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Vol. 10 No. 8

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October 2022

Holliston Resident, Business Owner Helps Wishes Come True



BY SUSAN MANNING
STAFF WRITER

For the past five years, Holliston resident John Mulvaney has donated his time to make

a difference for children with life-threatening medical conditions.

Mulvaney, who has owned Natick-based TLC Painting since 2008, has worked on 15

“wishes” since 2017. Projects have ranged from room decorations to tree houses to

WISHES

continued on page 2

Select Board to Recommend TIF Agreement to Town Meeting

Proposed tax incentives to span over 12 years

BY THERESA KNAPP

The Holliston Select Board has voted to recommend a tax incentive financing (TIF) agreement for New England Appliance Group (NEAG) to the Oct. 17 Town Meeting.

NEAG, currently based in Franklin, hopes to relocate its company headquarters to 555 Hopping Brook Road.

NEAG officials say the company would bring with it 63 employees and would plan to create 20 new jobs over eight years with Holliston residents receiving priority when possible. They expect to spend “well in excess of \$100 million” on this building which they intend to own, not lease.

The proposed project is making its way through the Planning

Board process. NEAG proposes to build a 550,000 square feet with 80 to 100 loading docks and an average of 50 truck trips per weekday (no weekends), typically between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

At the Select Board meeting on Sept. 7, Town Administrator Travis Ahern explained that “the TIF is based only on the increased assessed value due to the property improvements...The TIF is a discount only on the new real estate taxes during the life of the TIF.

Ahern said the proposed TIF would be for 12 years, and shared this summary using the town’s current tax rate (\$17.38):

TIF AGREEMENT

continued on page 3



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WISHES

continued from page 1

play houses. He and his staff do the painting work free of charge.

Because of his work the past five years, he was recently awarded the Boston Business Journal (BBJ) 2022 Corporate Citizenship Community Collaboration Award, in recognition of the company's significant support of Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island and its mission of creating life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

Through its in-kind support, the company and its employees bring hope, strength, and joy to children and their families who are facing challenges due to a life-threatening diagnosis.

Mulvaney and his team take pride in contributing to wishes and find the experience a fulfilling team-building opportunity.

"The most rewarding aspect of granting a wish is to see how excited and appreciative the families are when the wish is complete," said Mulvaney.



"John and his team not only bring expertise and creativity to each project, they are also incredibly sensitive to our mission and the unique needs that our wish children and their families have," said Sean Holleran, CEO of Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island. "TLC's impact lasts long after a wish project is completed. For children who spend significant time in hospital environments, TLC's support contributes to the creation of an oasis that can be the setting for healing and hope, and helps wish

children reclaim childhood." Mulvaney and his TLC team also encourage other businesses to get involved, including engaging Sherwin Williams as an in-kind donor of materials. "We know we must strive to be good corporate citizens and everyone on the team believes in our commitment to give back to the community," said Mulvaney. "We take every possible opportunity to illustrate that social responsibility is more than just a catchphrase and requires positive, dedicated action."

A 29-year resident of Holliston, Mulvaney was inspired to support Make-A-Wish by the story of his son's classmate, who received a wish, and he remains in touch with the classmate's family to this day. Mulvaney has a long history of philanthropy and outside of Make-A-Wish, has volunteered in many capacities, including 10 mission trips with St. Mary's Church to help with disaster relief after hurricanes, and two coast-to-coast charity bike rides.

His church trips include nine years of leading groups of youth on trips to help in the aftermath of Katrina. He lead painting crews of students (16-20 students) within larger overall groups that sometimes numbered as many as 96 people. Painting homes and other.

"You name it, we painted it," he said.

He is also very active with the Timothy O'Connell Foundation and Tim's Team – in memory of Timothy O'Connell, son of Holliston residents Joanne and Kevin O'Connell.

He and his wife, Joan, raised four children there, all of whom



attended Holliston schools. (Children are now 28, 26, 24, 20). He said "It's been a great place to raise my family."

He coached a lot of sports teams as they were growing up and still coaches the varsity lacrosse team at Holliston High School.

The Boston Business Journal Corporate Citizenship Community Collaboration Award is an annual recognition of Massachusetts companies that demonstrate innovation and develop best practices in specific partnerships with nonprofits. Nominations are judged on four standards: mission, innovation, impact and sustainability.

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What is a "TIF"?

According to www.mass.gov, Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is an economic tool that promote redevelopment by use of public/private partnerships. TIF offers tax breaks to developers

Tax Increment Financing is an economic tool that promotes redevelopment by use of public/private partnerships. TIF offers tax breaks to developers, while DIF channels tax dollars into targeted redevelopment districts.

With TIF, municipalities may grant property tax exemptions to landowners of up to 100 percent of the tax increment for a fixed period, according to the site.

TIF programs, depending on their design, will satisfy many of the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principles.

Considerable planning is required up front, but the payoff in both increased future revenues and benefits to the public can be great. Successful projects will result in increased tax revenue to the municipality.

TIF provides a direct upfront benefit to a Developer in the form of tax relief. The money saved on taxes helps pay the project's construction costs.

Source: www.mass.gov or <https://bit.ly/3dos9Rh>

TIF AGREEMENT

continued from page 1

"I think this is a good agreement," said Select Board Chair Ben Sparrell. "I would very much appreciate having neighbors like you folks in our community."

If Town Meeting approves the agreement, it must then be approved by the state (likely in December).



Current real estate taxes (12x)	\$1,220,412
New net real estate taxes (12x)	\$3,521,893
New motor vehicle excise taxes (12x)	\$300,000
New personal property taxes (12x)	\$639,007
Total 12 year revenue for town:	\$5,681,382
Company [NEAG] TIF tax savings	\$5,869,823

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Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 9 – 15, its 100th anniversary

This year's theme is "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape"

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) has announced "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape™" as the theme for Fire Prevention Week™, October 9–15, reinforcing the critical importance of developing a home escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it regularly. In addition, this October represents the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week, the nation's

longest-running public health observance on record.

"This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign capitalizes on its milestone anniversary, celebrating all we've accomplished in reducing the public's risk to fire over the past hundred years," said Lorraine Carli, Vice President of the NFPA Outreach and Advocacy division. "At the same time, the theme, 'Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape,' ad-

resses challenges that remain."

According to NFPA data, home—the place people feel safest from fire—is actually where they are at greatest risk, with three-quarters (74 percent) of all U.S. fire deaths occurring in homes. When a home fire does occur, it's more likely to be serious; people are more likely to die in a home fire today than they were in 1980.

"Today's homes burn faster and hotter than they used to, minimizing the amount of time they have to escape safely," said Carli. "In a typical home fire, you may have as little as two minutes to get out from the time the smoke alarms sounds."

The Fire Prevention Week 2022 theme, "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape," promotes potentially life-saving messages that can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. Developing a home escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it regularly ensures

that everyone knows what to do when the smoke alarm sounds and uses that time wisely.

Following are key messages behind this year's "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape" theme:

- Make sure your home escape plan meets the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place a safe distance from your home where everyone should meet.

- Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in the household, including guests. Practice at least once during the day and at night.

- As the biggest annual campaign at NFPA, Fire Prevention Week works to educate people about the leading risks to home fires and ways they can better protect themselves and their loved ones. Local fire departments play a key role in bringing Fire Prevention Week to life in their communities each year and spreading basic but critical fire safety messages.

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week, its 100th anniversary, and this year's theme, "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape," visit nfpa.org/fpw.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

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Your Money, Your Independence

Eye Opening Costs At Open Enrollment?

Pop Quiz: Per U.S. government data, over past 12 months (8/21 - 8/22) which has increased the most in price?

- A) Household Energy
- B) Unleaded Regular Gasoline
- C) Bread
- D) Health Insurance

In fairness, you've experienced A) 21.2%, B) 24.1%, and C) 16.2%, however for many fall brings Open Enrollment to work benefits so sticker shock of D) 24.2% health insurance has yet to be realized.

That's right, health insurance increased ~3X greater than 8.3% US inflation and same as gas. Think of the promotions or actions you've taken to save \$5-15 at the pump. Well, this is greater for family paying \$500 a month on a corporate health plan and facing ~\$1,440 annual increase.

What can you do?

