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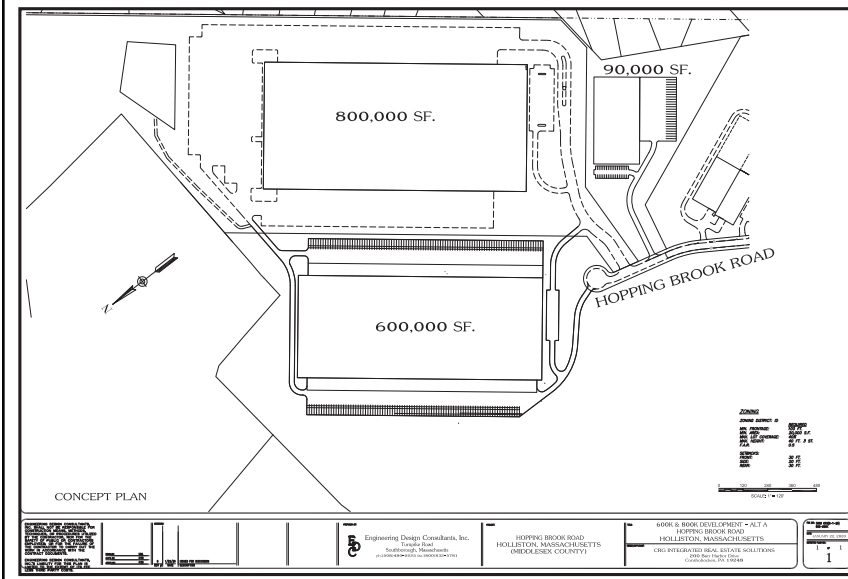
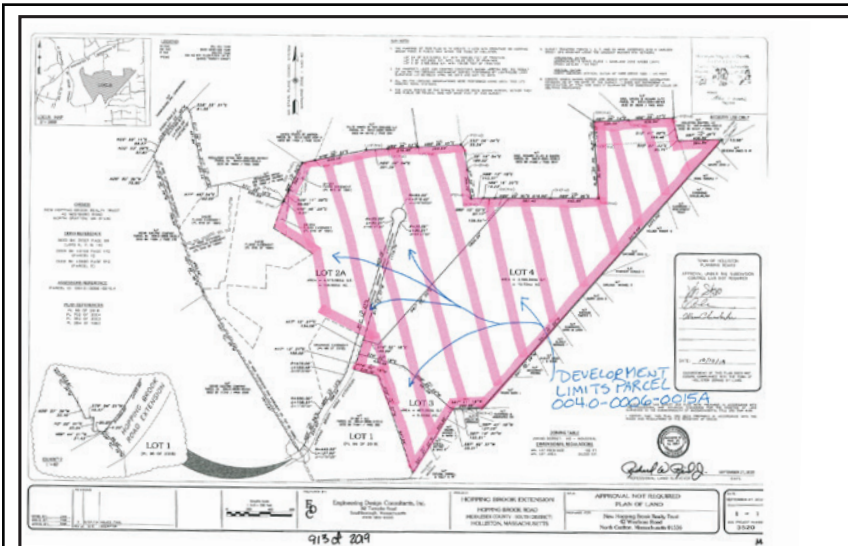
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September 2020

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## Holliston and Medway Residents Concerned Over Hopping Brook Proposal

Construction would total nearly 1.5M Square Feet in Buildings Alone

By J.D. O'GARA

A good number of Holliston and Medway residents were disappointed at a postponement of a Holliston Planning Board public hearing to discuss a proposal by CRG Integrated Real Estate Solutions to build facilities at 555 Hopping Brook Road in Holliston that would total nearly 1.5 million square feet, with one 800,000 square-foot building, another 600,000 square-foot warehouse, and a smaller, 90,000 square-foot storage facility. The meeting, which was supposed to take place at 7:30 p.m. on August 6th, was postponed until September 17th at the request of CRG.

(For perspective on how big this facility will be, Pond Plaza, in Ashland, where Market Basket is located, is 16,847 square feet, and a typical Wal-Mart store is

### CONSTRUCTION

*continued on page 6*

Shown are images for the proposed facility at 555 Hopping Brook, in Holliston. Residents of both Holliston and Medway are concerned about the impacts on traffic, light, noise and groundwater pollution and wildlife protections for such a large facility. The Holliston Planning Board's next public hearing on this matter will take place on September 17th, by Zoom.

## Hey Neighbor, Our Website is Your Website

Local Town Pages is excited to announce the re-launch of its website [www.Hollistontownnews.com](http://www.Hollistontownnews.com). It has a bright and streamlined new look. Our goal is to create a site that's about you, your neighborhood, your businesses, your community resources, your town's news, one stop – the voice of your community.



### WEBSITE

*continued on page 8*



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# One of Holliston's Most Beloved Traditions Changes Course for this September

After much deliberation, the Celebrate Holliston Committee is saddened to announce that the annual September Field Day

and Parade will be cancelled for 2020, due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Committee's highest priority is with the health and well-being of our community members.

Despite this disappointment, Celebrate Holliston is pleased to announce that we remain committed to our town and citizens and look forward to redirecting our efforts to "Celebrate Holliston's Heroes."

Celebrate Holliston will be looking for nominations of Holliston nonprofit organizations, businesses or individuals that have gone "above and beyond" to support our community throughout the 2020 COVID19 pandemic.

Celebrate Holliston would like to shine a light on these outstanding contributions that showcase the merits of our community members that are committed to making Holliston a very special place to live.

We are grateful for our unique town, our residents, all previous booth participants, and generous past sponsors who afford us to give back to Holliston.



Celebrate Holliston was established as a non-profit organization in 1991 to promote civic pride and to improve and preserve the character of the community. Proceeds from our annual events are used to benefit the town.

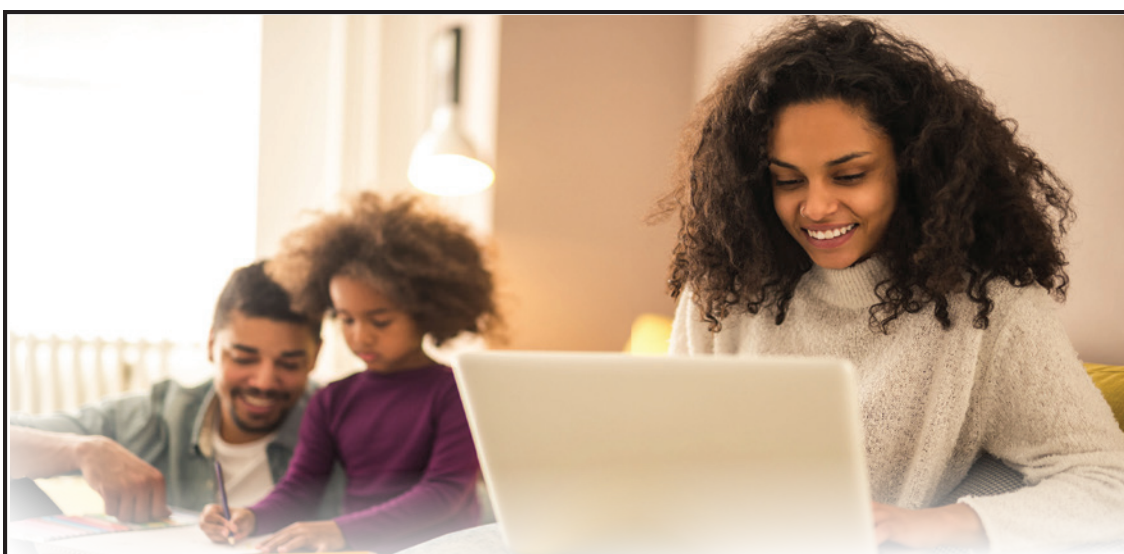
*Stay safe and healthy, Holliston!*

## Milford Federal Awards Scholarships to Local High School Students

Milford Federal Bank has awarded several scholarships to local high school graduates towards expenses in furthering their education. "Milford Federal Bank is pleased to help each student pursue their dream of higher education," said Paul Gilbody, President and CEO of Milford Federal Bank. "As a community bank, we are committed to supporting the communities we serve. An investment in education is an investment in the future, and these bright students are the future of their communities."

