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Vol. 8 No. 8

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March 2021

The Voice of Your Community

Working to Net Zero: Grant Awarded to Quantify Climate Change Mitigation Strategies



Ashland's Sustainability Coordinator Frank Nakashian (Photo/supplied)

BY CYNTHIA WHITTY

In October 2020, Ashland was awarded \$130,000 by the Mass. Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) for a Planning Assistance Grant, Comprehensive Community Climate Accounting. The project will be managed by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) in collaboration with Ashland's Sustainability Coordinator Frank Nakashian and the Sustainability Committee. Framingham and Natick are also included in the project.

In this interview with *Ashland Local Town Pages*, Nakashian discusses how Ashland will use the grant and how it will benefit residents.

GRANT
continued on page 2

Around Ashland Town News

BY CYNTHIA WHITTY

Pond Street Construction Begins

The Pond Street/Rt. 126 revitalization project, slated to begin in February, will impact the south-side route through Ashland, from Holliston to Framingham. Residents may sign up for updates on the town's DPW webpage, www.ashlandmass.com/160/Department-of-Public-Works. The town will also share updates via newsletters and social media channels, Facebook and Instagram: @TownofAshlandMA, Twitter: @ashlandmass.

COVID-19 Vaccinations Available for Eligible Residents

In an email to residents on Feb. 8, the town manager announced that "Ashland and the Covid-19 Task Force has worked with the Towns of Hopkinton, Westborough, Southborough, [and] Northborough to create a



regional vaccination clinic for our residents. Over the weekend, we issued a Reverse 911 to inform our residents that we were made aware that the partnership was receiving a small amount of vaccine to administer to residents that meet the current eligibility requirements. Over the last several days we have worked to schedule this first clinic." For more information, visit the town website, bit.ly/3aMOBOB.

AROUND TOWN
continued on page 5

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GRANT*continued from page 1***Whitty: Could you provide some background on the project?**

In spring of 2020, Ashland town staff reached out to MAPC to discuss available grant opportunities. Ashland staff also expressed interest in developing its climate planning strategy to help meet its Net Zero by 2040 goals. After discussion, MAPC expressed interest in partnering with Ashland and other Metro-West communities, Natick and Framingham, to create an application with the EEA for a Planning Assistance Grant. MAPC applied for the grant in May, 2020, and received word of acceptance by the EEA in October, 2020. This grant award is one of 29 Planning Assistance Grants funded statewide.

**Whitty: Could you describe what the grant and how Ashland will use it?**

The Comprehensive Community Climate Accounting grant will quantify greenhouse gas emissions reduction potential of several climate mitigation strategies in Ashland. An example of this would be MAPC exploring the greenhouse gas reduction estimate of adding more on-site solar in town. Once the program starts, Ashland staff and Sustainability Committee members, in conjunction with MAPC, will identify 3-5 climate mitigation strategies to focus on, and MAPC will then work to estimate how implementing these strategies will lower emissions in Ashland.

Whitty: How will the project be carried out?

MAPC is the project lead and will conduct the grant management and the planning grant report on behalf of Ashland. The Sustainability Committee and the Sustainability Coordinator will work with MAPC to provide input on project direction and will assist with providing MAPC town data as needed.

Whitty: What is the benefit to Ashland residents?

The end product of this grant will be projections of how implementing different best practice sustainability strategies over time will reduce emissions locally. The overall goal of emission reductions and climate planning strategies are to improve public health and make communities resilient to long-term climate change impacts. Ashland passed a Net Zero Resolution, and this grant will assist in providing information on how to get to Net Zero by incorporating input from the MAPC subject matter experts at no expense to the town—no outside funds used.

Whitty: How does this grant tie in with a sustainability strategy for the town?

This grant directly ties in with the sustainability strategy of the town by providing quantifiable information on how climate change mitigation strategies will reduce emissions. With this information, volunteers and town staff will have data to make informed decisions in the future on enacting climate policies and meeting town climate planning strategies.

Whitty: What is the project timeline?

We anticipate the project will kick off in the spring of 2021 and that the project will conclude in summer of 2022. The grant finances are managed by MAPC.

**Digital Marketing ROUNDTABLE**

Tuesday, March 9th at 12pm
Register for Zoom Link

Ashland Business Beat

BY CYNTHIA WHITTY

The Ashland Business Association (ABA) will hold a virtual Digital Marketing Roundtable on Tuesday, March 9, 12 to 1 p.m. Business professionals will learn how to grow their business through the power of digital marketing. Panelists will include the Ashland Ale House (Facebook), Blush Bouquets (Instagram) and the town of Ashland (Email). This event will begin with 30 minutes of presentations and then open for Q&A. ABA may attend free of charge; the cost for not-yet-members is \$10. Register online at ashlandbusinessassociation.com/events.

ABA Offers Scholarships

The ABA will award two-\$1,500 scholarships in June 2021. The scholarship application is open to any high school or vocational school senior residing in Ashland who is graduating in 2021 and has been accepted to an accredited school or apprenticeship program for further education. The deadline to submit a completed application, including a letter of recommendation, is midnight, Friday, April 30. For questions, contact ABA Scholarship Committee Chair Chrissy Reynolds of Annemarie's Dance Centre, 508-881-5109, email scholarship@ashland-businessassociation.com, or visit ashlandbusinessassociation.com/page-18195.

Ashland Biz Buzz

The town's economic development office has created the "Ashland Biz Buzz" Facebook and Instagram pages to connect local businesses with

the public. "These pages are focused on getting information out to the public about the buzz with Ashland businesses," Beth Reynolds, Economic Development Director, said. "Businesses are encouraged to post to the page when they have something to share, and we will share posts we see on businesses pages on Facebook and Instagram to maximize marketing reach. These pages will also market 'Deals and Steals,' our restaurant online guide, and shop local guide. 'Like' and 'follow' the pages at Facebook, @ashlandbizbuzz, and on Instagram, ashlandbizbuzz."

Ashland "Deals and Steals"

Be sure to check out Ashland "Deals and Steals" on the town website, www.ashlandmass.com. This new tool will bring deals right into your home. Shop local by clicking links for products or get some great deals from local restaurants for your next dinner out or to go. Product sales will change every other Monday to keep you shopping, so consumers will want to check the "Deals and Steals" page every two weeks.

Ashland "Deals and Steals" is made possible by a partnership with town's economic development office and the ABA. These groups are focused on helping businesses succeed and that Ashland is a thriving, bustling town. If you are an Ashland business with something to sell and would like to submit a "deal," send it with an image to Beth Reynolds, breynolds@ashland-mass.com.

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In Memory of

Longtime Resident, Active in Town:

Jim Hanna

James "Jim" Hanna, 86, of Ashland, died peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Jan. 9, 2021. He was the beloved husband of Leila (Sherman) Hanna of Holliston for 64 years. Born in Natick, he was the son of the late John and Mary (Flynn) Hanna.



