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Volume III, Issue 3

"CELEBRATING HOLLIS & CREATING COMMUNITY"

September 2026



Celebrating the Extraordinary Honi Glover

By Liz Barbour

Hollis has lost one of its most remarkable residents with the passing of Margaret "Honi" Glover on July 25 at the age of 93.

A 1951 graduate of Hollis High School, Honi lived a life that defied expectations. Long before it was common for women to enter traditionally male professions, she was driving trucks, riding motorcycles, racing stock cars, repairing engines, operating heavy equipment, and later earning a commercial hot air balloon pilot's license. Her 60-year trucking career and recognition as America's oldest active female balloonist at age

80 reflected a lifetime spent embracing new challenges.

Yet for all of her extraordinary accomplishments, Honi may be remembered most for her devotion to Hollis. A third-generation Hollis native, she dedicated much of her life to preserving the town's history and traditions. In 2013, the Hollis VFW recognized Honi as Citizen of the Year for more than five decades of service to the community.

She helped revive Hollis Old Home Days in 1997 and served
Continued on page 14.

"Tomorrow We Will Run Faster" – Running for Tommy

Submitted by Helen Walsh

To borrow from Marilynne Robinson's beautiful novel Gilead: "Existence is the essential thing and the holy thing." Close your eyes for a moment and imagine the quiet town of Hollis like a snow globe. Give it a gentle shake. When the flakes settle, it's November 2021, and little Tommy Lafontaine was born nearly three months early, weighing less than two pounds. His mother Khara, recovering from COVID, was unable to be with him in those first fragile moments. That is how Tommy made his entrance into the world.

Fast forward a few years, and the snow globe has settled into ordinary, sunny days at the Hollis Social Library playground, where my daughter Ophelia and I met Khara and Tommy. As our children played, we discovered that both children came nearly three months prior to their due dates, and spent roughly the same amount of time in the NICU, albeit in different hospitals. Khara and I share a bond that those who have been there



Tommy Lafontaine (center) with his best friends

too might understand.

Shake up that snow globe again and this time allow the flakes to settle over a strawberry-themed picnic at Hollis's Woodmont Orchard in June 2026 to welcome the start of summer. Tommy has complained about leg pain for a few weeks now. He limped around at the picnic and ran with an unusual gait that had most of us mothers puzzled. He complained that his legs don't work. He spiked a fever that evening, and it lasted over the weekend. What were thought to be fever pains in his legs soon revealed themselves as acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Tommy and his parents spent 32 days at Boston Children's Hospital, where he underwent multiple blood transfusions and endured multiple rounds of chemotherapy, steroids, and other forms of rigorous treatment that will continue twice weekly over the next 25 months. At four years old, our little Tommy is fighting—once again and
Continued on page 14.

NEBM & Co. Patriot Apparel: Building a Business Through Community

By Liz Barbour

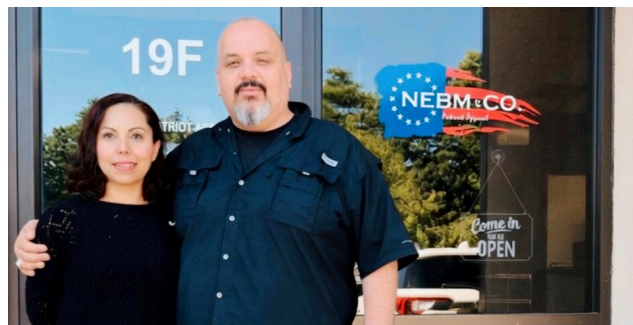
What began with a single embroidery machine in a basement has grown into one of Hollis's fastest-growing custom apparel and promotional product businesses. Today, NEBM & Co. Patriot Apparel creates custom shirts, hoodies, hats, signs, banners, decals, and promotional products for local businesses, nonprofits, schools, and community organizations.

Owner Vicente Villegas and his wife, Karla, moved to Hollis in October 2022 after a friend introduced them to the town's excellent schools and welcoming small-town atmosphere. When that friend relocated to Vermont, he offered to rent them his home, giving the family the opportunity to become part of the community.

"It has been a great fit for us," Vicente says.

The business is truly a family operation. Karla manages day-to-day operations while Vicente handles design, marketing, and sales. Their three daughters also pitch in after school, helping with content creation, shop tasks, and wherever extra hands are needed.

NEBM—short for New England Branding and Merch—was launched in 2021 during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. Vicente and Karla invested in their "side hustle" in what he calls "Plan B," purchasing a single-head embroidery machine and selling embroidered hats online. From those humble beginnings, the company has expanded into a full-service custom



Karla Garcia and Vicente Villegas

apparel and print shop with no minimum order requirement. Much of that growth has come through relationships.

"We began attending events like Old Home Days, networking, and meeting neighbors and business owners," *Continued on page 14.*



Hollis 250th Photos

Reflections and photos from our town's celebration of America's 250th birthday, page 8.
Photo: Bruce Moran, Hollis VFW



Hollis Teens are Going Places

Teaching, seeking adventure, and taking on challenges, Hollis teens shine, pages 5-6.

Photo: Jason Botinno



Inside Hollis Elections

Go behind the scenes of Hollis elections and learn what it takes to make Election Day happen. Plus, our list of notable state and federal candidates, page 10.

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Letter from the Editor

Happy fall, everyone!

School is back in session, farmstands are brimming with fresh fruits and vegetables, and we are all looking forward to Old Home Days, the Apple Festival, and the Town Band Concert. But that's not all.

In this issue, we highlight the midterm election with a behind-the-scenes look at the people and preparations that keep Election Day running smoothly. From months of preparation to the long hours of Election Day, dedicated town staff and volunteers make it all happen. When you head to the polls this fall, don't forget to take a moment to say hello and thank them for their service.

Our front-page story features Tommy's Trot, a very special

event for a young boy and his family as they face an incredibly difficult journey. Tommy's story will touch your heart, but it is also a reminder of what our community does so well: come together when one of our own needs support. We hope you'll join us in cheering Tommy on and surrounding his family with encouragement, support, and prayers.

Finally, this issue comes with a sense of loss. Hollis recently said goodbye to Honi Glover, a lifelong resident and truly one-of-a-kind member of our community. Her adventurous spirit and remarkable life were part of what made Hollis, Hollis.

Warmly,
Liz Barbour
Publisher/Editor

Drive-By Barking Blues

Advice from A.C. Worth

Dear A.C.:

Several times a week, both morning and evening, a particular car drives past our home with a dog barking nonstop out the open window. We can hear it coming from quite a distance, and the barking continues the whole time it's in earshot. It's become quite annoying for us. More than the noise, though, I'm worried about the dog. It sounds so distressed. I don't know the driver or where they live, so it's a true drive-by situation. We'd rather not jump straight to calling the police, but we'd like to do something constructive. What would you suggest?

Sincerely,
Drive-by Barking Blues

Dear Drive-by Barking Blues:

You're right to separate irritation from concern here. The noise is annoying, but the worry you're feeling for the dog is the more important signal—and it's a humane one. I discussed your situation with my circle of friends as we enjoyed some salty dogs. They agreed that because this is a true drive-by situation, your options are limited, but not nonexistent: "Remember what distress sounds like—but also what it doesn't always mean," cautioned Ann Trim. "Some dogs bark continuously from

excitement, frustration, or poor training rather than immediate danger. That doesn't make it ideal, but it does mean the dog may not be in acute harm every time you hear it."

Ben Ington pointed out, "If you ever do encounter the driver, keep it human and brief. A calm comment framed around concern, for example, 'Your dog sounds really stressed when you drive by—just wanted to mention it—is far more likely to land than an accusation.