The Milford Federal scholarship program has awarded \$10,000 annually, for over 10 years. Each school selected a scholarship recipient based on need, academic standing, and involvement in school and extracurricular activities.

The following graduating high school seniors from Milford and surrounding areas were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship: Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School: Sage Hurteau, attending Coastal Carolina University; Hopedale High School: Taylor Maddalena, attending University of Tampa; Milford High School: Reese Dutcher, attending Pace University; Nipmuc Regional High School: Casey Costello, attending Bryant University; Northbridge High School: Hailey Bober, attending Hofstra University; Uxbridge High School: Sonila Murati, attending University of New Hampshire; Whitinsville Christian School: Hadley Koeman, attending Calvin University and Camily De Oliveira Sena of Douglas High School.



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# To Convert or Not To Convert: Taxation Is The Question

There are many aspects to successful financial planning, including being proactive to potential change, vetting all options and giving yourself time to reflect prior to execution.

An area I'm discussing with clients currently is their philosophy towards taxes and future tax rates, specifically the impact of Requirement Minimum Distributions (RMDs) in retirement to their tax liabilities. Recall with Traditional IRAs the government requires a percentage each year after age 72 be made taxable, regardless if you need the funds.

To help reduce future RMDs one can do a Roth Conversion, the moving of Traditional IRA assets to a Roth IRA where you pay the taxes now on the amount converted as earned income. A Roth IRA offers tax-free growth potential, tax-free income distributions and has no Required

Minimum Distributions (RMDs).

Why now, given the Tax Cuts and Job Act passed in 2017 by Congress reduced tax rates until 2025? Things can change and it is better to be analytical and measured over 5 months than rushed during the holidays to act before 2021.

Anyone, regardless of income levels, can convert to a Roth IRA.

There are complexities and variables, which many CFPs can help with projections, scenarios and provide recommendations beyond "should" or "should not". Proper planning allows you to estimate an appropriate amount to convert this year (and future years), project tax liability and compare scenarios of portfolio and net worth impact with assumptions.

Some considerations:

**The pro-rata rule and taxes.** When converting, the IRS considers all traditional IRA account

balances combined and you must figure out the proportion of which is nondeductible contributions, then use this percentage to determine how much of your conversion will not be taxable. You can't choose to convert only after-tax money; the IRS won't allow it.

**Best to convert at year-end.** A conversion must be completed by December 31 and the amount converted is included in that year's taxable income. By choosing year-end to convert, you reduce the range of Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) variables and improve chances of converting to the top of your current tax bracket.

**Not all-or-nothing.** You can develop a plan to spread conversions over several years, even skip a year or two as needed pending MAGI levels and ability to pay taxes with non-IRA assets.

**What's done is done.** Given that tax law changes now prohibit conversion reversals ("re-characterization"), it is important to be measured, give yourself time to reflect and re-run the latest data before execution.

More to consider beyond this limited space, talk with your tax professional or Certified Financial Planner.

*The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.*

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of PlanDynamic, LLC, [www.PlanDynamic.com](http://www.PlanDynamic.com). Glenn is a Certified Financial Planner™, Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor and fee-only fiduciary helping clients



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# Holliston Schools Return with a Hybrid Model

## Students from K-12 Have Option of Full Remote Learning

By J.D. O'GARA

School will open on September 16th in Holliston, but the hybrid plan will look little like a regular school day. With one-way hallways, a focus on sanitizing hands, HVAC changes and open windows to promote fresh air, mandatory masks and social distanced desks and students, the town will bring students back with a mix of in-person and remote classes.

According to Stacey Raffi, of the Holliston School Committee, "Holliston is doing a hybrid model.

All students K-12 have the option of going full-remote. Full remote is not an option for pre-K."

Raffi explains that students from Pre-K to third grade will have in-person learning five days a week, while students in grades 4-12 will be placed into cohorts A and B. "On week 1: students in cohort A will go to school Monday and Tuesday. They will be remote Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Students in cohort B will be remote Monday and Tuesday, and go in person Wednesday- Friday. On week 2, they'll switch days for in person," she explains.

The plan includes daily well-checks of students and masks, either disposable or made of tightly woven cloth. Shared materials that can't be easily cleaned, such as stuffed animals or sensory materials, will be removed, and kids can't use playground equipment, although students can have their own individual materials such as writing utensils and play dough, stored in the classroom.

The plan delves also into different rules for physical education, dance and chorus. Chorus will only be allowed outdoors, at distances of 10 feet apart for students. Phys-ed will be allowed indoors at 6 feet apart with masks, 10 feet apart without masks.

To take a look at the hybrid model put forth by Holliston Public Schools to the DESE and released in early August, visit <http://www.holliston.k12.ma.us/fall-reopening>.

# There's Still Time to Enter the Knights of Columbus Raffle!

By J.D. O'GARA

There's still time to enter the annual raffle of the Grand Knight of St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Council 14224. Through their annual charity raffles, they have donated over \$210,000 over the past eleven years to the Holliston Pantry Shelf, Senior Center, disabled veterans' organizations, Habitat for Humanity, and other local charities. This year's raffle began just before the Coronavirus Pandemic started and, you guessed it, the virus knocked raffle ticket sales to a trickle.

According to St. Mary's Knight Tom Anguish, "Sales are tough this year, since we cannot get in front of people outside stores, supermarkets, etc. As a result, revenue has fallen dramatically. However, while we were able to donate over \$24,000 last year, we hope to still net a little over \$10,000 for charity this year. I'm sure this will still help the organizations, and while we won't be on stage at Celebrate Holliston, we will still have our drawing on September 26th."

For tickets, please contact any St. Mary's Knight if you know one; they have tickets.

Folks can also purchase tickets through the mail by September 10th by sending the following to Tom Anguish

542 Winter Street  
Holliston, MA 01746:

- name
- address
- phone number
- check in the amount of \$20 payable to KofC #14224 - and that gets them a book of five (5) five-dollar tickets

"I will send them their tickets by return mail," says Anguish. "We need their phone number, so we can contact them if and when they win one of the prizes. If you recall, we have five prizes totaling \$2,000 (\$1,000 first prize, \$500 second, \$250 for third, \$150 for fourth, and \$100 as the fifth-place winner). And their odds of winning are so much better this year since we have sold so many fewer tickets. Are dollar signs appearing in your eyes?"

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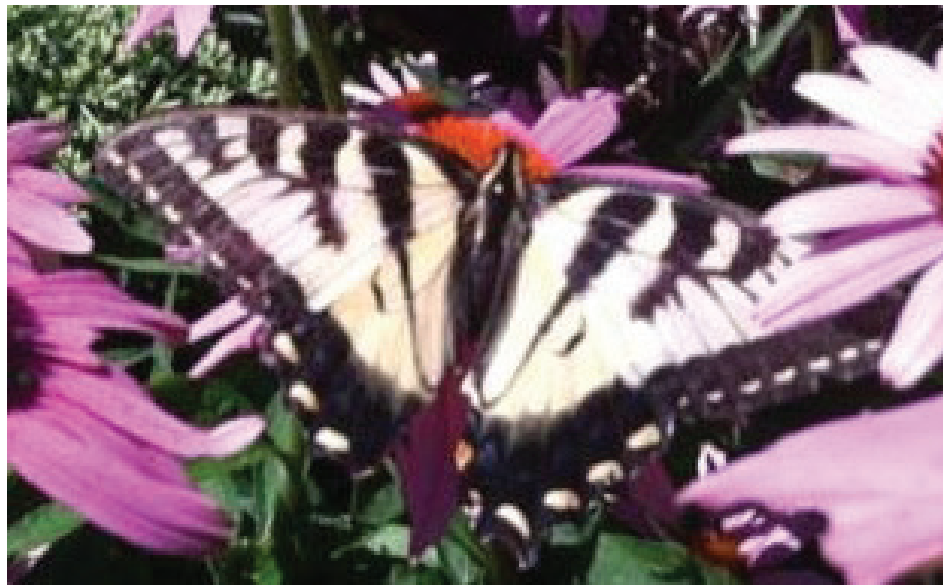
# Holliston Butterfly Aviary Open through September

By J.D. O'GARA

Looking for a little easy fun? Visit the Holliston Agricultural Commission's (AgCom) Butterfly Aviary, located next to the Holliston Community Garden behind Pinecrest Golf Course. The aviary is open every day, from

sun-up until sundown. The doors are sanitized twice a day, and visitors are asked to wear masks, with only one family at a time inside the building. A visit is free, but a \$5 donation is greatly appreciated to help cover the costs of operating the aviary.

