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April 2023



Ashland Looking To Advance Further Into Tournament

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Over the past two seasons, the Ashland girls' lacrosse team has managed to earn them-

TOURNAMENT
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New Public Safety Building Ready to Call Home

BY PATRICIA ROY

You can take down the “vacancy” sign at the new Public Safety Building. On March 14, the Police Department moved into its state-of-the-art quarters, joined by fire and police dispatch.

The combined dispatch center is now operational for E-911 calls.

The Fire Department is due to make their move sometime in April when electrical systems for the apparatus bay doors are completed and occupancy is okayed.

The extended delay in getting delivery and installation of the doors has been a headache for the Public Safety Building Committee which has pinned on delivery problems the project contractor and subcontractor.

In the meantime, the Fire Department will continue to operate from the Main and Cedar Street stations.

SAFETY
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Town Clerk's Office Updates **Green up Ashland**

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.

EV Test Drive Event April 8

Come test drive and learn all about electric vehicles from people who drive them every day (no car salespeople). On April 8th the Town of Ashland in partnership with New England Electric Auto Association (NEEAA) will be hosting an EV test drive event at the Ashland Middle School. There will be a large assortment

of EVs in various makes, models, and every price range.

Right now is a great time to take advantage of tax credits for electric vehicles. From the Inflation Reduction Act, you can earn up to \$7500 on new and \$4000 on used EVs. EVs are a great option for a car right now because not only are they better for the planet but on average drivers save \$1,000 a year from traditional fossil fuel-powered vehicles. Electric vehicles even have a lower lifetime carbon footprint than fossil fuel-powered cars. When charting in your Ashland home you will be charging with renewable energy from our Municipal Aggregation Program!

Come ask questions and test drive EVs from people who drive them every day! Free to attend!

Any questions please contact Samantha Riley @ sriley@ashlandmass.com.

GreenUp Ashland is a community committee working alongside the Town of Ashland to "promote a litter-free environment and to encourage stewardship of our lands and waterways since 2002."

Most residents recognize the name, GreenUp Ashland, from the annual event the committee hosts annually, the first Saturday in May to encourage community stewardship and pick up an Ashland Trash bag, grab a t-shirt, and start collecting litter. However, the committee is an active community group with initiatives to create a greener community with involvement with out clean initiatives in town.

In addition to the one-day event, the committee also encourages individuals to clean up discarded waste on a regular basis with the "Adopt-a-Street Program."

Community Committee Member Karyn Dann- Barboza comments on the program saying, "The Adopt-a-Street initiative has been around for approx 5 years" (we could be on our 5th summer/to fall with it now) It has grown exponentially and the big lift, believe it or not - during the pandemic. Folks really wanted to get out and be active since we were sort of locked down. Since then, the traction has been increasing. This year our focus is to pull in more businesses for adoption, help with environmental initiatives with the Ashland Public Library and Sustainability Committee.

The Adopt a Street program had 40 active volunteers enrolled in the program in 2023 and with our mild winter, was able to keep areas clean throughout the winter. This program is not limited to streets, but expanded to include adopting a space in addition to a street, allowing individuals to clean up local parks and schools.

GreenUp Ashland needs your help. As these volunteers continue to clean up our community, they are noticing more and more discarded trash. Discarded trash not only is an eyesore; it is a health matter, and it significantly impacts the town's Stormwater infrastructure. Please, collect your trash and dispose of it properly. Let's work together to keep Ashland Clean.

Green up Ashland Day is Saturday, May 6th 2023 at the Stone Park Pavilion. Registration will open up to previous adopters first and then to all others interested. GreenUp Ashland is always looking for adopters, volunteers to help on the committee and the community itself to keep us aware of areas in town that need cleanup. Sign up will open in April. Follow Green up on Facebook @GreenUpAshland and the website www.greenuashland.org.

Earth Day Event at The Corner Spot – Sunday, April 23rd 2023

Earth Day is an annual celebration that honors the achievements of the environmental movement and raises awareness of the need to protect Earth's natural resources for future generations. Join the Town of Ash-

land, Sustainability Committee, Conservation and Sustainability Agents at an Earth Day Celebration on Sunday, April 23rd 2023 from 12pm-3pm at The Corner Spot. Enjoy activities like planting a seed, Earth day art proj-

ect, test drive an EV Car, and so much more! Live music and food from Provisions Trading Co. will keep you fueled! Free to attend, all are welcome!

localtownpages

Published Monthly
Mailed FREE to the
Community of Ashland
Circulation: 7,884
households & businesses

Publisher

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Editorial

Susan Manning

Send Editorial to:

editor@ashlandtownnews.com

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Ad deadline is the
15th of each month.

