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October 2022

Dragonfly Festival A Success



Held last month at The Corner Spot, the ninth annual Dragonfly Festival drew people from across the community.



DRAGONFLY
continued on page 2



'Tis The Season For A Pumpkin Fest

By SUSAN MANNING
STAFF WRITER

After Ashland Day was canceled, the high school Student Council was determined to bring a little fun and some festivities back to the town.

“The Student Council decided to put on this event after Ashland Day was canceled. We understood the town’s disappointment in having to cancel an annual celebration multiple years in a row, so we are hoping

to bring back the town’s spirits with food, carnival games, and performances for this year,” said Ella Fong, Student Council president.

Ashland Pumpkin Fest is a community-based event at the Ashland High School on Saturday, Oct. 22. Ella Fong, Eesha Gorantla, Kyle Schiller, Sam Bier, and Natalie Dunbar, the

PUMPKIN
continued on page 3

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DRAGONFLY

continued from page 1

The event was created to promote and feature Ashland's diversity, showcase Ashland musicians and artists, grow the local cultural economy and provide support for downtown Ashland revitalization.



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Susanne Odell Farber
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Advertising Sales Manager
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jenschofield@localtownpages.com

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Ashland Public Library introduces its new Teen Services Librarian Ana Sheehy

Young Adults have a new updated space to enjoy at the Ashland Public Library. The teen area is filled with age appropriate books for teens ages 12-18, it has quiet seating areas for study as well and other resources that pertain to teenage issues current in society. These changes have been added since Teen Services Librarian Ana Sheehy joined the team.

Since joining the library staff this summer, Sheehy rejuvenated the teen department taking steps to fulfill one important goal: to create a space for teens to exist and "just be" for a little bit.

Sheehy stated, "It's important for young adults to have a place to go without any obligations, and that is a hard to find in today's world. I'm hoping the Teen Room can serve that purpose."

A new feature that is current in the teen world today is a Discord Server. This is an online platform popular for gaming users, to collaborate, share, and talk about various topics. This addition to the library provides an opportunity for teens to converse, and get to know the resources at

the library from afar. "I wanted a way to reach the teens coming and going from the library during the summer months. We already have a few subscribers on the discord server," said Sheehy.

She is committed to creating a welcoming, safe space as well as providing experiences for all to enjoy. There are several new additions to the library's existing video game collection and added gaming consoles to use at the library including an Xbox and Nintendo Switch. The hope is that the Ashland Public Library will become host to tournaments at the library in the future. Ana is looking for tweens and teens to reinvigorate the Teen Advisory Board, which helps the library choose programs for this age group. It is important to the library team that teens have a voice in their teen room and programming.

"I'm looking forward to using community contacts to connect with the teens in Ashland, and invite them to the space," said Sheehy. Teens can meet her by visiting the library each afternoon.

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PUMPKIN

continued from page 1

members of the Ashland Student Council Executive Board, and its advisors Joshua Wiczer and Erika Thomson, have been planning for Pumpkin Fest for several months. Additionally, STUCO open enrollment members will be volunteering to help run activities at the festival.

According to Fong, there will be different bouncy houses for all age groups, a petting zoo and an obstacle course. She said the Lions Club will be running its annual golf ball drop as well.

In addition, various clubs and organizations from the high school and the town will be running activities at various booths. These activities range from face painting to raffles and basketball shoots.

The Pumpkin Fest will host a variety of performances including the high school chorus and Zeta fencing.

Fong said the community support has been wonderful.

"We are partnering with many community groups such as the Ashland Lions Club and

Pre-School PTO to bring fun games and activities to our fest. We are grateful for our generous sponsors who are the reason this event is happening," she commented.

"While planning this event, we have been fortunate enough to be able to talk to various organizations and businesses in the Ashland community. The connections we have formed and sense of community we have found in Ashland is extremely valuable to us. We have been so incredibly lucky to find such generous support within Ashland and its surrounding towns.

"Most of all, our favorite part of planning this event is knowing how it will bring all of us together at the Pumpkin Festival this fall and give students, organizations and businesses the opportunity to form new connections which we know to be extremely valuable while in our community and for the rest of our lives," Fong continued.

Fong said the event is accessible to those with disabilities, as it will be located right on the high school baseball field.

"The food area will be hosted in the high school's back park-

ing lot, so for anyone concerned about uneven grounds, there will be seating in the parking lot. Additionally, parking is extremely convenient and close to the event's location," she said.

The event will be held Saturday, Oct. 22, from 2 to 7 PM. Tickets are \$.50 each. Any money raised from ticket sales, will be distributed back to those who sold the tickets.

For more information, visit: <https://sites.google.com/ashland.k12.ma.us/stucoashland/events/ashland-fall-fest>.

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New Library Collection Highlights Materials In Different Languages



Ashland Public Library is diversifying its options.

It now offers materials in new languages! When you stop by the downtown library, you will be able to find books, DVDs, and books on CD in languages including Spanish, Portuguese, Hindi, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, French, and more.

There are items in both the children and adult departments to explore.

When asked about incorporating these new languages into the catalog, Library Director Meena Jain said, "Ashland is a diverse town, and we want people to find books and materials at the library in their own languages, reflecting some of their experiences and that makes them feel welcome in the larger community."



The items in these collections were thought out by the staff members at the library. They consulted members of the community and both town and

school staff before choosing the languages.

Funds from the library's budget and the financial support from the Friends of the Ashland Public Library made this collection possible. The library even had donations from people who traveled to their country of origin and brought back great books to share.

The library staff is working with community members to determine the best programs to bring into the library that complement this collection, such as Conversation Circles, which is popular at other libraries, or partnering with local organizations like Literacy Unlimited.



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BIOHEAT

Family-run Affordable Junk Removal takes the stress out of cleanups

BY CHRISTIE VOGT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible, properly disposes of non-recyclables and resells many items at the Schadlers' secondhand store, Resellables. "We opened that store in Bellingham because we hated to see things thrown away," Schadler says. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the back-end while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 17



years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place, The Corner Market in Holliston."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

As for Ashland in particular, Schadler says they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area. Prior to owning Affordable Junk Removal,

Business spotlight

Schadler was a chef at Stone's Public House, and he also has relatives in town. The Schadlers also sponsor Ashland's girls high school hockey team.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

To receive a free junk removal estimate, call 774-287-1133 or visit affordablejunkremoval.com.

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Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children and dog, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.

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Election Information

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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.

Submit your signed Vote-by-Mail application for a ballot

by Monday, Nov. 1, at 5 pm to the Town Clerk's office. Drop off your application in person at Town Hall located on 101 Main St., 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.

