

# HOLLISTON HOMETOWN NEWSLETTER

Holliston Town News | The Community We Call Home

## Important Dates:

- .....
- Annual Town Meeting Warrant Closes March 21
- Town Meeting May 9
- Senior Exemptions Due April 1
- Real Estate Bills Due May 1
- Election Papers Due April 5
- Town Election May 24



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## Several Projects To Vote At Annual Town Meeting May 9

On May 9, 2022, the Town of Holliston's Annual Town Meeting will take place at the Holliston High School Auditorium at 7pm. Proposed articles will be accepted until March 21st. Holliston is an open form of government, where all residents are invited to attend, speak and vote. The FY23 budget will be presented and voted on by Town Meeting along with many important articles. [Click here for the Town Meeting webpage.](#) Continue on page 2:

### Ask The TA! New On HCAT

Holliston's Town Administrator, Travis Ahern, will answer your questions on his new HCAT program. Email questions to [AskTheTA@holliston.k12.ma.us](mailto:AskTheTA@holliston.k12.ma.us).



State's DOT Construction Project Begins On Route 16 - Page 5



## Visit the Library: Getting Ready For Summer Reading & Programs

Find all Library news and programming at this link: [www.hollistonlibrary.org](http://www.hollistonlibrary.org) and social media: Twitter @Hollistonlib

- Monday Movies
- Drop-In Playgroups, Crafts and Tales & Tunes for Tots
- Book Clubs, Guest Authors, Speakers and more.
- New Movie Streaming Service with Library Card

## Veterans' Office Here For You & Your Family

The MetroWest District Veteran's Services is conveniently located in Holliston, at 1750 Washington Street, and open to all Veterans and their eligible dependents to discuss all matters related to veterans services and benefits. CALL 508-429-0629 to meet with an agent or [\*\*click here to visit the Veteran's homepage\*\*](#).

Continued from page 1:

[\*Click Here for Town Project information\*](#) and read about the construction of the parking lot at 9 Green Street, Winter Street area water main and Central Street Water Filtration Plant.

Throughout the month of April, you will also find a number of Holliston Cable Access Television (HCAT) programs, including AskTheTA, highlighting the articles and budget items to help residents prepare to vote on May 9th. Visit HCAT at [\*www.hcattv.org\*](http://www.hcattv.org) for program listings. This is a new initiative to provide Town Meeting information in many different formats to educate and inspire residents to attend Town Meeting. [\*A Citizen's Guide to Town Meeting is available by clicking here.\*](#)

## Envisioning Future Holliston: Survey #1 Results Are In - We Need You For Survey #2!

Now is your chance to weigh in on the future of Holliston! You may have filled out Survey #1 and that is helping us create Survey

#2 due out in a few weeks. ***To register to receive Survey #2, click here*** and printouts will be at the Senior Center.



Survey #1 had 400 responses, a great sample to build Survey #2. What we *did* find out was that residents love Holliston's small-town feel, and so much more. ***Click here to read the results.*** The results are also

featured on 'AskTheTA' show with committee members Stacey Raffi and Ben Sparrell. ([\*Click here for HCAT program lisitngs.\*](#))

By taking just a few minutes to answer the survey, the Envisioning Future Holliston Committee will be able to create Holliston's Vision Statement, identifying Holliston's assets and characteristics we value most. This can help guide government and other groups to develop plans that represent all of the residents' needs and values. ***To learn more, click here.***

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

## Senior Center Welcomes Spring Season & Visitors

Holliston's Senior Center is looking forward to welcoming back friends, the warmer temperatures and the longer days! As always, the calendar is full of services, programs and special events to stimulate and strengthen mind, body and spirit. And, lunch and a movie returns March 31, April 28, and May 26. **[Read the latest Senior Center's newsletter online here](#)** or you can pick up a copy of the newsletter at the Senior Center.

## Clerk's Office Collects the Census & Dog Licenses

The Annual Town Census was mailed to every household in January. Please return it to the Town Clerk to keep your voter status up to date. Annual Dog Licensing is underway - [Click Dog License Renewal](#) or [CLICK HERE FOR YOUR MAIL-IN FORM.](#)

## Conservation Commission Continues Efforts To Address Preservation & Trails For Spring

The Conservation Department is a resource to answer questions about permitting, trail issues and preservation concerns. Spring is a busy time as residents plan projects on their homes that may impact conservation areas that abut properties. The Commission reviews permit applications to comply with the Wetlands Protection Act and the Holliston Wetland Protection Bylaw. [CLICK HERE FOR THE CONSERVATION WEBPAGE,](#) for an abutter's guide, Land Maps and more, and feel free to email Ryan Clapp, Conservation Agent at [clappr@holliston.k12.ma.us](mailto:clappr@holliston.k12.ma.us).

