

Holliston

localtownpages

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Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

November 1, 2026

Holliston Holiday Stroll marks 20 years seeks new leadership in 2027

Celebrate Holliston will host annual tradition one final time Nov. 28

By JESS OMMEN

The holiday spirit will return to downtown Holliston on Saturday, Nov. 28, as the Holliston Holiday Stroll celebrates its 20th year with trolley rides, local shopping, family activities and the annual tree lighting at Blair Square.

Organized by Celebrate Holliston, the free community event will run from 12-5 p.m., connecting several destinations throughout town and giving residents and visitors an opportunity to discover local businesses and kick off the winter season together.



The Washington Street Players pose in character from Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" during the 2025 Holiday Stroll. They'll be back this year! Photos used courtesy of Celebrate Holliston

The milestone year will also mark the final Holiday Stroll managed by Celebrate Holliston, as the organization prepares to

pass responsibility for the cherished community event

HOLIDAY STROLL

continued on page 3

Temple Beth Torah plans Chanukah celebration Dec. 6

Community invited to celebration featuring puppets, latkes, menorahs & more



Temple Beth Torah's Dec. 6 Chanukah celebration will feature a performance by the Hanukkats by Talking Hands Theatre. Courtesy photo

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA
Warm and welcoming.

When Holliston resident Jane Kohuth talks about Temple Beth Torah, her Conservative Synagogue in Holliston that dates back to 1972, she often circles back to those words.

"We're a welcoming congregation; we welcome interfaith families, we welcome LGBTQ families. We're small, so it's a nice, kind of intimate community

CHANUKAH

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Publisher of Local Town Pages Holliston

"We pretty much started with a two-part harmony, and then we finished the June-teenth event at Blair Square with our first four-part harmony. It's been a really sort of special convergence of families and activists, some wonderful people," says the director,



To learn more about Sara Stalnaker (she/her), visit cello-muse.com.

localLOWPAGES 301

October 1, 2014

Holliston remembers

A group of people gathered in front of the Holliston Mill Studio Art Center for a memorial service for a local resident who passed away recently.

The service was held on Saturday, September 27, at the Holliston Mill Studio Art Center, 100 Mill St. in Holliston. The group included family members and friends of the deceased, who were gathered to honor his memory. The service was officiated by a local minister.

Holliston Mill Studio art opens doors Nov. 7

The Holliston Mill Studio Art Center, located at 100 Mill St. in Holliston, will open its doors to the public on Saturday, Nov. 7. The center is a new addition to the town's cultural scene and will offer a variety of art classes and exhibits. The opening event will feature a tour of the facility and a demonstration by local artists.

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HOLIDAY STROLL

continued from page 1

to new leadership.

The decision comes after years of volunteer effort to keep the tradition alive. Thanks to downtown business owners including John Paltrineri, Donna Cady, and Diane Marrazzo, the tradition continued when the Holiday Stroll faced an uncertain future following the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the town preparing to celebrate its 300th anniversary in 2024, Celebrate Holliston took on the Stroll as part of the broader effort to bring the community together and preserve local traditions. According to Celebrate Holliston President Gina Stucchi, the organization subsequently voted each year on whether to continue managing the event.

According to Stucchi, following the town's tricentennial celebration, a number of long-time Celebrate Holliston board members completed their terms and stepped away, leaving fewer people to handle the work involved in planning the Holiday Stroll.

"People really wanted to be part of the history, but last year we were desperate for volunteers," she said, describing the challenges of sustaining the event with a small group of dedicated volunteers.

Although Celebrate Holliston's leadership is preparing to step aside from managing the event, the organization hopes the tradition will continue

under new leadership. For now, organizers are concentrating on delivering a successful 20th anniversary celebration without adding unnecessary complexity to the event. To make planning more manageable for the small group coordinating this year's festivities, organizers are keeping the overall format simple, focusing on familiar attractions that have helped make the Stroll a beloved Holliston tradition for generations.

Two vintage-style trolleys, Holly the Trolley and Ellie the Trolley, are expected to return, including one vehicle that is ADA-compliant. The transportation system allows visitors to move between participating locations without having to drive or walk between popular destinations.

A returning destination this year is Willow Brook Farm, where visitors can enjoy food trucks and possibly an animal encounter for children. Attendees will need to take a trolley or walk to the farm, as parking is unavailable.

The Holiday Market at Town Hall and activities at Mt. Hollis will provide additional opportunities for shopping and entertainment. Children, teens and adults will be able to participate in pie-eating contests at Mt. Hollis Lodge, while the Holliston Cultural Council plans to offer crafts and other activities. Additional crafts are typically available at participating downtown businesses where visitors will also find handmade gifts, seasonal treats, and specialty products.

This year's Holiday Market at Upper Town Hall will again feature independent vendors selling crafts, food, gifts and specialty products. It will also feature entertainment, with Irish step dancing among the planned performances.

Organizers are also encouraging visitors to watch the event schedule for information about Santa's appearances. Rather than a traditional photo line, Santa is expected to make several stops throughout the day and participate in a book-reading activity.

The popular Snowy the Snowman scavenger hunt will also return. Participants will be able to pick up game boards at the Holiday Market and search for Snowy in local shops, giving families an additional reason to explore participating businesses.

Holliston's picturesque downtown will provide a charming backdrop as Holliston's community theater group, the Washington Street Players, bring Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" to life with costumed characters entertaining visitors.

Visitors should consult the official schedule for the latest information about planned activities, performances and locations.

The Holliston Lions Club also plays a key role in the event by organizing the annual tree lighting and securing sponsorships for the downtown holiday lighting throughout the season.

This year's tree-lighting festivities at Blair Square will begin at 4 p.m., with the tree lighting scheduled for 4:30 p.m. The program traditionally features



A "Holiday Labubu" greets visitors at Purely You Spa during the 2025 Holiday Stroll. Photo used courtesy of Celebrate Holliston

local musical performances and seasonal songs, bringing residents together to mark the start of the holiday season.

The tree lighting serves as a fitting conclusion to an afternoon of shopping, trolley rides and family activities, reinforcing the community connections that have sustained the Stroll over the decades.

As Celebrate Holliston prepares to manage the Holiday Stroll for the final time, questions remain about who will take responsibility for organizing the Stroll in future years. More than a shopping event, the Holiday Stroll brings the community together, strengthens connections among neighbors and businesses, and creates lasting memories.

Visitors should check Celebrate Holliston's website, www.celebrateholliston.com



Celebrate Holliston co-chair Gina Stucchi poses during the 2025 Holiday Stroll. Photo used courtesy of Celebrate Holliston

for the most up-to-date information including the event map, trolley information and updated schedule.

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Holliston celebrates veterans in November

At press time, the following Veterans' Day observances were planned for November 2026:

Friday, November 6, 2 p.m.: Visit Veterans who are residents at Timothy Daniels House - A small group will visit our shut-in brothers and sisters who are unable to attend other events. This helps to let them know that they are not forgotten.

Monday, November 9, 9 a.m.: Holliston Police Department-sponsored Veterans Breakfast at Anthony's on the Green, HPD sponsored Veterans Appreciation Breakfast at Anthony's on the Green. Invitations will be sent by email. Please follow di-

rections to reply as stated on the invitation from Chief Stone,

Tuesday, November 10: Holliston High School - Details will be forthcoming regarding time and program. For those who attend you must check in at the HHS Office upon arrival.

Wednesday, November 11, 10:30 a.m.: Annual Parade, ceremony and dinner.

Thursday, November 12, 10 a.m.: Coffee with Veterans at the Holliston Public Library. All Holliston Veterans are invited. There will be no invitations sent, just show up.

Questions to tunez02@aol.com.

Parents of Holliston Class of 2027 to hold Mahjong & More fundraiser

In order to offset the costs of senior-year activities, the parents of Holliston High School Class of 2027 will be holding a "Mahjong & More," fundraising event on Saturday, November 7, from 7-10 p.m. at The Center, 150 Goulding St., Holliston.

Mah jongg players are encouraged to bring their 2026 card, or step into the time machine to play with mah jongg cards from the last three decades.