Additionally, the last day to register to vote is Saturday, Oct. 29, 9AM - 5 PM.

The Town Clerk's Office will be hosting in-person Early Voting at Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Ground Floor Meeting Rooms, for the November State Election on the following dates:



Voting in person, for all precincts, on Election Day, 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.

Day	Dates	Times
Saturday	October 22, 2022	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday	October 23, 2022	CLOSED
Monday	October 24, 2022	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Tuesday	October 25, 2022	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Wednesday	October 26, 2022	2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Thursday	October 27, 2022	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Friday	October 28, 2022	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Saturday	October 29, 2022	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday	October 30, 2022	CLOSED
Monday	October 31, 2022	8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Tuesday	November 1, 2022	8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Wednesday	November 2, 2022	8:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Thursday	November 3, 2022	8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Friday	November 4, 2022	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Town of Ashland announces new Senior and Social Services Director

The town of Ashland has a new Director at the Community Center. Candice Wilson will now fill the role of Senior and Social Services Director.

Town Manager Michael Herbert states in his announcement, "Candi was selected after an extensive public search process. We received several highly qualified candidates. The Town Administration and a representative from the Council of Aging interviewed six candidates. From that round of interviews, two were for-

warded to me for final interviews. Candi was the best candidate for the position in terms of experience and fit. I am confident that she will continue to improve upon the good work Joanne Duffy did while also bringing new and exciting ideas and perspectives to the program."

Wilson formerly served the Town of Ashland as the Outreach Coordinator at the Community Center, and before that, she was the Senior Center's van driver and a volunteer in the Food

Pantry. "I am delighted to begin this next chapter in my life," said Wilson proudly, "This role is my niche, and I'm very excited to continue advocating and helping seniors in the Ashland Community."

She added, "Many do not know this, but my mother actually retired as the Director of Senior Services in Chelmsford and served as the Director in Natick before that. I guess you can say this role is in my blood."

Wilson's knowledge of the community and the inner workings of the community center prepare her for this new role. Her current vision for the Community Center is strengthening relationships amongst staff and community organizations while supporting their efforts.

Additionally, Wilson wants to expand programming to reach seniors of all ages, collaborate with other town departments and organizations to increase the variety of activities offered, and provide more opportunities to support caregivers, "With my previous role as Outreach Coordinator, I've seen an increase in the number of individuals with Dementia, Alzheimer's Disease,

and other memory conditions. I would love to see us expand our programs and events to support caregivers and provide affordable support options."

Currently, Wilson and the staff at the Community Center, including the Human Services and Recreation Departments, continuously offer services, programs, and activities for the community. Be sure to stop by the Community Center to congratulate Candi on her new role and discover the opportunities available to you and your loved ones.

Information regarding programming is also available on the Town of Ashland website, ashlandmass.com.

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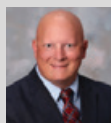
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Eye Opening Costs At Open Enrollment?

Pop Quiz: Per U.S. government data, over past 12 months (8/21 - 8/22) which has increased the most in price?

- A) Household Energy
- B) Unleaded Regular Gasoline
- C) Bread
- D) Health Insurance

In fairness, you've experienced A) 21.2%, B) 24.1%, and C) 16.2%, however for many fall brings Open Enrollment to work benefits so sticker shock of D) 24.2% health insurance has yet to be realized.

That's right, health insurance increased ~3X greater than 8.3% US inflation and same as gas. Think of the promotions or actions you've taken to save \$5-15 at the pump. Well, this is greater for family paying \$500 a month on a corporate health plan and facing ~\$1,440 annual increase.

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PPO guarantees \$6,422 paid in premiums while HDHP is \$3,692 less \$1,500 given by employer to contribute to HSA, thus equals \$2,192 or \$4,230 less than the PPO. Thus, maximum out-of-pocket expenses differential is \$2,770 and not \$7,000. Furthermore, you'd need \$10,230 of out-of-pocket medical expenses to make this PPO breakeven with this HDHP.

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- All contributions are tax-free: federal, state, and FICA (Social Security and Medicare).
- No federal taxes on HSA funds spent on qualified health care expenses.
- Excess HSA funds can be invested for tax-free growth to compound for years.

Unlike other tax-advantaged savings plans, HSAs offer "triple tax benefits": tax-free contributions, tax-free earnings, and tax-free distributions.

Get The Tax Savings: Consider a family in 24% tax bracket contributing \$4,000 to HSA, it would be tax savings of \$1,466 (\$960 federal 24% + \$200 state MA 5% + \$306 FICA 7.65%). Earners in 32% bracket can max out 2023 contributions and gain tax savings of \$3,460.



Glenn Brown

Set Some Time and Seek Help: Open enrollment is the once-a-year opportunity to make changes to your work benefits

without needing a life event. Beyond insurance and retirement benefits, these elections help maximize your savings, estate planning and taxes for 2023 and beyond.

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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Open Space A Priority

By PATRICIA ROY

For more than a decade, the town's voters have focused on setting aside open space for playgrounds, parks, walking trails and in one case to forestall the construction of more than 100 housing units.

This last and potentially most significant project is the Valentine Property which required significant funding and has not resulted in a usable piece of property for either a combined community/business/nonprofit operation or open space/recreation.

The Cadillac Paint property was rescued in 2015 by \$100,000 through the Community Preservation Act specifically set aside for open space and recreational facilities.

Though contaminated by decades of chemical pollution of the grounds, the Cadillac Paint property is now safe for use by the public.

Warren Woods is a 120 acre native

landscape of farmland and woodland, once owned by Henry and Edith Warren.

The land was donated by the couple, first in 1957. The rest was donated by Edith Warren to Northeastern University which the town purchased from the school in 2012.

It is currently under the stewardship of the Ashland Open Space Committee which maps and maintains the Ashland trail system including the Bay Circuit/Riverwalk Trail that is looking forward to a new bridge connecting the trail with Mill Pond Park.

Camp Winnetaska, a 20-acre Girl Scout property was purchased by the town in 2016 to house a wastewater treatment plant. Underground lines carrying clean water allows the area to be open to passive recreation.

According to Town Manager Michael Herbert having open space promotes long-term health benefits

for residents, contribute to keeping temperatures cooler and enhances property values.

