

**Fall 2021
Edition**

The 411 Newsletter

A Holland Police Department

Informational Publication

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**Produced &
Distributed by
Holland Police
Department**

**27 Sturbridge Rd
Holland,
Massachusetts
10/25/2021**

Over \$87K in Grant Awards

In 2020, the Police Department was able to secure more than \$87,000.00 in grant funding for the Town of Holland.

This is by far the most grant money secured in one year by the department.

In November we were awarded the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$32,104.68, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's, NHTSA, Highway Safety, Crime Prevention, and Educa-

tion Initiatives Grant in the amount of \$7,162.00. We used the Byrne funds to address much-



needed upgrades to our outdated portable radios and our mobile data terminal computers.

The NHTSA resources allowed us to fund personnel to par-

ticipate in a series of traffic enforcement campaigns to reduce vehicle crashes, injuries, and loss of life.

This also allowed us the opportunity to purchase traffic enforcement and traffic calming equipment, including a speed feedback radar device that can be positioned on our roadways in order to encourage operators to lower speeds and attain self-enforcing speed and safety compliance.

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Hazard Mitigation Project

On October 19, 2021, the Board of Selectmen voted to accept and approve an Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project proposal that was produced and submitted by the Office of Emergency Management. The purpose of this proposal is to

establish a multi-phase project consisting of an environmental hazard vulnerability assessment followed by implementing mitigation strategies and physical protective measures that will protect the health and safety of per-

sons and property.

Our overall goal is to adopt procedures that center on the protection, restoration, and management of our ecological systems to safeguard public health and the environment.

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"Police work is much more than just responding to crimes. It is the responsibility of the Police Officers to integrate themselves into the community to gain trust and to promote strategies which support the use of partnership and problem solving techniques.

We believe that employing this community policing philosophy is very important to our overall success as a Police Department and through this we are able to produce the most well rounded Police Officer possible in order to better serve the Holland community."

Bryan Haughey
Chief of Police

Grant Awards

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These finances are greatly beneficial to the Town and the community as they allowed us to procure this vital equipment and fund personnel for these initiatives without the use of municipal funding.

In December, this department authored a proposal for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation MASSDOT, Shared Winter Streets & Spaces Grant, and ultimately received an award of \$37,760.00.

This was the result of a comprehensive 31-page Access and Infrastructure Improvement Project proposal for Sturbridge Rd that we produced and submitted to the

Board of Selectmen on November 30th.

It was decided that the immediate focus for the project would center on improving a safe route system of travel to the Elementary School and the Hitchcock Field and Recreation Area by establishing improvements alongside and across the heavily traveled Sturbridge Rd.

Our application stood out among a competitive pool of other applicants and this funding allowed us to establish approximately 400' of sidewalk surrounding the perimeter of the Field & Recreation Area, not only to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety, but to

calm passing vehicle speed as well.

The funds also allowed us to improve existing school zone crosswalks and establish new crosswalks with high visibility and durable pavement paint and new flashing crosswalk traffic control signs.

Additionally, the funding allowed us to add a new paved pathway and crosswalk on the school grounds.

In September we also received a grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 to purchase an electronic message board sign.

Hazard Mitigation

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This will provide clean air and water, increase natural hazard resilience, and sequester toxic and carbon emissions that will protect the health and safety of persons and

property.

To complete this project it is critical that we receive support from our municipal partners and the community.

We are currently in the process of es-

establishing a project management team and anticipate beginning the planning phase of the project within the next few weeks.

Protecting Our Environment

With the focal point of our town being the Hamilton Reservoir and with the vast amount of ponds, rivers, streams, trails, and other unique ecological systems within our community we must take a proactive approach in prioritizing the preservation of our environment.



In order to protect and foster the natural, scenic, and aesthetic qualities of our community it is necessary that we focus on defending our forests and other ecological habitats from destruction, floods, erosion, and pollution, enhancing watershed control systems, and managing the growth of invasive vegetation and bacteria in our waterways.

As part of the Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project, the Town will have the opportunity to apply for funding assistance from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, (EEA), specifically by way of the

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, (MVP).

The purpose of the MVP program is to provide support for cities and towns to identify climate hazards, assess vulnerabilities, and develop action plans to improve resilience to climate change by way of the MVP Program Planning Grant.

This grant will allow us to establish a core team of individuals to work with an MVP provider to help gather background information on climate change impacts, identify environmental vulnerabilities and the priority actions that can be taken to improve resilience, and explore nature-based solutions to actually build that resiliency.

Reducing Nutrients in our Waterways

According to EEA guidance, a lake's water quality reflects what is happening in its surrounding watershed.

A watershed includes all the land, or drainage area, that drains into a stream, lake, or other body of water.

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution occurs when water (i.e. stormwater, snowmelt, water from a garden hose) flows throughout the watershed, picking up pollutants and

depositing them into water resources.

Common types of NPS pollutants include phosphorus and nitrogen in lawn and garden fertilizers, pet waste, phosphorus and bacteria from septic systems, oil and grease from parking lots, and sediment from construction activities and soil erosion.

NPS pollution does not observe property lines. It flows wherever water takes it throughout the water-

shed - typically to stormdrains and then, without any treatment, into nearby streams and lakes.

The combined effect of NPS pollutants such as phosphorus, sediment and bacteria result in degraded water quality and loss of recreational use and wildlife habitat.

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Protecting Our Waterways

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Accelerated degradation as a result of human activity in the watershed is called "cultural eutrophication".

Excessive nutrients such as phosphorus stimulate algal and plant growth, limiting the recreational use of the lake (fishing, swimming and boating) and degrading wildlife habitat.

Sediment can cause serious damage to the lake by causing turbidity and filling-in sensitive habitat that is needed

for aquatic life. It also transports phosphorus.



Bacteria from failing or substandard septic systems, pet waste, and waterfowl often cause swimming beach closures.

Preventing and reducing NPS pollution is the key to improving lake water quality. Cumulatively, wa-

tershed residents can have the greatest impact on the health of a lake.

Steps to prevent or reduce NPS pollution can be simple and inexpensive.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are activities that prevent nonpoint source pollution or mitigate the effects of NPS.

It is easier and more cost effective to prevent pollution than to restore a degraded resource. BMPs can be structural, such as planting a buffer strip, or non-structural, such as analyzing lawn soils prior to applying fertilizer.

BMP's- Every Little Bit Helps

Recently, our Emergency Management Director distributed the following tips provided by the EEA that can help reduce and eliminate introducing nutrients and bacteria into our waterways.

Encourage infiltration and control sedimentation: Minimize impervious surfaces such as driveways and parking lots to encourage infiltration. Slow or divert stormwater runoff toward vegetated areas where water can seep into the ground. Mulch and seed exposed soils to eliminate erosion. Wash cars over pervious surfaces, such as lawns, not over driveways, and wash undercarriages at commercial car wash facilities.

Reduce and eliminate nutrients and bacteria: Plant vegetation around driveways, shorelines and on slopes, (the vegetation will absorb nutrients, filter out pollutants, and trap sediment). Keep yard waste such as grass clippings and leaves out of the lake, storm drains, and off streets, (although yard waste is natural, when it decomposes it becomes high in nutrients). Use phosphate-free or low-phosphate (less than 1%) automatic dishwashing detergents. Maintain septic tanks with regular pumping and inspection at least every (3-5 years). Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash. Establish a vegetated buffer strip along shorelines to discourage waterfowl, such as geese, and avoid feeding them, (the average goose will produce one pound of droppings a day).