

Holliston

localtownpages

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Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

September 1, 2026

New student club hopes to help those without homes

Holliston chapter to hold backpack drive at Holliston Library

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

On June 30, students from the local community, participating in a club begun by a Hopkinton student called Advocacy for the Unhoused, spent a day in Boston supporting people experiencing homelessness. Three teams of students worked together. One team handed out care packages directly to individuals experiencing homelessness, one team worked a meal shift in the kitchen at Rosie's Place,



Student volunteers in a new nonprofit, Advocacy for the Unhoused, which has chapters in Hopkinton, Holliston, Westford and Medway, raised funds and put together packages of supplies for unhoused folks in Boston, which they distributed on June 30. Courtesy photo

and one delivered supplies, both to Rosie's Place and Pine Street Inn.

All told, Advocacy for the Unhoused, a student group

begun by Madhavendra "Madhav" Saxena, of Hop-

STUDENT CLUB

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Celebrate Holliston returns Sept. 19 with parade, field day and new two-stage setup

By JESSICA OMMEN

For 35 years, Celebrate Holliston has brought residents together to celebrate the community and the people, organizations and businesses that make Holliston special.

This year's celebration will continue that tradition on Saturday, Sept. 19, beginning with the Celebrate Holliston Parade at 9 a.m. The parade will start at the Holliston Mill Studios, travel up Woodland Street and end at Damigella Field. The route no longer includes Route 16, a change made last year. The rain date is Saturday, Sept. 26.

Following the parade, the celebration continues at Damigella Field from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with approximately 120 vendors expected to participate. Visitors



From left, Celebrate Holliston President Gina Stucchi, Founding Celebrate Holliston Member Peter Barbieri and Celebrate Holliston Member Kathy Shore pose at the 2025 Celebrate Holliston Field Day. This year, the event will take place on Sept. 26. Photo used courtesy of Celebrate Holliston

can enjoy food, entertainment, activities for children and plenty

CELEBRATE HOLLISTON

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Claflin Hill concert a fitting finale to 250th celebration

The town of Holliston wrapped up its “Holliston Celebrates America 250: A series of local events celebrating the 250th signing of the Declaration of Independence” with a concert by the Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, August 15, 2026, a beautiful night for an outdoor concert. About 250 members of the community came out to Blair Square, complete with their lawn chairs, to hear a mix that included everything from showtune medleys to a combination of Abraham Lincoln’s writings set to the compositions of Aaron Copland, with the professional orchestra conducted by Paul Surapine.

Holliston’s celebration of the



Photos by J.D. O’Gara



nation’s 250th was sponsored by the two veterans’ organizations, Holliston VFW Post 8507 and Holliston American Legion Post 47, the Town of Holliston, Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors, Celebrate Holliston, and Ahronian Landscaping.

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Metrowest Interfaith Community to participate in ‘Abraham’s Table’

The Metrowest Interfaith Community is working with Peace Islands Institute, and in collaboration with the Plymouth Area Interfaith Clergy Alliance, Repair the World, Jack Satterhouse, and Temple Israel of Boston, to provide a full year of a special interfaith encounter called Abraham’s Table.

Speakers of different faiths will come together, sharing a special theme, with opportunity to gather around a meal with

multifaith friends and to dig deeper on the theme presented at different venues, with various speakers.

On September 16, PII Boston will host the event at the Azerbaijan Cultural Center, at 320 Washington St., Brighton, with the topic “Compassion in Action,” beginning at 7 p.m. Scan the QR code accompanying this article to RSVP.

The Metrowest Interfaith Community will be hosting the

event in October 2026 either in Hopkinton or Holliston. Stay tuned! Visit <https://www.hollistoninterfaith.org/> to keep apprised.



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STUDENT CLUB

continued from page 1

kinton, delivered \$3,352.77 in supplies, and the effort is still growing.

The student-led 501(c)(3) now runs in four towns — Hopkinton, Westford, Holliston, and Medway — with 56 volunteers.

“I’m always doing volunteer projects on the side,” says Madhav Saxena, now a UMass Amherst freshman, who created the nonprofit club and was particularly inspired by his experience volunteering for Project Just Because. “I feel the people in (our) communities are more fortunate, to have a home and have food, and it’s our responsibility to help out.” He found, when he and his fellow volunteer students canvassed their neighborhoods door-to-door, many were willing to help.

“Once they see the problem is getting worse, they’re super willing to donate,” he says.

Saxena, at first, built his volunteer group with friends, but soon, they reached out to students at other schools, in particular those who had been very active in other clubs.

One such student is Holliston High School rising sophomore Diya Simhadri, who will lead the club at her school this year.

“After hearing more about the mission of the club — improving homelessness rates — I was immediately on board,” says Diya, adding, “As a firm believer in affordable housing, the non-profit really stuck out to me, and I was grateful for the opportunity to help the community. Being the child of immigrants, I know how hard people work just to live a sustainable lifestyle.” She was able to get the program going in Holliston in March of this year, with her first fundraiser a bake sale, which raised \$457.

“I was truly in awe to see how many people contributed to the cause. It has really taught me that small actions such as a bake sale can really make an impact and bring the community together,” says Simhadri, “I’m constantly eager and determined to plan the next fundraiser or event.” The Holliston branch’s second fundraiser, a door-to-door candle sale, earned \$339.

The Holliston students, on the day of the Boston trip, worked

as volunteers at Rosie’s Place, processing food such as onions and potatoes.

“We spent three hours processing so much food,” says Madhav.

All of the students took the train into Boston, and so the teams with deliveries to the shelters carried 30 boxes or so to the shelters by foot.

“Pretty much, our philosophy is to not spend anything that’s not directly helping unhoused people,” says Saxena, “Every single dollar we get, we’re going to donate directly, and any cost assumed, we just came up with ourselves.”

Similarly, the third team carried backpacks, filled with such items as water, electrolytes, food, socks, wet wipes, shampoo and other toiletries, throughout Boston, distributing them to folks living on the streets who could use them.

“We’re actually looking for people to donate more backpacks,” says Saxena, noting that Hopkinton High School is a collection spot, as is Holliston Public Library. Toiletries are needed, as are women’s hygiene products and in particular, socks.

Saxena is particularly proud of a custom web app the students have built, which allows donors to see exactly how each contribution was used. On their website, www.hauhelps.org, they also publish detailed breakdowns of funds raised and supplies distributed.

Transparency is important, says Saxena, who, in fact, will study finance in the fall. “I want people to know how we used their money, all that kind of stuff,” he says.

Diya says that as HHS lead this year, she will focus on expanding the club.

“I would really love to involve upperclassmen or the new freshman with the club, as it is all sophomores at the moment,” she says, “Diversity in the club is something I think would help bring new ideas. I would also aim to host at least one fundraiser a month, likely at sports games.” She adds she would like to build stronger connections with local organizations and shelters.

“Working with organizations would allow us to truly understand the needs of the people and ensure our initiatives are consistent and impactful,” she says.



These student volunteers prepared food at Rosie’s Place.



One Advocacy for the Unhoused team brought donations of supplies to the Pine Street Inn.



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A conversation with Kimo Carter, Holliston Superintendent of Schools

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Kimo Carter had been looking for a superintendent seat that was the right fit. The former Assistant Superintendent of Weston, who grew up in Hawaii and whose first name means "James" in Hawaiian, feels thrilled to have found in Holliston a "close knit and connected," district that is "really highly supportive of schools."

"My first month has been tremendous," said Carter, who was looking forward to teachers coming back at Local Town Pages' deadline. "I'm really grateful for the warm welcomes I've been receiving here," he added, noting the only downside is his commute from Belmont.

Carter was drawn to a small-town environment such as Holliston in part for the sense of security and responsiveness to needs it can offer students. "(Students) feel safe, they feel known, they feel belonged in this school system. The relationship between educators and students is a strength point we can leverage. If kids feel happy, safe, valued and known in schools, you can bring your whole self to your learning," he noted, adding, "No matter how good a teacher I put in front of students, or how great the curriculum is, if the student is not thinking about learning and only thinking about why they're upset, they're not going to learn. Holliston has come

a long way and done some really intentional work, and I think that's a launching pad (on which) we can enhance and build."

Carter aims to "learn first. Hit the ground learning, instead of hit the ground running, along with a brand new administrative team," he said. Joining the Holliston team this year is Howard Barber, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operation, Karen Bourn, Director of Teaching and Learning, and coming back in a new position, Jessica Beatie as Assistant Superintendent of Student Services.

The four new members of the team, Carter explained, are going to embark on a collaborative entry plan, a listening tour, which includes learning "about the strengths of the district, the traditions of the community, to get to know the stakeholders and the people who are invested in the schools, the huge tapestry of interests that make these schools run. It gives us an opportunity to see classrooms in action, see how school climates feel. We're listening to people, seeing what's happening and also analyzing data." That data might include district growth, how many students participate in athletics or music, who students are, what financials look like and opportunities for growth, he explained. "All of that information needs to be synthesized before we can

collectively chart the course together," said Carter.

Information gathered from Carter's summertime pre-entry work, coupled with the team entry plan in late summer and this fall, will equip Carter to address the first School Committee meeting in January. "That becomes the basis of our new strategic plan," he said. Currently, Holliston Public Schools are in year five of a 5-year strategic plan.

The new strategic process will also include community forums and surveys, said Carter.

"This is a really exciting time for Holliston," said the superintendent, referring to the potential new high school. He has experience working with the MSBA in major repairs while he was Principal of Watertown Middle School as well as doing a lot of the MSBA pre-work for a new high school when he was Assistant Superintendent in Weston. "We need to know the direction we're going, because that's going to form the kind of high school we have," said Carter. "There's lots of hope and looking toward the future, but it's really important to be deliberate and thoughtful as we move forward. We have one chance to move in the right way and doing it all together as a community is the right process."