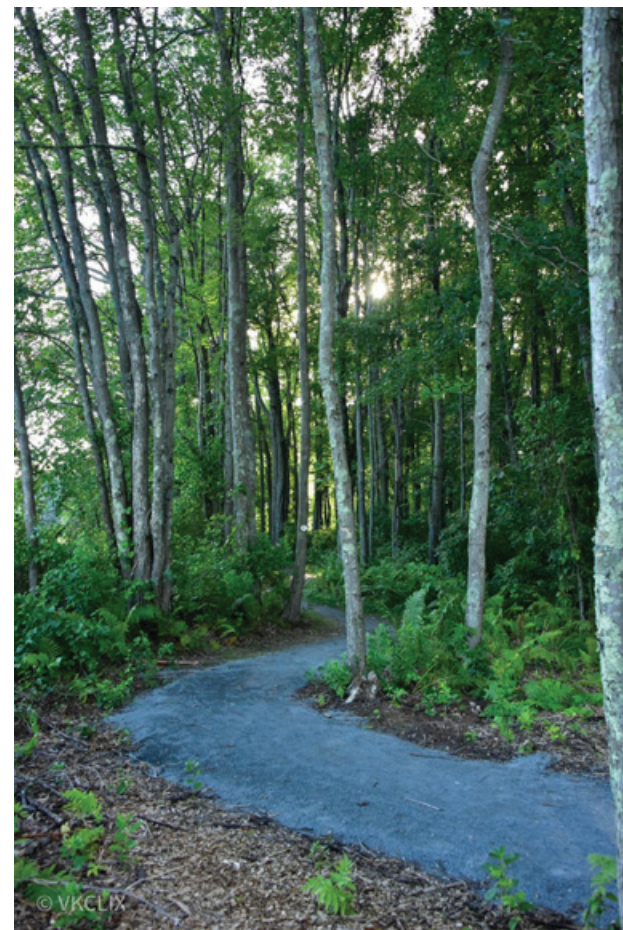
MassLand states on its website that most recreational activities are carried on within 12 miles of home. Open space helps address the disparities in being able to access outdoor recreational activities, they said.

Open space also bolster local communities by supporting tourism related businesses and protecting working landscapes and promoting water quality, the website states.

The town has also purchased small amounts of acreage abutting the Town Forest.

The Ashland Open Space Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are available virtually.

The Committee prepares the ground work for Self-Help grant applications to fund open space purchases.



Ashland High School ranks 21st on Boston Magazine's annual public high school rankings

The annual rankings of Greater Boston's best high schools, as calculated by Boston Magazine, were released this week. The magazine's The Best Public High Schools in Greater

Boston 2022 rankings covered only towns or districts within, or partly within, the I-495 area. Rankings were determined based on an analysis of key statistics, including graduation rates and

SAT scores, from the most recent data made available by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Out of 150 high schools analyzed, Ashland High School ranked 21st.

According to the most recent state data from the 2021-22 school year, Ashland High School has 812 enrolled students, an average class size of 15.3 and a 14.5:1 student-to-teacher ratio. Its graduation rate is 97.2 percent, with 79.5 percent of graduates attending college. While not measured within these metrics, these strong results are due to an amplified focus on ensuring all students get additional support and the start of a concerted focus on equity to ensure all students have access to higher-level courses and a rigorous curriculum.

In 2021, Ashland High changed its schedule to include X-block, a 25-minute block built into the school day for students to receive academic support and enrichment, movement breaks, college and career education and social-emotional support. With the mental health of students top of mind, the school also began a partnership with The JED Foundation, a national nonprofit that



seeks to support the emotional well-being of young adults ages 13-30, to bring JED High School to Ashland High last spring. It is one of only a handful of schools in Massachusetts to enroll in the expanded 36-month program, which will help evaluate and strengthen its programming and systems related to suicide prevention, mental health and substance misuse prevention.

The magazine also created several "honor roll" lists to differentiate which areas the ranked schools excel in and to showcase how median household income and home prices relate to student achievement. With a median home price of \$562,500, Ashland High was one of 11 districts on the "Bang for Your Housing

Buck" list, ranking second only to Littleton High School, indicating its "ranking most significantly surpassed the ranking of their respective median home price."

"What great work our students, faculty and staff are doing to produce such outcomes," said Superintendent Jim Adams. "While I am not surprised by the results, it still is remarkable to see such high student achievement considering the last two years were spent dealing with the pandemic. These results have been achieved through the hard work of students, faculty and staff, led by Ashland High School Principal Kelley St. Coeur. I could not be more proud of them."

For more information about Ashland High School, visit www.ashland.k12.ma.us/AHS.

About Ashland Public Schools

Ashland Public Schools is a forward-thinking district located in Ashland, Mass., serving nearly 3,000 pre-K through grade 12 students in five schools. For news, updates and announcements, follow Ashland Public Schools (@AshlandClockers) on Twitter or visit www.ashland.k12.ma.us.

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A beginner's guide to fall planting and maintenance

Spring and summer are perhaps the busiest times of year for gardeners. However, fall also is a prime time to tend to gardens.

The tree and bare root retailer Bower & Branch advises that soil temperatures in many regions of the country may still be warm enough to encourage root growth well into the start of winter. Furthermore, fall is often the ideal time to plant, fertilize and keep a garden going or to get a head start on next year's bounty.

Here are some tips to make the most of the fall gardening season.

- Think about fall annuals and bulb planting. Near the end of September, start planting cool-weather-loving pansies and violas for pops of color as summer flowers fade. Also, it's a good idea to stock up on bulbs that will bloom in the months to come before they sell out in stores. Wait until the temperatures really cool down before planting them in desired spots for spring sprouts.

- Sow salad seeds. Lettuce, spinach, radishes, and arugula tolerate cooler temperatures. Try new and interesting lettuce varieties and enjoy salads well into the fall season.
- Take inventory of the sun. Positioning a garden carefully means maximizing hours of sunlight, which begin to dwindle in the fall. Experts say gardens grow best in sunny locations that receive six hours of direct sunlight each day. This is where container gardens can be helpful, as they allow gardeners to move plants into spots that will get ample sunlight.
- Fill in landscaping gaps. Some fall plants can add color around the landscape and brighten up homes to add curb appeal. In addition to pansies and violas, asters, kale and chrysanthemums are fall blooms. Keep in mind that mums can come back year after year.



So take them out of those flower pots and get them into the ground. They can be enjoyed next year as well, sprouting in early spring and developing leaves and buds through late summer.

- Clean up unwanted growth. Fall is an ideal time to cut back spent vegetable plants and get rid of errant weeds. Rather than bagging leaves, mow them with a grass catcher and then add the

mix to a vegetable garden as an excellent soil insulator. The nitrogen and carbon will fertilize the soil, enhancing growing possibilities and limiting weed growth.

- Propagate plants in the fall. As temperatures gradually begin to cool, start taking cuttings from perennials, gathering seed pods from azaleas and rhododendrons and dividing hardwood cuttings, says the resource Gardening Know How. Consult with a garden center or horticulturist on the proper ways to propagate stems using rooting hormone and other techniques.
- Continue to water plants. Water is essential in the fall and winter as roots can still be growing. Gradually reduce watering duration as plants go dormant.

