

HOLLISTON HOMETOWN NEWSLETTER

Holliston Town News | The Community We Call Home

Important Dates:

- EDC/MAPC Public Forums:
Existing Conditions Dec 15
Final Presentation Feb 15
- Senior Holiday Lunch Dec 12
- School Break Feb 20-25
- Tax Abatement Applications
Jan 2-Feb 1
- Winter Overnight Parking
Ban Ends March 31



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The future is one we make together.

Fall Town Meeting voted on several initiatives related to addressing infrastructure needs, which included a continued feasibility study for a DPW building and site, and a wastewater treatment feasibility report to learn more about our ability to provide wastewater services to the downtown area, if someday desired. *For these project study reports, click here.* As we thoughtfully move forward to explore needs, feasibility and costs, we will need community input. We will continue to make it a priority to include all residents in decisions by providing *public forums*, interactive community discussions and most recently, a *Town Survey*. (Above photo: Over 45 participants, including businesses, met in-person and remotely in Upper Town Hall for an economic development workshop hosted by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council with the Economic Development Committee (EDC)). *For ways to stay informed, see page 5.*

Watch our Capital Projects Update on HCAT, Click Here!



Seniors' Holiday Luncheon Planned for Dec. 12th at noon (Reserve by Dec. 2nd)

Make this **your year** to visit the Senior Center more, and what better way to start than to join us at the **Annual Holiday Luncheon!** Please reserve your spot by December 2nd.

Visit us throughout the holiday season to shop, craft and enjoy the big band sound of the Tune Timers on Fridays. Folks come from all over to see them each week. We hope you will join us!

For those new to the center or prefer to join a friend on arrival, please call the center to arrange for one of our volunteers to meet you at the door for any activity or event. We love joining members for dining, crafting and even a dance or two!

You may be eligible for a home repair project! To learn more about this service, please call 508-429-0622.

Read the latest Senior Center's newsletter online here or pick up a copy at the Senior Center!

The MAPC & EDC Partnership (from pg. 1)

The Economic Development Committee (EDC) and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) hosted a community workshop to develop an Economic Development Vision and Service Model Plan. The presentation included project target areas, demographic and economic indicators, and qualitative data on community priorities. It also included vibrant small group discussions focused on potential economic development action areas. The next Public Forum is Dec. 15th on Existing Conditions and the Final Presentation is Feb 15. [Click here for focus group meeting.](#) Sign up for notifications [here.](#)

Long-Range Strategic Planning

The Town also voted to issue a Request For Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to consolidate the Town's many strategic plans (Schools, Police, Library, Parks & Rec. etc.) and the data from the



Town-wide survey of 1,100+ respondents and over 3,500 open responses to survey questions. The goal is to develop a 5-year strategic plan and vision for the future.

The Envisioning Future Holliston Committee (EFH) was reorganized per Town Meeting, and several new members

and alternates were appointed to continue the strong representation of the Town's diverse population and interests. The EFH Committee reviewed the RFP, and will interact with the Strategic Plan consultant once selected.

The Town also plans to leverage state, federal and grant funding opportunities for projects:

- Organizational Evaluation of Fire & EMT, and Dispatch Service Models
- Feasibility/Site Review for DPW Facility
- Cost Benefit Analysis of Reconstruction or Removal of Town-Owned Dams
- Horizontal Infrastructure Projects - Water, Roadways & Sidewalks
- Envisioning Future Holliston

Assessors' Office Accepting Abatement Applications

Holliston property owners are reminded that they can submit a property tax abatement application to the Assessor's office if you think your property valuation is not correct. Applications will be accepted at the Town Hall Assessors' office between Jan 2, 2023 - Feb 1, 2023 by 4:30pm in order to be considered. If mailed, it must be US Mail post marked before Feb 1 to be considered. Abatement applications are available in the online forms section of the [Assessors' page HERE](#), or download the form by [Clicking Here](#). Members of the office are available to help you with every step in the process, feel free to call 508-429-0604.

Applicants must give their opinion of property value on the form. Within 30 days of receiving an application, assessors will request that a taxpayer who has filed an abatement application allow them to inspect the property. Also within 30 days, assessors may request to provide written information reasonably required to determine the property's fair cash value. Under state law, any taxpayer who fails to comply with assessor requests loses the right to appeal the assessors' action or inaction on the application, unless the noncompliance was for reasons beyond the taxpayer's control or the taxpayer attempted to comply in good faith. The Board will have 3 months to review and rule.

If you would like to compare your property's value to other similar properties, look at the links for [Fiscal Year 2022 Assessed Property Values for residential properties \(click here\)](#), and for [Fiscal Year 2022 Assessed Commercial & Industrial Properties \(here\)](#). All lists can be found on the Assessors' page on the Town website under News & Announcements.