Jim served his country honorably in the National Guard and went on to graduate Northeastern University in 1959. He worked at RCA and General Electric as a government contract negotiator for his entire career. Jim loved to golf, travel, and was a proud participant of Ashland town politics and activities. He served the Ashland Community participating in various boards and committees, including the School Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals, and most recently the Ashland Historical Society. He was also a host on the WACA

tv show "What's Really Going ON," which focused on town politics and current affairs. Jim was an avid New England Patriots fan and will be remembered as a dedicated husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

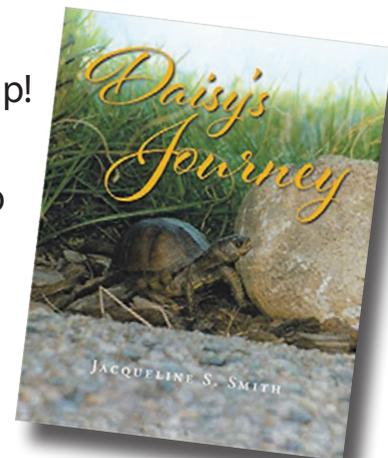
In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Jim's memory to the Ashland Historical Society, 2 Myrtle St. Ashland, MA 01721. (www.mataresefuneral.com/obituary/james-hanna)

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- 2Mauro's Café
- AdviCoach
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- Ashland Cable Access Corp.
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- Ashland Diesel Inc.
- Ashland Early Education
- Ashland Family Eyecare
- Ashland Farmers Market
- Ashland Historical Society
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- Ashland Mini Storage Inc.
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- Ashland Sporting Association Inc.
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- Clocktown Liquors
- CPR Services

- Critical Prism Defense LLC
- Cynthia Whitty Communications
- Dairy Queen
- David Rucando, Attorney
- Diversity Early Learning Center
- Dorogan Ramen
- Dream Dinners Framingham
- Dulce D Leche
- Earthly Wealth Jewelry
- Fish Works
- Fitness Together
- Focus on Fitness
- Framingham State University
- Friends of The Ashland Library
- GMT Home Designs Inc.
- Gordon Multimedia LLC
- Habitat for Humanity-Restore
- Happy Tails Dog Walking
- Julie's Z Breads
- Keller Williams Chestnut Hill
- Leiby's Garden & Flower Shop
- Local Town Pages
- Main Street Wine & Spirits
- Marathon Deli
- Metro West Bookkeeping & Tax Service Inc

- MetroWest YMCA
- Mexico City Taqueria
- Middlesex Mattress Outlet LLC
- Middlesex Savings Bank
- Minucci Auto Body
- Modelville Hobby
- Murphy's Eats & Treats
- N.E.C. Trophies
- Needham Bank
- New Creations Salon
- NightLife Oil Burner Service Inc
- Oak Realty
- Our Town Publishing
- Perpetual Motion Media
- Platinum Physical Therapy/Ashland PT
- Practice of Family Cosmetic Dentistry
- Protegro Inc.
- Puffs & More Family Fun Center
- Quick Appliance Service
- Smooth Transitions of MA, LLC
- Sounding Hill LLC
- Spyglass Printing/Spyglass Promo
- Stone's Public House
- Susan C. Atherton, Attorney
- The Bagel Table

- The Family Pet Hospital
- The Organizing Bookkeeper
- The Residence at Valley Farm
- Thomas DeAlmeida, Electrician
- TJ's Food & Spirits
- Torres Construction & Painting
- Town of Ashland (Communications)
- Town of Ashland (Economic Development)
- Town of Ashland (Select Board)
- Town of Ashland (Town Manager)
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- United Home Experts
- Valerie Gaines, Reiki Practitioner
- WAITT
- Walter Piasecki, DC Chiropractic Physician
- Warren Home Inspections
- Zen Family Dental

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AshlandBusinessAssociation.com

It is Time to Renovate the Bathroom: By John Szolomayer, RE/MAX Executive Realty

The best way to inject freshness back into your bathroom is by redoing the walls. Tile was not made just for the floor! Consider these:

- Accent tile above the vanity adds a bit of glam at a low price.
- White subway tile is a classic look that can be paired with any other patterns or colors. Choose a dark-color grout to

avoid visible mold stains.

- Three-dimensional tile can echo another time period and is a unique decoration.
- Create a tile rug using a different pattern of tile in the middle of your floor. You do not have to do a whole renovation for this — simply remove some old tiles and pop in the new ones.

- Tiles add texture and personality to a bathroom, so do not be afraid to play it unconventional.

Some gorgeous ways to bring the spa into your bathroom suite.

- Frameless glass showers are very popular right now, and for good reason: They look sleek, clean easily and help aging family members have easy access. Having an ADA-compliant house may also increase your resale value.

- Freestanding tubs may add to your water bill, but they are great for a bubble bath.

- Shower benches bring relaxation into the shower — add steam, multiple showerheads, or a rain shower for extra luxury. (If you add a steam feature, be sure to add a vapor barrier to the ceiling and walls to prevent moisture from rotting the wood.)

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An absolute necessity is some good storage in your bathroom. Towels, hairdryers and more must have their place.

- Floating vanities are all the rage right now, as the open space between the vanity and the floor adds an airy quality to the room. Add cabinets to turn art into extra storage.
- Mix up open and closed storage to prevent the monotony of a cabinet wall.

- As much as possible, remove cabinetry to make room for other, more rewarding bathroom features.

Amenities are the most fun part of renovating when you get to add all those exciting features.

- Radiant-heat flooring under stone floors can bring warmth to a cold winter day.
- Heated towel bars ensure your towel is warm when you get out of the shower. Windows and skylights fill the bathroom with natural light.

Budget carefully and you could have your own five-star spa without breaking the bank.

Information provided by John Szolomayer from RE/MAX Executive Realty. For more information, John can be reached at JohnSzolomayer.com or 508-259-4788.

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AROUND TOWN

continued from page 1



Special Town Meeting and Election Results

Town officials reported that there were a total of 982 voters at the special town meeting on Jan. 23. The Public Safety Building Project won with 956 “yes” votes; there were 22 “no” votes. The Mindess School Building Project won with 950 “yes” votes; there were 27 “no” votes. Official results from the Jan. 27 special town election were: Question 1 - Public Safety Building, yes – 1558; no – 205; Question 2 - Mindess School Building, yes – 1543; no – 219. (www.ashlandmass.com)

For updates on the Public Safety Building Project, visit www.ashlandmass.com/756/Public-Safety-Building-Project, and

for the Mindess School Building Project, mindessschoolbuilding-project.ashland.k12.ma.us.

Nomination Papers, Candidates Forums, Annual Town Meeting and Election

Nomination papers are available from the town clerk’s office and must be filed with that office before Tuesday, March 30 at 5 p.m. With the new restrictions and difficulties arising as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the town clerk’s office has outlined guidelines and suggestions to help



candidates navigate the collection of signatures. Contact their office for these guidelines, 508-881-0100 Ext 7127.

Board/Committee	Term/Seat	Expires
Select Board	3 years, vote for 2	2024
Board of Assessors	3 years, vote for 1	2024
School Committee	3 years, vote for 2	2024
Library Trustee	3 years, vote for 2	2024
Board of Health	3 years, vote for 2	2024
Board of Health	2 years, vote for 1, to fill unexpired term	2023
Housing Authority	5 years, vote for 1	2026
Housing Authority	1 year, vote for 1, to fill unexpired term	2022
Planning Board	5 years, vote for 1	2026

Greater Ashland Lions Club

On Feb. 13, members of the Greater Ashland Lions Club attended the virtual 33-K.

Massachusetts Lions Mid-Winter Conference with more than 150 attendees. This conference

happens each year where we Lions learn more about our organization, workshops for those to learn more and how to serve their clubs and communities.

This year’s guest speaker was International Director Lion Robert Block from Illinois and his wife Lion Brenda Block, who spoke on how he had 48 years as an architectural and design engineer and project manager. he talked about how in 1974 he became a Lion. Since then he has served his community, served as volunteer coordinator for the 50th anniversary Special Olympics Unified Cup in 2018 and in recognition of his service has received several international awards.

During the virtual convention many Clubs within our Lion District 33-k made donations to Mass.

