

The Voice of Your Community

Resident Has Art Exhibition at Providence Art Club

Holliston Artist Richard Kattman will be featured in a two person exhibition March 7 – 26 at the historic Providence Art Club in Providence, Rhode Island. Richard will exhibit large scale abstractions alongside abstracts by Rhode

Island artist Eveline Luppi in the exhibition *Perspectives*. The exhibition will take place in the Club's Maxwell Mays Gallery located at 11 Thomas Street on College Hill in Providence.

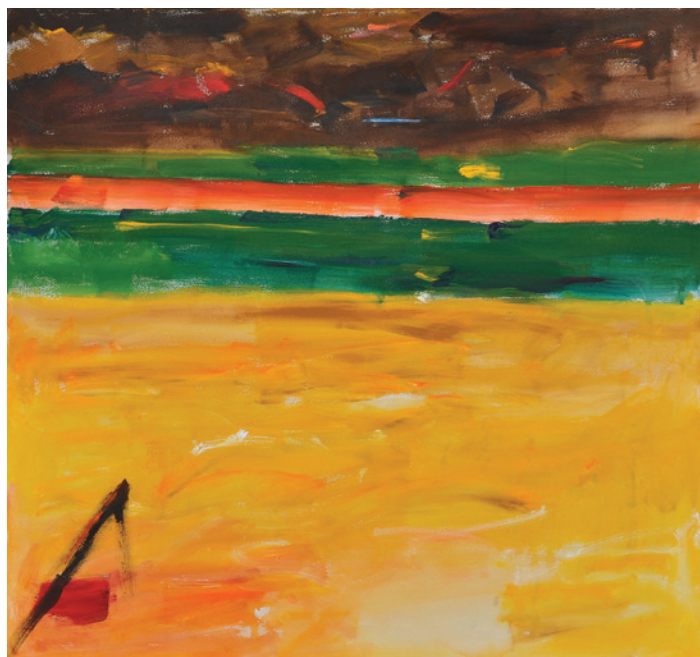
Kattman, who has worked professionally as a landscape

architect since 1988, describes his painting process as follows:

"Painting and drawing are my passion. Landscape architecture is my profession. I paint large abstract canvases in the open air by the ocean. I paint large-scale portrait and figure paintings in the studio. Landscape paintings are produced in the field in all weather conditions.

My paintings and drawings are about nature, man's relationship to nature, man's nature and the nature of painting and drawing. Through color, line, and the creation of form, I search for beauty and meaning in the universe. Drawing allows me to discipline my creative instincts. I try to capture in every model or landscape the energy I envision radiating from the person or object's core."

Kattman joined the Providence Art Club as an Exhibiting Artist Member in 2018 and this will be his first feature in a group exhibition at the



ART EXHIBITION
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A Voice for Women in the MetroWest

By J.D. O'GARA

The MetroWest Commission on the Status of Women makes sure voices don't get lost in the shuffle or pushed aside.

"Our job is to basically amplify the voices of those who identify as female in our community, to make sure our community partners, our elected and appointed officials are making decisions with those peoples' needs in mind," said Heather Panahi. She's in her third year as chairman of the MetroWest Commission on the Status of Women.

"Our Commission was founded in 2015. We represent 26 towns and two cities and are actually one of 11 regional commissions throughout the state," said Panahi. There is also a state commission.

Panahi explained the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, the state commission, was created in the mid-1990s, after a UN Conference on Women.

"The goal was to give a voice to Massachusetts women and girls," said Panahi, of the non-partisan commission. "Over the last several decades, the state has created these regional commissions to be able to better reach women throughout the state."

The MetroWest Commission covers Ashland, Bellingham, Dover, Framingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Maynard, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Natick, Needham, Norfolk, Northborough, Norwood, Sherborn, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Walpole, Wayland, Wellesley, Westborough, Weston and Wrentham, and Marlborough.

"Our nine commissioners are basically appointed to their positions; there's no election. You apply, and then they're appointed based on experience. You can serve two terms, and each term

VOICE FOR WOMEN
continued on page 2



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VOICE FOR WOMEN

continued from page 1

is three years," she said.

To get a handle on what women want and need, the MetroWest Commission on the Status of Women hosts public hearings, panel discussions, engages in community outreach programs and hosts awareness campaigns, as well as works with local community organizations and nonprofits.

Members of the commission have also given testimony on behalf of women in the MetroWest region, which is very diverse, said Panahi.

"You have rural towns, you have metropolitan towns, you have towns that are higher on the socioeconomic ladder than others. When we are bringing on new commissioners, one of the things we try to be mindful of is bringing in commissioners as representative of our region as possible."

Areas of focus the MetroWest Commission include reproductive issues last year, from improving access to feminine hygiene products in schools and jails to maternal health after having chil-

dren. The group has also spent a lot of time on domestic violence and sexual assault prevention.

"Domestic violence prevention and sexual assault prevention are big items for us and continue to be for us, and COVID has exacerbated the problem, where women are in their homes trapped with their abusers. We've also done work talking about the experiences of incarcerated women in the region, making sure they have appropriate access to the resources they need, that they're safe and that their health needs are being taken care of. We've also looked at economic empowerment, job placement after incarceration, and helping to protect immigrant families, particularly immigrant women and their children," she said.

This past year, the Commission decided to focus on racial equity, hosting a Zoom public hearing on "Racial Inequality

Affecting Woman and Families of Color in the MetroWest" in late February.

