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Summer

Links

- Contact Info
- Email us
- Advertising Questions
- Home Delivery Questions
- Leominster Champ
- Fitchburg Pride
- Community Journal
- Millbury Sutton
- Services**
- Advertiser Index
- Subscribe
- View Current Classifieds
- Place a Classified
- News Archive

Poll

Should businesses pay a higher property tax rate than homeowners?

- No, we should keep the single rate
- Yes, residents deserve a break

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Holden Roundup



A State Police officer stops a motorist during the Nov. 15 sobriety checkpoint on Main Street (Route 122A), Holden. Joyce Roberts photo

LEVEL IT: Holden's select board at their regular meeting Nov. 16 voted unanimously to request the manager level-fund the fiscal 2011 budget with the exception of line items related to collective bargaining. Select board Vice Chairman David White made the motion, saying the board, though it must not hamstring the town manager's ability to create the budget, must be policy-setters. White said predictions about the future of state aid were "bleak." Selectman James Jumonville said it is the town manager, department heads, the finance committee and town meeting that ultimately

decide what the budget should be.

UH-OH: For the first time in many years, Holden and the Massachusetts State Police conducted an OUI checkpoint on Main Street in Holden, netting five drunken driving arrests, one by Holden and four by the state police. Holden Police Chief George Sherrill said he invited the state police to do the checkpoint as a good reminder for residents with the holidays approaching. The state's Blood Alcohol Testing vehicle was in the 1000 block of Main Street from 10 p.m. to about 2 a.m. to aid in the checkpoint. Officers stopped every vehicle, had brief conversations with some and, if necessary, pulled drivers over for sobriety checks.

YOO-HOO: Seniors who need yard cleanup can take advantage of Y.A.H.O.O., Young Adults Helping Out Others to get their leaves raked by calling 508-829- 0270, the Holden Senior Center.

THANKS AGAIN!: Holden's select board doesn't believe one summer picnic a year is enough — the town will celebrate Employee Appreciation Week Dec. 7-11, with the Dec. 7 select board meeting as Employee Appreciation Night.

OVER THE GOAL: Holden's American Legion post drive to collect funds to provide some cheer for veterans and their families over the holidays is over the top. More than \$1,000 (the goal) has been collected, and more is coming in every day according to Post Commander Anthony Renzoni. The Legion last year gave out four \$100 gift cards to families to help with gifts and food over the holiday; the distribution was handled anonymously, through the town's veterans' agent. This year, Renzoni hoped to give out ten cards, but with generous donations flowing in, he hopes they'll be able to give out twice that many.

Call Melissa McKeon at (508) 829-5981, ext. 14, or email at mmckeon@holdenlandmark.com with any news for the Holden Roundup.

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