 Washington St., Holliston

Bellingham 4th of July celebration, 6 p.m., Bellingham High School, Fireworks 9:30 p.m.

Franklin 4th of July celebration,

Franklin Town Common, Franklin Town Common: 12-10 p.m. Mike Crandall Franklin Blues Festival, Carnival Hours: 12-10, Wrist bands, 12-5, MEGAPASS: 12-10, 12 p.m.: Ed Peabody & The Big Blue Thang, 1:15 p.m.: Cliff Taylor & The Undertakers, 2:30 p.m.: Neal & The Vipers, 3:45 p.m.: Mike Crandall Tribute Band, 5 p.m.: Sugar Ray & The Bluetones, 6:15 p.m.: Carl Ricci & 706 Union Ave., 7:30 p.m.: The Darrell Nulisch Band, 8:45 p.m.: Richiman & Groove Nice

## July 5

Franklin 4th of July celebration, Franklin Town Common, Franklin Town Common, Carnival Hours: 12-6, Wrist bands: 12-4, MEGAPASS: 12-6, Music: 12-6, 12 p.m.: Jamie Barrett, a beloved Franklin singer, songwriter, guitarist and teacher, 1:15 p.m.: Padula Family Band, 2:30 p.m.: David Fields Band with Special Guest Diane Blue, 4 p.m., Beantown Swing Orchestra

## July 6

Morning Book Club, 11 a.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, "Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting," by Clare Pooley

Iron in the Water with Adventurer in History Kiersten Marcil, 7 p.m., Zoom library presentation, Kiersten Marcil, Author & Adventurer in History, will be discussing "Iron in the Water: How American Rebels Blocked British Control of the Hudson River." Register at www.hollistonlibrary.org

## July 7

Concerts in the Park: Big Chief, 6:30-8 p.m., Stoddard Park, Holliston, sponsored by Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors

## July 8

Drop-in Grief Support, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Holliston Youth & Family Services, 1750 Washington St., Holliston, Free drop-in grief support for adults and children—no appointment or referral needed

Holliston Lions Carnival, 5-10 p.m., Holliston High School, 370 Hollis St., Holliston, rides, games, food, free admission, buy discounted wristbands and tickets at www.fanelliamusements.com

David Payne: Author Talk on "Out of the Dark," 6-7:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston. Please register at www.hollistonlibrary.org

## July 9

Holliston Lions Carnival, 5-10 p.m., (Wristband special), Holliston High School, 370 Hollis St., Holliston, rides, games, food, free admission, buy discounted wristbands and tickets at www.fanelliamusements.com

## July 10

Holliston Lions Carnival, 5-11 p.m., (Wristband night), Holliston High School, 370 Hollis St., Holliston, rides, games, food, free admission, buy discounted wristbands and tickets at www.fanelliamusements.com

## July 11

Holliston Lions Carnival, 1-11 p.m., (Super Wristband one price all day), Holliston High School, 370 Hollis St., Holliston, rides, games, food, FIREWORKS, buy discounted wristbands and tickets at www.fanelliamusements.com

## July 10-11

Fairbanks Family in America's 125th Annual Family Reunion, Fairbanks House - Dedham, 511 East St., Dedham, this year, a tribute to 111 known Fairbanks family members who served in support of the American Revolution. www.fairbankshouse.org

## July 13

History Book Club, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, "Newton & the Counterfeiter," by Thomas Levenson

Two Nerdy History Girls Discuss Everyday Life in 1776, 7 p.m., Zoom library presentation, register at www.hollistonlibrary.org, features authors and bloggers Loretta Chase and Susan Holloway Scott

## July 14

Mystery Book Club, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, "Her Many Faces," by Nicci Cloke

Concerts in the Park: S'Bourbon 4, 6:30-8 p.m., Stoddard Park, Holliston, sponsored by Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors

## July 17

Swing 440 - Gypsy Jazz Ensemble, 7 p.m., Niagara Hall, 8 Exchange St., Millis, tickets at https://tinyurl.com/Swing-440niagara

## July 18

Rushford & Hollipride Open Mic Night, 6 p.m. sign up, 6:30 performance, Rushford & Sons, 747 Washington St., Ste. A, Holliston

Yankee Quilters Savers Drop-off, 9 a.m. - noon, Prime Storage, 302 Hartford Ave., Bellingham, MA 02019. If people need assistance with donations, please email yankeequilters11@gmail.com or call 598-657-4770

Celebrate Medway Day, 12-9 p.m., Choate Park, Medway, local business booths 12-5 p.m., family fun activities 2-9 p.m. followed by fireworks

Gazebo Players of Medfield present: The Taming of the Shrew, 5 p.m., Bellforge Arts Center, 45 Hospital Rd., Medfield, free but please register, www.bellforge.org

## July 19

Gazebo Players of Medfield present: The Taming of the Shrew, 5 p.m., Bellforge Arts Center, 45 Hospital Rd., Medfield, free but please register, www.bellforge.org

## July 20

Celebrating America's 250th: The Black Experience of the Revolution with Herstorian Gracia Rich, 7 p.m., Zoom library presentation, register at www.hollistonlibrary.org

## July 21

Tuesday Matinee, 12:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, "Fabulous Four," Rated R (2024)

Concerts in the Park: Matt York, 6:30-8 p.m., Stoddard Park, Holliston, sponsored by Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors

## July 22

Summer Sounds with Soft Touch, Bellforge Arts Center, 45 Hospital Rd., Medfield, free but please register, www.bellforge.org

ABMI-TV Concerts on the Grass 2026, 6-8 p.m., Bellingham Town Common, Free pony rides 6-7 p.m., Morse Code (classic rock), 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sponsored by Middlesex Savings Bank

## July 25

Tri-County Chamber Hot to Trot 5K, Registration 7 a.m., Race 8 a.m., VFW, 15 Milford St., Upton, sign up at https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Upton/HottoTrot5k

Next Stop Comedy at Niagara Coffee Haus, 7 p.m., Niagara Coffee Haus, 8 Exchange St., Millis, https://www.nextstopcomedy.com/events/niagara-coffeehaus-2026-07-25-7pm

## July 27

Celebrating America's 250th: "The Escapes of David George" with author Gregory E. O'Malley, 7-8 p.m., Library Virtual Program: Please register at www.hollistonlibrary.org for Zoom link. O'Malley who will be discussing his book, "The Escapes of David George: An Odyssey of Slavery, Freedom, and the American Revolution."

## July 30

Rehearsal for Life presents The Gardener's Daughter, a new work by Mary Torpey and Cooper Evello, 8 p.m., Bellforge Arts Center, 45 Hospital Rd., Medfield, free but please register, www.bellforge.org

## July 31

Holliston Celebrates 250 presents concert featuring Group Therapy, 6-8 p.m., Blair Square, Holliston

Reckless Comedy for Safe Recovery, 7 p.m. social hour, 8 p.m. show, First Congregational Church, 4 Congress St., Milford, sober comedy event with food and drinks, \$20 benefits church

Rehearsal for Life presents The Gardener's Daughter, a new work by Mary Torpey and Cooper Evello, 8 p.m., Bellforge Arts Center, 45 Hospital Rd., Medfield, free but please register, www.bellforge.org

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# Holliston Public Library July adult programs

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### Morning Book Club

Monday, July 6, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. “Iona Iverson’s Rules for Commuting,” by Clare Pooley.

**Celebrating America’s 250th: Iron in the Water with Adventurer in History Kiersten Marcil**

Monday, July 6 7-8 p.m., Virtual Program: Please register for the Zoom link.

We’re thrilled to welcome Kiersten Marcil, Author & Adventurer in History to our virtual stage. She will be discussing “Iron in the Water: How American Rebels Blocked British Control of the Hudson River.” - Before the echoes of gunfire at Lexington and Concord had faded, American rebels and the Crown were plotting and vying for control of the Hudson River.