## Senior Exemptions April 1 Deadline

There are several ways seniors can be eligible for tax exemptions and we recommend you review the programs, [CLICK HERE](#) or please call: 508-429-0604.

## Annual Town Election May 24

Town Election is May 24th! Papers for qualified candidates are due April 5th. Please call the Clerk's office for open seats and info at 508-429-0601.

## Youth & Family Support Services

Emotional wellness is a major focus for our children and families as the pandemic continues into its second year. Please call if you or a family member is in need. For more Youth & Family Services information [CLICK HERE.](#)

## APRIL SCHOOL VACATION WEEK RECREATION PROGRAMMING APRIL 19, 20 & 21 (TUES. WED. & THURS.) 9AM - 3PM GRADES K-5 COST: \$60/CHILD PER DAY

Join Park and Recreation's experienced staff for some fun over April vacation! The days will fly by with all of the activities we have in store for you! Campers will enjoy arts & crafts projects, games, indoor/ outdoor activities, Legos and more! Join us for one or all three days - no two days are the same! Visit [www.townofholliston.us/parks-recreation](http://www.townofholliston.us/parks-recreation). And visit the recreation registration pages at [Recreation Registration HERE](#) ..... **See page 5 for Summer Programs!**



# CONNECT WITH US



## Need Assistance? We Are A Call Or Click Away

If you need to contact the Town or report any of the issues listed below, contact us on the website at '[Contact Us](#)' [link here](#). Residents are also welcome to call Town Hall and we can connect you.

- Report a Pothole
- Streetlight Out
- Town-owned Tree Down
- Traffic Petition
- Other Requests or Comments

## Working On Your Home? Building Permits Online

Spring weather inspires home projects! Larger home projects may require a building permit from the Town. 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](#).

## Convenient Ways To Pay Your Town Bills

The Town's Online Bill Paying Services are more popular than ever. Many residents began using it during the peak of the pandemic and it is a convenience that's here to stay. Learn more about how to pay your bills safely and securely online at [PAY BILLS LINK HERE](#). Payments can always be made by mail or in person at Town Hall or using the drop box at the side door.

- Motor Vehicle Bills (regular and demand bills only)
- Motor Vehicle Bills (bills on warrant and parking tickets)
- Personal Property Bills
- 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. The sign-up link here [RESIDENT BLACKBOARD PORTAL](#) can also be found on the Town website. Blackboard allows voice, text and email notifications from us when communicating urgent bulletins about water quality or law enforcement activity, as well as outreach regarding surveys or the posting of Town Meeting warrants. If your email or phone changed, please update through the portal. Note: Blackboard Connect is different from the BrightArrow communication platform used by the schools.



## Department of Public Works Projects Underway

Holliston’s Department of Public Works manages the Highway and Water Divisions of the Town, and both teams are extremely busy all year round. The Highway Division will resume the infrastructure work in the Mudville neighborhood as soon as the warmer weather moves in. Over the past few years, the Mudville neighborhood has undergone extensive public improvements with new utilities, including water and gas mains, drainage and new sidewalks, curbing and roads coming this year. Residents, although enjoying these improvements, will be happy to see construction wrapping up.



Sidewalk, intersection and connectivity improvements will be the priority. The Town has prioritized public safety which entails a comprehensive look at sidewalks, intersections and ADA compliance. Some of the first intersections to be redeveloped or have safety improvements installed will be along the Washington Street corridor, specifically intersections at Pleasant, School and Linden Streets. On the water side, the construction of the new water treatment plant at 774 Central Street continues according to budget and schedule. The new plant will provide a vast improvement of water quality to residents. Water main replacement also continues - this year’s focus is on the lower Central, Bullard and Fiske Street area. Installation of water main in that area will connect a significant portion of your system and provide an additional means to improve the quality. For the latest news, use this [TOWN PROJECTS LINK](#).