"The public hearing was really our first step before we start to develop a plan of action," said Panahi. The Commission will use the feedback they've gained from BIPOC women in the region to help identify issues to prioritize, support and raise awareness.

"We recognized we needed to hold ourselves accountable, to make sure all of the girls and women in our region were adequately supported and have access to the services they need," She said, adding the commission itself is also a majority (75%) white, and the group would like to attract a more diverse panel of commissioners.

Panahi suggested that COVID has also highlighted where inequities lie.

"Whether or not people can access Wifi so that their children can learn – those things have become much more accentuated as a result of the pandemic," she said.



In particular, said Panahi, the many immigrant families in the MetroWest face enormous barriers because of COVID.

The Commission also endeavors to listen to MetroWest's youngest women constituents. It has created the Athena Council, and internship and advocacy for women aged 14-19 to channel their passions into energy and action. The 12 members of the Athena Council are girls who've applied from all over the MetroWest.

Panahi added that all meetings of the MetroWest Commission on the Status of Women are open to the public and "any women who want to come and listen and share their questions."

The best way to stay apprised of when the next meeting is to visit the MetroWest Commission on the Status of Women's Facebook Page (you can also find them on Instagram (@metrowestcsw) and Twitter (@MassCSW). You can also find out more at the state website, <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/metrowest-commission-on-the-status-of-women>.

Panahi had a message to any women interested: "We are a nonpartisan group. We want to

emphasize that. To us, gender does not belong to a political platform. We want all women in the MetroWest to know we are here to advocate for them, and to listen."

ART EXHIBITION

continued from page 1

Club. Over the past two years he has participated regularly in the Club's Members' Exhibitions, sharing his large scale abstractions with the Providence community.

Of Kattman's exhibition, Art Club Gallery Manager Michael Rose said "We look forward to exhibiting Richard's exuberant and inspiring abstract paintings in this exciting exhibition."

The Galleries of the Providence Art Club are always free and open to the public. Current gallery hours are weekdays 12-4pm. The galleries can also be opened by appointment. For more information, contact Michael Rose atmichael@providenceartclub.org, via phone at 401-331-1114 x. 5, or visit the Club's website at www.providenceartclub.org.

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Zoom Your Estate Planning

For most, estate planning receives the greatest amount of procrastination within financial planning.

It's understandable given the formality with an attorney, time commitment, complexity of choices and as parents with young kids thinking who/what ensures your child's continued growth with your untimely demise. Add a pandemic, "we've been meaning to do it" turned into "we should've done it when it was easier and safe".

Surprisingly, many are unaware that last April 28th, Massachusetts Senate Bill 2645 was passed/signed by Governor Baker to allow remote virtual notarization of legal documents through video-conferencing technology.

Yes, you can now work with an estate planning attorney through Zoom and FedEx to develop and complete your holistic estate plan.

I asked David Feakes, who over 20 years ago founded The Parents Estate Planning Law Firm, PC, to share his firm's experience and client observations to this legislative change.

Early Zoom adoption. "Last March/April, we'd help clients far along by doing signings in parking lots, picnic tables holding umbrellas and while we managed to do it safely, it was unsustainable", says David. "We'd been in communication with our state reps and got our firm's new policies and procedures in place. Once passed, we were proactive with Zoom, not just signings but

also helping clients in our discovery phase move forward, as they had just put everything on hold."

Scheduling and engagement is easier for clients. "Parents with kids coordinating to come to our offices in Acton at the same time during work hours is hard", confessed David. "Also the idea of coming to an attorney's office can be intimidating, so now with the ability to do it all from home with kids running around or cats walking across the screen, it's helped relaxed clients and made decision making easier."

What remains constant - the why. "People have had time to reflect on making sure their kids are cared for if something unthinkable happens", shared David. "A will is not enough, we educate clients on legal strategies

of trusts, guardianships, power of attorneys, health proxies, tax planning and legacy distribution. Additionally, as I share our process to get to know a client's family and what's important, I sense calm and relief when we reiterate this can all be done virtually and safely - something normally reserved at the completion of an estate plan."

As a fee-only CFP working with financial planning clients, I'd echo David's observations with Zoom and leveraging virtual technology. In 2018, a few early adopters chose this option to engage, but today the benefits of time, convenience and ease of access are thankfully felt by all.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or



Glenn Brown

recommendations for any individual. Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of PlanDynamic, LLC, www.PlanDynamic.com. Glenn is a fee-only Certified Financial Planner™ helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.

Letter to the editor

To the Editor:

I'm writing to respond to the recent article published in the Medway/Millis local town paper, regarding the 555 Hopping Brook project proposed in Holliston. I participated in the meeting/call with the Holliston Economic Development committee (EDC), and during the meeting, the chairman stated that they had only looked at the positive economic impact of the massive warehouse that is proposed, and did not do any research on the potential negative economic impacts on the town of Holliston or surrounding towns or abutters, and did not look at how property values may decline in the area.

The EDC stated they didn't have the time or the resources to conduct studies on the potential negative impacts. The EDC is only presenting one side of the coin, and this doesn't appear to be a fair assessment of the situation.

At stake is the impact on the character of the town of Holliston and surrounding towns, and the



negative impact of thousands of tractor trailers on our roads, and the traffic and air pollution that accompanies this facility being proposed.