Fall planting and maintenance can extend gardening season and improve the chances of growing a healthy spring garden.

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Robert “Rob” Greene founded the company in 1980 and runs it today with his son Robert Jr. “Robbie.” Their goal is to provide top-notch workmanship at an affordable price.

“I decided to start my own business after I noticed that homeowners were being charged very high prices for a mediocre job,” says Rob. “This bothered me. I knew that if I could offer customers an exceptional job with fair pricing, that I could make a difference.”

Rob himself started roofing at the age of 13 with his father for his father’s construction company. Rob learned everything about roofing from the “great old-timers” who were up on the roof working right along with Rob, teaching him everything he now knows.



Today, Robert Roofing is fully licensed and insured, and performs work on residential and commercial buildings plus new construction. They have an “amazing crew” that offers various types of roofing (asphalt, rubber, low-slope, specialty shingles, etc.) as well as other services including gutter installation, new downspouts, vinyl and wood siding, coil stock metal coverage, soffits, and chimney repointing and flashing.

Did you know fall is peak roofing season? Rob says it is

Business spotlight

very important to have your roof evaluated before the cold winter months. If you need a new roof, or roof repairs, now is the time to do it.

“It’s easy to brush off some minor wear and tear water damage or damaged shingles but these are strong indicators that you need to replace your roof.

“Robert Roofing and Gutters is everything you want a contractor to be: Honest, reasonably priced, expert in what he is doing. Nothing flashy, just good work.”

David Williams

Don’t wait until spring to replace your roof, as doing so can exacerbate your problems. Any damage that you’ve discovered can only get worse during the winter with freezing rain, ice, snow and sleet. It’s best to be proactive instead of dealing with emergency roof repairs at the last minute.”

Robert Roofing will try their best to restore your roof and not sell you a new one. But if you need a new roof, their expert installers will make sure the job is done right the first time.

For the warmer months, Rob stresses the importance of roof ventilation which can also help with energy savings.

“The proper roof ventilation allows proper airflow between the attic and the outdoors. If a roof isn’t properly ventilated, hot air can become trapped inside the attic and cause your entire house to heat up gradually like any oven. This puts a huge strain on your home’s cooling system and leads to a noticeable rise in your monthly energy bills.”

For a full list of services available, visit www.robertroofingandgutters.com or call 857-247-8709 where you can also arrange a free estimate with Rob.

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Under Pressure gets homes ready for the holiday season

By CHRISTIE VOGT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In anticipation of fall bonfires, winter holiday gatherings and cold weather challenges, exterior cleaning company Under Pressure is busy preparing and sprucing up homes for the season. “The work we do is like a tune-up of the house from top to bottom, from roofs to gutters to windows to patios,” says owner Mark Mercer. “We’re helping people to love their home again, especially around the holidays, and to refocus attention on the importance of the health of a house.”

Mercer says that cleaning exteriors in late summer and early fall is an optimal time because houses stay cleaner for longer due to less pollen, landscaping debris and humidity-induced mildew. Under Pressure is also able to wash surfaces later in the year — even as temperatures drop to the 30s — thanks to water heating mechanisms in its trucks. “Winter is long, and homeowners should be asking themselves at this time whether their house is prepared for the

Business spotlight

changing weather ahead,” Mercer says.

In addition to washing, Under Pressure offers shrink-wrapping to protect outdoor furniture, water features, garden monuments and other items that need to be shielded from the elements. “Shrink-wrapping is a great alternative to covering things with weatherproof fabric, which often gets chewed through by critters,” Mercer says. “Shrink-wrapping also saves space because we can push everything into one tight bundle in your yard rather than having your patio furniture take up square footage in your garage or basement.”

Under Pressure also offers safe and efficient ice dam and snow removal services. Its gentle but powerful steam method quickly remedies problematic areas on roofs without damaging a home’s structure.



Routine maintenance and cleaning services like these are important, but Under Pressure is also eager to bring a bit of magic to customers this year in the form of custom-designed holiday lighting. “We are really excited about this new offering,”

Mercer says. “It’s amazing what you can do with a home nowadays with new light technologies, and customers have been asking us for years for a service like this.”

Under Pressure’s team has gone through weeks of training and safety courses in order to design and install holiday lights that cater to customers’ imaginations. “The designs are only limited by homeowners’ creativity,” Mercer says. The company uses LED lights and can illuminate an entire house with one extension cord and a timer. Homeowners don’t have to worry about maintenance or storage either; Under Pressure

will take the lights down at the end of the season and store the equipment until homeowners want to reinstall a display in the coming year.

“We can decorate homes for Halloween, Christmas, Hannukah, New Years — any winter holiday that people want to celebrate,” Mercer says. “Holiday lighting creates a special feeling; there’s just something about the warmth that it brings to a place.”

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Fireplace trends help create attractive, comfortable rooms

Fireplaces are useful features in a home. Fireplaces are sources of ambient heat and also add style to indoor spaces.

Fireplaces can complement just about any interior style. Fireplaces can be traditional and burn wood or connect to a home's natural gas supply for on-demand ambiance. What's more, fireplaces may come in vented or ventless varieties, depending on homeowners' preferences and what is allowed by community building codes. That means a chimney or flue may not be needed — expanding the list of rooms where a fireplace can be installed.

Certain trends have emerged among fireplace fans in recent years. Here's a look at what's getting consumers fired up about these home decor elements.

- **Minimalist style:** Many fireplaces are designed in neutral colors with minimal trim that directs focus on the fire and not the appliance. When the fireplace is not in use, it blends in with surroundings and will not compete for attention with other design elements.

- **Convertible fireplaces:** Homeowners can choose between open or sealed fireplaces. A convertible fireplace enables homeowners to

have the best features of these options. A convertible fireplace can be converted to wood from gas, or the opposite, in as little as 30 minutes.

- **Nature-inspired materials:** Natural stone continues to be a material of choice in fireplace surrounds. Light colors work well for a fireplace, and also fit with today's lighter color interior design preferences. Natural stone also works perfectly with both contemporary and rustic decor.

- **Vintage fireplaces:** Vintage continues to be a buzzword in 2022, and the choice to go vintage also applies to fireplace styles. A room decorated in vintage elements can be complemented with a vintage fireplace or one designed to look vintage.

- **Integrate into wall decor:** Fireplaces that are built right into a wall save space. One can have a television and a fireplace on the same wall. These types of fireplaces work well in modern home designs. Other fireplaces may be built into bookshelves or other wall features.