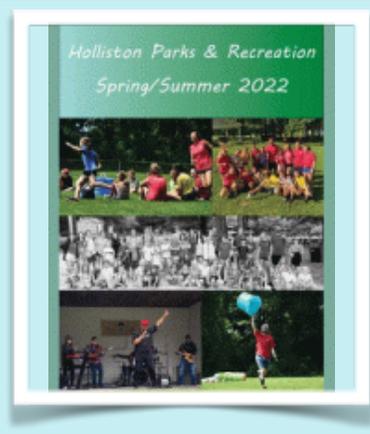
**MASSACHUSETTS’ DOT BEGINS ITS ROAD PROJECT ON RTE. 16**  
**DOT will be reconstructing the state-owned roadway Route 16/126**  
**from Holliston’s Pine Street to Milford’s Beaver Street. DOT will also**  
**reconstruct existing sidewalks from Pine Street to Summer Street (Rt. 126).**  
**DOT will conduct roadwork at night to keep Washington Street open.**  
**Visit <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division> for information.**

### REGISTER TODAY! RECREATION SPRING/SUMMER BROCHURE

We have camps, beaches and playgrounds filled with summer programming and fun! Day Campers will enjoy swimming, sports, arts & crafts projects, games, outdoor activities and more!

To register and find out more, visit <https://holliston.activityreg.com>.

Check us out on Facebook & Instagram! Email Us! Shannon Cornwell, Assistant Director- [cornwells@holliston.k12.ma.us](mailto:cornwells@holliston.k12.ma.us).



## Facilities Projects Planned This Spring

**Click here for project updates!** The new Town Hall septic system has been installed and is now operational. The Congregational Church Green was the best spot for the leaching field to replace the over 100-year-old system. Finishing touches, like a new sidewalk and landscaping, will be completed this spring. Demolition of 9 Green Street is complete and this spring, we are likely to begin constructing a parking lot to serve the local downtown businesses and the adjacent Goodwill Park. **Watch HCAT on projects here.**

Smaller projects around town include rebuilding the ADA-compliant entrance at 1750 Washington Street, where Veteran’s Services, Recreation and Youth & Family Services are located. New rooftop heating and conditioning units were also added. From left to right: Demolition of 9 Green Street, 1750 Washington St. entrance and handicap ramp rebuild, and Town Hall’s new septic system installation.



## FY23 Budget Process Began With TA’s Joint-Board Financial Presentation

To learn more about the state of the Town and the beginnings of building the FY23 budget, watch the Town Administrator’s Evaluating the Financial Condition Presentation **Click here.** The Select Board, the School Committee and the Finance Committee attended on January 20, 2022. Photo: SB Chair, Tina Hein (left) and Town Administrator, Travis Ahern (right) after the event.

## PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS CORNER

### Fire Dpt. Open Burning Season Ends May 1

Open Burning Season to dispose of forestry debris for residential property ends May 1. Call the Fire Department for permits (good for two consecutive days) at (508) 429-4631. Open burning is subject to both weather and air quality conditions. Regulations and status are updated daily at **Fire Department website.** Follow on Twitter @HollistonFD & Facebook.

### Police Department Save the dates!

Walk To School Day - May 4  
National Police Week - May 15-21  
Week of special recognition to officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. **Click here for Police website.** Social is @HollistonPolice.



# SHOP, EAT & STAY LOCAL

## Channel 5’s Chronicle Featured Holliston as a “Happening Hood!”

WCVB’s Chronicle visited Holliston shops to feature on the show! **Click here** to watch the Chronicle episode. Holliston businesses count on us to shop, eat and stay local. Follow the Town’s social media as we continue to repost and retweet news to support our local businesses. For owners, prospective owners and customers, connect with the Economic Development Committee below.



### SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY!

Whether you are looking for ways to support local businesses, a busy business owner or thinking about opening your business here, we have a committee dedicated to those doing business in Holliston. Visit **the Economic Development Committee website here** and find:

- Town Website Directory to list your business
- Business and Community Guide
- Doing Business in Holliston Video



# INSIDER: TOWN HALL



## SPRING STUDIES & PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS EXPECTED

- Organizational Evaluation of Fire & Ambulance Service Models
- E-911 Review of Dispatch Services
- Feasibility/Site Review for DPW Facility
- Cost Benefit Analysis of Reconstruction or Removal of 3 Town-Owned Dams



## SEASONAL SUMMER HELP WANTED!

Many positions available as lifeguards, gate guards and camp counselors! Holliston has an amazing Recreation Staff to give you training and experience. *Click here for our job listings.* Holliston is an Equal Opportunity Employer, click to learn more about *HR, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.*

## WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION ~ 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.

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

**Contact:** Kathleen Buckley, Assistant Town Administrator. Email: [ATA-HR@holliston.k12.ma.us](mailto: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:

Facebook: Town of Holliston



Twitter: @HollistonTA