

## Ashland Town Forest: Wonderful Finds, Long-Ago History

By CYNTHIA WHITTY

The Ashland Town Forest is experiencing one of its busiest years ever—a 10-fold increase, according to the Ashland Town Forest Committee—as people from Ashland and many other towns are walking the trails as a way of coping with the situation created by the pandemic. Some are coming from miles away, hiking the Bay Circuit Trail (BCT). Others are taking advantage of an outing close to home.

“One of the silver-linings of the COVID crisis is that whole families have more time to be together and take walks in the forest,” Brian McGrattan, associate-member of the Forest Committee, said.

Meanwhile the forest committee and additional volunteers have been working hard to improve access and trails.

With grant funding from



The new 140-foot boardwalk on the Bay Circuit Trail off Oregon Road. (Photo/Rob St.Germain)

outdoor equipment retailer REI, and working in collaboration with the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), the town forest portion of the BCT

now has a new 140-foot board-

**FOREST**

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## Sid Tilak Has a Heart for Frontline Workers

By CYNTHIA WHITTY

As the COVID-19 shutdown came to Metrowest in mid-March, Ashland High student Sidarth “Sid” Tilak watched his mom prepare a care package for her overworked friend who is a nurse.

Sid said he asked his mom, “Why don’t we do this for others, too?” She asked him, “Why don’t you do it?” “I thought that was a great idea,” Sid said, and proceeded to create Snackz for Health.

“We decided to start right away and help hospitals that Ashland-based healthcare workers were associated with,” Sid explained. “We were not allowed inside hospitals, but the healthcare workers in Ashland were really helpful. My dad would drive me and I would deliver the care baskets to their homes the night before their shift. The next morning, they would take them to their hospitals and deliver them to



Sid Tilak is putting his philanthropy leadership skills to work making care packages for COVID frontline workers. (Photo/supplied)

various departments. We focused on COVID units and emergency room and house-keeping staff, who had the very difficult job of sanitizing and keeping the place hygienic.”

**SID**

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**FOREST***continued from page 1*

walk through a wetland that was often a muddy mess.

Ashland's section of the BCT traverses the town forest from the main parking lot on Winter Street to the new parking lot off Oregon Road. The new boardwalk is just in from Oregon Road.

A second big project is on Oak Street. The west side of the forest runs along Oak Street, and until this year, had poor access through the side yard of one of the apartment houses. With grant funding from the Community



**A new bridge, walkway and rain garden in process.**  
(Photo/Rob St.Germain)

Preservation Committee, a partnership with the Sudbury Valley Trustees, help from the Ashland Department of Public Works, and the cooperation of Oak Street Apartment management, the forest committee has created a new entrance through a 50-foot wide parcel of town-owned land between the apartments.

Starting with a new 120-foot gravel walkway, the trail features two new bridges—a 24-foot span across the brook behind the apartment houses and a 28-foot span built a short way up the trail by the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA).

When work started at the site, the Forest Committee discovered a stormwater problem—a seasonal spring flowed across apartment house land and into Oak Street. Evan White, the town engineer, came up with solution: a rain garden. The stormwater committee, on which White also serves, had been looking for a good location to install a demonstration rain garden. Thus, one committee's need became another committee's good fortune.

"This is a win-win-win-win," Brian Forestal, town forest committee chair, said. "Residents get improved access through what will soon be a beautiful and very functional rain garden, over two new bridge on a pristine new trail. The stormwater committee gets a demo rain garden to help educate town citizens and further meet the requirements of the stormwater permit. The forest committee meets its commitment to have good access on the west side of the forest and the town



**The new Oak Street trail interior bridge.** (Photo/Brian Forestal)

solves a vexing water and winter safety problem in the process."

As though all the above was not enough, the forest committee is working with two Eagle Scout candidates to extend and improve two bridges on the Yellow Trail in the Cowassock portion of the forest. A third scout will build a new deer enclosure. These projects will be done this year.

"Collaboration is key," Rob St. Germain, forest projects manager, said. "The town does not have the money or personnel needed to maintain a forest like ours, but by working with others, the job gets done." The committee now has a long list of projects done in collaboration with the scouts and others.

"If you have time, give yourself an enjoyable gift," Forestal said. "Take a walk in the town forest and check out these wonderful enhancements!"

## Hiking the Bay Circuit Trail

Not long ago on a cold and blustery morning Helen and Tony Lewis of Ashland and a friend, Henrietta Trainum of Falmouth, set off on what turned out to be a 243-mile hike on a route called the Bay Circuit Trail (BCT) ([www.baycircuit.org](http://www.baycircuit.org)). They started on a beach at Plum Island, Mass. on the north shore and ended at a farm on the ocean in Kingston on the south shore. On the way, the hikers went through the Ashland Town Forest.

"It's a great gift to have a trail that goes all the way around Boston," Helen said. "A portion of the trail is on roads, but many of the wooded sections are magnificent with such wonderful finds as board walks and long-ago history that we had no idea existed, and one of the most beautiful parts is right here in Ashland."

Tony added, "I didn't realize how nice the Ashland Town Forest was, and to think, it's in the center of the trail."

The Lewis' completed the BCT in three installments, taking 18 days total, from April 2012 to June 2013.



**Helen and Tony Lewis (center) with fellow hiker Henrietta Trainum are pictured at the end of their journey in Kingston Bay with Tom Weaver, who picked up the group at the end of each day.**  
(Photo/supplied)

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# The Dangers of Do-It-Yourself Wills and Living Trusts

In light of the current pandemic, many Americans are becoming aware of the importance of creating or updating their estate planning documents. If you are considering writing your own will or using an online “do it yourself” (DIY) document creator, there are many reasons why this is one project you shouldn’t undertake without the help of a professional.

It is very easy to overlook important legal and technical planning points that can cause your estate to go to the wrong beneficiaries, or your beneficiaries to pay unnecessary higher taxes and/or expensive fees to attorneys or probate court. What may seem like a great deal could cost your family significantly in the long-run.

A notable case reflecting this is that of a successful Washington businessman who wrote his own Will assuming his assets would be free of estate tax. However, due to the language he used, the IRS interpreted the law differently and claimed all the assets he passed to his wife were subject to \$800,000 in estate tax plus \$130,000 in back interest. His family went to court and eventually won, but only after nearly ten years of costly litigation and years of turmoil. One of the biggest problems with do-it-yourself plans is the lack of personal advice. You need a customized plan based

on in-depth discussions about your family, their future and your legacy. In fact, many of the do-it-yourself resources have a strong disclaimer that says they are not a substitute for legal advice and to consult an attorney for help in understanding how the law may apply to your particular situation.

A comprehensive plan is based on knowing what questions to ask to understand your individual needs. Some examples:

- Owning real estate or a share in a small business
- Leaving money to your grandchildren separate of your children
- Having children from a previous marriage
- Wanting to arrange long-term care for a disabled beneficiary
- Having minor children
- Updates in laws that affect retirement investments
- Protecting beneficiaries from foolish financial decisions
- Potential taxes that will be paid or avoided
- Creditor or divorce protection for your children

We have had distraught clients come in after they used software. In one case, a grandfather used

software he purchased to name his grandchildren as heirs instead of his children. Skipping a generation allowed the IRS to tax his assets twice, and the grandchildren only received 20% of the estate. Even a simple estate plan can run into trouble if not executed properly. For example, Massachusetts requires two witnesses for a Will who must be present at the time the Will is signed. If one of those witnesses is also a beneficiary (like, for example, your spouse), that witness could be disqualified from receiving any assets from your Will or Trust. Some states allow handwritten wills, while others (including Massachusetts) do not recognize them.

