

Computer: Enhance Creativity

BY SEAN SULLIVAN

It sometimes takes a while for technology to catch up to imagination.

The animated, fairy tale adventure story that Orlando Mendes envisioned a few decades ago only recently came to be a reality. That delay wasn't due to procrastination, but practicality. Animation has traditionally been a labor-intensive undertaking, which can put projects beyond the means of startup filmmakers.

"It's not easy to do," said Mendes of old-school animation.

But the evolution and increasing availability of creative technologies are changing that.

"Monster Island" is the title of Mendes' short film, a project that was made possible by his use of artificial intelligence tools.

Still, it took Mendes five months to make his six-minute short, which works out to just under a month of effort per minute of run time to complete the project. That's not taking into account his



writing of it, which Mendes began at the start of the new millennium.

"Almost 20 years ago," he laughed.

The Ashland resident's film is a techno-fantasy mashup featuring wizards, muscle race cars, time travel, and of course, monsters galore. Narrated by the story's main protagonist, Monster Island unfolds like an extended trailer, the buildup to a grand

finale that may be forthcoming in a sequel or next chapter.

To pay the bills, Mendes produces promotional videos and animations for clients. The painstaking process of splicing together clips and narratives to create compelling and cohesive storytelling is still (for now) an art form that's best done by humans.

Relying heavily on AI to

MENDES

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GreenUp Ashland Committee members and a few helpers.

The Magical Rewards of Volunteering

BY ROB ST. GERMAIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Would you like more happiness in your life? How about a bit more satisfaction from doing something with meaning that contributes to the common good? Consider becoming an Ashland volunteer.

In a recent survey of volunteers in town, 100% of the respondents found their volunteer work to be deeply satisfying. Volunteering is a social function. It keeps your brain working and contributes to a deeper sense of

well-being. It also enables you to feel that you are a part of the community as opposed to just living 'some place'.

"It just makes me happy," said Larry DeJong of his work as the Art Coordinator in the Ashland Public Library. Larry reaches out to various artists throughout the area to provide a monthly art exhibit at the library.

That is a form of niche volunteering where you bring your

VOLUNTEERS

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MENDES

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make *Monster Island* allowed Mendes to cut the project's costs significantly. That said, his short still cost the filmmaker about \$10,000, all of which he paid for out of pocket. It seems like a significant sum to invest in a six-minute film, but returns aren't always measured in dollars alone.

Acknowledging that *Monster Island* won't be very marketable, Mendes said the project has nevertheless resulted in his meeting talented and influential people in the industry, connections that can be influential and invaluable over the course of a career.

"More and more people start to pay attention to you," he said.

The film has earned Mendes numerous industry awards, both domestically and abroad. He was born and raised in Brazil, moved to the states about 8 years ago.

Making *Monster Island* of course also gave Mendes valuable experience wielding the tools of artificial intelligence. He used the technology to generate voices, and to create the visual characters themselves.

"It helped me a lot to learn about AI in the short," he said.

But even with powerful computers at artists' disposal, animation can still be somewhat of a laborious and painstaking process.

Mendes said that while AI made the short financially and creatively feasible, the technology still requires a human hand

as the primary creative source.

"You need to have something specific in mind," he said, when people are prompting computers to generate content they're looking for. As with human-to-human connections and relations, lots can get lost in translation, and much trial and error is involved.

No, the AI evolution won't all be upside.

One sticking point in recent union strikes on behalf of actors and writers was the increasing use of AI to produce content. As the technology becomes more powerful and adept in coming years, executives will reach ever more for the cost-cutting option of employing computers over people.

That's all well and good for the near-term bottom line of

those at the top of the economic tier, but feels like an ill wind blowing for the material well-being of workers.

And there will undoubtedly come a point when those tools become the creators themselves, when artificial intelligence no longer needs the hand holding of humans to do "original" work, whatever one takes that word to mean.

Yet at least for the moment, AI is also empowering up-and-coming creators like Mendes to bring their visions into being.

When *Monster Island* was nominated for an award in Spain, Mendes was told he needed to add Spanish subtitles to his short in order to qualify. The extra work required wasn't in the budget, and so the filmmaker called upon a computer



co-pilot to complete the task. "It works very well," he said. "I think it's a powerful tool."

Ashland Community Blood Drive

Ashland Senior Center – Great Room, 162 West Union St., Ashland

Tuesday, Aug. 20, noon to 5 p.m.

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There are plenty of reasons to call a junk removal service. Maybe walking through your basement has gotten difficult or there is no more room in the attic? Perhaps you are planning to move, and you need to declutter before your open house?

Figuring out who to call can be challenging. If you contact one of the big haulers, they route you to a phone center where they've never even heard of your town, plus their pricing seems vague and full of extra fees. No wonder you've let the stuff pile up—it's too much of a hassle to get rid of it!

Or you can call Affordable Junk Removal and let a local small business with deep community roots take care of everything.

Jay Schadler started his business in 2005. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with eight trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

Affordable Junk Removal specializes in house and estate cleanouts. If your garage, attic,

Business spotlight

or office is overflowing with stuff, take back your space and let the pros do the heavy lifting.

Jay and his team have handled it all. They've dismantled above-ground pools, hauled away ancient hot tubs, taken down old fencing, and stripped away worn carpeting. They'll come for a single item, or they'll clean out an entire house. And they can take almost anything. They can't accept hazardous materials, brush, dirt, or concrete, but everything else is fair game for them to take away.

Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it. He first tries to either recycle or donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

Working with Affordable Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for what you don't use.



If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've also got a driveway special where they'll take away a truckload of your unwanted things if you pile it up. Or if you don't want to lift a finger, then you can point at the items, and the team will fill up their truck and haul away your unwanted things. However you do it, you're left with more space and more peace of mind.

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

And speaking of pricing, Jay is upfront about it. His website shows the truck sizes and prices, so you can save time knowing your costs before you call for an appointment. There aren't any hidden costs or surprise fees with Affordable Junk Removal.

Affordable Junk Removal is fully licensed and fully insured, and they'll treat your property with care and respect.

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

Contact Affordable Junk Removal and let a local small business take care of everything for you. Call Jay Schadler at (774) 287-1133 or visit us online at www.affordablejunkremoval.com.

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Priscilla Johnson Roberts, 1930–2024

Priscilla (Pat) Roberts, 94, passed on peacefully on March 26, 2024, at St. Frances Reflections Hospice in Melbourne, Florida. Originally married to Harold (Spike) Johnson who died in 1989, she later married Richard (Dick) Roberts who passed in 2022 in Florida. They had lived many happy years there with daughter Alane Diana. Pat was loved and adored by her children: son John (Jack) Johnson and his wife Katherine, of Brooksville, FL; a set of twins, Alan Johnson of Berlin, MA, and Alane Diana of Indian Harbour Beach, FL; and son Michael Johnson and his wife, Pamela, of Bellingham, MA. Pat was the proud grandmother of eight grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Originally from Mendon, MA, her parents were Frederick and Lolita Hartshorn. She was the eldest child and was pre-deceased by her siblings: Alice Perry, Beverly White, Audrey Arena, Allan Hartshorn and Robert Hartshorn.

Pat moved to Ashland upon marrying Harold "Spike" Johnson, where they raised their four children. She and Spike were two of the original members of the Ashland Fish and Game Club. Pat was a past President and past Vice President of the James O. Carey Post 77 American Legion Auxiliary in Ashland, where she also enjoyed being a part-time bartender.

Pat enjoyed traveling, playing golf and target shooting, gambling on the ponies at Foxboro, and going to casinos with her sister-in-law, Linda (Hartshorn) McPhee.

She had a long career as an executive at Carlin Insurance and CGT.

Any donations to St. Jude's would be appreciated. A Celebration of Life will be held on August 10th at the Ashland Fish & Game, beginning at 1 PM.

Anyone who would like to join the family in celebrating her life and memory are welcomed to attend. (Please RSVP by Aug. 5 to pamjj@comcast.net.)



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VOLUNTEERS

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special talents to bear in a particular situation. There are, however, many generalist volunteer opportunities just waiting for someone like you to come along. Often, even the smallest of volunteer tasks can provide an outsized benefit.

The Department of Prevention and Human Services has a variety of volunteer opportunities. They need volunteers willing and able to help homebound Ashland residents. An hour or two once a month can make a big impact in someone's life.

Some folks like variety, and volunteer for more than one thing. Ed Hart is member of the Finance Committee, a former member of the Board of Health, a RAM Clinic core team member, a Town Forest Committee associate member and all-around helpful guy.

"There are no downsides (to volunteering)," said Ed. "It benefits everyone, and it gives you that warm feeling deep inside."

The Fire Department sec-



Old granite water trough garden

tion of the new Public Safety Building has an example of Ed's handiwork. He built the stairs and platform for kids to experience what it is like to slide down a fire pole. "It is an experience that these kids will never forget. I love it," said Ed.

Ad Hoc committees and clubs

The Ashland Garden Club is an example of an ad hoc committee. The Club helps make Ashland beautiful by planting and maintaining gardens around the town. The club grew from one volunteer's contributions.

Rick Ghilani spruced up downtown Ashland with planters and flower gardens. When he passed away another volunteer, David Foster, pulled together a small group to continue the work. The Garden Club grew out of that effort.

