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May 2024

5 stories, 250 units, proposed for 10-60 Main Street

Public comment being accepted through May 28



The proposed "Sanctuary at Ashland Mills," looking northeast. Source: www.ashlandmass.com

BY THERESA KNAPP

An applicant frustrated with the planning board process to renovate 10-60 Main Street has withdrawn his application and has now filed an affordable housing application with the state.

At the Ashland Select Board meeting on April 3, Town Manager Michael Herbert gave an update on a project called "The Sanctuary at Ashland Mills."

"The general public probably does not know that we received notification from Mass-Housing that the owner of the mill site, Rich Gordon, has partnered with a developer to do a 40B project over at the mill site," said Herbert.

The applicant was previously working with the Planning Board regarding a renovation of the two most northern and historic buildings and the addition of three new buildings

along Main Street to provide 30,000 square feet of commercial space, 200 apartment units, and 378 parking spaces, according to documents found at www.ashlandmass.com/985/10-50-Main-Street-Ashland-Mills.

The original project was scaled back at the town's request, but at the April meeting, Herbert said, "They were frus-

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Ashland Board of Health member John "Jay" Byrnes was awarded the 7th Annual Mary "Penny" Mortensen Public Health Award during the board's April 2 meeting. Source: Instagram @townofashlandma

Jay Byrnes receives 7th annual Mary "Penny" Mortensen Public Health Award

John "Jay" Byrnes has won the 7th Annual Mary "Penny" Mortensen Public Health Award.

Jay is a current member of the Ashland Board of Health and was nominated by residents of the community who know of his work with the Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic and his success

in bringing the RAM Clinic to the MetroWest area in 2023 (plans are underway for a RAM Clinic 2024). Jay's fellow board members agreed with the nomination and voted their approval.

AWARD
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PROPOSAL

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trated with that process so withdrew their application and now they're submitting a 40B [affordable housing] application." The application has been submitted to the state and will later be filed with the town.

During its review, MassHousing solicits comments from the community. Ashland residents are encouraged to submit their comments using this form bit.ly/AshlandSanctuaryPublicCommentForm before May 28.

The town has limited oversight over affordable housing applications, and the process has fewer hurdles for a developer.

According to the project narrative filed with the state (and



The proposed "Sanctuary at Ashland Mills," looking southeast. Source: www.ashlandmass.com

*Public comment
being accepted
through May 29.*

available at bit.ly/Ashland-SanctuaryMainSt), "The design maintains and restores the two northernmost mills, converting the space to commercial and retail uses, some of which will be open to the public, including approximately 7,500 sf of flexible open space. The remaining brick structures on site will be replaced with a single 4 and 5-story multifamily residential building containing 250 apartment units with 337 concealed podium parking spaces in addition to the surface parking spaces." Total acreage of the site is two acres.

Herbert described the project as "very generic looking" and board members acknowledged their influence over how the building looks "is long gone."

Board members have concerns about traffic, building scale, and form-based zoning, and said they would have more to say at their April 17 meeting when the issue will be on the agenda and the public can provide feedback.



The proposed site plan for "Sanctuary at Ashland Mills" at 10-60 Main Street. Source: www.ashlandmass.com

That meeting occurred after press time.

Select Board member Brandi Kinsman acknowledged the community pushback during the planning board process for the original project, adding "This is what happens; you end up with something that's bigger than anyone wanted, and you have no control over it. And it's 250 units and very little commercial, and the scale - five stories - there's three-bedroom units in this thing. It's huge! So, this is what happens when you say 'no.' People say, 'Oh, you should just say 'no,' this is what happens when you say 'no.'"

Herbert advised the board he told the developer this would not be a "friendly 40B," a term given to projects with local support due to the contribution it can make to the community.

Editor's note: The property

*"This is what happens when you say 'no.'"
— Select Board member Brandi Kinsman*

address is sometimes referred to as 10-60 Main Street or 10-50 Main Street. The proposed address of the complex is 50 Main Street.



The proposed "Sanctuary at Ashland Mills," at street elevation. Source: www.ashlandmass.com

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AWARD

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Organizing a free medical clinic of this scale is a great undertaking. Jay began preparations well over a year in advance of the 2023 Clinic which served over 300 uninsured or underinsured people, with free medical, dental and vision services, over the two-day period.

The Board of Health honored Jay during its April 2, 2024, meeting with the presentation of

a Proclamation, and Jay's name was added to the plaque located on the second floor of Town Hall.

The Mary Mortensen Public Health Award was established in 2018 and was named in honor of Mary "Penny" Mortensen, a long-serving member of the Ashland Board of Health and devoted medical professional who used her nursing skills during many vaccine clinics over the years, and her extensive experience to help create regulations and public health initiatives to

keep the residents of Ashland healthy and safe.

Past recipients of the Mary Mortensen Public Health Award include Ed Hart, Janet Gamache, Decisions at Every Turn, Ed Burman, the Covid Response Team (Police, Fire and School Nurses), and Marie Kane.

SOURCE: WWW.ASHLANDMASS.COM/178/HEALTH

Town employees run Boston Marathon

Ashland town employees Becca Navarro and Frank Masiella both ran in, and finished, the 2024 Boston Marathon last month.

Navarro is a civil engineer in the town's Department of Public Works. She was running to raise funds for Ashland's Boston Athletic Association Grant. On her runner's page, she says, "Running has always been a big part of my life. I was a hurdler for the UMass Lowell track team and then spent some time running for the Greater Boston Track Club after college. I don't consider myself much of a long-distance runner, but running the Boston Marathon has always been on my racing bucket list. In 2020 we moved our family to Ashland, my husband's hometown, where I now work for the Town's Department of Public works as a Civil Engineer. I'm excited for this incredible opportunity to give back to my community and to run the Boston Marathon."

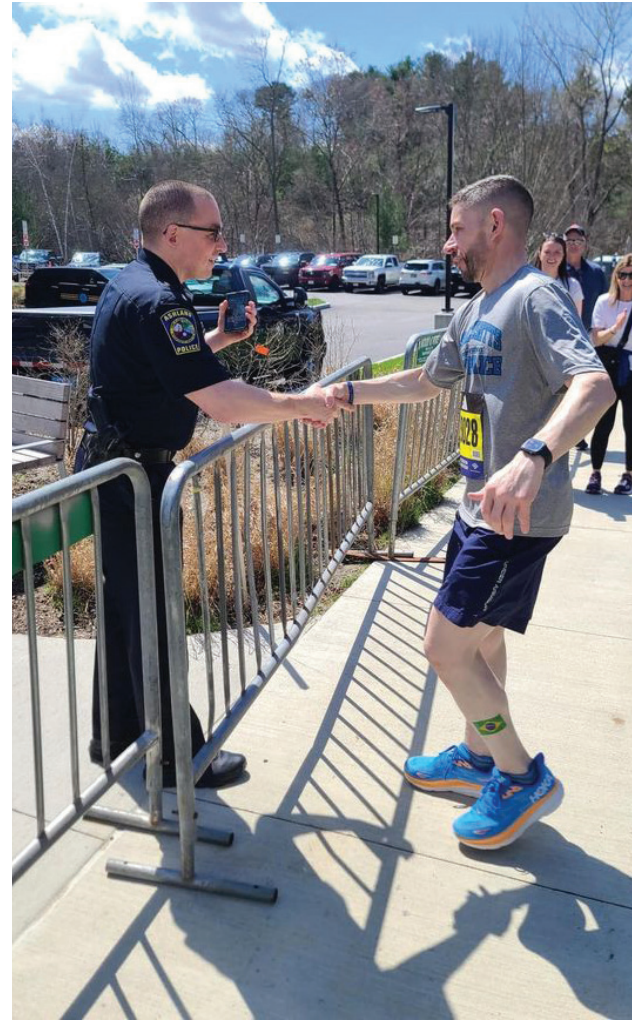
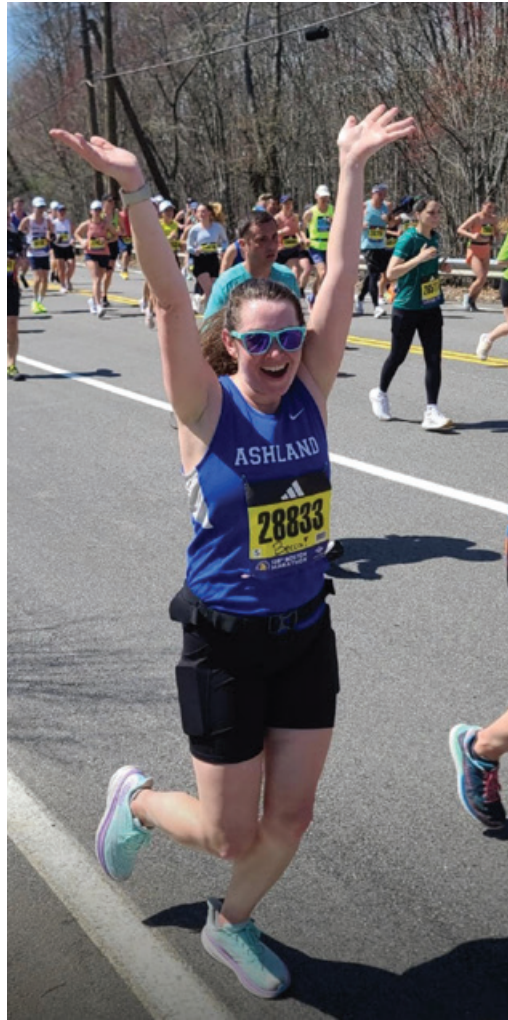
For more information, visit ashlandmass.com/1130/Rebecca-Navarro.

