

Talented Griffin Key Lineman For Holliston Eleven

By KEN HAMWEY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Holliston High's Patrick Griffin has all the attributes to repeat as a Tri Valley League all-star lineman this season.



A senior, the 6-foot, 280-pound guard-tackle helped the Panthers capture a piece of the TVL Large Division championship at the conclusion of the pandemic-shortened campaign last April. And, as a sophomore, he became an immediate starter and a prime contributor as Holliston battled gallantly



in the playoffs before bowing to Swampscott.

Todd Kiley, Holliston's ultra-successful head coach, has a long list of traits that make Griffin a valuable asset, both on offense and defense.

"Patrick is aggressive, has a high football IQ, is extremely

Patrick Griffin, at left, outmaneuvers an opponent, in middle photo he's blocking from his guard slot, and at right he takes a break before practice.
Photos Courtesy of KEN ROBINSON (kbrphoto.com)

LINEMAN

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HGAT

HOLLISTON CABLE ACCESS

Be On Tv! Looking For Trivia Show Contestants!

Holliston Cable Access Television (HCAT) is searching for residents to be contestants on a new community TV game show called "What Do You Know?"

HCAT-TV personality Brian Winston will be the host and producer for this new local TV show.

"It has always been a dream of mine to be host of a TV game show," said Winston.

The show, "What Do You Know?" is currently in the planning stages according to Production Manager Don Cronin. Contestants will answer questions from various categories which include People (past and present) Movies, TV, Sports, Games, History, Geography and Music.

CONTESTANTS

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CONTESTANTS

continued from page 1

Cronin said it's a terrific opportunity for residents to participate and show off their trivia skills. Prizes will be awarded to the winning teams.

If you would like to be a contestant on the show, please tell us briefly: Why you want to be on the show?

You must be at least 18 years of age and live or work in Holliston.

You and a friend or associate can sign up! Two-person teams will be allowed to compete. We also invite any nonprofit organization in Holliston to take on other town groups or organizations!

Please email your information including your name, phone number and email address to: office@hcattv.org.



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Melissa Mahr, MD

Board certified in internal medicine, Dr. Mahr earned her medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine. Upon completion of a combined internal medicine and pediatrics residency at University of Maryland, she spent three years in primary care at Johns Hopkins and the last 16 years with Reliant Medical Group.

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Your Money, Your Independence

September is the Best Tax Planning Month. Yes, really.

September, not December or April, is the opportune time as it provides roughly 3 months to execute tax planning strategies for the current year while positioning for the year ahead.

Some usual activities:

Increase 401(k) - If your social security tax stopped after earning \$142,800 this year, consider allocating that amount (or more) to 401(k) contributions. This will help lower your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) or if a Roth 401(k), increase your tax-free savings for retirement.

Tax Loss Harvesting - No need to wait for the last days of December. In fact, many managers do selling in the fall to comply with wash sale rules and be fully-vested for the new year.

Work Benefits - Often, fall is open enrollment, the once-a-year chance to enroll in tax-savings programs like Health Savings

Account (HSA) and Flex Spending Accounts (FSAs).

HSAs enjoy triple-tax benefits, as contributions lower your AGI (reducing taxes owed), funds grow tax-free and are not taxed when used for medical expenses, premiums for long-term care and medicare.

FSA contributions lower your AGI and the 3 programs available are Medical, Dependent Care and Transit (commuter or parking).

Unique for 2021 due to government legislation:

Child Tax Credit 2021 - Started getting money from the government in July? Those are "advance payments" up to \$3,000 per qualifying dependent child or \$3,600 if under age 6 on Dec. 31, 2021. This tax credit reduces your tax bill on a dollar-for-dollar basis, so if you typically owe taxes, might be best to visit IRS.

com to opt-out and receive a potential rebate later.

Dependent Care FSA (DC-FSA) 2021 - As referenced in June, new DC-FSA annual limits for pretax contributions increase for most from \$5,000 to \$10,500. Funding DC-FSA not only reduces taxable income but also avoids Social Security and Medicare tax. Thus, MA family in 24% federal tax bracket may have tax savings up to \$3,848 (32% tax bracket is \$4,688). But... your employer may opt-in to new limits within their plan, and have to elect funds to increase.

Roth Conversion - The spring "Biden Tax Plan" is still a proposal in late August. Congress would be challenged (to say the least) if new tax laws passed this late in the year were retroactive for 2021. So for some, this may be a 2nd last chance to convert some assets to Roth IRA at cur-

rent federal tax rates. Roth Conversion analysis takes time given the variables unique to each individual. Most importantly, conversions should be done near year-end with visibility of projected AGI as these are irreversible.

By focusing on tax planning now, you can relax over the holidays with more savings and less taxes. That calls for another slice of the pie.

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 fee-only Certified Financial Planner™ helping motivated people take control of



Glenn Brown

their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.

Celebrate Holliston on September 18

Celebrate Holliston, a tradition which began in 1991, will be back this year with a street festival on September 18, from 10 AM to 3 PM.

Festivities will include businesses, vendors, artists and more, who all joined together to raise money for needs around town. In the past, money raised has gone to fund: Public safety initiatives, playgrounds and parks, scholarships and other educational items.

For more information, does it celebrate Holliston on Facebook or online: www.celebrateholliston.com.



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Holliston denies special permit for 555 Hopping Brook Road

Medway would have been affected by building size, noise, traffic, etc.

By THERESA KNAPP

After more than a year of hearings, the Holliston Planning Board voted unanimously to deny the Special Permit application for CRG Integrated Real Estate Solutions to build an 800,400 square foot facility on approximately 72 acres within the Hopping Brook Road Industrial Park.

Planning Board Chairperson Karen Apuzzo Langton said the board held 12 separate hearings, heard from 68 individuals, and received and reviewed over 167 written responses to the board from the community.

"I don't think anyone can discount the neighborhood responses and the impact that this project might have potentially on that neighborhood," said board member Josh Santoro.

Langton said the project would be a "big change to the neighborhood and their quality of life."

