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July 2021

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Inside...



Holliston Select Board Talks Marijuana

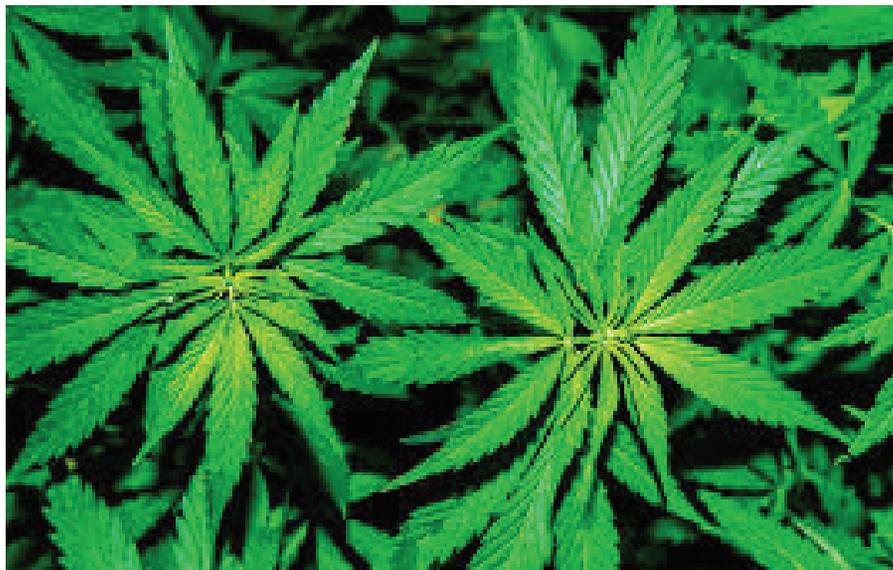
By THERESA KNAPP

At its meeting on June 7, the Holliston Select Board spent a good portion of its lengthy meeting discussing marijuana, specifically medical marijuana. The board:

- Granted a medical marijuana license dispensary license to Mederi, Inc. which already operates a cultivation and manufacturing facility at 44 Boynton Road;
- Heard an overview presentation from WLMA, LLC which seeks a revision to the Host Community Agreement currently issued to Mass. Botanicals at 91 Kuniholm Drive; and
- Discussed the possibility of marijuana delivery to homes in Holliston.

Mederi, Inc. Medical Retail Approved

The Select Board has revised a host community agreement for Mederi, Inc., which currently runs a cultivation and manufacturing facility at 44



Boynton Road, to include “dispensing of only medical marijuana as a licensed medical marijuana treatment center.”

This provision is specific to medical retail which is a “different animal” from regular retail sales and cannot be denied, according to town counsel.

“The reality is you cannot prohibit medical marijuana in your community,” attorney Kate Feodoroff told the Board. “The nice part about Mederi

coming in is you already established a relationship on the cultivation side.”

The additional service will take place within the current footprint of the building and will occupy approximately 500 square feet of its office area, according to co-owner Meredith George who attended the meeting

MARIJUANA
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Hearing Closed, Planning Board Members Lean Toward Denial of Special Permit for 555 Hopping Brook Road

Unofficial straw poll shows all five voting members would vote no

By THERESA KNAPP

After many months of discussion, the Holliston Planning Board closed its public hearing on a Special Permit application for CRG Integrated Real Estate Solutions which seeks to build a massive facility at 555 Hopping Brook Road.

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MARIJUANA

continued from page 1

in person. There should be no need for additional parking.

Feodoroff noted that safety measures are built into the HCA including building security. The medical products will be stored in the back of the facility where they will be packaged and sent to the front counter via pneumatic tube.

The anticipated hours of operation are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 8 p.m. "much like a regular pharmacy," said Select Board Chairperson Tina Hein.

George anticipates the facility will have "between 24 and 35 patients a day" and is contemplating having the first month be by appointment only to gauge service delivery and patient needs.

Patients are required to produce a Massachusetts-issued medical card and, per state law, no consumption will be allowed on site.

Per the HCA, the town will receive a three percent community impact fee for each sale that leaves the facility.

The board voted unanimously to "authorize and execute a revision to the existing Host Community Agreement with Mederi located at 44 Boynton Road to include dispensing of only medical marijuana as a licensed medical marijuana treatment center."

Transfer Sought for HCA at 91 Kuniholm Drive

WLMA, LLC. has asked the Select Board to transfer a Host Community Agreement for 91 Kuniholm Drive.

The HCA is currently held by Mass Botanicals LLC, a recreational marijuana cultivation and product manufacturing establishment, that has yet to start its business.

Founder and co-founder Jill Lamoureux said the building is a "nice big open building" that needs restoration including insulation and a new roof.

She also said WLMA stands for "White Label MA," because they are mainly a contract manufacturer, and said they are a "mostly women majority-owned company." Lameroux has a great deal of experience in the field and her parent company has additional operations in Colorado, Ohio, Oregon, and soon Michigan.

Attorney Meg Nash of Vicente Sederberg in Boston is representing WLMA and said in a presentation that the company "is committed to cultivating and manufacturing consistent, high-

quality adult-use marijuana and marijuana products...for wholesale sale to other licensed adult-use marijuana businesses in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

Lamoureux said cultivation will likely be a temporary use of this facility.

"It is approximately a 45,000 square foot facility which is plenty large but not large enough to sustain our long-term goals for cultivation," noting they will likely move the cultivation out of there in three or four years. "The intent for this facility is it will become 100 percent for manufacturing while that business expands."