This crucial passageway was considered key to transporting men, weapons, food, and morale from the Canadian and Northern Departments to the South. We will delve into primary sources describing the construction of the Montgomery Chain in 1777, plus the Great Chain and its home at West Point in 1778. No such exploration would be complete without a glimpse into the people and politics of such a weighty endeavor.

### David Payne: Author Talk on “Out of the Dark”

Wednesday, July 8, 6-7:30 p.m., Please register.

David will introduce his book, “Out of the Dark,” a portal horror about two siblings.

### History Book Club

Monday, July 13 10:30-11:30 a.m., “Newton & the Counterfeiter,” by Thomas Levenson.

**Celebrating America’s 250th: The Two Nerdy History Girls Discuss Everyday Life in 1776**

Monday, July 13, 7-8 p.m., Virtual Program: Please register for Zoom link.

We keep having so much fun with Loretta and Susan that we had to bring them back. And, this time, they are focusing on the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. They are so knowledgeable about the everyday lives of people who lived through this era as well as how war could upend those lives.

You know them as the Two Nerdy History Girls - authors Loretta Chase and Susan Holloway Scott were the originators of the infamous blog.

### Mystery Book Club

Tuesday, July 14 , 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., “Her Many Faces,” by Nicci Cloke.

**Celebrating America’s 250th: The Black experience of the Revolution w Herstorian Gracia Rich**

Monday, July 20, 7-8 p.m., Virtual Program: Please register for Zoom link.

We’re thrilled to welcome Gracia Collins Rich, Independent Scholar, Author and Avid Reader to our virtual stage. She will be discussing the extraordinary efforts of Black Americans whose invaluable contributions during the Revolutionary War helped bring about U.S. Inde-

pendence. Gracia discusses ALL things history and all things on the origins of the United States, even if it is uncomfortable, because she believes that that is what leads to a better understanding of this Country and why some things are the way they are. We hope you can join us for this fascinating and important conversation!

### Tuesday Matinee

Tuesday, July 21, 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 Fabulous Four. Lifelong friends travel to Key West, Fla., to be bridesmaids in a college girlfriend’s surprise wedding.

Over the course of one outrageous trip, sisterhoods are rekindled, the past resurfaces, and there are enough sparks, sex and romance to change all of their lives in unexpected ways. Running time 1 hour and 38 minutes. Rated R (2024).

**Celebrating America’s 250th: “The Escapes of David George” with author Gregory E. O’Malley**

Monday, July 27, 7-8 p.m., Virtual Program: Please register for Zoom link.



Holliston Public Library. Photo by Wendy Watkins

We’re thrilled to welcome author and historian Gregory E. O’Malley who will be discussing his book, “The Escapes of David George: An Odyssey of Slavery, Freedom, and the American Revolution” which reveals a remarkable, untold experience of the American revolutionary period—a Black man’s quest for the freedom

espoused by our Founders, but denied him and other enslaved people.

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: www.hollistonlibrary.org

## Holliston Lions to hold carnival July 8-11

The Holliston Lions will hold their annual carnival at Holliston High School, 370 Hollis Street, Holliston, from Wednesday, July 8 through Saturday, July 11.

Carnival hours are:  
Wednesday, 5-10 p.m.

Thursday, 5-10 p.m.

Friday, 5-11 p.m.

Saturday, 1-11 p.m. (Fireworks this night)

For tickets and special discount wristband information, visit [www.fanelliamusements.com](http://www.fanelliamusements.com).

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## JUNETEENTH

*continued from page 1*

presence infused the event with a palpable uplifting spirit that will undoubtedly linger in the hearts of those who attended.