Calling All Pickle Ball Players

Parks & Recreation is working with a passionate group interested to find a good location for Pickle Ball courts in Holliston. If you are interested in getting updates or joining the conversation, please email us at hollistonparkrec@holliston.k12.ma.us.

WINTER FUN HAS JUST BEGUN! VISIT PARK & RECREATION

The Town of Holliston's Recreation Department keeps the fun going throughout the winter months for kids of all ages. Pre-registration is required, [click HERE to register](#).

Half-Day Fun Day & February Break Fun! [Find more info HERE](#) about Cupcake Creations, Culinary Kids, Lego Star Wars, Music, My Special Someone & Me, Wrestling Programs, Winter Track & Field February Camp, Saturday Multi-Sports with Coach Sam and Men's 35+ Basketball.

Call for Stories: Historic Project Celebrates Holliston's 300th

Holliston will celebrate its Tricentennial in 2024 and we are asking present and former residents to share their stories about events and memories from 1950 to date. We plan to produce a book and website where we can archive the material for people doing genealogy research. We hope people will participate whether they have been here for a few months or a long time. Contact Mary Greendale at mmgreendale@gmail.com.

News a Click Away

- [Parks & Recreation](#)
- [Library News](#)
- [Senior Center Newsletter](#)
- [Youth & Family Services](#)
- [Public Schools News](#)
- [Public Schools Newsletter](#)



CONNECT WITH US



New ‘Subscribe’ Feature On Town Website

You can now receive email alerts when your favorite committee meets. Simply “Subscribe” to the issues you are concerned about 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

It is important that you work with your contractor and the Town to learn the building requirements. Permit applications are online for residential and commercial projects. Visit the [Building Department webpage here.](#)

Winter Reminder Kids!

For snow plows, please move your basketball nets far back away from the street. Town is not responsible for damage caused to this equipment.

Convenient Ways To Pay Town Bills

Winter is the best time to start paying bills online. The Town’s Online Bill Paying Services are available to pay bills on time, safely and securely. [PAY BILLS ONLINE HERE.](#) Payments can also be made by mail or in person at Town Hall or using the secure drop box at the side door.

- 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
- Water Bills

Sign Up For Community Notification Alerts

Sign up with Blackboard Connect to receive notifications from the Town. [ACCESS THE BLACKBOARD PORTAL HERE.](#) Blackboard allows us to deliver voice, text and email notifications to alert you to urgent bulletins about water quality or law enforcement activity, as well as outreach and Town Meeting warrants. If your email or phone changed, please update.



Need Assistance? Call Or Click For Help

To contact the Town to report a pothole, Streetlight out, Town-owned tree down or traffic, contact us on the website [LINK HERE.](#) or call Town Hall at (508) 429-0608.

DPW Reminder: All residents must have a window sticker to use the Recycling Center. Stickers are free and available at the Treasurer/Collector’s office at Town Hall.

Open every Saturday (Sunday’s during Dec & Jan) 8-3 for leaves, brush, metal, cardboard & light bulbs.

Computers & TV’s require a \$20 sticker for this equipment.

A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO STAY INFORMED & GET INVOLVED!

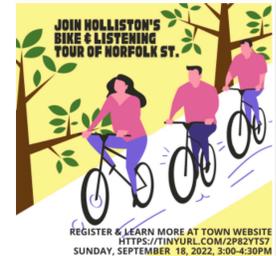


ATTEND TOWN MEETING ~ Vote on all matters at Town Meeting. Meetings are held during the Spring & Fall and run from 7pm to about 10:30pm for one or two nights. Babysitting & senior parking provided. [Click here for a guide.](#) **Pre-Town Meetings are a primer** to Town Meeting, providing a chance to ask general questions in an informal setting.



Attend Public Forums ~ Hybrid Options via Zoom & In-person. Several discussions planned. [Click here.](#)

ATTEND Holliston's INTERACTIVE Events, like Bike & Listening Tours ~ Join us for events that explain challenges and projects. We want your feedback.



Respond to Town Surveys via email or paper ~ [CLICK HERE](#) for results.



'Subscribe' to all topics that interest you! This new feature sends updates and meeting agenda's from all committees and initiatives right to your inbox. [CLICK HERE to view this feature!](#)

Subscribe to Blackboard Connect. [Click here!](#)



Subscribe to this Holliston Hometown Newsletter or find on the homepage. [Click here!](#)

HOLLISTON HOMETOWN NEWSLETTER



Volunteer for an appointed Board or run for election ~ Volunteer for a board of interest. Email the Town Administrator or **APPLY HERE.** For a list of opportunities, [Click here to learn more.](#)



Watch Holliston's Cable Access Television ~ See all government meetings and local news about business, projects and life in Holliston!