Another ad hoc committee is GreenUp Ashland, the group that coordinates the removal of



Fire pole steps and platform designed and constructed by Ed Hart

litter throughout the town. On GreenUp Day, the first Saturday in May, 100 or more adults and young folk from all over the town come to Stone Park to volunteer to pick up litter on a particular street. They are given a heavy-duty yellow plastic bag to fill and a GreenUp T-shirt or other gift. You can also take part in the GreenUp "Adopt-A-Street" program where from May to November you will continue to GreenUp your adopted street or location.

Karyn Dann-Barboza, Chair of GreenUp, and her committee members work closely with David Miller of the DPW and Rajit Gupta, Director of Public Health. The effort removes tons of trash from Ashland streets. It makes Ashland more attractive and healthier. That in turn increases property values. It also saves the town paying for 2 or 3 additional DPW personnel, and that, in turn, helps keep the tax rate down.

When asked why she volunteers year after year for Gree-



Local kids try out the fire pole assisted by Deputy Fire Chief Lyn Moraghan

nUp, the Ashland Dog Park Committee, and Ashland Youth Soccer Program where she is a coach, Karyn replied that volunteering "Fills your bucket. It is the most ancient of remedies for the soul. You get rewarded with results, and you get to meet and work with a lot of wonderful people."

The Ashland Farmers Market is another ad hoc committee that works closely with town staff but is not a formal part of the municipal government. The Saturday morning Farmers Market has contributed enormously to Ashland's sense of community. "Meet you at the Farmers Market" is a well-used phrase for so many people who rendezvous with friends or fellow committee members for informal chat. The Select Board now holds official 'office hours' at the market. "The Farmers Market has always been volunteer-driven," says Steve Mitchell, a founding board member. Steve is also a member of the Lions Club, a former Select Board member, and has volunteered with other grass-roots activities. When asked about his volunteering he replied, "It's never a burden. It is satisfying to collaborate with other volunteers and add value to our community. Ashland becomes a better place."

Municipal Government Committees

"This town could not function without its volunteers," says Town Manager Michael Herbert of the 40+ committees, boards and commissions that provide a host of essential government services. Eight are elected and the rest are appointed.

Some people believe that many of these town officials are paid. While that is true of the Town Manager and town staff, the reality is that no town



Steve Mitchell in front of Farmers Market shed used to store tents and other equipment

committee members, elected or appointed, are paid positions. Their reward is personal satisfaction.

Yolanda Greaves has been a Select Board member for 13 years after serving on the School Committee and a few other volunteer activities. She is currently the Board Chair. Being a Select Board member is a huge commitment of time and energy. "There are many reasons I volunteer," offered Yolanda, "but mostly because I enjoy it. I enjoy the balancing act of maintaining the town's character and moving forward at the same time."

Another member of the Select Board, Joe Magnani, a former Ashland Police officer and Chair of the Ashland Day committee, smiled and said, "It's about stories, success stories: Warren Woods, Mindess School, Public Safety Building, the Downtown and Rt 126 projects. There is nothing more satisfying than a job well done."

The opportunities listed above are but a sample. Many town committees need new members. Do you have some medical training? The Medical Reserve has 7 vacancies. The Regional Emergency Planning Committee has 9 vacancies. The Town Manager's newsletter, published weekly, often lists volunteer opportunities. Each committee, commission, or board has a webpage on the town website that explains its function. Reading through these committee pages can help you to decide where you would like to apply your special talents.

Would you like to have more satisfaction in your life? The opportunities are there waiting. Become a volunteer.

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Ashland's Village Burial Ground Cleanup and Restoration through Community Engagement, Partnerships

BY HELEN NICKOLE

About a year ago the Ashland Village Burial Ground was an historic cemetery located in the heart of downtown behind the Federated church that had been all but forgotten. It sat mostly unnoticed, in extreme disrepair and overgrown with invasive plants and trees. Many of the gravestones were not even readable. Many more were broken or leaning.

A group of Ashland residents came together to see what options might be possible to return this historic site to a place of natural beauty and restore the gravestones to the respectable condition they deserve. Collaboration between the Ashland Historical Commission and the Ashland Historical Society formed to look at what could be done.

Eventually a Cemetery Working group of citizens was formed. This group researched the options and the best way to approach this restoration project. After much collaboration and research, it was decided that community engagement, volunteerism and forming partnerships within the town and town government would be the most successful approach.

There were expenses that needed to be addressed for the cleanup and through community partnerships the funds needed for the cleanup and the beginning stages of restoration were achieved thanks to valuable community financial partners: Needham Bank, Realty Executives Boston West, Ashland's 126 Self Storage, Ashland Lions, Ashland Historical Society, Ashland Historic Commission and an anonymous local business.

Today the Village Burial Ground is in its initial phase of cleanup and restoration. Planning started last fall with the Cemetery Working Group having had three successful events at the Village Burial Ground site. The first two events were brush and invasive plant removal events. The third event was a cleanup weekend of gravestones and training of volunteers in gravestone leveling and small



more, Guy Family Obelisk, E. Pratt, Mary Tilton.

Large amounts of brush, invasive plants and trees have been removed.

This is just the beginning of the work needed at the historic site of the Village Burial Ground. The cemetery working group is now planning additional cleanup and restoration events this coming fall. In addition, the Cemetery Working Group is evaluating options for professional assessment of the gravestones and professional restoration. Community participation is a vital part of this ongoing project.

repairs.

There was a group of professional conservators overseeing the site work and training at our June event. A small group of trained volunteers is continuing to do additional work. So far onsite volunteer hours for this project over the three events and some additional ongoing site work is 308.5 hours. That does not include organization, research and other off-site work.

RESULT: Fifteen gravestones were restored/repared:

Francis C. Claffin, George Nickerson Obelisk, William Waite, Calvin & Susan Graves, Edwin Knowlton, Mary Chickering, A. A. Whittemore, S. E. Whittemore, Eldora Whittemore, Charles Whittemore, Ella Whittemore, Edmund White-

We need the community to come out this fall as they did this spring. Please be watching for the information which will be coming ahead of the fall events. In the meantime, stop by to take a look at the Village Burial Ground and you will see the transformation that has already occurred. We know you will be inspired to get involved. The rewards are priceless!

We are currently seeking volunteers to participate in the ongoing organization and work needed for this project. If you would be interested in any of the following volunteer opportunities: research, on site labor (this is for work being done in between big events), fundraising and promotion please email me Helen Nickole at: ashlandvbg@gmail.com.

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Glenn Brown, CFP

Have a teenager working this summer?

Did they earn money babysitting or mowing lawns?

How about a W-2 from selling ice cream or as a camp counselor?

You can open a Roth IRA for your child to evolve their financial knowledge while helping invest for retirement, a first house and/or qualified educational expenses.

Kids establishing Roth IRAs.

There is no age minimum, as long as they earn income. It's up to the parent to document to IRS that their kids had income earned from work, either W-2 or self-employment taxable wages.

If under 18, an adult opens and maintains control of a Custodial Roth IRA with the child as beneficiary. Once an adult, usually 18 in most states, the account is transferred to a Roth IRA in their ownership.

After a Custodial Roth IRA is opened for 5 years, the advantages of tax-free earnings and withdrawals are same as Roth IRA. Recall a Roth IRA's tax treatment is most valuable when time horizons are long and current tax rates are low, both true for kids.

What if your teen spent all their earnings? After a talk about budgeting (i.e. 3 Jars - Spend, Save, Gift), a parent or grandparent could fund a Roth IRA up to the amount of the child's reported

earned income on tax returns.

Some parents will make 'match' contributions based on money earned in a summer job. If a teen earned \$3,800 for 2024, a parent will fund \$3,800.

Remember, these contributions count against the \$18,000 tax-free gifts per individual for 2024. So, if you've funded \$18,000 for child's 529 Plan, find another individual (i.e. spouse, relative) who can make the Roth IRA contribution.

Introduction to personal investing. Have fun by letting your teen research an ETF or company to invest in, have them explain reasoning behind their choice and teach how they can follow. The next year, have them choose a different investment with the new contribution. Over time, they have a mix of investments, outcomes and lessons learned. This hands-on experience lays a foundation for making informed financial decisions of greater magnitude later in life.

Taxation of withdrawals before age 59 1/2.

A Roth IRA allows for 100% of contributions to be taken out for any reason, with no taxes or penalties. Furthermore, if a Roth IRA withdrawal is for qualified education expenses, you avoid the 10% penalty on earnings but still pay income tax on the earnings at the kid's tax rate. Thus, Roth IRA could supplement educational savings. Later, they could also withdraw up to a \$10,000 to pay for a first-time home purchase.

Impact to financial aid? Yes, in a good way. The "expected family contribution" or "EFC" formula has student owned assets assessed at 20% with two notable exceptions. First is 529's owned by parent's is 5.6% and retirement accounts owned by parent or child counts as 0%. However, if a child takes money from a Roth IRA, even to pay for college, up to 50% of the withdrawal may be assessed.

In conclusion, opening a Roth IRA for kids is a proactive way for parents to teach financial responsibility and secure their children's financial future. It's not just

about saving money; it's about cultivating a mindset of financial discipline and planning that will benefit them throughout their lives. By harnessing the power of investing, compounding and leveraging tax advantages, parents can give their children a head start towards financial independence and security.