Nash said that, if approved, WLMA expects to commence operations by August 2022.

Town Counsel Kate Feodoroff said, if approved, WLMA would assume the terms of Mass Botanicals 2018 HCA which also includes a three percent community impact fee.

The board made a motion to defer action on the transfer and asked WLMA to return at a later date with a presentation that details their cultivation operation.

Legislative Update on Cannabis Delivery

Town Counsel Kate Feodoroff advised the Select Board that an additional type of delivery is now available for cannabis. Delivery by courier has been available for some time (though not in Holliston) and the Cannabis Control Commission has just added a second category of "operator delivery."

Feodoroff explained that operator delivery "allows someone to take the marijuana from that facility but they can take it and repackage it and sell it as their own." She suggested the town consider if they want to allow the delivery of marijuana within town lines adding that, currently, Holliston bylaws prohibit marijuana retail and, per the CCC, retail delivery is not allowed in communities whose regulations prohibit retail.

A change in the bylaw would require a town meeting vote and a ballot vote. The Select Board will continue to discuss the issue and consider placing a question on the October town meeting warrant.

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Take this job and shove it!? Measure twice, cut once.

More workers are quitting their jobs than at any time in at least two decades.

The *Wall Street Journal* shared how professionals are burned out from extra pandemic workloads and stress, while others prefer the flexibility of remote work.

Given my recent engagements, there are new perspectives on health, family, and time. Less focus on “earning more, to do more,” but what needs to happen for a new lifestyle while maintaining future goals. Some seek semi-retirement (less pay and responsibilities, more freedoms), others full retirement in their 40’s or 50’s.

Before firing off a resignation, consider the financial and family impact. A few (of the many) items examined:

Employer benefits are left behind and taxation created? Health and life insurance comparisons are important, but a greater impact is on the values and taxation on RSUs, ESPP, pension, and deferred compensation distributions.

Also, bonuses. Is your current firm far-exceeding ‘21 plan and you’ll forfeit by leaving? Will the new firm offer prorated bonus eligibility?

If over 55 but under age 59 ½ and need income from oversized retirement accounts, pause on rolling over all of your 401(k) until you understand IRS Rule of 55.

Buying a new home or refinancing? When applying for a mortgage, refinance, or HELOC, lenders base decisions on many factors, including consistency of earned income. Witness a few days before closing, they will again ask for a most recent paystub.

If you plan to earn less or become self-employed, this can limit your ability to borrow or refinance. Thus, timing is equally important as the desire for a change.

Will the new employer’s grass stay greener? Firms seeking talent are being aggressive with benefits and amenities. Part is due to retention of their own talent, so what do things look like in a year?

Are promotions as frequent? Are “team-building” events still posting every Friday on LinkedIn?

Are you still fully, or partially, remote?

What is your cash flow in 2024, 2026, or with kids in college? Entering investments into a “retirement calculator” is nice, but it’s the equivalent of checking tire pressure and declaring a car will be fine in 5 years.

Want confidence in sending your resignation?

Run various cash flow analyses with a CFP encompassing income, assets (growth, taxation), liabilities (rates, maturity), expenses, taxes, entitlements, and experience spending goals. Add stress tests by planning for the

unexpected and sequence of investment returns.

Beyond understanding data, it’s critical all household members are engaged throughout and desire the “why” behind the change.

With cash flow models, family buy-in, and a focus on well-being, now have an honest conversation with your manager. If the firm says, “Sorry, but...”, personally thank your manager and make sure to log off Zoom before playing Johnny Paycheck or the Dead Kennedys cover.

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. Glenn is a



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An unofficial straw poll resulted in all five voting board members saying that, if they had to vote that evening (June 3, 2021), they would deny the application.

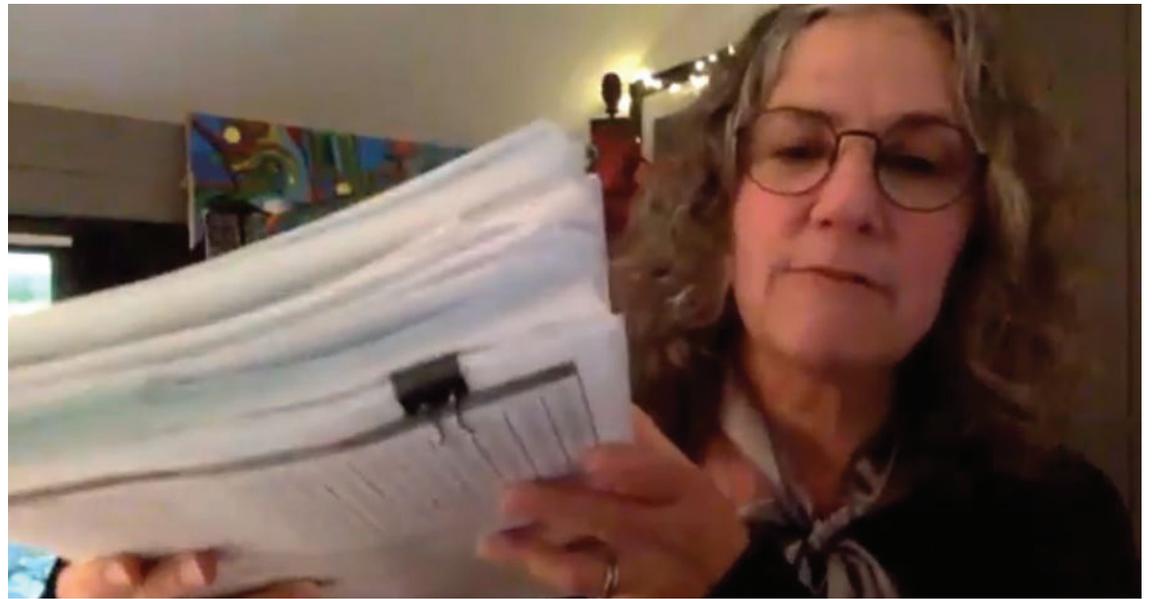
Before the discussion began, board member Karen Apozzo Langton showed a large stack of letters the board has received from the public. “We promise we have read every single one of your letters and we have listened to every comment during this public meeting.”