Fireplaces can improve the appeal of a home. Various trends are popular this year, making fireplaces highly coveted features.



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Wood floor installation dos and don'ts

Jaw-dropping features can sell a home in a heartbeat. A penthouse apartment with floor-to-ceiling windows and a panoramic view of a city skyline likely won't prove a hard sell, nor will a home with an infinity pool overlooking a landscape of rolling hills. As awe-inspiring as such features can be, some more subtle components, such as authentic hardwood floors, also can do much to make a home more appealing to prospective buyers.

home renovation experts at Bob-Vila.com, squeaky floors could be an indication that the subfloor has begun to warp or twist. Sinking floors are another indicator of deteriorating subfloors. Subfloors should be somewhat level before new hardwoods are installed, so DIYers should inspect and address subfloor issues before installing new flooring.

DO expose wood flooring to the elements in your home prior to installation. The home im-



Hardwood flooring is a sought-after commodity. Data from the National Association of Realtors indicates that 54 percent of home buyers are willing to pay more for hardwood floors. In fact, NAR figures indicate that 28 percent of buyers between the ages of 35 and 54 consider hardwood floors "very important" when looking for a home. Homeowners who are considering selling their homes, or those who simply want to upgrade their existing flooring, may want to consider installing hardwood flooring. Though it's a project best left to professionals, hardwood flooring can be installed by skilled DIYers. In such instances, homeowners may want to keep these dos and don'ts in mind.


provement resource BuildDirect recommends acclimating hardwoods to the space where they will be installed. Skipping this important step could result in gaps during the winter and cupping over the summer. To acclimate hardwoods, open the boxes and spread them out for about a week while running the air conditioner or heater at normal levels. When storing hardwoods prior to installation, avoid keeping them in potentially moist areas like a basement.

DO hire a professional if you have limited or no DIY flooring experience. Hardwood flooring installation is not generally a project for novice DIYers. Hardwood flooring projects may present some common challenges, but no two homes are the same. So unless they have prior experience installing floors in multiple rooms or homes, homeowners may save themselves time, trouble and a significant amount of money hiring a professional to do the job.

DON'T skimp on tools. A DIY hardwood flooring installation might be less expensive than hiring a professional, but homeowners should resist any temptation to increase those savings further by purchasing less costly tools or fewer tools than is necessary to complete the job. BuildDirect notes that DIYers will need at least a miter saw, table saw, cleat-nailer or stapler, finish nailer, compressor, jamb saw, chalk line, nail set, and tape measure when installing hardwood floors. Purchase all necessary tools and read product reviews to ensure each tool is up to the task.

DON'T ignore the subfloor. New hardwoods won't erase the problem of subfloors in poor condition. According to the

Wood floors can be awe-inspiring. Some homeowners can install such flooring on their own, and the project can be much easier if they learn as much about installation as possible prior to beginning the project.



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Signs your gutters are in need of repair

Fall is a great time to tackle projects around the house. The weather each fall allows homeowners to make improvements to their homes' exteriors without worrying about extreme heat or cold, while interior projects like painting are made easier because homeowners can open the windows to allow for proper ventilation.

Fall also marks a great time to prepare for upcoming projects that can make winter work that much easier. For example, fall is a great time to take stock of your gutters so you can address any issues before leaves begin to fall or the first snowstorm touches down. Compromised gutters can contribute to water issues in basements and adversely affect a home's foundation if not addressed immediately, so it behooves homeowners to learn the signs that gutters are in need of repair or replacement.

- Gutter hanging off the home: Gutters were once installed predominantly with spikes. However, many industry professionals now install gutters with hanger brackets. Why



the change? Spikes loosen over time, leading to the gutters hanging off the home. That can contribute to serious issues if left untreated. Gutters hanging off the home need not necessarily be replaced, but rather secured to the home, ideally with hanger brackets instead of spikes. Brackets hook into the front of the gutter and are then screwed into the fascia of a home. A professional who specializes in gutter repair can perform this task relatively quickly, and it's an inexpensive yet highly effective solution.

- Gutter separation: Gutters that are no longer fastened together can leak and contribute to issues that affect the home's foundation, siding and appearance. Clogs and the accumulation of debris can cause gutters to separate because they are not designed to hold too much weight. Replacement of separated gutters may or may not be necessary depending on how big the problem is and the condition of the existing gutters. If

replacement is not necessary, separated gutters may be remedied by securing the joints, another relatively simple and inexpensive fix.

- Peeling exterior paint: Paint that appears to be peeling off of your home may indicate that water is seeping over the edge of the gutter closest to your home. When that happens, water is coming down the side of the house, causing the paint to peel. In such instances, replacing the gutters is often necessary.
- Basement flooding: Not all signs of deteriorating gutters are outside a home. Many a homeowner has been flummoxed by flooding in their basements, and such flooding can be caused by aging, ineffective gutters. That's because deteriorating gutters sometimes allow water to leak near the foundation of a home, contributing to basement flooding.

Fall is an ideal time to inspect gutters and have any issues fixed before leaves begin to fall or harsh winter weather arrives.



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Ashland Cultural Council Seeking Grant Proposal

Each year the volunteer members of the Ashland Cultural Council (ACC), under the guidance of the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), awards grants to qualified applicants. These grants support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Ashland, including exhibits, festivals, field trips, performances in schools, workshops, and lectures. In recent years, ACC sponsored the Dragonfly Festival, the Mystery Book Festival, events organized by the Friends of the Ashland Public library, the Ashland High School Robotics Club, and items for the art rooms at the Warren School and Ashland Middle School.

- On Sept. 1, 2022, the online application opened.
- Between Sept. 1 and the deadline, Oct. 17, applicants may access the online system to complete and submit applica-

tions. A link to the application system can be found below. Users will be prompted to create an account for the online application system. Once logged in, users can then begin to complete their form online. Once the application is complete, it can be saved and submitted to the Ashland Cultural Council. Users will receive a confirmation email notifying them that their application has been submitted successfully. Applicants can still apply to more than one council.

- Grant applications must be submitted to the ACC through the online system by the deadline, Oct. 17, 2022, at 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Time.

For grant information and FAQs, visit [www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public_applicant_pro-](http://www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public_applicant_process.aspx)

cess.aspx. For more information on ACC, visit www.ashland-mass.com/236/Ashland-Cultural-Council. To join ACC, fill out the Talent Bank form on the town website, www.ashlandmass.com/formcenter/talent-bank-form-16/talent-bank-form-56.

For more information on ACC, visit www.ashlandmass.com/236/Ashland-Cultural-Council. To join ACC, fill out the Talent Bank form on the town website.