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Ashland Police Officers Promoted

Earlier this week, Chief Rossi and I had the honor of promoting Larry Rodkey to the rank of Sergeant, and Michael Vinciulla to the rank of Lieutenant for the Ashland Police Department.

Sgt. Rodkey began his journey with the Ashland Police Department as a Dispatcher in 2016 and was appointed as a full-time Police Officer in 2018. After Sgt. Rodkey's appointment to Police Officer, Sgt. Rodkey quickly established himself as a leader in the patrol division and has developed an exemplary record within the department. We look forward

to working with Sgt. Rodkey in his new role.

Lieutenant Vinciulla began his career with the Ashland Police Department in 2004 as a Permanent Intermittent Police Officer and was hired a few months later as a full-time Officer. In early 2020, Lt. Vinciulla was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Since that time, Lt. Vinciulla has handled many of the administrative duties within the department and has been an integral part of the development of the new Public Safety Building, including the transfer of dispatch and the

Police Department to the new facility on Union Street. We are looking forward to the many contributions Lt. Vinciulla will make in shaping the future of the APD.

Both men have been eligible for promotion for some time, and we thank them and the men and women of the APD for their patience.

The Town of Ashland anticipates making additional promotions in the very near future. At that time, we will hold a more formal promotional ceremony honoring Sgt. Rodkey, Lt. Vinciulla, and additional officers.



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/

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<https://www.ashlandmass.com/1044/Remote-Area-Med->

ical-RAM-Clinic

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

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SAFETY

continued from page 1

An opening ceremony for the three level, 42,000 square foot building will be scheduled after both departments have moved in.

The town has talked about a new Public Safety Building for decades, but other building projects took priority. A feasibility study commenced in 2008 and by 2018, the Select Board had appointed a Public Safety Building committee that was charged with site acquisition, design, engineering and construction. That year, annual town meeting voters approved using the gift of land at 12-16 Union Street as the site for the proposed building, favoring the central location, proximity to Ashland High School and a way to forego waits at railroad crossings.

Architects and Owner's Management were signed on in 2018 as the design and engineering process continued.

Voters at a Special Town Meeting in Jan. 2021 and later, at the ballot box, gave overwhelming support for funding a new building. The project broke ground in March 2021.

The town meeting vote requested \$27,400,000 for the building and the building committee anticipates a \$25 million grant.

According to Town Manager Michael Herbert, the increase in household taxes will be offset by other capital project debt that is falling off through 2028.

The building is in line with the town's net-zero carbon energy goal with geothermal HVAC, and a green roof system over the third floor and sally port.

The Public Safety Building has rectified deficiencies such as a lack of facilities for female personnel. It also provides a way for police officers to get detainees safely from the sally port into the building and booking area, then moving them along to cell block.

The first floor also has the main entrance and lobby. Dispatch, records and meeting room are all located off the lobby.

The second floor houses police support areas including a locker room and the firefighters' living quarters.

There is also room for a firing range for mandated police training, which will eliminate the need for overtime pay for officers who previously needed to train at off-site facilities.

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Porthouse Tax Advisors Offers Individualized Approach to Your Tax Needs

Are you prepared to handle issues with the IRS on your own? Do you have a lien, levy or garnishment on your wages? Are you a business with unpaid payroll taxes? Or are you just a procrastinator who's let things go way too long?

If you find yourself in a tax predicament, head to Porthouse Tax Advisors in Medway, Mass. They are a team of experts located at 166 Village Street across the street from the town hall.

Dawn Porthouse, a long-time Bellingham resident, started Porthouse Tax Advisors five years ago, with her main goal being to help people. She has an MBA from Babson College, an MPA from Framingham State University and a business degree from UMass Dartmouth. With nearly 20 years of experience in the financial world, you're in great hands if you go to her with your tax issues.