Travis Ahern answers your questions on 'Ask The TA'
Do you have a question about government, Town Meeting, the budget, a project or something you have always wanted to know?
Email 'asktheta@holliston.k12.ma.us'.



[Click Here For HCAT Program Listings & follow on Twitter: @HollistonTA](#)

Fire Prevention Wintertime Reminders



Change Your Clocks, Check Your Alarms! If you didn't, be sure you do. The manufacturing date is on the back. Replace smoke alarms after 10 years and carbon monoxide alarms after 5-7 years. Put fresh alkaline batteries in alarms if used.

In the coming months, remember hot ashes are extremely dangerous. Special steps need to be taken after the fire has burned out to protect your family and the community. Remember to safely dispose of hot ashes from your fireplace or wood stove.

Holliston Fire Department Updates

Holliston Fire continues to build its staff of On-Call Firefighters, EMT's, and Civilian Dispatchers as municipalities continue to see retirements across the country in all positions of public service. In December/January, and throughout 2023, the Town will provide progress reports on enhancements to services and training, which follow the guidance from Massachusetts Resources Inc. (MRI). For more information, [click here](#). The next update for the Select Board will be Dec 12.

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS CORNER



Pumpkin Patrol & Happy Holidays 2022!

Reminding kids and families to stay safe throughout the holidays!

Our Annual Toys for Tots Drive continues at the Holliston Police Station. New, unwrapped, non-violent toys can be dropped off at the station lobby 24/7 through Sunday, Dec 11th. (A collection box is also at the Town Hall).

On Sunday, Dec 11th 10am-2pm at Big Lots, Ashland, we will team up with the Ashland Police Department for our annual "Fill-A-Cruiser" Event (with Toys!)

[Click here for Police website.](#)

Follow us on Twitter at @HollistonPolice

VISIT THE LIBRARY RECENTLY? WINTER READS & INDOOR FUN!

Winter at the Library brings indoor fun like Dungeons & Dragons lessons for teens & adults, Children's Room activities everyday, online author talks, Movie Mondays and streaming entertainment. Find out how you can make your visit fun for the entire family, [CLICK HERE!](#)



SHOP, EAT & STAY LOCAL

Shop Local This Holiday Season **Businesses Benefit From HCAT's Award-Winning Shows!**

Holliston Cable Access Television (HCAT) announced that they took home 6 Video Industry Awards at the Annual Meeting on November 16th! By supporting local businesses, HCAT developed impactful shows like “Profiles in Business with Dan Sweeney” ([Click here](#)) and “Holliston Together” ([Click here](#)). The annual meeting celebrated a highly successful year of bringing relevant media content to the Holliston Community. HCAT produced an impressive 567 productions and a total of 822 hours of programming.

“Follow” and “LIKE” the Town’s social media as we continue to repost and retweet news to support our local businesses. Visit the Town’s [Community Profile Page](#) for more Holliston news.

Profiles in Business



Profiles in Business with Dan Sweeney

At our annual meeting held on November 16 HCAT celebrated another highly successful year of bringing relevant media content to the Holliston community. We produced 567 productions for a total of 822 programming hours! Our productions garnered 6 awards from video industry organizations, and our staff was honored with awards from the American Legion, the Historical Society, and Celebrate Holliston.

HOLLISTON TOGETHER



Jul 27, 2022

Holliston Together:
Sweeties Candy Bus



May 10, 2022

Holliston Together: Purely
You



BUSINESSES LOOKING TO OPEN IN HOLLISTON?

Let us provide all the information you need when considering a brick & mortar business in Holliston. We are business-friendly, and are always available to meet with business owners. Start with these links and the Town Administrator’s office, Travis Ahern at ahernt@holliston.k12.ma.us.

[Community Profile](#) and [495/MetroWest Holliston Profile 2022](#)

INSIDER: TOWN HALL



CONGRATULATIONS...

To our own Mary Bousquet, Treasurer/Collector & Finance Director, as she retires this month after 35 years of service to Holliston. Mary was honored at Fall Town Meeting and a retirement party is planned. Please come by Town Hall and wish her well throughout December.

... & BEST WISHES TO OUR TEAM MEMBERS RETIRING

Holliston Police Detective Ciara Maguire retired this fall after 28 years of service. Ciara is starting a new career in mental health counseling. We are grateful to these key team members who are continuing to help transition our new staff!



~ 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.

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>

Follow us on Social Media:

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Twitter: @HollistonTA