Lions Eye Research Fund total on this day of \$117,600 the donations continue thru the end of the Lionistic year in June. Due to COVID-19, fundraising activities have been hampered and donations are low. Since its beginning MLER has made grant awards of more than \$38,000,000 to research centers and hospitals. Your donations are valued and are needed to continue research and enable people to live their lives. The Greater Ashland Lions welcome any and all donations to better serve the community and many projects including LCIF (helping to serve relief in disasters worldwide, floods, fire, earthquakes etc.), locally the Greater Ashland Lions contribute food distribution to needy, high school scholarships, relay for Life, speech contest, peace poster contest, Ashland Food Pantry, Ashland Emergency fund.

Coat Drive

Our Coats for Kids Drive ended on February 28. “THANK YOU” for a very successful coat drive and your generosity was

overwhelming, this has not been easy for many and your support is appreciated by all who received your donations. A special Thank You to Anton Cleaners who cleaned and distributed all the donations. For more info. Contact Lion Deb at 508-881-2117.

Would you like to visit one of our virtual meetings? Contact Lion Mary at 508-881-5515 or Lion Ellie 508-875-4513. We continue to collect used and new eyeglasses prescription and non-prescription, hearing aids and batteries for hearing aids tabs from soda, beer, soup and pet food cans and coupons for education contact Lion Marj 508-653-6267.

Spring is on the way! Get your vaccine shot when you are able, wear a mask, wash your hands be safe.

For the Future looking ahead the Massachusetts Lions will be hosting July 7 thru July 11, 2023, the

Lions International Convention in Boston.

SUBMITTED BY LION ELLIE TORELLI

Candidates Forums in April.

Ashland residents will have the chance to hear from candidates for town offices at forums on April 26 and 27 hosted by the Candidates Forum Committee and sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library. For more information, email candidatesforum@friendsoftheapl.com. The committee is also making available on YouTube (bit.ly/3alCMzP) the student-hosted the panel discussion, “Be the Change!” from 2019 where viewers can learn what’s involved in running for and serving on town boards and committees.

Note that the **annual town meeting** is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5; the **annual town election** is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18. For more information, visit www.ashlandmass.com/219/Elections-Voting.

The following seats are available in 2021:

New Town Hires

Ashland Human Resources Director Lisa Uglialoro reported the following new town hires in 2020: Talia Seavey, Decisions at Every Turn Coalition Program Coordinator; Erin Early, Library Assistant at Ashland Public Library; Michael Cunningham, Ashland Police Department Dispatcher; Danielle Spinner, Kevin Lewis, and Vara Nataraajan, Remote Learning Assistants at Ashland Recreation; Meredith Madison, Ashland Human Services Food Pantry Coordinator; Ana Vladimirov, Activity and Volunteer Coordinator at Ashland Senior Center; Aidan Shepard, Department of Public Works; Doug Scott, Building Commissioner; and Justine Grasse, Assistant Animal Control Officer. (bit.ly/3cWTGXl)



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Curious Community: Building Bridges One Story at a Time

Ashland is United continues its work creating opportunities for new community connections and exposure to different perspectives. As the pandemic began earlier this year, the grassroots group developed an online project of sharing stories from their “grandmother’s basket,” at a time when social distancing was becoming the new normal. The organizers believe that this collection of stories, available on the AiU website, offered a sense of comfort and belonging. Now they invite members of the Ashland community to participate in a virtual story sharing event.

Over Zoom, participants will share a family story (perhaps rooted in their culture) and include how the values found in that story have become a foundation for their life. Ashland is United hopes that participants

will come from an array of backgrounds and traditions. “At Ashland is United, we believe that it is important to find commonalities but also grow comfort in discussing and celebrating differences. When we come together and share parts of ourselves, we build bridges and help each of us to feel we belong,” said Jane Greenstein, one of the event organizers. With this upcoming event, AiU aims to bring people together around what keeps us grounded, our strengths, and the challenges we have faced.

The participatory Zoom event will take place on Sunday, March 7, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Further details including registration are available on the AiU website, www.ashlandisunited.org.

Since 2018, Ashland is United has organized activities and advocated to help actively create a cul-



ture of inclusivity and acceptance in Ashland. Past events include several community discussions centered around traditional food. “Breaking Bread Together,” “Baking Bread Together,” “Ashland’s Virtual Table: Meaningful Meal,” and “Coffee and Conversations” have proven that food and stories brings people together. “We strengthen ourselves and our community when we truly listen to each other,” Greenstein emphasized.

Ashland Is United



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Keefe Tech Announces Term 1 Honor Roll Students

Keefe Regional Technical School is pleased to announce the following students have been named to the school’s Term 1 Honor Roll.

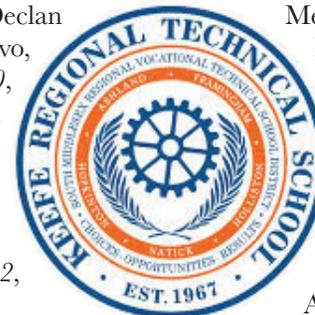
Ashland – High Honors: *Grade 9*, Rhayssa Beltrami, Emma Canning, Evan Lewis, Ashley Norris, Daniel Rutherford. *Grade 11*, Owen Riis. *Grade 12*, Hannah Ciniello, Noah Prince, Owen Sheehy. *Honors: Grade 9*, Declan Ciniello, Breno Daldon, Sandra Lovo, Ana Carolina Sampaio. *Grade 10*, Alondra Lopez Melendez. *Grade 11*, Ana Clara Mello. *Grade 12*, Rachael Aarden, Skye Bradford, Angelina Marchant-Duncan, Juan Manuel Ramirez, Angela Valentin Ortiz.

Blackstone – High Honors: *Grade 12*, Mia Ignoto.

Framingham – High Honors: *Grade 9*, Sally Ames, Grace Arena, Gabriela Carrillo Valencia, Eduarda De Figueiredo, Kyra De Souza, Gabryela Dias, Dylan Fink, Bruno Flores, Chloe Forman Orth, Christopher Guimaraes, Daniela Hernandez, Casey Horrigan, Jackson Keefe, Antonio Neto, Samantha Orn, Lara Cristina Paulino, Patricia Richards, Yeshua Salguero, Joshua Silva, Chea Sok, Keyla Torres, Zuehailey Torres, Anon Unseethaharuthai, Isabella Vasquez, Charlie Walls. *Grade 10*, Juan Contreras, Logan Convery, Vidaliz Diaz, Jonathan Renan Esponilla, Henry Galvez, Deeksha Johar, Dylan Jones, Yaidymar Morales, Rodrigo Lucca Paulino, Max Richer, Jayden Rust, Anita Unseethaharuthai. *Grade 11*, Jason Assarian, Kevin Assarian, Jennifer Barreto, Alexa Caiola, Drea Caiola, Gabriel Felipe, Anthony Gomes, Victor Gudiel, Julio Hernandez Pereira, Priscillia Kunda, Amanda Marins, Darli Mazariegos Castillo, Braeden McKenna, Lily Sullivan. *Grade 12*, Stephanie Belalcazar Corrales, Edith Brickman,

Gabriel Ferreira, Nolan MacIver, Ryan McCarthy, Kiersten Miller, Scott Palmer. *Honors: Grade 9*, Patrick Almeida, Maria Eduarda Caldeira, Aiden Campbell, Jennifer Cantrill, Jacob Castaneda, Ava Celorier, Naylea Guzman, Tobias Hansen, Matthew Kelly, Arsalaan Khan, Ashley Lawrence, Felix Marshall, Kayla McLean, Alexander Mello, Ricardo Perlera, Alondra Rivera, Mikaela Rivera, Anderson Vasquez Rosa, Eduardo Vazquez Herdandez, Gabriella Viana, Aiden Vilaranda, Stephen Walls, Luiz Miguel Zanotelle, Gabrielle Zukeram.