Not all institutions offer Custodial Roth IRAs, but many do with no minimums and low fees. Consult your Certified Financial Planner to learn more.

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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Back to School Movie Night Hosted by the Ashland Business Association

Ashland, get ready to celebrate the upcoming school year with a dazzling Back to School Movie Night!

We're thrilled to present "IF" at The Corner Spot. Join us for an evening filled with good food, music, beverages and more! Senties Kitchen's will be serving up the BBQ and Doragon Eatery will have a nacho bar that is sure to please!, Refreshin' Concessions' ice cream truck will be there and Wine Empire will be

serving local favorites in the shed! There will be fresh lemonade, lively music, and the artistic touch of face painting by Imagine That Face Painting.

This event is brought to you in collaboration with the Town Events teams and the Ashland Business Association. A special thanks to the valued sponsors: Dream Dinners, Ashland Ale House, Ashland Mini Storage, Quilling Card, Minucci Auto, Lamacchia Realty, and Annemarie's

Dance Centre for their unwavering support.

- Date: Sept. 6
- Time: 5:30 - 8:30 PM (movie to start at 7pm)
- Location: The Corner Spot, 6 Cherry St, Ashland

Bring your blanket or chair and help spread the excitement and gather your friends and family for an unforgettable evening! See you there!

Police Swearing In: Welcoming Our Newest Officers

We are thrilled to announce the addition of two outstanding new members to the Ashland Police Department.

Officer Brandon Barker and Officer Yoel Goulbourne were officially sworn in this summer, each bringing unique skills and experiences to our community.

Officer Barker was sworn in on June 17. Town Manager Michael Herbert had the honor of administering the oath in a ceremony held at Town Hall. Officer Barker recently graduated from the Cambridge-Northeastern Police Academy, where he excelled in his training and demonstrated a strong commitment to public service. Following the ceremony, he immediately began his field training, starting his journey to serve and protect our community. We are confident that his dedica-



tion and enthusiasm will greatly benefit our town.

Officer Yoel Goulbourne was sworn in on June 3. With experience at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, Boston School Police, and Boston University Police, as well as being an 8-year U.S. Army veteran, Officer Goulbourne brings a wealth of knowl-

edge to our community. His sweet daughter, Aiva, proudly pinned his badge at the swearing-in ceremony, adding a personal touch to the event.

Please join us in welcoming Officer Brandon Barker and Officer Yoel Goulbourne to our team. We look forward to their contributions and are grateful for their commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of Ashland.

Welcome aboard, Officers Barker and Goulbourne!

State Primary In-Person Early Voting

Ashland Town Hall

Ground Floor

101 Main St., Ashland

Saturday, Aug. 24 - 8 AM - 2 PM

Monday, Aug. 26 - 8 AM - 3:30 PM

Tuesday, Aug. 27 - 8 AM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday, Aug. 28 - 8 AM - 7 PM

Thursday, Aug. 29 - 8 AM - 3:30 PM

Friday, Aug. 30 - 9 AM - noon

Voter Registration

Deadline for Sept. 3, State Primary Election is 5 PM, Saturday, Aug. 24,

You may register at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours and on Saturday, Aug.

24, 8 AM - 5 PM, online at www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR or complete an Official Mail-in Massachusetts Voter Registration Form available here. (Must be post-marked by the Voter Registration Deadline.)

2024 Vote-By-Mail Applications/Postcards

Voters will have the option to choose:

A specific election; or ALL elections for the 2024 calendar year.

Voters registered in one of the following political parties will receive that party ballot for the Sept. 3, State Primary election:

- Democrat (D)
- Republican (R)

Libertarian (L)
Voters registered as Unenrolled (U, commonly referred to as independent) must choose a party ballot on their application for the State Primary election.

Unenrolled voters will not be enrolled into the party and will remain Unenrolled (U) following the conclusion of the election.

If you wish to change your political party the deadline is Saturday, Aug. 24, at 5 PM.

The Vote-By-Mail application deadline is Monday, Aug. 26.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL ballots for the Sept. 3, State Primary Election must be received in the Town Clerk's office no later than 8 PM on Election Day.



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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Work With The Best! b.LUXE

BY GINA WOELFEL

Are you looking for an incredible beauty salon to start or advance your career? Work at b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio! With its exceptional reputation, highly talented team of professionals, and a full selection of hair, makeup, spa, and tanning services, we're dedicated to providing an outstanding experience for both clients and employees. b.LUXE is genuinely a great place to work! Below, hear from a few of our stylists and estheticians as we explore why b.LUXE is ideal for motivated hair, makeup, and skincare professionals to flourish and succeed.

"Early in my career, a well-known Boston salon owner took me under their wing and shared their talent. They taught me about the artistic side of the beauty industry and the business side. I received such well-rounded training. I love sharing what I know with the whole b.LUXE Team." - **Heather Cohen, Owner of b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio.**

Join us at b.LUXE, where our core values of teamwork, education, structure, optimism, and trust will skyrocket your success! You'll also enjoy competitive salaries, exceptional educational opportunities, travel, benefits + more!

"I really enjoy the team atmosphere at b.LUXE. There is always someone there to lend a helping hand." - **Morgan Court-right, Stylist**

b.LUXE Hair and Makeup takes pride in being Massachusetts's highest-rated salon on



Google. Our team works together to take care of our clients and support the training and development of our staff. With over 750 reviews showcasing our commitment to high-quality service, we have established a luxurious beauty experience in a collaborative environment. Our goal is to empower our team members, foster self-confidence, enable career growth, and provide sustainable incomes

"I love working at b.LUXE! Not only do I get to work with my twin sister, Nicole, but the rest of the girls feel like family, too!" - **Sarah O'Connell, Senior Stylist**

Our senior staff enthusiastically share their experience and knowledge, providing unhindered access to their skills. We encourage the growth of our fellow artists and actively seek opportunities to help our co-workers grow and achieve great things.

"I love the city-loft feel of the salon! The culture at b.LUXE is a teamwork environment, with continuing education, great leadership, and complimentary 'LUXE for everyone' services like the keratin glove and BE-



FORE Oil treatments that the clients love!" - **Sandra Wilkey, Senior Stylist**

One of the biggest motivators for joining our team is the exceptional educational opportunities we offer. Whether embarking on your cosmetology journey or looking to advance your skills, our education program is at the pinnacle of what the industry offers.

"The energetic, positive, and supportive vibe from this amazing group of women is how we're able to share our passion for hair with our guests. This is why I love being a part of this team!" - **Heidi McDade, Senior Stylist**

Our cutting, coloring, and event styling specialists hold Monday education sessions, allowing our junior stylists and assistants to learn techniques in a warm and supportive environment with the people they work with daily. In addition to our in-house education, b.LUXE regu-

larly hosts Goldwell sponsored events with well-known educators like Jacob Kahn, Johnny Kelly, and Kylie Bussing. Our aesthetics team attends seminars and collaborates with guest educators from our skincare line, G.M. Collin, an undisputed leader in dermo-corrective skincare solutions.

"The educational opportunities with G.M. Collin provide me with in-depth product knowledge that allows me to offer the best solutions for every skin concern. Whatever your goals are here, you will always have someone in your corner to support you and cheer you on." - **Corinn Bradford, Esthetician**

Are you an established artist looking to expand your clientele or a recent graduate from cosmetology school seeking help building your client base? Look no further! Our in-house marketing department is here to support you with social media tutorials, collaborations, promotions, and direct engagement with our followers to bring new clients to your chairs. b.LUXE also maintains a waitlist that encourages our clients to be open to trying all stylists to expedite their wait times!

"We grow together. We grow as a team. The opportunities are endless." - **Senior Stylist, Dani Johnson:**

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If you or someone you know is considering a career in the beauty industry or looking to switch things up, we'd love to talk to them!

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Are you afraid of outliving your money?



Mark Freeman

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Do you worry about running out of money during your retirement years? If so, how can you help prevent this from happening?

In the first place, if you have this type of fear, you're far from alone. Consider this:

58% of retirement savers from all age groups, including current retirees, say that outliving their assets is their greatest

retirement fear, according to a study by Cerulli Associates, a financial services research organization.

This type of fear can certainly affect your quality of life when you retire. Still, there's no need to panic – because you can take steps to help prevent the running-out-of-money scenario.

Here are a few to consider:

- **Know how much you'll need during retirement.** You need to get a clear picture, or at least as good an estimate as possible, of how much money you'll need to support your retirement lifestyle. Once you do retire, some costs, such as transportation or other work-related expenses, might go down, while others – medical expenses, in particular – will likely go up. The fear of running out of money, like many fears, is caused largely by what you don't know, so having a good sense of how much you'll need in retirement can help reduce your anxieties.

- **Build financial resources before retirement.** You're probably at your peak earning capacity in the years close to your retirement, so consider contributing as much as you can afford to your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.
- **Maximize your Social Security payments.** You can start collecting Social Security as early as 62, but your monthly benefits will be larger if you can afford to wait until your full retirement age, between 66 and 67. (Payments will "max out" at age 70.)
- **Re-enter the workforce.** Going back to work in some capacity is one way to possibly help build retirement resources and delay taking Social Security. If you have a particular area of expertise, and you enjoyed the work you did, you might be able to go back to it on a part-time basis or do some consulting. You could boost your cash flow, and potentially extend your contribu-

tions to an IRA and to an employer's retirement plan.