Those who don't play mah



jongg can join a table for an evening of Scrabble or Rumikub.

The cost is \$30 per individual player or a vintage mah jongg table fee of \$40.

The evening will also include a cash bar, appetizers and prizes.



Use the QR code here or visit <https://tinyurl.com/HHSclass-2027Mahjong>.

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CHANUKAH

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experience," says Kohuth, now principal of the school, which ranges from preschool through 7th grade. She's been a member since 2017, when her son was entering Kindergarten.

"I liked that it was warm. It was welcoming. The teachers in the school were very kind and really got to know the kids really well and were very loving," she says. She wanted her son to share her experience of Jewish identity, which, she says, "goes beyond religious identity. It's also ethnic and cultural, a shared history. It's possible to be a Jewish-identified person without being religious. For me it's both, but I feel even if my son didn't end up a religious person, it's important to have a strong education around who you are and



Chanukah fun two years ago was a glow party!

your history and identity. For minority kids, it can be really important for their emotional and mental health, and to have a support system."

Temple Beth Torah also offers a breadth of programming as well as weekly services.

"For a small synagogue, there's actually a lot of events and activity going on, with regular and special holiday events and classes," Kohuth explains,

pointing to adult education, a meditation group, a teen group, and Mah jongg, for example.

Events aren't restricted to members of the synagogue. Anyone can come to Friday night family Shabbats as well as many events, concerts, film screenings and holiday celebrations. Even services are open to non-members, although membership is encouraged, as Kohuth puts it, "to keep the doors open."

"It's a joyful, welcoming community," says Emily Cavalier, mother of three and member for almost a decade, who also points out the warmth Rabbi Mimi Micner extends to folks of all ages. "It's so nice to have the connections with other folks around Holliston, and to share traditions with the young people in the community," says Cavalier.

An annual Chanukah celebration is part of that tradition.

"We do a creative event open to the community every year for Chanukah," says Kohuth, "We try to do something different every year that's fun, and we welcome anybody who wants to come celebrate with us." Two years ago, the temple held a glow party for the holiday, and last year, a Maccabiah, which is similar to a children's Olympic games.

This year, Temple Beth Torah's Chanukah celebration will take place on December 6 at 3 p.m. featuring a performance by the Hanukkats by Talking Hands Theatre. The holiday event will also involve latkes and other treats, games. Attendees are even invited to bring their own menorahs for a community candle lighting.

Temple Beth Torah is located at 2162 Washington St. in Holliston. To learn more, visit www.bethtorah.org, and follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

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Debunking five common Social Security myths



Mark Freeman, CEPA

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Social Security is often one of the most important income sources in retirement. Yet widespread myths about how it works can lead to confusion, unnecessary worry and poor planning decisions. Here's the truth behind five of the most common misconceptions.

Myth 1: Social Security is

going broke. You've probably heard this one, but the full picture is more nuanced. According to the 2026 Social Security Board of Trustees Report, if Congress does nothing, the program would need to reduce benefits starting in 2032, paying roughly 78 cents for every dollar owed.

But that's just one scenario. Congress could raise the combined payroll tax from 12.4% to 16.65%, which the trustees estimate would secure full benefits through 2100. Other options include eliminating the earnings cap subject to payroll tax or adjusting retirement ages. Lawmakers have tools to address this.

Myth 2: Social Security will cover all your retirement needs. Think of Social Security as a financial foundation, not the full building. According to the Social Security Administration, benefits replace only about 40% of pre-retirement

income for a median earner. That means you'll likely need to account for most of your retirement income yourself. Building a strong personal savings strategy now can help close that gap.

Myth 3: You lose benefits permanently if you keep working. Not true. Social Security does have an "earnings test" that can temporarily reduce benefits for people who claim early and keep working. If your earnings exceed a set annual cap – which changes each year – Social Security will withhold a portion of your benefits. But once you reach full retirement age, the Social Security Administration adjusts your monthly check higher to repay those withheld amounts over time.

Myth 4: An ex-spouse's benefits come out of your own. If you were married for at least 10 years and are cur-

rently unmarried, your former spouse may be eligible to collect on your earnings record, or you may be able to collect on theirs. Divorced spouse benefits can be up to 50% of the other person's full retirement benefit. But those payments don't affect yours. Your monthly benefit is not reduced by anything paid to an ex-spouse or even a current spouse.

Myth 5: Social Security benefits are no longer taxed. Recent legislation caused some confusion here. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act did not eliminate taxes on Social Security benefits. If your combined income exceeds certain thresholds, you'll still owe taxes on a portion of your benefits.

The law also created a temporary deduction (available through 2028) for people 65 and older. Eligible taxpayers can deduct \$6,000 per qualifying filer if their modified ad-

justed gross income is \$75,000 or less for singles or \$150,000 for couples. The deduction phases out at \$175,000 for singles and \$250,000 for joint filers.

The more you understand Social Security, the more control you have over your retirement outcome. Grounding your decisions in facts rather than assumptions can make a meaningful difference in your long-term financial security.

Contact Mark today to discuss this topic or any of your financial goals.
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'Learning with Dr. Carter': Holliston Superintendent launches HCAT Series

By JESS OMMEN

Holliston Public Schools superintendent, Dr. Kimo Carter is launching a new video series in partnership with Holliston Cable Access Television (HCAT) to spotlight the people, programs and initiatives shaping the district, while giving residents another way to stay informed about local schools.

The series, "Learning with Dr. Carter," is expected to air approximately once a month and will feature student achievements, school programs and important issues facing the district. Episodes will be available on HCAT's YouTube channel and local cable access television station.

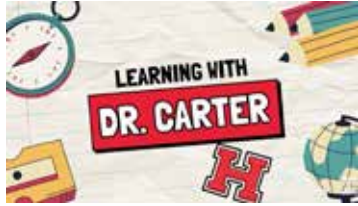
The initiative grew out of Superintendent Carter's ongoing "Listening and Learning Tour," which offers opportunities to connect with educators, students and residents while gaining a deeper understanding of the district and the broader Hollis-

ton community.

"For a town this size, there is a lot of civic support... you see all those booths as Celebrate Holliston, just about every other one is a Panther booth or some organization that is directly connected with the schools. You can see how connected the schools and community are," Carter said.

Carter said the video series aims to strengthen those connections by helping residents better understand what is happening across the district. Improving communication and transparency, while ensuring residents stay informed and feel heard, remains a key priority for the new Superintendent.

"Teachers are communicating at the classroom-level, the principals are doing a good job communicating at the school-level and now we have the Around the Table newsletters that come out every Tuesday or Wednesday, along with the



monthly HCAT videos at the district-level," Carter says. Carter credited Dan MacLeod with helping coordinate district communications and manage social media updates.

Together, these efforts aim to make district-level information more accessible and reach a broader audience, including residents without children in the schools or those who do not regularly attend School Committee meetings. The goal, Carter said, is to give residents more ways to stay informed, highlight the good work happening across the district, and improve transparency without overwhelming the public.

"When the schools and the



From left, Dr. James "Kimo" Carter, Head Coach Joel Bernstein, Student Partner Callie Dietz, Student Athlete Tommy Monteith and Athletic Director Matt Baker. Photo used courtesy of HCAT

community are connected, kids thrive," the superintendent said.

The idea for Learning with Dr. Carter was inspired in part by other HCAT programs, particularly Storytime with Chief Cassidy, while an interview with John Cronin helped Carter build confidence in front of the camera. Carter also praised Bruce Gilfoy and the HCAT staff for

their support in bringing the program to life.

The first episode, aired September 30, spotlights Holliston's Unified Basketball Program. Through conversations with student-athletes, partners, coaches and the athletic director, the epi-

DR. CARTER
continued on page 11



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What higher mortgage rates mean for home sellers in Boston’s MetroWest



Lynne Ritucci and Tim Swift

REAL ESTATE INSIGHTS

Higher mortgage rates don’t just affect buyers; they also influence how homes are priced and sold. As affordability becomes a greater concern, buyers are paying closer attention to monthly payments and looking for ways to make their budgets work.

