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October 2024

Record Number Of Vehicles Attend KiddeFenwal American Cancer Society Car Show



helped efficiently register and direct cars onto the field, a true challenge with so many people and vehicles arriving throughout the morning. Additionally, let me add a shout out to all the volunteers behind the scene who collected donations from spectators and/or were involved in the issuing of a record amount of awards given to cars,” commented Kamitian.

The Show even had it’s first lemonade stand which raised over \$400 for Linclusion a program to facilitate the integration of children aged 3-15 with disabilities into existing summer camps, providing support (one-to-one aides) at NO COST to families.

Ashland police officer Gastorski proudly displays his trophy for the towns Harley Davidson motorcycle. There’s always next year Ashland Fire Department!

The weather couldn’t have been better, bringing to Ashland a record number of vehicles to the 11th annual Car Show on

Sept. 14. “The cars and trucks kept coming and coming, I knew quite early on that we were

going to surpass all records for attendance”, said Peter Kamitian. The show raised over \$21,000 for American Cancer

Society with close to 350 vehicles in attendance.

“I would like to thank all our sponsors and volunteers who

CAR SHOW
continued on page 4

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Pets of the month: Stripey and Stripey Jo

Stripey and Stripey Jo (aka “the Stripeys”) are both six-year-old males, and they are both still available. These boys are two charming feline friends looking for their forever home. Despite looking like brothers, they were found as strays in different locations. They share similar stories and names and have become best buddies.

Stripey

Stripey is a bit shyer than Stripey Jo but equally capable of forming a strong bond with humans. Initially cautious, he may hiss to express his nervousness but quickly transitions to purring once he feels comfortable. Stripey loves head scratches, especially under his chin. Stripey has always been intrigued by other cats, but he didn't know how to interact with them. Being with Stripey Jo has helped him to develop confidence. One thing he learned from Stripey Jo is how to play without putting too much effort into it - lying on the floor and grabbing the toy with his front paws. (The boys look like seals when they play!). Stripey greets his humans with a soft meow, particularly when it's time for food. He is more at ease around women.



(L to R) Stripey and Stripey Jo are both 6-year-old males. The charming felines are looking for their forever home. Courtesy photo

Stripey Jo

Stripey Jo is a sweet boy who has grown fond of human affection. Initially shy, he warms up quickly and loves being close to you, offering his whole body for petting and belly rubs. Though easily startled, Stripey Jo finds comfort in a quiet home with kind humans. He greets you with adorable chirps and enjoys interactive play, especially when you're involved. Stripey Jo enjoys treats and is a bit of a foodie. While Stripey Jo gets along with everyone, he too feels most at ease with women.

Stripey Jo has tested positive for FIV, but FIV cats can lead a long and healthy life without medication. Our adoption counselors have a lot of information on FIV and can assure you that he has many good years ahead.

The Stripeys

The Stripeys need a tranquil and loving home where they can continue to grow and feel safe. They will thrive in a peaceful environment and would benefit from a companion who can spend plenty of time with them, providing cuddles and affection.

Clarification

A story in last month's paper entitled “Metrowest Humane Society Seeks Volunteers and Forest Caregivers,” incorrectly indicated the shelter had previously accepted pets from out of state. In fact, MWHS does not bring in cats from out of state as it has a local license that only allows the rescue to take in cats from Massachusetts.

They need someone patient and reassuring to help them blossom fully, ideally a woman, but with adults only.

If you're looking for loyal and affectionate friends, Stripey and Stripey Jo would love to meet you. They promise to bring joy and love to their new home, enriching your life with their unique personalities and companionship.

The Metrowest Humane Society is closed to the public and adoptions are by appointment

only. If you have an interest in meeting Stripey and Stripey Jo, 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 metrowesthumane-society.org/adoptable-cats/

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

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CAR SHOW

continued from page 1

Ashland Fire department was also well represented at the show, including this truck from 1951

The Larracey boys of Ashland appear to enjoy the 1971 Harley Davidson golf cart at the car show!



Ashland Fire department was also well represented at the show, including this truck from 1951.



Ashland police officer Gatorski proudly displays his trophy for the towns Harley Davidson motorcycle. There's always next year Ashland Fire Department.



The show even had it's first lemonade stand which raised over \$400 for Linclusion a program to facilitate the integration of children aged 3-15 with disabilities into existing summer camps, providing support (one-to-one aides) at NO COST to families.



The Larracey boys of Ashland appear to enjoy the 1971 Harley Davidson golf cart at the car show!

Upcoming Events

Dragonfly Street Faire

Saturday, Oct. 5, 1-6pm
The Dragonfly Street Faire is coming to town! This event promises shopping from 30+ vendors, music, dance, entertainment, food and beverage all right in lovely Downtown Ashland on Oct. 5, from 1-6pm.

There will be so much going on that you are sure to love something if not all of it! Check out what will be popping up along Main Street and be sure you

don't miss a minute! Parking on street and in municipal lots will be available. Free to attend!

FallFest at The Corner Spot

Saturday, Oct. 19, 3 - 6pm
FallFest is a signature event to wrap up the season at the #bestspotintown. All are welcome to enjoy the fall festivities!! Games, food, beverages and music! Enjoy the beauty of autumn in New England. Join us this year on Saturday, October 19th from 3 - 6 pm for FallFest! Vendors include:

Joey D's Wingz & Things, Dulce D Leche, Refreshin' Concessions, fresh lemonade! Hit the Bus Band will be playing some tunes and Wine Empire will be serving up some seasonal beers and wine. Stop by Imagine that Face Painting and enjoy games and fun!

Hall will be decorated for the holiday and staff members will be in costume ready to hand out tons of candy and treats! We're inviting all kids and families from our community to come together for some Halloween fun. Dress up in your favorite costumes and come trick or treat! After Town Hall be sure to visit participating businesses in the downtown area. You will receive a map at Town hall of all the stops to visit. Don't miss out on this fantastic community event. We can't wait to see your costumes and celebrate Halloween together at Ashland Town Hall!

Annual Trick-or-Treating at Ashland Town Hall!

Wednesday, Oct. 30, 4:30-6:30pm

The annual trick or treating event is happening again in downtown Ashland on October 30th from 4:30pm-6:30pm! All three floors of Ashland Town

localtownpages logo and contact information including Publisher Chuck Tashjian, Advertising Sales Susanne Odell Farber, and Creative Design & Layout Michelle McSherry.

ANYTIME FITNESS advertisement featuring a woman with a pumpkin and text: 'Get Fit for Fall! Join Today!', 'OPEN 24 HOURS', 'Shaws Plaza 309 Pond St • Ashland, MA 508-881-4900'.

ASHLAND FAMILY EYECARE advertisement featuring pumpkins and text: 'Is it time to Treat yourself to an Eye Exam? Call Today!', 'Adult & Pediatric Eye Exams', 'Contact Lens Fittings • Medical Eye Conditions', 'Dr. Lauren LaPaglia OPTOMETRIST', '25 West Union St., Ashland 508-928-7300 • ashlandfamilyeye.com'.

Family-run Affordable Junk Removal takes the stress out of cleanups

BY CHRISTIE VOGT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible, properly disposes of non-recyclables and resells many items at the Schadlers' secondhand store, Resellables. "We opened that store in Bellingham because we hated to see things thrown away," Schadler says. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at



a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the back-end while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 17 years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place, The Corner Market in Holliston."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with

Business spotlight

my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

As for Ashland in particular, Schadler says they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area. Prior to owning Affordable Junk Removal, Schadler was a chef at Stone's Public House, and he also has relatives in town. The Schadlers also sponsor Ashland's girls high school hockey team.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

To receive a free junk removal estimate, call 774-287-1133 or visit affordablejunkremoval.com.

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Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children and dog, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.

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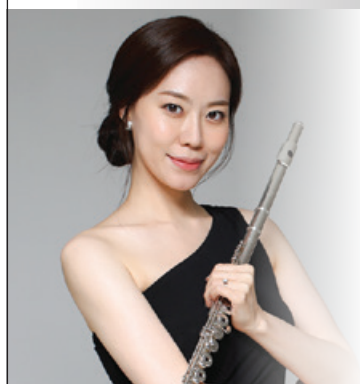
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Ashland Town News on Facebook to keep up-to-date with articles, events, giveaways and contest announcements for Ashland!



Your Money, Your Independence

Open Enrollment: Medical Plans & Health Savings Accounts (HSA)



Glenn Brown, CFP

Open enrollment is a pivotal time to reassess and select the benefits that best suit your needs.

Among the key benefits you'll choose are insurances (i.e. medical, dental/vision, life, AD&D, disability), services (i.e. legal), tax

benefit programs (i.e. dependent care, commuter) and retirement plan participation (i.e. 401k).

An area perplexing many is analyzing High Deductible Health Plans (HDHP) and their tax savings counterpart, Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). Understanding these options can help you make informed decisions.

Choosing the right medical plan.

When it comes to selecting a medical plan, a few ground rules take precedence.