Tax planning of your estate is especially complicated. Most people don’t know how much money they can pass, without paying taxes. While the 2020, federal estate tax exemption is \$11.58 million, in Massachusetts it is \$1 million. A married couple does not automatically get \$2 million tax free. Our office has seen too many DIY plans that do not plan for taxes, which can cost your family \$100,000 in unnecessary taxes to Massachusetts. These examples are just the tip of the iceberg of things an estate planning attorney will help you consider. Do-it-yourself kits are simply not designed to cover all possible financial and taxation

situations. Every person has their own unique goals and objectives, and an estate plan should reflect that.

An effective estate plan will provide financial stability to your spouse, children, or other beneficiaries, protect your assets for future generations, ensure your wishes are carried out, and pro-

tect the privacy of your loved ones. We are currently offering free personal estate planning consultations, call today to schedule yours (781) 237-2815.

*This article was provided by the Estate Planning & Asset Protection Law Center of Dennis Sullivan & Associates.*

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SID

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Support for the project came from family and friends, who Sid contacted via email and social media asking them to help. To cover costs of his project, he set up a fundraising page(<https://bit.ly/32iMq2v>) and raised about \$700 in cash donations from friends and family and \$300 from his parents.

“My 11-year-old sister, who is a good artist, helped out by doing an illustration for the card that I gave with each care basket,” Sid said. “Everyone was very supportive, and I am grateful for that.”

“I never knew there were so many healthcare workers in Ashland. We have delivered baskets to MGH, Newton Wellesley, Boston Children’s, Boston Medical Center, Metrowest Medical Center (both branches), UMass Worcester, some nursing homes and other frontline EMT and fire department workers. We also delivered to Ashland police and fire departments.”

Sid is a graduate of the Youth in Philanthropy Leadership Pro-



Sid prepared care packages for frontline workers during the COVID-19 shutdown. (Photo/supplied)

gram run by the Foundation for Metrowest where he said he “learned about philanthropy and what it takes. I thought this [project] would be a great way to put what I learned to use.”

Sid, who will be a junior at Ashland High School in the fall, enjoys science, history, and math and playing tennis. He is in the Model UN Club at school as well. “In my free time, I like listening to music, watching sports, and playing basketball and other sports—before COVID-19—and video games with my friends.”

“Though I really miss interacting with my friends and teachers,

I have had a good year of remote learning. I am also thankful that the administration and staff have made this happen, allowing us to finish out the school year.”

Sid has put his project on hold for the summer since the health care workers have told him that things are getting better.

“We are hoping it stays this way. If cases increase (fingers crossed that does not happen), we will plan to activate this [project] once again. I want to re-evaluate how we can resume helping in September based on what the situation looks like,” Sid said.



Hospital workers are grateful for Sid’s care packages during the shutdown. (Photo/supplied)

# Ashland Business Scene



The town welcomed Ashland’s newest restaurant, MaziKitchen and Bar, with a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 1. Mazi’s business owners reconfigured an old Blockbuster at 320 Pond St. (Rt. 126), into a chic restaurant. (Photo/supplied)



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## Sales tax holiday this month

The Baker-Polito Administration announced that the annual sales tax-free weekend will take place the weekend of Aug. 29-30. This marks the second sales tax holiday held under the new law signed by Gov. Baker in 2018 that made the weekend an annual occurrence.

"The annual sales tax holiday is an opportunity for us to support small businesses and consumers, and this year, it's a great way to support our economy that's been impacted by COVID-19," said Baker. "This pandemic has created enormous challenges for the Commonwealth's small businesses, and the sales tax-free weekend is one way that we can encourage more economic activity to help Main Street businesses and local economies."

"As the Commonwealth continues its phased reopening process, we recognize that many small businesses continue to face difficulties," said Lt. Governor

Karyn Polito. "We are proud that our Administration worked with the Legislature to enact legislation making the sales tax holiday permanent and look forward to this year's tax free weekend and the economic activity that will come with it."

We are proud to continue supporting local businesses and consumers as we work with our colleagues in the Legislature to navigate the evolving COVID-19 environment while adhering to public health guidelines," said Secretary for Administration and Finance Michael J. Heffernan. "The upcoming sales tax holiday will be an opportunity for people throughout Massachusetts to help support local companies and generate much needed economic activity."

In 2018, Gov. Baker signed legislation that makes the annual sales tax holiday permanent.



## Town Announces COVID-19 Rental/Mortgage Assistance Program

BY CYNTHIA WHITTY

In response to the loss of income to households due to COVID-19, the town is creating a Rental/Mortgage Assistance Program. The program is funded by the CARES Act and granted to the Town of Ashland and the Affordable Housing Trust, which will use their Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds.

Applicants are eligible for up to three months rental or mortgage assistance. Assistance can be used to pay current and future rent, or pay rent that is past due since March 1, 2020. The town started processing applications in early July.

"The program is temporary and does not have a set end date," Emma Snellings, Assistant Town Planner, explained. "The Town of Ashland and the Ashland Affordable Housing Trust will be evaluating the need for the program and program funding at regular intervals, and will set an end to the program based on those factors."

Available amounts are:

- \$1,200 / month for an efficiency/studio
- \$1,400 / month for a 1-bedroom
- \$1,600 / month for a 2-bedroom
- \$2,000 / month for a 3+-bedroom

If the assistance amount is greater than the rent amount, only the rent amount will be granted.

For a paper application or to set up an appointment to drop off your application at Town Hall, contact Emma Snellings, Assistant Town Planner at [esnellings@ashlandmass.com](mailto:esnellings@ashlandmass.com) or 508-532-7930. To submit an application by mail, mail the application and



supporting documents to Ashland Town Hall, Attn: Emma Snellings, 101 Main Street, Ashland, MA 01721. For general information, visit the program page on the town website, <https://bit.ly/38QPSTl>.

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# Around the Town: Ashland News



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, town meeting attendees were spaced apart in the high school gym this year. (Photo/supplied)

BY CYNTHIA WHITTY

## Ashland Awarded FEMA Grant for COVID-19 PPE

The Ashland Fire Department has been awarded federal fund-

ing through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The funds will be used to buy personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies needed to assist the department

in preparing for and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. This equipment includes N95 masks, isolation gowns, and medical gloves. Ashland was awarded \$11,893.00 and is among 20 departments in Massachusetts to have received this grant.

## Pond Street (Rt. 126) Revitalization Begins

Anticipated to have regional impact, the Pond Street (Rt. 126) Revitalization Project, over two decades in the making, is beginning this summer. In early July Eversource Gas started the preliminary work to replace the existing gas line on Pond Street.

For the first time since its construction, Pond Street will have sidewalks and bicycle lanes for pedestrian, bicyclist and motor vehicular safety. The \$17+ million-dollar construction costs are funded by the Massachusetts Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The revitalization of Pond Street is designed to have positive economic, developmental and regional impact.