The event was the brainchild of Holliston Public Library Director Jeff Smith, who received a grant for the reading of Frederick Douglass's famous speech, "What To The Slave Is The Fourth of July?" Smith collaborated with Diverse Holliston and the Holliston Historical Society to bring his vision to life. Although this is the first Juneteenth event at Blair Square, Diverse Holliston did host a Juneteenth event in 2020 following the murder of George Floyd in May of that year.

Holliston's 2026 Juneteenth was bookended by performances from the Diverse Holliston choir, Voices of Change, whose Juneteenth repertoire included, among others, such works as "Crowded Table" by the Highwomen and "This Little Light of Mine," a traditional African-American spiritual that became a resistance anthem during the Civil Rights movement in the

1960's. The choir learned and performed the hymn "By the Waters of Babylon," a direct reference to Psalm 137 from the Torah or Hebrew Bible. The Psalm captures the sorrow, displacement, and deep yearning of the ancient Jewish people, who wept by the rivers of Babylon following the Babylonian conquest of their homeland of Jerusalem in 586 BC. Douglass references this Psalm in his speech when he identifies the plight of the American slave, one of exile, loss, and resilience in a hostile or unfamiliar land, as being similar to that of the Hebrew people.

Twenty-three readers, spanning many ages, races, and backgrounds, brought life to Douglass's words. Especially captivating were the children who spoke, including nine-year-old Richard Henry DelVecchio, who, after using a makeshift stepladder to reach the podium, wowed the audience with his energetic and soulful delivery. Ten-year-old Hailey Worby showed resilience and humility but didn't skip a beat when the stepladder buckled under her during her reading. Ten-year-old Abhi Gogineni, thirteen-year-old

Olivia Colleli, thirteen-year-old Alex Phair, and fifteen-year-old Owen Bresnehan were also among the kids who read sections of the Douglass speech.

At the conclusion of the reading, thirteen-year-old Elisha Worby shared two quotes, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed unless it is faced," by James Baldwin and "It's freedom for everybody or freedom for nobody," by Malcolm X. Ten-year-old Magic Adams, Jamele Adams' young daughter, read an original piece, entitled "The Importance of Freedom."

Adams concluded the event by acknowledging the necessity of Douglas's words in the present moment, how we are all here in this moment at this very time for a reason, and how the children today are meant to be here to create the future the world needs. Adams reminded us of our collective energy and love and asked each of us to turn to our neighbor, and say "I got you." The passion and hope was undeniable. He reminded us that we are community and family, one in the same, and asked everyone to take selfies together, so he could create one giant

photo album as a memento for all. Finally, Adams handed out bracelets for everyone as a token of the bond and promises of community we made to one another. For the attendees, readers, and vocalists alike, Holliston's 2026 Juneteenth celebration will undoubtedly be remembered as a peaceful, uplifting, and hope-

ful morning.

If you are interested in hearing about more local events like the Juneteenth Celebration, please subscribe to the Diverse Holliston newsletter by emailing [info@diverseholliston.org](mailto:info@diverseholliston.org) or visit [diverseholliston.org](http://diverseholliston.org). To join the Diverse Holliston choir, go to [diversehollistonchoir.org](http://diversehollistonchoir.org).

## HDAAC holds year-in-review

The Holliston Drug & Alcohol Awareness Coalition held its year-end celebration at Restaurant 45 in Medway on June 18, highlighting its annual reach. According to its last newsletter, among other updates, the coalition recently held an event educating community members on a product called Kratom. As it reported, "Guest speaker, Holly Trouville, came to share her story of losing her son to Kratom at age 25 just two years ago. Some highlights from her presentation included:

- Her son's death linked to a kratom seltzer marketed as "safe"
- Different forms of kratom: powders, capsules, extracts, beverages

- Extracts are highly concentrated and increase risk of addiction and tolerance
- Lack of regulation and oversight in the U.S. kratom market
- Poison control data: ~8,500 kratom exposures over six years, including severe outcomes
- \$8.75 million settlement involving a kratom-related company
- High prevalence of Kratom use among individuals in recovery
- Growing number of local bans, approximately 10% of MA municipalities have banned kratom

To learn more about HDAAC, visit [www.hdaac.org](http://www.hdaac.org) or find them on Facebook and Instagram.

