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August 2021

The Voice of Your Community

Ashland Farmers Market Hosts Green Energy Day, Aug. 14

BY FLORENCE SEIDEL AND CYNTHIA WHITTY

The Ashland Farmers Market (AFM) will host Green Energy Day on Saturday, Aug. 14. Special vendors showcasing the MetroWest Solar + Clean Heat Challenge will engage Ashland residents on bringing about Net Zero carbon emissions while saving money and improving their homes.

The MetroWest Solar + Clean Heat Challenge program offers no-cost clean energy audits as well as discounts on solar panels, air-source heat pumps, and ground-source heat pumps to homeowners and small business owners. The program is the result of collaborations of municipal staff and local volunteers among four towns: Ashland, Framingham, Holliston and Natick. The program will run from June through December 2021. To sign up for a no-cost clean energy assess-



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ment of your home or business and for more information, visit MetroWestCleanEnergy.com

As part of this special day, the three competitively selected installers—Ace Solar, New England Ductless, and Achieve

Renewable Energy—will be available to explain their products and installation processes. A Mass Save contractor, NEEECO (New England Energy Efficiency Company), will be available to discuss their program and incentives to make your residence more energy efficient prior to the consideration and installation of solar and heat pumps.

Members of the Ashland Sustainability Committee will be present to discuss other en-

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Ashland Hosts Local Author Fest, Aug. 14

BY CYNTHIA WHITTY

The Ashland Public Library is partnering with the Framingham and Hopkinton libraries to showcase local authors who write for adult audiences. Meena Jain, Ashland library director, explained, “The authors had to submit a form to request participation. We’re looking for authors of adult books, who are published, even self-pubbed. We’re hoping to have up to 20 authors.”

“When I first started at the Ashland Public Library [in April 2021], a local author, Julie Nardone, approached me about this idea,” Jain said. “I am a huge supporter of local authors—if you think about it, Celeste Ng, Nathaniel Philbrick, Marjan Kamali, and so many others started out as ‘local’ authors. So, of course I jumped on the opportunity to showcase our talent. I was so pleased when Beth Reynolds, Ashland’s director of economic development and community outreach, helped us secure a time at The Corner Spot. And

then, I was thrilled to partner with the Framingham and Hopkinton libraries to widen the net, so to speak, to have the best variety of authors possible for the event. We’re very excited for it!”

Jani said, “I think highlighting the talents of our writers in our communities is always the goal—not just to support them but to send the message that their work is important and should be valued. Also, people attending might discover an author or topic they’ve not encountered before—it’s always fun to expand on people’s reading experiences. And, finally, each author will have time on the ‘stage’ to do readings or short workshops. That opportunity for both the author and attendees can create the connections we’ve all been missing in the last year.”

Jain hopes to hold more of these author events. “I’m sure Ashlanders will discover that I’m a huge fan of authors, at every stage

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AUTHOR

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of their career. It'll be interesting to find more ways to create paths for our local authors while also bringing in the 'names' for our reading enthusiasts. We actually have a bunch of author visits planned, both virtual and in person, in the coming months. They are all on our website calendar, and we hope to see many of their fans join us for the fun!"

Nardone, an Ashland author who suggested the event, said, "Metrowest has a lot of talented writers and devoted readers. I thought a down-to-earth regional authors' event could introduce them to each other, grow the local creative economy, and provide inspiration for anyone wishing to write their own books."

The event is free and open to the public, and will be held outside at The Corner Spot, 1-19 Pleasant St., Saturday, Aug. 14, 2 to 5 p.m. The event will also feature food and books for sale. No rain date has been set at this time.



Ashland Library Director Meena Jain

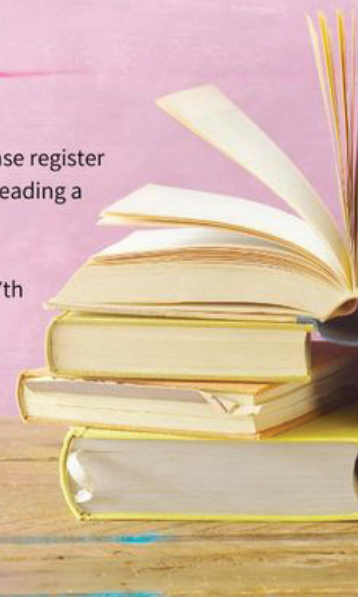
Ashland, Hopkinton, & Framingham Public Libraries are partnering for an outdoor Local Author Book Fair!

Saturday, August 14th 2-5pm
@ The Corner Spot in Ashland

If you are the published author of book(s) for adults, please register to join us - you can sell your books, spend 15 minutes leading a workshop, and meet your fans!

Deadline to submit a request is Saturday, July 17th

<http://bit.ly/localauthors81421>



Jon Fetherston Named Charles River Rotary President

Ashland resident, Jon Fetherston, has been sworn in as president of the Charles River Rotary Club for 2021-2023. Fetherston was the club president from 2015-2017. He is a former chairman of the Ashland Select Board and the Board of Health and is currently Governor Charlie Baker's appointee as Ashland Housing Authority Commissioner and for the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC).

The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through a fellowship of business, profes-

sional, and community leaders. The Charles River Rotary Club serves Ashland, Framingham, Natick, Wellesley and MetroWest Massachusetts and supports Metrowest projects, such as Keefe Technical School scholarships, Framingham school dictionary distribution, aid to local food pantries, special needs groups, and many other community outreach programs.

The club also holds its 'world famous' All-You-Can-Eat Ice Cream Festival on Natick Common. This year's event is Sunday, Aug. 22, 1 to 3 p.m.

The Charles River Rotary meets as a breakfast club on



Thursday's mornings at 7:30 a.m. The club has been meeting via Zoom during the Covid pandemic but plans to meet in person after the summer. To join

the club or attend a meeting, contact Fetherston at jonfetherston@comcast.net. The club is always looking for speakers.

