

They Took The Shot

The Knights Of Columbus free-throw championship competition was held last month at the Hopkinton High School after the Hopkinton/Ashland varsity boys basketball game.

All boys and girls ages 9-14 are eligible to participate regardless of disabilities.

The Knights of Columbus free-throw competition is an annual event sponsored by the Ashland/Hopkinton Council (Bishop Rice council #4822). The event is open to all boys and girls aged 9 to 14 in the local communities. Trophies were presented to first and second place winners and a medal is



awarded to the third-place winner in each age category.

The event brings the youth of the community together for a friendly competition and all can participate regardless of disabilities.

Since 1972 The Knights of Columbus have sponsored a basketball free-throw competition for boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 14. The Knights

of Columbus, founded in 1882, is an Organization of Roman Catholic men whose charter is to support both their parishes and communities. Based upon the founding principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, the Knights of Columbus

SHOT

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Ashland Public forum on old police and fire stations

By PATRICIA ROY

With the long-needed Public Safety Building headed for completion this spring, residents met on Jan. 25 to discuss prospective uses of the old Police and Fire Department Buildings at 137 and 151 Main St.

The meeting was a hybrid of in-person and Zoom attendance with about 70 people turning out to hear plans and offer their opinions on what should happen with the old down town buildings.

FORUM

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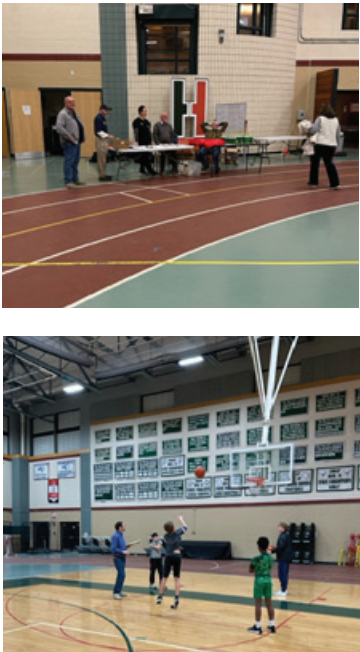
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SHOT

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provide numerous services to their local communities. The Bishop Rice Council #4822 conducts numerous charity events in support of the parishes of St.John the Evangelist in Hopkinton and Saint Cecilia's in Ashland.



Nomination Papers Due March 28

Are you interested in volunteering for a committee or board position in your local government?

Nomination papers for the May 16, 2023 Annual Town Election are now available at the Town Clerk's Office and must be submitted by March 28, at 5 pm.

- Here are the seats available for the 2023 Local Town Election.**
- **Select Board** - 3 years (1 seat on ballot) expires 2026
 - **Board of Assessors** - 3 years (1 seat on ballot) expires 2026
 - **School Committee** - 3 years (1 seat on ballot) expires 2026
 - **Board of Library Trustee** - 3 years (2 seats on ballot) expires 2026
 - **Board of Health** - 3 years (2 seats on ballot) expires 2026
 - **Planning Board** - 5 years (1 seat on ballot) expires 2028

Town Meeting and Town Election

All voting is held at the Ashland High School, 65 East Union St. The next scheduled Annual Town Meeting is Wednesday May 3, at 7PM in the High School Auditorium.

Please remember to visit our website at www.AshlandMass.com for frequent updates. We try to keep you informed as rules and or regulations change.

The next scheduled election is the May 16 Annual Town Election. Polls will be open from 7am-8pm.

As always, you may contact the Town Clerk's office with questions at 508-881-0100, ext. 7127 or TownClerkOffice@Ashland-Mass.com.

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FORUM

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The meeting was led by Town Manager Michael Herbert, joined by Assistant Town Manager Jen Ball and Beth Reynolds, Economic Development Director.

The two buildings are on one parcel, currently valued at \$1.5 million according to Herbert, but due to the need for significant renovation costs, he said bids would likely come in significantly lower.

The public input process was designed to find the “sweet spot” between what the public wants in that location and what is actually feasible, he said.

The town issued a Request for Information (RFI) in the fall, said Ball, rather than a more formal Request for Proposals that a municipality typically need to issue before disposing of any land.

The RFI is non-binding, and the town is able to issue restrictions on the parcel for the two buildings, as well as learning from interested parties what is feasible for development purposes.

Town officials and residents in attendance were interested in maintaining the façade of the historic firehouse.

“We all know that’s very important to the community,” Ball said.

The town is also stipulating that residential housing not be included in future proposals for the property. Additional parking would be considered if it supports the downtown commercial area, she said.

The RFI was closed in December, but attracted 20 prospects and three walk-throughs. Several letters were received after the deadline and officials followed them up.

Reynolds said a statement of interest was received from Stuart Rothman, developer of The Block in Natick, featuring food and retail spaces and highlight public art.

Reynolds proposed a similar arrangement for the police and fire parcel with retail popup spaces for emerging brands, local dynamic art, with potentially a café in the fire station and a black box theater at the old police station.

Rothman had concerns, stating that the site would most likely not support a substantial acquisition cost, Reynolds reported.

“He was very clear about that,” she said.

Clover Brewing, a brewer located in Hudson, proposed a tap room and barrel aging facility with light food service, possible food trucks and a patio in front of the fire station. The brewing company is only interested in leasing the property and has no interest in the police station.

Local resident Fabio Fragale had an interest in the entire property with the fire station becoming an Italian restaurant with office space potentially on the second floor. About 25 percent of the police station fronting Main Street would be dedicated to several storefronts, he wrote to the town.

While Fragale has indicated he is interested in purchasing the parcel, he has yet to tour it, Reynolds said.

One out of town restaurant owner did tour the property, but stated the police station would need to be leveled creating a parking lot that could be rented and the fire station would need to be renovated. The estimated \$2 million cost would make it unfeasible for any owner, the restaurateur claimed.

A light manufacturer was concerned about potential flooding in the fire station basement, but Herbert said that issue had been resolved by reconstructing a culvert and installation of sump pumps.

The fire station clearly was held in deep affection by residents at the meeting, with several residents supporting the idea of opening the large doors fronting the sidewalk and to become seasonal patio that would engage with the streetscape.

However, there was not much love for the police station that most said lacked architectural interest.

The town has finished collecting public input and will collate it to create a Request for Proposals for the property.

Officials can create the request so it is most advantageous to the town, taking into account the vibrancy the proposal will bring to downtown, project feasibility and consistency with the vision for area.

A committee appointed by the Chief Procurement Office would include Ball, Reynolds and resident volunteers will rank applications based on specific criteria. Residents will vote on the recommendation of the committee at the annual town meeting on May 3.

Once those responding to the RFP do their due diligence, the town will have a better idea of whether a residential component will need to be a part of the project, Herbert said.



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Keefe Tech Students To Work On Landscaping Ashland Healing Garden

