

Ashland Celebrates PRIDE

Beautiful weather set the scene at Stone Park on June 2nd, the evening when Ashland Is United raised the PRIDE flag to kick off Pride month, a time to celebrate and support the LGBTQIA+ community. Town officials, state representatives, and community members came together to recognize the strength, beauty, resilience, creativity and breadth of the LGBTQIA+ community. Susan Brostrup-Jensen, a member of Ashland Is United, shared the following goals for the event in her opening remarks. She said,

We are here tonight

- To celebrate you as you are and the history, contributions and strength of the LGBTQIA+ community,
- To send a message that Ashland is striving to be a safe and inclusive community, and
- To affirm that we are committed to raising awareness and pushing back against the recent challenges and policies in the national landscape.



The program continued with inspiring words from Representative Jack Lewis who shared personal recollections and a call to action. Additionally, he reminded us during these extraordinary times to have patience with those who may trying to engage as allies for the first time and to remember that finding joy is a form of resistance. He was followed by Michael Herbert, the Town Manager, who moved the group with his vision of Ashland as a community that is welcoming and safe for all. Sophia Silva, President of the Gay Straight Alliance at Ashland High School, spoke with words of gratitude and vision for the kind of town Ashland is and what it can become. Each challenged the group to commit

to becoming involved in ways that make Ashland and the world a place that accepts and honors each person.

A representative from OUT Metrowest shared the resources the organization offers all ages of youth and young adults, including group meetings, social events, and counseling. The organization's main office is in Framingham, with satellite locations in Medway, Acton, and Westborough. To learn more about their services go to <https://outmetrowest.org/>

The speeches were followed by raising the Pride flag. In the past, the Pride banner has been hoisted at Town Hall for the

PRIDE

continued on page 2

A Dig Day at the Beach



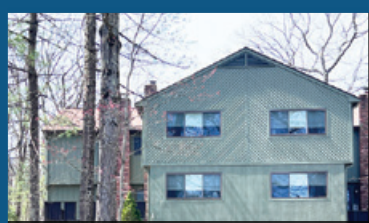
Ashland Recreation closed out its spring session of Backyard Discovery with a dinosaur dig at the state park beach.

They were even lucky enough

to find and catch a baby ringneck snake on the walk back to the community center!

BEACH

continued on page 2



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BEACH

continued from page 1



PRIDE

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month of June. With the Town Hall under restoration, the flag will fly at Stone Park instead.

Children and adults enjoyed bubbles and pinwheels in rainbow colors and the chance to answer trivia questions that were posted around the gazebo. For example: What do the letters in LGBTQIA+ stand for? In what year was same sex marriage legalized? What does each color in the PRIDE flag represent? Finally, people were encouraged to decorate and pen messages of allyship and encouragement on stones painted by several high school students as part of their Day of

Community Action. Placing the stones along the Riverwalk concluded the event. Townspeople can visit the stones and possibly leave their own stone and message throughout the month of June.

This event was organized by Ashland Is United. It is the third year the organization acknowledged the importance of Pride with a townwide celebration. The purpose of Ashland Is United is to create a culture of inclusivity and acceptance in Ashland so that all community members feel they belong and are equal in the town. To find out more about Ashland Is United please check the website www.Ashlandisunited.org

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by placing a rock decorated with a
message of unity, celebration,
allyship, and/or support along the
River Walk during the month of June.

Ashland Is United
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in collaboration with
the town and high school.

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones

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FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING, OF COURSE.

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Ashland Lions Club July 2025 Update

What a great Lionistic year!

- It was a great (and busy) Lionistic year (Sep-Jun) for the Ashland Lions Club. Here are some highlights of our activities from this past year:
- Food Trailer at Ashland Day 2024
 - Kidde Fenwal Car Show
 - Annual Charity Golf Tournament
 - Sold Out at Christmas Tree lot
 - Coat Drive for Kids & Families
 - Great year of Meat Raffles at TJs
 - Drug Take-back Days
 - Shred-it Day for Ashland Residents
 - Ashland Food Pantry Collection
 - Toy Boat Regatta fundraiser
 - Supported Special Olympics
 - AHS Lions Speech Contest
 - Little Library @ Post Office

- Senior Breakfasts
 - Eyeglasses Collection
 - Green Up Ashland Day
 - Leos Club at Ashland High School
 - College scholarships for Ashland residents
 - And much more!
- Thank you to our hard-working Ashland Lions and our community for supporting us!

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 Betsy Andersson 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.

Annual Lions Golf Tournament

Join us for the Ashland Lions

Annual Golf Tournament, to be held Monday, September 15, at the Highfields Golf and Country Club in Grafton. There will be golf, a meal, raffles and a day of fun to support the Ashland Lions and their mission of donating to Eye Research and Local Charities. Sponsorship opportunities available. For details email golf@ashlandlions.org or visit us online at ashlandlions.org.

Shred-it event a big success!

Our annual Shred-it event on June 7th was a big success again this year! Special thanks to our sponsors: Spyglass, Tom's Auto Body, Realtor Bill Gath, Ashland Insurance Center, Agostinelli Teller & Ryan Insurance, and Paul & Nancy Ciccolo. Your sponsorships enabled us to put this event on for free again this year and serve our community.

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!

Eyeglasses and Cellphone Collection

Eyeglasses and cellphone collection is a year-round project with collection of used prescription and nonprescription eyeglasses, sunglasses, hearing aids and cell phones. In the past year we have collected over 3700 pairs of glasses! WOW! Thanks Lion Warren Wales for your tireless efforts in collecting these 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

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

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Premier Image Gallery celebrates 36 years in Ashland

By LINDA CHUSS

“How many businesses from 36 years ago are still around, and have the same owner?” asked Don Gordon, proprietor of Premier Image Gallery in Ashland. It is one of the few businesses that has remained open since February 1989, when Gordon took it over. The attention customers receive and the satisfaction he derives when they see the finished product are what has kept the shop thriving.

Located in Shaw’s Plaza on Eliot Street, the gallery provides framing services, shows and sells work created by local artists, and has a gift section. “I’ve always enjoyed displaying paintings made

by the talented creative community here. Our upper gallery always has about 50 original works. We’ve held member shows for the Framingham Artists’ Guild and the Franklin Art Association, among others.

“Some of those artists frame their work here, too. Over the years, we’ve also had repeat clientele from local organizations, like companies showcasing articles about them for the office, or hospitals who frame notices to hang. They supplement the walk-ins, people who come in with one special item to hang and protect, like an autographed sports jersey, or a Boston Marathon medal, or a favorite album cover.”

Just prior to buying the gallery, Gordon had retired after working for 20 years at the Bradlees department store chain, which no longer exists. Living in Milford, he sought a business in the MetroWest region. He looked into stationary stores and video shops, most of which also no longer exist. “I wanted something with a little creativity. A pair of brothers started the gallery and within a year, decided to sell it, so that worked out well for me.” It has been Gordon’s ever since.

Gordon is in remission from cancer and had to cut back on hours. He wants to keep the gallery going as long as he



can. “What I like most is the relationships with customers. People come in just to say hi. There are clients who came here when they married and now their children are through college and are clients too.” While some aspects of the business have changed in the 36 years since it opened, the gratification that customers and Gordon experience remains the same.

Premier Image Gallery at 290 Eliot St. in Ashland is open 9 a.m. to noon or by appointment. For more information, visit PremierImageGallery.com or call 508-881-4730.

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Saturday, 10/4/2025, 9 am – 12 noon

The following fees will be assessed at electronics drop-off:

- TVs & computer monitors (up to 20” screen, measured diagonally): \$10.00 each
- DVD/CD players; print-

- ers; CPUs; receivers; misc. household electronics: \$10.00 each
- TVs & computer monitors (over 20” screen, measured diagonally): \$20.00 each
- Window A/C units, dehumidifiers & microwaves: \$20.00 each
- Refrigerators (small dorm size): \$25.00 each
- Refrigerators (full size): \$45.00 each

As always, our monthly recycle program for used motor-oil, oil based paints, fluorescent light bulbs, contained mercury, Ni-Cad batteries (found in cell phones, cordless phones and camcorders)

and rechargeable batteries will continue to be held on the 1st Saturday of each month at the DPW yard located at 20 Ponderosa Road (behind the salt shed) 9 am – 12 noon.

Please refrain from illegally dumping any waste at the facility during non-collection days. The DPW yard is located in a heavily wooded watershed area right next door to the Ashland Animal Shelter and any items that are left while the facility is unattended by staff is subject to ingestion by area wildlife and spillage having obvious negative effects on the environment which only defeats the purpose of the collection facility.

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<div>JUL 5</div> <div>THE BIG CHIEF BAND</div>	<div>JUL 26</div> <div>GUNPOWDER AND LEAD BAND</div>
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How to choose a successor for your business



Mark Freeman, CEPA

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As a business owner, you’ve always got a lot to think about today — but what about tomorrow? Have you thought about whom you would like to see as your successor?

If you haven’t, you’re not alone. Of the business owners who have created a succession plan, about 70% have named a successor for their businesses and have taken measures to train and prepare this successor, according

to a survey by Morning Consult, NEXT 360 Partners and Edward Jones. But this means that nearly a third of business owners have not taken this action, leaving a big gap in their succession plans.