Porthouse Tax Advisors is a boutique firm which specialize in helping individuals and busi-

ness owners deal with tax problems. They help people who owe significant amounts to the IRS navigate the IRS maze. "I speak government," Porthouse says. "We are local and very methodical." The first steps to helping are pulling transcripts and analyzing the severity of the situation.

Porthouse Tax Advisors does not use a "one size fits all" approach. Instead, they will use an individualized approach, where they assess your situation in stages. According to Dawn, "Everyone's tax situation is different. No two are ever the same and require different solutions."

Porthouse states she loves "helping people navigate the complexities of taxes." Her employees are from local communities, and they do not outsource the work. Porthouse Tax Advisors is open year-round, with their busiest season being from February through May. Their hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m.



Business spotlight

to 4:30 p.m., by appointment only. This way they can ensure each client receives the time and attention they deserve, and no one is sitting around waiting to be helped.

If you are in need of tax assistance, have any questions, or would like more information on how they can help you, contact Porthouse Tax Advisors by phone at (774) 613-2600.

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Ashland Police Partner with Keefe Tech on New Program

Ashland PD is excited to be part of an initiative between MassBay Community College and Keefe Technical High School that aims to impart upon a group

of mostly graduating seniors that law enforcement is a noble and fulfilling career profession.

Law enforcement has gone through some very tough times

in the past decade, and many of our community members have become disillusioned with police officers and some trust has been lost in the profession. We truly believe that the hard work that is needed to rebuild that trust starts by having our voices heard not only through dialogue but through interaction with younger generations.

We have been lucky enough to team up with Keefe Technical High School at the invitation of Chief Phil DiBlasi of MassBay, to implement a program that can reach those young men and women who may be considering a future in law enforcement. The program is a 4-week police academy/information session where the young men and women of Keefe Tech get a "behind the scenes" look at what police officers do and what the profession has to offer them as a potential career.

The final session will be a panel discussion with each of the Chiefs to talk about the profession and to answer questions from the group. We will also pledge our support as mentors and be available to them as they move toward possibly becoming police officers.

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44 FRONT STREET, 2nd FLOOR • ASHLAND

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

Business spotlight

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, 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.

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.

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Your Money, Your Independence

Peak Earnings Years Are Your 50's - Parents Maybe, You... Not So Much.



Glenn Brown

A myth young professionals face from family, peers, marketing and even financial professionals is that your peak earning years are in your 50's. There's trouble with this assumption in a financial plan. Let me explain.

Do you make over \$162,051 a year?

If you're age 42, then congratulations you're a Top 10% earner in the United States per the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS), conducted jointly by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Given your earnings at 32, you may believe a similar trajectory of promotions and compensation will occur over the next 10 years into your "peak earning years".

Let's find age 52 to see the Top 10% earn over... \$150,222.

Wait a minute, must be a mistake.

How about age 51?
\$160,822.

Look, if you're head of a division or executive entering your 50's, you're exceeding. But by age 55 or older, you're also in the ~1-3% of workforce at that age in those positions.

As I explain to new clients in their late 30's and 40's, ageism is real in corporate America. Some dismiss it, so I ask, "How many peers on your level or above are in their 50's?" They answer, "There are some". Next I ask "How about over 55?". It's then that I get a pause with realization.

Several things can be done, start with 3 foundational steps.

Act As If. Apologies if you hear Ben Affleck's voice, but act as if you're at peak earnings today. What would you be doing differently? Do you save more? Do you invest differently? Is there a career change? Would one of you in the household take a risk to work for a start-up, start a small business or become self-employed? How are your future income streams?

Budget. I know, it's a dirty word. Especially in dual income households making \$250-400K. Yes, we all need our "play hard" moments and/or family experiences, but has a once or twice

a year indulgence become a monthly habit because you can?

Effective budgets are not envelopes, obsessive tracking or family meetings, but running a Cash Flow Analysis and review every 6-12 months to see if the projections are your reality. A proper analysis should show projected net free cash flow after all categorized expenses, taxes, and automatic savings allocations.

Savings Prioritization. In conjunction with your Cash Flow Analysis, you should have a clear rationale of where your savings are going. There is balancing between what's for today, the next 1-2 years and for the future unknown.