"The design is complete and MassDOT advertised the project on June 27, which means MassDOT is accepting bids from contractors. Typical to any infrastructure project, there'll be a proposal review process, then MassDOT will award the project contract," Paula Parker, Pond Street working group member, said, "The ground breaking is estimated for late Q4 of 2020 or Q1 of 2021."

For more information, visit [www.ashlandmass.com/523/Rehabilitation-of-Pond-St](http://www.ashlandmass.com/523/Rehabilitation-of-Pond-St).

## Town Elections Results

Steve Mitchell won the only contested seat in June 24 town elections. Mitchell beat Preston Crow for a three-year seat on the Select Board.

Candidates running for uncontested seats were David Rosenblum for Board of Assessors; Laurie Tosti for School Committee; Carolyn Bell and Kab Rabinowitz for Library Trustee; Ron Etskovitz and Judi Teller for Board of Health; and Lakshmi Krishnan for Planning Board. For complete election results, visit [www.ashlandmass.com/DocumentCenter/Index/74](http://www.ashlandmass.com/DocumentCenter/Index/74).

## Town Meeting Recap

Ashland hosted its annual town meeting on Tuesday, July 30, in the Ashland High School gymnasium. Town facilities team changed the venue from the auditorium for the safety of residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting layout was designed to ensure everyone's safety. Facilities department arranged 180 chairs in singles and pairs, placed hand sanitizing stations around the lobby for individuals to clean their hands before entering, and required masks/ facial coverings at all times. The cafeteria also broadcasted the meeting live for any resident who did not want to attend in person.

The warrant articles were limited in number to focus on the budget for the town's operation. The following articles were passed unanimously by the 41 persons attending: Transfer from stabilization fund- Approved; Fiscal Year Budget 2021 – Approved; Transfer to OPEB Trust- Approved; Annual Consent – General- Approved; and Annual Consent- CPC- Approved. For a copy of the town meeting warrant, visit [www.ashlandmass.com/449/Town-Meeting](http://www.ashlandmass.com/449/Town-Meeting).

## Ashland/Hopkinton State Park Beach Status

For information on the status of the Ashland/Hopkinton State Park beaches, call the beach water hotline, 617-626-4972, or visit [www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-park](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-park).

## Save the Date: Town-wide Cleanup, Weekend of Oct. 3

Ashland's annual town-wide cleanup event that usually takes place on the first Saturday of May has been changed this year to the weekend of Oct. 3. For the safety of the participants and volunteers, registration will be made available via online or email and bag distribution will be done through scheduled delivery or pickups. Look for signup and details on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/GreenUpAshland](https://www.facebook.com/GreenUpAshland), and on the website, [www.greenupashland.org](http://www.greenupashland.org).

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## Experience Your Spending

With shifting limitations, 2020 has brought clarity to essential spending and a renewed value for experiences.

A creative exercise to determine a family's efficiency of spending is to allocate monthly expenditures into 4 categories - Needs (essentials), Seeds (savings), Wants (desires) and "What Were We Thinking?!"

Proper ratios will vary based on financial independence goals. Regardless, it is important to treat yourself and those you love along the way. As opportunities and their impact may not be present later.

To maximize joy and spending impact consider:

**Value of experiences versus things.** Studies find people misjudge what purchases will make

them happy, how happy they will feel and how long that happiness lasts.

Spending money on experiences creates more and longer lasting happiness than spending on material goods, which people are more prone to comparisons and buyer's remorse. Also, objects tend to deteriorate with time, while experiences can create lasting memories and become part of your identity.

Additionally, timing of experiences is critical. Consider the family vacation to Disney, it is a different shared experience for all going when kids are 6 & 8 rather than 16 & 18.

**Many small pleasures over a few big ones. Saving up for a big purchase is admirable.** But in terms of your happiness, is

this the best way to allocate finite resources? For many, happiness is more closely aligned to the frequency and variations as opposed to intensity.

Ask yourself if you'd be happier with a few big-ticket items, such as a luxury car, or rather indulge frequently in small purchases, such as cooking clubs, memberships, kid's activities and spa days?

**For big purchases ask, 'What am I not thinking about?'** A powerful question to socialize with friends, your spouse and trusted advisors.

For example, you want to buy a summer camp focusing on hosting, sunsets, fishing and kids playing in the lake. Overlooked is the 2½ hour drive, 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. This im-

pacts friends and family staying over, or creates a 5-hour drive for a day trip. Plus, the camp is 70 years old, thus repairs will take your time away from family, leading to an exasperated spouse once the kids say, "I'm bored."

For likely less money and similar ROI over a 15-year period (factoring taxes, interest, repairs, boats) you could build an outdoor space at your house and rent a camp for a week with a different family at a different location every year. You'd accomplish greater access, frequency, variances and joy of hosting friends, neighborhood kids and family.

Use money as a tool as over time you're viewed from the sum of their experiences, not your possessions.

*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**

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of PlanDynamic, LLC, [www.PlanDynamic.com](http://www.PlanDynamic.com). Glenn is a Certified Financial Planner™, Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor and fee-only fiduciary helping clients take control of planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.

## These Home Improvement Projects Are Better Left to the Professionals

BY JOHN SZOLOMAYER, RE/MAX EXECUTIVE REALTY

It's pretty easy to turn on the television and find a home improvement show filled with tips and tricks. They can make home improvement projects look so simple that it feels like anyone can do them. However, some projects - whether because of time or resources - are often better left to the professionals.

If you're ready to fill your weekend with DIY projects, make sure you read this article first. Here are some of the home improvement projects that are better left to the professionals.

### #1: Electrical

On top of the list are projects involving electrical repairs or installation. Unless you are a licensed electrician, even the smallest electrical job can turn dangerous. If you are tearing down a wall, adding a room, moving a fuse box, or anything that involves electricity, call an electrician. It's better to be safe than sorry!

### #2: High-End Flooring

If you have spent the money to purchase top of the line flooring, this is one that is probably better left to the professionals. If you get it wrong, the money goes right down the drain. When you spend thousands of dollars for the

best materials to install high end flooring, use a professional floor installer. This applies to any high-end improvements when using expensive materials.

### #3: Plumbing

Just like with electrical, unless you are a licensed plumber

making plumbing repairs can be a big DIY no-no. It may not be as dangerous as making electrical improvements, but it can be extremely costly. Repairing a simple leak can cause pipe bursts, sewage backups, and flooding, just to name a few. Avoid the headache, and call a plumber.

### #4: Roof Repairs

Replacing a loose shingle here and there is one thing, but to replace an entire roof, you should call in a professional roofer. Not only is it dangerous work, if the roof is not laid correctly, you may end up with ceiling leaks or even cave ins. This is not a DIY project.

### #5: Architectural Landscaping

Green thumbs like to go the extra mile and try installing pavers and pathways in their garden. If you're a home-improvement rookie, this can be a big mistake.

### PROJECTS

*continued on page 8*

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# Living Healthy

## Does Sun Cure Acne?

BY LISA MASSIMIANO,  
LICENSED ESTHETICIAN,  
CERTIFIED ACNE SPECIALIST  
OWNER SKIN SMART SALON

Many acne sufferers believe baking in the sun cures their acne. Although sun exposure can dry out oily skin, it also damages the follicles, exacerbates hyper-pigmentation (dark spots), and causes skin cancer and premature aging of the skin. In fact, heat and humidity often make acne worse. Here are some tips on how to protect acne prone skin from the sun.