Understand Plan Changes & Your Situation: In a PPO due to your doctor, but you've visited him/her twice in the last 3 years? What's the highest annual out-of-pocket medical expenses total the last 3-5 years? Expect high



Glenn Brown

out-of-pocket expenses in 2023? These and other questions will help you run the numbers.

Case for High Deductible Health Plans (HDHP): People get scared by maximum out-of-pocket costs for HDHP and dub HDHP "for the healthy and wealthy". Yes, a PPO will have lower maximums and deductibles, but you're guaranteed to pay more to obtain.

Compare PPO costing \$247 biweekly with \$6,000 maximum out-of-pocket versus HDHP at \$142, a \$13,000 maximum out-of-pocket, and employer providing \$1,500 to enroll in Health Savings Account (HSA).

PPO guarantees \$6,422 paid in premiums while HDHP is \$3,692 less \$1,500 given by employer to contribute to HSA, thus equals \$2,192 or \$4,230 less than the PPO. Thus, maximum out-of-pocket expenses differential is \$2,770 and not \$7,000. Furthermore, you'd need \$10,230 of out-of-pocket medical expenses to make this PPO breakeven with this HDHP.

About Health Savings Accounts (HSAs): Tax-exempt savings plans paired with a HDHP meeting certain criteria. HSA is not "Use It or Lose It" like Flex Spending Account (FSA) and upon leaving a company or retirement, you maintain your HSA.

Key HSA facts:

- In 2023, individual can contribute \$3850 and family up to \$7,750.
- Over age 55 an additional \$1,000.
- All contributions are tax-free: federal, state, and FICA (Social Security and Medicare).
- No federal taxes on HSA funds spent on qualified health care expenses.
- Excess HSA funds can be invested for tax-free growth to compound for years.

Unlike other tax-advantaged savings plans, HSAs offer "triple tax benefits": tax-free contributions, tax-free earnings, and tax-free distributions.

Get The Tax Savings: Consider a family in 24% tax bracket contributing \$4,000 to HSA, it would be tax savings of \$1,466 (\$960 federal 24% + \$200 state MA 5% + \$306 FICA 7.65%). Earners in 32% bracket can max out 2023 contributions and gain tax savings of \$3,460.

Set Some Time and Seek Help: Open enrollment is the once-a-year opportunity to make changes to your work benefits without needing a life event. Beyond insurance and retirement benefits, these elections help maximize your savings, estate planning and taxes for 2023 and beyond.

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

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Fall 2022 Elections information

Vote by mail, vote early in person or vote on Election Day.

Vote by Mail

All registered voters qualify to vote by mail in the fall 2022 elections. Prior to the election, a post card application will be mailed to ALL registered voters, at their mailing address:

APPLY EARLY to allow ample time for processing your application and for the postal services to deliver your ballot to you.

Applications can be returned by pre-paid postage or placed in the drop box near the side entrance Town Hall (703 Washington St).

A signature is required in order to process your application. Questions can be directed to townclerk@holliston.k12.ma.us

Track Your Application and Ballot

Voters who have applied for a vote by mail ballot may track the status of their application as well as when their ballot was returned to the Town Clerk. Please note that we anticipate a large volume of applications, and request that you allow at least 1 week before checking the status of your application and allow a minimum

of 10 days to receive your ballot from the status date of mailing. Inquiries should be sent to townclerk@holliston.k12.ma.us

Return of Vote by Mail Ballots

Mailed Ballots include a postage pre-paid return envelope that is addressed to the Town Clerk's Office. You may return your ballot by mail (please see deadlines below) or hand deliver your ballot by placing it in the drop box outside of the side entrance at Town Hall (deadline is close of polls on Election Day).

Ballots can NOT be returned to the polling location on Election Day - they must be returned to the ballot drop box located outside at the side entrance of Town Hall (703 Washington St). Your returned ballot on Election Day will be processed and brought to the polls to be cast by the Town Clerk's staff.

Voters who receive a vote by mail ballot but have not returned it prior to Election Day may appear to vote in person and cast a ballot on Election Day. Any voter that has returned a vote by mail ballot (or voted early in person) is not permitted to appear to vote in person on Election Day.

ELECTION TYPE	DATE OF ELECTION	ELECTION DAY LOCATION	ELECTION DAY HOURS	DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE	VOTE BY MAIL APPLICATION DEADLINE
State Election	Nov. 8, 2022	High School	7 AM - 8 PM	Oct. 29, 2022	Nov. 1st - 5PM

Deadlines for ballots to be returned and counted

- **November Election -**
- Ballots returned in the drop box must be received by 8PM on Nov. 8th.
- Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked by Nov. 8th AND received by the Town Clerk by 5PM on Nov. 12th.

Please note that US Postal delivery services are not consistent and can range from 3 to 11 days. We recommend voters return their ballots in the drop box outside of Town Hall by 8PM on Election Day to ensure it is counted.

Vote Early in Person

Early Voting in person will be available for the fall 2022 elections.

An application is not required to vote early in person...just show up and vote!

Day	Date	Hours
Saturday	10/22	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Monday	10/24	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Tuesday	10/25	8:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Wednesday	10/26	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Thursday	10/27	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday	10/28	8:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Saturday	10/29	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Monday	10/31	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Tuesday	11/1	8:30 AM - 7:00 PM
Wednesday	11/2	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Thursday	11/3	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday	11/4	8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

State Election Early Voting in Person

Dates: Oct. 22nd – Nov. 4th
Location: Town Hall– 703 Washington Street – Select Board Meeting Room

Vote on Election Day- What you need to know before you go

All Elections are held at the Holliston High School Gym – 370 Hollis Street, Holliston, MA 01746

Polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

Bring an ID – in some cases voters will be required to show an ID

Unenrolled (commonly known as Independent) voters will need to choose which primary ballot type they want to vote on). Voters who are registered in a particular party (Democrat, Republican) MUST take that party ballot type - verify your party enrollment or change your party enrollment

Electioneering During Early Voting in Person

No poster, card, handbill, placard, picture or circular intended to influence the action of the voter shall be posted, exhibited, circulated or distributed within one hundred and fifty feet (150') of the building entrance door to Town Hall.

FAQ EARLY VOTING by mail or in person:

If I applied for a vote by mail ballot can I appear to vote in person at an early voting site or at the polls on Election Day?

YES - If your vote by mail ballot has not been received back to the Town Clerk's Office, you may still appear to vote in person at the polls on Election Day or at an early voting site. These voters will be required to complete additional paperwork and will need to show an ID. Should your mail in ballot be received after you voted early in person or at the polls on Election Day that ballot will be rejected and will not be counted.

NO - If a vote by mail ballot has already been received back by the Town Clerk's Office.

A returned vote by mail ballot is considered cast and you will not be eligible to vote by mail, early in person or in person at the polls on Election Day.

If I vote early in person can I appear to vote in person at the polls on Election Day?

NO - If you appeared to vote early in person your ballot will be considered cast and you will not be eligible to vote by mail, or in person at the polls on Election Day. Voting in Person at the Polls after submitting an early ballot is prohibited as outlined in 950 CMR 4 7.19.

When & how is an early voter's ballot (by mail or in person) cast?

All vote by mail and early voting in person ballots will be opened and or fed through the tabulators at the polls on Election Day. These ballots will be kept secured, locked, and unexamined until the polls are closed on Election Day.

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Family-run Affordable Junk Removal takes the stress out of cleanups

By CHRISTIE VOGT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible, properly disposes of non-recyclables and resells many items at the Schadlers' secondhand store, Resellables. "We opened that store in Bellingham because we hated to see things thrown away," Schadler says. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time



endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the backend while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 17 years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place in Holliston, The Corner Market."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

Business spotlight

As for Holliston in particular, Schadler says they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area. "In addition to our junk removal business, Holliston residents have been so important to The Corner Market, especially during the pandemic," Schadler says. "We have really appreciated their support." The Schadlers have also sponsored and hosted monthly fundraisers for several sports teams and organizations in Holliston.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

To receive a free junk removal estimate, call 774-287-1133 or visit affordablejunkremoval.com.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children and dog, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.