Carter, who attended Wesleyan University as an undergraduate majoring in



government, didn't realize he wanted to teach until he landed a job as an after-school aide at the Perkins School. Carter would go on to earn his MAT at Boston College, eventually teaching 7th grade Social Studies in Billerica for seven years before heading to Harvard for his Masters in Administration. He'd go on to become Assistant Principal of North Middlesex Regional School District before heading to Watertown and Weston.

On a personal note, Carter is the married father of two grown sons who enjoys playing trombone in the Belmont Community Band. A sports fan, he cycles for fitness, loves to read and cook, and travels whenever he has the opportunity.

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Navigating college admissions with financial planning



Glenn Brown, CFP

If you have a high school junior or senior, the college admissions process can quickly turn into an overwhelming blur of deadlines, application choices, and financial decisions. From understanding application timing to navigating shifting loan rules, every choice you make now directly impacts your family's broader financial plan.

Early Action vs. Early Decision

Let's start with the early application process with various October deadlines, and how choosing between Early Action and Early Decision carries financial implications.

Early Action gives your student an early decision without a binding commitment, letting them apply to several schools and compare actual financial aid offers.

Early Decision is a binding agreement. While it can give an admissions edge at certain selective institutions, it strips away your leverage to negotiate financial aid later. If your family chooses the binding route, merit aid conversations must happen prior, not after the application.

Build Merit-Based Relationships

When targeting merit-based aid, looking beyond "trophy" schools is often where the real money is hiding. Highly competitive universities rarely offer deep merit scholarships because their applicant pools are overflowing.

Instead, consider specialized or regional colleges where your student's academic profile places them in the top 20% of applicants. Encourage your teenager to lead conversations, build relationships with local recruiters, and express genuine interest. Admissions teams want

to hear an authentic student voice—not a sales pitch polished by Mom or Dad.

Manage Your 529 Plan

For families who have spent years funding a 529 plan, junior year in high school is the time to start protecting that growth. Consider shifting a portion of those funds into money market instruments so market dips do not force a bad exit right when tuition bills arrive.

Tax-free withdrawals must go toward qualified education expenses like tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board. If you end up overfunding the account, SECURE 2.0 rules allow families to roll up to \$35,000 of leftover 529 funds directly into a Roth IRA for the student, provided the account has been open for at least 15 years. It serves as a great safety valve that turns unused college money into a head start on retirement.

Fast Track The FAFSA

Make sure to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as early as possible once it opens in the fall. Prioritizing early completion gives your family first-come,

first-served access to state-level grants, institutional aid, and federal work-study funds that frequently run out before general admissions deadlines.

Sequencing Your Loans

The biggest shift comes from last year's student loan reform, when open-ended federal parent borrowing officially ended. Congress placed a hard annual limit of \$20,000 and a lifetime cumulative cap of \$65,000 per dependent child on Parent PLUS loans. Direct undergraduate student loan limits remain capped at \$5,500 to \$12,500 annually.

Because a four-year university can easily exceed that \$65,000 federal ceiling, families need a proactive borrowing plan:

- Pace the \$65,000 Parent PLUS cap evenly across all four years (\$16,250 annually) rather than borrowing \$20,000 upfront and hitting a wall by senior year.
- Combine lower-interest Direct student loans first, ensuring your teenager maxes out their federal loan eligibility before parents assume debt.
- Target colleges with generous institutional grants, prioritiz-

ing schools whose net price calculators reveal strong aid packages that minimize reliance on parent debt.

Aligning your child's educational goals with a realistic, well-paced funding strategy ensures they get a great degree without compromising your own retirement.

If you are balancing application timelines with your household wealth plan, reach out to your Certified Financial Planner to map out a custom college roadmap.

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 Plan-Dynamic, 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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45th Annual Harvest Fair, Sunday, September 20, 10-4

September brings back-to-school, cooler temperatures, and the Holliston Historical Society's Harvest Fair, 547 Washington St., Holliston! Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

There will be something for everyone. Adults will enjoy perusing crafts from more than 60 vendors, a silent auction, and the treasure shop. The Kids Korner will offer activities for children all day, all for free! Everyone will want to say hello to the cute alpacas. The Asa Whiting House will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with displays curated by Collections Committee members. Local musical group, LMK Band, will play new and classic rock and roll tunes from 12 to 3 p.m. Visit the barn when you are ready for lunch and save room for dessert—a slice of apple pie or warm apple crisp with ice cream, perhaps. Or take home an apple pie or another goodie—all made by members—from our bake table.



Last year's Fair included this display of hats, combs, beaded bags, and parasols.

Crafters will be selling handmade items such as knitted caps and hats, clothing from recycled fibers, quilted items, painted designs in wood, photography, face and body painting, handcrafted ceram-



Shoppers enjoying the day at last year's Harvest Fair. Photos used courtesy of Holliston Historical Society

ics, soaps, candles, faux silk wreaths, dog treats, an assortment of jewelry made with a variety of materials, 3D printed items, and designs made from sea glass. Food vendors include fried dough, lemonade, baked

goods, and candy.

There is no admission fee to attend the Harvest Fair, so bring your family and friends and enjoy a fall tradition in Holliston!

The Holliston Historical

Society is a non-profit group whose mission is to preserve Holliston's history and share it with our community. All are welcome! Visit our website at hollistonhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

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Five questions that could change how you see retirement



Mark Freeman, CEPA

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Saving for retirement is important, but it's only part of the picture. If you're within five to 10 years of your target retirement date, it's time to start thinking about what you actually want your retirement to look like. After all, getting to retirement

isn't the end goal — it's what you want to do once you're there that matters. Start by asking yourself these five questions.

When do you want to retire?
The age at which you retire matters more than you may realize. Retiring early sounds appealing, but it means saving more and having less time to do it. It can also create gaps in health care coverage and income before key benefits kick in. For example, Social Security benefits can begin at 62, but at a reduced amount. Full benefits are available between ages 66 and 67, depending on birth year, and waiting until 70 means the maximum benefit. Medicare doesn't start until age 65, and penalty-free withdrawals from retirement accounts generally aren't allowed until age 59½. For couples, timing gets even more complicated. Staggering

retirement dates can sometimes maximize benefits; in other cases, retiring at the same time works better. A financial advisor can help you sort through these decisions and find the approach that makes the most sense for your situation.

How do you want to spend your time in retirement?
Many new retirees are surprised to find that having unlimited free time feels disorienting rather than freeing. Thinking ahead about how to fill the days with meaningful activity — whether that's travel, volunteering, pursuing hobbies or spending more time with family — can make the transition smoother. It helps to sketch out what a typical week, month or even first year might look like. If there are big gaps, it's worth thinking now about what might fill them in rewarding ways.

Where do you want to live as a retiree?
Some retirees stay put, while others downsize or relocate entirely. Either way, it's wise to consider whether a chosen location will work well as you get older, taking into account factors like proximity to family, access to health care, cost of living and climate.

What will your retirement lifestyle cost?
It's not uncommon for retirees to discover that their travel, entertainment or leisure expenses were higher than expected. The more active and involved you plan to be, the more you will likely need to budget.

Does your retirement involve giving back?
Retirement often brings both the time and motivation to be more generous. Whether the goal is helping family members, donating

ing to charity or volunteering in the community, it's worth defining those goals and building them into an overall plan. Now that your vision is taking shape, turn it into a plan. Work with your financial advisor to align your savings with the life you want — and revisit that plan as your priorities evolve so your retirement keeps pace with you.

Contact Mark today to discuss this topic or any of your financial goals.
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Save the date! Artists at Holliston Mill Open Studios November 7 & 8

Artists at Holliston Mill Studios on Water St. in Holliston plan to hold their annual Open Studios event the weekend of November 7 and 8! This vibrant community of diverse creatives boasts over 30 artists, including painters, musicians, photographers, jewelers, landscape designers and clothing. Mark your calendars!

October 2026 Town Meeting Warrant now open

At the July 13, 2026 Select Board meeting, the Board voted to open the October 2026 Town Meeting Warrant. Town Meeting will take place Monday October 19, 2026, at 7 p.m. in the Holliston High School Auditorium. Articles can be submitted to the Office of the Select Board by Monday, September 14 by 4 p.m.



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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Why is everyone at b.LUXE?

Inside One of Massachusetts' Highest-Rated Salons

By GINA WOELFEL

September is the Unofficial "Back To Yourself" Season.

After a summer of loose schedules, salt air and increasingly optional beauty routines, September brings the urge to feel pulled together again. That return to yourself is what b.LUXE has always been about.

Meanwhile, at the Studio...

On any given day, more than 30 beauty professionals are cutting hair, mixing color, giving facials, applying makeup, fitting wigs and toppers, consulting with guests and learning from one another. Fifteen years in, hair is still at the heart of b.LUXE.

It simply has more company now: advanced therapeutic skincare, private wig and topper services and a new generation of artists building their careers. More than 1,000 Google reviews have helped make b.LUXE one of the highest-rated salons in Massachusetts. We're proud of that number. Even prouder of what it represents.

Each one came from a guest who thought their experience was worth sharing.

It Still Starts with Really Good Hair

Hair has always been the foundation of b.LUXE Studio. Our team specializes in precision cutting, custom color, extensions, smoothing services, scalp care and conditioning treatments.

Every b.LUXE artist receives advanced education in cutting, coloring and treatments for all hair lengths and textures, from short hair and long layers to curls, razor cuts and clipper cuts.

Your hair also has to work

outside the salon.

You shouldn't need three brushes, four products, two free hours and the upper-body strength of a professional athlete to recreate it.

Really good hair should still be really good when you're the one doing it.

The Next Generation Is Taking Appointments

September has always carried a certain back-to-school energy, and our apprentices understand that better than anyone.

Apprentice Stylists Jenni, Anneliese and Kendall have officially joined our booking menu, offering blowouts, haircuts, color and foiling under the guidance of b.LUXE's experienced mentors and educators.

We know a college budget and great hair are not natural allies.

