

HOLLISTON HOMETOWN NEWSLETTER

Holliston Town News | The Community We Call Home

Important Dates:

- Mar 1st, 10am Safe Routes To School Zoom Meeting
- Mar 1st, 7pm Town-wide Strategic Plan Kick-Off Mtg
- Mar 20 Warrant Articles Due
- April 4 Election Papers Due
- May 1st, Real Estate Bills Due
- May 15, 7PM Town Meeting
- May 23 Town Election



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Everyone is invited.

Open Town Meeting is a form of government where all residents have a 'say' and can vote on many different issues that impact coming months and years ahead. The body also votes on the budget, deciding the best way to use town funds. *Town Meeting will be held on May 15th at 7PM at the High School* and lasts about one evening (sometimes two depending on the discussions.) The Town Warrant book, which lists the issues that will be brought before the Town to vote on, will be released a few weeks prior to the meeting to read ahead of time. Please follow the Town's Facebook page and sign up for notifications [here](#). ***For ways to stay informed, see page 8.***

The Town also holds a Pre-Town Meeting Event for residents to ask questions and learn about the issues prior to the big day. We also offer onsite babysitting services, preferred parking for seniors, refreshments and other interesting announcements and celebrations that evening. Start a new family tradition and help decide the future of Holliston.



Seniors See Results from Study: 55-100+

Our long awaited study and survey from the Collins Center brought new data about our senior population in Holliston. [WATCH HERE](#) for the final presentation and our survey results.

Like many other Towns in Massachusetts, we see our senior population growing - representing residents from ages 55 to 100+ which includes many generations and interests! We are excited to provide programming for a wide range of ages and generations to enjoy. When you attend our programs, you can learn something new, meet someone new, exercise, create art, read, and we even have billiards. Please visit us [online](#) or in person.

Happy Spring! Visit us at the Senior Center!

[Read the latest Senior Center's newsletter online here](#) or pick up a copy at the Senior Center.

You may be eligible for a home repair project! Call 508-429-0622.

MAPC Delivers Economic Development Vision

The [Economic Development Committee \(EDC\)](#) and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) completed its [Economic Development Vision and Service Model Plan](#). [CLICK](#)



[HERE TO WATCH](#). The presentation included project target areas, demographic and economic indicators, and qualitative data on priorities. Many thanks to the vibrant community workshop attendees. As we move forward to explore needs, feasibility and costs, we will need community input. We will continue to

include all residents in decisions by providing [public forums](#), [community forums](#), and Town surveys.

Next Public Meeting To Attend March 1: Long-Range Strategic Planning Underway

Join your neighbors at our Kick-Off Meeting on March 1st to learn about the [Holliston's New Strategic Plan 2024-2030 on March 1 at 7pm via zoom](#) or in person (refreshments at 6:30) at Town Hall. Berry Dunn, the consultant chosen to develop the Town's Strategic Plan, will present the process. The [Envisioning Future Holliston Committee \(EFH\)](#) members will now work with the consultant, representing many groups and disciplines, including sustainability, diversity, economic development and our senior community.

The project, which was approved at Fall Town Meeting, aims to consolidate the Town's many strategic plans (Library, Schools, Police etc.) and the [data from the Town-wide survey of 1,200 respondents](#) and over 3,500 open responses to questions focused on many resources and assets of the Town. The goal is to develop a strategic plan and vision for the Town to make the best decisions based on needs. Plans also include leveraging state, federal and grant funding opportunities for Feasibility/Site Review for DPW Facility, Cost Benefit Analysis of Reconstruction/removal of town-owned dams and Horizontal Infrastructure projects like water, roadways, and sidewalks.

CAN'T FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR? START WITH [THE TOWN HOMEPAGE!](#)

New Reps In Congress & General Court: Visit Town



James P. McGovern (left) was elected our Representative to U.S. Congress in the November 8th state election. Also visited, the newly elected state representative, James C. Arena-DeRosa. He replaced long-time Representative Carolyn Dykema, who resigned earlier this year after serving since 2009. Both legislators visited Town Hall to discuss Town needs and shovel-ready projects

that qualify for state and federal funding. Both Representative Arena-DeRosa and Senate President Karen Spilka are invited to meet with the Select Board in the spring to present their legislative briefings. For more info [Follow the Select Board calendar](#).