Call for Stories: Historic Project to Celebrate Holliston's 300th Anniversary

Holliston will celebrate its Tricentennial in 2024 and organizers are asking present and former residents to share their stories about events and memories from 1950 to date. The plan is to produce a book and website to archive the

material for people doing genealogy research. For more information, contact Mary Greendale at mmgreendale@gmail.com. Source: www.townofholliston.us/town-administrator/pages/town-administrator-newsletter

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Solid Turnout For Senior Center Fall Fair

Thanks to generous donations of goods and services, the Holliston Senior Center enjoyed a successful fall fair last month.

On its Facebook page, the center thanked all involved.

“The Holliston Senior Center would like to give a big shout out to all those people who par-

ticipated, donated and supported our Fall Fair on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022.

“We also want to say “THANK YOU” to all our wonderful volunteers for all their hard work all Summer long! The Senior Center is very lucky to have all our volunteers!

“It was a beautiful day and it was so nice to see so many people at the Fair! We hope everyone has a wonderful Fall and we will see you all back next year.”

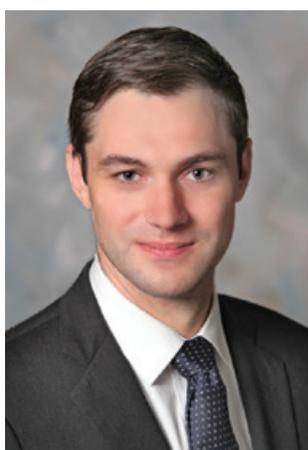


Orthopedic Surgeon Accepting New Patients

We are proud to welcome our new orthopedic surgeon, Brendan Kiernan, MD, to Milford Regional Physician Group. Dr. Kiernan is a Massachusetts native and comes to MRPG from University of California-Davis, where he completed a fellowship in adult joint reconstruction.

Earning his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine, Dr. Kiernan completed his orthopedic surgery residency at UMass Memorial.

Dr. Kiernan looks forward to taking care of patients with a variety of hip and knee problems (such as arthritis) and other joint conditions. His practice focuses on partial and total knee and hip replacement including revision procedures. In addition, Dr. Kiernan specializes in a direct anterior approach to joint reconstruction, resulting in decreased post-operative pain and faster recovery.



Brendan Kiernan, MD

For an appointment, please call 508-478-7135

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Lions Golf Event To Fund Scholarships, Charities

The Holliston Lions Club is pleased to announce they will be hosting their first ever Charity Golf Tournament. The proceeds from this tournament will be used to fund the Holliston Senior Graduation Class of 2023 Scholarship Fund and other Holliston Lions charities.

1st Vice President Mark Ahronian is chairing the event and together with his committee the following information has been provided:

Location: Pinecrest Golf Club, 212 Prentice Street Holliston, MA 01746

Date: Friday October 15, 2022, **Time:** 9AM Scramble Start registration opens at 7:30

Cost for Golfers: \$125 per person includes greens fees, cart, practice balls and buffet lunch

Cost for Sponsors: there are three sponsor levels ranging from \$125 to \$500

- **Gold:** \$500 Name on one of 18 holes, one cart, logo in program and on Holliston Lions Website
- **Silver:** \$250 Name on one cart, logo in program and on Holliston Lions Website
- **Bronze:** \$125 Name on one hole, logo in program and on Holliston Lions Website

Members of the public are welcome to join us for lunch at the golf club for \$30 and partici-

pate in fun and raffles.

1st Vice President Mark stated “we would love to make this an annual event to involve members of the community in a fun and entertaining event. We’ll be offering several prizes and opportunities to participate in raffles and contests. We have enjoyed massive support from the community for all our events and we hope to see the same level of support for this event.”

Golfers, sponsors, and supporters are welcome to visit the Holliston Lions Club website at www.hollistonmalions.org for a downloadable registration form. You may also register as a golfer, sponsor, or supporter online and



pay via credit card or VENMO.

We look forward to seeing you at this event and other events of the Holliston Lions Club.

For more information about the Holliston Lions Club, you can read more about their an-

nual donations and contributions to the Town of Holliston on their website. There is more information about joining this vibrant community organization as well.

History Mystery Rallye

Think you know all about Holliston? Do you know some of the “hidden in plain sight” facts of Holliston’s past?

St. Mary’s Knights of Columbus Council will host a Friends & Family History Mystery Rallye on Sunday, Oct. 9, at 2 PM.

Join your family, friends, and a few strangers competing on a mystery tour of Holliston to discover little known facts about our town, win prizes, and support local charities. What could be better than that?

Registration for this fun event will be \$15 per car prior to the day of the Rallye, and \$20 on the day of the event.

Starting at St. Mary’s Church parking lot, you’ll need a car, driver, and at least one navigator to follow the map directions to various sites around town for about 35 minutes.

The rallye ends where it started and participants will turn in their findings and enjoy games, snacks, and conversation about what “new” history they discovered on their quest. When the reports are tallied, winners will be announced and prizes awarded.

To pre-register, send your name, address, and check payable to KofC #14224 to Tom Anguish, 542 Winter St., Holliston, MA 01746.

While the results are being tallied, the knights will also be drawing the winning tickets from their 14th Annual Charity Raffle which concludes at the end of September. They have presented over \$260,000 to charitable organizations so far, and this year’s raffle will add to that total. There will be five winning cash prizes from \$100 to \$1,000. You

could also be a winner in this event if you have a ticket.

They’ll be selling tickets at Celebrate Holliston in September. You’re already a winner in the eyes of the food pantries, veterans’ organizations, the Senior Center, and others receiving the council’s donations.

So, two big fun events! First event: buy your raffle tickets to help others and possibly win a prize. Second event: and head to St. Mary’s Church parking lot on Oct. 9 for an enjoyable history-mystery road rallye!

HNN Great Pumpkin Rail Trail Walk Oct. 30

Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors invites you to join us at our Great Pumpkin Trail Walk on Sunday, Oct. 30th from 10am to noon at the Holliston Rail Trail. There are games set up along the first section of the trail up to the first bridge – great for young kids of all ages - and small prizes are distributed. The Great Pumpkin Trail Walk is an allergy-free way to celebrate Fall for the whole family.

The Great Pumpkin Trail Walk is just one of Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors fundraisers with proceeds going to the

HNN Community Grant Fund. Recent grant recipients include the Parks & Recreation Summer Concerts and Holliston Public Library Museum passes.

The event is \$6 per child (\$5 per child for HNN members). Cash or checks only are accepted on the day of the event. Adults are free and encouraged to come in costume as well. This outdoor event is a great way to see friends and join in the spirit of the season.

Come in your costumes and enjoy the festivities!

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Thanksgiving is Around the Corner

October may have just begun but that just means Thanksgiving is not that far off. Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors is once again helping the Holliston Pantry Shelf and other local organizations that support the Holliston community provide gift cards to those in need. Many families have depended on these gift cards to make their Thanksgiving day a special one. Last year, close to 200 families were recipients of these gift cards through the Holliston Pantry Shelf or

organizations such as Head Start and Wayside Youth.

Continuing this tradition, we are once again asking for monetary donations to support these efforts. Please visit the HNN Donations webpage <http://www.hollistonnewcomers.org/donations> and select Thanksgiving or if you would prefer to mail your donation, please send a check made out to Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors to Katrine Giroux, 147 Mohawk Path, Holliston and note that it is for Thanksgiving.

We are also collecting handmade Thanksgiving Cards which can be dropped off at 922 Highland Street, Holliston - a bin will be at the front door. If you have any questions, please email thanksgivingbaskets.newcomers@gmail.com.

Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors Thanksgiving Committee thanks you in advance for your support!

Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors THANKSGIVING 2022 DONATION

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Call for info on our Holiday Guide to be published in the November paper

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Holliston Historical Society's Oktoberfest Returns

After a two-year hiatus, Oktoberfest returns to Holliston Historical Society on Friday, Oct. 21, from 7 to 10 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm). The Society's 1815 barn is the perfect venue for this festive occasion.

Back, by popular demand, is the Double Eagle Oktoberfest Band whose musical energy will have people laughing, singing and dancing a polka before the evening is done. Have you ever played the Stumpf Fiddle? Come join us, and this just might

be your opportunity to do so!