- **Cut costs during retirement.** Possibly the biggest cost-cutting measure is downsizing – are you willing and able to move to a less expensive area or scale down your current living space? Of course, this is an emotional decision, as well as a financial one, and downsizing isn't for everyone, but it might be something to at least consider. As for the lesser ways of reducing expenses, take advantage of senior discounts, which are offered in many areas, including entertainment, public transportation, restaurants and retail establishments. And look for other opportunities, such as cutting out streaming services you don't use.
- **Look for more income from your investments.** As you get closer to retirement, and even when you do retire, you might want to adjust your investment portfolio to provide you with more

income-producing opportunities. However, even as a retiree, you'll want some growth potential in your investments to help keep you ahead of inflation.

Ultimately, the more you can bolster your financial security before and during retirement, the less fear you may have of outliving your money.

Contact Mark for assistance with your personal finances.

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

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Ohmigod You Guys! Ashland Teen, Lucille Stillitano performed in Legally Blonde The Musical at The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts

Ashland teen, Lucille Stillitano had Worcester thinking pink when she appears in Legally Blonde The Musical during session one of the Youth Summer Program (YSP) at The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts Friday, July 26 and Saturday, July 27. The fun and upbeat musical follows the adventures of a sorority girl named Elle Woods – a Gemini with a double Capricorn moon – who tries to win her ex-boyfriend back by earning a Harvard law degree. Stillitano will play the Boutique Saleswoman in the production.

“Legally Blonde The Musical may be a comedic, light-hearted show, but it also explores serious themes of self-discovery and independence which resonate with

people of all ages,” said Freddie Gershon, CEO of Music Theatre International (MTI). “We hope everyone in Worcester is totally psyched to see the show.”

Delta Nu sorority president Elle Woods seems to have it all: good looks, a relationship with the “campus catch,” and great taste in clothes. However her life is turned upside-down when her boyfriend, Warner, dumps her in an attempt to start getting “serious” about his future and attend Harvard Law. Determined to win him back, Elle uses a lot of hard work and some charm to get into Harvard Law so she can prove to Warner that she’s serious enough for him. Once at school, she is challenged by her peers, professors and her ex, but with the help of some new

friends, Elle realizes her potential and sets out to prove herself to the world.

In a recent interview, the Ashland teen shared, “I’m so excited to be doing Legally Blonde The Musical this summer!”

With a book by Heather Hach, music and lyrics by Laurence O’Keefe and Nell Benjamin, Legally Blonde JR. is based on the book by Amanda Brown and the hit Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture starring Reese Witherspoon, which was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture: Musical or Comedy. Legally Blonde The Musical opened at Broadway’s Palace Theatre in April 2007, starring Laura Bell Bundy as the iconic Elle Woods.

The Hanover Theatre Conservatory provides performance opportunities, classes, and individual instruction in theatre, dance and technical theatre and design to more than 600 young people and adults from across central Massachusetts each year. Established in 2016, the conservatory cultivates individual attention, ignites creativity and inspires confidence through arts education led by outstanding teaching artists. The state-of-the-art facility includes classrooms, rehearsal and teaching studios, and tech and costume labs for advanced education in stage craft and design. Students receive access to master classes with national touring artists and gain professional experience from performance opportunities with THT Rep and on The Hanover Theatre’s world-class stage. THTC believes in access to arts education for all and

provides financial aid for those in need. Many conservatory students have continued their pursuit of the arts at institutions such as Emerson College, Boston University, NYU, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Berklee College of Music, Hofstra University, Hartt School at the University of Hartford, Marymount Manhattan College, Syracuse University and more.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, which owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts (THT) and, on behalf of the Worcester Cultural Coalition (WCC), manages Worcester’s BrickBox Theater at the Jean McDonough Arts Center (JMAC). All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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Ashland Business Association awards two scholarships to Ashland High School Seniors Jerry Judge and Tanush Garg

This year, the Ashland Business Association [ABA] awards Jerry Judge and Tanush Garg each a \$1,500 ABA Scholarship Award.

The business association's Scholarship Committee selects high school seniors residing within Ashland, who best demonstrate good work ethics, motivation, creativity and business/community interests.

Jerry Judge is pursuing Managerial Economics at UMASS Amherst. In his application, he noted his leadership skills as the Captain for the Ashland High School (AHS) Baseball team.

His accomplishments include being named Rookie of the Year as a Freshman joining the Varsity Baseball Team. Judge was also a member of the High School Football team, earning the Outstanding Sportsmanship and Dedication award because of his contribution as a team member, while overcoming an injury prohibiting his ability to play.

Judge possesses entrepreneurial skills as a participant in The Edge program and AHS Entrepreneurial Club. At The Edge, Judge attended monthly seminars learning from different guest speakers sharing experiences in careers and personal experiences to build character and develop life skills. At AHS LaunchX Social Entrepreneurial Club, Judge pitched his business idea for a E-Sport Recruitment Software earning the Venture Capital Investment Award.

"Winning the Venture Capital Investment Award was super meaningful to me because I always loved business. Watching Shark Tank, I imagine myself as an entrepreneur. Winning this award was great encouragement!" said Judge.



Jerry Judge

Additionally, Judge pitched an idea to launch a loyalty program for the ABA to further support businesses in our community.

Judge also contributes in his family by taking care of his younger siblings while his parents work, picking up shifts at the local grocery store, and serving in his family's local parish assisting in the more intricate holiday masses in addition to the weekly services.

Tanush Garg is Pursuing Economics/Computer Science at Brown University. In his application, Garg noted his leadership skills as the Vice President of Student Council, Co-President and Co-Founder of the Stock Market Club, and Co-President of LaunchX Social Entrepreneurial Club at Ashland High School.

Garg impressively earned 1st Place out of 1,200 plus entries for a Stock Market Game, proving his thorough understanding of the Stock Market and his ability to build a well-rounded portfolio with the ability to earn high-profile investments. Also showing Garg's knowledge of the Stock Market, Garg earned 1st Place at Michigan Tech's Husky Investment Tournament. Showcasing entrepreneurial skills, Garg also



Tanush Garg

earned 3rd Place in a BIG Idea Entrepreneurship contest, solidifying Garg and his team's start up was worthy of an investment.

Garg also interned with Constant Therapy Health, a start-up aimed at digitizing care for patients with neurological conditions. "My grandma's experience with dementia motivated me to intern here," said Garg, "Crafting patient-centered content through coding and creating compelling videos, I was excited to be part of creating a product that could improve outcomes for people like my grandmother and learned about how my skills can be used to solve real-world issues."

In addition to participating in these activities, Garg performed research for Professors at MIT and Harvard. With Professor Ellison at MIT, Garg collected data for research papers, analyzed data, built data tables, collaborated with MIT researchers, and helped aid writing an AP Statistics Textbook. Professor Dell at Harvard had Garg help train a language model to categorize articles between economic, political, & other news to make a global historical understanding of

the world more widely accessible, learning about how past news can influence our decisions and thinking processes today.

"Year after year, I am impressed with the accomplishments of the applicants and thoroughly enjoy reading their ideas on how to change the Ashland community for the better. The applicants are diverse in their academic achievements, extracurricular activities and accolades yet those who are chosen seem to have personal drive as a common denominator. It is a pleasure getting to meet them on senior award day and shake their hand. In their short time as young adults they have already contributed to the community of Ashland in a positive way. If it

wasn't for the generous donations of the Ashland Business community, we wouldn't be able to continue this program and so we are grateful to the Ashland businesses who've donated and continue to make this scholarship program a success" said Chrissy Reynolds, ABA Scholarship Committee Chair and owner of Annemarie's Dance Centre.

These two scholarships were appointed by the ABA Scholarship committee comprised of members, Chrissy Reynolds of Annemarie's Dance Centre, Paul Netopski of Critical Prism Defense LLC, Ron Stone of Law Office of Ronald M Stone, Peter Chisholm of Expedia Cruises, and Bill Gath of Realty Executives.

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Residents are welcome to pick up free COVID-19 testing kits at the Board of Health Office in Town Hall between the hours of:

Mon.: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tues.: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Wed.: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Thurs.: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Fri.: closed

SOURCE: WWW.ASHLANDMASS.COM/178/HEALTH

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Sha'arei Shalom is a member-driven Jewish congregation serving the Greater Metrowest area. We offer a diverse congregation that understands the demands of busy families, the needs of seniors, and is affordable.

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Peter Klay of The Bulfinch Group Recognized as Leaders Club Qualifier by The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America®

Annual Honor for Top Financial Professionals

The Bulfinch Group is pleased to announce that Ashland resident, Peter Klay, has been named a Leaders Club qualifier by The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America® (Guardian). Leaders Club is one of the highest honors annually awarded by Guardian to financial professionals who demonstrate outstanding service and dedication to their clients. "We congratulate Peter on being recognized as a Leaders



Peter works with families and businesses to help them grow and protect assets, while providing them with greater financial clarity. He also serves as a Managing Director, helping other Financial Representatives build their practices.