So, if you haven’t yet named a successor, you may want to start thinking about it. It may be helpful to ask yourself these questions:

- **Should I look inside or outside?** You could find a successor who’s already working for you, or you could find someone from the outside. On one hand, an internal successor would already know how you operate and what you value as you run your business. But on the other hand, an external successor could bring a new point of view and a different set of skills, both of which might prove beneficial. You’ll need to weigh both choices carefully.
- **How prepared is a potential successor?** Whether you decide on an internal or external candidate, you’ll want to be sure the person you choose is prepared to take over the business. Do they have man-

agement skills? Will they share your commitment to your business’s success? Will they be able to build strong relationships with your customers or other employees? Are they enthusiastic about the work involved? You’ll want to evaluate all these types of factors in making your selection.

- **Are there potential family squabbles?** If you would like a family member to become your successor, you may need to be careful about whom you choose and how you communicate your decision to the entire family. Even if it may make sense for one individual to take over the business, perhaps because they’re already involved in it and they’re interested in taking it over, it doesn’t mean hurt feelings won’t develop among other family members, who may feel they are somehow being “cheated” out of what they view as their share of a valuable inheritance. So, if you are convinced that you’re making the right choice, explain your reasoning to all family members and let them know that you’re also exploring

other, tangible ways for them to share in your family wealth, possibly by leaving them other financial assets through your estate plans.

- **How will my choice of a successor affect my finances?** Passing the business to an heir, selling it to an existing employee or selling it to an outside buyer can yield vastly different results for you in terms of your personal finances. You’ll need to consider the possible business transfer arrangements, such as a buy-sell agreement, to determine which one is in your best interests. In doing so, you may want to work with your financial advisor or a consultant with experience in selling or transferring a business.

Choosing a successor is one of the most important decisions you’ll make — so, take your time, evaluate your options and work to reach a decision that works well for everyone involved.

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

Mark Freeman, CEPA
Edward Jones Financial Advisor
77 West Main Street,
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Sounds of Success: Local Students Dazzle at Spring Music Festivals

BY THE ASHLAND MUSIC ASSOCIATION

This spring, Ashland’s middle and high school band and chorus students took center stage at some of the region’s most prestigious music concerts and festivals, showcasing their talent, dedication, and passion for music. Their hard work and commitment to musical excellence earned them well-deserved recognition at these events.

MMEA All-State Concert

Two standout students from Ashland High School (AHS) shined at Boston’s iconic Symphony Hall on Saturday, March 29th, as they joined the ranks of the state’s most accomplished young musicians at the 2025 Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA) All-State Concert.

Senior trumpet player Sarah Miksis made an impressive return to the All-State Concert Band for the second year in a row, while gifted alto Gabriella Ilin, a junior, earned her place in the All-State Chorus. Their selection followed an intense, statewide audition process—an honor that reflects not only their exceptional talent but also their unwavering commitment to musical excellence.

MICCA Concert and Choral Festival

The annual Massachusetts Instrumental & Choral Conductors Association (MICCA) Concert and Choral Festival is a three-day event held in eight locations across the state. The festival offers ensembles the opportunity to be evaluated by expert adjudicators

from across the country, who assess each performance against a rigorous standard of musical excellence. This year’s festival, which took place April 4–6th, featured strong participation from the AHS Concert Bands, the AHS Concert Choir and the Ashland Middle School (AMS) Wind Ensemble.

The AHS Concert Choir and both of the AHS Concert Bands (Blue and White) earned Silver Medals, marking impressive achievements for the high school’s music program.

After earning a silver medal last year, the AMS Wind Ensemble was ecstatic to receive a Gold Medal this year. But the excitement didn’t stop there! This talented group was selected to perform in the prestigious Gold Medal Showcase a week later, held at the Groton Hill Music Center.

CDMMEA Junior High Festival Concert

Five talented young musicians, four from AMS and one from AHS, represented the town with excellence at the Central District MMEA Junior High Festival Concert on Saturday, May 3rd, held at Blackstone-Millville Regional High School. The sold-out crowd was treated to a stunning showcase of talent, thanks to the dedication and hard work of these student performers.

In the Junior Festival Orchestra, French horn player Jonah Bloom earned recognition as principal player, delivering a standout performance alongside bassoonist Ben Deibler. In the Junior Festival Concert Band,



Ashland Middle School Band Director Mr. Brian Koning and the 8th Grade Band at Timberlane Performing Arts Center in Plaistow, NH.

clarinetist Sam Apostola, French horn player Mark Mayatskikh, and oboist Kaiya Smits, who also earned the role of principal player, showcased their remarkable musical talents.

Great East Music Festivals

The final festival of the season saw the AMS 8th Grade Band perform on Saturday, June 7th at Timberlane Performing Arts Center in Plaistow, NH, as part

of the Great East Music Festivals. Held throughout May and June at various locations across New England, Great East Music Festivals feature expert adjudication and constructive educational clinics that emphasize growth, excellence, and musical development.

The 8th Grade Band earned a Platinum Medal, a special ranking for the rare group that performs above and beyond a Gold Medal rating. This remarkable

achievement capped off their middle school performance experience on an especially high note.

Thank You to Sponsors

The Ashland Music Association (AMA) is proud to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of our students! We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Ashland Select Board and Bach Knives for generous grants that supported our students’ participation in these festivals and concerts during the 2024-2025 season. We are thrilled to have been awarded a 2025 BAA Grant from the Ashland Select Board to support our students’ continued participation in these opportunities next year.

The AMA is a parent volunteer-run organization that provides financial and volunteer assistance to the music programs in Ashland’s public schools. Learn more about the AMA at <http://www.ashlandmusic.org> or contact them at AMA@ashlandmusic.org.

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Habitat For Humanity Breaks Ground in Ashland

Local officials, community members, and team members from Habitat for Humanity gathered in celebration as they officially broke ground on a long-anticipated affordable housing project at 487 Main Street.

Members of the Ashland Select Board, town staff, local legislators, and the Ashland Affordable Housing Trust joined team members from Habitat for Humanity at the event, marking the start of construction on what will soon become a safe, energy-efficient, and affordable home.

Currently a vacant lot, the site will soon be transformed into a single-family home built from the ground up. Located in an ideal location in downtown Ashland, the property is within walking distance of the Town Center, just over a mile from Ashland State Park, and convenient to highways



and shopping, making it a perfect spot for a future homeowner.

The home is designed to be all-electric, with energy-saving features including mini-split heating and cooling systems and a hybrid hot water tank. In addition to offering a much-needed affordable homeownership opportunity, the project will enhance the neighborhood by bringing life

and purpose to an underutilized space.

The Ashland community expressed deep gratitude to the Ghilani family, who made this project possible by generously donating the land to Habitat for Humanity.

“This partnership between the Town, the Ghilani family, and Habitat for Humanity has been years in the making, and we are thrilled to finally see it move forward,” said local leaders at the ceremony.

Construction will begin soon, and volunteers from across the area will be needed to help bring this home to life for a deserving family. For those interested in lending a hand or learning more about the project, keep an eye out for upcoming volunteer opportunities. Together, Ashland is taking a meaningful step toward creating more affordable housing and strengthening the community.

Community Foundation for MetroWest Welcomes Two New Board Members

SOUTH NATICK- May 27, 2025- The Community Foundation for MetroWest is pleased to announce the appointment of two distinguished leaders, Kirsten Poler of Medfield and Jason Grant of Ashland, to its Board of Trustees.

Kirsten Poler is a trusts and estates attorney with a rich back-

ground in community service and nonprofit leadership. A graduate of Amherst College and Columbia Law School, Kirsten is president of the Medfield Foundation and is actively involved with Bell-forge Arts Center. She has served on the Medfield Conservation Commission and the Medfield Historical Commission and sits

on the boards of the Trustees of Reservations, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, and the Amherst College Mead Art Museum.

Jason Grant is President of ARCO National Construction’s New England office, where he leads design-build operations and strategic growth. With a civil



engineering background and extensive experience in large-scale construction management, Jason is committed to delivering high- quality, client-focused solutions. Jason recently co-chaired the Foundation’s Community Leadership Reception event. A graduate of Western Michigan University, he is also active in community organizations in Ashland, where he lives with his wife, Lauren, and their three children.

“We are thrilled to welcome Kirsten and Jason to our Board of Trustees,” said Jay Kim, Executive Director of the Community Foundation for MetroWest. “Their vision, expertise, and deep commitment to the MetroWest region will help us further advance our mission of improving the quality of life in our 30-plus communities. With their leadership, we look forward to building on our legacy of connecting donors and nonprofits, responding to our region’s greatest challenges, and fostering a vibrant, resilient MetroWest for generations to come.”

About the Community Foundation for MetroWest:

In 1995, the Community Foundation for MetroWest became the trusted philanthropic partner for individuals, families, nonprofits, and businesses in the region who are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all in MetroWest. For thirty years, the Foundation has developed extensive Action Projects (including Equity in Education, Housing and Homelessness Prevention, Workforce Development and Arts & Culture) and awarded more than \$37 million in grants to charitable organizations. The Foundation currently stewards more than \$33 million in charitable assets for current needs and future impact. To learn more about the Foundation’s commitment to improved quality of life in MetroWest, visit communityfoundationmw.org or call (508) 647-2260.

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Enjoy Every Sandwicher Moment.