For sellers throughout Boston’s MetroWest communities,

understanding the competition and adapting to changing buyer expectations can make a meaningful difference.

How new construction is competing

Homebuilders are responding to affordability challenges with incentives such as mortgage rate buydowns, closing-cost

assistance, and price reductions. These offers can make new construction attractive to buyers focused on monthly payments rather than purchase price alone.

Although large-scale developments are not prevalent in every MetroWest community, new construction and recently built homes compete with resale properties in select towns and price ranges.

How resale sellers can compete

Existing-home sellers have options, too. Depending on the buyer’s financing and transaction terms, sellers may contribute toward a mortgage rate buydown or closing costs. In other situations, adjusting the price or completing needed repairs may be more effective.

Sellers should also emphasize the advantages of established homes and neighborhoods. Mature landscaping, convenient commuter routes, nearby schools, and access to downtown shops, restaurants, parks, and recreational trails can distinguish a resale property from

a newly built home.

Across MetroWest communities such as Holliston, Ashland, Hopkinton, and Medway, market conditions vary by location, price range, and property type. Some homes attract immediate interest, while others require more time and strategic adjustments to secure an offer.

Pricing and presentation matter

Today’s sellers should not base their asking price solely on what a neighbor received last year or what homes sold for during the pandemic-era market. Buyers are carefully weighing affordability, condition, location, and competing properties.

Pricing competitively from day one, presenting the home in its best condition, and highlighting its strongest features can help generate interest. In some cases, offering a concession may improve a buyer’s purchasing power without requiring a substantial price reduction.

The bottom line

Higher mortgage rates are making buyers more cost-

conscious, and builders are responding with incentives to make homeownership more affordable. MetroWest sellers can compete by understanding their local market, pricing realistically, and remaining flexible when appropriate.

The key is to position your home around what buyers value today. A local market analysis can help determine the right pricing and marketing strategy to attract qualified buyers and achieve the strongest possible result.

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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Before the holiday rush, a little thanks

BY GINA WOELFE

Somewhere between booking your November appointments and deciding whether last year's party outfit can make another appearance, the holidays start taking over the calendar. There's gifts to buy, people to see, and at least one family group text that could use a mute button.

We'll get to the shopping... In fact, b.LUXE is having a sale that will help!

But first, a little appreciation for the people who make b.LUXE Hair & Makeup Studio what it is. The team behind your appointment. The guests who keep coming back. And the neighbors and organizations that give us reasons to gather beyond the studio.

First, our team

A salon runs on talent, but talent alone doesn't keep a busy day moving.

That takes people who offer a second opinion, share a technique, or step in when a colleague needs help. It takes experienced stylists who make time to teach and apprentices who bring good questions to the conversation.

That exchange is part of daily life at b.LUXE. You may come in to see one person, but there's a whole team invested in your visit.

The b.LUXE front desk team deserves its own thank-you. They answer your questions, help you find time in the schedule, and welcome you when you arrive. They make a busy day feel easy, even when the phone has other plans.

As we head into the holiday rush, we want everyone on our studio team to know how much we appreciate the work they do, including the things that happen quietly between appointments.

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To our guests in Medway and the surrounding communities, thank you for continuing to choose us.

"When I think about what I'm most thankful for, it's the people. Our team, the guests who have become friends, and the community that has supported us over the years. b.LUXE has grown into so much more than I ever expected, and I never take that support for granted."

- Heather Cohen, Owner

To our wig community

This year, we want to give special recognition to our growing wig and topper community.

To the women who have shared their stories and allowed us to help them find hair that feels like their own: thank you. That first appointment can come with uncertainty. Heather understands that personally, and your trust means a great deal to her and our team.

We're thankful for the loved ones who come along for support, too. And for everyone who has shared their experi-



ence or recommended our studio to another woman facing hair loss. You may have made that first call a little easier.

Gratitude beyond the studio

Our community connections have taken many forms over the years, including support for PAWS New England, the Medway and Franklin food pantries, Stairs for Troops, Gilly's House, The Hummingbird Foundation, and local school programs and sports teams.

This fall, we also participated in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer in Boston, the Patriots Foundation's Crucial Catch event, and contributed to the Susan G. Komen MORE THAN PINK Walk.

We appreciate the organizations that include us and the volunteers who put so much time into making these efforts happen.

Helping make the holidays happen

This season, we're proud to contribute again to The Santa Foundation.

The Franklin-based organization provides holiday gifts for families in need in Franklin and surrounding communities. When the pressure to provide feels especially heavy, that support matters.

You can join the effort, too. Visit sfjoy.org for information about donating, sponsoring a family, or volunteering.

And a little something for your shopping list...

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Your Money, Your Independence

Spend it forward: In retirement 'someday' is the real risk



Glenn Brown, CFP

For anyone nearing retirement or just starting out in it, seeing the light at the end of the tunnel brings incredible excitement and gratitude. You worked decades for this moment.

Yet, as a Certified Financial Planner, I often witness a quiet paradox play out among diligent savers: they build a nest egg to secure their future, but when the day comes to actually enjoy it, their mindset doesn't change.

A recent *Bloomberg* article highlighted a trend: retired Americans are putting off fun out of fear of running out of money. Studies show over 60%

of retirees with substantial savings feel uncomfortable spending on pure enjoyment, while nearly 90% feel guilt over bucket-list purchases or travel.

Researchers call this the tension between FOMO (Fear of Missing Out on life) and FORO (Fear of Running Out of money). After decades of watching accounts grow, spending down principal triggers a loss reflex. But here's the truth many don't talk about: money delayed is often an opportunity denied.

The three phases of retirement

While gerontologists and planners traditionally stretch post-career phases out to age 75 and 85, my experience with clients shows these transitions happen sooner. Here is how those years typically unfold in practice:

- 1. "Go-Go" Years (ages 60 to 72): You have the health, energy, and mobility to hike, travel, or explore demanding itineraries.
- 2. "Slow-Go" Years (ages 72 to 80): Health slows you down slightly. Trips become simpler, closer to home, and less physically taxing.

- 3. "No-Go" Years (ages 80+): Life centers around home, routine, and medical care.
- The biggest tragedy in retirement isn't spending a little extra in your early 60s, it's saving all your fun money for a phase when your body can no longer support the adventure. Spending it forward means funding your "Go-Go" years while you can fully experience them.

Cash flow analysis & scenario modeling

How do you overcome FORO without jeopardizing your future? Through interactive cash flow analysis and scenario modeling.

Instead of relying on static rules, dynamic modeling tests "what-if" scenarios side by side. For example, we can test adding an extra \$25,000 per year specifically for travel during your first 7 "Go-Go" years.

By modeling this \$175,000 front-loaded investment, you measure the actual delta on your total portfolio in your 80s and 90s. Because spending naturally dials back in the "Slow-Go" and "No-Go" phases, front-loading \$25K a year early on typically creates a surprisingly negligible

impact on long-term security. Seeing that tiny delta on paper provides the empirical proof (and emotional permission) to travel guilt-free.

Structured security: The strategic 3-bucket strategy

If scenarios make sense on paper but your stomach still churns, structure provides peace of mind. Segmenting wealth into 3 time-horizon buckets insulates your lifestyle:

- **BUCKET 1: Cash (Years 1 to 3).** This covers the income shortfall or gap between income sources (Social Security, pensions, rentals, dividends) and actual spending. Keeping this gap in liquid cash insulates your planned lifestyle from market swings.
- **BUCKET 2: Conservative Growth (Years 4 to 5).** Structured conservatively (like a 40/60 stock-to-bond allocation), this medium-term bridge earns modest returns while systematically replenishing Bucket 1.
- **BUCKET 3: Moderate to High Growth (Years 5+).** Positioned for capital appreciation, this bucket fuels long-term needs, healthcare

inflation, or legacy goals (like passing tax-free growth in a Roth IRA to heirs).

When your short-term cash flow gap is secured in Bucket 1 and your legacy is compounding in Bucket 3, taking that dream vacation isn't "depleting wealth," it's executing a well-designed plan.

