

Holliston remembers

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

On a morning almost as crystal clear as the tragic day of September 11, 2001, the town of Holliston gathered at the 9/11 memorial at Blair Square on the Holliston Rail Trail to solemnly remember the devastating events 25 years prior. The event was organized by members of Holliston's American Legion Post 47 and VFW Post 8507. In attendance were members of Holliston Police, Holliston Fire, local veterans' organizations and others.

Speaker LTC. Barbara Ryan U.S. Army (ret) recalled the day as what "seemed like a typical Tuesday, until it wasn't." Running an inpatient unit at Fort Campbell at the time, with her husband retired from military and then a commercial pilot, Ryan recalled the day and her



Holliston commemorated the 25th anniversary of 9/11 with a ceremony at the 9/11 memorial at Blair Square. The event was organized by the VFW and American Legion. Courtesy photo

relief at later learning he was safe, "but ... we also know that nearly 3,000 families did not receive that reassurance," she continued, "On that morn-

ing, 1,000 firefighters of the FDNY responded to the

REMEMBERS

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Behind the art:

Holliston Mill Studio artists opens doors Nov. 7-8

By JESSICA OMMEN

For one weekend this fall, visitors will have the chance to step inside the creative world of Holliston Mill Studios, where artists and artisans will open their studios for the annual Holliston Mill Open Studios event on Saturday and Sunday, November 7-8.

The annual Open Studios event has grown into both an art show and a community gathering, offering visitors a rare opportunity to explore three floors of the historic mill, see where local artists work and experience their creative processes firsthand. Guests can meet artists in their working spaces, browse paintings, photography, writing, crafts and other original works, listen to live music, and enjoy



Artist Beverly Nunes Ramsay teaches children "The Art of Torn Paper" at the 2025 Holliston Mill Open Studios event. This year, the event will take place on November 7-8, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Photo by Jessica Ommen

MILL STUDIO

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Special Guide



LOOK INSIDE!

MusicFest to support HCAF Oct. 9

BY JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

There's a safety net in Holliston for residents who are experiencing a financial emergency, and it's called the Holliston Community Action Fund (HCAF). The idea, says John Drohan, one of the organization's founders, "is to get (Holliston residents) out of the hole and get you back on your feet, if you can't pay mortgage, don't have rent or housing, can't pay an electric bill, if a child needs something for school they can't afford, or if someone needs their car fixed so they can go to work."

This month, you can help the HCAF in a fun way. For the second year, on October 9, MusicFest will take place from 5:30-9 p.m. at Rushford's and Sons Tap Room, 747 Washington St., featuring Duo Colin Fields and Angelo Damato with Special Guest The Jasper Anthony Downtown Band. The event will include a live auction, silent auction and optional food truck meal.

According to John Drohan,



HOLLISTON COMMUNITY ACTION FUND

the Holliston Community Action Fund was born back in 2009 as "an altruistic, nonprofit part of the Holliston Business Association," he explains, modeled something like the Army Emergency Relief Fund he'd observed during his military service, which would support soldiers experiencing a financial need. In addition, he says, "there was this idea of connecting it with the Department of Youth and Family Services (HYFS) in town, as there was an Ashland fund similar to this, and all of the applicants go through that department, which made a whole lot of sense to us" says Drohan. That partnership, he says, "was a match made in

heaven." The HCAF, which became a 501 c3 in 2013, generally writes checks to the party owed, such as a utility company, protecting the confidentiality of the residents who need short-term emergency financial assistance.

"The Community Action Fund has been instrumental to the community," says Jackie Winer, Program Director of Holliston Youth & Family Services, "We have given out over \$18K in financial assistance for things like rent and mortgage relief, utilities assistance, transportation, heat and energy, and families are always so grateful for the hand-up and feel so empowered after they leave our



Colin Fields will be one of the headliners of MusicFest for the Holliston Community Action Fund on October 9, which supports Holliston residents with short-term emergency financial assistance.

office with the resources that they're able to access via the CAF. It's a wonderful organization. We're so lucky to have that partnership."

The HCAF is able to do this thanks to donations. In past years, HCAF has conducted direct donation campaigns that have provided thousands of dollars for Holliston Families in need. The HCAF greatly appreciates the donations of individuals, as well as generous businesses like Vesta, Fiske's, Lamont Plumbing and the

Holliston Dental Associates. With your help, the Holliston Community Action Fund looks forward to making a difference again this year. Donations are gratefully accepted in any amount at any time, online, at <https://hollistoncommunityaction.org>.

If you are a community member in need of emergency assistance, please contact Holliston Youth and Family Services at 508-429-0620 or at <https://www.townofholliston.us/youth-and-family-services>

HCAF also promotes community involvement activities for our youth. Student involvement began in 2017. High school and middle school students work with parents on the committee to raise funds and boost awareness of the need for emergency support of our residents in need, as well as working towards community betterment projects.

"We have a really strong group this year," says Drohan, estimating 30-40 students are involved.

This 2nd Annual Fall Music Show fundraising event is \$20 in advance or at the door. There is limited capacity of 150, so get your tickets soon. Contact Heidi.Gibson@com-cast.net to reserve tickets.

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Holliston Town Meeting Oct. 19, 2026

Town Meeting will take place Monday October 19, 2026, at 7 p.m. in the Holliston High School Auditorium.

State Election - Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026

The State Election is Tuesday, November 3, 2026. All Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the High School Gymnasium.

All Elections are held at the Holliston High School Gym, 370 Hollis Street, Holliston, MA

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Check your voter status:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx>

Register to vote at: www.registertovotema.com

Important dates:

The deadline to register to vote in person is October 24, 2026.

The Vote-by-Mail application deadline is October 27, 2026.

For an election guide, including more information on Vote-by-Mail and a sample ballot, visit <https://www.townofholliston.us/DocumentCenter/View/11151/2026-ELECTION-GUIDE>.

REMEMBERS

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World Trade Center. They ran toward it, because that is what they do. It is in their blood to run and to rescue — 343 members of the FDNY were killed. The NYPD was right on their heels and were no less heroic. Hundreds of officers, with their motto: fidelis ad mortem, faithful until death. Twenty-three NYPD lost their lives, and in all, 71 law enforcement officers were killed, and eight private emergency medical technicians and paramedics also lost their lives.” Ryan added that in days following, thousands more “ran toward” the devastation, many taking away emotional and physical wounds, some that ended their lives.

“And then came war,” Ryan reminded the gathering, “... in operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom alone, more than 6,700 American service members lost their lives and more than 52,000 were wounded in action. And behind every one of these numbers is a human being, a name, a face, a family, friends, communities, their futures interrupted and forever changed.”

She encouraged listeners to “always remember,” adding, “Remembrance must be more than looking backwards. To honor the past, we must fully live responsibly in the present. This is an obligation and a privilege. Protecting democracy and the freedom generations of Americans have defended is part of this privilege. Each of us is called to participate actively in our democracy even when it’s difficult. Seeking truth, listening, refusing to allow fear to turn us against one another, and finding common ground and respecting our differences—this is where our strengths lie.

“Democracy also means



Town veterans organized the event.

holding elected officials accountable,” Ryan continued, “I was taught as a very young officer that war must always, always be the very last alternative, and our Constitution gives Congress the power to declare war and authorize force, while the President serves as Commander-in-Chief. These are solemn powers, and we must hold accountable all those responsible to exercise them. Through our votes, we entrust our elected leaders with responsibility, and we must continue to insist their decisions are made with wisdom, with honesty, with restraint, and a full understanding of the human cost of war.

“Peace is not passive,” she continued, “Peace and peace-making require courage, vigilance, discernment and citizens willing to demand it. So, today, we remember the 2,977 lives that were lost on September 11th. We solemnly honor those who ran toward danger; we remember and care for those who still carry wounds, and let us never forget our fellow Americans sent into harm’s way, and every family that waited, and is waiting, for them to come home.”



LTC. Barbara Ryan U.S. Army (ret) spoke at the ceremony.

Legion bestows 2026 9/11 awards

On Sunday, September 13, American Legion Post 47 conducted its annual “9/11 Awards,” given to Holliston Police, Fire and EMS who have gone above and beyond the line of duty.

The award for the Holliston Fire Department went to **Firefighter/Paramedic Rachel Crawford, Paramedic Michael Dumican, Deputy Chief/Advanced EMT Michael Gulla and Firefighter/Paramedic Dylan Mahoney**, who gave lifesaving treatment to a toddler at Stoddard Park on Sunday, July 26, 2026.

Holliston Police Department’s Sgt. Ken Belson, Officer Scott Downey, Officer Bryan DiGior-

gio and Officer John Loftus were bestowed with the 9/11 Award for their immediate and investigative efforts in the early morning hours of March 7, 2026, responding to a report of a missing 13-year-old juvenile who had run away from home and had headed to Logan Airport, having purchased a plane ticket to Los Angeles, CA. Thanks to coordination with Massachusetts State Police, the juvenile was safely located and recovered.

Officer Richard Davis and Sgt. Ryan Parent, of Holliston EMS, received the 9/11 Award for their efforts on July 2, 2026, for an unresponsive male party, who



was receiving CPR by a female party. In addition to administering a first dose of Naloxone, Davis and Parent ensured everyone remained safe after a second dose of Naloxone brought the patient to his feet, hostile to first responders, following the ambulance to Metrowest Regional Hospital.

Ryan again urged the group to never forget, and to hold peace as a sacred responsibility.

In addition to the speaker, Holliston’s remembrance included an extended moment of

silence, a rifle salute, TAPS and the singing by everyone of “God Bless America.”



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MILL STUDIO

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food and refreshments while getting a behind-the-scenes look at the creative community inside the mill.

For those inspired by what they see, the event also offers the chance to take home an original piece of art while directly supporting the artists who created it. “Having original art in your home is a mindful and personal experience,” says artist and event organizer Chryso Lawless.

For Lawless and many of the artists at Mill Studios, Open Studios is about far more than selling artwork. It is an opportunity to open their creative spaces to the community, share the stories and processes behind their work, and show that a vibrant arts community is thriving within the historic mill. By welcoming visitors into their

studios, the artists hope not only to connect people with their work, but also to inspire others to explore and pursue their own creativity.

