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Vol. 13 No. 6

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April 2025

Ashland Historical Commission working to establish Local Downtown Historic District



Stone's Public House on Main St. in Ashland opened in 1834 as a hotel. Source: www.stonespublichouse.com

Do you ever go to a uniquely historical area to enjoy the scenery, history and culture of places that are unique to New England? It is heartbreaking to know of a really beautiful building that no longer exists.

The worst thing we can do

to preserve our history is to make it obsolete. Every local city and town has a unique history and culture. Preserving that history is what a Local Historic District does. In fact, it is the only mechanism in Massachusetts to preserve his-

toric buildings and structures.

Ashland has signs that say "Ashland Historic District", but there has never been an "official" Historic District in

HISTORIC
continued on page 2



Clock Tower Pickleball had a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 19. Courtesy photo

Clock Tower Pickleball holds official ribbon-cutting

We know a lot of Ashland residents, and even folks outside of town, have been enjoying a game or two at Clock Tower Pickleball for about a year now. We are so happy that the final touches are complete, and we can officially re-introduce you to our newest business at 200 Homer Avenue.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on March 19.

In 2023, a group of friends - Steve Prozinski, Mike Groark, Tim Gazard, Dave Marseglia, Eric Bookbinder and Phil Nanof - pooled resources and skills to bring this indoor pickle-

ball facility to Ashland. This pickleball location boasts a wide range of amenities and services, including a variety of courts, successful events, leagues and tournaments as well as a full-service bar. (and food options coming soon). Their mission is to create a fun, friendly atmosphere centered around the fastest-growing sport in America: pickleball.

If you visit Clock Tower Pickleball, you will immediately be welcomed by Director of

PICKLEBALL
continued on page 2

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HISTORIC

continued from page 1

Ashland. It is long overdue. Too many buildings have been lost and can never be recovered.

Local Historic Districts are one of the oldest and strongest protections for historic properties. They are a contiguous area or group of historic structures deemed significant to the town's cultural fabric.

Ashland has a strong history of working culture which is represented in the local granite mills and manufacturing facilities. Within Ashland was the inventor of the Synchronous Motor & Warren Master Clock, Henry E. Warren. He was known as the father of accurate electric clocks. He standardized AC current that is still used today to regulate electricity all over the world. Henry Warren Invented the Synchronous motor at 433 Chestnut Street and later moved

the Warren Clock Company into the mill at 10 Main Street.

What are the benefits of Local Historic Districts:

- Protection of significant buildings from demolition and inappropriate alteration (Facades only and only what can be seen from the street).
- Strongest form of protection for historic buildings and structures (The National Registry of Historic
- Places does not protect a historically significant building from demolition).
- Saves the unique character of the historic area.
- Allows for thoughtful consideration of change.
- Building facades remain part of the community while adapting for new uses.
- Instill pride and a sense of place within the community.

- Provides a visual sense of the past and peace of mind that the historic environment will remain.
- Increased educational opportunities within the community and for schoolchildren.
- Positive economic development.
- Historic built environment remains a viable part of the community.
- Promotes walkability, drawing interest from people to congregate in a charming village area with a combination of history, culture, and businesses (shops, restaurants, cafés and more). The community decides what's best for its future.
- Protects the environment. There is no more sustainable house or building than an already existing building.

What a Local Historic District does not do:

- Does not prevent all changes from occurring.
- Does not halt growth.
- Does NOT make you have to ask for permission to sell your house!
- Does not discourage development.
- Does not impede progress or job growth.
- Does not discourage investment.

Fun Facts:

- Today there are more than 2300 Historic Districts in the United States.
- There are over 300 Historic Districts in Massachusetts.
- Historic Districts that are listed on the National Register of Places are honorary only.

Ashland's Historical Commission spent the last two years working towards defining a Local Historic District in Ashland's Downtown. They formed a Local Historic District Study Committee that created a Local Historic District Bylaw which will be on the May 2025 Ashland Town Warrant and will require a 2/3 vote for approval. Ashland's Historical Commission is hoping for strong community support and showing to vote for approval of the Local Historic District Bylaw at Town Meeting. We hope to see you there!

SUBMITTED BY THE ASHLAND HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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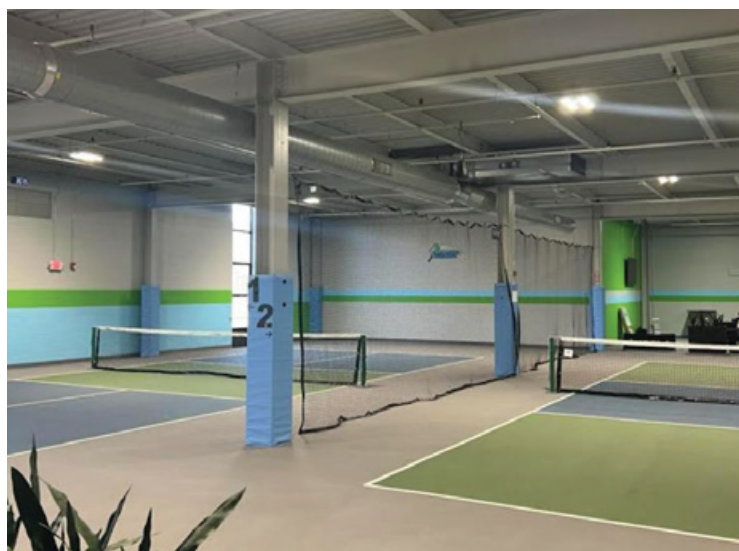
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PICKLEBALL

continued from page 1

Operations Macy Morrison who strives to maintain a strong sense of community, where everyone feels welcome and engaged. Clock Tower Pickleball is for everyone, if you are a seasoned player or just starting out they guarantee you have a great experience! We wish Clock Tower Pickleball continued success and can't wait to see the courts filled with budding pickleball pros!

For more information, visit www.ctpbball.com.



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Greater Ashland Lions Club to host Quiz/Trivia Night on April 11

The Greater Ashland Lions Club will hold its annual Quiz/Trivia Night on April 11 at the VFW Hall on Pleasant Street beginning at 6:30 p.m. Form a team (8 people maximum) for this fun and friendly trivia competition and win a cash prize. There will also be a dessert table, cash bar, and raffles.

For tickets (\$20/per person), contact Lion Ro at 508-881-4743 or Lion Nicole at 781-718-6478.

Here is a sample of a General Knowledge answer and question: "This TV series, set in 1600 Japan, won the 2025 Golden Globe for 'Drama TV Series.' Don't know the answer? No need to jump the gun, the answer will show itself". [See the winning response below]

Arbor Day event

The Greater Ashland Lions Club will again be working with the fourth grade teachers of the Mindess School, with an Arbor Day event. More information to follow.

Scholarships available

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

Eyeglass collection

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

Community service

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, visit Greater Ashland Lions Club on Facebook.

Trivia Question: Shogun

SUBMITTED BY THE GREATER ASHLAND LIONS CLUB

High School Student Council Bingo Night on April 9



The Ashland High School Student Council will hold its 15th annual Bingo Night on Wed., April 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at the high school (65 E. Union St.).

This family-friendly event is open to the entire community and all ages are invited! Cards are \$10 for a pack of six and they are good for the entire night. Bring your own Bingo dauber or bring \$1 to buy one.

Over \$2,000 worth of prizes have been donated by local businesses and restaurants, including a \$100 gift card to Wegmans, two admission passes to the Southwick Zoo, four general admission tickets to the WooSox, and four passes



Ashland High School Student Council's Bingo night last year. This year the event will be held on April 9. Courtesy photo

to the Isabella Stewart Gardiner Museum. For a complete listing of prizes, visit bit.ly/ASHstucobingo.

Free baked goods and coffee. The doors open at 6 p.m., please enter through the back of the school.

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Do you have a concern about things happening around town?
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Community Recycling and Reuse Day

The Town of Ashland is partnering with Hopkinton Green Committee to help residents recycle and donate old household goods on Sat., April 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Marathon School in Hopkinton. From mattresses to laptops and food pantry donations, they are accepting so many items including textiles, electronics and appliances, household and outdoor items, and more. For more information, contact hopgreenma@gmail.com

Greater Ashland Lions Club

Happy Patriots' Day on April 21st

Cheer the Boston Marathon Runners Along Rt.135 on April 21st

Our annual Quiz / Trivia Night will be held on April 11th at the VFW Hall on Pleasant Street (6:30pm start time). Form a team (8 people maximum) for this fun and friendly trivia competition and win a Cash Prize. There will also be Raffles, Desert Table, and a Cash Bar. Contact Lion Ro at 508.881.4743 or Lion Nicole at 781.718.6478 for tickets (\$20/per person).

Here is a sample of a General Knowledge answer and question: "This TV series, set in 1600 Japan, won the 2025 Golden Globe for "Drama TV Series." Don't know the answer? No need to jump the gun, the answer will show itself". See the Question below.