Glenn Brown, CFP

Once David Letterman had a frequent guest and favorite musician of his, Warren Zevon, on for an entire show. Zevon, who disclosed his terminal cancer, performed and interviewed throughout. Dave at one point asked, "Anything you know now, that I should know?" to which Zevon wittily deadpanned, "Enjoy every sandwich."

Those raising children and helping aging parents often feel rushed and are distracted thinking about what's next, overlooking the beauty of daily, mundane moments.

July is National Sandwich Generation Month, celebrating a generation of people sandwiched between caring for their young children and aging parents at the same time.

I'm a Sandwicher, as are approximately 15% of Americans between ages 40-60 who face the challenges of planning, communicating and executing for 3 generations at once.

After 60 years in their New Hampshire home, my parents were struggling with their health and finding it increasingly difficult to maintain their independence. The stress weighed heavily on my mother, as she was becoming a caregiver and daily living/house routines began to slide. My wife, our daughters (then 5 & 3) and I lived comfortably in our Ashland home. The adults agreed on a Plan B supported by updated financial planning. Sell both homes, buy a new home for 3 generations and live as one household sharing in daily responsibilities.

The urgency was greater than anticipated and not without challenges since our move to Holliston, here's some antidotes for Sandwichers:

Small talks instead of "The Talk". Families don't like to think about declining health and elder care, let alone discuss it. I used single topics tied to a recent story about a friend, asking what they would do. I'd gain small agreements, then change the subject to continue building a framework for a mutual plan.

Bring in outside mediators. My aunt shared with my mom

that time is not your friend. She emphasized the positives and encouraged to act now, rather than later, when fewer options are available. Additionally, we consulted with an elder care attorney on understanding MA Health options, current trusts, POAs and proxies before making the move.

Define their plans for wellness. Far too often, adult children tip-toe around aging conversations with parents for fear it may come across as morbid or worse, inheritance focus. These conversations need to focus on their future ideas of wellness. What is it they foresee for a surviving spouse? When they can no longer remain independent? By having these talks when both parents are in good health, it defines their expectations and allows planning a foundation with greater flexibility.

Your spouse's support is critical. Very fortunate to have a spouse that pushed me to see the positives and embraces bringing family in as "you'd want your daughters to treat you the same someday".

Through the eyes of a child. It's not all about you, the girls show the love and benefits of learning by being around grandma and grandpa. And vice versa, as health and activity improved due to the energy and

motivation brought daily by our girls.

Sometimes timing is everything. I couldn't imagine the anxiety and ill-advised actions my parents would have faced on their own since fall of 2018. Nor would I have wanted to see my mom on her own this past year and moving forward.

Your parents sacrificed many things to make sure you had it better, including concealing issues to not worry you. Be open with communication and embrace change, the best ways to prevent costly unintended consequences and ensure positive lasting memories.

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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Greater Ashland Lions Club

We have had a busy year and I would like to Thank all who have supported our fundraisers (like our Quiz and Pasta Nights) that in turn help groups within the town (like large print books for the Ashland Public Library, the Food Pantry, Friends of the Council on Aging, Scholarships to Ashland residents at Ashland High and Keefe Tech, to name a few).

Working with the fourth grade teachers of the Mindess School and their Arbor Day curriculum, 220 Douglas Fir seedlings were given to each fourth grader and their teachers.

Doing spring cleaning? Before you throw out those children or adult coats, contact Lion Debbie at 508.881.2117.

Do you have Pull Tabs? We still collect them and they get sent to the Shriners. Contact Lion Rosalie at 508.881.4743 for more info.

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).

The club is already working on a few events in the upcoming year (like our Porchetta and Quiz Night).

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.

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Senior Community Center Activities for July 2025 as of 6.10.25

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES:

July 1st at 9:00 - Crafting – Ceramic Tile Coasters w/ Milly FREE

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

July 2nd & 16th 9:00-11:30 -Veterans Office Hours w/ Richard Sabounjian

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

July 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st SHINE In Person Appointment w/ Lenore Tracy FREE - 10:00 – 12:00

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

July 3rd at 10:30 - Downtown Abbey Viewing: Season 3, Episode 8 FREE

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

July 4th CLOSED - CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 7th at 12:00 - Lunch w/ Karen Spilka's Listening Hour. Have ideas? Need help?

Senator Spilka's staff will be here to listen. The cost of lunch is \$6 per person. Please use the payment box outside the Main Office to reserve your seat. Reservations due Thursday, JULY 3rd at Noon.

July 7th at 7:00 - NEW!!!! "Heal the Beasts" w/ Author & Veterinarian Philipp Schott.

FREE Virtual Program in collaboration with the Ashland Public Library.

Visit the Ashland Public Library website to register for the program.

July 8th at 10:30 - NEW!!!! - Computer Class w/ Jonathan Baron – "Declutter and Clean your

Computer, Cell Phone and iPad" FREE

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

July 8th at 1:00 - NEW!!!! Popcorn & a Movie, "The Monuments Men" (2014) PG13

FREE In 1943, the Allies are making good progress driving back the Axis powers in Italy. Frank Stokes convinces President Roosevelt that victory will have little meaning if the artistic treasures of Western civilization are lost. Stokes is directed to assemble an Army unit nicknamed the "Monuments Men", comprising museum directors, curators, art historians, and an architect, to both guide Allied units and search for stolen art to return it to its rightful owners. Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1.

July 8th 6:30-7:00 - NEW!!!! Historic Fiction Book Recommendations w/ Bestselling Author,

Jane Healey. FREE Virtual Program in collaboration with the Ashland Public Library. Visit the Ashland Public Library website to register for the program.

July 9th at 11:00 - NEW!!!! "Skin Cancer: What to Look For" w/ Anne Fitzgerald, RN FREE

This talk will cover the facts and statistic about skin cancer, who is at risk and how to protect yourself. Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1.

July 10th at 1:15 - NEW!!!! "Explaining the U.S. Constitution" w/ Rick Tulipano, FREE

Using colorful images and diagrams, Rick will explain the U.S. Constitution, article by article. Together we will compare our Founding Fathers' lofty ideas to the realities of life in America. Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1.

July 11th at 10:00 - Pins & Needles Sewing Class w/ Tobi – Sew a Blouse or Shirt

(3rd week of 3-week project) Bring your own sewing machine. All levels of skill welcome. Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1

July 11th 10:00-11:30 - Legal Phone Consultation with Arthur P. Bergeron FREE

Call to schedule an appointment at 508-881-0140 x1.

July 15th at 11:00 - NEW!!!! "Funeral

Starts With FUN" w/ Lynn Croft, Professional

Healthcare Advocate **FREE** Planning a funeral in advance is one of the most important and meaningful decisions you can make—but it's not always easy to talk about. Lynn facilitates the conversation and makes it approachable and uplifting, making this journey of preparation feel empowering rather than overwhelming. Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1

July 16th at 10:00 - Town Manager's Coffee Hour – FREE. All are welcome!

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

July 17th at 1:00 - NEW!!!! Watch Party at Ashland Senior Center. "Iceland Exploring the Land of Glaciers and Volcanos" w/ Bob Geete FREE

Hybrid Program in collaboration with the Ashland Public Library. Call to reserve your seat at 508-881-0140 x1.

July 17th 6:30-7:00 - NEW!!!! Women's Fiction Book Recommendations w/ Bestselling Author,

Kristan Higgins FREE Virtual Program in collaboration with the Ashland Public Library. Visit the Ashland Public Library website to register for the program.

July 18th at 10:00 - Crafting –Spiral Sun Catcher w/ Elissa FREE

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

July 21st at 12:00 - NEW!!!! - Lunch and Learn: Setting Yourself Up for Successful Aging" w/Sarah Bourque, The Aging Space.

The cost of lunch is \$6 per person.

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

Reservations due Thursday, JULY 17th at Noon.

July 21st 6:30-7:00 - NEW!!!! "The Wisdom of Morrie" w/ Author, Robert Schwartz FREE

Virtual Program in collaboration with the Ashland Public Library. Visit the Ashland Public Library website to register for the program.

July 22nd at 12:30 - NEW!!!! Ice Cream Social on the Veranda FREE

Call to reserve your seat 508-

881 0140 x1.

July 24th 10:00–11:30 - Clocktown Memory Cafe w/ music by Rick Ferreira FREE

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@ashland-mass.com or 508-532-7945.

July 25th at 10:00 - Pins & Needles Sewing Class w/ Tobi –Project TBD

Bring your own sewing machine. All levels of skill welcome.

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

July 28th at 12:00 - NEW!!!! BBQ Lunch sponsored by Representative Jack Patrick Lewis

FREE Limited Seats Available. Call to reserve your seat by Thursday,

July 24th at noon at 508-881-0140 x1

July 28th 7:00-8:00 - NEW!!!! "Dinner w/ King Tut" w/ Author, Sam Kean FREE

Virtual Program in collaboration with the Ashland Public Library. Visit the Ashland Public Library website to register for the program.

NOTE: We try our best to deliver correct information. Programs and events frequently alter after we produce our schedule. We appreciate your patience!

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 \$6 unless otherwise noted.