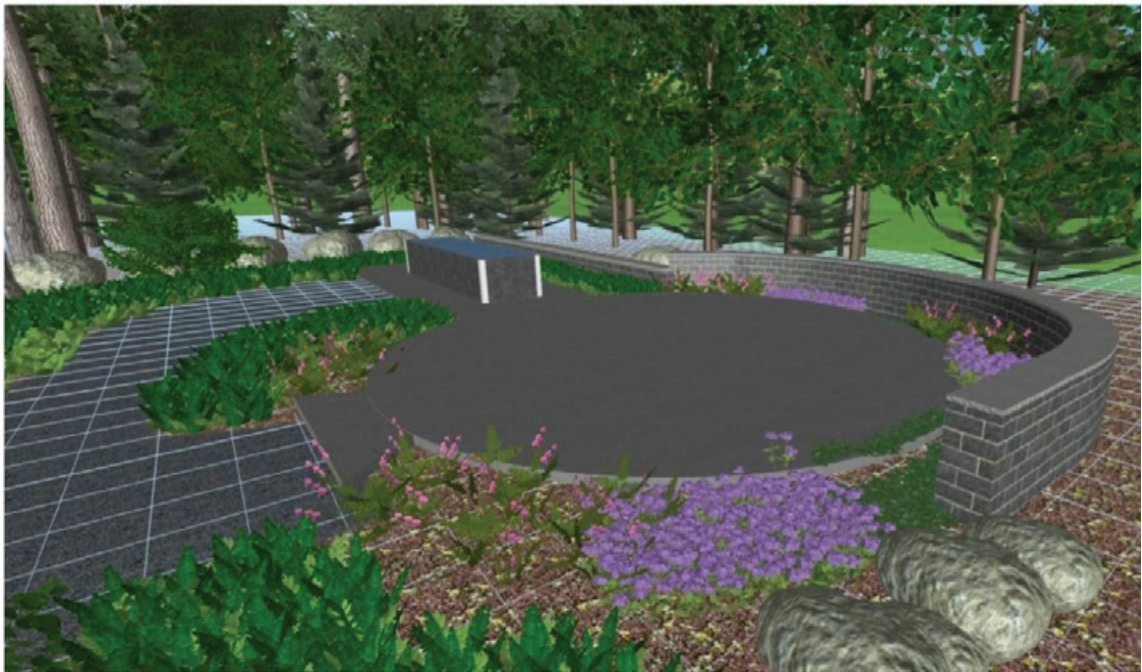
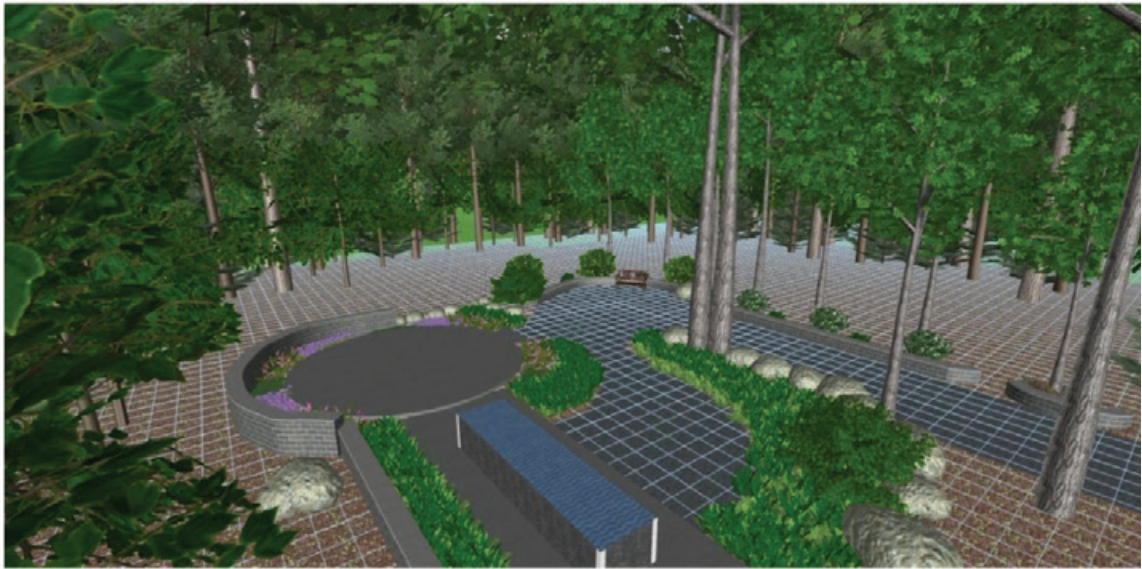
Keefe Tech Horticulture is excited to work with the Ashland-Nyanza Project as it presents a unique opportunity for students to both learn and contribute to a very meaningful project in our community.

Students in the horticulture program are assisting in the Ashland Healing Garden project through landscape enhancement.

Students worked collaboratively on a planting design with a goal of using native plants while enhancing the forest setting in which the Ashland Healing Garden exists.

Upon approval, the students will implement the planting design and create a maintenance plan for the future. This project presents a great opportunity for learning as it encompasses all three phases of landscaping: design, construction, and maintenance.

The Ashland Healing Garden Project has students in the Keefe Tech Horticulture program excited both for the unique hands-on learning opportunity as well as the chance to contribute to a meaningful cause in their community.



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Struggling With Acne?

BY LISA MASSIMIANO, LICENSED ESTHETICIAN AND CERTIFIED ACNE SPECIALIST

If you have been diagnosed with acne and haven't been satisfied with drug store products or the suggested treatment from your doctor, consider seeing an Acne Specialist.

What is an Acne Specialist?

An Acne Specialist is a licensed skin care professional who is specially trained to treat acne using a combination of clinical treatments, home care protocols and regular follow-up during the process of clearing acne prone skin.

Most physicians don't have the time to spend educating patients on the root cause of their acne. They often prescribe oral antibiotics and strong topical retinoids that can leave skin dry, red and irritated. Patients get frustrated with these side effects and stop using the products.

How an Acne Specialist Can Help You.

An Acne Specialist will assess your individual skin type, and the type of acne you have, to develop a plan of action specifically for you. They will take the time to teach you about the root cause of acne and provide information on lifestyle, diet, medications, and ingredients in makeup and skin care products that exacerbate acne. They help you to get your skin clear and teach you how to keep your acne under control.

For people struggling with acne, it can be frustrating to try and communicate with their doctor on a timely basis. My clients tell me that the best part of working with an Acne Specialist is that we are there for them to answer their questions and provide support while they go through the process of getting their skin clear.

Questions about acne? Email Lisa Massimiano, owner Skin Smart Salon and Acne Clinic at skinsmartsalon@aol.com or call 508 881-1180. Visit the website skinsmartsalon.com for information about Skin Smart's acne program and other services.

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How To Refinish Old Tile in Your Bathroom



John Szolomayer

REAL ESTATE INSIGHTS

Tile goes in and out of style like anything else, and you may find yourself cringing every time

you look at your bathroom floor or shower walls. Still, retiling the bathroom gets put off because it can be expensive to remodel an entire bath. There is another solution because there are plenty of products available to help you refinish old tile in your bathroom to give it a fresh, new look. Painting over tile can transform its look with dramatic results. Here's how to proceed.

Plan the time frame

Refreshing your tile can take multiple days, so make sure you have somewhere other than your bathroom to take a shower in the meantime. Schedule the maintenance, being sure to build in extra time for potential problems to arise.

Choose the right supplies

The next step is to pick the paint product for your tile. There are multiple options on the market now, so definitely check with retailers to learn more about meeting your specific needs. Be sure to get brushes, rollers, trays and any other tools you need.

Clean and prep the tile

This is very important because your tile will need to be cleaned thoroughly and properly. The paint you choose will likely have instructions on how to prep the surface for the best results. Use the right cleanser, and do not cut corners.

Follow the directions

Next, follow the directions on the product to paint over any tile in your bathroom. Be sure to properly ventilate the area,

and wear a mask to keep from breathing in fumes or other dangerous materials.

Leave time to cure

Be sure that you allow the paint enough time to cure before you use the shower. Running water on the tiles too soon can cause more significant problems and set you back to square one in the process.

Are you ready to tackle a bathroom renovation project?

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

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Community Center Schedule

- March 6 @ noon** - Lunch (\$4) with Music by Roger Tricknell. Roger will present a festive music program entitled Blues to Bluegrass. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Ashland Cultural Council.
- March 2 @ 9am** - Free Breakfast sponsored by the Ashland Lions Club.
- March 13 @ noon** - St. Patricks celebration Lunch (\$4). Violin virtuoso Yaeko Miranda Elmaleh joins with pianist David Sparr performing lively Irish classics.
- March 20 @ noon (\$4)** - Lunch 12:30 - Join us for Trivia!
- March 23 @ 12:30** - Pat McHale will discuss: Disasters- Financial Preparation and Recovery
- March 27 @ noon** - Lunch sponsored by Mary Ann Morse

Trip to Maine

The Ashland and Callahan Senior Centers together are announcing a new motor coach trip to beautiful Maine for three days two nights leaving Monday, May 15 -17, 2023. \$349/pp (double occupancy).

- Trip Included:**
- 2 nights and 4 meals: 2 breakfasts and 2 dinners
 - Guided Tours of Portland, Maine, quaint Kennebunk and Kennebunkport and tour a historic Victoria Mansion
 - Visit to the Seashore Trolley Museum and countryside trolley ride
- Visit to the L.L. Bean Flagship Store
- Trip insurance available upon request.
- For more information contact Donna Shaw at dcshaw5@gmail.com.
- Deadline to reserve a spot on this trip is March 3.

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Warren School Assistant Principal Named Assistant, Principal Of The Year



Henry Warren Elementary School Assistant Principal Kate Altman has been selected as the Massachusetts School Administrators’ Association Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year.

“I cannot thank my colleagues enough for nominating me and

the MSAA for choosing me amongst so many deserving individuals. This award means so much to me,” said Assistant Principal Altman.

The MSAA sought nominations for an outstanding leader who does a great job leading

their school and students. Warren School Principal Peter Regan and Assistant Superintendent Michael Caira knew Altman possessed these qualities and more. They did not hesitate to nominate her and were not surprised to see her chosen as the award recipient after the MSAA interviewed her.

“Kate is an amazing administrator and person. She joined the Warren School five years ago, and her devotion to our students and dedication to their success is displayed daily. She goes above and beyond for our students, staff and families, and it has not gone unnoticed. This is very well deserved” said Principal Regan.