Town Counsel Jay Talerman said, "Let's face it, there's going to be some kind of noise...This project will change what they experience now, to the negative, is what the board is saying. It will be very different than what they have now in a very negative way."

Board member Jason Santos said the project would impact the "overall character of the town which I think we're tasked to project the best we can," citing "Holliston's quaint character and Holliston's agricultural character."

Board member David Thorn, who presided as chairman over the majority of the hearings, agreed. "I think this would add a lot of truck traffic and I think that's a huge concern, and the character of the town of Holliston is important to us and to all the residents."

Board member Scott Ferkler said, "I'm not anti-development in any sense, I just think that this proposed building is so far over and above the size and scale of anything existing in town right now, I think it would fundamentally change the industrial park and fundamentally change the fabric of the town."

In its denial, the board said "The project, if approved, would significantly alter and adversely impact the character of the surrounding neighborhoods (identified as Claybrook Farms, Claybrook II and Broad Acre Estates Definitive Subdivisions by the Town of Medway Community and Economic Development Director)...[and] The standard of living impacts on abutters during the proposed one-year construction period from dust and noise is unprecedented and will adversely impact the abutting and nearby residential neighborhoods."

As reasons for denial, the board laid out a number of arguments in its decision including the following:



- Building dimensions too large for the site
- "Massive earthmoving effort" is required to build the 1291 by 620 square foot building and its associated driveways and parking areas
- Final project elevation would be approximately 60 feet higher than elevation of Hopping Brook Road
- 24/7/365 non-stop noise disturbance of various types "will fundamentally change the quality of life in the adjacent neighborhoods in Medway as well as South Street area residents in Holliston" as well as area wildlife; noise can also lead to sleep deprivation as there is currently very little noise in that area at night
- Berm slope design inconsistency
- Increased traffic impacts on abutting neighbors, neighborhoods along truck routes, pedestrians, bicyclists, rail trail users, etc.
- Lighting concerns such as glow and potential over-illumination "will be unavoidable and will adversely impact abutters as well as wildlife and birds and the regional night sky, intuitively and scientifically"
- Limited ability by the town to enforce compliance, due to lack of manpower, noting non-compliance is unavoidable
- Use of building unclear; applicant said it would be a warehouse facility but members are concerned it would evolve into a distribution facility, fulfillment center, or more intense use since it is being marketed as "The Cubes at Hopping Brook"
- Wastewater treatment, water demands for domestic and fire protection, water pressure impacts

The decision states the project abuts an agricultural-residential zoning district in the Town of Medway to the east, there are approximately 15 residential abutters (single-family homes) within 300 feet of the site, and there are 66 units of age-restricted housing at Holliston Woods that abut additional vacant land within the industrial park.

To watch the board's deliberations, visit <https://www.townof-holliston.us/planning-board>

Photo credit: West of Hopping Brook Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/670003603621820>

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Civic action group key in stopping “goliath” construction project

“Stop 555 Hopping Brook” dedicated thousands of hours to the effort

By THERESA KNAPP

Holliston residents played an integral part in the ultimate denial of a special permit for a large-scale facility that was proposed for the Hopping Brook Road Industrial Park.

On July 29, after more than a year of hearings, the Holliston Planning Board voted unanimously to deny the Special Permit application for CRG Integrated Real Estate Solutions which planned to build an 800,400 square foot facility on approximately 72 acres within the Hopping Brook Road Industrial Park on the Holliston/Medway town line.

Before the board issued its decision, Planning Board Chairperson Karen Apuzzo Langton said, during the process, the board heard from 68 individuals and received more than 167 written responses to the board from the community.

Among the most vocal opponents were members of the civic action group “Stop 555 Hopping Brook” which included residents of both Holliston and Medway.

“The project proposed for 555 Hopping Brook had been under the radar for many months and not many folks in Holliston knew about it,” says Terri Stiffler, one of the 19 core members of the group. Carshelle Larsen, also a core member, mentioned a February hearing to Stiffler and the ball started rolling.

During the Feb. 4 Planning Board meeting, Stiffler asked a question about the environmental impacts and whether MEPA filings had been completed.

“There were several discrepancies in their answers during that meeting that raised red flags and several people from Holliston and Medway were asking some really good questions that uncovered several issues,” said Stiffler.

That was a Thursday. By Saturday, a small group was organized, gathering information, and quickly gaining speed. Stop555 members reached out to several people who had been on the Planning Board call plus “several other groups who had started to work on various aspects

of this issue” including Suzanne Adelman of “West of Hopping Brook” which was looking at inevitable project impact on South Street and other stress in the area.

By the following Tuesday, five days later, a core group of 12 members were on a call to discuss ideas and strategies, and the now-iconic “Stop 555 Hopping Brook” sign was being designed and produced by group member Dave Bastille.

“Over the course of the winter and spring, we delivered over 125 signs to the lawns of Holliston residents concerned with the impact that facility would have on our quality of life,” said Adelman.

During that first month, the core members, and others who joined later, “met four nights a week for approximately 2.5 to 3 hours each night, and several weekends to continue to strategize,” said Stiffler.

Shortly thereafter, the group created a website (<https://stop555hoppingbrook.com>), a postcard to share with the community to raise awareness, added the Stop555 info to the West of Hopping Brook materials, and created a GoFundMe page to raise funds to hire a law firm (McGregor and Legere, PC) to help guide and inform the group.

Members received mixed messages -- “it’s a done deal,” “why bother?,” “you should start thinking about mitigation instead of stopping it” -- but Stiffler said the group never gave up “and believed our town, and the environment on that plot of land, was worth fighting for.”