Masiello is a Detective with the Ashland Police Department. He was running for Cops for Kids with Cancer. On his pledge page, he says, "As a child I grew up in Framingham and watched the Boston Marathon every year. I never thought I'd run it. On April 15, 2024, I will be running my 14th consecutive Boston Marathon and my 11th Boston Marathon in support of Cops For Kids With Cancer. Cops For Kids With Cancer is an amazing charity that provides financial assistance to children and their families as they battle cancer."

For more information, visit www.givengain.com/project/frank-raising-funds-for-cops-for-kids-with-cancer-inc-72671

Congratulations to the other 25 Ashland residents listed at www.registration.baa.org/2024 who also ran the 128th Boston Marathon.

Ashland town employees Becca Navarro and Frank Masiella ran the 2024 Boston Marathon. Source: Facebook @TownofAshlandMA



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The Community Restoration of Ashland's Village Burial Ground Is Looking for Community Volunteers

Have you ever walked behind the Federated Church on Main Street in the historic village of downtown Ashland? If you have you would have noticed two things. First the calm, quiet and serene setting of the Village Burial Ground. The second thing you would have noticed is the desperate need for restoration of this historic setting. The gravestones are in desperate need of cleaning, repairs, and expert restoration. The areas around the perimeter of the site are congested with overgrowth, brush, and invasive plant species. This is not an ideal situation for a local historic cemetery that dates back to 1828. There are many residents of Ashland interned there from previous generations including some infantry from the civil war.

The Village Burial Ground has a rich history. Currently it is listed on the State MACRIS as abandoned. There are at least 225 interned residents and there

is very likely many more. This is not a unique situation in New England unfortunately. The conditions are considered poor and unsecured, with many stones tipped over, or sinking. Stones at the northern edge of the burial ground (separated from the rest of the burial ground by brush) are at highest risk for loss.

The Village Burial Ground (Parish Cemetery) is significant for its association with the settlement at the mill village of Unionville, later the town center of Ashland. It was Ashland's principal burial ground until 1870. The earliest burial here was Nathan Clark in 1828. Ownership was transferred to the town of Ashland on 6 May 1850.

I was first notified by a concerned citizen and Ashland resident, Charlene Frary, about the conditions that exist on this historic site. As a member of the Ashland Historical Commission and founder of Save Historic Ashland (FB), I was appalled at the condition of this municipal site where the past residents depend on our current town residents to care for and maintain their eternal resting place. I brought this to the attention of our Ashland Historical Commission, The Ashland Historic Society, the local town government and the DPW to see what could be done about restoring this site to an acceptable condition. The response, was that we all agree something needs to be done.



Under the partnership of the Ashland Historical Commission and the Ashland Historic Society we formed a cemetery working group to explore the possibilities of restoration. It was decided, since the entire restoration of this site, done professionally would be extremely expensive, that we would rather engage the Ashland community in the cleanup of the site and train some qualified volunteers for gravestone leveling and minor repairs. This project is a community wide effort that will instill a sense of pride and place in the volunteers who will contribute to the work and in the community at large. Later it will be determined how many gravestones require professional repair. An assessment survey will take place after the cleanup day.

The cemetery working group has done a lot of research on the needs of this site. We have established a two-to-three-year plan start to finish for the restoration of the Village Burial Grounds. This will include brush and invasive plant removal, cleanup of all the gravestones, along with the restoration of the badly damaged gravestones at the site. Eventually, we hope to install historical site information kiosks plus native plants and grasses at the site which will eliminate mowing and weed whacking that damages the gravestones.

The restoration project of the Village Burial Ground is expected to take between 2-3 years. We are hoping to get it done in two years if possible. We need as many hands as possible for an hour, three hours, a full day, or a full weekend whatever you have to give. Bring your friends and family! We have something for everyone from 8-80.

The initial stage of the project is entirely volunteer except for the professional conservator who will oversee the community cleanup day on June 22nd, 2024, and the volunteer training weekend.

Community Cleanup And Volunteer Training Weekend Schedule:

June 22 & 23, 2024 9am-5pm both days.

Rain date: June 29 /30, 2024. NOTE:

- Cleanup day volunteers attend Saturday, June 22nd from 9am-5pm.
- Training weekend volunteers attend Saturday & Sunday, June 22 & 23 from 9am-5pm both days.

There will also be another opportunity for volunteers to work

BURIAL
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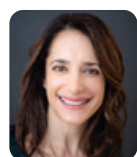
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For any kid who wants to enjoy their summer: MetroWest YMCA Camps

BY LINDA CHUSS

There is an option for everyone at the MetroWest YMCA summer camps. With six locations in three towns, and a wide selection of camp programs ranging from more traditional swimming and games to horseback riding to moviemaking, any child can find something of interest. Even more than that, the environment the MetroWest YMCA creates is one where every child fits in while also growing through new experiences.

“We offer a place where a kid can be themselves,” said Stephan Lockney, Associate Executive Director of Camping Services. “You won’t be in a clique like might be the case in other settings. Here, you’ll be immersed with kids from all backgrounds and circumstances. Our camp atmosphere helps you feel comfortable and develop independence, so ‘you can do you’.

“For example, the day might start with songs about frogs or bubble gum. Because they’re silly, no one judges a kid’s musical talent; it’s about having fun. Through that, learning resiliency is heightened. Then when it’s time for something completely new, like archery, a kid is not afraid to take that first shot and miss. And miss again and again. And learn over time, with practice and asserting their will in that supportive environment. And they will celebrate their accomplishments, like their first bullseye.”

Lockney added, “What’s also special is the support among peers, not just from the counselors. Fellow campers will advise each other: ‘Don’t worry, try this, do that instead.’ They help one another develop, guided by staff.”

In that space, campers demonstrate an amazing degree of empathy. Lockney provided a poignant example. “Last summer, we had a non-verbal camper in our Seniors Unit. The staff did a great job integrating this camper into their group as they were trained to do. The truly amazing part is how the other campers rallied around and took care of this camper throughout the summer. Campers learn to respect differences while having fun together, nurturing friendships.”

He cited one of his favorite comments from a parent:



MetroWest YMCA summer camp options include traditional outdoors activities as well as specialties like magic or ceramics

“They’re off their phones at camp, but you will find no better connection.” Lockney said that being active all day in an outdoor location, away from screens and connecting with nature, fosters lifelong bonds. He has worked in camping programs for over thirty years and said it reminds him of when he played in the woods with other kids as a child and developed lasting friendships.”

Whether a child attends a more traditional or specialty camp like cooking or leadership or STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and music), one aspect every YMCA summer program includes is swimming and water safety skills. “Parents want swim lessons for their children and trust us for that because it’s been a staple of the YMCA for a long time,” Lockney explained.



Acquiring swimming skills as well as social and emotional skills will benefit campers for the rest of their lifetimes. And they gain the skills nearly effortlessly, while having fun. One grandparent provided this feedback: “Our granddaughter had a very positive camp experience. So much

that, had she been given the choice of camp or attending our annual vacation, she would have picked camp. Well done, staff and leadership!”

The MetroWest YMCA offers summer camp programs at the Hopkinton outdoor facility for children from age three through tenth grade, with bus transportation available throughout the region. Four camps in Framingham provide programs for children starting at age four through eighth graders, with options such as Ninja sports and summer learning camps. Natick offers a STEAM camp for children entering grades one through six.

For more information or to register, see metrowestymca.org/summer-camp-2024 or call (508) 435-9345.

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How is your retirement income taxed?



Mark Freeman

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Once you're retired, you will likely need to draw on several types of income for your living expenses. You'll need to know where these funds are coming from and how much you can count on, but you should also be aware of how this money is taxed — because this knowledge can help you plan and budget for your retirement years.

Here's the basic tax information on some key sources of retirement income:

- **Social Security** – Many people don't realize they may have to pay taxes on their Social Security benefits. Whether your benefits will be taxed depends on how much other taxable income you receive from various sources, such as self-employment, stock dividends and interest payments. You'll want to check with your tax advisor to determine whether your income reaches the threshold where your Social Security benefits will be taxed. The lower your total taxable income, the lower the taxes will be on your benefits. The Social Security Administration will not automatically take out taxes from your monthly checks — to have taxes withheld, you will need to fill out Form W-4V (Voluntary Withholding Request). Again, your tax advisor can help you determine the percentage of your benefits you should withhold.

- **Retirement accounts** – During your working years, you may have contributed to two basic retirement accounts: an IRA and a 401(k) or similar plan (such as a 457(b) plan for state and local government employees or a 403(b) plan for educators and employees of some nonprofits). If you invested in a "traditional" IRA or 401(k) or similar plan, your contributions may have been partially or completely deductible and your earnings grew on a tax-deferred basis. But when you start taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA or 401(k), the money is considered taxable at your normal income tax rate. However, if you chose the "Roth" option (when available), your contributions were not deductible, but your earnings and withdrawals are tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions.

- **Annuities** – Many investors use annuities to supplement their retirement income. An annuity is essentially a

contract between you and an insurance company in which the insurer pays you an income stream for a given number of years, or for life, in exchange for the premiums you paid. You typically purchase a "qualified" annuity with pre-tax dollars, possibly within a traditional IRA or 401(k), so your premiums may be deductible, and your earnings can grow tax deferred. Once you start taking payouts, the entire amount — your contributions and earnings — are taxable at your individual tax rate. On the other hand, you purchase "non-qualified" annuities with after-tax dollars, so your premiums aren't deductible, but just like qualified annuities, your earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis. When you take payments, you won't pay taxes on the principal amounts you invested but the earnings will be taxed as ordinary income.