Give yourself permission to shift from a mindset of accumulation to one of fulfillment. You worked hard to earn your independence, now make sure you're around to enjoy it.

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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Save the Date for Washington Street Players!

Washington Street Players to perform "Death by Design," by Rob Urbinati, directed by Katrina Lehberger, on November 6, 7, 8, 13 and 14, 2026, at Holliston Town Hall, 703 Washington Street, Holliston. For more information visit www.washingtonstreetplayers.org

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LIVING HEALTHY

Beyond daily drops: How modern advances are changing glaucoma care

By Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D.
MILFORD FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

Glaucoma remains one of the leading causes of preventable blindness worldwide. Widely referred to as the “silent thief of sight,” this condition typically develops gradually without warning signs. Because vision loss begins in the periphery, many people do not notice changes until significant and irreversible optic nerve damage has already occurred.

Understanding how glaucoma develops—and how modern medical technology has transformed its treatment—is key to protecting your vision.

Understanding the mechanics of glaucoma

Inside the front section of a healthy eye, a fluid called **aqueous humor** continuously circulates to nourish surrounding

tissues and maintain internal pressure. In a properly functioning eye, fluid drains out through a specialized mesh network known as the trabecular meshwork.

When these drainage channels become clogged or inefficient, fluid builds up, causing elevated intraocular pressure (IOP). This excess pressure exerts mechanical stress on the **optic nerve**—the biological cable transmitting visual information from the retina to the brain.

- **Open-Angle Glaucoma:** The most common form, where the drainage angle remains open but becomes progressively inefficient over time.
- **Angle-Closure Glaucoma:** A less common, sudden block of the drainage angle that can cause rapid

pressure spikes and requires immediate medical attention.

- **Normal-Tension Glaucoma:** Optic nerve damage occurs even when eye pressure measures within standard, normal ranges.

Comprehensive early detection

Because early-stage glaucoma causes no physical discomfort or noticeable blurriness, routine comprehensive eye exams are vital. Modern clinical evaluation relies on multiple diagnostic technologies:

1. **Tonometry:** Measures internal intraocular pressure.
2. **Ophthalmoscopy & OCT Scans:** Optical Coherence Tomography generates high-

- resolution cross-sectional images of the retina and optic nerve head to detect microscopic nerve fiber loss.
3. **Visual Field Testing:** Maps peripheral vision to identify subtle blind spots.
 4. **Gonioscopy:** Directly inspects the eye’s drainage angle structure.

Modern treatment paradigms: From daily drops to sustained care

The primary goal of glaucoma management is lowering eye pressure to halt or slow disease progression. Historically, daily prescription eye drops were the standard starting point. Today, frontline care has shifted toward longer-lasting, low-maintenance therapies.

1. Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) as first-line care

Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) has increasingly replaced daily eye drops as a preferred first-line therapy for open-angle glaucoma. Performed in-office in just a few minutes, SLT applies gentle laser energy to stimulate the body’s natural cellular repair mechanism, clearing drainage channels. It is painless, repeatable, highly effective, and eliminates the daily burden of managing medication schedules.

2. Sustained-Release Drug Implants

For patients needing pharmaceutical control, novel sustained-release delivery systems solve the compliance challenges associated with eye drops:
iDose TR: A tiny, bio-compatible ocular implant placed inside the anterior chamber that steadily releases travoprost over many months, maintaining consistent pressure control without daily dosing.
Durysta: A biodegradable implant inserted into the eye that gradually dissolves while continuously delivering a pre-specified dose of bimatoprost.

3. Traditional topical medications

When drops are prescribed, several classes exist, each targeting fluid dynamics differently:
• **Prostaglandin Analogs** (e.g., latanoprost, bimatoprost): Enhance fluid outflow.
• **Beta Blockers** (e.g., timolol): Decrease fluid production inside the eye.
• **Alpha Agonists & Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors:** Lower production and promote drainage.
• **Rho Kinase Inhibitors** (e.g., netarsudil): Target the trabecular meshwork to lower resistance to fluid outflow.



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HDR. CARTER

continued from page 6

sode highlights the program’s commitment to inclusion and teamwork while exploring how it helps build confidence and a sense of belonging while encouraging greater community involvement.

Future episodes may highlight outstanding teachers, classroom initiatives and school activities while also addressing major issues, including the potential for a new high school and the district’s budgetary challenges. Carter said residents need to understand both the educational needs of the schools and the financial realities of meeting them. The series will celebrate the district’s accomplishments, while at times addressing difficult topics.

Carter acknowledged that personnel matters and student privacy sometimes limit what school officials can share publicly. Maintaining trust, he said, requires being as transparent as possible while respecting those responsibilities.

“We are transparent whenever we can be so that when



Holliston Superintendent, Dr. James “Kimo” Carter, hosts the premiere episode of Learning with Dr. Carter. Photo used courtesy of HCAT

we can’t be, there is trust that we are going to do the right thing,” he said.

The series’ success, said Carter, will be measured not only by viewership but also by whether residents feel more informed and connected to the schools. “The ultimate goal is that our community is more knowledgeable and connected, and often numbers won’t measure that,” he said, “If residents take away one message from the series, I hope it’s that we live in a wonderful town with schools that are doing a great job,” Carter said.

You can watch the first episode of Learning with Dr. Carter on HCAT’s YouTube channel and hcattv.org.

EYES

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4. Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS)

MIGS procedures have altered surgical glaucoma management. Using tiny microscopic equipment and small self-sealing incisions, devices such as the iStent, Hydrus Microstent, or Xen Gel Stent are inserted to create reliable drainage routes. Often combined with routine cataract surgery, MIGS offers a fast recovery profile and significantly reduced risk compared to traditional surgeries.

5. Advanced incisional surgeries

In severe, advanced cases where non-invasive options

fall short, traditional incisional surgeries are utilized to achieve maximum pressure reduction:

- **Trabeculectomy:** Creates a small flap in the sclera (white part of the eye) to allow fluid to bypass blocked channels into a reservoir beneath the conjunctiva.
- **Aqueous Shunt/Tube Implants:** Places a tiny silicone tube that drains fluid into an external reservoir plate implanted under the eye tissue.

Summary and clinical commitment

Glaucoma care has evolved beyond reliance on daily topical drops. Today’s patients benefit from a comprehensive toolkit ranging from targeted lasers and

sustained-release implants to minimally invasive microscopic stents.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we are committed to providing the latest evidence-based technologies. Our team was among the first in New England to offer DSLT laser treatment for glaucoma and perform the iDose TR procedure at the Cataract and Surgery Center of Milford—an achievement highlighted on local Channel 5 news. Through early detection, personalized treatment, and advanced technology, protecting your long-term sight is more achievable than ever.

For more details, see our ad on page 10.

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Stony Brook Camera Club November schedule

The Stony Brook Camera Club meets in-person and/or virtually by Zoom on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. from September to June. In person meetings are held at the Anglican Church of the Redeemer, 195 Main St., Franklin, MA. Our meetings feature speak-

ers, competitions, image studies, and discussions of general interest. We also sponsor a number of photography activities and workshops throughout the year. SBCC includes and welcomes members of all abilities.

- Nov. 5: (Hybrid) Member com-

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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:
Monthly Breakfast: Tuesdays, Nov. 10 & Dec. 8, 9 a.m., \$5, veterans eat free, advanced registration required, 508-429-0622.

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

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

Lions Club Lunch:

Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Dinner-Delivery Only. Register at 508-429-0622.

Nov. 28: at Mission Springs.

Register at 508-893-8021 Pasta, Meatballs & Salad at 12 p.m. No "To Go" Options.

Dec. 24: Roast Beef Dinner. Delivery Only. Register at 508-429-0622.

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

November 3: Share the harvest of things you've learned this year

December 1: What brings you comfort on a cold winter's day?

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

November 13: "Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Krueger.

December 11: "My Husband's Wife" by Alice Feeney

Hearing Aid Cleanings: with Hopkinton Audiology Services, Nov. 4 and Dec. 9, please register at 508-429-0622.