Grade 10, William Bertolino, Darius Burrell, Ronald Castaneda Guzman, Antonio Costa Andrade, Daniel Dempsey, Julia Gomes, Yaneli Graulau, Dariana Hernandez, Eddy Jimenez Soto, Jasmany Jimenez, Bradley Kadets, Olivia Klein, Gina Marie Lamberti, Sucharn Laochan, Juliana Lopes, John Luciano, Skyla Marcotte-Minahan, Izabella Mesa, Alisson Murcia Posada, Paola Ortiz, Kaisha Perez, Yvens Petit Louis, Kevin Honorio Ribeiro, Veronica Sanchez, Davidson Souza, Mariana Vargas, Christopher Vick, Jr. *Grade 11*, Klaryssah Albani, Ana Clara Barbalho, Bruno Barbosa, Aiperi Bazaraliev, Emily Caryl, David De Oliveira, Frank Faranda, Hannah Gilvarg, Samuel Lavoie, Eduarda Magalhaes, David Maude, Abigail Mello, Marc Mendes, Stephen Merino, Bruna Mota, Jereni Oliveras, Bryan Orellana Madrid, Logan Patria, Ana Luiza Rodrigues, Katyuska Santiago, Matthew Savino, Elizabeth Smith. *Grade 12*, Tiffany Adams, Colden Baer, Debora Barbosa Borgem, Bruno



HONOR ROLL

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- 🍀 Contact Lens Fittings
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Zoom Your Estate Planning

For most, estate planning receives the greatest amount of procrastination within financial planning.

It's understandable given the formality with an attorney, time commitment, complexity of choices and as parents with young kids thinking who/what ensures your child's continued growth with your untimely demise. Add a pandemic, "we've been meaning to do it" turned into "we should've done it when it was easier and safe".

Surprisingly, many are unaware that last April 28th, Massachusetts Senate Bill 2645 was passed/signed by Governor Baker to allow remote virtual notarization of legal documents through video-conferencing technology.

Yes, you can now work with an estate planning attorney through Zoom and FedEx to develop and complete your holistic estate plan.

I asked David Feakes, who over 20 years ago founded The Parents Estate Planning Law Firm, PC, to share his firm's experience and client observations to this legislative change.

Early Zoom adoption. "Last March/April, we'd help clients far along by doing signings in parking lots, picnic tables holding umbrellas and while we managed to do it safely, it was unsustainable", says David. "We'd been in communication with our state reps and got our firm's new policies and procedures in place. Once passed, we were proactive with Zoom, not just signings but also helping clients in our discovery phase move forward, as they had just put everything on hold."

Scheduling and engagement is easier for clients. "Parents with kids coordinating to come to our offices in Acton at the same time during work hours is hard", confessed David. "Also the idea of coming to an attorney's office can be intimidating, so now with the ability to do it all from home with kids running around or cats walking across the screen, it's helped relaxed clients and made decision making easier."

What remains constant - the why. "People have had time to reflect on making sure their kids are cared for if something unthinkable happens", shared David. "A will is not enough, we

educate clients on legal strategies of trusts, guardianships, power of attorneys, health proxies, tax planning and legacy distribution. Additionally, as I share our process to get to know a client's family and what's important, I sense calm and relief when we reiterate this can all be done virtually and safely - something normally reserved at the completion of an estate plan."

As a fee-only CFP working with financial planning clients, I'd echo David's observations with Zoom and leveraging virtual technology. In 2018, a few early adopters chose this option to engage, but today the benefits of time, convenience and ease of access are thankfully felt by all.

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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Celebrating 10 years of community building at the Hopkinton Center for the Arts

BY SUSAN MANNING
STAFF WRITER

The Hopkinton Center for the Arts (HCA) has been an integral part of the community for the past 10 years, and was not about to let the pandemic bring it down.



“The center is a nonprofit community arts organization that works to create a place for people of all ages and abilities to study, enjoy, and participate in the visual and performing arts under one roof,” according to Kelly Grill, HCA Director.

HCA does this by providing year-round free and low-cost events and concerts, performance opportunities for local and national artists, educational partnerships with senior and disability organizations, and tuition assistance scholarship support.

And despite “Hopkinton” being in its name, the center serves a large population. In fact, last year the HCA was able to offer over 200 classes to more than 2,000 students from more than 200 towns and cities in Massachusetts and host over 50

Business spotlight

productions and exhibitions on-site in its state-of-the-art performance and gallery spaces.

All of that was despite the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Grill, the staff at the center was able to adapt the facility and its programming to meet the needs of an unprecedented time.

“Our students wanted a way to continue their studies and our artist-instructors did an amazing job bringing their classes online,” said Grill. “They created class packets for students to pick-up and turned their home studios into classrooms where they could stream lessons.”

This past summer, the HCA opened up its annual programs for kids, but with new modifications including limited class sizes and providing more tents for classes to spend time outdoors as much as possible, while following guidelines for social distancing and mask requirements.

As the world moves—we hope—toward the light at the end of the COVID-19, the HCA continues to offer both online and in-person programming. Among those offerings are:

- Art classes
- Dance program
- Ceramics program
- Theater classes, including Actor’s Studio with Tony-Nominated Jere Shea
- Private music lessons

Registration for summer programs for students ages 4 and up is now open. Space is limited and the current early registration discount ends March 31.

In addition to the summer program for students, there are also other programs available:

“We want the HCA to be a place for the community to gather and we continue to develop programming that makes the arts accessible to all,” said Grill.



About the HCA

In 2015, the HCA opened its new arts center, consisting of a newly renovated, two-story barn with classroom space, a brand new gallery, and a 200-seat performance space. The Center houses classes in dance, music, fine arts, theater, and film, and is now home to theatrical, dance and musical performances year-round. In 2016, an anonymous donor gifted funds to renovate the farmhouse first floor into a ceramics studio.

HCA is located at 98 Hayden Rowe St., Hopkinton. Its website is: <https://www.hopartcenter.org>

Coming up the HCA has a number of events scheduled, including a new Diversity in the Arts artist talk series, a new online web series “The Journey with Jere Shea,” a free children’s cultural art workshop, a March 14 children’s online concert with Stacey Peasley, and a March 17 online Celtic Concert with Stanley and Grimm. Plus, this summer will be packed with outdoor music concerts for audiences of all ages. Ticket links and registration information can be found online.



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Volunteer Spotlight

Chris Gatti Carries on Her Family's Love for Gardening

BY CYNTHIA WHITTY

Chris Gatti spent the summer of 2020, like so many, tending a dozen tomato plants on the deck of her Ashland home—her version of a pandemic victory garden. Gatti grew heirloom tomatoes, drawing on her experience as a child working at Guidetti's Market Garden, a tomato farm started by her grandparents in Springfield, Mass., almost a century ago.

"I remember the rows and rows of tomato plants, held upright with wooden stakes and twine." She recalls helping her grandfather pick tomatoes, and her grandmother, shell beans for the farm stand. "Every time I smell a tomato on the vine, it brings me right back to warm memories."

Today, Gatti is an active volunteer with the Ashland Garden Club (AGC), served as its treasurer, and was recently elected president of the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association (MMGA) for the 2021-22 term.