We've looked at some general rules governing different sources

of income, but you should consult your tax professional about your specific situation. Ultimately, factors such as your goals, lifestyle and time horizon should drive the decisions you make for your retirement income. Nonetheless, you may want to look for ways to control the taxes that result from your various income pools. And the more you know about how your income is taxed, the fewer unpleasant surprises you may experience.

If you would like to discuss your personal situation with a financial advisor contact:

Mark Freeman
Edward Jones Financial Advisor
77 West Main Street,
Hopkinton, MA
508-293-4017
Mark.Freeman@edwardjones.com

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Enjoy live performances from Trade Route Dance, Drum Nomads, Crocodile River, the McCrites, Evan Goodrow and The Smallest Town Ensemble!

Main Stage Entertainment

- 3:00 pm THE MCCRITES | This band specializes in Irish Pub music
- 3:30 pm DRUM NOMADS | This local group performs drumming in styles from around the world
- 4:00 pm TRADE ROUTE DANCE COLLECTIVE | Trade Route Dance Collective specializes in modern belly dance fusion
- 4:30 pm EVAN GOODROW | Evan Goodrow is an American singer-songwriter-guitarist
- 5:00 pm CROCODILE RIVER MUSIC | This group is a staple at this event and brings the energy with African music!
- 6:00 pm THE SMALLEST TOWN ENSEMBLE | This local group energizes the crowd with music for all ages!

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Vendors and Activities

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Ashland Annual Town Meeting on May 1

Ashland's Annual Town Meeting will take place on May 1 at 7 p.m. at Ashland High School.

Among the items on the warrant are the Select Board's annual consent items, allocation of community preservation funds for Warrant Woods and

the Valentine Estate, library interior painting, and updates to the demolition delay bylaw and the specialized stretch code bylaw.

The full warrant is available at www.ashlandmass.com/449/Town-Meeting.

BURIAL

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with our Landscape Expert, Cathy Rooney. They will spend a weekend learning to identify invasive plants and then removing them from the Village Burial Ground site.

- Brush removal weekend-date to be determined.

We will have refreshments and water available for all volunteers and lunch will be served both days for the volunteers.

Volunteers will need to sign a liability waiver. This can be done ahead at the Town Hall, or at the site on the volunteer days. If you choose to join us, I will also add you to our updates list. Please send your name and contact information to me, Helen Nickole at: hnickole@aol.com





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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

We're Celebrating This May! Awards, Moms & You!

BY GINA WOELFEL

We're proud to announce that b.LUXE has received its second honor from Salon Today Official and named a top honoree in this year's prestigious SALON TODAY 200 Awards. This industry recognition is a testament to our team's collective efforts, dedication and customer loyalty.

Now in its 27th year, Salon Today is a national publication that gathers data to establish vital salon business benchmarks. It recognizes owners and their teams for their business acumen and creates a forum for sharing proven business strategies.

This is our second win with Salon Today. In 2021, we were recognized as one of the top 20 salons in the US in their "SALONS OF THE YEAR" competition, held post-pandemic as a check-in to measure the beauty industry's response and recovery from COVID-19.

To be recognized in this year's competition, a salon or spa must demonstrate several best practices that propelled the business's overall trajectory. As winners in the 2024 SALON TODAY 200 "GROWTH" category, we grew our company remarkably between 2022 and 2023. This success is a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence and continuous improvements, ensuring that we always deliver the best to our clients, whose trust and support have been the cornerstone of our success.

This accomplishment would not have been possible without our community, our team, and the support of our fabulous clients. Your unwavering loyalty has made us the most lucky, appreciative, badass group of women in the beauty business!

But what does this recognition mean for you, and why is this your sign to make us your new salon?

b.LUXE offers a luxurious experience that sets us apart from other salons. We provide a wide range of beauty services, including hair cutting, coloring, smoothing, extensions, styling, skincare, spa treatments, spray tanning, waxing, and lash extensions.

To ensure that your visit is nothing short of amazing, our team follows a comprehensive set of standards called the "b.LUXE Service Cycle." This guideline provides a detailed itinerary for each guest and guarantees consistent, exceptional care from check-in to checkout. We always anticipate your needs so you can relax and enjoy your visit. We offer five separate seating areas where you can enjoy refreshments from our custom coffee bar. We also provide complimentary "Luxury for Everyone" services, such as moisturizing glove treatments, BEFORE OIL scalp services, and hot stone foot treatments for our facial guests. Our extra amenities promise to make your appointment unforgettable.

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Your Money, Your Independence

Empower New Graduates with Gifts of Independence



Glenn Brown, CFP

With graduation season approaching, many friends and family members seek meaningful ways to celebrate the achievement.

While traditional gifts are always appreciated, consider something with lasting value that can help launch graduates towards financial independence.

Aside from cash or gift cards, here are some thoughtful financial gift ideas and tips to empower high school and college graduates as they embark on their next chapter.

Investment Account. Open a brokerage account in their name and purchase one or two foundational low-cost index exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Even better, establish small automatic monthly contributions from their and your checking accounts. Even at \$25-\$50 a month, it's a consistent reminder

that demonstrates the value of saving, compounding, and choosing to invest over time.

Furthermore, encourage graduates to explore different investment options and asset classes in these taxable investment accounts. And if they make investment mistakes, good. It is better to do it at a young age with less money and responsibilities than in their mid-40's, with a family and inside their retirement accounts.

Parental IRA Contributions. Parents can contribute to their child's Individual Retirement Account (IRA) up to the child's earned income. Consider Roth IRA and its unique advantages including being funded with after-tax dollars, meaning withdrawals in retirement are tax-free. This can be incredibly beneficial for young graduates, as their income and tax rates are likely lower now than they will be in the future. By starting a Roth IRA early, graduates can maximize their tax-free growth potential over the long term.

Financial Literacy Books. Equip graduates with essential financial knowledge by gifting them books on personal finance and investing. Consider "The Total Money Makeover" by Dave Ramsey, "Poor Charlie's Almanack" by Charles Munger and Peter Kaufman or "The Millionaire Next Door" by Thomas Stanley and William Danko.

I wish I'd read 'Millionaire' in my 20's, instead of early 30's, as it provides insights into the habits and behaviors of wealthy individuals, offering valuable lessons on living below one's means, budgeting, and accumulating wealth.

Financial Planning and Investing Tools. Don't let Tik Tok or free "you-are-the-product" apps be their source of financial knowledge. Consider gifting a subscription to a financial planning app that can help track spending, set savings goals, and create budgets. These tools provide valuable insights into their financial habits and empower them to make informed decisions about their money and avoid unnecessary debt.

And for those who want to invest beyond their low-cost index ETFs, consider Investor's Business Daily or gift a year access to Seeking Alpha Premium.

Financial Advisory Service. Last year a client set up two Zoom meetings for their son, a college graduate moving to North Carolina. For the first meeting, the four of us met on an agenda mom and dad wanted covered. For the next meeting, the parents bowed out, leaving the agenda and conversation up to their son. This worked well, as he was much more engaged and has stayed connected by sending questions as they arise and sharing updates.

Entrepreneurial Resources. If the graduate has ambitions of starting their own business, even a side hustle, consider gifting business books, online courses, or membership to entrepreneurial communities. As a parent, consider the legal benefits ensuring a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) is established by paying for the initial state registration.

Building an Emergency Fund. Encourage graduates to establish an emergency fund by contributing to it yourself. Life is unpredictable, and having savings set aside for unexpected expenses can provide peace of mind and prevent them from going into debt during emergencies.

Graduates who receive these gifts will not only appreciate the

gesture but also benefit from the financial stability they provide as they navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of PlanDynamic, LLC, www.PlanDynamic.com. Glenn is a fee-only Certified Financial Planner™ helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents, and financial independence.

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Ashland Town Election will take place on May 21

Ashland's annual town election will take place on May 21 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Ashland High School.

Offices on the ballot include:

Select Board, 2 seats (3 yrs)

- Yolanda Greaves
- Makeeda Alexandra Warren Keegan

Assessor (3 yrs)

- Steven H. Greenberg

School Committee, 2 seats (3 yrs)

- Christina Shaw Fitanides
- Marc L. Terry

School Committee, 1 seat (1 yr)

- Marcy Diane Culverwell

Board of Library Trustees, 2 seats (3 yrs)

- Claire Brown Goss
- Linda August Weene

Board of Health, 2 seats (3 yrs)

- Edward D. Burman
- [open seat]

Housing Authority (5 yrs)

- Deborah L. Neilsen

Planning Board (5 yrs)

- Patricia Marie Kendall

For more information including a sample, visit www.ashlandmass.com/219/Elections-Voting

The deadline to register to vote in this election is May 10 at 5 p.m.

How to prepare for annual town election, register by May 10

Ashland's Annual Town Election will take place on May 21 between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. at Ashland High School, 65 East Union Street.

Voter registration deadlines

If you are not registered for the Annual Town Election or wish to change your political party, the deadline is Friday, May 10, 2024, at 5 p.m.

Check your voter registration status

All Massachusetts residents are encouraged to check their voter status on a regular basis. To do that, visit www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx.