“You can see that it helps encourage others to go forward and keep doing it,” says event organizer and photographer Denise Kopko.

Kopko says visitors don’t need an art degree, or even much knowledge about art, to enjoy the weekend, pointing to herself as an example. She is not traditionally trained in a wide range of art forms, but believes that simply being curious is enough to start a conversation and a love for art.

“It eases the conversation when you get people to talk freely about their work. People become engaged with the artists,” Kopko said.

According to Kopko, that personal connection can change the way people experience art, which is why event organizers especially encourage families to attend. “It is an opportunity to introduce children to art” Lawless says.

Last year, children had the opportunity to participate in a collective art wall, and some artists,

such as Beverly Nunes Ramsay, have historically given children an opportunity to engage with art in a hands-on way.

The weekend will also feature live music both days, adding another layer to the already lively atmosphere. Food and refreshments will be part of the experience as well, with artists traditionally offering treats to visitors. Organizers are also working on additional food and beverage offerings, with Crafted and Black Harp involved and Goldie’s Bakery of Franklin expected on Sunday.

Visitors can expect to encounter everything from photography and watercolor to oil painting, acrylics, clay, jewelry making, sculpture, children’s book illustration, and culinary arts. The artists work in abstract and representational styles, with subjects and inspirations as varied as the artists themselves.

“The incredible diversity of mediums, subjects, and inspirations that artists possess” may be one of the biggest surprises for first-time visitors, Lawless said.

This year’s event will also introduce visitors to new members of the Mill Studios community, including a children’s book

author and illustrator. The addition of new artists brings fresh perspectives to a longstanding community of artists and creatives.

Longtime members of the studios have watched the building change along with the artist roster. Arlene Chaplin, who has been at the Mill for more than 25 years, recalls of the earlier days, “The windows were broken, but I felt like I was a famous artist like Matisse.”

Today, artists credit new ownership and the Mill’s current leadership with supporting the creative community and maintaining a place where artists can work, and the public can be invited in to experience their work firsthand.

Open Studios also gives visitors a glimpse of the deeply personal connection artists have with their work. Kopko recalls a moment when an artist sold a large piece she was particularly attached to, hugging the artwork and becoming emotional as she said goodbye. Moments like that illustrate not simply an appreciation for art, but a connection to the people who create it.

The artists would like to build on that connection in the years



A community member enjoys a mosaic display at the 2025 Holliston Mill Open Studios. Photo by Jessica Ommen

ahead, with hopes for more exhibitions and public programming, including smaller, more casual events and possibly juried shows. Time and funding remain challenges. Artists volunteer their time, while donations help cover expenses.

For now, however, the focus is on November.

Holliston Mill Open Studios will take place at 24 Water Street on Nov. 7–8, 2026 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. All are welcome.

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Jennifer Schofield

Editor

Judith Dorato O’Gara

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Advertising Sales

Susanne Odell Farber
508-954-8148
sue@sodellconsult.com

Advertising Director

Jennifer Schofield
508-570-6544
jenschofield@localtownpages.com

Creative Design & Layout

Bess Couture
Kim Vasseur
Wendy Watkins

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Artist spotlight:

Arlene Chaplin - a room of her own

By JESSICA OMMEN

Arlene Chaplin has been a resident of the Holliston Mill Studios for 25 years. Her journey as an artist began with her first box of Crayola crayons and the discovery of the endless possibilities of color. Soon after, a little Brownie camera made her the family photographer, giving her early lessons in color, composition, and seeing the world creatively.

Today, Chaplin’s work is primarily abstract painting and mixed media, with a recent

return to collage. After many years working in an environment where precision, quality control, and accurate measurements were essential, abstract art became a welcome freedom, a place where she could explore color, texture, shapes, and techniques.

Chaplin finds inspiration everywhere. A striking color combination, an intriguing line, or an interesting shape can become the beginning of a new piece. Words and text frequently appear in her work,

sometimes buried beneath layers of paint so that only fragments remain. She enjoys the mystery of those hidden words and the stories they might suggest.

For more than 20 years, Holliston Mills has been home to Chaplin’s studio. She describes it as her “Room of My Own.” Over the years, she has experimented with oil and acrylic paints, charcoal, pencils, canvas, paper, and wood panels. She has also explored artist bookmaking and printmaking. Each new process has been part of an ongoing discovery of what she enjoys most. She is still searching.

Currently, Chaplin is creating “Art Stories,” collages made from papers recycled from art books and papers she creates using Gelli plates. These materials allow her to layer fragments, colors, textures, and words into pieces that invite viewers to look closely and

imagine their own stories.

Chaplin hopes visitors feel comfortable and curious in her studio. She believes that people don’t have to study art to appreciate it, and that creativity isn’t limited to making art. It can be found in gardening, cooking, building, designing, or raising children. For her, an open studio is not only an opportunity to show her work, but also an invitation to discover and celebrate the creativity that exists in everyone.

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Why fall may be a great time to sell your Massachusetts home



Lynne Ritucci and Tim Swift

REAL ESTATE INSIGHTS

As summer winds down, homeowners who have been considering a move may be wondering if they missed their opportunity. Should you wait until next spring when the market typically becomes more active?

Not necessarily.

About one in three existing home sales take place during the final four months of the year. That means the fall and early winter market is far from an afterthought, and for the right seller, it can be an excellent time to make a move.

Fall is busier than you think

According to the National Association of Realtors®, roughly one-third of existing home sales occur between September and December. Even more encouraging, that share has increased each year since 2023.

For Massachusetts homeowners, the fall market can be particularly interesting. While summer may bring more overall activity, the buyers who remain active into September, October and November are often highly motivated. Some

are trying to purchase before the holidays, while others want to take advantage of available inventory before the market becomes even more competitive in the spring.

There are still plenty of buyers

Current forecasts from Fannie Mae, the Mortgage Bankers Association, NAR and Wells Fargo point to approximately **4.16 million existing home sales nationwide this year.** Based on the pace of sales so far, roughly **1.4 million additional homes are expected to sell between now and the end of the year.**

That translates to approximately **11,800 homes selling every day this fall.**

The message is clear: The housing market isn't frozen, and homeowners don't necessarily need to wait until spring to sell.

Mortgage rates are still influencing buyer decisions, but demand hasn't disappeared. Buyers who are shopping now are still looking for well-priced, move-in-ready homes, and they can be especially attentive to properties that stand out from the competition.

Pricing and presentation matter

Selling successfully this fall isn't simply about putting a sign in the yard. **Price, presentation and marketing are more important than ever.**

This is where working with a knowledgeable local real estate professional can make a meaningful difference. An experienced agent understands the nuances of the local Massachusetts market; knows what today's buyers are looking for and can help position your property appropriately for the season.

From determining the right list price to preparing the home, creating compelling photography and negotiating offers, the goal is to make your property stand out to the buyers who are ready to act.

The bottom line, waiting until spring may be the right decision for some homeowners, but it shouldn't be an automatic one.

There are buyers looking today, and many are motivated to make a move before

the end of the year. If your home is priced strategically, presented properly and marketed effectively, fall can still provide a valuable opportunity to sell.

If you've been considering a move, let's talk about what today's market could mean for your home and whether selling this fall makes sense for you.

Lynne and Tim are proud Holliston residents and a trusted Real Estate Team, always happy to help with any Real Estate needs.

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

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Celebrate Holliston's 2026 Citizens of the Year

On September 17, 2026, Celebrate Holliston honored its 2026 Citizens of the Year, Karen A. Jewett and Thomas J. Chipman, with a ceremony in Holliston's Upper Town Hall. Here's why they were chosen:

Karen A. Jewett was born and raised in Holliston and is a graduate of Holliston High School, Class of 1988. Karen returned to Holliston in 2006 where she resides with her husband, Dan Jewett. Together they have raised four sons in town, Matthew Cooper, Patrick Jewett, Sean Jewett, and Aidan Jewett. Karen is also the proud grandmother of Jacalyn Judd.

Over the years, Karen has dedicated countless hours to serving Holliston through a wide range of organizations and initiatives. Her volunteer efforts include serving at the Holliston Pantry Shelf, participating in HDAAC, serving as President of Holliston Youth Basketball, coaching youth town and travel boys' basketball programs, coaching AAU basketball, teaching religious education



classes, serving as a HABA representative, and volunteering at numerous PTO, school, and sporting events throughout her children's years in school.

Karen's passion for community service stems from values instilled by her parents. She credits them with teaching her the importance of helping others and leading by example. "My inspiration comes from a deeply ingrained sense of purpose to serve others that was modeled by my parents," Karen said. She added that throughout her childhood, they were always helping others, in both public and private ways. One of her favorite quotes is, "You rise by lifting others," as she believes that "the betterment of any community is rooted in a com-

munal approach to taking care of one another."

Among her many contributions, Karen has led several impactful community projects.

- In 2017, she spearheaded the research, planning, and fundraising efforts for a new \$150,000 wooden basketball and volleyball court at Holliston High School, funded entirely through the generosity of local families.
- In 2025, she helped create the SNAP Sack Initiative after SNAP funding was unexpectedly halted, coordinating community support that provided 676 meal bags to Holliston residents in need during the month of November, in an amazing show of community support.
- She helped lead the Pantry Shelf's most successful SOUPer Bowl fundraiser to date, raising critical funds to support local families experiencing food insecurity.

While her community accomplishments are significant, Karen says her "most cherished



Celebrate Holliston's 2026 Citizens of the Year, Karen Jewett (left) and Tom Chipman (right) at a special ceremony in their honor on September 17, 2026.

moments have been the past five years caring for her mother as she aged in place." "Being able to support her was such a blessing and something I will always hold close to my heart," Karen said. She cited her mother, Nancy Hovsepien, as her greatest influence. She describes her as the embodiment

of unconditional love, kindness, and generosity and added that she quietly modeled how to give and show love to every person she met. She raised her children to "not let the left hand know

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

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Beyond medical bills: Using an HSA to fuel your retirement



Glenn Brown, CFP

Open enrollment for work benefits is coming. One critical choice often causes confusion: deciding between a PPO medical plan and a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) paired with a Health Savings Account (HSA). Understanding how these work can help you make smarter choices for 2027 and your future.