As an experienced educator with 18 years of experience, Altman began her career as a Title 1 Math teacher and, after one year, transitioned into teaching second grade at Farley Elementary School in Hudson, Massachusetts. In addition to juggling her assistant principal responsibilities, Altman is the mother of Colin, age 12, and Brooke, age 10. She and her husband, Dave, live in Sudbury.

Town Clerk’s Office Updates

Dog License Registration

Please register your dog before April 15. A \$50 fine will be added to each dog license after this date.

The fee for intact dogs is \$20 per dog. The fee for spayed or neutered dogs is \$15 per dog but if you (the owner) are seventy (70) years of age or older then the tag is no charge.

Don’t forget to bring an updated rabies certificate with you. Please note that the free license does not apply to kennels.

You may license your dog using the Town of Ashland’s on-line system, or by dropping off the form and payment to Town Hall.

If you no longer reside in Ashland, or your dog is deceased, please contact the Town Clerk’s Office by email, townclerkoffice@ashlandmass.com, or call 508-881-0100 ext. 7127 so records are updated.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Ashland is embarking on its first Comprehensive Plan effort in many years. The Comprehensive Plan will articulate a vision and goals for the town that will drive every major decision for the next ten to twenty years.

The project management team has started the process and has posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to provide expertise and assistance to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

If you care about Ashland’s natural and built environments, the level of services the town provides, and the overall direction the town is heading in, please consider serving on the steering committee.

This will be a unique opportunity to help craft a plan that accurately reflects the perspectives of residents and stakeholders. More information can be found at <https://www.ashlandmass.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=550>

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6. Public agencies need employees with all kinds of talents, skills, and occupational interests.
7. The public will always need and want services, residents don’t often ask their local government to reduce library, police, or fire services, public works, park and recreation, or other programs.
8. There are plenty of opportunities and room to grow and advance, we need flexible learners who want to learn new ways of doing business or delivering services.



9. You will have an impact on the community right from the start.
10. Last, but not least, our team here in Ashland cannot be beat!

We have multiple Part-Time and Full-Time opportunities available. Come help make a difference in our Town, apply now by visiting our employment opportunities, <https://www.ashlandmass.com/597/Employment-Opportunities>

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Suffolk Division
Docket No. SU23W0145WD

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

Helayne Jobson, Plaintiff(s)
v.
Jose D Baez, Defendant(s)

To the above-named Defendant(s): **Jose D Baez**

A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff(s), **Helayne Jobson**, seeking the Court to make such orders as it deems expedient concerning the custody/support/parenting time of the minor child, **Mia I Baez**.

You are required to serve upon Helayne Jobson, plaintiff(s) - whose address is **5 Delano Park Apt 1 Roslindale, MA 02131**, your answer on or before **March 29, 2023**.

If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of the Register of this Court at 24 New Charlton Street. Boston, MA 02114

Witness, Hon. Brian Dunn, Esquire, First Justic of said Court at Suffolk, this **1st day of February, 2023**.

Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate Court

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Glenn Brown

Sleep Well At Night with This 9% Yield.

2 High Yields: A Bird In Hand Is Worth Two In The Bush.

4 High-Yield Dividend Aristocrat Retirement Dream Buys.

Is _____ Stock's 5.25% Dividend Yield Safe?

With headlines like these, who needs enemies?

Dividend stocks are getting a lot of attention given how as a group they outperformed the S&P 500 Index which declined -18.1% in 2022. Witness leading dividend ETFs (exchange traded funds) from Schwab, Vanguard and iShares (BlackRock) ranging from -3% to -9% for the year, keeping 10-year annualized returns still above 10%. Add US bond market index down -13.1%

due to rising rates, you can see the attraction on a relative basis.

Unfortunately, due diligence by many investors buying or selling dividend stocks is based on yield and a story with a catchy headline. They ignore a company's business model, free cash flows, payout ratios, dividend growth, stock appreciation and other key factors.

Even worse is mantra of "I don't care about the stock price, as long as I get my dividend".

Here's a few considerations I use to avoid pitfalls and manage a Dividend Growth & Income portfolio.

- 1. Be diversified across industries.** Far too often see self-directed investors own 20 companies and think they're diversified. Problem is 15 are in the same sector (i.e. today it's energy, 5 years ago REITs, 17 years ago financials). Be across at least 5-6 sectors to reduce portfolio volatility throughout economic cycles.
- 2. Seek total return approach.** Instead of yield alone for income, think a combination of yield, dividend growth and stock price appreciation. If you require 4% income distribution and your portfolio yields 2%, the other 2% comes from selling investments.

Relatively small and can occur naturally when re-balancing to manage risk.

3. Growth of dividends. Growing companies reinvest earnings into projects to increase future cash flows. Dividends come from cash flows, and many growth companies yield 1.5% or less today. Given this, these are ignored by income investors. Huge mistake, let me explain via concept of Yield-On-Cost (YOC).

4. Yield-On-Cost (YOC). Measures the compounding of dividend increases. Divide current dividend paid by what you paid for the share, multiply by 100.

Real world example. Five years ago software company is yielding 1.0%, today through dividend increases YOC is 2.8%. Meaning your initial investment 5 years ago now pays out 2.8% annually even though current yield still ~1%. Bonds can't do this, they're fixed. But there's more... add 216% stock appreciation and you see the mistake of only selecting high dividend yields.

- Other examples:
- **Managed Care:** 1.3% yield, 5-year YOC 3.9% + 131% total return.

- **Environmental Industrial:** 1.7% yield, 5-year YOC 3.9% + 134% total return.
 - **Semiconductor:** 0.8% yield, 5-year YOC 3.8% + 380% total return.
 - **Pharmaceutical:** 1.3% yield, 5-year YOC 5.3% + 394% total return.
- 5. Balance with consistently boring.** Boring is reliable. Boring is necessary. This can include companies increasing dividends each year for 25 years (just 64) or 50 years (only 37). Additionally, this is also where you can add some slow growth, high-yield opportunities to help increase overall portfolio income. Again business model matters, debt matters, visibility matters.

Dividend investing can play a part in your investment and/or income distribution strategy, but it's more than yield with a story if you want results to stay invested over economic cycles.

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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Progress on Cadilac Paint Park

In 2017, Ashland residents voted during the Special Town Meeting to take the former Cadilac Paint property by eminent domain and to remove the buildings and finish the remediation of the site. In March 2018, demolition began to remove contaminants and replace them with clean soil.

More recently the old testing wells were safely removed and the Town will move forward with plans to convert this property into a public park. Based on resident input, Town Engineer, Evan White has created plans for the park. It will consist of 3 acres of walkable trails, wildflower and pollinator garden, a

new parking lot to accommodate 6 vehicles and a crosswalk so that residents in surrounding neighborhoods may access the park safely. This is being built for passive recreation, a nice spot to take a short walk and enjoy some bird watching.



The town has posted a Request for Proposals for contractors for the site work and to create safe, ADA accessible paths for all to enjoy. The full construction of this area will begin spring 2023 in the hopes that people will be enjoying this site in the summer and for many years to come.

A volunteer group will be established in the coming months to help with removal of invasive plants and will help to plan the wildflower garden to come. If you are interested on being a part of volunteer group email Beth at breyolds@ashlandmass.com.

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Ashland Recreation Schedule

Registration for all Ashland Recreation Programs and Camps will open up on Friday, March 24, at 10 AM, for Ashland Residents.

We have something for everyone; Tennis, Flag Football, STEM, Glee Club and more.

COO For a full listing of available programs visit AshlandMass.com/204/Recreation



RAM Clinic

Jay Byrnes, Ashland Board of Health Member, has begun preparations for a Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic, which is planned to take place on Aug. 12-13.

RAM is a pop-up medical, dental, vision clinic that provides free healthcare services to those in need around the country. Jay stated, “It is true that most people in Massachusetts have health insurance. However, it is also true that most health insurance plans do not cover dental care and require significant out-of-pocket expense for vision, and in some cases, medical care. And of course, some people simply do not have health insurance.”

He went on to state the overall mission of the clinic is vital to helping members of our community.

“Our goal for this weekend pop-up clinic is to provide dental, vision, and medical care to any person in need on a first come, first served basis. We will also offer information about other community services and help coordinate follow-up care. We are currently working with local organizations to accomplish these goals. Generally, we view this event as another way to build our community, and we

encourage people to be involved in any capacity.”

Planning for a clinic can take a year, or more. Jay first brought this concept to the Board back in February, and has been giving updates to the Board at each meeting since.

Jay and his CHG (Community Host Group) Team (Ed Burman, Ed Hart and Steve Mitchell) have already made some great progress. They met with representatives from RAM at Keefe Tech H.S. which was accepted as an approved location. They recently visited another RAM Clinic which was held in Lynn, MA, to see how things worked out there, and to see what they could learn from it. They have also met with key people from FSU, Senator Spilka’s Office, and the City of Framingham.