To register

If you are not registered to vote, you can do any of the following before May 10 at 5 p.m.:

- Register to vote in-person at the Town Clerk's Office;
- Complete an Official Mail-in Massachusetts Voter Registration Form available at www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/languages/register-by-mail-forms.htm (forms must be postmarked by May 10, 2024; or
- Register to vote online using the Online Voter Registration System at www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/

SOURCE (AND FOR MORE INFORMATION): WWW.ASHLANDMASS.COM/219/ELECTIONS-VOTING

Ashland Garden Club Plant Sale May 18, 9 a.m. to noon

The Ashland Garden Club will hold their annual plant sale Saturday, May 18, at Montenegro Square, across from the Ashland Public Library, 66 Front St. 9am to noon, rain or shine.

The plants for sale come from Garden Club members own gardens. Each year the variety of plants varies so come early for the best selection. Master Gardeners will be available to help you make the best selection for your garden and to help you put together a group of plants that will enhance your space.

In addition to the more common plants, club members bring a selection of more unusual plants such as pink and yellow epimedium, coreopsis, anise ays-sop, white bleeding hearts, yellow Siberian daisies, nepeta, Siberian irises and many more.

Plants are always healthy and reasonably priced.

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A Journey Through Sound: Ashland Music Programs Bring Music into our Spring Season

Get ready to be swept off your feet! Join the Ashland Public Schools Music Programs and the Ashland Music Association for an exhilarating series of musical delight.

The High School and Middle School Bands and the High School Choirs take the stage starting late April through the end of May. Experience the vibrant melodies and harmonies of classical masterpieces, modern favorites, and toe-tapping marches.

MAY 9: "Songs of the Great White Way", an essential collection for fans of classic Broadway musicals, graces the Ashland High School auditorium on Thursday, May 9, at 7pm. Step into a world of enchantment with performances by the Concert Choir, the Bel Canto Society, and vocal and piano soloists. Prepare to be dazzled as the curtains rise on these spectacular performances. Graduating seniors

MAY 22: The May 22nd concert will feature the 5th grade band performing 6 full band pieces including the annual traditional performance of Star Wars. The 6th grade band will perform several popular pieces including the theme from The Pink Panther. The Ashland Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Danny Williams, will perform a wide selection of jazz music including Mercy, Mercy and Fly Me to the Moon.

MAY 23: On Thursday, May 23, the High School bands concert is being presented in honor and in memoriam of Glen Adsit, a conducting teacher, and a mentor to Mr. Maule. "I am programming Shepherd's Hey by Percy Grainger. This was a piece that he taught at all his conducting clinics/workshops with the idea that the conductor never needs to "beat time" but should instead make their body imitate the sound they want from the players." said Mr. Maule. Also on the program is Percy Grainger's Irish Tune from County Derry, often considered a companion piece

to his Shepherd's Hey. Attendees will also be treated to Hunsberger's arrangement of Shostakovich's Galop. The concert will kickoff with James Beckel's American Dream, and will include an ever-popular medley of John Williams movie music! This will be the bands' first concert since earning gold and silver medals at the Massachusetts Instrumental & Choral Conductor's Association (MICCA) Concert Festival.

MAY 28: The May 28 concert, which will be held at AHS at 7pm, will feature the 7th and 8th grade bands performing many well-known popular pieces, including the Ashland premiere performance of Billie Elish's Oscar-winning song "What Was I Made For?" from the Barbie movie.

These concerts mark the final performance for 15 graduating seniors:

- Antonio Fitanides - Trumpet
- Ryan Kaufman - Percussion
- Camille Kiang - Clarinet
- Emily Umholtz - Alto Saxophone
- Emma Whitham - Trombone
- Koei Cade - The Bel Canto Society
- Kaylie Eng - Concert Choir & Bel Canto
- Heidi Hausmann - Concert Choir & Bel Canto
- Pollyanna Magnago - Concert Choir & Bel Canto
- Jordan Norris - Concert Choir & Bel Canto
- Chloe Steinberg - Bel Canto
- Alexander Thales-Dupidon - Concert Choir & Bel Canto
- Amelia Uglialoro - Bel Canto
- Emma Whitham - Bel Canto
- Rachel Xu - Choral Accompanist & Bel Canto



Thank you for sharing your musical talents with our community for the past 8 years. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

From soul-stirring solos to powerful ensemble performances, these concerts promise to captivate audiences of all ages. Don't miss this unforgettable musical journey!

Ashland Public School music programs are supported by the Ashland Music Association (AMA), a parent volunteer run organization raising funds to support program expenses not covered by the school budget. Over the past 5 years, the AMA has invested over \$54,000 in the Ashland Public School music programs.

"This is a labor of love for us. Music education has proven time and again to be a transformative force in the lives of our students. It prepares them for the future of work by fostering creativity, discipline, teamwork, and a lifelong appreciation for the arts. These benefits extend far beyond the classroom, enriching the lives of our students as they grow into well-rounded individuals ready to face the challenges of the world." Heidi Hanson, President, Ashland Music Association.

Learn more about the AMA at <http://www.ashlandmusic.org>, or contact them at AMA@ashlandmusic.org.

Ashland Music Association Community Support for Music Education

PERFORMANCES ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Full Concert Details at AshlandMusic.org

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Bookstagrammer Jody Blanchette offers monthly book reviews and recommendations

@redreadreviews offers overviews, trigger warnings, avoids spoilers

BY THERESA KNAPP

On the second Tuesday of every month, Bookstagrammer Jody Blanchette regals Ashland Public Library patrons with 30 minutes of book reviews and recommendations that inform and entertain.

Blanchette is known as @redreadreviews on Instagram where she shares her thoughts on thrillers, horror, young adult thrillers, fiction, and any other topic that comes up in conversation. She also has a strong presence on YouTube.

In January, on Instagram, Blanchette said she was teaming up with Ashland “because Ashland Public Library is one of the few libraries I have seen that offer events and spotlights to horror writers. I have been to a couple of events there and have hung out with [authors] Paul Tremblay and Christopher Golden. They get the best names in horror and give readers full access to them. I was so impressed by this, I asked to help in whatever way I could. Well, they found a way and I said yes!”

The virtual sessions occur on the second Tuesday of every month from 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. For the Zoom link, register at bit.ly/APL_JodyBlanchette

Blanchette has been on Bookstagram since 2021, and is also the Chairman of the Eastford [CT] Public Library Board.

“I use my celebrity to bring author events to our small library in rural Connecticut. By going to author events, like what Ashland did, I have developed relationships with authors and have

had the privilege of hosting them at my library. Eastford has been overwhelming with their support and attendance. Because of the support, I am able to lead a thriller book club at the library - we are The Grim Readers and consist of all ages and tastes.”

Ashland Public Library Director Meena Jain said this is the perfect type of program for Ashland, “to bring in an ‘expert’ and an influencer in certain book genres to give us recommendations. Our librarians get asked all the time for book recommendations, so this seemed like a natural extension to that. Our patrons discover new books and authors through these kinds of programs.”

Jain explains that, during the meetings, “Jody recommends six to eight books to our listeners, describes the content of the book (without spoilers), what she liked about it, what other readers might like about it, and any triggers that people need to be aware of. We also discuss any topical issues around the books (which is always fun) and take book recs from the attendees as well.”

After each session, Jain sends out a list of the recommendations to all registrants and shares the YouTube link.

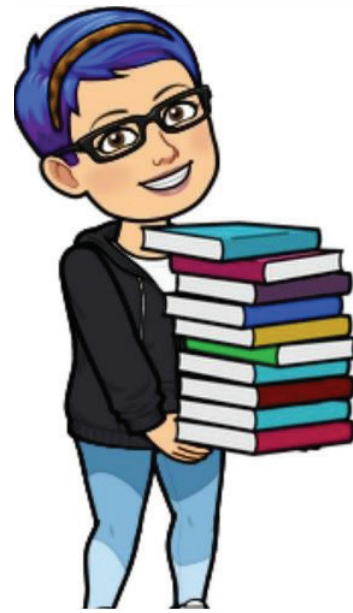
Jain said Ashland Public Library has shared this virtual program with other libraries (with Blanchette’s permission) and several have signed on. She said this type of collaboration is a result of COVID and is a “powerful tool in the library arsenal” through which everyone benefits.

“We do this a lot for virtual programs which has a three-fold



Bookstagrammer Jody Blanchette, known as @redreadreviews on Instagram, is collaborating with Ashland Public Library to present book recommendations each month.
Courtesy photo

benefit: (1) It allows for greater



attendance; (2) it allows other libraries that don’t have the same programming resources we do to share great programming with their patrons; and (3) it allows for the speaker to do one program that reaches several communities rather than doing individual programs at each library.”

“Book Recs with Bookstagrammer Jody Blanchette” occurs on the second Tuesday of every month from 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. For the Zoom link, register at bit.ly/APL_JodyBlanchette

Blanchette said, “I’m pretty passionate about books...My goal is to get good books out there. I love supporting local authors and enjoy helping get their names out.”

For more information about the program, visit the Ashland Public Library or @redreadreviews on Instagram.

‘Adult Spring Reading Challenge’ in May offers prizes to local businesses

Participants earn raffle tickets for each hour of reading

BY THERESA KNAPP

The Ashland Public Library is sponsoring an Adult Spring Reading Challenge during the month of May.

Between May 1 and May 31, participants are asked to read whatever they want and count the minutes they read - up to 1,800 minutes (30 hours) total - in order to win raffle tickets. Each hour read equals one raffle ticket toward prizes to local establishments. Prizes are supplied by the Friends of the Ashland Library and include \$25 gift cards to Ashland Ale House, Erica’s Ristorante, Blush Bouquets, and Aesop’s Fable.

Anyone is welcome to participate but prizes will only be awarded to Massachusetts residents.

Ashland Public Library Director Meena Jain said the program is back by popular demand after a successful winter debut.