Choosing the Right Medical Plan

Selecting the right health plan comes down to three primary factors:

1. Provider Access: Ensure your preferred doctors, specialists, and hospitals are in-network. No amount of tax savings offsets losing access to your

- trusted care team.
- 2. Total Annual Cost:** Compare the guaranteed cost (monthly premiums) against potential care costs (deductible and out-of-pocket maximum). Look at historical medical expenses, but also plan for expected upcoming care.
- 3. Tax & Savings Strategy:** An HDHP paired with an HSA offers triple tax savings. While popular for those with low healthcare needs, HDHPs can also be cost-effective for heavy users—provided you have the cash flow to handle higher up-front expenses before insurance kicks in.

Unlocking the "Triple Tax Advantage"

An HSA provides three distinct layers of tax savings that no other financial account can match:

Tax-Deductible Contributions: Funds contributed directly or via payroll deduction reduce your taxable income for the year (saving federal, state, and FICA taxes).

Tax-Free Growth: Earnings, interest, dividends, and investment gains grow compoundingly without triggering annual taxes.

Tax-Free Withdrawals: Withdrawals used for qualified medical expenses—such as doctor visits, prescriptions, dental care, and vision—are completely federal tax-free.

Real-World Tax Savings

Consider a family in the 24% federal tax bracket spending \$4,000 annually on routine healthcare. By funding those out-of-pocket costs through an HSA, they can save roughly \$1,480 in taxes (federal, state, and FICA). A household in the 32% bracket maxing out the \$9,000 family contribution can save between \$3,500 and \$4,100 in taxes, depending on whether their individual earnings exceed the Social Security wage cap.

Don't Leave "Free Money" on the Table

Surprisingly, more than half of eligible employees never open or fund an HSA. This is a costly oversight because many employers offer \$500 to \$2,000 per year in seed contributions or wellness incentives (such as completing an annual physical) to jump-start accounts. Contributing even a small amount per pay period ensures you capture these employer matches.

2027 IRS Contribution Limits & HDHP Requirements

The IRS has released limits for 2027:

- Individual: \$4,500
- Family: \$9,000
- Catch-Up (55+): \$1,000

Remember, employer contributions count toward the annual contribution caps.

A Long-Term Wealth-Building & Retirement Tool

Unlike Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), your HSA balance belongs entirely to you. Unused funds never expire, thus any account balance rolls over and continues growing. Once your balance reaches your provider's investment threshold, you can invest those dollars into index funds. Some will choose to pay current medical bills out of pocket, allowing their HSA funds to compound untouched for years or even decades. This becomes a secondary tax-deferred retirement bucket. How?

After age 65, the non-medical withdrawal penalty of 20% disappears. Thus, your HSA effectively functions like a Traditional IRA:

- Pull funds for healthcare (Medicare Part B/D, dental, long-term care) tax-free.

- Pull funds for general living expenses, paying standard income tax with zero penalty. Plus, HSAs have no Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), giving you total control over your withdrawal schedule.

The Bottom Line

Whether managing immediate healthcare expenses or building a tax-free nest egg for retirement, an HSA remains one of the most versatile financial wellness tools available. Take time during open enrollment to review your options, calculate your savings, and secure employer contributions.

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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HNN Great Pumpkin Trail Walk Oct. 25

The Holliston Newcomers and Neighbors invites you to join us at our allergy-free Great Pumpkin Trail Walk on Sunday, October 25 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, starting at Blair Square (intersection of Railroad and Central Streets). There will be games for all ages, with prizes, set up along the first section of the Rail Trail, up to the bridge. The Great Pumpkin Trail Walk is just one of Holliston Newcomers and Neighbor's fundraisers, with proceeds going to the HNN Community Grant Fund. Recent grant recipients include the Holliston Parks and Recreation Department, the summer concerts, Holliston Public Library museum passes



and the Holliston Police Department. The event is \$6 per child. Cash, checks and Venmo are accepted on the day of the event. Adults are free and encouraged to come dressed in costume as well. Thank you to our 2026 event sponsor! Authentic Auto Body, 508-429-6927.

Holliston SEPAC to hold Trunk-or-Treat Oct. 24

Round up your little goblins and ghouls and bring them to the Miller/Placentino school parking lots on Saturday, October 24. General admission of \$5 per trick-or-treater (\$25 family cap) includes a trick-or-treat bag! The event will take place 6-8 p.m., with a sensory-friendly haunt from 6-6:30 p.m. Want to host a trunk (and possibly win a prize for one of the three favorites?) Register for \$20 at givebutter.com/trunk-or-treat-copy-iebcbc. Learn more about the Special Education Parent Advisory Council at hollistonsepac.org.

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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Nobody can prepare you for the hair part

What to know about choosing a wig before or during medical hair loss

BY GINA WOELFEL

A cancer diagnosis comes with an entirely new vocabulary and questions you never expected to ask. There is so much to take in, and all of it feels urgent.

Then someone mentions your hair.

The words may barely register at first. There is already so much to think about. Then it becomes your hair; your reflection and one more deeply personal thing changing without your permission.

Being told it may happen is not the same as being ready.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which brings important conversations into the open. This is one of them. Hair is not more important than health. But recognizing yourself in the mirror can matter greatly when so much feels unfamiliar.

Start before you think you need to

If your medical team tells you that treatment may cause hair loss, you can begin looking at wigs before shedding starts. You do not need to make every decision that day. An early consultation gives you time to ask questions, understand your options and think about what will feel most familiar to you.

Consider the details that make your hair feel like yours. The way it falls around your face. The volume at the crown. The shade near your hairline. Bring a few favorite photos of yourself from a particularly good hair day.

You may want something close to your everyday style. You may decide to go shorter, lighter or easier. You may even choose the cut or color you have always wanted. There is no correct choice. There is only the one that feels right to you.

Privacy changes everything

Hair loss is personal. Shopping for a wig in a busy retail setting can feel like one more

public experience during an already exhausting time.

At b.LUXE Wigs & Toppers (located inside the b.LUXE Studio in Medway), wig and topper consultations are private and unhurried. For one full hour, you will sit with Heather Cohen, owner of b.LUXE and a hair-loss solutions specialist, who listens, takes the measurements needed for a comfortable fit and helps you try different pieces. You do not need to arrive knowing exactly what you want. She'll help you find exactly the piece that feels like you.

A full wig may be the right choice. For partial hair loss, a topper can add coverage while blending naturally with your own hair.

The piece itself is only the beginning. A natural result comes from the fit, hairline, density and cut. Each LUXE Custom human-hair wig or topper is fitted, cut and styled for the woman who will wear it. She also leaves knowing how to secure it, change the part and care for it at home.

Beyond LUXE Custom, b.LUXE Wigs offers several collections at different price points.

Women who already wear wigs and know their preferred measurements, cap construction, density and length can also shop online at bluxewigs.com. Each wig arrives with care instructions and access to helpful YouTube tutorials and frequently asked questions. Virtual consultations are available for anyone who would like personal guidance before ordering.

Heather understands the other side of the chair

For b.LUXE owner Heather Cohen, adding wigs and toppers to the studio was personal. It began when medication for rheumatoid arthritis caused significant thinning in her own hair.

After a career helping others with their hair, Heather found herself on the other side of the conversation. She knows the

difference between explaining a wig and wearing one. She understands the worry that it may look too full, move strangely or announce itself before you do.

Her standard is simple. The hair should look like it belongs to the woman wearing it.

That understanding also guides b.LUXE's work with hospital teams across New England, helping women find private, knowledgeable support during medical hair loss.

Ask us about the paperwork

Wigs purchased for medical hair loss may qualify for insurance reimbursement or payment with FSA or HSA funds. Coverage varies, so contact your provider before purchasing. Some plans require a prescription or letter of medical necessity using the term "cranial prosthesis."

For medical hair-loss clients, b.LUXE provides a superbill and supporting purchase information for insurance claims. We will also help you understand what paperwork your provider may require.

Hair loss has more than one story

Breast cancer treatment is one reason a woman may experience hair loss. Alopecia, thyroid conditions, hormonal changes, stress and medications are others. The reason may differ, but the need is often the same: privacy, clear information and the freedom to make a choice without pressure.

October brings breast cancer into the conversation, but our commitment to women facing medical hair loss continues all year.

This month, Heather and her team will host informational support booths at the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event and the Susan G. Komen Massachusetts MORE THAN PINK Walk. At both events, they'll answer questions, share resources and offer guidance about treatment-related hair loss.

b.LUXE will also participate in the New England Patriots Foundation's Day of Pampering at Gillette Stadium, an annual event honoring local cancer patients and survivors.

In recognition of Breast Can-



cer Awareness Month, b.LUXE will make a substantial donation to the Making Strides movement, supporting breast cancer research, patient services, early detection education and access to mammograms.

Learn more or schedule a private consultation at bluxe.com or bluxewigs.com.

No one can prepare you for every part of it. But when it comes to the hair part, you do not have to face it alone.

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Sustainable investing means investing with purpose



Mark Freeman, CEPA

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When you think about investing, you probably want your money to grow. But maybe you also want it to make a positive difference in the world while you continue pursuing your financial goals. That’s the foundation of sustainable investing — an approach that considers environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors alongside traditional financial analysis.

Sustainable investing allows you to support better business practices through your investment choices. It looks at how companies address issues ranging from climate change to worker well-being to corporate ethics. At its core, it’s about aligning investments with personal values while still focusing on long-term financial outcomes.

Here are the three main areas of sustainable investing:

- **Environmental considerations** include how companies respond to climate change, use natural resources and manage pollution.
- **Social factors** address workforce well-being, product safety and efforts to reduce social inequities.
- **Governance** focuses on corporate behavior, ethics policies and financial transparency.

