

Dragonfly Festival Highlights Local Diversity, Art in Ashland

BY SUSAN MANNING

If you are looking for some local art and diversity, turn out to The Corner Spot on Saturday, Sept. 10.

For information on the event, see our Q&A below:

Q: What is the Dragonfly Festival?

The Dragonfly Festival provides local programming that supports the mission of Arts! Ashland Alliance, Inc. Our planning and theme seeks to promote and feature Ashland's diversity, showcase Ashland musicians and artists, grow our local cultural economy and provide support for downtown Ashland revitalization.

Q: How many years has this been in existence?

This is the 9th Annual Festival including a 2020 Dragonfly virtual event

Q: Why is it called The Dragonfly Festival?

In mythology, the dragonfly



represents change, wisdom and potential. As a symbol for the Festival, the dragonfly supports our theme of community renewal, growth and diversity.

Q: What can eventgoers expect to find in terms of performances and vendors?

The 2022 will feature a variety of music performances including local favorites Lori Di-

amond and Fred Abatelli, dance performances, and a variety of artisan vendors. Please check our website (www.dragonflyashland.org) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/DragonflyFestivalAshland>) for updated Festival information.

DRAGONFLY
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Superintendent Adams Prepares for Upcoming Academic Year

BY CAROLINE GORDON

Superintendent of Ashland Public Schools, James Adams is ready for the excitement that comes along with the beginning of a new school year.

He said, "While we may never go back to a pre pandemic normal, I am always excited to have the energy of students, faculty, and staff back in the buildings. The past two and half years have been rough and I feel like this year will certainly be a little more like the start of 2019."

This year, school begins on Wednesday, Aug. 31.

In regard to following COVID restrictions, his team has "yet to determine" what protocols will be in place, but he said they follow the department of health and elementary and secondary education's rules when enforced.

He touched on how he and his team have been preparing for the upcoming academic year, noting



they will participate in a retreat in August where they will discuss their goals for the year.

"The best thing we can do is actually take some downtime and recharge our collective souls for the tough work ahead," Adams said.

ACADEMIC
continued on page 2

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ACADEMIC

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ASHLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2022-2023 CALENDAR

24 New Teacher Orientation
29-30 ALL STAFF Meetings
31 First Day of School Gr 1-12

AUGUST '22

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

2 Labor Day Recess No School
5 Labor Day No School
6 Kindergarten & Preschool First Day
26 Rosh Hashanah No School

SEPTEMBER '22

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

5 Yom Kippur No School
8-10 Family Reconnect Weekend
10 Indigenous Peoples' Day No School
24 Diwali No School

OCTOBER '22

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

1 (PreK-5) Early Release Before Lunch - conferences
2 (PreK-5) Early Release Before Lunch - Conferences
3 (PreK-5) Early Release Before Lunch -Conferences
11 Veterans Day No School
23 Early Dismissal Day Before Lunch
24 - 25 Thanksgiving Recess No School

NOVEMBER '22

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

23 (PreK-12) Early Release Day After Lunch
26 -30 Winter Vacation No School
31 New Years Day Observed No School

DECEMBER '22

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

2 New Year's Day Observed Day for Teachers – No Classes
13-17 Family Reconnect Weekend
16 M.L. King Jr. Day No School
17 Professional Development for Teachers – No Classes for Students

JANUARY '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

20 – 24 February Vacation No School

FEBRUARY '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

17 (PreK-12) Early Release After lunch
28 (PreK-5) Early Release Before lunch – Conferences
29 (PreK-5) Early Release Before lunch - Conferences
30 (PreK-5) Early Release Before lunch - Conferences

MARCH '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

7 Good Friday No School
7-9 Family Reconnect weekend
17 - 21 Spring Break No School
22 Eid el Fitr Observed

APRIL '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

26 (PreK-12) Early Release After lunch
29 Memorial Day No School

MAY '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

4 Graduation AHS
19 Juneteenth Observed No School
20 Tentative 180th school Day Early Dismissal Before lunch
27 185th day (if 5 snow Days are needed)

JUNE '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

4 Independence Day Observed

JULY '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Please note: No athletic practices or activities allowed on religious observance days.
Approved by Ashland School Committee November 18, 2021

DRAGONFLY

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Q: Is there a significance to the location?

The first Dragonfly Festival was located at Mill Pond Park and then added the Ashland Historical Society grounds. Both sites are adjacent to Mill Pond and the Sudbury River, the natural habitat for the dragonfly species and is the natural location to promote and showcase our local cultural economy and provide support for downtown Ashland revitalization.

Q: How much does it cost to get in?

The Dragonfly Festival is free, family-friendly and open to the public.