First, a medical plan is a personal choice, and you need to be comfortable with the care received "in-network". Second, need to understand of your historical annual medical bills and expect consistency moving forward.

Case for High Deductible Health Plans (HDHPs).

Cost Structure: HDHPs feature lower monthly premiums but higher deductibles. You pay all costs up to the deductible before your plan starts covering expenses.

Financial Management: While HDHPs can have higher out-of-pocket costs, the lower premiums and tax advantages of an HSA can offset these costs.

Health Savings Account (HSA) Eligibility: Selecting a HDHP is required to participate in a HSA.

HDHPs are often beneficial if you are healthy, don't anticipate high medical expenses, and want to take advantage of the HSA's tax benefits.

Health Savings Account (HSA).

Only during Open Enrollment or Life Event can you Opt-In to an HSA with a HDHP and \$ amount to contribute. You can change the \$ amount later, but not the ability to Opt-In.

Key HSA facts:

- In 2025, an individual can contribute \$4,300 and a family up to \$8,550.
- If over 55, contribute an additional \$1,000.
- All contributions are tax-free - federal, state, and FICA (Social Security and Medicare).
- No federal taxes on HSA funds spent on qualified health care expenses.

- Excess HSA funds can be invested for tax-free growth to compound for years.

Thus, unlike any other tax-advantaged savings plan, HSA can offer "triple tax benefits": tax-free contributions, tax-free earnings, and tax-free distributions.

Free money.

Shockingly, over 50% of eligible Americans decline to participate in an HSA. Unbelievable considering most employers put \$500-\$2,000 each year into an HSA. In theory, \$1 per pay period could return \$500-\$2,000 per year from your employer - take it!

Furthermore, "health rewards" programs can earn deposits into HSA by doing preventative care activities. Examples like \$400 deposited when each spouse had an annual physical.

Get the tax savings.

Consider a family in 24% tax bracket averaging \$4,000 in out-of-pocket medical expenses. HSA tax-free contributions would provide them tax savings of \$1,466 (\$960 federal 24% + \$200 state MA 5% + \$306 FICA 7.65%). A family in 32% bracket can max out 2025 contributions and gain tax savings of ~\$3,817.

Leverage tax-free growth for retirement.

Gaining momentum is a financial planning strategy of avoiding withdrawals from

HSAs and pay medical expenses from free cash flow. This allows for investment in funds/ETFs to grow tax-free for years before using in retirement for eligible expenses like Medicare premiums, vision, dental, hearing aids, nursing services, long-term care premiums, and medical expenses.

Retire Early crowd please note, while HSAs cannot be used to pay private health insurance premiums, they can pay for health care coverage purchased through an employer-sponsored plan under COBRA, which may be a desired option leaving a company and maintaining 18 months until reaching Medicare eligibility.

Learn more by connecting with your benefits coordinator or Certified Financial Planner.

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 Plan-Dynamic, 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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Finding William Lewis [1819-1897]: The Every-day Life of this Singular Man

Since February 2012, Bruce Craven and Christie Higginbottom have been getting to know William Lewis, a man who left an extraordinary record of 59 years of his life - written in over 300 documents penned between March of 1836 - when he was 17 years old - and

December of 1895 - 13 months before his death.

This archive includes 143 journals and over 200 account books and farm records. Their book, Finding William Lewis [1819-1897] The Everyday Life of This Singular Man, brings

William's story to life through his own writings.

Bruce Craven and Christie Higginbottom have worked at Old Sturbridge Village for over 40 years.

Bruce coordinated the agriculture program and designed museum exhibits.

Christie coordinated the horticulture program and worked as research historian for horticulture and landscape.

The event will be held Oct. 20, at 2pm, and is free and open to the public.



MBTA Communities Update Public Hearing Oct. 10 at Planning Board Meeting

In 2021, the MBTA Communities Law was enacted by the state legislature to address the current housing shortage. It requires municipalities near MBTA services to adjust zoning regulations around MBTA stations allow multifamily housing by right. Ashland is one of 177 communities covered by the MBTA Communities Law, and it is one of 84 communities which hosts an MBTA station.

Categorized as a “Commuter Rail” community, Ashland needs to meet compliance requirements set forth by the

Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. Regulations require creating a zoning district or districts with specific criteria, including a minimum density of 15 units per acre and a minimum of 50 total acres. For Ashland, this means zoning for an additional 1,124 multifamily units, 15% of Ashland’s 2020 housing stock. 40% of these units need to be located within one-half mile of the commuter rail station.

Over the past year, an MBTA Working Group has been striving to create a thoughtful zon-

ing plan that can make Ashland comply with the MBTA Communities legislation with limited impact to the town. After several public forums with residents and several reviews with the Planning Board and Select Board, the MBTA Working Group has created the needed bylaws for presentation at Fall Town Meeting. The Ashland Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed bylaw changes on Thursday, October 10 at 7:15 pm during the regular Planning Board meeting. This hearing will be held in person and via

zoom. The full meeting agenda and zoom link will be found at: www.ashlandmass.com.

All current and past information regarding the MBTA

Communities Law in Ashland can be found at: <https://www.ashlandmass.com/1092/MBTA-Communities>.

Envision Ashland Update-Vision, Core Themes, and Goals

The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee was hard at work this summer, working with JM Goldson (the consultant) to utilize the community feedback from this spring and create the first draft of the overall Vision, Core Themes, and Goals. The Vision statement captures what a future community looks and feels like, focuses on possibilities, and drives the long-range plans and strategies. The Core Themes are subsections of the vision that enable us to categorize multiple goals and strategies and allow for overlap of the elements of the plan--such as housing and transportation. For example, a core theme of “Creating a Connected and Accessible Community” includes

goals on open space, transportation, and infrastructure. And the Goals focus on what the community will do to reach its vision.

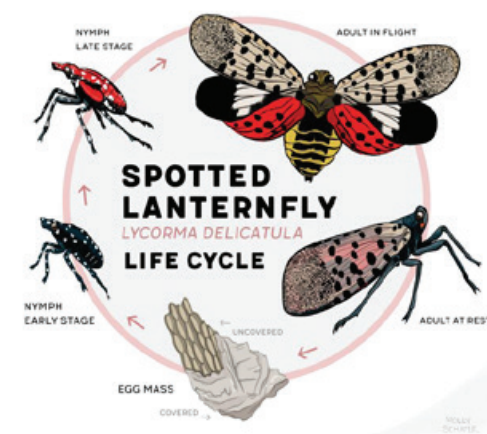
The Steering Committee is asking for community input on the draft Vision, Core Themes, and Goals through a survey that is available until the middle of October. Please provide your feedback on draft of the Vision, Core Themes, and Goals by visiting the project website at: <https://tinyurl.com/envision-ashland>. Keep an eye out for the Steering Committee at upcoming events throughout town this fall for more opportunities to provide your input.

In addition, JM Goldson and the Steering Committee

presented Phase II of the project—the results of the spring community engagement (Aggregated Community Engagement Summary), along with the Vision, Core Themes, and Goals—to both the Select Board and Planning Board at their September 18th joint meeting. A copy of the ACES report and the raw data can be found on the project website.

Next for the Steering Committee will be a meeting on October 7th with all the subcontractors for the project, to begin developing draft strategies for each of the goals, outlining how Ashland will look to achieve its goals. For any questions, please contact the Steering Committee at cpssc@ashlandmass.com.

Spotted Lanternfly Creating a Problem in our Community



We need your help to stop the spread of the invasive spotted lanternfly. For more information and to watch a 3 minute video about these invasive species click on the QR code here. The videos explain how to recognize the invasive spotted lanternfly, and how to ensure that you are not accidentally spreading this pest when moving vehicles in and out of infested areas. Thank you for your help in with this issue that is becoming a huge threat in MA.



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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Jumpstart Your Cosmetology Career with b.LUXE Hair and Makeup's Premier Apprenticeship Program

BY GINA WOELFEL

Are you an aspiring beauty professional eager to establish yourself in the field of cosmetology? Consider the exceptional apprenticeship opportunities offered by b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio in Medway, MA. As the state's top Google-rated salon and a two-time Salon Today 200 Honoree, b.LUXE is renowned for its commitment to excellence in the beauty industry. They're now opening their doors in collaboration with the Massachusetts State Board of Cosmetology to the next generation of beauty experts through their apprenticeship program, designed to provide hands-on experience, top-tier education, and an accelerated path to licensure.

The Apprenticeship Advantage

b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio, owned by industry veteran Heather Cohen, is more than just a salon. It's a training ground for future beauty professionals. "I work closely with our apprentices to ensure they receive a complete education that builds off what they've learned from cosmetology school. We employ a director of cutting, Sandra Wilkey, and a director of color education, Andrea Rees, to further mentor our apprentices and junior stylists. Our staff is also incredibly supportive, and work as a team

to bring the next generation through successfully," Heather explains. "Early in my career, a well-known Boston salon owner took me under their wing and shared their talent and business knowledge. I received such well-rounded training. I love sharing what I learned." The studio offers comprehensive apprenticeship programs in collaboration with the Massachusetts State Board of Cosmetology. These programs allow participants to gain real-world experience, refine their skills, and earn up to 400 hours towards their 1,000-hour licensure requirements while still in school.