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Henry Warren's Tractor Lives On



Carl Hakansson clears brush at Warren Woods in early summer with a tractor originally owned by Henry Warren and acquired in recent years from Framingham State University when they bought the Warren Center. The tractor was the first thing Farm Manager Roscoe "Rocky" Bemis bought when he came to work for Henry Warren in 1953. Hakansson learned to drive a standard on that tractor 50 years ago. Though the tractor had not been used in many years, volunteer stewards of Warren Woods, Hakansson and Greg Wands, fixed it and now use it to maintain the fields and trails at Warren Woods. (Photo/supplied)

GREEN

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ergy efficiency plans for the residents of Ashland to reach Net Zero by 2040, including composting, electrifying new and existing buildings, and expanding the use of electric vehicles. Some electric vehicle owners will be at the market with their cars to discuss their experience.

AFM is open every Saturday through Oct. 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 125 Front St., on the grass across from the Ashland Public Library. For more information and to sign up for weekly email, visit www.AshlandFarmersMarket.org.

In the fall of 2019 the Ashland Sustainability Committee passed a resolution that set a long-term goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions for the town by the year 2040. A Net Zero municipality, according to the Massachusetts Climate Action Network, produces zero net carbon pollution, the pollution that causes climate change. This means the community gets as much energy from renewable sources as it uses. Getting to net zero usually comes from a combination of energy efficiency, local clean energy production, and purchasing of renewable energy.

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Localism Without Borders: Rep. Lewis Discusses Role of International Partnerships

Rep. Jack Patrick Lewis participated in a virtual, international webinar, Localism Without Borders, on June 3. The program offered perspective on the role of local and regional governments' in supporting international partnerships.

Rep. Lewis was joined on a panel by Professor Sheila Foster of Georgetown University, former member of the European Parliament for Germany Matthias Groote, former member of the European Parliament for France Christine Revault d'Allonnes Bonnefoy, and the Leader of the Cardiff City Council Huw Thomas.

"It's truly humbling to be here," Rep. Lewis said during the event. "As this pandemic spread across this world, it was local electeds, such as myself, who took that opportunity to deepen our relationships with colleagues and friends abroad. As our White House was making scientifically inaccurate and, at times, racist and dangerous statements on this virus, local leaders here studied the diverse responses around the world, and it was that knowledge that directly affected our local public health advocacy."

Rep. Lewis noted the Massachusetts State House's leadership in hosting the first commercial-scale offshore wind farm in the United States: "While a sizable chunk of the credit goes to our Speaker Ron Mariano for his lifetime of work on wind policy, it was also because of local activism, regional statewide investments, and intentional partnerships that is going to lead to this wind farm coming online."

The webinar was sponsored by Politics Without Borders (PWB) and the Labour Foreign Policy



Group. PWB is a United Kingdom-based think tank that seeks to build and facilitate new strategies and policies. The Labour Foreign Policy Group is an organization within the UK Labour Party that develops and steers the party's foreign policy goals for the benefit of people within the UK and abroad.

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Ashland Business Beat

BY CYNTHIA WHITTY

Events for Business Professionals

The Ashland Business Association (ABA) will cosponsor its Annual Regional Members' BBQ, Aug. 3. Free for members. Enjoy the company of friends in a casual setting at the MetroWest YMCA Family Outdoor Center, with food and beverages provided. Invited associations are Ashland and Sherborn business associations and the MetroWest, Marlborough and Hopkinton chambers of commerce. Menu: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Veggie Burgers, Gluten-free Rolls (optional), and Chips. Drinks: Water, Seltzer, Beer/Wine, and ice cream from Refreshin' Concessions truck sponsored by Paul Netopski, Critical Prism Defense LLC.

On Thursday, Sept. 2, attend the End-of-Summer Social at 126 Self Storage. Come and enjoy great company, delicious food,

beer and wine provided by 126 Self Storage. This is a great way to kick back and connect with other like-minded business professionals. Free to members.

To attend, register online at ashlandbusinessassociation.com/events.

The Corner Spot is the Place to Be

The town's Economic Development Office recently announced its August events for The Corner Spot, 1-19 Pleasant St. The public is invited to attend. For up-to-date information on activities and events, visit thecorner-spot.com and www.facebook.com/thecorner-spot-ashland.

Some highlights include:

- Movie Night with WACA, Friday, Aug. 13 (Rain Date: Aug. 20). Raiders of the Lost Arc on the big screen! Bring a chair or blanket and pick your spot early. Enjoy music, food, face painting before the movie starts, 5 to 7 pm.



- Meet the Authors, Saturday, Aug. 14, 2 to 5 pm. Ashland Public Library teams up with Framingham and Hopkinton Public Libraries to showcase local authors. Visit the library's website for details.
- A Night under the Stars, Saturday, Aug. 14, 6pm. Len Rabinowitz on guitar, local community group's tables, food trucks, then join Rab-

inowitz to observe the night sky.

- Shop on the Spot, Saturday, Aug. 28, 4 to 7 pm. An event about successful women-owned businesses. Every-

one is welcome to shop, sip, and nibble as we will have beverages from Decanted Wine, food, and tons of shopping!

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Ashland's WACA-TV Wins Five Hometown Media Awards

WACA-TV received five 2021 Hometown Media Awards in June from the Alliance for Community Media (ACM) Foundation. The awards program was established to honor and promote community media, community radio, and local cable programs that are distributed on Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) access cable television channels.

Each year, nearly 1,000 entries, or programs, are submitted. These entries are evaluated by a panel of judges from the industry resulting in over 100 award winners. Awards are presented to the most creative programs that address community needs, develop diverse community involvement, challenge conventional commercial television formats and move viewers to experience television in a different way.