### Garages

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HOLLISTON SPORTS

# Holliston looking to make it out of the first round

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Under the guidance of head coach John Mulvaney, the Holliston boys' lacrosse team has continuously advanced into the State Tournament. During his 9-year tenure as the boys' coach, Holliston has been to 8 tournaments. The only time they didn't advance was the COVID year in which everything was cancelled. Unfortunately, the Panthers have had trouble getting past that first game. Over the last two seasons Holliston posted back-to-back 12-6 regular season records, and as is the case, they were defeated in their first game of the Division 3 tournament. Last year as the 16 seed, Holliston lost to North Middlesex regional 13-7 and this year, playing as the 23 seed, they were defeated 9-3 by Oakmont regional.

"We've been stuck on 12 and haven't been able to get that 13th win," the Panther Coach said. "I believe that only one team has done so in the history of Holliston boys' lacrosse and that was some time ago."

The team seems to have everything in place to be successful, but Mulvaney believes the biggest obstacle is the team's strength of schedule. If Holliston is to get past that first game, the Coach firmly believes that they need to improve it. While upping their strength of schedule during the regular season will help with their tournament seedings, it most likely will affect their wins.

"While I am already excited about next year, I will be making sure that we play a much tougher schedule, so we may not be able to get that 13th win," Mulvaney said. "However, we should have a much better ranking in the playoffs."

Junior goalie Sawyer Kelly has been a very important piece to Holliston's regular season success. According to the Panther coach, Kelly was one of the best goalies in the league this year and will be the best next year.

"He is an unbelievable athlete that has made some great saves for us this year," he said. "As a year-round player for high level teams, he brings an inspiring



**Holliston boys' lacrosse is certainly tournament-worthy, but they'll need to work harder to move further along.**  
Photo by Anne McGrath; instagram @amcphotography



play to the high school field. I've had a number of coaches comment on his play after games."

Kelly posted a 68% save percentage this spring and found himself behind one or two other goalies with only a one percentage point, if that, higher than his. He wants to take his talents to the collegiate level.

Another junior who has been instrumental to Holliston's play this year was Ethan Anastasia. A lacrosse player who can do just about anything you ask of him on the field, he tallied 40 goals this spring for the Panthers.

"It really didn't surprise me that he was able to score 40," Mulvaney said. "The only time he comes off the field is when I yell at him to do so; he has an engine that never quits."

While Anastasia was putting the ball in the net 40 times this past season, another junior, Owen MacLoud, was able to deposit the ball into the back of the goal 44 times from his attack position, numbers his coach expected as MacLoud has played for Holliston since his freshman year. MacLoud is a left-handed shooter, a very valuable asset to be able to play from that side of the field, while having a natural shot.

One final junior who took to the field for Holliston this spring was Paul McGrath, who never missed a practice or a game.

"He is an athlete that is not only fearless, but he also brings a physical presence to his game," the coach said. "He also plays football, and at 6'3" and 215 pounds, he's a big guy on



the field and makes the players around him less afraid."

Holliston not only had a bunch of talented juniors gracing its roster, but two freshman also made a name for themselves: attack Kyle Fetrow and Eli Boggess.

Fetrow actually started the season with the junior varsity squad, when Mulvaney happened to see him during a practice and realized that the game was much too easy for him on the JV level. The Coach immediately had him start practicing with the varsity team, and the freshman would end the year with around 20 goals, including one game where he netted four.

Boggess, according to his coach, is probably the best lacrosse player ever to go through Holliston. Mulvaney noticed the midfielder at tryouts almost immediately.

"He was mature for his age, had stick skills, a high lacrosse IQ and could score," Mulvaney said. "I think that he is going to be someone who will continue to develop and improve his games skills each year, getting exponentially better."