We will be having a Pasta Night on May 9th, 2025 at the VFW Hall. Tickets are \$25 per person. For your entertainment we will have Tony Funches, former lead vocalist for The Platters singing golden hits like Only You, Smoke Gets in your Eyes and Great Pretender. For tickets, please contact Lion Mary Pimentel at 508.881.5515.

The Greater Ashland Lions Club will again be working with the fourth grade teachers of the Mindess School with their Arbor Day (4/25) curriculum. Each fourth grader will receive a Douglas Fir Seedling.

Are you an Ashland High, Keefe Tech or home-schooled

Ashland student? Apply for the Greater Ashland Lions Scholarship. Contact your guidance counselor for more information.

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

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

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

Some April observances: April Fool's Day (4/1), National Rainbow Day (4/3), National Beer Day (4/7), Passover begins (4/12), Easter Sunday (4/20), Tax Day (4/21), Earth Day (4/22), World Penguin Day (4/25) and National Pretzel Day (4/26).

We are the Lions in Purple. We Serve!

SUBMITTED: LION ROSALIE PORTER, 2ND VP

Trivia Question: Shogun

Dispose of your non-usable items responsibly And donate your still-usable items for local charities!

Community Recycling and Reuse Day Saturday, April 12th, 10am - 2pm Marathon School Rain or Shine

*For all the details:




Or visit: hopgreen.org/Recycle-reuse-day

Questions? Email hopgreenma@gmail.com



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Turn in your old dehumidifier and receive \$30 from Eversource: details at MassSave.com/DehumidifierTurnIn  Where does it go? Reusable parts (85%) used to create new products.	Gently used clothing	Food pantry donations	Laptop \$5	Mattress \$50; Boxspring \$50
	Gently used linens	Current (<5 yrs) books in excellent condition	TV ≤45" \$20; >45" \$40	Tire (Auto/SUV) \$15
	Well used linens		Air conditioner \$10	Propane tank (empty) \$15
	Very gently used shoes	Kitchenware	Refrigerator \$25	Push lawn mower \$15
	Worn sneakers	Plastic film (Trex Challenge)	Microwave \$10	Fire extinguisher \$3.50/lb
	Gently used stuffed animals	NEW THIS YEAR:	Stove \$30	And more*
	Belts and purses	Shredding! (free)	Washer \$30	
	All other textiles	Returnable cans/bottles	And more*	NOTE: No furniture this year
	Who benefits?	Who benefits?	Who benefits?	Where does it go?
	Project Just Because (PJB), Baypath Humane Society, St. John's Church, Big Brother Big Sister, and Town of Hopkinton	PJB, Friends of the Hopkinton Library, Habitat for Humanity, HS Environmental Club, and Hopkinton Senior Center	Broken down for usable parts and recycled responsibly by Green Team Junk Removal	Broken down for usable parts and recycled responsibly by Green Team Junk Removal

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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



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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, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.

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Glenn Brown, CFP

Investing is a journey with greed, fear and uncertainty creating market fluctuations and volatility to portfolio values. While the cause always changes, one thing remains constant - portfolios don't care about your emotions.

Sounds harsh? Maybe.

Consider the last time your investments performed based on how you feel? This isn't the chicken or the egg. Investments don't react based on how you feel, they react to your actions and choice of asset allocation or lack thereof.

What is Asset Allocation?

Asset allocation is a foundational strategy of dividing an investment portfolio across different domestic and international asset classes—such as stocks, bonds, real estate, hard assets, and cash equivalents—to balance risk/reward and reduce volatility. This allows investors to participate in returns over time by staying invested throughout market, macroeconomic and geopolitical cycles.

This Time is Different!

Really? Let's take a trip down memory lane the past 25 years.

Recall Y2K, Four Horsemen, Dot.com Bubble, 9/11 Recession, Iraq, No Income Verification Mortgages, \$150 Oil, Housing Bubble, Financial Crisis, 0.1% Cash, Great Recession, Quantitative Easing (QE), Flash Crash, QE2, Debt Ceiling, Government Shutdown, Greece, Taper Tantrum, QE3 - Shock & Awe, FANG, Brexit, 2016 Election, Tax Cuts, China Trade War, 9 Fed Rate Hikes, COVID Shutdown, 3X Stimulus, 9% Inflation, Ukraine, 10 Fed Rate Hikes, 2022 Non-Recession, Magnificent 7, Trump II. Throughout all these events, asset allocation ensures not all investments in a portfolio are moving in unison.

Asset allocation is not influenced by emotions; it is a strategically, diversified portfolio spread across different asset classes to help smooth out market fluctuations and reduce overall risk. For example, if stocks are down, then bonds or real estate or gold may be performing well to help offset.

S&P 500 Index ≠ Asset Allocation.

Many believe investing in the S&P 500 index is the same asset allocation. It's not.

Being broadly diversified across U.S. large companies represents one asset class. Due to an average annualized return of

~13.9% over the past 15 years, recency bias has investors "setting it and forgetting it".

Asset Allocation at Work.

Most under age 45 (and some older) don't recall "The Lost Decade" when the S&P 500 index total return including dividends from 2000-2010 was -9.1%. Correct, \$1 million invested on Y2K was ~\$910,000 ten years later.

Elsewhere from 2000-2010, positive returns and outperformance was captured in index funds of developed international stocks, emerging market stocks, U.S. small cap stocks, U.S. high-yield bonds, U.S. REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts), commodities, gold, cash and U.S. bonds.

Speaking of the U.S. Aggregate Bond index, \$1 million invested became ~\$1,840,000. Because of this divergence, the S&P 500 index didn't catch up to the U.S. Aggregate Bond index until 2017, or 17 years later. If you're in the distribution stage of your life (i.e. retirement), that's not good.

Asset allocation models vary and ideally are based on timelines for the need of funds in a financial plan, not your age. How one invests a Roth IRA, Traditional IRA or taxable brokerage account could be different and should align with "when" and "how much" the plan projects to draw from each account.

Ignore at Your Own Risk.

When investors ignore asset allocation, they risk making decisions based on emotion. During market highs, greed sells lagging asset classes. During downturns, fear sells into panic without a plan back into the long-term strategy. These emotional responses create market timing and remove your foundation.

So remember, during times like these, your portfolio cares about asset allocation — a foundational strategy to help you manage risk, smooth out market volatility, and stay on track to meet timelines of your financial goals.

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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April 2025 at the Ashland Library

The Library will be closed on Monday, April 21, for the Marathon.

For the full list of events and descriptions, visit <https://tinyurl.com/apl-calendars>. Registration is required for many programs.

Adult:

Virtual - Front Street Readers Book Club

Tuesday, April 1 @ 7 p.m.
Read *Emperor of Ocean Park* by Stephen L Carter

Virtual - Travel Photography 101 with Deborah Tual

Tuesday, April 1 @ 7 p.m.

Virtual - Bestselling Author Kerri Maher Discusses *All You Have To Do is Call*

Tuesday, April 1 @ 7 p.m.

In Person - Mah Jongg

Wednesday, April 2 @ 6:00 p.m.

Virtual - Adult Book Club

Wednesday, April 2 @ 6:30 p.m.
Read *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich

Virtual - Environmental Book Club

Wednesday, April 2 @ 6:30 p.m.
Read *The Weight of Nature: How a Changing Climate Changes Our Brains* by Clayton Page Aldern.

Virtual - Bestselling Author Marie Benedict

Wednesday, April 2 @ 7 p.m.
Online - Zoom
Marie Benedict to discuss her new historical fiction mystery, *The Queens of Crime*.

HYBRID - Romance Book Club

Thursday, April 3 @ 6:30 p.m.
Read a Monster Romance

Virtual - Declutter series with Jamie Novak: How to Know What's It Worth: appraise your items

Thursday, April 3 @ 7 p.m.

In Person - Create Your Own Kentucky Derby Hat

Monday, April 7 @ 6-7:30 p.m.

Virtual - Local Farms, MA - Produce, Meats, Dairy, Oh My!

Monday, April 7 @ 7 p.m.

Virtual - Historical Fiction Book Recs with Bestselling Author, Jane Healey

Tuesday, April 8 @ 6:30p.m.

In Person - Men's Discussion Group: Managing Stress

Tuesday, April 8 @ 6:30 p.m.

Virtual - Batch Cooking and Your Healthy New Habits with Terry Walters

Tuesday, April 8 @ 7 p.m.

Virtual - Thriller/Horror Book Recs with Bookstagrammer @ redreadreviews

Tuesday, April 8 @ 7:30 p.m.

Virtual - Bram Stoker Award Winner Cynthia Pelayo with Christopher Golden

Wednesday, April 9 @ 7 p.m.
Cynthia Pelayo will discuss her new horror/thriller, *Vanishing Daughters*, in conversation with bestselling author Christopher Golden.