Call for Stories - Celebrating Holliston's 300th



Holliston is gathering your stories about your Town! Present and former residents are sharing their memories from the 1950's to today! What brought you here? Funny memory? Favorite place? Family background? Anything at all... Stories will make up a

website and book to commemorate Holliston's 300th birthday, and will be a permanent resource for those doing genealogy research. Submit your stories to <http://hollistonstories.com>. Deadline is June 23, 2023.

Assessors Will Be Out & About This Spring

Assessors will be out to look primarily at new construction, but will be required to conduct decennial - once every 10 year - property inspections. Principal Assessor Kevin Rudden and Assistant Assessor Sherrie Bates will be visiting homes and businesses through June. Consultant Paul Sullivan will also be helping us comply with inspections. We will have photo ID's usually drive a Town-owned silver-colored electric car with the town seal. Paul drives his own 2019 white Ford Explorer. Feel free to call 508-429-0604.

SPRING REGISTRATION OPENS ~ EVENTS, CAMPS & MORE!

The Town of Holliston's Recreation Department is ramping up for another phenomenal spring/summer season in Holliston! All residents, and especially kids of all ages, enjoy the parks and beaches that make Holliston so very special. Make new friends and see old ones!

Pre-registration, [click HERE to register](#). [Spring/Summer Brochure Here!](#)

Holliston Parks & Recreation
Spring/Summer 2023



Registration opens 2/1/2023
at 10am - hollistonactivityreg.com

Join Safe Routes To School Taskforce Meeting

Join our zoom meeting on March 1st at 10am-10:30 [CLICK HERE](#) and show your enthusiasm for Safe Routes To Schools! From Bike Rodeos to Walk-to-school days, Holliston has made great strides to encourage walking & biking to school!

Email us for more info at: STRS@holliston.k12.ma.us.



CONNECT WITH US



Seeking Residents To Run For Office

Nomination papers are now available at the Clerk's Office to run for office - for a list [Click Here](#). To qualify you must be 18 years old, a registered Holliston voter and collect 50 signatures from registered Holliston voters by April 4th. Town Elections are non-partisan. For a list of seats to appointed board positions, [Click Here](#). Visit the Town Clerk page [HERE](#) or call 508-429-0601.

Try 'Subscribe' Feature On Town's Homepage

You can now 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 webpage here](#).

Need Assistance? Call Or Click For Help

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

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 LINK 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 For Community Notification Alerts



Sign up with Blackboard Connect to receive notifications from the Town. [CLICK 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, outreach and Town Meeting notices.

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

DPW Reminders: Woodland Street is CLOSED to Lowland Street until further notice.

Winter Overnight Parking Ban Ends March 31. Touch-A-Truck Event is May 6th!

Free Recycling Stickers are available at the Treasurer/Collector's office at Town Hall.
 Open every Saturday 8-3 for leaves, brush, metal cardboard, TV's, computers and light bulbs.

MOVING FORWARD ON PROJECTS

All of the projects listed are described in detail with photos at the links below:

[FOR ALL PROJECT STUDIES & REPORTS CLICK HERE!](#)

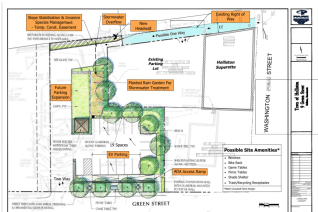
[FOR ALL PROJECT UPDATES CLICK HERE!](#)

Blair Square: Blair Square will be back by Memorial Day, thanks to the weather cooperating for outdoor work! Keep an eye out for our Grand Opening Ceremony. (Plot plan below or at link above.)



LED Conversion of Streetlights: In the past year, the Town has taken ownership of the existing streetlight network from Eversource. We now have the opportunity to convert all of the street lights to energy efficient LED lighting. The Town expects to save 270,000kWh of electricity which equates to the electrical consumption of 37 average sized homes. Fixtures are expected in April and installation will begin.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Modernization: The existing plant on Linden Street services the Woodland St. school campus. Over 20 years old, it is being considered for sewerage the downtown village commercial area. The project is well underway and all indications are that sewerage downtown is possible. Regardless of connecting downtown, the plant still requires modernization: remote monitoring equipment, plumbing changes, process improvements and energy efficiency, complete by August.



9 Green Street Parking Lot To Serve The Downtown: The bid award is scheduled for end of March, launch about 4/10, open by end of June! Parking spots for shops in the downtown will include several EV spots. Beautification of the area the adjacent to the park includes community amenities like picnic tables, game tables and benches!