CRG had originally proposed a building with an 820,000 square foot footprint that was 52 feet high, with two parking fields, 180 truck dock spaces, and 278 trailer parking spots. During the planning process, the building was altered in some ways but was still referred to as a “monstrosity” in many public comments.

The site was reported by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to be a planned Amazon Distribution Center though CRG representative Frank Petkun said Amazon would not be the tenant.

At the June 3 meeting, CRG attorney Chip Nylén told the board, “I believe that everything that you have asked us to do, and this community has asked us to do, we have done...We believe that we have a project in front of your board that you can approve for purposes of the Special Permit and site plan approval as well as the land disturbance.”

During the 50-minute public comment portion, many residents urged the town not to allow the permit saying the “stadium-sized building” is unacceptable, the noise of a 24/7/365 facility is unacceptable in an already busy area, the effect on residents and area businesses will be detrimental, and any potential tax revenue would not be worth the negative effects on the town.



Holliston Planning Board member Karen Apozzo Langton shows a stack of letters the board has received in the matter of 555 Hopping Brook Road (June 3, 2021). Credit: Theresa Knapp

“I think the community has very emphatically asked that the Planning Board not grant a permit for this operation to run 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” said resident Rita Bell. “It’s too close to residential properties and the traffic it’s going to bring to this town is just too much.”

Resident Terri Stiffler said, “There are a few of us that are thinking we don’t know if it’s worth being here because it does change the fabric of this community.”

By closing the hearing, the board started a 90-day period in which the board needs to deliberate and issue an opinion. At press time, town officials were awaiting updated COVID-19 guidance from the Governor’s office regarding municipal meetings and if they can continue via Zoom or if they must meet in person. A deliberation date will be set once a venue has been determined.

Resident Terri Stiffler said, “There are a few of us that are thinking we don’t know if it’s worth being here because it does change the fabric of this community.”

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Holliston Community Leader Tina Hein Honored as a 2021 Commonwealth Heroine

This month, the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women announced the 2021 Commonwealth Heroine Award honorees. The annual awards recognize women across the Commonwealth for their extraordinary contributions to their local communities in public or community service. Among this year's honorees is Tina Hein, a Holliston resident nominated by Rep. Carolyn Dykema.

"Tina Hein is an outstanding public servant," said Rep. Dykema. "Her thoughtful, informed, and consensus-based leadership style, as well as her commitment to open communication, have made her a respected and effective advocate for lasting improvement in the community. It has been an honor

to work with her and she is so deserving of this award."

Currently serving as the Chair of the Holliston Select Board, Tina's passionate advocacy for increased pedestrian and roadway safety has been instrumental to advancing policies improving safety for children, families, and elders. Tina spearheaded the Walking School Bus project for groups of children to walk safely to school in coordination with the state Safe Routes to School Program. She also led the successful effort to reduce minimum traffic speeds community-wide and is currently an active voice for safe and appropriate routing of truck traffic. Prior to serving on the Select Board, Tina was a member of the Rail Trail Committee and has consistently dedi-

cated her career in public service toward promoting walkability and enhancing community connectedness.

Hein was recognized and honored at a virtual ceremony on June 23rd hosted by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission is an independent state agency that was legislatively established in 1998 to support equal opportunities for women in the Commonwealth in all areas of life and to promote their advancement.

Representative Carolyn Dykema represents the communities of Holliston, Hopkinton, Southborough, and Precinct 2 of Westborough in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.



Holliston Cable Access TV Receives Batchelder Award

Holliston Cable Access Television is pleased to announce that they have received the 2021 Batchelder Award for Excellence in Education from Holliston Historical Society.

"HCAT has admirably served Holliston in these areas since 1985, and we are happy to recognize the station's commitment to covering our community," stated Paul Saulnier, internal vice president.

Accepting the award for HCAT was Station Manager Bruce Gilfoy, who said, "I was pleasantly surprised and honored to receive this wonderful award."

John Mason Batchelder was the first president of the Holliston Historical Society, which was founded in 1910. In his honor, the Society presents this award which recognizes excellence in education, historical research or historical preservation relating to Holliston.



Previous recipients include Marc Connelly, Joanne Hulbert, Holliston Elementary Parent's Organization, Terri and Frank Chamberlain, and many others who have enriched our community with their knowledge and

educational talents. For a look at how HCAT covered the pandemic year in Holliston, go to: <https://www.hcattv.org/all-show-posts/2022/5/24/hcat-during-the-pandemic>.

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These Home Improvement Projects are Better Left to the Professionals: By John Szolomayer, RE/MAX Executive Realty

It's pretty easy to turn on the television and find a home improvement show filled with tips and tricks. They can make home improvement projects look so simple that it feels like anyone can do them. However, some projects - whether because of time or resources - are often better left to the professionals.