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

Blood Pressure Check FREE!!! – Wednesdays at 10:30 am

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

Chair Yoga - Wednesdays at 1 pm (No class on July 9th)

SENIOR CENTER
continued on page 11



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SENIOR CENTER

continued from page 11

Chess - FREE!!! Mondays at 1:30 pm

Craft Class FREE!!! - First Tuesday at 9 am and Third Friday of the Month at 10 am

Cribbage - FREE!!! - Thursdays at 12:30 pm

DROP-IN Knitting & Crocheting Group - FREE!!! First & Third Tuesday of the Month at 11 am

DROP-IN Advanced Watercolor Class - Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 9:30 am

Dull Men's Club w/ Doc - FREE!!! Tuesdays at 9:30. Coffee and Conversation.

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

Hearing Aid Cleaning - will resume in August 2025

Line Dancing with Lisa - Thursdays at 12 pm

Mahjong - FREE!!! Fridays at 10:30 am for all levels

Mindful Coloring - FREE!!! First and Third Thursdays of the Month at 1:30 pm

Mindfulness & Meditation - Thursdays at 11 am with Mary Green (No class on July 9th)

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

Pins and Needles Sewing Class - FREE!!! Second & Fourth Friday of the Month at 10 am

Ping Pong - Ping Pong will resume in September 2025.

Pitch Card Game - FREE!!! Mondays at 1:00 pm

Tai Chi - Tuesdays at 11:45 am with Jon Woodward (No class on July 1st)

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

Zumba Gold with Kellie - Tuesdays at 10 am

Weed Warriors Battle at Ashland Arboretum

By ROB ST.GERMAIN,
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

They came armed with loppers, saws and work gloves. Within 2 hours they had cleared two large truckloads of invasive plants. They are Weed Warriors, citizen volunteers who offer their time to learn about and help remove invasive species, and they just completed another work step toward the completion of the new Ashland Arboretum.

"I am always amazed at how even a small group of helpers can make such a big difference," exclaimed Becca Solomon, Ashland Conservation Agent. "It is very satisfying work".

Arboretum is defined as a botanical garden devoted to trees. The Ashland Arboretum will be that and more. The list of native plants includes: 4 types of Redbuds, Paper Birch, 6 types of Hydrangea, Chokeberry, Milkweeds, Indigo, Cone flowers, Lupine, Blazing Star, and many more. It will also be a park with benches and pergola - a place to relax and enjoy nature. It will be an island of nature's beauty near the more commercialized east side of Ashland and the Route 126 corridor.

Work at the Arboretum will continue throughout the summer with additional weed work in June, grading and delivery of planting soil in July and August. The planting of trees, shrubs and flowering plants is scheduled for the fall. And, with any luck and barring another major drought, a beautiful 2026 spring display will dazzle Ashland as new life blooms on the once badly polluted property.

The Arboretum Story

The evolution of the Ashland Arboretum is a heartening story of citizens working with local, state, and federal government toward a best possible outcome.

The former occupant of the Eliot Street site, the Cadillac Paint and Varnish Company, went out of business in 1987 leaving dilapidated buildings and a variety of pollution issues. Beginning in 1998, neighbors Phil Cunningham and Ed Hart invited folks to a backyard meeting to discuss support for a cleanup of the site. The park idea evolved over time as the preferred outcome following resolution of many of legal issues and site remediation by the Environmental Protection



Agency and Mass DEP. In 2017 the Town took possession of the property and, with help from Senate President Karen Spilka and State Rep. Jack Lewis, received a grant for site prep and engineering. The Arboretum concept was suggested by town planner, Alvaro Esparza.

"Citizen participation has been the key to success" offered Ed Hart, "and we had lots of help and guidance from town leaders and staff."

Wanted: More Weed Warriors

You too can be a Weed Warrior. The need is great.

"Invasive plants are a serious problem throughout the town" declared Becca Solomon.

Plants are termed invasive when they are observed to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health. These plants have the propensity to out-compete native species by a variety of means such as seed spreading, early foliation, and even 'chemical warfare' by their roots. So successful are these invaders that butterflies and other pollinating insects can no longer find adequate food sources for their survival. To combat this problem there is a strong push by environmentalists to plant pollinator gardens -- gardens featuring plants preferred by native insects.

One of the most damaging invasive is Bittersweet, a non-native ornamental vine known for its attractive red and orange berries in the fall. Once established, it is very difficult to eliminate, but left unchecked it will strangle and kill even large healthy trees. Other serious invasives in this area are Japanese Barberry, Knotweed, Burning Bush and Buckthorn. High on the undesirable list are Garlic Mustard and Wild Celan-



dine which crowd out native flowering plants.

Total removal of invasives is most likely beyond possibility but through citizen participation as Weed Warriors we can create invasive free areas in which preferred plants will thrive.

Weed Warriors are friends and neighbors, people who are willing to endure scratches, bruises, dirty hands and clothes to help control invasive plants around town. For example, Weed Warriors have been very helpful controlling Japanese Barberry in the Town

Forest with the removal of over 4000 plants. Barberry is a public health threat. It produces little red berries that feed wild mice who in turn are primary deer tick spreaders. Deer ticks can cause Lyme disease, Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, and Powassan virus - all serious human illnesses.

Through their efforts Weed warriors also help create and maintain places of beauty such as the Ashland Arboretum. Additional weed-pulls will be scheduled throughout the year at the Arboretum and other locations. Anyone interested in learning about or helping to remove invasive plants are invited to contact Becca Solomon, Ashland's Conservation agent at bsolomon@ashlandmass.com.

"Volunteering with Weed Warriors is a great way to meet others in the community while helping restore the land for both people and wildlife," said Becca with a smile. "Come join us!"

Ashland Town News

now has its own
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articles, events, giveaways
and contest announcements
for Ashland!

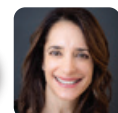


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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Your Best Summer Hair Ever

Easy Ways to Keep Your Hair Healthy All Summer Long

By GINA WOELFEL

Feel that sunshine? The longer days and poolside vibes mean summer is in full swing—and it's the perfect time to brighten your blonde with a beachy balayage or lighten up your look. But while you're soaking up the season, your hair might be soaking up something else: UV rays, chlorine, and mineral-heavy water.

The result? Dryness, dullness, and yes—even that dreaded green tint. Don't worry—we've got you covered with easy ways to keep your hair healthy, vibrant, and summer-ready.

Why Does Hair Turn Green in the Summer?

Most people think chlorine is the main culprit, but that's only part of the story. The real issue? Metals in the water—especially copper.

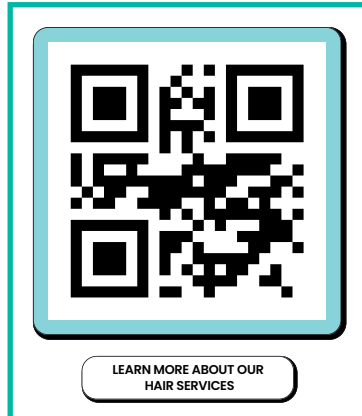
Copper is often found in pool water, particularly those filled with well water or treated with copper-based algicides. When chlorine oxidizes these metals, they bond to the proteins in your hair. The result? A greenish patina—just like an old penny.

And if you think saltwater pools are a safer bet, think again. Saltwater systems still produce chlorine—they just do it differently—so your hair is still exposed to the same oxidizing effects.

The good news? A few proactive steps can go a long way toward protecting your hair from turning green, getting dry, or fading in the sun. Read on for our expert tips.

Pre-Wet and Protect

Dry hair acts like a sponge, quickly soaking up chlorine, salt, and other chemicals. Before you swim, thoroughly saturate your hair with clean, filtered water,



then apply a protective hair oil. We recommend favorites like our own *b.LUXE BEFORE Oil*, *Goldwell's STYLESIGN Weightless Shine-Oil*, *KERASILK's Multi-Benefit Hair Oil*, or *Oribe's Gold Lust Nourishing Hair Oil*. This simple step helps block harsh chemicals and seals in moisture to keep your hair soft, shiny, and protected.

Don't Be Afraid of a Swim Cap

Not just for Olympic athletes anymore, swim caps are a smart (and often cute) option if you swim frequently. Choose one made from silicone or lycra for a more comfortable, hair-friendly fit. Bonus: they keep your blow-out intact longer!

Ditch Copper-Based Algicides

If you maintain your own pool, check the ingredients in your algicide. Copper-free options are now widely available. You can also test your water's metal content with simple strips from your local pool store and use metal removers or filters as needed.

Start with Healthy Hair

Dry, brittle hair is more prone to damage and discoloration. Invest in regular conditioning treatment like *KERASILK's Recovery Mask* to strengthen and seal the hair cuticle.



Rinse and Clarify

After swimming, wash your hair as soon as possible to rinse away chlorine, salt, and other impurities. If you swim regularly, we recommend using a clarifying shampoo every 1–2 weeks to deeply cleanse and maintain hair health. We love the *Kerasilk* shampoo line—all formulas include a chelating agent, which gently removes mineral build-up without stripping essential moisture, leaving your hair clean, soft, and balanced.

Struggling with Hard Water at Home?

Clean, healthy hair starts with clean water. Hard water can dull your color—especially blondes—and cause unwanted discoloration or fading. That's why b.LUXE now carries the *Kitsch Water Filter*, designed to reduce chlorine and other impurities while being gentle on your hair, skin, and nails. Best of all, it won't affect your shower pressure, so you can enjoy your washtime ritual without compromise.

