



TOWN OF HOLLAND
Police Department
27 Sturbridge Road Holland, MA 01521
Bryan C. Haughey
Chief of Police

From: Bryan C. Haughey- Chief of Police
Date: March 30, 2021
Subj: PRESS RELEASE Domestic Violence Advocate Program

Greetings,

In 2019 The Holland Police Department established a Domestic Violence Advocate Program [DVAP]. This Program was the result of an alliance between the Town of Holland, the Police Department, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission [PVPC], and Stop Abuse Today Inc, a local nonprofit. Through the hard work of these organizations, we were able to secure funding for the Program by participating in a public service Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] with our neighboring Towns of Brimfield and Wales.

Working with a Domestic Violence Advocate and through the assistance of Behavioral Health Network [BHN], the Program is intended to support our citizens by providing education, awareness, outreach, and support for victims and survivors of domestic violence. The mission of the Program is to establish a collaborative relationship between the Advocate and the Police Department to provide assistance and services for those in the community who are affected by domestic violence. The Program is guided by the following principles, goals, and objectives:

- assist victims/survivors in working with law enforcement and the court system;
- assist victims/survivors in obtaining emergency housing, counseling, and other support;
- provide emotional support for victims/survivors;
- develop and maintain partnerships with outside support providers;
- develop and maintain programs that will foster awareness about domestic violence.

In 2020 we began working with our Advocate, Melissa. Melissa can be reached via voicemail (413) 750-8304 and can provide those affected by domestic violence with;

- follow-up assessments and referral to the appropriate service provider or network;
- developing and maintaining risk assessments, and safety planning;
- assistance in the process of obtaining emergency housing or shelter, and counseling;
- assistance in the process of obtaining restraining orders and guidance in working with law enforcement and the court system.

Domestic Violence is an ongoing issue in our country. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, NCADV, (2015) Domestic violence national statistics, shows that 266 victims were murdered in intimate partner homicides between 2003 and 2012. In a single day, 1,795 victims were served by Massachusetts domestic violence programs and nearly 1 in 3 Massachusetts women has experienced some type of physical violence.

27 Sturbridge Rd - Holland Massachusetts 01521

Station: (413) 245-0117


Dispatch: (413) 245-7222

Fax: (413) 245-4482

Email: police@hollandma.org

We take this very seriously and attempt to provide our citizens with the most comprehensive service possible. We firmly believe that we must all work together to promote healthy relationships to help prevent the abuse that afflicts our communities and families.

Respectfully,



Bryan C. Haughey
Chief of Police

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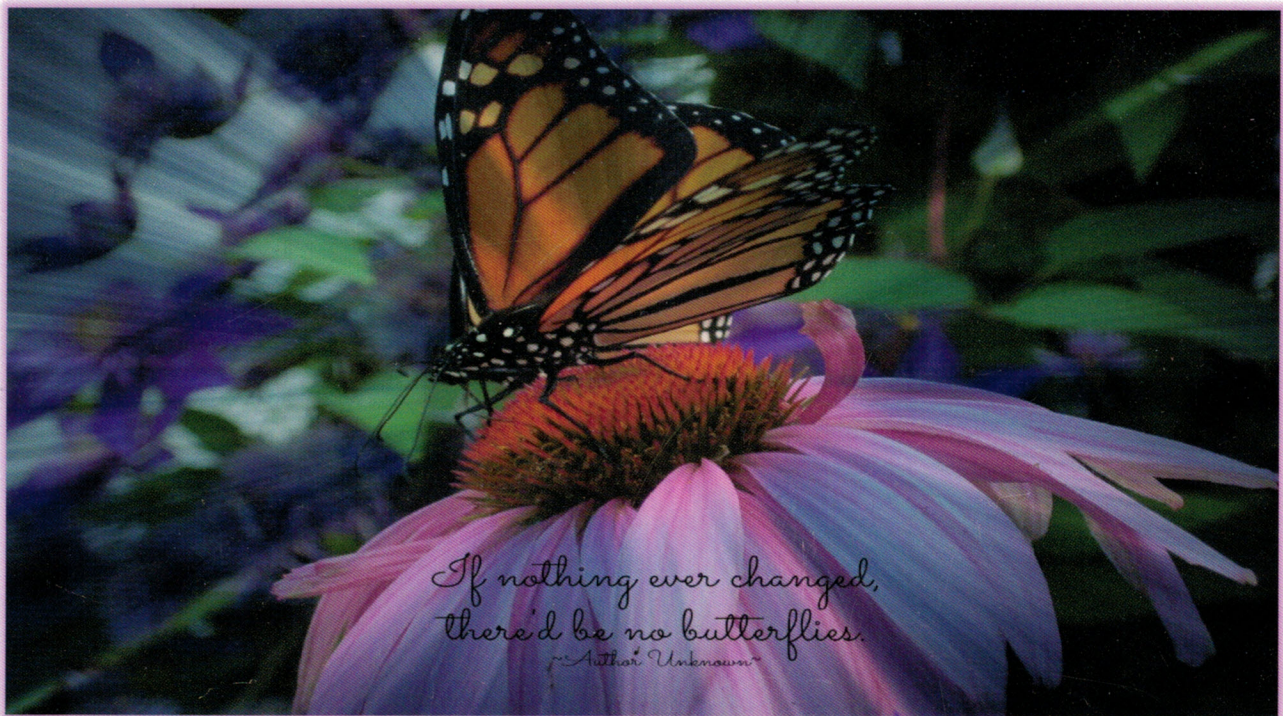
Email: police@hollandma.org

Are you or someone you know being hurt by a partner?

Help is available. . . .

For Holland, Brimfield & Wales

Behavioral Health Network and Stop Abuse Today Inc. have worked together to introduce an advocate to work with those being affected by destructive or abusive relationships.



You are not alone. Services are free.

Call or text (413) 750-8304

If you are in danger, being threatened or hurt, call 911 or connect to other local and national services-

* Womanshelter/Companeras (Holyoke): 413-536-1628 (24/7) * YWCA (Springfield): 413-733-7100 (24/7) * New Hope (Worc.) 800-323-4673 (24/7) * Safe Passage (Northampton) 413-586-5066 (weekdays 11am-7pm) * Safe Link state-wide hotline 877-785-2020 (24/7) * National DV Hotline: Can help by text when talking isn't safe - Text LOVEIS to 22522



STOP ABUSE TODAY INC.