Peter attended Roger Williams University and he and his family reside in Ashland. Peter is very active in Ashland sports, and currently serving as the Director of Ashland Youth Lacrosse.

The St. Cecilia Flea Market
SAVE THE DATE: September 13, 14 & 15

DONATE YOUR GENTLY USED ITEMS*
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 saintceciliaparish.org**

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Club qualifier, which is a true testament in regard to his exceptional client service," explains Seth Medalie, CLU®, ChFC®, President and Founder of The Bulfinch Group. "Being named to the Guardian Leaders Club further proves what a remarkable asset Peter is to both our firm and to his clients."

Ashland MASSACHUSETTS

Select Board Office Hours

Rotating members of the Ashland Select Board will host office hours once a month. These meetings offer residents the opportunity to speak directly with a Board member about issues which matter to them.

Saturday, July 20th | 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Saturday, August 10th | 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

The Ashland Farmers Market | 125 Front St, Ashland

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Dragonfly Street Faire

A new event is coming to Ashland this October.

The Dragonfly Street Faire will bring shopping, music, dance, entertainment, food and beverage to Downtown Ashland on Oct. 5, from 1-6pm. Mark your calendar for this first-time event!

The Dragonfly Street Faire is a combination of the past Dragonfly Festival, mixed with the Holiday Stroll and Shop on the Spot. For the first time, we are combining some of the best events into one huge event spanning from the Ocean House to The Corner Spot and The Farmers Market location on Front Street.

Performances and musical acts will entertain you all day long! The new downtown sidewalks will be lined with vendors selling their products and there will be street performers strolling throughout downtown.

This event has been designed for all ages! There will be kids' events and activities, shopping, and food and beverages for all to partake in.

If you are interested in popping up as a vendor, please contact Beth at breynolds@ashlandmass.com. Details are still coming together, and more things are being added on each week! For more information and to see what's happening go to www.thecornerpotashland.com.

Meet Peach and Pepsi

Cats available at Metrowest Humane Society

Handsome Peach (2-year-old male) and gorgeous Pepsi (1-year-old female) are a bonded pair looking for their forever home. They were rescued from two different locations, but they have become CFFs (Cat Friends Forever!) and must be adopted together. They have learned that people aren't so bad and they deliver the treats and food.



Peach is still nervous around people's hands but likes to watch what you're doing. He is a very curious and playful kitty and is always first at the door when he sees a wand toy! He will need you to be patient with him and earn his trust. Pepsi loves to play with a feather wand toy and laser pointer if you entice her to. She is very outgoing and enjoys receiving some pets from us humans.

As we are closed to the public, adoptions are by appointment only. If you have an interest in meeting Peach & Pepsi, please use this link to find additional information about them. You can also see all our currently available Adoptable Cats, and fill out our online adoption application at <https://metrowesthumanesociety.org/adoptable-cats/>

These two besties love to sleep, snuggle, and bathe together! They need a special family who will understand their needs, give them time to adjust, and be patient while earning their trust. A quiet home without children will be best for them.

We will review all applications and make appointments for those applicants we feel would provide a good and loving home.

Ashland Lions Club August 2024 Update

Annual Lions Golf Tournament

Join us for the Ashland Lions Annual Golf Tournament, to be held Monday, September 16, 2024, 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 visit ashlandlions.org/golf email us at golf@ashlandlions.org or visit our Facebook page.

Interested in volunteering?

Looking for a great way to give back to your community and help those in need around the world? Lions Clubs International has 1.4 million members in over 200 countries. The Ashland Lions Club is always welcoming new members, and we'd love to have you! Visit our website at ashlandlions.org/membership or send us a note via email or Facebook! You can also find several of our members at Honeydew on Union St most mornings between 9am-10am.

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 almost 2000 pairs of glasses! Help us break the record this Lionistic year.

lected over almost 2000 pairs of glasses! Help us break the record this Lionistic year.

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

Stay up-to-date on Lions happenings

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

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August 2024 at the Ashland Library

The Library will be closed Saturday, September 3rd through Monday, September 5th in observance of Labor Day Weekend.

Featured:

Minuteman Library Crawl 2024

Wednesday, August 7 10-5pm
We invite you to spend a day visiting local libraries – find out what is special about each and what they have to offer to you and your family. This is an event for all ages – all you need is a love of libraries and a way to get from place to place (feet, bikes, cars, llamas :)!

The challenge is to visit as many libraries as you can and take a picture of yourself with a designated item in each library – it's a 21st century scavenger hunt! Post your pics and tag the libraries #mlncrawl2024. Each library will have handouts and giveaways – show your pictures to a librarian (or if you don't have a camera, just tell a librarian you're on the crawl, we're pretty trusting) and receive a PRIZE!

Download your "passport" with all of the relevant information.

Adult:

Virtual: The Quiet & Colorful World Of Vermeer

Thursday, August 1 @ 10:30am

Let's study Johannes Vermeer's quiet, luminous interiors that seem to capture the daily life of ordinary people in his hometown of Delft. Learn the latest insights into this beloved but enigmatic artist.

HYBRID - Romance Book Club

Thursday, August 1 @ 6:30pm

Read a Brazilian Romance

Virtual - Eyeliner: A Cultural History with Zahra Hankir

Thursday, August 1 @ 7pm
Through intimate reporting and conversations—with nomads in Chad, geishas in Japan, dancers in India, drag queens in New York, and more—Eyeliner embraces the rich history and significance of its namesake, especially among communities of color.

Virtual: Adult Trivia Night -- 'How Did You Know That?' Edition

Friday, August 2 @ 7pm
Test your knowledge by answering 60 trivia questions (four

rounds of 15). Recruit some teammates or play solo -- the choice is yours! Be prepared to answer a hodgepodge of general knowledge trivia questions.

In Person - Afternoon Tea with Author Luanne Rice

Saturday, August 3 @ 2pm
We are so excited to welcome women's fiction and mystery writer, Luanne Rice, to Ashland! Join us for a cuppa tea while we chat with this icon of literature. Ask all of your burning questions or just sit back, relax, and enjoy the conversation. We'll be chatting about all of Luanne's books, but especially her most recent, "Last Night" - 'a breathtaking thriller about a family shaken by lies, vengeance, and a cold-blooded crime.' How could you resist!?!?

Mystery Book Club Special Event

Saturday, August 3 @ 2pm
Read "Last Night" and Meet Author Luanne Rice

Virtual: Armchair Travel To French Wine Regions

Tuesday, August 6 @ 10:30am
France has 17 different wine regions, each with unique wines, history, and a strong cultural identity. Explore the sites and wines of Provence, Cote du Rhone, and Burgundy. The wines are excellent, and the residents are very welcoming.

Virtual - "50 Hikes in Eastern Massachusetts" with Author Madeline Bilis (Take Two)

Tuesday, August 6 @ 7pm
We had so much fun talking with author Madeline Bilis about her book "50 Hikes in Eastern Massachusetts" last year, that we just had to do it again! This time, we'll focus on coastal view walks. Maybe we can even get Madeline to discuss her favorite pizza shops along the way. As you gear up for the end of summer, you won't want to miss this!

Virtual - Environmental Book Club

Wednesday, August 7 @ 6:30pm
Read "The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet" by Jeff Goodell

Virtual - Author Kirsten Mills Discusses "Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books"

Thursday, August 8 @ 7pm
Join us for this discussion with author Kirsten Miller. Her book

"Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books" is "a provocative and hilarious summer read that will have book lovers cheering and everyone talking! Kirsten Miller, author of 'The Change', brings us a bracing, wildly entertaining satire about a small Southern town, a pitched battle over banned books, and a little lending library that changes everything." In a day when this topic can rip people apart, learn how one small community was able to come together - it's fictional but, maybe, hopeful, too!

Virtual: Whole Body Anatomical Donation Discussion with Robert Bouchie

Thursday, August 8 @ 7pm
Join Robert Bouchie, Boston University's School of Medicine's Anatomical Lab director for an informative talk regarding the history, practice, ethics, and legalities of whole body anatomical donation.

Virtual - Friday Night Film Discussion

Friday, August 9 @ 7pm
Watch "The Bélier Family" (Kanopy)

Cookbook Club

Saturday, August 10 @ 12pm
Cook from "Istanbul & Beyond: Exploring the Diverse Cuisines of Turkey" by Robyn Eckhardt

Virtual: Armchair Travel To Corsica

Tuesday, August 13 @ 10:30am
Travel to Corsica, the jewel of the Mediterranean. Mountains and beaches beckon travelers. Politically, it is a French Department. Historically, it is tied to Genoa. Corsica is a free spirit in the Ligurian Sea with a French Mediterranean flavor and a Genoese nod. The combination of culture and scenery make it a very interesting destination.

Virtual - Book Recs with Bookstagrammer Jody Blanchette aka @redreadreviews

Tuesday, August 13 @ 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: Bald Eagles On The Rise with the Mass Audubon

Wednesday, August 14 @



10:30am

Learn the natural history and life cycle of bald eagle as well as the historic restoration project in Massachusetts resulting in a healthy population and removal of endangered species status.