We have a solution.

A model wash, cut and style starts at \$35. Color services start at \$40. Face-frame foils start at \$65, partial foils at \$85 and full foils at \$105! Foiling services include a color balance and blow-dry, too.

These are full salon appointments, not practice sessions tucked away after hours. Each includes a consultation, completed service and senior-educator check-ins along the way.

It is smart beauty math. For students heading back to campus, families watching fall expenses and anyone who appreciates b.LUXE hair at apprentice pricing, the numbers work.

Extensions Are Not What They Used to Be

The words "hair extensions" once suggested very long, dramatic results.

Now, many of our guests choose extensions for reasons other than length. They want fullness through the sides,

added density or the return of volume their hair used to have.

We still love a dramatic makeover.

Today's extensions can be placed and blended to look completely natural. A consultation covers the method, color, placement and upkeep before a single extension is added.

Wigs & Toppers: BEAUTIFULLY YOU

Our wig and topper services began with owner Heather Cohen, who understands hair loss because she has experienced it herself.

She knows that finding alternative hair is not simply a matter of selecting a color and placing an order.

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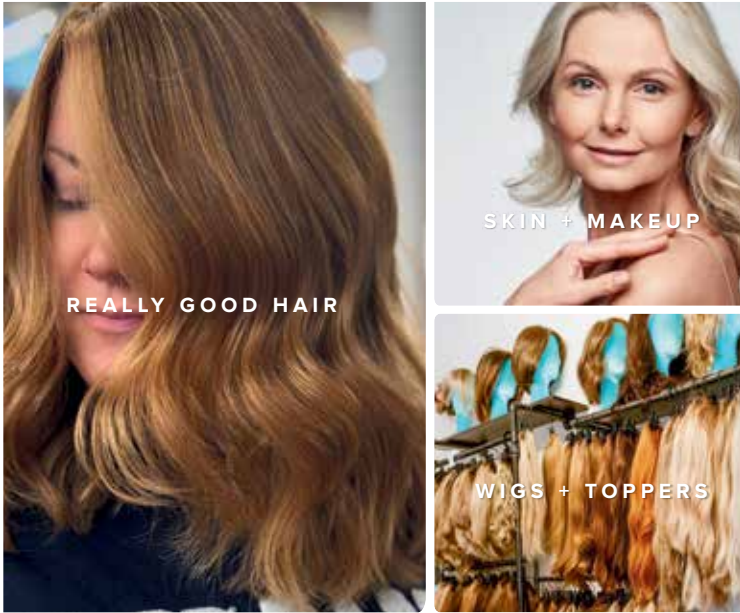
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Why multi-generational homes are becoming more valuable in Massachusetts



Lynne Ritucci and Tim Swift

REAL ESTATE INSIGHTS

The spare bedroom on the main floor. The finished basement with a kitchenette and private entrance. The bonus room that has become a convenient storage area.

To a homeowner, these spaces may simply feel like extra room. But to today’s buyers, they could represent something much more valuable: flexibility.

As multi-generational living continues to grow, homes designed, or easily adapted, to accommodate multiple generations are becoming increasingly attractive. For Massachusetts homeowners considering a move, those features could help a property stand out in a competitive market.

Multi-generational households are those in which three or more generations live under the same roof. According to Realtor.com, the number of these households increased from approximately

3.2 million in 2014 to nearly 4 million in 2024.

Housing affordability remains a challenge, while families are also looking for practical ways to care for aging parents, accommodate adult children, and share household expenses.

For many buyers, a home that provides separate or semi-private living areas can offer the best of both worlds: proximity to family without sacrificing privacy.

Features such as first-floor bedrooms, finished lower levels, in-law suites, second kitchens, private entrances, and additional living spaces are increasingly appealing.

The demand for multi-generational housing can also translate into a premium for homes that offer these features.

Realtor.com reported that in 2025, the median asking price for a multi-generational home

was approximately \$709,000, compared with \$429,900 for a standard home. Even among homes with similar square footage, multi-generational properties commanded a higher price per square foot.

Price differences are influenced by many factors, including location, condition, size, and amenities. In Massachusetts and throughout the Northeast, limited housing supply continues to shape the market. Realtor.com’s 2026 data shows the Northeast remains well below typical pre-pandemic inventory levels, even as the number of available homes has improved. That combination means buyers have more choices than they did a few years ago, but genuinely flexible homes can still command attention.

Massachusetts remains one of the region’s higher-priced markets. Realtor.com reported a statewide median listing price of \$759,500 in June 2026. In communities across MetroWest, the South Shore, and Greater Boston, where housing costs can be significant, a home that provides multiple living arrangements can offer an important advantage by giving buyers more functionality from the space they are purchasing.

A flexible floor plan may appeal to a broader range of buyers, not just families currently living with multiple generations, but also buyers planning for future needs.

The appeal isn’t necessarily about having a home specifically

labeled as “multi-generational.” It’s about having options.

A finished basement with its own entrance could work well for an adult child, an aging parent, or extended family. A first-floor bedroom and full bathroom can provide convenient accommodations, while a bonus room could serve as a home office, guest room, playroom, or private living area.

That flexibility can make a home more compelling when buyers are comparing properties.

That is especially relevant in the Boston-area market and surrounding suburbs. Boston buyers have gained more choices, but pricing still matters and well-positioned homes can attract strong interest. For sellers throughout MetroWest and southeastern Massachusetts, this reinforces the importance of showing buyers exactly how a home’s space can solve their needs.

When inventory is limited, or when buyers are comparing more choices, a home that checks several boxes at once can stand out from the competition.

What This Means for Massachusetts Homeowners

If your home has spaces that could support multi-generational living, don’t overlook them when preparing to sell.

The way those spaces are presented can make a significant difference. Rather than simply calling a finished basement “additional living space,” highlight

its potential uses, such as a private guest suite, space for an adult child, or accommodations for extended family.

The same applies to spare bedrooms, separate entrances, additional kitchens, flexible bonus rooms, and first-floor living arrangements.

Your home may offer more than you realize. The key is helping buyers see how those features can fit into their lives.

Today’s buyers are looking for homes that can adapt to changing needs. Multi-generational living is one reason flexibility has become such an important feature.

If your Massachusetts home offers an in-law suite, finished basement, separate entrance, extra bedroom, or other adaptable living space, those features could give your property an important advantage.

Before putting your home on the market, take a closer look at the spaces you may consider “extra.” To the right buyer, they could be exactly what makes your home stand out, and potentially add value to your sale.

For additional information or questions, please contact Lynne or Tim.

Your Home Team.
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LIVING HEALTHY

A new treatment option for dry macular degeneration

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

For decades, telling a patient they had dry macular degeneration meant delivering some of the most difficult news in eye care. I would sit across from patients worried about losing their ability to read, drive, or enjoy time with family, and explain that we had very few treatment options.

The advice was always the same: take appropriate vitamins, don't smoke, maintain a healthy lifestyle, monitor your vision, and come in for regular exams. Beyond that, our approach was largely one of careful observation. We were managing the disease as best we could, but we had little to offer in terms of active treatment.

Today, that paradigm is changing.

generation, affecting millions of Americans. Unlike wet AMD, for which effective injectable treatments have been available for nearly two decades, patients with earlier stages of dry AMD historically had no treatment specifically designed to address the disease itself. While the AREDS2 vitamin formulation can reduce the risk of progression in certain patients, active treatment options remained severely limited.

However, in November 2024, the FDA authorized the Valeda® Light Delivery System for the treatment of dry AMD. Valeda utilizes a technology called **photobiomodulation (PBM)**, offering a noninvasive approach for appropriately selected patients with intermediate dry AMD before the development of advanced geographic atrophy.

other medical fields for wound healing and inflammation, its application in ophthalmology is a major milestone.

PBM uses carefully controlled wavelengths of red and near-infrared light delivered to the retina during a series of brief, painless office treatments. The light is absorbed by mitochondria—the energy-producing structures within cells. Researchers believe this process supports cellular metabolism while reducing the oxidative stress and inflammation that drive the progression of macular degeneration.

The standard treatment protocol consists of nine short sessions performed over approximately three to five weeks. Based on clinical trials, additional treatment series may be recommended periodically.

A new option for dry AMD

Dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the most common form of macular de-

What is photobiomodulation?

While light-based therapies have been used for years in

What does the research show?

The LIGHTSITE III clinical trial evaluated photobiomodu-



lation in patients with intermediate dry AMD over two years. The results were highly encouraging:

- **Improved vision:** Patients receiving PBM experienced an average improvement in visual acuity compared to those who received a sham treatment.
- **Measurable gains:** More than 60% of treated eyes gained at least five letters on the standard ETDRS visual acuity chart.
- **Slower progression:** The study suggested that treated patients may experience lower rates of progression to advanced geographic atrophy.
- **Safety:** The treatment was well tolerated with no significant safety concerns identified.

A note of caution: Photobiomodulation is not a cure, and it does not guarantee improved vision for every patient. As an ophthalmologist, I believe in balancing optimism with reality. Patients deserve accurate information and realistic expectations, not exaggerated promises.

Who is a candidate?

Patient selection is critical. Current evidence and FDA authorization focus specifically on patients with **intermediate dry AMD**. Determining whether this treatment is appropriate requires a comprehensive eye examination, detailed retinal imaging, and an individualized evaluation by an ophthalmolo-

gist or retina specialist.

What this means for you

If you were told years ago that there was "nothing to do" for your dry AMD, it is time to have another conversation with your eye doctor. PBM does not replace the fundamentals of care—patients must still take vitamins, avoid smoking, and undergo regular monitoring—but it offers a powerful new tool in our arsenal.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we are proud to be the fourth center in Massachusetts—and the only one in our local area—to offer photobiomodulation therapy with the Valeda system through our Franklin office.

We are also proud to provide comprehensive, on-site retina specialty care through Dr. Alyse Richard, a highly trained retina specialist dedicated to advanced, patient-centered care for complex retinal conditions.

