

*The Voice of Your Community*

## Holliston Pride Flag a Symbol of Inclusion

By J.D. O'GARA

At noon, on June 12th, residents of Holliston gathered for a

historic occasion, the hanging of an LGBTQ Pride flag on the face of Holliston Town Hall.

**PRIDE**

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Holliston Pride Committee members Lina Giraldo, Barbara Fritts Worby, and Trudy Cross celebrate the raising of the town of Holliston's first-ever Pride flag on Friday, June 12th, 2020.



A march on Juneteenth (June 19) solemnly acknowledged the death of a number of Black Americans, while also recognizing the day the last American slaves learned they were free. The event was organized by Diverse Holliston.

## Black Lives Matter in Holliston

Following the highly notorious way that George Floyd, a Black man, died while being arrested by Minneapolis Police, the town of Holliston joined hundreds around the country taking to the streets in protest of the mistreatment of Black Americans at the hands of police. For coverage of these events, turn to page 2.

**BLM**

*continued on page 2*



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# Holliston Students March

On June 4th, young Holliston students organized in a flash to march in the hundreds to express outrage at police brutality sweeping the nation following the death of another black man, George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police, captured on viral video.

Caroline Beaudet was one of the organizers of the event with Emily Rivera and Lauren Maki. She was surprised at the turnout on a very short notice. Beaudet says she was moved to do something as she realized her privilege. "If I have all this, why can't they?" she asked, as a white



Julianna Lee, Kayla Ducrepin and Roma Patel, rising Holliston High School juniors, felt strongly about taking a stand on black lives, and so they joined other students from Holliston High School who took a stand

woman, in regard to Black Americans. "If I can be pulled over and not be killed, why can't they?"

Mary Kinsella, member of the Holliston Democratic Town Committee, felt moved to join the group. She says even Holliston needs to be a town more welcoming to diversity. "Just a glance or dirty look that makes people feel less than welcome, but we're all human beings.

Senior Emily Downing added, "I live in Holliston, and I think there has to be a change, because racism toward the black community is just not acceptable."



Students – and other community members – met at the Robert Adams Middle School and marched to Washington Street.



Not everyone marched—some supported the effort from across the street.



Turnout was large for this march for a town the size of Holliston, with several hundred participating in a day's notice.



These protesters turned out in support of Black Lives Matter.

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# Diverse Holliston Holds Vigil for George Floyd, Black Lives

On the evening of May 31, 2020, board members of local group, Diverse Holliston, held a small vigil in front of the United Church of Christ, holding signs of the "names of the deceased as well as the numerous other Black Americans who have died due to the bigotry and brutality at the hands of a white supremacist

state," according to their statement on social media.

With COVID-19 in mind, the group kept the vigil small, with participants lining up six feet apart. Community members drove by and honked to show their support.

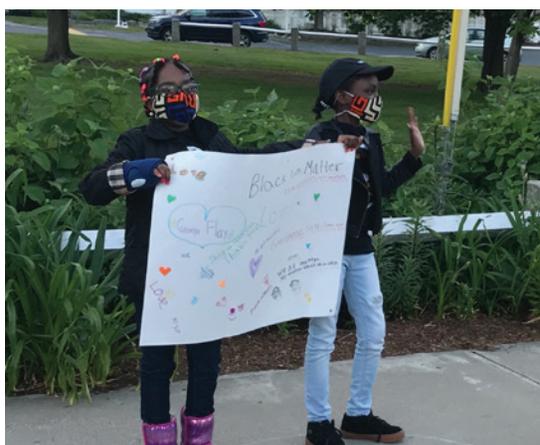
In a statement on the group's Facebook page, the Diverse

Holliston board wrote:

"The deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd at the hands of police officers and White vigilantes have exposed once again that the disease of white supremacy continues to poison our nation.

**BLM**

*continued on page 3*



Participants held signs with the names of Black men and women killed at the hands of police.

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# Would've, Could've, Should've... But Did You?

And like that... half of 2020 is gone.

What's new? Miss anything?

Yes, that's sarcasm.

Lots happening with honest discussions, realizations and expressions for change, all good things for a society of freedom and opportunity. Being a financial planning column, I wanted to draw a few parallels where action, not just talk, is needed to have meaningful, long-term solutions.

The past few years I've encountered prospective clients seeking help; however, their focus wasn't on holistic planning as it was voicing frustration over waiting. Sitting in large sums of cash waiting for a good time to invest or worse, "when this market crashes".

Why do I say worse?

If equity markets are down 20% or more, there is a reason and it becomes the new shiny object leading to continued analysis-paralysis. Sure enough, in March and April I circled back, none working with a financial planner and responses varied from "too much going on right now", "cash is king", and my favorite, "are you bleeping crazy?!"

Few predicted a V-shaped recovery of the US stock market. To be clear, adversity, uncertainties, risks and opportunities continue. The stock and bond markets are voting machines into the future. Instead of talking about how that will turn out, focus actions for the constants of change and time.

**Time In, Not Timing** - Building income and wealth passively in markets or actively through a business, time invested is necessary. The further one moves away from entry points or start dates, the less important they become. Focus shifts to plans for what's next and adapting personal and systematic changes.

**Bucket Strategy** - To increase comfort with volatility and discount bad timing, consider allocating money to timeframes of need and align investment risk accordingly. In simplest form, there are 3 buckets: One is 12-36 months, Two is 3-5 years and Three is 5+ years. It is customizable, one example being Bucket One for income gap not overall expenses for 36 months in cash, as unrealistic and an opportu-

nity cost for most. This strategy requires confidence in planning inputs, process and proactive action to Buckets One & Two as things change.

**Time Waits For No One** - In their 20's, The Stones covered Time Is On My Side, 10 years later Jagger/Richards wrote more telling "Time Waits For No One". One a hit, the other a dark reality few like to hear. Procrastination, while easy, makes things harder to solve as it limits both options and opportunities as time marches forward.

Blink and 2021 will be here. Another year older, goals another year shorter.

*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**

*Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of PlanDynamic, LLC, [www.PlanDynamic.com](http://www.PlanDynamic.com). Glenn is a Certified Financial Planner™, Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor and fee-only fiduciary helping clients take control of planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.*

**BLM**

*continued from page 2*

The Board of Diverse Holliston is committed to creating space for members of our Holliston community to collectively grieve these deaths and express the multitude of feelings that accompany yet more lives of unarmed Black Americans callously disregarded and ripped away from their families."

Earlier in the day, on the same location, members of the United Church of Christ had also gathered in a similar, solemn acknowledgment of black lives lost.



**Diverse Holliston Board members opted for a small, socially distant gathering in the era of COVID-19.**

**BLM**

*continued on page 4*

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# Juneteenth Celebrated at State and Town Level

BLM

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By J.D. O'GARA

A hundred and fifty-five years to the day that the last slaves in the United States truly became free, the Massachusetts State Senate passed a resolution commemorating June 19th, 2020 as "Juneteenth." The day has been celebrated by black American communities for a century and a Juneteenth is an unofficial holiday that celebrates June 19, 1865, the day that Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas and alerted the remaining enslaved African Americans in the United States of America that they were free. That decree arrived over two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Six months later, Congress would ratify the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, formally abolishing slavery.