The b.LUXE Apprenticeship Program caters to the education and career of future cosmetologists, providing three distinct paths to success.

1. MA Cosmetology Apprenticeship Program

For current students enrolled in a Massachusetts State Board of Cosmetology accredited beauty school, this program is a game-changer. By working at b.LUXE, students can earn up to 400 hours towards their licensure, bridging the gap between classroom learning and professional practice. This time-saving opportunity not only accelerates the journey to becoming a licensed cosmetologist but also ensures that students gain invaluable hands-on experience in a real salon environment.



2. The Shop Employed Student Program

Balancing school and work can be challenging, but b.LUXE makes it easier for students to do both. This program allows students to work at the salon after school, offering real-time client interactions, ongoing education, and hands-on training. It's the perfect way for students to apply what they've learned in school while continuing their formal education.

3. b.LUXE Apprenticeship Program

Designed for recent graduates, this program offers a seamless transition from the classroom to the salon floor. Participants can build on the knowledge they've gained in school by working at b.LUXE in a structured, supportive environment. With one-on-one training from industry leaders and access to the best educational resources available, graduates can elevate their skills and grow their careers in a setting that nurtures creativity and expertise.



Why Choose b.LUXE?

b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio stands out not only for its accolades but also for its dedication to fostering the next generation of beauty professionals. The studio's commitment to education is evident in its weekly training sessions, hosted by leading experts in the industry. Apprentices at b.LUXE benefit from personalized guidance and a comprehensive training program that prepares them for success in the competitive world of cosmetology.

As Heather Cohen, the owner of b.LUXE, explains, "Our unique learning opportunities are designed to help students thrive during their school years, after school, or post-graduation. We're excited to collaborate with cosmetology schools and help shape the future of talented cosmetologists."

Take the Next Step in Your Beauty Career

If you're currently enrolled

in a board-accredited cosmetology school in Massachusetts, or if you've recently graduated, the b.LUXE apprenticeship program is your chance to gain the experience and education you need to succeed. With a reputation as the best in the state, b.LUXE offers an unparalleled environment for aspiring cosmetologists to grow, learn, and excel.

Whether you're still in school or just starting your career, b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio is the place where passion meets professionalism. Embrace this opportunity to transform your cosmetology dreams into reality with the guidance and support of the best in the business.

Visit bLUXE.com to learn more about the program and take the first step towards a bright future in the beauty industry.

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Boards and Committee Meeting Schedule

It's important to stay up to date with what is happening in Ashland. Community member voices are important to the future of Ashland and knowing what is happening in town helps you find your voice with what

is important to you. All public meetings are posted on the Town website: www.ashland-mass.com. Be sure to click "all calendars" when searching for a specific meeting.

Do you need to fear retirement?



Mark Freeman

FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Provided by Edward Jones

If you're planning to retire in a few years, are you looking forward to it? Or are you somewhat apprehensive? Are you asking yourself: "What sort of retirement can I afford?"

It's a good question — because the answer can make a big

difference in your ability to enjoy life as a retiree.

And retirement can indeed be enjoyable, exciting and fun. Consider this from a recent survey by Edward Jones and AgeWave: A majority of respondents said retirement should be looked at as a whole new chapter of life, and not just a time for rest and relaxation. In other words, people are viewing retirement as a chance for new experiences and new opportunities, rather than a time to simply wind down. But if you're going to make the most of your retirement — which could last two or even three decades — you need to be financially prepared.

This preparation can involve many steps, but here are some of the key ones:

- **Decide what your retirement lifestyle will look like.** How you choose to spend your retirement years can make a big difference in the financial resources you'll need. For example, if you plan

on traveling the world, you might need more income than if you were to stay close to home and pursue your hobbies. If you can envision your retirement lifestyle and estimate how much money you'll need to support it, you can help reduce some of the uncertainties you might face once you do retire.

- **Review your income sources.** During retirement, you'll likely need to draw on all your income sources, so it's a good idea to know what you'll have available, such as your IRA, 401(k) and other investment accounts. You'll also need to decide when to take Social Security — if you wait until your full retirement age (probably between 66 and 67), you'll get much larger monthly benefits than if you started taking them at 62. And here's another variable: earned income. Even if you've retired from your

career, you might, if you desire, use your acquired skills in a consulting or part-time position. The more you can earn, the less you may have to withdraw from your investment accounts and the better position you'll be in to delay taking Social Security.

- **Consider adjusting your investment portfolio.** For most of your working years, you may have invested mostly for growth — to increase your assets as much as possible. But growth-oriented investments are also, by nature, riskier, so when you retire, you should review your portfolio to determine whether you need to move it toward a more conservative position. Also, more conservative investments may provide more current income in the form of interest payments. However, even in retirement, you may need some investments with

growth potential if you want to keep ahead of inflation.

Retirement is certainly a major milestone in your life — and adjusting to it can take some time. But there will be much less to fear — and much more to enjoy — if you've done what you can to prepare yourself financially.

Contact Mark for assistance with your personal finances.

Mark Freeman
Edward Jones Financial Advisor
77 West Main Street,
Hopkinton, MA
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Managing Through Change: The Ashland Select Board

BY ROB ST. GERMAIN

Contributing writer
Elections Matter. Right? The policies that our elected officials make affect our lives for better or worse. With so much attention focused on the Federal elections there seems to be little time to think about your local government – but perhaps you should.

The things outside your front door and the services you depend on are managed by your local officials. The list includes streets, police, firefighters, schools, library, trash and recycling, and for most of us water and sewer. To that add inspection services for your home, licensing of vendors and restaurants, speed limits, town personnel, and what you pay in fees and taxes. The list is long.



Town government is our purist form of democracy. Simply stated, WE are the government. We have a say in where our dollars are going and who spends

them. Amongst the several committees and boards that are elected, the Select Board (SB) has the most responsibility, and all five members urge you to be a part of the process.

Ashland is fortunate to have the SB members that we do. They are diverse in their skills and experience: three have considerable business experience, one was a teacher, and another a police officer. The least amount of time any of them have been in Ashland is 18 years; one has lived his entire life here. They are savvy, aware, serious, and very responsible. All five have expressed their desire to listen and engage with the rest of us. Spend time with any one of them and you will get a sense of their love for this community. Collectively, they display positive energy tempered only by the challenges the town faces.

Ashland – The Current Reality

“The beauty of living in a town like Ashland is the sense of community, the level of caring,” offered Makeda Keegan, the newest member of the SB. “Ashland is a fantastic place to live.” We have fine schools, an excellent library, an upgraded downtown, a new public safety building, well-maintained streets, decent restaurants and other fine vendors, and very responsive police, fire and town staff. A quick reading of the Town Manager’s Weekly News-

letter will acquaint you with a host of other services and cultural events too numerous to list in this article. All-in-all, we have it good!

But there is a downside. Our infrastructure is pretty much maxed out. Water, sewer, road capacity – none of them can handle much more growth. Growth, however, is inevitable! A couple decades ago, former SB member John Ellsworth told the townspeople that they needed to get used to that fact. The population was 13,000 at the time. It is currently 19,000 and will likely be several thousand more by the end of the decade.

Whether we like it or not, urbanization happens. Natick now has representative town meeting due to its population of 36,500. Framingham, with its population over 72,000, transformed to a City structure. Ashland is the next town to the West.

The state has a dire need for additional housing, especially affordable housing. Cape Cod real estate, for example, is so expensive that many of their town employees can’t afford to live there. Ashland is approaching that level. We also have a high proportion of seniors living on fixed incomes. Every year the demand grows for more town services. Things like less traffic congestion, even better roads, more athletic facilities and more sidewalks. But, funding is limited.

“Ashland does not have the proverbial money tree behind the town hall,” observed Joe Magnani, who at 15 years is the longest serving of the current SB members. “We will have to find compromises, trade-offs, as we do our best to balance growth while maintaining the character of the town,” added Joe – a comment echoed by the other four members.

Trade-offs and compromise mean that sometimes we must give up some of what is important to us. As citizens we need to mirror the SB and be flexible and willing to work to understand the larger picture.

Yolanda Greaves, SB Chair and 12 years on the Board, is fiscally conservative. She, like most of us, is resistant to more taxes. Yet, when the town manager proposed a town meals tax, she voted yes. “It just made sense,” commented Yolanda. “It paid for 25% of the Route 126 engineering which showed the state how important the redevelopment project was. The meals tax also funded our business development effort which has brought more vitality to the town.” Flexibility and understanding appear to be the key skills going forward.

Navigating into the Future

“There are no easy answers,” declared Brandi Kinsman, 5-year SB member and 18-year resident. “We need a high-level of community engagement and buy-in like what we are striving for in the current Comprehensive Planning Process.”

