

HOLLISTON HOMETOWN NEWSLETTER

Holliston Town News | The Community We Call Home

Important Dates:

- Mar 5, Presidential Primary Election
- Mar 11, Town Meeting Warrant Articles Due
- March 26, Housing Plan Forum
- April 1, Overnight Parking Open
- April 2, Nomination Papers Due
- April 26, Arbor Day
- May 3, Voter Registration
- May 11, Birthday 300th Parade
- May 13, Annual Town Meeting, Holliston High, 7pm
- May 21, Town Election



Big Birthday Parade Planned Saturday, May 11

Celebrate Holliston invites diverse groups to create floats and 'wow' the crowds in the 300th Parade Sat, May 11th! Get together with neighbors, friends, clubs and bring your team spirit, to share your dance, food and culture on a parade float or in the crowd! You can even create your own event by [CLICKING HERE](#). You'll find a simple form to register your event, and an easy-to-view calendar with details about all the events this year. Celebrate Holliston is a group of residents and business owners helping to coordinate and encourage all events.

Early Voting Underway & May Election Prep

Visit the Clerk's office or [CLICK HERE](#) for all election information. Presidential Primary election is March 5th. For more info, [CLICK HERE](#). The Town election is May 21st. (See page 3)

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More Reasons To Visit The Senior Center

Not only is the Senior Center taking steps to change its name and appeal in the community, it is stepping up to better suit you! Awaiting recently commissioned architectural drawings (approved at Fall Town Meeting), the staff continues to use both indoor and outdoor spaces (see below). Working together, staff is making entry areas more user-friendly with posted events and maps, and considering various town sites that may provide working adults an opportunity for evening activities.

Read the latest Senior Center newsletter online here or pick up a copy at the Senior Center. Call the Holliston Senior Center for daily activities at **(508) 429-0622**. As the weather gets better, please come visit the new outdoor space!



What Is In A Name?

As signs of spring begin to appear, Holliston's Council on Aging/Senior Center reports signs of change as well! No longer an appealing term for older adults, the word "senior" - as in Senior Center - connotes an unappealing stereotype. Towns far and wide have renamed their Senior Centers to better represent and attract the growing 55+ population. Presently benefitting 5 decades of Holliston's older adults, the Senior Center anticipates serving an increased number of 55-65 year olds and others not considering themselves "senior." In fact, by 2030, 35% of Holliston residents will be 55+! It is no wonder a new and more inclusive moniker for the Senior Center is in the works.

The Senior Center staff and members of the Council on Aging have spent several months



studying and responding to recommendations of the UMASS Boston Gerontological Institute's Survey of Holliston, shared in January 2023. High on the list: rebrand the Senior Center to attract a wider audience. Because changing a name doesn't automatically increase the building's clientele, the Center is taking other concrete steps toward increasing its 55+ participation. (Pictured above from left to right)

-Laura Parmensi, Assistant Director, is expanding fitness offerings and adding lectures and special events.

-Lisa Borchetta, Director, advocates and plans for the growing diversity of interests, capabilities and talents of older adults.

-Cynthia Listewnik, our new Outreach Coordinator is evaluating current service offerings and planning areas for growth.

-Deb Dupuis, Administrative extraordinaire, coordinates the transportation program and other critical services.

-Senior Support Foundation fundraises for programs and meals.

CAN'T FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR? START WITH **THE TOWN HOMEPAGE!**

Your Year To Volunteer or Run For Office

Running for a Town office can be a rewarding experience. For a list of openings, [CLICK HERE](#), and Town elections are non-partisan. To qualify as a candidate you must be a registered voter, at least 18 years old, and collect 50 signatures from Holliston registered voters must be submitted by **April 2, 2024 for the May 21st Town Election. The last day to register to vote is Friday, May 3rd.** If you would like to discuss the possibilities or prepare your nomination papers with the Town Clerk, please call 508-429-0601 or stop by during business hours. Elected positions include Town Moderator, Town Clerk, Select Board, Board of Assessors, Finance Committee, Board of Health, Housing Authority, Trustee of Public Library, Park Commissioner, Planning Board, and School Committee. To find a list of non-elected board or committee open seats, [CLICK HERE](#).

Spring Into The Library!

Along with our popular book clubs online, author talks and movies, adults can enjoy a special event: **100 Years of Boston Comedy, Monday, April 1 at 6pm.** A new **Creative**



Writing Group on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. For our younger friends, **Tales and Origami for Teens on Monday, May 6 at 4pm.** Kids reading to a Therapy Dog starts this spring. Sign up on our website to join monthly on Saturdays. [CLICK HERE](#).

TOWN MEETING PREP

- **Town Warrant, [Click Here](#)**
- **Project Updates, [Click Here](#)**
- **Select Board Budget, Presentation, [Click Here](#)**
- **Finance Committee Budget Presentations, [Click Here](#)**
- **5-Year Strategic Plan, [Click Here](#)**
- **Ask-the-TA HCAT Program, [Click Here](#)**
- **Just Thinking, HCAT Program, [Click Here](#)**
- **ARPA Summary 2024, [Click Here](#)**

Senior Parking &
Onsite Babysitting

KIDS READY FOR APRIL VACATION?