If you're ready to fill your weekend with DIY projects, make sure you read this article first. Here are some of the home improvement projects that are better left to the professionals.

#1: Electrical

On top of the list are projects involving electrical repairs or installation. Unless you are a licensed electrician, even the smallest electrical job can turn dangerous. If you are tearing down a wall, adding a room, moving a fuse box, or anything that involves electricity call an electrician. It's better to be safe than sorry!

#2: High-End Flooring

If you have spent the money to purchase top of the line flooring, this is one that is probably better left to the professionals. If you get it wrong, the money goes

right down the drain. When you spend thousands of dollars for the best materials to install high end flooring, use a professional floor installer. This applies to any high end improvements when using expensive materials.

#3: Plumbing

Just like with electrical, unless you are a licensed plumber making plumbing repairs can be a big DIY no-no. It may not be as dangerous as making electrical improvements, but it can be extremely costly. Repairing a simple leak can cause pipe bursts, sewage backups, and flooding, just to name a few. Avoid the headache and call a plumber.

#4: Roof Repairs

Replacing a loose shingle here and there is one thing, but to replace an entire roof, you should call in a professional roofer. Not only is it dangerous work, if the roof is not laid correctly you may end up with ceiling leaks or even cave ins. This is not a DIY project.

#5: Architectural Landscaping

Green thumbs like to go the extra mile and try installing pav-

ers and pathways in their garden. If you're a home-improvement rookie, this can be a big mistake. Just like laying concrete or flooring, architectural landscaping is more than just laying stone and concrete. Design, water flow and drainage, and curb appeal all play into making your landscaping look its best. Call a landscape designer instead.

DIY? Think Again!

According to US News & World Report, nearly 30% of homeowners plan to make some home improvements this year. Of those, almost three quarters are planning DIY projects. If any of the projects on your DIY list include those mentioned above, you might want to explore the services of a professional first. Your home, your pocketbook and your weekend will thank you. And as always with any building project, you should contact your local town building inspector to find out if a permit is required.

Information provided by John Szolomayer, RE/MAX Executive Realty. Each office is independently owned and operated. For more information, John can be reached at 508-259-4788 or JohnSzolomayer.com

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The Holliston Lions Carnival is Back

Holliston LIONS Club's annual carnival is back after waiting a year. On July 7 – 10, all the rides, booths and great fun are back at the Holliston High School grounds. The food tent will have pizza, chips, chili, candy, cold drinks and more, so come and enjoy. All proceeds from LIONS events raise money that goes to help people.

HHS scholarships given by the LIONS is the main focus of this year's earnings. Come out and enjoy the carnival with friends and family. It's a summer tradition you don't want to miss. For more information about the Holliston Lions Club or to apply for membership, please visit our website at www.hollistonlions.org

Hours of Operation Rides & Food Tent

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Saturday July 10 – 1pm to 11pm

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Thursday July 8 – 5pm to 10pm
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Friday July 9 – 9pm to 11pm \$15

Saturday July 10 – 1pm to 5pm
\$30



Calling all Holliston Registered Democrats

Holliston Democratic Town Committee members will host a virtual caucus to elect delegates to the 2021 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. The Zoom caucus will convene at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 10, and all Holliston Democrats are encouraged to participate.

Caucus registration and the Zoom waiting room will open at 9:30 a.m., where voter registration status of attendees will be checked as they're admitted. The 'virtual' doors will close at 10:15. Everyone in the waiting room at 10:15 will be admitted, but none thereafter.

The caucus is open to the public and press, but only Holliston registered and pre-registered Democrats are eligible to participate in the voting. Pre-registered Democrats must be 16 years old by June 15, 2021, to participate. Same-day registration is allowed. Delegates must be



present at the caucus to be elected (with the exception of persons serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, with prior notice).

Holliston will be voting to elect 8 delegates and 4 alternate delegates to represent them at the convention. Those not elected as a delegate or alternate and who meet the qualifications can apply separately to be an add-on delegate in the following categories: youth, minority, disabled, LGBTQ, or as a convention volunteer.

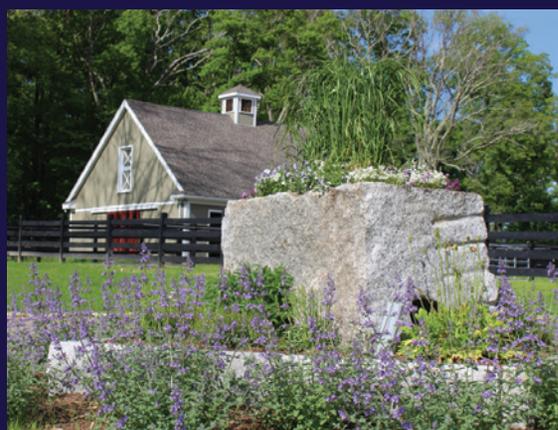
Caucus attendees requiring hearing-related accom-

modations will be able to use closed captioning through Zoom.

This year's Massachusetts Democratic State Convention will take place Saturday, September 25 at the Tsongas Center, UMass-Lowell. This will be a platform convention without candidate nominations.

To obtain the Zoom link to attend, or for more information about the caucus, the convention, or the Holliston Democratic Town Committee, contact Lisa Kaplan at lisabk@verizon.net.