In Person - Women's Wisdom Circle: Mindfulness practice for the every day

Thursday, April 10 @ 6:30 p.m.

Virtual - The Intersection of Climate Action and Romance Novels: A Panel Discussion

Thursday, April 10 @ 7 p.m.

Virtual - Birds of the Hawaiian Islands

Thursday, April 10 @ 7 p.m.

In Person - Mystery Book Club

Friday, April 11 @ 12 p.m.
Read *Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman

Virtual - Friday Night Film Discussion

Friday, April 11 @ 7 p.m.
Watch "The Old Oak" (Kanopy)

Virtual - Tudor Queens and Ladies in Waiting: A Discussion with Authors Nicola Clark and Jade Scott

Saturday, April 12 @ 10 a.m.

Virtual - Author and Historian Helen Fry Discusses "Spymaster: The Man Who Saved MI6"

Saturday, April 12 @ 2 p.m.

Virtual - African Art Series: Likeness and Beyond: Portraiture in Iconic African Art

Sunday, April 13 @ 2:30 p.m.

In Person - Card Making with Jan Poppendieck

Monday, April 14 @ 6:30 p.m.

Virtual - The Two Nerdy History Girls Ride Again!

Monday, April 14 @ 7 p.m.

In Person - Cook Book Club

Tuesday, April 15 @ 5 p.m.
Cook from *My Vermont Table: Recipes for All (Six) Seasons* by Gesine Bullock-Prado.

Virtual - Masters of Song: Streisand and Hamlisch with Clint Edwards

Tuesday, April 15 @ 7p.m.

Virtual - Tribal Nations: Climate Change Adaptation Planning and Resilience

Tuesday, April 15 @ 7 p.m.

In Person - Bio/Memoir Book Club

Wednesday, April 16 @ 11 a.m.
Read *My Side of the River* by Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez

In Person - Half-Past Crafts: Tiny Toadstools

Wednesday, April 16 @ 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Virtual - Women's Fiction Book Recs with Bestselling Author, Kristan Higgins

Thursday, April 17 @ 6:30-7 p.m.

In Person - Great Decisions

Thursday, April 17 @ 6:30-7:45 p.m.
Discuss U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy

Virtual - Inclusive and Diverse Book Recs with Bookstagrammer @sometimesleelynnreads

Thursday, April 17 @ 7:30-8 p.m.

Virtual - Grim(m) Fairy Tales with Bill Thierfelder

Tuesday, April 22 @ 7 p.m.

Virtual - Author Lindy Ryan

Wednesday, April 23 @ 7 p.m.
Author Lindy Ryan will discuss her new horror novel, *Another Fine Mess*

Virtual - Art on Thursday: Treasures of the Gardner Museum: A Journey Through Art and History

Thursday, April 24 @ 7-8:15 p.m.

Virtual - Friday Night Film Discussion

Friday, April 25 @ 7 p.m.
Watch *Rashomon* (Kanopy)

In Person - Gardening Series: Ways to make paper pots for Seedlings

Monday, April 28 @ 6-7:30 p.m.

Virtual - No More Curse! A History of the Red Sox with Author and Historian David Kruh

Monday, April 28 @ 7 p.m.

In Person - Photography Challenge

Tuesday, April 29 @ 6:30 p.m.

In Person - Make Your Own Flower Crown *For Adults

Wednesday, April 30 @ 6:30p.m.

Adult Weekly:

Knit and Crochet Club, Mondays @ 6pm, Walk-In

Gentle Yoga, Tuesdays @ 6 p.m., Registration is required

ESL Conversation Group, Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m., Walk-In

Children:

Special Programs:

Clocktown Rockers!

*For ages 2-5 with a caregiver
Friday, April 4 @ 10:30 a.m.
Friday, April 25 @ 10:30 a.m.

Ashland STEM Club

Saturday, April 5 @ 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

*For grades K-5

Chinese Storytime

Tuesday, April 8 @ 6 p.m.

Baby Sign Language

*for babies & young children 2 months+
Friday, April 11 @ 10:30a.m.

Mini Marvels: Comics Workshop

*for Ages 5-8
Saturday, April 12 @ 2 p.m.

Anime Club

Tuesday, April 15 @ 6:30 p.m.

La Hora del Cuento

*para familias
Spanish Storytime
*for families
Wednesday, April 16 @ 6:30 p.m.

LIBRARY

continued on page 8

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LIBRARY

continued from page 7

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.

Medieval Crafternoon: DIY Flower Crowns & Movie Showing

*for families
Friday, April 18 @ 1-4 p.m.

Poop Museum!

Saturday, April 19 @ 10 a.m.
The Poop Museum is the place to come for those who are curious and have questions about poop, and also, if like Susie Maguire, they LOVE poop, and think it's fascinating! Susie is a poop expert who thinks poop is THE most interesting subject in the world. She has studied poop for years and loves nothing more than sharing her expansive knowledge of poop with the people of the world.

Little Crafters

*for 0-5 with a caregiver
Monday, April 28 @ 10:30 a.m.

Come join the Ashland Mom's Club for this story time.

Lego Club with Kim the Lego Lady

*Grades K-3
Wednesday, April 30 @ 4:30 p.m.

April Vacation:

Celebrate Earth Day: DIY Cardboard Tube Shakers

*for families
Tuesday, April 22 @ All Day
Sign up for the time that works for you:

Starlab: A Night Sky Adventure

Wednesday, April 23 @ 2-2:45 p.m.

Wednesday, April 23 @ 3-3:45 p.m.

Wednesday, April 23 @ 4-4:45 p.m.

Step inside Starlab, a giant inflatable planetarium, and embark on an awe-inspiring journey through the cosmos—no need to wait for nightfall! Join astronomy.

Astronaut Training Camp

*for grades K-6
Thursday, April 24 @ 2 p.m.

Kids Rocket Launch

*for grades K-6
Friday, April 25 @ 1 p.m.

Tree Sapling Distribution in collaboration with Neighborhood Forest

Saturday, April 26 @ 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Celebrate Earth Day.

Knight's Quest: An Escape Room-Style Adventure

*for ages 8-12 – Choose time that works for you
Saturday, April 26 @ 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 26 @ 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Book Clubs!

Kindergarten Book Club

Tuesday, April 15 @ 4:30 p.m.

Graphic Novel Book Club Jr.

*For 1st and 2nd graders
Wednesday, April 16 @ 4:15 p.m.

Graphic Novel Book Club

Thursday, April 17 @ 6:30 p.m.
*grades 3 thru 6

Coding Class for Kids

Saturday, April 12 @ 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 26 @ 1 p.m.

Little Picassos Club

*Grades 2-5
Tuesday, April 8 @ 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 29 @ 4:30 p.m.

Weekly Storytimes:

Clocktown Rockers!

*For ages 2-5 with a caregiver
Tuesdays at 10:30-11 a.m.

Storytime Sprouts

* For ages 0-3 with a caregiver
Wednesdays @ 10:30-11 a.m.

Saturday Stories

*for ages 2-5 with a caregiver
Saturday, April 5 @ 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 12 @ 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 26 @ 10:30 a.m.

Project ABC Play, Learn, and Grow Group

*for Ages 0 to 5
Tuesdays at 11am

Teen:

Teen Makers Club

Thursday, April 10 @ 6 p.m.

Mario Kart Tournament

*For Teens
Saturday, April 19 @ 12:30 p.m.

Taylor Swift Night

*For Teens
Tuesday, April 22 @ 4:30 p.m.

Comic Workshop

FOR TWEENS AGES 8-11
Wednesday, April 23 @ 4 p.m.

Comic Workshop

FOR TEENS AGES 12-15
Wednesday, April 23 @ 5 p.m.

Teen Advisory Board

Wednesday, April 9 @ 5 p.m.
The Teen Advisory Board will meet monthly to discuss what YOU think the library can provide to local teens. Plan events and make crafts that go along with them! Community service hours are offered.

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

Saturday, April 5 @ 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Friends of the Ashland Public Library will hold a Monthly Book Sale and Donation Day on Sat., April 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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!

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! If you can't make it to the sales, the Friends have a book sale corner on the 1st floor of the library (in the beautiful original part of the building). There, you can find great books for yourself and your family any time the library is open.

Join the Adventure!

REGATTA POINT SUMMER CAMP
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BOATING FOR ALL CAMP
AGES 7 – 12

JUNIOR PROGRAM
AGES 13 – 17

9 one-week sessions
JUNE 17 – AUGUST 16

MONDAY to FRIDAY
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Extended Day Available

ADDITIONAL LOCATION
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For details & to register online visit
RegattaPoint.org
or call
508.757.2140

Historical Society to host Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth II “Her Majesty” will be performed by Sheryl Faye at the Ashland Historical Society, 2 Myrtle St., Ashland, on April 13 at 2 p.m.