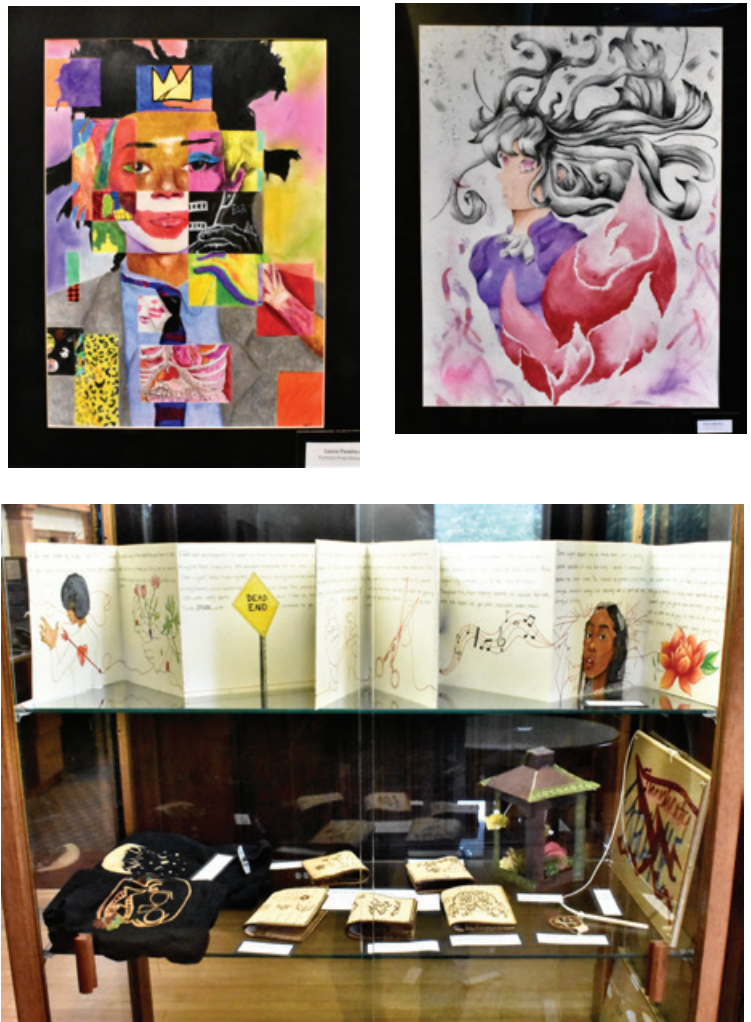
Q: What are the event details?

Over the past several years, the Dragonfly Festival has been held at both the Historical Society site and The Corner Spot. Due to the current Downtown reconstruction project, the 2022 Dragonfly Festival will held exclusively at The Corner Spot on Sept. 10, 1-6 p.m.



High School Art On Display

The Downstairs Gallery and the upstairs exhibit case are featuring the work of Ashland High School art students through August



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Cara Rossi Sworn In As The Town of Ashland's New Police Chief

Cara Rossi of Natick Police Department officially begins her next chapter as the new Police Chief of the Town of Ashland.

The Town of Ashland hosted a formal swearing in ceremony on Tuesday, July 12, at Town Hall where 30 members of Chief Rossi's friends and family, members of the Ashland Police Department, and elected officials celebrated her latest achievement.

The ceremony on Tuesday, July 12th began with an introduction from Town Manager, Michael Herbert saying, Herbert talked about the importance of

the position of Police Chief and the public process that ultimately led to Chief Rossi's hiring. The Town Manager used public surveys and focus groups to develop the candidate profile. Applicants that met the minimum requirements were the forwarded to an independent screening committee, which interviewed the candidates and recommended two finalists to be interviewed by the Town Manager. Rossi and the other candidate, Shirley Police Chief Samuel Santiago, were interviewed publicly and background checks were performed

before Herbert ultimately announced Cara Rossi would be the next chief.

Herbert highlighted some of Chief Rossi's key attributes, calling her, "an accomplished, hard-working, and resilient professional that has risen through the ranks and put herself in a position to be offered this opportunity". In reference to some of Chief Rossi's intangibles, he pointed out that, "she has a unique ability to balance a vision for the department with the positive attributes and ideas of the men and women that currently work there".

The ceremony continued with the Town Manager administering the Oath of Office to Chief Rossi, followed with a few words by the Chief, a statement from Karen Adelman-Foster of Senate President Spilka's office, and concluded with the ceremonial pinning ceremony.

Chief Rossi issued a statement saying, "Thank you, sincerely, for entrusting me with this opportunity. I will not let you down. To my family, friends, and fellow citizens of Ashland, I want to thank you all for being here. I am both honored and humbled to stand before you tonight as the next Chief of Police for our beloved Town of Ashland. I want you to listen closely. Do you hear that? That is the sound of the glass ceiling shattering. This is a historic night, not only for me, but for women everywhere."



The public swearing-in ceremony was recorded and by local cable station, WACA TV, cable channels and social media platforms.

Chief Rossi joins the Ashland Police Department with 28 years of service as an officer. She is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy. During her tenure with the

Natick Police Department, Chief Rossi led the Natick community as a Lieutenant and Commanding Officer for the Community Service and Traffic division and collaborated with community organizations such as Natick 180 and the District Attorney's High Risk Domestic Violence Task Force.

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Concerts are held Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in August, at Stone Park, 73 Summer St.

Bring a chair and a picnic dinner and enjoy the sweet sounds of summer with this concert series presented by the Ashland Day Committee!

6:30pm Aug. 2 - Community High School Concert Band

6:30pm Aug. 9 - Rail Road House

6:30pm Aug. 16 - TBA

6:30pm Aug. 23 - Groove-A-Saurus Rex

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Community Ties and a Commitment to Customer Service: Affordable Junk Removal

There are plenty of reasons to call a junk removal service. Maybe you're planning to move and need to clear out the basement and attic before your open house. Maybe you've spent way too much time at home lately and are feeling the need to declutter.

But figuring out who to call can be a pain. If you contact one of the big haulers, they route you to a phone center where they've never even heard of your town, plus their pricing seems vague and full of extra fees. No wonder you've let the stuff pile up—it's too much of a hassle to get rid of it!

Or you can call Affordable Junk Removal and let a local small business with deep community roots take care of everything.

Jay Schadler started his business in 2003. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with ten trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

Affordable Junk Removal specializes in house and estate cleanouts. If your garage, attic, or office is overflowing with stuff, take back your space and let the pros do the heavy lifting.

Business spotlight

Jay and his team have handled it all. They've dismantled above-ground pools, hauled away ancient hot tubs, taken down old fencing, and stripped away worn carpeting. They'll come for a single item, or they'll clean out an entire house. And they can take almost anything. They can't accept hazardous materials, brush, dirt, or concrete, but everything else is fair game for them to take away.

Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it. He first tries to either recycle or donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

Working with Affordable Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for what you don't use.

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've also got a driveway special where they'll take away a truckload of your unwanted things if you pile



it up. Or if you don't want to lift a finger, then you can point at the items, and the team will fill up their truck and haul away your unwanted things. However you do it, you're left with more space and more peace of mind.

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

And speaking of pricing, Jay is upfront about it. His website shows the truck sizes and prices, so you can save time knowing your costs before you call for an appointment. There aren't any

hidden costs or surprise fees with Affordable Junk Removal.

Affordable Junk Removal is fully licensed and fully insured, and they'll treat your property with care and respect.

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He

and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston as well as Resellables, a thrift store in Bellingham. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

For more information, contact Jay Schadler at (774) 287-1133 or visit Affordable Junk Removal online at www.takeawayjunk.com.

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Police Play Pick Up Game With Kids

While on routine patrol Officers Rodkey and Foody saw some kids at Stone Park playing basketball.

The two officers stopped to play a quick pick up game. According to the Ashland Police Department Facebook page, “Later, at roll call when asked how they did, the Officers said they were unfortunately “interrupted” by a call for service and that their duty

belts added 50 extra pounds preventing them from jumping like they intended... but will still beat the Ashland Fire Department anytime!”

Photos courtesy Ashland Police Department Facebook page



Your Money, Your Independence

Overdue Change Coming To Massachusetts Estate Tax Laws

On July 15, the Massachusetts House unanimously passed a \$4.2 billion economic development bill that will have significant impacts on residents' wallets.

Lawmakers put a lot in the bill, including a \$500 million tax relief package which raises the child tax credit to \$310 per child (and eliminating cap), raises the rental deduction cap to \$4,000, and ups the estate tax threshold from \$1 million to \$2 million.

Catch that last part?

Let's review why it's important.

Estate tax is owed on net value of the estate of a deceased person before distribution to non-spousal heirs. Think real estate, investments, IRAs, small business, life insurance proceeds, personal property etc. minus liabilities.

For 2022, the federal estate tax exemption is \$12.06 million, meaning amounts MORE than \$12.06 million are subject to the federal estate tax unless otherwise excluded (i.e. gifting). For most, there's little concern of having a life's work of earning, planning and saving being taxed upon death by the federal government.

Not the case with Massachusetts.

To begin, only 12 states in U.S. have estate taxes, with Oregon and Massachusetts currently at the lowest (worst) thresholds of \$1 million. Consider neighbor Connecticut is \$5.1M. Where Massachusetts currently takes a dubious lead is once an estate is valued over \$1M, the entire amount is subject to a gradu-



Glenn Brown

ated tax rate starting 0.8% up to 16%. For example, at \$1,000,001

an estate is writing Massachusetts a ~\$36,500 check, at \$2M ~\$99,600, at \$3M ~\$182,000 and so on.

How quickly can one's net value (assets minus liabilities) estate exceed \$1 million? Consider the median single-family home sale price in Massachusetts hit \$590,000 in May, and it was higher in Middlesex County at \$800,000.

What now?

Given changes were proposed by Governor Baker with bipartisan support in January and now part of a larger bill, it's expected to pass before legislation session ends July 31. More details to come, but we know the new Massachusetts estate threshold will start at \$2,000,001, with first \$2M no longer taxed.

Things to consider:

Know your net worth. While grandma living in a Massachusetts house with no mortgage and a few CDs finally gets a pass, what if she also has investments held for years or a lakehouse?

And what of your net worth? Add up 401ks, life insurance and AD&D proceeds, small business equity, savings, real estate minus liabilities. Are you over \$2 million or will be in time?

Connect with an estate planning attorney. New laws and life events are opportune times to connect as well as provide an updated net worth and review process. Also remember, revocable living trusts bypass probate but not estate tax laws.

Plan to be agile in retirement. Connection to seasons, fam-

ily and friends can be strong in Massachusetts. However, proper planning can create alternatives for residency in 38 states and no longer deal with state estate tax (or 5% income tax either).

As a fiduciary, it's a responsibility to educate on the possibilities for those interested.

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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Cadillac Paint Property: On Its Way To A Safe Green Space; No Dumping Allowed

By PATRICIA ROY

It's been a long haul, but the old Cadillac Paint and Colonial Lacquer & Chemical Company property will soon be looking clean and green.

The 3-acre parcel at 409 Eliot St., has finally been cleared of its chemical residues and refilled with clean dirt.

The paint and lacquer businesses that operated from the late 1930s through the

mid-1980s were determined by the state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE) to be in violation of the hazardous waste regulations. Elevated levels of PCBs and heavy metals were found in the soil.



In 2014, a team of several agencies formed a partnership to assess remediation and development options for the site. The federal Environmental Protection Agency, MassDEP, Mass Development and the town together were able to locate funding to remove contaminated soil and prep

the area for future development.

In 2015, soil excavation began and transported to a permitted disposal facility while clean soil was trucked in.

Eventually, the raw materials and solvents were cleared, including 14 storage tanks and drums. Some 80 55-gallon crushed and

empty drums had been buried without authorization on the property.

In 1996, a MassDEP contractor removed 22 drums of manufacturing resins and just three years later drums of resin, residual oil and sludge from an above ground storage tank and four tons of oil contaminated soil were also removed.

The Brownfield site was subjected to over 30 years of soil and water remediation by both state and federal agencies. The town fought for years to have the old buildings removed. When state and federal funds ran out in 2015 and the community voted further funding in 2016, approving \$100,000 through the Commu-

nity Preservation Act that among other things helps to preserve open space and develop outdoor recreational facilities.