Is it 401k, HSA or FSA, 529 plans, IRAs, Roth, brokerage, bank, down payment, emergency or an upcoming experience? Defined percentages or amounts are best, however it's more important to understand the purpose for prioritization and impact of your choices.

In closing, if you've done a financial plan see if the income assumptions are only adjusting for inflation and not bumping up in your 50's or worse, remaining constant until 65. If you haven't, consider a Certified Financial Planner that can help you build, execute and monitor.

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. He 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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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 medi-

cal 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!

Welcome three new employees to Town Hall!!

Brittany Cottrell is the Town of Ashland's new **Tax Analyst** in the Treasurer/Collector's office. She is a resident of Ashland who comes to us from the retail industry. Her extensive customer service experience makes her a wonderful addition to the office. We are happy to have Brittany on our team.

Alvaro Esparza is Ashland's new **Assistant Town Planner**. Alvaro comes to us from Worcester where he worked in Community Planning. He has extensive experience working with housing and

energy efficiency initiatives. He is a welcome addition to the team and will be great support for the Ashland Planning and Zoning Boards.

Melissa Hayes joins Ashland as our **Communications Coordinator**. Melissa has been working for the State, most recently in the Secretary of State's office, and is excited to begin her new path with us on the local level. Melissa is excited to work with the team and bring the community the most up to date communications!



Sha'arei Shalom

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Winter is Over! Spring Cleaning 101



John Szolomayer

clean. While we might dread spring cleaning, it helps us refresh our home environment after a long, cold winter and move refreshed into a bright new season. But where should you focus your attention?

Freshen your mats and rugs

Indoor and outdoor mats and rugs can collect a lot of dirt tracked into the house by people and pets over the winter months. Vacuuming doesn't always get everything, so you might consider buying or renting a portable steam cleaner. Pay special attention to the doormats inside and out since those collect the most dirt.

Clean windows and blinds

Seeing the difference between a dirty window and a clean one will make you feel a great sense of accomplishment. Your windows

will get dirty throughout the year, so take this time to clean them. Start on an overcast day to make it easier to see streaks left behind by a cloth. Double-hung windows that tilt in for cleaning, can make it even easier. And don't forget to wash the blinds while doing this.

Wipe down your walls

While mopping floors and regularly cleaning counters is part of a usual cleaning routine, we seldom think to wash the walls until it's time to repaint. But doing it once a year will prevent a lot of grime from building up, making that task even more manageable in the future. Use a little all-purpose cleaner or vinegar and water on a clean microfiber cloth to freshen your walls quickly.

Refresh carpets

If you have carpeting in your home, you can buy or rent a steam cleaner or hire a company to do a deep clean. You only need

a deep clean every few years, unless you have young children or pets, in which case you may need to deep clean more often. Otherwise, sprinkle deodorizer on the carpet according to the package directions, and your household vacuum cleaner should do the trick during spring cleaning.

Other spring-cleaning tasks

Don't forget these often-forgotten tasks: (1) Toss any expired food from your refrigerator,

freezer or pantry. (2) Run your oven's self-cleaning cycle. (3) Replace your furnace filter. (4) Change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

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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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.

PLEASE RECYCLE

Corner Spot- 6th Season

The Corner Spot will soon open for another season of events, music, food and fun! For those that may not know about the #bestspotintown, you definitely need to look into all that happens at this great spot located at 6 Cherry Street, downtown Ashland. This spot is host to several events April-October. In April you can enjoy a Holi Celebration with our friends at Ashland Indians, kids clothing swap with the Ashland Moms, and an Earth Day Cele-

bration. May will be a month to bring residents together to "mingle" and to celebrate Ashland's diversity at CultureFest. Join us in June for opening day and to celebrate Season 6 at The Corner Spot. June is also the month that recurring events such as Open Mic Night and Tot Spot are back on a regular basis to bring the fun! In July and August you can count on organizations popping up events and the very popular Shop on the Spot will be back to

support women owned businesses. We will wrap up the season in the fall with Movie Night and Fall-Fest, the biggest crowd pleasers of the year! Join us for another great season at The Corner Spot. Events are being added throughout the season so for information on what is happening go to www.thecornerpotashland.com or follow on facebook and Instagram at @cornerpotashland.