You may wonder whether investing sustainably means

sacrificing returns. Research suggests it doesn’t. New York University’s Stern Center for Sustainable Business reviewed more than 1,000 studies from 2015–20 and found that incorporating ESG factors does not inherently diminish returns, and in many cases is associated with improved financial performance. As with any investment approach, it’s important to focus on high quality investments that help support more consistent long term returns.

Sustainable investing can take several forms:

- **ESG intentional strategies** spread out your investments and have clear goals for choosing companies that follow strong environmental, social and governance practices.
- **Sustainable thematic strategies** focus on specific issues, such as clean energy or water conservation.
- **Impact investments** go a step further, targeting measurable environmental or social

outcomes. Because they prioritize more narrow, specific objectives, they may carry higher volatility and potentially lower returns.

One concern you may hear about is “greenwashing,” which happens when companies or funds exaggerate their environmental efforts. To help prevent this, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission created a rule in 2023 that requires any fund with “ESG” in its name to keep at least 80% of its assets in ESG aligned investments.

Another challenge is data consistency. Today, 99% of S&P 500 companies report ESG metrics, according to the Center for Audit Quality, but different rating providers still use different methods. Looking at relative rankings can help you compare companies and mutual funds in a more consistent way.

Deciding whether to include sustainable investments in your portfolio really depends on your

values and financial goals. You can build a well diversified portfolio with or without them. A qualified financial advisor can help you understand whether adding sustainable investments fits your overall strategy and makes sense for your situation.

As more companies disclose ESG data and more funds offer sustainable options, investors have increasing opportunities to align their portfolios with their values — without sacrificing their financial objectives.

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

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

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It’s never too early to think about giving for Thanksgiving!

Did you know that a record 40% of Massachusetts households—approximately 1.1 million—experienced food insecurity in 2025? The Holliston Pantry Shelf and other organizations like Wayside Youth & Family and Head Start helps those in need on a daily basis. Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors is once again helping these organizations provide gift cards for this special day of thanks. Many families have depended on these gift cards to make their Thanksgiving day a special one so we are once again asking for monetary donations to support these efforts.

Please visit the HNN Donations webpage <http://www.hollistonnewcomers.org/donations> and select Thanksgiving or if you would prefer to mail your donation, please send a check made out to Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors to Mark Bandies, 713 Norfolk St., Holliston and note that it is for Thanksgiving.

We are also collecting handmade Thanksgiving Cards which can be dropped off at 922 Highland St., Holliston - a bin will be at the front door. If you have any questions, please email thanksgivingbaskets.newcomers@gmail.com.

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LIVING HEALTHY

Macular Degeneration new frontiers

AREDS 3 and Photobiomodulation

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

For millions of older adults, Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) represents one of the most significant threats to independent living and visual quality of life. AMD specifically targets the macula—the highly sensitive central area of the retina responsible for producing sharp, straight-ahead vision. When macular function declines, essential everyday tasks like reading fine print, driving safely, recognizing familiar faces, and enjoying hobbies become increasingly difficult.

While dry AMD historically presented limited active intervention options beyond basic nutritional support, major scientific advancements are transforming how eye specialists manage the condition. Today, patients have access to refined oral nutritional formulations

alongside breakthrough light-based clinical therapies—giving us more precise, non-invasive ways to protect precious vision.

Understanding AREDS 3: The Next Generation of Ocular Nutrition

For over twenty years, standard care for intermediate dry macular degeneration has centered around targeted nutritional supplementation. Grounded in the landmark clinical trials conducted by the National Eye Institute—the Age-Related Eye Disease Studies (AREDS and AREDS 2)—these specific high-dose vitamin combinations proved that antioxidant therapy could significantly slow the rate of disease progression.

The classic AREDS 2 formulation, which blends Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Lutein, Zeaxanthin, Zinc, and Copper, established itself as an indispensable tool in

preventative ophthalmic care. However, ongoing nutritional science and clinical research have driven further refinements, leading to the introduction of AREDS 3.

AREDS 3 represents an updated, highly tailored evolution in nutritional management rather than a complete overhaul. While AREDS 2 remains an effective, widely accessible standard, AREDS 3 incorporates crucial modifications designed to improve tolerability, enhance metabolic processing, and offer targeted protection based on individual patient profiles.

Key Clinical Differences in AREDS 3

- **Adjusted and Reduced Zinc Levels:** High-dose zinc (typically 80 mg in AREDS 2) plays a critical role in retinal enzyme function and antioxidant transport. However, high zinc intake can trigger gastrointestinal distress,



stomach upset, or copper deficiency in sensitive individuals. Furthermore, ongoing research suggests that individual genetic variations may influence how efficiently different patients process heavy metals. AREDS 3 offers tailored options with lowered zinc dosages, ensuring effective antioxidant delivery while reducing digestive and systemic burden.

- **Incorporation of Ocular B-Vitamins:** Emerging clinical research underscores the protective role of key B-complex vitamins (including B6, B9/folate, and B12) in managing ocular health. These vitamins help lower systemic blood levels of homocysteine—an amino acid associated with vascular stress, inflammation, and cellular damage within the delicate blood vessels supplying the retina. By adding essential B-vitamins, AREDS 3 addresses important metabolic risk factors beyond standard antioxidant protection.

Is AREDS 3 Always Indicated?

It is essential for patients to realize that AREDS 3 is not a mandatory replacement for AREDS 2. AREDS 2 remains a proven, highly effective, and widely recommended standard for the vast majority of individuals with intermediate AMD. Instead, AREDS 3 provides eye care specialists with a valuable,

highly specialized alternative tailored for specific clinical circumstances:

- Patients who experience recurrent stomach upset, nausea, or digestive discomfort with standard AREDS 2 formulas.
- Individuals who require a reduced overall zinc intake due to systemic health conditions or personal medical considerations.
- Patients presenting with elevated vascular risk factors who stand to benefit from daily B-vitamin supplementation.

Deciding between AREDS 2 and AREDS 3 requires a comprehensive evaluation by your ophthalmologist, who can review your overall health history, lifestyle factors, and specific retinal status to recommend the precise formulation suited for your eyes.

Photobiomodulation: A Clinical Breakthrough for Intermediate Dry AMD

While tailored nutrition forms a crucial line of defense, modern eye care now offers direct therapeutic intervention for intermediate dry macular degeneration through Photobiomodulation (PBM). Photobiomodulation is an advanced, painless, non-invasive

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A photograph of three diverse children (two girls and one boy) sitting at a table, smiling and playing with colorful alphabet blocks. The girl on the left is wearing glasses and a pink shirt. The boy in the middle is wearing glasses and a blue shirt. The boy on the right is wearing glasses and a grey shirt.

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Holliston Public Library October Adult programs

752 Washington Street
508-429-0617
www.hollistonlibrary.org

Matt York as Johnny Cash: Music After Hours at the Library, Friday, Oct. 2 , 6-7 p.m.

Longtime New England musician/author Matt York will perform the songs of Johnny Cash and discuss Cash's career from the 1950's to his passing in 2003. Twice nominated for the Boston Music Award for Best Country Artist, York recently released his second book, "The Words and Wisdom of Willie Nelson."

Morning Book Club, Monday, Oct. 5, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Please register.

"The Empusium," by Olga Tokarczuk
Tarot Reading with Antonio, Wednesday, Oct. 7, 6-8 p.m., Please Register

Antonio Morales will offer tarot readings to explore future possibilities in your life. Each private reading, specific to each patron, will last 15 minutes. Late arrivals or missed appointments cannot be rescheduled or recouped.

Mystery Book Club, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 11 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

"We Are All Guilty Here," by Karin Slaughter

History Book Club, Monday, Oct. 19, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Please register.

"Ghosts of Iron Mountain," by Phil Tinline

Tuesday Matinee, Tuesday, October 20, 12:30-2 p.m.

New movie the third Tuesday of every month! In "Remarkably Bright Creatures," "through unlikely bonds formed during night shifts at a local aquarium, Tova, an elderly widow, learns of a life-changing discovery that may bring her joy and wonder once again." Running time 111 minutes. Rated PG-13 (2026.)

Remembering the Red Sox in the World Series, 1946-2018, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Please register.

Red Sox fans: Claim your spot in the stands for this wicked fall program celebrating our favorite team!

The Boston Red Sox have played in 13 World Series. Their nine World Championships tie them for third place in history

with the Dodgers and A's, trailing only the Yankees and Cardinals. Red Sox historian Herb Crehan has interviewed players from the four World Champion teams of the 21st century and players from the four previous contenders, who each fell one game short. He will share the thoughts, ranging from agony to ecstasy, of players from all eight of the most recent Red Sox American League pennant winning teams.

The Golden Age of Silent Film, with Richard Hughes,

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7-8:30 p.m. Please note: this program will take place at the Holliston Historical Society Barn, 547 Washington Street.

The Golden Age of silent film was a treasure trove brimming with adventure, drama, romance and comedy. Put together with live "Mood Music" accompaniment, these films provided entertainment for the world.

Join us at the Holliston Historical Society barn for a Laurel and Hardy short film in keeping with the Halloween season,

Habeas Corpus, with musical accompaniment and a discussion led by period expert Richard Hughes.

This program is co-sponsored by the Friends of Holliston Library and Holliston Historical Society.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Subcommittee urges vote for amendment to Holliston by-law

"When the well is dry, we know the value of water." -Benjamin Franklin

In Holliston's 2023 town-wide Strategic Plan survey, the issue voted most important to residents was water. In response, the body responsible for executing the Strategic Plan, Envisioning Future Holliston, formed a subcommittee dedicated to protecting our water resources. This subcommittee is now proposing an amendment to Holliston's Groundwater Protection By-Law, which will be voted on at Town Meeting on October 19.

The current by-law limits industrial quantities of certain hazardous substances in the areas around our wells. Holliston's drinking water comes from 5 wells across town, some only about 20 feet deep. The groundwater is mixed once it is pumped, so all residents who drink the Town's water supply can be affected by spills near any of the wells. The areas where spills can get into the water supply are called Groundwater Protection Zone II, about 26% of the town's land area.