“We had around 75 people participate and 10 to 12 attended the book discussion (and

hot chocolate bar) at the end of the month. They read 89,918 minutes (or 1,483 hours) in that month. Many requested that we do this more regularly so that birthed the idea for Spring and Fall adult reading challenges as well.”

Jain said participants liked the challenge of adding up their minutes, seeing what books they got through, and discussing (at the final hot chocolate gathering) what books they did and did not like. Plus, they loved being in a raffle to win prizes.

She said the program is modeled after the traditional summer reading challenge geared toward youth in an attempt to avoid the “summer slump,” a time when students can regress or forget some of the knowledge and skills they learned during the previous academic year.

“We realized that many of our adults are busier in the summer, and have less time to read, so I decided to move the adult challenges to off-summer hours. But our Youth Services Department

is not leaving parents and guardians out of summer reading, they can participate with the kids as a family which makes much more sense to us.”

Jain said programs like these build community inside and outside the library. She says the Reading Challenge is great for people who are already avid readers, people who love winning prizes for something they are already doing, and/or for people looking for motivation to do something they love but have not been able to find the time to fit it in their schedule.

This season’s Adult Spring Reading Challenge will end with a “Hot & Cold Tea Bar and Spring Reading Discussion” on May 30 at 6:30 p.m. Participants must register in advance and must be at least 18 years old.

The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library.

For more information, visit www.ashlandmass.com/184/Ashland-Public-Library

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Senior Community Center Activities for MAY 2024:

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES:

May 1st at 9:00

Trail Walks and Bird Education with Lorraine
Meet at the Ashland Senior Center at 9 am and carpool to Waseeka Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, Hopkinton.

Walks on Wednesdays with rain date on Fridays. Bring binoculars and bug spray.

To Sign Up call 508-881-0140 x 1

May 1st at 11:00

May Day Tea and Basket Decorating

Enjoy tea and coffee with pastries, and decorate a May Day Basket.

To Sign Up call 508-881-0140 x 1

May 2nd at 9:00

FREE Breakfast sponsored by Ashland Lions Club

Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1

May 2nd, 16th or 30th

Phone or Zoom SHINE Appointment with Pegg Rowe

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Call to make an appointment 508-881-0140 x1.

May 2nd at 10:00

COA Meeting

May 2nd at 12:00

FOACOA Annual Meeting – Open to all who wish to attend.

May 3rd at 11:00

Cooking Class with Chef Lee – Korean Jjajangnyun

Savory Black Bean sauce with Noodles. Space is limited.

Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1. \$5 donation requested per person.

May 6th at 12:00

NEW!!! Cinco de Mayo Lunch & Karen Spilka's Office Listening Hour

Reservations for Lunch: Please use the payment box outside of the

Main Office to reserve your seat. This special lunch costs \$8 per person.

May 7th at 10 am-12 pm

Open House to Welcome New Senior Residents of Ashland

Get to know what the Ashland Senior Center offers. Activities include exercise demonstrations, light refreshments and prizes.

Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1

May 8th at 9:00

Trail Walks and Bird Education with Lorraine

Meet at Burnam's Restaurant Parking Lot.

Use the Pleasant Street entrance for the Mill Pond/River Walk.

Walks on Wednesdays with rain date on Fridays. Bring binoculars and bug spray.

To Sign Up call 508-881-0140 x 1

May 8th & 22nd at 9:00 – 11:30 am

Veterans Office Hours with Richard Sabounjian.

Appointments recommend. Call 508-429-0629 to schedule.

May 8th at 10:00

Computer Class - "Advanced Searches, Book Marking Web Pages, Sharing Links, and more..." Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1

May 9th & 23rd at 10 am -12pm

SHINE In Person Appointment with Fran Backstran

Call to make an appointment 508-881-0140 x1

May 9th at 10:30

Downton Abbey 6th T.V. Episode Viewing

Tea and coffee provided. Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1

May 10th 10:00-11:30

Legal Phone Consultation with Arthur P. Bergeron

Call to make an appointment 508-881-0140 x1

May 10th at 11:00

NEW!!! Improv for Seniors with Mattie

Improv games are fun and a great way to keep your mind active. For example, we might start with a "Word at a Time Story." Participants sit in a circle, and say one word at a time around the circle to tell a story. To Sign Up call 508-881-0140 x 1

May 13th at 12:00

Lunch and Trivia Contest

Reservations for Lunch: Please use the payment box outside of the Main Office to reserve your seat. The cost is \$5 per person.

May 14th at 11:00

NEW!!! "Clear Captions" with Jared Valanzola

Learn how the government will pay for land line phones with captions for the

Hard of Hearing. Call to re-

serve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1

May 15th at 9:00

Trail Walks and Bird Education with Lorraine

Meet at Macomber Reservation, Framingham. The parking lot is on Badger Road. Walks on Wednesdays with rain date on Fridays. Bring binoculars and bug spray. To Sign Up call 508-881-0140 x 1

May 15th at 10:00

Town Manager's Coffee Hour

All are welcome!

May 16th at 10:00

NEW!!! "Gardner Museum Theft" with author Bob Ainsworth

Find out details of the theft of 13 art objects valued at \$500 million US dollars.

Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1

May 16th 6:00-8:00 pm

NEW!!! SPRING FLING-FOACOA Sponsored Dinner & Dance with DJ Vic \$12 per person

Put on your dancing shoes and swing to music of the 40s, 50s and 60s.

Reserve your seat by Friday, May 10th.

Fill out the reservation form and place it into the "LUNCH" box located outside the main office.

May 20th 10:30

FREE Hearing Aid Cleaning with Hopkinton Audiology

Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1

May 20th at 12:00

Lunch with performance by Retro Polatin featuring works by "Pioneering Women of Early Rock and Roll"

Reservations for Lunch: Please use the payment box outside of the Main Office to reserve your seat. The cost is \$5 per person.

May 21st at 10:30

"Home Modification Loan Program" presented by Kimberly Yau of SMOC

The Massachusetts state funded HMLP program offers 0% interest loans so that seniors can install a ramp, stair-lift or walk in shower.

Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1.

May 22nd at 9:00

Trail Walks and Bird Education with Lorraine

Meet at Burnam's Restaurant Parking Lot.

Use the Pleasant Street entrance for the Mill Pond/River Walk.

Walks on Wednesdays with rain date on Fridays. Bring binoculars and bug spray.

To Sign Up call 508-881-0140 x 1

May 22nd 6:00-7:30 pm

Cooking Class with Chef Lee – Korean Japchae Sweet potatoes, vegetables and noodle dish. Space is limited.

Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1. \$5 donation requested per person.

May 23rd 10:00-11:30

Clocktown Memory Cafe with a performance by Wendee Glick & Steve Heck

Clocktown Cafe provides a welcoming place for individuals with Alzheimer's disease, dementia or a cognitive impairment accompanied by the care-partner.

May 23rd 5:30-7:00 pm

"How to Build an Emotional Pension: Building a Life that Has Meaning and Purpose for you!" with author Henry Quinlan

Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1.

May 27th

CLOSED for MEMORIAL DAY

WEEKLY PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

* Note: All classes are a suggested donation of \$4 per person * Unless otherwise noted.

Monday Lunches at 12:00 pm weekly, except holidays. Reservations must be made by Thursday before the scheduled lunch. Please use the payment slip and locked box located outside of the main office to reserve your seat. Cost pp is \$5 unless otherwise noted.

Bingo - First and Third Tuesdays of the month at 1 pm

Bowling - Tuesdays at Ryan's Amusement in Millis at 9 am

Chair Yoga - Wednesdays at 1 pm

Chess - Mondays at 1:30 pm

Craft Class Free – First, Third and Fifth Friday of the Month at 11 am

Cribbage - Thursdays at

12:30 pm

Exercise with Joni - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:30 am

"DROP IN" Knitting Group - Second and Fourth Tuesday of the Month at 11 am

Intermediate and Advanced Watercolor Class

Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 9:30 am

Line Dancing with Lisa - Thursdays at 12 pm

Mahjong - Fridays at 9:30 am for beginners by appointment. Regular play at 10:30 am for all levels.

Call to make an appointment 508-881-0140 x1

Mindful Meditation - Thursdays at 11 am with Mary Green

Parkinson's Boxing - First and Third Wednesday of the Month at 1:30 pm

Pins and Needles (Free Sewing Class) - Every 2nd & 4th Friday of the Month at 9:30 am

Spring Walking Group - Tuesdays & Thursdays at 9:00 am.

Meet at Ashland Senior Center and walk in State Park with Candi Wilson

Tai Chi for Balance - Wednesdays at 11:00–11:45 am with Jon Woodward

Veterans Office Hours - Every other Wednesday of the Month from 9 -11:30 am

Ashland Town News

now has its own Facebook page!



Ashland Town News on Facebook to keep up-to-date with articles, events, giveaways and contest announcements for Ashland!



May 2024 at the Ashland Library

The Library will be closed Saturday - Monday, May 25-27 for Memorial Day Weekend

Special Events:

In-Person - Mini Renaissance Faire @ the Ashland Library!

Saturday, May 4 @ 10-4pm
This is a new one for us, but we are beyond excited to bring a Mini Ren Faire to Ashland! If you love things Medieval, Pirates, Puffy Shirts, and so much more, this is for you. We'll have jousts, crafts, vendors, and something for every age. This is not just a turkey leg extravaganza, it is also an opportunity to learn how people lived (and survived) back in the day with demonstrations and hands-on activities. We hope that you'll bring the whole family (in costume, of course :).