Queen Elizabeth II was a true icon, inspiring people around the world with her strength, courage, resilience, and dedication to a

life of service. For 70 years, she remained a constant presence as sovereign, shepherding the people of the UK through both joyful times and darker periods of challenge and uncertainty. An enduring admiration for Queen Elizabeth II united people across the Commonwealth.

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Donor-advised funds: A smart way to give



Mark Freeman, CEPA

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You can find several ways to make charitable gifts — but if you’re looking for a method that can provide multiple tax benefits, along with an efficient platform for giving year after year, you might want to consider a donor-advised fund.

Once you open a donor-advised fund (DAF), you can contribute many types of assets, including cash, publicly traded stocks, bonds, CDs or non-cash

items such as closely held business interests, art or collectibles. You can then decide how to invest the money, possibly following a strategy suggested by the DAF sponsor organization you’ve selected. The next step involves choosing which charities to support, how often to provide support (such as once a year) and how much to give each time. You’re essentially free to direct the money to any charities you like, provided they’re IRS-approved charitable organizations.

Now, let’s look at the possible tax advantages offered by a DAF:

- **Immediate tax deduction** – A few years ago, changes in tax laws resulted in a vastly increased standard deduction, which, in turn, led to far fewer people itemizing on their tax returns and having less incentive, at least from a tax standpoint, to contribute to charities. But if you don’t typically give enough each year to itemize deductions, you could combine several years’ worth of giving into one contribution to a DAF

and take a larger deduction in that tax year. And you can claim that deduction, even though the DAF may distribute funds to charities over several years.

- **Tax-free growth of earnings** – Once you contribute an asset to a DAF, any earnings growth is not taxable to you, the DAF or the charitable groups that receive grants from the DAF.
- **Avoidance of capital gains taxes** – When you donate appreciated stocks or other investments — or for that matter, virtually any appreciated asset — to a DAF, you can avoid paying the capital gains taxes that would otherwise be due if you were to simply sell the asset and then donate the proceeds to charitable organizations. Plus, by receiving the appreciated asset, rather than the proceeds from a sale, the charitable groups can gain more from your contribution. And you can also take

a tax deduction for your donation.

While these potential tax benefits can certainly make a DAF an attractive method of charitable giving, you should be aware of some potential tradeoffs. Once you contribute assets to a DAF, that gift is irrevocable, and you can’t access the money for any reason other than charitable giving. Also, your investment options are limited to what’s available in the DAF program you’ve chosen. And DAFs can incur administrative costs in addition to the fees charged on the underlying investments.

You may want to consult with your financial professional about other potential benefits and tradeoffs of DAFs and whether a DAF can help you with your charitable giving goals. Also, different DAF sponsors offer different features, so you will want to do some comparisons. And because DAFs can have such significant implications for your tax situation, you should consult with your tax professional before taking action.

If a DAF is appropriate for your situation, though, consider it carefully — it might be a good way to support your charitable giving efforts for years to come.

Contact Mark today to discuss this topic or any of your financial goals.

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

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Reach more than 73,000 homes and businesses this June with our Annual Summer Guide. Direct mailed to Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Millbury, Northbridge, Oxford, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge and Webster!

Reservation Deadline is May 8th! Contact Susanne Odell Farber at 508-954-8148 or by email at sue@sodellconsult.com to book your space today!

The Yankee Xpress
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FREE PRESS

Pet of the month: Luna, a sleek, playful, affectionate companion

Luna is a beautiful, sleek one-year-old who was surrendered to MWHS and is now looking for her forever home. This affectionate girl loves lap time and will happily claim any lap she deems worthy, purring up a storm as she settles in.

Luna is also full of playful energy! She'll chase wand toys with enthusiasm and has a special love for shoelaces. One of her favorite games? Crunchie fetch! She'll watch intently, panther-like, as you prepare to fling a treat across the floor—then pounce and retrieve it. She also enjoys her daily brushing and takes mealtime very seriously.

Because Luna is an energetic young cat, she sometimes gets overstimulated and prefers to keep playtime and petting time separate. She may mistake hands or feet for toys, so interactive play with proper toys is best. If she feels ignored, she might give a small warning bite to re-



home often and can provide the attention she craves. With the right understanding and play routine, she will continue blossoming into the affectionate, fun-loving companion she's meant to be.

Could Luna be your perfect match? She's ready to steal your heart (and your lap)!

As we are closed to the public, adoptions are by appointment only. If you have an interest in meeting Luna, please use this link to find additional information about her. You can also see all our currently available Adoptable Cats here, and fill out our online adoption

application:

<https://metrowesthumanesociety.org/adoptable-cats/>

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

mind you she's there and ready for attention. However, she's easily redirected, and once you learn her body language (like a twitching tail or a pause in purring), it's easy to understand her needs.

Luna would thrive in a home with cat-savvy adults who are

Applications being accepted for \$2k scholarships from Select Board

The Ashland Select Board recently announced it will be offering two scholarships this year, each scholarship in the amount of \$2,000.

Any Ashland resident is eligible to submit an application, regardless of the school from which they are graduating.

To apply, visit bit.ly/AshlandSBscholarshipApp. Applications are due by May 1.

For more information, contact Susan Robie at 508-532-7921 or srobie@ashlandmass.com

'Relationships Z to A,' original stories by local writers, April 3-6

On April 3 through 6, the Ashland Community Theatre LLC will present its spring play "Relationships Z to A," featuring 10 short scenes (original stories by local writers) taking place in a local coffee shop.

Performances will take place at Marconi's Theater at the VFW on April 3, 4, and 5 at 7:30 p.m., and April 6 at 4 p.m.

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/ACT-RelationshipsZtoA>. Donations can also be made at that site.

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For more package info and to reserve your spot, please contact Susanne Odell Farber at 508-954-8148 or by email at sue@sodellconsult.com
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Walk'n Mass 10k, 5k, soup social on April 5

On Saturday, April 5, the Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club invites walkers to complete a 5km (3.1 mile) or 10km (6.2 mile) walk route in Holliston. This is a walk-at-your-own pace, just-for-fun event "in your own backyard."

The start point is the First Congregational Church, 725 Washington Street, Holliston. Registration for the 10km walking event is from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and registration for the 5km walking event is 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. The walk times are staggered so that walkers will finish shortly before noon when the soups are served.

The participation fee is \$4 per person.

The 5km and 10km walk

routes are mostly on paved surfaces with a few slight inclines suitable for baby strollers, but difficult for wheelchairs due to some missing curb cuts..

The 10km walk comprises two loops. The first loop is the 5km route which traverses the downtown venturing into the Mudville neighborhood, a tribute to Casey At The Bat and Rita's Labyrinth. Walkers will head to Arch Street, walking under a 1-arch railroad bridge (listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the smallest railroad bridge in the world). Weather and trail conditions permitting, walkers will head up to the Upper Charles Rail Trail and walk over the renovated 8-Arch Bridge/Bogastow Brook Viaduct, origi-

nally built in 1846 by the Boston and Worcester Railroad over the brook.

The second loop of the 10k route includes two gentle hills and is on paved surfaces. The route travels through the Thomas Hollis Historic District with stately antique colonial homes dating to the early 19th century.

Walkers are invited to join fellow walkers for Walk'n Mass's Soup Social which kicks off our walking season. If you would like to contribute an appetizer, soup, bread or dessert please notify the contact person Beate Hait. No nuts please as the facility is nut-free.

Volkssporting events sponsored by Walk 'n Mass



Volkssport Club promote fun, fitness and friendship through non-competitive walking and biking to the public. There is also an achievement awards program through the AVA: Ameri-

ca's Walking Club (ava.org).

For further information contact Beate at (774) 292-9098 or beateh1@aol.com. Additional information at www.walknmass.org for this event and others.

Nipmuc Territory Land Acknowledgement Ceremony on April 12

The Hopkinton Center for the Arts (HCA) and the Town of Hopkinton invite families to join a special land acknowledgment ceremony with us and the Nipmuc Tribe on Sat., April 12, at 1 p.m. at the HCA, 98 Hayden Rowe St., Hopkinton.



history. The Natick Nipmuc Tribe will be organizing music, storytelling, an exciting drum performance, and more.

Kelly Grill, Executive Director of HCA, shared, "This event allows us to acknowledge the land's original Nipmuc heritage while bringing the community together to explore the tribe's traditions. We are also very thankful to the Town of Hopkinton for their amazing support in making this event possible."

The itinerary includes the land acknowledgment ceremony, the story of the Three Sisters, and a drum ceremony. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to come together to honor and learn about Hopkinton's indigenous

The ceremony is planned to take place outside in HCA's amphitheater, but if the weather doesn't cooperate, it will move in-

doors to the HCA performance space. It's completely free and welcomes people of all ages.

