

HOLLISTON HOMETOWN NEWSLETTER

Holliston Town News | The Community We Call Home

Important Dates:

-
- Public Forums at Select Board Meetings - June 6, June 13, June 27 (Zoom & In-Person)
 - Beach Opens June 11
 - Last Day of School June 24
 - Camps Open July 7 - Aug 19
 - Real Estate Bills Due August 1

In This Issue:

Survey #2 We Need You 2

Survey For 55+/Seniors 2

Events, Beach & Summer! ... 5

Channel 5 Chronicle & NE Living TV Features
Local Businesses 7

All About Auto Excise Tax 3

Town Project Updates 6

Public Safety Awards 6

Holliston Community Video ...3

Stay Connected 8



We Want To Hear From You: Public Hearings & Surveys

Your input matters. The Town is preparing for community forums and surveys to find out what is important to you. Several long-awaited reports, which were assigned by Town Meeting, will be presented in the June Select Board meetings - and each will be open to public discussion. Your input will help us make the most informed decisions moving forward. The ***Community Forums during Select Board meetings in June will include presentations*** from consultants. Residents can attend the meetings in Town Hall or via Zoom.

Click here for Community Forum information. Continue on page 2:

Just **'ASK THE TA'**, an HCAT show hosted by the Town Administrator to answer your questions. Scroll to page 6.





Seniors Please Fill Out Two Surveys: What Is Important To You at the Senior Center and in Town?

Seniors, keep an eye out in the mail for the Senior Center Survey. Our Senior Center, in collaboration with UMass' Gerontological Institute, will be sending out a survey to all seniors ages 55+ to 100+ to find out what is important to you. What programs or facilities most attract you to visit and spend time at the Senior Center? What else would you like to see? Your opinion matters to us better serve you.

We also need your viewpoint about living in Holliston! Fill out Survey #2 (see right column) by Envisioning Future Holliston.

Both surveys are online, but will also be printed and available at the Senior Center for your convenience. **Read the latest Senior Center's newsletter online here** or pick up a copy at the Senior Center. **Sign up for a Day Trip To Maine in August CLICK HERE!** or visit the Center for more.

Continued from page 1:

Monday, June 6: Downtown Sewer Feasibility – Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Analysis (*Consultant: Lombardo & Assoc*)

Monday, June 13: Update on Changes to Cannabis Industry – Including Allowance of Delivery in Holliston (Consultant: MTC – Town Counsel)

Monday, June 27: DPW Facility Feasibility Study – Progress Update #2 (*Consultant: Weston & Sampson*)

All Residents Survey #2 Is Ready, Just Click

Survey #2 is ready **CLICK HERE!** And printed copies will be available at the Senior Center. We need all residents and business owners to fill out this Town survey focusing on: What is important to us? What amenities do we need? What kinds of things can we do to bring us closer as a community? And to

ensure these ideas are inclusive for seniors, families and children. Now is your chance to weigh in on the future of Holliston! You may have filled out Survey #1 - that helped us create Survey #2.

What we *know so far* from Survey #1 is that residents love Holliston's small-town feel, and so much more. **Click**

here to read the results. The results are also featured on the 'AskTheTA' show with committee members Stacey Raffi and Ben Sparrell. (**Click here for HCAT program lisitngs.**)

By taking just a few minutes to answer Survey #2, the Committee will be able to create Holliston's Vision Statement, identifying Holliston's assets and characteristics we value most. Help guide government and other groups to develop plans that represent all of the residents' needs and values. Many volunteers have spent hours on this effort to hear from you! **To learn more, click here.**



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

The Formula To Auto Excise Taxes

All residents who own and register a motor vehicle or trailer pay an annual motor vehicle excise tax for the privilege of actual or future road use. Cities and Towns prepare the bills based on data sent to us by the Mass Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV). It's the RMV that sets the value of your vehicle, not the Town, based on the manufacturers' list price and the age of the vehicle. The excise tax rate is \$25 per thousand dollars of valuation. The formula is: 50% of value for a brand new car rebased before the model year; 90% in the model year; 60% in the second year; 40% in the third year; 25% in the fourth year; and, 10% in the fifth and succeeding years.