We're working on a schedule of events, but we can already tell you that on our "stage", we'll have Ashland High School Drama Club members and students jousting and stage fighting, pirates being all "aaarrgghhh"-y, a Medieval dance instructor, and so much more.

We'll have demonstrations and hands-on activities with:

A Blacksmith (bringing a real life forge!)

Jugglers and Jesters

A Typesetter, with a model of the Gutenberg Press

Roaming Musicians

Kids Crafts and Games (catalpult anyone?)

An Apothecary (learn about herbs!)

The Friends of the Ashland Library Mini Donation and Booksale (what a great time to buy books!)

And creative Medieval-ish foods by Doragon and Dulce de Leche

This is a FREE event that is open to all. The Trustees of the Ashland Library, though, have given permission for our vendors to sell their wares so bring your wallets in case something (like a dragon's egg) catches your eye.

This event is joyfully sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Library

This is also a rain or shine event. In case of rain, some of the activities will move into the library but some will remain outside under tents. Be prepared.....

Romancing New England RomCon 2024 - Romance Authors Festival

at the Ashland Public Library

Saturday, May 18 @ 10-4pm
It's our 3rd Annual RomCon - Romance Authors Festival - LIVE and IN PERSON! Meet some of your favorite romance authors, get signed books, listen in on panels, have a small group discussion, and mingle with other romance lovers. It's going to be a fabulous day!

Come hang out with some of your favorite authors (or meet some new faves!):

Kate Canterbury, Loretta Chase, Kosoko Jackson, Carla Kelly, Kathryn Ann Kingsley, Caroline Linden, Jessica Martin, Tori Anne Martin, Cecilia Tan, and Maria Vale!

We're looking forward to a day of a booksale/signing, panels, and small group discussions. So, grab your fancy hats and comfy shoes and come on out!

And, new this year, is the Author's Lounge - pop by to visit with the authors in small groups. There is no schedule, the authors will be roaming in and out if they are not on a panel or signing books. You can also use this space to chat with other readers or unpeople for a while. We hope you love it!

Books for sale and signing will be provided by Aesop's Fable (Holliston). You can also PREORDER books from our authors and Aesop's will bring them to the Fest for you to have signed. And, finally, if you have books by our authors at home, please feel free to bring them and have them signed.

This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Library, Caroline Linden's Romancing New England, and Berkley Publishing.

Adult:

Adult Spring Reading Challenge

Wednesday, May 1 - May 31, 2024

We had so much fun with Adult Winter Reading earlier this year that we had to do it again to celebrate Spring! Once again, read whatever you want during the month and count up the minutes. You can submit up to 1800 minutes (30 hours) worth of reading time. Each hour that you read gives you a raffle ticket to win fabulous prizes! We are back to using Beanstack so it will be easier for you to keep track of your reading

Virtual - Environmental Book Club

Wednesday, May 1 @ 6:30pm
Read "The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon" by Bill McKibben

HYBRID - Romance Book Club

Thursday, May 2 @ 6:30pm
Read Canadian Romances

Virtual: Asian Art Series:

Art Across Asia - Glorious Civilizations: An Exploration of Southeast Asia

Sunday, May 5 @ 2:30pm
Ten countries, numerous cultures, thousands of years. Explore the varied and intriguing art of Southeast Asia as reflected in the religious and secular art of this fascinating region

In-Person: Front Street Readers Book Club

Tuesday, May 7 @ 7pm
Read "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See

Virtual - Book Recs with Bookstagrammer Jody Blanchette aka @redreadreviews

Tuesday, May 7 @ 7pm
Not sure what to read next? Join Jody for 30 minutes of pure book recommendations - with a bent towards horror and thrillers and a few other genres thrown in! We're sure you'll find something to like from Jody's many enthusiastic reviews

Virtual - Romance Book Recs and Conversation with Lorelei of Lorelei's Lit Lair

Wednesday, May 8 @ 7pm
Affectionately referred to as a passionate Romance Ambassador, Lorelei has been offering book recommendations, author spotlights, giveaways and connecting authors with readers through social media since 2010, providing a safe and friendly environment for book lovers around the globe. We are so pleased to be in conversation with Lorelei about how (and why) she got started, her most memorable author-meet moments, and books she's reading and recommending

Virtual - Introduction to Ornithology with Bill Gette: Breeding Behavior

Thursday, May 9 @ 1pm
Join us for this 5 part series all about Ornithology! During this PowerPoint lecture, Bill will teach you about why birds establish territories, ways birds develop and maintain pair bonds, mating systems, nest types, egg production and incubation, and



care of young. As one of our favorite speakers on the natural world, Bill will wow us with his knowledge and fantastic photographs!

Paint Night with Ashwini Chitnavis

Thursday, May 9 @ 5:30pm
We're excited to bring Paint Night to Ashland! We welcome Ashwini Chitnavis to host this session where you learn to paint on canvas. No art experience necessary, just an open mind and a can-do attitude

Virtual: Coexisting with Coyotes in Suburban Communities

Thursday, May 9 @ 7pm
Eastern coyotes are found in nearly every town and city in Massachusetts, and they can thrive close to humans in a variety of habitats

Mystery Book Club

Friday, May 10 @ 1pm
Read "Case Histories" by Kate Atkinson

Virtual - Friday Night Film Discussion

Friday, May 10 @ 7pm
Watch "Madame Rosa" (Kanopy)

Cookbook Club

Saturday, May 11 @ 12pm
Cook from "Japanese Home Cooking: Simple Meals, Authentic Flavors" by Sonoko Sakai

Card Making with Jan Poppendieck

Monday, May 13 @ 6:30pm
Come join us for an evening of card making with Jan. We will learn stamping and card making techniques using our huge stash of supplies. Jan will teach embossing, die cutting, proper stamping, and use of equipment individually and group techniques of creating unique cards.

Bio/Memoir Book Club

Wednesday, May 15 @ 11am
Read "Reading Lolita in Tehran" by Azar Nafisi.

Half-Past Crafts

Wednesday, May 15 @ 6:30pm
This month we're making rolled candles and flowery candle rings!

Virtual - Extra Romance Book Club: Read "Romancing Mister Bridgerton" by Julia Quinn

Wednesday, May 15 @ 7pm
For those of you in the know, you are aware that this is the 4th book in the series and Shondaland has made a creative decision to skip Book 3 (Benedict and Sophia's story) for now. It'll be fascinating to see how they make this palatable to long time Julia readers while also appealing to new ones. Let's talk about the book because we need to discuss the source material - and it'll be fun!

Virtual: Photography on the Fly with Margie Patlak

Wednesday, May 15 @ 7pm
In a Zoom slide show, award-winning science writer, memoirist, and photographer Margie Patlak will talk about what inspired her to take the Maine nature photos that comprise her newly published photobook Wild and Wondrous: Nature's Artistry on the Coast of Maine, and her photography-on-the-fly process using an iPhone.

Great Decisions

Thursday, May 16 @ 6:30pm
Discuss Science Across Borders

Crochet Class: Introduction to Granny Squares

*For Adults with some crochet skills
Monday, May 20 @ 6pm

A granny square is like a plain sheet of paper. Sure, it comes in different colors, textures, sizes, and weights however in and of itself, it's not very exciting until you use it as an integral part of your creative process. During our two-hour class, we will explore the basic structure of a granny square as we make one traditional-style square using basic worsted-weight wool. You will leave the class with a new respect for the humble Granny square, a hook, and yarn to begin your creative journey.

Virtual - Celebrating Mental Health Awareness Month with Romance Author Camilla

LIBRARY

continued on page 15

LIBRARY*continued from page 14***Evergreen: "How to Find Love When You're Weird"**

Monday, May 20 @ 7pm
We are thrilled to be chatting with romance author Camilla Evergreen whose book "How to Find Love When You're Weird" makes it clear that people on the spectrum, (in fact, ALL people) are worthy of love and an HEA (happily ever after). In fact, we would posit that it's the very neurodiverse characteristics that make someone even more attractive to the right person. We can't wait for this conversation and hope you can join us!

Virtual - LGBTQ+ Book Club

*For 15-100
Monday, May 20 @ 7pm
Read "All My Mother's Lovers" by Ilana Masad (she/her)

Virtual: Democracy Talks: Access to Books in the Context of Mass Incarceration

Tuesday, May 21 @ 7pm
Kelly Brotzman, Executive Director of the Prison Book Program in Quincy, MA, will discuss mass incarceration in the US, the role of education in reducing recidivism, the critical role books play for people in prison, and Prison Book Program's role in getting reading material to folks behind bars.

Virtual: Addison Gallery Artist-in-Residence Jennifer Cecere

Wednesday, May 22 @ 3pm
Join Jennifer Cecere, the Addison Gallery's Edward E. Elson Artist-in-Residence, for a virtual tour and discussion of her body of work and her site-specific installations at the Addison this spring.

Virtual - iPhone Photo Editing & Enhancements, Photo Organization and Storage

Wednesday, May 22 @ 6pm
Learn how to edit and enhance your photos with confidence using the Photos app on your iPhone. The built-in editing and enhancement tools are amazing and you can easily fine-tune your photos in minutes. Learn pro tips on photo editing from a professional photographer with 20+ years of editing digital images. Extra features as well as photo storage and organization tips will be discussed along with third-party photo editing apps to take your photos to the next level.

VIRTUAL: Ashland Adult Book**Club**

Wednesday, May 22 @ 6:30m
Read "The Many Daughters of Afong Moy" by Jamie Ford.