Estate Planning & Probate Questions, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 30-min. sessions with Attorney Amy N. Azza, Nov. 17



& Dec. 15. To register call 508-429-0622.

Dementia-Friendly Free Lunch & Learn, Fri., Nov. 20, 11 a.m., "Creating a Serenity Garden." Join Therapy Gardens to make a small serenity garden to take home. It's simple, creative, and fun! 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 register and RSVP for Lunch: Call 508-429-0622.

New! Counseling, The Center is now offering FREE and CONFIDENTIAL: Individual short-term counseling, Care-

giver support groups and Grief/Bereavement groups.

Contact Counseling and Support Services at The Center for a confidential consultation.

Allegra Denehy, LCSW, 508-429-0622 X214, Denehy@Holliston.k12.ma.us. Her office is in the computer room. Come say hi! Are you a caregiver? Take the Caregiver Support Group Survey at <https://tinyurl.com/CenterCaregiversurvey>

Veterans Morning Briefing & Breakfast, with Kathy Lang, Veterans' Services Agent for the MetroWest District, Fri., Nov. 13, 9 a.m., Register by Nov. 6.

The Scam Landscape: Staying Safe, Thurs., Nov. 5, 1 p.m.

The Smithsonian Institute Collection Presentation, with historian Eric Spahl, Fri., Nov. 6, 11:30 a.m.

HHS Building Committee, Mon., Nov. 9, 11:30 a.m.

Assisted Living Tour: Residence at Valley Farm, Ashland, Tues., Nov. 10, 11 a.m. Space limited to 8. Transportation available upon request 3 days

prior. Registration required at 508-429-0622.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), by SMOC runs from November 1 to April 30, offering heating bill assistance to eligible households. Recipients can also access additional resources like Weatherization Services and the Appliance Management Program. Appointments are required, so please call ahead.

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!

Expressive Art Therapy, with Franci Dumar of Clear Guidance, LLC, Nov. 17 & Dec. 15. At The Center. Register by calling 508-651-7858 Sherborn COA at 508-651-7858 or coa@sherbornma.org. Reach out if you require an accommodation to participate.

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News from HYFS & HDAAC

Supporting our community this fall

As the days grow shorter and temperatures begin to drop, Holliston Youth & Family Services (HYFS) would like to remind residents that support, resources, and opportunities for connection are available right here in our community.

Helping Families Stay Warm This Winter

With rising heating costs and other household expenses, many families may be feeling additional financial pressure as winter approaches. HYFS can help Holliston residents identify and access resources to ease that burden.

Programs such as the South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) Home Energy Assistance Program provide eligible households with help paying winter heating bills. The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund, administered by The Salvation Army, may also provide assistance to households experiencing temporary financial hardship who do not qualify for traditional fuel assistance.

HYFS can also help residents explore emergency assistance through the Holliston Community Action Fund and other community resources. Our Service Navigation program offers individualized support to help residents understand their options, navigate applications, and connect with available assistance.

Now Recruiting for Winter Social Skills Groups!

HYFS is beginning recruitment for our winter social skills groups! These groups provide children with opportunities to build friendships, strengthen communication skills, practice emotional regulation, and develop confidence through engaging, age-appropriate activities.

If you would like to learn more about our upcoming winter groups, please email our Service Navigator, Alison Bihrlé, at bihrlea@holliston.k12.ma.us.

Grief and Loss Support Available

The holiday season can be especially difficult for individuals



and families experiencing grief and loss. Through our partnership with SAFE Coalition, Holliston residents can access compassionate grief support.

SAFE Coalition's grief specialist will be available at the HYFS office on December 9 for individual appointments. Residents can connect with SAFE Coalition to learn about appointment availability and other grief support opportunities throughout the year.

To learn more, visit www.safecoalitionma.org/get-support/grief.

HDAAC Community Update:

HYFS & HDAAC

continued on page 13

Clear the clutter this fall with *Affordable Junk*

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

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

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

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

Affordable Junk Removal specializes in house and estate cleanouts. If your garage, attic, or office is overflowing with stuff, take back your space and let the pros do the heavy lifting.

Jay and his team have handled

Business spotlight

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

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

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

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've also got a driveway special where they'll take away a truckload of your unwanted things if you pile it up. Or if you don't want to lift a finger, then you can point at the items, and



the team will fill up their truck and haul away your unwanted things. However you do it, you're left with more space and more peace of mind.

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

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

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

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

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in

Holliston. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

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

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HYFS & HDAAC

continued from page 12

Remembrance Tree

The Holliston Drug & Alcohol Awareness Coalition is collecting names and stories of loved ones who have passed due to substance use disorder from Holliston or the surrounding area. Last year, we used these names, photos, quotes, and stories to decorate a tree in Blair Square as a "Remembrance Tree" during the Holiday season. We plan to do this again, and to use these lives for other remembrance initiatives throughout the year. If you had someone in your life pass due to substance use disorder, please consider sharing their story to continue their legacy. Visit our social media page

to easily click the link, or visit forms.gle/G2Ste7d2q5z43iMu7. Email moreauz@holliston.k12.ma.us or call 508-429-0620 ex. 3 for questions.

We're Here to Help

Holliston Youth & Family Services supports residents of all ages through counseling, service navigation, community

programming, and referrals. You don't need to be in crisis to reach out.

Contact HYFS at 508-429-0620 or visit www.townofholliston.us/youth-and-family-services. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @hollistonyouthandfamily for program updates and community resources.



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CALENDAR

November 1

Holliston American Legion, Holliston Police & HDAAC present Narcan Training, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., 1750 Washington St., Holliston. Contact Zoe at moreauz@hollistonk12.ma.us or 508-429-0620 x3 with any questions.

Holliston Historical Society annual Holiday Door Décor Contest kickoff, entries accepted through Dec. 13, www.hollistonhistoricalsociety.org/DoorDecorContest

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/481LKAC> .

A Conversation with photographer Neal Rantoul, 3 p.m., Danforth Art Museum & School, 14 Vernon St., Framingham.

November 2

Morning Book Club, 11 a.m., on Zoom, by Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, please register, www.hollistonlibrary.org, “The Stolen Queen,” by Fiona Davis.

Business Resource Night: Meet representatives from U.S. Small Business Administration, Massachusetts Office of Business Development, and MassDevelopment, 5-7 p.m., Holliston Town Hall, Learn about financing options, business support resources, and gain support for your business.

November 3

State Election, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m., Holliston High School, 370 Hollis St., Holliston, election info. at <https://tinyurl.com/HollistonNov3>

November 4

Meaningful Conversations: The Soul & The Scientific Method, 6 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, free but RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/SoulScientific>

November 5

Stony Brook Camera Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Anglican Church of the Redeemer, 195 Main Street, Franklin or Zoom, Member competition, www.stonybrookcc.com for more info.

November 6

Henna with Mandy Roberge, 2:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, please register, www.hollistonlibrary.org

Washington Street Players present “Death by Design,” 7 p.m., Holliston Upper Town Hall, 703 Washington St., Holliston, visit www.washingtonstreetplayers.org to purchase tickets or purchase at door if not sold out. \$22 adults.

HCA Open Mic Night, 7:45 – 10 p.m., Hopkinton Center for the Arts, 98 Hayden Rowe, Hopkinton, \$5 suggested donation, RSVP at <https://info8158279.wixforms.com/f/7515058830363854010>

November 7

Blood drive, 8 a.m.- 2:30 p.m., Mt. Hollis Lodge, 657 Washington St., Holliston, operated by Kraft Family Blood Donor Centers at Mass General Brigham. Walk-ins welcome (bring photo ID) but signups encouraged <https://mgb.softcomputer.net/donor-portal/donate-blood/>

St. Michael’s Holiday Bazaar, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., 1162 Highland St., Holliston.

Holliston Mill Open Studios, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., 24 Water St., Holliston, art, live music, bites & beverages.