“We had assumed it would not pass but then we saw in the Holliston Local Town Pages the EDC [Holliston Economic Development Committee] had given the project a thumbs up... and many other people gave us the impression that it was too big of a fight and that it was a done deal,” said Stop555 member Eileen Muller, adding members had a lot of sleepless nights. “I learned that perseverance is key,”

In fact, the group persevered for the next six months. Members:

- Attended all Planning Board meetings and spoke and presented in some of the meetings;
- Wrote letters to the Planning Board and Select Board;
- Organized “an amazing group of committed picketers” who stood in front of the Planning Board meetings every Thursday night (rain or shine);
- Dug deeply into technical details of data provided from the developers and identified technical issues that were then brought to the attention of town boards and the MEPA group;
- Obtained and reviewed thousands of pages of public records with information on the communications between the developer and the DOT and MEPA group;
- Regularly updated their website and social media sites - including West of Hopping Brook and Holliston Happy - to keep and regularly updated the WOHB/Holliston Happy and other social media to keep the community informed
- Canvassed the town to raise awareness;
- Met with some State Representatives; and
- Reached out to local news outlets who were not covering the issue.

Group members credit town officials and employees who spent many hours on this issue, often beyond their regular work hours.

“They did an excellent job of reviewing all of the tons of paperwork for the project and giving the developer the opportunity to state their case. However, we knew they were all volunteers and one of our goals became to support them with the facts as we dug in deeply to each of the issues,” said Stiffler.

“That showed an incredible level of commitment to fighting this proposal,” said Stop555 member Anne Lindsay of the time the town dedicated to this project.

“I already knew that a small group could make a huge difference. I wasn’t sure if that would be the case with this kind

The core members of the Stop 555 Hopping Brook civic action group, who worked non-stop for six months on the campaign, include residents of Holliston and Medway:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Karl Adelman | • Ann McElhinney |
| • Suzanne Adelman | • Eileen Muller |
| • David Bastille | • Gene Muller |
| • Gary Donlin | • Virginia (Ginny) Roach |
| • Tina Dufour | • Janet Sheehan |
| • Tom Fitzgerald | • Tim Sheehan |
| • Joanna Westland Gannon | • Terri Stiffler |
| • Jan Klein | • Susan Woodrow |
| • Cashelle Larsen | |
| • Anne Lindsay | |
| • Gail Noun Marra | |

Members say dozens of other people, including committed picketers, helped accomplish the work.

of fight against this huge, well-heeled company,” said Lindsay. “I learned a lot about town government, about Holliston, and I met some incredible people who will remain friends. I also learned more than I care to know about the trucking, distribution, warehouse, and fulfillment world.”

Members say they have been contacted by other civic action groups in other towns who are seeking guidance in similar efforts. “We are willing to share our experiences to help other towns that feel as though they don’t

have a chance to stop the Goliaths of the world who seem to want to bowl over small towns,” said Stiffler.

As of press time, the time for the developer to file an appeal had not lapsed.

To read the Planning Board’s full decision, visit

https://www.townofholliston.us/sites/g/files/vyhlif706/f/uploads/555_hopping_brook_decision.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1fPvUQZS8onLVoNwA_Oe_S_4UWmlhSN3HAAGffMqcaP8Bt4N0vqFEIVow

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| <p>6</p> <p>CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY</p>  | <p>9:00 Blood Pressure Clinic 10:00 Writers' Group</p> | <p>9:00 Podiatry ***</p> <p>—Exercise and other classes cancelled this week in preparation for Fall Fair—</p> | <p>9</p> <p>FALL FAIR TOMORROW!!!!</p>  | <p>10</p> |
| <p>13</p> <p>9:00 SHINE appts*** 9:30 Coloring and Coffee 11:00 Yoga 12:00 Singing for Wellbeing 1:30 Game Day</p> | <p>14</p> <p>9:00 Drive-by Breakfast 9:00 Blood Pressure Clinic 10:00 Legal Hour w/ Attorney Marsden*** 10:30 Energy Focus Mvmt 12:30 Zumba Gold 1:00 Grief and Loss Support Group</p> | <p>15</p> <p>11:00 Yoga</p>  | <p>16</p> <p>9:00 Pilates 9:30 Veterans Coffee Hour*** 10:30 Energy Focus Movement 12:30 Photography 2:00 Watercolor Class</p> | <p>17</p> <p>9:00 Friday Crafters 1:00 Tune Timers 1:30 Book club</p> |
| <p>20</p> <p>9:00 SHINE appts*** 9:30 Coloring and Coffee 11:00 Yoga 12:00 Singing for Wellbeing 1:30 Game Day</p> | <p>21</p> <p>9:00 Blood Pressure Clinic 10:30 Energy Focus Movement 12:30 Zumba Gold 1:00 Att Bergeron Virtual Seminar*** 4:00 Pool Tournament</p> | <p>22</p> <p>11:00 Yoga</p> | <p>23</p> <p>9:00 Pilates 10:30 Energy Focus Movement 12:30 Photography 2:00 Watercolor Class</p> | <p>24</p> <p>9:00 Friday Crafters 1:00 Tune Timers</p> |
| <p>27</p> <p>9:00 SHINE appts*** 9:30 Coloring and Coffee 10:00 Legal Advice w/ Attorney Bergeron*** 11:00 Yoga 12:00 Singing for Wellbeing 1:30 Game Day</p> | <p>28</p> <p>9:00 Blood Pressure Clinic 10:30 Energy Focus Movement 12:30 Zumba Gold</p> | <p>29</p> <p>11:00 Yoga</p> | <p>30</p> <p>9:00 Pilates 9:30 Java with Jay (Zoom Phone) *** 10:30 Energy Focus Movement 12:30 Photography 2:00 Blue Grass Event*** 2:00 Watercolor Class</p> | |

| October 2021 | | | | |
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Clean Energy Challenge Off To A Strong Start

The Solar and Clean Heat Challenge is off to a strong start.

Over 350 residents in Ashland, Framingham, Holliston and Natick have submitted requests for no-cost assessments from the program installers and over 30 clean energy technology systems have been contracted to date!

The MetroWest Solar + Clean Heat Challenge is a regional partnership launched by the municipalities of Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, and Natick to connect residents and small businesses with reliable installers and competitive pricing for clean energy technologies of

- Solar panels, which convert clean, free sunlight to electricity, reduce air pollution, and can reduce or eliminate monthly electricity bills
- Air-source heat pumps, which are a flexible, cost-effective and energy-efficient option for heating and air conditioning
- Ground-source heat pumps, which are the most efficient heating and cooling system available and are reliable even on the coldest days

The MetroWest Solar + Clean Heat Challenge kicked off this past June and will run through the end of the year.