Volunteers will be needed to run a successful weekend, to volunteer go to: <https://volunteer.ramusa.org>

To donate to this cause go to: RAM Framingham August 2023 www.foundationmw.org/give/donate-now/

<https://www.ashlandmass.com/1044/Remote-Area-Medical-RAM-Clinic>

<https://www.ramusa.org/pop-up-clinics/>

New employee spotlight

Welcome Kate Kneeland, new Police Clinician to the Police Force!

Kate Kneeland comes to us from Riverside Community Care. She is embedded full-time with us but is still an employee of Riverside.

She is a Master’s level Clinician who has experience dealing with every age range of client, from children through the elderly.

She is currently working Monday-Thursday from 1 -9pm, and Friday from 3-11pm. This schedule is based on our calls for service history and need for an on scene clinician.

The technical name for this 100% grant funded position is Jail Diversion, but that does not adequately explain her role within the department. Jail Diversion began as a way to divert those with mental health struggles or substance use disorders from the rotating cell to court route. This helped them get the services needed that the Criminal Justice system is not prepared to provide.

Also, the ability to divert from the ER, where many people end up out of necessity but this is super costly for individuals and taxpayers and does not provide the care or services needed and it ties up our emergency medical teams, from the Fire Department to the ER staff and makes

it harder for those who actually need acute care.

Kate can do the same assessments in the community and then work with individuals and families to make referrals for follow-up care and treatment.

Kate has acclimated quickly to Ashland and is working seamlessly with Officer Ostreicher and Town Social Worker Jennifer Wuelfing to enhance the work that they have been doing for the citizens and visitors of Ashland.



She has been welcomed and embraced by us at APD and we look forward to continuing to work with her for years to come!

Welcome Cheryl Bell to the Ashland Community Center Team!

Please join me in welcoming Cheryl Bell to our Team at the Ashland Senior Center! Cheryl is our New Outreach Coordinator

and is available to assist Senior residents with information and resources such as Fuel Assistance, SNAP benefits, Transportation information to name a few.

Please contact Cheryl at 508-532-7945 or cbell@ashlandmass.com for assistance or stop by to say hello at the Senior Center!

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The b.LUXE beauty beat

PAWSitively Amazing!

By GINA WOELFEL

Everyone knows that our beloved four-legged friends bring us so much joy and love, but did you ever stop to think about how they make us look and feel? Our canine companions are always loyal, warm, and wildly goofy – all qualities that help them shine as the incredible furry friends we know and love. But it’s more than just their lovable personalities that keep drawing us back in; there is a real science behind why man’s best friend can quickly become our favorite confidant. Let’s take a closer look at why exactly our dogs make us look good, feel great, and smile even wider!

Our pets give so much more than just their company. Owning a pet may decrease stress, improve our heart health, and even boost our mood. Pets keep us moving and specifically, dogs, increase our activity levels with daily walks, play and cleaning up all those doggy toys! Exercise on its own is great, but exercise with a pet adds an added layer of fulfillment and social support.

At b.LUXE, we’ve always maintained that beauty starts from within. Sure, a fresh cut and color can make you feel great, but a happy heart radiates true beauty and for the b.LUXE ladies, nothing makes us feel more beautiful and joyful than our pups (and cats, horses, guinea pigs and chickens!)

If you haven’t guessed already, we’re animal people, so our PAWSitively Amazing fundraiser this month to benefit PAWS New England is an important one for us! Read on for details...

PAWSITIVELY AMAZING FUNDRAISER: For the entire month of March, b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio is donating 10% of our retail sales to PAWS New England! For every hair, skincare, makeup and tanning product sold, 10% goes directly to our friends at PAWS!

Leading the way in all this pooch affection is b.LUXE owner, Heather Cohen, who’s been a canine advocate and dog fosterer with Paws New England for the past 20 years. She’s al-



ways said, “Dogs are my favorite people” and judging from her house full of them, we believe her!

Heather first started her rescue journey with Joanne Hutchinson, one of the three original founders of PAWS New England. I recently interviewed Joanne and she shared with me how PAWS began and where they are today.

“Paws New England started with a small group of women who saw the need for adoptable dogs in the New England area and an abundance of dogs in our southern shelters who were being euthanized for space only, a practice that’s, surprisingly, still in use today. Rescue was in its infancy 20 years ago, so we followed the lead of some of our predecessors and began rescuing dogs from the Memphis, TN area. We rescue abandoned, neglected, and abused dogs from high-kill shelters and desperate situations and provide them with vet care, behavioral training, boarding, food, medications, and anything our dogs and foster families need to succeed! We then bring them to New England where we place them in safe, loving homes.

Joanne shared with me a picture of “Jackson” (featured above), a Golden Retriever mix who came to PAWS with a severely injured leg in need of amputation. Through PAWS, Jackson received the care he needed and was placed in his forever home this past year. These are the kinds of stories that melt our hearts. Nothing compares to the feeling of coming home

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to our loyal, tail-wagging friends and their unconditional love. Heather Cohen and I have both adopted our pups from PAWS and there’s no denying how much joy they bring to our lives.

Joanne further explained just how far PAWS has come: “Fast forward to 2023 and we’re now sending approximately 10-15 dogs per week to adopters or foster homes, which are a critical part of our organization. We’re a volunteer operation and well known for accepting dogs who’ve been injured and abused into our program and, as such, donations are the only way we can continue to assist those dogs who need us the most. 98% of every dollar donated goes directly to our dogs. We even share our tax documents right on our website.”

b.LUXE wants every dog to have an amazing home where they feel safe, loved and adored.

We know you feel the same way about your beloved pooches and hope you’ll stop in this month and grab a few beauty products to help support PAWS New England!



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RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Downtown project due to finish up in fall

By PATRICIA ROY

Discussed for decades and finally funded in 2016, the downtown revitalization

project is on schedule to reach completion by fall 2023.

The need for improving the downtown had been identified in municipal plans as long ago as the 1990s, according to Town Manager Michael Herbert. The goal was to improve pedestrian and traffic safety, improve aesthetics and spur private investment in the town, he said.

Adding value to private investment has been the desire of local officials and residents for the past few decades, said Herbert.

The work has focused on Main and Front Streets.

Things were well underway once the town hired civil engineering firm BSC Group who helped identify the goals and big picture of the ambitious project. BSC completed a 25 percent

design submission, mapping the project area, roadway ownership, pavement conditions, speed regulations, noting public transportation needs, parking and location of bike lanes.

Sight distances, vehicle capacity and other areas of concern were also noted. Burying utility wires was also in the scope of the project.

Ornamental street lights and tree plantings are also on order.

Once the pre-construction proceedings were completed, bids were opened in 2020 and shovels were put in the ground in 2021.

The overall contract was awarded to P. Gioioso & Sons, Inc. of Boston with Charles Construction of North Andover subcontractor for utility conduit installation.

Funding was approved by residents from a variety of sources – Chapter 90 funds that the state gives out for road work,

the town's general fund and very like from the American Recovery Plan Act, Herbert said.

Were there any hurdles in getting underway?

"The only hurdles we had were major ones," Herbert answered.

As in any renovation project, once you start opening up walls the ghosts of building practices past reveal their scary secrets.

Opening a road works the same way, he said. Working around the existing utility lines like water, sewer, gas and storm water drains was no picnic. Ground water was discovered to be higher than expected by the railroad tracks.

Of the utility suppliers officials had to deal with, Verizon proved the most troublesome, Herbert said.

"What was urgent for us was not always urgent for them," he said.

There were some delays while COVID-19 interrupted the supply chain – when the town was ready to install granite curbing, it was not available.

Overall residents have been very supportive even while dealing with traffic inconvenience, said Beth Reynolds, Director of Economic Development.

"We kept one lane of traffic open all the time to minimize the impact," she said.

This includes for the Main Street portion of the project where underground conduits for utilities are being put in place by the train tracks. Two-way traffic will resume at the end of each work day.

This portion of the project was due to finish up on Feb. 17.

Connecting buildings along Main and Front Streets to the underground utilities will follow, then the surprisingly arduous task of removing the utility poles and filling in the holes will take place. The poles are about 40-feet-long and buried at a depth of 6 feet.

Pond Street is also getting a make-over to improve traffic and safety. This covers a segment of Route 126 that is a little more than half a mile and connects the town to Framingham and Holliston.