Virtual: Summer Adventures -- Art Colonies In New England

Thursday, August 15 @ 10:30am

Explore eight late-19th and early-20th century summer art colonies across New England: Provincetown and Cape Ann in Massachusetts; North Conway and Cornish in New Hampshire; Old Lyme and Cos Cob in Connecticut; and Ogunquit and Monhegan Island in Maine.

Great Decisions

Thursday, August 15 @ 6:30pm

Discuss Understanding Indonesia

Virtual - Q&A with Author

Sean O'Connell: "Bruce Willis: Celebrating the Cinematic Legacy of an Unbreakable Hollywood Icon"

Monday, August 19 @ 7pm

On a nondescript Wednesday morning in the waning days of March 2023, one of the biggest movie stars on the planet called it quits. No press conference had been organized, the Hollywood trades received no advance notice, and there was a conspicuous lack of the fanfare that usually accompanies such bombshell announcements. Instead, the news that Bruce Willis was retiring from acting came in a simple statement on his ex-wife Demi Moore's Instagram page—along with the tragic news that Willis was suffering from aphasia, a cognitive disorder that subsequently worsened to become frontotemporal dementia. Join us as we discuss Bruce's life, work, and future with author Sean O'Connell. We will also be discussing the essential question - is "Die Hard" a Christmas movie or not? Join us to weigh in!

Virtual: Author Talk: Sharon Kitchens discusses "Stephen King's Maine: A History & Guide"

Tuesday, August 20 @ 7pm

Drawing on historical materials and conversations with locals and people who know King, learn about the places that would become the settings for Carrie, Salem's Lot, The Dead Zone, Cujo, IT, and 11/22/63.

Bio/Memoir Book Club

Wednesday, August 21 @ 11am

Read 'In Love' by Amy Bloom

Half-Past Crafts: Citrus Coasters

Wednesday, August 21 @ 6:30pm

A beginner-friendly sewing craft that looks adorable and summery!

HYBRID: Summer Scares First Bite: SUCH SHARP TEETH & HORROR FOR WEENIES with authors Rachel Harrison and Emily C. Hughes

Wednesday, August 21 @ 7pm

We are so pleased to be partnering with the Boxborough Public Library to bring you this program as part of this year's Summer Scares. We welcome authors Rachel Harrison and Emily C. Hughes for a discussion about gateways to the horror genre and how entwined horror is in popular culture. Hughes first book, "Horror For Weenies", is forthcoming in September with detailed information on 25 of the most popular horror movies written in an accessible and approachable manner 'for people who love getting the reference but hate being scared.'

Virtual: The Indigenous Old World -- An Exploration of Pre-Colombian North America

Wednesday, August 21 @ 7pm

North America was a place filled with cities, towns, and villages. Across the continent, Indigenous peoples produced architecture and monumental construction. The ancient and medieval communities of North America were fed by agriculture. Moreover, Indigenous Americans actively managed their environment and participated in long distance exchange net-

LIBRARY*continued from page 14*

works.

Virtual - Debut Romance Author Danica Nava Discusses "The Truth According to Ember"

Thursday, August 22 @ 7pm

We are so excited to be chatting with debut romance author, Danica Nava, about her book "The Truth According to Ember" - in which a Chickasaw woman who can't catch a break serves up a little white lie that snowballs into much more in this witty and irresistible rom-com. As the lazy, hazy days of summer wind to an end, we hope you can join us for what will be a fantastic discussion!

Virtual - Friday Night Film Discussion

Friday, August 23 @ 7pm

Watch "The Great Dictator" (Kanopy)

Virtual: Armchair Travel To Greece (Rhodes & Symi) With The Traveling Librarian

Tuesday, August 27 @ 10:30am

Travel to Rhodes and Symi, two jewels of the Dodecanese islands in the eastern Aegean, both of which captivate visitors with their distinct charms. Rhodes boasts a rich history, its ancient ruins and medieval Old Town echoing tales of knights and ancient civilizations. Meanwhile, tiny nearby Symi enchants with its colorful neo-classical architecture cascading down hillsides to azure waters below.

Virtual: Wildflowers & Insects with the Mass Audubon

Wednesday, August 28 @ 10:30am

Learn how these organisms interact and their importance in the ecosystems we live in.

Virtual: Henri Matisse -- Master of Color, Magician of Modernism

Thursday, August 29 @ 10:30am

Examine Matisse's extraordinary life and many of his important works. His friend and sometime rival Pablo Picasso once said, "All things considered, there is only Matisse."

Adult Weekly:**Knit and Crochet Club**Mondays @ 6pm
Walk-In**ESL Conversation Group**

Mondays @ 6:30pm

Walk-In**Gentle Yoga**

No Yoga in August, Judy will be back in Sept!

Children:**The Whalemobile!**

*for ages 5 and up

Thursday, August 1 @ 4pm

Registration is Required and Space is Limited

Cynde McInnis, owner of The Whalemobile, will be bringing her life-sized (43 ft.) inflatable whale, Nile, to the Ashland Public Library! Children will meet Nile, a 37-year old humpback whale whom McInnis has seen almost every summer since 1994 off the coast of Massachusetts. They can go inside of the inflatable whale and learn about how whales are similar and different to humans. Kids will learn about Nile's migratory path, how many calves she's had, as well as how researchers learned this information. Artifacts such as baleen, teeth and bones are available for children to see and feel. At the end of the presentation, they will be encouraged to become Playground Protectors and see how much trash they can collectively pick up this summer!

Atlantic White Shark Conservancy

Thursday, August 15 @ 2pm

*For kids entering kindergarten through 6th grade

Registration is Required

We're crazy about sharks at the library! Join AWSC for this interactive and educational event. Kids will complete puzzles and activities designed to teach them about the life and growth of these amazing underwater predators. They'll continue their investigation by exploring the similarities and differences between sharks and other whales, bony fish, seals and more.

Teacher Tales is Back! Come to Story Times at the Ashland Library for a Read-Aloud with Teachers from Mindess and Warren Schools!

Joanne Forrester

Monday, August 12 @ 10:30am

Steffie Turcotte

Monday, August 12 @ 3pm

Meghan Robshaw

Monday, August 12 @ 6:30pm

Teacher Tales and Math Activities with Taryn Marquez

Monday, August 19 @ 6pm

Chrissy Clifford

Tuesday, August 20 @ 6pm

Shannon Mackay

Wednesday, August 21 @ 6pm

Leigh Tripp

Thursday, August 22 @ 6pm

Flicknic: Families are invited to beat the summer heat for a series of special movie events! Bring your picnic blanket and lunch to enjoy while you watch a movie on our big screen! No registration required.

Flicknic: The Little Mermaid

Friday, August 2 @ 12pm

The youngest of King Triton's daughters, Ariel is a beautiful and spirited young mermaid with a thirst for adventure. Longing to find out more about the world beyond the sea, Ariel visits the surface and falls for the dashing Prince Eric. Following her heart, she makes a deal with the evil sea witch, Ursula, to experience life on land. (Live Action version)

Flicknic: Under the Boardwalk

Thursday, August 8 @ 12pm

Two crabs embark on an epic journey to get home after a storm sweeps them away. Their courage soon unites their families, paving the way for great summers to come.

Read to a Dog with Knives and Machete

(yes, those really are the dogs' names!)

*For kids who are reading on their own

Saturday, August 10 @ 1:30pm

Saturday, August 24 @ 1:30pm

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

Ashland STEM Camp

*For kids entering grades K-5

Saturday, August 3 @ 11am

Saturday, August 10 @ 11am

Saturday, August 17 @ 11am

A high school student-run summer camp that ignites curiosity with interactive exhibits, hands-on experiments, new innovations and take-home activities.

Weekly Storytimes:**Clocktown Rockers!**

*For ages 2-5 with a caregiver
Tuesdays 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.

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.

Teen:**Dungeons and Dragons**

*Ages 12-18 Only

Mondays @ 5-7pm

Registration is Required

Join the most famous role-playing game at the Ashland Public Library!

Teen Trivia Night

Wednesday, August 28 @ 5pm

Prove your speed and smarts at Teen Trivia Night! Bring your phone to play our trivia quiz, earning points for how fast you answer correctly. August's theme is Final Jeopardy! Each month we will have new trivia topics and new winners. Play each month to keep a points total for a chance to win our grand prize!!

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

Saturday, August 3 @ 10-1pm



Customers for all our sales will find thousands of titles on the permanent sales shelves including hard and soft cover fiction (all alphabetized by author for ease of shopping), a wide selection of history and politics titles, health and family living books, plus memoirs, biographies, and loads of additional titles, all arranged by genre. An entire section of the Book Sale Room is arranged for children to browse and select from a huge collection of board books, picture books, easy readers, and chapter books.

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!

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Sports

Hoping to Play Baseball in College and Beyond

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

For as long as he can remember, Oliver Lareau has found himself either on the ice playing hockey or on the diamond playing baseball.

Although her loves both sports, baseball is tops on his list.

“I liked the game of baseball and thought that it would be something that I could play forever,” the outgoing Ashland sophomore said. “I love the atmosphere of the game, getting to play it every single day in the nice weather.”

Having grown up through the town league, it was around the eighth grade that he realized that he had the talent to continue to play baseball.