This year, due to Covid-19, Farms Day is cancelled, as are any fall events on the Holliston AgCom's roster, including the Farmer's Workshop and Multi-town AgCom Meeting. To find out more about Holliston Agricultural Committee, visit [www.hollistonagcom.org](http://www.hollistonagcom.org).



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## CONSTRUCTION

*continued from page 1*

about 180,000 square feet (Business Insider.)

“The size and the scope of this whole thing --nobody’s going to build a building of this size on spec unless they’ve got a tenant. Who’s going to rent 1.4 million square feet?” said Holliston resident and business owner David Wolfson, whose Classic Auto Sales is a tenant at Hopping Brook.

Wolfson echoes speculation among residents that the tenant in mind is Amazon. “Amazon has a bad reputation with Milford now,” says Wolfson. “Milford doesn’t know what to do with them.” Wolfson asks. “It’s big business. They have a way to make it sound like it wouldn’t be a big deal, but we have a problem, being on South Street.”

Wolfson says the “rural country road” has become “a major cut-through. You have 18-wheelers going through, and the road is not designed for it. Holliston and Medway cannot handle that amount of traffic. Downtown Holliston is out of control, and Hopping Brook cannot absorb that amount of traffic, either.”

Ann McElhinney, of Medway, lives on Carriage House Way. She is a direct abutter.

“This proposal, this building, we really just learned about it in June,” says McElhinney. “It’s just an enormous monstrosity we never expected would be something we’d be dealing with in our lovely, quiet neighborhood. We’re aware that land behind us has been zoned for commercial use years back.” McElhinney says the proposal seems to be moving forward “quicker than anything I’ve ever seen.” She said she’s alarmed that the site will ac-

commodate 473 tractor trailers and have 170 loading docks on two sides of the building – one that faces us.”

“The concerning thing about this proposal is how it has been strategically moved along to get as much done without notice to residents and those that abut the land where this gorilla warehouse is proposed. The distraction of a pandemic was also in their favor. This is a ginormous type of distribution center.”

The Medway resident was also upset about a variance requested that would allow the 800,000 sf building to be even bigger at 52 feet high instead of 40 feet as well as allow for more storage of hazardous materials.

“The scope and the capacity of this project will impact the quality of our life, our health, and overall well being not to mention the environmental and traffic impacts to Holliston and surrounding towns,” said McElhinney.

Matt Mnich, a neighbor of Hoye, didn’t get his own letter. He’s been getting his neighbors together on his front lawn to discuss the proposal.

“I’m not a direct abutter but I’m going to hear it, I’m going to see it, I’m going to smell it from a diesel perspective, and the groundwater is an issue,” says Mnich. “From a topography standpoint, everything cascades down from there to us,” says Mnich. “They claim they have catch basins and a pond to catch water, but it’s all granite, and

I talked to a geologist who said the water is going to travel. They can’t guarantee it’s going to go all the way to the west.”

Mnich points to a fire that took place at Hopping Brook in which runoff did contaminate water.

In fact, a letter dated July 30 from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to attorneys for the project indicates further review is required under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The project was originally reviewed in 1982, and a Notice of Project Change (NPC) was reviewed in 2002. The letter states that CRG must submit another NPC, and that this must address the issues of wastewater, as no wastewater treatment plant has been constructed, but was supposed to have been constructed prior to Phase II of the project commencing. The new NPC must also include a report on the cumulative impacts of all Phase II construction at the site, including an already-constructed marijuana-processing facility, on current traffic conditions, as well as “an update on efforts to secure an open space Conservation Restriction on the site (which now includes 45 acres).”

Wolfson wasn’t surprised to hear that a good number of Medway residents are up in arms over the proposed project. “It actually abuts Medway within 300 feet, says Wolfson.

Erin Hoye, a Medway resident, says approval was held off

after Medway, Holliston and Milford residents voiced concerns about ground water, noise and light pollution, parking and freight traffic, wildlife protections and the treatment of Native American burial mounds on the land they’re building on. *Local Town Pages* reached out to Holliston town historian Joanne Hulbert regarding the burial mounds, but she noted that these were destroyed in early development at Hopping Brook.

“The number one thing we agree on as neighbors is the traffic issues,” says Mnich, of the potential of over 1,400 tractor trailer trips per day. “but it needs to be harmonious, and it’s not, and you know the shocking thing is we’re only talking about \$500,000 in tax revenue for Holliston.”

At *Local Town Pages* press time, the September 17th agenda for the Holliston Planning Board’s public meeting was not yet posted. According to the office, instructions to join in on Zoom meetings have typically not changed from the following, but they recommend checking the town calendar closer to the meeting date:

You can participate by connecting to Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/288221782>. Meeting Password: 13579. You can also join by phone only by calling 1-646-558-8656 then enter Meeting ID: 288 221 782 and when prompted for password enter: 13579.



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# Massachusetts State Primaries Tuesday, September 1, 2020

## Last Day to Register to Vote October 24th for November 3 Election

By J.D. O'GARA

Worried about mailing a ballot? Don't be, says Holliston's Town Clerk's Office. If you requested an absentee ballot, you can return it in person to the Town Clerk's Office (Room 102 at 703 Washington Street) or to the box for the Treasurer's Office attached to Holliston Town Hall at the back of the building, if not a box that will be designated for ballots.

"We do have a box coming, they were backordered," said Diane Fitzgerald, of the Holliston Town Clerk's Office, in mid-August. "That will be for ballots, and it will be clearly marked." At that time, Holliston was receiving requests for mail-in ballots, with no problems. "We're getting hundreds of them in every day," said Fitzgerald. "We haven't had any issues."

Although it's too late at this point to vote early or absentee for the Primary Election on September 1st, registered voters can still vote in person for the Primary from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. at Holliston High School, 370 Hollis Street.

For the General Election, coming up on November 3rd, voters have the following options: Early voting is available by mail and in person to all registered voters. No excuse is required.

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For the General Election, coming up on November 3rd, voters have the following options: Early voting is available by mail and in person to all registered voters. No excuse is required.

Early voting by mail will begin as soon as ballots are ready.

In-person early voting for the State Election will be held October 17-30. (At this point, deadline has passed for early voting for primary.)

### Voting by MAIL:

Voting by mail is available to all voters for all elections in 2020. You do not need an excuse to vote by mail this year.

To vote by mail in the state election, all you need to do is:

1. **Complete** a Vote by Mail Application; available here: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/2020-Vote-by-Mail-Application.pdf>
2. **Deliver** your application by October 28th to your local election office;

### •HOLLISTON MAILING ADDRESS:

Town Clerk  
703 Washington Street  
Holliston, MA 01746

EMAIL: [greendalee@holliston.k12.ma.us](mailto:greendalee@holliston.k12.ma.us)

FAX: (508) 429-0642

3. **Vote** when your ballot arrives;
4. **Return** your ballot by MAIL, postmarked no later than November 3 (must be back at your local election office no later than November 6)

Apply early, in order to have enough time to return your ballot.

For more information on voting by mail, find Voting by Mail FAQs at <https://www.sec.state>.

[ma.us/ele/elev/early-voting-faq.htm](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elev/early-voting-faq.htm)

To download a Vote-by-Mail application, visit <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elev/early-voting-by-mail.htm>

### In-Person Early Voting

In-person early voting for the State Election will be held October 17-30.

You may vote at any early voting location in the city/town where you are registered to vote.

A list of early voting dates, times, and locations for your community will be posted at least one week before early voting begins. Please check [www.MassEarlyVote.com](http://www.MassEarlyVote.com) at a later date for a full in-person early voting schedule.

## American Legion Post 47 to Postpone 9/11 Awards

I feel that, in order to continue to comply with protocols for dealing with COVID-19, that the responsible thing to do will be to postpone/delay our annual 9/11 Awards. I do not do this lightly, as it is something that our Post looks forward to each year. This is a time to recognize and interact with our first responders and other unsung Hollistonians for going above and beyond the call in service to our community.