Our existing by-law was last updated in 2000. Since then, many health risks related to common hazardous materials have been identified. Neighboring towns have already updated their groundwater protections, leaving Holliston vulnerable to contamination. The proposed

by-law amendment will expand the list of prohibited substances to strengthen protections for our vital natural resource. The new prohibitions will apply only to new residences and businesses located within Zone II. Those with existing permits and those outside the protection zone will not be affected.

This update to our Groundwater Protection By-law is a critical first step of many to ensure Holliston's water is as safe as our neighbors'. If you want to protect the water, health, and welfare of our community, please come to Town Meeting on October 19, and vote to pass the amended Groundwater Protection By-Law.

EYES

continued from page 10

treatment that utilizes precise, selected wavelengths of light (yellow, red, and near infrared) to target the retina. At a cellular level, these light wavelengths stimulate the mitochondria—the microscopic "powerhouses" of retinal cells. By boosting cellular energy production (ATP), reducing oxidative stress, and improving local circulation, PBM helps revitalize struggling retinal tissue and slow down cellular degeneration before irreversible sight loss occurs.

Milford-Franklin Eye Center: Leading Edge Eye Care in Your Backyard

At Milford-Franklin Eye Center, we are dedicated to staying at the very forefront of modern medicine. We are proud to be one of the few practices in the Commonwealth—and the first in our area—to acquire and offer photobiomodulation technology for our patients.

Our mission has always been to combine academic-level clinical excellence with compassionate, community-centered care. By offering cutting-edge treatments like photobiomodulation alongside personalized nutritional strategies like AREDS 2 and AREDS 3, we ensure that you do not need to travel far to receive world-class ophthalmic care. The highest standard of medical innovation is available right here in your backyard.

Whether you are seeking proactive treatment for dry macular degeneration, exploring advanced light therapy, or simply looking for an expert second opinion, our team is here to guide your journey toward preserved visual health.

Protect your sight today. Contact Milford-Franklin Eye Center to schedule your comprehensive evaluation or request a second opinion with our eye care specialists.

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Celebrate Holliston 2026!



Holliston Citizens of the year and Holliston Pantry Shelf were recognized with citations. From left, Jake LaFlamme, Gina Stucchi, Rep. James Arena-DeRosa, Tom Chipman, Karen Jewett, Holliston Select Board Vice-Chair Damon Dimmick, Matthew Newman, and with US Congressman James McGovern, and Nicole Lessard.



The annual chili contest is always a Celebrate Holliston favorite.



Lamont Plumbing & Heating's booth was a popular, with visitors to the booth attempting to sink a toilet paper into the loo to "flush for food." In the end, the company donated \$575 to the Holliston Pantry Shelf.



Knights of Columbus Council #14224 made several generous donations including, shown, \$5,000 to Homes for Our Troops, \$5,000 to the Doug Flutie Foundation, \$3,000 to the O'Connell House, and a whopping \$15,000 to the Holliston Pantry Shelf. Coming up October 10, they'll be conducting their tootsie roll drive, 10-1 at Fiske's and Superette as well as after St. Mary's Masses.



Jocelyn Gaboriault explains that in June 2026, Holliston Lions donated \$500 to Friends of Cole Court, \$2,117 to the Holliston Pantry Shelf in paper towels & SNAP meals, \$750 to the Holliston Music & Arts Parents Assoc., \$500 to the Friends of Holliston Library, \$900 to the Holliston Senior Support Fund, \$507 in gift cards to HYFS, \$100 to Holliston Youth Lacrosse, \$100 to Holliston Youth Track, \$6,000 to the Holliston Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Fund and \$17K in scholarships to Holliston High School students.



The Holliston Pantry Shelf launched a 50/50 raffle/duck run fundraiser at Celebrate Holliston, selling ducks (to race in a local body of water sometime in Spring 2027) for \$10 apiece. You can still donate! Call or text 774-253-0694 or visit www.hollistonpantryshef.org to learn more.

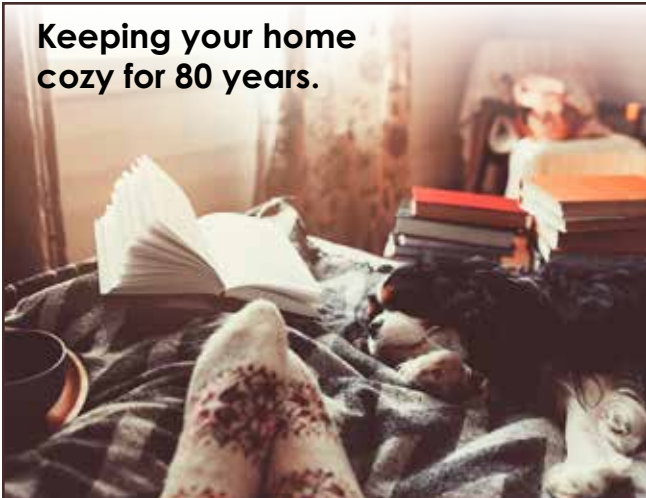


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What's coming up at The Center

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:
Health & Wellness Fair! Tues. Oct. 6, 4-6 p.m.

The Center is hosting our first Health & Wellness Fair, featuring several partner organizations that serve older adults in our community. This fee event is open to all Holliston residents interested in learning more about the variety of programs and services available to help you live well. See the comprehensive list of vendors at www.townofholliston.us/176/Senior-Center-The-Center

Celebrate the Beauty of Autumn with the Holliston Garden Club, Friday, Oct. 2

Register at 508-429-0622.

Monthly Breakfast: 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.

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one FREE lunch is provided to help you celebrate. Excludes special luncheons.

Lions Club Lunch:

Oct. 18, Cole Court: Register at 774-233-0340. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., lunch 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.

October 6: writer's free choice
Book Club, Second Friday of the Month, 1:30 p.m.

October 9: "The Irish Goodbye," by Heather Aimee O'Neil.
Hearing Aid Cleanings: with Hopkinton Audiology Services, 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, Oct. 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, Oct. 6, 4-6 p.m.

Free event is open to all Holliston residents who are interested 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 Presentation, Thursday, Oct. 15, 12 p.m.

Holliston's Sustainability Manager, Amelia, will present this lunch and learn with Q & A time to discuss all about going solar on your home. Register at 508-429-0622.

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Pink Granite Pedalers return to Holliston Trails on Oct. 24

BY HEIDI GIBSON

Who are the Pink Granite Pedalers? A group of volunteers and participants enabling accessible cycling on the Holliston Rail Trail for individuals who require specialized adaptive cycles to in order explore our beloved trail on wheels. This is a program conducted by the Friends of Holliston Trails working along with All Out Adventures (AoA) of Northampton MA. On October 24, All Out Adventures, a nonprofit specialized in adaptive recreation programs, will bring a variety of adaptive cycles to Blair Square in Holliston and provide skilled staff to outfit registered riders. Seniors, adults and kids

with mobility differences are encouraged to register. Upon registration for a one-hour ride, AoA will determine the unique requirements of each rider and reserve the appropriate bike for our event date. Holliston volunteers are positioned along the trail and also ride along the trail with adaptive cycle riders to ensure a safe and positive experience. This is the 2nd year of Pink Granite Pedalers rides in Holliston, and the feedback has been outstanding, with growing participation each ride each year. This adaptive bike program runs throughout the summer and fall months and makes the Holliston Rail Trail available to many more riders



Photo used courtesy of Pink Granite Pedalers

who are thrilled to be out in nature along the 3-mile course. Pink Granite Pedalers is free to participants, but registration is required. Check <https://www.hollistontrails.org/pink-granite-pedalers> for more registration information.

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CALENDAR

October 2

Music After Hours at the Library: Matt York (musician) as Johnny Cash, 6-7 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, www.hollistonlibrary.org

Ambient Entertainment presents Ayla Brown: This Is Me, Acoustic Storyteller Show, 6:30 p.m., Niagara Coffee Haus, 8 Exchange St., Millis, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1980051228526>

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

Danielle Miraglia (Americana Blues) with special guest, Moonbellies, 7 p.m., Niagara Coffee Haus, 8 Exchange St., Millis, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1981680279060>

October 4

Simchat Torah Celebration and Bagel Brunch for All Ages, 9:30 a.m. -12 p.m.

Includes an interactive celebration of the Simchat Torah holiday, with singing, dancing, discussion, and edible Torah making, followed by a bagel brunch. Please RSVP at rabbi@bethtorah.org

Blessing of the Animals with Rev. Christa, 10 a.m., St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1162 Highland St., Holliston, in celebration of St. Francis' Day, bring your pet to church for a special service and blessing, or if your pet can't come, a stuffed animal or photo, <https://stmichaelshollistonma.org>

October 5

Morning Book Club, 11 a.m., on Zoom, by Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, please register, www.hollistonlibrary.org, "The Empusium," by Olga Tokarczuk.

October 6

Health & Wellness Fair, 4-6 p.m., The Center, 150 Goulding St., Holliston, over 3 dozen vendors and organizations, find them at <https://www.townofholliston.us/176/Senior-Center-The-Center>, free.

Holliston Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m., 24 Water St., Holliston, music by The Detentions Band, find schedule at <https://thewsk.org/farmers-market-schedule> or find Holliston Farmers Market on Facebook for updates.

October 7

Tarot Reading with Antonio, 6-8 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, please register for a private time slot, www.hollistonlibrary.org

Holliston Non-Profit Fair, 6-8 p.m., Holliston Town Hall, 703 Washington St., Holliston, find volunteer opportunities & connect with nonprofits, bring friends, www.hollistoncommunityactionfund.org, summerspurway@yahoo.com

October 9

2nd Annual MusicFest for Holliston Community Action Fund, 5:30-9 p.m., Rushford & Sons Tap Room, 747 Washington St., Holliston, \$20 in advance or at door. Features Duo Colin Fields and Angelo Damato with Special guest: The Jasper Anthony Downtown Band. Limited capacity. Contact Heidi. Gibson@comcast.net to reserve tickets.