Merrie Mack rounded out the discussion, "Sometimes the most responsible choice is to stay alert, informed, and ready to act if the situation becomes clearer or more severe."

As for my own advice, you're already doing the hardest part: noticing and caring without rushing to fix. If everyone paused that thoughtfully before acting, many problems—human and canine—would turn out better. Of course, when the Salty Dogs ran out, so did my friends. --A.C. Worth

Do you have a problem that needs some good old-fashioned common-sense advice? A.C. Worth is ready to help. Send your questions to A.C.WorthAdvice@gmail.com. All correspondence will be kept confidential.

The Positively Hollis Post

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Submissions

We are always looking for stories that entertain, educate, and inform, reflecting the interests of Hollis residents. Visit our website for story guidelines.

Issue Deadlines

March Issue: January 22
June Issue: April 22
Sept. Issue: July 22
Dec. Issue: October 22

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Operation Delta Dog: Rescuing Dogs, Restoring Veterans, and Building Hope

By Riley Stewart, Communications & Marketing Associate



Every day, veterans return home carrying wounds that cannot be seen. Meanwhile, thousands of dogs in shelters wait for a second chance that may never come. At the intersection of those two stories is Operation Delta Dog (OpDD), a Hollis nonprofit that rescues dogs from high-kill shelters and trains them to become service dogs for veterans living with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injuries (TBI), and military sexual trauma (MST). Their mission is simple yet profound: Rescue One, Save Two.

Every rescued dog undergoes health evaluations, temperament assessments, and specialized training. Every service dog is individually trained for the veteran with whom they will be ultimately matched, learning tasks tailored to that individual's unique challenges. Whether it's interrupting anxiety, retrieving everyday items, providing balance and stability, waking a veteran from nightmares, or offering reassurance during moments of distress, each partnership is built to restore confidence, independence, and hope.

Not every rescued dog is the right fit for service work, but every dog is given a second chance. Dogs that do not meet the program's rigorous standards are thoughtfully placed in loving adoptive or foster homes, ensuring every rescue ends with hope. For the veterans who receive these remarkable dogs, the impact reaches far beyond the tasks they perform. A service dog can become the reason someone feels comfortable

enough to leave the house again. The reason a family sees their loved one smile more often. The reason a veteran rediscovers purpose, reconnects with their community, and begins to heal after years of carrying invisible wounds. For the rescue dog, the journey is just as remarkable: a second chance that leads not only to a loving home, but also to a purpose. Every service dog is provided to veterans free of charge through the generosity of donors, sponsors, volunteers, and community members supporting those who have sacrificed for our country.

This fall, the community is invited to experience Operation Delta Dog's mission firsthand and help fuel the next chapter of rescues and matches. On Wednesday, September 2, the organization will host "Hot Dogs & Service Dogs" from 4 to 7 PM at the Lawrence Barn in Hollis. This is a free community event featuring a live bluegrass band, complimentary hot dogs, Bluey Bounce House, Twizted Pickle truck, free ice cream, Skippy the HPD community dog, local authors, and so much more!

On Sunday, September 20, their annual Run to Rescue 5K returns to Mine Falls Park in Nashua, bringing together runners, walkers, families, and their dogs in support of future service dog teams. Sign up at operationdeltadog.org.

Friday, November 6 brings us the signature event for OpDD—the annual Answer the Call Gala. This is an event you do not want to miss! It will feature Live music by the Scott Spradling Band, amazing games, auction items, signature cocktails, and an all-around amazing night out while supporting our veterans—it sold out very quickly last year—don't miss it this year!

To learn more about Operation Delta Dog, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, or ways to support the mission, visit operationdeltadog.org.

The Power of One Foster: How You Can Help Rescue Dogs and Veterans

By Emily Mangiaratti, Senior Trainer & Foster Coordinator



Rusty - available for fostering



Felix - available for fostering

Every time a foster family opens their home, they make it possible for Operation Delta Dog to allow another rescue dog to enter the program, one that could ultimately become a life-changing service dog for veterans.

Says Foster Coordinator Emily, "When one of our dogs goes into foster care, it gives us the opportunity to evaluate another potential service dog candidate for a veteran on our waitlist. Fostering has a ripple effect; you aren't just helping one dog, you're making it possible for us to rescue another and continue changing veterans' lives."

Becoming a foster begins with a simple application on the Operation Delta Dog website, followed by a home visit with Emily to learn about the family's home and lifestyle, ensuring every foster placement is a thoughtful fit for both the dog and family. Once approved, foster families are contacted when a dog that fits their household becomes available. Foster families provide a stable home experience while helping us learn more about each dog's personality, routines, and needs, making it easier to find the perfect forever family.

Interested in fostering? Complete a foster application by visiting operationdeltadog.org.



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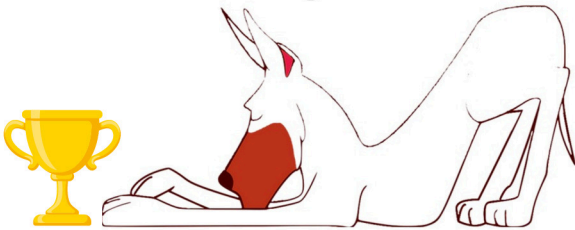
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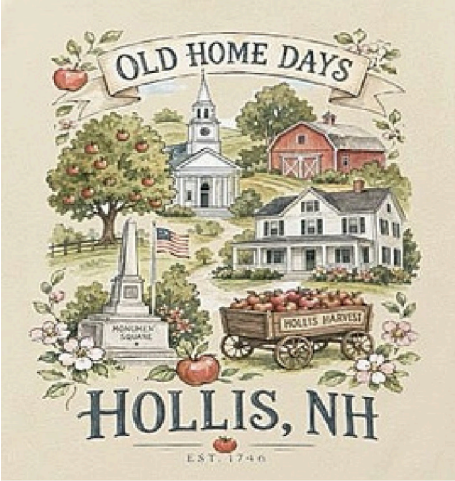
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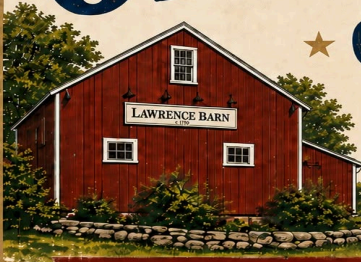
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No Experience Required: Hollis Brookline and Souhegan Crew form the Baboosic Lake Rowing Club

By Amanda Green, BLRC Board of Directors

For more than 13 years, both Hollis Brookline and Souhegan high schools had successful crew programs that supported high school and middle school athletes. In 2025, these programs merged into the Baboosic Lake Rowing Club (BLRC). Under the guidance of Leigh Ann Evans, a 25-year resident of Amherst and former collegiate rower, the Souhegan and BLRC teams have consistently competed at the highest level in the state, winning a number of championship races. They are currently the two-time winner of the Men's Fours Cup at the prestigious Granite State Fours Championship Regatta, held in Hanover at the end of the spring season.

"The athletes on these teams work very hard. We often compete against much larger clubs with more depth, but still come home with lots of medals. I'm incredibly proud of this group and their commitment to rowing and their team," said Evans.

One of the great things about crew is that the team encourages kids with absolutely no rowing experience to join. We've had a lot of kids join the team looking for a team experience that challenges them to work hard, be competitive, and learn a unique skill set. Crew has given them a path to do all of these things while also meeting some incredible people.

Colin Green of Hollis has been on the team

BLRC Team

for two years. "Crew has pushed me beyond the limits of what I thought I could do in so many ways. When I started rowing, I never expected it to be such a large part of my life. Now I'm focused on rowing competitively in college."