Claudia Bennett, 2-year SB member and 35-year resident, agreed. “The Comprehensive Plan will be our blueprint. It will guide our decision making.” But the now 60% complete planning process will be only a reference point. “We will need lots of input along the way,” said Claudia, “and understanding.”

“People should not come to us to rant,” offered Joe. “That is not constructive.” It seldom is, but additional information, constructive suggestions, and shared insights help bring people together. Those are the attributes of successful collaborative process.

Democracy, by definition, is participative. Abraham Lincoln in his famous Gettysburg Address used the phrase, “—and that government of the people, by the people and for the people”. The Select Board alone cannot / should not create the Future Ashland. That outcome is in all OUR hands.

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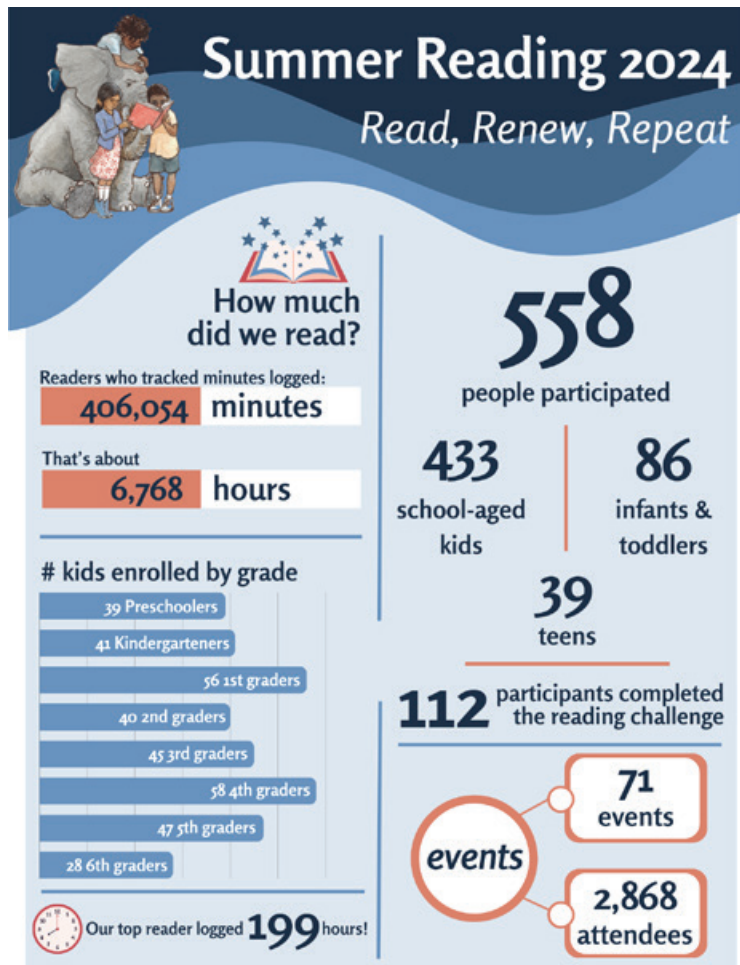
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Ashland Public Library Summer Reading Wrap Up

Congratulations to everyone who participated in this year's Summer Reading Club at the library! The numbers don't lie--together, we read an astounding 6,768 hours, enjoyed over 70 kids' and teen events, and connected with new and old friends. But just because the summer is over doesn't mean the fun has to end! Drop by to join the new story times, book clubs and workshops, browse hundreds of brand new books, movies, videogames and more, or just to say hi to the librarians (we get lonely when it's quiet!). See you soon, and happy reading!



Ashland Recreation Programs

Do you know all the great programming that's happening at Ashland Recreation? There truly is something for every age group. Here is just a sample of what they have coming up. Be sure to log into their website to see a full list of programs offered here in town! Go to: ashlandma.myrec.com

Backyard Discovery Do you ever wonder what lives under a rock? What makes the plants grow? Why the leaves fall? Join us as we discover all this and more! Each day we will go on an adventure in our big backyard, the Ashland State Park where we will examine leaves, turn over rocks, handle bugs, splash in a stream, plant seeds and more.

- Grades K - 5 Tuesday 4:30-6:00
- Ages 3.5 - 6 Thursdays, 9:30-11:30

Safe Sitter® babysitting classes have been preparing young teens to care for younger

children for over 40 years. The program follows guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Heart Association. Friday, November 15, 4:00 - 6:30, open to students in grades 5+

Safe@Home is ideal for students that have expressed interest in assuming the responsibility of staying home alone.

The program follows guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Heart Association. Friday, November 22 from 4:00-6:00, open to students in grades 3-6.

Preschool Crafts & Stories - Ages 2-6, join us on October 22 for a fun morning of Halloween, crafts, stories and activities.

October Early Release Days (Half Day Explorers) - Join us for one or all three early release days in October. Students in grades K-5 are picked up directly from school at dismissal by recreation staff. Each day we will head off on a fun adventure and return to the Community Center at 5:00 PM.

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

Saturday, Oct. 5, 9:30AM-1PM

Ashland Public Library, 66 Front St.

Monthly Book Sales and Donation Days are held the 1st Saturday of every month from 9:30 am-1 pm. Exceptions are the Big 2-Day Sale weekends in March, June, and December. 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 monthly book sales fund library programs for children, teens, and adults, Museum Passes, and so much more!



A message from the Ashland Cultural Council

The FY25 Grant Cycle with the Cultural Council has begun and the application is available on the MassCultural Council website <https://massculturalcouncil.org/>. Applications are due on Oct. 16, at midnight.

The grant is the annual state funding that Local Cultural Councils distribute to qualifying creators. Its purpose is to enrich the town and requires that projects are open to the general public, occur in Ashland OR allow Ashland residents to attend for free. Applicants can apply to multiple LCCs and each LCC awards up to \$1K.

Also, on a very local level, the council would like to hear from the community and make sure they are meeting the needs of residents and organizations so have created a survey as a way to receive feedback. The survey will help the council stay close to the needs of the community as an LCC and these answers will let them know what to focus on moving forward. It is deployed every 1-2 years and should take about 5 minutes to complete.

<https://massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/ashland/>

Greater Ashland Lions Club

A Big Thank You goes out to all those that gave at our White Cane Day Toll Road and visiting us at our booth at Ashland Day.

Lions are always busy. Either helping out where needed or having events to raise money for Eye Research or other organizations supported by Lions Clubs International.

Once again this year we will be collecting gently used coats for children and adults from October to January. For further information, please contact Lion Debbi at (508) 881-2117.

Our Annual Porchetta will be held on Friday, October 18th at the Ashland VFW, 311 Pleasant Street, Ashland. It'll start at 6:00pm and be catered by Marconi's & Co. Tickets are \$25/each and can be purchased by contacting either Lion Debbi at 508.881.2117 or Lion Alexis at 508.881.3022. No tickets will be

sold at the door.

Holidays of note: Rosh Hashanah (10/2), World Teacher's Day (10/5), Yom Kippur (10/11), Columbus Day and Native Americans Day (10/14), Boss's Day (10/16) and least we forget Halloween (10/31)

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

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

We are the Lions in Purple. We Serve!

SUBMITTED BY: LION ROSALIE PORTER, 2ND VP

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Ashland Lions Club October 2024 Update

Drug Take Back Day

The Ashland Lions again will assist the Ashland Police in collecting unused/unwanted prescription drugs at the Drug Take Back Day which will be held at the Ashland Community Center on Rt. 135 on Saturday, October 26th 10am - 2pm.

Ashland Lions Meat Raffles

Ashland Lions is kicking off another great year of meat raffles! Our first one will be held on Saturday, October 5 at 12pm, at TJs Food and Spirits in Ashland, and continue on the first Saturday of each month throughout the winter. As always there will be great food, fun people and great meat to choose from. See you there!

Christmas trees are coming!

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is only a month away. But do you know what opens the day after Thanksgiving? The Lions Christmas Tree lot! This will be our second year selling trees at our new location - the Ashland Farmers Market on Front Street! We'll have lots more surprises in store this year as well.

Please consider buying your fresh Christmas tree from the Ashland Lions this year and donate to a great cause. Cash, credit cards and Venmo are accepted. Remember, Lions give back 100% of fundraising to eye research and the local community. Hope to see you soon!

Coats for Kids and Families

Ashland Lions Club is partnering again with Anton's Cleaners for the Coats for Kids and Families Drive. We are collecting warm winter coats for adults and children. CFK&F accepts warm winter coats that are gently used, good quality and all sizes. Coats should not have rips, tears, broken zippers or permanent stains. They will be cleaned by Anton's Cleaners and made available to local nonprofits, social service agencies and schools to ensure that the coats are given to those who really need them, free of charge. Coats may be dropped off in Ashland at Focus on Fitness (290 Eliot St.), Cleaner's Choice and Tailor (193 Main St.) and at the Public Safety Building (12 Union Street).