In 2017, the town acquired the parcel and has since been at work transforming the site into a park, now that it has been determined to be safe for municipal use.

The land has been cleared and some fencing moved and the property is now on its way to becoming a public park with walking trails and pollinator garden.

About a third of the park is wooded, predominantly by white pines. The rest is open and cleared and awaiting the final touch to become a clean, healthy recreational site.

Ashland Lions Club August 2022 Update

Annual Lions Scholarship Winners

The Ashland Lions Scholarship awards were presented on June 3rd by our club president at the Ashland High School awards ceremony for graduating seniors. Congrats to all the members of the Class of 2022, especially this year's scholarship winners. The winners were as follows:

Harry Henchy Memorial Scholarship – presented to a Senior

who exemplifies Mr. Henchy's commitment to the Ashland community – awarded to Justin O'Brien

David Fetig Memorial Scholarship – presented to a Senior who exemplifies Mr. Fetig's love of Ashland High School sports – awarded to Maggie Lester

Two Ashland Lions Club scholarships awarded to Seniors based on their applications, selected by our club leadership – presented

to Ann-Rita Nanyunja and Avery Dinsdale

Congrats to our winners and best of luck in your future endeavors!

Annual Lions Golf Tournament

SAVE THE DATE! Join us for the Ashland Lions Annual Golf Tournament, to be held Monday, September 19th, 2022, 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.

Eyemobile at Ashland Farmers Market

The Lions Club District 33K Eyemobile will make an appearance at the Ashland Farmers

Market on August 27th. Be sure to stop by and say hello to our great team of volunteers and get a free screening for vision and health while you're there.

Stay up-to-date on Lions happenings

To see the latest status of our events, please visit our Ashland Lions Facebook page. Click the Like button and you will be automatically notified of changes or cancellations. While you're at it, be sure to follow Ashland Town News too!

LION DAN MITCHELL

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Monday, September 19, 2022

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Contact: Tom Heguy at heguyt@comcast.net 774-217-3190 or Paul Ciccolo at james146@comcast.net 508-326-6230



Mail-in voting permitted for upcoming elections

BY CAROLINE GORDON

Massachusetts voters now have the opportunity to vote early by mail by submitting an application to the town clerk's office.

Cindy Livingstone, Ashland town clerk, said the Vote-By-Mail option and COVID increased the amount of citizens who vote in-person.

She said, "For example, for the 2020 presidential election, about eighty percent either voted early in-person or by mail. Only about twenty percent voted on election day."

Vote-By-Mail applications were sent out in July and September to each voter who did not pre-

viously request a mail-in-ballot.

The applications can be sent by email, mail, fax, or dropped off in a ballot box outside of the town hall.

If you choose to vote in-person instead of voting by mail, early in-person voting will be held at the town hall.

In-person early voting for the September State Primary Election will be Aug. 27 to Sept. 2. Hours will be announced prior to the voting period.

In-person early voting for the November State Election will be Oct. 22 to Nov. 4. Hours will also be announced prior to the voting period.

Livingstone explained how poll workers will ensure voters are following COVID protocols, noting the help of high school volunteers who wiped down voting booths and pens during the 2020 elections.

She said, "We could not hold the seamless, successful elections we have without our poll workers. I cannot thank them enough for all they do!"

She added, "We have masks available for anyone that would like to wear one while voting and hand sanitizer at all stations. We also encourage Vote-by-Mail to limit the amount of people at the polling location."



"We use social media quite a bit to get the word out. Our Communications Director, Ashley Place, and I work very closely together on this. We also advertise in local papers and use the electronic signs in town to notify the voters of upcoming elections," she said.

Livingstone touched on the importance of voting.

"I believe voting is important because citizens should be able to choose the people who represent them. It is their civic responsibility. We are so fortunate to live in a country where the people have a voice," she said.

Livingstone touched on how her team will inform the community about the different voting opportunities, noting the use of social media to notify residents.

Town Clerk Elections

The Town Clerk's office staff is ready to help you vote in the upcoming September 6, 2022, State Primary Election and November 8, 2022, State Election this fall.

All registered voters in the State of Massachusetts have the option to vote early by mail. You should have received a mail-in ballot application from the Secretary of the Commonwealth Election with a postage-paid return envelope. If you need an application to vote by mail, contact the Town Clerk's office or download a form directly online from the Town Clerk's webpage, [ashlandmass.com/219/Elections-Voting](https://www.ashlandmass.com/219/Elections-Voting).

For the September Primary Election, unenrolled voters (commonly referred to as "Independent") must choose a ballot style, either Democratic (D) or Republican (R) to receive a ballot. This will not enroll you into that party; you will remain unenrolled following the conclusion of the State Primary Election.

Day	Dates	Times
Saturday	August 27th	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Sunday	August 28th	CLOSED
Monday	August 29th	8:00 AM to 3:30 PM
Tuesday	August 30th	8:00 AM to 3:30 PM
Wednesday	August 31st	8:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Thursday	September 1st	8:00 AM to 3:30 PM
Friday	September 2nd	9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Submit your signed Vote-by-Mail application for a ballot by Monday, August 29th at 5 pm to the Town Clerk's office. Drop off your application in person at Town Hall located on 101 Main Street or the drop box in the driveway of Town Hall, e-mail it to townclerkoffice@ashland-mass.com, fax it to the number, 508-881-0145, or mail it back to Town Hall.

The Town Clerk's Office will be hosting in-person Early Voting at Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Ground Floor Meeting Rooms, for the September Primary Elec-

tion on the following dates:

Voting in person, for all precincts, on Election Day September 6th and November 8th remains an available option for all registered voters at the Ashland High School, 65 E Union St.

For more information regarding Elections and Voting, please visit our designated webpage, <https://www.ashlandmass.com/219/Elections-Voting>, or contact our Town Clerk Department 508-881-0100 extension 7127 or email, townclerkoffice@ashlandmass.com.