Got Green? Here's How to Fix It

Have you noticed a greenish tint in your hair? Don't worry—it's totally fixable. Book a demin-

eralizing treatment at b.LUXE, like *Malibu C's Crystal Gel Demineralizer*, to remove the build-up of metals and impurities that cause discoloration. Your stylist may also recommend a gloss or glaze to rebalance your tone and bring back that healthy shine.

A Little Prep Goes a Long Way

Summer should be all about fun in the sun—not damage control. With just a few extra steps and the right products, you can enjoy the pool, the beach, and everything in between without sacrificing your hair color or health.

Are you setting your summer hair goals? Book a consultation or conditioning treatment with b.LUXE today—we'll help you stay shiny, strong, and green-free all season long.

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From Grief to Greatness, MassBay Grad Is Adding Up Her Success

After the tragic death of her 23-year-old brother, MassBay Community College accounting graduate Javine Nugent-Fitten moved from her home in Jamaica to reunite with her grandmother, eventually settling in Ashland.

“I was deeply impacted by the sudden loss of my brother, and I lost hope,” said Javine. “I know God does everything for a reason, and I knew I needed to be optimistic and do everything I could to make him proud.”

When Javine enrolled at MassBay, she thought her career path would be in nursing. But when she began her classes, MassBay opened doors for her and revealed new possibilities.

“I always had a passion for numbers, and I loved accounting. I changed course and never looked back. Not only does MassBay have a tremendous program, but it also offers flexibility, which allowed me to work and care of my grandmother.”

Javine earned a spot on the dean’s list and president’s list every semester and was honored at MassBay’s 63rd Commencement ceremony for her 4.0 GPA. She received the Col-

lege’s All-College Award for a perfect GPA, the All-Division Award for the highest GPA in her academic division, Business and Professional Studies, and the All-Program Award for the highest GPA in her academic program, accounting.

“I appreciated the flexible and supportive environment provided by the MassBay faculty and staff. They welcomed me with open arms. My professors Caryl Casson and Denise Barsky, as well as my advisors Aaron Riobe and Naomi Lansing, were always ready to help and responded quickly to my questions. I truly admire their dedication. They all gave me a sense of belonging, never judging me or anyone else. This is where I built my foundation after coming to the United States, and I’m proud to be a MassBay graduate,” she added.

Javine graduated with her associate degree in accounting and will transfer to Framingham State University, where she works as an administrative assistant. She plans to pursue her bachelor’s degree, majoring in accounting and finance. Javine’s future career goals include



MassBay Community College graduate Javine Nugent-Fitten is presented with the All-College Award for her perfect 4.0 GPA at the College’s 63rd Commencement ceremony on May 29, 2025. Pictured from left to right: MassBay Foundation Board member Stacy Okada, MassBay President David Podell, Javine Nugent-Fitten, and MassBay Dean of Business & Professional Studies Halye Sugarman, Wellesley Hills, MA, May 2025 (Photo/ MassBay Community College).

working in corporate finance to help make fiscally responsible decisions and grow companies’ worth and stature.

“In Jamaica, I attended college for two and a half years before my brother passed. My brother would always talk to his friends about me and what I had accomplished in school. I used that memory of him to motivate me to keep going, through the late nights of working and studying, the hard tests and papers, and everything in between. I know my brother is in heaven smiling down on me, extremely proud of what I have accomplished,” she said.

To learn more about MassBay, visit massbay.edu

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Ashland High School Welcomes Ms. Kelli Meyer as Assistant Principal/Dean of Students

Ashland Public Schools is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Kelli Meyer as the new Assistant Principal/Dean of Students at Ashland High School, effective for the 2025–2026 school year. Ms. Meyer brings over a decade of experience in special education, transition planning, and student support services, most recently serving as a Transition Specialist at the Phoenix Program at Framingham High School.

Ms. Meyer has dedicated her career to working with students with diverse learning needs, guiding them toward academic and post-secondary success. Her leadership in coordinating work-study programs, mentoring new teachers, and managing complex caseloads reflects a deep commitment to equity and individualized student growth. She holds a Master of Education from Roberts Wesleyan College. She completed her Principal and Supervisor Licensure through Curry College, demonstrating her continued investment in professional learning and leadership.

Before her current role, Ms. Meyer taught Biology and specialty science electives in a sub-separate setting at Framingham High School for over 10 years. Her comprehensive background in academic instruction and student services positions her well to support the educational, behavioral, and social-emotional success of all students at Ashland High School.

Principal Kelley St. Coeur shared, “We are excited to welcome Ms. Meyer to Ashland. Her experience, compassion, and collaborative mindset will serve our students and staff well. She is a strong addition to the leadership team at AHS.”

At the same time, the District extends its sincere gratitude to Ms. Meaghan Sullivan, who has served Ashland High School with distinction as Assistant Principal/Dean of Students. Ms. Sullivan’s work has helped shape a supportive and inclusive school culture. We thank her for her leadership skills and wish her continued success as she transitions to a new role in private industry.

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Kelli Meyer to the Ashland community!

Ashland Public Schools Announces Kate Altman as Principal of the David Mindess School

The Ashland Public Schools is proud to announce the appointment of Katherine (Kate) Altman as the new Principal of the David Mindess School, effective July 1, 2025.

Ms. Altman brings more than two decades of experience in education and instructional leadership, including the past two years serving as Assistant Principal at Mindess and the Henry Warren School from 2018-2023. Her thoughtful leadership was instrumental in successfully transitioning to the newly constructed Mindess building, where she fostered a positive, inclusive school culture, enhanced data-driven instruction, and strengthened academic supports, particularly in early literacy.

A recipient of the 2023-2024 Massachusetts School Administrators’ Association Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year and the National Assistant Principal of the Year representing Massachusetts, Ms. Altman is recognized for her dedication to student achievement, teacher collaboration, and family engagement. Her professional background spans classroom teaching, curriculum development, and leadership roles in both Ashland and Sudbury.

Superintendent Jim Adams shared, “Kate is a respected and collaborative leader who is deeply committed to academic excellence, equity, and the well-being of every student. We are excited for the future of the Mindess School under her leadership.”

The district also sincerely thanks outgoing Principal Jenna Larrenaga for her outstanding stewardship of Mindess over the past three years. Ms. Larrenaga’s leadership was marked by compassion, innovation, and a clear vision for student success. We wish her continued success in her new role as Principal of the Lura A. White Elementary School in the Ayer-Shirley Regional School District.

Ashland Public Schools remains committed to fostering a collaborative school community focused on academic excellence, equity, and student well-being



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Ashland Public Schools remains committed to fostering a collaborative school community focused on academic excellence, equity, and student well-being

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Summer Reading at the Ashland Public Library

Summer Reading at the Ashland Public Library has begun! We have exciting programs for all ages, from babies to teens. Kids entering kindergarten through 6th grade can participate in Reading Dragons, a brand-new program where you can earn and level up special dragon trading cards just by spending time reading. Babies, toddlers, and kids in pre-K can join the Rubber Ducky Club, where you can earn and collect special rubber duckies for completing fun early literacy activities. Lastly, teens (grades 7 through 12) can join the Level Up at Your Library Challenge, where you can earn prizes from our Summer Reading Vending Machine as you track your reading minutes online!

You can register for summer reading by visiting the library any time during our open hours, OR you can register online here: <https://tinyurl.com/apl-summer-reading-2025>

Teen Room Summer Reading

It's time for Teen Room Summer Reading! Read books to win prizes! Use our reading software app, Beanstack, to log hours read and for each hour you read, win a prize from free books to lego sets and more. Read at least ten hours to be entered into a grand prize raffle.



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Hopkinton Center for the Arts Expands Inclusive Programs, Invites Community Support for Adaptive Arts

The Hopkinton Center for the Arts (HCA) has deepened its commitment to disability inclusion through a series of initiatives aimed at making the arts more accessible to individuals of all abilities. With a renewed focus on neurodiversity and universal design, HCA is implementing intentional, inclusive programming that ensures everyone—regardless of cognitive, developmental, or physical differences—can experience the creative joy and personal growth the arts provide.

“Inclusion isn’t a side project for us—it’s a core value,” said Kelly Grill, Executive Director of HCA. “We believe every person deserves a space for creative expression, and we’re committed to removing the barriers that stand in their way.”

The initiatives were expanded in partnership with autism specialist Betsy Johnson, who recently provided neurodiversity training to several instructors and volunteers, equipping them with strategies to better engage and support students with autism, ADHD, and other developmental differences. The training emphasized empathy-based communication, sensory awareness, and adaptable classroom techniques—empowering HCA artist-instructors to meet students where they are.

HCA and Johnson have also collaborated to revise the Center’s Universal Design for Learning (UDL) protocols. These enhancements make a number of programs more flexible and inclusive by incorporating sensory-sensitive adaptations, multiple class formats and seating configurations and tools for differentiated instruction.

To determine if they can provide the necessary support, HCA has introduced a confidential, streamlined intake process to help families communicate their child’s support needs from the moment of registration. This effort reflects HCA’s commitment to cultivating a welcoming, stigma-free experience from the very first interaction.

These new steps build on a long-standing dedication to adaptive arts at HCA. The organization has enjoyed a long-standing partnership with the Michael Lisnow Respite Center and currently works with four local school systems to deliver weekly arts programming for adults with disabilities—ranging from sensory-friendly ceramics, visual arts, music and dance.