"On Friday, June 19, 2020, the Massachusetts State Senate will commemorate 155 years since the end of the Civil War and enslaved people were told of their rights to freedom under the Emancipation Proclamation," stated Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). Juneteenth is a time to celebrate and reflect on the arc of history, and the hard work that remains to achieve true justice for Black Americans. I encourage everyone to join me in recognizing this historic day. The Senate is committed to honoring that history by taking action to advance the cause of racial justice in the Commonwealth."

The town of Holliston also held a celebration of the day, solemnly recognizing the day with a march, organized by Diverse Holliston, from Goodwill Park, to Holliston Police Station and back. Participants in the peaceful demonstration, part of a series of such demonstrations nationwide in the wake of George Floyd's killing by police, held signs acknowledging the names of black men and women killed by police.

Following the march, about 80 community members assembled at Goodwill Park to share his-



tory, poetry and song inspirations aimed at celebrating Juneteenth and affirming the ongoing aim for social justice for black Ameri-

cans. The event was emceed by Francesca Douyon, President of Diverse Holliston. Tina Hein, member of the Holliston Select

Board, joined a number of community members in speaking out against racism.

## Letter to the Holliston Community

I speak on behalf of the Holliston Police Department in that we share with you our disgust and anger over the murder of Mr. George Floyd at the hands of a terminated Minneapolis Police

Officer. There is no justification for what happened. I understand the anger this has caused, but I assure you that the Holliston Police Department will continue to provide the fair and impartial po-

licing that the Town has always been proud of.

The Holliston Police Department is both a progressive and

BLM

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**BLM**

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proactive agency that applies industry best practices. We thoroughly embrace the six pillars embodied in the final report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, and remain committed to professional conduct, democratic policing, and procedural justice for all people. The six pillars include; Building Trust and Legitimacy; Policy and Oversight; Technology and Social Media; Community Policing and Crime Reduction; Officer Training and Education; and Officer Safety and Wellness. We practice these pillars each and every day through our actions and community engagement. We remain committed to building relationships with everyone in our community while serving with respect and compassion regardless of one's race, religion, color, creed, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

The men and women of the Holliston Police Department receive regular training in the areas of use of force, mental health awareness and response, and bias-based profiling. We also utilize the services of a Jail Diversion Program in which a Master's level mental health clinician is embedded into the police department to assist us with mental health

related calls for service. Our Officers have also received specialized training in the area of procedural justice, Integrating Communication, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT), police ethics, and interactions with youth. Additionally, we regularly circulate department policies and procedures via our online software system to ensure that our Officers are reading, reviewing, and understanding department policies that are in place. This accountability confirms that we are performing our duties within our policy framework.

Furthermore, I am proud that the Holliston Police Department was able to receive full accreditation status by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC) under my command in October 2017. This week, I have requested an on-site assessment by MPAC to ensure that our department meets or exceeds the Commission's high standards for law enforcement professional excellence. This assessment will help to ensure that

we are in compliance with the Commission's 257 mandatory standards as well as a required percentage of optional standards for an agency our size. These standards, established by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), cover some of the following areas; use of force, recruitment, selection, training, prisoner transportation and holding facilities, property and evidence control, and patrol operations. As an accredited state agency, we conform to the gold standard of policing policies and follow best practices of policing.

Community relations is the cornerstone of the Holliston Police Department. Our women and men are here to serve the Holliston Community and we take great pride in carrying out our duties. We understand that building relationships is vital to our success and we work diligently to ensure those relationships are fostered and developed whenever possible. Our Officers pride themselves on being approachable and having an excellent rapport with our citizens. Some of the recent community engagement events that the Holliston Police Department has engaged in include, but are not limited to: a Veteran's appreciation breakfast, ice cream socials with seniors, a bicycle safety event for kids, the expansion of our school resource officer program, our junior police academy, our RAD program, Toys for Tots, "Fill-A-Cruiser" event, our citizens police academy, "Shop with a Cop" event, the National

Night Out Against Crime event, our "Coffee

with a Cop" events, "Popsicles with Police," "Pumpkin Patrol," "We've Got Your Back-Pack to School," our senior citizen holiday luncheon, the "Prescription Drug Take Back Day," and our "Community Reader program" to name a few.

As your Police Chief, I am extremely proud of the women and men of the Holliston Police Department. Our Officers have been hired based on their character, their integrity, and their values and they are proud of the community that they serve. It is my hope that those who live, work, and travel through Holliston feel secure in knowing that our Police Department is highly trained, professional, and most of all, accountable. Police Officers are human beings. In addition to protecting and serving, they are also fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, husbands, wives, neighbors, and friends. We make mistakes, and when we do, we will make sure that those mistakes are properly corrected. The transparency of our agency is the key ingredient for building trust and legitimacy with the community that we serve.

I assure you that we remain committed to providing the fair and impartial policing that the community both deserves and expects. May we continue to work together to make Holliston the great community that it is.

*Respectfully,  
Matthew J. Stone  
Chief of Police, Holliston*

# Holliston Annual Town Meeting

July 20, 2020

7:30 p.m.

Holliston High School

# Holliston Beaches Open to Residents

Stoddard Park and Pleasure Point beaches have reopened for HOLLISTON RESIDENTS ONLY. All beach visitors will need a season pass sticker (\$45) or a day pass (\$15). No passes will be sold on site.

Please visit the 2020 BEACH INFO/STICKER APPLICATION link, [https://www.townofholliston.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf706/f/uploads/beach\\_rules\\_w\\_application.pdf](https://www.townofholliston.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf706/f/uploads/beach_rules_w_application.pdf), for more information about what to expect. Due to the COVID-19 situation, groups larger than 10 may not gather, and a minimum of 12 feet must be kept between groups/blanketed areas. Physical distancing of 6 feet applies and face coverings should be worn when this is not possible.

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**PRIDE**

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Barbara Fritts Worby addressed those assembled, spaced out for social distancing, thanking town officials and workers for making it happen, including Tina Hein and Donna Muzzy. She thanked Hingham Pride for donating a flag for the event. She also harkened to the late 1960s, when it was illegal to engage in gay behavior and police would raid gay bars.

“Violent police raids were routine,” she said, and on the night of the Stonewall Riots, it was transgender women who fought back. That fight continues today, said Fritts Worby.

“Today, transgender women of color are dying at alarming rates,” she said. “We cannot limit our families to those who love like us or look like us.” She encouraged the group to “fight for all marginalized (people),” ending with, “if you’re not a white male, a lot of people have fought for the right for you to vote, so go and exercise it.”

For Andrew Evans, who grew up in Holliston, the flag being

proudly raised, meant a lot.

“Holliston has always been a very nice town. Growing up in schools, we were always taught tolerance, but there was a secret gay Facebook page. Having this be on the front page of what Holliston is, is really the complete reversal of that; it’s saying a lot, be out and proud.”

“It’s important the town took a stand on inclusion. If you don’t want to put the Pride flag, you’re saying you’re not supportive of gay rights,” said Fritts Worby, following her public remarks. She cautioned against what she called The Politeness Protocol, or polite pushback against change. It might not be name calling, but it is subtle resistance to change.

Trudy Cross, founder of Holliston Pride, agreed. ““If you’re just nice, you’re still not really doing anything.”

The first Pride flag appeared in 1978, created by openly gay artist and drag queen Gilbert Baker, who later noted he was asked to create the symbol of pride by California’s first openly gay elected official, Harvey Milk. (Britannica.com) In today’s Pride flag, each stripe of

the rainbow represents a sector of the LGBTQ community. Pride flags that openly display black and brown stripes specifically champion black and brown LGBTQ people. (www.oprahmag.com).