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 Department News & Updates



Holliston Fire @HollistonFD · 2/2/23 ***
 Congratulations to Fred, Bob, Gregg, Phil, and Jimmy on their retirements from fire suppression duties on February 1, 2023. Almost 200 years of combined service from these firefighters. Thank you!



The Town of Holliston congratulates Firefighters on retirements last month: Fred Carnes, Phil Robshaw, Bob Christiansen, Gregg Lewis and Jim Rossini. We thank you for your many years of service to the Town. [Follow the Select Board agendas here for future honors](#) planned this spring.

Holliston Fire Department Updates

Holliston Fire continues to build its staff of On-Call Firefighters, EMT's and Paramedics. Recruiting civilian dispatchers remains a challenge, as municipalities continue to see retirements across the country in all positions of public service. 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](#). And to learn more about the Select Board meeting of February 27th, [click here](#).

Holliston's Police & Fire Dispatch Centers Prepare for the Future Model

The Town of Holliston will submit an application for a State 911 grant to join a Regional Emergency Call Center. After considerable vetting and cost analysis, the Town voted to move forward with the grant application, to move civilian dispatchers to a RECC in the Town of Holbrook. Both Chiefs are in support due to the dispatch staffing shortages across the state. For more information, [click here](#).

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS CORNER

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!



Holliston Police Department officers participated in the Bruins FIT Challenge, strengthening its commitment to team and fitness.

Community Policing At Its Best

HPD is dedicated to community! Keep an eye out for popular spring events to meet our officers including the Bicycle Rodeo and Walk To School Day!

[Click here for Police website.](#)

Follow us on Twitter at @HollistonPolice

[Click here for Fire website.](#)

Follow us on Twitter at @HollistonFD

SPRING PROGRAMMING & SUMMER READING LISTS!

Yes, Dungeons & Dragons lessons continue and kids will find their summer reading lists here soon! Find Children's Room activities everyday, online author talks, Movie Monday's and streaming entertainment on Kanopy. Explore for the entire family, [CLICK HERE!](#)



SHOP, EAT & STAY LOCAL

Businesses Realize Cost Savings: Holliston Green Initiative Pays Off

The Town is pleased to offer a low-cost 100% renewable energy service option that reduces the cost of doing business in Holliston! Along with many residents, businesses have been realizing significant savings by participating in the Town's Community Choice Electric Aggregation Program.

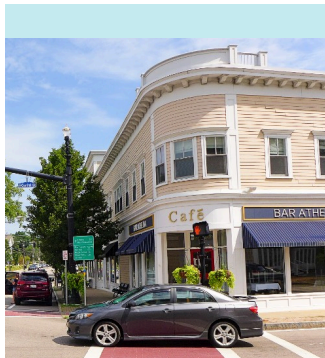
Just like residents, Holliston businesses can choose the company they want to use as their electricity supplier. Partnering with NextEra Energy, the Town's last meter reading showed a record of 520 commercial and industrial meters signed up for this 100% rate. When compared to the basic service rate, these businesses saved \$760,437 during the first three quarters of 2022 in our program. For more information, businesses can contact the Town's Sustainability Coordinator at sustainability@holliston.k12.ma.us or call 508-429-0608.



Welcome New Residents & New Businesses: Join The Holliston's Newcomers & Neighbors Group!

Holliston's Newcomers & Neighbors (HNN) is a not-for-profit, all volunteer organization that coordinates charitable, civic and recreational events. Check them out at hollistonnewcomers.org.

Bring a friend, and meet the group at its General Meeting Social on Wednesday, March 22, 7-8pm at the Holliston Historical Society. Charitable activities proceeds go to the HNN Community Grant Fund which gives back to the Holliston Community. Efforts include Easter Gifts for Holliston's Pantry Shelf, and calendar sales begin April 1st for "Prize-a-Day" event during the month of May!



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



WE ARE THRILLED TO WELCOME...

Our new Finance Director/Treasurer Collector, Chris Heymanns, who has hit the ground running in budget discussions and working with our amazing Treasurer/Collector team! Say hello if you are in Town Hall...



AND CONGRATULATIONS & WARM WELCOME TO...

Lieutenant James Barrett, who comes to Holliston with nearly 28 years of experience in law enforcement! You'll see him at community events, visiting schools and Town buildings, and supporting his team. Give him a wave hello...

~ 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@hollison.k12.ma.us

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

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

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Twitter: @HollistonTA