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ABA Announces Scholarship Winners

The Ashland Business Association is proud to announce Sid Tilak, who will be attending Penn State and Faris Fakhouri, who will be attending UMass Amherst are the 2022 ABA senior scholarship winners.

Sid Tilak impressed the Scholarship Committee with his community service and philanthropic activities which include founding Snackz for Health, an organization that prepares and delivers healthy snack packages to Nurses, Frontline Workers, and Teachers. He received the Metrowest YMCA Changemaker Award and the Prudential Financial Americorps Award as a result of this and other activities.

Sid also has worked as an Assistant Tennis Coach at Waterfall Tennis Academy and as a Counselor in Training at Ashland Recreation Center's summer camp program. At Ashland High School he participated in the Varsity Tennis Program as Captain

of the team as well as excelling in his studies and receiving the AP Scholarship Award.

Faris' accomplishments were equally impressive. Faris has been very busy working over 20 hours a week with AI-Camp where he is an Automation Engineer. In this capacity he has made a significant impact in streamlining and automating the company's business operations. He has also worked as a Math Tutor for Kumon where he assisted younger students in developing math understanding and skills.

At Ashland High School, Faris co-founded the Chess Club and served as the Director of the Robotics Club. As well, Faris was chosen as Best Delegate at the LEXMUN statewide model UN conference, arguing for women's rights in developing countries, the KISS Institute for practical robotics KISS award at the state-wide BotBall competition, and received the National Merit



Scholarship Letter of commendation for outstanding performance on the preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test in 2020.

Both young men had impressive accomplishments within the community of Ashland and the Ashland Business Association is pleased to assist them in furthering their education and accomplishments. Representatives of the Ashland Business Association, Paul Netopski and Chrissy Reynolds attended Class Day at Ashland High School and awarded the scholarship certificates personally.



Faris



Sid Tilak

Each year the ABA offers scholarships to students from Ashland High School through a selection process that is based on educational, community, and employment activities as well as an original idea for a community action plan intended to improve

some aspect of community life in Ashland.

The ABA wishes these young men success in their future endeavors!

Fire Dept Spends National Pet Safety Day At Recreation Summer Camp

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Last month, Chief Robie, Captain Moraghan and Firefighter Blake stopped by Ashland Recreation Summer camp to do fire safety on National Pet Safety Day!

Photos courtesy Ashland Fire Department Facebook page



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Valentine Estate Update: Work to be Done

BY PATRICIA ROY

As New England residences go, the 19th century Colonial home at 133 West Union St., does not set any records for age.

The true anchor of the 7-acre property known as the Valentine Estate is the 2 1/2 story beauty of a barn, its gable oriented toward the road. The structure was built during the 1750s and moved on the property sometime within the following century.

Conspicuous due to its place along the Boston Marathon route, the Valentine Estate has been cherished by locals for its ambience of days gone by, as well as its 100-year-old trees.

That all seemed threatened a few years ago when a Southborough developer proposed a 99-unit Chapter 40B housing development that would call for 35 units to be set aside as affordable housing with the residence being preserved as a club house.

The property was appraised at \$4 million and the town negotiated with the developer to purchase the estate for \$3.5 million. The purchase was approved at town meeting and by a ballot vote.

The purchase in 2018 was seen as a way to forestall the property development and retain the historical asset for some future use. Additionally, the town was able to enact a deed restriction on a neighboring 16-acre parcel with the cooperation of the owners. Development on that property would be restricted to eight single family homes.

Town officials had hoped to finalize plans for the Valentine Estate for use by residents and perhaps create a destination to attract visitors. A request for proposals (RFP) issued in 2020 yielded only one submission which was rejected by the Select Board.

At a community meeting on June 29, for the community to discuss the status of the property

So far, \$1.5 million has been allocated to restore and stabilize the barn while a longterm plan is still being worked out. Site clearing, chimney repairs and replacing a sliding glass door was also undertaken.

Brandi Kinsman, Select Board chairman, said historical restrictions protect the features that make the property significant including the barn and the



house. Conservation restrictions are across the entire property and are recorded with the property's deeds. They can limit the future uses of the land, including the type of development.

A Valentine Restriction subcommittee was appointed by the Select Board a year ago, building on work done by the previously convened Valentine Committee. "This work will state review; it's the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs which is involved in these restrictions," Kinsman said.

The restrictions will not be able to be finalized until there is a "holder" or someone responsible for monitoring the restrictions, she said.

What's next

Right now, the town has \$750,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that have been allocated for the Valentine Property itself, according to Town Manager Michael Herbert.

"If we are going to use those funds, it would require that the ultimate purpose of the property would be to enhance travel and tourism and provide public access to the community," he said.

Also available is \$125,000 in Community Preservation Act funds which can be used for roof and foundation repairs as well as the removal of invasive plants like bittersweet, multiflora rose, and buckthorn.

One audience member wondered if the roof and foundation repair RFP called for someone who is experienced in historical reconstruction.

The answer is no, Herbert said, because the repairs need to be done as soon as possible.

Later in the meeting, one resident suggested that historically accurate repairs may limit usage of the buildings because they would not be up to code.

She also disagreed with spending \$75,000 for a property study when holders were not in place for the historical and conservation restrictions which drew agreement from another speaker.

Debate was also lively around the use of the property as a performance venue – one suggested

use -since there are already three in surrounding communities.

Herbert said he was hoping the meeting would provide a sense of clarity for the direction the town would choose to go relative to the properties.

"We definitely have to fix that roof and foundation," he said. "To do anything with that barn, that's priority number one."

If bids come in higher than expected and the town has the resources, then he would propose

that those funds be used, he said.