It will depend on how things play out with the pandemic as to whether this is a delay or a

postponement until 2021.

Please know that even though we will not be handing out these well-deserved awards, that the Holliston American Legion Post 47 appreciates everything that the Holliston Fire Department and Holliston Police Department do for our community.

Regards and may peace be with you,

Steve Bradford, Commander  
Holliston American Legion Post 47

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**WEBSITE**

*continued from page 1*

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Remember, these have been difficult times, and it is so important to support the businesses that support our community. You can check out business profiles, leave a review, connect to their Facebook page and website.

Businesses – a corporate profile on our new directory can feature your company on our opening page and drive visitors to your website with links, a map, and graphics. You can take advantage of becoming a community sponsor, that will allow you a more prominent presence on [Hollistontownnews.com](http://Hollistontownnews.com). You can sponsor content that will keep you in mind with readers.

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\*Submissions are published at the discretion of the publisher and no advertising or self promotion will be accepted as free listings.

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# Foundation for MetroWest Grants Over \$3.3M in Emergency Funding Since Outset of COVID-19 Pandemic

The Foundation for MetroWest, the only community foundation serving the MetroWest region of Greater Boston, announced today it has granted over \$3.3 million in emergency relief funding to community organizations since the outbreak of COVID-19. This level of giving is six times greater than the Foundation's typical grantmaking, reflecting the urgency and breadth of the pandemic's impact. This funding has been directed to nonprofits providing essential support to MetroWest's most vulnerable residents during a time of unprecedented demand for critical services.

"COVID-19 has had an enormous impact on MetroWest's many communities and populations," said Judy Salerno, executive director of the Foundation for MetroWest. "From the closure of schools and child care programs to the impact on our elderly neighbors, the pandemic created an array of significant needs. We are determined to ensure the community organizations supporting residents and families have the resources they need to carry out their critical work."

The Foundation has directed its emergency funding to nonprofit organizations focused on

food assistance, childcare, senior services, mental health, rental and utility assistance, and the provision of basic needs. This support has benefited seniors, immigrants, individuals with disabilities, homeless persons, and frontline workers, in addition to the general public, and has spanned 26 different communities. Impact MetroWest, the Foundation's data-driven community indicator project which revealed facts about the region that have historically gone unnoticed, has helped guide the Foundation's work since the public health emergency began.

"COVID-19 presented a challenge unlike any other previously faced by the nonprofit and philanthropic communities," said Caroline Murphy, the Foundation's director of programs. "We're grateful to our donors and partners whose support and collaboration have made tangible differences in the lives of MetroWest residents and families who need their neighbors' support to navigate the pandemic's many obstacles."

The Foundation has distributed \$2.1 million from the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief

Fund, a combined \$421,000 from the MetroWest Emergency Relief Fund and Feed Framingham COVID-19 Fund, nearly \$100,000 from the Community Fund for Wellesley Covid-19 Relief and \$285,000 from its own revised 25th Anniversary Grant Program. A full list of grantees from each fund, which includes nonprofits in your area, and more information on the Foundation's emergency relief efforts can be found at <https://foundationmw.org/give/impact-areas/emergency-funds-at-the-foundation/>.

## MassBay Adds 7 Fall Courses Exclusively for High School Students

MassBay Community College has added seven online and remotely-formatted courses this fall to be offered for high school students, exclusively. The courses include Medical Terminology, Drugs and Society, Law and Society, Entrepreneurship, Security Awareness, Environmental Studies I, and Intro to Communication (descriptions are below). High school students can also enroll in other MassBay courses or apply for dual enrollment courses.

"Due to the coronavirus, many high school students and their families have been contacting us to learn about all available options for fall courses, wanting to add to their high school course selection. Taking one or more college-level courses is a great way for high school students to jumpstart their college education," said Interim Vice President of Enrollment Management, Alison McCarty. "High school students have the opportunity to earn college credits at an affordable price, and possibly

find a career path that interests them. We hope by adding classes specifically for the high school population, MassBay can introduce them to college-level course work, as well as prepare them for their academic future."

Here are brief course descriptions:

The **Medical Terminology** course prepares students to understand the construction of medical terms through common

### COURSES

*continued on page 18*

## This is Veronica

Veronica is sad. She is sad because she spent waaaayyy too much on her divorce. She hired an expensive lawyer.

Over the next two years, she was so stressed she didn't eat.

While her lawyer is on a fancy vacation, Veronica can't even go to Starbucks, yoga, or spin classes.

Veronica can't get her nails done or even get a decent cut and color because her divorce cost so much.

Veronica wishes she called the nice mediators, who are also experienced divorce lawyers, at Next Phase Legal & Dispute Resolution in Norfolk and used the divorce mediation process.

Don't be like Veronica. Call Next Phase to resolve your divorce or other family law conflict through mediation. Then you can still enjoy other nice things.



**(508) 359-4043**

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[NextPhaseLegal.com](http://NextPhaseLegal.com)

RonsTire.com Ron Saponaro

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## Living Healthy

### Milford Regional Medical Center Receives Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award

Milford Regional Medical Center has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

Milford Regional earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period. These measures include evaluation of the proper use of medications and other stroke treatments aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. Before discharge, patients should also receive education on managing their health, get a follow-up visit scheduled, as well as other care transition interventions

"Milford Regional is dedicated to improving the quality of care for our stroke patients by implementing the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines-Stroke initiative," said Bert Thurlo-Walsh, MM, RN, CPHQ, Vice President for Clinical Transformation and Medical Staff Services/Chief Quality Officer. "The tools and resources provided help us track and measure our success in meeting evidenced-based clinical guidelines developed to improve patient outcomes."

Milford Regional has also met specific scientific guidelines as a Primary Stroke Center featuring a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients admitted to the emergency department.

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States. On average, someone in the U.S. suffers a stroke every 40 seconds and nearly 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

### Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Corp. 2nd Annual Golf Tournament

Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Corp. is sponsoring a day of fun and fundraising this fall, with a safe, socially distanced 2nd Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, October 5 at The Haven Country Club in Boylston, Mass.

Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Corporation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing exceptional quality, trusted, affordable senior living and healthcare to families in the Metrowest area for over 25 years. The proceeds from the tournament will help us purchase a handicap accessible van to transport our residents. We're asking for your help supporting this great cause!

- **Play golf!** Join your colleagues at an assigned Tee Time for a safe, socially distanced event on the beautiful, championship 18-hole course

- **Sponsor** a Tee, Putting Green, our Bloody Mary/Mimosa Bar or other sponsorship opportunities

- **Donate** items for our virtual Raffle and Auction (email Lisa Kubiak at [lkuubiak@maryannmorse.org](mailto:lkuubiak@maryannmorse.org))

- **Bid** on items in our virtual Raffle and Auction to help us raise funds – link and information coming soon

- Make a **monetary donation** of any amount on our event page

To participate, please visit [www.maryannmorse.org/2nd-annual-golf-tournament](http://www.maryannmorse.org/2nd-annual-golf-tournament) Our sincere thanks for helping us to raise funds for the vulnerable seniors in our communities.



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# Living Healthy

## Op-Ed: Submitted by Mass. Superintendent's Office

### Safely Reopening America's Schools and Communities

#### The AFT's flexible blueprint for imagining a new normal for public education, public health and our society

Until a vaccine is developed for COVID-19, each community is going to need support in charting a path to safely and responsibly reopen school buildings and other institutions crucial to the well-being and economic vitality of our communities.

The AFT's detailed, science-based "Plan to Safely Reopen America's Schools and Communities" features five core pillars based on the science as well as educator and healthcare expertise—not on politics or wishful thinking.

To gradually reopen, we need to:

1. Maintain physical distancing until the number of new cases declines for at least 14 consecutive days. Reducing the number of new cases is a prerequisite for transitioning to reopening plans on a community-by-community basis.
2. Put in place the infrastructure and resources to test, trace and isolate new cases. Transitioning from community-focused physical distancing and stay-in-place orders to case-specific interventions requires ramping up the capacity to test, trace and isolate each new case.
3. Deploy the public health tools that prevent the virus' spread and align them with education strategies that meet the needs of students.
4. Involve workers, unions, parents and communities in all planning. Each workplace and community faces unique challenges related to COVID-19. To ensure that reopening plans address those challenges, broad worker and community involvement is necessary. They must be engaged, educated and empowered.
5. Invest in recovery: Do not abandon America's communities or forfeit America's future. These interventions will require more—not less—investment in public health and in our schools, universities, hospitals, and local and state governments.