Sincerely,
Gary Rotatori
Medway neighbor; lives in an abutting neighborhood

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Spring Ahead & Check Smoke Detectors

Remember to check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

BY THERESA KNAPP

When you adjust your clocks for Daylight Savings Time on March 14, 2021 (at 2:00 a.m.), be sure to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), smoke detectors save lives:

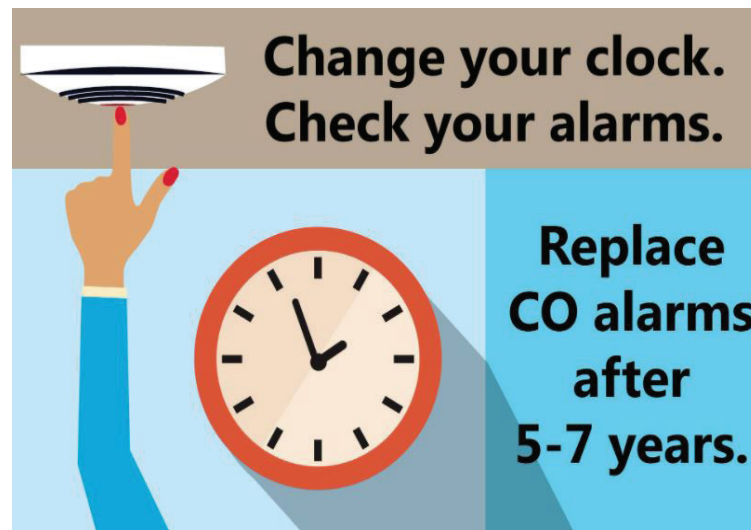
- Three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms.
- More than one-third (38 percent) of home fire deaths result from fires in which no smoke alarms are present.
- The risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.

How do I test my smoke detector?

On most smoke detectors, you press and hold the TEST button on the smoke detector. It can take a few seconds to begin, but you will hear a loud, ear-piercing siren while the button is pressed. If the sound is weak or nonexistent, replace your batteries. Click here for a video tutorial from the National Fire Protection Association. [www.firstalert.com]

What is carbon monoxide?

According to the USFA, Carbon monoxide is called the



“Invisible Killer” because it’s a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. More than 150 people in

the United States die every year from accidental non fire-related CO poisoning associated with consumer products, including generators. Other products include faulty, improperly-used or incorrectly-vented fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters and fireplaces. Beware of symptoms such as headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea, dizziness, mental confusion, vomiting, loss of muscular coordination, and loss of consciousness.

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The National Fire Protection Association recommends testing alarms every month, and replacing any device that is more than 10 years old.

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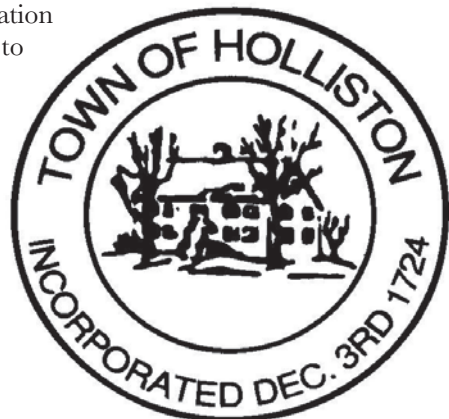
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- Board of Health 3 year term 1 position
- Housing Authority 5 year term 1 position
- Trustee of Public Library 3 year term 2 positions
- Park Commissioner 3 year term 2 positions
- Planning Board 5 year term 1 position
- School Committee 3 year term 3 positions

To qualify as a candidate you must be at least 18 years old, a registered Holliston voter, and collect 50 signatures from Holliston registered voters by April 6, 2021. The Town Election is May 25, 2021.

If you would like to discuss the possibilities, or have your Nomination Papers prepared, please call the office.

Town Elections are non-partisan. Town Clerk's Office, 508-429-0601.

Elizabeth Turner Greendale, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

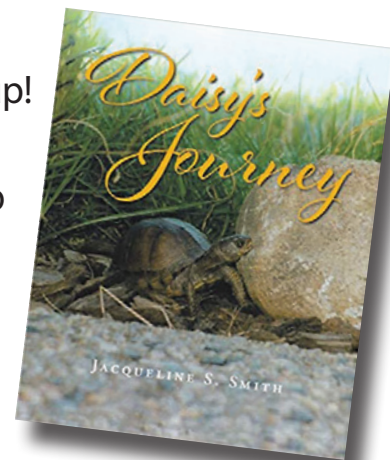
*** Due to the Pandemic, the Town Clerk's Office is open by appointment only. ***

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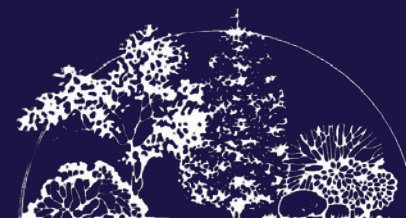
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Keefe Tech Announces Term 1 Honor Roll Students

Keefe Regional Technical School is pleased to announce the following students have been named to the school's Term 1 Honor Roll.

Ashland – High Honors: *Grade 9*, Rhayssa Beltrami, Emma Canning, Evan Lewis, Ashley Norris, Daniel Ruth-erford. *Grade 11*, Owen Riis. *Grade 12*, Hannah Ciniello, Noah Prince, Owen Sheehy. **Honors:** *Grade 9*, Declan Ciniello, Breno Daldon, Sandra Lovo, Ana Carolina Sampaio. *Grade 10*, Alondra Lopez Melendez. *Grade 11*, Ana Clara Mello. *Grade 12*, Rachael Aarden, Skye Bradford, Angelina Marchant-Duncan, Juan Manuel Ramirez, Angela Valentin Ortiz.