We have a week filled with fun activities planned for kids! To find out more, [CLICK HERE](#)!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR SUMMER RECREATION FUN!

Spots are filling up to join Camp Patoma and Camp Goodwill! We have an amazing staff of returning camp counselors and new faces that make these camps extra special for kids of all ages! Whether you have a day camper or a program hopper, Holliston Rec has it all! For more information about workshops, sports clinics and camps, [CLICK HERE](#)!



FINDING YOUR SERVICES



Try 'Subscribe' Feature On Town's Homepage

You can receive email alerts when your favorite committee meets. Simply "Subscribe" to the issue concerning you on the Town website! Visit the Town homepage and look for our new "Subscribe" tab. [CLICK HERE to view this feature!](#)

Working On Your Home? Building Permits Online

Visit the [Building Department here](#).

Need Assistance? Call Or Click For Help

Report a pothole? Streetlight out? [CLICK HERE](#) or call 508-429-0608.

The Treasurer/Collector department will be working with a commercial banking partner to help process tax bills, adding layers of both efficiency and security to operations. **In your upcoming tax bill, you will receive an insert directing you to mail your payments to the bank, rather than Town Hall.** Tax payments sent to Town Hall inadvertently will still be processed. As always, we encourage residents to pay all of their bills online. The Treasurer/Collector office is available to assist with starting the online process. (Please see below)

Convenient Ways To Pay Town Bills

The Town's Online Bill Paying Services are available to pay bills on time, safely and securely. [PAY BILLS HERE](#). Payments can also be made by mail or in person at Town Hall or using the secure drop box at the side door for: Motor Vehicle Bills (regular and demand bills only), Personal Property & Real Estate Bills, School Payments (Cafeteria, Athletic, Tuition, Student activities), Board of Health fees, Beach Stickers, MLCs, Trash & Recycling Stickers, CPR, Birth, Death & Marriage Certificates, Dog License Renewals and Water Bills.

Sign Up: Community Notification Alerts



Sign up with Blackboard Connect to receive Town notifications. [CLICK BLACKBOARD PORTAL HERE](#). Blackboard allows us to deliver voice, text and email notifications to alert you to urgent bulletins about water quality, law e

News a Click Away: [Parks & Recreation](#) [Library News](#) [Senior Center Newsletter](#)
[Public Schools Newsletter](#) [Youth & Family Services](#) [Town of Holliston News](#)

DPW REMINDERS: (For project updates [CLICK HERE](#))

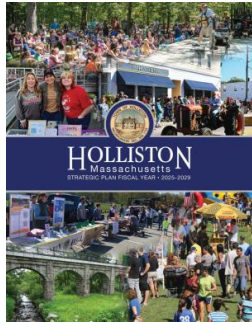
Street Closure: Woodland Street up to Lowland Street

PAVING ON WASHINGTON STREET FROM APRIL 8 - MAY 3:

From Curve St. to Locust St. and some work will be scheduled at night.

COMMUNITY NEWS IN HOLLISTON

Housing Production Plan and MBTA 3A Public Forum: The Town of Holliston needs your help in developing a Housing Production Plan. **Please attend an interactive Forum on Tuesday, March 26th from 6pm to 8pm at the Holliston High School Library.** For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

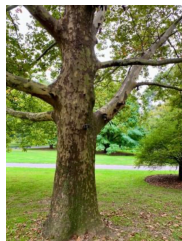


Holliston's 5-Year Strategic Plan Complete:

The document and a companion video, produced by HCAT, will release in April to help introduce the document to the public. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the final plan. Some initiatives, identified as objectives, are included in the FY25 budget and will be presented to Town Meeting.

Woodland Street Bridge Replacement/Factory Pond Dam

Improvements: The Factory Pond Dam, located south of Woodland Street is currently in poor condition and will be addressed through dam rehabilitation. Woodland Street Bridge was closed in February 2023 after inspections found severe deterioration of its steel beams. To learn more about this project [CLICK HERE](#).



April 26th is Arbor Day! Holliston Garden Club (HGC) is working with the Select Board to finalize an Arbor Day celebration to continue its efforts to have Holliston become a Tree City USA. Celebrate Holliston will donate 3 mature trees in Holliston to commemorate the birthday. The Town is finding the perfect spots!



Keefe Tech Opportunities for Holliston Residents: Holliston High School graduates work with Career Services to learn about all that Keefe Tech has to offer, including training in the trades after High School. There are also many tuition discounts and tuition-free courses and certifications for ALL RESIDENTS in the trades and many other industries. For more information about tuition-free options in the trades, [CLICK HERE](#). For all courses at Keefe Tech, [CLICK HERE](#).

HOLLISTON NEWCOMERS & NEIGHBORS: Ongoing Activities HNN is helping the Holliston Pantry Shelf with Easter Gifts, to donate [CLICK HERE](#) and sales for our Prize-a-Day for the May Calendar Raffle Fundraiser begin on April 1st and don't miss the Annual HNN Touch-a-Truck & Food Truck Festival fundraiser on May 18th. To find out more about this great organization, [CLICK HERE](#), and please come to our Open House Social on Wed March 27th at the Holliston Historical Society.