If you receive a motor vehicle excise tax bill for a vehicle that you no longer own, or that is no longer located in Holliston or the state, you should first check with the RMV to see if the registration is still active. Go to <https://atlas-myrmv.massdot.state.ma.us/myrmv> and click on "Cancel My Registration". If you have moved out of Holliston, sold or traded your vehicle, "totaled" your car in an accident, or if your car is stolen, you may be entitled to an abatement of auto excise taxes you already paid. The form to apply for an abatement can be found at: https://www.townofholliston.us/sites/g/files/yyhlif7o6/f/uploads/short_form_1_short_abatement_app_10_1_2019.pdf

Please look carefully for the required documentation related to your reason for applying for the abatement. The assessor's office cannot process the application until all required documents are submitted.

Holliston Drug & Alcohol Awareness Coalition Seeks Members

Join us! The HDAAC's mission is to create a strong and healthy community to prevent and reduce youth substance use by changing the social norms, expelling stigmas, and minimizing the impact of substance misuse. Contact Jackie Winer, LICSW at 408-429-0620. [Click here](#) for more information.

HOLLISTON'S COMMUNITY PROFILE VIDEO

Many more folks are finding out that Holliston is great place to live and work, and this summer a national campaign will run our Community Profile Video highlighting the best of living and doing business here. Our Community Profile Video is a short-form documentary-style video created to attract businesses and people relocating to the area to choose Holliston. This project is a revitalization initiative which qualified for use of the Town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. We own the footage, and happy to share these beautiful images with businesses to include in their own promotional materials. [Click Here To Watch!](#) Also, visit the new [Community Profile](#) page!



Holliston Maintains Gold Standard: Awarded Standard & Poor's AAA Bond Rating

The Town has been reaffirmed as a "AAA" Bond Rated Town with a "Stable" outlook by Standard & Poor's Global Ratings. This is the highest bond rating a municipality can receive and reflects the hard work of the Town's financial team. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

News a Click Away

[Parks & Recreation](#)

[Library News](#)

[Senior Center Newsletter](#)

[Youth & Family Services](#)

[Public Schools Newsletter](#)

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 at (508) 429-0608 and we can connect you.

- Report a Pothole, Streetlight out, Town-owned Tree Down, Traffic Petition

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](#).

Public School Parents!

There's a School Newsletter too, **[CLICK HERE!](#)**

For 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)
- 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. The sign-up link here [RESIDENT BLACKBOARD PORTAL](#). Blackboard allows us to deliver voice, text and email notifications to communicate urgent bulletins about water quality or law enforcement activity, as well as outreach or Town Meeting warrants. If your email or phone changed, please update through the portal.



MA DOT PROJECT STILL PLANNED FOR RTE. 16

We will update you on start dates as soon as DOT announces.

DOT Night work: Route 16/126 from Holliston's Pine St. to Milford's Beaver St. Sidewalks from Pine to Summer (Rt. 126).

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division>.

Summer in Holliston: Hot Spots To Cool Off

Holliston Pride Picnic at Pleasure Point Park, Family Fun! Sunday, June 12, 1-5pm



Summer Concerts, Goodwill Park ~ Tuesday's 6:30 [Click Here!](#)

Farmer's Market at Blair Square ~ Starts 6/5

Sunday's 9:30am - 1pm [For more info, Click Here!](#)

Lion's Club Carnival at HS ~July 13 - July 16 [Click!](#)



Library Summer Reading Program

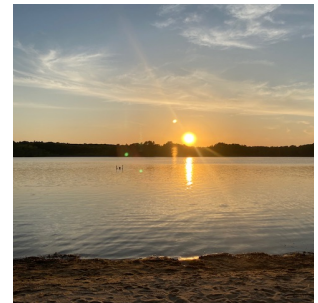
Outdoor Family Events! Lower Lawn at 1750 Washington St. ~ July 11-Aug 19 [CLICK HERE!](#)

Toe Jam Puppet Band, Vinnie the Bubble Guy, Henry The Juggler, The Ukulele Show, One World: Music Hands-on experience, magic show.