As HCA celebrates its 10th anniversary at its current location, the organization is investing in a future where inclusion isn’t the exception—it’s the expectation. Thanks in part to the vision of para-professional and Unified Theater founder Libby Lit, who recently joined HCA as the Adaptive Arts Director to build programming that will ensure equitable access to the arts.

The Hopkinton Center for the Arts invites sponsors and supporters to join in building a creative space where all belong. Your partnership directly fuels programs that build confidence, community, and opportunity for underserved populations in the arts.

To learn more about HCA’s inclusive initiatives or to explore sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.hopartscenter.org or reach out HCA Director of Adaptive Arts, Libby Lit, at libby@hopartscenter.org.

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The Reluctant Visitor to the Ashland Senior Center

By CANDICE WILSON

Diana had recently retired and spent her days gardening, visiting family, and reading books. When her daughter Heidi suggested she visit the Ashland Senior Center to take a tour and pick up their latest newsletter, Diana replied with a scoff, “I don’t want to play bingo with a bunch of old people.”

The next day, over lunch, Heidi gently insisted and drove her mom to the Senior Center. Diana hesitated at the entrance, arms crossed and clearly unimpressed, but Heidi finally coaxed her inside. They were immediately greeted with a cheerful welcome from Sheila at the front desk: “Hi, welcome to the Senior Center!”

Heidi, a bit nervous, responded quickly, “Hi, we’re here for a tour and to grab a newsletter.” While Diana remained reserved, her curiosity sparked when she noticed a lively group of people heading into a nearby room—many wearing sneakers and exercise clothes.

They were introduced to the Director, Candi Wilson, who began the tour. “This is our Great Room,” she explained. “We offer exercise classes here every day—Joni’s fitness class, Zumba, Tai Chi, Chair Yoga, and Line Dancing. Today is Zumba!”

Candi continued, “This space also hosts our weekly lunches and large social events. Many of these include live entertainment and a meal—like our annual Holiday Party, New Year’s Eve celebration, Summer BBQ, Jimmy Buffet Tribute, Veterans Day gathering, and even lunches sponsored by our very own Fire and Police Departments. Some events are during the day, and others are in the evening—it all depends on what’s happening.”

As the tour continued, Diana was introduced to the Friends of the Council on Aging’s Country Store. Candi explained that all items in the store are donated, and the proceeds go directly back into the Senior Center to support programs and activities. Heidi’s attention was quickly

drawn to a selection of jewelry and handbags as they passed the counter. Candi added, “This space serves many purposes—we host the Dull Men’s Group here, the Town Manager’s Coffee Hour, tea parties, social events, and even movie showings. This month, we’re watching Wicked.”

When they arrived at the Digital Lab and Library, a woman approached Candi to ask where to return a borrowed book. Candi pointed out the designated return basket. Diana perked up and asked, “Do you take donated books? Can I borrow from here?”

“Absolutely,” Candi replied. “This is a lending library—everything you see, including books, movies, and puzzles, has been donated, and you’re welcome to borrow anything. You can also use the computers and print from this printer. We offer monthly digital literacy classes, and this space is often used for meetings or simply relaxing with a good book.”

As they continued, Candi introduced Susan McNulty, the Outreach Coordinator. Just then, a group of men and women walked into the Game Room, chatting and ready to play cribbage. Susan shook Diana’s hand warmly and handed her a business card along with a list of resources she helps residents access, including farmers market coupons, fuel assistance, and a wide range of support services for seniors and their families.

Diana smiled and said, “Thank you. I may contact you about downsizing and moving into senior housing. Could you help me with that?”

“Absolutely,” Susan replied. “Just call me when you’re ready.”

As they reached the Game Room, Diana noticed a group setting up to play cribbage—an old favorite of hers. Her eyes lit up. “How often do they play?”

“Once a week,” Candi said. “And many of them play Pitch, too.”

“Oh, I love Pitch! I’d love to play again.”

Candi smiled, “We also have weekly Mahjong and Canasta games.”

Candi then led them to the Art Room, pointing out the variety of programs held there—craft classes twice a month, sewing sessions, painting workshops, and even gardening activities. Diana’s eyes lit up.

“Who runs the gardening class?” she asked with interest.

“Well,” Candi smiled, “I recently offered a seedling class myself, but with my limited time, I’d love to have someone with more experience lead future sessions. Would that interest you?”

With genuine delight, Diana replied, “Why yes—I would love that!”

“That’s fantastic!” Candi said. “Let’s introduce you to our Activities and Volunteer Coordinator, Mary. You can work with her to find a schedule that works for both you and the Center.”

Introductions were made, and Diana and Mary worked together to schedule gardening sessions for the following month. Mary also shared a list of other fun programs offered at the Senior Center—like ice cream socials and special events.

With a big smile, Diana thanked everyone for the tour and said, “I’ll see you next week!”

Heidi graciously turned to Candi and added, “There are so many wonderful activities here. I’m really looking forward to my mom getting out of the house and enjoying herself again.”

The following week, Diana found herself eagerly anticipating Thursday’s cribbage game. The matches were surprisingly exciting, and the lively conversations made the afternoon fly by. The next Monday, she decided to attend the community lunch and was delighted to discover that many of the other seniors had led fascinating, adventurous lives full of wisdom and stories.

By Friday, Diana was laughing with new friends over coffee when she had a realization—she had been so focused on what she thought she was giving up in retirement—her quiet routine—that she hadn’t considered what she might gain. She had found connection, laughter, purpose, and a renewed sense of creativity.

Weeks later, as she sat down for lunch with Heidi, she surprised her daughter with a bright smile.

“You know, Heidi,” she said, “I’m so glad you suggested we visit. I really enjoy my time at the Ashland Senior Center.”

The Ashland Senior Center offers far more than just social events. Monthly programs include legal consultations, hearing aid cleanings, blood pressure clinics, trivia with prizes, educational presentations, Parkinson’s boxing classes, cooking demonstrations, and Medicare counseling. Best of all, all of these programs are completely free to attend.



Thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Ashland Council on Aging, many of these programs are made possible at no cost to participants. Through grants and financial contributions from the Friends, the Senior Center can continue to offer enriching, engaging, and inclusive programming for the community. Without their support, these free services would not be possible.

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Sports

Pickleball Continues to Grow

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines the elements of both tennis and ping-pong and is played on a small court with a plastic ball. Two to four players use a smooth faced paddle to hit a perforated hollow ball over a 34-inch-high net until someone is unable to return the ball over the net or commits a rule infraction. Aspects of the game resemble that of tennis and table tennis played on a badminton sized court containing specific rules one must follow within those line. On each side of the net is a 7-foot area known as the non-volley zone or the kitchen. A player in this area can not strike the ball until it bounces. The sport actually began in the Pacific Northwest in Bainbridge Island, Washington at the summer home of Joel Pritchard. Along with his two friends, Barney McCallum and Bill Bell, the trio devised the game and established the rules in 1965 when they were looking for a way to keep the kids entertained during summer vacation. The sport seemed to gain a cult popularity and in the early 1970's a corporation was formed

to protect the creation of the sport. In 1976 the first formal pickleball tournament was held in Tokwila, Washington at the Southcenter Athletic Club. It took another eight years, but in 1984 the United States Amateur Pickleball Association (USAP) was formed and in 2022 competitive pickleball began being played in college. One year later Noah Suemnick formed the national Collegiate Pickleball Association. For four straight years between 2021 and 2024 the sport was named the fastest growing sport in the United States by Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA). In fact, going into 2023 it grew 223.5% over the last three years with an estimated 13.6 billion people playing. In 2011 Ashland fielded its first school-wide pickleball tournament to be played at the middle school. 2025 marks the 13th year of the event with a few missed finals due to the Covid-19 pandemic. "The Ashland Middle School Pickleball Tournament Championship has become an indispensable component of the Ashland school culture," Peter Zacchilli, Ashland varsity wrestling coach

and middle school wellness teacher, said. "Students act as referees, scorekeepers, announcers, photographers and media members. In addition, the Ashland Pickleball Pep Band, directed by Brian Koning, plays the National Anthem and fight songs throughout the match." Zacchilli went on to say that past champions will return to take part in the event both as spectators and luminaries. This year's tournament began back on March 19th with opening festivities having 230 two-player teams participating in the tournament looking to hoist the Freeman Cup. Each team plays within their Wellness class; there were 20 seventh and eighth grade Wellness classes taught by Zacchilli and Dee Mastromatteo. The students are first introduced to the sport, then they practice and perfect their skills, followed by learning the rules, and finally playing in their class tournaments. The 20 class champions are matched up throughout the Spring until it is narrowed down to the final 2. The name of the championship cup was named in tribute to the past pickleball success of the Freeman family. In 2013 Max



Freeman along with his teammate Marcus Illingworth became Ashland's third team to capture the Pickleball Tournament Championship. "They are widely considered the best team to ever set foot on the hallowed grounds of the Forster Pickleball Court," Zacchilli said. "Furthermore, Maz was recently drafted 10th overall the Major League Pickleball Draft and is currently competing as a professional pickleball player for the Chicago Slice." In 2014 Freeman's younger sister Paige became the first female to make an appearance in the finals match. She accomplished this feat as a seventh-grade student and was the first to do so at that age.