Aine McNamara, a senior in Amherst, is starting her fourth year rowing. "I've seen crew provide the opportunity for women to showcase their talents on the world stage, creating benchmarks for future generations of young female athletes. I'm proud to be part of this."

A typical year for the team is split up into two racing seasons, one in the spring and one in the fall. Each season consists of four to six races in NH, including championships. BLRC accepts kids in 8th-12th grades from Amherst, Hollis, Brookline, and surrounding towns.

For more information about BLRC, visit baboosiclakerowing.org or visit our booth at Hollis Old Home Days on September 18 and 19.

Fresh Corn Chowder

 6 servings

INGREDIENTS

- ¼ lb. thick-cut smoked bacon, diced
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 1 tsp. fresh thyme or ½ tsp. dried
- 2 medium Yukon Gold potatoes, unpeeled, ½-inch dice
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 4 cups fresh corn kernels (5-6 ears)
- 4 cups whole milk
- 1 cup reserved potato water
- 1½ tsp. kosher salt
- ¼ tsp. black pepper
- ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley

DIRECTIONS

- In a large soup pot over medium-low heat, cook bacon, butter, onion, celery, and thyme until vegetables are tender, about 8 minutes.
- Meanwhile, place potatoes and 1 tsp. salt in a saucepan; cover with water and cook until just fork-tender, 8-10 minutes. Reserve 1 cup cooking water; drain.
- Add potatoes, reserved water, corn, milk, 1½ tsp. salt, and ¼ tsp. pepper to soup pot. Bring to a simmer; do not boil. Cook until the corn is tender and the soup is hot, about 5 minutes. Adjust seasoning and stir in parsley before serving.

ENJOY!

Sparking Tomorrow's Innovators: A Mission to Grow STEM in Hollis

By Jason Bottino, Hollis resident and junior at the Academy for Science and Design



Jason Bottino, robot "Anakata," and Team Tesseract members Sreehaas Mandali and Yuvaan Gulati at "Touch-a-Robot" station. Hollis Fire Department Touch a Truck.

My name is Jason Bottino, a high school junior who has lived in Hollis since 2015. I attended Hollis Primary School (HPS) and Hollis Upper Elementary School (HUES), and I am now entering my junior year at the Academy for Science and Design in Nashua.

For the past five years, I have organized the Hollis Brookline Elementary Science Fair, an initiative of the Hollis Elementary PTA. The event draws more than 60 students in grades K-6 each year. Thanks to generous sponsors, participation is free, and all proceeds support the PTA's purchase of new STEM equipment for HPS and HUES. As a former participant, I love helping curious young scientists explore their ideas. This work

naturally connects to my role mentoring FIRST Tech Challenge robotics teams at Hollis Brookline Middle School. It's incredibly rewarding to watch sixth graders from the science fair graduate and join these teams, carrying their curiosity forward.

I also compete as captain of Team Tesseract, a community-based FIRST Tech Challenge team. Robotics has been one of the most positive experiences of my life, teaching me technical skills along with essential soft skills like communication and leadership. These experiences inspired me to expand STEM opportunities beyond Hollis across southern New Hampshire. I organize hands-on robotics demonstrations and interactive STEM events for communities that lack access, reaching thousands of students and helping many develop a lasting passion for STEM.

Whether I'm engaging preschoolers, working with our state's congressional delegation and the governor to proclaim April as FIRST Robotics Awareness Month, or serving as a counselor for Camp Invention, I enjoy sharing this passion with any audience. I'm grateful for everything robotics and STEM have given me—and even more grateful for the chance to pass it forward to Hollis and beyond.

Hollis Teen Kayaks Dominica Coast to Fund School Music Program

By Staff

Caroline Choi, a Hollis resident and senior at Gould Academy in Bethel, Maine, completed an extraordinary self-powered expedition this summer that blended adventure, service, and purpose. From June 1 to 11, the high school senior kayaked approximately 36 miles along Dominica's Waitukubuli Sea Trail, raising funds for music programs at Soufrière Primary School in Dominica through her nonprofit, The Unfolding Chapter, Inc.

A childhood in Hollis shaped Choi's outlook. "Growing up in such a close-knit and supportive community, I was taught the importance of helping others," she reflected. Though she spends the school year in Maine, she looks forward to summers back home, where she has enjoyed working with local children as a camp counselor at Beaver Brook.

Choi first visited Dominica as a ninth grader on a cultural immersion trip, where she discovered sea kayaking and formed a lasting connection with Soufrière Primary School. Returning this summer with her mother and under the guidance of Wes Moses—a Gould Academy alumnus and owner of the Soufrière Outdoor Centre—she became the youngest person to complete the Waitukubuli Sea Trail and the first to paddle it as a fundraiser. Moses, a mentor to Caroline, praised her effort: "Caroline's project with the school speaks to the power of cross-cultural exchange and diversity. We are very proud to support her endeavor to provide locally made drums for the Primary School's music program."

Throughout her trip, she divided her days between the water and the school. "I was lucky to be welcomed into the school's

community. I had the opportunity to attend classes, read to children, learn about their day-to-day lives, and understand what it meant to be a student at the Soufrière Primary School. To be welcomed so warmly into such an intimate community was truly surreal, and something I will never forget," Choi said.

Choi's trip was not without challenges. Her luggage was delayed for several days, leaving her with limited belongings, while the physical demands of paddling 36 miles tested her endurance. Drawing on her school athletic training, she was determined to push through. Along the way, she encountered local fishermen, professional free divers who showed her a lot of support, and she even got a wave from the prime minister.

Choi raised \$4,000, which will purchase six to eight traditional Dominican drums and other cultural instruments students will use to connect with their musical heritage. Choi turned a personal challenge into a lasting opportunity for young students across the Caribbean. To read more about Caroline's expedition, visit The Unfolding Chapter, Inc. on Facebook.



Caroline Choi

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Hollis Town Photo
July 4, 2026

Photo By: Debbie Gracy

Reflections from Hollis Celebrates America’s 250th

What a remarkable success the Hollis 250th celebration proved to be! From the opening ceremony and Hollis Town Band concert to the fireworks finale under the summer night sky, Hollis came alive! Visitors of every generation strolled the streets and took in the rich history of Hollis. Each activity offered its own window into our town’s past and brought to life the unique role that our small town of Hollis played in America’s independence. The Hollis 250th Committee outdid itself. Their careful planning, creativity, and tireless effort turned a milestone year into a living celebration. To every member of the Committee, thank you!

A Few Reflections

Lillian Garruba, Chairman of the Hollis Celebrates America’s 250th Committee, said, “From the earliest stages of planning, there were so many community members who wanted to be part of the celebration. There were so many ideas; some came to fruition, and others did not, but everyone agreed that America's 250th celebration should reflect on our rich history, look to the future, and bring families into the community for old-fashioned fun and historical enrichment. I am so blessed to live here in Hollis and work side by side with so many amazing and dedicated people. This celebration truly did take a village to put together. I'm so very grateful for each and every one of you.”

Aaron Penkacik, Vice Chair, echoed the sentiment. “The ceremony on July 4 brought me to tears, and our movie night on July 10 with so many kids was wonderful! I was overcome with emotion seeing so many people at our finale on July 11 with the Slakas, DJ Carryl Roy, and then the fantastic fireworks display!”