October 10

Santana Tribute Band Abraxas, 7 p.m. (doors open 6:30), Niagara Coffee Haus, 8 Exchange St., Millis, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1985640592464>

October 11

Sunday Jazz Jam, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Hopkinton Center for the Arts, 98 Hayden Rowe, Hopkinton, features MetroWest Jazz Project, free but donations gratefully accepted, RSVP at <https://bit.ly/JazzJamDonation>

Drop into Art, 1-4 p.m., **Danforth Art Museum and School at Framingham State University,** 14 Vernon Place on Framingham Town Common, popular, ongoing event encourages creativity for adults and kids alike, with materials provided. Free.

Abraham's Table, One Creator: Many Paths, Finding Common Ground, 3-5 p.m., presented by the MetroWest Interfaith Community with Peace Islands Institute, The Islamic Society of Greater Milford, 2 West Elm St., Hopkinton, snacks and refreshments available register at hollistoninterfaith.org, text: 862-264-7000.

October 13

Mystery Book Club, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, "We Are All Guilty Here," by Karin Slaughter.

Holliston Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m., 24 Water St., Holliston, music by Alicia Marinelli, find schedule at <https://thewsk.org/farmers-market-schedule> or find Holliston Farmers Market on Facebook for updates.

Fatima Days 2026: Faith Moves Mountains, 6 p.m. Mass & outdoor rosary procession, The Missionary Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, 101 Summer St., Holliston, www.fatimashrine.org

October 15

Sound Journey, 6-8 p.m., Danforth Art Museum and School at Framingham State University, 14 Vernon Place on Framingham Town Common, Pre-registration required, purchase tickets at <https://danforth.framingham.edu/event>

October 16

Oktoberfest at Holliston Historical Society, 6:30-10 p.m., 547 Washington St., Holliston. Features Double Eagle Oktoberfest Band. \$40 ticket includes German-style meal of knockwurst, German potato salad, warm red

cabbage and sauerkraut, and apple crisp, with a vegetarian option of Käsespätzle by pre-order, as well as soft drinks and seasonal beers provided by Crafted. For questions, contact Bea Hait at 774-292-9098, beateh1@aol.com

Free Flu/COVID-19 Clinic (with most health insurances, and subsidized for uninsured), 9 a.m.-noon, Placentino Cafetorium, 235 Woodland St., Holliston. Pre-registration recommended https://form.jotform.com/VCArePharmacy/Holliston_Health_Clinic

Walk-ins welcome as supplies last. Ages 3+ (Flu). Ages 12+ (COVID-19)

Please print/bring vaccine forms. Sponsored by Holliston Board of Health & Metro West Pharmacy. 508-429-0605.

Free Community Dinner, 5-7 p.m., Christ the King Lutheran Church, 600 Central St., Holliston, <https://ctkholliston.org>

October 18

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

October 19

History Book Club, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, please register, www.hollistonlibrary.org, "Ghosts of Iron Mountain," by Phil Tinline.

Town Meeting, 7 p.m., Holliston High School, 370 Hollis St., Holliston, Anticipated topics for debate include: capital expenditures, personnel bylaw adjustments, groundwater protection zoning bylaw updates, master plan continuity bylaw, sewer commission bylaws. Follow the Town's website and Facebook page for updates.

October 20

Tuesday Matinee, 12:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, "Remarkably Bright Creatures" Elderly widow learns of a life-changing discovery that may bring her joy and wonder once again. Running time 111 minutes. Rated PG-13 (2026.)

October 21

Remembering the Red Sox in the World Series, 1946-2018, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Please Register, Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston.

Welcome Wednesdays, 1-2 p.m., Hopkinton Center for the

Arts, 98 Hayden Rowe, Hopkinton, docent-led tour of current exhibitions at the Hopkinton Center for the Arts (HCA), free, RSVP at <https://canvas.hopartcenter.org/events/114>

October 24

All Out Adventures adaptive cycling, to Blair Square in Holliston and provide skilled staff to outfit registered riders. More info. and registration at www.hollistontrails.org/pink-granite-pedalers

Holliston SEPAC Trunk-or-Treat, 6-8 p.m. (6-6:30 p.m. sensory-friendly), Miller/Placentino School parking lots, 235 Woodland St., Holliston, \$5 per child, \$25 family maximum.

Sloan Wainwright, 7 p.m. (doors open 6:30), Niagara Coffee Haus, 8 Exchange St., Millis, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1981683068403>

October 25

Great Pumpkin Walk, 10 a.m. - noon, presented by Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors, Blair Square to the bridge, activities and games for all ages with prizes, allergy free, \$6 per child, with cash, Venmo and checks accepted that day. Come in costume!

HCA Wicked 5k FUNdraiser & Wee Wicked Dash, Hopkinton Center for the Arts, 98 Hayden Rowe, Hopkinton, info. at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Hopkinton/Wicked5K-HopkintonCenterArts>

October 28

The Golden Age of Silent Movies, 7 p.m., Holliston Historical Society barn, 6:30-10 p.m., 547 Washington St., Holliston. Pianist Richard Hughes will present a history of early movies featuring Harold Lloyd and Charlie Chaplin, with narration and musical accompaniment. Richard will also show sound effects and animation devices, including the praxinoscope. Also, a screening of Laurel and Hardy's "Habeas Corpus," for Halloween. Co-presented with the Holliston Public Library and the Friends of the Library.

November 1

Butterfly Garden Reunion, Our Lady of Fatima Shrine Butterfly Garden, 101 Summer St., Holliston, 4-6 p.m., honors those lost to substance misuse, candlelight prayer, food and fun, table activities, loved ones exhibit, quilt-making exhibit, speakers, register at <https://bit.ly/48ILKAC>

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October fun at Holliston Historical Society!

The Holliston Historical Society is located at 547 Washington St., Holliston. Visit www.hollistonhistorical-society.org to learn more.

Oktoberfest at the Historical Society, Friday, October 16

On Friday, October 16, oompah music by the Double Eagle Oktoberfest Band will greet attendees as they arrive for Oktoberfest in the Society's 1815 barn. Before the night is out, people will be laughing, singing, and dancing a polka! Included in the \$40 ticket price is a delectable German-style meal of knockwurst, German potato salad, warm red cabbage and sauerkraut, and apple crisp topped with whipped cream for dessert. The vegetarian option is Käsespätzle by pre-order when tickets are purchased. Also included are soft drinks and seasonal beers provided by

Crafted, including Jack's Abbey Copper Legend on draft. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the band plays until 10 p.m. Tickets will be available at Celebrate Holliston and at the Harvest Fair, through the Society website via Square (convenience fee applies), or purchased at Crafted or Fiske's stores in Holliston. Questions? Contact Bea Hait at 774-292-9098 or beateh1@aol.com.

The Golden Age of Silent Movies, Wednesday, October 28, 7 p.m.

Join us in the barn for a fun evening reliving the days of the silent movie! Pianist Richard Hughes will present a history of early movies with newsreels, cartoons, early comedy, historical drama, serial thrillers, slap-stick comedy featuring Harold Lloyd and



Richard Hughes will present the Golden Age of Silent Movies Program. Photo used courtesy of Holliston Historical Society

Charlie Chaplin, sight gags and chase scenes done by the king of sight gags, Buster Keaton, all presented with narration and musical accompaniment. Richard will also show sound effects and animation devices, including the



Members of the Double Eagle Oktoberfest Band. Photo used courtesy of Holliston Historical Society

praxinoscope. Then, in time for Halloween, there will be a screening of Laurel and Hardy in the funny "Habeas Corpus," a short film from 1924.

This program is co-presented with the Holliston Public Library and the Friends of the Library. All are welcome, and

refreshments will be served. Both programs will be held in the Holliston Historical Society's barn at 547 Washington Street. The Historical Society is a non-profit group whose mission is to preserve Holliston's history and share it with our community.

VFW Post 8507 launches student essay contests

Essay deadlines, teacher nominations due by Oct. 31

Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy

Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsors two contests: Patriot's Pen (grades 6-8) and Voice of Democracy (grades 9-12). Patriot's Pen is a written essay contest. The Voice of Democracy is an audio essay competition. We are bringing this to the attention of Holliston readers to stimulate a higher level of interest and participation among Holliston's students at those grade levels. Entries are submitted at the post level, which in the case of Holliston is the Leonard D. Chesmore Post 8507 located at 310 Woodland Street.

The deadline for entries is Oct. 31, 2026. Post-level winners advance to district, district-level winners advance to state, and state-level winners go on to national where the Voice of Democracy winner is awarded a \$35,000 scholarship. The Patriot's Pen national winner is awarded a \$5,000 scholarship. There are also lesser awards at

the post, district, state and national levels.

The contests provide students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to composing democratic and patriotic-themed essays. The theme for both contests this year is: "What a Veteran Taught Me about America." Find more information and entry forms/eligibility/rules at: <https://vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Citations for Elementary, Middle & High School Teachers and their Schools

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle and high school teachers to participate in the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award program. Each VFW post may submit one Teacher Award candidate in each grade level to their District by Nov. 15.

All current certified/licensed

teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by teachers themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals. Nominations must be received by October 31, 2026.

Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. For example, do you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall or organizes community volunteer projects? Maybe you know an instructor who invites veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences. Perhaps you are familiar with a teacher who fosters the development of democratic values and beliefs through special projects. If you know of such a teacher, honor them today.

Entries are submitted at the post level, which in the case of Holliston is the Leonard D. Chesmore Post 8507 located at 310 Woodland Street. The deadline for entries is Oct. 31, 2026.

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CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

continued from page 6

what the right hand is doing” and to always give discreetly out of respect for the recipient. Karen continued to model the importance of civic responsibility within the community for her sons.

Karen loves Holliston’s strong sense of community and connectedness and adds that she has so many wonderful memories from both childhood and raising her family in town.

As she reflects on this recognition, Karen hopes her volunteerism inspires others to get involved to serve their community. She believes every act of service creates a ripple effect, and hopes others are encouraged to volunteer.