Going solar is good for the environment, it decreases the need for fossil fuels to be burned and is a completely zero-emission energy source. Not only is it good for the environment, but solar saves you money as well. It is an investment in which you can save thousands in avoided electric bill costs and even increase the value of your home. With the solar incentives available currently, there are even more savings to get excited about.

While most people have heard of solar panels and solar energy, there are a couple of other clean energy sources that can also save money over time. They are also as environmentally friendly as solar energy.

Geothermal energy is a clean, efficient way of heating and cooling your home with minimal impact on the environment. The energy savings, in some in-

stances, can pay off in as little as three to five years.

Electric heat pump systems are becoming increasingly popular because they do not rely on fossil fuels to produce warm and cold air.

Purchasing a heat pump will help reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses that are released into the environment each year. In addition, installing a heat pump instead of a furnace or central air conditioner can help you save money on your utility bills.

A misconception about heat pumps is that they are not effective during our harsh New England winters. In reality, technological advances, along with the real life experiences of home and business owners in the area who have heat pumps, have demonstrated their effectiveness in providing clean heat and cooling year round.

Despite the data showing otherwise, solar and clean energy can have a significant impact in the New England area.

A misconception for solar is that it isn't worth it in New England, when Massachusetts is actually one of the best states to go solar. Even through our seasons, solar produces ample energy and the incentives in New England make going solar more economically viable.

Speaking of being worth it, don't let the upfront costs scare you away. There are plenty of financing sources that can help navigate your way into a cleaner, but less expensive heating system.

Learn more about the MetroWest Solar and Clean Heat Challenge, and meet the vetted partners to see which technologies are right for you! Check out their website or get in touch with the installers for any questions, information, or an estimate for your home. You can save a lot of green by going green, especially through this program.

Visit <https://www.metrowest-cleanenergy.com/> to learn more about each clean energy technology, sign up for a no cost home assessment, and check out upcoming events

Business spotlight



Savings on solar, clean heating and cooling
MetroWestCleanEnergy.com




Photos by Achieve Renewable Energy, LLC.

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Annual Car Show Raises Money For American Cancer Society

On Sept 18, the 8th annual Car Show in Ashland, where all proceeds for the show goes to American Cancer Society, will be held by the Kidde Fenwal Relay for Life team. In the past we have had over 200 antique cars at our show,

coming from all over Metrowest and New England and an additional 300 spectators that come to the show to just see the cars.

The show is run like a festival as we have food vendors, a live band and a DJ at the show. But most importantly all the money raised from the show goes to American Cancer Society, we have no expenses as people donate their time to make this show happen.

The Kidde Fenwal Relay for Life team over the past 8 years through events similar to this have raised over \$250K for American Cancer Society.



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American Cancer Society
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Holliston Farms Day

Sunday September 12

10am to 4pm



rain or shine!

Arcadian Farms
258 Norfolk Street

- Farm Stand (front lawn) with fresh fruits, veggies and locally sourced products for sale
- Music performed by local Solo Banjo Artist "Freddy Badger"
- Fresh squeezed lemonade for sale
- Pumpkin Painting, \$5 includes pumpkin and painting supplies
- MyFM Street Team with music and promotions
- Tractors and Farm Equipment for viewing
- Contests/Games/Giveaways promoting agricultural education

August Farm
179 Highland Street

\$10 pony rides, as a fundraiser for the August Farm Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) team. The mission of the team is to introduce students in grades 4-12 to equestrian sports and to promote and improve the quality of equestrian competition and instruction.

Boston Honey Company
45 Chestnut Street

- Boston Honey Company will be featuring a number of fun family activities over at the farm!
- Honey and product sampling area (taste all the flavors of locally produced seasonal honeys, and other locally produced foods)
- Fresh extracted honey will be made through the day and available for tasting and for purchase
- Cornhole and other family activities outside in our picnic area
- Honey ice cream will finally be available
- 15 minute talk on honey bees and the role BHC plays in the industry at 11:30 am and 1:00 pm with fresh honey and honeycomb to taste

Broad Hill Lavender Farm
182 Highland Street

- The farm stand will be stocked with fresh and dried lavender bundles, our lotion bars, soaps, detox soaks, and heel balms.
- Tour of the field
- All guests receive a small bundle of culinary lavender and recipe ideas for cooking with lavender
- Limited parking

Holliston Farmers Market
On the rail trail at the junction of Central Street and Railroad Street (Blair Square)
Market runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Outpost Farm
216 Prentice Street

- Live music, cider pressing
- corn tasting
- tractor show
- cider donuts
- pumpkin painting (if the pumpkins are ripe)

Peas Love & Parsley
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Q and A with Diverse Holliston

What is the background of Diverse Holliston?

Diverse Holliston was founded by Francesca Douyon, Michelle Diamond, and Jeff Perrott in 2017 as a Facebook page to organize people in Holliston

interested in creating a diverse, inclusive, equitable town. From the very beginning, we created both social and educational events that offered diverse Holliston residents and those who work in town a platform to discuss is-

sues and concerns of importance to us, and advocate for changes needed to create a truly diverse, inclusive, and equitable town.

How big is your organization?

Diverse Holliston has grown steadily over the past four years. Our Facebook page is followed by nearly 850 people, and our events typically have drawn 25-50 people, but sometimes—as in the case of our Juneteenth March for Black Lives in 2020—many more. Our reach is not limited to our Facebook group; we now have an email listserv that goes out to many of our members, and we have organized committees that advise town bodies such as the Select Board, School Administration, and School Committee on issues of importance to our members. In addition, we have begun the process of creating alliances with similar organizations in neighboring communities, to share information, resources, and strategies with each other.

What goals does it have?

Our goal is to maximize diversity, inclusion, and equity in Holliston—not only by helping to build community and individual awareness of the issues of importance to members of Holliston’s many diverse communities, but also, and more importantly, by challenging and dismantling systemic inequity within Holliston’s institutions in order to improve outcomes for all of us.