“The patriotism in the air was exactly what makes Hollis such a special place to call home.” *Victor Orlando, Hollis resident*



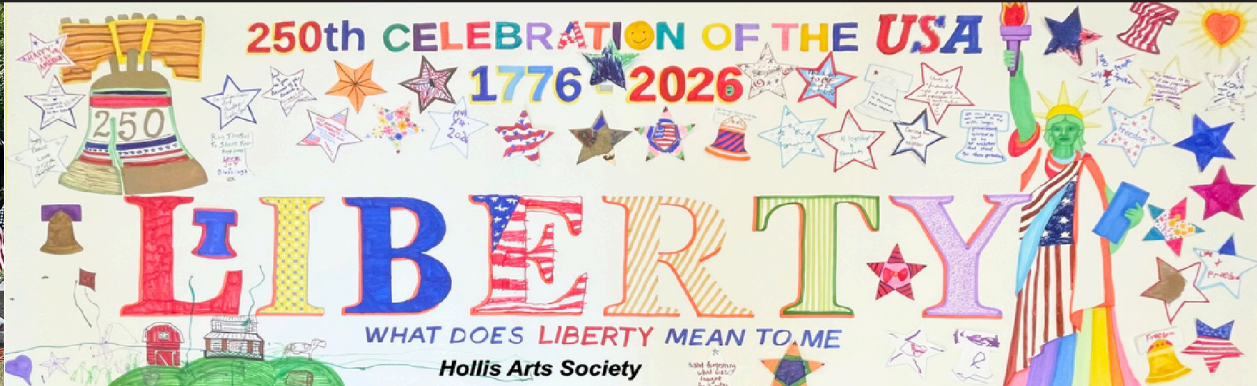


Hollis’s Oldest Town Resident Receives the Boston Post Cane

Gordon Alan Russell, born in Oxford, England, on April 14, 1926, received the Boston Post Cane at the Hollis Celebrates America’s 250th kickoff celebration on Wednesday, July 1. This New England tradition, started in 1909, awards a gold-headed cane to each town’s oldest resident, which is then handed down to successive oldest residents.

Gordon and his wife Celia moved to Hollis in 1992. He embraced life in our small town, volunteering with the Friends of the Library and Beaver Brook for many years. He remains grateful for the warm welcome he and Celia received upon arriving in this country, and for the opportunity to be part of the wonderful Hollis community.





What Does Liberty Mean to Me?

Hollis Arts Society
Community Mural



Photos and Community Mural from Hollis Celebrates America's 250th Birthday Celebration, July 1 to July 11, 2026

More Than a Farmstand: Welcome to The Porch at Narrow Pines Submitted by Ashley Adams



The Porch at Narrow Pines Homesteaders

Hollis has always embraced its farming roots, and Narrow Pines Homesteaders reflects that tradition. What began as a small roadside stand at the end of Matt and Ashley Adams' driveway has grown into something much more. Today, Narrow Pines is a community of local makers, with Ashley personally selecting each participating vendor to create a farmstand built on genuine connection, quality products, and support for fellow small businesses.

Matt and Ashley began their journey five years ago selling eggs, honey, and extra vegetables from their garden. Along the way, they faced challenges including theft, opposition from neighbors, and ongoing losses from predators. After two years of perseverance and problem solving, the Narrow Pines Homesteaders farm stand has moved into a beautifully refinished space on the lower level of their Hollis home.

The Porch is a self-serve farm stand offering Narrow Pines' own farm-fresh eggs, chicken, and other locally sourced products, including coffee, honey, and freshly baked treats. Customers will also find tallow skincare, all-natural deodorant, artisan crafts, and original artwork. Local businesses featured at The Porch include Kawa Roasters Inc., Desserts by Sarah, Southern Charm Cards, and neighboring Laromay Lavender Farm.

If you're one of the many Hollis residents who values shopping locally and supporting small businesses, The Porch was created with you in mind. Visit The Porch at Narrow Pines Homestead, 300 Broad St., Hollis (keep right at the fork in the driveway). Follow Narrow Pines Homestead, LLC on Facebook and @narrowpineshomestead on Instagram, or contact Ashley at 603-759-3005 or narrowpineshomestead@gmail.com.



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ELECTIONS

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PRIMARY
September 8

GENERAL
November 3

Polls Open:
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NOTABLE STATE AND FEDERAL CANDIDATES

NH STATE REPRESENTATIVE District 35	NH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL District 5
Liz Barbour (R) CommonSenseforNH.com	Melanie Levesque (D) MelanieforNH.com
Jim Kelly (R) CommonSenseforNH.com	Dave Wheeler (R) DaveWheeler.org
Kat McGhee (D) KatMcGhee.com	U.S. CONGRESS CD2
Ben Ming (D) BenMingNH.com	Maggie Goodlander (D) MaggieforNH.com
NH STATE REPRESENTATIVE District 45	Victor Orlando (R) VoteVDO.com
Jack Flanagan (R) CommonSenseforNH.com	Lily Tang Williams (R) LilyTangWilliams.com
Jerry Roche (D) VotingforYou.com	U.S. SENATE
NH STATE SENATE District 12	Scott P. Brown (R) ScottBrown.com
Kevin Avard (R) SenatorAvard.com	Chris Pappas (D) ChrisPappas.org
Carryl L. Roy (D) CarrylRoyforNH.com	John E. Sununu (R) SununuSenator.com
GOVERNOR	
Kelly Ayotte (R) KellyforNH.com	Cinde Warmington (D) CindeWarmington.com

For a complete list of candidates, visit:
NH Secretary of State:
sos.nh.gov/elections/candidates

Inside the Work of Hollis's Supervisors of the Checklist

By Liz Barbour

On Election Day, most voters spend only a few minutes at the polls—checking in, casting a ballot, and heading home. What most don't see is the months of preparation that go into every election. The Supervisors of the Checklist—Chairman Mary Thomas, Robbin Dunn, and Thom Davies—play a critical role in ensuring every qualified voter has the opportunity to vote.

Together, the three supervisors bring more than 40 years of experience to the position. Thomas has served for 13 years, Davies for 18, and Dunn for 11 years. Each came to the role through a desire to serve the community.

After volunteering as a ballot clerk and assisting with Election Day voter registrations, Thomas was appointed to succeed longtime supervisor Lydia Schellenberg and later elected to the position. Davies accepted an appointment after a vacancy opened. Dunn joined after friends Mary Thomas and Thom Davies encouraged her to apply. "When we work, we spend many hours together," she said. "It's fun to have people you get along with."

Although Election Day is the public face of their work, the supervisors serve year-round. In regularly scheduled public sessions, they review voter registrations, update the checklist, process address and name changes, and remove voters who have moved or died.

Election Day begins well before sunrise. Because



every election is an official session of the Supervisors of the Checklist, qualified residents may register to vote that day.

The supervisors verify documentation for same-day registrations, answer voter questions, assist ballot clerks, and work closely with the moderator and town clerk throughout the day.

One fact surprises all three supervisors: how many people wait until Election Day to register. During state and presidential elections, Thomas says they commonly process 200 to 300 new voter registrations in a single day.

After the polls close, post-election responsibilities begin immediately. Dunn explains that they enter every new voter registration, process address and name changes, record party affiliation updates, print reports, and scan each voter's participation into the statewide election database.

For Thomas, the greatest reward is the teamwork. "I appreciate the work the other supervisors, the ballot clerks, the moderators, and town clerks do," she said. "We're all working toward the same goal of a successful, well-run election."

For most voters, Election Day lasts only minutes. For Hollis's Supervisors of the Checklist, it represents months of preparation to ensure every eligible voter can confidently cast a ballot.

Behind the Ballot: The Town Clerk's Role in Election Day

By Liz Barbour

While many residents visit the Town Clerk's office to renew a vehicle registration, license a dog, or obtain a certified copy of a birth, marriage, or death certificate, election season reveals another important role of the office.