In addition to large, soft pretzels and your choice of beverages (wine, craft beers, soda or water) we serve a meal of premium knockwurst, rye bread, German potato salad and red cabbage. Ken Onofrey from Crafted will give an overview of the specialty beers available at this event. After the meal, enjoy coffee, tea, and homemade apple crisp with whipped cream for dessert. Vegetarians can request Kasepatzle in place of knockwurst by notify-

ing Beate Hait at 774-292-9098 or beateh1@aol.com no later than Oct. 14.

Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased through PayPal at hollistonhistoricalsociety.org and at Crafted, Fiske's, and Superette. Space is limited, so purchase your tickets early to ensure your spot at a table for this delectable German meal, beverages, lively musical entertainment - and Gemutlichkeit. Prosit!

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Have you read the new Town Administrator's newsletter?

The Town Administrator Newsletter recently debuted under the moniker, "Holliston Home-town Newsletter."

Town Administrator Travis Ahern told the Select Board at its March 7 meeting that the quarterly newsletter already had 857 people subscribe as of that date.

The eight-page electronic document includes information for town meeting, updates on town projects, important deadlines, lists seasonal jobs, and much more. To subscribe, visit www.townofholliston.us/subscribe

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A beginner's guide to fall planting and maintenance

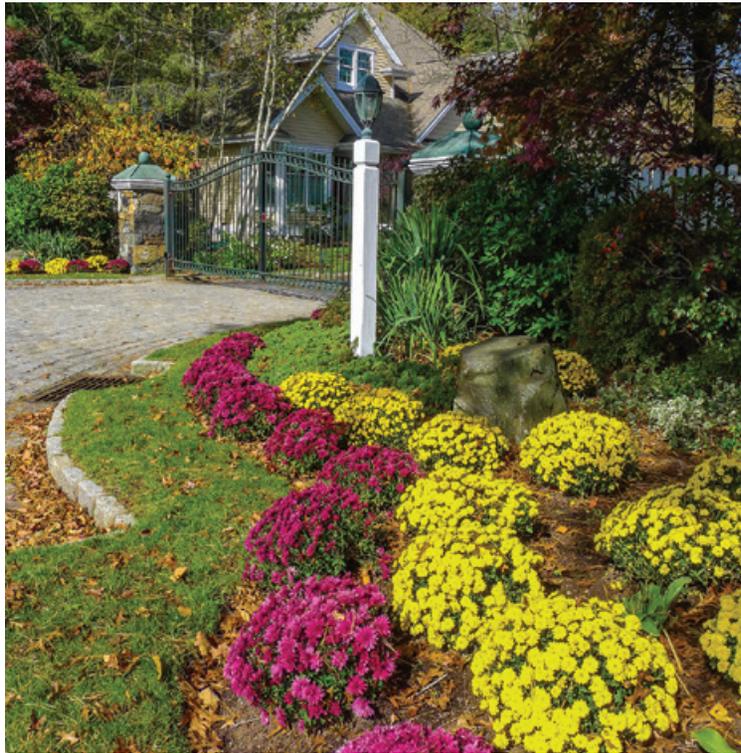
Spring and summer are perhaps the busiest times of year for gardeners. However, fall also is a prime time to tend to gardens.

The tree and bare root retailer Bower & Branch advises that soil temperatures in many regions of the country may still be warm enough to encourage root growth well into the start of winter. Furthermore, fall is often the ideal time to plant, fertilize and keep a garden going or to get a head start on next year's bounty.

Here are some tips to make the most of the fall gardening season.

- Think about fall annuals and bulb planting. Near the end of September, start planting cool-weather-loving pansies and violas for pops of color as summer flowers fade. Also, it's a good idea to stock up on bulbs that will bloom in the months to come before they sell out in stores. Wait until the temperatures really cool down before planting them in desired spots for spring sprouts.

- Sow salad seeds. Lettuce, spinach, radishes, and arugula tolerate cooler temperatures. Try new and interesting lettuce varieties and enjoy salads well into the fall season.
- Take inventory of the sun. Positioning a garden carefully means maximizing hours of sunlight, which begin to dwindle in the fall. Experts say gardens grow best in sunny locations that receive six hours of direct sunlight each day. This is where container gardens can be helpful, as they allow gardeners to move plants into spots that will get ample sunlight.
- Fill in landscaping gaps. Some fall plants can add color around the landscape and brighten up homes to add curb appeal. In addition to pansies and violas, asters, kale and chrysanthemums are fall blooms. Keep in mind that mums can come back year after year.



So take them out of those flower pots and get them into the ground. They can be enjoyed next year as well, sprouting in early spring and developing leaves and buds through late summer.

- Clean up unwanted growth. Fall is an ideal time to cut back spent vegetable plants and get rid of errant weeds. Rather than bagging leaves, mow them with a grass catcher and then add the

mix to a vegetable garden as an excellent soil insulator. The nitrogen and carbon will fertilize the soil, enhancing growing possibilities and limiting weed growth.

- Propagate plants in the fall. As temperatures gradually begin to cool, start taking cuttings from perennials, gathering seed pods from azaleas and rhododendrons and dividing hardwood cuttings, says the resource Gardening Know How. Consult with a garden center or horticulturist on the proper ways to propagate stems using rooting hormone and other techniques.
- Continue to water plants. Water is essential in the fall and winter as roots can still be growing. Gradually reduce watering duration as plants go dormant.

Fall planting and maintenance can extend gardening season and improve the chances of growing a healthy spring garden.

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“I decided to start my own business after I noticed that homeowners were being charged very high prices for a mediocre job,” says Rob. “This bothered me. I knew that if I could offer customers an exceptional job with fair pricing, that I could make a difference.”

Rob himself started roofing at the age of 13 with his father for his father’s construction company. Rob learned everything about roofing from the “great old-timers” who were up on the roof working right along with Rob, teaching him everything he now knows.



Today, Robert Roofing is fully licensed and insured, and performs work on residential and commercial buildings plus new construction. They have an “amazing crew” that offers various types of roofing (asphalt, rubber, low-slope, specialty shingles, etc.) as well as other services including gutter installation, new downspouts, vinyl and wood siding, coil stock metal coverage, soffits, and chimney repointing and flashing.

Did you know fall is peak roofing season? Rob says it is

Business spotlight

very important to have your roof evaluated before the cold winter months. If you need a new roof, or roof repairs, now is the time to do it.

“It’s easy to brush off some minor wear and tear water damage or damaged shingles but these are strong indicators that you need to replace your roof.

“Robert Roofing and Gutters is everything you want a contractor to be: Honest, reasonably priced, expert in what he is doing. Nothing flashy, just good work.”

David Williams

Don’t wait until spring to replace your roof, as doing so can exacerbate your problems. Any damage that you’ve discovered can only get worse during the winter with freezing rain, ice, snow and sleet. It’s best to be proactive instead of dealing with emergency roof repairs at the last minute.”

Robert Roofing will try their best to restore your roof and not sell you a new one. But if you need a new roof, their expert installers will make sure the job is done right the first time.

For the warmer months, Rob stresses the importance of roof ventilation which can also help with energy savings.

“The proper roof ventilation allows proper airflow between the attic and the outdoors. If a roof isn’t properly ventilated, hot air can become trapped inside the attic and cause your entire house to heat up gradually like any oven. This puts a huge strain on your home’s cooling system and leads to a noticeable rise in your monthly energy bills.”

For a full list of services available, visit www.robertroofingandgutters.com or call 857-247-8709 where you can also arrange a free estimate with Rob.

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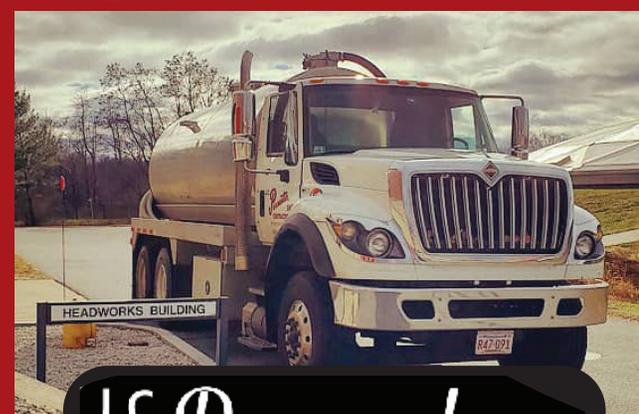


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Under Pressure gets homes ready for the holiday season

By CHRISTIE VOGT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In anticipation of fall bonfires, winter holiday gatherings and cold weather challenges, exterior cleaning company Under Pressure is busy preparing and sprucing up homes for the season. “The work we do is like a tune-up of the house from top to bottom, from roofs to gutters to windows to patios,” says owner Mark Mercer. “We’re helping people to love their home again, especially around the holidays, and to refocus attention on the importance of the health of a house.”