Downstairs Gallery & Upstairs Display Case

"The Orbs Exhibit"

Mixed Media paintings by Pamela Dorris DeJong

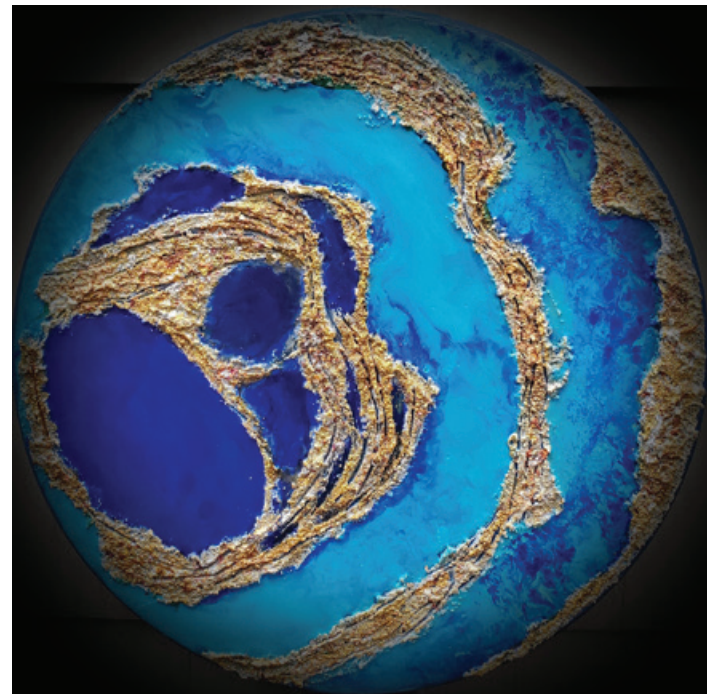
February 28-April 1, 2023.

Pamela Dorris DeJong is an Ashland resident and multi-media artist. Her work has been included in many regional, national, and international exhibits. She was awarded a Mass Cultural Council grant to create Ashland landscape paintings for the Town Hall. She is a current member and past president of the New England Wax Association.

Pamela says about her work:

"Orbs, spheres, spherules, and rounds are the focus of this exhibit. The concept evolved from the idea of throwing energy, like pitching a ball of fire of healing energy at the environment and human health. These paintings depict a meditation for divine order of the universe."

There will be an Artist's Reception and talk on Saturday, April 1, for 1 to 3PM in the Downstairs Gallery. All are invited.



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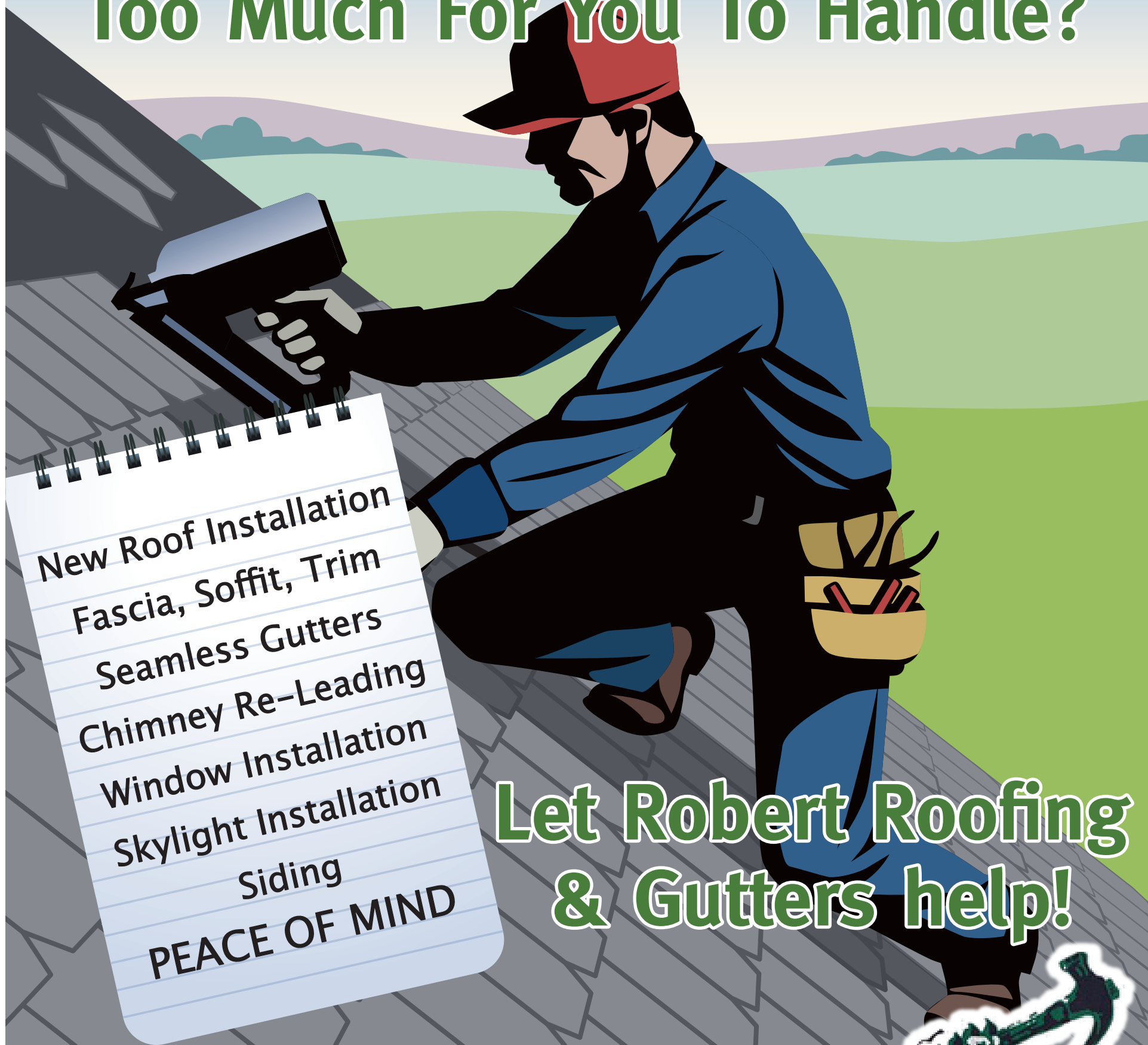
Annual Town Census 2023 – IMPORTANT REMINDER TO RETURN YOUR FORM!

The Annual Town Census Forms were mailed to each household in the Town of Ashland in early January. Each form has a special barcode printed on the form just for your address. It is mandatory to complete the census form and the process is very easy. Simply make any changes, sign the form and return it to the Town Clerk's office as soon as possible. Be sure to list everyone in the household including children. If you do not return

your Census Form, you risk being made inactive on the voting list per Massachusetts General Law.

This is a reminder that the Census form does not register you to vote nor does it change your name. You must re-register to vote under your new name for the changes to be made. If for some reason you do not receive your census form, please visit the Town Clerk's office and they will be happy to assist you.

Is Your Spring To-Do List Too Much For You To Handle?



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March 2023 at the Ashland Library



SPECIAL EVENTS:

Second Annual Once Upon A Book Fest @ the Ashland Public Library

Saturday, March 25 @ 10am – 4pm

We are thrilled to welcome authors RW Alley & Zoe Alley, Janet Costa Bates, Diane deGroat, Jan-nie Ho, Renee Kurilla, Braden Lamb & Shelli Paroline, Rajani LaRocca, Nancy Tupper Ling, Gabriel Joy Reid, and Heidi EYStemple to Ashland for our Second Annual Once Upon A BookFest Children's Book Festival!

We'll have a day full of hands-on workshops, author presentations, book selling and signing and so much more! We hope you can join us for this very special day. Stay tuned for more about the festival, the schedule, sponsors and more.

Adult:

Virtual: Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Presents 'Olmsted's Life & Legacy'

Wednesday, March 1 @ 12pm
Examine Olmsted's life from his early years up until his final days. Led by Community and Youth Engagement Coordinator Isabel Schulman from the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline.

Jewelry Making - Joyful Words with Stretch Beaded Bracelets

Monday, March 6 @ 6pm
We're learning how to make stretch beaded bracelets but this time, we're adding a bit of joy and kindness to them! You'll be amazed with what you can create with just a bit of stretch bead cord and some beads. Join us for a fun evening of creating and connecting.

Virtual: "Dirtbag, Massachusetts": An Evening with Isaac Fitzgerald

Tuesday, March 7 @ 7pm
Join us for a very special author event! In "Dirtbag, Massachusetts", Fitzgerald, with warmth and humor, recounts his ongoing search for forgiveness, a more far-reaching vision of masculinity, and a more expansive definition of family and self.

Virtual: Longfellow House-Washington's HQ National Historic Site Present 'Past & Present Here Unite'

Wednesday, March 8 @ 12pm
Learn more about this unique public resource, reopening for the season in May 2023. Led by Longfellow House Public Programs Manager Emily Levine.