WACA's five winning entries are:

Beacon Hill Briefings produced during the pandemic by State Representative Jack Lewis and Connor Donovan. WACA chose this compilation because it highlighted pertinent information to get out to the Representative's constituents. <https://vimeo.com/516419119>

Spiritual Guidance for Daily Living produced by Rev. Carolyn McGee, an Angelic Life Coach,

and Alison Rose. This program was designed to help viewers through the difficult days of 2020. <https://vimeo.com/438362900>

Behind the Curtain Complication. WACA partners with Ashland Community Theater. This program is produced by Joe White and showcases the work of the local theater company. Due to the pandemic, the company did some creative work over the zoom platform. Here is a sampling of three episodes: Pandemic Music, ER Visit, an original short film, and the Santa Claus Chronicles: <https://vimeo.com/502287658>

Ashland High School Virtual Pep Rally produced by Joshua Wiczer, the Ashland High School Student Council, and Alison Rose. Due to the pandemic and the high school mostly in remote learning, the Student Council took to a more creative way to celebrate their annual fall pep rally. <https://youtu.be/ZMyphvRnZ94>

Together at Home — We Stand Against Racism. In light of the events during 2020 and the Black Lives Matters Movement, the Ashland community gathered together by sharing photos celebrating standing together as a community. <https://youtu.be/dj8yhZsfBJk>

"The Hometown Media Awards are a prestigious media



The Ashland High School Student Council Executive Board, 2020-21, produced the award-winning Virtual Pep Rally. Left to right: Brady McGuire ('22), Keira Joshi ('23), Kaitlin Merson ('21), Nayonika Singh ('22), and Ella Fong ('23). (Photo/supplied)

competition run each year by the ACM Foundation," Barbara Chisholm, WACA Executive Director, said. "It would be an honor to receive one of these awards, but we at WACA are thrilled to have been recognized for five awards for excellence of our programs, especially during the pandemic year when programs were produced virtually instead of in our production facility."

Mike Wassenaar, president and CEO, Alliance for Community Media, said, "The Hometown Media Awards celebrate both the excellence of work and the diversity of media that appears on community channels being produced around the country. The ACM Foundation is proud of their achievement and of how they represent their communities in their work."

Founded in 1979, the ACM is a national, non-profit membership organization committed to ensuring access to electronic media for all people. ACM carries out its mission by educating, advocating and acting as a resource for the more than 3,000 Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) cable channels nationwide.

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If income is being reported to the IRS, you can open a Roth IRA for Kids in a child's name to help them save for retirement, qualified educational expenses and introduce personal investing.

Roth IRA for Kids. There is no age minimum, as long as they earn income. It's up to you to document that they had income earned from work, either W-2 or self-employment taxable wages. Recall a Roth IRA's tax treatment is most valuable when time horizons are long and current tax rates are low, both are true for kids.

Adult supervision. The account owner is the child, however, an adult maintains control



Glenn Brown

and invests for the benefit of the child. Once a child becomes an adult, usually 18 in most states, the account is transferred.

What if your teen spent their earnings? After a talk about budgeting (i.e. 3 Jars - Spend, Save, Gift), you or a grandparent can set up and fund the Roth IRA up to the amount of your child's reported earned income.

Some parents make contributions as a 'match reward' for money earned in a summer job. Remember, Roth IRA for Kids contributions count against the \$15,000 tax-free gifts per individual for 2021. So if you've funded \$15,000 for child's 529 Plan, find another individual (i.e. spouse, relative) who can make the contribution.

Introduction to personal investing. Have fun by letting your kid research an ETF or company to invest in, have them explain why and teach how they can follow. The next year, have them

choose a different investment with the new contribution. Over time, they have a mix of investments, outcomes and lessons learned.

Taxation of withdrawals before age 59 1/2. A Roth IRA allows for 100% of contributions to be taken out at any time and for any reason, with no taxes or penalties. Furthermore, if a Roth IRA withdrawal is for qualified education expenses, you avoid the 10% penalty on earnings but still pay income tax on the earnings. Thus, Roth IRA for Kids could supplement educational savings.

Impact on financial aid? Yes, in a great way. The "expected family contribution" or "EFC" formula has student-owned assets assessed at 20% with two notable exceptions: 529's at parent's 5.6% and retirement accounts owned by

you or your child are not counted or 0%. However, if a child takes money from a Roth IRA, even to pay for college, up to 50% of the withdrawal may be assessed.

Getting Started. Not all institutions offer Roth IRAs for Kids, but many do with no minimums, no fees and no commissions. Consult your advisor or seek a fee-only CFP to learn more.

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.

St. Cecilia's Seeking Donations For Flea Market

Saint Cecilia in Ashland will hold an indoor flea market on Sept. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the St. Cecilia Parish Family Center, 54 Esty Street, Ashland.

The organization is seeking donations of household items, small appliances, toys, books, jewelry, small furniture (clean and from an animal-free home), and Christmas items during the dates detailed below.

They will cannot baby furniture (rockers, cribs & seats), clothing, shoes, electronics (including televisions and stereos), linens, large furniture

(including dining tables and hutches), or stuffed animals.

All items should be clean and in good working condition.

Donated items may be dropped off on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays ONLY from 9 a.m. to noon (or by appointment) in the Family Center starting August 2 through Sept. 8. You may call the rectory at 508-881-1107 or Corinne Hickey at 339-221-1476, if you have any questions or would like to make an appointment.

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Five Qualities We Look for in a Home Health or Hospice Nurse Applicant

We refer to our clinicians as “healthcare heroes” because the work they do truly is life-changing and enables patients to stay in their homes. Working directly with patients as a home health or hospice nurse requires a distinct set of qualities as they deliver care in our communities. To succeed in these roles, VNA Care looks for these characteristics in candidates for our home health and hospice nursing positions.

Independence and Critical Thinking: Home health and hospice nurses work at the top of their licensure in an environment unlike any other in healthcare. They must possess high levels of aptitude and autonomy to operate independently while caring for patients with a wide range of needs. Our nurses must possess the ability to independently communicate assessment findings and care needs of the patient. This requires keen assessment skills, critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and self-motivation to empower patients to meet their health care goals.