Although Mulvaney will be losing a total of four starters, only two, Grady Lucas and captain Alex Robie, started.



Robie wouldn't see all that much playing time since he got injured early in the season and only got into two or three games. He may have been hurt, but the Panther captain made it a point to attend each and every practice and game to support his team while offering advice.

The rest of the team will be back on the field as well as some new freshman – all ready to make a statement, next spring.

"My ultimate goal is to get that first win in the tournament, and move onto the second round," the Panther coach said. "One, we get there. Win, another."



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 REAL ESTATE CORNER

**Recent Holliston Home Sales**

Presented by  
**Lisa Zais**  
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Date	Holliston	Amount
6/16/26	429 South St.	\$595,000
6/15/26	12 Christopher Rd.	\$637,000
6/12/26	19 Orchard Ln.	\$700,000
6/11/26	52 Burnap Rd., Apt. 2	\$300,000
6/11/26	44 Temi Rd.	\$590,000
6/10/26	30 Whispering Ln.	\$1,160,000
6/10/26	485 Central St.	\$710,000
6/5/26	26 Mechanic St.	\$570,000
6/03/26	168 Westfield Dr.	\$770,000
5/29/26	563 Norfolk St.	\$675,000
5/29/26	49 Granite St.	\$730,000
5/28/26	15 Whispering Ln.	\$1,690,000
5/27/26	20 Constitution Cir.	\$1,250,000
5/27/26	20 Glacier Way, Unit 20	\$660,000
5/22/26	110 Union St.	\$642,000
5/22/26	59 Brooksmont Dr., #59	\$729,000
5/21/26	892 Highland St.	\$729,000
5/20/26	107 Dorset Rd.	\$645,000
5/15/26	31 Francine Dr.	\$640,000
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

Source: zillow.com Compiled: Local Town Pages

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## Ask the assessor

By KEVIN RUDDEN, PRINCIPAL ASSESSOR

**Question:**

“When are the forms to apply for a tax exemption available?”

**Answer:**

Applications to apply for an exemption from part of your Fiscal Year 2027 property taxes became available on July 1. If you received an exemption for Fiscal Year 2026 (which ended on June 30), the Assessors’ Of-

fice mailed you a new application in late June.

Application forms are available at the Assessors’ Office in Town Hall and can be downloaded from the Assessors’ department page on the Town of Holliston website.

Under state law, taxpayers have until April 1, 2027 to submit their applications to the Assessors’ Office. However, if a taxpayer wants to

see their exemption included in the third and fourth quarter property tax bills that are mailed in late December, the application must be submitted to the Assessors’ Office by November 1.

The deadline for applying for the town’s Senior Means-Tested Exemption, which is based on the state’s Senior Circuit Breaker income tax credit, is September 15.

### SAVE THE DATE!

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

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

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

This year’s celebration will once again feature:

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



- the day
  - A showcase of some of Holliston’s special organizations and businesses
- Celebrate Holliston is powered by the people who love this town. The Committee is actively seeking new members and volunteers who want to give back, get involved, and help shape one of Holliston’s

most cherished annual events. Field day is not possible without all the community support - we also welcome new and existing sponsors whose generosity help make Field Day possible each year!

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

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



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**PRIDE**

*continued from page 12*

and come up with a solution that works for everybody.”  
For more information on HollisPRIDE, visit [www.hollispride.org](http://www.hollispride.org) or find the private group on Facebook.

Here are a few shots of the colorful day:



Visitors enjoyed music by Ricardo Barraza and coloring at “Rainbow Plaza.”



Grace Burgett and Zoe Moreau of the Holliston Drug and Alcohol Coalition (HDAAC) held a booth to spread word about its services. [www.hdaac.org](http://www.hdaac.org)



Pups Margot and Reihle came decked out for the Pup parade.



Booths included nonprofits and vendors.



Holliston Democrats came out for the day.

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