**Out and proud, town members celebrate Holliston’s embrace of the symbol of Pride for LGBTQ citizens.**



**Members of the town came out to see the Pride flag unfurled at Holliston Town Hall. The group maintained healthy social distance.**



**Barbara Fritts Worby, of Holliston Pride, addresses a group gathered at Holliston Town Hall to celebrate the raising of the Pride flag.**

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# Holliston Resident Graduates Top of His Class at Dartmouth

Holliston resident Joshua Perlmutter was recently honored as one of Dartmouth College's six valedictorians of the Class of 2020. To become a valedictorian, students must earn a 4.0 grade

point average for all four years of their Dartmouth education. Dartmouth has six valedictorians this year, as these students tied for the highest GPAs.

# Your Will Does Not Avoid Probate Court

Families often think having a will protects their family from the burden of probate. It doesn't. Why would you want to avoid probate for your loved ones? Because it's expensive and slow. Even if your will makes designations, families can lose about 5% of the assets in court/lawyer fees. In addition, your family will end up waiting months, if not years, for courts to make final decisions.

Many people believe a Living Trust is for extremely wealthy families, but this is not the case. In fact, it's a gift to your heirs and a way to maintain control decisions during your lifetime. Planning your estate with a living trust costs a fraction of the cost of probate. Putting your plan in place, saves time, expense, and heartache. Ultimately setting your family up for success and giving you peace of mind.

Many misunderstand how a Last Will and Testament works. They think having a Will means their heirs won't have to file a probate in court. However, a Will doesn't automatically transfer assets to heirs. A Will's instructions state what you want to happen and who's in charge of your estate.

During the probate process, the court will formally appoint your selected "executor." Without the courts approval, this person you selected to oversee the estate cannot act. Probate's time consuming and expensive.

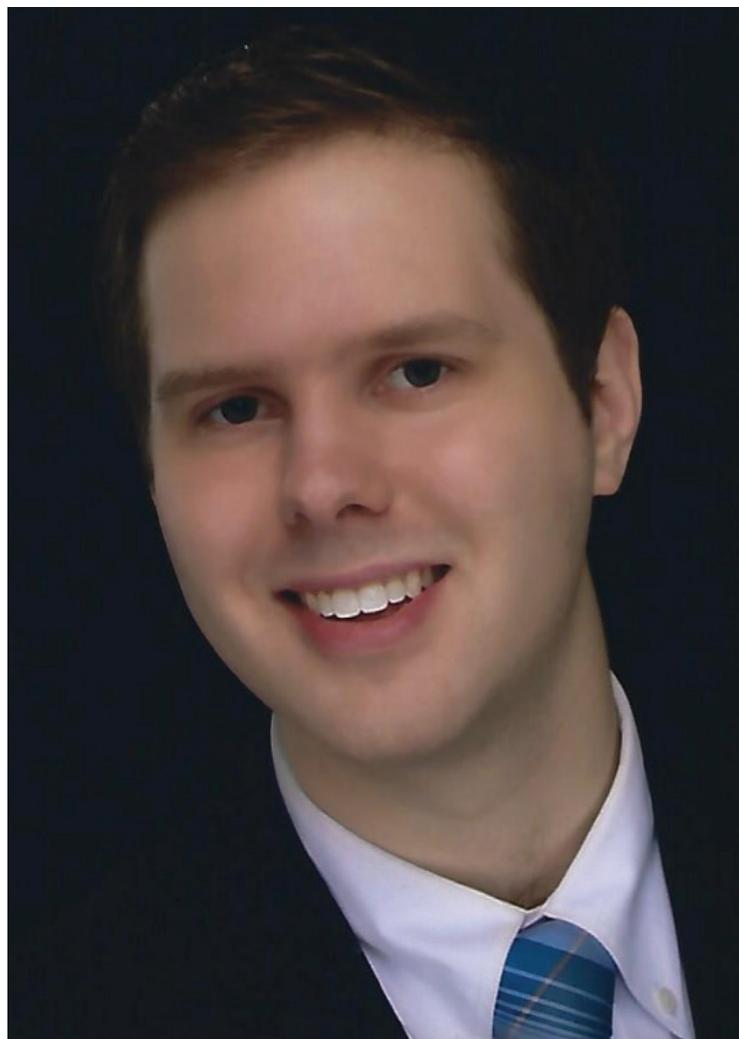
It requires constant communication with the court and offers no privacy. The process is public, so that anyone can view your Will, and see the details of your estate.

Probate is avoidable with a good estate plan, specifically a Revocable Living Trust. Couples typically already own property jointly, but when the remaining spouse dies, the children/other heirs must settle the estate. Your home and life savings might be sold or transferred, but not without the burden of Probate Court. The Estate Planning & Asset Protection Law Center of Dennis Sullivan & Associates has been helping families avoid probate for over 26 years. We offer a free

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# Holliston Historical Society

## Living History COVID-19 Project

The Holliston Historical Society recognizes what an historic time we are living through right now and we would like to capture people's thoughts about their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and the stay-at-home order. We plan to collect all your thoughts in a binder or book that will be kept in the Society's research library. We may also post some of your comments on our website or in articles in other publication such as Holliston Reporter. We hope that future generations will be interested in hearing our stories about everyday life right now and how life has changed because of this virus.

### You may send us any stories (or photos, artwork, poems) you like, but here are some questions to get you started:

How do you feel about the whole experience?

What has it been like to be at home?

How is home schooling going?

How is working at home? Have you lost your job or been furloughed?

How have your relationships changed?

How is your community or family pulling together?

What do/did you expect during the stay-at-home?

Did you start something you have been wanting to do and now have the time?

How will you feel when it is over?

What do you think or hope society will get / learn from this?

We plan to keep comments anonymous, but please include your age and any other information you feel is important (your occupation, school affiliation, etc.). Your submission will be considered an unrestricted gift to the Historical Society's collection. \*

Once you have your story, there are several ways to get it to us:

You may post your thoughts on the Society's website [www.hollistonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hollistonhistoricalsociety.org)

Send them via e-mail to [newsletter@hollistonhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:newsletter@hollistonhistoricalsociety.com)  
(You may use this address to ask any questions you have.)

You may print and send your thoughts in the mail to:

**Holliston Historical Society**

**Living History COVID-19 Project**

**547 Washington St.**

**Holliston, MA 01746**

We thank you for helping us collect these accounts of life during this unprecedented time.

*Sincerely,*

*Holliston Historical Society*

*Living History COVID-19 Project Committee*

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## Treating Cystic Acne

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Cystic acne is the most visible of all acne types. It appears as large red pustules on the skin and can be painful to the touch. This type of acne may also cause scarring.

### What causes cystic acne.

All acne lesions start out as "microcomedones," a tiny seed of sebum and dead skin cells deep inside the pores. As the lesion grows, it develops in one of two ways; it can turn into a non-inflamed lesion (a closed whitehead or open blackhead) or develop into an inflamed pustule or cyst. Cystic acne occurs when a person not only has an inherited tendency for acne, but also has the inherited tendency for inflammation. The DNA of an individual's skin determines which type of acne will develop.

### Treating cystic acne.

Although, cystic acne is the most visible type of acne, the good news is that cystic (inflamed) acne can be easier to clear than non-inflamed acne. It is closer to the sur-

face than non-inflamed acne and responds more quickly to the anti-inflammatory products used to get it under control. With my acne clients, I use a combination of antibacterial and anti-inflammatory topical products to bring down the existing inflammation and keep it from reoccurring.