We do that first by highlighting and celebrating the experiences, culture, and concerns of community members of diverse cultural, religious, ethnic, national, sexual, gender, and immigration identifications and backgrounds, and by creating spaces where community members can engage each other directly in a supportive, safe, understanding environment. Second, we make those experiences and concerns visible in our town, center them in town conversations and decision-making venues. Third, we illuminate the conscious and unconscious forms of bias, bigotry, and exclusion that persist in Holliston in individual and institutional

attitudes and practices—including collective biases built on the legacy of the racialized construction of the Boston suburbs. Our great hope is to create broad awareness, knowledge, and understanding across difference in Holliston, and to help build institutions that are welcoming to and accessible to all, so Holliston can become not only a culturally rich and diverse place to live and work, but also a model of inclusivity for other suburban towns.

Tell me about a few events that have happened.

Diverse Holliston has created many events and opportunities, including:

- Hosting “meet the candidate” forums and interviews to build knowledge around issues of diversity and inclusion for local elections
- Juneteenth March for Black Lives
- Interactive “True Story Theater” Active Bystander Workshop focusing on exploring identity

Q&A

continued on page 11

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Q&A

continued from page 10

- Community Conversations around issues of diversity that have come up in Holliston
- Social events - community playdates and potlucks
- Diversity Workshop with Tonia Walker of Perception + Change Consulting (Diverse Holliston, Mindshare & PTO participated along with school administrators)

Why does the town need a diverse Holliston Organization?

Every community needs a Diverse Holliston! Whoever we are

and wherever we live, we know in our hearts that all human beings deserve the opportunity to live fully, authentically, and free of discrimination. In order to make this dream a reality in our community, we need engaged, active citizens that take the time to critically examine our systems and institutions with the goal of rooting out inequality.

How can people get involved?

All are welcome at Diverse Holliston! We are a group of community members who are

committed to celebrating and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion- no experience, resume, or qualifications are required other than this commitment to being engaged. Community members interested in getting involved can contact us through our facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/132437570694894>

Interested folks can also email barb.fritts@gmail.com to be added to our listserv.



Helping those who serve

Recently Thanks To Yanks, a locally-based charity, founded by Michael Shain that has as its mission to support all who serve in the military and the families that love and support them, teamed up with Northern Management Group to send Dunkin Donuts coffee to U.S. Army Special forces-Green Berets. The picture shows the appreciation for the taste of home that was sent to them. For information on Thanks To Yanks, please like them on Facebook .



Do you want to talk about any upcoming events?

Stay tuned! We are hoping to host more community conversations and events this fall.

Do you partner with any other organizations in town?

Diverse Holliston is partnering with HPS, SEPAC, School

Committee, and members of the select board to realize our goal of an equitable, inclusive community.

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

Thank you so much for this opportunity to share our work.

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The Top 10 Reasons “Why Giving Back Feels So Good.”

AUTHOR: HEATHER J. CULKEEN

Charitable Foundation: Project Perseverance

What does it mean to give back to society? Giving back or donating to causes close to your heart benefits both the charity and you. Contributing to your worthy causes has far more benefits than you may realize.

Many give their time, talents, and/or money to the support community causes, which they hold dear to their heart. Giving back has also been shown to improve quality of life. So, to answer the question, why is giving

to charity so satisfying? Here are the top 10 reasons “why giving back feels so good.”

1. Bring meaning to your Life:

By donating or giving back, you are creating opportunities to meet people who believe in the same causes as you do. The interaction with like-minded people can inspire you to create a real impact on these causes. It can also infuse your life with a purpose or meaning in case you are stuck in a rut wondering why life is so stagnant. Giving back can reinvigorate your life.

2. Help others in need: There will never be a perfect time to give back as we are not living in a perfect world. But there are always others who need help in tough situations. A simple compliment to anyone, even a stranger, can brighten their day at no cost. It may even change their life.

3. The Time is Now: Regardless of the state of the economy or the pending rise in taxes and interest rates, it is not only kind to donate to those in need. Our financial difficulties hopefully last only a short time, but for those in need may could last a lifetime unless they get on the right path. For others more fortunate, just by providing a hand, donation, smile will go a long way to help those in need survive and thrive.

4. Strengthens personal values: When asked why they want to give back, 96% of people who participated in the research said that they are feel obliged to help others. They said that it's a moral duty which is rooted in their principles and personal values. Acting on these feelings is the responsibility of a human.

5. Teach generosity to children: When children see you giving back, they will adopt the same attitude when they grow up. Many people stated that they learned

how to give back from their parents and through personal experiences. You are benefiting humanity by teaching children to give, share, and donate.

6. Inspire friends and family:

If you educate your family and friends about your charitable donations after you've given back, they could be inspired to do the same. They may take your lead and donate whatever they can, especially to communal issues like promoting health, providing opportunities to rise above obstacles, and allowing others to achieve their goals. Giving back ignites a fire within you.

7. Realize that small donations help:

You don't always have to donate large amounts to make a difference. Even small amounts could result in week's, months, and possible years of meals for starving children or the much-needed medical help for elders.

8. Improve Money Management:

You can also drive yourself to be a better personal family financial manager by allocating a specific amount to each donation each month. You can make donations, fund your family's education, retirement, and other financial goals this way.

9. Give, when you can't volunteer:

In cases where you think that you should volunteer but are too busy to spend time for a worthy cause, you can donate money. Money is just a workaround for a time as it helps the organizations to acquire more resources that can improve the cause.

10. Spreading the love:

You can demonstrate that love exists by giving back to society. While spreading love, charity gives people hope for humanity. If you can't afford to donate, consider how a tiny gesture could help you achieve your desired feelings while also making others feel good about themselves.

Project Perseverance is dedicated to organizing and funding rescue efforts as well as delivering contributions to local and early stage non-profit organizations. We support children, families, elders, and others experiencing challenges that make us stronger.

To donate to Project Perseverance to help support our mission to give back, please email us at ProjectPerseverance888@gmail.com with subject line: PP888. The QR Code and link will be emailed for you to donate. Please feel free to suggest a cause via email that you feel would benefit from our support as well. Thank You.