Last year's champions Cam Fell and Timmy Forster will be on hand to present the Freeman cup to the winning team. The winners names will be etched on the cup and will forever become part of Ashland pickleball folklore. Looking to be the next team to put their names onto the cup will be either the duo of Coleman Magnani and Asher Brown or Carter Groark and Tejas Iyer. With these two teams making the finals it marks the first time in the tournament history where both teams are made up of 7th graders. Groark and Iyer took home the win with an 11-4 victory over Brown and Magnani for the 2005 Championship.



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June 2025 at the Ashland Library

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In Person - Ashland Library Young Artists Comics Fest!

Sunday, July 13 @ 10:00 AM—5:00 PM

Please plan on joining us for our very first Young Artists Comics Fest! You all know what a comic book fest is but this one is special in that it will feature Young Artists - kids 8-18 who are making their own comics and, now, will have the opportunity to sell them.

We are thrilled to welcome headliners Jarrett J. Krosoczka (author of the Lunch Ladies series and graphic memoir, Hey Kiddo) and John Patrick Green (author of the popular InvestiGators series). Jarrett and John will both be leading workshops for the kids!

We're also so pleased to welcome workshop leaders Cara Bean (mindful doodling), Jannie Ho (Fry Guy), Mark Parisi (Marty Pants), and Debbie Dadey & Angeli Rafer (The Bailey School Kids).

We are excited to have CalmerCon at our event to support kids who might need a break from the festivities.

We'll certainly be well fed with Food Trucks Melt (best grilled cheeses in town!) and Snappy Dog Hot Dogs as well as Sub-Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream to fill

our bellies as the art fills our souls.

Adult:

Visit our Website Calendar for Additional Info & Registration links:

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

In Person - Mah Jongg

Wednesday, July 2 @ 6pm

Whether you have a rudimentary knowledge of Mah Jongg or have been playing for years, we would love to have you join us for an evening of strategy, luck and fun. This is an opportunity for the novice to hone their skills and experienced players to share their knowledge.

Virtual - "Heal the Beasts" with Author and Veterinarian Philipp Schott

Monday, July 7 @ 7pm

This history of veterinary medicine provides an abundance of bizarre, funny, surprising, and heartwarming anecdotes. *Heal the Beasts: A Jaunt Through the Curious History of the Veterinary Arts* chronicles human efforts to treat animal illnesses from 14,000 BCE to today.

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

Tuesday, July 8 @ 6:30—7:00 PM

Love Historical Fiction but not sure what to read next? Join bestselling author, Jane Healey (and Ashland fave!), monthly for 30 minutes of pure book recommendations - the best of historical fiction out there! We're sure you'll find something to like from Jane's many enthusiastic reviews.

Virtual - Thriller/Horror Book Recs with Bookstagrammer @redreadreviews

Wednesday, July 8 @ 7:30—8:00 PM

Not sure what to read next? Join Jody Blanchette (aka @redreadreviews), monthly, for 30 minutes of pure book recommendations - the best of horror and thrillers out there! We're sure you'll find something to like from Jody's many enthusiastic reviews.

Virtual - Environmental Book Club

Wednesday, July 9 @ 6:30pm

Read *Frostbite: How Refrigeration Changed Our Food, Our Planet, and Ourselves* by Nicola Twilley.

Virtual - In Conversation with Romance Author Rachel Reid

Wednesday, July 9 @ 7pm

Do you love sports romances? With a tagline of "I like to write cute smut about hockey players and other people", you really can't go wrong! We're excited to be chatting with romance author Rachel Reid who our ro-

mance book club has dubbed, "the queen of M/M hockey romance". So, even though it's hot outside, join us for this discussion with one of our favorite authors, writing one of our favorite romance sub-genres.

HYBRID - Romance Book Club

Thursday, July 10 @ 6:30pm

Read a Southeast Asian Romance

Virtual - Declutter series with Jamie Novak: How to File Pile Sort Shred which papers to keep

Thursday, July 10 @ 7:00—8:30 PM

Jamie Novak shares a quick list of which papers you can toss, which to shred and the ones you need to keep and for how long. Plus, the one paper she would NEVER toss. Then join the live guided tidy-up for a quick jumpstart!

In Person - Mystery Book Club

Friday, July 11 @ 12pm

Read an Agatha Christie Novel

Virtual - Friday Night Film Discussion

Friday, July 11 @ 7pm

Watch *The Lunchbox* (Kannopy)

In Person - Card Making with Jan Poppendieck

Monday, July 14 @ 6:30pm

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

Virtual - "Captain Kidd: A True Story of Treasure and Betrayal" with Author Samuel Marquis

Monday, July 14 @ 7pm

We are excited to chat with author Samuel Marquis about his most recent book, "Captain Kidd: A True Story of Treasure and Betrayal" which is both thrilling and tragic. Behind the legend is a real man woven into the tapestry of early America, rendering him a unique colonial hero and scapegoat whose life story was fascinating, exciting, bizarre, and heartrending.

In Person - Cook Book Club

Tuesday, July 15 @ 5pm

Cook from *The Joy of Pizza: Everything You Need to Know* by Dan Richer.

Virtual - "Thomas More: A Life" with Author and Historian Joanne Paul

Wednesday, July 16 @ 10am

This one is for our history buffs out there! Join author and historian Joanne Paul as she discusses her book, "Thomas More: A Life", the definitive biography of the man who dominated political and intellectual circles in England during the sixteenth century. This is a richly told story of faith and politics that illuminates a man who, more than four hundred years after his execution, remains one of the most brilliant minds of the Renaissance.

In Person - Bio/Memoir Book Club

Wednesday, July 16 @ 11am

Read *Call Me American* by Abdi Nor Iftin

In Person - Half-Past Crafts

Wednesday, July 16 @ 5:30—7:30 PM

This month we will be needle-felting adorable alpacas!

Virtual - Bill Gette: Iceland - Exploring the Land of Glaciers and Volcanoes

Thursday, July 17 @ 1:00—2:15 PM

Located on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge in the North Atlantic, Iceland is a land of active volcanos and extensive glaciers. During his two trips there, Bill photographed the island's magnificent scenery



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continued from page 18

Monday, July 21 @ 7pm

Virtual - "V is for Venom: Agatha Christie's Chemicals of Death" with

Join us for an all-day celebration of all things Minecraft in the Children's Room! We'll have games, crafts, a special scaven-

Wednesday, July 9 @ 6:00—
8:00 PM

continued on page 20

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LIBRARY

continued from page 19

Join us for a fun-filled evening as we celebrate Pokémon Week with a special screening of Detective Pikachu! Bring a cozy blanket (or two), sit back, and enjoy the show—we'll take care of the snacks! No Registration Required.

Pokémon Rock Painting

*For ages 4-10
Thursday, July 10 @ 3:00—4:00 PM

Come choose your first Pokémon companion! Paint your favorite Pokémon onto smooth stones using bright colors and cool designs. Then, fill out a special certificate celebrating your new partner and take them on your next adventure. No Registration Required.

Pokémon Party

*for families
Saturday, July 12 @ All Day
To cap off Pokémon Week, we're throwing a party to celebrate all things Pokémon! Drop into the Children's Room all day for themed activities, games, crafts, and more. Test your skills as a Pokémon master! No registration required.

Little Picassos Outside!

*for grades K-6
Tuesday, July 15 @ 4:30—5:30 PM
Tuesday, July 22 @ 4:30—5:30 PM

Calling all budding artists! Join Miss Kayla for this special summer edition of Little Picassos Club where we'll be taking our messy and creative fun outside into the sunshine! We'll work on different mixed media projects each week, ranging from outdoor painting to nature collages and so much more. Registration required.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover: Pajama Party!

Wednesday, July 23 @ 5:30—6:30 PM
Grab your favorite stuffed animal and join us for an evening of fun! Enjoy a bubble dance party, tasty snacks, and get creative decorating your own bookmarks. After the celebration, say good-night to your stuffed friend as they stay behind to conquer the night at the library.

Pick them up the next morning—and check out their overnight adventures on our social media pages! Registration Required.

Clay Dragon Eggs

*For ages 6-12
Tuesday, July 29 @ 3:00—4:00 PM

Come hatch your creativity! Join us for a magical crafting session where you'll create your very own dragon egg out of air dry clay. Shape it, decorate it with shimmering jewels, and then paint on any additional touches to bring its mythical powers to life. Registration Required.

Lego Club with Kim the Lego Lady

*Grades K-3
Wednesday, July 30 @ 4:30pm
Calling all LEGO masters! Join Kim the Lego Lady for an interactive building adventure! Afterward, your awesome creations will be displayed in the library until the next LEGO club! Registration is required and space is limited.

Movie Night: Dog Man

Wednesday, July 30 @ 6:00—8:00 PM

Join us for a fun-filled evening as we watch the new Dog Man! Bring a cozy blanket (or two), sit back, and enjoy the show—we'll take care of the snacks! No Registration Required.

Weekly Storytimes:

Tuesday Clocktown Rockers!

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

Join Miss Katrina for this new music and movement program! We'll dance to favorite kids' tunes, have fun with instruments and other props, and read a story, all while building your child's early literacy and executive function skills. *Note - canceled July 8th

Friday Clocktown Rockers!

*For ages 2-5 with a caregiver
Fridays at 10:30-11am

Join Miss Katrina for this new music and movement program! We'll dance to favorite kids' tunes, have fun with instruments and other props, and read a story, all while building your child's early literacy and executive function skills.