Local Authors Expo ‘26, 6-7:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, Authors featured: Frank Sobchak, Emma Fedor, Rob Fitzgibbon, and Jane Kohuth, please register, www.hollistonlibrary.org

Holliston Class of 2027 Mahjong & More Fundraiser, 7-10 p.m., The Center, 150 Goulding St., Holliston, <https://tinyurl.com/HHSClass2027Mahjong> , money raised offsets cost of senior activities, bring 2026 cards or cards from past 3 years, cash bar, appetizers, prizes.

Washington Street Players present “Death by Design,” 7 p.m., Holliston Upper Town Hall, 703 Washington St., Holliston, visit www.washingtonstreetplayers.org to purchase tickets or purchase at door if not sold out. \$22 adults.

November 8

Holliston Mill Open Studios, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., 24 Water St., Holliston, art, live music, bites & beverages.

Drop into Art, 1-4 p.m., Danforth Art Museum & School, 14 Vernon St., Framingham, variety of materials provided for young and old to create art.

Washington Street Players present “Death by Design,” 4:30 p.m., Holliston Upper Town Hall, 703 Washington St., Holliston, visit www.washingtonstreetplayers.org to purchase tickets or purchase at door if not sold out. \$22 adults.

Sunday Jazz Jam, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Hopkinton Center for the Arts, 98 Hayden Rowe, Hopkinton, no fee but donations appreciated, <https://canvas.hopartcenter.org/events/99>

November 9

Seven Science-Based (and Fun!) Ways to Reduce Holiday Stress with Roberta Weiner, 6-7 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, with Roberta Weiner, please register, www.hollistonlibrary.org

November 10

Mystery Book Club, 11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, “Cross Her Heart,” by Melinda Leigh.

November 11

Veterans Day Ceremony, 10:30 a.m., Afghan/Iraq War Monument near Blair Square, presented by the Holliston American Legion, Holliston VFW & Holliston Lions Club. Procession will follow ceremony, down Central and Washington streets to Town Hall for a short public ceremony, pausing for observance at Memorial Square.

November 12

Veterans Appreciation Coffee, 10-11:30 a.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, veterans of Holliston & nearby towns welcome for free coffee & donuts, conversation and personalized notes.

Holliston SEPAC presents Holliston’s Unified Basketball Team vs. Holliston Varsity Basketball, 6 p.m., Holliston High School, 370 Hollis St., Holliston. Event includes 50/50 raffle, a free throw contest, concessions and prizes. General admission \$5, student admission \$3. www.hollistonsepac.org.

Stony Brook Camera Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Zoom, “How Competition Can Save Photographs” with Essdras Suarez, www.stonybrookcc.com for more info.

November 13

Washington Street Players present “Death by Design,” 7 p.m., Holliston Upper Town Hall, 703 Washington St., Holliston, visit www.washingtonstreetplayers.org to purchase tickets or purchase at door if not sold out. \$22 adults.

November 14

Washington Street Players present “Death by Design,” 7 p.m., Holliston Upper Town Hall, 703 Washington St., Holliston, visit www.washingtonstreetplayers.org to purchase tickets or purchase at door if not sold out. \$22 adults.

Parish Pasta Night, 6-8 p.m., St. Mary’s Church Hall, 8 Church St., Holliston, \$10 pp, \$30 immediate family (parents & children), tickets available in advance only at St. Mary’s religious education office starting 11/2.

November 15

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

November 16

Rep. James Arena DeRosa office hours, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m., Millis Council on Aging, 900 Main St., Millis, reach out with questions to alexandra.trantos@mahouse.gov

November 16

History Book Club, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, please register, www.hollistonlibrary.org, “Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism,” by Rachel Maddow.

November 17

Tuesday Matinee, 12:30 p.m., Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston, “Project Hail Mary,” Rated PG-13 (2026.) Running time: 2 hours, 36 minutes; Genre: Sci-fi/Adventure.

November 19

Stony Brook Camera Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Zoom, “Be in control of Your Camera” with Mollie Isaacs, www.stonybrookcc.com for more info.

Celtic Harp Performance, 6-8 p.m., Danforth Art Museum & School, 14 Vernon St., Framingham, \$35, <https://danforthframingham.edu/event>

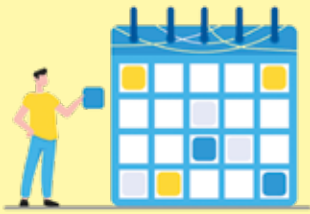
November 21

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

November 28

Holliston Holiday Stroll, 12-5 p.m., downtown Holliston, trolley stops at Willow Brook Farm, Holliston Historical Society, Holiday Market at Town Hall and Mt. Hollis, Downtown, Holliston, Blair Square, Hot chocolate 12-4 at Library, Diverse Holliston Choir 2-3 at Library, Blair square tree-lighting 4:30 p.m., follow www.celebrate-holliston.com/stroll and Celebrate Holliston on social media for updates.

Medway Christmas Parade, 5:30 p.m., starts at Medway High School, Summer St. to Milford St., to Franklin Street, to Village St., to Holliston St., to Main St. to Choate Park, followed by tree lighting and fireworks.



Holliston Historical Society brings back Holiday Door Decor Contest for 2nd year



Holliston Historical Society's Holiday Door Décor Contest, Nov. 1-Dec. 13, allows folks to get creative. Winners will be announced Dec. 18. Photo used courtesy of Holliston Historical Society

The Holliston Historical Society is bringing back a little extra holiday cheer with its second annual Holiday Door Décor Contest, inviting residents to showcase their creativity, celebrate the season, and help make Holliston even more festive.

Following a successful inaugural year that drew entries from neighborhoods throughout town, the contest returns with a few new features, including easier photo submissions and a new Fan Favorite award.

Open to all Holliston residents, the contest invites participants to decorate their front doors, stoops, or porches with their favorite seasonal decorations. From traditional wreaths and twinkling lights to colorful, whimsical, or imaginative displays, all holiday traditions and decorating styles are welcome.

"We were thrilled to see the creativity and enthusiasm that residents brought to our first contest," said committee chair Sarah Amtower. "This year, we're hoping to see even more

Holliston homes get into the holiday spirit. Whether your style is classic and understated or completely over the top, we'd love to see it!"

Entries will be accepted November 1 through December 13. This year, participants will submit photographs of their decorated entrances, making it easier than ever to enter. Decorations will be judged on their creativity and overall presentation, not the quality of the photographs.

A committee from the Historical Society will select first-, second-, and third-place winners, along with an Honorable Mention. New this year, residents will also have an opportunity to vote for a Fan Favorite on the Society's Facebook page, giving the community a chance to celebrate its favorite festive display.

Top winners will receive gift cards donated by local businesses, along with town-wide recognition and, of course, holiday bragging rights!

Winners will be announced on December 18.

Residents can find contest details, official rules, and the entry form at hollistonhistoricalsociety.org/DoorDecorContest beginning November 1.

For questions or additional information, email sarah.amtower@gmail.com.

About the Holliston Historical Society

The Holliston Historical Society's mission is to help enrich the life of our community by promoting historical preservation and by sharing Holliston's past and current history through research, publications, exhibits, programs, events, and education.

Ask the Assessor

By KEVIN RUDDEN, PRINCIPAL ASSESSOR

QUESTION:

I submitted an exemption application in September. Why haven't I heard anything about whether it was approved or not?

ANSWER:

The Assessors' Office reviews all exemption applications to make sure they meet each exemption's specific requirements. If there is missing information or we have questions, you will be contacted to resolve them.

Before the elected Board of Assessors can approve exemption applications, two things need to happen first: the fiscal year's assessed values and the proposed tax rate have to be approved by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR). Before we can submit the proposed tax rate to the DOR for approval, the Select Board has to hold the legally required annual Tax Classification hearing. This hearing is scheduled for November 9.

Once the DOR approves the rate, four things happen:

- First, the Assessors' Office

staff will calculate a particular exemption's effect on applicants' tax bills.

- Second, the Board of Assessors will review and approve each exemption.
- Third, Assessors' Office staff will input the exemption data into the town's tax billing software, which generates a "certificate" that we mail to you to inform you the exact amount of your exemption.
- Fourth, the exemption is reflected in the "actual" tax bills for the third and fourth quarter of the fiscal year that are mailed out in late December.