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Dream Station Awakens Children's Potential

BY CHRISTIE VOGT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A sense of peace for the parents, a sense of love and security for the kids — that's what Maureen Rosenlund hopes to give to the families enrolled at Connect United Early Learning Centers. Rosenlund, the executive director of the centers, oversees the organization's three sites in Ashland (Dream Station), Bellingham (Wee Folk) and Grafton (The Early Learning Center). She began her career more than 30 years ago as a teacher at Wee Folk where her own children later attended preschool. "When we say that you're part of a second family at our centers, I can attest to what that truly means," she says.

That feeling of sincere connection was put to the test during the most challenging months of the pandemic. Rosenlund became emotional describing how Connect United, the nonprofit that owns the centers, continued to pay its employees during the lockdown and how families also supported the sites during a time of great uncertainty. "So many families continued to pay tuition, and Connect United walked out in faith knowing the burden that employees would have without any income," she says.

Despite serious challenges, the pandemic has made Connect centers stronger, Rosenlund says. "It was an opportunity for us to show families they could trust us," she explains. "As health regulations emerged, we met and exceeded those guidelines, and those changes have made us better. We really raised the bar by adding staff, improving ratios and finding new ways for children to play and learn."

Even as pandemic restrictions ended, the centers chose to retain certain changes that have benefited families and employees. "We didn't just settle back in. We made a comeback," Rosenlund says. "We learned to be more flexible for families as work schedules have changed, which has meant adjusting our hours, holding slots and showing parents extra compassion as they navigate the anxieties of both parenthood and COVID."

The three sites offer child care for infants through preschool-age children in addition to after-school care. Connect Church owns the centers, although each site is secular and open to all families. Outside of its early learning centers, Connect Church has campuses in Ashland, Framingham and Bellingham where families can get involved with the ministry through various services and programs.



Business spotlight

Rosenlund says that each learning center is committed to providing a nurturing environment where children receive individualized care. "We believe in a child-centered versus teacher-directed approach," Rosenlund says, "because that's how children learn best in the early years." One Ashland parent said that enrolling at Dream Station "was the smartest decision we made for our daughter's education ... [She] has come so far in her socialization, physical, intellectual and emotional skills."

As demand remains high for child care, the Connect centers are hiring additional staff. "If educators are looking for stability, we are a great fit," Rosenlund says, noting that the core team has been with the organization for 15 to 20 years. "Whether you



Educator Cait Belcher works on an art project with a child at Dream Station in Ashland.

have a master's degree or you're just starting out in education, we're here to coach you and be a team," she says. "Everyone has the opportunity to contribute, and we encourage seasoned staff to mentor those who are newer to the field."

In addition to supporting professional goals, Rosenlund says the centers are invested in the personal well-being of employees. "We want them to be the best version of themselves," she says, "whether they're at work or not." One Ashland educator emphasized this point, remarking

that Dream Station is "a place I consider like home."

Speaking about the team's goals, Rosenlund concludes: "Ultimately, by providing a stable and loving environment, we hope children will leave our centers with strong confidence and self-esteem so they're ready to venture off to school."

For more information on Dream Station (350 Pleasant St., Ashland), contact onsite director Michelle McGrath at 508-881-7670, or visit dsmwm.org.

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Ashland Senior Center April Calendar

- Exercise With Joni:** M,W,F @ 9:30
- Lunch:** Every Monday @ 12:00
- Hearing Aid Cleaning:** April 10th @ 10:00
- Bingo:** April 4th & 18th @ 1:00
- Town Managers Coffee Hour:** April 19th @ 10:00
- Computer Class:** April 12th @ 10:00
- Cribbage:** Every Thursday @ 12:30
- Line Dancing:** Every Thursday @ 12:00
- Blood Pressure Clinic:** Every Wednesday At 10:30
- Pitch Card Game:** Every Monday @ 12:30
- Mahjong:** Every Friday @ 10:30
- Parkinson's Boxing:** April 5th & 19th @ 1:30
- Parkinson's Support Group:** April 12th @ 1:30

Special Events:

- April 3rd @ 12:00** - Celebrate OPENING DAY! Wear your team jersey or hat! Candi Wilson will be behind the grill grilling up hotdogs! Also serving: Sausages, peppers and onions, Popcorn and Pretzels! Baseball Trivia at 12:30 Fun Prizes!
- April 4th @ 11:00** - Protect Yourself from Medicare Fraud! Presentation by Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol.
- April 19TH @ 11:00** - Listening Hour with Karen Spilka's office!
- April 19th @ 12:30** - Disasters - Financial Preparation and Recovery with Pat McHale
- April 27th @ 6:00 p.m.** - Trip Info Night! Join Donna Shaw from the FOCOA to hear about upcoming Trips!