Virtual - Author and Veterinarian, Philipp Schott, Discusses Pets, Vets, and Publishing *For Teens and Adults

Wednesday, March 8 @ 7pm
We are thrilled to partner with the Tewksbury Library to welcome author and veterinarian, Philip Schott, to our virtual stage! He will be discussing his latest book "The Battle Cry of the Siamese Kitten", how his veterinary practices inform his stories, and the path to publishing. We hope all of our pet/author/speaker lovers out there will join us!

Virtual: Hidden Figures & Other Women of NASA

Thursday, March 9 @ 7pm
Celebrate Women's History Month and explore the lives of the many women who made their dreams of careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics come true at NASA, and who have been an essential part of the space program since its inception.

Environmental Stewardship Through Sustainable Gardening

Saturday, March 11 @ 10am
We're partnering with the Ashland Garden Club for this one! Casey E. Doyle, a premiere agriculture and soil scientist, will share sustainable gardening practices that cause no harm to the earth and reduce negative environmental impacts.

Environmental Justice Film Screening and Discussion: "RiverBlue"

Saturday, March 11 @ 1pm
Join us for a viewing and discussion of "RiverBlue", which documents the profound and alarming impact of textile facto-

ries serving the fast fashion industry in Western countries, on rivers in Bangladesh, China, India, and Indonesia. Ashlander, Rajashree Ghosh will lead the follow up conversation.

Virtual: An America Divided: Can We Live With One Another? with New Yorker Staff Writer, Emma Green

Tuesday, March 14 @ 7:30pm
Join Emma Green in this exploration of the ways that Americans are divided - politically, religiously, economically, communities, and even families. What has caused these ruptures and what are some ways for us to come back together? Pulling from the many, many people she has spoken to over the years as well as her articles on the Federalist Society, the Supreme Court, and Affirmative Action, Emma will lead us in this difficult but essential discussion!

Virtual: Boston African American National Historic Site Presents 'Explore The Black Heritage Trail'

Wednesday, March 15 @ 12pm
Enjoy a virtual lunchtime lecture from the Boston African American National Historic Site which showcases residences and community buildings associated with a Black community that thrived on, and near, the north slope of Beacon Hill.

Virtual: An Evening with Mecca Jamilah Sullivan, Author of "Big Girl"

Wednesday, March 15 @ 7pm
Mecca Jamilah Sullivan is the author of the novel "Big Girl", "The Poetics of Difference", and "Blue Talk and Love". In her highly anticipated debut novel, Mecca Jamilah Sullivan explores the perils and undeniable beauty of insatiable longing.

Celebrate Women's History Month: Author Susan Eisenberg Discusses "We'll Call You If We Need You: Experiences of Women Working Construction"

Monday, March 20 @ 6:30pm
In this book, full of the raw drama and humor found on a construction site, Eisenberg gracefully weaves the voices of thirty women (including her own!) who worked as carpenters, electricians, ironworkers, painters, and plumbers to examine why their numbers remained small.

Virtual - Cassatt & Company: The Women Impressionists

Monday, March 20, 2023

This program explores the paintings of Marie Bracquemond, Berthe Morisot, Mary Cassatt and others and considers the unique challenges they faced as women artists in a male-dominated profession.

Virtual - Beyond the Library presents: The Gilded World of Isabella Stewart Gardner

Tuesday, March 21 @ 7pm

We will explore the details of Isabella Stewart Gardner's life, friends, travels and collections. She broke all kinds of rules while setting up her museum but perhaps we can understand this when we read her personal motto "It is my pleasure." She arranged things the way she wanted with relationships between objects that may at first escape us. What is left for us is to marvel at the space she created and filled with beautiful things.

Virtual: New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park Presents 'Stories From The Whaling Port'

Wednesday, March 22 @ 12pm

Discover the origins and historical significance of New Bedford's whaling port. Led by National Park Guide Rufai Shadow.

Virtual - Romance Authors Maya Rodale & Caroline Linden discuss "Dangerous Books For Girls"

Wednesday, March 22 @ 7pm
Join us for a conversation between friends and romance authors Maya Rodale and Caroline Linden! They'll be discussing Maya's re-released and expanded edition of "Dangerous Books For Girls: The Bad Reputation of Romance Novels Explained".

Virtual - Literary Café Celebrates Women's History Month

Thursday, March 23 @ 7pm
We're excited to partner with the Cary Library for its next Literary Café which will mark Women's History Month with a panel presentation, hosted by Marjan Kamal, featuring Award-winning authors Joy Castro, Ava Homa, and Katherine Sherbrooke.

Virtual - Law and Order: Boston with Author David Kruh

Friday, March 24 @ 1pm
In this slide show, David brings Law & Order to Boston by looking at three high-profile cases from three eras of the city's his-

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LIBRARY

continued on page 15

LIBRARY

continued from page 14

tory: The Boston Massacre, The Parkman Murder, and the Boston Strangler. Together, we'll look at the crime (or crimes), follow the investigation, and wind up in court, where we will argue the case and hear the verdict.

Virtual -Learn All About Fixit Clinics! The How and Why of Bringing One to Your Community

Tuesday, March 28 @ 1pm
We are partnering with Peter Mui, the founder of the Fixit Clinic and Kathi Mirza, an Environmental Analyst for MassDEP, to bring you the nuts and bolts of hosting or attending a Fixit Clinic in your very own community! Did you know that the APL has already hosted 2 Fixit Clinics?

Virtual: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site Presents 'From Beals St. To The White House'

Wednesday, March 29 @ 12pm
Receive a virtual tour of John F. Kennedy's birthplace home on 83 Beals Street. Led by Lead Park Ranger Gabriella Hornbeck.

Virtual: Author Mia Mask Discusses "Black Rodeo: A History of the African American Western"

Wednesday, March 29@ 7pm
African American westerns have a rich cinematic history and visual culture. Professor and author Mia Mask examines the African American western hero within the larger context of film history by considering how Black westerns evolved and approached wide-ranging goals.

Teen:

Saturday Video Games

Saturday, March 4 @ 1:30pm
Come to the library after-school to play switch games with your friends! Nintendo Switch, Xbox, games and snacks will be provided.

No registration required, for ages 13-18 only!

Early Release Day Teen Movie
Friday, March 17 @ 1pm
Come to the library after-school to watch a movie, eat pizza and hangout!

Children:

Saturday Story Time

*For Ages 3 and up
Saturday, March 4 and March 11 @ 10:30am
Come listen to Ryan read some of his favorite stories aloud!

Lego Club

*For Age 5 & Up
Thursday, March 9 and March 23 @ 4pm

Each child will be given a box filled with an assortment of Lego blocks to build a creation using only what's inside the box within the 45 minute time limit.

"You are the Hero of Your Own Story" Author Visit with Shawn Peters

*For Grades 4 - 7
Friday, March 17 @ 2pm
This interactive session will include an author talk, two separate readings from THE UNFORGETTABLE LOGAN FOSTER, as well as in improvised superhero story based on a volunteer's own suggestions and the audience's participation with sound effects along the way.

Parachute Party

*For Kids Ages 3 - 6
Saturday, March 18 @ 11am
Have fun working as a group to keep the parachute up in the air.

Family Movie

Tuesday, March 28 @ 3pm (animated, rated PG)
Set in a beautiful seaside town on the Italian Riviera, the original animated feature is a coming-of-age story about one young boy experiencing an unforgettable summer filled with gelato, pasta and endless scooter rides.

SEED, Inc "Fossils"

*for grades K-5
Wednesday, March 29 @ 2:30pm
Come explore with fossils. Learn how fossils form, examine fossils that are millions of years old, and even dig one out for yourself!

S.T.E.A.M. Story & Craft - "Potato Clocks" *For Grades K-3

Thursday, March 30 @ 2:30pm
Use a potato to make a battery that will power a mini clock. Kids will take their clocks home with them.

Friends of the Ashland Public Library Full Day Book Sale and Donation Day

Friday, March 3rd 6-8pm
Saturday, March 4th 10-4pm
Our Big Book Sale is back! Join us for the full day to pick up some wonderful books, movies, audiobooks and the beautiful Chinese Brush Paintings. We have thousands of gently used books if you're looking for something special for the adults, teens, and kids in your life.

Friends of the Ashland Public Library Big 2-Day Book Sale March 3 – 4

Get ready for spring with a new stash of books and DVDs! The Friends of the Ashland Public Library will be holding a big 2-day book sale the first weekend of March in the lower level of the library.

Friday night from 6 pm to 8 pm is a preview for Friends only. Renew your membership or join at the door, and you can get first pick of the fabulous assortment of bargain books and DVDs for all ages, baby through adult.