Herbert also said that taking a conceptual design worked up by Kate Valentine and presenting it for public comment would also be a good next step.

"If we can center in on a concept, then everything else would fall into place," Herbert said.

To view the conceptual plan and comment, visit the town website ashlandma.com.



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Doughty Best Choice for Governor

Our state is facing some serious problems including high cost of living exacerbated by inflation, an ailing MBTA system, rising crime rates, businesses leaving the state, and declining schools. We need a governor who will put aside politics and put people first. That person is fiscally conservative outsider Chris Doughty.

He is not a professional politician. Chris has spent a lifetime creating jobs, not worrying about the next election. He is the only job creator in the race. For more than three decades he has worked to build businesses that provide good jobs, while juggling being a hands-on dad for his six children and serving in the community.

Doughty has overseen the expansion of Capstan Industries from its initial startup of a few dozen employees to become, at its peak, a large multinational manufacturer. As a business owner and job creator, he dealt with all kinds of challenges — from low-cost international imports to government regulation. He has worked hard to make his company a place people were proud to work.



Doughty graduated from Brigham Young University with a B.S. in economics and received an MBA from Harvard Business School. He is well qualified to be our Governor.

But, what will Doughty do for you? As he likes to say, “You will have more dough with Doughty.”

Doughty was the first candidate to call for the suspension of the gas tax to help ease the pain at the pump. His plan is to suspend the gas tax until the price of gas drops below \$3.70 per gallon.

“The state has the funds, so there is no reason that the State House cannot help the hard working taxpayers by immediately suspending the gas tax. As the next Governor, we will be proactive in responding to crises,” said Doughty.

Doughty wants to end the Commonwealth’s reputation of being “Taxachusetts” and reduce taxes more than Bill Weld did as



Governor. This will make our state more competitive for attracting new businesses so that we can grow jobs and wages.

Like you, Doughty opposes licenses for illegal immigrants. But, he knows that the true problem is that Massachusetts is a magnet state. As our next Governor, he will strengthen verification of applications for public assistance so only the truly needy and legal residents receive benefits.

As an experienced job creator, Doughty has a small business bill of rights plan to support those who create the majority of new jobs in our state.

“As a business owner, I have worked hard to always comply with new regulations, but it has



not been easy. Creating jobs and meeting a payroll is not for the faint of heart. State government should be advocates and partners with our local businesses so the Commonwealth can create more jobs and raise wages. We do that by encouraging entrepreneurship and small businesses that are the backbone of our economy,” said Doughty.

As a father and grandfather, Chris Doughty knows that education is the heart of our Commonwealth and that we need to provide the best educational opportunities for the next generation. Our state is a national leader in education at all levels

but it is often uneven in its availability. Doughty will work to ensure parents can access the very best education for their children. The equation is simple: high expectations, a strong curriculum, excellent teachers, and empowered parents.

We can count on Chris Doughty to make Massachusetts affordable again. To see more details on his small business bill of rights and other issues visit ChrisforMA.com. Chris would be honored to have your vote in the GOP Primary on September 6th.

This article is Paid for by Committee to Elect Chris Doughty

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



Sports

Hockey Player Turns Track Star

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Growing up, Ashland's Will Child primarily found himself on the ice, but when it was time to go into high school his mother had other ideas.

As he entered the ninth grade, he found out that his mother had signed him up for cross country and there was no way to get out of it.

"She told me that I couldn't just stay home and do nothing, so she signed me up for high school cross country," Child said. "That first practice I didn't like it at all, it was just too hard, and I really didn't care for it. My mother wouldn't let me quit. Instead, she told me that I would be in the best shape ever, so I had to stick with it."

About a month into the season, Child realized that he was fast and was posting a 17:56 time in the 5K. The coaching staff as well as his teammates began to push the non-believing runner. Once again, he was still not buying into it, but continued to participate because he had to.

As a cross-country runner for Ashland, Child found himself as the number seven runner at the beginning of the year, but by the time the season wrapped up he found himself bouncing back and forth between the second and third fastest runners for the Clockers. His personal best in the 5K was a 17:06.

When the winter season ended the Ashland defenseman had to hang his skates up and take to the track once again, this time for the spring season. Having already run cross-country he figured that the mile and 2-mile would be somewhat comparable races. Just as quickly as he hated cross-country, he came to hate running track.

"I thought it would be easier as it was a shorter race, but it was harder than cross-country," he said. "I had the stamina, not so much the speed, so I had to really adjust my running."

As a freshman he ran a 5-minute mile and an 11:02 2-mile. At the Holliston meet, he got his mile time to under 5 minutes posting a 4:59 and then immediately ran the 2-mile crossing the finish line at 10:52.



It was here that he decided that he would run one, not both of the races, so he asked his coach what the better fit was. From then on, Child would focus all his energy on the 2-mile and thus changed his workouts.

"Will really improve a lot almost a full second from the fall to the spring, in his first year. Posting a 10:24 in the 2-mile with an even split is remarkable for a freshman and he has been doing it consistently," said volunteer assistant Will Brinegar (Brinegar along with Emily Reilly works with the distance runners). "If he remains patient, while staying healthy he has a real shot at becoming one of the better runners over the next four years."

According to Brinegar, Child was one of three freshmen to make the Tri-Valley League 2-mile final. Although it was quite an accomplishment for a freshman, Child believes that he could have finished with a better time had he known what he was up against.

"It was my first league meet and I really didn't know what was going on. I didn't want to start

out to fast and lose it near the end, so I was running slower," he said. "I lost track of the lap number and came into the last lap not realizing it was the last lap and I was sprinting until the last 50 meters or so. If I knew what was going on I definitely would have finished with a better time."