Mercer says that cleaning exteriors in late summer and early fall is an optimal time because houses stay cleaner for longer due to less pollen, landscaping debris and humidity-induced mildew. Under Pressure is also able to wash surfaces later in the year — even as temperatures drop to the 30s — thanks to water heating mechanisms in its trucks. “Winter is long, and homeowners should be asking themselves at this time whether their house is prepared for the

Business spotlight

changing weather ahead,” Mercer says.

In addition to washing, Under Pressure offers shrink-wrapping to protect outdoor furniture, water features, garden monuments and other items that need to be shielded from the elements. “Shrink-wrapping is a great alternative to covering things with weatherproof fabric, which often gets chewed through by critters,” Mercer says. “Shrink-wrapping also saves space because we can push everything into one tight bundle in your yard rather than having your patio furniture take up square footage in your garage or basement.”

Under Pressure also offers safe and efficient ice dam and snow removal services. Its gentle but powerful steam method quickly remedies problematic areas on roofs without damaging a home’s structure.



Routine maintenance and cleaning services like these are important, but Under Pressure is also eager to bring a bit of magic to customers this year in the form of custom-designed holiday lighting. “We are really excited about this new offering,”

Mercer says. “It’s amazing what you can do with a home nowadays with new light technologies, and customers have been asking us for years for a service like this.”

Under Pressure’s team has gone through weeks of training and safety courses in order to design and install holiday lights that cater to customers’ imaginations. “The designs are only limited by homeowners’ creativity,” Mercer says. The company uses LED lights and can illuminate an entire house with one extension cord and a timer. Homeowners don’t have to worry about maintenance or storage either; Under Pressure

will take the lights down at the end of the season and store the equipment until homeowners want to reinstall a display in the coming year.

“We can decorate homes for Halloween, Christmas, Hannukah, New Years — any winter holiday that people want to celebrate,” Mercer says. “Holiday lighting creates a special feeling; there’s just something about the warmth that it brings to a place.”

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Fireplace trends help create attractive, comfortable rooms

Fireplaces are useful features in a home. Fireplaces are sources of ambient heat and also add style to indoor spaces.

Fireplaces can complement just about any interior style. Fireplaces can be traditional and burn wood or connect to a home's natural gas supply for on-demand ambiance. What's more, fireplaces may come in vented or ventless varieties, depending on homeowners' preferences and what is allowed by community building codes. That means a chimney or flue may not be needed — expanding the list of rooms where a fireplace can be installed.

Certain trends have emerged among fireplace fans in recent years. Here's a look at what's getting consumers fired up about these home decor elements.

- **Minimalist style:** Many fireplaces are designed in neutral colors with minimal trim that directs focus on the fire and not the appliance. When the fireplace is not in use, it blends in with surroundings and will not compete for attention with other design elements.

- **Convertible fireplaces:** Homeowners can choose between open or sealed fireplaces. A convertible fireplace enables homeowners to

have the best features of these options. A convertible fireplace can be converted to wood from gas, or the opposite, in as little as 30 minutes.

- **Nature-inspired materials:** Natural stone continues to be a material of choice in fireplace surrounds. Light colors work well for a fireplace, and also fit with today's lighter color interior design preferences. Natural stone also works perfectly with both contemporary and rustic decor.

- **Vintage fireplaces:** Vintage continues to be a buzzword in 2022, and the choice to go vintage also applies to fireplace styles. A room decorated in vintage elements can be complemented with a vintage fireplace or one designed to look vintage.

- **Integrate into wall decor:** Fireplaces that are built right into a wall save space. One can have a television and a fireplace on the same wall. These types of fireplaces work well in modern home designs. Other fireplaces may be built into bookshelves or other wall features.

Fireplaces can improve the appeal of a home. Various trends are popular this year, making fireplaces highly coveted features.



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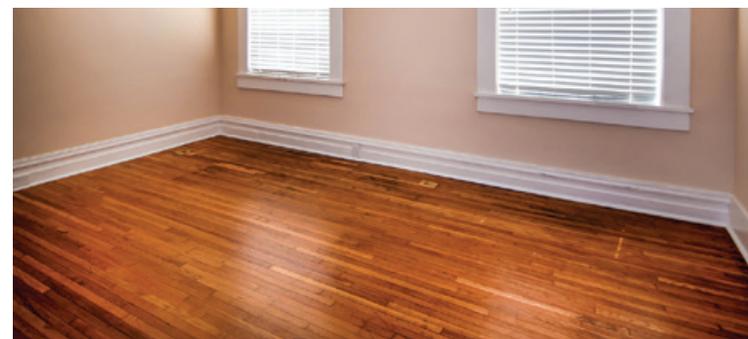
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Wood floor installation dos and don'ts

Jaw-dropping features can sell a home in a heartbeat. A penthouse apartment with floor-to-ceiling windows and a panoramic view of a city skyline likely won't prove a hard sell, nor will a home with an infinity pool overlooking a landscape of rolling hills. As awe-inspiring as such features can be, some more subtle components, such as authentic hardwood floors, also can do much to make a home more appealing to prospective buyers.

home renovation experts at Bob-Vila.com, squeaky floors could be an indication that the subfloor has begun to warp or twist. Sinking floors are another indicator of deteriorating subfloors. Subfloors should be somewhat level before new hardwoods are installed, so DIYers should inspect and address subfloor issues before installing new flooring.

DO expose wood flooring to the elements in your home prior to installation. The home im-



Hardwood flooring is a sought-after commodity. Data from the National Association of Realtors indicates that 54 percent of home buyers are willing to pay more for hardwood floors. In fact, NAR figures indicate that 28 percent of buyers between the ages of 35 and 54 consider hardwood floors "very important" when looking for a home. Homeowners who are considering selling their homes, or those who simply want to upgrade their existing flooring, may want to consider installing hardwood flooring. Though it's a project best left to professionals, hardwood flooring can be installed by skilled DIYers. In such instances, homeowners may want to keep these dos and don'ts in mind.

DO hire a professional if you have limited or no DIY flooring experience. Hardwood flooring installation is not generally a project for novice DIYers. Hardwood flooring projects may present some common challenges, but no two homes are the same. So unless they have prior experience installing floors in multiple rooms or homes, homeowners may save themselves time, trouble and a significant amount of money hiring a professional to do the job.

DON'T ignore the subfloor. New hardwoods won't erase the problem of subfloors in poor condition. According to the

improvement resource BuildDirect recommends acclimating hardwoods to the space where they will be installed. Skipping this important step could result in gaps during the winter and cupping over the summer. To acclimate hardwoods, open the boxes and spread them out for about a week while running the air conditioner or heater at normal levels. When storing hardwoods prior to installation, avoid keeping them in potentially moist areas like a basement.

DON'T skimp on tools. A DIY hardwood flooring installation might be less expensive than hiring a professional, but homeowners should resist any temptation to increase those savings further by purchasing less costly tools or fewer tools than is necessary to complete the job. BuildDirect notes that DIYers will need at least a miter saw, table saw, cleat-nailer or stapler, finish nailer, compressor, jamb saw, chalk line, nail set, and tape measure when installing hardwood floors. Purchase all necessary tools and read product reviews to ensure each tool is up to the task.

Wood floors can be awe-inspiring. Some homeowners can install such flooring on their own, and the project can be much easier if they learn as much about installation as possible prior to beginning the project.



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Signs your gutters are in need of repair

Fall is a great time to tackle projects around the house. The weather each fall allows homeowners to make improvements to their homes' exteriors without worrying about extreme heat or cold, while interior projects like painting are made easier because homeowners can open the windows to allow for proper ventilation.

Fall also marks a great time to prepare for upcoming projects that can make winter work that much easier. For example, fall is a great time to take stock of your gutters so you can address any issues before leaves begin to fall or the first snowstorm touches down. Compromised gutters can contribute to water issues in basements and adversely affect a home's foundation if not addressed immediately, so it behooves homeowners to learn the signs that gutters are in need of repair or replacement.