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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

With the unofficial end of summer just a few days away, and our uncomplicated schedules coming to a close, we'll soon say goodbye to our warm weather wardrobes, beach hair and sandals.

This final week of summer has most likely been a bit crazy for you. There's the endless shopping list of back to school supplies, new clothes, sports equipment and of course, hair-cuts.

But we're pretty sure more than a few parents are doing their happy dance with the return of some "kid free" time.

Sure, you'll feel that tug at your heart as your little climbs the steps of the big yellow bus. You might even shed a tear or two, but hear that? Exactly. Seven hours of peace and quiet.

Let's face it, it's been two and half months of picking up wet bathing suits, sweating on the ballfield, driving your kids EVERYWHERE, and packing for all those "relaxing" vacations. Summer has its amazing moments, but for families with kids at home, the return to school is a much-needed time for parents to regroup and exhale.

So, with seven hours, sans children, what should you do? Hmmm?

We think it's time to book yourself some "me" time.

First, let's start with a round of applause for all you parents out there!! You survived another chaotic summer and got those kids back on their academic schedules. Now...what do YOU need?

It's easy to fall into the trap of feeling guilty for taking quality time for yourself, but there's a reason there's an article touting the benefits of "self-care" in every blog, magazine and post. Because it's true! We're our best selves when we feel good. We need time to revive and rejuvenate and that comes with what again? That's right, self care!

Is your hair crispy from too much sun and fun? Did you skip your salon products for the summer or maybe your hair's looking a little green from all that pool hopping? Perhaps, all of the above? b.LUXE beauty's got your back!

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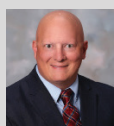
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A New Year for Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors

September is here (already!) but the good news is that means a new membership year for Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors. HNN is a not-for-profit civic and social organization that brings friends & neighbors from Holliston and the surrounding communities together to give back and have some fun!

Last year was certainly unique but through it all, HNN was still able to get together, meet new

people, and give back to our community. Through our donation drive, we were able to contribute to gift cards for Thanksgiving and Easter Baskets for the Holliston Pantry Shelf as well as providing dessert for the Holliston Senior Center Thanksgiving Meal for Seniors. Fundraising may have been limited but we hope people enjoyed our Prize A Day calendar raffle in May - great prizes every day donated by local busi-

nesses. And you may have seen us at the HNN Community Grant sponsored Summer Concerts organized by Holliston Parks & Recreation.

We met a lot of new Hollistonians along the way as well. Our virtual monthly Book Club and Ladies Escapes brought us together to meet our new neighbors and keep in touch with old ones throughout the year including our holiday no-contact yankee swap, a cross-fit training session, an instructional baking night for Valentine's Day, and a tea tasting with instruction given from Hawaii! We were even able to end our year with an outdoor in-person get-together of wine tasting and charcuterie creating.

HNN is a great way to connect with your community so

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check us out and become a member at hollistonnewcomers.org/ members. We look forward to more get-togethers, giving back

and fundraising this coming year so join us and join the fun!

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Sports

LINEMAN

continued from page 1

strong and he's got good speed and quickness for his size," Kiley emphasized. "A phenomenal run blocker, his athleticism enables him to move people. A team-oriented kid who leads by example, he's a throw-back, old-school type of lineman. But, most of all, he's quiet and humble."

That quiet and humble nature no doubt can be attributed to the positions he plays. Linemen rarely get noticed, hardly are publicized but so often compete at a high level with little or no fanfare.

"What's important is that my teammates and coaches know what kind of effort and results linemen get," Griffin said. "Guards and tackles don't get much publicity in the media but that comes from the positions we play. As a captain this year, I'll lead by example and by being supportive instead of being vocal."

Humble and quiet, however, will still define Griffin and it's those qualities that show when he reveals his goals for his final season, which gets underway on Sept. 10 against Old Rochester at home.

"My team goals are for us to develop solid team chemistry and to win the Large Division title again," Griffin noted. "We've got talent and if we work hard, we can be in the mix to compete for a Super Bowl. My individual goals include being physically and mentally ready for all challenges, to repeat as a league all-star and to win the Large Division's Lineman of the Year Award."

What makes the 17-year-old Griffin so capable on both sides of the ball are his strength and his aggressive style. "I use my strength and aggressive nature to get off the line quickly, whether I'm blocking on offense or in pursuit on defense," he said. "At guard, the key is to get low on blocks, and at tackle on defense it's imperative to rely on strength to get past opposing linemen."

More comfortable at guard, Griffin enjoys that role because "it's exciting to be part of a group that's scoring points."

A fabulous team player, the Holliston native says his most memorable game was a 27-14 victory over Canton in the playoffs when he started as sophomore. That triumph gave the Panthers the Division 6 South title before they were eliminated by Swampscott.

"I had a good game, blocked effectively, and opened a hole for Tristan Benson to score a touchdown in the third quarter," Griffin recalled. "The game was tied at halftime but we pulled away in the late stages. The contest was billed as a showdown between the two best teams in the division but Swampscott eventually won the Super Bowl."

Always quick to give credit elsewhere, Griffin has immense respect for Kiley and also for top-notch teammates.

"Coach Kiley really knows how to connect with players," he emphasized. "He's a terrific motivator who stresses basics and he knows how to get the job done."

Three teammates Griffin admires are seniors Robert Payne (tackle), Danny Nash (wide receiver) and Chris Delponte (linebacker). "Robert is strong, athletic and aggressive," he said.

"Danny is shifty, fast and a good play-maker, and Chris is quick, aggressive, works hard and is a good decision-maker."

Acutely aware that Holliston can compete for the Large Division title, Griffin knows what's needed and whom to be aware of.

"It'll take hard work and everyone has to be on the same page," he specified. "The talent is there. Two teams who'll be contending are Norwood and Ashland. They've got experienced players back and they've got tradition. Ashland will be looking for revenge because we beat them last season."

A good student, Griffin has yet to zero in on a destination for college. "I'm not sure what school I'll attend or what I'll major in, but I would like to play either Division 2 or Division 3 football," he said. "If I have a good senior year, I'm hoping to hear from some colleges."