If you submit an exemption application between November 1 and next April 1, the Assessors' Office processes them as received and the Board of Assessors will review and approve them at their next scheduled meeting. Applicants will then get their approval "certificates" in the mail. However, these applicants will have to contact the Tax Collector's office to determine the new amount due for their third and fourth quarter property tax bills.



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SPORTS

HHS field hockey rebuilding, but still strong

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

After saying goodbye to 10 seniors from last year's team, Holliston field hockey Coach Alyssa Healey had a suspicion that this fall was going to be a rebuilding one on the field, and thus far in the early part of the season, she was right. The Panthers are currently 1-5-4 playing in a tough Tri-Valley league.

"We have been struggling, but the team is still keeping cohesiveness," Healey said. "We're a young team and rebuilding."

Although the Panthers had only been able to secure one win by press time, the team has been playing competitive field hockey against some of the top teams in the TVL. Holliston has taken both Hopkinton and Norwood

to a stale mate, grabbing two ties while playing with Dover-Sherborn (the number 1 team in Division 3). The Panthers stayed close to the Raiders, but over the last five minutes they gave up two goals and ended up losing 4-0.

The expectations put forth by Healey were rather simple — just keep learning on a daily basis. Thus far, the girls have been practicing hard learning all the formations and employing all fundamentals, all the while asking questions of the coaching staff to better themselves.

"There are no easy games in the TVL," the Holliston Coach said, "but the girls are working hard at getting better each and every day."

Leading the Panthers onto the field are tri-captains Anna

Barrett (who happens to be a two-time captain), Maggie Morton and Olivia Ledoux. Barrett and Morton are seniors, while Ledoux is a junior. A four-year starter and the team's leading scorer, Barrett plays the right forward for Holliston, while her senior counterpart (Morton), a three-year starter with an athletic background, is, according to her coach, tough as nails as the right middle. Ledoux, the team's top assist leader last fall who earned Super Sophomore from the Massachusetts State Field Hockey Association (MSFHA), will patrol the midfield.

All three captains bring something different to the table in helping the team. Barrett is a leads-by-example captain that also radiates a positive experience to the rest of the team; being a two-year captain is a testament to her leadership; Morton goes out and gets things done, and Ledoux is the team motivator. Together, the trio unites the team and provides a next play attitude.

Holding down the fort between the pipes is first-year varsity goalie, senior Mae Erickson. The senior keeper has been the junior varsity starter the past two years, and this year, she was elevated to the big club.

"She is our goalie for this year and getting her turn," said Healey. "In the Dover-Sherborn loss, she had 44 saves, leaving them frustrated to say the least."

Although entering her senior campaign, Erickson had put in a lot of hard work and training



L-R, Holliston Field Hockey captains Anna Barrett, Olivia Ledoux and Maggie Morton each bring unique leadership talents to this year's young team. Photo used courtesy of Alyssa Healey

over the summer and went to as many goalie clinics as she could, even if it happened to follow a game. According to the coach, she has been putting in the time and has been a good leader in the net, especially since she has a relatively new defense playing in front of her.

Junior Margaret Floecker plays in front of Erickson as the team's center back and is the core of the Holliston defense. Sophomore Lily Neitzel, who played forward as a freshman last fall, was moved to defense by Healey this year due to the need.

"She is totally new to playing defense, but has accepted the challenge," Healey said. "We needed to fill a hole, and I felt that she was more than capable of taking on the position. She is a tough individual who always has her stick down and can clear the

ball. She is unstoppable and will occasionally move up to the corners for us on the offense."

Being that the season is underway, Healey's outlook for the remainder of the season is to have her team win some games against the teams the second time around while finishing in the top 18 of the power rankings.

Currently, Holliston is ranked 17th, so Healey's goals are right in line and will allow them to advance into the State Tournament, where they will look to go after the biggest goal.

"Making it into the tournament is a priority, but once we are there, we are looking to capture our first road win," the Panther coach said. "We have preliminary wins but have never had a first-round win — that is our biggest goal."

Unified Vs. Varsity basketball fundraiser Nov. 12

Holliston SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council, invites neighbors to come cheer on Holliston's Unified Basketball Team and celebrate the end of their season with this fun-filled family event of the Unified team vs. Holliston Varsity Basketball on Thursday, November 12, 6 p.m., at Holliston High School, 370 Hollis St., Holliston.

The event will include a 50/50 raffle, a free throw contest, concessions and prizes. General admission is \$5, and student admission is \$3.

Let's pack the stands to show support for the Unified Team and Holliston SEPAC!

For more information on Holliston SEPAC, visit www.hollistonsepac.org.

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Holliston Public Library November adult programs

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www.hollistonlibrary.org

Morning Book Club, Monday, Nov. 2, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Please Register

“The Stolen Queen,” by Fiona Davis.

Henna with Mandy Roberge, Friday, Nov. 6, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Please Register

Beloved henna artist Mandy Roberge is back in Holliston! She will be setting up shop in the Gilman Room, to offer henna masterpieces for our participants. A wonderful, shared community experience! All ages welcome!

Local Authors Expo '26, Saturday, Nov. 7, 6-7:30 p.m., Please Register

We are thrilled to be hosting a panel of local authors for our annual Local Authors Expo! We will hear from each author about their work and there will be time for questions at the end of the panel discussion.

Then we invite you to purchase any books you wish, enjoy refreshments courtesy of Friends of Holliston Library, and chat with our authors. A night of warm company and conversations about books with the people who create them.

Authors featured: Frank Sobchak, Emma Fedor, Rob Fitzgibbon, and Jane Kohuth.
Seven Science-Based (and

Fun!) Ways to Reduce Holiday Stress with Roberta Weiner Monday, Nov. 9, 6-7 p.m. Please Register

Learn proven ways to reduce stress with yoga & meditation teacher Roberta Weiner as she presents science-based techniques you can put to use right away. In this engaging hour, you will learn 7 science-based tools and techniques that can help you lessen anxiety, get a better night's sleep, and enjoy a calmer, more productive life.

Mystery Book Club, Tuesday, Nov. 10, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., “Cross Her Heart,” by Melinda Leigh.

Veterans Appreciation Coffee, Thursday, Nov. 12, 10-11:30 a.m.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Veterans of Holliston and nearby towns with a special coffee hour and personalized thank-you notes. Veterans are welcome enjoy free coffee and donuts in the second floor Meeting Room, share in conversation with other current or former service members and library patrons, and read the thank you notes from the Holliston community!

History Book Club, Monday, Nov. 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

“Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism,” by Rachel Maddow.

Tuesday Matinee, Tuesday, Nov. 17, 12:30-2 p.m.

Come to the library the third Tuesday of every month and watch a new movie! “Project Hail Mary.” Rated PG-13 (2026.) 2 hours, 36 minutes; Genre: Sci-fi/Adventure.

Holiday Stroll, Saturday, Nov. 28

12-4 p.m. Hot Chocolate provided by the Friends of Holliston Library.

2-3 p.m. Diverse Holliston Choir:

Join us as you stroll around town and listen to the melodious voices of the Diverse Holliston Choir as they sing Songs of Hope, including songs from The Eagles and “Hamilton,” along with others.

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

Fundraiser for Holliston firefighter's cancer battle

Recently, a Go Fund Me page was established to help Holliston Firefighter Keith Knowles. The page reads:

“We’re hoping this message reaches the residents of Holliston, the broader Firefighting community, and anyone else who might be willing to help.

Holliston Firefighter Keith Knowles has been battling an aggressive form of cancer over the past few years that has recently stopped responding to treatment. Unfortunately, cancer is now becoming an all-too-common diagnosis for firefighters.

Keith is a 20+ year veteran of the Holliston Fire Department as a Firefighter, EMT, and a Dispatcher. You may not know him directly, but he’s been working to help the community of Holliston stay safe in a number of ways for a substantial amount of his life.

Our original goal was to raise at least \$10,000 to help Keith, his wife Maureen, and their family in their time of need. In speaking with Keith, I know for fact his medical bills, etc. for multiple

years of treatment far exceed this amount. Based on the overwhelming support that’s been shown in the first few days of the campaign, we’re now hoping to raise in excess of \$25,000 for Keith and his family.