Teamwork: Although home health and hospice nursing require autonomy there is a community of support at VNA Care. Nurses draw on the expertise of, and learn new skills from, VNA Care’s nurse specialists. They have support from clinical services managers and participate in interdisciplinary collaboration with other team members to provide the best possible patient care.

Organization: Organizational skills are critical in this role, particularly when working independently in the field. Our nurses visit with multiple patients per day with complex and unique needs. Organization helps them handle multiple priorities and adapt quickly to unforeseen changes if necessary.

Empathy and compassion: The people we serve may be recovering from surgery, managing an illness or other health conditions or they may be on their end-of-life journey. Empathy and compassion are important parts of support. An empathic and compassionate approach to care makes all the difference in creating that source of support.

Passion for the work we do: VNA Care nurses enjoy working face-to-face with patients and being an integral part of our communities. They build meaningful relationships with patients and families, becoming trusted partners to help live their best lives at home.

Home health and hospice care is uniquely rigorous and exceptionally rewarding. Although it requires a specific set of skills and characteristics, our nurses ease into their new roles while working with a preceptor and educator through our strong orientation program. If you see these qualities in yourself and are interested in joining our team, please check out our careers page. We would love to meet you and welcome you to our team!

Ashland Farmers Market Matches \$25 SNAP Benefits

The Ashland Farmers Market increased the SNAP match to \$25 per shopper each week!

Free fruits and vegetables for SNAP users are also available at two farm vendors under the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP).

Shop on Saturdays from 9 am - 1 pm

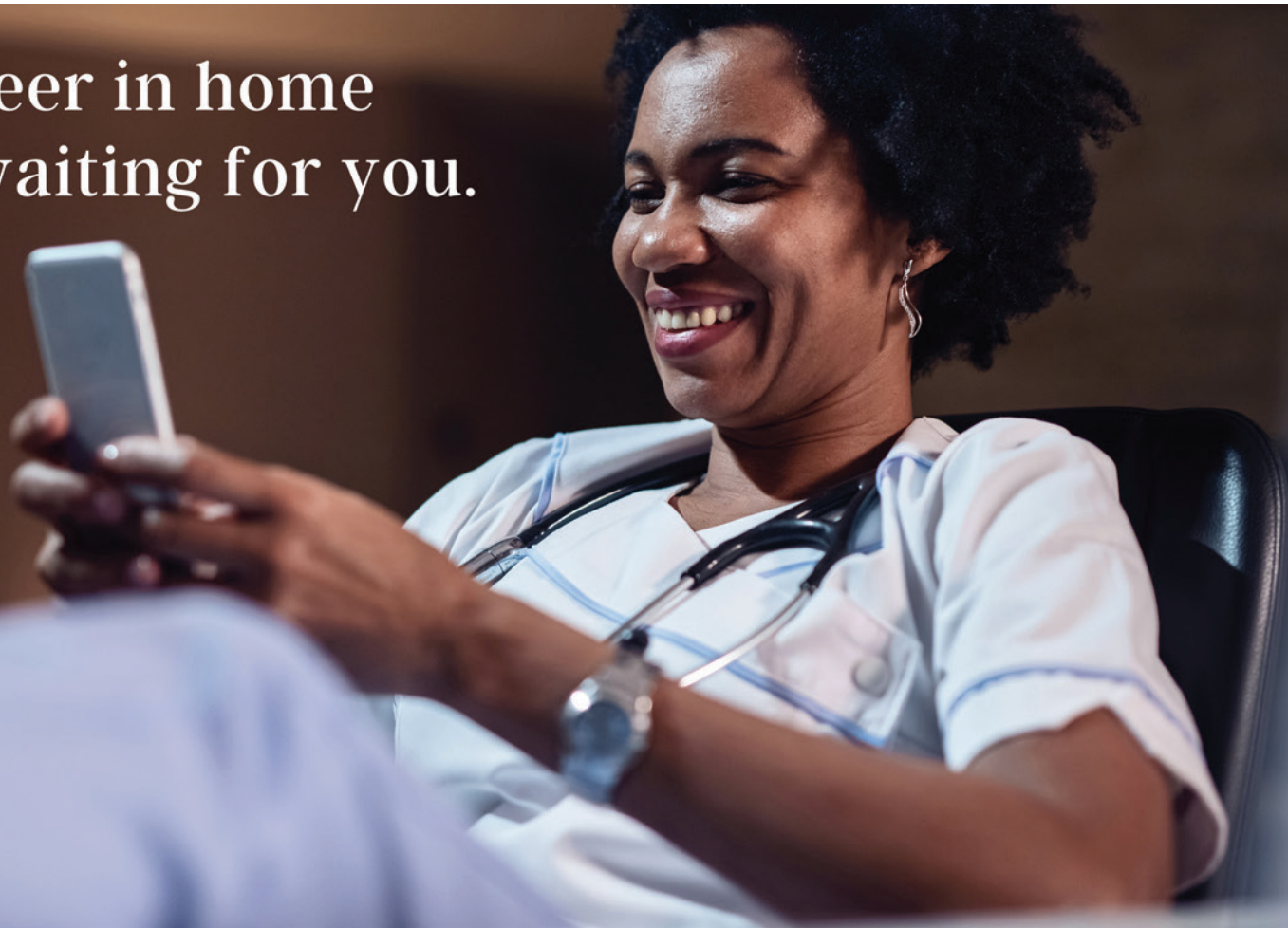
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The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

BY GINA WOELFEL

As a kid, summer always seemed like such a magical time with it's long, lazy days, beach trips and friend-filled afternoons. It was a time to kick off routines, close our school books and enjoy the sunnier side of the year. We stayed outside until dark with only the mosquitos forcing us indoors.

A summer job meant freedom and hard work, but money to save and spend. We babysat, picked vegetables, worked as clerks and mowed lawns. I watered plants in a hot, steamy greenhouse and hauled them outdoors for the customers to buy. I left work a damp and dreadful mess, but I had the money to afford my first car, a 1971 Triumph Spitfire convertible. Top down, with the sun on my face, I'd take the long way home. That was summer to me.