### Use the right sunscreen.

I always recommend to my acne clients to use a mineral sunscreen. Mineral sunscreen does not contain any irritating chemicals. It is made up of zinc and or titanium oxide and protects the skin by physically blocking both the UVB and UVA rays. Zinc and titanium do not clog pores and are soothing on the skin, perfect for acne and rosacea prone skin.

### A little does not go a long way.

Don't skimp when applying your sunscreen. Most people don't apply enough to get the protection indicated on the label. Apply two coats to make sure you cover what you missed with the first application. And, don't forget to reapply if you sweat a lot during the day or go swimming.

### Think outside the beach.

Everyday exposure contributes more to sun damage than the occasional burn you get at the beach. Use an SPF daily. Make applying sunscreen part of your morning skin care routine like shaving or applying makeup. Once it becomes a habit you will never forget.

There is no quick fix for acne. The best way to clear your skin and keep your acne under control is with the correct home care, modified life style choices and the guidance of an experienced acne specialist.

*Questions about acne? Call me at (508) 881-1180 or email me at [skinsmartsalon@aol.com](mailto:skinsmartsalon@aol.com). Visit my website [skinsmartsalon.com](http://skinsmartsalon.com) for information on my acne program and other services.*

## Mosquito Control Services Available to Ashland Residents

By Cynthia Whitty

The Town of Ashland is a member community of the Central Mass. Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP), a state agency providing services to 44 cities and towns in Middlesex and Worcester counties, offering a full-service, year-round program of mosquito control services.

A property owner may request CMMCP spray their property (properties that do not request service will not be sprayed). By 3:30 p.m. on the day of spraying a tentative schedule of streets where houses are sprayed is posted on the CMMCP website, [www.cmmcp.org/home/pages/2020-spray-schedules](http://www.cmmcp.org/home/pages/2020-spray-schedules), and recorded on the CMMCP phone system at 508-393-3055, Press 0.

If mosquito-borne viruses are identified in the town, local and state officials are consulted, and if officials determine that spraying is appropriate, town-wide spraying is done. However, residents may exclude their property from



Central Mass.  
Mosquito Control  
Project

any part of the program at any time by submitting a Request for Exclusion, [www.cmmcp.org/pesticide-information/pages/pesticide-exclusion](http://www.cmmcp.org/pesticide-information/pages/pesticide-exclusion).

At the time of this writing in mid-July, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced both the eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus and the West Nile virus have been detected in a mosquito in Massachusetts for the first time this year. Health officials said no human or animal cases of EEE or of West Nile virus have been detected so far.

For more information, visit [www.cmmcp.org](http://www.cmmcp.org) or the Ashland Board of Health mosquito information page [www.ashlandmass.com/241/mosquitoes](http://www.ashlandmass.com/241/mosquitoes), or call the Board of Health Office at 508-881-0100 x 7922/7128.

CMMCP has made great strides over the years to reduce dependency on spraying with eight key services. These services, mostly proactive and occur before mosquitoes have hatched from their larval habitat, include: Mosquito Surveillance; Public Education; Ditch Maintenance; Larval Mosquito Control Source Reduction; Beaver Control and Mitigation; Adult Mosquito Control (Spraying); and Research and Efficacy.

The CMMCP website, [www.cmmcp.org](http://www.cmmcp.org), contains valuable information on viruses, pesticides, and prevention tips.

### PROJECTS

*continued from page 7*

Just like laying concrete or flooring, architectural landscaping is

more than just laying stone and concrete. Design, water flow and drainage, and curb appeal all play into making your landscaping look its best. Call a landscape designer instead.

### DIY? Think Again!

According to US News & World Report, nearly 30% of homeowners plan to make some home improvements this year. Of those, almost three-quarters are planning DIY projects. If any of the projects on your DIY list include those mentioned above, you might want to explore the services of a professional first. Your home, your pocketbook and your weekend will thank you. And as always with any building project, you should contact your local town building inspector to find out if a permit is required.

*Information provided by John Szolomayer, RE/MAX Executive Realty. Each office is independently owned and operated. For more information, John can be reached at (508) 259-4788 or [JohnSzolomayer.com](http://JohnSzolomayer.com).*

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# Lottery Underway for New Mixed Income Community

By CYNTHIA WHITTY

Looking for luxurious living without the maintenance? The Ledges can bring you that and more at its Ashland location. Age in place gracefully at this beautiful new complex.

The Ledges, a new mixed-income community in Ashland of 64 apartment homes designed for those age 62 and over, is now accepting lottery applications. The Ledges project, which began in 2010 in response to a Town of Ashland-issued Request for Proposals, is a joint-venture of EA Fish Development LLC and The Planning Office for Urban Affairs, two local developers with a history of collaboration on the creation of community-responsive, high-quality affordable senior rental housing.

Lined with trees in a residential area, the Ledges offers convenience and beauty to those over 62. The Ledges, is now accepting lottery applications. Just 20 minutes west of Boston, the Ledges sits on an 8-acre parcel of land. It is close to major highways such as 495, 128, and route 9, so getting around is not a chore. And when you return home, there is plenty of free parking on site.

A housing lottery for The Ledges at One Robert Hill Way,



a new mixed income housing community of 64 one-bedroom apartment homes designed for those 62 and older, is ongoing through mid-August.

The Ledges is described as open and airy living spaces with abundant natural light, a fitness center, resident community space, a laundry care center on every floor, an elevator, on-site parking, a smoke-free and pet-friendly community, and professional, on-site management with 24-hour emergency maintenance.

Each spacious apartment boasts sleek custom kitchens with access to a lounge retreat that offers shuffleboard, a fireplace, and a crafting area. Each apartment comes wired for Internet, cable and phone.

The Ledges has on-site resident services and activities that will keep everyone busy as much as I'd like to be, and if getting out of your space is what you desire, the Ledges also has you covered.

The complex is near parks and walking trails. No matter

## Business spotlight

your love, you'll find it near the Ledges. There are apartments homes that have handicapped accessible features, so everyone has the chance to enjoy life at this new complex.

The town has received "local preference standing" within this development, which will reserve 34 units at the 50 and 60 percent AMI level (Area Median Income) for current Ashland residents and municipal employees. The remaining 30 units will be filled with applicants from the general public. Rents will be \$1200 for the 50% AMI units and \$1440 for the 60% AMI units. A small utility allowance will be deducted from the rent.

There are also 15 rental assisted units with income at 30% AMI. Rent is based on 30% of the household adjusted income.

Lottery applications are available through Aug. 13, and ongoing. The lottery process is scheduled to take place in early September. They will continue to take applications after this date and will add them to the post lottery waitlist.



Applicants are encouraged to apply online at <http://ledgesashland.com/>, by phone, 781- 664-4029 or email, [ledges@peabodyproperties.com](mailto:ledges@peabodyproperties.com).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, informational sessions are available virtually. These sessions (link is available online at [ledgesashland.com](http://ledgesashland.com)) discuss information about the project, application process and lottery. It will also be available on the local Ashland cable channel.

Paper applications may be picked up at the Ashland Senior Center, 162 W Union St. (Rt. 135). To request a paper application, contact Peabody Properties.

Completed paper applications may be mailed to Peabody Properties c/o The Ledges Lottery, 536 Granite Street, Braintree, MA 02184 or emailed, [ledges@peabodyproperties.com](mailto:ledges@peabodyproperties.com). The last day for paper application distribution is Aug. 13, with a post-mark date for of Aug. 15.