For more information, and to

RSVP, visit www.hopartscenter.org/event-details/nipmuc-territory-land-acknowledgement-ceremony

Project Just Because fundraiser on April 12

Project Just Because helps families in need with food, clothing, cancer items, toiletries, diapers, school supplies, birthday gifts for children, holiday gifts, and so much more. We help families restart their lives who have been victims of domestic abuse, fires, floods, and other natural disasters. We have over 950 families visit us each week, many from Ashland and surrounding areas.

Please come support us at our biggest fundraiser of the year on April 12th at Anthony's on the Green in Holliston. The auction night will have over 60 auction items, appetizers, music, cash bar, and surprises. To purchase tickets, visit

<https://secure.frontstream.com/spring-spectacular-2025>

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Senior Community Center Activities for April 2025

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES:

**Apr 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
10:00-11:00 a.m.**

**NEW!!!! Dull Men's Club w/ Julian
"DOK" Doctor FREE!**

If you are a bored guy. If you are not doing anything special on Tuesday mornings. If you enjoy stimulating conversation either as a talker or a listener or both. Come enjoy a cup of coffee & a donut and good camaraderie. Call 508-881-0140 x 1 to reserve your spot.

**Apr 1st, Tues. 9 a.m.-2:15 p.m.
Apr 4th, Frid., 9 a.m.-10:45 a.m.**

**FREE Income Tax Preparation by
AARP**

AARP will prepare simple tax returns. (No complex returns that require a schedule E or F and No Rental Properties Depreciation). You must pick up "In Take" paperwork and schedule an appointment in person at the front desk in order to participate.

Apr 3rd at 9:00 a.m.

**FREE Breakfast sponsored by
Ashland Lions**

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

Reservation due by Friday, MAR 27th at noon.

**Apr 3rd, 10th, 17th, & 24th
10:00 – 12:00**

**SHINE In Person Appointment w/
Lenore Tracy FREE**

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

Apr 3rd at 10:00 a.m.

**Ashland Council on Aging
Meeting. Public Invited.**

Apr 3rd at 10:30 a.m.

**Downton Abbey Viewing: Season
3, Episode 5 FREE**

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

Apr 3rd at 12:00 p.m.

**Friends of the Council on Aging
Meeting Public Invited.**

Apr 4th at 10:00 a.m.

**Crafting – Mini Paperbag Journal
w/ Milly FREE**

Supplies will be provided. Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1.

Apr 7th at 12:00 p.m.

**NEW!!! Celebrate Baseball
Opening Day Lunch w/ Howie
Newman's**

Musical Baseball Show & Baseball Trivia! - Grilled hotdogs and sausage, onions, pretzels and popcorn will be served. Wear your favorite team logo & get ready for Baseball Trivia. Reservations for Lunch: Please use the payment box outside the Main Office to reserve your seat.

The cost is \$6 per person. Reservation due by APR 3rd at Noon.

Apr 8th CLOSSES at 11:00 a.m.

**Ashland Senior Center will close
at 11:00 a.m. for a Volunteer
Appreciation**

Luncheon Zumba & Intermediate/Advanced Watercolor will run & finish by 11:00 a.m.

Apr 9th & 23rd 9:00-11:30 a.m.

**Veterans Office Hours w/ Richard
Sabounjian**

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

Apr 9th 10:00 a.m.

**Computer Class w/ Jonathan
Baron – "How to Shop Online
Safely".**

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

Apr 9th at 11:00 a.m.

**NEW!!! "Fall Prevention" w/ Anne
Fitzgerald, RN.**

Tips to reduce the risk of falling. Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1.

Apr 11th at 10:00 a.m.

**Pins & Needles Sewing Class w/
Tobi –Spring Tote Bag FREE**

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

Apr 11th 10:00-11:30 a.m.

**Legal Phone Consultation with
Arthur P. Bergeron FREE**

Call to make an appointment 508-881-0140 x1

Apr 14th at 12:00 p.m.

**Lunch and Learn: Medical Alert
Devices w/ Darlene Messier,
Lifeline & Karen Spilka's Listening
Hour w/ Liaison Momina Haidri**

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

Cost \$6 per person. Reservation due by APR 10th at Noon.

Apr 15th at 11:00 a.m.

**NEW!!!! Coffee & Donuts Social at
Park Road FREE!**

Susan McNulty, Outreach Coordinator will be hosting a social for residents.

Apr 15th at 1:00 p.m.

**NEW!!!! Popcorn & a Movie, "Field
of Dreams" 1989 PG FREE!**

Iowa farmer Ray Kinsella (Kevin Costner) is inspired by a voice he can't ignore to pursue a dream he can hardly believe. Supported by his wife, Ray begins the quest by turning his ordinary cornfield into a baseball field where ghosts of past baseball players can play. Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1.

**Apr 16th at 10:00 a.m. Town
Manager's Coffee Hour FREE All
are welcome!**

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

Apr 16th at 12:00 p.m.

**Extra Lunch: Pasta Primavera w/
June Weiner, The Casual Gourmet.**

Lunch supported by Ashland Lions & Greater Ashland Lions Club.

Reservations for Lunch: Please use the payment box outside of the Main Office to reserve your seat. The cost is \$6 per person.

Reservation due by APR 10th at Noon.

Apr 17th 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Start Plants for Spring Planting w/
Candi FREE**

Plant a group of seedlings in pots to grow and be replanted later when the weather gets warm. All necessary supplies will be provided.

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

Apr 17th 1:30-3:00 p.m.

**Cooking Class with Chef Lee –
Greek Dolmas (Stuffed Grape
Leaves**

w/ rice and meat) Class \$5 pp. Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1

Apr 18th at 11:15

**Crafting – Echo Doodling w/ Elissa
FREE**

Supplies will be provided. Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1.

Apr 21st CLOSED

CLOSED PATRIOT'S DAY

Apr 23rd 9:00 a.m.

**NEW!!!! Trail Walks and Bird
Education w/ Lorraine FREE!**

Wednesdays, APR 23rd – MAY 21st. Call to reserve your space at 508-881-0140 x1.

Apr 24th at 10:00 a.m.

**Clocktown Memory Cafe w/ music
by Rick Ferreira**

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 Susan McNulty smcnulty@ashlandmass.com or 508-532-7945.

Apr 25th at 10:00 a.m.

**Crafting – 5" x 7" Sea Glass
Window w/ Art Lab & Gallery**

Sponsored by The Residence at Valley Farm.

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

Apr 28th at 10:30 a.m.

**Hearing Aid Cleaning w/
Hopkinton Audiology FREE**

Hopkinton Audio will clean your hearing aids

Apr 28th at 12:00

**NEW!!!! Lunch and Learn: "Flood
Hazards in Ashland" w/**

Becca Solomon, Conservation Agent for Town of Ashland.

Reservations for Lunch: Please use the payment box outside of the Main Office to reserve your seat. The cost is \$6 per person.

Reservation due by APR 24th at Noon.

Apr 29th at 11:30 a.m.

**NEW!!!! "New England Earthquakes:
Past, Present & Future" FREE**

w/ Prof. John Ebel, Boston College. Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1.

Apr 29th at 2:00 p.m.

**NEW!!!! Hip Hop Chair Exercise
Class w/ Rondae Drafts FREE**

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**WEEKLY PROGRAMS &
ACTIVITIES**

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

**Monday Lunches at 12:00 p.m.
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 \$6 unless otherwise noted.

Bowling

**Tuesdays at Ryan's Amusement in
Millis at 9 a.m.**

Blood Pressure Check FREE!!!

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

**Canasta – FREE!!! Wednesdays
at 12:30 pm**

**Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 1
p.m.**

**Chess – FREE!!! Mondays at
1:30 p.m.**

**Craft Class FREE!!! – Third &
Last Friday of the Month at 10
a.m.**

**Cribbage - FREE!!! - Thursdays
at 12:30 p.m.**

**DROP-IN Knitting Group –
FREE!!! Second and Fourth Tues-
day of the Month at 11 a.m.**

**Dull Men's Club w/ Doc – FREE!!!
Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Coffee and
Donuts provided.**

**Exercise with Joni – Mondays,
Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:30
a.m.**

**Intermediate and Advanced
Watercolor Class – Tuesdays &
Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.**

**Line Dancing with Lisa – Thurs-
days at 12 p.m.**

**Mahjong – FREE!!! Fridays at
10:30 a.m. for all levels**

**Mindful Coloring – FREE!!!!
First and Third Thursdays of the
Month at 1:30 p.m.**

**Mindfulness & Meditation –
Thursdays at 11 a.m. with Mary
Green**

**Parkinson's Boxing – First &
Third Wednesday of the Month
at 1:30 p.m.**

**Pins and Needles FREE!!! Sew-
ing Class – Second and Fourth
Fridays of the Month at 10 a.m.**

**Ping Pong – FREE!!! Wednes-
days at 11 a.m. Table, rackets and
ping pong balls provided.**

**Pitch Card Game – FREE!!!
Mondays at 1:00 p.m.**

**Tai Chi – Tuesdays at 11:45
a.m. with Jon Woodward**

**Veterans Office Hours – FREE!!!
Every other Wednesday from 9 –
11:30 a.m. Check Calendar for
Dates.**

**Zumba Gold with Kellie – Tues-
days at 10 a.m.**



Mini Renaissance Faire at library on May 3

On Sat., May 3, the Friends of the Ashland Public Library will host its 2nd annual Mini Renaissance Faire from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the library (65 Front St.) and Farmer's Market Field (125 Front St.).