“That year I was having a really good season with my club team, the NWS Devils,” he said. “And the coaches though it would be a good idea to try out for the high school team.”

Lareau already had it in his head that he was going to show up for the Clockers baseball tryouts during the spring of his freshman year, what he didn't know was how tough it was going to be.

“Tryouts were really nerve-racking as I didn't know a lot of people,” he said. “But eventually I realized that a lot of friends were also trying out, so it eased my mind a bit, but I still had to go out and do the best that I could to hopefully make the varsity team.”

The freshman did manage to make the varsity squad and soon after found himself playing almost every single game that year either in right field or on the mound pitching. Although he had a decent season, he thought that he could have played much better than he did.

In addition to playing the outfield and pitching, Lareau also has seen some action at first base, but of all the positions, he prefers being on the mound.

It was during his Little League days when he was first handed the ball and almost immediately found that he loved the position.

“I was so into pitching I started going to as many camps as I could. At that age all I knew and wanted to do was throw as hard as I could,” Lareau recalls. “Sometime around the seventh or eighth grade I realized that I couldn't always get away with just throwing the fastball, so I had to work on developing a changeup and slider.”

The Devils Coach began to work with Lareau on his pitching mechanics, his arm slot and explosiveness while also teaching him how to throw other pitches. According to the soon to be junior, success came pretty much immediately.

“Hitters couldn't keep up with my fastball once I learned how to throw off-speed stuff,” he said.

Despite loving to be on the mound and in control, Lareau will play wherever Ashland Coach Matt Messer needs him to play; outfield, first base or pitcher — it doesn't matter as long as he's on the field helping his teammates.

This past season the lefty pitcher went 2-3 with a 4.5 ERA, pitching 35.2 innings and striking out 26 batters. At the plate he batted .330 with an on base percentage of .384 with 22 hits, 13 Rbi and 15 runs scored in 66 at-bats.

Lareau noted that he is currently the Clocker's leadoff batter but is unsure why as he is not one of the fastest kids on the team. Instead, he just enters the batter's



box looking to just put the ball in play.

“Oli is a competitor and lives for sports. As a lefty pitcher he comes from the side making it difficult for batters to square up,” the Ashland skipper said. “Hitting wise, he's the toughest out and only struck out once during the regular season. He has an awesome approach at the plate and on the basepaths — we are lucky to have him.”

With two years still to play on the high school level, Lareau

will concentrate on getting better so that by the time he graduates there are colleges that will want him to play for them.

“I know that I need to work on getting stronger and improving the quickness on my pitches,” he said. “By playing with the Devils during the summer it will also help my game when the high school season resumes next spring.”

Messer firmly believes that upcoming junior has the chance to play baseball in college if he

continues to work hard, lift, and compete. Next season will be a big year for him to get noticed, so playing well will get him that first foot in the door.

When next season with Ashland rolls around, Lareau is looking to be a good leader to the rest of the team, while working as hard as he can every day and play his best when on the field. Hoping that everything will continue to improve and one day he will be able to achieve his ultimate dream of playing collegiate baseball.

Ashland Athletics Online Store

It is finally here! A one-stop shop where you can get all of your Clocker gear is launching today!

We have partnered with BSN, one of the country's largest athletic gear and equipment distributors to have our own Athletics store.

The 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week, 365 days-a-year permanent store is filled with anything and everything any fan would need to show their Clocker Pride!

From t-shirts to hoodies, winter coats to baby bibs, everything is 100% customizable, and each

category has designs upon designs that can make your gear different from anyone else. The options are truly endless.

This new launch allows for a consistent brand identity for all of our sports while at the same time driving revenue that will be funneled right back into Ashland Athletics, making it a win-win for all involved.

We also wanted to make sure there were price points for any family interested in purchasing and that constant sales take place, including the current sitewide 25% off sale.

No more waiting weeks for your order to arrive. Now, you can place the order, and the turnaround time is around ten days, and it is shipped straight to your home.

Share the link with friends and family and continue to help support Ashland Athletics: <https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/massachusetts/ashland/ashland-high-school>.

Go Clockers!

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Senior Community Center Activities for AUGUST 2024

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES:

Aug 1st, 15th & 29th 9:00-11:00 - SHINE In Person Appointment with Fran Bakstran

Call to make an appointment 508-881-0140 x1

Aug 1st at 12:00 - FOACOA Meeting

Aug 2nd 9:30 - Pins & Needles Sewing Class w/ Tobi – Fabric Bowls

Bring your own sewing machine. Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1.

Aug 5th at 12:00 - NEW!!! FREE Lunch – Sponsored by the Ashland Fire Department w/ Matt York performing songs by The Highwaymen (Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, Kris Kristofferson & Waylon Jennings)

Reservations must be made for this FREE Lunch. Space Limited.

Please fill out a slip and place it in the payment box outside of the Main Office to reserve your seat.

Aug 6th at 10:00 - NEW!!! Build a Bird House w/ Elissa – Intergenerational Event

Seniors 60+ will work w/ Recreational Dept. Summer Program 6th graders to build wooden birdhouses. Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1

Aug 7th at 10:00 - Computer Class – “Managing Backups on your Cell Phone,

Tablet and Computer” Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1.

Aug 8th at 10:30 - Downton Abbey 9th T.V. Episode Viewing

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

Aug 9th & 23rd 10:00–12:00 - SHINE On Phone Appointment w/ Wayne Antion

Call to make an appointment 508-881-0140 x1

Aug 9th 10:00-11:30 - Legal Phone Consultation with Arthur P. Bergeron

Call to make an appointment 508-881-0140 x1

Aug 9th at 10:00 - Craft w/ Chaitanya– Learn Scrapbooking Techniques

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

Aug 12th 10:30 - FREE Hearing Aid Cleaning with Hopkinton Audiology

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

Aug 12th at 12:00 - Lunch & Karen Spilka’s Office Listening Hour

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

Aug 13th at 10:00 - NEW!!! The offices of Senate President Karen Spilka & Representative Jack Patrick Lewis have partnered with District Attorney Marian Ryan to present “Scam Prevention”

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

Aug 13th at 12:00 - Bring Your Own Bag Lunch

Aug 13th at 12:30 - NEW!!! Celebrate National Raspberries & Cream Day Social

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

Aug 14th & 28th 9-11:30 - Veterans Office Hours with Richard Sabounjian

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

Aug 15th at 10:00 - NEW!!! “Caring for the Care Giver” w/ Sharon Loveridge of Bridges by Epoch Memory Care.

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

Aug 19th at 12:00 - Lunch w/ Ice Cream Dessert to Celebrate National Soft Ice Cream Day!

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

Main Office to reserve your seat. The cost is \$5 per person.

Aug. 20th, 12:00-5:00 - NEW!!! Red Cross Blue Drive at Ashland Senior Center

Donors can schedule an appointment directly at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?>

Aug 21st at 10:00 - Town Manager’s Coffee Hour

All are welcome!

Aug 22nd 10:00-11:30 - Clocktown Memory Cafe w/ performance by Wendee Glick & Steve Heck

Clocktown Cafe provides a welcoming place for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease, dementia or a cognitive impairment ac-

companied by the care-partner

Aug 26th 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.

Aug 28th, 11:00 - NEW!!! “Preventing Type 2 Diabetes” w/ Anne Fitzgerald, RN, MPH and Public Health Nurse for the Town of Ashland.

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

Aug 29th at 10:00 - Cooking Class with Chef Lee – Honey Garlic Salmon

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

\$5 donation requested per person.

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

Blood Pressure Check Free - Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Canasta – Tuesdays at 1 pm
Chair Yoga - Wednesdays at 1 pm

Chess - Mondays at 1:30 pm
Craft Class Free – Check Calendar for Dates & Times

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 Drop In Class - Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 9:30 am

Line Dancing with Lisa - Thursdays at 12 pm

Mahjong - Fridays at 10:30 am for all levels

Mindfulness & Meditation - Thursdays at 11 am with Mary Green

Parkinson’s Boxing - First & Third Wednesday of the Month at 1:30 pm

Pins and Needles (Free Sewing Class) - Check the Calendar for Dates and Times

Pitch Card Game - Mondays at 1:00 PM

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.

Check Calendar for Dates.
Zumba Gold with Kellie - Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Ashland Farmers Market to be held June through mid-October

The Ashland Farmers Market will take place on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., from June 1 to Oct. 12, in downtown Ashland, across from the Ashland Public Library.

To park, if the municipal lot adjacent to the market and street parking are full, please park at the Town Hall parking lot, the Mindess School or the Pittaway School.



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Ashland Food Pantry seeking donations

The Ashland Food Pantry is seeking donations of both food and monetary. A list of current needs is in the accompanying text box.

Food donations can be made during these times at the back of the Ashland Community Center, 162 West Union St.:

- Mondays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The food pantry also accepts monetary donations in these ways:

- Check payable to "Town of Ashland" with "Food Pantry Donation" in the memo line, and mailed to Ashland Human Services, c/o Courtney Loughlin, 162 West Union St., Ashland MA 01721; or
- Check payable to "Ashland Emergency Fund" with "Food Pantry Donation" in the memo line, and mailed to Ashland Emergency Fund, PO Box 112, Ashland, MA 01721.