For questions or more information,

Peabody Properties, (781) 664-4029, [ledges@peabodyproperties.com](mailto:ledges@peabodyproperties.com). Additional information is also available on the website, <http://ledgesashland.com/>

## MSBA Board Votes David Mindess Elementary School into Schematic Design



State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg, Chair of the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), and MSBA Executive Director/Deputy CEO John K. McCarthy, announced that the MSBA Board of Directors voted to move the David Mindess Elementary School, located in the Town of Ashland, into the Schematic Design phase. In the Schematic Design phase, the MSBA and the District will look at possible options to replace the existing David Mindess Elementary School.

The next step is for the MSBA to work in collaboration with the District to produce detailed designs for a potential project.

"Thanks to our collaborative

work with local officials, we are working to build a 21st century educational facility that will provide Ashland students with a top-notch learning environment," said Treasurer Goldberg.

The proposed project would cost \$67,355,042 in construction and (\$84,100,000 total costs) replace the existing David Mindess Elementary School with a new facility serving grades 3-5 on the existing site. The District identified in its Statement of Interest, numerous deficiencies including mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. In addition to the physical plant issues, the District reported that the existing facility does not support the delivery of its educational program

as well as existing and projected overcrowding.

"The new David Mindess Elementary School will mean a better learning and teaching location for students and teachers," stated Executive Director/Deputy CEO McCarthy.

The MSBA partners with Massachusetts communities to support the design and construction of educationally appropriate, flexible, sustainable and cost-effective public school facilities. Since its 2004 inception, the Authority has made over 1,750 site visits to more than 250 school districts as part of its due diligence process and has made over \$14.4 billion in reimbursements for school construction projects.

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# Looking to Make a Difference? Ashland Neighbor Brigade is Seeking Leaders

By CYNTHIA WHITTY

The Ashland Neighbor Brigade has become a vital community service, recently partnering with the Ashland Food Pantry to pick up and deliver food pantry items for residents who are home-bound and this summer with the Ashland Farmers Market (AFM) to deliver fresh food to those in need. (See article "Neighbor Brigade Will Deliver Farmers Market Food to You," Ashland Local Town Pages, July 2020.)

As Ashland Chapter Leader Monisha Awasthi steps down, Neighbor Brigade is now looking for one or two volunteers to take her place.

"You do not need to be a current volunteer, and in fact, both Monisha and co-leader Lizzie Paul from Hopkinton, were brand new volunteers and did a phenomenal job," Polly Mendoza, Neighbor Brigade Executive Director, said.



**Ashland Neighbor Brigade Chapter Leader since 2017, Monisha Awasthi is stepping down. (Photo/supplied)**

The Ashland Neighbor Brigade was started in the fall of 2012 by Suzanne Chaplowski. A few years later Fran Firth joined her as co-leader. One of the first clients they supported was an Ashland school committee member whose house burned down.

The volunteers supported them with meals and helped them get their salvaged photos into new photo albums.

"Prior to COVID, we typically helped people who were going through temporary crises, such as cancer, accidents, surgery, recent death in the family, fire, or a complicated pregnancy. We provided them with services, such as home-cooked meals, rides to medical appointments, light housework, dog walking, grocery shopping, pharmacy pickups, or other basic support," Mendoza said.

"Chapter Leaders are the heart of Neighbor Brigade. The position is extremely rewarding as you get to see firsthand the positive effects that caring neighbors can have on someone experiencing a crisis. Chapter Leaders manage all of the volunteers in their chapter and are often the first point of contact for a client that is in need of receiving our services. A Chapter Leader is someone who can dedicate 2-5 hours a week on average to lead their Chapter."

While learning the job, a Chapter Leader will want to spend more than five hours a week to learn "the ropes," including learning the volunteer management software (with support from Neighbor Brigade's IT director), managing the email account, and establishing community partnerships.

"Ideally each chapter has two chapter leaders who work together; often one person is more comfortable with the software, and the other is more comfortable with outreach for example," Mendoza explained.

There are 27 chapters in Mass. and two active chapters outside of Mass., one in Rhode Island and one in New Jersey.

To be an Ashland Chapter Leader or to volunteer in any capacity, fill out the volunteer enrollment application at <https://bit.ly/327AG2P>.

If you are a resident and need services, make a request from the website or call toll free, 855-241-HELP (4357).

# World Traveler Brings Family's Secret Sauce to Ashland Farmers Market

By CYNTHIA WHITTY

How do new products come to farmers' markets? Some come from lots of experimenting in the kitchen. Others come from a family's unique, handed-down recipe, like SA's Homestyle Sweet & Spicy Sauce made by Jim Glick's Malaysian wife Sa. Sa's sauce is based on her mother's recipe for a sweet and spicy 'hot' sauce, and everyone agrees, there's nothing else quite like it!

"Throughout Sa's time in the U.S. [since 1988], she has kept her Malaysia identity," Jim explained. "She is well respected far and wide by the many Malaysians and others who found themselves in Boston attending colleges and universities. She is legendary for putting on traditional Malaysian feasts on a regular basis. One of her staples is spring rolls. They are out of this world and served with our unique sweet and spicy 'hot' sauce, a recipe that originated in Sa's mother's kitchen in her home state of Kelantan, Malaysia."

The story of how Jim and Sa met is full of adventure and luck. Jim grew up in Newtonville, Mass. After college, he set out for Europe for what was supposed to be a three-month adventure but turned into a 10-year experience, where he traveled and worked his way through most of Europe's countries, then on to India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand, and Malaysia.

From picking grapes in France, to pebble dashing in Holland, to teaching English as a second language in Bangkok, Jim soaked up the languages and cultures he lived in. In Thailand he created an ESL tool, including a dictionary of 1,400 English idioms, published three text books and recordings, and sold the successful English language program in Malaysia. That's where he met Sa, a designer of children's clothes. After marrying in Malaysia, they started a clothing company together and sold her designs to French and Japanese department stores. After their first son was born, they moved to the U.S.



**Jim and his wife Sairah "Sa" Glick sell their unique sweet and spicy sauce at the Ashland Farmers Market. (Photo/supplied)**

Jim's world travels have given him a new outlook. "There is kindness everywhere," he said. "When in India, it was plainly apparent that many people were very content and happy although they had few possessions or modern amenities. They were happy to have food to eat and a roof over their head. I now appreciate whatever I have. I also felt what it was like to be a minority while living in Malaysia for so many years. I know that experience is very different than what people here face, but it gave me some perspective."

These days a favorite dish in the Glick household is salmon with SA's Homestyle Sweet & Spicy Sauce used as a glaze. "This product is unique. There is nothing quite like it on the market. We make our sauce with love and are genuinely happy when we can bring some culinary pleasure into people's lives," Jim said.

You can find SA's Homestyle Sweet & Spicy Sauce on alternating Saturdays through October at the Ashland Farmers Market, 125 Front St., on the grass across from the library. To confirm dates, visit [www.AshlandFarmersMarket.org](http://www.AshlandFarmersMarket.org). To preorder and prepay for your sauce, go to [sashomestyle@gmail.com](mailto:sashomestyle@gmail.com).