Keith would never ask for help on his own—that’s why we’re asking on his behalf.

Anything you could do to help give or spread this message would make a significant impact to help the Knowles Family and would be forever appreciated. All funds raised will be going directly to Keith and his family with no questions asked to be used in any way they see fit based on their needs.

With Our Thanks,

The Holliston Firefighters Mutual Relief Association, on behalf of Firefighter Keith Knowles

***For those uncomfortable donating online, direct contributions can be delivered to the Holliston Fire Dept., 59 Central St., Holliston, MA 01746, with checks made payable directly to ‘Keith Knowles’.**

Holliston Mill Studio Open Studios Nov. 7-8

Holliston Mill Studios artists and artisans will open their studios for the annual Holliston Mill Open Studios event at 24 Water Street, Holliston on Saturday and Sunday, November 7–8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. All are welcome.

Guests can meet artists in their working spaces, browse paintings, photography, writing, crafts and other original works, listen to live music, and enjoy food and refreshments while getting a behind-the-scenes look at the creative community inside the mill. Some artists even offer interactive, hands-on art opportunities.

The weekend will also feature live music both days, as well as food and refreshments, as artists

traditionally offer 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.

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.

Find Holliston Mill Studios at www.hollistonmillstudios.com as well as on Instagram and Facebook.

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News from the Town Manager

Veterans Day Observance
The Holliston American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Lions Club will present a Veterans Day Ceremony beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at the Afghan/Iraq War Monument near Blair Square. Following the ceremony, a procession will then march down Central Street and Washington Street to Town Hall for a short public ceremony, pausing for observance at Memorial Square (Washington and Hollis Streets) along the way.

Capital Expenditure Fund Update
The first phase of the independent analysis has been completed. The analysis showed the current available balance of the Capital Expenditure Fund at \$774,463, which is \$758,918

short of the balance required by the Town's financial policies. Based on estimated free cash levels that will be available for the October Town Meeting, the Select Board has proposed a deposit into the fund that will close the deficit while also allowing for additional capital expenditures. A number of capital projects were postponed to future years to close this gap. The second phase of this investigation will ensure the Town has controls in place to ensure this reporting error does not recur.

Note: at time of writing, Town Meeting had yet to occur

Attention Business Owners and Entrepreneurs: Business Resource Night
Join us at Holliston Town Hall on Monday, Nov. 2, 2026, from 5-7 p.m. to meet representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration, Massachusetts

Office of Business Development, and MassDevelopment. Learn about financing options and business support resources, ask questions about your business's needs, and make connections that can help you navigate available programs. Whether you're starting a business or looking to strengthen or expand an existing one, we encourage you to attend!

Board and Committee Trainings: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Building upon similar trainings held in the spring, the Town is pleased to invite board and committee members to participate in upcoming webinars on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). This training is part of the Town's ongoing commitment to advancing DEI initiatives and supporting inclusive, respectful, and effective governance. Offering this training to

Board and Committee members is a goal of the Town's 5-Year Strategic Plan. The webinars will take place on Nov. 18 at noon and Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. Please contact the Town Manager's office at 508-429-0608 with additional questions.

Parking Ban Begins Nov. 1
A reminder to the community that the overnight parking ban goes into effect on November 1st - on-street parking is prohibited between 1-5 to 5 a.m. through March 2027.

Marshall Street Recycling Center: Open Sundays
The Marshall Street Recycling Center will be open Sundays beginning November 8. A complete list of additional days/days after holidays that the Recycling Center will be open is below:
November 8, 15, 22, 29
December 6, 13, 20, 26, and 27
January 3, 10, 17, 24

Recent Holliston Home Sales

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Date	Holliston	Amount
10/09/26	15 Bullard St.	\$870,000
10/08/26	1172 Washington St.	\$1.10M
10/01/26	1804 Washington St.	\$785,000
09/30/26	208 Mohawk Path	\$1.38M
09/29/26	66 Lakeshore Dr.	\$309,750
09/28/26	21 Foxwood Cv.	\$1.10M
09/28/26	47 Westfield Dr.	\$785,000
09/25/26	33 Copper Ln.	\$670,000
09/18/26	152 Turner Rd., Unit 38	\$215,000
09/14/26	33 Copper Ln.	\$670,000
09/09/26	10 Winston Rd.	\$1.15M
09/04/26	105 Bonney Dr.	\$1.65M
09/04/26	615 Mayflower Landing	\$1.60M

Source: zillow.com Compiled: Local Town Pages

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Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors Thanksgiving drive continues

Did you know that out of the 40% of Massachusetts households—approximately 1.1 million—experiencing food insecurity in 2025 - over half depended on charitable food to feed their families. 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 to provide gift cards for Thanksgiving shopping. HNN is also partnering

with the Holliston Lions Club who coordinates the Thanksgiving Meals for Seniors effort

To donate, visit the HNN Donations webpage <https://www.hollistonnewcomers.org/Donate> and select Thanksgiving or if you would prefer to mail your donation, please send a check made out to Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors to Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors, PO Box 6581, Holliston and note that it is for Thanksgiving. HNN would like to thank all the businesses and individuals that have already donated.

We are also collecting handmade Thanksgiving Cards to accompany the Senior Meal delivery which can be dropped off at 922 Highland Street, Holliston - a bin will be at the front door. Please submit your donation or drop off your cards by Sunday, Nov. 15. If you have any questions, please email thanksgivingbaskets.newcomers@gmail.com.

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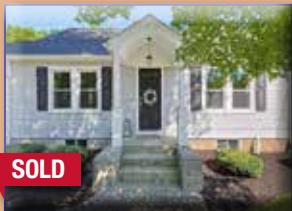
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Festival of Lights at Fatima Shrine



Thursday, December 10 through December 27, 5–9 p.m.
More details to follow in December issue.

Pathway to a Better Life
volunteers needed

Volunteer training sessions Dec. 3 & 31

Pathway to a Better Life is a temporary warming center for the greater Milford area that runs from November 1 to March 31. We open our doors when temperatures drop to 30 degrees and below.

Volunteer training sessions will be held on Thursdays, December 3 at 7 p.m. and December 31 at 9 a.m. at St. Mary’s Church, 17 Winter St., Milford. To sign up, call or text Lisa Trusas at 508-922-9032.

Join Meaningful Conversations Holliston for
‘The Soul & The Scientific Method’
Nov. 4 at library

Meaningful Conversations Holliston’s next event, on November 4, 6 p.m. at Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington St., Holliston will address “The Soul & The Scientific Method.” The event is free, but folks are asked to register for tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/SoulScientific>.

Has spirituality been given a bad rap? What are we losing when we lack a practical approach to organizing our inner lives?

Rather than seeing spirituality and science as entirely separate realms, are there lessons from each that could be applied to one another? Are there scientific principles that could be applied to our spiritual explorations? Where do scientific ethics come from, and how do we agree on them? How might a foundation for questioning and discovery affect how we explore spiritual questions and seek truth?

Come join a different kind of conversation – one that welcomes every perspective in a search for the truths that unite us all – as we discuss the spiritual perspective offered by the Bahá’í Teachings on the relationship between science and spirituality. Join us for a lively discussion as we explore how applying a “practical” approach to our spirituality can actually help further our growth as individuals and collectively.

“Religion and Science are intertwined with each other and cannot be separated. These are the two wings with which humanity must fly. One wing is not enough.” – Bahá’í Teachings

This event is free and open to all regardless of background or belief. Donations will not be accepted.

St. Michael’s to hold Holiday Bazaar Nov. 7

St. Michael’s Episcopal Church will hold its annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday November 7, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at 1162 Highland Street, Holliston.

The church is holding this annual event earlier in hopes of attracting a larger number of crafters and shoppers before the busy holiday season begins.

The event will feature gently used fall and Christmas treasures in Annette’s Attic, raffle baskets, a Jingle Bell Bake Shoppe and many local crafters and artisans.

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