Strengthening communities should be a priority in the recovery.

The blueprint acknowledges Americans' eagerness to return to some semblance of "normal." But to do so, we must meet an unprecedented challenge: figuring out how to reimagine our society and the physical places we hold dear—public schools, places of worship, workplaces, restaurants and more—in ways that put our ultimate priorities first: the safety and well-being of working families, especially front-line workers, and the economic health of society.

The comprehensive document shows how, to effectively respond to the crisis, we must plan and align logistics, educational strategies and public health approaches into one coherent response. And we expect the plan

to evolve as the data, and the facts, change.

AFT President Randi Weingarten said: "Our blueprint serves as a stark contrast to the conflicting guidance, bluster and lies of the Trump administration. The input of educators and healthcare workers, as well as parents, is crucial in making any reopening plan work. They are the eyes and ears, and are indispensable in making any plan work safely and effectively. We hope this blueprint will be the start of a real discussion on reopening schools, universities and other workplaces that allows our workers and families not only to dream of a safe and welcoming future, but to realize it."

*The plan can be read at [https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/covid19\\_reopen-america-schools.pdf](https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/covid19_reopen-america-schools.pdf).*

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508-570-6544

or

email: [jenschofield@localtownpages.com](mailto:jenschofield@localtownpages.com)

## Flu Shot Clinic at St. Mary's Parish

Sponsored by CVS, a Flu Clinic will be held on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 from 3 to 6 p.m. in Father Haley Hall, St. Mary's Parish Center, 8 Church Street, Holliston. The only thing you need is your Insurance Card, no advance registration required.

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Main Street Pediatrics would like to announce that

**Dr. Katherine Pleet, MD** has joined our practice and will start seeing patients as of September 2, 2020. She is accepting new patients of all ages.

Dr. Pleet received her undergraduate degree in Biology from Brown University. After graduating, she spent a year as an AmeriCorp member teaching and mentoring high school students in Dorchester, MA before attending medical school at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. She completed her pediatric internship and residency in Boston at The Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center. Dr. Pleet has had a long-standing passion for working with children and adolescents, and feels it is a great privilege to be a pediatrician.

Please call 508-435-5506 for an appointment

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# Holliston Lions Club \$10,000 Big Raffle and Silent Auction

The Holliston Lions Club held the initial drawing for their 2020 \$10,000 Big Raffle on August 22nd and now the fun begins! There are 10 ticket holders still in the running for the \$10,000 grand prize. To make things more exciting, ticket holders who were eliminated in the initial drawing have a second chance to get back in the running by purchasing an 11th ticket online through September 9th. On September 12th the final ten (10) ticket holders + the 11th ticket winner will be brought together virtually to determine the 2020 \$10,000 Big Raffle winner. Per our tradition, during this time we will ask the finalists if they want to split the \$10,000, or if we should continue to eliminate tickets. The decision to split must be unanimous! If even one person does not want to split, we keep eliminating tickets until we get a unanimous decision to split the grand prize, or there is only one person left. This final ten (10)



elimination round will be broadcast on HCAT & Facebook. Details about this broadcast will be posted on the Holliston Lions website [www.hollistonlions.org](http://www.hollistonlions.org).

We would also like to announce that our 2020 Big Raffle Silent Auction is being held online. Thanks to our many generous donors we have over 60 great items to bid on. The items range in value from \$10 to \$1500, so there is something to fit everyone's budget. The silent auction will close on Wednesday, September 16th. Winning bidders will be able to get their prizes during a contact-free pick-up on Saturday

September 19th in the parking lot at St. Michael's Episcopal 1162 Highland St, Holliston, MA 01746.

We need your help now, more than ever, as many charitable organizations, including the Holliston Lions, have had to cancel fundraising events while requests for support are increasing. The Silent Auction is open to anyone who wants to participate, so please share this information with your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. You can find the link to our Silent Auction on the Holliston Lions website [www.hollistonlions.org](http://www.hollistonlions.org).

The Holliston Lions Club would like to thank everyone who purchased a 2020 Big Raffle ticket and all the businesses and organizations whose generous donations have made this year's event possible. We will be posting a list of our donors on our website and will publish their names in an upcoming article.

For more information contact Chairperson, Lion Debbie Kerrigan at [BigRaffle@hollistonma-lions.org](mailto:BigRaffle@hollistonma-lions.org)



## Mass Audubon "Your Great Outdoors Photo Contest 2020" Seeks Entries

**Please Note:** Trails are now open at all of our wildlife sanctuaries; buildings & most restrooms remain closed. [Read More](#)

We're once again seeking photos that highlight people in nature and the beauty of Massachusetts wildlife and landscapes. Last year, we received more than 4,500 images—we can't wait to see what you have in store for us this year!

**Submission deadline is September 30, 2020.**

Be sure to read the contest guidelines and rules at <https://www.massaudubon.org/news-events/photo-contest/details-rules> to learn all about how and what to enter. For those who



Mass Audubon Photo Contest

have entered before, we have updated the submission guidelines at <https://www.massaudubon.org/news-events/photo-contest/enter-the-contest>

The contest runs to September 30, and each month we will highlight some of the entries on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/MassAudubon/>. Until then, happy snapping!

### Photography Tips & Resources

- How to take a winning photo > at <https://www.massaudubon.org/news-events/photo-contest/how-to-take-a-winning-photo>
- Nature photography classes, & workshops > at <https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/outdoor-fun/nature-photography>
- Sanctuary Photography Guidelines > at <https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/guidelines/photography-guidelines>

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# Guest Op-Ed from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS): School Reopening Plans

BY THOMAS SCOTT AND ROBERT N. BALDWIN

Across the Commonwealth, school districts are beginning to announce their plans for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Some communities are choosing not to reopen school buildings, opting instead for full distance learning for all students. Other communities are moving forward with a “hybrid” model, in which some groups of students alternate between in-person learning and distance learning, in order to ensure physical distancing in schools.

Neither of these approaches is being met with universal acclaim. Superintendents and School Committees find themselves caught between the impassioned viewpoints of two opposing camps. They are hearing from parents who advocate for at least some return to in-person schooling, in part because of fears about the long-term effects of students being out of school, without the supports and interactions they need to thrive. They’re also hearing from constituents, including many teachers’ union leaders, who

insist that school buildings should remain closed altogether to protect students and staff and to prevent the spread of the virus.

Many of the 275 members of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) were eager and hopeful to have their School Committee approve a hybrid model. Especially in communities where the COVID-19 infection rate is low, many superintendents are confident that schools can make the necessary adjustments to resume in-person instruction while protecting the health and safety of students and staff. These district leaders have worked diligently with local task forces throughout the spring and summer to craft reopening plans that adhere to state guidelines and “follow the science.” While so many other states across the country cannot even consider reopening schools as the infection rate continues to soar, Massachusetts is in a very different position. Many Superintendents believe that the health and safety measures they will put in place – especially the redesign of schools

to ensure physical distancing, along with requirements for face covering, hand-washing, symptom screening, and rigorous cleaning and sanitizing protocols – create the conditions to begin reopening schools incrementally and responsibly.

Despite these precautions, some communities ultimately will decide, as some already have, that even a partial reopening is not worth the risk, and begin the year with all students learning from home. In those communities, Superintendents will work with teachers’ unions to design and implement distance learning plans that reflect lessons learned last spring about what worked well and what needs improvement. Districts will have to find creative ways for students and families to “meet” their new teachers, even if not in person, to establish relationships at the start of the school year. Districts operating fully remote models also will have to devise strategies to serve students with the greatest needs, particularly students with disabilities, English learners, children living in poverty, and others who were not fully engaged in distance learn-

ing from March to June. Challenging questions remain about how schools can provide additional services remotely to address students’ social-emotional needs, especially their mental and physical health.