Visit our website for our Monthly Newsletter: www.ashlandmass.com/172/Elder-Services!

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Greater Ashland Lions Club Happy Easter!! Happy Spring!!

The Greater Ashland Lions Club celebrates its 30th Anniversary of “We Serve”.

We Thank all those that attended our delicious St. Patrick’s Day Dinner.

Come have fun at our 26th Quiz / Trivia Night that will be held on April 14th at 6:30pm at the VFW, 311 Pleasant Street. Form a team (8 people maximum) 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 (\$20/ per person).

For those of you who have (or plan to) donate used eyeglasses and wondered what the Lions do with them. Recently members participated in an Eyeglass Project. This involved washing, checking the prescription and packing 1,000 pairs that will to be sent to countries where citizens cannot afford them.

Applications for scholarships will be given to an Ashland High School and a Keefe Technical School Student are now available. Students who are interested should contact the guidance department at their school.

Again this year, seedlings will be given to each fourth grade student at the David Mindess School to celebrate Arbor Day. In conjunction with Arbor Day, we are sponsoring a Book Reading. The book “*The Tree in Dock Square*” will be read by Author Jean Woodbury at the Ashland Public Library on Saturday, April 22nd from 1-3pm. The story is about community spirit, hope, and renewal, a timely topic for National Arbor Day and is aimed at both children and adults.

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.

SUBMITTED: LION ROSALIE PORTER, 2ND VP

Get Ready for the Spring Invasion!

Defend Your Home Now!

TOP FOUR SIGNS OF A TERMITE INFESTATION

Red flags that could indicate the presence of a termite infestation

This year, WPC Pest and Termite Control and the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) are working to spread public awareness about termites during the spring of 2023. With spring on the horizon, termites will begin swarming and could seek out your home for their new nesting space. Because the damage from a termite infestation can easily go unnoticed, WPC Pest and Termite Control is educating homeowners and offering FREE inspections to help identify the top four signs that signal their home is infested.

“Experts with the NPMA estimate that termites cause \$5 billion in damage every year,” said

Jim Mazzuchelli, owner of WPC Pest and Termite Control. “This could mean a costly repair bill for homeowners if they don’t spot and stop an infestation in its tracks. Unfortunately, most homeowners don’t recognize the signs of an infestation until it is too late.”

While pest professionals don’t recommend a homeowner inspect their home on their own, there are a few red flags that they should look out for that could signal the presence of an infestation. With the help from experts at NPMA, WPC Pest and Termite is sharing the top four signs that a home has termites:

1. Swarmer or Discarded Wings:

Swarms, also known as reproductives, are young female and male winged termites. In the springtime, after the last freeze, termite swarms will emerge from their nest to mate and search for a new location to start a colony, which typically includes our homes. Termite swarms, or their discarded wings near windowsills and doors, are often the first (and only visible) sign of a termite problem.

2. Mud Tubes:

Subterranean termites, the most destructive termite species, build mud tubes to provide moisture while they travel between their colony and food source. Mud tubes are most often found near the home’s foundation and look like encrusted, dry dirt similar to the size of a drinking straw.

3. Wood Damage: Termites tend to eat wood from the inside out, so wood that sounds hollow when tapped often signifies a termite infestation. Additionally, homeowners should also look for blistering pieces of wood.

4. Uneven or Bubbling Paint: Uneven or bubbling paint is often a sign of moisture build-up, which could mean one of two things – water damage or termites.

“If you suspect you have a termite infestation, it is best to contact a licensed pest control expert as soon as possible to stop the damage before it gets worse,” added Mazzuchelli. “It is also recommended that homeowners have an inspection done every year to ensure their home is safe from termites.”