Advancing into the Divisional 4 meet, the freshman runner felt slow and heavy, but when he saw that he had run a 5:10 after the first mile he figured that he could actually post a personal best time in the race. Running over the last 200-meters he said felt like he was going to throw up but pushed through and crossed the line with a 10:24.

According to the Coach, Child was one of four freshmen participating in the race, where he finished ahead of two of them and only 11 seconds behind the other.

With a rather successful track season, the soon-to-be sophomore is planning on running more come next year.

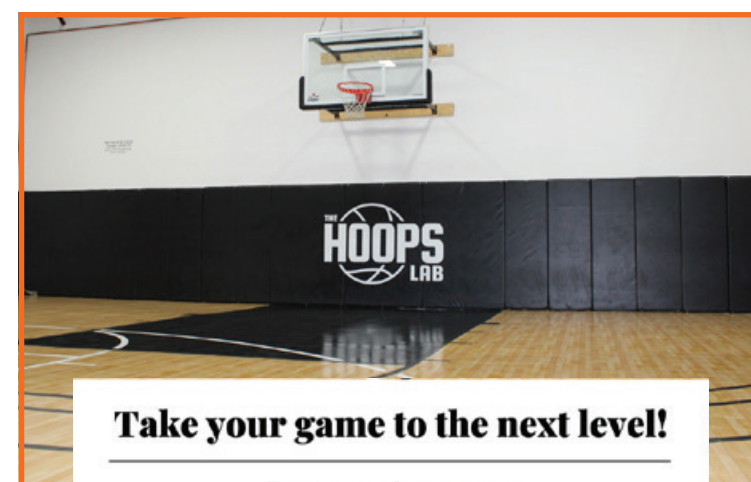
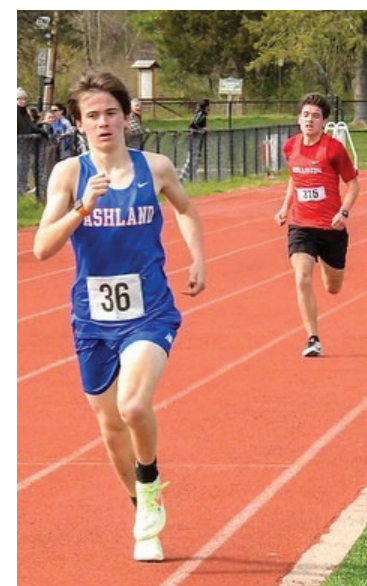
"I'm not going to take part in hockey next year. It was just way too early for me to be getting up in the morning to go to practice



and then going to school," Child said. "I figured that I'd be better off running. This summer I'm going to put some mileage on my feet and getting ready for the cross-country season."

With three years of running left in the high school level, Child is hoping that he can break a 17-minute 5K in cross country and a 10-minute 2-mile. He would also like to make it to a National Meet.

"He is a quiet kid with a big heart and he works really hard to do what it takes," Brinegar said. "He has a great opportunity to be really good and will become an example for the program."



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Ashland Library’s Recurring Programs

Children’s Room:
Read to a Dog:
*For kids reading on their own (walk-in, sign up for 15 minute increments):
“Knives and Machete”
3rd Saturdays @ 10:30am – 11:30am
(Hybrid) Lapsit for Infants and Toddlers
Wednesdays @ 10:30-11am
Friday Morning Storytime *PreK and Up
Every other Friday @ 11-11:30am
Check our calendar for dates
PJ Story Time with Miss Lucie
*Ages 3 and Up
2nd Tues @ 6:30pm
Teen Room:
(Teen programs are on hiatus until we find a new teen librarian)
Adults:

Book Clubs:
Virtual - Environmental Book Club
1st Tuesday @ 6:30pm
Virtual - Romance Book Club
1st Thursday @ 6:30pm
Mystery Book Club
2nd Wednesday @ 6:30pm
Cookbook Club
2nd Saturday @ 12pm
Bio/Memoir Book Club
3rd Wednesday @ 11am

Virtual - LGBTQ+ Book Club
4th Monday @ 7pm
Other Adult Programs:
DIY Green Products
2nd Thursday @ 6:30pm
Virtual - Friday Night Film Discussion
2nd and 4th Friday @ 7pm
Card Making with Jan Poppendieck
2nd Monday @ 6:30pm