If you love things Medieval, Pirates, Puffy Shirts, and so much more, this is for you. We'll have jousts, crafts, vendors, and something for every age. This is not just a turkey leg extravaganza, it is also an opportunity to learn how

people lived (and survived) back in the day with demonstrations and hands-on activities. We hope that you'll bring the whole family (in costume, of course).

Free admissions but registration is requested for butter-making supplies. Register at <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/rv3u5cn>.

While there, please consider popping on over to GreenUp Ashland's townwide cleanup event to grab your bag to do a little work around town. Then clean yourself up, get costumed up, and come on over to the Faire!

SOURCE: BIT.LY/ASHLANDMINIRENFAIRE

MAPC scholarship deadline April 18

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council is offering a new scholarship to a high school senior, in the Greater Boston region, who is interested in the field of planning.

The \$1,000 "Planning Our Communities: Reimagining the Region" scholarship can be used at a college or university of the recipient's choice.

Graduating high school seniors from a secondary school

from Ashland, or any of the 101 cities and towns in the Greater Boston region (see full list at bit.ly/MAPCScholarship), who are committed to advancing a more equitable, sustainable, collaborative, and climate-friendly region through studies in the fields of Climate; Community Engagement; Community, Housing, and Economic Development; Environmental Protection; Geographic Information System

(GIS) and Spatial Analysis; Inclusive Mobility and Transportation; Municipal Governance; Planning; Public Health; Public Policy; and/or Sustainable Development and Preservation.

The deadline to apply is April 18, 2025.

For more information, including the application and guidelines, visit bit.ly/MAPCScholarship.

Save the Date for Annual Town Meeting

Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7th beginning at 7pm at the Ashland High School.

The warrant articles are being finalized but all residents are encouraged to mark this date in their calendar as their vote counts on the items listed below.



Warrant Articles

- Town Reports
- Budget
- Transfer to OPEB Trust
- Annual Consent
- Annual CPC Consent
- CPA Funding for three projects: Ashland Arboretum, Digitization and Preservation of Town Documents and Ashland Dog Park

- Create a bylaw to Establish a Local Historic District
- Create zoning bylaw for Accessory Dwelling Units
- Update Flood Plain Overlay District bylaw

- Update Site Plan Review Bylaw

*Please note that additional articles may have been added since time of printing this article.

SOURCE: TOWN OF ASHLAND

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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Gray-Blending for Women: Embracing Your Gray Hair in 2025

BY GINA WOELFEL

You may remember our “Gray-Blending” article from last March. Since then, a growing interest in blending gray hair has been all over social media. You’ve got questions, and we’ve got the answers! Here’s your updated guide to gray-blending, with everything you need to refresh your look in 2025.

The world of hair color is undergoing a significant shift, with more women opting for gray-blending techniques instead of fully covering their gray hair. While gray-blending has been around for years, a surge in demand for low-maintenance hair color has brought this innovative technique into the spotlight. By seamlessly blending natural grays with soft highlights and translucent color, gray-blending creates a fresh, modern look that feels soft and natural. Unlike traditional hair dyes that often leave a harsh line of regrowth, gray-blending offers a lived-in style that celebrates the beauty of aging, giving women more freedom and flexibility with their hair coloring routines. Women aren’t just accepting their gray hair—they’re embracing it as a symbol of strength, confidence, and individuality!

The Classic Approach to Gray Coverage

For years, there were three basic levels of gray coverage:

- **Full Coverage:** This all-over, one-process coloring technique provides 100% gray coverage. Imagine wearing

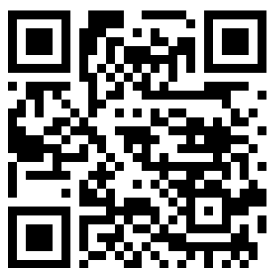
opaque wool tights. This application creates a uniform color that matches either your natural shade or your desired color but often results in a noticeable line of regrowth at the roots.

- **Demi-Permanent Coverage:** This method uses less pigmented dye to offer about 80% gray coverage. It provides a softer approach, allowing some natural gray tones to show through, similar to wearing sheer, colored pantyhose.
- **No Coverage:** This approach is a full gray embrace that leaves your natural gray and silver hair to take center stage. Using a clear gloss and brightening shampoo can eliminate brassiness and add shine. It’s like wearing sheer, nude pantyhose—subtle, simple, and naturally beautiful.

Modern hair dyes offer a broader spectrum of colors and a more vibrant finish than their predecessors but still require salon visits every 4 to 6 weeks. Many women continue to use the same hair color for years, believing that their natural shade remains unchanged, even though their original hair color has likely shifted significantly.

It’s easy to fall into a routine with hair coloring. While full coverage may have worked in the past, it’s important to consider whether it remains the best option for you today.

Beauty is our Business!



GRAY-BLENDING INFORMATION

Why is Gray-Blending for Women So Popular?

Embracing natural gray hair can be challenging for many women. Transitioning from a solid hair color to gray is often a significant emotional commitment. The rising popularity of gray blending offers a modern way to integrate gray hair with your natural or chosen color. It’s an excellent option for those looking for a low-maintenance way to incorporate more gray into their style without immediately making a complete silver commitment.

How To Transition To Gray-Blending

For clients who’ve been coloring their hair for years but want to gray-blend or transition back to their natural color, there are several options available:

1. **Highlights and Lowlights:** If you’re looking to minimize the appearance of gray roots, a stylist can strategically apply highlights or lowlights around your face, which softens the look of regrowth and adds dimension without creating a stark line of demarcation. Additionally, incorporating a few carefully placed highlights near your part can lift gray strands closer to your silver color. At the same time, a toner (used after bleaching or coloring to help neutralize brassiness and unwanted undertones, resulting in a more desired and customized color) can help unify the overall appearance.
2. **The Big Chop:** If you’re ready to take the plunge, cutting your hair short and



allowing it to grow out naturally is a great option. It typically takes about 1.5 years for your hair to reach shoulder length, but regular trims can help eliminate any unwanted color.

3. **Complete Silver Transformation:** For many, the desire to go completely silver in one sitting is tempting. While some can achieve this in one session, it’s a lengthy and costly process that can take up to 12 hours and may not always provide the results you expect.

Regardless of your method, a toner or tinted gloss is always recommended to ensure maximum brightness and a beautiful finish.

The Timeline for Gray Blending

The timeline for transitioning to gray hair varies for each individual. Factors such as your hair’s health, the coloring method you choose, and the rate at which your hair grows will all influence your journey. Your stylist will typically want to see at least three to four months of hair regrowth to assess your gray pattern. While this timeline can differ from person to person, it serves as a general guideline that helps your stylist create the most effective color

plan for you moving forward.

Once you start the transition process, you can expect your maintenance and upkeep to be about eight to twelve weeks apart, depending on your chosen method. Typically, it takes about 3 to 4 salon visits to complete the process and get your hair to the desired state.

The best part? Nothing is permanent! If gray blending isn’t your style, you can always return to your traditional color. Your stylist supports you every step of the way and ensures you look and feel your best.

Curious How Gray-Blending Can Work For You?


Visit b.LUXE Hair & Makeup Studio for a complimentary color consultation. Our expert stylists will help you navigate the world of gray-blending and find the perfect solution for all your needs.

2025 is the year for you to embrace your gray hair with style and confidence!

Scan the QR code for more information about gray-blending, including before-and-after photos of real clients. To book a consultation, go to bLUXE.com.

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Green Up Ashland

Keep Ashland Beautiful: Annual Town-Wide Cleanup and "Adopt a Street" Program

Saturday May 3rd from 9AM-12PM

Meet at Stone Park Pavilion

We are excited to announce that GreenUp Ashland annual town-wide cleanup and "Adopt a Street" program is getting under way, and we would love for you to be part of this important community initiative!

How You Can Get Involved:

Town-Wide Cleanup: Join us on Saturday May 3rd to help clean up public areas, parks, and streets in Ashland. This is a fantastic opportunity for your team

to give back to the community and make a positive impact on our local environment. <https://www.greenupashland.org/copy-of-participating-volunteering>

Adopt a Street: Sign up for our "Adopt a Street" program, where your business or organization can take responsibility for keeping a specific street in Ashland clean and litter-free throughout the year. We'll provide you with all the necessary supplies and support. <https://www.greenupashland.org/adopt-a-street>

Your participation will not only help beautify our town but also demonstrate your commitment to sustainability and com-

munity engagement. Plus, it's a great way to strengthen team spirit and build positive relationships with other local businesses and organizations.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at info@greenupashland.org. You can also visit our website at www.greenupashland.org for more information and to sign up.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a meaningful difference in Ashland. Together, we can create a cleaner, greener, and more vibrant community.