The mission of ACC is to promote excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences, in order to improve the quality of life for all Ashland residents and to contribute to the economic vitality of the community. ACC's cultural projects take place in schools, community centers, libraries, elder care facilities, town halls, parks, and wherever communities come together.

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Have you ever had the dream to run the Boston Marathon? Now is your chance!

The Ashland Select Board offers an incredible opportunity for those wishing to run the 2023 Boston Marathon this spring.

Every year, the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) provides the Town of Ashland with Invitational Entries for the Boston Marathon. This year, they will provide 22 entries with 12 being distributed via a lottery.

The Select Board is now accepting names for consideration to run this year's marathon for the Town of Ashland. Preference is given to Ashland Residents.

Submit your name for consideration to the Select Board by Monday, Oct. 31, by emailing Susan Robie, srobie@ashland-mass.com.

In exchange for an entry form, each runner is required to raise \$3,000. The monies raised

by each runner funds the BAA Grant Program, which benefits several community organizations twice a year. Last year, runners

raised a total of \$70,501 for the program funding several community events, sport teams, and more.

A drawing will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 1, selecting the participants running for the Town of Ashland. All entries will be

notified of the results and those not selected will be placed on the waitlist.

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Community Input Sought For Shaw's Plaza

By PATRICIA ROY

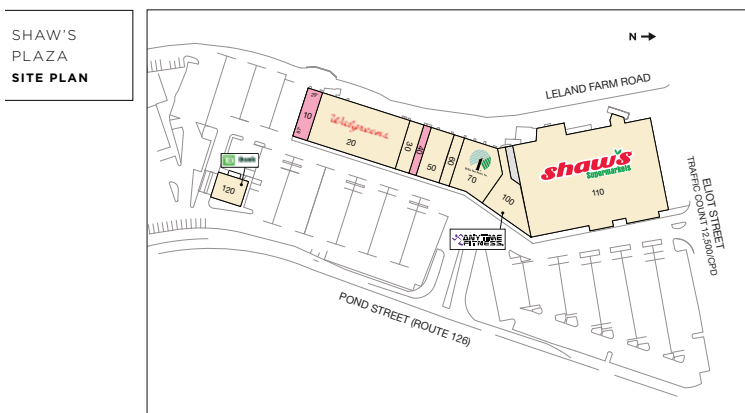
Eden Properties, a national retail real estate owner, operator and developer, is making plans for the Shaw's Plaza and looking to incorporate as much of the community's viewpoint as possible.

The plaza is being considered for new retail businesses, as well as 120 units of mixed income apartment housing on the southern portion of the site. That part of the plaza is currently vacant retail space and parking.

Along with these changes, plans are in the works for pedestrian and landscaping upgrades to increase connectivity to the neighborhood.

Eden Property is partnering with WinnDevelopment, a Massachusetts-based company that develops mixed income properties.

Community input has already been sought with two Zoom meetings. Plans are due to be



NO.	RETAILERS	SF	NO.	RETAILERS	SF
10	Available	2,806	60	Nec Trophies	2,000
20	Walgreens	17,266	70	Dollar Tree	8,025
30	Cost Cutters	2,685	100	Anytime Fitness	6,284
40	Available	1,400	110	Shaw's Supermarket	51,500
50	Krua Khun Yeh Thai Restaurant	4,500	120	TD Bank	3,000

submitted to the planning board this fall.

The Shaw's Plaza site is a ripe one for development, situated at the major traffic artery of Pond (Route 126) and Eliot Streets, the latter having traffic counts of 12,500 cars per day.

With 51,500 square feet,

Shaw's Supermarket is the largest retail outlet in the mall, with Walgreen's following at 17,266 square feet.

There are 2308 households within a one mile radius of the plaza, 15,638 within 3 miles and 42,073 within 5 miles. Average household incomes range from



Courtesy Photos from the Eden Properties website.

Shaw's Plaza

301 Pond Street (Route 126), Ashland, MA

\$147,935 to \$132,423.

Eden Properties also claims its public spaces are carbon neutral, focusing on energy savings in HVAC and lighting and following environmentally sustainable building practices, recycling and reducing water use, according to their website.



Ashland Lions Club October 2022 Update

Senior Social

The Ashland Lions will sponsor a "Senior Social" at the Senior Center on West Union St on Tuesday, October 11th 4-6 pm. The social will feature "fun with trivia" as well as a free Italian buffet supper complete with a full meal, coffee, tea and dessert. Seniors will need to sign up for the event at the Senior Center by Friday, October 7th as seating is limited. This event is open to all Ashland seniors.

Golf Ball Drop

The annual Lions/Firefighters Golf Ball Drop will be at the "Pumpkin Fest" at Ashland High School this year on Saturday, October 22nd. The drop will be at 4:30 p.m. Numbered balls, which are \$5 each, may be purchased by calling Lion Julian @508-881-4664 or Firefighter Mike @ 508-881-2323. A cash prize of \$500 for a ball in or closest to the pin; \$100 for farthest from the pin. You need not be present to win.

Drug Take Back Day

The The Lions again will assist the Ashland Police in collecting unused/unwanted prescription drugs at the Drug Take Back Day which will be held at the new public safety building on Rt. 135 on Saturday, October 29th 10am - 2 pm.

Ashland Lions Meat Raffles

Ashland Lions is kicking off another great year of meat raffles! Our first one

will be held on Saturday, October 1st at 12pm, at TJs Food and Spirits in Ashland. As always there will be great food, fun people and great meat to choose from. See you there!

Lions at the Car Show



Ashland Lions food trailer was at the Carrier Car Show on Saturday, September 10th. The Lions also sponsored a trophy this year. Thanks for everyone who came out to support this great cause!

Christmas trees are coming!

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is only a month away. But do you know what opens right after Thanks-

giving? The Lions Christmas Tree lot behind the Ashland VFW! Please consider buying your fresh Christmas tree from the Ashland Lions this year and donate to a great cause. Remember, Lions give back 100% of fundraising to eye research and the local community. Hope to see you soon!

Eyeglasses and Cellphone Collection

Eyeglasses and cellphone collection is a year-round project with collection of used prescription and nonprescription eyeglasses, sunglasses, hearing aids and cell phones. This year we have already collected over 1500 pairs of used eyeglasses this Lionistic year alone.