In addition to the right topical products, there are supplements you can take to help reduce inflammation in the skin such as: zinc, omega-3 fish oil and pro-biotics.

Icing your skin is also helpful with cystic acne. I tell my clients to fill a Dixie cup with water, freeze it and after cleansing, roll it over their face for a minute or two. The ice reduces inflammation and redness, and is soothing on inflamed skin.

It is important to get on the right treatment regimen to clear cystic acne. The quicker you bring the inflammation down, the less chance there is of permanent scarring.

*Questions about acne? Call me at (508) 881-1180 or email me at [skinsmartsalon@aol.com](mailto:skinsmartsalon@aol.com). Visit [skinsmartsalon.com](http://skinsmartsalon.com) for information about my acne program and other services.*

# Congratulations, Holliston Class of 2020!

On Sunday, June 7th, Holliston High School pride was on full display, albeit in a socially-distanced fashion thanks to concerns about Covid-19. Hollistonians poured out to greet and applaud the Holliston High School Class of 2020 as they were escorted by Holliston Fire and Holliston Police through the streets of town in a rolling rally.

The senior class also celebrated an awards night, and the ceremony is available on Holliston Cable Access Television (HCAT), on both its website ([www.hcattv.org](http://www.hcattv.org)) and Facebook page.

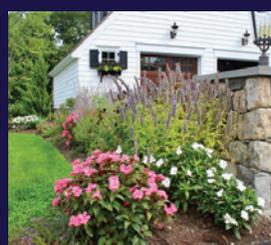
Here are some shots of the Rolling Rally!



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# Living Healthy

## COVID-19: June 22, 2020 Update from Representative Dykema

(This update was originally published by and is used courtesy of *The Holliston Reporter*, [www.hollistonreporter.com](http://www.hollistonreporter.com).)

Today, Massachusetts enters the second step of the “Cautious” Phase 2 of our reopening process. Public health indicators have shown consistent improvements in statewide tracking of the pandemic’s impacts, most notably in the form of a significant decrease in the percent of positive test results and the total number of patients hospitalized for COVID-19.

The major changes for this step of reopening is the reopening of restaurants for limited indoor table service, the reopening of close-contact personal services like nail salons, massage therapists, and personal training, and the reopening of office space to 50% capacity. You can review the safety guidance above, as well as general information on the state’s reopening plan at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>.

As always, questions and comments can be submitted to the Reopening Advisory Board (<https://www.mass.gov/forms/submit-questions-and-comments-about-reopening-massachusetts>). As you have noticed from following these updates, a number of state services have begun reopening and expanding in recent weeks as well, which I

will continue to include in the newsletter updates below.

### New Updates

Coronavirus Testing and Response

- Today, the state saw 149 new reported positive cases of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth, with 107,210 total cases and 17 reported deaths as of today at 4 p.m.
- The average new cases over the last 7 days is 217, and the average number of deaths is 33.
- The 7-day weighted average positive test rate in Massachusetts is 1.9%.
- 920 individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19 statewide, a decrease of 7 from yesterday.
- The Department of Public Health regularly releases a daily reporting dashboard containing detailed information on hospitalizations, demographic data, and county-by-county breakdowns of cases. To view the DPH dashboard, visit <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-dashboard-june-22-2020/download>.

### Health Care

- Hospital Capacity: As of June 22, 38% of the Commonwealth’s 12,400 permanent and temporary hospital beds are available for new patients if needed. In the MetroWest region, 44% of the region’s 2,300 beds are available for new patients.
- Long-term care: As of 6/22, there are 369 long-term care facilities with at least one case of COVID-19 and 23,104 staff and residents in facilities who have tested positive for COVID-19. 4,956 COVID-19 deaths have been reported in long-term care facilities.
- The Executive Office of Health and Human Services has released a new COVID-19 testing portal at [mass.gov/gettested](https://mass.gov/gettested). EOHHS is also opening a new round of applications for sites to become certified to conduct COVID-19 tests, with priority given to areas and populations with limited access to testing.
- As a reminder, the deadline for the special enrollment period for all individuals to get health insurance coverage through the Health Connector is tomorrow, June 23rd for those needing coverage

by July 1st. To learn more or to enroll in coverage, visit <https://www.mahealthconnector.org/covid-19>.

- On Friday, the COVID-19 Health Equity Advisory Group released its recommendations for improving data collection and identify other ways in which the pandemic has disproportionately impacted people of color. The full list of recommendations and members of the advisory group can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/covid-19-health-equity-advisory-group>.

### Reopening Update

- Today, the second step of Phase 2 begins, which allows restaurants to reopen indoor dining, as well as allowing close-contact services like and indoor fitting rooms to reopen using sector-specific safety standards. More information can be found at [mass.gov/reopening](https://mass.gov/reopening).

### Transportation

- The federal government has delayed implementation of the REAL ID deadline by a year, so individuals looking to travel using their drivers’ licenses as identification for airport travel or for entering federal buildings now have

until October 2021 for the REAL ID requirements to go into effect.

- To reduce in-person customer traffic for the coming months, the RMV is encouraging all eligible customers to renew their standard Massachusetts driver’s license online any time between now and August 12, 2020, which will allow the driver to qualify for a free upgrade to a REAL ID credential in 2021. This offer is available to most customers who have an expired or expiring license or ID card dated between March 2020 and August 2021.
- The RMV has also reopened its portal for requests for road tests at open RMV locations across the Commonwealth, for previously-scheduled tests that were cancelled from March 16 to May 17. New road tests will be scheduled once cancelled tests are addressed.

### Education

- The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has begun accepting applications for the

**DYKEMA**

*continued on page 11*



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# Living Healthy

## DYKEMA

*continued from page 10*

new, federally-funded Summer and Vacation Learning Program grants. These grants support local efforts to develop, expand, or enhance high quality, in-person, virtual, or hybrid (combination of in-person and virtual) summer (summer 2020) and/or school vacation learning programs during the 2020-2021 school year. Funds will be disbursed in roughly \$10,000-12,000 grants and applications are due July 2nd. Learn more at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2021/114-333/>.

## Legislative Update

- Today, the House and the Senate passed an interim budget that, when signed by the Governor, will continue to fund the essential services of the state government

and provide level-funded local aid to cities and towns through July as the Legislature continues to adjust the state budget process to respond to the changing reality of COVID-19 recovery. The bill will be enacted by both chambers and sent to the Governor for his signature.

- The House is also preparing to take up a supplemental budget on Wednesday of this week that will authorize \$1.1 billion in federal funds to be spent on COVID-19 relief services, as well as extending deadlines for state funding that carried over from FY20 with unexpended balances due to disruptions related to the pandemic.

## Additional Items

- State campgrounds operated by the Department of Conservation and Recreation will reopen beginning July 1, and DCR has begun accepting reservations online

through ReserveAmerica.com. You can find more information at <https://www.mass.gov/alerts/temporary-suspension-of-camping-until-july-1-2020-reservations-for-meeting-rooms-pavilions#1464736>

- Last week, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security announced another application round for Emergency Supplemental Funding Program grants to local police and fire departments to support local public safety efforts to respond to COVID-19. \$4 million total in new federal funding is available through this program to be distributed in competitive grants up to \$50,000. Applications are open now and due July 10.