Collaboration: EMTs Train DPW in CPR



In partnership with the Department of Public Works and the Holliston Fire Department, Holliston's EMS team delivered a full day of First Aid and CPR training to the DPW staff. It was hosted by the Holliston Police Department and held in the Police Station

Training room. Members of the DPW know all too well the importance of safety, as they perform dangerous roadwork most days. When involved in emergency response, a DPW professional will clear the way for first responders, clear down trees, or respond to a water main break. They too need to have first aid training to take care of each other and themselves if there is an accident. The EMS team has offered to deliver future trainings to all employees in public buildings.

Burning Season Ends April 30

Reminder to all residents that burning is allowed in Holliston with a valid permit, but the season ends April 30th. To visit the Fire Department website, [CLICK HERE](#) and find out what you need for this spring clean up to burn.

STAY INFORMED WITH UP-TO-THE-MINUTE INFORMATION

[Click here for Police website.](#) **[Click here for Fire website.](#)**

Follow us on Twitter @HollistonPolice @HollistonFD

Find us on Facebook too.

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS CORNER



Holliston's Police Join Bruins Fitness Event

Members of the Holliston Police Department joined the Boston Bruin's B-Fit Challenge Fitness Event at TD Garden - executing drills and doing stairs. Several new recruits and senior officers, including our Police Chief, showed that physical fitness is a priority in the police service - and Holliston's force is fit! It is also one of the many events that contributes to our strong sense of teamwork, connection and community.

Preparing for Town Meeting? Check out the Ask-the-TA!

The Town Administrator covers many important topics on HCAT throughout the year! Do you have a question about government?

Email asktheta@holliston.k12.ma.us **[Click Here For Programs](#)**

Follow on Twitter @HollistonTA



SHOP, EAT & STAY LOCAL



Holliston's 300th Birthday Events To Boost Local Economy

Businesses big and small are looking forward to the 300th celebration because it promises to bring visitors to Holliston to spend local dollars. Many Massachusetts towns have experienced an economic boost due to special centennial events. Holliston businesses should see a boost during the parade on May 11th and a full service Holiday Stroll with

Trolleys to take shoppers to many shopping areas around town. For more information on events, and ways to partner, [CLICK HERE](#). The Town is also providing ways to promote businesses throughout the year.

Blair Square Spring Gathering Spot; Green St. & Ahronian Way Parking Spots

Beautification is already underway to support these events at Blair Square, Pleasure Point Park and throughout the downtown and Rossini Corner areas. Amenities include EV stations, public restrooms, bike racks and more, so residents will have more parking to stay downtown, and those on the rail trail can hop off their bikes and shop and stroll! To keep up with projects [CLICK HERE](#).

Holliston Business News:

March 4th is the Grand Opening of Holliston Auto Village at 75 Central Street

April 23, 5-7pm, Meet & Greet with Melanie Hamblen (below) Town Hall

Boston Honey Company Selected for Manufacturing Award. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

FIRST NIGHT TRAIL WALK FUN FACT

- The Blair Square trail count for the First Night Trail Walk came in at 4363 on Sunday night, which is a full 1100 more visitors than the prior peak on December 31, 2021.



MEET MELANIE HAMBLÉN, HOLLISTON'S NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Melanie Hamblen has experience as a business owner and leading economic activities in the town of Franklin. She is looking forward to meeting Holliston businesses and commercial space owners. Feel free to call Melanie at 508-454-0467 or email at hamblenm@holliston.k12.ma.us. [CLICK HERE](#) for Economic Development news.

Meet Melanie at Holliston businesses each month. Follow @townofholliston on Facebook.

INSIDER: TOWN HALL



Welcoming Land Use Group Administrator

Deborah Lee is our new Public Health Principal Clerk, hired after a warm send off to Ann Adams who retired. Deborah is also supporting the Building Department in the Land Use group. Her knowledge in construction and permitting is already proving helpful relating to septic questions and permitting.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



DPW Promotions: Two Medium Equipment Operators Can Provide Even More Service

Congratulations to Rob Nero and Coby Mercier, who passed their hoisting license exams and promoted to Medium Equipment Operators. Holliston benefits from their skills to assist grounds crews, road crews and snow removal operations. We are happy to be supporting DPW employees to earn licensing and continuing their careers in Holliston.

~ KEEP IN TOUCH WITH TOWN OF HOLLISTON ~

HOLLISTON HOMETOWN is published quarterly by Town staff. To ensure you have the very latest information, we publish this as a PDF with links and additional contact information. This newsletter is also compatible with translator apps in any language. Printed copies are available at the Town Administrator's office in Town Hall.

Subscribe to HOLLISTON HOMETOWN quarterly newsletter and News [CLICK HERE](#).

Read Past Issues: [CLICK HERE](#). Or visit our website homepage.

Contact: Kathleen Buckley, Assistant Town Administrator, ATA-HR@holliston.k12.ma.us

Important Town Links: <https://www.townofholliston.us/town-links>

Schools: <https://www.holliston.k12.ma.us>

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