Blackstone – High Honors: *Grade 12*, Mia Ignoto.

Framingham – High Honors: *Grade 9*, Sally Ames, Grace Arena, Gabriela Carrillo Valencia, Eduarda De Figueiredo, Kyra De Souza, Gabryela Dias, Dylan Fink, Bruno Flores, Chloe Forman Orth, Christopher Guimaraes, Daniela Hernandez, Casey Horrigan, Jackson Keefe,

Antonio Neto, Samantha Orn. Lara Cristina Paulino. Patricia Richards, Yeshua Salguero, Joshua Silva, Chea Sok, Keyla Torres, Zuehailey Torres, Anon Unseetha-haruthai, Isabella Vasquez, Char-lie Walls.

Grade 10, Juan Con-treras, Logan Conv-ery, Vidaliz Diaz, Jonathan Renan Esponilla, Henry Galvez, Deeksha Johar, Dylan Jones, Yaidymar Morales, Rodrigo Lucca Paulino, Max Richer, Jayden Rust, Anita Unseetha-haruthai. *Grade 11*, Jason As-sarian, Kevin Assarian, Jennifer Barreto, Alexa Caiola, Drea Caiola, Gabriel Felipe, Anthony Gomes, Victor Gudiel, Julio Hernandez Pereira, Priscillia Kunda, Amanda Marins, Darli Mazariegos Castillo, Braeden McKenna, Lily Sullivan. *Grade 12*, Stephanie Belalcazar Cor-rales, Edith Brickman, Gabriel Ferreira, Nolan MacIver, Ryan McCarthy, Kiersten Miller, Scott Palmer. **Honors:** *Grade 9*, Pat-



rick Almeida, Maria Edu-arda Caldeira, Aiden Campbell, Jen-nifer Cantrill, Jacob Cas-taneda, Ava Celorier, N a y l e a Gu z m a n, Tobias Han-sen, Matthew Kelly, Arsalaan Khan, Ashley Lawrence, Felix Mar-

shall, Kayla McLean, Alexander Mello, Ricardo Perlera, Alondra Rivera, Mikaela Rivera, An-derson Vasquez Rosa, Eduardo Vazquez Herdandez, Gabriella Viana, Aiden Vilaranda, Ste-phen Walls, Luiz Miguel Zano-telle, Gabrielle Zukeram.

Grade 10, William Bertolino, Darius Burrell, Ronald Cas-taneda Guzman, Antonio Costa Andrade, Daniel Dempsey, Julia Gomes, Yaneli Graulau, Dari-ana Hernandez, Eddy Jimenez Soto, Jasmany Jimenez, Brad-ley Kadets, Olivia Klein, Gina Marie Lamberti, Sucharn Lao-ghan, Juliana Lopes, John Lu-ciano, Skyla Marcotte-Minahan, Izabella Mesa, Alisson Murcia Posada, Paola Ortiz, Kaisha Perez, Yvens Petit Louis, Kevin Honorio Ribeiro, Veronica San-chez, Davidson Souza, Mariana Vargas, Christopher Vick, Jr. *Grade 11*, Klaryssah Albani, Ana Clara Barbalho, Bruno Barbosa, Aiperi Bazaralieva, Emily Caryl, David De Oliveira, Frank Far-anda, Hannah Gilvarg, Samuel

Lavoie, Eduarda Magalhaes, David Maude, Abigail Mello, Marc Mendes, Stephen Merino, Bruna Mota, Jereniel Oliveras, Bryan Orellana Madrid, Logan Patria, Ana Luiza Rodrigues, Katyuska Santiago, Matthew Savino, Elizabeth Smith. *Grade 12*, Tiffany Adams, Colden Baer, Debora Barbosa Bor-gem, Bruno Bomfim, Emilly De Souza, Chase Ellingwood, Tyler Hill, Dayna Jones, Jordi Mon-tanez, Kathysha Nieves, Kelvin Phelps, Corde Rhodes, Jake Roy, Guilherme Salgado, Cam-ila Santos, Dylan Schrag, An-derson Zabatta.

Holliston – High Honors: *Grade 9*, Tessa Bielak, Tyler Casey, Bryan Costa, Rory Forde, Joseph Green, Jake Lynch, Caro-line White. *Grade 10*, Makenzie Stebbins. *Grade 11*, Vaansh Man-sharamani, Zoe Rosen. *Grade 12*, Sylvie Bielak, Alec Chan, Ethan Ze'evi. **Honors:** *Grade 9*, Evan Burhoe, Sydney Comeau, Lud-milla Da Silva, John Donoghue, Benjamin Hunter, Mark Lagodi-mos, Jack Scaramella. *Grade 10*, Gryffin Irons. *Grade 11*, Osgui Padilla Morales. *Grade 12*, James Bender, Ester Da Silva, Liberty Perron, Owen Stanley, Alanah Wills.

Hopkinton – High Honors: *Grade 9*, Sean Miniman. *Grade 11*, Jake Shepard. **Honors:** *Grade 9*, Da-Neil Anderson, Ben-nett Kazanjian, William Moore. *Grade 10*, Nicholas Souza. *Grade*

11, Alexis Manchester. *Grade 12*, Gabrielle Buentello, Josvar-do Gomez.

Hudson – Honors: *Grade 12*, Jacob Baker.