Gatti grew up in Springfield and studied elementary education with a focus on urban education at UMass Amherst. After teaching for several years in western Massachusetts, she relocated to Boston, where she worked in training, helping adults develop leadership, management, and communication skills.

Gatti and her husband moved to Ashland in 2001, where she joined the Ashland Garden Club. "I am currently maintaining the Clock Tower Garden on Main Street, and have been doing so for about three years now," Gatti said. "I help, when needed, with other gardens, including the post office and library gardens." She loves working on Ashland's public gardens and seeing residents come by and enjoy them each season.



Chris Gatti becomes president of the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association.
(Photo/supplied)

found something she loved and resolved to realize her dream of becoming a MMG.

Two years later Gatti graduated from the MMGA Master Gardener Training Program and became a part-time consultant, which allowed her time to volunteer for both AGC and MMGA. Her volunteer work includes MMGA project gardens at the Wheelock School in Medfield and at the Ashland Historical Society.

In addition to her container-grown tomatoes, Gatti's 2020 home garden projects also included a new raised bed for growing herbs and salad greens, a new shade garden under a weeping cherry tree, and a roadside installation of canna lilies and dwarf zebra grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*).

Currently a Senior Principal Master Gardener (with 650+ hours of volunteering), Gatti rose rapidly through the ranks of the MMGA as Home Hort Coordinator, External Programs Coordinator, Vice President, and now, President.

Save the Date!

The Ashland Garden Club and Ashland Community Gardens at Stone Park will hold a joint virtual program on Saturday, April 10 at 10 a.m. The interactive program will include information on each organization and on Master Gardener Training by Chris Gatti, followed by Q&A. To register, send your name to AGCZoomEvents@gmail.com. You will be sent login information close to the date of the program.



The Ashland Garden Club raises funds to maintain public plantings around town and for educational programs. Here, AGC members staff a table at the Ashland Farmers Market to sell garden-related items. Left to right: Carol Tyler, AGC member; Chris Hall, AGC Vice President; Florence Seidell, AGC member; and Chris Gatti, AGC member.
(Photo/supplied)

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Becoming a Master Gardener

For many years Gatti dreamed of becoming a Massachusetts Master Gardener (MMG), through MMGA, but her busy career always stood in the way. In 2014 she took part in the MMGA's Home Horticultural Evening Lecture Series, offered twice a year. After completing that program, she knew she had

Comfort Quilts: Infused with Love

BY DEBORAH BURKE HENDERSON

Three Ashland residents recently participated in the Power of the Quilt Project's inaugural winter quilt-a-thon held virtually on Jan. 18 in celebration of MLK Day and a commitment to service. The project, which began about 15 years ago, is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Area Church, First Parish in Sherborn. The event was orga-

nized by church member Cris Crawford.

"I was overwhelmed by the response," Crawford stated. "With the pandemic, we haven't been able to hold our in-person events for almost an entire year. It was great to have so many familiar faces greeting one another via Zoom and working together on charity quilts."

Three of those familiar faces included longtime volunteers

Tobi Hoffman, Dorothy Nail, and me. We each logged in at 10 a.m. and dedicated the next five hours to cutting fabrics, making quilt tops, and sandwiching and hand-tying quilts.

Despite the ongoing quarantine, we have still been making quilts at home throughout the pandemic as have some of the other volunteers. Once completed, the quilts are dropped off with Sally Demler of Sherborn, a longtime UUAC member and fellow PQP participant.

"I don't quilt," said Demler, "but I like to help, so I hand sew the PQP labels on each finished lap robe. I think I've been involved pretty much since the beginning of the project."

Sally Demler is living with cancer. She takes the finalized lap robes to the infusion unit she visits regularly for chemotherapy treatments. Some quilts are provided to hospice patients and to other cancer treatment centers throughout eastern Mass.

"Every four or five weeks I make the trip," Demler said, "it's a privilege to be able to be part of this group and to supply others with these beautiful creations. Recipients are overjoyed and typically speechless when the nurse hands them one of these beauties. Every stitch is infused with love."

The Power of the Quilt Project has been coordinated by a few folks over the years, including Crawford. Since its inception, several thousand cheery quilts have been distributed to men, women, and children who are undergoing chemotherapy treatments.

Each lap robe is about 42" by 64" and backed in flannel



Cris Crawford organized the first virtual PQP quilt-a-thon for MLK Day. Pictured here in her sewing studio working on a lap robe that will benefit someone living with cancer. Photo/Cris Crawford

to provide some warmth to the patients as they receive their treatments. Quilts created with animal-themed or child-centric fabrics are delivered to Project Linus for youngsters facing hardship who are living in shelters or in a hospital setting.

"These quilts are a bright spot in the lives of people going through a hard time, and the Power of the Quilt Project allows us to share our gifts and caring with the community in a very

meaningful way," Hoffman said.

For now, quilt-a-thons will continue to be held regularly, until it is safe to meet in person. If you are interested in participating, contact Cris Crawford at crawford.cris@gmail.com. To find out more about the Power of the Quilt Project or make a donation to help buy supplies, visit www.uuac.org. Pictures from previous quilt-a-thons may be viewed at powerofthequilt.blogspot.com.

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Save the Date! Grab a Yellow Bag

GreenUp Ashland is pleased to announce it will hold its town-wide cleanup event as usual on the first Saturday in May. The 2021 event will take place the weekend of Saturday, May 1. Covid-19 guidelines will be in place. Residents, groups such as scouts and civic organizations, and businesses may sign up April 17-28 on the GUA website, www.greenupashland.org. For updates, visit the GUA website or Facebook page, www.facebook.com/GreenUpAshland. (Photo/supplied)



Sports

Ashland Swimmers Abby Pecze & Alex Gu

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Ashland swimmers Abby Pecze, a sophomore, and Alex Gu, a senior, both have had successful siblings who have swam for the Clockers. And while their brothers and sisters have accomplished amazing feats in the pool Pecze, and Gu want nothing more than to erase those milestones and etch their own name in the Ashland record books.

Gu's brother Ryan graduated five years ago and was a runner-up at both the Sectional and State Tournaments swimming in the 50 and 100 free and went on to have an illustrious collegiate career capturing an NCAA Championship.

Pecze is the final of numerous family members to swim for Ashland her brother Alex graduated last year and was the Division 2 South Sectional Champion in the 100-backstroke, while finishing as runner-up in both the backstroke and 200 freestyle at the State Tournament. He was also named the Tri-Valley League MVP.

Although both athletes have come to love the sport of swimming, they took different routes getting into the pool for the first time.

When the Gus were younger, their parents made them try out different sports and according to Alex, swimming was good for both boys.

On the other side of the pool, the Peczes were a family that seemed to always be in the water. Not only was her dad a swimmer, but everyone of her siblings were splashing about in the pool as well, so it was natural that the youngest would also find her sea legs.

Gu took private lessons for a few years before moving over to the MetroWest Stingrays, a club team out of Framingham. The younger Gu swims the same events as his brother, not because his brother did those events, but because he likes swimming the 50 and 100 freestyle.

"I prefer the sprint event as distance events are too painful and you need to pace yourself really well," Gu said. "I'd rather just go out and give it everything that I've got over a shorter distance."

Although he never got to swim on the high school level with his older brother, the younger Gu is looking toward his senior campaign to surpass his brother's school records.

"This year I would like to go out and swim a 21 second 50 and a 47 second 100; if I can do that, I'll be right around Ryan's records," the senior swimmer said. "My swimming is good, but I need to work on the smaller details like my dive and my flips in order to cut my times. They are not problematic issues, so I should be able to decrease my times."