- Gutter hanging off the home: Gutters were once installed predominantly with spikes. However, many industry professionals now install gutters with hanger brackets. Why



the change? Spikes loosen over time, leading to the gutters hanging off the home. That can contribute to serious issues if left untreated. Gutters hanging off the home need not necessarily be replaced, but rather secured to the home, ideally with hanger brackets instead of spikes. Brackets hook into the front of the gutter and are then screwed into the fascia of a home. A professional who specializes in gutter repair can perform this task relatively quickly, and it's an inexpensive yet highly effective solution.

- Gutter separation: Gutters that are no longer fastened together can leak and contribute to issues that affect the home's foundation, siding and appearance. Clogs and the accumulation of debris can cause gutters to separate because they are not designed to hold too much weight. Replacement of separated gutters may or may not be necessary depending on how big the problem is and the condition of the existing gutters. If

replacement is not necessary, separated gutters may be remedied by securing the joints, another relatively simple and inexpensive fix.

- Peeling exterior paint: Paint that appears to be peeling off of your home may indicate that water is seeping over the edge of the gutter closest to your home. When that happens, water is coming down the side of the house, causing the paint to peel. In such instances, replacing the gutters is often necessary.
- Basement flooding: Not all signs of deteriorating gutters are outside a home. Many a homeowner has been flummoxed by flooding in their basements, and such flooding can be caused by aging, ineffective gutters. That's because deteriorating gutters sometimes allow water to leak near the foundation of a home, contributing to basement flooding.

Fall is an ideal time to inspect gutters and have any issues fixed before leaves begin to fall or harsh winter weather arrives.



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Holliston Library Events

Monday October 3

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
MORNING BOOK CLUB

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
YMCA PROJECT ABC PLAY-GROUP

Tuesday October 4

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM
Drop In Play Group

2:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Tinkertime

Wednesday October 5

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM
TALES AND TUNES FOR TOTS

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Drop In Game Day

Thursday October 6

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM
Sensory Playtime

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
LEGO CLUB

Friday October 7

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM
Drop In Play Group

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Nintendo Switch And Board Games

Tuesday October 11

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Music And Movement With Deb Hudgins

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Mystery Book Club

2:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Tinkertime

Wednesday October 12

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM
Special Storytime With Chief Cassidy

Thursday October 13

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM
Sensory Playtime

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
LEGO CLUB

Friday October 14

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM
Drop In Play Group

3:30 PM - 6:00 PM
One Up Games

Monday October 17

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
VIRTUAL HISTORY BOOK CLUB

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
YMCA PROJECT ABC PLAY-GROUP

Tuesday October 18

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM
Drop In Play Group

2:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Tinkertime

Wednesday October 19

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM
TALES AND TUNES FOR TOTS

Thursday October 20

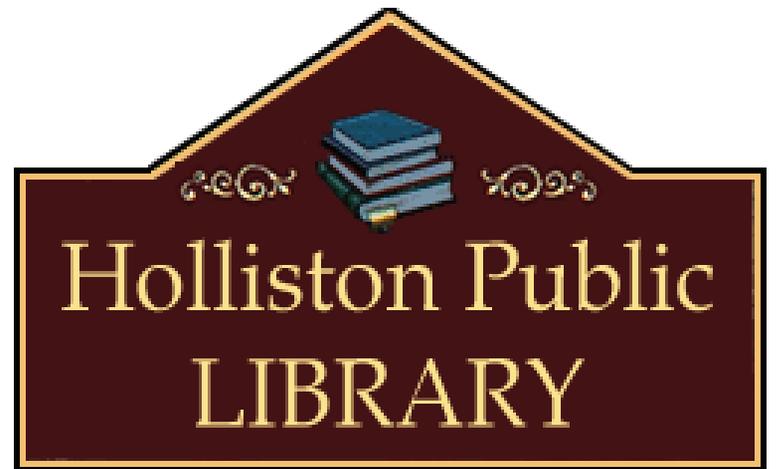
10:15 AM - 12:00 PM
Sensory Playtime

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
LEGO CLUB

Friday October 21

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM
Drop In Play Group

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Nintendo Switch And Board Games



Monday October 24

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
YMCA PROJECT ABC PLAY-GROUP

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
No School Movie Matinee

Tuesday October 25

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM
Drop In Play Group

2:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Tinkertime

Wednesday October 26

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM
TALES AND TUNES FOR TOTS

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Drop In Halloween Craft

Thursday October 27

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM
Sensory Playtime

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
LEGO CLUB

Friday October 28

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM
Drop In Play Group

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Nintendo Switch And Board Games

Monday October 31

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Holliston Youth Cheer Levels Up

By SUSAN MANNING
STAFF WRITER

A few tenths of a point may have kept these cheerleaders from going to nationals last year, but it's not stopping them now.

With 60% of its squad returning from last year, Holliston Panthers Youth Cheer is looking to take the next step from being level one to being level two.

Coach Melissa Armento explained.

"Leveling up means competitions are judged on more complex stunting and tumbling skills. We are moving from level 1 to level 2. 60% of our team is returning from last year and those athletes narrowly missed going to Nationals by a few tenths of a point. It is something we will never forget! We are all hungry for our next chance to go all the way but we'd rather take the path of new challenges than the path of least resistance," she said.

Armento said although this is a challenge, she believes the team is up to it.



"We feel these athletes have mastered Level 1 skills and are ready for Level 2. This move will be challenging for the athletes but also the coaches because over 40% of our team is new," she explained.



So why level up now? Although, leveling up comes with a lot of added pressure and stress, Armento said one of the major goals of the coaching staff is to prepare our athletes for high school cheer.

"Leveling up adds to the complexity of their routines and skill expectation while teaching the girls more advanced techniques and tumbling. This ultimately will help with the transition into the High School division. We could have chosen to stay at level 1 but our goals as their coaches are to help the athletes continue to grow not remain the same just to win so we have a lot of new work to do," she said.

There are 17 athletes all together for game day cheer, with 14 of those athletes advancing

into competitions.

Armento said the team would love to have support from the community.

"Please come find us cheering for 6th, 7th or 8th grade football games. We double up our home games so we can cheer for each grade more frequently. We hope to move through 6 total competitions this season also," said the coach.

"Please come support your youth football and cheerleaders in the sunshine or even the rain. We are excited to share what we work so hard on with you all," said Armento.

The schedule can be found by visiting Holliston Youth Football and Cheer website: hollistonyouthfootballandcheer.com. The schedule is listed under the schedule tab.

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People Over Politics: McGovern Best Choice for Congress in Second District

My name is Jim McGovern and I'm running for reelection to Congress in Massachusetts' Second District. I couldn't be prouder to have the honor of representing Central and Western Massachusetts in Congress, and due to redistricting, the newly redrawn Second District will include Hopkinton, Holliston, Ashland, Southborough, and Medway.

I was born and raised in Worcester. Massachusetts is my home. I first got into public service because I wanted to make a difference in people's lives. That's still true today. It's why I'm focused on putting people over politics to tackle the biggest problems we face.

Second District voters deserve a fighter in Congress that's going to build an economy that works for everyone. It's wrong that billionaire corporations are making record profits while many people are living paycheck to paycheck. I'm committed to cutting costs for working families and creating good-paying jobs right here in Massachusetts.

I understand one of the biggest concerns people have is the cost of health care. For decades, Big Pharma dictated the industry and set prices that made families have to choose between the cost of rent or their medi-

cation. That's morally wrong. It's why I voted for the Inflation Reduction Act to lower health care premiums for low-income families, cap the cost of insulin at \$35 per month for those on Medicare, and allow drug price negotiation. I will keep working to make health care more affordable and lower the price of prescription drugs.

I have heard from many voters that are alarmed at the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade – I am too. In fact, I'm disgusted. We're lucky to live in Massachusetts. The Commonwealth has abortion rights enshrined in our Constitution. But we can't let our guard down. Trump Republicans have made clear that if they win control of Congress, they will pass a national abortion ban. It's unclear if that federal law would supersede our protections. And so, a vote for a Republican in November is a vote to ban abortion in Massachusetts. I believe women should have the ability to make their own health care decisions and I'll never stop fighting to protect that right.