Karen says she continues “to be overwhelmed and humbled by the generosity of the people

and businesses in our town” - “the Holliston Pantry Shelf is a very special place that has supported neighbors struggling with food insecurity for more than 33 years. The mission is simple: ‘Neighbors Helping Neighbors,’ but the impact is powerful. Currently serving more than 700 individuals in Holliston, the Pantry Shelf is always looking for volunteers to help our neighbors in need.”

Thomas J. Chipman, a fourth-generation Hollistonian, has called Holliston home for sixty years. Alongside his wife, Ann, and their children, Erin, Erica, Cara, Thomas, and Michael, Tom has built a life rooted in community and service.

Throughout the years, Tom has quietly devoted countless hours and resources to projects that have enhanced the quality of life for Holliston residents. His contributions have touched

nearly every corner of the community. A current member of the Holliston Sportsman’s Association and former seventeen-year member of the Holliston Parks and Recreation Board, Tom played a key role in fundraising and building Goodwill Park and contributed extensive labor and expertise to numerous recreational and community facilities.

Among his many contributions, Tom donated two months of labor to install lighting for the Field of Dreams on the Adams and Damigella Fields and constructed the building that houses the lighting controls and power systems. He also donated labor and materials for signage at Adams, Damigella, and Flag fields; provided labor and materials for power installations at the Green Street garage pavilion; and donated all labor and materials for the Veterans Memorial and extensive improvements at Blair Square, including electrical infrastructure and power for the annual Lions Club Christmas

tree lighting.

In addition, Tom helped design and fund the Holliston High School concession stand, generously contributing both materials and labor to bring the project to fruition.

Reflecting on his lifelong dedication to the town, Tom credits Holliston’s past and present community leaders as his inspiration, and said *“growing up as a small boy in this town and getting to know so many people from the past and present that changed this town with great vision and devotion to bring this town to where it is today. I saw many people meet, come up with plans and work hard to make their visions happen to make this town the great town it is today. I knew I wanted to help anywhere I could.”*

Tom’s commitment to public service was further strengthened through his friendship with the late Bob Nemet, whose commitment and love for Holliston inspired him to join the Parks Department. While Tom’s volunteer contributions are extensive, he is equally proud of building a success-

ful local business alongside his wife, Ann. Together, they spent more than thirty-one years growing their company into a thriving enterprise that serves communities from Cape Cod to Worcester.

Tom believes the true strength of Holliston lies in its people. “I love how the community comes together when someone is in need, if somebody is ill for example, the community comes to support them. If someone has a vision for the town, people come together to help and make that vision a reality. When people fundraise programs, the community helps with that.” As he looks to the future, Tom hopes others will continue to invest their time, talents, and ideas in the town.

Tom said he hopes “others look at this town and want to make it sparkle on the map. I hope people bring new ideas and help make more things come to life like the Rail Trail. I hope more people get involved and help and they should be proud to do it.”

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Butterfly Garden reunion planned for Sunday, Nov. 1

Our Lady of Fatima Shrine honors loved ones lost to substance misuse with a beautiful memorial engraved in bricks outlining its Butterfly Garden. On Sunday, Nov. 1, from 4-6 p.m., the Missionary Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima will welcome the families and friends of those whose names are in-

scribed in the Butterfly Garden and all others in the community, remembering all lives lost to substance misuse and those who seek the healing path of sobriety.

The event will include: Candlelight prayer service at the Garden, food and fun, table activities and resources, a loved

ones exhibit, a quilt making exhibit, and speakers.

Register at <https://bit.ly/481LKAC>.

If you would like to honor your lost loved one with an engraved memorial brick (\$100), contact 508-429-2144 or email holliston@xaverianmissionaries.org.



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Temple Beth Torah Center for Jewish Living and Learning upcoming events

Simchat Torah Celebration and Bagel Brunch for all ages, Sunday, Oct. 4 from 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.

We ask that if people would like to attend 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.

Diverse Holliston Choir plans three upcoming programs

The Diverse Holliston Choir meets Tuesdays, from 5-6 p.m. at Holliston Mill Studios. The all-age choir is free and offers a safe, inclusive community.

The group is currently working on a program for three upcoming events, including a Peace Program on Nov. 28, 2026, International Women’s

Day on March 6, 2027, and a Pride Program on June 12, 2027.

To find out more, visit www.diversehollistonchoir.org.

SPORTS

Holliston Football looks to return to the top

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Finishing second in the Tri-Valley League large division last year was not where Holliston wanted to be, having won the TVL Championship the year earlier. This fall, the Panthers are once again looking to return to the top spot under Coach Mike Yurof.

When all was said and done, Holliston finished last season with a 5-6 record, including a Division 4 Tournament loss to Duxbury and a last second loss on Thanksgiving Day to Westwood. The Panthers had controlled the Thanksgiving Day game, but with 21 seconds remaining, Westwood broke through and took home the holiday win.

“The Thanksgiving Day game, we found ourselves with three injuries to skilled and talented players, three of the best in the league,” Yurof said. “We basically were fielding a JV team on the field but still managed to have the lead until the end, with only two seniors on the field.”

With many of their best players sitting on the sideline, Holliston had a lot of younger players put into a situation where they had to take the game to the next level and quickly. That necessity has given the younger athletes varsity experience they will bring into this season.

Looking to lead Holliston back to the top of the TVL large this fall will be its three captains Jake Brodsky, Carter Greene and Paul McGrath. The coaching staff hopes the trio can provide leadership to the younger players. According to Yurof, they need to continue the culture they established both on and off the field while respecting the program around town.

Brodsky, a TVL All-Star running back and lineman last fall, is a multi-purpose athlete that can just about do anything asked of him. Although Holliston will be using a two-back system, it will be designed around Brodsky.

“He’s a very versatile individual that can come out of the backfield for us as a receiver and catch three or four balls per game,” the Holliston Coach said.

McGrath will play defensive end and wide receiver this fall, while Greene will suit up on both the offensive and defensive lines for the Panthers. As a receiver, McGrath gives the Panthers a big athletic threat down field, and Greene is a tough-as-nails individual with a high football IQ and can do anything on the lines.

Holliston will also be looking to juniors Warren Greer and Nick Flannery to make a run at the league and into the tournament. Greer, a 6-4, 285-pound offensive and defensive lineman, was named to the TVL All-Star team last year as a sophomore and is one that can play any of the positions on either line. The junior has been improving his game on a regular basis and aspires to play football in college.

Flannery, according to the Coach, is one of the fastest he has ever seen on a football field as well as very athletic. The junior will not only return punts for the team but will also line up as a wide receiver and play in the Panthers’ secondary on the defensive side of the ball. He will be a big part of the Holliston offense at wide receiver.

Having two threats in Flannery and McGrath at receiver makes senior quarterback Jack McDonald’s job that much easier. The Holliston field general brings a pin-point accuracy to his throwing ability.

“Jack’s a tough kid who had himself a great season last year and has the ability to get the ball to all of our receivers,” the Panther Coach said. “Accuracy is his biggest trait, and it doesn’t look like he’s exerting any effort when he’s throwing.”

Another junior, CJ Dupuis, will handle the kickoffs, field goals and PAT’s for Holliston this fall. The former soccer player is joining the football team for the first time and has

been opening eyes with his kicking skills.

“He’s been hitting field goals from 50 yards out; that’s unheard of on the high school level, especially as a first-time player,” Yurof said. “We are excited to get him out there and show off his leg.”

Yurof went on to note that Dupuis had been a soccer player for Holliston under his father but had aspired to play football. When his father stepped down as the soccer coach, Dupuis saw it as his opportunity to try football.

As the team gets ready to embark on the 2026 season, Yurof and his coaching staff know not only will the league be a challenge, with Medfield joining the large division and Dedham dropping down, but the squad’s non-league contest are also nothing to sneeze at.

“Each and every time that we step onto the field, we know we are going to have to bring our ‘A’ game,” he said. “There will be no letting up at any time playing in this league.”

The team’s goals are set into three sections. Holliston will first work on their four non-league games and then will focus secondly on their league games, and if they handle business in their first two goals, then the third goal of advancing into the playoffs should come to fruition.

“This senior class is mad about how things finished last year, and they are bent on winning the league championship once again,” Yurof said. “Their goals are to win every game, but in order to do that, you can’t look ahead. It’s all about tomorrow – participate in the game at hand, then move onto the next challenge. You cannot scoreboard watch in the TVL, you need to just go out and win your games.”

Yurof noted that when he took over the program three years ago, he was looking for a town to work in that had expectations, one in which wanted to win but also went about it in the right way – Holliston is such a town, and now, Yurof



Shown, Jake Brodsky, TVL All-Star lineman and running back last fall, will be one of three captains, also including Carter Greene and Paul McGrath, who will be sought after to lead HHS football this season. Photo used courtesy of Mike Yurof

is looking to continue the work former coach Todd Kiley set

in place and get the team back atop the mountain.

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 REAL ESTATE CORNER

Holliston non-profit fair Oct. 7

Come down to Holliston Town Hall, 703 Washington Street, Holliston on Wednesday, October 7 from 6-8 p.m. for the Holliston Non-Profit Fair, where you can connect with local non-profits and

find some volunteering opportunities.

For more information, contact summerspurway@yahoo.com or visit www.Holliston-CommunityActionFund.org. Bring your friends!

Recent Holliston Home Sales

Presented by
Lisa Zais
Executive REALTOR®



Date	Holliston	Amount
09/18/26	152 Turner Rd., Unit 38	\$215,000
09/09/26	10 Winston Rd.	\$1,150,000
09/04/26	105 Bonney Dr.	\$1,650,000
09/04/26	615 Mayflower Lndg.	\$1,600,000
08/31/26	40 Maple St.	\$350,000
08/28/26	361 Winter St.	\$980,000
08/27/26	PARCEL Prentice St.#D	\$240,000
08/27/26	54 Jarr Brook Rd.	\$800,000
08/26/26	23 Bonney Dr.	\$836,000
08/26/26	100 Marilyn St.	\$689,000
08/24/26	42 Cottage Dr.	\$262,000
08/20/26	31 Robert Rd.	\$660,000
08/18/26	65 Woods Xing	\$950,000
08/17/26	1 Fisher St.	\$600,000
08/14/26	45 Johnson Dr.	\$1,290,000
08/14/26	129 Marked Tree Rd.	\$730,000

Source: zillow.com Compiled: Local Town Pages

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Ask the assessor

By KEVIN RUDDEN, PRINCIPAL ASSESSOR

QUESTION:

I heard the Post Office may be changing its mail pick-up times. Will that affect when my abatement or exemption application is postmarked if I am mailing it in close to a deadline?