We didn't think much back then about the harmful effects of the sun or pool water or the not-so-healthy ingredients in our products.

I'm sure more than a few of us can wax nostalgic of those by-gone beach days, (Nantasket was mine). Bodies slathered in baby oil and hair spritzed with *Sun In*, by the time the boardwalk lights flickered on, our skin was blistered and our hair was orange. All was right in the world, but what was it that made that time so special?

For me, it was the effortlessness of it all. We didn't have to care so much about our health and

beauty routines. My red, angry skin would eventually peel to reveal a sea of freckles and I'd box-dye my hair in the fall and return to school the hot mess that I was in 1989.

Now, at 50 years old, with my "freckles" redefined as age-spots and SPF my new best friend, I miss the effortlessness of it all... Don't you?

Let's throw it back to that uncomplicated time and talk a bit about the three salon services we feel can streamline your beauty routine, add more free time to your day and help you get your summer groove back!

1. Organic Spray Tanning - Go on, get your bronze on and love your healthy, sun-kissed, skin! From a pretty, all-over honey glow, to a deep, island tan, we have the perfect shade to make you look your bronzy-best. And best of all - No sun damage to your skin.
2. Lash Lift + Tint. Oh man, where were these when I was young? Imagine waking up to lashes that already look curled and coated with a hit of mascara...all before your feet hit the floor! Not only is it possible, it's magical and yields 6-8 weeks of beautiful, mascara-free lashes that appear thicker, darker, longer + have the *va-va-voom* factor we all crave.



hair • makeup • skincare • editorial

3. Waxing - Now here's a service that's been around the block! We've all endured the yearly, pre-summer bikini wax, (Ouch) but, it's time for you to revisit this hair removal option. Hit the beach with no shaving or fuss. Wax formulas have improved immensely in the past few years and this depilatory service is galaxies apart from its predecessors. Bikini, arms, legs, or wherever you don't want hair - wax it off!

Here's a few August specials from b.LUXE Hair + Makeup Studio to help you enjoy the rest of your summer. We'll see you next month with some back-to-school beauty and a September Giveaway you won't want to miss!

Lash Lift + Tint - \$75
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This month's *beauty beat* was written by guest contributor, Gina Woelfel

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RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Become a part of the SALMON at Medway Family

Learn more at a meet & greet with Executive Director Andrew Freilich

Open now and accepting reservations, SALMON at Medway is not your typical senior living community. From deposit to move-in day, living life the SALMON way includes support and accommodations at every step as you truly become a part of the family.

Operated by local, family-owned SALMON Health and Retirement -- a trusted leader in senior living since 1952 -- SALMON at Medway focuses on health, wellness and the longevity of its residents. Located at 44 Willow Pond Circle, SALMON at Medway features an integrated campus consisting of independent living together with assisted living and memory care.

For those who need a little more help with their daily routines, SALMON at Medway's Whitney Place, their full-service, assisted living community offers private apartments in a warm



CEO Matt Salmon welcomes SALMON at Medway's first resident Dottie Johnson to the community recently opened at 44 Willow Pond Circle.

and gracious setting with unique offerings and amenities at all levels of care.

Featuring the added convenience of Resident-centered care, 24-hour emergency response from personal care staff, "Anytime Dining" featuring locally grown chef-prepared fare, plentiful social activities and excursions, state-of-the-art fitness center with an indoor heated pool & hot tub and on-site amenities including banking, library, convenience store, postal center and more!

If you are ready to make the most out of your retirement or want to learn more for a loved one, we invite you to join Executive Director Andrew Freilich, a member of the SALMON community for over 15 years, on August 31, 2021 and September 9, 2021 at 3pm for refreshments and a tour.

RSVP by visiting www.MedwaySeniorLiving.com/events or call them at 508-533-3300. To get deeper glimpse into the SALMON lifestyle they invite you to follow @salmonatmedway on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

Become a part of our SALMON family!

Join us in August and September for a meet & greet with Executive Director Andrew Freilich.

Discover what family means to us when you visit SALMON at Medway's Whitney Place, our full-service, assisted living and memory care community offering private apartments in a warm and gracious setting for those who need a little help with their daily routines.

Learn more about the community from Executive Director Andrew Freilich, a member of the SALMON community for over 15 years, over refreshments on August 31st and September 9th at 3pm. **RSVP at medwayseniorliving.com or call 508-533-3300.**

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Around Ashland Town News

BY CYNTHIA WHITTY

Take the Survey: Racial Equity Steering Group Seeks Data to Foster Inclusion

In an effort to gain a better understanding of the perspectives and experiences of people of color within our community, the town's Racial Equity Steering Group has partnered with Suffolk University to systematically col-



Lt. Richard Briggs Sworn In as Acting Police Chief
In early July Lieutenant Richard Briggs, a 20-year member of the Ashland Police Department, was sworn in by Town Clerk Tara Ward as the Acting Chief of Police. Briggs replaces Chief Vincent Alfano who retired on June 30 after 2 1/2 years of service to the Ashland community. Congratulations Chief Briggs! (Photo/supplied)



Road Construction Continues
Crews continue construction work on the Route 126/Pond Street Revitalization Project and on the Downtown Revitalization Project on Main Street and Front streets. This work is significantly impacting traffic. Please plan your travel accordingly. For updates and to sign up for a direct email newsletter, visit ashlandmass.com/160/Department-of-Public-Works. (Photo/Cliff Wilson)

lect this important information. This summer Suffolk University conducted several focus groups where residents had the opportunity to share their lived experiences and reflections surrounding race, diversity, and equity. If you have not participated in a focus

group, please consider completing a survey conducted by the University: bit.ly/2U4cQ6j. Your participation in this project is crucial in moving Ashland toward its goal of fostering and supporting a greater sense of inclusion and belonging for all who work and reside here.

raised supports the Ashland Select Board's BAA Grant Program and scholarships. Each recipient is also responsible for the fee that they pay directly to the BAA. This year's bib runners are: Christine Avery Henry Baker, Kristine Cavicchi, Meredith Connery, Rodrigo DE Lima, Cesar De Sousa, Allison Gorman, Telio Leal, Maria Mariona, Lisa Masiello, Olga Maturana, Yuliya Mironovas, Danielle Morgan, and Tai Temple. To make a donation in support of any of the runners in this year's Marathon, visit www.ashlandmass.com/bostonmarathon or mail a check to Town of Ashland, Attention: Susan Robie, 101 Main Street, Ashland, Mass. 01721.