THE SOCIAL SPOT ~ Thursday's 2:30- 4pm for 4th - 8th graders! Free snacks, games & fun! Contact us [here!](#)

Sunsets at Stoddard Park ~ Anytime! Wind down after a long summer day. Bring dinner, go for swim & enjoy the beautiful sunsets!



The Rail Trail ~ and stops along the way! Plan your stops: Coffee Haven for a cold drink, shop downtown and head to Boston Honey Company!

Cooling Off on Shady Conservation Trails

If you looking for a short trail, the Rees Trail through the Brentwood Conservation is our pick. Located off Gorwin Drive, it can't be missed. **[For a list, click here!](#)** **[For 10 Best Trails Click here!](#)**



LAKE WINTHROP BEACH WILL BE STAFFED STARTING JUNE 11TH WEEKEND!

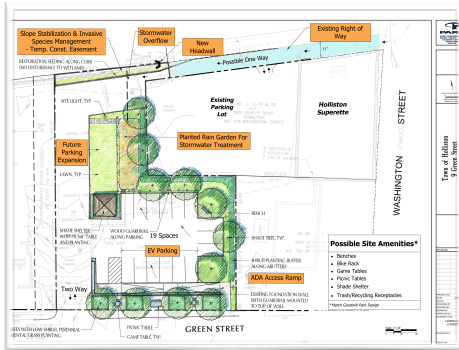
Weekday staff begins after school closes. [Click Here for all Beach Info:](#) Passes can be purchased online at [PURCHASE BEACH PASS LINK](#), Town hall, or 1750 Washington St. (by appointment). (Stoddard Beach is open to all; closed during weekday-morning camp).

CAMP PATOMA AT STODDARD PARK, CAMP GOODWILL & TENNIS CAMP (STILL SPACE) JULY 5TH - AUG 19TH. FOR ALL SUMMER PROGRAMS, [CLICK HERE.](#)



Projects Planned That Make An Impact

The Municipal Parking Lot (with EV) at 9 Green Street is one of the key revitalization projects underway



to bring much needed parking to the downtown area, giving more accessibility to businesses, the library and Goodwill Park.

The Town was awarded \$194,200 last week from MassDOT to complete this

project, on top of the funds approved by Town Meeting. Work will continue through the fall, and will include landscaping areas in Goodwill Park, bike racks and other amenities. [Click here for project updates.](#)

The Blair Square Redesign project received approval from the CPC, and various grants (including the Office of Travel and Tourism) are pending. Holliston's Farmer's Markets (held every Sunday, June 5 - Oct 2 from 9:30am - 1pm) will continue at Blair Square this year and will include artists and music. This beautiful spot has proven



to be a gathering place for residents and visitors, and brings additional business to the area. [Click here, for updates.](#) The Economic Development Committee supports these projects and business activity.

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS CORNER

Police Officers Receive Commendation Awards



We extend our sincerest congratulations and thank you to the outstanding officers who received Holliston's Police Department Commendation Awards. Officers, Detectives and Dispatchers were recognized for their bravery, communication skills, professionalism, de-escalation tactics and exceptional police work on specific cases and calls relating to a missing juvenile, domestic violence and mental health.

[Click here for Police website.](#) Our Twitter handle is @HollistonPolice.

Travis Ahern is answering your questions on Ask The TA!

Email: AsktheTA@holliston.k12.ma.us

- Water Project/Winter St. with Water Superintendent, Sean Reese.
- Updates & Changes Coming to Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) with Tina Hein & Police Chief Stone.
- Lake Winthrop Invasives: Regulatory & Why It's Important to Recreation with Ryan Clapp, Conservation and Mark Frank, Recreation.