ANSWER:

The U.S. Postal Service is changing the way mail dropped in its mailboxes in the afternoons is postmarked, but Holliston is not affected, because it is within 50 miles of the central Post Office facility in Providence, R.I.

However, given that mail dropped in a USPS mailbox in Holliston gets shipped to a central Post Office facility before coming back to Holliston to be delivered to a Holliston address (such as the Assessors' Office in Town Hall), it's always a good idea to put abatement and exemption applications in the mail several days before these application deadlines:

- September 15 (Senior Means-Tested property tax exemption)
- December 1 (Chapter 61, 61A and 61B lands)
- February 1 (property tax abatements)

The Assessors' Office would like to remind Holliston property owners that if they want personal exemptions reflected in the third and fourth quarter property tax bills - which are mailed out in late December - they need to be received by the Assessors' Office no later than mid-November. This will give the Assessing staff time to review them, have the Board of Assessors approve them, and then enter the exemption into the municipal accounting system.

'Abraham's Table' continues Oct. 11

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 Sunday, October 11, The Islamic Society of Greater Milford will host the event at 2 West Elm Street, Hopkinton, with the topic "One Creator: Many Paths, Finding Common Ground," from 3-5 p.m. Snacks and refreshments will be available.

Register at hollistoninterfaith.org or text 862-264-7000.

Bring your ideas to life!

Apply for a Holliston Cultural Council grant today!

The Holliston Cultural Council (HCC) is now accepting applications for the FY2027 Local Cultural Council Grant Program!

Have an idea for a concert, exhibition, performance, workshop, lecture, festival, public art project, or other creative experience? This could be your opportunity to bring it to life in Holliston!

The HCC provides grants to support arts, humanities, sciences, and other cultural and creative experiences that benefit the Holliston community. Projects may include performances, concerts, exhibitions, workshops, lectures, festivals, educational programs, public art, and other creative or cultural activities that provide meaningful opportunities for Holliston residents to participate, learn, and connect.

The HCC seeks projects that provide broad public access and/or create shared community experiences. When possible, preference is given to Holliston artists, organizations, and events taking place in Holliston.

Who Should Apply?

The HCC encourages applications from:

- Holliston artists and creatives
- Nonprofit and community organizations
- Schools, libraries, and educational groups
- Cultural and arts organizations
- Individuals and groups presenting public programs

Application Deadline: Oct.

15, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted online through the Massachusetts Cultural Council's grants management system.

Applicants are encouraged to review the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Local Cultural Council program guidelines and the Holliston Cultural Council's local guidelines before beginning an application.

Questions?

For questions about applying for a LCC Grant through the Holliston Cultural Council, please contact: Chrissy Reynolds
Chair, Holliston Cultural Council
reynoldsc.@holliston.k12.ma.us



Lynn Rossini
508-259-2100
lynnrossini18@gmail.com



TEAM RICE - Carl, Kristen, Ellie, Adam
508-330-0281
teamrice@remaxexec.com



Lydia Rajunas
617-901-1275
thedevee@remaxexec.com



Melissa Kaspert
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Katie McBride
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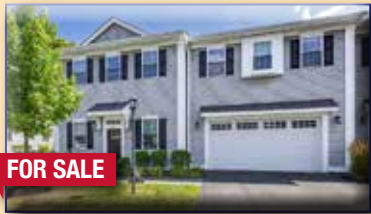
49 Windsor Dr, #301, Holliston
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FOR SALE

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UAG

LYDIA RAJUNAS

330 Marshall St. Holliston
\$975,000



FOR SALE

MCBRIDE TEAM

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SOLD

LYNN ROSSINI

24B River St., Upton
\$650,000



FOR SALE

MCBRIDE TEAM

4 Virginia Rd., Medway
\$425,000



FOR SALE

TEAM RICE

16 Kingsbury Dr., Holliston
\$1.795M



FOR SALE

MELISSA KASPERN

94 West St., Medway



UAG

TEAM RICE

10 Burnett Rd., Southboro
\$1.3M



FOR SALE

LYDIA RAJUNAS

8 Emerald Dr., Hopkinton
\$2.1M



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News from the Town Manager

25th Anniversary of 9/11 Attacks

The Town extends its thanks to the American Legion Post 47 and VFW Post 8507 for organizing and hosting the annual 9/11 awards and the memorial service on Friday, September 11, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Both events were incredibly meaningful and well done! Congratulations again to Officers Loftus, Downey, Davis and DiGiorgio and Sergeants Parent and Belson of the Holliston Police Department and FF/EMT-P Mahoney, FF/EMT-P Crawford, EMT-P Dumican, and Deputy Chief Gulla for their recognition this year – and thank you to all of our first responders!

Town Meeting – October 19, 7 p.m. at the High School, 370 Hollis St.

A reminder to the community that the fall town meeting will take place on Monday, October 19 at 7 p.m. at the high school. Anticipated topics for debate include capital expenditures, personnel bylaw adjustments, groundwater protection zoning

bylaw updates, master plan continuity bylaw, sewer commission bylaws, and others. Follow the Town's website and Facebook page for updates. All residents should also receive a postcard in their mailbox with a QR code linking them directly to the full warrant and related materials. We look forward to seeing you there!

Norfolk Street Update

Eversource's gas utility work remains underway, with crews currently working on services in the area of Cold Spring Road. The utility work will continue toward the Medway town line, which the Town anticipates will be completed by November 2026.

The project is also facing a budget challenge. As discussed at the August 10 Select Board meeting, an updated estimate for the project's original scope of work is approximately \$9.3 million, compared with the original \$5.6 million budget approved by voters in May 2023. The Town is currently reviewing the project scope and available options to reduce costs while preserving

the project's most important improvements. We expect to provide an additional update to the Select Board and the community soon as that work progresses.

Capital Expenditure Fund Update

The independent analysis of the Capital Expenditure Fund reporting error is still underway – please monitor the Town's website, Select Board meeting updates, and/or the Town Hall Digest as this matter progresses.

Cross Street Site/Department of Public Works Facility Update

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has officially accepted the Town into the Targeted Brownfields Assessment program for the property at 20 Cross Street. This environmental assessment to be undertaken by the EPA, saving the town considerable resources, will help determine how, when, and where we can hopefully build a new DPW facility – a longstanding goal of the Town's. We expect the assessment to be completed by the end of the calendar year. We sincerely appreciate

the partnership and support that the EPA and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection have shown the Town on this project.

Ribbon Cutting and New Economic Development Coordinator

It was the Town of Holliston's pleasure to host a ribbon cutting for the new Old Towne Car Wash at the corner of Washington and Chestnut Streets on September 8. A huge thank you to Representative James Arena DeRosa for joining us! The Town wishes them many years of success as a member of Holliston's business community. If you are a new or prospective business owner looking to build, open, or expand your business here in Holliston – please contact Economic Development Coordinator Kevin Rudden at 508-429-0604 to get started.

Flu and COVID-19 Clinic

The Board of Health and MetroWest Pharmacy will be hosting a Flu and COVID-19 vaccination clinic on October 17 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at

the Placentino Cafetorium (235 Woodland Street). Flu vaccines are provided for ages 3 and up and ages 12 and up for COVID-19. Vaccines are free with most health insurances and are subsidized for uninsured. Pre-Registration is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcomed as supplies last. Please contact the Board of Health at 508-429-0605 or visit the Town's website for additional information.

Select Board Goals: Fiscal Year 2027

On August 24, the Select Board met to establish its goals and priorities for the current fiscal year. This year's goals focus on affordable housing, a review of how the Town permits and regulates businesses, increasing communication and public engagement opportunities, creating a Board policy manual, and exploring open space and conservation opportunities at 63 Arch Street and 212 Prentice Street. Please visit the Select Board's page (<https://www.townofholliston.us/332/Select-Board>) for specific identified actions and next steps.

REACH MORE THAN 169,000 WITH OUR ANNUAL

Holiday Guides

This holiday season, showcase your business in our Holiday Guides - a special pull-out section. Drive shoppers to your door with great gift ideas, catering options and everything to make the holidays joyful and bright!

Coming in November and December!

ZONE 1: REACH 65,338

Auburn, Charlton, Douglas, Dudley, Grafton, Holden, Millbury, Northbridge, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Sutton, Uxbridge and Webster

ZONE 2: REACH 104,571

Ashland, Bellingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopedale, Medway, Mendon, Milford, Millis, Natick, Norfolk, Norwood, Upton and Wrentham

DON'T MISS OUT!

Reservation deadlines:

October 9th for November issue
November 6th for December issue

Reserve your space today by contacting Susanne Odell Farber at 508-954-8148 or by email at sue@sodellconsult.com

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Are your kids enrolled in Holliston Public Schools?

If you have kids in the Holliston Public School system, please take 5 minutes to complete HDAAC's 2026 Parent Survey.

Your feedback will help with student, parent, and overall community education for the next 2 years. Scan the QR code or type forms.gle/4RWKWUT33mgvYRqV9 into a web browser.



HDAAC
The Holliston Drug & Alcohol Awareness Coalition

Open mic night switches to third Sunday at 4:30 p.m.

In September, Hollipride switched its Open Mic Night from the third Saturday of each month to the third Sunday, still to take place at Rushford & Sons, 747 Washington Street, Ste. A, Holliston.

The event will begin earlier on Sundays, with signups at 4 p.m.

and music beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Please email questions to Hollistonpride@gmail.com

Upcoming open mics will take place on:

October 18

November 15

December 20.