2021 Boston Marathon "Bib" Runners

The Boston Athletic Association (BAA) has scheduled its 125th Boston Marathon for Monday, Oct. 11. Residents and others were selected by a lottery to use invitational entries, or bib numbers, given to the town by the BAA. In exchange for entry, each recipient must raise a minimum of \$3,000. The funding



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Save the following dates!

- June 29th - Tune Timers Band starts at 7 pm
- July 13th - Event Sponsored by the Ashland Business Association. Check out Ashland business booths as well as BBQ from Sentie's Kitchen and more! This event will start at 6 pm for food and booths and Back Pages will be the band for the night starting at 7 pm!
- July 27th - Five Play (Adrienne Fawkes Band) at 7 pm
- August 10th - Middlesex Concert Band Sponsored by the Ashland Cultural Council starting at 6:30 pm
- August 24th - Groove-A-Saurus Rex rock n' roll band at 6:30 pm

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Ashland's Dragonfly Festival Returns in September

BY CYNTHIA WHITTY

The 8th annual Dragonfly Festival returns on Sept. 18, 1 to 5 p.m. The event will take place at two locations: the Ashland Historical Society and The Corner Spot.

The musical lineup includes the popular Lori Diamond and Fred Abatelli and local bluegrass favorite, The Railroad House Band. Anelise Music, Joy & More will be a special treat at The Corner Spot. Other performers

materials; Yulia Doshen will present intricate jewelry made from silver and tagua and other artwork; bee crafts will be offered by Luz Apiaries and handmade soaps made by Jennifer Hofmann. Two Foxes Farm Wood-Fired Pizza, Cousins Lobster Truck, and Refreshin' Concessions ice cream truck will provide food.

Rajashree Ghosh, an event organizer, reflects on last year's virtual event: "In 2020, we created a virtual Dragonfly Festival and curated a lineup of local artists and bands over a period of three-days. None of that would have been possible without our com-



Organized by Arts! Ashland Alliance, the Dragonfly Festival features seasoned musicians, dance performances, entertainment for children, artisans, and food vendors. The family-friendly event is free to attend and offers a diverse community arts experience. Spanning a wide array of art forms, the festival brings people together to enjoy the cultural vitality of Ashland and artists from all over New England, some favorites and some new and emerging.

include Jonathan Campbell and the husband-wife folk duo, Anderson-Gram.

Festival organizers will offer young attendees a lot to choose from: Face painting by Gina, a dance performance by Annemarie's Dance Centre, interacting with alpacas, regaling at the still performer, and Lisa Abbascia's dancers from Backstage Dance Studio.

Artisans include Iona who brings unique and sophisticated jewelry made from ecofriendly



munity partners, such as WACA TV, and the contributions of local artists, musicians, performers and volunteers. We thank Ashland Cultural Council and Mass Cultural Council for their grant awards."

"Arts! Ashland is not engaging in fundraising this year," Ghosh said. "We thank our local business donors and support them as they recoup post-pandemic. However, individuals who remain interested in contributing may visit our website and Facebook pages to do so."

For up-to-date information on festival offerings and the schedule, visit the Ashland Dragonfly Festival Facebook page, www.dragonflyashland.org, or www.arts-ashland.org. Contact organizers by email, info@arts-ashland.org.



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



Sports

Ashland American Legion looking to continue their success

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Covid-19 began surfacing in March of 2020 and quickly put an end to all local sports.

As summer began to get closer the American Legion Baseball program decided to follow suit and shut down the season. However, while the teams were not allowed to play for their Legion teams nor represent their team in any shape or form, a handful of coaches got together and formed the Massachusetts Independent Baseball League (MIBL) to allow the kids to get onto the field and play some baseball.

While it wasn't legion baseball, it had a lot of the similarities. Ashland finished the regular season 14-1 with 28 points giving them a four-point lead over both Braintree and Medfield entering the double elimination tournament. Under the guidance of Coach Jake Obid, Ashland went on to capture the MIBL Championship highly due to their offensive fire power at the plate and efficient pitching on the mound.

As the calendar turned forward and 2021 began to play out, the majority of the country was heading to the clinics to receive their Covid shots and by the time summer came rolling around, things were opening up once again, including American Legion Baseball. Obid and his Post 77 team are ready to get back onto the field and play baseball.

"Playing in the MIBL last year allowed us to play a bunch of different legion teams throughout the state without the legion status," the Ashland Coach said. "It was a great experience and the people who put it together did a really great job allowing us to play a lot of good competitive teams."

Last year Obid found that with Covid surfacing in just about everything possible, the team seemed to get more kids coming to each game more frequently. On a good Legion year with a team of 18 players, the teams often found itself three or four guys short each and every game due to work and vacations. Last year the squads were increased to 25 and the Ashland Coach could rely on having close to a full roster every time they took to the field.



As Ashland begins the season, they will rely on the same formula that won them the MIBL Championship last summer.

"We can really swing it. Having so many good bats on the team it's tough to find spots for them all in the lineup, but I guess that's a good problem to have," Obid said. "We also have three good starters and a decent bullpen and are looking to make another run."

Through the first three games of the season, Ashland has averaged 15 runs per contest leaving everyone to believe that Ashland can and will capture the district 5 Title while making a push at the States.