After many years of simply monitoring dry AMD, I am grateful we finally have more to offer. If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with dry AMD, contact Milford Franklin Eye Center today to schedule a comprehensive retinal evaluation.

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Former The Voice contestant to perform at Holliston Jimmy Fund Fundraiser

By JESSICA OMMEN

Holliston resident Bob McKee is turning his cancer journey into an afternoon of music, community and giving back. On Sunday, Sept. 13, McKee will host a fundraiser at Rushford & Sons Brewhouse for his BBC23 Underdogs Jimmy Fund Walk team, featuring live music from Worcester native singer-songwriter Sam James, a former contestant on NBC’s The Voice. The event will bring neighbors together to enjoy an afternoon of music and community while helping McKee raise money for cancer research and support the mission that has become deeply personal to him.

In the summer of 2023, McKee experienced unexplained bouts of extreme fatigue, brain fog and uncharacteristic lapses in judgment. His wife jokingly suggested that he “get his head checked,” and what began as a passing remark soon became a sobering reality.

When the imaging results came back, McKee’s wife, a nurse practitioner, immediately recognized that something was seriously wrong. The scans revealed three lesions on his brain.

With a five-year-old son at home and no guarantee of how much time he had left, McKee faced life’s greatest challenge: to survive and make that time count. Nearly three years later, he is still here, and he’s turning his experience into a mission of hope, community and giving back.

In 2024, he delivered the keynote speech at an Expect Miracles Foundation (EMF) gala, helping raise \$80,000 for the organization, which has awarded more than \$25 million in grants supporting cancer research and financial assistance for families.

That same year, McKee began participating in the Jimmy Fund Walk with members of his family. Together, they have raised more than \$14,000. And, on Oct. 4, 2026, he will captain the BBC23 Underdogs for his third Jimmy Fund Walk, with a goal of raising at least another \$10,000 for

cancer research.

For McKee, organizations such as the Jimmy Fund and EMF represent more than fundraising totals. They demonstrate what is possible when communities come together to support patients, advance research and create hope.

“I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for these organizations. They are the largest donors to Dana-Farber,” says McKee.

His own experience inspired him to pay it forward. In June, McKee launched BBC23.com. He calls it his “passion project” rooted in his cancer journey and his desire to turn a difficult experience into a source of hope for others.

When he was diagnosed, McKee recalls, “I didn’t know where to go. I was lost. I did this because it is cathartic for me; let’s see if it’s cathartic for others.”

Through the site, he shares his story, connects with fellow cancer fighters, recognizes those who have supported him and provides resources, encouragement and opportunities to support cancer research.

“It’s unfortunate that this happened, but I am happy to be here. I wouldn’t be if it wasn’t for organizations like The Jimmy Fund. It shouldn’t be the big C-word,” says McKee.

During treatment, McKee found strength in music, which helped motivate him to get out of bed and walk the hospital floor when even that required tremendous effort. Today, music remains a source of inspiration, making acclaimed Worcester native singer-songwriter Sam James a fitting choice to perform at McKee’s Sept. 13 fundraiser.

James gained national recognition as a contestant on Season 3 of The Voice, where he performed as a member of Team Adam. Known for his soulful vocals and engaging covers, James has also earned co-writing credits with major artists including Dolly Parton and Bebe Rexha.

The fundraiser will take place Sunday, Sept. 13, from 4-8 p.m. with music starting at 5:30 p.m. at Rushford & Sons Brewhouse,



McKee Captains the 2025 BBC23 Underdogs Jimmy Fund Team.

747 Washington St., Holliston. The event will include live music from James, opportunity drawings featuring gift cards from local businesses and a chance to support McKee’s BBC23 Underdogs Jimmy Fund Walk Campaign. A suggested \$20 donation will go toward the campaign.

For McKee, the afternoon is



BBC23 Underdogs at the Finish Line Jimmy Fund Walk 2025.

about more than fundraising—it’s a celebration of community, hope and the belief that there is always a reason to keep fighting. Every donation helps support cancer research and the possibility of giving another family what McKee is fighting to preserve: more time together.



Scan to Donate to the BBC23 Underdogs Jimmy Fund Campaign.



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

By CHRISTIE VOGT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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

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

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me

— not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible and properly disposes of non-recyclables. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

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

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the backend while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was work-



ing at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 21 years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place in Holliston, The Corner Market."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what



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

I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

As for Hopedale in particular, Schadler says they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area. The Schadlers live in nearby Milford and have coached and sponsored many youth sports activities in both Hopedale and Milford.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

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

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Holliston to receive Green Communities Grant of over \$80K

BOSTON, MA – Holliston is among 57 communities that will collectively receive over \$8 million in Green Communities Grants from the Healey-Driscoll Administration to fund energy efficiency and clean energy projects. Holliston will receive \$80,104.

To date, DOER will have awarded more than \$208 million to Green Communities in Designation and Competitive Grants since 2010. These funds

have helped reduce municipal energy costs by over \$30 million annually and have reduced pollution.

The latest round of projects are expected to save about \$701,411 each year in energy costs and leverage \$3.2 million in utility incentives. Annual energy savings of 28,141 MMBtus is equivalent to the energy use of 320 Massachusetts households. These projects also reduce greenhouse gas

emissions by 1,634 metric tons annually, roughly equivalent to 3,783 barrels of oil consumed.

Eligible projects include installing high-efficiency lighting and building weatherization, upgrading to energy management systems, insulating pipes and attic spaces, and transitioning HVAC systems away from fossil fuels by installing air- or ground-source heat pumps.

Under the Green Communities Act, DOER's Green Communities Designation and Grant Program can make available up to \$20 million annually to qualified cities and towns.

DOER accepts competitive grant applications in two blocks annually. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/grantees-and-grant-summaries-green-communities-division>.

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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:
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.
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: sheiladjoslin@gmail.com.

Celebrate the Beauty of Autumn with the Holliston Garden Club, Friday, October 2
Register at 508-429-0622.

Monthly Breakfast: Tuesday, Sept. 22 & Tuesday, Oct. 20, 9 a.m., \$5, veterans eat free, advanced registration required, 508-429-0622.

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.

Lions Club Lunches:
Sept. 20, The Center: Register at 508-429-0622.
Oct. 18, Cole Court: Register at 774-233-0340.
Doors open at 11:30 a.m., lunch starts at noon.

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
September 15: a school memory (good or bad)
October 6: writer’s free choice

Book Club, Second Friday of the Month, 1:30 p.m.
September 18: “The Greatest Sentence Ever Written,” by Walter Isaacson.
October 9: “The Irish Goodbye,” by Heather Aimee O’Neil.

Hearing Aid Cleanings: with Hopkinton Audiology Services, Sept. 23 & Oct. 14, please register at 508-429-0622.

Dementia-Friendly Free Lunch & Learn, The Holliston and Sherborn COAs have partnered on this program, funded by Bay State Federal Savings Bank Charitable Foundation. Sherborn Town Hall, 2nd floor, 19 Washington Street. To regis-



ter and RSVP for Lunch: Call 508-429-0622

Friday, September 25, 11 a.m., Creating a Serenity Garden: Join Therapy Gardens to make a small serenity garden to take home. It’s simple, creative, and fun!

Friday, October 30, 11 a.m., Medicare’s GUIDE Program & Resources: Melinda Morle will present the Medicare GUIDE Program, a dementia care model offering assistance and respite benefits. Group discussion and resource sharing to follow.

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!

Health & Wellness Fair, Tuesday, October 6, 4-6 p.m.

Free event is open to all Holliston residents who are inter-

ested learning more about the variety of programs and services available to help you live well. View list of vendors at <https://www.townofholliston.us/176/Senior-Center-The-Center>

What’s Your Story and Why Telling It Matters, Tuesday, Oct. 20, 1:30 p.m.

Knowing your story, and being confident in telling it, will allow you to pave your own yellow brick road. 50+ Job Seekers career counselor George Armstrong will help you tap into your history and express your skills, accomplishments, values and mindset to influence your audience. Register at 508-429-0622.

Emergency Planning Presentation, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 1:30 p.m.

Attorney Amy N. Azza will instruct how to create an emergency medical folder, what to include in them, and how to draft all the documents. Each attendee will receive their own emergency medical folder to bring home. A FREE lunch will be provided. Register at 508-429-0622.

Go Solar Presentaiton, Thursday, Oct. 15, 12 p.m.

Holliston’s Sustainability Manager, Ameilia, will present this lunch & learn with Q & A time to discuss all about going solar on your home. Register

at 508-429-0622.

Living Options & Home Care, Thursday, Sept. 24, 12 p.m.

How to navigating all the different options in senior living communities and what to know when hiring a home care agency. Free lunch provided. Register at 508-429-0622.

“Join or Die” Documentary, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 1:30 p.m.

Award-winning documentary that explores the importance of joining a club’s significance for the future of America. Documentary chronicles the half-century decline of U.S. civic through the lens of renowned social scientist Robert Putnam. His groundbreaking research in “Bowling Alone” may hold the key to addressing our democracy’s current challenges. Free lunch will be provided. Register at 508-429-0622.

Sea Glass Art Class, Wednesday, Sept. 30, 1 p.m.

Sponsored by The Residence at Valley Farm Freestyle craft session to let your creativity shine!

Design your own unique piece using a variety of stencils. Provided: prepared window, seashells, sand, and colored glass. Bring your own sea glass optional.

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Struggling with acne?

By LISA MASSIMIANO,
LICENSED ESTHETICIAN AND
CERTIFIED ACNE SPECIALIST

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

What is an Acne Specialist?

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

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

How an Acne Specialist can help you.

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

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

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

Questions about acne?

Email Lisa Massimiano, owner Skin Smart Salon and Acne Clinic at skinsmartsalon@aol.com or call 508-881-1180. Visit the website skinsmartsalon.com for information about Skin Smart's acne program and other services.

