

# The Holliston Pride

Editor: Doreen Martel

Spring 2024

Holliston Lions Year in Review

The Holliston Lions Club is always looking for ways to make our community a better place. The 2023 – 2024 Lions year was no exception! This year, we have proudly continued to serve the Town of Holliston by adding new service projects and fundraising events.



Here are some of the highlights:

As is standard, our Club started the year off with the Carnival. Lion Mark had a tall job on his hands as this event means everyone is on deck for multiple hours. Lion Betty has a HUGE role to play during this event, made even more complicated this year because of the addition of online ticket sales. Fortunately, mother nature was on our side and the event went off with nary a hitch. You can see more photos of the carnival by [following this link](#).



Thanks to the efforts and leadership of Lion Mike Tyman, a new service project was added this year – we helped with a track program at the schools for special needs students. After a rain date, the rescheduled event was a success for everyone. If you missed this, there are some great photos which you can view by [following this link](#).



We expanded our Senior and Veterans Luncheon program so that each month between September and June we are serving lunch either at the Holliston Senior Center, Cole Court, or Mission Springs. This is in addition to the traditional Veteran's Day Luncheon which we have participated in for years. You can see more Veteran's Day Lunch photos by [following this link](#).



In October we held a very successful meat raffle at Casey's and made the decision to move forward with this event on a quarterly basis. In total, these three events netted nearly \$4,000 with donations made to LCIF Disaster Relief Fund, Senior/Veterans luncheon program and Holliston Pantry Shelf. More photos from the January meat raffle can be found by [following this link](#).



In December, our annual Santa Breakfast which was led masterfully by Lion Vinnie was a huge success and fortunately for all of us, Lion Vinnie has agreed to chair this event during the 2024 – 2025 Lions year. You can find more Breakfast with Santa photos by [following this link](#).



Let's not forget the ever-popular downtown lighting and Holiday Stroll! Holiday Stroll photos can be viewed by [following this link](#).

This is the PERFECT spot to say THANK YOU to Lion Tony Mistretta for providing us with so many great photos of our events this year. They definitely make our history more colorful!

Lion Mike McKenna ran another successful Super Bowl Squares raffle and thanks to his efforts we were able to have a fun event on Super Bowl Sunday at Caseys.



Lion Jocelyn Gaboriault was responsible for running our Winnin o' The Green Raffle in March. We had lots of help from 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Anthony and PDG Matthew with appetizers, capable assistance from Lions Trish and Kathy soliciting prizes. Ticket sales were good, and a great evening was had by all. It is worth noting that our winners this year were more than a bit lucky! The first winner was a person who was attending with a

friend and bought one of our balloons with a free 11<sup>th</sup> ticket in it – that ticket was the lucky 11<sup>th</sup> ticket drawn. The other winner bought the ticket the day before the event, and she was not in attendance. There is a lot of great photos which you can see by [following this link](#).



In April, our Club was recognized at the State Convention— KL Mark was awarded a Presidential Award which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest award in our Association. In addition, the Holliston Lions Club was once again recognized as the Best



Extra-Large Club in Multiple District 33.



Lion Betty Harris and her team made sure that the Holliston Lions Club was well represented at the Holliston 300<sup>th</sup> Parade. What a job was done and what a fun event! Not only did we have an awesome float, but we had cheerleaders all along the way, a contingent of Leo Club members and our “Lions” mascots. These pictures are fun and if you missed them you can see them by [following this link](#).



Capably run by Lions Marc Golding and Kevin McAteer our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual golf tournament was held in May in conjunction with Celebrate Holliston. We anticipate our net profit from this event will be in the area of \$8,000. Part of the proceeds will be donated to the Holliston Pantry Shelf and to Dana Farber Cancer in Milford. There are lots of great photos of this event which you can see by [following this link](#).

“How can we expect our children to know and experience the joy of giving unless we teach them that the greater pleasure in life lies in the art of giving rather than receiving.” -James Cash Penney



At the final June Advisory Meeting, District Governor Ivette honored the Holliston Lions Club as the Best Extra-Large Club in District 33K.

By The Numbers:

We took in more than \$100,000 this year and with the donations we made during June we will have exceeded last year's totals. Congratulations to everyone for their efforts.

Something to Crow About!

In addition to our fundraising activities, we reported doing 73 service projects this year with more than 44,540 people served. Imagine if all of you were reporting your hours!!

We presented two Melvin Jones Fellowships this year to Lions Kevin Conley and Debbie Kerrigan. We also presented Lion Mike Tyman with a second Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

We also presented two Heart of a Lion Awards, one to Chris Leoncini for all of his capable assistance with so many of our events, and one to Neil Svendsen who has been a more than capable volunteer with the Senior Support Foundation for decades.

I have not done nearly as many newsletters as I should have this year for various reasons which I will not bore you with. Beginning with the 2024 – 2025 Lions year, someone else will be taking over and I am sure will do a far better job than I have done this year! Doreen