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. We just contributed 900 pairs of collected glasses for cleaning, measurement and distribution to people in need.

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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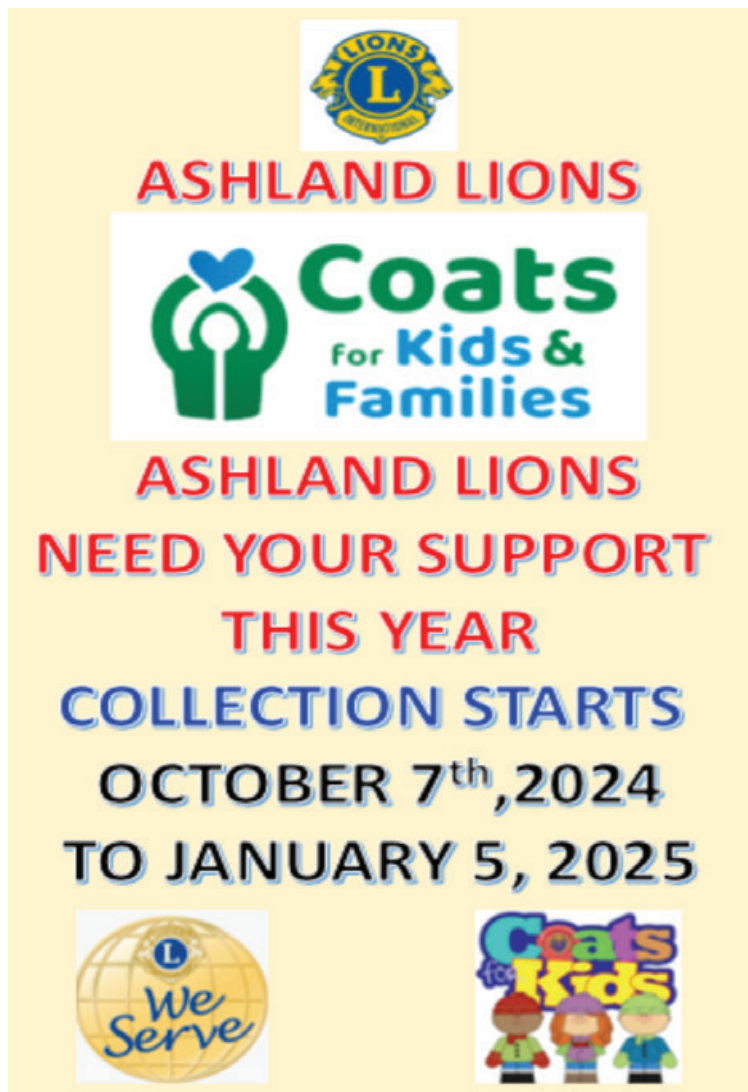
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Oct 2	7:00 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah *
Oct 3	9:30 am	Rosh Hashanah (Day 1) *
Oct 11	7:00 pm	Kol Nidre *
Oct 12	9:30 am	Yom Kippur *
Oct 12	6:30 pm	Ne'ilah **


* Location: Ashland High School, 65 East Union St.
** Location: Ashland Community Center, 162 West Union St.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 **Sha'arei Shalom**
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October 2024 at the Ashland Library

The Library will be closed Monday, October 14, 2024 in observance of Indigenous Peoples Day.

Adult:

Visit our Website Calendar for Additional Info & Registration links:

<https://tinyurl.com/apl-calendar>

Front Street Readers Book Club

Tuesday, October 1 @ 7pm
Read "Necessary Trouble: Growing Up At Midcentury" by Drew Gilpin Faust.

Virtual - Even Bigger and Better: The Strong National Museum of Play's New Expansion

Tuesday, October 1 @ 7pm
You know we love our museum talks and this one is guaranteed to be fun - it's the Strong National Museum of Play, after all. Join Christopher Bensch, Vice President for Collections, for this presentation about what's new and awesome at the museum. Play is not just for the little ones!

Virtual- Ditch the Fall Clean-Up with Claudia Thompson

Tuesday, October 1 @ 7pm
Come learn about a new approach to gardening that embraces and harnesses ecological systems instead of creating dead zones in our landscapes.

Virtual - Environmental Book Club

Wednesday, October 2 @ 6:30pm
Read "The Cancer Factory: Industrial Chemicals, Corporate Deception, and the hidden deaths of American Workers" by Jim Morris.

HYBRID - Romance Book Club

Thursday, October 3 @ 6:30pm
Read Hawaiian Romances

Virtual- Declutter series with Jamie Novak: 3 Steps to Sort Your Photos

Thursday, October 3 @ 7pm
During this online program author and organizer Jamie Novak reveals the three steps you can take today to make sense of your boxes of memories.

Virtual - Q&A with author Corrina Antrobus: "I Love Romcoms and I am a Feminist"

Friday, October 4 @ 2pm
We are excited to be chatting with "womanist", Corrina Antrobus about her most recent book, "I Love Romcoms and I am a Feminist" - a celebration of 100

of the best romantic comedies of all time - all with proper feminist credentials.

In Person - Horror Mini-Fest

Saturday, October 5 @ 1:30-3:30pm

We love horror writers and we love mini-fests! We're so excited to welcome this amazing slate of authors to the Ashland Library - Tom Deady, Kristin Dearborn, Errick Nunnally, Rob Smales, Mike Sullivan, and Steve Van Samson! We'll have an afternoon of fun with a panel discussion and book sales/signings!

Virtual: "Elections in Real Time", Current Events in a College Classroom with Professors Rachael Cobb and Robert Rosenthal

Monday, October 7 @ 2pm
Join Professors Racheal Cobb and Robert Rosenthal of Suffolk University as they conduct their "Elections in Real Time" class live for us to view and participate! They and their students will discuss the current events of the day and we can ask questions and make comments.

Virtual - Ways to Have a Green Holiday Season For Families with Sarah Robertson-Barnes

Monday, October 7 @ 7pm
A low waste holiday season is possible. Whether you have kids of your own, kids in your life, or love being a kid yourself during the holidays, Sarah has some suggestions for how to lower your ecological footprint this year.

Virtual - Thriller/Horror Book Recs with Bookstagrammer Jody Blanchette aka @redreadreviews

Tuesday, October 8 @ 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- Learn How Amateur Sleuths Are Solving America's Coldest Cases

Tuesday, October 8 @ 7pm
There are currently more than 250,000 unsolved murders in America according to estimates from the U.S. Department of Justice. This startling reality has led to the rise of an online world of amateur sleuthing with everyday Americans trying to solve cold cases from the comfort of their living rooms.

In Person - Meet Local Author Frederic Fahey, Discussing His Debut Novel "The Scoundrel's Son"

Wednesday, October 9 @ 6pm
Ashland High School graduate, Frederic Fahey (class of 1970!) returns to his roots to discuss his debut novel, "The Scoundrel's Son". If you love "Prince and the Pauper", TSS is a continuation of Tom Canty's story 6 years after PatP, set in Tudor England. Fred says, "this is not going to end well. Warning! Teenage angst ahead!". We hope you'll be able to join us to welcome Fred back to the area and hear about his wonderful book!

Virtual- Presidential Paranormal with Tim Weisberg

Wednesday, October 9 @ 7pm
Enjoy an entertaining look at the supernatural side of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. From séances in the Crimson Room with Mary Todd Lincoln to secret alien exchange programs under Dwight Eisenhower, there's no shortage of weird when it comes to the White House. Please note this is a non-political presentation.

In Person - Women's Wisdom Circle: Career Decision Making with Balance *For Adults

Thursday, October 10 @ 6pm
Welcome to our second Women's Wisdom Circle! A passion project for our library director, it's a place for all women, including cis and trans women, to gather and talk about issues that matter to them! For this session Olivia Peters, the Director of Program Management at reachIRE, will facilitate a discussion regarding making the best decisions for ourselves and our families; career transitions; and seeking a balance.

Virtual - 'Going to Extremes' with Adventure Travel Journalist Peter Mandel

Thursday, October 10 @ 7pm
A nationally-known adventure travel journalist for The Boston Globe, The Washington Post, National Geographic, and The Los Angeles Times, Peter Mandel hunts his stories and photos in the world's far corners, including Antarctica, India, Egypt, Patagonia, the fjords of Norway, the mountain pathways of Japan, and the deserts of Africa.

Virtual - In Conversation with Historical Fiction Author Madeline Martin: "The Booklover's Library"

Thursday, October 10 @ 7pm
This one is for book lovers ev-

erywhere! We're so pleased to be chatting with author Madeline Martin about her newest release, "The Booklover's Library" (seriously, we had to do this one!) as well as several of her other book related books such as "The Keeper of Hidden Books" and "The Librarian Spy" (our own personal catnip). We hope you can join us for this fun and fascinating conversation.

Mystery Book Club

Friday, October 11 @ 12pm
Read "Shutter Island" by Dennis Lehane.