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The Holliston Public Library re-opened for in-person visits, browsing and computer use on Thursday, March 25, on the following schedule: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10-6 pm; Wednesday from 10-8 pm; and Saturday from 10-4 pm.

Curbside pickup will continue uninterrupted on the same schedule. Home delivery is available to Holliston residents who are not able to visit the library.

Patrons should call 508-429-0617 or email holreturns@min-lib.net to request books, arrange for curbside pickup or home delivery or to inquire about any other library services.

The book drop is open 24/7 for returns at the lower entrance and there is a drop at curbside pickup. No fines or DVD rental fees are being charged at this time and all returns are quarantined for 3 days for safety.

Visit www.hollistonlibrary.org for more information.



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SURVIVE to Thrive

Sibling Support Group

(For youth ages 11-14)

This is a 10-week program that begins **Thursday, September 9, 2021 (5:45-7:30pm)**

The Survive to Thrive Sibling Support Group is offered for youth who have siblings with mental health and behavioral health challenges living in the home. Ben Speaks' knows the wide-ranging impact that mental health issues can have on families, and looks to serve as a resource to youth that are impacted by the stigma, volatilities, and demands placed on families. Siblings of family members with mental health needs may experience challenges and disruptions in their own emotional growth and development. This group will provide these youth with a nurturing environment to share their unique experiences of having a sibling with mental health needs, engage in empowering and fun expressive activities, and develop their own skills and resources, so that they may thrive in face of the challenges that they and their families encounter.

What is the Sibling Support Group?

- Group is open to youth ages 11-14 years old, living in MetroWest Massachusetts, who have siblings that struggle with mental health and behavioral health issues living in the home.
- Group sessions will include opportunities for both open and themed discussions, expressive art activities, age appropriate learning about mental health challenges and their impacts on families, and empowerment skills to enhance emotion regulation and effective communication.
- Group sessions to be held at the Ben Speaks Resource Office, 360 Woodland Street – 2nd Floor, Holliston, MA 01746. Meetings will be held in person as we follow the CDC rules regarding COVID-19. Drop off 5:45pm, Pick up 7:30pm. Healthy meal provided. If need be, we will shift to ZOOM.
- 10 weeks - 1.5 hours each week (No group will be held September 16 due to Yom Kippur)
- Facilitated by Bretton Torkelson, Psy.D., Judy Giovangelo, Michael Giovangelo and Penny Young; Members of the Ben Speaks' Board of Directors.
- Cost: FREE

Visit www.benspeaks.org for more information & to sign up

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The b.LUXE Beauty Beat

Don't Let Summer Fun Ruin Your Hair

Can you feel it? The shift in the weather, the longer, warmer days, and that sudden urge to go for a swim! Yup...Summer's here!

For many of us, summer is the time to amp up our beachy, blonde highlights or try a lighter, brighter hair color. But, sun and swimming can damage hair and turn your tresses a not so beautiful shade of green.

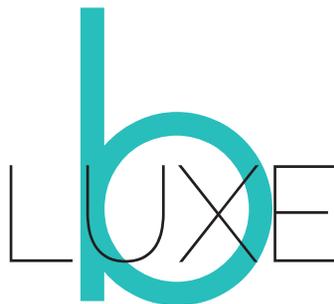
Pool and well water can wreak havoc on hair color. Most people believe that chlorine is the culprit, but that's only part of the problem. There's a whole gang of harsh metals turning your hair green, and copper's the ring-leader!

Copper's found in most swimming pools, particularly ones filled with well water. It also enters your pool from copper-based algacides. Chlorine oxidizes the metals in the water and binds them to the protein in your hair shaft. With oxidation, copper turns a soft shade of green called a patina. While we love that hue on the Statue of Liberty, it's far less flattering on your blonde hair.

So, saltwater pools are safe, right? Nope. Unfortunately, they're all the same. Instead of manually adding chlorine to balance the pH, salt is added to the pool water, where it runs through an electrically charged generator, converting the salt to chlorine. Your local pool store offers test strips to check your water's metal levels. They can also recommend alternative treatments, metal removers and filters that will keep your copper levels in check.

Here's a few tips for keeping your hair summer sensational.

- 1. Wet and protect your hair**
Wetting your hair down before you swim is key. Hair is porous and when dry, absorbs the minerals and chemicals from your pool. This is where a little hair prep goes a long way. Use filtered or bottled water to wet down hair and comb through a leave-in conditioner like *Kevin Murphy's Staying Alive Treatment*. This will seal your hair and protect it from sun and water damage.
- 2. Try a swim cap**
Yeah, we know, they're not exactly poolside chic, but, if you're a regular swimmer with color treated hair, they're the way to go. They'll protect and hold your hair in place while you get your laps in.
- 3. Stop using copper-based algacides**
Some pool algacides contain copper and yes, they do work, but they could also be turning your hair green. Look for metallic-free algacides or pay close attention to your chlorine levels and don't use algacides at all.
- 4. Start with healthy hair**
The better condition your hair is in, the less likely it is to turn green. Your hair is vulnerable when dry or damaged. Regular conditioning treatments will help repair and seal your hair's cuticle to stop green absorption. We recommend *Brazilian Blowout's Acai Deep Conditioning Masque*.



hair • makeup • skincare • editorial

- 5. Wash your hair**
Shampoo and condition your hair as soon as you're done swimming and once every two weeks, we recommend using *Kevin Murphy Maxi-Wash*, a detoxifying shampoo that removes unwanted build-up and preps your hair to better absorb conditioner.
- 6. How to fix green hair**
Sometimes, even with our best efforts, green hair happens and a trip to the salon is necessary. To rectify those mossy locks, you'll need a *demineralizing treatment* to draw out hard-to-budge deposits and a *glaze* to restore and protect shine and lustre.
With a little prep and care, your color can stay soft, vibrant and most importantly, green-free all summer long!