On the mound Ashland will go with a three-man rotation that includes Dom Cavanaugh, Owen Radcliffe, and Tyler Dossas. The trio of college freshman hurlers are all considered the aces of the team.

"I consider them all number ones and am comfortable starting any one of them. It's like having a 1A, 1B and a 1C with Owen edging out the others for the top spot," the Ashland skipper said. "They faced a lot of great competition last summer and there are a lot of good lineups in District 5, so they'll be challenged but should be ready."

Leading the relief corps will be Luis Denison, who will be attending Nichols College next year. Denison is a submarine pitcher who will see the bulk of the work out of the bullpen for Post 77. Other arms that will see action this year for Ashland will be Max and Mason Dushney, in addition to Jason Cody.



Obid has five athletes who will be rotated throughout the outfield this season depending on who's hot and who happens to be at the park on a given night. Roaming the outfield will be Matt Neal, Sam Farrell, Nick Calabrese, Andrew Denison, and Kevin Balewicz.

The infield will also see a rotation of players moving around, but Obid believes it will be much easier to figure out who's playing when, as each is also a pitcher. Connor Coweran and Dossas will see time in the middle infield, while Lawrence Tang will hold down the corner positions and Mason Dushney and Cavanaugh can play just about anywhere the coach needs them to play.

In the past Obid has had more depth at pitching but will manage with the arms he has as Ashland challenges for the Legion State Championship.

"We are a team that will always make a run as we've been pretty good at picking out the talent for the team," the Coach said. "Last year I knew that we were the best team to take the field. This year we have some new guys, and I am just waiting for the team to click and flip that switch."

Obid is not only optimistic that his team will once again make a run at the district 5 and State titles, but believes that even the kids who are on the squad only as pitchers have the talent to play in the field if the situation calls for it.

Ashland will play a very compact schedule, taking to the field 12 times in roughly two weeks having all their games completed by the 18th of July before the District Playoffs begin on the 20th. And if all goes well after the District Tournament Ashland will be playing into August looking to capture the State Title.

Post 77 swept Needham in a double header remaining unde-

feated and, in the process, capturing the District 5 Title. Ashland took the opener 11-1 behind a complete game from Denison while Radcliffe went four strong innings in the night cap to grab a 14-3 victory.

Displaying a perfect 9-0 at the time of the writing Ashland had 18 points with its closest competitors at 4 wins and 8 points.



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Greater Ashland Lions Club

Congratulations Lion Nicole Dwyer on being this year's Greater Ashland Lions Lion Of The Year, presented by President Lion Mary Pimentel on June 5, 2021 at the Corner spot at our general club meeting.

On June 22, 2021 Irene Richards was inducted as a new Lion to the Greater Ashland Lions Club by Past District Governor 33-K Doreen Martel, congratulations Lion Irene and Welcome.

Duck Slide Race

Yes! The Ducks are ready for their yearly swim down the Waterslide on Aug. 20, at 5p.m at the Corner Spot. Come join the event (tickets are still available) proceeds



benefit local High School scholarships and Community projects. Contact Lion Cheryl 508-881-7056.

Peace Poster

Lions Clubs International Annual Peace Poster will take place again this year upon the return to school, for students ages 11-13, it's never too early to think about what you may want to capture on paper before school starts. While overcoming new challenges created by an unprecedented global pandemic, we're celebrating the things that keep us connected to each other, to our communities, all together around the world. The topic this year is "We are All Connected" for more info. Contact Lion Jan 508-881-3910.

Youth Speech Contest

Students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 are eligible to compete in the Mass. Lions Youth Speech Competition. Our Youth Speech Completion provides an opportunity for students to speak publicly and freely on a designated topic of general interest. The topic this year is "Why Is Accountability



Important" for information contact Lion Patti 508-881-2034

Date to Remember

Greater Ashland Lions Porchetta, Oct. 14, at Marconi's at the Ashland VFW Hall

Accepting reservations Now. Contact Lion Ellie 508-875-4513.

Recycling eyeglasses

The Greater Ashland continue to recycle Used Eyeglasses Prescription and non-prescription, collecting metal tabs from soda, pet food and soup products and coupons for education that appear on many cereal and paper products. Call Lion Ellie 508-875-4513.

Join us

Our regular meeting will begin in September, Why not come and join us and see what the Lions do? This year's Lions International President Dough X Alexander's motto is "Service with a Heart." Contact Lion Ellie 508-875-4513 or Lion Mary 508-881-1555.

Submitted by Lion Ellie Torelli

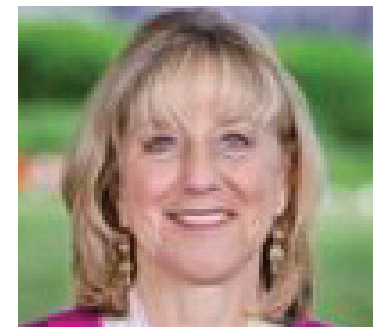
Massachusetts Legislature Passes Bill Authorizing \$350 Million in Funding for Transportation Infrastructure

The Massachusetts Legislature on Thursday passed a bill that will invest \$350 million in municipal transportation and selected statewide transportation infrastructure projects.

The bill, An Act financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges, authorizes \$200 million for municipal roads and bridges through the chapter 90 program and \$150 million to support statewide projects to address congestion, support electric vehicle infrastructure, prioritize bus infrastructure, and improve public transit.

"As travel returns to pre-COVID levels, our transportation system has a vital role to play in getting us back to better," stated Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "The Chapter 90 proposal advanced by the Senate and House today authorizes \$200 million for roads and bridges across our state and makes additional investments in emerging electric vehicle infrastructure which will greatly benefit the Commonwealth's residents. Passage of this legislation is critical to maintaining a transportation system that is sustainable, reliable, accessible and climate resilient. I am grateful to Senators Rodrigues, Boncore, and Feeney as well as Speaker Mariano, Rep. Michlewitz, Rep. Straus, Gregoire and their staffs for their collaboration."