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School Building Committee begins its work

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

The Holliston School Building Committee held its first meeting in July, soon after electing Barbara Agen Ryan as its Chair. "After being appointed by the Select Board, our first meeting with me as chair took place August 12," explains Ryan, a veteran with a background in healthcare, including public health and experience managing large health care construction projects. "The voting and non-voting members bring different expertise and responsibilities, but we are one committee serving Holliston. People should understand what we are doing, why we are doing it, and where we are in the process. Trust is built through openness, consistency, listening and accessible information."

Ryan explains one of the biggest tasks is for the committee to meet Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA) deadlines. At press time, the next deadline was August 31, by which time they needed to complete the Educational Profile Questionnaire as well as provide Open Enrollment projections to the MSBA.

In this MSBA process, the committee is tasked with planning. Ryan said, "We are considering a public investment that could serve Holliston for 50-75 years or longer. Our responsibility is to think beyond today's needs: how learning may evolve, how the community may change, and how we make a healthy, adaptable and fiscally responsible investment for generations."

Ryan also added, "We have no predetermined outcomes," and that building transparency and trust in the community is a top priority.

"It's really on us not only to think about today's needs but the potential needs in the future," she says, "How do we think about an adaptable and fiscally responsible (design) while working within the MSBA guidelines? And we certainly answer to the community in all of this work." she points out, adding that for her, "the biggest takeaway is transparency and public trust. There's not always going to be big news, and that's ok. Right now, the work is foundational. We know this process is iterative, and two-way dialogue with the community and all of the stakeholders is very important to the committee."

The Committee is in a learning and information-gathering phase - understanding MSBA requirements, enrollment projections, educational needs and the questions Holliston needs to be asking. The school building process must consider how to support student learning, the health and well-being of students and staff, and the sustainability of a building. Ryan stated, "Together with our whole community, the desire is to create welcoming spaces that help students thrive and bring the community together. At the end of the day, it is about our students, their education, and the structure that supports their learning. Is this space going to inspire curiosity, creativity, and discernment in

a safe, engaging, equitable and flexible working space?"

The School Building Committee's next meeting is September 9, and its meetings, she says, "are always public, hybrid according to the Massachusetts statute." The public can voice their input and thoughts to a new email address, school-building@holliston.k12.ma.us, as well as find information on the town webpage.

Coming up, the School Building Committee must meet another deadline, November 27, in two areas, Enrollment, and Maintenance and Capitol Planning.

"The committee is working on these key components right now, gathering information to bring it to the committee to vote and meet the deadline," says Ryan, noting that the committee wants to explain the milestones and why they matter to the community, while at the same time listening to the community to determine its needs and concerns.

"We're asking for people to participate," she says, "Please come to meetings. Be part of the process. We want to hear what constituents have to say and (tell them) what we're working on. We hope, in the spirit of good governance and good communication, that people will bring their thoughts and concerns to the table. We are there to listen and do our best by our students and our community with the best possible intentions and best possible information on what may matter for generations."

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SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Holliston urged to adopt master plan continuity by-law

ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY
ENVISIONING FUTURE
HOLLISTON COMMITTEE

Holliston leaders and community advocates are pushing for a new Master Plan Continuity By-law intended to ensure the town’s long-range planning is timely, accountable, and data-driven. Proponents argue the by-law would create mandatory review timelines and stronger legislative oversight to prevent planning gaps that have left Holliston with an outdated document.

Holliston’s current Master Plan dates to 1999, making it the oldest among the 177 MBTA 3A communities. Most peer towns have modernized their plans since 2015, and about 75% now have plans reflecting recent data and policy needs. Without a Home Rule Charter that obligates regular reviews, Holliston relies on the discretion of town administrators and various committees to

initiate updates. That arrangement, advocates say, allows critical updates to lapse amid frequent turnover: local leadership has changed by roughly 92% over the past decade, eroding institutional memory and continuity.

Holliston’s 2024 Strategic Plan lays out a community vision and strategic priorities. The Master Plan should align with that vision and provide a blueprint for achieving it. Under Massachusetts law, a Master Plan should address goals and policies, land use, housing, economic development, natural and cultural resources, open space and recreation, municipal services and facilities, circulation, implementation, census-based projections, and alignment with zoning. The proposed by-law draws on Dedham’s Chapter 65 as a model and would require a comprehensive plan led by the Planning

Board in concert with other Boards and Committees in alignment with Holliston’s Strategic Plan. Key provisions mandate a full review every 10 years with five-year interim updates, use of the latest census data, and consistency checks between the Master Plan and town zoning and regulations. Updates and formal proposals would be publicly posted and brought to Town Meeting when changes are needed.

Supporters note financial and governance benefits: a roughly \$200,000 update would represent a small fraction of the town’s projected billion-dollar decade of spending, yet provide a living document to guide investments, reduce siloed decision-making, onboard volunteers. The group is doing a “listening tour” to build consensus and present unified support at Town Meeting.

Allegra Commonwealth Singers to hold guest nights in September

Allegra Commonwealth Singers, formerly known as A Cappella Singers, meets on Mondays at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Framingham.

Interested adult voices in the treble range (SSAA) - soprano and alto adult singers -are welcome to attend guest nights, every Monday in September, where the December concert repertoire will be introduced. Rehearsals are Monday nights, 7-9 p.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 3 Maple St., Framingham. There

is no formal audition - singers are heard for voice placement, ability to match pitch, and capability to read music.

The chorus rehearses weekly to prepare for upcoming public afternoon concerts on December 5 & 6. Director Brett Abigaña leads the chorus in his second year, and pianist Simo-nida Spasojevic accompanies. Information is available on the website allegrasingers.org or by emailing info@allegrasingers.org or calling 774-231-8508.



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Holliston news from the Town Manager

Cross Street Update:
The Massachusetts Land Court has issued final judgment on the 20 Cross Street property, awarding ownership to the Town of Holliston. The Town has for the time being elected to retain the property for municipal use. The Town offers its sincere appreciation to our partners at the state and federal level for their support during this process.

This initial step is many years in the making, and the Town is pleased to announce that Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and federal Environmental Protection Administration will be side by side with us as we enter this next phase. The EPA has confirmed to the Town that they will be performing the Phase II Environmental Site Assessment on our behalf. This will not only save the Town a considerable amount of resources, but also confirm if, how, and when the Town will be able to build upon the site. This assessment is expected to begin in the coming weeks.

Additional updates will be communicated to the community as this process continues. Please contact the Town Manager's office with any additional questions.

Capital Expenditure Fund:
The town has entered into an engagement with a long-tenured Town Accountant (from a different community) to conduct an analysis and audit of the Capital Expenditure Fund reporting error. Updated analysis performed by the Town suggests that while the fund is not overcommitted, the present balance is roughly \$830K below where our financial policy dictates the balance should be. The Select Board will keep this matter as a standing agenda item at their meetings to report out updates to the community; other channels will be used as well. I recently recorded an episode of "Just Thinking" with HCAT on this topic, which provides a more in depth look at the issue, and I would encourage members of the community to watch.

Parks and Recreation Commission Vacancy:
A reminder to the community that the Town of Holliston is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on the Parks Commission through May 2027. Residents interested in serving are encouraged to submit a Letter of Interest to the Town Manager's Office by Wednesday, September 9th at 12:00 PM. The appointment will be made jointly by the Parks Commission and Select Board at a meeting tentatively scheduled for September 14th. Additional details, qualifications, and submission information are available on the town website homepage.

Ribbon cutting for Old Towne Car Wash
The Town of Holliston and Representative James Arena-DeRosa will be holding a ribbon cutting for the new Olde Towne Car Wash. This new business is located at 1650 Washington Street, and the ribbon cutting will take place on 9/8 at 10 a.m. Town staff, board and committee members, and other members of the community will be present and look forward to welcoming this new business to Holliston!

Blood crisis persists, donors needed now

BOSTON, Mass. - The American Red Cross continues to urge donors of all blood types to act now and make an appointment to give blood or platelets amid the ongoing national blood crisis. Just three additional donors at every blood drive could help further stabilize the blood supply and ensure patients continue receiving lifesaving care.

Since issuing only the second blood crisis in Red Cross history in late July, thousands of generous donors have stepped up to help save lives. At the same time, the blood supply remains under severe pressure, just as many communities transition to back-to-school schedules. When fewer donors are available to give, the impact on available lifesaving blood products can be significant — especially when the blood supply is already facing a low.

Keep up the momentum and help reverse the blood crisis. Book an appointment to give blood now by using the Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Those who are unable to donate can still make an impact by encouraging eligible friends, family members and colleagues to give blood.

Below are some upcoming blood drives in the local area:

Thursday, Sept. 3

- Franklin Elks, 1077 Pond St., Franklin, 1-6 p.m.
- Plainridge Park Casino, 301 Washington St., Plainville, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 4

- Milford Regional Medical Center, 14 Prospect St., Milford, 12-5 p.m.
- Encompass Fitness, 27 Millis-ton Rd., Millis, 12-5 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 5

- Norfolk Center for Active Living, 28 Medway Branch Rd., Norfolk, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 6

- Framingham Blood Donation Ctr., 150 Worcester Rd., Ste. 4, Framingham, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 7

- Framingham Blood Donation Ctr., 150 Worcester Rd., Ste. 4, Framingham, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.