Collection boxes are located at:

- Ashland Post Office
- Ashland Senior Center
- Old train station - Ashland
- Moody Optical - Ashland
- Middlesex Bank - Ashland
- Fayville, MA Post Office
- Studio Optics - Framingham
- Southborough Senior Center
- Southboro Post Office on Rt.85

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

Senior Center Activities October 2022

- October 3 @ 12pm - Police Chief Rossi will come to the Senior Center to meet with the seniors
- October 6 @ 1pm - Presentation "American Presidents, American Stories"
- October 11 @4pm - Senior Social (Trivia and Buffet) organized by Ashland Lions
- October 12 @1pm - Living History. Silent movie with a live musical accompaniment
- October 17 @11am - Interactive virtual presentation "History of London", part 1
- October 17 @12:30pm - Presentation on hearing screening and hearing devices
- October 19 @10:30 - Computer Class
- October 20 @1pm - Presentation on Medicare options
- October 24 @11am - Interactive virtual presentation "History of London", part 2
- October 27 @1pm - Interactive virtual presentation (in collaboration with the Ashland Public Library) "111 Places in Boston that you must not miss"

Also, the regular activities are in place, such as

- Exercise Class with Joni on Mon, Wed and Fr at 10:30am;
- Chair Yoga on Tue at 1pm;
- Art with Ana on Tue at 11am;
- Watercolor with Suzie on Tue and Wed at 9:30am;
- Mindful Meditation on Thur at 1pm;
- Line Dancing on Thur at 12pm;
- Bingo on Tue at 1pm;
- Mahjong on Fr at 10am

Sports

Ashland Volleyball Hoping To Return To State Tournament

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Last fall, under the guidance of first year coach Ray Labbe, the Ashland volleyball team finished 11-9.

They found themselves qualifying for the Division 3 State Tournament where the MIAA awarded the Clockers a number eight seed. Once the tournament began, Ashland took out Montachusett 3-0 and Essex North Shore 3-1, before falling to Tewksbury in the Round of 8.

Luckily for Ashland, the team only parted ways with two seniors. Unfortunately one was Libero Sneha Yadav, who will be a big loss, but Labbe believes that the team has her spot covered and should be able to get back into the State Tournament once again.

"I expect this team to get back to at least where we were last year in the tournament with a better season record as the girls have tournament experience and did a real good job in the off season getting ready for this year," the Clocker Coach said. "The majority of the girls play club volleyball, where they get to hear another voice other than mine, they're getting more reps, shouldn't have rust when our season starts and are much more confident in their game."

Ashland will return eight athletes from last year's squad, including two four-year varsity players in senior captains Cici

Labbe and Taylor Simpson. The duo will be leading the team for the second year as captains.

Labbe was a setter last year and is moving into Yadav's position this fall, while Simpson will play outside hitter this year after playing every possible front row position last year. The Ashland Coach noted that Labbe lead the Tri-Valley League in aces while serving, and Simpson not only can play right side hitter if needed, but she possesses a great passing skill set and defends well.

Senior Cassie Marrella, an outside hitter, is in her second season on the varsity squad and had been designated as the "Trash Collector" for her ability to hit anything that is hit her way. While Marella is the trash collector, senior Sophia Gonzales is the team's Swiss Army Knife, doing a little bit of everything for the team and doing it consistently. She was the Clockers' best overall server last year and that says a lot, considering Labbe was the TVL's ace leader.

Rounding out the seniors are two second-year varsity players in middle hitter Ana Alves and right-side hitter Ashley Amer-shek.

The final two returning players are sophomores Siri Bachina (middle hitter) and Allie Politica (setter).

"Last year as a freshman Siri was very athletic, but also very raw. She practiced hard and this year she looks like a totally different person," Labbe said.



"Last season we knew that we were going to need a setter, so Allie stepped in. She played every single match (20 regular season games in addition to three more in the States) and that is not an easy feat, especially for a freshman."

The Clockers will add four first-year players to this year's squad in junior defensive specialist Aaruni Singh and sophomores Emily Collins (middle hitter), Izzy Cao (right side hit-

ter) and Eliza Sialky (setter).

Coach Labbe, who had a heart attack after last season, finds himself still in the recovery mode, but his team has certainly made things easier for him.

"It will be a challenge this year, but the kids have been great in helping me out. I am looking forward to feeling better, but I know I won't be 100% by the end of the season and probably not until the early part of next year," he said.

As the Clockers work on their game with their coach, Labbe firmly believes that his team will get back to the tournament once again if they continue to serve well, run their offense, and take care of business. If they can do this he has the utmost confidence that the girls will not only get back to the Tournament and once there he is hoping that they can eclipse that round of 8 appearance from a year ago.

Ashland Community Education Programs

Ashland Community Education is offering the following programs in Fall 2022:

Warren School:

Lego Club (Currently full)
Children's Music Theater, starts Tuesdays 10/4/22
Robotics, Thursdays starts 10/6/22

Mindess School:

App Inventors, Mondays starts 10-3-22

Middle School:

To be determined.

High School:

Driver's Education, 30 hour classroom instruction will be in-person starting in October.
Adult Line Dancing Class, Tuesday nights, Ashland Middle School, starts 10/4/22

For more information go to the Ashland Community Education website at:

<https://www.ashland.k12.ma.us/comm-ed>
If you have any questions you can call or email Jeannie Young at jyoung@ashland.k12.ma.us. 508-881-0143

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Ashland Library's Recurring Programs



Children's Room:

Crafty Saturdays
Saturdays from 10am-3pm
Stop in anytime for a different craft every Saturday!

Read to a Dog:
*For kids reading on their own (walk-in, sign up for 15 minute increments):
"Knives and Machete"

Every Other Thursday @ 6-7pm

(Hybrid) Lapsit for Infants and Toddlers
Wednesdays @ 10:30-11am

Friday Morning Storytime
*PreK and Up
Fridays @ 11-11:30am

PJ Story Time with Ryan
*Ages 3 and Up
Tuesdays @ 6pm

YMCA Play, Learn, and Grow Group *Ages 0 to 5
Every Tuesday at 11am

Mom's Club - Little Crafters *infants thru age 5
Fourth Monday of the month @ 10:15am

Teen Room:

Coming soon...

Adults:

Book Clubs:

Virtual - Environmental Book Club
1st Tuesday @ 6:30pm

Hybrid - 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:

Virtual - Friday Night Film Discussion
2nd and 4th Friday @ 7pm

Card Making with Jan Poppendieck
2nd Monday @ 6:30pm

Half-Past Crafts
3rd Wednesday @ 6:30pm

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

Knitting:
Mondays at 6pm
Saturdays at 2pm

Upcoming ABA Events



September 29, 5-7 PM

Networking Event at 126 Storage
All ABA Members and Guests are invited.

October 26, 5-7 PM

Educational Event - Cybersecurity
Ashland Library lower-level meeting room.
Member Spotlight by Sandra Montesino, Daniel's Table
All ABA Members and Guests are invited.