## Local Resources

Holliston is one of the towns in the 8th Middlesex District with a centralized COVID-19 resource page. <https://www.townofholliston.us/home/news/information-on-the-covid-19-virus>

The DPH weekly reports on town-by-town COVID-19 case numbers and rates can be found <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting#COVID-19-cases-by-city/town->

**Resources for Residents Experiencing Job Loss or Loss of Income**

COVID-19 is causing broad disruption to the economy which is affecting incomes of many residents and families. There are a number of State resources and supports available to support workers who may find themselves unemployed or otherwise income-constrained during this uncertain time.

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**Guide for job/income loss resources:** <https://carolyndykema.com/covid19-state-resources>

**Department of Unemployment Assistance:** <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-unemployment-assistance>

**Department of Transitional Assistance:** <https://www.mass.gov/dta-covid-19-resources-and-support>

## How You Can Help

Holliston Youth and Family Services requests your support of the Community Action Fund, which provides emergency assistance to those affected by COVID-19. Learn more or donate at <https://hollistoncommunityaction.org/>.

The American Red Cross is asking for blood donations, the need for which is significant due to blood drive cancellations. The need is dire due to the cancellation of hundreds of blood drives.

Information on our local food pantries can be found below. The most pressing need right now is cash donations to ensure that food drop-off and delivery do not inadvertently contribute to the spread of the virus.

# How To Give Back To Health Care Workers

Health care workers devote their lives to helping people stay healthy and recover from injury and illness. While their efforts are instrumental all of the time, doctors, nurses, lab technicians, pharmacists, and everyone who works in the medical field has been put to the test in recent months due to the COVID-19 virus.

After months on the front lines fighting COVID-19, health care workers may appreciate the support of the public they're treating and protecting. The following are some of the many ways individuals can give back to the brave men and women who work in the health care industry.

- Donate supplies. Personal protective equipment, or PPE, may be more readily available now than it was at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, but crucial N-95 respirators and other gear still may be hard to come by. Organize a collection of materials that residents do not need and drop them off at hospitals



if they are accepting supplies. Graduates who may not have been able to don their graduation gowns can donate those to health care workers to use in place of surgical gowns, if those are in short supply at community health centers and nursing homes.

- Cater a meal. Health care workers are often working around the clock to provide care to critical patients. Twelve-hour shifts and beyond may be the new normal, which can make opportunities to grab a bite to eat scarce. Work with a local restaurant or food supplier to provide meals. Consider foods that

are portable and can be readily eaten on the go, like sandwiches, bagels or finger foods.

- Provide accommodations. Health care workers from around the country may temporarily relocate to work at facilities that need extra manpower. Other workers are afraid to bring viruses, particularly COVID-19, home to their families, and need alternative accommodations. This means workers may not have places to stay other than whatever hotel rooms are around or open — an expense that can quickly add up. Residents can team up with doctors, nurses and aides in need and provide free rooms in their vacation rentals, unoccupied rental units, unused recreational vehicles, or even in their own homes.
- Purchase gift cards. In lieu of direct food donations, offer health care and essential workers gift cards to various dining establishments. This

enables them to get treated to a meal, but also provides much-needed revenue for area restaurants that have seen their profits decline due to closures or restricted meal services.

Various gestures can let area health care workers know their sacrifices and heroic efforts in the fight against COVID-19 are not going unnoticed.

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# Make a Reservation to Visit Mass Audubon's Broadmoor!

Great news! We're so excited to share that Broadmoor's trails opened on a limited basis on Wednesday, June 10th. Before you pack up the car and make a bee-line to the sanctuary, please keep reading.

## Entry & Parking Reservations

While there is nothing we love more than welcoming people to our trails, we also want to ensure that everyone is safe during a visit—staff and visitors alike.

To help limit the amount of people on the trails at any given time, we are testing out an Entry & Parking Reservation system. For the next few weeks, we will be offering reservations 1-2 days in advance based on entry time.

So if you reserve a spot for 10–10:30 a.m., you just need to show up between those times. Once here, you can stay as long as you like, but please remember there are no bathrooms or water fountains available.

## Cost

Reservations are \$10 per car for nonmembers and free for Mass Audubon members, EBT cardholders, ConnectorCare Card to Culture participants, and active military families. Please show your corresponding card and reservation confirmation upon arrival.

Not yet a member? You can join online and take advantage of our \$32 new member special.

## Safety First

Once you have your reservation, please take a few minutes to read our trail safety guidelines at <https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/covid-19-response/trail-safety-guidelines>.

Take a look at our Timed Ticket Reservation FAQ (<https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/trails/timed-ticket-reservations>) If you still have questions, send us an email to [broadmoor@massaudubon.org](mailto:broadmoor@massaudubon.org).

# Exsultet Cancels 2020-2021 Season Due to Covid-19 Concerns

We are all disappointed that our 2019-2020 season was understandably cut short and that we were unable to perform for you this spring. Although we don't have all the answers about what the upcoming year will bring, it is becoming increasingly clear that the act of singing in close proximity to one another could be very dangerous until there is a cure, treatment, and/or vaccine for COVID19.

Because of this, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020-2021 season for both Exsultet and Jubilate. We very much hope to (and plan on) resuming operations in the Fall of 2021, although those final decisions will have to be made much closer to that date.

We hope everyone is well, and we look forward to performing for you again as soon as it is safe to do so.

Jennifer Bihuniak, President  
Richard Larraga, Artistic Director  
<https://www.exsultet.us/>

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# Holliston Household Hazardous Waste Day July 11

9 a.m. – Noon  
Robert Adams Middle School

Aerosol Cans	Photo chemicals	Lighter fluid	Muriatic acid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large quantities of unknown materials</li> <li>• Radioactive waste, including smoke detectors</li> <li>• Explosives, gun powder, flares, ammunition</li> <li>• Unstable wastes</li> <li>• Pressurized fire extinguishers</li> <li>• Unknown gas cylinders</li> <li>• Substances regulated by the Drug Enforcement Agency</li> <li>• No Medical waste</li> </ul> <p>No Latex paint (non-hazardous, can be disposed of in regular trash once dried out)</p>
Engine degreaser	Bleach	Roof Cement	Transmission fluid	
Oil filters	Furniture	Cesspool cleaners	Dry cleaning fluids	
Ammonia	Polish	Mercury products	No-pest strips	
Epoxy resin	Pool chemicals	Rust preventatives	Weed Killers	
Oven cleaners	Brake fluid	Chemistry sets	Engine and radiator flushes	
Antifreeze	Gasoline/Kerosene	Metal polish	Oil based paint	
Fiberglass	Radiator cleaners	Sealants	Wood preservatives	
Paint thinner	Car wax	Creosote	Wood Stripper	
Arts and crafts supplies	Herbicides	Moth balls	<p>Clean Harbors reserves the right to refuse any waste deemed unsafe to handle or unsuitable for the collection. Such wastes include:</p>	
Floor cleaners	Resins	Solvents		
Pesticides	Carburetor cleaner	Drain cleaners		
Batteries	Insect Sprays	Motor oil		
Furnace	Rodent killers	Spot removers		
Cement	Caulking	Driveway Sealant		

## Broadmoor Virtual Bird-A-Thon Exceeds Goal

This past weekend was Bird-at-home-a-thon and Broadmoor's teams did a fantastic job of raising more than \$8,000 - Double our goal - to support the conservation, education and advocacy work at our sanctuary.