- Tuesday, Sept. 8**
- Framingham Blood Donation Ctr., 150 Worcester Rd., Ste. 4, Framingham, 11a.m.-7:15 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 9**
- Framingham Blood Donation Ctr., 150 Worcester Rd., Ste. 4, Framingham, 11a.m.-7:15 p.m.
 - Natick Town Hall, 13 E. Central St., Natick, 12-5 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 10**
- Framingham Blood Donation Ctr., 150 Worcester Rd., Ste. 4, Framingham, 9:30 a.m.-5:45 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 13**
- Framingham Blood Donation Ctr., 150 Worcester Rd., Ste. 4, Framingham, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 15**
- Milford Regional Medical Center, 14 Prospect St., Milford, 1-6 p.m.
 - Framingham MA Blood Donation Ctr., 150 Worcester Rd., Ste. 4, Framingham, 11 a.m.-7:15 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 17**
- Franklin Elks, 1077 Pond St., Franklin, 1-6 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 18**
- Framingham Fire Dept., 10 Loring Dr., Framingham, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 19**
- St. Joseph Parish, 145 Holliston St., Medway, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 21**
- Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 22**
- Framingham Blood Donation Ctr., 150 Worcester Rd., Ste. 4, Framingham, 11 a.m.-7:15 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 23**
- Framingham Blood Donation Ctr., 150 Worcester Rd., Ste. 4, Framingham, 11 a.m.-7:15 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 26**
- First Unitarian Universalist Church of Milford, 23 Pine St., Milford, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

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CELEBRATE HOLLISTON

continued from page 1

of opportunities to connect with local organizations, businesses and community groups.

One of the biggest changes this year is the addition of two stages, allowing organizers to spread out the day’s activities. The front field will feature the main stage and traditional Celebrate Holliston programming, while the back field will offer a new food-and-entertainment area called Hollyrock Cafe.

Hollyrock Cafe will feature approximately nine food vendors, along with picnic tables and seating where visitors can enjoy lunch and relax. A small acoustic stage will provide music throughout the day, including a performance by Holliston’s own Ricardo Barazza and two other performers. The back field will also feature sponsored tents and antique cars, creating a more relaxed setting for visitors to eat, listen to music and explore.

The new layout builds on lessons learned from last year, when Celebrate Holliston moved to Damigella Field.

“Last year was scary because it was all new,” said Celebrate Holliston President Gina Stucchi. “I was a new president, and it was a new field, a new location. The field layout was difficult. But now that we’ve done it, it’s way easier this year.”

Celebrate Holliston is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1991 with the goal of bringing residents together and strengthening community spirit, during a time in which it was much needed. More than three decades later, that mission remains central to the celebration.

“It has always been the point

of it,” Stucchi said. “It’s become a staple in our town.”

The event also provides an important opportunity for local businesses, particularly Holliston’s growing number of small businesses and microbakeries. Vendors can showcase their products and connect with residents, while established local businesses support the event through sponsorships.

Children will have plenty to do, including inflatables and activities at vendor booths. Wristbands providing unlimited access to the inflatables throughout the day, will be available for \$10 for children ages 2 to 5 and \$15 for those over 5. Proceeds benefit Celebrate Holliston.

Longtime traditions will also return, including the ever-popular chili contest. Families can explore booths hosted by local school clubs, sports organizations, nonprofits and community groups while discovering new ways to get involved.

“There is so much of an opportunity to find your people here because there are so many interest groups and ways to get involved. There is something for everybody,” says Stucchi.

The Celebrate Holliston Parade and Field Day is powered by a significant volunteer effort, typically requiring 60 to 80 volunteers to make the day happen. The organization currently has 11 board members and is looking for additional people to join, as it hopes to expand its community impact in the years ahead. Celebrate Holliston previously offered grants and scholarships, and organizers are considering returning to a grant program in 2027, with the possibility of presenting grants at Field Day next year.

The event also comes as Celebrate Holliston prepares for



From left, Representative James Arena-DeRosa, COTY Recipients John Cronin and Jane Gilfoy, MA Senate President Karen Spilka, and Celebrate Holliston co-chairs Gina Stucchi and Jake LaFlamme pose for the 2025 Citizen of the Year Awards. Photo used courtesy of Celebrate Holliston



Children enjoy the inflatables at the 2025 Celebrate Holliston Field Day. Photo used courtesy of Celebrate Holliston

a transition involving another beloved community tradition. Beginning in 2027, the organization will no longer manage the Holiday Stroll, and they are hoping community members will step forward to continue the tradition.

For now, the focus is on Sept. 19 and another day of celebrating Holliston.

A special part of the weekend will be the announcement of the Citizen of the Year, which will be selected Sept. 1. The award

will be presented on the 19th, following the parade, with an acknowledgment and citation for the honoree. A reception for the Citizen of the Year and previous recipients is scheduled for Sept. 17 at Upper Town Hall.

After months of preparation, Stucchi knows there will inevitably be stress leading up to the celebration. But when the day arrives, she said, that stress tends to disappear.

“You walk around and just feel the joy,” she said.

Celebrate Holliston at a glance

Saturday, Sept. 19
Rain date: Saturday, Sept. 26

9 a.m. – Parade
Starts at Holliston Mills and follows the route from Water Street to Woodland Street, ending at Damigella Field.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. – Field Day
Damigella Field

Hollyrock Cafe
Back field featuring approximately 8-10 food vendors, picnic seating, sponsored tents, antique cars and an acoustic music stage.

Children’s activities
Inflatables with all-day wristbands: \$10 for ages 2-5; \$15 for ages 6 and up. Additional activities will be offered by participating vendors and organizations.

Also featured:
Parade • Field Day • Chili Contest • Local businesses • Nonprofits • School clubs • Sports organizations • Live entertainment

Volunteers needed:
60-80 volunteers are sought to help with the event, including ticket booth staffing and other event duties.

And after 35 years, that may be the best description of Celebrate Holliston: a day when the town pauses, comes together and celebrates the people and community that make Holliston home.

Stage Events

- STAGE #1 – Damigella Field**
- 10:15 a.m. - National Anthem (featuring HHS Band) & Awards Presentation
 - 11:30 a.m. - Robert Adams Middle School Band
 - 12:15 p.m. - Next Generation Martial Arts
 - 12:45 p.m. - BREAK
 - 1 p.m. - Dancing Arts Center
 - 1:30 p.m. - Diverse Holliston Choir
 - 2 p.m. - Inspire Dance Academy
 - 2:30 p.m. - Holliston High School Performing Arts

- STAGE #2– Food Court/Back Field**
- 10-11:30 a.m. - Ricardo Barraza
 - 11:45-1:15 p.m. - Colin Fields
 - 1:30-3 p.m. - Eva Ricci

Schedule and participating organizations are subject to change.

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CALENDAR

September 1

Holliston Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m., 24 Water St., Holliston, music by Brady Wells, find schedule at <https://thewsk.org/farmers-market-schedule> or find Holliston Farmers Market on Facebook for updates.
State Primary Election, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m., Holliston High School gymnasium, 370 Hollis St., Holliston.

September 7

Allegra Commonwealth Singers guest night, 7-9 p.m., St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 3 Maple St., Framingham, interested adult voices in the treble range (SSAA) are welcome to attend.

September 8

Mystery Book Club, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, "All the Colors of the Dark," by Chris Whitaker.
Ribbon-cutting for Old Towne Car Wash, 10 a.m., 1650 Washington St., Holliston.

September 9

Author Scott Ferson discusses his book How the Democrats Lost America, 6:30-7:45 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, please register, www.hollistonlibrary.org.

September 11

Commemoration of 25th Anniversary of 9/11, 8:30 a.m., Iraq/Afghanistan monument off Rail Trail near Front & Vine Streets, presented by American Legion Post 47 and VFW Post 8507.

September 12

Good-as-new Garage Sale, The Center, 150 Goulding St., Holliston.

September 13

Holliston Farms Day

Jimmy Fund fundraiser, 4-8 p.m., Rushford & Sons Brewhouse, 747 Washington St., Holliston. Include live music, opportunity drawings and support of team BBC23 Underdog. Suggested \$20 donation will support Jimmy Fund.
American Legion Post 47 9/11 Awards, 10 a.m., Holliston Upper Town Hall, 703 Washington St., Holliston, presented to Police, Fire and EMS for actions above and beyond call of duty.

September 14

Morning Book Club, 11 a.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, please register, www.hollistonlibrary.org, "The River We Remember," by William Ken Kreuger.
Allegra Commonwealth Singers guest night, 7-9 p.m., St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 3 Maple St., Framingham, interested adult voices in the treble range (SSAA) are welcome to attend.

September 15

Charles River Chorale open rehearsal for Fall 2026 season, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis. Meet at the church or fill out Sign-Up Form (no obligation) at: <https://forms.gle/six5utARb6pCH45c9>.

September 15

Holliston Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m., 24 Water St., Holliston, Music by Jae Mannion, find schedule at <https://thewsk.org/farmers-market-schedule> or find Holliston Farmers Market on Facebook for updates.
Holliston Author Jana Milbocker: Gardens of the Gilded Age, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, please register, www.hollistonlibrary.org.

September 18

Main Street Live, 4 p.m., presented by Bellforge Arts Center, Walpole Town Common, free event includes live music, local vendors, food trucks, cocktails, and community, register at www.bellforge.org.

September 19

Celebrate Holliston, parade 9 a.m. from Holliston Mill Studios to Woodland to Damigella Field. Celebration 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Damigella Field. Approximately 120 vendors, children's activities & inflatables with wristband specials, Hollyrock Café, local organizations, rain date 9/26.

September 20

Rushford & Hollipride Open Mic Night, 4 p.m. sign up, 4:30 p.m. performance, Rushford & Sons, 747 Washington St., Ste. A, Holliston, questions to Hollistonpride@gmail.com.

September 20

45th Annual Harvest Fair, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., Holliston Historical Society, 547 Washington St., Holliston, over 60 vendors, Kids Korner, Asa Whiting House open 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., LMK Band 12-3 p.m., crafters, refreshments, bake table in barn, silent auction.

September 21

History Book Club, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, please register, www.hollistonlibrary.org, "The Drowning Age," by Catherine Nixey.
Allegra Commonwealth Singers guest night, 7-9 p.m., St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 3 Maple St., Framingham, interested adult voices in the treble range (SSAA) are welcome to attend.