Great Decisions Discussion Group
3rd Thursday @ 6:30pm

Knitting:
Mondays at 6pm
Saturdays at 2pm



Ashland Senior Center August Calendar

please sign-in for the class using the kiosk

MONDAY	Tuesday	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Exercise Class w/Joni at 9:30am LUNCH 12pm “ON AIR - MY FIFTY YEAR LOVE AFFAIR WITH RADIO” at 1pm PITCH CARD Game at 12:30 Chess Club at 1pm	2 Drop-in Watercolor 9:30 -11:30am Art Class w/Ana at 11am Chair Yoga at 1pm Bingo at 1pm	3 Drop-in Watercolor at 9:30 am Exercise Class w/Joni at 9:30am Parkinson’s Boxing at 1:30pm	4 Cribbage at 12:30 pm MINDFUL Meditation at 1pm BACKGAMMON at 1 pm	5 Exercise Class w/Joni at 9:30am Mahjong At 10am CLOSE AT 1PM
8 Exercise Class w/Joni at 9:30am LUNCH 12pm PITCH CARD Game at 12:30 Chess Club at 1pm	9 Drop-in Watercolor 9:30 -11:30am Art Class w/Ana at 11am Chair Yoga at 1pm Bingo at 1pm	10 Drop-in Watercolor at 9:30 am Exercise Class w/Joni at 9:30am	11 HEARING SCREENING at 10am CRIBBAGE at 12:30 pm MINDFUL Meditation at 1pm Backgammon at 1 pm	12 EXERCISE Class w/Joni at 9:30am LEGAL CONSULTATION at 10am Mahjong at 10am CLOSE AT 1PM
15 Exercise Class w/Joni at 9:30am LUNCH 12pm PITCH CARD Game at 12:30 Chess Club at 1pm	16 Drop-in Watercolor 9:30 -11:30am Chair Yoga at 1pm Bingo at 1pm	17 Drop-in Watercolor at 9:30 am EXERCISE CLASS W/JONI at 9:30am TECH HELP at 10:30am FINANCIAL TOPICS at 12:30pm Parkinson’s Boxing at 1:30pm	18 HEARING SCREENING at 10am Cribbage at 12:30pm Mindful Meditation at 1pm	19 Exercise Class w/Joni at 9:30am Mahjong at 10am Legal Seminar at 11am CLOSE AT 1PM
22 Exercise Class w/Joni at 9:30am LUNCH 12pm PITCH CARD Game at 12:30 Chess Club at 1pm	23 Drop-in Watercolor 9:30 -11:30am Art Class w/Ana at 11am Chair Yoga at 1pm Bingo at 1pm	24 Drop-in Watercolor at 9:30 am EXERCISE CLASS W/JONI at 9:30am ICE CREAM SOCIAL at 11am	25 MEMORY CAFÉ at 10am Cribbage at 12:30 pm at 1pm Mindful Meditation at 1pm Backgammon at 1 pm	26 EXERCISE Class w/Joni at 9:30am Mahjong at 10am CLOSE AT 1PM
29 Exercise Class w/Joni at 9:30am LUNCH 12pm PITCH CARD Game at 12:30 Chess Club at 1pm	30 Drop-in Watercolor 9:30 -11:30am Art Class w/Ana at 11am Chair Yoga at 1pm	31 Drop-in Watercolor at 9:30 am Exercise Class w/Joni at 9:30am		

Rubbish Collection Update

As many of you know, the last several weeks we have had issues with our trash service. Doug Small (DPW Director), David Miller (Program Coordinator), and I met with representatives from Waste Management to discuss our concerns. We stressed the importance of timely pickups and communication if there are future delays.

Part of the problem stems from the issues that everyone has: labor shortages and supply chain issues for parts. Waste Management has already made moves to correct both, including:

1. Hiring 5 additional drivers for the region, which helps Ashland with regards to backup drivers in case of emergency.
2. Waste Management has moved one of their newer trash trucks to Ashland to minimize the event of a breakdown.

Additionally, Waste Management is buying two additional trucks dedicated to Ashland. However, these will not arrive for at least a year.

We understand that trash pickup is a core municipal service and we are dedicated to making sure that the issues that have plagued us the last several weeks are non-recurring. If your pickup is missed, please let David Miller know at dmiller@ashlandmass.com or 508-532-7943.

Town Manager Michael Herbert

Real Estate Corner

Ashland Recent Home Sales

Date	Ashland	Amount
7/18/2022	16 Gray Birch Road	\$750,000
7/15/2022	26 Albert Ray Drive	\$910,000
7/15/2022	22 Dean Road	\$600,000
7/15/2022	58 Tri Street	\$665,000
7/15/2022	43 Spyglass Hill Drive	\$379,000
7/15/2022	24 John Hancock Drive	\$676,000
7/15/2022	70 Green Street	\$935,000
7/14/2022	29 High Street	\$495,000
7/13/2022	42 Riverview Drive	\$654,000
7/12/2022	155 Prospect Street	\$585,000
7/11/2022	10 Belknap Circle	\$1.17 mil
7/11/2022	27 Douglas Road	\$365,000
7/08/2022	6 Aldrich Way	\$925,000
7/08/2022	18 Running Brook Circle	\$745,000
7/08/2022	126 Meeting House Path	\$440,000
7/07/2022	5 Bobcat Hill Lane	\$1.30 mil
7/06/2022	18 Irene Circle	\$950,000
7/06/2022	237 America Blvd	\$650,000
7/06/2022	220 Algonquin Trail	\$650,000
7/01/2022	216 W Union Street	\$630,000
7/01/2022	195 Winter Street	\$440,000
7/01/2022	16 John Hancock Drive	\$630,000
7/01/2022	351 Captain Eames Circle	\$576,000
6/30/2022	14 Harris Lane	\$1.10 mil
6/30/2022	16-18 Brook Street	\$465,000
6/30/2022	65 Oak Crest Drive	\$710,000
6/30/2022	103 Braeburn Lane	\$700,000
6/30/2022	107 America Blvd	\$650,000
6/30/2022	113 Mountain Gate Road	\$400,000
6/29/2022	22-24 Summer Street	\$425,000
6/27/2022	12 Teller Drive	\$680,000
6/27/2022	212 W Union Street	\$460,000
6/24/2022	254 Oak Street	\$595,000
6/24/2022	37 Birch Hill Road	\$447,000
6/24/2022	16 Cutler Drive	\$500,000
6/24/2022	47 Ramblewood Drive	\$712,500
6/24/2022	29 Dean Road	\$508,000
6/24/2022	60 Mountain Gate Road	\$435,000
6/24/2022	29 Hawthorne Road	\$445,000
6/24/2022	23 Pennock Road	\$1.28 mil
6/21/2022	39 John Hancock Drive	\$620,000
6/17/2022	224 Oregon Road	\$660,000
6/17/2022	190 Algonquin Trail	\$651,000
6/17/2022	25 John Hancock Dr #75C	\$675,000
6/17/2022	164 Arrowhead Circle	\$481,000
6/17/2022	351 America Blvd #35D	\$661,000



5 Bobcat Hill Lane in Ashland recently sold for \$1,297,000.

Image credit: www.zillow.com



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