[Click Here For HCAT Program Listings](#)

Follow: @HollistonTA



SHOP, EAT & STAY LOCAL

Channel 5's Chronicle Back Again Featuring a "Favorite Local Haunt!"

WCVB's Chronicle's Ted Reinstein named BAR ATHENA his "Favorite Local Haunt!" [Click here](#) to watch. New England Living TV featured Holliston's Boston Honey Company [you can watch here](#). Follow the Town's social media as we continue to repost and retweet news to support our local businesses. Visit our new [Community Profile Page](#) for more.



Town of Holliston
March 10 at 12:10 PM · 🌐

Congratulations to our own Bar Athena! Channel 5's CHRONICLE was back in Holliston featuring Ted Reinstein's favorite 'local haunt' restaurant! If you missed the show last night, here is the link below. Supporting our local businesses makes Holliston a special place - Congrats Bar Athena! <https://www.barathena.com/>

<https://www.wcvb.com/article/food-journal-a-taste-of-the-mediterranean-in-holliston-at-bar-athena/39387817>

@hollistonta, #hollistonma, @bar_athena, @chronicle5, @tedreinstein, #Chronicle5



WCVB.COM

A taste of the Mediterranean in Holliston

If you are craving a delicious taste of the Mediterranean, head ...



Town of Holliston
April 4 at 5:30 PM · 🌐

Holliston's Family-Owned Boston Honey Company was featured on New England Living's Sunday morning program yesterday! Congratulations to Holliston's honey farm! <https://bostonhoneycompany.com>

Watch the full version of the show (link below) describing how this family does so much more than make honey. And the shop is a popular stop on the Holliston Rail Trail!

<https://newenglandliving.tv/new-england-living-tv-season-5-episode-7-specialty-living/>

@BostonHoneyCo #bostonhoneycompany @NELivingTV #newenglandliving #hollistonma



NEWENGLANDLIVING.TV

New England Living Tv: Season 5, Episode 7, Specialty Living

OUR HONORABLE MENTION ~ OUR HOMETOWN STAR!

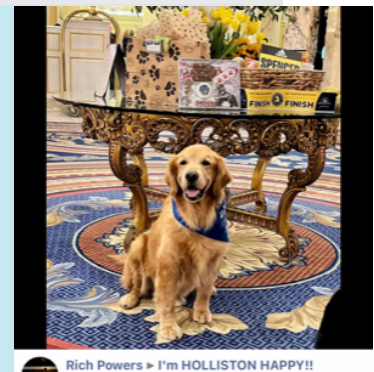
By Nick Giovanni
April 13, 2022 at 12:23 pm

Filed Under: Boston Marathon, Boston Marathon 2022, Boston News



Holliston's own Spencer the dog inspires! Named the Official Dog of the 126th Boston Marathon this year, Spencer was honored at the Fairmont Copley Plaza after limo ride from Holliston! He became famous for holding a Boston Strong flag at the marathon for years with his niece Penny (left). WHDH-TV, CBS News called him a 'miracle boy' after battling cancer himself. [For Spencer's story, CLICK HERE!](#) This year a runner stopped to give him a medal! [Read more here!](#)

Thank you Rich Powers & family for your 'Pupdates' on Facebook and keeping Holliston smiling.



Rich Powers » I'm HOLLISTON HAPPY!!

INSIDER: TOWN HALL



FALL TOWN MEETING: DISCUSSIONS EXPECTED

- Organizational Evaluation of Fire & Ambulance & 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



BEST WISHES TO OUR TEAM MEMBERS RETIRING...

Kathryn Pierce, Principal Assessor (left)
Leslie McDonnell, Library Director
Tom Smith, Highway Superintendent

The Town developed a succession plan for several roles, and proud to introduce exceptional new professionals to 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.

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

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