September 22

Tuesday Matinee, 12:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, "Hamnet," A 2025 historical drama film based on the 2020 novel by Maggie O'Farrell. Rated PG13.
Holliston Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m., 24 Water St., Holliston, music by Ricardo Barrazza, Busy Bee Jumpers, find schedule at <https://thewsk.org/farmers-market-schedule> or find Holliston Farmers Market on Facebook for updates.
Charles River Chorale open rehearsal for Fall 2026 season, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis. Meet at the church or fill out Sign-Up Form (no obligation) at: <https://forms.gle/six5utARb6pCH45c9>.

September 28

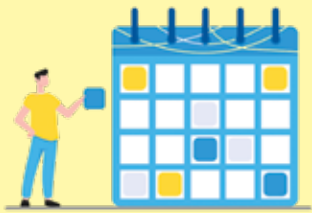
Allegra Commonwealth Singers guest night, 7-9 p.m., St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 3 Maple St., Framingham, interested adult voices in the treble range (SSAA) are welcome to attend.

September 29

Holliston Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m., 24 Water St., Holliston, music by G. Bellerose, find schedule at <https://thewsk.org/farmers-market-schedule> or find Holliston Farmers Market on Facebook for updates.
Charles River Chorale open rehearsal for Fall 2026 season, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis. Meet at the church or fill out Sign-Up Form (no obligation) at: <https://forms.gle/six5utARb6pCH45c9>.

October 3

CultureFest, 10 a.m., Bellforge Arts Center, 45 Hospital Road, Medfield, annual community celebration of music, food, dance, and cultural traditions from around the world — presented in partnership with Medfield Together. Register at www.bellforge.org.



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Ask the Assessor

By KEVIN RUDDEN, PRINCIPAL ASSESSOR

Question:
I think my property's valuation is too high and I want to contest it, but someone told me I have to wait until January. Why?

Answer:
It is very important that property owners understand that they can question their assessments at any time during the year. We are always willing to come out, inspect your property, and see if our data is incorrect. That said, state law dictates when the Assessors' Office can actually do something about an over-assessment.

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 59 through Section 69 spell out the processes for requesting an abatement. These sections specifically state that property owners have from the time they receive their third quarter property tax bill – usually in late December or early January – until the first business day in February to file an abatement application with the Assessors' Office. The Board of Assessors then has 90 days from the date we received your abatement application to act on your request.

Once that first business day in February passes and you have

not submitted an abatement application, the Assessors' Office has no legal way to change your assessment for that fiscal year. Nor can we go back months later to reduce it.

If you question the amount of your assessment outside of this admittedly tight time period, our office can inspect your property and see if an adjustment needs to be made. We can then make it for the following fiscal year's assessment.

So, the best advice we can offer is this: Each new calendar year, when you get your new property tax bills, look at them carefully. The new valuation is in the boxes labelled "Land Value," "Building Value" and "Total Value." Look online and compare it with the previous year's bills. If you think you are over-assessed, call the Assessors' Office to discuss it.

If your property taxes are paid by an insurance or mortgage company and you are not sure of the previous year's assessment, go to: <https://townofhollistoncitizens.muniselfservice.com/citizens/default.aspx>

And look up what you were assessed and what you paid for the prior fiscal year. (Remember, the fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. The current fiscal year 2027 ends on June 30, 2027.)

New members welcome to Charles River Chorale open rehearsals in September

The Charles River Chorale will hold open rehearsals for its Fall 2026 season and is actively recruiting new members. Come experience the joy of choral singing with a non-audition chorus. Our members come from throughout the MetroWest region and span all ages.

Under the leadership of our award-winning director, Ashley Nelson-Oneschuk, we would

love to have you come see if this is for you. We meet every Tuesday starting September 15 through early December from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St. in Millis. Our fall concert is in early December. The first three rehearsals (9/15, 9/22 and 9/29) are open for new members without obligation.

You can either meet at the church for any of our open

rehearsals or fill out our Sign-Up Form (no obligation) at: <https://forms.gle/six5utARb6pCH45c9>. The attached QR code can also be used. We hope you can join us!



MA Press Shield Law to protect journalists' sources

BOSTON, Mass – On July 30, the Massachusetts Senate made history by passing a press shield law, filed by Senator Becca Rausch, on a unanimous 40-0 vote. This legislation prohibits government bodies from compelling journalists to reveal their sources, except in certain limited circumstances and only with clear and convincing evidence

that the source disclosure is necessary and there is an overriding public interest in the disclosure. Massachusetts was one of just nine states in the

nation without a press shield law on our books. To view the text, visit <https://tinyurl.com/mapressshield>.

Federal disaster relief for MA Farmers, secured by McGovern, finally on way

WORCESTER, Mass. – Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) announced in August that over \$42 million in federal disaster relief he secured in December 2024, is finally heading to Massachusetts farmers.

The money comes from a \$220 million New England disaster block grant program written by McGovern and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), enacted into law by President Biden in late 2024. Designed specifically to support small and mid-sized producers—particularly those in states like Massachusetts who are often shut out of traditional U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs—the program

compensates farmers for crop losses and storm-related damage to on-farm infrastructure sustained during severe weather events in 2023 and 2024.

McGovern and DeLauro, top Democrats on the Rules and Appropriations Committees, repeatedly pushed top USDA officials in letters, phone calls, and meetings to comply with the law and release the funds—ultimately forcing the Trump Administration to do so. Massachusetts recently executed its contract with USDA, and this week is announcing a process for impacted farmers to apply for funding to support their continued farming operations.

Massachusetts is home to nearly 7,100 farms—roughly 2,000 of which lie in Hampshire, Hampden, and Franklin Counties, areas devastated by 2023 flooding of the Connecticut River and battered by multiple severe weather events. Many small farms in the region are ineligible for crop insurance or find USDA aid programs too cumbersome to access, putting them at higher risk of closure following natural disasters.

Information on who is eligible and how to apply are on this MA state website: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/natural-disaster-recovery-ii-program-for-agriculture-ndrii-2023-2024>.

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Immigrant Rights' Coalition celebrates enactment of PROTECT ACT

BOSTON, Mass. — On August 5, 2026, Gov. Maura Healey signed the PROTECT Act, which seeks to curtail the federal government's brutal immigration enforcement activities, protect due process, and limit local agencies' cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The Protecting Massachusetts Communities Coalition has been advocating for this bill for more than a year and celebrates its passage as an important step in supporting and improving public safety for all residents of the Commonwealth, regardless of immigration status.

The Protecting Massachusetts Communities Coalition offers its deepest thanks to House and Senate leadership for their support of the bill, and to the six-member conference committee for carefully

reconciling the two versions. The coalition also extends special thanks to the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus for their work on the bill, and to Governor Maura Healey for her support and signing this bill into law.

According to the Massachusetts Municipal Association:

"The final accord adopts the broader scope of protected areas offered in the Senate's version of the bill, restricting warrantless arrests by immigration enforcement officers in courthouses, schools, childcare centers and healthcare centers. Each of these groups will need to create guidance and model policies on interactions related to law enforcement agents, with each school district ensuring it has a written emergency response plan related to these interactions by Sept. 1, 2026, or the first day of school,

whichever is earlier.

The law also codifies the Supreme Judicial Court's "Lunn" decision by reinforcing the idea that local officers cannot arrest or detain a person based on an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer alone. It also prohibits any new 287(g) agreements for civil immigration enforcement. The state's only current 287(g) agreement between the Department of Correction and ICE is allowed to remain intact.

The final compromise also prevents officers from inquiring about immigration status during routine policing and creates new civil liability for ICE agents by allowing victims of unjustified actions to sue them in state court."

To view the text of the act, visit <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2026/Chapter163>.

Save the Date!

Tri-County Regional Chamber auction & comedy fundraiser October 24

Tri-County Regional Chamber has added a comedy element to its annual auction, this year to take place at 6 p.m. on Saturday, October 24, at the Doubletree Hotel in Milford. Comedians Steve Bjork, Mike

Koutrobis, and Gianni Saltamacchia will perform, in addition to the exciting auction in support of the chamber. For more information, visit <https://www.tricountychamberma.org/auction>.

25th Annual Walk of Hope to benefit ALS – Sept. 12

WAKEFIELD, Mass. —The 25th annual Walk of Hope for ALS, a 3.5-mile walk around Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield to benefit The Angel Fund for ALS Research, will take place Saturday, September 12. Registration begins at 9 a.m. followed by the start of the walk at 11 a.m. The release of doves in honor of those living with ALS and those who have lost their courageous to the disease will be held prior to the walk.

The Angel Fund for ALS Research is a nonprofit char-

ity dedicated to supporting the ALS research. ALS, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a progressive, always fatal neuromuscular disease which leads to muscle weakness and as it progresses, results in total paralysis and the inability to speak and swallow while the mind and senses remain intact.

To register as a walker or to register a team, or to learn about sponsorship opportunities, log-on to The Angel Fund website at www.theangelfund.org or call 781-245-7070.

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SPORTS

Holden to take her game to the next level

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Holliston's Hanna Holden tried playing basketball and taking part in gymnastics, but neither sport was to her liking. Thankfully, Holden's older sister, Anya, was playing soccer, and the younger athlete wanted to be like her sister, so she decided to give the sport a shot finding it was truly something that she enjoyed playing. At six years old, Holden would join the FC Stars, a local club team that she would play on for some time before advancing to New England Futbol Club (NEFC).

The Holliston native never imagined soccer would bring her to committing to a college to play. Holden will be taking her skills to Bryan University in Smithfield, RI next fall.

"I was originally on the fence about college soccer. I was not sure that I'd be able to compete on that level," she said. "Eventually, I started looking at a bunch of schools, mostly in the New York area, but decided that I wanted my family to be able to enjoy it as much as me while showing their support."

Holden took her time before she committed Bryant, about 45 minutes away from her home in Holliston, in January of this year.

"I had attended a camp there last summer while I kept all other options still opened," Holden said. "During my visit with the school, things just clicked; the girls on the team made me feel like I was part of the team right away. The atmosphere was home-like, and the coaching staff made things personalized."