This season's Ashland Farmers Market, because of COVID-19, is not for lingering and socializing but for accessing essential, healthy local food. Customers are encouraged to preorder and prepay directly with vendors. To sign up for a weekly email and for more information, visit [www.AshlandFarmersMarket.org](http://www.AshlandFarmersMarket.org).

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# WACA-TV Awards Scholarships

By CYNTHIA WHITTY

WACA TV announced that it awarded five-\$1,000 scholarships to the following graduating students residing in Ashland and pursuing higher education: Jack Emberley, Elizabeth Jack, Unique Linnell, Anna Mason and Halle Silver



Unique Linnell



Anna Mason



Halle Silver



Jack Emberley



Elizabeth Jack

## Audubon Trails Open

Great news! After careful analysis and discussions with local officials, we have determined that we can safely open trails on many of our wildlife sanctuaries for local visitation.

These sanctuaries were selected based on a variety of conditions including being able to manage capacity for expected level of use—both on the trails and in the parking areas—as well as support from the communities

where they are located.

We need your help to make sure they can stay open! Please follow these guidelines to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

- Remember that all buildings and facilities are closed (including restrooms and water fountains), dogs and bikes are not permitted, and please carry out anything you bring in.

### Before You Visit

- Stay local—look for an open sanctuary in your community or neighborhood.
- Print or download a trail map at home—there will be no paper maps on site.
- Pack a mask/face covering and hand sanitizer.

### Upon Arriving

- If the parking lot is full, please come back another time.
- Park only in designated areas; do not park on the road, in fields not designated for parking, or on our neighbors' properties.
- Wear or bring your mask with you; wear it if you see other visitors nearby.
- Do not gather in groups of people outside of your household.
- Keep at least 6 feet apart from staff and other visitors.
- Avoid high-touch surfaces such as benches, picnic tables, and Nature Play Areas.

### On the Trails

- Wear a mask if there are other visitors nearby.
- Be sure to stay at least 6 feet apart from others.
- Step aside to allow others to pass.
- Keep visits short.

Thank you for caring for our wildlife sanctuaries as much as we do. Please stay safe and healthy!

# Welcome!

Mass Audubon

TO KEEP OUR TRAILS OPEN AND FOR YOUR SAFETY AND SAFETY OF OTHERS PLEASE:

<p>Wear a mask or face covering</p>	<p>Do not use nature play areas, benches, or other high-touch surfaces</p>
<p>Stay at least 6 feet from other visitors &amp; step aside to allow others to pass</p>	<p>Choose the least crowded trail</p>
<p>REMEMBER:</p>	
<p>Take a photo of the map (or download it from <a href="http://massaudubon.org/trails">massaudubon.org/trails</a>)</p>	<p>Bathrooms and other facilities are closed</p>
<p>Anything you carry in, carry out</p>	<p>No dogs &amp; no bikes</p>

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# Sports

## Class of 2020 Student-Athlete Awards

Typically on graduation day I am honored and privileged to present a female and male student-athlete award to those who have distinguished themselves both in their respective sports and with their academic performance. While the ending of this school year is not typical by any means, neither are the two very deserving student athletes who represent the best of Clocker Nation both on and off the fields, epitomizing #BlueTidePride.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the entire class of 2020 for all of your contributions to the Ashland athletic department, school district, and community as a whole. You have set the bar high, and have inspired future generations of Clockers to not just dream of bright lights, banners, and lifelong memories... but to truly embrace the journey, putting in the work necessary to be successful and rock the royal blue and white with heads held high. You're an inspiration to all of us and you certainly are "all in." Thank you and remember; once a Clocker, always a Clocker. Congratulations to all of you!

This year's female student athlete of the year award goes to a three-sport star who was a four-year member of the varsity field hockey, ice hockey and lacrosse teams. This impressive

student-athlete was a 4-time Tri-Valley League All-Star, a 3-time MWDN all-star and a two time captain. While that is impressive in and of itself, it was the way she impacted her teammates and set a positive tone through leadership that stood out the most. A fierce competitor, she was known for her hard work, spirit, and selfless attitude. Needless to say, she was impressive all around.

Her coaches note the following about her:

"She is a phenomenal athlete, but more importantly, leads her team with a kind heart, positive attitude and strong work ethic. She always looks to help her teammates on and off the field, wins and loses gracefully and I can always count on her to jump in during timeouts or halftime to keep morale high in tough games. She truly embodies what it means to be a role model and is an asset to any team she plays with. It has been an absolute pleasure to coach her."

"She is a fierce competitor, exemplary leader, and most of all a great teammate, respected and loved by every player. She was a big reason the program turned around and cannot be replaced. Ashland HS is losing one of the best true athletes and one of the nicest students I have had the honor of coaching in over 20 years as a HS coach."



As you can tell, her contributions to the program will be long lasting...and her family will still be active within Ashland Athletics as she has two sisters currently competing on high school teams and a younger brother coming up the ranks.

It is my honor to present the 2020 female student athlete of the year award to Brynn Moriarty.

This year's male student-athlete of the year award goes to a three sport star who is graduating Ashland High School as one of the most decorated athletes of all time. His success was evident as a four year member of the football, basketball, and baseball teams, however his leadership is what stood out the most. The impact he leaves on the entire athletic program will without a doubt be felt for years to come.

On the field he was a four-time TVL All-Star, TVL player of the year, MWDN All-Star,

Boston Herald and Boston Globe All-Scholastic, 5-time Captain, and shattered every Ashland record as the quarterback of the D6 State Champion football team. When asked about his many successes, he is quick to give credit to his teammates and coaches and never let the media attention he was getting get in the way of doing things the way he always does; with grit, determination, and honor.

His coaches note the following about him:

"Words to describe him - competitor, tenacious, tough, leader. His legacy will be long lived, and will go down as one of Ashland's best overall athletes."

"It has been an absolute privilege to coach him for the past 4 years. Ashland high school has not seen a selfless leader come through these hallways like him in the past decade. His work ethic speaks volumes, but his empathy and integrity are what builds his

character. Watching him interact with the youth after events was breathtaking. He just gets it. There is no one I'd rather be in a fox hole with; and in trying times in our country, there is no better leader to help us through than this young man. Words do not give enough justice what he has meant to the whole athletic program. THE leader amongst leaders, he will have a lifetime of success. I could not be any more proud of this young man. Simply the best!"

As you can tell, his legacy will be long lasting and he will forever be remembered as a champion on and off the field.

It is my honor to present the 2020 male student athlete of the year award to Dominic Cavanagh.

Congratulations to Brynn, Dominic, and the entire Class of 2020.

Stephen Marks, Athletic Director

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# Sports

## PMC Rider, Kristin Brandt

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Kristin Brandt, whose husband owns a bicycle shop, has been riding around the state for the past 25 years.

As a cyclist the Ashland native had always thought about taking part in the Pan Mass Challenge for at least one year so that she could check it off her bucket list. Five years ago, she pulled the trigger and signed up to take part in the prestigious event, but little did she know what was about to follow.

"It was going to be a one and done thing, so I decided to go all out and do the two-day ride of 200 miles," Brandt said. "Not only did I have zero understanding of what I got myself into but once you take part in the ride you just can't quit. You become part of the PMC family and you see all these people throughout the ride; people everywhere you become hooked."

Through her five years of riding the PMC, Brandt began to lose people in her life to cancer, so it became even more inevitable that she could not give the event up.