Kiley believes Griffin can play at the Division 2 level and, because of his size and strength,

sees him being converted to a center.

Relying on an athletic philosophy that focuses on winning, Griffin firmly believes that if he's reaching his potential, remains optimistic and banks on mental and physical toughness, then success will be the end product.

Football provides an opportunity to learn valuable life lessons and Griffin has learned his share. "Football builds character and it strengthens your work ethic," he offered. "I've learned how to be a good leader and a good teammate. And, sports often help to overcome adversity."

Covid-19 presented challenges last spring but Griffin and his teammates handled the tests admirably.

"We were grateful to have a season," he said. "There were changes and restrictions but we adjusted well. We played only half the games we usually do but this season we're eager to have a regular schedule. I'm excited to get back to Friday night football

and to have the opportunity to bond more with teammates. I'm hopeful that vaccinations will continue to play a big role in returning to normal."

Calling his mother (JoEllen Doyle) a role model for her support and encouragement, Griffin also rates his former line coach, Jim Perry, as a vital cog in his success. "Coach Perry has been very helpful and very instructive," he said.

Griffin has had his share of success with the Panthers. And, he's more than happy to credit his teammates and coaches for his selection as a TVL all-star.

"My coaches and teammates are the ones who made that happen," he emphasized. "The accomplishment is a tribute to hard work but it takes others to make it happen. I was honored to be chosen as a junior."

Patrick Griffin may be an old-school, throw-back player, but he also personifies and defines what it takes to be a team-oriented competitor.



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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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St. John's Church To Host Virtual Silent Auction

St. John's Episcopal Church in Franklin is getting creative initiating their first Virtual Silent Auction for the public through Sept. 10. People will have a chance to bid on merchandise from local and regional businesses. Select from a variety of goods and services: food, retail merchandise, electronics, kid and adult activities, sports, museums & outings.

Access the auction three ways: 1) the auction link at <https://www.32auctions.com/StJohnsFranklin>; 2) St. John's Church website at www.stjohns-franklinma.org; 3) on Facebook at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Just register your name and contact details and the list of items will be displayed. It's easy to scroll through and make your bid. Check back often to update your bid! Bidding ends Friday, Sept. 10 at noon. The highest bidder on each item will be contacted.

"Last year was tough on everyone," said Rev. Kathy Mc-

Adams. "We have continued to gather for worship in whatever way possible. We have continued to serve the community by growing food for the Franklin Food Pantry, providing lunch for Common Cathedral and its unhoused congregation twice, and installing a handicap-accessible restroom."

Funds earned from the silent auction help continue outreach to the area, Rev. McAdams added. "Please participate in our on-line auction, as well as the Pumpkin Patch in October, so that we can continue to have a positive impact in the Franklin community and beyond."

The Virtual Silent Auction and Pumpkin Patch replace the church's holiday fair this winter. The annual Christmas Fair has been a staple in Franklin and a source of income for St. John's Church.

Want more details? Contact Blanca DiGiacomo at 617-429-4676 or blancadigiacomo@verizon.net.

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Applications for Fuel Assistance are on the way. This program runs from

November 1st through April 30th, 2022 and is available for both homeowners and renters.

The Senior Center can assist any resident of Holliston (regardless of age) with the application. If you think you might qualify, need more information, or want to set up an appointment, call Marty Schneier at 508-429-0622.



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|-----------|------------------------|------------|
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| 8/11/2021 | 50 Monroe Drive, #7 | \$780,000 |
| 8/9/2021 | 19 Governor Prence Way | \$1.56 mil |
| 8/9/2021 | 611 Norfolk Street | \$560,000 |
| 8/9/2021 | 59 Mohawk Path | \$1.1 mil |
| 8/6/2021 | 35 Peter Street | \$867,000 |
| 8/2/2021 | 175 Dalton Road | \$732,000 |
| 8/2/2021 | 105 Morgans Way | \$875,000 |
| 8/2/2021 | 18 Cheryl Lane | \$600,000 |
| 7/30/2021 | 103 Jennings Road | \$725,000 |
| 7/30/2021 | 250 Winter Street | \$675,000 |
| 7/30/2021 | 147 Turner Road, #73 | \$170,000 |
| 7/30/2021 | 56 Morton Street | \$610,000 |
| 7/30/2021 | 5 Forest Park Drive | \$875,000 |
| 7/30/2021 | 146 Chamberlain Street | \$505,000 |
| 7/29/2021 | 28 Pilgrim Road | \$645,000 |
| 7/29/2021 | 55 Garrett Way | \$567,500 |
| 7/29/2021 | 35 Morgans Way | \$900,000 |
| 7/28/2021 | 68 Maple Dell Lane | \$455,000 |
| 7/28/2021 | 61 Louis Street | \$735,000 |
| 7/27/2021 | 73 Bayberry Lane | \$592,000 |
| 7/27/2021 | 392 Underwood Street | \$647,000 |
| 7/26/2021 | 46 Front Street | \$360,000 |
| 7/23/2021 | 57 Bradford Jay Road | \$451,000 |
| 7/22/2021 | 5 Highland Street | \$185,000 |
| 7/22/2021 | 68 Fairview Street | \$1.04 mil |
| 7/22/2021 | 117 Robert Road | \$660,000 |
| 7/22/2021 | 32 Evergreen Road | \$625,000 |
| 7/19/2021 | 53 Alden Road | \$630,000 |
| 7/15/2021 | 147 Turner Road, #103 | \$180,000 |