For more information on this pest, or to contact a licensed pest control expert,

Please visit WPC Pest and Termite Control at www.no-bugsnopests.com

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2023 Election & Town Meeting

The Town Clerk’s Office is here to guide you as you participate in your local government. Your voice and your vote is vital to the future of this Town. You make a difference in shaping the future of the Town but you must be present to voice your concerns, opinions and support. Please plan to attend Town Meeting and please be sure to vote. The Town Clerk’s office makes it so easy to do both! Read below to stay informed and be sure to mark your calendars!

The Town of Ashland Annual Town Meeting is on Wednesday, May 3, at 7 pm, at Ashland High School located on 65 East Union St. If you are unable to attend Town Meeting in person, the local cable station, WACA TV, broadcasts the meeting live, and has the footage available to view on its online streaming services. Additionally, you can view the Warrant Articles and the results on our website, ashlandmass.com.

Annual Town Election takes place on Tuesday, May 17, from 7 am to 8 pm, at Ashland High School. The Town of Ashland has six precincts. Check your precinct number online with the Secretary of State’s Website, “Where do I vote?” at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/WhereDoIVote>. All six precincts vote at Ashland High School. On Election Day, there will be election

workers present at the information table to assist you in determining your polling station.

Access this information directly from the Town of Ashland website, ashlandmass.com, Town Clerk Department page.

Annual Town Meeting

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

7:00 PM - Ashland High School

Voter Registration Deadline - Friday, April 21, 2023

The Warrant Articles for Annual Town Meeting will post no later than Wednesday, April 25, 2023. Warrant Articles are posted online on the Town Clerk’s webpage on ashlandmass.com.

Annual Town Election

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

7:00 AM - 8:00 PM - Ashland High School

Voter Registration Deadline - Friday, May 5, 2023

Last day to request a Vote-By-Mail ballot is Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Do you know if you are registered to vote? Visit the Secretary of State’s Website and verify,

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/voterregistrationsearch/myvoterregstatus.aspx>



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Friends of the Ashland Senior Center

The Friends of the Ashland Senior Center have collaborated with the Callahan Senior Center, in Framingham, MA, to create multiple travel opportunities for its members and friends. All efforts have been made to offer a wide range of trips to all seniors over 55 who are independent and can maneuver without assistance.

Plans are in the works to announce specific and general information about each trip at a Travel Information Night to be announced soon. In the meantime, take a look and see what's happening.

June 6, 2023 - Day Trip:

TRIBUTE TO THE TEEN IDOLS OF THE 50S & 60S

Travel to the Log Cabin in Holyoke, Ma, and get ready for lunch, then relive your teenage years through the music sung by Dave Colucci & Donna - Lee DePrille as they pay tribute to the Teen Idols of the 50s & 60s.

Menu includes:

- Welcome, Hors D'oeuvre Tray
- Red or White Wine
- Clam Chowder
- Chicken & Ribs (family style)
- Baked Potato with sour cream
- Whole New England Steamed Lobster
- Strawberry Ice Cream Sundae

August 22, 2023 - Day Trip:

Tribute to Kenny Rogers

The LobsterFest Menu at the Log Cabin in Holyoke Ma is one of a Kind! Don't miss this special presentation of a Tribute to Kenny Rogers performed by Danny Lee & the Colt 45 Band.

Menu includes:

- Welcome, hors d'oeuvres tray
- Red or White Wine
- Clam Chowder
- Chicken & Ribs (family style)
- Baked Potato with sour cream
- Whole New England Steamed Lobster
- Strawberry Ice Cream Sundae

October 2023 - Day Trip:

Baking with King Author

Enjoy a three-hour hands-on baking class at King Arthur Flour company. Whether a novice or highly experienced baker, you will be sure to truly relish this delicious experience!

Sunday, November 2023 - Day Trip

A New England Christmas - Salem Cross Inn & Sturbridge Village Roaring fires, festive foods, and early New England holiday traditions will help us experience what Christmas was like in the 17 and 1800s. Our first stop will be a Salem Cross Inn for their Fireplace feast prepared on the open hearth fieldstone fireplace. Watch the prime rib roast, make the apple pie, stir the chowder in the antique cauldron, and

enjoy hot mulled cider or wine. The day's menu will consist of Prime Rib, Choder of the Sea, Homemade rolls and muffins, herb-roasted potatoes, spinach Friends of the Ashland Senior Center pie, butternut squash, and fresh apple pie.