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Family Promise Metrowest Receives \$5,000 Grant from the Metrowest Women's Fund.

Family Promise Metrowest, a Natick-based nonprofit that offers a community response to family homelessness, announced that it has received a \$5,000 grant from the Metrowest Women's Fund. The Metrowest Women's Fund invests in women and girls through education, community building, grantmaking, and strategic partnerships. The grant will provide funding for programs to assist mothers and teens at risk of homelessness who are pursuing advanced education.

"As we approach summer, we are genuinely grateful to the Metrowest Women's Fund for their generous donation that will be used toward scholarships for mothers and teens in our program who are continuing their education. These are challenging times and with an increase of families facing unemployment and possible eviction, our community partners are needed now more than ever. Thank you to the foundation for their support of



our scholarship program," said Susan Crossley, Family Promise Metrowest, Executive Director.

Founded in 2008 to provide shelter for families facing homelessness, Family Promise Metrowest's mission is "to transform the lives of families with children who are facing homelessness by mobilizing a diverse community to provide shelter, education, and comprehensive support." Over the years FPM has grown

to encompass homelessness prevention, transitional, and shelter diversion services, in addition to comprehensive employment and education support. Their unique approach brings together a community of 52 congregations and 3,000+ trained volunteers to provide meals, companionship, and overnight support, while case managers work individually with motivated families to work toward long-term sustainability.



You can learn more at www.familypromisemetrowest.org.

The Metrowest Women's Fund is in the "business of changing lives." They invest in women and girls through community building, education, and grant making. Its mission is to identify the needs of women and girls in the Metrowest and raise resources to meet those needs. Its community philanthropy focuses on 33 Metrowest towns: Acton,

Ashland, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Dedham, Dover, Framingham, Harvard, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Marlborough, Maynard, Medfield, Medway, Milford, Millis, Natick, Needham, Sherborn, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Walpole, Waltham, Wayland, Wellesley, Westborough, Weston and Westwood. You can learn more at www.metrowestwomensfund.com.

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Sports

Baker Optimistic Sports Will Return To Normalcy

Holliston A.D. Glad Playoffs Back In The Mix

By KEN HAMWEY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Matt Baker's sixth year as Holliston High's Athletic Director was all about patience, being able to adapt, and understanding the need to be flexible.

Modern day athletic directors must be quick to alter their routine plans, especially their teams' schedules — for weather conditions or for conflicting dates like proms, graduations, etc. The covid-19 pandemic, however, turned the 2020-21 school year into a pressure-cooker for area A.D.s, forcing them to be vigilant every second of every day on a 24-7 basis.

"I stressed the need to be patient and adaptable," Baker said. "We made decisions and we made changes from hour to hour. The pandemic forced us to expect the unexpected. At times, we didn't know what the next 24 hours would be like.

"As I look back at this school year, lots of people deserve credit for schools getting in four seasons of athletics. Parents, coaches and students followed the modifications from local and state officials, and the Tri Valley League's A.D.s not only talked constantly, but we also had multiple meetings weekly to iron out problems and necessary changes. A majority of people realized we were in unprecedented times and there was no playbook to refer to."

The 42-year-old Baker maintained a calm demeanor throughout precarious times that called for coronavirus testing, quarantines, delays, postponements and cancellations. The pandemic taught many people many things, but for those trying to juggle sports into the daily mix of activities, covid-19 provided a lesson to appreciate the things we have.

"It taught us to cherish our athletic experiences every day," Baker emphasized. "As Holliston's A.D., I had to be prepared to adapt to policies, procedures and protocols that changed regularly. Losing the spring sports season in 2020 taught us not to take things for granted. We should all enjoy every minute or every day when we can compete."

The summer that followed last spring's cancellation of interscholastic sports was an indication that high school athletics would be undergoing changes — major changes. Masks, social distancing, busing restrictions, hand sanitizing, and crowd sizes dominated the discussion of just about every committee linked to the Mass. Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA).

"The early part of the summer was tough," Baker noted. "It was the great unknown. We didn't have answers for students, parents and coaches. It was very different."

When the state and the MIAA ruled that sports would begin in the fall, the Panthers went into compete mode. The teams that suited up for shortened schedules and a variety of modifications were boys and girls cross-country, boys and girls soccer, field hockey and golf.

"Girls soccer went unbeaten (7-0-3)," Baker said. "Field hockey had a tremendous year, going 8-0, and girls cross-country posted a 5-0 record. The girls soccer team entered the season as defending state champions and two-time TVL champs. They've gone two seasons (32 matches) without losing. For the fall, we had 11 teams (varsity and sub-varsity) competing."

Falls sports that were moved to the newly-created Fall-2 season (March and April) included football, cheerleading, indoor



track, swimming and diving, volleyball and unified basketball.

"We got good results but creating the Fall-2 season was all about the theme for sports in 2020-21," Baker said. "It was about providing opportunities and enabling student-athletes to compete. Sports looked different but we were active and we were competing. Our football team went 3-1 and tied for the TVL Large Division title with Ashland and Norwood. Girls track was 3-1 and the girls swim team had a 3-1 record."