According to Clocker Coach Anne Meisner, although there probably not a competitiveness between the two as teammates would have as they are five years apart, I'm sure there is something there between them as brothers.

After jumping into the pool mainly because of her siblings, Pecze joined the Framingham Frogs around the age of 7 and then moved onto a USA club swim team where she realized that as she got older which events were really for her. The 100 butterfly is her favorite and her best time in the event is 1:03.00. In addition to the butterfly, the youngest Pecze also enjoys participating in the 500 free (5:30.55) and the 200 IM (2:22.72).

"I was not exactly the fastest 14-year-old when I got too high school, but having my siblings on the team helped me out," she said. "Prior to high school I knew that I would eventually be on the team, so I just worked hard. My club team pushed me to be a better swimmer although it was very different than high school. In club you're not exactly racing against anyone and high school is much more competitive."

While Pecze may not have originally been one of the faster swimmers she defiantly used her hard work in the pool to her benefit. Although only a sophomore for the Clockers, her times in the 500 freestyle and 200 IM are both Ashland records. In fact, the old 200 IM record used to belong to her sister Jaclyn.

"I was defiantly trying to break her record. As my sister I wanted to rub it in her face that I took her record as a joke," Pecze said. "Jaclyn was there timing when I



broke her record, but to be honest the 200 IM was not really her event so she should probably care less that I broke her record; it's something that we just laugh about now."

During the race Pecze doesn't really pay attention to the clock as it would slow her down, but as soon as she touched the wall and looked up, she knew right away that the record was hers.

"Abby is a true competitor and has a competitive edge that you just can't teach," the Ashland Coach said. "Once she gets into the pool, she is looking to do her best and is disappointed if she doesn't."

With covid-19 still surrounding all high school athletics, the Clocker swimmers, like every other athlete, is glad to be able to actually have a season.

"I was hoping that we'd have the season at the regular time, but because with the schools closed, we couldn't get into the pools. It's sad in a way as its my senior year and you're always looking forward to it so having no post-season will be tough but at least we have a season."

Pecze felt the same way as Gu but being only a sophomore, she has two more years to hopefully swim in another Sectional and/or State Tournament.

"Not having any cuts for the Sectionals and the States is sad; so, I'll have to go after individual goals throughout the season," she said. "I'm going to have to mainly go after dropping my times and breaking some more school records."

Over the long-term Pecze is hoping to capture the school record for the 100-backstroke.

Swimming virtual this season is also going to be a challenge for the Clocker swimmers.

"I'd like to know what my

competition is doing as it pushes me and keeps me motivated," Pecze said. "Not being able to see how my competition is doing then I'm just going to have to go out and swim my race and hope my times improve."

Gu, who unfortunately does not seem to have some of his best times during the Sectionals and States, is taking the same approach as his teammate: go out and do the best you can despite the circumstances.

"For some reason I don't seem to do well in the bigger events. I'm not sure if it's just mental, but my family is all supportive and looking to help me improve," he said. "Besides swimming is about being with friends and having fun while doing something you

all like. Unfortunately, it's going to be a different with covid as we will not be able to get together and have our typical past dinners and team bonding"

Once the season begins in late February it will definitely be one in which all the swimmers have never encountered, but it will be a season, nonetheless. If Abby and Alex are hoping to one-up their siblings in the pool, there are going to have to do it with no competitors swimming beside them to push them. Instead, they'll have to do it with their brothers or sisters in their minds as they swim. Whether they accomplish those new records or not it will be a season they should never forget.

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Planning, Prevention and Preparation Help Families Maintain Dignity and Control

BY DENNIS SULLIVAN & ASSOCIATES

Our team had a recent experience with our client, “Mrs. Cronin” a member of our Lifetime & Legacy Protection Program (LLP Program). Mrs. Cronin and her late husband, Mr. Cronin attended a seminar we held over 20 years ago with the AARP Legal Services Network. We helped the Cronins establish their estate plan and they kept it up to date with their membership in the LLP Program at Dennis Sullivan & Associates.

Mr. Cronin passed in his 80s, and Mrs. Cronin eventually had to go to a nursing home at age 93. We kept in touch visiting her to update her plan.

We learned Mrs. Cronin was having difficulties paying some bills for real estate taxes; we investigated to determine her health and medical needs and ensure her wishes were being met. Although it took considerable effort and coordination, due to COVID-19

protocols we were able to coordinate services on Mrs. Cronin’s behalf.

Unfortunately, we were rebuffed by nursing home personnel numerous times., nevertheless we persevered on her behalf all while Mrs. Cronin was locked in her room because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Hard Work & Mrs. Cronin’s Diligence & Dedication Pays Off

Despite numerous challenges, we were able to work with the bank regarding Mrs. Cronin’s Trust and the Power of Attorney as well as coordinating with the nursing home physician. Persistence, passion, perseverance, compassion, care and commitment by our team prevailed and eventually all of Mrs. Cronin’s goals and objectives (financial, health, tax), as well as her choices for health care were honored. She was even successful avoiding the time delay and the cost of two

probate court proceedings (one for disability and one after death).

Our Main Responsibilities Were Met on Behalf of Mrs. Cronin

We accomplished Mrs. Cronin’s efforts to exercise her legal rights to retain control of not only financial decisions, but also health decisions regarding end of life treatment made by trusted individuals, rather than having to go to court. Disability court proceedings are long and expensive and result in ongoing court involvement, expense and can mean unmet health and financial objectives.

Could you imagine if her care, was left up to the state, courts, and nursing home? Our team ensured that Mrs. Cronin’s choices were written into her documents, honoring that no unwanted extreme end of life measures were taken when the time came that she was at the end of life. We and her family were relieved that these goals were met.



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HONOR ROLL

continued from page 6

Bomfim, Emilly De Souza, Chase Ellingwood, Tyler Hill, Dayna Jones, Jordi Montanez, Kathysha Nieves, Kelvin Phelps, Corde Rhodes, Jake Roy, Guilherme Salgado, Camila Santos, Dylan Schrag, Anderson Zabatta.

Holliston – High Honors: *Grade 9*, Tessa Bielak, Tyler Casey, Bryan Costa, Rory Forde, Joseph Green, Jake Lynch, Caroline White. *Grade 10*, Makenzie Stebbins. *Grade 11*, Vaansh Mansharamani, Zoe Rosen. *Grade 12*, Sylvie Bielak, Alec Chan, Ethan Ze’evi. Honors: *Grade 9*, Evan Burhoe, Sydney Comeau, Ludmilla Da Silva, John Donoghue, Benjamin Hunter, Mark Lagodimos, Jack Scaramella. *Grade 10*, Gryffin Irons. *Grade 11*, Osgui Padilla Morales. *Grade 12*, James Bender, Ester Da Silva, Liberty Perron, Owen Stanley, Alanah Wills.

Hopkinton – High Honors: *Grade 9*, Sean Miniman. *Grade 11*, Jake Shepard. Honors: *Grade 9*, Da-Neil Anderson, Bennett Kazanjian, William Moore. *Grade 10*, Nicholas Souza. *Grade 11*, Alexis Manchester. *Grade 12*, Gabrielle Buentello, Josvardo Gomez.

Hudson – Honors: *Grade 12*, Jacob Baker.

Natick – High Honors: *Grade 9*, Lukasz Baran, Reid Campbell, Kiyomi Erickson, Cassidy Thompson-Crowder. *Grade 10*, Samuel Erickson, Talyn LaGrone, Lily Rosenstein. *Grade 12*, Peter Miller. Honors: *Grade 9*, Savannah Clarke, Alexandra Millen, Walkeny Pereira Junior. *Grade 10*, Gabrielle Gaudet, Jasne Gonzalez-Maciél. *Grade 11*, Larissa De Oliveira, Michael Lamont, Ana Julia Oliveira. *Grade 12*, Brock Howatt, Scott Joyce, Kieran Luff, Aiden Sylvia.