There is no shortage of opinions about what is the “right” way to approach the new school year. A quick scroll through any social media feed highlights the vast divide on this issue, with proponents from both sides growing increasingly fervent every day. While superintendents have urged State officials to provide more clear direction for school opening, unless State officials change their position in the days ahead, these decisions are left solely in the hands of the superintendents and school committees. Therefore, each Superintendent has a weighty responsibility to cut through the noise, examine the facts, weigh the pros and cons, and recommend a plan that best protects and educates the students in their community. Ultimately, each proposal must be approved by the School Committee, but even their decision is not final unless the

terms are negotiated with the local teachers’ union. All of this occurs while the public health situation – and the response to it – remains a moving target.

Whatever the outcome in each community, the new school year can begin successfully only if everyone involved commits to working together for the benefit of students. In the remaining weeks before students resume learning, we have a critical opportunity for parents, educators, union leaders, and community partners – regardless of the model they each wanted to see adopted – to move forward with a shared sense of purpose. We are living in imperfect times, to say the least, so while no plan can achieve a “perfect” result, let’s all strive to be creative, open-minded, resilient, and unequivocally determined to get our students back to learning.

*Thomas Scott, Ed.D. is Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS). Robert N. Baldwin, Ed.D. is President of MASS and Superintendent of the Fairhaven Public Schools.*

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# Tim's Team Members to Run Virtual 2020 Boston Marathon

## Please Support the Timothy O'Connell Foundation's Runners!

Everyone knows that almost everything changed in the middle of March 2020. Basically, all of the events that we were looking forward to were postponed. And, now, the 2020 Boston Marathon is now a "virtual" event.

This year Max Athy and Joanne O'Connell were registered to run the Boston Marathon in April for The Timothy O'Connell Foundation, in honor and in memory of Tim O'Connell. By late March, the Boston Athletic Association had been postponed the Boston Marathon to September 14. And, by June, the 2020 running of the historic Boston Marathon was made a "virtual" event. Runners must run the full 26.2 miles in a

location of their choice in one run between September 7 and September 14.

With these guidelines in mind, the date and place to run were obvious to Max and Joanne. They will run their version of the 2020 Boston Marathon on Tim's Birthday, September 7, on the Holliston Rail Trail. This year, September 7 is Labor Day Monday, just as it was on the day Timmy was born in 1998. And, although Tim was born in New York City, Holliston was his true home. Running on Tim's Birthday will bring endless inspiration to the runners, something greatly needed to get through a run of 26.2 miles!



Because all of the other fundraising events for the Timothy O'Connell Foundation for 2020 have been postponed, the fundraising of Max and Joanne is more important than ever to the Foundation. You can support the runners and all the good works of the Timothy O'Connell Foundation at [www.timsteam.org](http://www.timsteam.org). Go to the DONATE tab and click on the Boston Marathon. You will be able to support Joanne and/or Max. All dollars donated make a difference. The Foundation gives

away all money raised to cancer-related causes.

The Timothy O'Connell Foundation has now raised over \$1 million dollars in the last 12 years. The Foundation supports programs for children and families in treatment for pediatric cancer, bereavement programs, research programs, and scholarships for Holliston residents who are studying medically related majors in college. To date, Tim's Foundation has made financial gifts to Make-A-Wish, the Just

for Sibs Program at Children's Hospital, Camp Sunshine in Casco, Maine, the Jimmy Fund and Dana Farber Cancer Institute, and the research lab named for Tim at the University of Minnesota, as well as other organizations, and scholarships given to Holliston residents.

In addition to supporting Max and Joanne with donations to the Foundation, please come out to the Rail Trail on September 7 to run or walk! Max and Joanne will begin running at 7 a.m. They will start at the gazebo in Blair Square. They will run out toward Milford and back 4 times to complete the 26.2 Marathon. They hope that people will walk and run the Trail - even run with them - in Tim's Trot shirts. They hope to make this a fun run for everyone! They hope to finish up by noon or a little later. REMINDER: please wear your masks and practice safe social distancing.

### Update on Timmy Cakes 2020:

Due to Covid-19 restrictions where Joanne and her baking team make the cakes, Timmy Cakes have been postponed until Winter or Spring of 2021. The Timothy O'Connell Foundation promises to keep this publication updated. We all know how anticipated and loved Timmy Cakes are!

### Update on Tim's Trot 2020

Due to covid restrictions on the number of people who can safely gather, the 10th Annual Tim's Trot has been postponed. The Timothy O'Connell Foundation hopes to have Tim's Trot in 2021. The Timothy O'Connell Foundation promises to keep this publication updated. The Foundation wishes to thank 2020 virtual Boston Marathoner Max Athy for his creation of Tim's Trot! Over the last 9 years, Tim's Trot has raised \$150,000 for Tim's Foundation. That is a very successful Holliston High School National Honor Society Service Project!



## Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors Starts a New Year

September is here and that means a new membership year for Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors. HNN is a not-for-

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## Holliston Pantry Shelf Fully Re-Opens to Shoppers with New COVID Safety Policies

Holliston Pantry Shelf is pleased to announce that it is now fully reopened to Shoppers, and is now fully stocked with a bountiful selection of fresh produce, refrigerated and frozen specials, as well as canned goods, personal care items and all other food items the Pantry stocked prior to the Covid Pandemic. The Pantry has implemented many new COVID-safe sanitizing procedures and policies to ensure that Shoppers and Volunteers are as safe as possible. Daily professional COVID cleanings take place after each shift, and safe-shopping practices have been implemented that ensure mandatory mask wearing, hand sanitizing, disinfecting between shoppers and a limit of one shop-

per inside the Pantry at a time to ensure safe social distancing.

Shoppers are now welcome to shop whenever is convenient during open business hours, which are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and Wednesday evening from 4 - 7:30 p.m.

"We are so pleased that through the generosity of the Holliston Community, both financially and with volunteerism, that we were able to continue to serve more than 200 Holliston families throughout this Pandemic crisis," said Holliston Pantry Shelf President Keely Krantz. "For seventeen weeks, when we had to close our Pantry doors to the public, dedicated

volunteers worked tirelessly to deliver Pantry groceries to each and every Holliston family in need. We are thrilled to now welcome Shoppers back inside our Pantry doors, so that they can shop our fully stocked grocery aisles and choose the food items that are best for their own families."

In addition, the Pantry has announced that current 2019 Pantry ID Cards will now be valid through next September 2021. Shoppers are not required to submit an application for a new 2020 Pantry ID card, they will simply continue to use the card issued last year.

If a Pantry Cardholder is ill, has an emergency and are otherwise unable to shop at the Pantry, they may now call the Pantry phone line (508) 429-5392 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. to request a delivery. The Pantry is offering a limited number of pre-filled grocery deliveries that may be accommodated each day.

If you need food assistance, and are not a Holliston Pantry Shelf Cardholder, please visit the Holliston Town Clerk to obtain a Pantry ID Card.

If you would like to donate items to the Holliston Pantry Shelf, the best way to donate, says Krantz, "is in our bin. Residents can check our website (<https://www.hollistonpantryshelf.org/>) for what we most need and please be sure items are unopened and not expired."

### Thank You from Holliston Pantry Shelf!

Thanks to a donation from Griffin Electric, the Holliston Pantry Shelf received brand new donated backpack and school supplies from Holliston based electrical contractor Griffin Electric. This is the 7th year in a row that Griffin and its employees have donated school supplies for Holliston Pantry Shelf families.

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profit civic and social organization that brings friends & neighbors from Holliston and the surrounding communities together to give back and have some fun.

This year of course will start off a little differently than usual due to COVID-19. There may not be those face to face social activities like Dinner Club until 2021 - but with a little creativity and the help of technology - we can have some virtual Ladies Escapes & Children's activities plus Book Club has already selected books for the fall months so they

are well on their way.

With many of our in-person fundraiser family events on hold, we will also be putting our heads together to still involve the community while raising funds for the HNN Grant Fund which gives back to town and community organizations like the Public Library, Parks & Recreation, Community Farm, Holliston Police and Holliston Fire to name a few of our previous recipients. And of course, the community can always help HNN give back by contributing directly to the HNN Community Grant Fund

here <https://hollistonnewcomers.org/Donate> or mail a check to Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors, PO Box 6586, Holliston MA 01746 (identify it is for the Grant Fund).

With it being so hard to get out and meet people these days, HNN is a great way to connect with your community. Become a member at [hollistonnewcomers.org/members](http://hollistonnewcomers.org/members). We look forward to our new year of fun!