Despite being someone who was already a strong cyclist Brandt found herself training excessively for her first PMC ride. In fact, she trained so much, people told her to slow down. That first year (2016), which was supposed to be a one and done year, she didn't ride with a team but a friend.

"Because it was to be a one and done thing, we did the Sturbridge to Provincetown route that first year," she said. "Being a cyclist, it didn't bother me all that much; my body was a little sore, but I don't think it was too much the 200 miles compared to sleeping on someone's floor after the first day."

Following the inaugural ride in which she was hooked, she joined up with some other friends who order on Team Perry (for Perry Levy and the Gastrointestinal Cancer fund). At her first team dinner with the team, Brandt found out a lot about the cancer type.

"At that dinner I realized that a lot of the people that I had lost to cancer fell under the gastrointestinal cancer category," she said. "It was really a weird way to end up riding on the right team."

Last year Brandt eased back on her training regimen and didn't go as hard as she usually does and because of that lack of training she found herself stopping at just about every med tent along the route during the first weekend of August.

"The PMC is the best organized event ever and even if you find yourself having a tough time on the route, there is never a point where you can't stop. Every 20-25 miles there is a tent to give you the help you need to keep going," she said. "It can hurt, but you can get through it, the medical staff made sure that I could continue. Cancer patients don't have

the option of stopping. While the masseuses gave me the comfort, I needed to keep going I don't think too many people wanted to be around me as I smelled like Ben Gay."

For 40 years, the Pan Mass Challenge has had a mission in which to save lives with the goal being a cancer-free world. Every August thousands of participants get on their bikes to ride the 2-day trek down to Provincetown while securing donations for the fight against cancer. However, with all that has been thrown at us with the Covid-19 pandemic the past five months, PMC Founder and Executive Director Billy Starr had to make a hard decision about the event. On May 1, he delivered a painstakingly tough message to the riders that in order to protect the PMC family there would be no actual ride this summer. Instead he decided to reimagine the 2020 PMC weekend.

With all the health considerations surrounding Covid-19, Starr felt that it was impossible to deliver a high-quality experience while guaranteeing the safety of the PMC riders. The PMC represents something that is at the core of each and every rider's lifestyle and values; the many months and miles of training along with year-round fundraising efforts are the lifeblood of the Dana Farber Institute. When Brandt had received the message, she really wasn't all that surprised.

"By the time that they decided to call it so much had already

been cancelled so I knew that it was inevitable," Brandt said. "I saw it coming, I was just grateful that they waived the fundraising portion of the event. Although I still want to go out and achieve the heavy hitter status (Brandt has been a heavy hitter 3 of the last 4 years and has raised \$32,000 during that time) I didn't want to push myself on people, especially since a lot are having a tough time during this pandemic."

Back in early March, prior to the pandemic blowing up, Brandt sent out her donation letters, but that was just about all that she had done in terms of fundraising. Now that the July holiday has passed, the Ashland resident planned on restarting her fundraising efforts en route to heavy hitter status.

"A lot of people are going through some hard times right now," she said. "But as the PMC says there's a lot riding on us; those who can afford to give will continue to give."

With the 2020 Pan Mass Challenge being reimaged, Brandt figured it was the perfect opportunity to introduce her 15-



year old daughter Sophie, a sophomore at Ashland High School, to the event.

"I got her to become a virtual rider this year now that things have changed. We won't be doing the full 200 miles, but we will do around 30-50 miles on PMC weekend," she said. "I'm excited for her to experience the PMC and this is a good way to introduce her to it. It's still up in the air as to what route we will actually do that weekend, but I'm hoping that it's something with the team."

As Brandt and her daughter prepare for a PMC that no one could have ever imagined, she is hoping that her donors continue to take to her PMC profile page and help find a cure for cancer.



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# Save the Dates! Ashland's Dragonfly Festival is Three Days in September

BY CYNTHIA WHITTY

The 7th Annual Dragonfly Festival is almost here. Originally a one-day event, the festival is expanding to a three-day virtual event on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 10, 11 and 12.

Festival-goers will be able to enjoy one and half hours each day online, on WACA-TV and Facebook, from the comfort of their homes. The festival will include great local music, dance, artisans, kids' entertainment and more.

"We'll have an amazing music line up featuring Lori Diamond and Fred Abatelli with Fates Landing as our headliner; performances by The Dale Show; and many other local musicians," Andrea Green, a festival organizer, said. "Ashland Town Manager Michael Herbert is an incredible addition to the line-up, too. We will also present rising Ashland student musicians showing us their best original songs and covers."

"Rick Goldin will be returning with his blend of original songs, puppets and zany interactive activities for kids. His always pop-



ular songs and stories grab kids' attention, get them engaged and keep them wanting more. They don't even realize they are learning, too!"

The festival will showcase talented local artisans, including as Debra Griffin, potter and social activist; Tony Lulek, beeswax candles and lotions and bee

keeper; Jay Cohen, alpaca wool products and alpacas; Pam DeJong, encaustic artist; Cheryl Cohen, mosaics; Elizabeth Allerton, jewelry; Jennifer Hoffman's

homemade soaps; and Gabrielle Gold, weaver.

A carefully curated dance performance line-up list will include the Performance Project from Annemarie's Dance Centre choreographed by Chrissy Reynolds and students and SmithaRadhakrishnan with the NATyA Sala Indian dance troupe performing traditional dances illustrating captivating stories.

For the first time the festival will also feature residents of Ashland who will reflect on and express what having local arts mean to them.

The 2020 Dragonfly Festival acknowledges the support of its long-time sponsors and local businesses. "We thank the Ashland Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, whose support allows us to produce quality programming and performances. We thank our committed volunteers who have made it happen through the years," Green said.

For more information and updates, visit [www.facebook.com/DragonflyFestivalAshland](http://www.facebook.com/DragonflyFestivalAshland) and [www.dragonflyashland.org](http://www.dragonflyashland.org).

## Explore local Audubon trails

Explore 1 mile of trails at Waseeka Wildlife Sanctuary, including the Sassafras Trail where you can see great views of the pond wildlife. Look for osprey

nesting above the pond from mid-spring to early fall. Trails off the Cart Path are marked with blue or yellow disks. Blue leads away from the road and yellow returns.

### Cart Path to Dam

Follow the road leading from the parking area to access the side trails. The road ends at the dam where there are expansive views of the pond. Look for the bulky stick osprey nest in a dead tree in the middle of the pond. Great blue heron nests can be seen on the far side of the pond and

kingfishers frequently hunt along the pond edge. Sundews, small carnivorous plants, can be seen on logs below the dam. Look for shiny red droplets, sticky for capturing insects.