Diane Leavitt

Long before the first voter arrives at the polls, Town Clerk Diane Leavitt and Deputy Town Clerk Josh Senecal have been hard at work. I'd like to thank Diane for taking time from her busy day to share some of what goes into preparing for an election. I quickly learned that a successful Election Day begins long before the polls open and continues well after the last voter leaves.

Under New Hampshire law, the Town Clerk is responsible for many of the administrative functions that make elections possible. The office works closely with the New Hampshire Secretary of State, the Town Moderator, the Supervisors of the Checklist, and the Select Board in accordance with state law. It's a responsibility Diane knows well, having h

served as Hollis's first Deputy Clerk in the mid-1980s and then again for eight years before being elected Town Clerk two years ago. "It's a great fit for me," she told me. "I love working with numbers, but I especially love the people I work with and helping the residents who come in."

Voter Registration: Throughout the year, the Town Clerk's office registers voters in person or by mail up to 10 days before an election. After that deadline, eligible residents may register at the polling place on Election Day. Although the Town Clerk registers voters before the statutory deadline, Election Day registrations are handled by the Supervisors of the Checklist. Voter registration information is available at hollisnh.gov/1439/Elections-and-Voter-Information.

Voting Equipment: Another key responsibility of the Town Clerk is preparing the voting equipment for Election Day. Working with Moderator Drew Mason, Diane coordinates the public Logic and Accuracy Test to verify that the entire voting system is functioning properly. For each election, Drew prepares 50 test ballots that simulate a wide variety

Continued on page 15.

Keeping Election Day on Track

By Liz Barbour

Long before the first voter arrives at Hollis Brookline High School, Town Moderator Drew Mason is already at work. Mason has served Hollis elections for 16 years, first as an Assistant Town Moderator before becoming Moderator in 2020. A self-described "numbers guy," Mason enjoys the precision of vote tabulation but says elections are ultimately about people.



Drew Mason

"I don't think people realize this is a human process," he said. "A large part of my job is human relations—working with voters, volunteers and staff, offering calm counsel throughout the day."

Preparation begins months before every election. Mason attends New Hampshire Secretary of State training sessions and follows election law changes through statewide moderator forums. The evening before the election, the Hollis Department of Public Works transforms the polling room using a carefully planned layout. By 5:30 a.m. on Election Day, voting machines are powered on, ballots inventoried, and checklists secured. Before a single ballot is cast, Mason unlocks each ballot box and publicly demonstrates that it is empty. The voting machines then print a mandatory "zero tape," proving no votes have been recorded. "It's one of those things voters rarely see," Mason said, "but it's one of the important safeguards that protects every election."

Asked about intense moments, Mason replied, "Someone may come in on primary day convinced they're undeclared, only to learn they're registered as a Republican or Democrat," he explained. The Supervisors of the Checklist review the voter's election history, and often the voter simply forgot to change their party affiliation after a

Continued on page 15.

Ballot Clerks and Ballot Counters: The Familiar Faces at Election Day Check-in

By Liz Barbour



Election Day in Hollis is a bit like a reunion. As you walk through the doors, chances are you'll recognize the smiling faces greeting you at the check-in tables. Many of our ballot clerks have been volunteering for years, working shifts, welcoming neighbors, and keeping the voting process moving smoothly. Behind those familiar faces is an election system built on training, accuracy, and accountability.

Every step is designed to ensure that each qualified voter is issued only one ballot and that every ballot can be accounted for. Ballot clerks use the official voter checklist to verify each voter's name before issuing a ballot. They record that a ballot has been issued, creating an accurate record of every voter who casts a ballot.

When the polls close, teams of ballot counters work in pairs, each assigned sections of the voter check-in binders. After independently tallying their assigned pages, they exchange sections and repeat the process to verify one another's work. This process typically takes one to two hours before all figures are confirmed.

At the same time, the moderator coordinates another group of volunteers to hand count every write-in vote, review ballots rejected by the voting machines, and verify the ballot totals. These hand counts are compared with the voting machine totals and the number of voters checked in. Before the election results are finalized, the moderator reconciles the number of ballots cast with the number of voters recorded on the official checklist and completes the post-election reporting required by New Hampshire law.

The ballot clerk volunteers are the first people we see when we arrive to vote, and the ballot counters are often the last to leave long after the polls have closed. They spend hours ensuring every voter is checked in accurately, every ballot is accounted for, and every count is verified before results are certified. It's meticulous work that requires patience, focus, and commitment. Hollis is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers return year after year. When you head to the polls this September and November, take a moment to thank the volunteers behind the table. Their commitment is one of the reasons Hollis elections run so smoothly.

Be Election Ready

By Staff

Register to Vote

You may register by visiting the Town Clerk's office, by attending a session of the Supervisors of the Checklist, or by mail up to 10 days before an election. After that, you may register at the election site. In all cases, you must fill out a voter registration form and bring the required supporting documents. Call the Hollis Town Clerk's office at 603-465-2064 if you have questions, or visit the Town of Hollis Elections & Voter Information webpage: www.hollisnh.gov/1770/Registering-to-Vote

Absentee Ballot

To vote absentee, first submit an absentee ballot application to the Hollis Town Clerk. Applications are available at the Town Clerk's office or can be downloaded from the Town's website. Applicants must verify their identity before the Town Clerk can issue an absentee ballot. The Town Clerk may issue absentee ballots in person until 5 p.m. on the day before the election, while mailed applications received by noon on the day before the election will be processed if time permits. Complete instructions, applications, and current deadlines are available on the Town's website at: www.hollisnh.gov/1767/Absentee-Ballot-Information.

DID YOU KNOW ?

397 Hollis residents registered to vote on Election Day during the 2024 General Election. New Hampshire allows qualified residents who are not already on the voter checklist to register at the polls on Election Day. Each new voter must complete a registration form and establish their identity, age, U.S. citizenship, and domicile before being added to the checklist and issued a ballot. For Hollis election officials, that meant processing 397 new voter registrations while also conducting one of the busiest elections of the year, one of the many behind-the-scenes responsibilities required on Election Day.

What the Heck Does “Vote for Up to 2” Mean?

By Liz Barbour

This article, originally published in our March 2025 issue, has been updated to note that the ballot wording “Vote for up to 2; two will be elected” reflects the standardized instructions adopted under New Hampshire law (effective February 1, 2024). Earlier ballots often used simpler phrasing such as “Vote for 2.”

Election ballots can sometimes seem confusing, especially when instructions like “Vote for up to 2; two will be elected” appear. What does that actually mean, and how should voters approach it? Let's break it down. Understanding “Vote for Up to 2” When a ballot says this, it means you can select up to two candidates in that particular contest. You can vote for: one candidate, two candidates, or none at all. However, if you select more than two candidates, your vote for that contest may not count at all. This is why it's important to follow the instructions carefully.

What is Undervoting? Undervoting occurs when a voter selects fewer choices than allowed in a specific contest on their ballot. For example: if a ballot says, “Vote for up to 2,” and the voter selects only one candidate (or none), that is an undervote. It can also refer to leaving an entire contest blank, making a mistake. Undervoting is not the same as making a mistake. It's a deliberate or accidental choice to vote for fewer candidates than permitted. **Why Undervoting is Throwing Away a Vote** Many people misunderstand the impact of undervoting. Here's why it can diminish the influence of their vote:



This isn't true! Each vote is counted individually, and choosing a second candidate doesn't dilute the vote for the first. It simply adds another vote to someone else they support.

The Mathematical Reality: If you vote for one candidate in a “vote for up to 2” race, and someone else votes for two candidates, their total input into the election is higher than yours. By undervoting, you're effectively giving other voters more influence over the final result.