Virtual - Guardians of Truth: Combatting AI Deep Fakes

Thursday, May 23 @ 1pm
In this presentation, we will delve into the intricate world of combating AI deep fakes, exploring the challenges and solutions in preserving the integrity of digital content. From examining examples of deep fakes to ethical considerations, we will uncover the multifaceted strategies and innovations that are shaping the battle against malicious AI-generated misinformation. Join us as we navigate the evolving landscape of digital authenticity and learn how you can safeguard yourself in not being deceived by fake images and news.

Virtual: End-of-Life Doulas: What Do They Do & Why Would I Want One?

Thursday, May 23 @ 7pm
This virtual presentation will teach you about End-of-Life doulas – trained non-medical providers, who can be present from an initial diagnosis to ultimate death.

Virtual - Friday Night Film Discussion

Friday, May 24 @ 7pm
Watch "Cold Souls" (Kangopy)

Virtual - New Yorker Cartoonist and Bestseller Bob Eckstein Shares His Favorite Museums and Cartoons

Wednesday, May 29 @ 7pm
Museum Enthusiasts, this one's for you! Join author Bob Eckstein as he celebrates the book birthday of his most recent release, "Footnotes from the Most Fascinating Museums: Stories and Memorable Moments from People Who Love Museums". This book is filled with lush and whimsical illustrations paired with stories and anecdotes from curators, museum workers, museum visitors, and more

Hot & Cold Tea Bar and Spring Reading Discussion

Thursday, May 30 @ 6pm
Whether you've spent May participating in our Adult Spring Reading Challenge or you just love books and tea in all its forms, join us for this special evening of relaxing, discussion, and tea! This program is for adults 18+ and does require

registration (so we have plenty of tea to go around :).

Adult Weekly:

Knit and Crochet Club
Mondays @ 6pm
Walk-In

ESL Conversation Group
Mondays @ 6:30pm
Walk-In

Gentle Yoga
Tuesdays at 6pm
Registration Required

Children:

Crafternoon: Flower Crowns
Thursday, May 2 @ 4pm
Prepare for the Mini Renaissance Faire this weekend by creating your own beautiful flower crown! All supplies provided.

Friday Afternoon Story and Craft: Ren Faire Edition!

*For Ages 4-8
Friday, May 3 @ 4:15pm
Join us for a medieval-themed story or two and make a craft in preparation for this weekend's Mini Renaissance Faire.

Taylor Swift: The Library Day

*for kids and teens
Saturday, May 11 @ 11-3pm
Celebrate the pop superstar before her new album drops! We will have three main events and other drop in activities throughout the day.

La Hora del Cuento *por familias | Spanish Storytime

*for families
Wednesday, May 15 @ 5:30pm

Los invitamos a disfrutar en familia de una sesión de cuentos en español en la biblioteca. Ofreceremos la oportunidad de sumergirse en historias cautivadoras, rimas divertidas y canciones alegres, ¡todo en español! Join us for a special story time, offering families the opportunity to immerse themselves in captivating stories, fun rhymes, and cheerful songs, all in Spanish. Lego Club with Kim the Lego Lady

***Grades K-3**

Thursday, May 16 @ 4:30pm
Calling all LEGO masters! Join Kim the Lego Lady for an interactive building adventure! Afterward, your awesome creations will be displayed in the library until the next LEGO club!

Homeschoolers' Meetup

*For Homeschooling Families
Wednesday, May 29 @ 1pm
Create an art project, learn about library resources, chat

with the librarians and make connections with other homeschooling families.

Saturday Story Time

*For Ages 3 and up
Saturday, May 4 @ 10:30am
Saturday, May 11 @ 10:30am
Saturday, May 18 @ 10:30am
Come listen to Ryan read some of his favorite stories aloud! Read to a Dog with Knives and Machete (yes, those really are the dogs' names!)

*For kids who are reading on their own
Saturday, May 11 @ 1:30pm

Children with some reading ability will have the chance to read to one of our registered therapy dogs for 10 minutes.

Weekly Storytimes:

PJ Story Time with Ryan (and his stuffed animals!)
*For Ages 3 and up
Tuesdays @ 5:30 pm

Storytime Sprouts

* For ages 0-3 with a caregiver
Wednesdays @ 10:30am
Join us for a fun and interactive story time filled with singing, reading, bounces, fingerplays, puppets, instruments, and more! This engaging program is designed to introduce young children to the joys of literature and music while promoting early literacy skills.

Alphabits

*For kids ages 4 & 5
Thursdays @ 10:30am
Alphabits is a story time program where each week kids focus on a different letter of the alphabet. Stories, songs, rhymes and a fun art project complement this early literacy-focused 45-minute session. Caregivers wait outside the children's program room for this independent storytime.

Clocktown Rockers!

*For ages 2-5 with a caregiver
Fridays at 10:30-11am
Join Miss Katrina for this new music and movement program! We'll dance to favorite kids' tunes, have fun with instruments and other props, and read a story, all while building your child's early literacy and executive function skills.

Weekly:

Friday Afternoon Story And Craft
*For Ages 4-7
Fridays @ 4:15pm

Stop into the children's room for a program geared towards children Age 4-7 and their caregivers. We will read a story and do a related craft project.

Project ABC Play, Learn, and Grow Group *Ages 0 to 5
Tuesdays at 11am

A structured program to help prepare children for socialization and a school experience.

Registration *IS* required for each session of this program

Teen:**Make Your Own Flower Crown**

Wednesday, May 1 @ 5pm
Celebrate May Day and our upcoming Mini Renaissance Faire by making your own flower crown fit for royalty! The flowers may be fake, but the fun will be real!

Taylor Swift: The Library Day

*for kids and teens
Saturday, May 11 @ 11-3pm
Celebrate the pop superstar before her new album drops! We will have three main events and other drop in activities throughout the day.

Friends of the Ashland Public Library Donation Day & Mini Book Sale!

Saturday, May 4 @ 10-1pm
Mini Book Sales and Donation Days are held the 1st Saturday of every month from 10am-1pm. Exceptions are the Big Sale weekends in March, December, and June. To keep the shelves stocked with fresh selections, the Friends accept donations in the library parking lot of gently used books, audio books and DVDs. Friends volunteers will be available to assist donors during this time. There is also a cart in the mezzanine lobby for donations at any time during library hours.

Proceeds from these monthly book sales and all fundraising efforts made by the Friends fund 100% of children, teen, and adult programs, our wonderful Museum Passes, and so much more!



Sports

Ashland Girls' Lacrosse

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Having lost only two seniors to graduation last year, is this the year that the Ashland girls' lacrosse team rises to their potential and gives the rest of the Tri Valley League a scare?

Last spring the Clockers finished 11-9 and earned themselves an 11 seed in the Division 2 State Tournament. Although they were able to take out Marblehead 10-5 in the first round, they were sent packing by Masconomet Regional in their next game.

Having only lost two starters, one being their goalie, Ashland is looking to keep things going this spring, get back to the tournament and hopefully push past their second-round defeat of a year ago.

"Last year getting past the first round was something that Ashland hadn't done in a long time," said Clocker Coach Katie Blasi. "This year we are definitely looking to take it that one step further and we have the ability to do just that."

Ashland will field a very experienced team this year including 10 seniors, many who have been



very aggressiveness to her game in addition to her scoring she can also feed her teammates giving them the opportunity to put the ball behind the goalkeeper.

Carter and Boulanger are very strong defenders; they're the quarterbacks of the defenders making sure that things work smoothly, and they lead by example. Another defender, senior Lizzie Forster, who will be heading to Southern New Hampshire University, is a four-year varsity player with physical skills.

Three offensive players that Blasi is looking to this season will be senior Morgan Dubanowitz, sophomore Lili Vitti and junior Paige Tripp. Dubanowitz, who has stepped up her play over the past two years, is a lefty that can make great cuts on the field while also bringing a great shooting ability. Tripp is also a left-handed shooter that is aggressive and an impact player that should be helpful in the draw circle. Vitti is a combination of the other two girls, performing incredible cuts to get herself open, while also being a very aggressive individual that will fight to the end in transition to get her team the turnovers.

Having lost their goalkeeper from a year ago, Blasi will be looking at two athletes to fill the vacancy. Senior Heidi Hausmann and freshman Allannah Duffy were battling it out for the open position at the time of this writing.

"We're still working things out to see which of the two is going to be the starter," the Clocker Coach said. "So far it's been really tough as both girls have looked really good."

Hausmann was the junior varsity keeper last spring and has a little more experience. According to Blasi, she also has a good lacrosse IQ and is smart with the ball. Duffy, although only a freshman, has shown herself to be a great athlete that employs an aggressiveness and is not afraid to come out of her crease if needed.

In addition to the returning athletes, Ashland will also have a strong group of freshmen; 10 of them in total between the junior varsity and varsity teams. Five of the 10 freshman will see action on the varsity squad this season and should earn themselves some quality experience and be ready to step in and take over the team next year.

"Having the year of experience under their belts, they should be able to elevate this team and get up to speed," Blasi said. "There are a few who are starting this year and thus far have done rather well."

Blasi believes that if the girls can put it all together then she is very optimistic that this team can take things that step further this year.

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playing varsity lacrosse together for the past few years. In addition to playing together, they know how what to expect within the league and how to go out and be competitive and take this team further.

Blasi will be relying on four senior quad-captains to lead the team on and off the team this spring. Anna Magennis and Julia Schreiber will patrol the midfield for the clockers, while Olivia Boulanger and Maggie Carter will be on the defensive side of the field.