Virtual - Friday Night Film Discussion

Friday, October 11 @ 7pm
Watch "Modern Times" Charlie Chaplin's last outing as the Little Tramp.

A Meditative Outdoors Fall Walk with Hannah Stein

Saturday, October 12 @ 10am
Join fellow Ashlanders and Hannah Stein, Owner of Ashland REIKI & Wellness Center, on this lovely walk designed to increase your awareness of the relaxing and healing benefits of nature that you can discover right here in Ashland, Massachusetts!

In-Person - Mediumship: An Afternoon With Your Loved Ones!

Saturday, October 12 @ 1:30-3pm
Join us for a transformative 90-minute Mediumship Event at the Library! Experience an afternoon of connection and spiritual insight as two gifted mediums conduct a gallery-style session.

Virtual: African Art Series: African Art in the medieval world--1000-1600 CE: The Trans-Saharan trade, Igbo-Ukwu, Ife, Benin, Djenné, Lalibela, Great Zimbabwe

Sunday, October 13 @ 2:30pm

Join Jean Borgatti, Consulting Curator of Global Africa, First Peoples - North America and Oceania at the Fitchburg Art Museum, for a conversation about this fascinating topic!

Cookbook Club

Tuesday, October 15 @ 5:30pm

Cook from "Mosquito Supper Club: Cajun Recipes from a Disappearing Bayou" by Melissa Martin.

Virtual- Masters of Song Carole King with Clint Edwards

Tuesday, October 15 @ 7pm
Explore the life, times, and music of one of popular song's greatest composers.

Bio/Memoir Book Club

Wednesday, October 16 @ 11am

Read "Between Two Kingdoms: A memoir of a life interrupted" by Suleika Jaouad.

Half-Past Crafts: Needle Felted Ravens

Wednesday, October 16 @ 5:30-7:30pm

This month we will be making some spooky (and cute) felted ravens!

Virtual - Artist Ricardo Diseño and Writer Steve Mockus Discuss "Eerie Legends"

Wednesday, October 16 @ 7pm

We're so excited to be chatting with artist Ricardo Diseño and writer Steve Mockus as they discuss their fascinating and frightening collection of folk tale monsters, ghosts, and other scary things that dwell in the dark.

Virtual- Ghosts of Sleepy Hollow

Wednesday, October 16 @ 7pm

Join author and journalist Sam Baltrusis on a bone-chilling journey through the streets of Sleepy Hollow as he breathes new life into the legendary village's long-departed souls.

Great Decisions

Thursday, October 17 @ 6:30pm

Discuss Pandemic Preparedness

Virtual - Haunted Experiences with Jeff DePaoli

Thursday, October 17 @ 6:30pm

Join Brett Bertolino, Thirteenth Floor Entertainment Group's Director of Special Projects, and Jeff DePaoli, host of "That Halloween Podcast", as they talk all about The Queen Mary's Dark Harbor which has been named one of the Top 10 Most Haunted Places in America by Time Magazine!

Card Making with Jan Poppendieck

Monday, October 21 @ 6:30pm

Jan will teach embossing, die cutting, proper stamping, and use of equipment individually and group techniques of creating unique cards.

Virtual - Monster Romance Panel with Kass O'Shine, Lyonne Riley, and Ami Wright

Monday, October 21 @ 7pm
We welcome authors Kass

LIBRARY

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O'Shure, Lyonne Riley, and Ami Wright as they talk about the rise of monster romances, their favorite monsters to write (and match up with a hero/heroine), diversity in the genre, their publishing journeys, and so much more.

Virtual - The Anglo-Saxons: The Beginnings of England with Historian Marc Morris

Tuesday, October 22 @ 2pm
This talk explores the Anglo-Saxon's journey from warlords to kings, from paganism to Christianity, and from a galaxy of competing peoples to a single, unified nation.

Virtual- The Haunting of Edgar Allan Poe with Bill Thierfelder

Tuesday, October 22 @ 7pm
Now considered one of the great literary geniuses of world literature, in his life Poe was the epitome of the tortured artist who was perpetually misunderstood by family and friends--the mad intellect often derailed by circumstances of his own making.

Virtual - The Origins and Evolution of Project 2025 with Professor Brian Conley

Wednesday, October 23 @ 7pm
Join Professor Brian Conley of Suffolk University, as we delve into the history of this document and its origins during the Reagan Years. Professor Conley will help us understand the origins of this Mandate which led to the current Project 2025 document.

Virtual- The History of the Ouija Board

Wednesday, October 23 @ 7pm
Explore the history of the Ouija board, its various uses throughout the ages, and its past and present reputation.

Virtual: A History of Shipwrecks with Captain Greg Ketchen (Retired)

Thursday, October 24 @ 1pm
This talk will focus primarily on, but not be limited to, historic shipwrecks that have occurred south and east of Massachusetts. The region has been called the Graveyard of the North Atlantic with over 3,000 wrecks here since European sailors first began exploring the shores of the western Atlantic.

Virtual- Art History's Best Dressed with Jane Oneail

Thursday, October 24 @ 7pm
ul clothes rendered with

awe-inspiring detail. This light-hearted program reviews some of the great fashions throughout the history of painting (with a few wardrobe malfunctions thrown in for good measure!).

Virtual: Democracy Talks:

Understanding the Crisis in Sudan
Thursday, October 24 @ 7pm
Join Dr. Mai Hassan of MIT's Political Science Department for an overview of the origins of the conflict in Sudan, Sudan's history of authoritarianism and Islamist rule, the country's fragmented internal security apparatus, and regional and ethnic divisions.

Virtual - Friday Night Film Discussion

Friday, October 25 @ 7pm
Watch "Cleo from 5 to 7"

Paper Craft Makerspace

Monday, October 28 @ 6:30pm

Come create your own greeting cards, junk journals, art journals, altered books, etc. using the library's extensive collection of stamps, inks, papers, punches, dies, embellishments, and embossing materials.

Virtual - Even More Haunted Lighthouses of New England with Author Jeremy D'Entremont

Monday, October 28 @ 7pm
Jeremy will be discussing the lovelorn spirit known as Ernie at Connecticut's New London Ledge Light and the piano playing ghost of Maine's Seguin Light, among others as well as about the mysterious Woman in White in the Isles of Shoals and the spirit of a drowned lighthouse keeper at Penfield Reef in Connecticut.

Virtual - Beyond the Library presents: The Art of Commemoration and America's First Rural Cemetery

Tuesday, October 29 @ 7pm
Learn about Mount Auburn Cemetery, a virtual outdoor museum—an interwoven tapestry of art and nature—featuring memorials by artists such as Thomas Crawford, Stanford White, and Edmonia Lewis.

Virtual- Brink of War? The US, Iran, and the Middle East in 2024

Tuesday, October 29 @ 7pm
This library talk will examine the history of US-Iranian relations since the 1950s, highlighting historical sources of tensions, as well as the effects of the Israeli-Hamas conflict on the Middle East in the present.

VIRTUAL: Ashland Adult Book Club

Wednesday, October 30 @

6:30pm

Read "Killers of the Flower Moon" by David Grann.

Virtual- Ghost Lore & Paranormal Reports From Western Massachusetts

Wednesday, October 30, 2024
Ghost stories from the Berkshires have never been so creepy, fun, and full of mystery! Pulled right from history, these ghostly tales will change the way you see the Berkshires forever, and have you sleeping with the lights on!

Adult Weekly:

Knit and Crochet Club

Mondays @ 6pm
Walk-In

ESL Conversation Group

Mondays @ 6:30pm
Walk-In

Gentle Yoga

Tuesdays @ 6pm
Registration is requested

Children:

Halloween Costume Swap

*lasts the whole month of October

Calling all mini ghouls and goblins! Join our month-long Halloween Costume Swap just for kids! Bring in those outgrown costumes and take home new ones to complete your spooktacular look. Whether you're on the hunt for a magical princess dress or a dashing superhero cape, this is your chance to refresh your costume collection and share the Halloween spirit. Drop off old favorites and pick up exciting new ones all month long—because every kid deserves to be their favorite character!

Special Programs:

Homeschool Hour

Monday, October 7 @ 1pm
Homeschooling families, unite for Homeschool Hour! Join us for a fun-filled hour where you can connect with fellow homeschoolers, dive into a creative activity, and explore the exciting idea of starting a family book club. It's the perfect opportunity to share experiences, get inspired, and build a supportive community.

Happy Halloween Tricks & Treats with Robert Rivest

*for families
Saturday, October 19 @ 10:30am

Registration is required

In this fun, interactive program, Comic Mime Robert Rivest will take us through a series of spooky yet silly Halloween stories. We will also learn

how to do some mime tricks and treat our friends to funny mime illusions and hilarious Halloween characters. Come in costume, Robert will use his mastery of mime and movement to help us move and act like our costume characters. Also bring some ideas and suggestions, as we will create our own spooky story together, on the spot!