The friendly statewide competition was a wonderful reason for getting out into nature at the peak of bird migration to see what could be found, de-stress and remember that life goes on. Lots of new families and individuals joined this year and many birded just around their homes or completed some of the special activities for points. Our Facebook page and blog will feature some of the photos, artwork and stories from the event.

So far over 160 species were seen by Broadmoor supporters across the state. Everyone appreciated the chance to be out in nature, whether alone, as a family, or with a close friend at a safe distance. Birders were encouraged to minimize driving to reduce our carbon footprint and keep close to home. So many, like me, walked, biked and paddled rather than drive long distances by car to visit "birding hotspots." Many birders were surprised what they found in their own backyards.

Thanks to everyone who participated and especially to those who donated to Broadmoor's Bird-a-thon. Your generosity helps us continue our work and your enthusiasm gives us energy and hope for the future.

*Elissa Landre*  
Sanctuary Director

For the latest info, check out our blog (<https://blogs.massa-dubon.org/branchingoutat-broadmoor/>), website (<https://www.massa-dubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/broadmoor>) and Facebook page.



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# Holliston Senior Center News for July

## Holliston Cable Access Television, HCAT

HCAT is working with the Senior Center to bring some additional programs to the community. They will begin showing some of the Walking Fitness programs and Allie's Pilate program, and working with Roberta Weiner to set up a Chair Yoga program, excellent for those who would like to try Yoga but can't imagine getting up and down off the floor. Also, there is a new program by Attorney Arthur Bergeron will be recording a couple of Legal Presentations to be viewed on HCAT.

Please be sure to visit their website [www.HCATTV.org](http://www.HCATTV.org) to view the schedule and add a few of these exciting programs to your daily schedule.

## Book Club

We welcome you to join us online the second Friday of the month at 11:30 a.m. to enjoy some interesting titles. In July, we will discuss *The Overstory: A Novel*, by Richard Powers.

The Holliston Public Library can help you get books for the meetings and will be available for curbside pickup. Call the Library with any questions (508) 429-0617.

Please sign up at the Senior Center (508) 429-0622 to be added to the Zoom meeting. Conference call is also an option for those who do not have internet/camera access.

## Fitness from Home

### Yoga

Yoga is a wonderful way to stay limber and get more energy! It can help boost your circulation, stretch and strengthen all your muscles, help you get a good night's sleep, and relax and de-stress you! Roberta Weiner, a Certified Kripalu and Hatha Yoga teacher who runs the Prana Center in Holliston, will be running two different Yoga classes.

- Chair Yoga—FREE via HCAT. This program is geared toward those who would like to either try Yoga or for those who aren't interested in the full Yoga class on the floor mats. Roberta will be recording this class each month on Holliston's Cable channel. HCAT will publish the schedule each month and you will be able to join in whenever you want. There is no donation requested for this class.

- Yoga—Monday & Wednesdays, 11 a.m. – noon, via Zoom, \$4 donation per class requested. This is the usual Yoga class Roberta holds at the Senior Center.

### Pilates

Pilates will also be held in two different formats.

- Thursdays via Zoom, from 9 a.m.—10 a.m., \$4 donation per class requested. Please join Sharon Broadley-Martin as she leads the class to help improve your strength, balance and circulation through a whole-body workout.
- Free Pilates on HCAT. This program is a pre-taped program with Instructor Allie Barrett. Allie was an instructor at the Senior Center prior to her relocation. HCAT will publish the schedule each month and you will be able to join in whenever you want. There is no donation requested for this class.

### Walking Fitness

This is a free, video-led, in-place walking program that will be run on Holliston's Cable channel.

HCAT will publish the schedule each month and you will be able to join in whenever you want. There is no donation requested for this class.

## Legal Hour with Attorney Jay Marsden

Attorney Jay Marsden continues to meet with individuals for a complimentary 30-minute consultation. This meeting will be done via Zoom or telephone on the 2nd Tuesday of each month between 10 a.m. and noon.

If you would like to schedule an appointment with Jay, please call the Senior Center at (508) 429-0622 to sign up for your personal consultation.

### Attorney Arthur Bergeron

Programs to be Aired on HCAT, check their schedule for date, times, and channel

**Married Couples: Update on Estate Planning Strategies** is focused on couples who want to look at whether they should revisit their estate plan.

**Getting Care at Home During the Pandemic** will focus on MassHealth and other programs designed to help your loved one, especially one with dementia, stay out of a nursing home. This program is especially relevant given COVID-19.

## Legal Advice with Attorney Bergeron

Attorney Bergeron will continue to offer a free 15-minute legal advice through the Senior Center on the 4th Monday of the month from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

You have the option of either talking with him over the phone or virtually using Zoom video conference. Call the Senior Center at (508) 429-0622 to sign up.

## IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING TRANSPORTATION

Due to current concerns with COVID19 we will be following MWRTA guidelines by requiring that all riders wear a face mask that covers both nose and mouth and we will be strictly following social distancing rules as it pertains to how many people are on the bus at any given time. We also will only be able to offer essential rides such as medical appointments, limited grocery shopping, and essential errands. We will adhere to our regularly scheduled days for going to certain neighboring towns as well. If you have any questions about a particular ride, please do not hesitate to call Marty before scheduling with the MWRTA.

## NEWSLETTER EMAIL LIST

To be added to our email list for newsletters, please contact Linda Sottile at [sottileL@holliston.k12.ma.us](mailto:sottileL@holliston.k12.ma.us).



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## Holliston Historical Society Considers Belated Father's Day Car Show

This year, the Holliston Historical Society cancelled its annual 17th Annual Father's Day Car show and Breakfast due to Covid-19. We thank our sponsors for their continued support, including Corcoran & Havlin Insurance Group/Hagerty, Quality Auto Body, Keystone Automotive, Authentic Auto Body, Hometown Automotive & Autobody, Roadmaster Motors Sales & Service, Vintage Motorsports, Roses Automotive and Kidde Fenwal, as well as our newest sponsors for this year: Green Plumbing & Heating, BDR Automotive and Thomas Chipman Electrical Contractor.

Stay tuned for a possible belated Father's Day Car show.

For more information on the Holliston Historical Society, visit [www.hollistonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hollistonhistoricalsociety.org)

## 28th Annual Against the Tide

### Hopkinton & Cape Cod Events Rescheduled

With the health and well-being of our participants, volunteers, and sponsors in mind, Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC) has decided to reschedule the Against the Tide event in Hopkinton from June 20th to September 19th, and to reschedule the Against the Tide event in Brewster from August 15th to September 26th. Both in-person events will also include virtual options, providing our participants with four opportunities to participate virtually, as well as two in-person events if it is safe to do so.

All virtual participants will receive a Participant Fun Pack, including an event t-shirt, bib or swim cap, participant medal, and sponsor items.

Now more than ever, MBCC needs your support towards the mission of cancer prevention for our children, grandchildren, and future generations. Please visit <http://mbcc.org/breast-cancer-prevention/against-the-tide/> for event details and to register for the Against the Tide in-person and virtual events today!

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\*Not valid on trip or diagnostic fees. This offer expires July 31, 2020. Offer code OT-A-50 H

## Holliston Youth & Family Services Advisory Board Lauds Vittori-Marsell

Please join the Holliston Youth and Family Services (YFS) Advisory Board as we salute and celebrate current Chairperson and longtime board member, Darlene Vittori-Marsell. For the past nine years, she has given this town countless hours of extraordinary volunteer service, supporting the YFS Director in a multitude of ways.