About Keefe Regional Technical School: Keefe Regional Technical School is a four-year public high school located in Framingham, MA and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. In addition to 15 career and technical programs, Keefe Tech offers a complete college preparatory and honors academic program, with opportunities for students to participate in advanced placement courses and dual enrollment courses at local colleges and universities. Keefe Tech is proud to serve students from the in-district communities of Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton and Natick.

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Ashland business owner found dead in Natick

BY SUSAN MANNING
STAFF WRITER

Samantha Amenta-Stavar, 47, was found dead in Natick on Monday, Feb. 15.

The Ashland and Framingham bakery owner was last seen in Natick, near the CVS on Central Street, in her 2017 navy blue Toyota Prius hatchback. Her phone was pinging in the Natick/Norwood area, according to police.

Amenta-Stavar co-owned with her husband Jules Remenar, Dulce D Leche on Route 135 in Ashland since 2019, and on Edgell Road in Framingham since 2016.

Fellow business owner and Dorageon Ramen owner Alan MacIntosh, set up a go fund me page to raise funds for the family. On the page, MacIntosh said "Today our community suffered a devastating loss. ... Our hearts are broken.

"Jules & Sam founded and built Dulce D Leche, and have become a pillar of the MetroWest community. They had locations in Framingham and Ashland, and were a staple at many farmers markets around the area. Jules met the love of his life, he described meeting Samantha through a dating app, they were 93% compatible, and

Jules described it as a fairy tale, it was truly love at first site.

"The community is in shock at the loss. So many people remember their visits with Sam and Jules just within the past few days. Many have recounted their experiences with Sam on their visits to the shop, and how caring, and selfless she was. Even during struggling times, Jules & Sam would do anything and everything they could to give back to the community.

"Let us come together as a community, and help support Sam and his extended family during this devastating time. As we are still in the midst of this global pandemic, all restaurants have suffered, and have struggled to remain open. Jules & Sam invested everything they had into their amazing cafe location in Ashland. Let us come together and help Jules and his family, so the last thing him and his son have to worry about is keeping Jules & Sam's business dream alive," he wrote.

To donate, visit:

[https://www.gofundme.com/support-for-samantha-sam-amentastavars-family?qid=4b-](https://www.gofundme.com/support-for-samantha-sam-amentastavars-family?qid=4b-4f322ad421912528aa6dd500c-d07c8&fbclid=IwAR12ocoAdmh8-oWXHdhaM_zDROX-BicU9XnLKuDw9BWMU0L-PoHWLuvhTJ5II)



4f322ad421912528aa6dd500c-d07c8&fbclid=IwAR12ocoAdmh8-oWXHdhaM_zDROX-BicU9XnLKuDw9BWMU0L-PoHWLuvhTJ5II.

The MetroWest food Facebook group Chew On This is also facilitating a fundraiser by selling Dulce D Leche t-shirts, with all proceeds going to the business: https://www.bonfire.com/store/dulce-d-leche-store/?fbclid=IwAR2arYf9Jbnf5i_wmqBPPxix-J0ZUZjNB-xhWgnmTCcUwX-3pFUlawB24iP0A.

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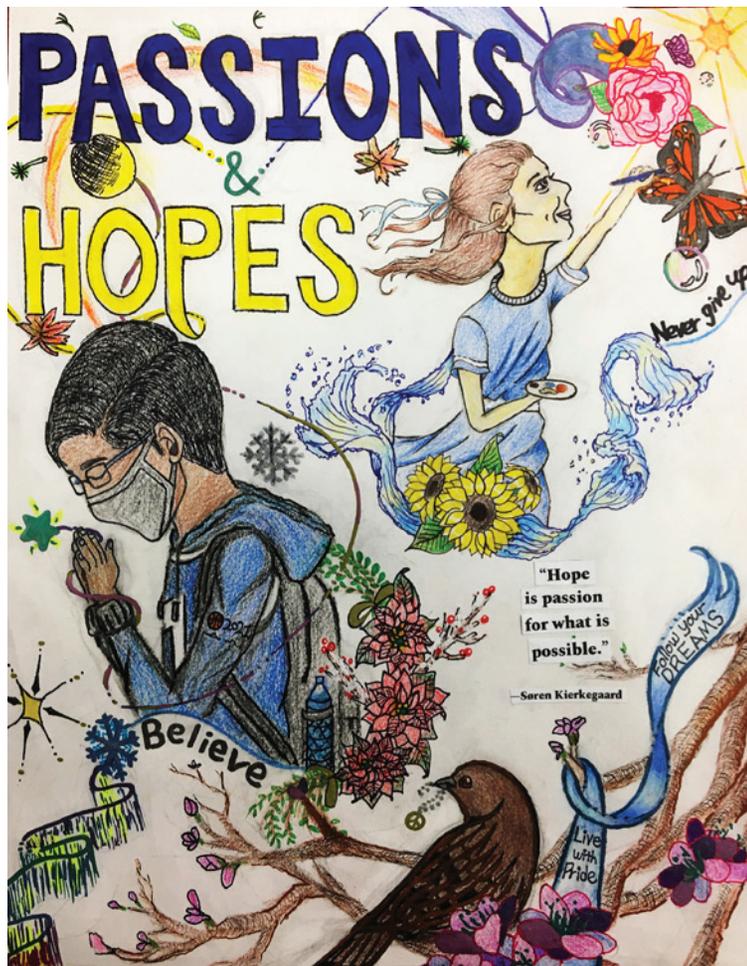
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The Ashland High School Student Council ran a poster contest in December asking students to illustrate their "hopes and passions" for 2021. The winning design was done by Katie Machnik (Class of 2023).

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Ashland Library News

Effective Monday, Feb. 8, the Ashland Public Library reopened to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for limited browsing (30 minutes) and computer use (45 minutes). Everyone entering the library will be required to properly wear a mask and sanitize their hands upon entering. Masks are available if you need one. Staff will gladly pull items to be picked up curbside for anyone who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons. Curbside pickup will also be available, weather permitting, on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If you plan to come into the Library, please note that the entrance (Concord Street side) will remain locked and you will be required to call the library at 508-881-0134 ext. 2 for the adult area and ext. 5 for the Children's Room when you arrive in the parking lot. You will be:

- asked health related questions about Covid 19 symptoms and personal or household exposure within the past two weeks.
- asked for contact information for the Town of Ashland's contact tracing needs.
- advised of time you will be allowed in the library (30 minutes for browsing/per day in the adult or children's area, photocopying and 45 minutes for computer use/per day)

You may be asked to wait if the library has reached capacity. Please note that only one family will be allowed in the Children's Room at a time.

While in the library:

- Masks/face coverings must be worn over the nose and mouth the entire time you are in the library.
- Please use hand sanitizer that is throughout the building
- Practice social distancing by remaining 6 feet apart from others
- Please only touch what you need. Any items you touch, but don't check out, should be placed in the quarantine bins located throughout the library.
- No food or drink will be permitted in the building.
- You will be able to check out your own materials with staff assisted checkout, or the Minuteman mobile app, to minimize handling
- Staff is available to answer questions and help you find things, but no one-on-one computer help will be available.

Please continue to return your items outside in the available bookdrop.

Curbside pickup will continue, weather permitting.