Maximize Your Voice To make the most of your ballot, follow these simple tips: Review the instructions for each contest carefully. Learn about the candidates and their platforms to ensure you are casting an educated vote that aligns with your values and priorities. Remember that voting for the maximum number of candidates allowed strengthens your influence in the election.

By understanding the impact of undervoting, you can ensure your voice is fully heard and your participation has the greatest possible effect. Maximize your vote and make it count!

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Unrehearsed Magic: How The Hollis Town Band and Lynéa Zaborowski Made Musical History

By David Bailey, Director, Hollis Town Band



Lynéa Zaborowski

Editor's Note: The opening concert for Hollis Celebrates America's 250th on July 1 will be remembered for many things, but one of the most moving moments came from an inspiring collaboration between the Hollis Town Band and Hollis resident and vocalist Lynéa Zaborowski. This performance is a wonderful example of what makes Hollis such a special community and the Hollis Town Band such a treasured group of musicians. Thank you, Hollis Town Band leader David Bailey, for creating such a special performance for Hollis, and for launching the celebration of America's 250th birthday in such fine style.

Lillian Garruba, chair of Hollis Celebrates America's 250th, contacted me and suggested that Lynéa would be a wonderful fit to sing the National Anthem during the opening ceremony. I emailed Lynéa the details of our arrangement, including the key in which we would be performing the piece. She was accustomed to singing it in a slightly lower key but was eager to try. I reassured her that if it didn't feel right, she could always perform it a cappella. When Lynéa joined us for the rehearsal on the morning of July 1, she sang the national anthem beautifully. It was immediately clear she had excellent training. I knew a memorable performance lay ahead.

Later that afternoon, with the concert fast approaching, inspiration struck. Would Lynéa also sing God Bless America? I quickly emailed her the suggestion and attached the vocal part from our band's arrangement. Her reply came back almost instantly: "Sure, let's do it!"

Professional musicians typically avoid performing unrehearsed material, but I knew Lynéa was an outstanding musician. Our quick discussion of the lyrics right before the concert confirmed she understood their spirit perfectly. God Bless America is a song that has two parts but is often performed with only the familiar second section. Many people sing along with the chorus without realizing the full context. The opening verse, however, gives the piece a deeper spiritual meaning. Written before the start of World War I and first shared publicly shortly before World War II, it begins:

"As the storm clouds gather, far across the sea, / Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free. / Let us all be grateful for a land so fair / As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer."

Lynéa captured the full meaning and emotion of the lyrics beautifully and blended seamlessly with the band. The result was a sublime musical moment—one that felt rare and special. Everyone who was on Monument Square that evening experienced something truly memorable.

To learn more about The Hollis Town Band, visit www.hollistownband.info.

Keys with Ease: A Family's Passion for Music Finds a Home in Hollis

By Staff

When Elenye German's family moved to Hollis in 2023, they weren't just looking for a new home—they were creating a place where a lifetime of music, teaching, and family could come together. Today, their family-owned music school, Keys with Ease, is helping students of all ages discover the joy of making music.

At the heart of the school is founder Elenye German, an accomplished pianist and educator with more than three decades of teaching experience.

She earned a Master's degree in piano performance from the New England Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance.

She has directed music schools, accompanied Broadway productions, coached chamber ensembles, and earned recognition from Carnegie Hall for preparing award-winning students. Her goal is to make exceptional music education both welcoming and accessible.

Music has always been woven into her family life. Elenye introduced each of her five children to music at an early age, and together they performed in churches, libraries, senior centers, Symphony Hall in Boston, and even Carnegie Hall. Today, that tradition continues through her daughter, Lynéa Zaborowski, who teaches voice, piano, and cello alongside her mother.

Lynéa brings both professional experience and personal



Keys with Ease, The German Family

understanding to her students.

A vocalist with a passion for musical storytelling, she also draws on her own experience growing up with ADHD, encouraging students to persevere through challenges and helping them build confidence as musicians. As a working mother of three, she appreciates the importance of creating lessons that fit family life while inspiring students to reach their potential.

Many Hollis residents recently had the opportunity to hear Lynéa perform during the opening concert of Hollis Celebrates America's 250th, where she joined the Hollis Town Band for stirring performances of The Star-Spangled Banner and, with only hours' notice, God Bless America. Her poised, unrehearsed performance showcased the same musical excellence and professionalism she brings to every lesson.

Keys with Ease offers private instruction in piano, voice, cello, and ukulele for children and adults, from beginners to advanced musicians. Lessons are available in person at the Hollis studio or online, and students

Continued on page 15.

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DOWN IN THE DIRT - *Tips from Hollis Gardeners*

By Holly Park, Scout Hill Farm

People think spring is often the best time to plant, but if I could choose the season for adding plants to my garden, it would be fall.

Here in southern New Hampshire, September and October offer nearly perfect growing conditions. The soil is still warm from summer, which encourages root growth, while cooler air temperatures make it easier on both plants and gardeners.

One thing I always remind people is that planting season doesn't end when the weather cools down. Newly planted trees, shrubs, and perennials still need regular watering until the ground freezes. In fact, a lack of fall watering combined with recent drought conditions is one reason many mature evergreens, including rhododendrons, have struggled over the past few years.

Fall is also the time to plant spring-flowering bulbs and bare-root peonies. It's one of those gardening tasks that requires a little faith, but you'll be glad you did it when the first blooms



By Holly Park, Scout Hill Farm

emerge next spring.

If you're shopping for plants this time of year, there are often fantastic deals to be found. I always encourage gardeners to check local nurseries first. Brookdale Fruit Farm, Sunny Valley Farms, Lull Farm, and Mason Hollow Nursery typically have excellent end-of-season sales. You may find bargains at big-box stores as well, though I generally find locally grown plants are in better condition after a long summer.

Taking note of a few fall gardening
Continued on page 14.

Hollis Woman's Club Installs New Officers for 2026–2027

Submitted by Lin Westberg,
Co-President, Hollis Woman's Club



Pictured left to right: Lorraine Alfred, Marybeth Snow, Rachel Tieman, Lin Westberg, and Jane Richard.

The Hollis Woman's Club recently installed its officers for the coming year during its annual meeting and luncheon, celebrating both leadership and a new chapter for the organization. Installed to serve for the 2026–2027 year are: Co-Presidents: Lin Westberg and Rachel Tieman; Treasurer: Jane Richard; Secretary: Marybeth Snow; Director-at-Large: Lorraine Alfred. The installation recognized both the dedication of outgoing leaders and the enthusiasm of the incoming leadership team as the club continues to evolve while honoring its traditions.

Over the past year, members have

been actively reimagining the future of the club through member surveys, conversations, and strategic planning. The result is a vibrant and welcoming organization offering social gatherings, educational programs, community outreach, local charitable giving, and new interest-based activities.

Community members interested in learning more about the Hollis Woman's Club are invited to visit their website at HollisWomansClub.org and stop by the club's booth at Old Home Day.

From Seed to Bouquet: Approachable Gardening Workshops in Hollis

By Holly Park, Scout Hill Farm

At Scout Hill Farm in Hollis, I believe that learning about plants should be inspiring, approachable, and fun. Whether we're creating a beautiful flower arrangement or designing a garden that will thrive for years to come, my goal is to help people feel confident working with plants at every stage of their gardening journey. My passion is helping others discover the joy that plants can bring.



By Holly Park, Scout Hill Farm

I offer monthly workshops at Scout Hill Farm focused on flower arranging, garden design, and seed starting, along with occasional classes hosted through organizations such as the Hollis Recreation Department and local garden clubs. Every workshop is interactive and tailored to the group's experience level and interests, making each class unique for beginners and seasoned gardeners alike.