Saturday, March 4, is open for all to shop from 10 am to 4 pm. It's also our regular first-Saturday-of-the-month Donation Day. Between the hours of 10 am and 1 pm, Friends will be in

the library parking lot to assist with donations of your gently used books and DVDs (no CDs, please). Donation Day is a great time to do some spring cleaning of your bookshelves. And because you love books, shop the sale to replenish your supply with new-to-you selections.

If you haven't yet redeemed your free book postcard that came in the mail to all Ashland residents last December, be sure to bring it with you when you shop the Big Sale in March. Coupon is good for 1 free book of your choice, no purchase necessary.

As always, all proceeds from our book sales pay for so many

of the great things you love about our library: the in person and virtual programs, free or reduced admission to museums and attractions in our area, the Summer Reading Program, and much, much more. Your book donations, Friends memberships, and every book you buy at our sales help make the Ashland Library the gem of the community.

If you can't make the Big Sale in March, remember the Friends hold a Mini Sale the first Saturday of each month, and great books are always available for sale in our Book Sale Corner open during all library hours.

Play Mini Golf in the Ashland Library

And That's No April Fool!

Get ready for an un-fore-gettable weekend April 1 and 2, when you can play 18 holes of mini golf INSIDE the Ashland Library.

The Friends of the Ashland Public Library is teaming up with local business sponsors for this tee-riffic fundraising event that promises hole-in-one-fun for the whole family! It will be a great chance to have a ball, support a great community resource, and get a rare look at the library "after hours!"

Play tees off on Saturday evening, April 1, with adults only "Mocktails and Mini Golf" on the links from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. This night of fun for the 18+ crowd will feature munchies and mocktails included in the ticket price. Line up the babysitter now and make a night of it!

The excitement continues on Sunday, April 2, from 11 am to 4 pm (yes, the library will be open on Saturday night and Sunday just for this event!) where the whole family can play through 18 holes filled with hills, jumps, bumps, twists and loops scattered throughout the stacks and inner spaces of our fabulous library.

The course will be set up by the pros from Mobile-MiniGolf, a company with years of experience bringing a unique and really fun indoor mini golf course experience to hundreds of locations throughout New England. Staff from Mobile-MiniGolf will be on hand to greet the players and rec-

ommend the correct size putters for any player, toddler to adult. Plus, players will receive putting lessons and mini-golf pro tips!

Local businesses are sponsoring each of the holes, so look for their company logos on flags, scorecards, and table displays. If your business is interested in joining in the fun, contact president@friendsoftheapl.org for more information.

Watch for more details and how to order tickets on-line on the Friends' web site www.friendsoftheapl.org as well as the Ashland Library website, FaceBook, Twitter and Instagram.

Proceeds from this fundraising event will go to pay for all of the in-person and virtual library programs for all ages, as well as over a dozen different Museum Passes, the Summer Reading Program, stocking Little Free Libraries all over town, supplementing classroom shelves in Ashland Public Schools, and much, much more.

So be sure to join us on April 1 and 2 for 18 holes of fun on the mini-greens. What could be better than puttering around our great library after hours while you support the Friends of the Ashland Public Library's first ever Mini-Golf Fundraiser!

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*Income limits apply. For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, please call or email. A **Peabody Properties** Managed Community.



Ashland Garden Club’s Free Events Focus on Sustainability

Now that public meetings are possible, the Ashland Library and Ashland Garden Club is once again offering in-person educational opportunities free to the public.

Sustainability is the theme of year’s free offerings. Not all efforts to help our natural environment involve technology. Gardeners can play an important role in helping to maintain the bio-diversity necessary for a healthy environment.

Join the Ashland Library on March 11, 10-11:30am, to learn more about the responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable gardening practices.

Casey E. Doyle, who holds a Master of Science degree in Sustainable Food systems, will share sustainable gardening practices that cause no harm to the earth and help reduce negative environmental impacts.

Doyle will also discuss the importance of planting native species that save diversity in our gardens for the health and well-being of our pollinators and the environment.

Register to attend on the Ashland Library calendar at <https://www.ashlandmass.com/Calendar.aspx?EID=10555>

For gardeners, helping to sustain our natural environment means helping maintain native pollinators by planting native plants. Native plants are those that occur naturally in a region in which they evolved. Without them, the insects that co-evolved with them and local birds that feed on these insects cannot survive.

On April 8, 10-11:30am, the Ashland Library and the Garden Club will host an in-person presentation, Re-Wilding: Native Plant Gardening for the Planet and ALL Her Inhabitants, given by Trevor Smith. Smith is the Manager of Design and Education at Weston Nursery.

Smith brings his 20 years of field experience as an entrepreneur and regenerative landscape designer to the Weston Nurseries team of professional horticulturalists, plant professionals and landscape artists.

Register to attend Re-Wilding: Native Plant Gardening for the Planet and ALL Her Inhabitants on the Ashland Library page at <https://www.ashlandmass.com/Calendar.aspx?EID=10547>

ABA Upcoming Events

March 23, 2023, from 4-6 PM

In Person Educational Session – How to Navigate the Challenges of Aging
Location: The Residence at Valley Farm, 369 Pond Street, Ashland, MA

April 13, 2023, from 5:30-7 PM

Regional Chamber/ABA Evening of Networking (with MetroWest and Marlborough Chambers)
Location: Dulce D Leche, 200 Homer Avenue, Ashland, MA

April 29, 2023, from 10-5pm

Spring Fling-Opportunity for the Ashland Community and Businesses to Connect and Have Fun!
Location: Outdoor Parking Lot at Habitat for Humanity-Restore, 310 Pond Street, Ashland, MA

If you are interested in attending these events, please register on the Ashland Business Association website. We hope to see you there!

Dogs on the Loose!

As the sun starts to warm and the ice begins to melt, we start to spend more time outside with our furry friends.

Ashland is so fortunate to have so many options for open space to enjoy with your best friend. However, the town wants to make sure that everyone enjoys these great spots safely.

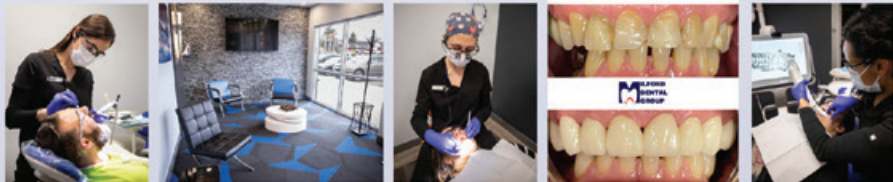
As you bring your dogs around town to explore the great outdoors, please remember that dogs must be leashed at all times while on public property (Town Code Chapter 87). This includes but is not limited to, the Ashland Town Forest, Warren Woods, and the State Park. All dogs must be registered with the Town Clerk, licenses are due April 15. Licenses can be applied for online on the Town Clerk webpage or by submitting a paper application with the Town Clerk’s Office at Town Hall. Fees may apply.

For those looking to bring their dogs to Warren Woods, your dog must be separately registered with the Conservation Department. A Warren Woods dog permit application can be requested by emailing the Conservation Agent at bsolomon@ashlandmass.com.

So be sure to get out there and enjoy the beautiful space that Ashland is so lucky to have, and thank you for being a responsible dog owner!



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Dr. Raeisian completed her undergraduate studies in FL and earned her doctorate from Tufts University, School of Dental Medicine . She focuses on general and cosmetic dentistry. She is certified in implant dentistry, Invisalign, and cosmetic dentistry. She joined Milford Dental Group in 2001, where she holds a full-time position as our clinical director. Dr. Raeisian is also an FBI-trained forensic dentist.

Sports

Carlos Espino Junior Captain In Two Sports

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Ashland's Carlos Espino is a three-sport athlete for the Clockers playing soccer, basketball and baseball. However, the junior may give up on baseball this spring to focus on his education.

This year Espino was not only named a captain for the soccer team, but his teammates also selected the junior as a captain for the basketball team.

According to Ashland boys' basketball coach Mike Normant, players, coaches and outgoing seniors have a say in who the captain(s) should be. Espino was named a junior captain on the basketball team, having already been named a captain to the soccer team in the fall.

"Carlos was selected by his teammates unanimously to be a captain for the team this year, that says a lot about him and how he brings people together," Normant said. "The outgoing seniors also thought that he'd be a good fit as a captain. Everyone likes him; he takes his role and time on the court seriously."

Espino says that he wants to be inclusive with every one of his teammates while forming good relationships.

"As a captain I want to be nice to my teammates, but I also want to compete a high level," he said. "We should have fun as a team,

but we should also be able to step up when we need to and take things seriously."