Curbside pickup is still available.

Find the items that you want in the catalog (find.minlib.net) and place a hold listing Ashland as your pickup location. If you don't have internet access at home, please call the library at 508-881-0134 for staff assistance to place a hold. Your reserved items will be held for one week. Inter-library loan and statewide delivery have resumed. This service is available to anyone with a valid Minuteman library card.

Pickup hours:

**Monday – Thursday 11 a.m. -6 p.m.
Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

You will be notified when your item(s) are available for pickup. When you arrive at the library, please call 508-881-0134 to let staff know you are here. Your items will be delivered to the table on the library patio (Main/Concord Street entrance) for you to take. If you need assistance, please let library staff know when you are contacted about pickup.

Returning Items:

Please use the library book returns located in the library parking lot and near the main entrance on Concord Street. Please note that only one bookdrop will be available for returns per day to allow for suggested quarantining. All items (including media) may be returned in the same bookdrop. If a bookdrop is locked, please do not attempt to force the slot open to return items. No items will be accepted in person by library staff. Based on CDC guidance given to the Institute for Museums and Library Services, any items that get returned will be quarantined. Overdue fines will not be charged while returned items are in quarantine.



Hoopla

hoopla is a groundbreaking digital media service offered by your local public library that allows you to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet, or phone – and even your TV! With no waiting, titles can be streamed immediately, or downloaded to phones or tablets for offline enjoyment later. We have hundreds of thousands of titles to choose from, with more being added daily. hoopla is like having your public library at your fingertips. Anytime. Anywhere. Sign up using your Ashland Public Library card and download up to 5 items per month.

Introducing Kanopy

Kanopy is an on-demand streaming video service providing access to more than 30,000 films and documentaries from a variety of independent filmmakers and distributors, including the BBC, PBS, A24, and the Criterion Collection. Ashland residents with Ashland Public Library cards will be able to watch 4 films per month.

Set up your account at: ashlandmass.kanopy.com

Then, download the Kanopy app on any of your devices to begin watching.

Minuteman Mobile App

The Minuteman mobile app puts the library in your pocket! Look for the Minuteman Library Network in the App Store and Google Play and download the app to your smartphone or tablet. Search the catalog, renew items, manage your holds and check out items using your camera's phone or use your digital library card to check out items at one of our staff assisted checkout stations.

Photocopiers

Color photocopying is available on the main level and black and white photocopying is available in the exhibit area on the lower level.

Computers

Several computers are available for public use. There will be a 45-minute limit on computer use until further notice. Printing in color, black and white and scanning are available.

Inter Library Loan

The library staff would be happy to help you obtain materials from other libraries that are not found in our collection. Delivery is slower than usual because of library closures so please be patient.

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Real Estate Corner

Ashland Lions Regatta on the Sudbury River!

LION DAN MITCHELL

The Ashland Lions will hold their very first Toy Boat “Regatta” on Saturday, March 27th, 2021 (rain date March 28th). At 10:00am, numbered toy boats will be launched by a member of the Lions from the Sudbury River canoe launch at Gryncell Park in Ashland. The first three boats to reach the finish at Marathon Park will be the winners! First prize is \$100, second prize \$50 and third prize \$25. You do not need to be present to win. Boats are \$5 each. To purchase a boat, contact a member of the Ashland Lions, or visit Honeydew Donuts on Union St in Ashland Monday-Friday between 9:30am – 10:30am on March 8th through March 26th. All proceeds go to the Ashland Lions Club to support local charities as well as Lions Eye Research.



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, October 9th, 2021, 6:30pm-11:00pm. 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.

Annual Lions Golf Tournament

Join us for the Ashland Lions Annual Golf Tournament, to be held Monday, October 4th, 2021, 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 contact Tom Heguy @ 508-881-1122 or Paul Ciccolo at 508-881-2397.

Eyeglass and Cellphone Collection

Eyeglass and cellphone collection is a year-round project with collection of used prescription and nonprescription eyeglasses, sunglasses, hearing aids and cell phones. This year, we have already collected 821 pairs of glasses and 5 cell phones!

Collection boxes are located at:

- Ashland Post Office
- Ashland Senior Center
- Sunnyside Café - Ashland
- Moody Optical - Ashland
- Middlesex Bank – Ashland and Hopkinton
- Fayville, MA Post Office
- Studio Optics – Framingham

Coats for Kids a big success!

This year the Ashland Lions collected a total of 349 coats as part of their annual Coats for Kids coat drive. Thanks to Lion Deb, Lion Elaine, the Ashland Fire Department, and all the Lions and community members who contributed to make this event a great success. We look forward to doing it again next year with your help!

New year, new members

Why not make 2021 your year of service to the community? If you're interested in becoming a member of the Ashland Lions, please reach out to us via email at membership@ashlandlions.org for details.

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.

ASHLAND'S



DECISIONS AT EVERY TURN
COALITION

DAET sessions available online now

The video replays of the February 8th POWER series webinar Surviving to Thriving: Supporting your Family's Stress,

DAET

continued on page 16



Surviving To Thriving:
Supporting your Family's Stress, Sadness, and Loss through Mindfulness.

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Ashland fire department gets state grant

The Baker-Polito Administration announced that 239 municipal fire departments will receive nearly \$2 million in grants to fund fire education programs for children and older adults across Massachusetts.

Fire departments in 235 communities will receive Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) and Senior SAFE grants; four communities will receive S.A.F.E. grants only; and three communities will receive Senior SAFE grants only.

Ashland Fire Dept received \$5281 for the SAFE program, and \$2680 for the senior SAFE program.

“Since 1996, the S.A.F.E. program has brought fire education to hundreds of thousands of students in the Commonwealth,” said Gov. Charlie Baker. “This program allows firefighters and teachers to work together to provide fire and life safety education to young people. This collabora-

tion contributed to a major accomplishment. No children died in fires in Massachusetts last year.”

The average number of children dying in fires annually has dropped by 78% since the S.A.F.E. Program began. The Senior SAFE Program is in its seventh year, providing firefighters with the funding to deliver fire safety education to another vulnerable population – seniors.

“Home visits, smoke and CO alarm installations, and fire safety presentations at senior centers by firefighters with senior agencies help older adults develop strategies to stay safe at home for longer,” said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito.

“The S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE grants represent a smart investment in fire safety,” said Public Safety and Homeland Security Secretary Thomas



Turco. “Youngsters and older adults are historically at greater risk in house fires, but that risk can be reduced through the targeted outreach, education, and awareness programs these grants help to fund,” he added.

State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey said, “The S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE Programs are successful because we have trained firefighters who deliver education to children and older adults. The fire departments being supported in these public education efforts are increasing the safety of the people in their communities.”

The S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE Programs provide \$1.9 million through the Executive Office of the Public Safety and Security to local fire departments. The programs are administered by the state Department of Fire Services.

DAET

continued from page 15

Sadness, and Loss through Mindfulness featuring Linda Price are now available.

In both sessions, Linda begins by discussing ambiguous loss, anticipatory anxiety, and the brain's role in stress & the stress response. Understanding these concepts is important to our own adult health, as well as the health of our children & teens. She then walks us through a series of simple body, visualization, art-based, and breathing strategies that we

can use to reduce stress and anxiety through mindfulness. Both webinars cover the same material, with the evening session having a slightly longer focus on breathing strategies. We welcome you to share with others who may be interested.

Morning webinar: <https://event.webinarjam.com/go/replay/230/09285cx7tmmc31c2>

Evening webinar: <https://event.webinarjam.com/go/replay/231/q7m5rs3zux0frzak>

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