Save the Dates!

Comedy Night with Corey Rodrigues
November 18, 2022

ABA Holiday Party

December date pending
VFW Hall, Ashland, MA

In Memory of

Eleanor "Ellie" Torelli

The founder and Life Member of the Greater Ashland Lions Club, Lion Ellie Torelli recently passed away. She had a vision 29 years ago and then recruited other people in the Ashland area to start this club. She served as president multiple times, always with a smile and enthusiasm with the motto "We Serve". Lion Ellie's love for Lions was not only at the local level, but Lions throughout the district and state organization. She was the recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellow, the highest award in Lionism.



Lion Ellie devoted many years serving as a Lion, striving to make the community a better place. Through her tireless work with the Club, she was an inspiration for all to follow. Lion Ellie gave of herself freely and without reservation. For that gift, we will be eternally grateful. Her strength, character, and reliability have endeared her to all Lions and the citizens in the Ashland area.

Lion Ellie worked closely with the Recreation Department, the Senior Center director and other local Town officials helping the club to sponsor events for the people of Ashland. Some of

them include: The Easter Bunny at Stone Park, Pizza with Santa, and free dinners for the seniors. Lion Ellie had many great ideas to help the Club raise money for the helping the blind, those with loss of hearing, children with cancer, and those in need. Many of you have bought raffle tickets for the Annual Duck Slide, the Golf Ball Drop, or stopped by on White Cane Day collection to donate money.

We the members of the Greater Ashland Club will miss her creativity, her laugh, her friendship, and the twinkle in her eye. Lion Ellie, we will miss YOU.

LION CHARLOTTE PETERSON

Federated Church of Ashland

118 Main Street,
Ashland

October 2022

Thrift Shop

Wednesdays - 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

AND

Saturdays - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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sue@sodellconsult.com

Real Estate Corner

Ashland Recent Home Sales

Date	Ashland	Amount
09/16/2022	370 Eliot Street	\$410,000
09/15/2022	111 Winter Street	\$725,000
09/15/2022	28 Cedar Street	\$485,000
09/15/2022	14 Maple Avenue	\$360,000
09/12/2022	167 Cherry Street	\$430,000
09/09/2022	2 Indian Spring Road	\$450,000
09/09/2022	31 Warren Road	\$490,000
09/09/2022	32 Mountain Gate Road	\$450,000
09/08/2022	427 Captain Eames Circle	\$560,000
09/08/2022	28 Nancy Drive	\$880,000
09/07/2022	211 Meeting House Path	\$440,001
09/01/2022	56 Fruit Street	\$750,000
09/01/2022	5 Tudor Lane	\$605,000
08/31/2022	45 Fern Xing	\$750,000
08/30/2022	198 Cross Street	\$880,000
08/30/2022	23 Blue Jay Lane	\$945,000
08/30/2022	116 Captain Eames Circle	\$465,000
08/30/2022	46 Cedar Hill Road	\$616,500
08/30/2022	30 Algonquin Trail	\$530,000
08/29/2022	169 Fountain Street	\$735,000
08/29/2022	87 Higley Road	\$718,000
08/26/2022	140 Mountain Gate Road	\$397,000
08/25/2022	10 Enslin Circle	\$930,000
08/25/2022	20 Tudor Lane	\$653,000
08/25/2022	Lot 7 Burnham Circle	\$975,000
08/24/2022	40 Acton Road	\$380,000
08/24/2022	233 Cedar Street	\$588,888
08/23/2022	41 Captain Eames Circle	\$450,000
08/23/2022	29 Upland Road	\$900,000
08/22/2022	108 Mountain Gate Road	\$435,000
08/22/2022	138 Arrowhead Circle	\$540,000
08/22/2022	110 Algonquin Trail	\$570,000
08/19/2022	66 W Union Street	\$547,500



56 Fruit Street in Ashland recently sold for \$750,000
Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages

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People Over Politics: McGovern Best Choice for Congress in Second District

My name is Jim McGovern and I'm running for reelection to Congress in Massachusetts' Second District. I couldn't be prouder to have the honor of representing Central and Western Massachusetts in Congress, and due to redistricting, the newly redrawn Second District will include Hopkinton, Holliston, Ashland, Southborough, and Medway.

I was born and raised in Worcester. Massachusetts is my home. I first got into public service because I wanted to make a difference in people's lives. That's still true today. It's why I'm focused on putting people over politics to tackle the biggest problems we face.

Second District voters deserve a fighter in Congress that's going to build an economy that works for everyone. It's wrong that billionaire corporations are making record profits while many people are living paycheck to paycheck. I'm committed to cutting costs for working families and creating good-paying jobs right here in Massachusetts.

I understand one of the biggest concerns people have is the cost of health care. For decades,

Big Pharma dictated the industry and set prices that made families have to choose between the cost of rent or their medication. That's morally wrong. It's why I voted for the Inflation Reduction Act to lower health care premiums for low-income families, cap the cost of insulin at \$35 per month for those on Medicare, and allow drug price negotiation. I will keep working to make health care more affordable and lower the price of prescription drugs.

I have heard from many voters that are alarmed at the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade – I am too. In fact, I'm disgusted. We're lucky to live in Massachusetts. The Commonwealth has abortion rights enshrined in our Constitution. But we can't let our guard down. Trump Republicans have made clear that if they win control of Congress, they will pass a national abortion ban. It's unclear if that federal law would supersede our protections. And so, a vote for a Republican in November is a vote to ban abortion in Massachusetts. I believe women should have the ability to make their

Jim McGovern
Democrat ★ Congress

political spotlight

own health care decisions and I'll never stop fighting to protect that right.

I believe we must care for our planet. The climate crisis is real and there's only so much time to preserve our environment for future generations. I host an annual farm tour in the Second District, and this year, farmers told me about how climate change is impacting how they farm. Farmers put healthy, nutritious fruits and vegetables on our plates, and we need to be making their job easier, not harder. I will continue to hold Big Oil accountable for polluting our planet and work for a more sustainable future for our children and grandchildren.

Trump Republicans have a radical vision for America's future – one of hate, division and regression. They fight for



billionaire corporations and are in the pocket of Big Oil and Big Pharma donors. And they want to strip away basic freedoms from their fellow Americans. My priorities are clear: I serve working families. It's why I don't take a dollar of corporate PAC money. When I look at America's future, I'm only interested in progress and making this country work for more people.

To get involved and learn more about my campaign, please visit www.jimmcgovern.com. I humbly ask for your vote for the November 8 General Election and I'm looking forward to seeing you on the campaign trail.

This article is Paid for by Re-Elect McGovern Committee

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Holiday Guide

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