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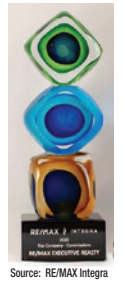
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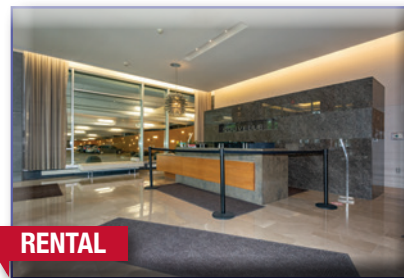
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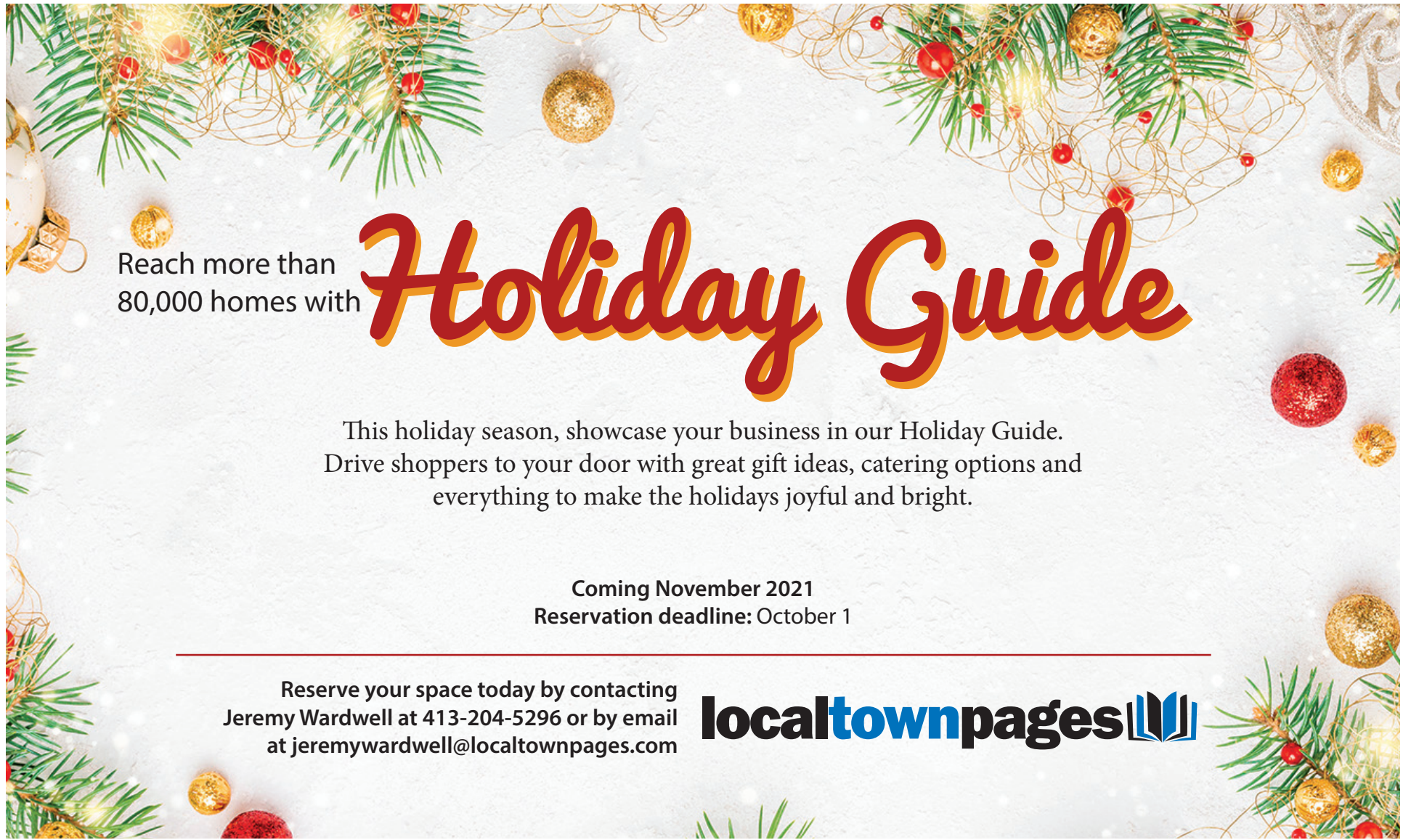
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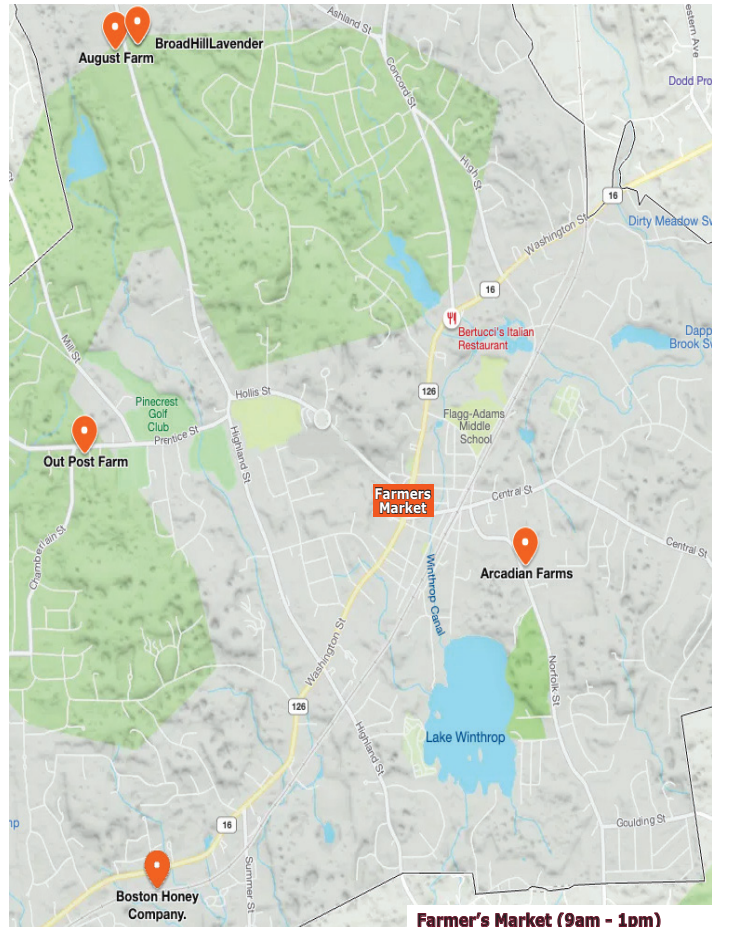



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