

HOLLISTON HOMETOWN NEWSLETTER

Holliston Town News | The Community We Call Home

Important Dates:

- Nov 25 - Holiday Stroll 10-5
Small Business Saturday
- Dec 13 - Senior Center
Holiday Luncheon, 12 Noon
- Feb 1 - Tax Abatements Due

Inside:

Celebrations & Holiday Stroll...2

Town Strategic Plan Update...2

Humanitarian Awards ...3

Electric Bill Savings Program...3

Important Messages for
Residents ...4

Community News & Links ...5

Public Safety News ... 6

Meet New Economic
Development Coordinator ...7

New Business News ...7

Stay Connected ... 8



Holliston Turns 300!

Residents and businesses are invited to join in all of the festivities in 2024 - and even create your own!

Visit the Celebrate Holliston website to learn about all the events throughout the year by [CLICKING HERE](#). The website has an easy-to-view calendar with details about the events, and offers a sign up for email notifications. Celebrate Holliston is a group of residents and business owners managing the festivities of the Town. The group also provides an easy, online registration form to partner for a 300th event, encouraging everyone to create celebrations, sharing dance, food, culture, makers and more!

Holiday Stroll Is Back Saturday, Nov. 25 10am-5

One of the many things Holliston is known for is its **Holiday Christmas Stroll**, which attracts visitors from near and far to walk and shop! This year, the 2023 event will be a bit smaller, but sponsorships and booths will be back next year in full swing with trolleys for Holliston's 300th birthday. This year, thanks to the



Celebrating Our Seniors at the Holidays

Winter Holiday Luncheon
Wednesday, December 13 at
12pm with the Tune Timers!

Please call the Holliston Senior Center at **(508) 429-0622** one week in advance to sign up. A donation of \$6 is requested for paper goods and drinks.

The Library Visits the Senior Center for the Holiday Season!
Tuesday, December 12 from
1-2:30pm

Read the latest Senior Center newsletter online here or pick up a copy at the Senior Center.

SENIORS & VETERANS - YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS -
 Visit or call the Assessor's office for an application at **508-429-0604**.



ongoing volunteers and the Lion's Club, "Shop Local Saturday" will be promoted for businesses in all areas of Holliston.

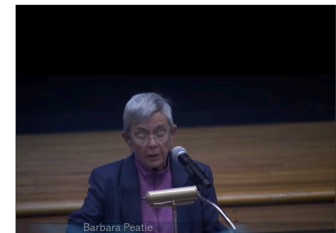
Join Santa at Fiske's at 4pm for a caroling stroll to Town Hall and see the Holiday Tree Lighting at 4:30. Many local businesses all over Holliston will have special offers on Shop Local Saturday, and offer extended hours throughout the holiday season.



Strategic Plan Priorities Will Be a FY25 Focus

The Town of Holliston's Strategic Plan is due out at the end of December. The Envisioning Future Holliston Committee (EFH) presented details at the Fall Town Meeting, along with the consultant Berry Dunn. [CLICK HERE FOR PRESENTATION.](#)

In the presentation, Barbara Peatie, Chair of the Committee, (Right) explained that each member represents committees, departments and groups in Town. EFH is reviewing the overall plan, the cost-benefit analysis, objectives, measures and updates to ensure the final document reflects members'



areas of concentration, committees and the public's feedback. The Town has spent the past 2 years conducting surveys, public forums and, during the past year, managing feedback on the consultant's Social Pinpoint, [CLICK HERE](#). To subscribe for updates from the EFH committee, [CLICK HERE](#). The strategic priorities will be included in the FY25 budget process, in departmental requests, and planned each year for the next 5 years.

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

Holliston's Humanitarian Awards 2023 Honored Best of the Best



Holliston's 5th Annual Humanitarian Awards recognize residents' outstanding service to the community, and three exceptional recipients were recognized last month by Select Board members. (Clockwise left) Ben Sparrell awarded Steve Bradford, John Cronin awarded Jonathan & Leslie Gerber, and Tina Hein awarded Barbara Ryan. Rep. James Arena-DeRosa joined the celebration.

Youth & Family Services

Join us for a fun and meaningful hands-on sewing experience. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn about this global project-spreading love by leaving your hearts in public places around town.

Tues, Dec 12th at 11am (1/2 day of school) at 1750 YFS offices. Register by emailing denehya@holliston.k12.ma.us. Pizza lunch will be served.