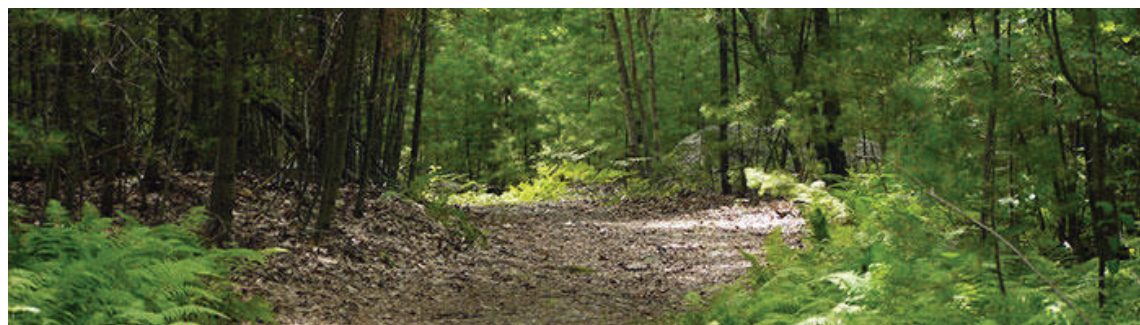
### Sassafras Trail

This trail begins and ends on the Cart Path, so you can choose

your starting point. Look for the sassafras trees the trail is named for. In some locations you will have views of the pond and beaver activity. Pileated woodpeckers and brown creepers have nested just off this trail. If you want to take a shorter walk look for the Link Trail and follow the yellow disks back.

### Pitch Pine Trail

A short trail that also loops back to the road. Note the Pitch Pines, which have short blunt cones and three needles. This is the typical coniferous tree found on Cape Cod and in other dry, sandy soils.





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# Greater Ashland Lions Club: delivering meals and raising money

SUBMITTED BY: LION ELLIE TORELLI, PAST PRESIDENT

When the FREE Lunch program ended in June at the Ashland Middle School, the Greater Ashland Lions volunteered to deliver meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays thru the end of August to those unable to pick up their meals. The meals are packed and picked up at the Adams School in Holliston and delivered to the families in Ashland that have no way to receive them. The families in Ashland that are able to pick up their meals, go to either the Clearbrook Swim Club on Parker Road in Framingham or the Barbarieri School in Framingham for their meals.

The Greater Ashland Lions wish to acknowledge and "THANK YOU" for the 100 Mask donated to them by Vijay Subramanian on behalf of Bahwan Cybertek, Inc of Natick and 100 Masks donated by Arjun Iyer a Sophomore at Ashland High School to be distributed

within our Ashland Community. The Greater Ashland Lions have distributed the Masks to the Seniors at Ashland House, Ashland



Housing Authority Park Road, Presidents Row and the Ashland Community Center. Wearing a Mask helps with Our Safety and well-being.

Our First Fundraiser, the Annual Rubber Duck Slide Race will take place on Aug. 21, at

5p.m., at the Corner Spot located at the corner of Main Street and Cherry Streets. Tickets for this event may be purchased by contacting Lion Cheryl at 508-881-7056 or LionNicole-Gals2020@gmail.com. Ticket prices are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20 with proceeds benefit Scholarships & Community Projects.

The Greater Ashland Lions are still collecting eyeglasses; prescription and non-prescription, tabs from soda, soup, and pet food cans and YES! Coupons for Education (they help fund projects at the elementary schools each coupon is worth 10cents, it all adds up to \$\$\$ for the schools). More information Contact Lion Marge at 508- 653-6267.

Our meetings are being held during these trying times on zoom should you wish to attend one of our meetings contact Lion Mary at 508-881-5515 or Lion Ellie 508-875-4513 and see what we LIONS do.

## Town of Ashland receives "AAA" Credit Rating from Standard & Poor's

The Town of Ashland announced that Standard & Poor's ("S&P") Rating Agency recently affirmed the town's "AAA-stable" bond rating, the highest credit rating given to municipalities nationally. This rating is related to future borrowings that are being issued for previously authorized and potential future projects, land acquisitions, etc.

Acknowledging the recent economic slowdown, the report states that Ashland enters the national recession triggered by the outbreak of COVID-19 with very strong budgetary reserves and flexibility, and well-embedded financial management policies, particularly in the areas of budgeting and planning."

Standard & Poor's analyzes communities in advance of borrowings to assess the creditworthiness & the financial condition of a city or town. They do this by looking at all aspects of the Town's finances, including Economy, Management, Budgetary Performance, Budgetary Flexibility and Liquidity, and Debt and Liability Profile.

Notably, S&P praised the town's financial management, rating the administration, "Very Strong, "which is the top category available. S&P also highlighted the town's, "Adequate budgetary performance," "Very strong budgetary flexibility," "Very strong liquidity", "Strong institutional framework," and "Strong debt and contingent liability profile." Additionally, S&P highlights the significant pension and benefits liability (OPEB), but expressed confidence that the town would manage this liability based on its record of solid financial planning and budgeting.

Town Manager Michael Herbert stated, "Bond ratings are critical independent and objective verification of the town's financial management practices and financial planning. Our 'AAA' rating is a testament to the collaborative work environment that we have fostered among the Town's key stakeholders to both set and achieve our financial goals."

As a "AAA" community, Ashland will secure favorable rates when entering the capital mar-



kets when borrowing for large infrastructure projects. This will lead to significant taxpayer savings when financing large projects such as the future public safety building, Mindess School project, and downtown streetscape work, as well as the Pond Street reconstruction project.

Town Manager Herbert is quick to highlight that the town's financial success is based on the town's ability to build consensus among various volunteer committees in town, as well as the town's financial management team, led by Finance Director, Brittany Iacaponi.

JOIN US FOR A...

## DUCK RACE

A fund-raiser for the Greater Ashland Lions Scholarship and Community Projects

The duck race is a tradition with the Greater Ashland Lions and proceeds help support the amazing work they do all year long! The Ducks will race down the slide at 5pm!

Ducks are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

1st Prize: \$100 2nd Prize: \$50 3rd Prize: \$25  
Tickets can be purchased the day of the race or prior to by calling:

Ro at 508-881-4743  
Cheryl at 508-881-7056  
Nicole at 781-718-6478

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# Congrats Lions Officers for 2020-21

LION DAN MITCHELL

Ashland Lions Club held its installation of officers virtually over Zoom on June 30, 2020. We would like to congratulate and welcome our new club officers for the 2020-2021 Lionistic Year:

**President – Lion Holly O'Brien**

**First VP – Lion Marcia Wiles**

**Second VP – Lion Steve Napolitano**

**Third VP – Lion Marilyn Barrows**

**Secretary – Lion Lesley Macdonald**

**Treasurer – Lion Tom Heguy**

**Tail Twister – Lion Bill Greenwood**

**Lion Tamers – Lions Paul Ciccolo and Julian Doktor**

**2nd year Directors – Lions Betsy Andersson, Marilyn Barrows and Elaine Souchuns**

**1st year Directors – Lions Dave Talvy, Jim McGaughey, and Dan Mitchell**

**Membership Chair – Lion Fran Blake**

Special thanks to outgoing president IPP Lion Steve Leacu for his leadership over the past year.

## Whodunnit? Murder In Sin City

The Ashland Lions Club is teaming up with Lions Clubs in Sherborn and Bellingham mystery dinner. The event has been moved to Saturday, April 17, 2021, 6:30pm-11pm.

Participants will be assigned a role to play in solving a murder mystery!

The event will be held at the VFW, 311 Pleasant St, Ashland. Tickets are available for \$35 on Eventbrite.com under "Murder in Sin City", or call Lion Eileen at 508-861-3226.

Ticket price includes admission and an appetizer buffet. There will also be a cash bar, raffles and prizes. Currently only 150 tickets will be sold (this number subject to reduction as guidelines change for social distancing).

All proceeds will benefit local hosting Lions Club charities.

## 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.

*Are you a Super Sleuth who enjoys figuring out "who dunnit?"*

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