According to the Coach, all four athletes are very important to this year's success. Magennis, who is committed to play at UCONN next year, is a very strong and fast player with outstanding stick skills, while Schreiber is also fast, but brings a

Ashland Lions Club May 2024 Update

Ashland Lions Scholarships

Each year, the Ashland Lions award up to four \$2000 scholarships to high school Seniors living in Ashland. Applications for 2024 close on May 8 at 4:00pm (sorry, no exceptions). Students and parents can get more information on how to apply by visiting the guidance department at AHS or Keefe Tech, or by visiting our website at ashlandlions.org.

Ashland Lions Meat Raffles

Ashland Lions would like to thank the community and TJs Food and Spirits for all their support with meat raffles. We had another record-breaking year, and we couldn't have done it without you! Hope to see you when we start again next season.

Nyanza Healing Garden Cleanup

The public is welcome to join our club on Saturday, May 11 at 10am as we clean up the Nyanza Healing Garden located behind the athletic fields on Memorial Drive. We will also be planting rhododendrons that our club has donated to the garden. Please bring a rake, shovel and a leaf blower if you have one.

Community Shred-it Event

Please join us on Saturday June 1, 9am-12pm (or when truck is full), to have your personal documents safely shredded on site at the Ashland VFW 211 Pleasant St. The event is open to Ashland residents only. We are accepting paper only (staples OK), limit 3 bankers boxes or paper grocery bags per car. The event is rain or shine.

Sponsoring Ashland T-Ball for over 30 years

The Ashland Lions are proud to sponsor Ashland T-Ball again this year. The Lions are happy to donate uniforms (t-shirts) to keep this proud tradition going and support this great organization. Best of luck to the kids in their upcoming season!

Eyeglasses and Cellphone Collection

Eyeglasses and cellphone collection is a year-round project with collection of used prescription and nonprescription eyeglasses, sunglasses, hearing aids and cell phones. In the past year we have collected over 1500 pairs of glasses!

Collection boxes are located at:

- Ashland Post Office
- Ashland Senior Center
- Old train station - Ashland
- Moody Optical - Ashland
- Middlesex Bank - Ashland
- Fayville, MA Post Office
- Studio Optics - Framingham
- Southborough Senior Center
- Southboro Post Office on Rt.85
- TJ's Food and Spirits
- The Residence at Valley Farm

Save the Date: Annual Lions Golf Tournament

Join us for the Ashland Lions Annual Golf Tournament, to be held Monday, September 16, at the Highfields Golf and Country Club in Grafton. There will be golf, a meal, raffles and a day of fun to support the Ashland Lions and their mission of donating to Eye Research and Local Charities. Sponsorship opportunities available. For details email golf@ashlandlions.org or visit our Facebook page.

Stay up-to-date on Lions happenings

To see the latest status of our events, please visit our Ashland Lions Facebook page. Click the



Throwback: Ashland resident Alexandra wearing her Ashland T-Ball uniform (April 1997)

Like button and you will be automatically notified of changes or cancellations. While you're at it, be sure to follow Ashland Town News too!

KING LION DAN MITCHELL
ASHLAND LIONS CLUB
PRESIDENT

Greater Ashland Lions Club

Our annual Quiz / Trivia Night was held on April 12th at the VFW Hall on Pleasant Street. It was a bug success!

Want to have Pasta with Elvis? Our Pasta Night will be held at the VFW Hall on Pleasant Street on May 17th, 2024 (starting time 6:30pm). Get your tickets now, contact Andrea by either email: lionandrea71@yahoo.com or phone: ☐(617) 335-5616☐. Tickets are \$30/per person. See the attached flyer for all the information.☐

The Greater Ashland Lions Club working with the fourth grade teachers of the Mindess School, with an Arbor Day event. We gave out over 200 seedlings to each student and teacher to plant.

Are you an Ashland High, Keefe Tech or home-schooled Ashland student? Apply for the Greater Ashland Lions Scholarship. Contact your guidance counselor for more information.

Do you remember making May Baskets? Members will be making May Baskets to be distributed to seniors.

Holidays of note: May Day, International Harry Potter Day,

Kentucky Derby, Cinco de Mayo, Teacher Appreciation Week, National Nurses Day, Mother's Day and Memorial Day.

Do you have any used eyeglasses or un-needed hearing aids hanging around? We'll take them! Please bring them to the Police Station (located in the Public Safety Building at 12 Union St), Market Basket (Pond Street / Rte.126), the VFW (at 311 Pleasant Street), or the Town Hall (Main Street).

Wanting to get involved in the community? We're a low-pressure group of service-oriented folks always looking for new members. If you'd like to learn more about the Lions and our club, please contact Lion Alexis at cvarnie@hotmail.com.

For more club information, please check us out on Facebook: Greater Ashland Lions Club. #weserve #kindnessmatters.

We are the Lions in Purple. We Serve!

SUBMITTED BY: LION ROSALIE PORTER, 2ND VP

SOUTHWICK'S ZOO PHOTO CONTEST



ILLUSTRATION BY ROWAN KAPLAN MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

Share your photo today!
Last chance for entries is May 17!

In 2025, Southwick's Zoo will be celebrating 60 years of family fun! Share a photo of your favorite memories at Southwick's Zoo for a chance to win a family four-pack of general admission passes for the 2024 season and make some new memories!

Winners will be announced in our Summer Guide - Coming in June!



Scan to Enter

By entering this contest, you are providing consent for Southwick's Zoo and Our Town Publishing (the publishers of The Yankee Xpress/Blackstone Valley Xpress, Free Press and the newspapers of Local Town Pages) to use your photo(s) for print, digital and social media purposes, and allowing Southwick's Zoo and Our Town Publishing to contact you via email for this promotion or upcoming promotions. Only one winner per household. Cannot be an employee or family member of Southwick's Zoo or Our Town Publishing to win.



Home appraisals: Understanding value for buyers, sellers



Kim Foemmel

REAL ESTATE INSIGHTS

Whether you're buying or refinancing your home, getting a

home appraisal is crucial for securing a mortgage or determining the fair market value when buying or selling a property.

Real estate agents are not licensed appraisers. They can provide a comparative market analysis, which is different than a certified appraisal.

You can think of appraisers as the historians of the housing market. They rely mostly on past sales data of comparable properties — commonly called “comps” — to determine your home’s fair market value. Real estate agents factor in current market trends along with comps when figuring the best listing price for your property and are attuned to other factors such as buyer demand and inventory levels.

Typically the buyer pays for the appraisal, though this may be negotiable between the buyer and seller. The cost varies depending on the property size, location and complexity of the appraisal.

Refinancing requires a new appraisal by a licensed appraiser to ensure the lender is issuing a loan based on the home’s current market value.

An appraiser can’t influence the market value of your home, but you can talk to the appraiser about things like upgrades and renovations that might not be reflected in public records. It’s helpful to have documentation for such improvements so the appraiser has a better understanding of them.

The licensed appraiser you choose will provide a detailed report listing the factors that went into the appraisal value and the comparable properties used to determine that value. The report gives you an understanding of the rationale behind the appraised value. If you believe your home is worth significantly more than the appraiser’s figure, you can request a reconsideration from them. In such cases, the report can help you identify potential areas for negotiation.

Having a qualified appraiser is critical. Your appraiser should have experience in your local area and with the type of property you’re buying or selling. Ask your real estate agent for their recommendations.

Understanding the appraisal empowers both buyers and sellers to make informed decisions. Appraisals assure a fair market price and protect all parties involved.

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Real Estate Corner

Ashland Recent Home Sales

Date	Ashland	Amount
04/16/2024	14 Frankland Rd.	\$1 mil
04/16/2024	237 Eliot St.	\$500,000
04/12/2024	12 Tri St.	\$552,000
04/10/2024	1 Half Crown Cir. #77C	\$640,000
04/04/2024	5 Washington Ave.	\$360,000
04/04/2024	43 Captain Eames Cir.	\$552,500
04/04/2024	259 Trailside Way	\$505,000
03/29/2024	95 Hilldale Rd.	\$975,000
03/29/2024	79 Arrowhead Cir.	\$550,000
03/28/2024	21 Leland Farm	\$485,000
03/27/2024	145 America Blvd.	\$685,000
03/27/2024	5 Morey Dr.	\$600,000
03/25/2024	52 Warren Rd.	\$650,000
03/20/2024	130 Arrowhead Cir.	\$600,000
03/18/2024	5 Johnson St.	\$530,000



The 3-bed, 2-bath, 1,544 square foot home at 5 Johnson Street in Ashland recently sold for \$530,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages

Yard waste collection continues through June 3

Ashland's yard waste (grass and leaves) will be collected by Waste Management at curbside from residents who are enrolled in the town's solid waste removal program on the following Mondays: May 6, May 13, May 20, and June 3.

Yard waste must be contained within barrels clearly marked as "yard waste" or within brown paper yard waste collection bags, and placed at curbside no later than 7 a.m. on the morning of collection.

Please contact David miller with any questions: 508-532-7943 or dmiller@ashlandmass.com.

SOURCE: WWW.ASHLANDMASS.COM/1095/YARD-WASTE-COLLECTION



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216 Winter Street

216WinterStreet.com

Beautiful colonial with 4+ bedrooms and 3 baths. The house is set back on 2 acres. Interior is 3,908 sq.ft.

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32 Overlook Road

32OverlookRoad.com

Luxurious estate in Highlands Ridge has 4 bedrooms and 4.5 baths. 3 car garage and fenced in yard. Interior is 6,450 sq.ft.

JUST LISTED



8 Highcroft Way

8HighcroftWay.com

Located in Highland Park, this townhouse has 2-3 bedrooms and 3 baths .1 car garage and private patio. Interior is 2,285 sq.ft.

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