Find out about overall well-being programs at Youth & Family Services.
Call 508-429-0620

The Library Can Be The Best Winter Spot



Don't miss an evening with Ruth-Bader Ginsberg, space is limited, **Tues. January 10th, 7pm-8pm.** To register, [CLICK HERE](#). For all winter programs, including drop-in groups for kids during the winter break, [CLICK HERE](#). For the holidays, come to Garden Club's **Ornament Workshop**, for kids ages 5-12 on **Dec 6, 10:30am - noon!**

Holliston Chooses New Electric Supplier For Better Rates

Holliston announces electric bill savings offered by its Community Choice Power Supply Program. Residents enrolled in the program will continue to receive a stable rate, currently 14% lower than Eversource's basic service rate. An expected average savings of \$15 per month is expected Jan 2024-July 2024. [CLICK HERE](#) for more info and how to enroll. Questions? Residents call directly to (866) 485-5858 ext. #1.



Holliston Chooses new Supplier for Electricity Program »

WINTER RECREATION PROGRAMS FOR ALL!

Staying active in winter is important for everyone, both mentally and physically! Indoor programs for adults and kids include team sports and individual recreation activities! Lots of options offered for kids during the winter break too! To learn more about winter programs and December vacation fun, [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 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 Winter Reminders:

Street Closure: Woodland Street up to Lowland Street

Free Recycling Stickers are available at the Treasurer/Collector office at Town Hall.

Open every Saturday 8-3 for leaves, brush, metal cardboard, TV's, computers and light bulbs.

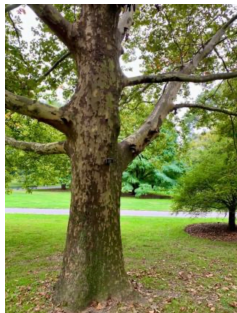
RECYCLING CENTER OPEN SUNDAYS Dec. & Jan. (Except Dec. 24)

COMMUNITY NEWS IN HOLLISTON

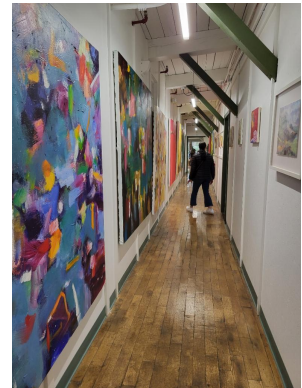


Placemaking Workshop Update: Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) awarded Holliston \$10k to install a public art piece to inspire rail trail users to stop and visit. Holliston's Public Art Advisory Group welcomed residents, business owners and students to a walking workshop! MAPC's guided tour identified needs for signage, sidewalk repairs, accessibility, and more bike racks. To learn more, [CLICK HERE!](#) Call for artists begins this winter for spring 2024 installation.

Open Studio's Event Success! Our Holliston-based artists reported a steady stream of visitors to the Holliston Mills Studios at 24 Water St. The annual event is held on a fall weekend every October! Attendees enjoyed fine art in every medium and style, as well as jewelry, glass art, wine tasting and music! [CLICK HERE](#) to plan your visit & get in some holiday shopping!



Help Identify Trees In Holliston! Holliston Garden Club (HGC) Treespotter's Committee and Friends of Trees are working to identify "Significant" trees on public land. This new project will list and identify our Town's largest living creatures, our trees, in order to document them as part of our town's history and preserve them. To learn more and nominate individual trees or groups of trees, [CLICK HERE!](#)



Holliston Coalition Against Hate & Bias: The Town Administrator and the Superintendent of schools have formed a coalition and an incident response team to address and denounce incidents of hate when they happen in the schools and the community. The Coalition includes school, municipal, and community leaders with the purpose, "To provide a space and an opportunity for community leaders to come together collaboratively to discuss and respond to incidents of hate and bias."

HCAT is Now Holliston HUB-HCAT! CONNECT HERE! We are your source of information through award-winning, multi-media productions that support and strengthen our community. Watch for Holliston HUB news in the next quarterly newsletter and check us out on Facebook, YouTube, @hcatv.org, and our [website](#).



HOLLISTON NEWCOMERS & NEIGHBORS: Ongoing Activities HNN would like to thank everyone for making our Thanksgiving Drive a success! Donations supported Holliston food pantry families, Headstart and Wayside Youth, as well as delivering over 60 Thanksgiving meals to Holliston seniors. [CLICK HERE](#) to join us in civic, fundraising & social activities!