SOURCE: TOWN OF ASHLAND

Welcome Firefighter Isaac Carlson to the Ashland Fire Department!

We are pleased to announce that Isaac Carlson has successfully graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's 50-day Career Recruit Firefighter Training Program. Isaac was one of 30 recruits in Class #328, representing fire departments across the region, including Acton, Ashland, Burlington, Dracut, Fall River, Holden, Littleton, Lowell, Melrose, Methuen, Milford, Natick, Plainville, Watertown, Westborough, and Wilmington.



the highest standards of professionalism and expertise.

Please join us in welcoming Firefighter Isaac Carlson to the Ashland Fire Department. We're proud to have him on our team as we continue to serve and protect the Ashland community.

SOURCE: TOWN OF ASHLAND

chemical spills, and search-and-rescue operations. Whether it's rescuing someone trapped in an elevator, responding to a vehicle crash, or dealing with environmental hazards, firefighters like Isaac are prepared for anything.

In addition to these critical skills, recruits also learn fire behavior science, fire suppression tactics, self-rescue techniques, public fire education, and stress management. The rigorous 10-week program ensures that all graduates are equipped to protect and serve their communities with



Massachusetts Firefighting Academy
Career Recruit Class #328 Graduation • March 7, 2025

Annual Town Wide Cleanup Event
Saturday May 3rd, 2025
9am to 12 noon

You have all weekend to cleanup your location

Stone Park Pavilion

- in-person registration
- online check-in
- bag pickup

- Adopt-a-Street online registration open April 6th - April 20th
- One day participant online registration open April 21st - April 30th

www.greenupashland.org

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

Join us for FREE Healthy Kids Day!
Saturday, April 26
9 AM - 1 PM
Outdoor Center

the Y METROWEST YMCA
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LEARN MORE

Ashland Lions Club April 2025 Update

Ashland Lions Scholarships

Each year, the Ashland Lions award up to four \$2000 scholarships to high school Seniors living in Ashland. Applications for 2025 are now being accepted. Students and parents can get more information on how to apply by visiting the guidance department at AHS or Keefe Tech, or by visiting our website at ashlandlions.org.

Seeking Sponsors for our Community Shred-it Event

Our annual community Shred-It event to have personal documents safely shredded on site for free is coming June 7 to the VFW, and we're looking for community sponsors to keep this event free for Ashland Residents. Show your support for the community and Lions programs like this one for a small donation and get recognition for your business. Email Lion Deb L at shredit@ashlandlions.org for details.

Senior Breakfasts

Seniors, why not join us and other members of the community for breakfast? Senior Breakfasts are on the first Thursday of each month (weather permitting), held at the Ashland Senior Center, 162 West Union St in Ashland. This event runs through May. Contact the Senior Center to sign up no later than the week prior to the event.

Sponsoring Ashland Youth Baseball and Softball for over 30 years

The Ashland Lions are proud to sponsor Ashland Youth Baseball / Softball / T-Ball again this year. The Lions are happy to donate uniforms (t-shirts) for T-ball to keep this proud tradition going and support this great organization. We will be there on opening day to help kick things off, with activities and information about what Lions do in the community. Hope to see you there!

Lions Little Free Library

Bored? Grab a book! The Lions Little Free Library is located just outside the Ashland Post Office, across from Main Street Spirits. Stop by and check it out!

Musical Bingo is coming!

Musical Bingo is back by popular demand. The DJ will play music from different genres. If the song is on your bingo card, you mark it off. When you have the patten, you win! There will also be raffles and snacks. Date is TBD, keep an eye on our website at ashlandlions.org or our Facebook page for details!

Eyeglasses and Cellphone Collection

Eyeglasses and cellphone collection is a year-round project with collection of used prescription eyeglasses, sunglasses, hearing aids and cell phones. In the past year we have collected over 1000 pairs of glasses!

Collection boxes are located at:

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

Become a Lion and Give Back

Do you love the feeling of giving back to your community, while meeting some new people and having some fun? If you're interested in becoming a member of the Ashland Lions, please reach out to our membership chairperson Dan Mitchell via email at membership@ashlandlions.org for details, or message us on Facebook! You can also find several Ashland Lions members at Honeydew on West Main Street most weekday mornings.

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!

LION DAN MITCHELL
ASHLAND LIONS CLUB

Ashland Police Department Welcomes 2 New Officers

The Ashland Police Department is excited to introduce two new officers who have joined our team! After a period of vacancies, we're thrilled to have these previously funded positions filled, especially since the town opted out of Civil Service last year. This decision has allowed us to recruit skilled and passionate officers who are committed to enhancing the safety of our community.

Officer Emanuele Toscano comes to us with an impressive 20 years of experience at the Norfolk County Sheriff's De-

partment. His vast qualifications include certifications as a K9 handler, firearms instructor, field training officer, and defensive tactics instructor. We're confident his wealth of knowledge and expertise will be a great asset to our department.

Officer Mario Sousa joins us after more than a decade with the Hopedale Police Department, where he currently serves as their School Resource Officer (SRO). Known affectionately as "Super Mario" by students, Officer Sousa brings with him a strong commitment to commu-

nity policing and holds a variety of certifications. His dedication to building positive relationships within the community will undoubtedly make him a great fit for Ashland.

We are excited to have both officers on board and are certain they will make valuable contributions to our department's mission of ensuring the safety and well-being of Ashland. Welcome aboard, Officers Toscano and Sousa!

SOURCE: TOWN OF ASHLAND

Important Safety Updates: Reducing Speeding for a Safer Ashland

Over the past few years, many residents have raised concerns about speeding and its impact on public safety in Ashland. We take these concerns seriously and are committed to ensuring our town is safe for all, whether you're walking, biking, or driving.

To address these concerns, the Town Manager proposed using a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to install speed radar feedback signs across the town. The Select Board has unanimously supported this initiative, and we have been working closely with the Roadway Traffic Safety Committee to identify key locations where speeding is a major issue.

The committee, made up of Select Board Chair Joe Magnani, residents Michael Duca and Dona Walsh, and town staff including DPW Director Doug Small, Police Chief Cara Rossi, Fire Chief Keith Robie, Planning Director Peter Matchak, and Lt. Richard Briggs, has been actively working to make Ashland more accessible and safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

As part of our efforts, we've added ten new speed radar feedback signs in areas identified as having significant speeding concerns. These signs serve as important reminders to drivers about speed limits, especially in places like Chestnut Street, where residents from the Lan-

terns neighborhood cross to enjoy the Ashland Reservoir, and Myrtle Street, a key route

We understand that accidents are inevitable, but we're committed to minimizing them



for pedestrians heading downtown to shop and dine.

These signs not only encourage drivers to slow down but also gather important data that helps us monitor traffic patterns and continue improving road safety. In addition, ARPA funds have been used to create new sidewalks, making it easier for pedestrians to get around safely.

through these proactive measures. We encourage all residents to be mindful of their speeds, watch out for these reminders, and continue to prioritize safety as we work to make Ashland a better, safer place for everyone.

Thank you for your cooperation, and stay safe!

SOURCE: TOWN OF ASHLAND

40B Housing Projects Stir Discussion in Ashland

The town of Ashland is facing significant changes to its housing landscape, as two large 40B projects are currently under review by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). These developments are part of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40B, a state statute designed to increase affordable housing in communities where less than 10 percent of the housing stock is deemed affordable to low- and moderate-income families.

The first of these projects is located at 10-60 Main Street, where developers have proposed the construction of two multi-family buildings. The development would offer 250 apartment units and 337 concealed podium parking spaces. Additionally, the northernmost mill on the property would be restored and converted into 7,500 square feet of commercial and retail space, with portions open to the public. This proposal was introduced in January during the first of many public hearings held by the ZBA. Approximately 70 people attended the hearing, both in person and virtually, where the applicant outlined the project's architecture, landscaping plans, and traffic impact. The town's peer review process is currently underway, with a particular focus on traffic concerns and how the development might affect the surrounding community. Additional meetings to discuss the project will continue in the coming months.

Simultaneously, a second 40B proposal has emerged. The Gutierrez Company has submitted an application for a comprehensive permit to develop The Residences at Ashland Crossing, a five-story building located at 61 Waverly Street, directly across from Ashland High School. This project would consist of 226 apartment units, with 25% designated as affordable, and would provide 391 parking spaces.

While Chapter 40B allows developers to bypass local zoning laws to construct affordable housing, this has sparked both support and concern from local officials and residents. In a recent letter to MassHousing, the Select Board and Town Manager expressed a series of concerns regarding both projects, urging a careful consideration of the potential impacts on the town's infrastructure and overall character. The state-driven initiative, however, is part of a broader effort to meet Massachusetts' growing need for affordable housing.