I offer flower arranging workshops,

garden design workshops, cut flower bouquets, and garden club programs. Upcoming workshops, including my Designing with Dahlias arranging class on September 13, can be found at ScoutHillFarm.com. You can also follow Scout Hill Farm on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, or subscribe to my newsletter for exclusive gardening tips, educational blog posts, and updates on upcoming classes and events.

Minis in Motion: Building Confidence Through Dance for Ages 2–7

By Charlotte Kimmons

By Charlotte Kimmons

Minis in Motion is an early dance program for children founded by Hollis mom, Charlotte Kimmons. Charlotte started her career as a professional dancer, gaining her teaching qualification through the British Ballet Organization. After years of teaching dance, Charlotte recognized the importance of



Minis in Motion

introducing movement at an early age in a way that celebrates every child's individuality rather than focusing on perfection. Her classes are supportive, upbeat, and engaging. Children learn foundational dance technique and strengthen motor skills, all without any pressure. Charlotte strives to create a welcoming, inclusive environment where dancers can grow and build confidence at their own pace. "The joy of dance is such a gift; sharing it with young dancers is truly a pleasure".

Classes are currently held for ages 2-7 at the Milford Recreation Department, Little Hearts Playroom, and Brookline Library, with new classes popping up in surrounding towns. Charlotte also teaches at a local

Continued on page 15.

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The image is a vertical advertisement for J&J Storage. At the top, the text "J&J STORAGE" is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this, there is a logo consisting of a red padlock with a yellow swoosh around it. Underneath the padlock, the phrase "Your neighborhood trusted storage solution" is written in a black, cursive script. The next section contains a paragraph of text in a black, sans-serif font: "Whether you need extra space for seasonal items, household goods, or business inventory, we offer secure, affordable, and convenient storage options right here in town." Below the text is a red, rounded rectangular button with the words "CONTACT US TODAY" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom, there are two icons: a grey storage unit with four compartments and a grey delivery truck. Finally, the contact information is listed at the very bottom in a black, sans-serif font: "(603) 465-2472 | JJStorageHollis@gmail.com | 21 Proctor Hill Rd. Hollis, NH 03049".

Celebrating the Extraordinary Honi Glover.....Continued from page 1
on the committee through 2025. As a founder and leader of the Hollis Heritage Commission, she played a key role in saving the Lawrence Barn, the Noah Dow Cooper Shop, and the Red Barn and Ice House at Woodmont Orchard. She also served as president of the Hollis Seniors, delivered meals, plowed driveways, mowed lawns, and quietly looked after neighbors in need.

Honi Glover was truly one of a kind. Her deep Christian faith, generous spirit, quick wit, and willingness to lend a hand left a lasting impression on generations of Hollis residents. She will be greatly missed, fondly remembered, and long celebrated as a local legend. For Honi's complete obituary, visit the website of Davis Funeral Home: <https://www.davisfuneralhomenh.com/memorials/margaret-glover/5732089>

Running for Tommy.....Continued from page 1
so soon—for his life. It feels only right to close with a playful nod to one of America's most beloved writers. Most of us have read The Great Gatsby at least once. In the closing lines, F. Scott Fitzgerald writes, "TOMorrow we will run faster." And that is exactly what we invite you to do. Tommy's Trot is a kids' fun run to support Tommy and his family. The race will feature waved starts for children ages 3–12 so kids can cheer one another on from the grass while waiting their turn. There will also be face painting, bubbles, lawn games, pizza, and a raffle with wonderful kid-friendly prizes donated by generous local businesses and neighbors.

The event takes place at the Nichols Field track on Saturday, October 24, at 10 AM (rain date Sunday, October 25). All registration fees and donations will go directly to Tommy and his parents as they navigate this difficult time. For full race details, visit RunSignUp.com and search "Tommy's Trot." Come run with us—and help Tommy run toward a brighter, healthier tomorrow. To make a donation, visit GoFundMe.com and search "Run for TOMorrow."

NEBM & Co. Patriot Apparel.....Continued from page 1
Vicente says. "A lot of our growth has come through recommendations and word of mouth."

One of those relationships became especially meaningful. When Vicente and Karla purchased a local print shop, they faced the prospect of relocating just as neighboring Operation Delta Dog was expanding into the building. Instead, the nonprofit chose to sublease part of the property, allowing NEBM to remain. "What started as a friendly connection quickly grew into a strong partnership," Operation Delta Dog shared. "From the very beginning, Vicente has gone above and beyond to support Operation Delta Dog." Today, NEBM produces apparel, banners, stickers, promotional products, and other custom items that help tell the organization's story while supporting its mission of serving veterans and rescue dogs.

This year, NEBM also became the official apparel merchandiser for Hollis Old Home Days. Committee Chair Lindsey Sud said partnering with a Hollis business made perfect sense after meeting Vicente through the event. "He was immediately on board," Sud says. "I asked if he would host a page on his website, collaborate on designs, handle fulfillment, donate a portion of the proceeds, and staff a booth throughout the weekend. Again, no hesitation. He's a gem." The online storefront allows shoppers to customize apparel before or after the event while reducing the need for large inventories. The collection features the classic Old Home Days logo alongside artwork inspired by Hollis landmarks, with 15 percent of proceeds benefiting Old Home Days.

Looking ahead, NEBM continues to invest in its future with a new four-head embroidery machine and a CO2 laser that will expand production and enable engraved products and additional custom signage. "We are constantly putting money back into the business so we can offer more products and services to the local community," Vicente says. "Hollis has been great to us."

For Vicente and Karla, the greatest reward is seeing their work throughout town and knowing they are helping local businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations succeed.

NEBM & Co. Patriot Apparel is located at 19F Clinton Drive in Hollis. To learn more: Website: nebmco.com, email: sales@nebmco.com, (603) 387-2938, Facebook and Instagram: NEBM & Co. Patriot Apparel.

Down in the Dirt.....Continued from page 13
habits can also make a big difference. I stop fertilizing hardy plants by September and avoid planting anything that is pushing our hardiness zone. A rose rated to only Zone 6, for example, may not appreciate a tough New Hampshire winter.

When frost arrives, I cut back only my peonies and hostas. Everything else waits until spring cleanup. Those standing stems provide winter interest and shelter for beneficial insects.

And before bagging up your leaves, consider putting them to work. I blow many of mine directly into garden beds where they provide insulation and organic matter. The rest get shredded with the mower and become homemade compost.

Most importantly, take time to enjoy the garden before winter arrives. At Scout Hill Farm, the dahlias will be blooming until frost, followed by our beautiful fall mums. It's one of my favorite seasons in the garden.

You can learn more about Holly and Scout Hill Farm by visiting her website at ScoutHillFarm.com. Follow her on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, or subscribe to her newsletter for exclusive gardening tips, educational blog posts, and updates on upcoming classes and events.

Building Strength and Restoring Confidence.....Continued from page 16

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Behind the Ballot.....Continued from page 10
of voting situations, including votes for different candidates, write-in votes, blank contests, and overvotes. These ballots are run through each voting machine to confirm that every vote is interpreted and tabulated exactly as expected. Once the results are verified, the machines are sealed and secured until Election Day. This year's public Logic and Accuracy Test will take place on September 2 at 2:30 p.m. in the Town Clerk's office. Members of the public are welcome to observe the testing process.

Absentee Voting: The Town Clerk also administers Hollis's absentee voting program. In the 2024 general election, 763 absentee ballots were processed, each requiring careful review and verification to be accepted and counted in accordance with New Hampshire law.