"I would like to thank Chairs Michlewitz, Straus and Gregoire, as well as Senate President Spilka and her colleagues, for their work on the Chapter 90 bill," said



Speaker of the House Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "This bill not only authorizes \$200 million for roads and bridges but advances our priorities by investing in projects that municipalities will use to improve our transportation system, such as increased access to transit and specifically buses."

"As we continue building back to our new better, Chapter 90 funding remains an important mechanism through which the state can directly support cities and towns in Massachusetts," said Senator Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "Thank you to Senate President Spilka and Senators Boncore and Feeney for their leadership, and to my colleagues in the Legislature for their urgency to direct funding to projects that will make a real difference in their communities and strengthen our local infrastructure across the Commonwealth."

"These critical funds will ensure that our transportation needs are addressed all across the Commonwealth" said Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chair of the

SPILKA

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Library News

August Children's Programs:

Library Kids at the Corner Spot Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.:

August 4: Lap Sit for toddlers with Miss Lois

August 11: Stories for preschoolers with Miss Lucie

August 18: To Be Announced

August 25: To Be Announced

"Meet & Greet" with our three certified Read-To-A-Dog"

dogs (Bear, Knives and Machete) on the Library lawn at 11:00 on Saturday, August 7th. Photo opportunities and a chance to meet the dogs.

"Read-To-A-Dog" with Bear at 11:00 on Saturday, August 21. Space is limited - First come first serve.

Summer Reading ends on Saturday, August 14. Kids can turn in up to 10 tickets for prize



books! Anyone who filled out a paper log needs to turn in their log to the Children's Room to collect their prize books. Prize books will be selected by appointment ONLY. Please contact the Library for info about how to book an appointment.

Real Estate Corner

SPLKA

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House Committee on Ways & Means (D-Boston). “I want to thank the Speaker, Chairs Straus and Gregoire, and our colleagues in the Senate for the hard work they put into this legislation, and for continuing to prioritize out transportation system”.

“Public transportation is a public good. The \$350 million investment is among the largest Chapter 90 bond bills to date and represents the Legislature’s commitment to safe roads, reliable bridges, and modernized transit infrastructure,” said Senate Transportation Committee Chair Joe Boncore (D-Winthrop). “In addition to funding shovel-ready projects, the Chapter 90 bond bill makes statewide investments support public transit, address traffic congestion, and advance electric vehicle infrastructure and fleets.”

“This legislation recognizes that in addition to the backlog of local roads in need of repair, there is an unmet need for local projects that benefit all modes of transportation, and I am pleased that the legislature was able to provide municipal assistance for road work and expanded funding for towns and cities to advance public transit and reduce congestion,” said Rep. Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett), House chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation.

“The funding provided through this critical legislation allows our cities and towns the ability to move forward on the necessary repairs and improvements to keep our roads, bridges and infrastructure safe for the residents of our communities,” said Representative Gregoire, co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets. “I am grateful to Speaker Mariano for the opportunity to play a small part in its passage.”

“Today’s final enactment of \$350 million in Chapter 90 bond authorizations is a smart investment for the Commonwealth,” said Senator Paul R. Feeny (D-Foxborough), the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets. “There is no question our local infrastructure is in dire need of repairs and upgrades. As we recover from the pandemic and businesses and offices re-open, more people are hitting the roads and commuting once again. This comprehensive investment in our transportation infrastructure will put people to work and allow our city and town officials to forge ahead with the critical projects necessary to keep our communities moving along safely.”

“The members of the Senate Republican Caucus are pleased to join with our colleagues in passing Chapter 90 legislation

that will provide valuable resources to our cities and towns to construct and maintain the roads and bridges all of us depend on every day. Road paving, bridge construction and repair, and similar projects are important to our economy, our safety, and our quality of life, but their costs can be a major challenge for municipal budgets,” said Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester). “The spending authorizations contained in this bill will provide the resources and support needed urgently to respond to that challenge and make those projects possible this year.”


“The long-standing state-municipal partnership established under the Chapter 90 program is critical to helping cities and towns meet their transportation infrastructure needs. Today’s agreement continues the House and Senate’s ongoing commitment to support this important road and bridge program. Combined with the funding increases for targeted municipal transit-related grants, this bond bill will allow cities and towns to focus on addressing some of their most critical transportation needs,” stated House Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading).

The bill includes the following components:

- \$200 million in chapter 90 funding for cities and towns for projects to maintain, improve, and repair roadways, bridges, sidewalks, and bike-ways.
- \$25 million for the Municipal Small Bridge Program to support replacement or preservation of structurally deficient local bridges critical

SPLKA

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SPIILKA

continued from page 15

to local communities and not eligible for existing federal aid programs.

- \$25 million for the Local Bottleneck Program to address localized traffic bottlenecks and invest in infrastructure to reduce congestion, improve traffic flow, and reduce idling and greenhouse gas emissions.
- \$25 million for Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure to support municipalities and regional transit authorities in their efforts to install EV infrastructure and purchase EVs and zero-emission vehicles.
- \$25 million for Transit-Supportive Infrastructure to create dedicated bus lanes, enhance bus stops and train stations, support passenger safety, upgrade technology and modernize infrastructure to meet demand and increase frequency of public transit services, and improve access to public transit.

• \$25 million for Bus Prioritization and Enhancement Projects to support municipalities in their efforts to create bus rapid transit lanes, construct catenary wires for electric trolley buses, purchase equipment for transit signal prioritization, and make improvements at bus stations and stops.

• \$25 million for Enhancements at Transit and Commuter Rail Stations to support municipalities in their efforts to construct parking lots and structures, drop-off and pick-up zones, electric vehicle charging stations, park-and-ride locations, bicycle parking or bicycle cages, and accommodations for micro-mobility devices.

The bill also includes language clarifying that transportation infrastructure projects are an allowable use of American Rescue Plan Act funds, consistent with U.S. Treasury guidelines. Having been passed by the House and Senate, the legislation now goes to Governor Baker for his signature.

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