Although she had played soccer for a long time, when it was time to try out for the high school team as a freshman, Holden was unsure of if she would make the varsity squad.

"I had played with some of the girls on the team as an eighth grader and was hoping that I could make it, but I was not fully sure," she said. "If I did, it would be awesome, as my sister was on the team and I had heard all the stories of high school soccer and really

wanted to be a part of that environment, getting to play for your town as well as with your friends."

While Hanna and Anya had both played club soccer, they never got the opportunity to play with one another due to their ages, so when she made the varsity high school team, Hanna was over the moon.

"My first game playing with Anya, I was very excited but also very nervous," she said. "As an incoming freshman, I looked up to her and wanted to be like her without disappointing her. Over the next two years, she guided me, and there no experience like playing with your sister."

During her sophomore season, Holliston put together a 12-3-3 season to earn the five seed in the Division 2 State Tournament. The Panthers would defeat both Billerica and Westwood to make it to the Round of 8, where Mansfield would send them home.

"That game against Mansfield was on a cold November day, and we gave them a good fight only to lose 3-1," Holden said. "It would become my final game with my sister, so it was definitely disappointing to have the season come to an end. There were some tears shed after that game for sure with her leaving."

Last fall, with her older sister gone, Holden stepped up as a team captain. With her appointment, the junior not only found her voice on the field, but she applied the leadership skills that her sister had taught her. While the team did not have the best of years (8-9-1), they did get to the tournament, where they would be successful in the preliminary game but fell to Hingham in the second round. Despite the rather quick exit from the tournament, Holden found that she learned a lot about herself and her game that year.

"Hanna will be a four-year starter for us and can play pretty much anywhere on the field that we ask of her, but she is primarily suited for center-mid," Norwood Coach Brielle



HHS senior Hanna Holden will play soccer for Holliston for a fifth year before she plays at Bryan next fall. Photo used courtesy of Hanna Holden



Hanna was thrilled to play with her sister, Anya, at the high school level. Photo used courtesy of Hanna Holden

Chadsey said. "Center-mid is probably the most underrated position on the field; you do a lot of the dirty work, and it doesn't show up on the score sheet. She is the heart to our team and dictates the tempo."

Chadsey went on to say that Holden was the team's leader in assists last year. One of her specialties is her corner kicks, where she is able to continuously get the ball right where it needs to be.

As she gets ready to enter her final season with Holliston, Holden is hoping to increase her goal scoring skills. Over the past three seasons, her top season was four goals, and she would like at least five this year, if not more.

"I had always played defense with my club teams, and when I came to high school, I was moved to the midfield. I am a selfless player and would rather pass the ball and let my teammates score, it gives me pleasure in doing so, but this year, I want to score more goals than I ever have," the senior said. "Playing in the midfield, my mindset is still focused on defense, but this year, I just have to trust my teammates on the

back line and try to work more on my offense."

Coach Chadsey has seen Holden grow as a leader over the four years, while using her soccer knowledge for the benefit of the team.

"She is a very talented girl and doesn't have to do everything out there, although we do

ask a lot of her," the Holliston Coach said.

Holden is going to try and go out and have as much fun as she possibly can with her final season with her Panther teammates. She believes that they have a talented lineup that could do something special this fall.

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08/07/26	73 Water St.	\$680,000
08/07/26	39 Summit Pointe Dr.	\$1,720,000
08/05/26	54 Shaw Farm Rd.	\$560,000
07/30/26	15 Saddle Ridge Rd.	\$1,400,000
07/29/26	147 Turner Rd., Unit 73	\$215,000
07/27/26	157 Rolling Meadow Dr.	\$930,000
07/27/26	140 Goulding St.	\$1,070,000
07/27/26	135 Locust St.	\$675,000
07/24/26	55 Concord St.	\$1,020,000
07/24/26	3 Danforth Dr.	\$1,630,000
07/23/26	48 N. Mill St.	\$1,100,000
07/22/26	6 Trailside Ct., #6	\$860,000
07/21/26	125 Hemlock Dr.	\$720,000
07/20/26	57 Wingate Rd.	\$725,000
07/17/26	215 Rolling Meadow Dr.	\$1,040,000

Source: zillow.com Compiled: Local Town Pages

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Holliston Public Library September Adult Programs

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Mystery Book Club
Tues., September 8, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., “All the Colors of the Dark” by Chris Whitaker.

Author Scott Ferson: “How the Democrats Lost America: Making Sense of the 2024 Election and the Future of American Politics”
Wed., September 9, 6:30-7:45 p.m., Please register.

Morning Book Club
Mon., September 14, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Please Register for Zoom or in person, “The River We Remember,” by William Kent Kreuger.



Holliston Author Jana Milbocker: “Gardens of the Gilded Age”
Tues. September 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Please register.

History Book Club
Mon., September 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Please register, “The Darkening Age,” by Catherine Nixey.

Tuesday Matinee
Tues., September 22, 12:30-2 p.m., “Hamnet,” A 2025 historical drama film based on the 2020 novel by Maggie O’Farrell. Rated PG13. Running time: 2 hours, 5 minutes.

Programs are largely supported by the Friends of the Holliston Library. We are grateful for your donations to help support these programs. To donate or become a member, please visit the Holliston Library website: www.holliston-library.org .

Sheriff Koutoujian applauds MA Senate move to ban cryptocurrency kiosks

BILLERICA, Mass. – Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian applauded members of the Massachusetts State Senate for their move to ban cryptocurrency kiosks. Sheriff Koutoujian testified in support of legislation restricting cryptocurrency kiosks in October of last year and garnered the support of all 14 Massachusetts Sheriffs to ban the machines statewide.

“I am proud to have collaborated closely over the last several months with AARP Massachusetts, my fellow sheriffs and public safety partners, and legislators like Senator

John Cronin to push this ban forward because we need to protect residents now and into the future,” said Sheriff Koutoujian. “For far too long, criminals have taken advantage of the unregulated world of cryptocurrency ATMs – or kiosks – to scam people out of their hard-earned savings. We applaud the Massachusetts Senate for supporting a statewide ban on these kiosks to provide much-needed protection to our friends, neighbors and loved ones. We will keep working to see this matter of public policy and public safety become law.”

The language banning the ki-

osks was included as an amendment on the Senate’s version of the new economic development bill (S3178). The bill is next expected to head to a conference committee to be finalized.

The move to ban the kiosks comes as Massachusetts public safety agencies have repeatedly issued public warnings about the ability of scammers to utilize the machines to defraud unsuspecting residents. The Middlesex Sheriff’s Office has included warnings in news releases, public service announcements and through community-based presentations over the last two years.



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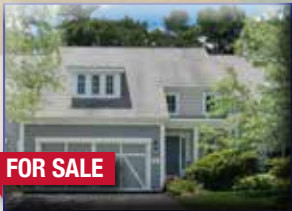
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Holliston to commemorate 25th anniversary of 9/11

Holliston American Legion Post 47 and VFW Post 8507 will observe the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks at the Iraq/Afghanistan monument off the Holliston Rail Trail at Blair Square near the intersection of Front and Vine Streets.

The program will start at 0830 hours on 9/11 and will consist of the following, greeting, prayer, speaker LTC. Barbara Ryan U.S. Army (ret), extended moment of silence, rifle salute, TAPS and the singing by everyone of "God Bless America."

On September 13, American Legion Post 47 will present its Annual 9/11 Awards for Police, Fire and EMS above and beyond at Holliston's Upper Town Hall, 703 Washington Street, Holliston, at 10 a.m.

HDAAC & HYFS plan parent meetup Sept. 23

Join the Holliston Drug & Alcohol Awareness Coalition (HDAAC) and Holliston Youth & Family Services (HYFS) for a parent meet up on Wed. September 23, from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Bird and Bear Collective. This month we will be diving into how to best support your child(ren) with the start of school while decorating fall candles! Sign up now: forms.gle/biHmjLimgZjMs6cF8.

Temple Beth Torah Center for Jewish living and learning upcoming events

Rosh Hashanah Family Service and Kids' Program, Saturday, September 12
Family Service, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Children's Activities, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
This will include separate family services for families with young children and families with older children, as well as games, activities, and snacks for the kids. Usually, you have to be a member to attend on Rosh Hashanah, but family programs will be open to anyone who is interested.

Yom Kippur Family Service and Kids' Program, Monday, September 21
Family Service, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Children's Activities, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
This will include separate family services for families with young children and families with older children, as well as games, activities, and snacks for the kids. Usually, you have to be a member to attend on Yom Kippur, but family programs will be open to anyone who is interested.

like to attend an event they RSVP by emailing rabbi@bethtorah.org, so we know how many people to expect. However, if they forget to RSVP or decide to come at the last minute, they are still welcome! They can also email Rabbi Mimi at rabbi@bethtorah.org or Jane Kohuth, School Principal at jane.kohuth@bethtorah.org with any questions.

In addition, the Temple Beth Torah Morris Nirenberg Religious School begins on Sunday, September 27. Opening day will include a special lulav making program for the Sukkot holiday, outdoors in our sukkah. Families must register and pay for religious school. Our monthly Torah Tots program for toddlers and preschoolers will begin on Sunday, October 4. Families must sign up and pay for Torah Tots classes.

Rosh Hashanah by the Lake:
A New Year Gathering for All Ages, Sunday, September 13 4-5:30 p.m., Stoddard Park
This event will include:
• Rosh Hashanah Games and Fun for Kids
• Rosh Hashanah Treats
• Shofar Blowing
Followed by Tashlich (a ritual to reflect, release, and start the new year fresh) at 5 p.m.

Simchat Torah Celebration and Bagel Brunch for All Ages, Sunday, October 4
9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
This will include an interactive celebration of the Simchat Torah holiday, with singing, dancing, discussion, and edible Torah making, followed by a bagel brunch.

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