La Hora del Cuento

*para familias
Spanish Storytime
*for families
Wednesday, October 23 @ 6:30pm

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

*for ages 4-7
Thursday, October 24 @ 6:30pm

Registration is requested

Kids and their parents or caregivers are invited to play together through stories, songs and yoga shapes. No experience or equipment necessary!

Little Crafters

*for 0-5 with a caregiver
Monday, October 28 @ 10:30am

Come join the Ashland Mom's Club for this story time, where little hands get to explore big ideas! Start with a sweet and lively story time, followed by a simple craft that's perfect for curious minds. Bring your imagination, and let's make some colorful memories together!

Lego Club with Kim the Lego Lady

*Grades K-3
Wednesday, October 30 @ 4:30pm
Registration is required and space is limited.

Calling all LEGO masters! Join Kim the Lego Lady for an interactive building adventure! Afterward, your awesome creations will be displayed in the library until the next LEGO club!

NEW Book Clubs!

Coding Class for Kids

*for ages 5 and up
Saturday, October 12 @ 1-2pm

Coding Class for Kids

*for ages 5 and up
Saturday, October 26 @ 1-2pm

Coding Class For Kids: Gear up for a tech-tastic adventure with our Coding Class for Kids! Every other Saturday, kids from Kindergarten through grade 5 will dive into the thrilling world of coding, where imagination meets innovation. With hands-on projects and fun, interactive lessons, your child will master the basics of coding and create their own cool projects. Whether they're building games or solving puzzles, this class promises excitement and discovery at every turn. Join us for a coding journey that's out of this world! ??? Click here for more information.

Space is limited to 12 kids and registration is required.

Beginning Reader Book Club

Tuesday, October 15 @ 4:30pm

Calling all budding bookworms! Join us for the Beginning Readers Book Club, where stories come alive in the most magical way! Every month, kindergartners gather for a fun-filled, choral-style reading adventure. We'll explore new worlds, create themed art, and make new friends—all while having a blast with books!

Space is limited to 12 and registration is required.

Graphic Novel Book Club

Thursday, October 17 @ 6:30pm
*grades 3 thru 6

Dive into a world where stories jump off the page! Each month, you'll read an exciting graphic novel before our meeting, where we'll chat about the book, play awesome games, and unleash your creativity with fun art projects. Plus, you get to vote on what book we'll read next—so your voice truly matters! With new friends, thrilling stories, and endless fun, it's the ultimate way to bring reading to life. Don't miss out on the excitement—come be a part of our graphic novel gang!

Space is limited to 16 and registration is required.

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,

LIBRARY

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LIBRARY*continued from page 15*

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.

Read to a Dog with Knives and Machete

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

*For kids who are reading on their own

Saturday, October 5 @ 1:30pm

Saturday, October 19 @ 1:30pm

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

Project ABC Play, Learn, and Grow Group

*for Ages 0 to 5

Tuesdays at 11am

A parent and child group offered by the Metrowest YMCA and the Early Childhood Alliance of Ashland & Framingham. A structured program to help prepare children for socialization and a school experience.

Registration *IS* required for this program

Teen:**CALL FOR TEEN HAUNTED TRAIL ACTORS**

Do you love being spooky? Is October your favorite time of year? Do you love dressing up or getting in costume? Then the Ashland Public Library

has the perfect opportunity for YOU. On October 25th, the library is putting on an all-out, after-hours Halloween bash including a haunted trail, and we need YOU to help make it as spooky as possible. The event is from 6:00-8:00PM, but we would start earlier for set up. Email Teen Librarian Laura Bernier at lbernier@ashlandmass.com for more information; volunteer hours available.

Want to help determine what goes on at the Halloween bash or other events from the Teen Room? Join the library's Teen Advisory Board. The board meets once a month; email lbernier@ashlandmass.com for details.

Teen Halloween Bash

*Ages 12-19 Only

Friday, October 25 @ 6-8pm

Welcome to the library after dark... this special AFTER HOURS Halloween Bash is a haunted event that's both trick and treat.

Enter if you dare...

You've never seen the library like before. More details to come, but get ready for a haunted trail that will scare your pages out, face painting, tarot card reading, Halloween themed snacks, and so much more! Scare... I mean SEE... you then.

Horror Tutorial: Special Effects Makeup 101

Wednesday, October 16 @ 5:30pm

Space is Limited, Registration is Required

Decimated Designs is BACK at the Ashland Public Library! Do you want to learn how to do professional special effects makeup? Or do you just want to get a little spooky? Register now for a horror makeup tutorial on Wednesday, October 16th from 5:30PM to 7:00PM. Some lucky attendees will even get to be part of the demonstration! Teens

AND adults are welcome to this special scary event.

In this workshop, Decimated Designs will be walking us through special effects from how to get started to how pro's make monsters jump to life. They will answer questions and do demonstrations on some lucky attendees. This class is for anyone who wants to work on makeup for cosplay, next year's Halloween costume, or to just get a basic crash-course on SFX makeup, all levels of experience are welcome and participation is encouraged!

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

Saturday, September 7 @ 9:30am-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!

Senior Community Center Activities for OCTOBER 2024

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES:

Oct 2nd at 10:00

FREE Computer Class –“More Cyber Security, Part II”

Registrations Requested. Walk Ins Welcome.

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

Oct 3rd at 9:00

FREE Breakfast sponsored by Ashland Lions Club

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

Oct 3rd at 10:30

Downton Abbey T.V. Season 2, Episodes 9 Viewing

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

Oct 3rd at 10:00

COA Meeting

Oct 3rd at 12:00

FOACOA Meeting

Oct 4th at 10:00

Craft w/ Elissa – Fall Door Hanging

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

Oct 7th at 12:00

NEW!!!- Lunch w/ Guitarist/ Singer Jon Waterman performing

“A Journey through the Roots of American Popular Music”. Please use the payment box outside of the Main Office to reserve your seat.

The cost is \$5 per person.

Oct 8th at 12:30

Cooking Class with Chef Lee – Orange Chicken

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

Oct 8th 10-12:00

SHINE In Person Appointment w/ Fran Bakstran

Call to make an appointment 508-881-0140 x1

Oct 9th & 23rd 9-11:30

Veterans Office Hours with Richard Sabounjian

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

Oct 9th at 11:00

NEW!!! “Tips for Staying Well During Respiratory Illness Season” w/ Anne Fitzgerald, RN, MPH and Public Health Nurse for the Town of Ashland. Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1.

Oct 9th at 12:00

NEW!!! Now Offering an Added Lunch

Please use the payment box outside of the Main Office to reserve your seat.

The cost is \$5 per person.

Oct 10th at 10:00

NEW!!! “Stuff: Love It or Leave It” w/ Anne Newberry

Smooth Transitions. Decluttering your home.

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

Oct 11th at 9:30

Pins & Needles Sewing Class w/ Tobi – Simple Skirt

Bring your own sewing machine.

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

Oct 13th 10:00-11:30

Legal Phone Consultation with Arthur P. Bergeron

Call to make an appointment 508-881-0140 x1

Oct 14th

CLOSED FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY (COLUMBUS DAY)

Oct 15th at 11:00

NEW!!! “Springwell: Overview of Services Provided” w/ Larry Poirier, Outreach Manager.

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

Oct 16th at 10:00

Town Manager's Coffee Hour. All are welcome!

Oct 17th & 24th 10-1 pm

SHINE OPEN ENROLLMENT In Person Appointment w/ Fran Bakstran

Call to make an appointment 508-881-0140 x1

Oct 18th at 10:00

Craft – Paint Ceramic Pumpkins

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

Oct 21st at 10:30

FREE Hearing Aid Cleaning with Hopkinton Audiology

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

Oct 21st at 12:00

Lunch & Karen Spilka's Office Listening Hour w/ a Staff Member

Reservations for Lunch:

The FOACOA invites you to its Second Annual Fundraiser!

It's a Wedding Theme Murder Mystery Dinner, “Til Death Do Us Part.”

The event is Friday, Nov. 8, at 6:30pm. It will start with a cocktail hour, followed by dinner and an interactive theater opportu-

nity. Doors open at 6 PM

It will be held at the VFW Hall, 311 Pleasant St. Tickets are available online or at Monday lunch at the senior center.

As friends and family come together for a night of food and

fun, it will quickly turn into a night of mystery and mayhem - leaving one of the guests murdered! And you and your guests are left to solve the crime... Will it be the jealous ex-boyfriend who is to blame?

SENIOR CENTER

continued from page 16

Please use the payment box outside of the

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

Oct 22nd at 10:00

NEW!!! Planting Bulbs w/ Cathy Rooney, Designer of Greens

Learn about and plant bulbs at the Ashland Senior Center.

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

Oct 22nd at 11:00

NEW!!! "Only You Can Prevent the Spread of Spotted Laternflies" w/ Becca Solomon, Conservation Agent, Town of Ashland

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

Oct 23rd at 10:00

NEW!!! "Recent Unmanned Missions to Mars" w/ M.J. Johnson, NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador

Oct 24th at 10:00

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

Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Candi Wilson cwilson@ashlandmass.com or 508-532-7944.