Storytime Sprouts

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

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.

Saturday Stories

*for ages 2-5 with a caregiver
Saturdays @ 10:30am-11am

Join Miss Kayla for a new Saturday morning storytime! We'll read lively stories, do fun rhymes and movement activities, and work on simple crafts. For families with children ages 2-5. No registration required.

Recurring Weekly Programs:

Sensory Bin Exploration
Bring your little ones to enjoy an open play sensory bin exploration! Every Monday morning will feature a new theme, offering hands-on fun for children ages 2-6. No registration required.

July 7 @ 10:30—11:15 AM
July 14 @ 10:30—11:15 AM
July 21 @ 10:30—11:15 AM
July 28 @ 10:30—11:15 AM

Messy Art Storytime

Join Miss Paige for storytime and messy, hands-on fun! Every Thursday,, children ages 2-6 will enjoy a new art project that lets their creativity shine. Dress for a mess and get ready to create! No registration required.

July 3 @ 10:30—11:15 AM
July 10 @ 10:30—11:15 AM
July 17 @ 10:30—11:15 AM
July 24 @ 10:30—11:15 AM
July 31 @ 10:30—11:15 AM

Teen:

Snack Club

Thursday, July 10 @ 5:00—6:00 PM

Join us for our first ever meeting of the teen Snack Club! Each month we will do a snack related activity or game- from rating to making. To kick it off, we are having an ice cream social. Make the best sundae while having fun and hanging out with friends. See you there!

VEX Robotics Camp - July Session

Monday, July 14 @ 6:00—7:00 PM
Tuesday, July 15 @ 6:00—7:00 PM
Wednesday, July 16 @ 6:00—7:00 PM
Thursday, July 17 @ 6:00—7:00 PM
Friday, July 18 @ 3:30—4:30 PM

Welcome to Robotics Summer Camp! Middle school students will spend a week learning robotics by building and programming VEX robots. Topics include programming robots to pick up objects, understanding gear ratios, and building robots from scratch. Students are expected to attend the full week of classes.

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

Saturday, July 5 @ 9:30 AM—1:00 PM

The sale includes thousands of titles, organized by genre and author, with a special section for children's books. To keep the shelves stocked with fresh selections, the Friends will be accepting donations in the library parking lot of gently used books, audio books and DVDs. Friends volunteers will be available to assist donors from 9:30am until 1pm on Saturday. 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! 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.

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Message from the Health Department

Skin Cancer-What to Look for

In the U.S., skin cancer is the most common type of cancer, with one in five Americans developing it during their lifetime. Incidence rates for all types of skin cancer have been on the rise, mostly due to population aging and increased sun exposure. While non-melanoma skin cancers (Basal and Squamous cell) are usually very treatable, melanoma is a more serious concern with increasing incidence rates, especially in older populations.

The risk of skin cancer increases with age, and men are more likely to develop skin cancer than women. People who have a first degree relative with skin cancer have a higher risk, and those with fair skin and a northern European heritage appear to be most susceptible. A personal history of blistering sunburns, and those with multiple moles are also at higher risk.

The good news is that most skin cancers can be caught early and if caught at an early stage, have a high likelihood of complete cure. A skin check should be performed monthly. Look for the ABCDE's of skin screening. Here is what to look for when screening for melanomas:

- Asymmetry-One part of a mole or birthmark doesn't match the other.
- Border-The edges are irregular, ragged, notched, or blurred.
- Color-The color is not the same all over and may include shades of brown or black, sometimes with patches of pink, red, white, or blue.
- Diameter-The spot is larger than ¼ inch across – about the size of a pencil eraser – although melanomas can sometimes be smaller than this.

- Evolving-The mole is changing in size, shape, or color over time.
- Basal and squamous cell cancers are more common than melanomas and are usually very treatable. Basal Cell cancers tend to have the following appearance:
- Flat, firm, pale or yellow areas, similar to a scar, or raised reddish patches that might be itchy
 - Small translucent, shiny, pearly bumps that are pink or red and which might have blue, brown, or black areas
 - Pink growths with raised edges and a lower area in their center, which might have abnormal blood vessels spreading out like the spokes of a wheel
 - Open sores (that may have oozing or crusted areas) and which don't heal, or heal and then come back

- For Squamous cell cancers:
- Rough or scaly red patches, which might crust or bleed
 - Raised growths or lumps, sometimes with a lower area in the center
 - Open sores (that may have oozing or crusted areas) and which don't heal, or heal and then come back
 - Wart-like growths

Monthly skin checks help you get familiar with your skin and help identify any concerning changes at an early stage. Always follow up with your healthcare provider if you have any concerns.

Please feel free to reach out to Ashland Board of Health at 508-532-7922 if you have any questions or concerns.

A Message from the Treasurer/Collector

Preliminary Fiscal Year 2026 real estate and personal property tax bills are scheduled to be mailed by July 1, 2025. Payment will be due by August 1, 2025



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Real Estate Corner

Ashland Recent Home Sales

Date	Ashland	Amount
06/13/2025	15 Ridgewood Street	\$1.21 mil
06/13/2025	212 Arrowhead Circle	\$620,000
06/13/2025	228 Algonquin Trail	\$670,000
06/12/2025	28 Holly Lane	\$824,145
06/12/2025	14 Fern Xing	\$900,000
06/12/2025	54 High Street	\$1.20 mil
06/11/2025	12 Strobus Lane	\$650,000
06/06/2025	195 Prospect Street	\$565,000
06/06/2025	33 Arrowhead Circle	\$556,000
06/05/2025	235 Algonquin Trail	\$610,000
06/05/2025	201 Winter Street	\$678,000
06/05/2025	64 Braeburn Lane	\$763,000
06/04/2025	171 Cherry Street	\$600,000
06/04/2025	137 Pond Street	\$494,900
06/03/2025	62 Pond Street	\$495,000
06/02/2025	62 Hilldale Road	\$677,000
05/30/2025	84 Fruit Street	\$425,455
05/30/2025	5 Newton Lane	\$1.12 mil
05/30/2025	18 Ridgewood Street	\$1.22 mil
05/30/2025	49 Stagecoach Drive	\$930,000
05/23/2025	333 Captain Eames Circle	\$660,000
05/22/2025	58 Cutler Drive	\$525,000
05/22/2025	24 Woodridge Lane	\$940,000
05/21/2025	139 Leland Farm Road	\$515,000
05/20/2025	99 Concord Street	\$630,000
05/19/2025	235 Meeting House Path	\$560,000
05/16/2025	38 Albert Ray Drive	\$810,000
05/16/2025	250 Captain Eames Circle	\$520,000



The 3-bed, 1-bath, 1,640-square-foot home at 62 Hilldale Road in Ashland recently sold for \$677,000.
www.zillow.com Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages

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Real Estate Corner

Pros, Cons of Pool Ownership: Take the Plunge



Kim Foemmel
Real Estate Broker

REAL ESTATE INSIGHTS

Some homebuyers see a swimming pool as a property enhancement — an aesthetically

pleasing feature that provides entertainment for friends, family and neighbors and endless fun and exercise for the kids. It's almost like being able to vacation every day at the comfort of your own home. Other homebuyers aren't so eager to get their feet wet.

To be sure, there are significant considerations: the cost and effort to maintain a pool, whether or not it will actually be used, and safety and liability issues. However, most common concerns are easily addressed.

The cost of maintaining a pool is relatively reasonable, particularly for newer pools or those in good condition. Local pool service companies can open and close a pool and maintain the chemical balance; but, after learning how to open and close it properly, many homeowners are able to maintain the pool them-

selves. Pools operate on a sand or cartridge filtration system, which circulates the water and have a skimmer to filter out leaves and dirt. An automatic pool robot vacuum can be programmed to continually clean the pool. A simple weekly water quality test will determine the chemicals, salt or acid needed to keep the water clear and safe for swimming.

Pool heaters can extend the seasonal use, and solar covers can naturally warm the water while also helping to keep out leaves and debris. Lockable, retractable safety covers will help restrict kids and pets from unsupervised entry.

There are two types of pools: lined and gunite. A lined pool is usually round or rectangular and has a plastic liner that can last 10-20 years and can easily be replaced. They sometimes come with a warranty. Gunite pools can be free-forming in shape; they are

made with concrete and often have tiles at the top. They typically need to be resurfaced approximately every 20 years, and the tiles will need to be replaced if they start falling off. Saltwater pools can be easier to maintain than chlorine or bromine.

It's financially advantageous to find a home with an existing pool rather than install it. Considerations of adding a pool include topography, which can become complicated and costly in an area with ledge or rocks that might require drilling or dynamite. There are also town and neighborhood restrictions and permits, fence requirements, zoning and wetland issues, the addition of surrounding patio or stone-scaping, and so forth. Because a pool doesn't typically add much value to a home due to not being able to use it the whole year, it's unlikely an owner would see a return on the invest-

ment of installing one. (Additionally, the pandemic spurred a demand for pools; many vendors have a waiting list of a year or longer.) Above-ground pools are cheaper to install but usually less visually attractive depending on the topography.

So, if the house you love has a pool you're not sure about, take a moment to reconsider. Grab a glass of lemonade, pull up a lounge chair and dip your toes in while you think about it!

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