Natick – High Honors: *Grade 9*, Lukasz Baran, Reid Campbell, Kiyomi Erickson, Cassidy Thompson-Crowder. *Grade 10*, Samuel Erickson, Taly-n LaGrone, Lily Rosenstein. *Grade 12*, Peter Miller. **Honors:** *Grade 9*, Savannah Clarke, Alexandra Millen, Walkeny Pereira Junior. *Grade 10*, Gabrielle Gaudet, Jasne Gonzalez-Maciell. *Grade 11*, Larissa De Oliveira, Michael Lamont, Ana Julia Oliveira. *Grade 12*, Brock Howatt, Scott Joyce, Kieran Luff, Aiden Sylvia.

About Keefe Regional Technical School: Keefe Regional Technical School is a four-year public high school located in Framingham, MA and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. In addition to 15 career and technical programs, Keefe Tech offers a complete college preparatory and honors academic program, with opportunities for students to participate in advanced placement courses and dual enrollment courses at local colleges and universities. Keefe Tech is proud to serve students from the in-district communities of Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton and Natick.

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March 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 11:00 am: Virtual forming Book Club	2	3 10:15am: Virtual Tales and Tunes for Tots	4 10:15am: Virtual Tales and Tunes for Tots	5
8	9 11:00am: Mystery Book Club	10 10:15am: Virtual Tales and Tunes for Tots	11 10:15am: Virtual Tales and Tunes for Tots	12 3:00pm: Virtual Craft- erschool & Book Club
15	16	17 10:15am: Virtual Tales and Tunes for Tots	18 10:15am: Virtual Tales and Tunes for Tots	19
22	23	24 10:15am: Virtual Tales and Tunes for Tots	25 10:15am: Virtual Tales and Tunes for Tots	26 3:00pm: Virtual Craft- erschool & Book Club
29 10:30am: History Book Club	30	31 10:15am: Virtual Tales and Tunes for Tots		

Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors says Think Spring and Easter!



Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors is once again helping the Holliston Pantry Shelf with Easter Gifts!

Easter Baskets would be difficult to coordinate again this year, so just like we did with Thanksgiving Baskets, HNN will be asking for monetary donations to purchase gift cards for children 0 – 17 years old (\$25 value).

The Pantry Shelf does not have a count yet - so we don't know our goal - but you can donate online at <https://hollistonnewcomers.org/> Donate and select Easter Baskets or you can mail a

check to Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors, PO Box 6581, Holliston and indicate Easter Gift on the check. If you have any questions, please email: committee.newcomers@gmail.com

Be a part of putting a smile on the faces of so many deserving kids in our community. The HNN Easter Gift committee thanks you in advance for your support!

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Holliston Fire Department gets state grant

The Baker-Polito Administration announced that 239 municipal fire departments will receive nearly \$2 million in grants to fund fire education programs for children and older adults across Massachusetts.

Fire departments in 235 communities will receive Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) and Senior SAFE grants; four communities will receive S.A.F.E. grants only; and three communities will receive Senior SAFE grants only.

Holliston Fire Dept received \$4692 for the SAFE program,

and \$2480 for the senior SAFE program.

"Since 1996, the S.A.F.E. program has brought fire education to hundreds of thousands of students in the Commonwealth," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "This program allows firefighters and teachers to work together to provide fire and life safety education to young people. This collaboration contributed to



a major accomplishment. No children died in fires in Massachusetts last year."

The average number of children dying in fires annually has dropped by 78% since the S.A.F.E. Program began. The Senior SAFE Program is in its seventh year, providing firefighters with the funding to deliver fire safety education to another vulnerable population – seniors.

"Home visits, smoke and CO alarm installations, and fire safety presentations at senior centers by firefighters with senior agencies help older adults develop strategies to stay safe at home for longer," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito.

"The S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE grants represent a smart investment in fire safety," said Public Safety and Homeland Security Secretary Thomas Turco. "Youngsters and older adults are historically at greater risk in house fires, but that risk can be reduced through the targeted outreach, education, and awareness programs these grants help to fund," he added.

State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostromsky said, "The S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE Programs are successful because we have trained firefighters who deliver education to children and older adults. The fire departments being supported in these public education efforts are increasing the safety of the people in their communities."

The S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE Programs provide \$1.9 million through the Executive Office of the Public Safety and Security to local fire departments. The programs are administered by the state Department of Fire Services.



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Holliston Historical Society Harvest Fair

Did you miss the Holliston Historical Society Fair last fall? Well, we at the Holliston Historical Society did too, thanks to Covid 19. However, we are planning to have the fair this coming September if at all possible. The tentative date is September 19, 2021 with a rain date of September 26, 2021.

We will implement guidelines to make the fair safe for vendors and visitors while keeping the Harvest Fair flavor with apple

pies, food, and a baked goods sale.

Vendor applications are currently being accepted. Check hollistonhistoricalsociety.org for an application or get in touch with Harvest Fair Vendor Coordinator Pat Pereira at patpereira1106@gmail.com.

Stay tuned in for future developments. We hope to see you at the 2021 Harvest Fair!





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Rep. Dykema and District Senators Secure Capital Funding for Local Projects as Legislative Session Ends

Last month, legislation supported by Rep. Carolyn Dykema (D - Holliston) Senate President Karen Spilka (D -Ashland) and Sen. Jamie Eldridge (D-Acton) was signed into law by Governor Baker. This ends the 2019-2020 legislative session with two extensive pieces of legislation to fund the Commonwealth's transportation sector and aid in state and local economic recovery efforts. Governor Baker signed both into law on January 14th and 15th, respectively.