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## Sports

# Baker Hoping HHS Student-Athletes Can Compete This Fall

*EDITOR'S NOTE: At Local Town Pages deadline, neither Governor Baker nor the Department of Education had ruled on the status of interscholastic sports for the fall.*

By KEN HAMWEY  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Matt Baker has lots of experience in athletic administration, both in college and at the high school level. But, during his 20 years in sports management, he's never had to deal with a pandemic.

The 41-year-old Baker, who's starting his sixth year as Holliston High's athletic director, was associate A.D. at Mass. Bay Community College before working as an athletic administrator at Framingham State for 12 years. He's seen his share of situations that postpone or cancel events but never has he seen an entire season eliminated.

"We got hit hard last spring, and it was sudden," said Baker, who has his bachelor's degree from Assumption College and his masters from Framingham State. "Unable to finish the State championship games for the winter was shocking, then spring sports took a gut punch. I felt badly for our spring athletes, especially the seniors. Their prom, senior awards night and graduation were all affected."

Baker strongly believes that last spring's athletes at Holliston, especially in track and field, would have set some records. He also was sad that two winter competitors and a 2019 graduate

were unable to be cited for individual honors.

"Hockey player Brendon Geary, who won the Tri Valley League's Boston Bruins Sportsmanship Award, lost his chance to be honored at the Garden on March 26," Baker noted. "Lily Trainor, who's now at the University of Vermont, was going to be honored as our all-time scoring leader in lacrosse, and we also wanted to honor Brian Garry, who won his second straight State wrestling title. He became the eighth State wrestling champ in school history. We'll continue to work on a plan to honor and recognize these accomplishments, which could include banners, record boards, plaques, etc."

The late spring and summer were also difficult. Baker and fellow athletic directors were waiting for a decision on whether athletics would be in the mix this fall.

"The summer has been a roller-coaster," he emphasized. "All our fall team schedules were completed as we waited to get the green light. All the TVL's athletic directors were prepared to adjust to whatever the guidelines would be. As athletic directors, we often have to change schedules because of inclement weather or possibly because of a conflict with another school's prom or awards night. There was no playbook on how to deal with a pandemic. But we all dealt with it at a moment's notice. We've been in a variety of situations,

but never anything like this."

Baker obviously hopes athletics will be in the mix this fall.

"If there are sports this fall, there'll provide a great boost of enthusiasm for student-athletes and coaches," he emphasized. "If we have sports, they'll be starting later than usual, but our school culture, fans and parents will be getting a big lift, even if the format is in a reduced capacity. For a lot of kids, it might be their last opportunity to showcase their talent or to put on a Holliston uniform."

"If athletics are canceled, we'd unfortunately be back to last spring. Kids have been working out on their own with the hope they'd be competing when school started. Whatever officials come up with, I hope there will be creative thinking in offering opportunities for kids to compete this school year."

If sports are in the mix this fall, change will be prevalent at games and practices, and there'll be new protocols on buses and in locker-rooms, weight rooms and training rooms.

"Crowds at games will be monitored for social distancing," Baker said. "Practices likely will be conducted with limited groups and training rooms no longer will have an open-door policy. They'll be new cleaning procedures for locker-rooms and weight rooms. In the past, we've sent varsity and jayvee teams to games on the same bus. Now, that's changed. Where do we get added buses, and what about the



**Holliston High's AD Matt Baker says he hopes creative thinking will come into play this year in devising ways for student athletes to safely compete.**

increased costs?"

Losing the spring season was difficult and Baker not only felt badly for seniors, but also for underclassmen.

"Seniors lose an opportunity to compete," he said. "All their preparation and training never got tested and they didn't get a chance to set records. For juniors, they lost the chance to showcase their ability for college recruiters and scouts. That's when they have the best opportunity to start planning for their futures. That's when they get film to colleges. Freshmen and sophomores also lost out because they're striving to be on a varsity roster. Losing a season simply creates lots of gaps."

Baker is hopeful the fall season is spared because the Panthers have some powerhouse teams that are eager to once again prove themselves. Boys' and girls' soccer are two good examples.

"The girls' squad went unbeaten (19-0-3) and won the State title last year," he noted. "And, the boys team has won two TVL championships in a

row. The girls, who have lots of talent returning, want the chance to repeat as State champs. And the boys would like to make it three straight league crowns. Our fall teams are very competitive. Football is traditionally a strong program and our field hockey, cross-country and volleyball teams have had success. They also want the opportunity to succeed."

With all the drama that the coronavirus created for athletics, Baker never lost sight of the big picture. He's acutely aware of the pandemic's death toll and its far-reaching effects.

"The health and safety of everyone are what's important," Baker emphasized. "Athletics is just a small part of the equation. All the decisions that have been made have been done to preserve and protect the health of students and all those in our community and our country. It's kind of ironic that last fall we had to deal with the threat from Triple-E. Now, it's Covid-19."

Since Baker took the reins as Holliston's A.D., the Panthers have won two State titles (girls' soccer and football) and four Sectional crowns (girls' soccer, boys' soccer and two in football). There likely will be more success to follow.

As officials grapple with whether to keep interscholastic sports on the extra-curricular menu, athletics, nevertheless, will eventually be facing new protocols — for the coaches, the athletes and for fans. At Holliston, and in so many other communities, there's a sense that when sports competition returns, there will be some sort of a return to normalcy.



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# Sports

## ADs Take Guarded Approach to State Agency's Sports Guidelines

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *The Mass. Interscholastic Athletic Association and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education issued its guidelines as Local Town Pages was going to press. Sports for the fall season that are in the lower and moderate risk categories can compete with modifications but football, competitive cheer and unified basketball are classified as high risk. Those teams can only practice this fall but their seasons could get underway in a floating season that would run from late February to late April.*

By **KEN HAMWEY**  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Four of the area's veteran athletic directors are taking a wait-and-see approach to the guidelines for youth and amateur athletics that were announced by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) on Aug. 13.

The guidance, issued because of the coronavirus pandemic, puts football in a highly doubtful category. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is expected to offer its guidelines soon and both sets will provide the Mass. Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) with additional insight. To prepare for a fall season, the MIAA's COVID-19 Task Force will have to consider modifications for moderate- and high-risk sports to allow for competition.

If football is played this fall, games would have to eliminate contact by replacing tackling with flags or playing a two-hand touch in a seven-on-seven format. Two options could be the creation of an additional season between winter and spring sports or playing football next spring.

Before detailing how the area's athletic directors reacted to the EEA's guidelines, here's a rundown on what's been spelled out. The guidance classifies sports into three categories — Lower Risk, Moderate Risk and Higher Risk. For the fall, Lower Risk sports include golf and cross country. Moderate Risk fall sports are volleyball, field hockey

and soccer. Higher Risk fall sports are football and competitive cheerleading.

Moderate Risk sports are listed as "sports or activities that involve intermittent close proximity or limited, incidental physical contact between participants." Higher Risk sports are listed as "sports or activities for which there is a requirement or a substantial likelihood of routine close and/or sustained proximity or deliberate physical contact between participants and a high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants."

The EEA guidance lists four levels of play. Level 1 is individual or socially distanced activities; Level 2 is competitive practices; Level 3 is games; and Level 4 is tournaments.

Lower Risk sports get the green light to participate in all four levels. That would enable golf and cross country to compete and hold tournaments. Moderate and High Risk sports can participate only in Level 1, which translates to no practices, games or tournaments. Those restrictions would be lifted if they meet "minimum mandatory standards for modification to play."

For soccer, field hockey, volleyball and football to practice, the following requirements are a must: Training activities must be performed in groups of 10 or less. These same groups must be used for every training session or class. Boundaries must be marked so that those groups remain at least 14 feet apart. No more than 25 people can be on a playing surface at once. Groups can only compete against each other if they remain separate and no contact occurs.

For soccer, field hockey, volleyball and football to compete in games, two criteria must be followed. First, deliberate close contact must be eliminated. Deliberate close contact includes but is not limited to collisions, body checking, tackling, blocking, and racing/riding in packs.

Second, minimize intermittent contact. Game situations that result in intermittent, close physical or face-to-face contact must be modified or eliminated, including restarts, faceoffs, throw-ins, scrums for the ball/puck, or similar activities. These activities may be allowed if face masks are used during contact.