These developments are private agreements/partnerships between the owner of the property and developer. The Zoning Board of Appeals will do their best to shape these projects, with the authority they have, to be the best for Ashland. They are carefully reviewing all aspects of these projects while keeping resident comments, staff and leadership concerns, and the town's long-term goals in mind. It is important to note though that the



developer has the right to appeal to the state any condition that the ZBA imposes that they do not

agree with, again taking power out of Ashland's hands.

As these projects move for-

ward, members of the public are encouraged to participate in the discussion. Public comments can be made during the ZBA meetings or submitted via email to the Planning Department at aesparza@ashlandmass.com. For updates on the projects and meeting schedules, residents can visit the town's official website at www.ashlandmass.com.

SOURCE: TOWN OF ASHLAND

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Sports

Making Holliston/Ashland Hockey Better

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Ashland native Oliver Lareau laced his skates up for the first time around the age of three and immediately fell in love with the sport of hockey. It was around seventh or eighth grade when he realized he had a talent for the game. During those middle school years, he grew into his body and began playing club hockey for the North Stars out of Westboro.

Playing for the North Stars, Lareau found that he was playing against much older, bigger and stronger players and, not being the biggest of players, he realized he had to make sure he kept his head up all the time while on the ice.

Upon entering Ashland High School, he was hoping to make the Varsity team but found that, despite having a good tryout, he was assigned to the Junior Varsity team.

"I was a swing player my freshman year and really didn't get a lot of playing time," Lareau said. "I had the mindset that whenever I got the chance I just had to go out and work hard for everything. I knew that I could be a better player if I got consistent ice time."

After continuing to work hard during the off-season, Lareau found he was able to take that next step with Ashland and found himself being elevated to



the varsity team his sophomore campaign. That year, the Clockers made it to the Elite Eight in the State Tournament and Lareau netted 15 goals along the way. By his standards he had a good year, but he still wanted to improve more as a leader.

"My game started to get better my sophomore year and I was dialed in as a varsity player," he said. "I was so excited to be playing for the varsity and I knew that this is where I belonged and I could be an asset to the team. Although I was where I belonged, I still wanted to improve my game."

Once again, during the off-season, the winger worked hard on his game. He wanted to come into his junior year using his speed to blow by defenders and score goals to help his team. Unfortunately, about six weeks before the season was to begin

there were rumors that Ashland didn't have a team.

"I got a text from a Holliston friend saying that they were talking about Ashland hockey combining with Holliston," Lareau said. "I figured it was out of my hands, so I wasn't going to worry about what was being spread around, I just continued to focus on getting better."

Eventually, he found out that the rumors were true and Ashland was going to co-op with Holliston on the ice. Lareau didn't care where he was playing hockey as long as he was. Having known some of the Holliston players, it wasn't all that tough and he said they treated the Ashland players like family right from the start.

"I'm sure it was really tough going to a new team, never mind a Tri-Valley League rival," Coach Derek Bedard said. "He bought in day one and helped bring other Ashland players with him. It was probably really hard for him to put on that Holliston jersey, but he just wants to play hockey."

During his junior season and first with Holliston, Lareau believed that he had himself a decent season where he was able to create a lot of opportunities for his new teammates. Playing as a forward for Holliston-Ashland, the junior recorded 22 goals and 8 assists and was the team's leading scorer.

"Oli really helped this team to its best season in a number of years," Bedard said. "He helped make this team better. He had three games with a hat-trick and

was one of the big reasons we were able to win those games."

Lareau and his new teammates were able to get into the State Tournament as a 26 seed, but unfortunately they were squared off against the number seven seed Melrose and on paper were seriously outmatched. Lareau did everything in his power to help his team by scoring two goals but it just wasn't enough, and Holliston-Ashland fell in overtime 3-2.

"Losing in the first round is never our end goal, but the effort this team gave was awesome and it gave us hope for next year," the coach said. "This was the first year that I got to coach Oli and I cannot wait for next season."

Upon becoming a co-op team with Holliston, Lareau found things to be tough in the beginning as he was coming to play for a new coach with a new system. He also had to get used to his new linemates.

"Playing on the first line took some time getting used to the Holliston player," he said. "I didn't know them all that well and had to figure out their style of play."

The Ashland and Holliston players seemed to gel nicely this past season and Lareau is looking forward to improving next winter, although he wishes he could have done more for the team this year.

"Losing in the first round hurt, we could have won that game, we were in it all the way. It was a long ride home and I kept thinking what I could have done

to help this team," Lareau said. "Next year, I want to become more of a leader while getting stronger and faster on the ice. I think that this team can do some damage in the tournament, we have some great talent and some up-and-coming players."

In addition to lacing up the skates, Lareau also dons a uniform for the Ashland football and baseball teams. Hockey and baseball are his top sports and which one is the very top all depends on the season. Lareau is hoping to take his talents onto the collegiate level following his senior year at Ashland. He is currently looking at Division 3 colleges to play baseball, but he may venture out to look for hockey as well. In the meantime, he will continue to play for the North Stars this summer and hopefully catch some college coaches' eyes.

"I honestly don't know where I will be going or which sport I will be playing, they are both my passion and I love them both," he said.

With Holliston-Ashland slated to lose 13 seniors Bedard will be looking to Lareau to make the jump into a leadership role come next season.

"This year he didn't have to worry about that sort of thing, I just wanted him to go out and play his game," the coach said. "Next year I want him to take on more of a leadership role, while improving his skill. This year he was named to his first TVL All-Star team – maybe he can shoot for league MVP, he definitely has the talent."

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03/11/2025	98 Heritage Avenue	\$1.21 mil
03/11/2025	15 Webster Road	\$950,000
03/06/2025	27 Pleasant Street	\$482,000
03/03/2025	90 Mountain Gate Road	\$510,000
02/28/2025	23 Oregon Road	\$715,000
02/28/2025	24 Shadow Creek Lane	\$649,000
02/28/2025	10 Woodland Road	\$790,000
02/28/2025	236 Captain Eames Circle	\$615,000
02/27/2025	65 Concord Street	\$735,000
02/26/2025	6 Edward Drive	\$762,000
02/25/2025	221 Leland Farm Road	\$450,000
02/21/2025	27 Raymond Way	\$875,000
02/21/2025	355 Captain Eames Circle	\$655,000
02/20/2025	377 Captain Eames Circle	\$668,000



The 3-bed, 4-bath, 3,104-square-foot home at 15 Webster Road in Ashland recently sold for \$950,000. www.zillow.com Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages

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How to Get the Best Return



Kim Foemmel

REAL ESTATE INSIGHTS

Thinking about selling and wondering what improvements will yield the biggest return on your investment?

Let's start with the entryway! Curb appeal is the first impression. With the snow gone, now is a great time to walk around the home and see how it fared over the winter season. Does the house need paint or a power wash, is there any window or trim rot, do gutters need to be cleaned or re-attached? Trimming bushes and adding plantings, fresh mulch and flowers in planters is a great way to spend a weekend outside in this nice weather. To really make the property pop, adding a fresh coat of paint on the house and deck, replacing rotted trim with Azek materials, replacing garage doors and seal coating the driveway all are great and reasonably priced improvements that will make a big impact.

Kitchens and baths are where you will receive almost 100% return on your investment, within reason.

However, spending \$300,000 on a new kitchen or \$75,000 on a new primary bath likely will not see a similar return. Replacing appliances that have seen better days, installing new counters, backsplashes and hardware, and sometime updating the cabinetry and/or hardware will make a huge impact. Oh, and floors! There are rare times that we do see timeless floors where we can strip and replace all the grout and the floors will look much newer. Did you know you can sand and poly plastic shower inserts to make them look new again, or glaze a tub to make it shine?

Then there is paint! A \$50 can of paint is worth thousands on the wall. Buyers are looking for fresh and neutral paint colors that are in style and are the current trend. I love taking a trip to the local paint store to see the new colors that I know will make

a huge impact with bringing a dated home into the new century. Changing a room to a lighter color typically will help it make it feel brighter and bigger. Go grab a few samples and see how they look in different parts of the room, and how they match the furniture and the floors. If the whole house needs to be painted, consider choosing a total of three or four colors, keep them neutral and make sure that they work well together. Neutral sells as it allows a buyer to picture themselves and their furniture in the home.

Refinishing floors, replacing carpet and replacing window seals also are great ways to achieve a better return on your investment. My rule of thumb is if we can make double the money of your investment, then it's likely worth the effort!

With spring here, now is a great time to consider decluttering, organizing, and donating/selling items you no longer need. Realtors have contractors who can help with all this and have teams of people who can help make this process a breeze.

Contact Kim Foemmel at Foemmel Fine Homes to find out what your home is worth!

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