The winter season was challenging. Holliston had to wait until Jan. 11 to get its pre-season underway. Local officials chose to delay the start because the town was in the 'red' zone for high incidences of the virus. When athletics did start, there were students who tested positive but, as Baker indicated, a bigger issue was "postponing games because opposing schools also had virus issues."

"We re-scheduled games and canceled a few," he recalled. "The teams that competed were boys and girls basketball, girls co-op gymnastics, boys ice hockey and girls co-op ice hockey. Our teams competed hard and gave a great effort while winning several games in the competitive TVL."

The spring season, which included the resumption of

sectional and state playoffs, got underway in May. Teams that competed were baseball (2-13), softball (11-5), boys lacrosse (6-7), girls lacrosse (6-7-1), boys tennis (4-10), girls tennis (7-8), boys track (2-3), girls track (3-2), and wrestling (0-4).

"Baseball, softball, both lacrosse teams and wrestling will be in tournaments, and our track teams competed in the league meet," Baker said. "The two tennis teams opted out of the playoffs. With tournaments back in the mix and league titles up for grabs, it was like normal times."

Baker is pleased that this year's spring teams got the chance to experience playoff action, which got underway after Local Town Pages deadline. "It was a solid decision to wait for post-season playoffs, then resume them for the spring," Baker offered. "Holding off was good because we were in the middle of the pandemic and still in unknown territory. Bringing back tourney play gives us a sense of normalcy. Our coaches did a great job all year of conveying the message about the importance of competing."

The personable Baker admitted that "the year wasn't without struggles." He indicated that opinions were offered but his office followed the guidelines and directions from medical and

health officials at the state and local levels. The veteran A.D. believes the year ahead will be much better and that a return to normalcy will be very visible.

"Modifications are being eliminated and mask-wearing is now in our rear-view mirror," Baker said. "And, there's little doubt that the vaccines will play a major role in helping us get back to normal. But, as far as indoor sports go, we're still in a wait-and-see period."

Baker was very pleased the way HHS student-athletes and coaches adhered to all the new guidelines. "Many kids played in summer leagues and had already adjusted to playing with masks on," he said. "Coaches and trainers also deserve credit for stressing the need to distance, wear masks and use wipes."

Baker lauded school administrators and local health officials for their vigilance and their focus on safety and health. He's delighted 2020-21 had four seasons and he credits "a lot of teamwork" for making school sports happen."

The 2020-21 school year at Holliston was a huge challenge at every turn. On the athletic front, Matt Baker says "mission accomplished" as far as providing student-athletes with the opportunity to compete.

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Meet New Senior Center Director Lisa Borchetta

What brings you to Holliston?

When I saw the director position available at the Holliston Senior Center I was very excited to submit my application. I have been attracted to the town of Holliston for over 20 years, when we first looked for a home in the Boston western suburban area.

Though we settled a couple towns over, I have always appreciated the charm and sense of community here. This coupled with my lifelong career interest in becoming a director of a senior center was a perfect alignment of long held wishes.

Where can we find you on a day off?

These days you can find me taking a day hike at some local preservation property, in my kitchen cooking some yummy meals for the week, doing art in my studio or passing time with family and friends, among other things.

Where were you before this position?

Beacon Hill Village a non-profit, member driven organization in Boston, managing member services to support older adults age-in-place in their homes. And providing life coaching services through my own life coaching business which I have been doing for over 10 years.

What have you enjoyed so far?

Meeting the members, staff, volunteers and surrounding cast of dedicated folks that make up the Senior Center community. I have enjoyed learning about all that we do here. Even within the confines and constraints of the last year, the center and its cast of collaborators have done a great job adjusting to the challenging landscape and continuing to help older adults in Holliston.

What challenges are you running into or anticipating?

Despite the challenging times, I think things are going quite

smoothly. Of course, different folks will have different feelings about how quickly life gets "back to normal." We are doing our best to create a space where members of the community can once again, learn, socialize, grow and have fun in a safe and welcoming environment.

What are your goals in this position?

To assess, continue and strengthen the programs and services of the Senior Center that are working well. To enhance, augment and compliment existing programs by expanding on offerings into additional learning, social and personal growth areas. And to create greater opportunities to; collaborate with other town agencies and organizations, pull in a broader age range of participants and facilitate intergenerational connections that benefit all.

Is there anything I didn't ask you that you would like to include?

I am thrilled to be here, I am excited to be working with both new and seasoned, staff volunteers, community partners and center participants—it is a wonderful place to be.



ANNUAL FALL FAIR

The Senior Support Foundation is planning to hold our annual Harvest Festival on Saturday Sept. 11th from 9:00 - 3:00

More inside newsletter for further information.



Monday, July 19th Summer Barbeque

Drive-by

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Davis Bates & Ice Cream Social August 11 at 12:30 p.m.

The Holliston Council on Aging will celebrate summer and the diverse heritage of the United States by presenting a performance by Parents' Choice Award winning singer & storyteller Davis Bates. Entitled This Land is Your Land, the program will involve the audience in a variety of cultural traditions. It will include traditional songs and tales from Native American and immigrant cultures, sea songs & chanteys, farming songs & stories and family tales. There will also be plenty of sing-alongs, a short lesson in how to play music with spoons, and an appearance by a dancing wooden dog named Bingo!

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A special thanks to the Holliston Cultural Council for underwriting this wonderful performance.