Darlene graciously stepped into the Chairperson position three years ago. There have been challenges for certain during her tenure, and we are incredibly fortunate that she was at the helm. Darlene has led with professionalism, authority, decisiveness, and an unmatched breadth of knowledge, both clinical and of local government.

What makes Darlene extraordinary is that she has a very busy life outside of volunteering. Yet,

she is never rushed, always even-keeled and always ready with a smile. She can juggle it all, with apparent ease. Darlene is a full-time Pediatric Nurse Practitioner with over thirty years of nursing experience, a professional speaker, an Assistant Clinical Professor at Boston College, and a mom to both human and fur babies.

Darlene is particularly proud of three accomplishments during her time as Chairperson. The first would be assisting in the hiring of current YFS Director, powerhouse Jackie Winer. Jackie was initially hired into the Court Diversion position. When YFS Director Margaret Fitzpatrick left three years ago, Darlene assisted Jackie in transitioning into the Director position and expanding the services and the reach of YFS to better

support Holliston. Lastly, Darlene ensured that the additional needs of this department were identified, clinical positions were upgraded to full time based on community need and that salaries were appropriate.

Darlene has thoroughly enjoyed her experiences on the board and getting to know Holliston residents as they come and go as board members. She has enjoyed being involved in town speaking events and becoming familiar with town by-laws. Ok, just kidding. Not so much the by-laws.

She feels that YFS is in a good place and that it is time for her to move on. This board is in awe of her and we will sorely miss her, especially her typos, which provided much comic relief. Maybe a typing course in your retirement, Darlene?

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# Holliston Recreation Plans Safe Summer Fun

By J.D. O'GARA

It hasn't been an easy time to plan a fun summer, but Holliston Recreation has been making the most of uncertainty and last minute decisions that seem to come with COVID-19. 2020 has not been the easiest climate in which to plan social activities, but there Holliston will indeed have some from which to choose.

"Certainly, the camp guidance came out pretty late," says Mark Frank, Holliston Recreation Director. "Up until that date, we were hopeful but not sure of what we could do at all, which was certainly a challenge. We basically engaged in a wide array of possible outcomes."

As soon as Phase II guidelines from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts rolled out, Frank sat down with the Holliston Board of Health, and Emergency Management Director and Fire Chief Michael Cassidy.

The biggest challenges, they found, were space limitations.

"One of the things that came through with the guidance is we wanted space to be closed to the public," says Frank, "We operate at Stoddard park, so we were stuck in a position to weigh having that valuable space open to the public while also balancing what people were hoping for in terms of us providing some sort of social experience and camp for their children."

The Town, then, decided to run a modified camp, with reduced hours. Although normally, camp would run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., this year, it will operate from 8 a.m. until noon, from Monday to Thursday. That

leaves Friday as a built-in rain-date and possibly eliminates the need for indoor space.

Frank says the most restrictive issues with the state-mandate is the inability to operate a large group camp. Camper groups will consist of 10 or fewer, with two counselors.

"There are a couple of things we have done to meet that challenge," says Frank. "We limited the total number of campers, which is normally 100. It's going to be closer to 50 at that site."

Frank says the Town is hiring only its most experienced counselors to take on the operation.

"We really need to have those most reliable, most mature staff in order for them to effectively navigate this completely different type of day they're going to have," says Frank. The aim is to provide the best experiences possible given the odd nature of the season, he says. All camp will be open to Holliston residents only.

Concerts are on hold for now, says Frank, but the Recreation Department is considering options for holding them in a wider space for August.

"What we're thinking is, if Phase 3 does allow for larger gatherings, and if we can move the concerts from Goodwill Park to the existing location. At press time, decisions were not final about concerts. Frank noted that the challenge he has to holding the concerts is also the staffing needed to ensure social distance among residents coming to listen.

"Usually it's just me going down to meet the band, make sure they have what they need," he laughs.

Holliston Recreation, in addition to summer camp, is holding some summer programs.

"One thing we're getting a great response on is tennis lessons," says Frank. The lessons are offered at a ratio of 5:1, Monday through Thursday, with a Friday rain date. The one-hour sessions

are based on age. Sessions are filling up, but Frank says, "We're allowing people to put names on the wait list."

## Holliston Camp Re-Opening Plan 2020

Following the state of Massachusetts reopening guidance released on June 1st, 2020, we are releasing this Phase 2 reopening plan to give potential registrants a clear picture of what the camp day will look like.

### For All Campers

1. Groups will consist of 10 campers (or less) and two counselors. Groups will maintain social distance from each other throughout the week
2. Materials and equipment will not be shared between groups whenever possible
3. A daily wellness statement signed by parent/guardian at drop-off
4. When possible and at the discretion of the parent or guardian, we will encourage the use of facecoverings.
5. We will maintain cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting processes in accordance with the CDC guidelines for all high touch areas and any equipment or materials that needs to be used by multiple groups.
6. There will be a designated area at every camp for a suddenly symptomatic person to isolate with a staff member (in PPE) and wait for the camper's family to pick them up.
7. We will encourage frequent handwashing by staff and students in accordance with CDC guidelines
8. All participants must sign a COVID liability waiver prior to the beginning of camp
9. If you signed up for a camp before the pandemic and paid more than the adjusted price, you will be refunded the difference. If you signed up for camp before the pandemic and choose to cancel your registration, please let us know immediately and receive a refund. The sooner we have accurate counts for camp the better we can plan.

Junior Patoma: Cost \$165/week, Stoddard Park from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., Monday through Thursday. If there is bad weather forecasted, we will cancel that day, and hold camp on Friday of that week

Senior Patoma: Cost: \$165/week: Senior Patoma will be held at Stoddard Park on the same schedule listed above for Junior Patoma. Senior Patoma will consist of 1 or 2 groups of 10 kids that do not interact with each other (unless they do so in a physically distanced way) throughout the week

Outdoors at Goodwill Park (Ages 4-6) Cost: \$165/week

Outdoors at Goodwill Park will operate out of 1750 Washington St from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Campers will be in either one or two groups of 10 or less kids. The program will utilize classroom space at 1750 Washington St, as well as the small field out back for games and activities.

REMINDER: IF YOUR CHILD IS ATTENDING ANY PROGRAM WITH US, PLEASE SEND THE CHILD'S MOST RECENT PHYSICAL TO: [hollistonparkrec@holliston.k12.ma](mailto:hollistonparkrec@holliston.k12.ma)

For more information on camps, visit <https://www.townofholliston.us/parks-recreation> or contact Holliston Recreation at (508) 429-2149.

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# Milford Regional Medical Center Nationally Recognized for Patient Safety

Milford Regional Medical Center was awarded an 'A' in the spring 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade. This is the fourth consecutive time Milford Regional has received an 'A' for this national distinction recognizing Milford Regional's achievements providing safer health care.

The Leapfrog Group is an independent national watchdog organization committed to health care quality and safety. The Safety Grade is a letter grade assigned to all general hospitals

across the country and updated every six months, assessing how well the hospital prevents medical errors and other harms to patients.

"Receiving an 'A' hospital safety grade four times in a row from a highly respected watchdog group like Leapfrog is a testament to Milford Regional's emphasis on patient safety as a top priority," says Edward J. Kelly, president and CEO of Milford Regional. "We believe that our investment in building

a strong, comprehensive Quality program within the hospital is an investment in the health of our community. It is reassuring to know that during times of crisis such as we are experiencing now with COVID-19, everyone within our healthcare system is focused upon providing patients the highest standards of safe, effective care."