Having played soccer and basketball since he was about 4 or 5 years old, the Ashland athlete made the soccer varsity team as a freshman and the basketball team as a sophomore. As a freshman he found that his minutes on the court where for the junior varsity team and when he actually was awarded a varsity jersey as a sophomore his time on the court was minimal.

"Making the team as a sophomore Carlos didn't play a lot for the varsity team, the majority of his action was for the junior varsity team," the Ashland Coach said. "With that said, being named the captain as a junior by his teammates says a lot about the type of person he is. From a leadership perspective he is the most respected player that I have coached in many years."

The Clocker captain is usually a lead-by-example type of captain, but according to the Coach he is starting to find his vocal leadership growing.

"Being named a captain means a lot to me. Having played with this team over the last few years I want to succeed with them," Espino said. "They look to me as a leader and although I do more leading by example I am starting to be vocal with them.



Sometimes you need to talk to them to get them to do what is needed for the team."

Unfortunately during his first year as co-captain Espino and his teammates have found themselves having a tough season. With only a handful of games remaining at the time of this writing the Clockers have only been able to secure one win this season.

"We have a lot of new varsity players and they are a little nervous to step up their game at this point, but I hope that I am taking what I learned from my past

captains and bring it to them," he said. "Regardless of our record our chemistry on and off the court has been good and we are getting better. They have been picking things up and doing a better job over the last few games."

As the team's starting point guard this winter, Espino has seen more time on the court than anyone on the Clocker team and has been a key contributor in running the offense.

Normant believes that over the last year and a half Espino has been the squad's most im-

proved player, continuously working hard to improve.

"For next season as a player he'll need to work on his ability to get to the basket and finish at the rim despite his smaller size at 5'10"," Normant said. "Defensively he is very solid, but we are always looking to have players work on that area."

On the court Espino finds himself as a facilitator to get his teammates that open look, but he also knows that there is always room for growth.

"My dribbling is probably the best part of my game, with my three-point shoot being the weakest," he said. "I do know that I also have to work on going to the rim and being able to finish if I want to be that complete player that the coach is looking for."

Coming into the year, Espino was hoping to make the tournament and although that is not going to happen this winter he wants to see the team continue to play hard and improve for next year.

"The Ashland basketball program hasn't been to the tournament in a while so that is definitely a goal that we are going to be looking to achieve next season," Espino said. "And although making the tournament will be our top priority, I also want to have fun as a team."

Greater Ashland Lions Club

Don't Forget to Wear Your Green on St. Patrick's Day!

A Winter Wonderland afternoon of fun was held on Feb. 26, for kids up to 12 years old at the VFW, 311 Pleasant Street, from noon-2pm.

Come and enjoy a delicious St. Patrick's Day Dinner at the VFW, 311 Pleasant Street, on March 17. at 6pm. Contact Lion Ro at 508-881-4743 or Lion Nicole at 781-718-6478 for tickets.

Our 26th Quiz / Trivia Night will be held on April 14, at 6:30pm at the VFW, 311 Pleasant St. Form a team (8 people maxi-

mum) for this friendly trivia competition and win a Cash Prize. There will also be a 50/50 Raffle, Basket Raffles, Dessert Table, and a Cash Bar. Contact Lion Ro at 508-881-4743 or Lion Nicole at 781-718-6478 for tickets.

Do you have any used eyeglasses hanging around? We'll take them! Please bring them to the Police Station (located on Main Street), Market Basket (Pond Street / Rte.126), the VFW (at 311 Pleasant Street), or the Town Hall (Main Street).

Wanting to get involved in the community? We're a low-pressure group of service-oriented folks always looking for new members. If you'd like to learn more about the Lions and our club, please contact Lion Alexis at cvarnie@hotmail.com.

For more club information, please check us out on Facebook: Greater Ashland Lions Club. #weserve #kindnessmatters.

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Gaetano Arria, Owner

Ashland Lions Club March 2023 Update

Ashland Lions Regatta on the Sudbury River!

The Ashland Lions will hold their 3rd annual Lions Toy Boat "Regatta" on Saturday, March 25th, 2023 (rain date Sunday March 26th). At 10:00am, numbered toy boats will be launched by a member of the Lions from the Sudbury River canoe launch at Gryncell Park in Ashland. The first three boats to reach the finish at Marathon Park will be the winners! You do not need to be present to win. Tickets, corresponding to the boat numbers, are \$5 each or 3 for \$10 and can be obtained from any Lion or by calling Lion "Dok" at (508)881-4664. All proceeds go to support our community and Lions Eye Research.

Musical Bingo

This fun event is planned for Wednesday, March 29th 7pm – 10pm at the Ashland Fish and Game on Ponderosa Rd. in Ashland. Cash prizes will be awarded. Snacks will be served, and a full cash bar will be available. Watch for flyers around town and Facebook for more details!

Ashland Lions Meat Raffles

Ashland Lions will continue its tradition of meat raffles at TJ's Food and Spirits in Ashland. Come join the fun on Saturday, March 4th 12pm - 4pm. Early bird tickets before 12:30pm. As always there will be great food, fun, and great meat to choose from. For more dates and times, check out our Facebook page. See you there!

Senior Breakfasts

Seniors, why not join us and other members of the community for breakfast? Senior Breakfasts are on the first Thursday of each month, held at the Ashland Senior Center, 162 West Union St in Ashland. This event runs through May.

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. In February alone we collected over 240 pairs of glasses!

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
TJ's Food and Spirits
The Residence at Valley Farm

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



Cultural Council Grants Announced

It's Official!

The Ashland Cultural Council has completed its FY23 Grant Cycle and is pleased to announce that the following grants have been awarded for a total of \$11,271:

- Blues to Bluegrass (Roger Tincknell), Ashland Senior Center
- DNA Modeling Kit, Ashland High School
- Celebrate Ashland Event, Hopkinton Center for the Arts
- Knock on Wood (Howie Newman), Ashland Senior Center
- Keyboards and Amplifier, Ashland Middle School
- Water is Life, Life is Water Performance (NatYa), Ashland Public Library
- Southeastern Massachusetts Community Concert Band, Ashland Stone Park
- The Pineapple Project, Ashland Public Library
- Dragonfly Arts Festival, Downtown Ashland
- Golden Rule Assembly (Odds Bodkin), Ashland PTO

- Crafting Workshops, Ashland Public Library
- Musical Visits for Seniors (MUSE, Inc.), Mill Pond and Residences at Valley Farm
- Hip Hop Chair Dance for Seniors!, Mill Pond and Residences at Valley Farm
- Fossil Program (SEED), Ashland Public Library

Congratulations to all our FY23 Grantees!

The Ashland Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils, serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The LCC program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year.

The State Legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community. Decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level by a board of municipally appointed volunteers.

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.

For grant information and FAQs: www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public_applicant_process.aspx

For more information on the ACC: www.ashlandmass.com/236/Ashland-Cultural-Council

To join the ACC, come to a meeting and fill out the Talent Bank form: www.ashlandmass.com/formcenter/talent-bank-form-16/talent-bank-form-56

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Real Estate Corner



142 Prospect Street in Ashland recently sold for \$650,000. Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages

Ashland Recent Home Sales

Date	Ashland	Amount
02/14/2023	142 Prospect Street	\$650,000
02/02/2023	37 Mountain Gate Road	\$375,000
01/31/2023	22 Shadow Creek Lane	\$525,000
01/27/2023	80 Independence Lane	\$980,000
01/27/2023	10 Burnham Circle	\$1.14 mil
01/26/2023	50 Voyagers Lane	\$460,000
01/26/2023	12 Fern Xing	\$705,000
01/20/2023	275 Captain Eames Circle	\$539,900
01/18/2023	113 Mountain Gate Road	\$465,000

Message from the Ashland Fire Department

Outside Burning began Jan. 15.

Residents are required to go to the Ashland Fire Department Website www.ashlandfire.com to obtain a permit. This permit will be valid for the entire burning season. Each subsequent time a resident wishes to burn, they must activate their permit on that day on the website. There is no fee for this permit. Burning Season ends on May 1.

Burning will begin at 10 am and fires must be extinguished completely by 4 pm.

Fires must be at least 75 Ft. away from any dwellings and there must be a water source readily available. There must be an adult present with the fire at all times.

Permits are for BRUSH ONLY!

Burning of: Construction Materials, Leaves, Paper Products, Sawn Lumber, Stumps are prohibited.


Burning for land clearing is prohibited. Burning commercially is prohibited.

No person shall burn brush which has been generated from a different location.

There is no burning allowed on the 3rd Monday of April due to the Boston Marathon. The Duty Officer, The Fire Chief, or District Fire Warden may restrict outside burning due to weather or air quality conditions.




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