\$16.5 billion in capital funding was approved as part of the transportation bond bill to finance the Commonwealth's roadways, bridges, and transit infrastructure. Included in the legislation were capital authorizations for local projects with a focus on downtown revitalization and commuter safety.

Holliston received a \$1.5 million capital authorization for traffic improvements and signage in the downtown area, as well as \$500,000 for bicycle and pedestrian safety enhancements. Hopkinton and Southborough were also named in authorizations aimed at improving local pedestrian and bicycle travel, receiving \$1.5 million and

\$500,000, respectively.

The bond bill also included capital authorizations for \$300,000 each for the expansion of parking at the Southborough and Westborough MBTA Commuter Rail stations, which typically reached full capacity during traditional commuting hours prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Governor also approved the Legislature's \$626 million economic development bill to provide much-needed funding to state programming and an influx of capital into an economy that has been gradually recovering despite the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. Major provisions of the bill included funding for businesses impacted

by the pandemic, increased lending for women- and minority-owned businesses, and key improvements to support the expansion of affordable housing.

Local authorizations in this legislation support community job development and economic growth from the ground up, including \$2 million in workforce development and small business grants for the MetroWest area and a \$250,000 authorization for wastewater treatment in Southborough.

"It's my hope that these direct capital investments will contribute to the success of our small businesses and local industries, many of whom are still feeling the impact of COVID-19," said Dykema. "Looking ahead to

2021, we still have many challenges facing the Commonwealth and plenty of work to do, but I'm proud of the work my colleagues in the 191st Legislature did to find common ground and make meaningful progress on the issues that have impacted our communities the most."

A local economic development bill for the town of Holliston, H.5092, An Act authorizing the town of Holliston to establish an economic development funding program and fund, was also passed on the last day of the session. The special legislation codifies the creation of a dedicated economic development fund for the town. The Town also received a \$50,000 authorization in the economic develop-



Rep. Carolyn Dykema (D)

ment bond bill that will support the work of the legislatively-authorized fund when included in a statewide capital plan.

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MassBay Paramedicine Student Named Wellesley Firefighter

Undecided on what he wanted to study in college, James Cassidy of Holliston, came to MassBay to discover his interests and find a career path.

“My brother studied automotive technology at MassBay

and had a good experience, so I thought it would be a great starting point for me. I began by studying mechanical engineering, but changed course to business management instead. I enjoyed my classes, but once I earned my

certificate, I realized I didn’t want a desk job. I wanted to work as a firefighter.”

Cassidy’s interest in becoming a first-responder was “sparked” after several friends joined local firehouses.

“I knew that training as an EMT and paramedic would provide me with a great foundational skillset. I joined the MassBay paramedicine program in January 2020, right before the pandemic started and haven’t looked back.” Cassidy is one of seven new firefighters recently hired by the Wellesley Fire Department.

Cassidy has worked for a year and a half as an EMT for Cataldo Ambulance Service out of Malden, and continues to fulfill his required paramedicine clinical hours by working at North Shore Medical Center in Salem.

“It’s been a wild few months, but my classes, clinical placement, and EMT position, especially during COVID, has prepared me for anything I might encounter. I know my training will absolutely come in handy when I become a firefighter. I have been able to observe and learn from emergency calls ranging from cardiac arrests to babies being delivered. Working in communities like Somerville, Malden, Chelsea, Revere, and Everett has given me a lot of experience as a first-responder, and I will take all of that with me to the firefighter academy,” he said.

In May 2021, Cassidy will attend the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and join the Wellesley Fire Department. After receiving a certificate in business management from MassBay in 2018, Cassidy is on track to earn his paramedicine certificate in May 2021.



Courtesy photo by Stephanie Hawkinson, town of Wellesley.

“I am grateful and excited to join the Wellesley Fire Department as a full-time firefighter,” said Cassidy. “I enjoy the hard work, the critical thinking, and helping people. I also like knowing that every day will be different with unique challenges for each call. I really can’t imagine doing anything else.”

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Celebrating 10 years of community building at the Hopkinton Center for the Arts

BY SUSAN MANNING
STAFF WRITER

The Hopkinton Center for the Arts (HCA) has been an integral part of the community for the past 10 years, and was not about to let the pandemic bring it down.

“The center is a nonprofit community arts organization that works to create a place for people of all ages and abilities to study, enjoy, and participate in the visual and performing arts under one roof,” according to Kelly Grill, HCA Director.

HCA does this by providing year-round free and low-cost events and concerts, performance opportunities for local and national artists, educational partnerships with senior and disability organizations, and tuition assistance scholarship support.

And despite “Hopkinton” being in its name, the center serves a large population. In fact, last year the HCA was able to offer over 200 classes to more than 2,000 students from more than 200 towns and cities in Massachusetts and host over 50 productions and exhibitions on-

site in its state-of-the-art performance and gallery spaces.

All of that was despite the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Grill, the staff at the center was able to adapt the facility and its programming to meet the needs of an unprecedented time.

“Our students wanted a way to continue their studies and our artist-instructors did an amazing job bringing their classes online,” said Grill. “They created class packets for students to pick-up and turned their home studios into classrooms where they could stream lessons.”