Ask The TA Show: New Assistant Fire Chief & Chief Discuss Plan for EMS Services



Town Administrator Travis Ahern welcomes Chief Michael Cassidy and new Assistant Chief Brian Kelley to discuss fire/EMS organizational changes.

Learn more about how Fire/EMS will follow the Municipal Resources Inc. (MRI) report to move ambulance services from the basic level service (BLS) to advanced level service (ALS). Watch the discussion with Travis Ahern on HCAT, [CLICK HERE](#). The new Assistant Fire Chief/EMS Director Brian Kelley joins Fire Chief Michael Cassidy. And to stay informed online, [CLICK HERE](#).

Congratulations On Retirements!

Wishing all of our Firefighters who are retiring a healthy and happy retirement! The Town of Holliston is grateful for all of your years of service! David Dubin served 30 years on Engine 1, Richard Rossini for his 41 years of service, and Joe Gallerani served 51 years as a first responder driver on the ambulance, two decades after previously retiring as a Deputy Chief.

Parking Ban Is In Effect

Reminder to all residents, visitors and businesses - Winter Parking Ban is in effect from November 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024. There is no on-street parking between the hours of 1am and 5am. All vehicles will be ticketed and towed.

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 Department Earns Re-Accreditation



The Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC) awarded the Holliston Police Department Re-Accreditation. This standard of operation is the highest level accreditation reflecting best practices in policies, training and meeting officer expectations in the profession and in the community. Chief Stone stated that the process is "an arduous and time-consuming marathon that requires a true team effort." Chief Stone also stated this is the 'gold standard of policing' and extended appreciation to all officers. Lt. Thomson was also commended for his tireless work to meet the commission's record-keeping requirements.

**Awarded for Municipal/Government Programming
(Made it to the podium in Third Place)
HCAT's 'Ask The TA' Envisioning Future Holliston Segment
Check out the shows! Do you have a question about government?
Email askthetata@holliston.k12.ma.us [Click Here For Programs](#)**

Follow on Twitter @HollistonTA



SHOP, EAT & STAY LOCAL



Holliston's First Commercial Kitchen WSK (Pronounced "WHISK")

TheWSK.org, a commercial kitchen business launching at The Mills building at 24 Water Street, compliments the studio artist lofts in a bright, modern space welcoming the public. WSK, pronounced "Whisk", is partnering with local colleges and professional chefs, and providing culinary experiences for all. Its entertainment space can also be rented for all occasions, and the kitchen boasts a resident chef. Pictured above: Town and state officials with owners of

WSK, brother and sister team (right) Briana and Madison Colantonio. (They also grew up in Holliston!)

Blair Square Dedication with State Officials Focuses On Economic Pathways

Town and state officials gathered despite the rain to celebrate the completion of Blair Square with a ribbon cutting and Central Street tour. Giving thanks to Senate President Karen Spilka and Representative James Arena-DeRosa for their contributions (pictured right), the group headed down Central St. and dedicated the walkway to the public parking lot "Ahronian Way", honoring all of the work Mark Ahronian has done for the Town. The tour ended at the Green St. lot, where officials learned more about the plans for EV stations. Town officials gave our

state representatives a view of how 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](#). #hollistonma



MEET MELANIE HAMBLÉN, HOLLISTON'S NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR!



Melanie Hamblén has experience as a business owner and leading economic activities in the town of Franklin. She is a town council member in Franklin and serves as the economic development working group liaison. She believes partnership between town and businesses can make an impact. 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. For more info, [CLICK HERE](#) for Economic Development news and the MetroWest Holliston Profile 2023

INSIDER: TOWN HALL



ASSESSOR'S MESSAGE

Property Tax Abatement Applications are due February 1, 2024. Any Holliston property owner who disagrees with their Fiscal Year 2024 assessment can request an abatement (lowering of the assessment amount). Applications will be accepted starting January 2. For applications [CLICK HERE](#). The Assessor's office staff is happy to assist.



Holliston Library's New Children's Librarian

Katherine Moyle is our new Children's Librarian! Please come by, Katherine is so excited to meet families. With a Masters in Education, Katherine's specialty is working with early readers, but loves to talk about books with all ages!



Welcoming Our New Town Accountant

Gita Patel started as our new Town Accountant this summer and has closed a fiscal year, and opened one for us already! She brings experience as an Assistant Town Accountant in a neighboring Town and we are lucky to have her on our team!

~ 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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Twitter: @HollistonTA