Tom Angelo, Franklin High's AD, is concerned about over-reaction. "Too many people are jumping to too many conclusions without hearing from all governing bodies," said Angelo, who has 36 years of experience as an educator. "Whatever is decided, Franklin High School will be prepared to provide our student-athletes with a safe environment, by adhering strictly to the proper protocols established by our own school district, the EEA, DESE, MIAA and the Hockomock League."

Chuck Grant, who's been Millis High's AD for the last 18 years, emphasizes that it's not time to panic.

"No decision has been made on whether fall sports will be canceled," Grant said. "We're still hanging in. Other guidelines were issued in July but these regulations focus "on more elaboration and more concerns."

"There's still time for the virus numbers to trend downward," Grant noted. "There's still a lot of data that can be looked at. My hope for Millis and the sur-



**GARY BROWN**  
King Philip Regional AD



**TOM ANGELO**  
Franklin High AD

rounding towns is that we give fall sports a try, and that includes football. We'll all deal with the changes needed to minimize the spread of COVID-19. The EEA's guidance was issued a month before pre-season practice would start (Sept. 14). A lot can still change."

Gary Brown, King Philip's AD who previously worked as an associate AD at Harvard University, says many of the sports offerings for the fall at the regional school remain intact.

"As of now, we're planning on offering as many sports opportunities as possible for the fall, and that includes football, soccer, field hockey and volleyball," Brown said. "Our goal is to offer the best student-athlete experience while keeping health and wellness as our top priorities. Athletics continue to help student-athletes physically and mentally while competing in high school sports."

Brown emphasized that while athletics are an important ele-

ment in youth development, "the big picture is still the health and safety of our students, families, communities, our state and nation."

Matt Baker, who's in his sixth year as Holliston's AD, is concerned the EEA's guidance clouds the fall sports picture because other agencies haven't weighed in.

"When I first heard there was guidance regarding athletics, my hope was it would start to give us some clarity regarding high school sports," said Baker, who previously worked in athletic administration at Framingham State. "I was inundated with calls, texts and emails. There was a lot of information everyone was trying to process and what it meant for high school sports. But as it turns out, this is just one set of guidelines being released by the state. We're still awaiting additional guidance from DESE and the MIAA and until then we're still in a holding pattern."

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# Guess What May Be Coming Back

Though it never went away in Massachusetts, the last few years have been a respite from worry over federal estate taxes. That may soon come to an end. The government may be trying to get their hands into your and your loved ones' pockets again -- and in a VERY BIG way!

We can't predict who will win in November and which party (or parties) will control the Presidency, Senate, and House. But we do need to let you know what may happen if Democrats wind up winning the Presidency and having a majority in the House and Senate, an event which is looking increasingly likely according to recent polls. Dennis Sullivan & Associates is not taking a political stand, we're a diverse and divided office politically, but we do want to discuss how taxes may change, and what actions can be taken now, so please don't shoot the messenger!

Democrats and media have raised significant issues about the wealth and income inequality rampant in our country. One solution for this inequality, now

being expressed more vocally, is a major overhaul of the federal estate tax. For example, here's an article that appeared this summer in the New York Times, entitled "Tax the Rich and Their Heirs."

The current Estate Tax exemption, the amount that can be passed at death tax-free, is \$11.58 million (potentially twice that for a married couple). In short, very few people in the US need to worry about federal estate taxes.

In Massachusetts, we have an estate tax exemption of \$1 Million dollars. If you are married, there is no automatic doubling of the exemption, but it is possible with planning to double the amount to \$2 Million for a married couple.

However, as the cited article recommends, that exemption may be significantly reduced at any time. While the current exemption is \$11.58 Million, if it changes before you die, that is the exemption that applies to you. The only exemption that counts is the one in the law when you pass away -- and a new Congress and President could change

that. There have already been calls to reduce the Estate Tax exemption to as little as \$1 million, with everything over that taxed at 40% or more, which would place many Massachusetts homeowners' families at risk of owing federal estate taxes!

## What Can You Do? Why Do It Now, Why NOT Wait Until November?

There *are* planning techniques, beyond a Living Trust, that you can use now to take advantage of the current large Estate Tax exemption while it's still in the law. Dennis Sullivan & Associates can help.

If you wait until the November election, there may not be enough time before year end to analyze your options and properly put into place the appropriate strategies. You may want to do some "pre-planning" now, make your choices ahead of the election and be ready to implement them right away after election day.

Don't wait until next year. It's likely that any Estate Tax change is likely to be made effective retroactively to January 1! Don't see your planning opportunities dry up.

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## COURSES

*continued from page 9*

word roots, prefixes, and suffixes. Students will learn to master medical vocabulary through classroom instruction.

The **Entrepreneurship** course prepares students to develop business ideas and plans to start, develop, finance, market, manage, and launch a new business. This course gives students the skills and knowledge they need to master the requirements of all the stages of launching a new business and the opportunity to build and implement a new business.

The **Drugs and Society** course examines the history of drugs in American culture. Topics may include the social, economic, legal, medical, and other issues concerning drug use and abuse; the causes of drug use and abuse; and the impact of drugs on the individual and society.

The **Environmental Studies** I course is an introduction to the science of ecology. Topics include classes of living organisms and their sources of energy, food chains, elements essential for plant and animal nutrition, mutation and evolution, chemicals that cause genetic or somatic injury, cancer, the atmosphere, and the human population.

The **Introduction to Communication** course introduces students to the history and principles of human communication. The course will cover the develop-

ment of communication from signals, to speech, to writing, and to the mass communication technologies of print, broadcast media, and computers. Contemporary models and theories of human communication will be emphasized. The course will consider the growing field of communication as both an academic discipline and a career focus. The will enable students to make informed choices about their future study and job options.

The **Law and Society** course introduces students to the institutions and participants of the American legal system. Topics covered include court procedures, civil and criminal law, constitutional law, and public policy. Students also read and analyze case law and statutes, and participate in class activities.

The **Security Awareness** computer science course provides a basic survey of data, computer, internet, and wireless security. The security principles—confidentiality, integrity, and availability—are introduced to students as well as the threats and attacks that undermine these principals.

High school students interested in taking one of these courses can view the class offerings and register at <https://www.massbay.edu/courses-for-high-school-students> or contact MassBay's Admissions office at (781) 239-2500 or [admissions@massbay.edu](mailto:admissions@massbay.edu).



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# Real Estate Corner

## Local Mortgage Expert Offers Free Virtual Homebuyer Seminars

Michael Shain of Bay Equity Home Loans will host two free virtual homebuyer seminars in September in conjunction with Keefe at Night continuing education.

### Homebuyer Bootcamp: Tuesday, Sept. 22 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Are you considering leaving your rental behind and becoming a homeowner? At this seminar, you'll learn crucial information necessary for home buying success and leave with all the tools you need to get started on your search:

- The importance of good credit
- Finding the right mortgage loan program for you
- The difference between buyer agents and listing agents
- How to win a bidding war
- Items to include in the offer that some buyers leave out
- How to get the most from your home inspection

Buying your home is likely the largest and most important financial commitment you will make. Buyers with the latest information will be more successful in the ever-changing real estate market.

### VA Home Loan Benefits: Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

This class will discuss the benefits of the VA guaranteed home loan. Available to active duty personnel, veterans, reservists and National Guard personnel, as well as surviving spouses, VA loans can be used for purchases or refinances. Down payments are as low as 0 percent, with no private mortgage insurance.

Pre-registration is required for both seminars. Visit <https://keefeatnight.org/> and search for "Homebuying Seminar" or "Understanding and Using Your VA Home Loan Benefits" or call 508-416-2170. The links for the events will be sent to you a week

before the class.

For more information, call Mike at 508-330-8487 or email [mshain@bayeq.com](mailto:mshain@bayeq.com).

### About Mike Shain:

Shain has more than 30 years of banking and mortgage lending experience and hosts "Real Estate and Beyond," a local TV show about home buying and selling trends.

### About Bay Equity:

Bay Equity is a family-owned, full-service retail mortgage lending institution that prioritizes personal relationships. Founded in 2007 and licensed in 42 states.



For more about Bay Equity Home Loans, visit: [www.bayequityhomeloans.com](http://www.bayequityhomeloans.com).

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