Oct 25th at 9:30

Pins & Needles Sewing Class w/ Tobi - Create a Clutch Purse

Bring your own sewing machine.

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

Oct 28th 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.

Oct 29th at 9:00

NEW!!! Free Manicures at Keefe Tech

12 seniors may take advantage of this offer at Keefe Tech.

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

Oct 31st at 1:30

NEW!!! FREE Halloween Costume Party w/ Line Dancing, Costume Contest and Music by Wendee Glick & Steve Heck.

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

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 - Wednesdays at 1 pm

Chair Volleyball - FREE!!! Thursdays at 1:30 pm. Beginners Welcome! (No Volleyball 10/31)

Chair Yoga v Wednesdays at 1 pm

Chess - Mondays at 1:30 pm

Craft Class FREE - First and Third Fridays of the Month at 10 am.

Cribbage - Thursdays at 12:30 pm

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

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

Intermediate and Advanced Watercolor Class - Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 9:30 am

Line Dancing with Lisa - Thursdays at 12 pm

Mahjong - Fridays at 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) - Second and Fourth Fridays of the Month at 9:30 am

Pitch Card Game - Mondays at 1:00 pm

Tai Chi - Tuesdays at 11:45 am with Jon Woodward

Veterans Office Hours - Every other Wednesday from 9 -11:30 am. Check Calendar for Dates.

Zumba Gold with Kellie - Tuesdays at 10 am.

Ashland Business Association End of the Year Events

Networking night with 126 Self Storage

Thursday, Oct. 10
5 - 7 PM
126 Self Storage,
162 Pond St

Community Comedy Night

Friday, Nov. 15
Clover Road Brewery, 151 Main St.

Holiday Party

Thursday, Dec. 5
TJ's Food & Spirits,
55 W Union St

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Sports

Another Tough Season For Ashland Field Hockey?

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORT WRITER

Over the past two seasons, Ashland coach Molly Foley has graduated 11 seniors each campaign; the equivalent of an entire field of worth of players.

Having so many players depart the Clockers' field hockey program has left this year's team relatively depleted and making it very tough for the team to put forth a successful season in terms of wins and losses. Foley has a total of 27 players covering both the varsity (15) and junior varsity (12).

"Two thousand and 22 was a very strong team and although last year was not as strong, to lose 11 players is still a lot," the Clocker Coach said. "Volleyball may be playing a factor in why girls are not coming out for field hockey, but the program has had its ebbs and flows over the years."

Despite the Ashland program not having more bodies than they really need, Foley does have help in the pipeline. According to the coach, there are 27 girls playing the sport at the middle school and could be trying out for the team next fall. Ashland is also in its second year of its youth field hockey program for K thru 6th graders and this should be a key to the future.

This fall Ashland has a mere five seniors on this year's squad with only one of them a returning varsity player and she will be looked upon heavily to help set the tone and help the younger girls build their skills. Ashland will also have four other returnees (1 junior and 3 sophomores).

Co-Captain and Clocker defender Allie Hickey is the lone senior starter returning to the varsity team. She is a really good leader that is somewhat



quiet but will lead the team by example on the field. She has great awareness and Foley will be relying on her as a pivotal asset to the defense playing either center or left back.

The other captain will be junior forward Ashley Forster. The key to the junior's success this fall will be her speed. As a natural athlete she possesses a great game sense with a strong ability to help set up her teammates.

Three other athletes that the Clocker Coach will be looking to will be the three returning sophomores, who all played as freshman. Payten Tripp, who also plays ice hockey, brings some incredible stick skills to the field and according to the Coach is a great transition player, with a high field hockey IQ.

"You tell Payton something one time and she gets it. She and

Ashley work very well together," Foley noted. "She brings an awesome flick shot to the game from her hockey background, which will help her to score. Last year she played 60 minutes almost every game and although on the field for that length of time she never looks tired."

Foley continued to say that Tripp is a very dangerous player, who is interested in playing field hockey in college, and should be one of the Clocker's top scorers this fall.

Midfielder Hailey Katz and goalie Ruby Khazadian are the final two returning starters from the 2023 team. Katz is a very vocal individual on the field and having such a young and new team communication is going to be critical to help getting the newer players in the right positions at the right time.

Khazadian split time with the senior goalkeeper and saw some varsity experience to help get her ready for this season.

"Ruby has improved vastly by going to many camps during the off-season," the Clocker Coach said. "Her overall confidence has improved, which is good because she is in a very intimidating position with a young team in front of her.

In addition to Khazadian seeing action in net, Foley also has a senior who will see some action throughout the year and having her there should motivate the sophomore to go out and earn her minutes. Foley noted that Khazadian now has the confidence needed to play the position and has been looking good in practice.

The remainder of the team consists of seniors Carly Larson, Maddie Reynolds, Ellen Child and Abbey Lombardo; juniors Hanna Roberts and Brooke Nathanson; sophomores Alissa Brown, Erin Hickey and Raina Quitt and freshman Neko Ustaris.

Having such a young team Foley, as well as the team, know that it is not going to be an easy season but the biggest goal that they have put on their docket is to improve.

"We are a very young team and have only gone through five practices and two-thirds of the team have never played varsity field hockey," the Ashland Coach said. "Having only five returning players who have played together before we need to go out and build team chemistry and continue to improve on the things that we do well."

One of the biggest issues that faces Foley and her coaching staff will be producing a way to figure out the substitutions throughout the game.

"Being a smaller team with minimal subs it is going to be exhausting for both the girls as well as the coaches," she said. "That's our biggest struggles we'll face as a coaching staff — how we can come up with a strategic subbing plan to keep the girls fresh while trying to figure out who to sub and when."

Foley noted that the team is an awesome hard-working group that knows its going to be an up and down season, but she has been really impressed with a strong junior class with the likes of Melissa Brown and Erin Hickey.

"I want to keep it fun while doing the things that we do well," Foley said. "It will be an effort to beat some of the teams on our schedule, but the girls are committed and want to win."

In order to do that the Clockers will need to continue to do what they do right while continuing to improve on a daily basis.

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Real Estate Corner

Ashland Recent Home Sales

Date	Ashland	Amount
09/16/2024	140 Mountain Gate Road	\$502,000
09/16/2024	43 Cedar Hill Road	\$1.18 mil
09/13/2024	369 Eliot St.	\$520,000
09/12/2024	156 Arrowhead Circle	\$625,000
09/10/2024	99 America Blvd.	\$730,000
09/09/2024	25 Pinecrest Lane	\$651,000
09/05/2024	32 Rockwood Drive	\$955,000
09/04/2024	2 High St. Ext.	\$1.05 mil
09/03/2024	150 W Union St.	\$600,000
08/30/2024	2 Brogden Road	\$1.29 mil
08/30/2024	50 Woodland Road	\$610,000
08/29/2024	7 Mountain Gate Road	\$470,000
08/29/2024	285 Meeting House Path	\$430,000
08/28/2024	7 Braeburn Lane. #9B	\$695,000
08/26/2024	351 Captain Eames Circle	\$675,000
08/26/2024	44 Orchard Road	\$1.24 mil
08/26/2024	283 Cordaville Road	\$530,000
08/26/2024	346 America Blvd. #54B	\$701,000
08/23/2024	4 Lantern Way	\$761,000
08/22/2024	24 Byron Road	\$895,000
08/22/2024	100 Algonquin Trail	\$610,000
08/22/2024	235 Eliot St.	\$490,000
08/21/2024	14 Acton Road	\$595,000
08/21/2024	139 Leland Farm Road	\$380,000
08/21/2024	453 Captain Eames Circle	\$636,000
08/20/2024	63 Cedar Hill Road	\$390,000
08/2/2024	139 Leland Farm Road	\$380,000



The 2-bed, 2-bath, 1,543 square foot home at 7 Braeburn Lane #9B in Ashland recently sold for \$695,000. www.zillow.com Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages

Trick or Treat

Town Hall will be handing out candy to trick or treaters on **Wednesday October 30th** **4:30 pm to 6:30 pm**. Please come show off your costume and grab some candy! After Town Hall keep stepping to visit downtown businesses for more candy!

MEET OUR ASHLAND REAL ESTATE TEAM

ALISON FIORENZI, REALTOR
Senior Sales Associate
508.254.1516
Alison@cordaville.com

JEN PARATORE, REALTOR
Founder and Broker
617.974.7079
Jen@cordaville.com

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Looking to advertise in our Real Estate Corner?

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This holiday season, showcase your business in our Holiday Guides - a special pull-out section. Drive shoppers to your door with great gift ideas, catering options and everything to make the holidays joyful and bright!

Coming in November and December! Save 10% when you commit to both Guides!

Don't miss out!

Reservation deadlines:
October 10th for November issue
November 7th for December issue

Reserve your space today by contacting
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