I believe we must care for our planet. The climate crisis is real and there's only so much time to preserve our environment for future generations. I

Jim
McGovern
Democrat ★ Congress
**political
spotlight**

host an annual farm tour in the Second District, and this year, farmers told me about how climate change is impacting how they farm. Farmers put healthy, nutritious fruits and vegetables on our plates, and we need to be making their job easier, not harder. I will continue to hold Big Oil accountable for polluting our planet and work for a more sustainable future for our children and grandchildren.

Trump Republicans have a radical vision for America's future – one of hate, division and regression. They fight for billionaire corporations and are in the pocket of Big Oil and Big Pharma donors. And they want to strip away basic freedoms from their fellow Americans. My priorities are clear: I serve working families. It's why I don't take a dollar of corporate PAC money. When I look at America's future, I'm only interested in progress and making this country work for more people.



To get involved and learn more about my campaign, please visit www.jimmcgovern.com. I humbly ask for your vote for the November 8 General

Election and I'm looking forward to seeing you on the campaign trail.

This article is Paid for by Re-Elect McGovern Committee

Sports

Alachi, Sweeney Catalysts For Holliston Grid Squad

Their Ability A Big Plus For The Panthers

By KEN HAMWEY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Pierce Alachi and Brady Sweeney are key components for Holliston High's football team and what makes the tandem so effective is their similarities.

The positions they play, however, are different — Alachi is a guard/defensive tackle and Sweeney is a wide receiver/safety. Where they align, however, is intriguing.

Both are senior captains who were Tri Valley League all-stars last year and both are two-way starters. They're two of the Panthers' top-notch leaders, their strengths coincide and both are being recruited by colleges at all three levels. Their goals for the season are the same — a Super Bowl title — and they're both capable in the classroom.

Todd Kiley, the Panthers' head coach for the last 20 years, isn't bashful when assessing their talent and ability.

"Pierce has improved his speed and quickness at both positions, he's physical, strong and aggressive, and he's got a high football IQ. His mental toughness is a major plus and he allows us to do things that we normally wouldn't do. His motor is extremely high — he's active for the entire play on both sides of the ball. Technically sound, his athleticism makes him the complete player that he is."

Kiley also likes what Sweeney brings to the table.

"Brady is not only mentally tough, but he's also physically tough. He's also got great speed. He's athletic, instinctive and has a high football IQ. His work ethic is outstanding. If he needs to improve in a specific area, he commits 100 percent to that task. What makes Brady top-notch is his competitive nature. He's got a refuse-to-lose attitude."

The Panthers started their season by refusing to lose. They defeated Foxboro, 33-7, and Alachi and Sweeney played superbly. Alachi blocked effectively on offense, and on defense he had a sack, five tackles and applied constant pressure on Foxboro's QB. Sweeney was 4-for-4 on receptions for 55 yards and he had a 56-yard TD on a pick-6 in the final quarter.

Here's an up-close look at the duo, detailing their goals, their passion for football, where they may play collegiately, their philosophy of competing and the valuable life lessons they're learning on the gridiron.

PIERCE ALACHI

The 6-foot, 215-pound Alachi's top goal is a Super Bowl triumph.



Brady Sweeney, left, and Pierce Alachi are talented leaders for Holliston's football team.

"First, we want to improve on last year's 6-5 record, win the TVL Large Division championship, advance to the Super Bowl and win it," he said. "It's a realistic goal because we've got the talent and experience. Eight players are back on defense and nine have returned on offense."

A captain, Alachi has two individual objectives he'll be striving to fulfill. He wants to lead the squad effectively and he's hoping to be named TVL Lineman of the Year. "Leading involves different styles and I want to lead by example," he emphasized. "I also will be communicative and supportive and always willing to assist a teammate."

An offensive guard gets little notice and the same holds true for a defensive tackle. But Alachi likes both positions. "I love getting into open space at guard, hitting linebackers and seeing them on the ground," he said. "On defense, it's all about pursuit. I like hitting the guy with the ball and making tackles."

The high-motor lineman displayed the energy he has for both positions in games against Medfield and Ashland last year. "The Medfield game (35-6 victory) was my best," he noted. "I had a sore knee but about 75 percent of my blocks at guard put my opponents on the ground. I had a lot of pancake blocks and got a sack on defense. We lost to Ashland in two overtimes but that game showed that, as underdogs, we

rose to the occasion. We battled intensely."

A native of Millis, Alachi didn't start playing football until the seventh grade. Now a captain and an all-star, he's won the trust of his teammates and his coaches. "My philosophy is to reach my potential and enjoy competing," he said. "When that happens, winning usually follows."

College recruiters have taken notice of Alachi's aggressive style. He's visited the campuses of Springfield College, Endicott (Beverly) and the University of New England (Portland, Me.). Whichever school he chooses, he wants to continue competing and major in criminal justice.

"Either of those three schools would be good choices," he offered. "There's no scholarships in Division 3 but financial aid is usually offered. The college atmosphere and the environment matter a lot. Recruiters have hinted that I'm a bit undersized for a lineman and may have to play linebacker or edge rusher. That's one transition I'll probably have to make along with sharpening my skills and technique and getting stronger and quicker."

A good student, Alachi firmly believes that Holliston's non-league games help in preparation for college. "Last year, we played Franklin, Milton, Needham and

SQUAD

continued on page 25



Pierce Alachi has been labeled "a complete player" by coach Todd Kiley.



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Sports

SQUAD

continued from page 24

Braintree,” he recalled. “Those are schools with higher enrollments. The TVL matchups are another plus. The league has some challenging opponents.”

Alachi, who was second last year in tackles and had two fumble recoveries, has high praise for his coaches, especially Kiley, defensive coordinator Paul Athy and line coach Jim Perry. “Coach Kiley is a great motivator who’s smart, knows the game and has an open-door policy. Coaches Athy and Perry are also terrific. They keep me on my toes.”

Lauding Sweeney for his contributions to the team, Alachi admires him “for his commitment to the program, his high energy and his work ethic.”

The 17-year-old Alachi will be a dynamic catch for whichever college he chooses. Why that’s an easy prediction is because of the valuable life lessons he’s learned in his brief time playing football.

“I’ve learned to be persevering, to overcome adversity and to be resilient,” he emphasized. “I’ve also learned how to improve in terms of leadership and communication.”

Pierce Alachi is all about desire, dedication and devotion to the task at hand.

BRADY SWEENEY

The 6-foot-4, 190-pound Sweeney has an insatiable work ethic and his desire to improve is off the charts. Maybe that’s why he scored 10 touchdowns and had an interception in his first varsity season.

And, maybe that’s why he rates last year’s contest against Medway as his best outing. The Panthers were at Medway and they pulled out a 35-34 victory. “I was targeted twice and I caught both passes for touchdowns,” Sweeney recalled. “The TDs covered 50 and 34 yards.”

That was his best game but his top thrill reveals that he’s a team player. “My top thrill was finishing last year on a five-game winning streak,” he said. “We started 1-5 but after losing back-to-back games to Ashland and Norwood, we won five in a row. We all stuck together and developed into a cohesive unit.”



Brady Sweeney (11) scored 10 touchdowns as a junior last year.

Sweeney, like Alachi, is optimistic Holliston will keep the good times rolling. He also has his sights set on a Super Bowl trophy. “It’s realistic,” he offered. “We’ve got the talent, the team chemistry and experienced players and coaches.”

Sweeney gave the Panthers lots to cheer about last year, both at wide receiver and safety. Nine of his touchdowns came on pass receptions. “I like both positions,” he said. “As a receiver, the challenge is to get open by figuring out the coverage. A wideout’s job can be exciting because one catch can turn a game around. Playing safety is where you can hit and tackle. The key is to be instinctive, to see the route before it develops.”

The 17-year-old Holliston native has come a long way in a short period of time. He started playing football in the second grade but unfortunately suffered a concussion. The next time he touched a football was in his freshman year of high school. As a junior, he became a TVL all-star, and now he’s a strong leader

who focuses on commitment.

An honor-roll student, Sweeney, who’ll major in health sciences or business, also ran track last year, competing in the sprints and the long and high jumps. Four colleges have shown interest in his abilities — Assumption, Pace, Ithaca and Stonehill.