This past summer, the HCA opened up its annual programs for kids, but with new modifications including limited class sizes and providing more tents for classes to spend time outdoors as much as possible, while following guidelines for social distancing and mask requirements.

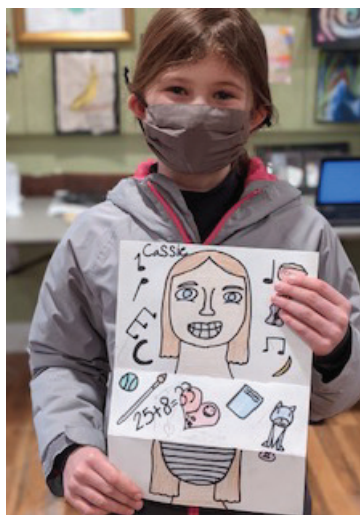
As the world moves—we hope—toward the light at the end of the COVID-19, the HCA continues to offer both online and in-person programming. Among those offerings are:

- Art classes
- Dance program
- Ceramics program
- Theater classes, including Actor’s Studio with Tony-Nominated Jere Shea
- Private music lessons

Registration for summer programs for students ages 4 and up is now open. Space is limited and the current early registration discount ends March 31.

In addition to the summer program for students, there are also other programs available:

Business spotlight



houses classes in dance, music, fine arts, theater, and film, and is now home to theatrical, dance and musical performances year-round. In 2016, an anonymous donor gifted funds to renovate

the farmhouse first floor into a ceramics studio.

HCA is located at 98 Hayden Rowe St., Hopkinton. Its website is: <https://www.hopartscenter.org>

“We want the HCA to be a place for the community to gather and we continue to develop programming that makes the arts accessible to all,” said Grill.

Coming up the HCA has a number of events scheduled, including a new Diversity in the Arts artist talk series, a new online web series “The Journey with Jere Shea,” a free children’s cultural art workshop, a March 14 children’s online concert with Stacey Peasley, and a March 17 online Celtic Concert with Stanley and Grimm. Plus, this summer will be packed with outdoor music concerts for audiences of all ages. Ticket links and registration information can be found online.

About the HCA

In 2015, the HCA opened its new arts center, consisting of a newly renovated, two-story barn with classroom space, a brand new gallery, and a 200-seat performance space. The Center



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MetroWest Medical Center administered the COVID-19 vaccine to its first recipients last month.

Clinical employees on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic were the first to receive the vaccine. Nicole Nelson,

ICU RN, was the first employee the vaccine was given to. Following her were Dr. Lisa Sotir, ER Physician and Thomas Murphy, Respiratory Therapist. Pharmacist Neil Wallis administered the shots.

According to MWMC Public



Relations Manager Rhiana Sherwood, more vaccinations are on the horizon.

"I cannot disclose the number of vaccines, but we are hopeful that we will be able to immunize

all healthcare workers working in areas that are high risk for COVID exposures in the first few weeks of immunizations," she said.



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Sports

Holliston's Lyons Copes With Diabetes In Classy Way

Football Captain Displays Keen Perspective

BY KEN HAMWEY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Kevin Lyons plays football and lacrosse at Holliston High where he's been a two-time Tri Valley League all-star on the gridiron. And, when football gets underway this month, the senior will be one of the Panthers' captains.

The durable linebacker is a top-notch competitor because he relies on key attributes that his coach, Todd Kiley, lists as "a high football IQ, an instinctive nature, quickness and mental and physical toughness."

But, what makes the 6-foot, 190-pounder very special is the classy way he copes with Type 1 diabetes at practice and during games. The 17-year-old Holliston native, who's been dealing with the illness since he was two, doesn't consider himself a role model, but he sets a great example with these words: "I can show others that diabetes isn't going to stop me from reaching my goals or doing what I want to do."

Kiley isn't bashful lauding Lyons and his praise is understandable. "He's a throwback player, a true student of the game," the coach emphasized. "He's the first to practice and the last to leave. And, he's never missed a play, a practice or a game. Always prepared, he knows how to deal with adversity."

Take preparation first. All he did last year was lead the Panthers in tackles (82) and compile 6 sacks. When Kiley and his staff decided to use Lyons at tight end in the South Sectional final against Canton, all he did was score the game-winning touchdown by grabbing a 38-yard pass.

"I had a good all-around game against Canton," Lyons recalled. "Besides the TD catch, I had a sack and seven tackles. That game was thrilling. When I knew the pass was going to me, I just said to myself 'do your job.' I got open over the middle, made the catch and ran it into the endzone."

Now, think about what diabetes — a condition that prevents the pancreas from producing sufficient insulin — forces Lyons to do on and off the field.

A starter in football since his sophomore year, Lyons spent that season checking his blood sugar before, during and after games by pricking his finger, putting blood on a tab, then getting a numerical reading on a meter. If the reading was high, he got the situation corrected by entering the number into a pump that supplies insulin into his system.

"I got a new pump my junior year that helped me maintain a stable blood-sugar number," Lyons said. "That eliminated pricking my finger. If I have a low number, I'll come out of a game, the trainer (Nicole Siglin) will check me out and I'll have some sweet snacks (candy bar, etc.). It's only temporary when I leave a game. And, if I'm not feeling well or lack energy and feel jittery, I'll check my blood sugar more often. I deal with the condition much better now. It's not overwhelming; it's about maintaining a routine."