"As the Nation copes with a challenging pandemic, our gratitude extends to hospital leadership and health care workers

everywhere for their tremendous dedication," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "We hope this 'A' helps to thank the people who work and volunteer for Milford Regional Medical Center. They are role models in putting patients first, and their service has been extraordinary in our country's time of need."

Developed under the guidance of a national Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses up to 28 measures of

publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,600 U.S. acute-care hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade's methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public.

To see Milford Regional's full grade details and access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit [hospitalsafetygrade.org](http://hospitalsafetygrade.org) and follow The Leapfrog Group on Twitter and Facebook.

## Senate President Spilka Forms Senate Advisory Group on Racial Justice

The Massachusetts State Senate is committed to urgently addressing racial inequities in the Commonwealth, to that end Senate President Karen E. Spilka has formed a bipartisan Senate Advisory Group on Racial Justice to review and recommend legislation to consider this session.

The Advisory Group will be chaired by Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz, a member of the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, and Senate President Pro Tempore Senator William Brownsberger (D-Belmont).

"I believe we have reached a history-making moment in our Commonwealth and that it should not pass without taking action on policing and racial justice this session," stated Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "As the driving force behind that action, I have convened a bipartisan Senate Advisory Group on Racial Justice – chaired by Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz, a member of the Massachusetts Black and Latino

Legislative Caucus, and Senate President Pro Tempore Senator William Brownsberger (D-Belmont). The Senate group, which already met today, was tasked to review existing legislation and recommend further policies to address systemic racism."

"This moment in public consciousness, born out of tragedy, presents a rare opportunity to accomplish serious changes in public policy," stated Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz. "My hope is that this working group will help the Senate quickly digest the advocacy we're receiving and advance serious police accountability legislation in the immediate term--and keep our eye on the ball of racial justice more broadly even after this initial spike in public attention has passed. I'm grateful for President Spilka's sense of urgency on this issue, and I'm looking forward to working with Senator Brownsberger, Senator Collins, Senator Comerford, Senator Moore, and Senator Tarr on policies to provide meaningful, systemic change."

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# Real Estate Corner

## Fire Officials Urge People to Keep Children Safe this 4th of July

### Children Under 15 Account for One-Third of Fireworks Injuries

“Have fun but be safe this Fourth of July and give first responders the night off,” said State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey. “Keep your children safe. Kids under 15 account for one-third of the severe burn injuries requiring emergency room visits, he added.

#### 4th of July No Holiday for Firefighters

Saugus Fire Chief Michael Newbury, president of the Fire Chiefs’ Association of Massachusetts, said, “The Fourth of July holiday is a busy time for firefighters. We are busy responding to all types of fires and medical emergencies. In fact, the week of July 4 is one of the busiest times of the year for fires. So please leave the

fireworks to the professionals.” This year, because of the pandemic, many professional fireworks displays are postponed until Labor Day weekend.

State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey said, “Remember, fireworks are illegal to transport into Massachusetts, even if they were purchased legally elsewhere. This 4th of July, celebrate safely and find alternatives to fireworks. Avoid crowds but enjoy being in the company of family and friends.” He added, “Illegal fireworks are risky, especially around children.”

#### Fireworks Cause Many Dangerous Fires

Last summer, there were many fires, amputations and

burn injuries from illegal fireworks in Massachusetts. In the past decade (2010-2019), there have been 858 major fires and explosions involving illegal fireworks in Massachusetts[1]. These incidents resulted in 12 civilian injuries, 40 fire service injuries and an estimated dollar loss of \$2.9 million.

- On June 22, 2019, the Plainville Fire Department responded to a building fire in a trash compactor. Someone put fireworks down the trash chute and into the compactor. The fireworks ignited the trash.
- On July 2, 2019, the Taunton Fire Department was called to a fire in a single-family home. The fire began while the homeowner was building wooden racks to launch illegal fireworks from his deck. The

racks surrounded him on the deck. One of the fireworks exploded and set off many other fireworks. The detonations ignited the deck.

- On July 4, 2019, the Boston Fire Department was called to a fire in a 3-unit apartment building. The fire was started by fireworks on the front porch.
- On July 5, 2019, the Boston Fire Department was called to a fire in a 3-unit apartment building. Neighbors reported that fire was started by fireworks. The fire began on the back of one building and extended to another 3-unit apartment building next door. Twenty people were displaced from their homes by the fires and damages were over \$700,000.

- On July 5, the Salem Fire Department responded to a fire on a standalone dock caused by fireworks.

#### Fireworks Injuries

In the past decade (2010-2019), 37 people have been treated at Massachusetts emergency rooms for severe burn injuries from fireworks – burns covering 5% of more of the body. Thirty-three percent were children age 14 or younger. An additional 22% were youth aged 15-24. The youngest victim was a seven-month old boy. These victims are scarred for life.

For more information on the dangers of fireworks, go to the Department of Fire Services webpage <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/leave-fireworks-to-the-professionals>.

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# Holliston Library Has Curbside Pickup

## Holliston Library Has Curbside Pickup

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- AudioBookCloud--audiobooks for all ages at [audiobookcloud.com](http://audiobookcloud.com)
- More resources are available with a free Boston Public Library e-card at <https://www.bpl.org/ecard/>
- Wifi can be accessed from the area outside the library building

- Databases, journal articles, newspapers and more at <https://hollistonlibrary.org/electronicresources.asp>
- Get some fresh air on the rail-trail and follow the library's Storybook Walk
- Get an online card at <https://library.minlib.net/selfreg~S1/>
- Need help? Visit [www.hollistonlibrary.org](http://www.hollistonlibrary.org) or email directly to <https://www.hollistonlibrary.org/contact.asp>.

## Virtual French on Fridays! Pre K-Grade 2

Caroline Hannache will be offering her French On Fridays program virtually! She hopes to post every Friday until school starts again! Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/790744444748541/?ref=share>

## Storytime with Miss Jen is Back!

### Virtually Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m.,

Email [jcarlson@minlib.net](mailto:jcarlson@minlib.net) and ask to register for storytime. We will be using online registration soon. You only have to register once to get your Zoom invitation. Use the same link every week you attend.

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up the items. Please be patient. Minuteman runs the list of Holliston requests overnight. Requests are filled the following day.

**OPTION 2:** Use the online form to ask us to pull items for you from Holliston's collection only. Once your items are ready, we will contact you and set a pickup time.

**OPTION 3:** Call (508) 429-0617 or email us using the contact button on this page and tell us what you would like to pick up. You can specify an author, title or subject or ask us to pick out items for you. When the items are ready, we will contact you and set a time for you to pick them up.

**OPTION 4:** If you already have a hold waiting at any time, please follow the instructions below. We will only transfer your hold to the table under the tent once you have arranged a pickup time with us. You have 7 business days to pick up holds.

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your items at the Washington Street entrance. Your pickup will be in a bag with your name on the white table. All items are already checked out to you. We have packed your items with clean hands and a mask. If you are concerned, allow the bag to sit for 3 days before being opened. You may return items in the silver book drop at the lower library entrance or the green bins near the table. There are no fines on returned items. Returned items are "quarantined" for at least 3 days before being checked in. The drop/bins are emptied daily. Please do NOT knock on the door. ALL PICKUPS MUST BE CONTACTLESS.

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