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Real Estate Corner

Legislature Advances Fair Share Act to 2022 Statewide Ballot

Proposed constitutional amendment would fund transportation and education investments

At a Joint Session of the Massachusetts Legislature, members of the House and Senate last month held a Constitutional Convention where they advanced an amendment to the state Constitution to provide greater investments in education and transportation funding.

The Amendment, which now goes before the people of the Commonwealth for a vote in 2022, establishes a four percent tax on annual taxable income in excess of \$1 million. The revenue generated, estimated by the Department of Revenue to be as much as \$2.2 billion annually, would fund repair and maintenance projects for roads, bridges or public transportation as well as funding for public education, including support for early education and childcare and public higher education.

“As we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and prepare for the Commonwealth’s long-term success, we must be bold as we strive to create the future we want to see,” said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). “I’m thrilled the Fair Share Amendment has advanced, moving us one step



closer to being able to make the critical investments in transportation and education that the public wants and deserves.”

“Massachusetts has a bright future ahead of it and the House of Representatives is committed to a continued focus on education and transportation investments,” said House Speaker Ronald Mariano (D-Quincy). “Today’s vote allows the Fair Share Amendment to be placed on the ballot and put before the people for a vote. This measure is one step in a multi-pronged strategy to make our Commonwealth a more equitable place to live, work and raise a family.”

“When the Fair Share

Amendment was first introduced in 2015, there were about 15,000 Massachusetts residents earning over \$1 million a year,” said Representative James O’Day (D-West Boylston), the lead House sponsor of the constitutional amendment. “Now in 2021, there are about 18,000 residents earning over \$1 million a year. Clearly, there are millionaires and billionaires who can afford to pay their fair share in taxes, which will support our neighbors and local communities with investments in public education and transportation. Thank you to Speaker Ronald Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka for prioritizing the Fair Share Amendment so early in the session.”

“The Fair Share Amendment once again received strong support from legislators and, in public polling, typically receives support from more than 70% of voters in Massachusetts,” said Senator Jason Lewis (D-Winchester), the lead Senate sponsor of the proposal. “The reason it is so popular is that most people recognize that our wealthiest residents can afford to pay a bit more in taxes to fund investments

in public education and improving our transportation infrastructure that will grow our economy, expand opportunity, and make our Commonwealth more just and equitable for all.”

Should voters approve the ballot measure, the income level would be adjusted annually to reflect increases in the cost of living by the same method used to determine federal income tax brackets. This would ensure that, over time, the additional four percent tax would continue to apply only to the highest earn-

ing individuals in the Commonwealth. The tax would apply to all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023.

The legislature must approve a constitutional amendment in two consecutive joint sessions before the question appears on the ballot for voter approval. The Fair Share Act was approved for a first time on June 12, 2019, in a 147-48 vote. This week’s June 9, 2021, vote of 159-41 ensures the proposal will appear on the November 2022 statewide ballot.

Recent Home Sales

Date	Holliston	Amount
June 16	26 Old Cart Path	\$842,500
June 15	82 Westfield Drive	\$610,500
June 11	667 Winter Street	\$630,000
June 10	37 Orchard Lane	\$650,000
June 10	400 Winter Street	\$899,000
June 8	485 Concord Street	\$410,000
June 2	9 Westfield Drive	\$715,000
June 1	23 Forest Park Drive	\$990,000
June 1	49 Windsor Drive, Apt 310	\$215,000
May 28	25 Courtland Street	\$630,000
May 27	152 Turner Road, Unit 9	\$180,000
May 27	96 Dorset Road	\$497,000
May 26	24 Kingsbury Drive	\$975,000
May 26	74 Pilgrim Road	\$910,000
May 26	265 Fiske Street	\$718,000
May 26	4 Fiske Pond Road	\$960,000
May 26	286 Lowland Street	\$510,000
May 25	18 Regency Drive	\$237,000
May 21	40 Bullard Street	\$700,000
May 18	684 Washington Street	\$540,000
May 14	10 Pine Oak Street	\$250,000

Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages



4 Fiske Pond Road in Holliston recently sold for \$960,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com

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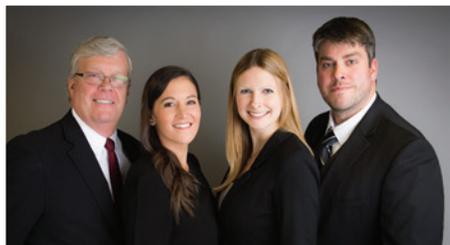
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12 Brookfield Road, Milford



SOLD

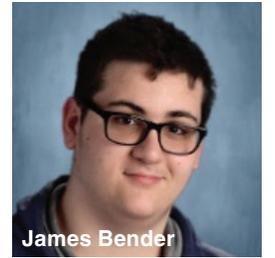
MELISSA KASPERN

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HOLLISTON KEEFE TECH CLASS OF 2021 GRADUATES



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James Bender



Vanessa Durning



Paige Rezendes



Jason Gunning



Ryan Hunt



Harry Oliveira



Harrison York



Alanah Willis



Justin Cole



Ethan Ze'evi



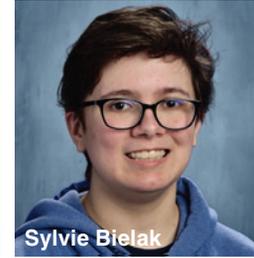
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Congratulations to our June Winners who will each receive a \$100 gift card to the Muffin House:

William Scotland, Veronica Paulson, Jane Sivacek, Geri Sprague and Jon Link

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