Election Day: Although months of preparation lead up to Election Day, the Town Clerk's work is far from over once the polls open. In Hollis, Election Day itself is one of the longest workdays of the year. Diane and Josh will begin preparing the polling place as early as 6 a.m. and may not finish until after midnight. Their responsibilities don't end when the polls close—they remain on site to support election officials, monitor ballot supplies, maintain election records, complete required paperwork, and ensure election materials are properly secured and transferred. They work closely with the Moderator, the Supervisors of the Checklist, and other election officials to help the day run smoothly from the opening of the polls until the final documents are signed.

Election Day doesn't end when the last ballot is counted. Once the Moderator and the Supervisors of the Checklist have completed their work, the Select Board seals the ballot boxes for transport and storage. Custody of the election materials is then transferred to the Town Clerk, who securely stores the sealed ballots and records. The Town Clerk and the Moderator sign the official election documents. The Hollis Police Department then transports the sealed election return envelope to the New Hampshire State Police barracks, where it is delivered to the Secretary of State in Concord.

On Election Day, if you see Town Clerk Diane Leavitt or Deputy Town Clerk Josh Senecal, be sure to say hello. During a very long day, a few words of appreciation can go a long way toward recognizing their commitment to ensuring our votes are handled with care, securely documented, and faithfully preserved.

Keeping Election Day on Track.....Continued from page 10
previous primary. As the polls near closing, Mason steps outside to check for any last-minute voters. Then the evening shifts into its busiest phase. "Too many things are supposed to happen all at once," he laughed. Voting machines produce preliminary totals within minutes while volunteers begin hand counting ballots that cannot be processed electronically, including write-ins and rejected ballots. At the same time, separate teams verify every voter checked off on the six official checklists. Every number must reconcile—ballots issued, ballots cast, voters checked in, and votes counted.

Throughout the evening, 12 to 20 volunteer ballot counters work alongside the Moderator while another team verifies the checklists. "Fresh eyes and fresh brains," Mason says, are essential after a 14-hour day.

When all counts are complete, Mason certifies the results. After the Hollis Police deliver the official election returns to the New Hampshire State Police, Mason emails the results to local reporters and the Town's IT Director for posting on the Town website. Often, Mason and Town Clerk Diane Leavitt are the last people to leave the building—sometimes not until 2:00 a.m.

Even after the work is done, Election Day isn't over for Mason. "I go home and try to unwind," he said. "That takes a long time because I'm still so keyed up, while at the same time utterly exhausted." Despite the long hours, it's the people he remembers most. "The occasional voter will simply stop and say, 'Thank you,'" Mason said. "That thank you goes a long way for every poll worker."

For Mason, that appreciation belongs not just to him, but to the staff, ballot clerks, ballot counters, and dozens of trained volunteers who quietly work behind the scenes. "It is very much a team effort, and I couldn't do what I do without all of them doing their jobs," he told us. So, when you go to cast your vote at election time, take a moment to notice your neighbors working at the polls, all of whom give their time to ensure every Hollis election is worthy of the community's trust.

Keys with Ease.....Continued from page 12
can prepare for recitals, auditions, competitions, or simply enjoy learning for personal fulfillment. The school also offers workshops and performance opportunities that encourage musicians to grow in confidence while sharing their talents with others. Already active in Old Home Days, Christmas concerts, and community workshops, the German family hopes to continue expanding musical opportunities in Hollis. Their vision is simple: Provide high-quality music education close to home while helping students discover the lifelong joy that music has brought to their own families.

For more information about Keys with Ease, private lessons, workshops, or performance opportunities, contact Keys with Ease: (603) 881-6494, lessons@keyswithease.com, and facebook.com/KeyswithEase

Minis in Motion.....Continued from page 13
preschool and can be booked for birthday parties.

In addition, Charlotte is a trained barre instructor and teaches adult barre classes at the Milford Recreation Department to parents and caregivers, allowing them to work out and bring their little ones with them.

Minis in Motion turned four years old in August! Looking ahead, Charlotte hopes to continue growing Minis in Motion, expanding its class offerings for older age groups. She can't wait to welcome more dancers into the Minis in Motion community!

To learn more, visit: www.minisinmotion.dance or discover on Instagram: [minis.in.motion](https://www.instagram.com/minisinmotiondance), Facebook: [minisinmotiondance](https://www.facebook.com/minisinmotiondance), Email: info@minisinmotion.dance





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105 Rideout Rd	May 4	\$715,000
206 S. Merrimack Rd	May 8	\$510,000
1 Dalkeith Rd	May 27	\$925,000
26 Snow Ln	May 28	\$1,700,000
77 Broad St	May 28	\$940,000
449 Silver Lake Rd	Jun. 3	\$660,000
293 Pine Hill Rd	Jun. 15	\$1,330,000
84 Irene Dr	Jun. 15	\$863,000
52 Nevins Rd	Jun. 29	\$470,000
115 Silver Lake Rd	Jun. 30	\$550,000
89 Wheeler Rd	Jun. 30	\$855,000
22 Austin Ln	Jul. 1	\$1,199,000
82 Truell Rd	Jul. 6	\$750,000
30 Silver Hill Park	Jul. 7	\$525,000
34 Van Dyke Rd	Jul. 9	\$740,000
48 Witches Spring Rd	Jul. 13	\$610,000
21 Wheeler Rd	Jul. 13	\$877,500
53-2 Pine Hill Rd	Jul. 16	\$890,000
76 Dow Rd	Jul. 17	\$1,255,000
23 Austin Ln	Jul. 17	\$1,280,500
164 Broad St	Jul. 20	\$1,030,000





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DID YOU

KNOW?

Hollis was originally spelled "Holles"?

In 1746, Royal Governor Benning Wentworth divided West Dunstable into four townships: Dunstable, Holles, Merrimack, and Monson. Holles was named for the family of the Duke of Newcastle, then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The spelling was later changed to Hollis, possibly influenced by Harvard's Hollis Hall, named for benefactor Thomas Hollis, a wealthy London merchant. And despite the town's name, there is no known Hollis family associated with the town's naming or early history.

For more information about Hollis history, visit: www.HollisHistory.org

Building Strength and Restoring Confidence at Lifelong Fitness Studio

By Staff

Hello, I'm Anne Micci, CPT, owner of Lifelong Fitness Studio in Hollis. I'm a passionate certified personal trainer dedicated to helping people of all ages achieve their fitness goals and live healthier, happier lives. Since 2005, I've specialized in one-on-one training here, and in 2011, I opened my private studio to create a supportive, distraction-free environment focused entirely on you.

I work with clients from teenagers to those in their 90s, including many recovering from injuries to the back, shoulders, and knees. For 40 years, I have worked in the medical field in many capacities: starting as a medical assistant and over the years achieving my certification as a physical therapy assistant, becoming certified through the



Anne Micci

YMCA in sports nutrition, the healthy back program, physical training for youths, fitness during pregnancy, and CPR.

The knowledge that I gained through this education allows me to design safe, effective programs that rebuild strength, help reduce pain, and restore confidence.

At Lifelong Fitness Studio, I offer flexible personal training sessions: focused 30-minute solo or duo workouts, comprehensive 45-minute solo sessions, and full 60-minute solo appointments.

Every session features varied strength-training techniques, cardiovascular work, and careful attention to proper form so you stay engaged, progress steadily, and minimize injury risk. I also provide nutrition counseling with customized plans that support lasting dietary changes and overall wellness. My goal is not only to guide your exercises but also educate you in strength training, endurance, and nutrition so you can maintain results for life.

Continued on page 14.

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