“While TVL schools provide challenges, I’ve also sharpened my skills against non-league opponents,” he noted. “To be successful I’ll need to improve my

technique, get stronger, be ready for the challenges ahead and be aware that every opponent probably was a high school all-star or MVP.”

Relying on an instinctive style, Sweeney’s competitive philosophy mirrors Alachi’s. He’s all about working hard, competing relentlessly, reaching his potential and enjoying game action. He says that’s the formula for winning.

“Life lessons I’ve learned from sports are commitment, developing mental toughness and being resilient, a strong work ethic and to strive to be a quality teammate,” Sweeney noted.

Rating Kiley as a strong motivator, Sweeney labels his coach as “one who sacrifices for his team and also one who lives and breathes football.” He’s also upbeat on Alachi. “Pierce and I are a lot alike,” he said. “He’s a vocal leader, he’s got passion for football and he’s committed to improve his ability and to elevate the program.”

Calling his parents (Bryan and Erin) role models for their support, encouragement and perseverance, Sweeney is acutely aware that before he and his teammates talk about their future at Gillette Stadium for a Super Bowl appearance, they must take care of their day-to-day business.

“We also have another goal and that’s to win the TVL Large Division,” he offered. “Norwood and Ashland have talent and tradition, so we’ll need to be ready for those challenges. But, we’ve got strengths that should help us edge them out.”

Sweeney’s favorite pro athlete is Tom Brady and the reasons he admires him might be the formula for Sweeney and his teammates to achieve their lofty goals. “He’s so competitive, so experienced and he’s got great perseverance,” Sweeney said.

Brady Sweeney knows the ingredients that lead to success.

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Real Estate Corner



116 Church Street in Holliston recently sold for \$580,000
Image credit: www.zillow.com

Recent Home Sales

Date	Holliston	Amount
09/16/2022	49 Pinecrest Road	\$475,000
09/09/2022	62 Wingate Road	\$510,000
09/09/2022	24 Quincy Place	\$515,000
09/08/2022	388 Chamberlain Street	\$525,000
09/06/2022	259 Marked Tree Road	\$652,500
09/01/2022	80 Alpine Drive	\$1.36 mil
09/01/2022	136 Dalton Road	\$650,000
09/01/2022	56 Dean Road	\$579,900
08/31/2022	60 Lakeshore Drive	\$485,000
08/31/2022	124 Prospect Street	\$333,000
08/31/2022	769 Washington Street	\$460,000
08/30/2022	116 Courtland Street	\$700,000
08/30/2022	36 Regal Street	\$439,000
08/29/2022	28 Mohawk Path	\$1.28 mil
08/26/2022	43 Kingsbury Drive	\$1.10 mil
08/26/2022	96 Juniper Road	\$902,000
08/24/2022	66 Shaw Farm Road	\$460,000
08/23/2022	320 Winter Street	\$1.18 mil
08/19/2022	446 Chamberlain Street	\$605,000
08/19/2022	425 Underwood Street	\$860,000
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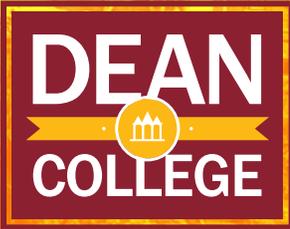
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Holliston Senior Center News And Events

Intro to Technology Class

Brought to you by Sayva Services

Want to learn how to use the internet? Create and use an email account? Organize your digital photos? Are you worried about internet safety? Learn about all of this and so much more with our Intro to Technology Class offered by David Sullivan of Sayva Services. Thanks to generous funding by The MetroWest Health Foundation, we are offering this class completely free of charge. Participants will be given a tablet to learn from and all participants who attend 75% of classes will be able to keep their tablet at the end of the program.

The first class will be Monday, Oct. 3rd. Classes will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2pm to 3pm at our Center.

Call the Senior Center by Sept 26th to sign up! 508-429-0622 SayvaServices offers training on personal electronic devices so that seniors can take advantage of electronic communication, online entertainment, and educational resources or surf the web for information or on-line shopping.

Senate President Spilka's Senior Health &

Wellness Fair Saturday, Octo-

ber 22

9:00am-1:30pm at Joseph P. Keefe Technical School, 750 Winter Str, Framingham

Presentations throughout the day and many other activities! The free event will include fun and informative activities for older adults, as well as food, workshops, live music, vendors, and raffles.

Halloween Luncheon

Wednesday October 26th 12:00PM

Join us for a Hawaiian-style lunch of Hawaiian chicken, rice pilaf, green beans, dinner rolls and Macadamia nut cookies prepared by the staff of Mary Ann Morse. Entertainment by Tony Funches of the world famous, The Platters!

A \$3 donation is requested to cover the cost of paper goods and drinks. Entertainment and food generously provided by Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Corp.

Please call the Senior Center at 508-429-0622 by Oct 19th to sign up!

3 Great Ways to Meet Someone New & Learn Something New!

1. "Select Chat" **Date Change in Sept, see Calendar** First Friday every month from 9:30am to 10:30am

Have a cup of coffee with Select Board Chair, Ben Sparrell to share your thoughts about Holliston.

Feel free to bring your ideas and suggestions to the table!

2. "Veterans Coffee Hour"

Third Thursday every month from 9:30am to 10:30am

MetroWest Director of Veterans Services, Sarah Bateman, will be hosting a Coffee Hour where you can ask questions, learn about new programs and share stories. All are welcome!

3. "Coffee with the Holliston Police"

First Tuesday of the month from 2:00pm to 3:00pm

Sergeant Remkus and Officer Ciavarra are here to answer your questions and fill you in on the current happenings around town! Please bring a topic you would like to discuss.

Call the Senior Center to sign up for any of these activities at 508-429-0622.

Lunch and a Movie

Celebrates LGBTQ+ History

Month Thursday, October 27th —12:00 PM

Sandwiches and Soup or Salad will be served along w/ movie snacks!

"The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"

PG-13 — 2011 — Drama, Romance — 2hr 4mi

Some British retirees (Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Bill Nighy) decide to outsource their retirement to exotic -- and less expensive -- India. Lured by advertisements for the newly restored Marigold Hotel and imagining a life of leisure in lush surroundings, they arrive and find that the Marigold is actually a shell of its former self. Though their new home is not quite what they had imagined, the retirees find that life and love can begin again when they let go of their pasts.

\$3 donation requested. You must sign up 1 week in advance.

Please call 508-429-0622.

Colorings

Mondays, 9:30-11:00 am Join us for relaxing adult coloring. This is a great way to unwind. All supplies are provided.

Game Day

Mondays, 1:30-4:00 pm Join us for a fun time playing cribbage, dominoes and more! No experience required.

Monthly Breakfast

Second Tuesday of the Month 9:00 am

(\$3.00 Donation Requested) VETERANS EAT FREE

Start your day with a smile and a hot cup of coffee while enjoying classic breakfast favorites. You must sign up 2 business days in advance by calling the Center.

Writers' Group

First Tuesday of the Month 10:00 am—12:00 pm Instructor: Lois Hosmer

All pieces are welcome. Enjoy a morning of listening, writing, and camaraderie. Hope to see you there.

Monthly Programs

Watercolor

Thursdays, 2:00-4:00 pm (\$4.00 Donation Requested) Instructor: Brenda Goldman, BFA Each week, paint along with your instructor, Brenda, as she guides you through your watercolor painting experience. Experience live demonstrations and lots of individual instruction. Bringing your own supplies recommended.

Friday Crafters

Fridays 9:30-12:00 pm Open to all types of sewing, knitting and crafts! Our craft group is happy to help you with your personal projects. They will also teach you a new craft project once a month. A great time to chat and learn from each other.

Book Club

Second Friday of the Month 1:30 pm

Join for great books and thought-provoking conversation! Books are listed on the next page. The Holliston Public Library can assist with getting books and can be reached at 508-429-0617. New members are always welcome.

Tune Timers Band

Fridays, 1:00-4:00 pm Come to the Center every Friday to listen to the Tune Timers Band. There is plenty of room for dancing and singing. A fun-filled afternoon is guaranteed.

Veterans Coffee Hour

Third Thursday at 9:30 am MetroWest Director of Veterans Services, Sarah Bateman, will be hosting a Coffee Hour the 3rd Thursday every month at the Senior Center. All are welcome!



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