To shop at the food pantry, visit www.ashlandmass.com/440/Ashland-Food-Pantry for contact information and relevant forms.

Sources: *Ashland Town Manager newsletter*, available at www.ashlandmass.com/1146/Sign-Up-for-Our-Newsletters, and www.ashlandmass.com/440/Ashland-Food-Pantry

Ashland Food Pantry current needs:

Snacks
 Granola bars
 Sugar
 Condiments (especially ketchup, mustard, mayo, mustard, relish, salt, pepper)
 Coffee and tea
 Pasta
 Pasta sauce
 Ramen Noodles
 Canned Ravioli
 Cake and muffin mixes
 Jelly
 Dish soap
 Laundry detergent
 Toothpaste
 Shampoo
 Plain lotion
 Baby wipes
 Diapers (especially sizes 5, 6, pullups)
 Adult incontinence underwear, size Large
 Toilet paper
 Paper towels
 Ashland trash bags
 Dog and cat food

Source: *Ashland Town Manager newsletter*, available at www.ashlandmass.com/1146/Sign-Up-for-Our-Newsletters

Mass. State College Building Authority to oversee Warren Barn project

Town officials call this "a huge win"

BY THERESA KNAPP

At its meeting on June 5, Ashland Town Manager Michael Herbert provided an update to the Select Board regarding the reconstruction of the Henry Warren Milking Barn.

"The good news is that the Mass. State College Building Authority has agreed, in principle, to take on the oversight of the construction of the Warren Barn. So, we would basically pay them the money that we have, and they would go ahead and oversee the construction of that which is a huge win for us because that takes that load off of our plate."

According to mass.gov, "The Massachusetts State College Building Authority (MSCBA) finances, plans, designs, constructs, and oversees the management of revenue-funded facilities - including housing, dining, athletic, parking, and other student facilities - for the Commonwealth's state universities and community colleges."

In a proposal for "Warren District Properties," which includes renovating the Warren Barn into a function hall to be used in partnership with Framingham State University, town

officials said, "The Warren Barn is part of an iconic vista that already attracts a number of individuals for pictures and other scenic uses. A function center can be used in partnership with FSU's facilities and parking as well as its new hospitality program. This will also allow us to potentially share the cost burden of restoring and maintaining the property with FSU."

At a Select Board meeting on April 3, FSU's Executive Vice President of Administration, Finance and Technology, Dale Hamel, said the university wanted to work in conjunction with the town on the reconstruction project.

"Obviously, I think the intention there was originally a repair of that facility, unfortunately the facility needed to be torn down after the beams gave away, so what we would like to propose is a collaboration with the town, if they're going to build a facility to replicate in some form a barn on the location of the former Warren Barn, to consider how we could supplement investment in that so it also provides event-hosting capability. I think that would be a real benefit to the town, it would be a real ben-

efit to FSU because we've got some plans related to that, and, to be frank, it would be a real benefit to the conference center and inn - it's surprising how many people want to get married in a barn."

At the June meeting, Herbert said a working group will be formed and will include representatives from the town, Massachusetts State College Building Authority, Framingham State University, and Flik (which runs the Warren Conference Center) to create agreements related to (1) the oversight of the project; (2) a license agreement for them to use part of our property for FSU to build a new rink; and (3) an ongoing operating arrangement between the town, FSU, and Flik related to "how to use those facilities, who uses those facilities, who pays for the operations, and things like that."

Assistant Town Manager Jenn Ball and Select Board member Claudia Bennett will be part of the working group.

Select Board member Joseph Magnani requested that, when drafting those agreements, a provision be included that gives Ashland residents and groups priority to use those facilities. Herbert said those issues will be addressed by the working group.



The site of the former Henry Warren Milking Barn which will be reconstructed in its original location to benefit the town and Framingham State University. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp



A photo of the original Henry Warren Milking Barn beside the silo. The building will be reconstructed in its original location. Source: www.ashlandmass.com

Real Estate Corner

Ashland Recent Home Sales

Date	Ashland	Amount
07/18/2024	154 Algonquin Trail	\$700,500
07/18/2024	164 Arrowhead Circle	\$625,000
07/17/2024	74 Meeting House Path	\$490,000
07/15/2024	27 Constitution St.	\$810,246
07/15/2024	301 Cordaville Road	\$600,000
07/12/2024	34 Algonquin Trail	\$660,000
07/12/2024	30 Queen Isabella Way	\$670,000
07/09/2024	4 Burnham Circle	\$1.15 mil
07/01/2024	321 Trailside Way	\$480,000
07/01/2024	455 Captain Eames Circle	\$650,000
07/01/2024	158 Captain Eames Circle	\$518,000
06/28/2024	358 Cedar St.	\$570,000
06/27/2024	208 Captain Eames Circle	\$635,000
06/27/2024	55 Pennock Road	\$985,000
06/27/2024	21 Edgewood Drive	\$637,500
06/27/2024	128 Captain Eames Circle	\$580,000
06/21/2024	287 Captain Eames Circle	\$620,000
06/21/2024	16 Russet Hill Road	\$1.03 mil
06/21/2024	10-12 Clark St.	\$725,000
06/21/2024	23 John Hancock Drive #72A	\$680,000
06/20/2024	3 Constitution St.	\$775,000
06/20/2024	10 Wilbur Drive	\$590,000
06/20/2024	65 Mountain Gate Road	\$515,000
06/20/2024	48 E Bluff Road	\$545,000



The 4-bed, 2-bath, 1,452 square foot home at 301 Cordaville Road in Ashland recently sold for \$600,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages

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Friends of the COA Hope To Launch Two New Initiatives

The Friends of the Ashland and Callahan COA have been busy working to develop two new initiatives for the future with hopes of launching in January 2025.

The travel committee has been working successfully by offering many successful travel opportunities by offering many day and multi-day trips for Seniors 55 and older who are able to travel independently. Great memories and friendships have been made, and lots of successful adventures completed. All seniors are welcome to join our trips and membership to a Senior Center is not necessary.

After meeting with the Limited Vision Support group at the Callahan Senior Center in Framingham, the Ashland Friends of the COA have decided to investigate ways both Senior Centers can safely include this group of hopeful travelers in the day trips we plan for the 2025 Trip season. This gathering enlightened us to the fact that efforts need to be made to include limited-vision travelers who can find it difficult or next to impossible to navigate most movements in unfamiliar

territories, which many of us take for granted: reading a menu, climbing or descending stairs, keeping pace with a group, etc.

Travel does not require perfect eyesight. People dealing with low vision just need new ways and support as they apply what they already know while navigating new territories they are not familiar with. When providing a guide, most travelers are given the guidance to figure it out.

The Friends have begun researching grant opportunities to support any budget needs that would sustain offering a stipend to any volunteer willing to partner with a traveler and chaperone for a day.

A chaperone's top priority would be safety. As a chaperone, the needs of the limited-sighted traveler will be a priority. As we research further and begin planning for this program, many issues will come up that will support the planning for this Limited-Sighted Travel Program and searching for people who would be willing to become a travel chaperone.

Our second goal is to create a Senior Travel Award Program, a one-of-a-kind initiative that will not just acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our seniors but also reward them with a well-deserved complimentary day trip. Our main objective is to raise funds to bring these two distinctive programs to life during the 2025 Travel Year.

Your support is crucial in making this a reality. We deeply appreciate your consideration and hope you can make a small contribution to support these two hopeful programs. Your contribution, no matter the size, will significantly impact our ability to bring these programs to life.

In the meantime, it would be helpful to hear from anyone who could be a resource in support of the creation of these new visions. There is so much to think about, plan for, and find financial support for going forward. If you can offer us any guidance, ideas, a reference, or are willing to donate to this effort, please contact Donna Shaw at dshaw5@gmail.com or text at 508-740-8054.



AUGUST 2024 EVENT CALENDAR

August 1st 10:00AM	Ashland Moms: Tot Spot Join Shen's Gymnastics Academy at the Corner Spot for a 45-minute gymnastics class with obstacle courses, basic gymnastics moves, and fun games.
August 8th 10:00AM	Ashland Moms: Tot Spot MetroWest YMCA and Project ABC offer a free playgroup with manipulative, sensory, and gross motor activities for families with children ages 0-8.
August 8th 5:30PM	Open Mic Night Calling all musicians, spoken word artists, and comics to join this popular open mic event hosted by Danny Silverman—sign up, bring your instrument, and have fun!
August 15th 10:00AM	Ashland Moms: Tot Spot Anne Marie's Studio invites kids to a creative movement class where they can float like fairies, stomp like elephants, and explore various ways to move.
August 22nd 10:00AM	Ashland Moms: Tot Spot Lou Lou's Music Together offers mixed-age music classes that support children's development through engaging songs and playful music-making activities.
August 22nd 5:30PM	Open Mic Night Calling all musicians, spoken word artists, and comics to join this popular open mic event hosted by Danny Silverman—sign up, bring your instrument, and have fun!
August 23rd 5:30PM	Pups on The Spot Last year's Pup's on The Spot was a hit, so we're bringing it back! Join us at The Corner Spot for shopping, music, food, wine, and beer with your pup

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS AND MORE SCAN THE FOLLOWING QR CODE OR HEAD TO THECORNERSPOTASHLAND.COM



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