During that junior year last season, Lyons helped Holliston post a 9-2 record, losing only to Ashland and Swampscott in the playoffs. "The Ashland game was a memorable contest," he noted. "I played a solid game on defense and gave 100 percent but I got cut. When the game ended, my white uniform jersey was covered in blood. We had a quality season and our players relied on teamwork."

This season, Lyons, who's acutely aware that 2021 will be different because of covid-19, has some admirable goals. He knows there'll be no Sectional playoffs or a Super Bowl.

"I want our team to win every game," he emphasized. "If there's a league playoff, we want to capture that title. It's important that all our players enjoy the journey. We're pleased to have a season and we're relieved that it was moved to Fall 2. It's sad there's no State playoffs but we're



just glad to have the opportunity to compete. As for my individual goals, I'd like to lead the team in tackles again and perhaps score a touchdown or two. It's really about doing the best we can."

The Panthers opener will be played on either March 19 or March 20. An opponent and venue had yet to be determined at Local Town Pages deadline.

Lyons truly enjoys playing linebacker and he's excited about his role as a captain.

"I want to lead by example and by being vocal on the field," he said. "I also want to be encouraging and supportive of all my teammates. At linebacker, what's great is it puts me in a leadership role by calling audibles. I also like being in position to read, react and pursue. Being instinctive is a key at linebacker and it takes speed and quickness to get to the ball-carrier. It's a challenging position because there's so much to think about."

Lyons is quick to think about others and he's extremely bullish on Holliston's other captains and his coach.

"Our captains are all seniors," Lyons noted. "Tristan Benson (running back), Zack Athy (line-man), and Teddy Ratcliffe (receiver) are quality leaders who are dedicated, motivated and fantastic at their positions. Coach Kiley is the face of our program. He brings energy to the team, knows so much strategy and is very motivating."

An honor student, Lyons plans to play football in college. He's leaning towards a business or economics major, but isn't sure of his career path. He will attend Hamilton College in New York.



Holliston linebacker Kevin Lyons makes a key tackle against Canton. Photo by KEN ROBINSON

Fully cognizant of the effects of covid-19, Lyons would be "okay" with no football if the virus was in everyone's rear-view mirror. "The health and safety of everyone are what's most important," he stressed. "I respect that other people's lives are in danger. It would sting to have no football but I'd be fine with that if it meant saving lives."

Calling his mother (Sheila) his role model for her encouragement and support, Lyons, who's a midfielder in lacrosse, knows the value of athletics teaching

valuable life lessons.

"You learn how to be a leader, how to develop a strong work ethic and how to be a good teammate," he noted. "Sports definitely help with overcoming adversity. Competing no doubt makes my blood sugar go high or low but football helps me to deal with diabetes. It puts my diabetes to a test and I have to pass that test."

Kevin Lyons is a dynamic two-sport athlete whose perspective on real-life issues should be a lesson for everyone.

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BY DENNIS SULLIVAN & ASSOCIATES

Our team had a recent experience with our client, “Mrs. Cronin” a member of our Lifetime & Legacy Protection Program (LLP Program). Mrs. Cronin and her late husband, Mr. Cronin attended a seminar we held over 20 years ago with the AARP Legal Services Network. We helped the Cronins establish their estate plan and they kept it up to date with their membership in the LLP Program at Dennis Sullivan & Associates.

Mr. Cronin passed in his 80s, and Mrs. Cronin eventually had to go to a nursing home at age 93. We kept in touch visiting her to update her plan.

We learned Mrs. Cronin was having difficulties paying some bills for real estate taxes; we investigated to determine her health and medical needs and ensure her wishes were being met. Although it took considerable effort and coordination, due

to COVID-19 protocols we were able to coordinate services on Mrs. Cronin’s behalf.

Unfortunately, we were rebuffed by nursing home personnel numerous times., nevertheless we persevered on her behalf all while Mrs. Cronin was locked in her room because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Hard Work & Mrs. Cronin’s Diligence & Dedication Pays Off

Despite numerous challenges, we were able to work with the bank regarding Mrs. Cronin’s Trust and the Power of Attorney as well as coordinating with the nursing home physician. Persistence, passion, perseverance, compassion, care and commitment by our team prevailed and eventually all of Mrs. Cronin’s goals and objectives (financial, health, tax), as well as her choices for health care were honored. She was even successful avoiding the time delay and the cost

of two probate court proceedings (one for disability and one after death).

Our Main Responsibilities Were Met on Behalf of Mrs. Cronin

We accomplished Mrs. Cronin’s efforts to exercise her legal rights to retain control of not only financial decisions, but also health decisions regarding end of life treatment made by trusted individuals, rather than having to go to court. Disability court proceedings are long and expensive and result in ongoing court involvement, expense and can mean unmet health and financial objectives.

Could you imagine if her care, was left up to the state, courts, and nursing home? Our team ensured that Mrs. Cronin’s choices were written into her documents, honoring that no unwanted extreme end of life measures were taken when the time came that she was at the end of



life. We and her family were relieved that these goals were met.

Call 781-237-2815 or visit DSullivan.com to discover the right steps to take now for peace of mind and for the future as the Cronin’s discovered.

Because of the pandemic it has been our experience that health care documents, DNRs and MA MOLSTs need to be reviewed and updated. Don’t let this happen to you.

Dennis Sullivan & Associates is a team of caring, compassionate highly-trained professionals who Protect Families for Generations. You and your family will benefit from the peace of mind of knowing you have done everything you can to protect yourself and your loved ones for generations. Call now 800-964-4295 or register for a free meeting at www.DSullivan.com



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