Our day will continue with a stop at Old Sturbridge Village for their Christmas by Candlelight event. You will view authentic demonstrations of holiday traditions and witness Victorian carolers as they stroll the village.

December 12, 2023 - Day Trip

Christmas Celebration with the Corvettes

A Doo Wop Christmas celebration and rollicking ride through the good old days of Rock and Roll!

The Log Cabin menu includes:

- Red or White Wine
- Rolls & Butter
- Chop, chop salad
- Mt. Tom Sirloin
- Cape Codder Chicken
- Mashed potatoes
- Seasonal vegetables
- Brownie a la mode
- Coffee

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- Ultimate Dining Package (2 Meals), Internet Package (150 Minutes per person),
- USD 100 Onboard Credit (per cabin)
- 10 Photos Package (per cabin)

Fun For Seniors

Detailed flyers and trip insurance information for each trip will be available soon at the Ashland and Callahan Senior Centers.

Contact Donna Shaw, Trip Coordinator, with any questions or trip inquiries at 508-740-8054 or dcshaw5@gmail.com

Ashland Garden Club's Free Educational Events at the Library

Now that public meetings are possible, the 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.

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 Saturday, April 8th 10:00-11:30 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. Trevor Smith is the Manager of Design and Education at Weston Nursery. Trevor 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>

Join us Wednesday, May 10th, 6:00-7:00, to learn more about Gardening Around Our Town.

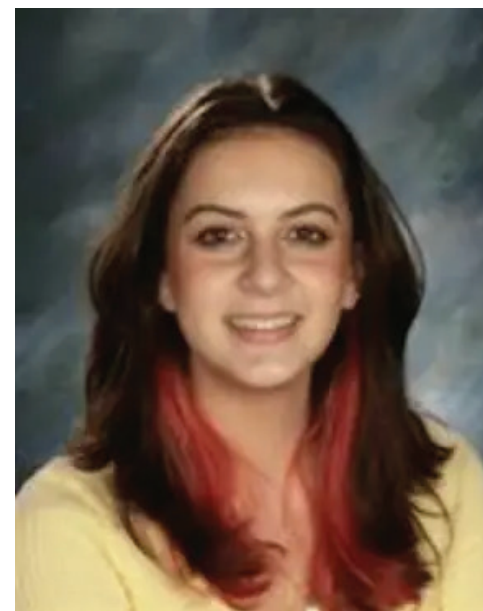
Through a PowerPoint presentation, Gretchen Bravacos will share the Ashland Garden Club's mission in action around Town, Cheri Rigby will share the history of the Ashland Community Gardens as well as show examples of the gardens, and Chris Gatti will describe the training necessary to become a Master Gardner and share information about other educational opportunities also available.

Future Ashland Garden Club events also include the Ashland Garden Club's annual plant sale on the Saturday after Mother's Day, May 20th 9:00-12:00 at Montenegro Square (across from the Library). This is your opportunity to purchase healthy perennial plants offered from Garden Club member's own gardens.

Ashland Student Selected For U.S. Senate Youth Program

The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) announced that Alexandra Michelle Tokar from Ashland High will join Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Sen. Edward J. Markey in representing Massachusetts during the 61st annual USSYP Washington Week, held March 4-11.

The other Massachusetts student selected was Jimmy Merino, from Chelsea High. Each of 104 student leaders will also receive a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate study.



The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

b.LUXE Visits Mexico for 5th Scholarship Trip

BY GINA WOELFEL

We're back from our trip to visit our sister school, The Martello Instituto de Belleza in Cancun, Mexico, a cosmetology academy owned by Cinthia Martello! Fourteen of the b.LUXE team made the trip this year and, as always, Cinthia and her students treated us like family and welcomed us with warmth and excitement! We toured the school, met the students, and saw the amazing work they've been doing there. It's always so exciting to see the progress the students have made.

We've now visited The Martello Institute five times, and each visit is just as rewarding! It's no surprise that The Martello Institute holds a special place in our hearts. Thanks to Heather Cohen's initiative in 2016, b.LUXE employees have had a chance to give back through philanthropy - perfectly encapsulating our workplace values of community outreach and generosity at its very core.

We believe that education is paramount for personal growth and the key to unlocking a better future. We're so excited to be part of that journey for so many of these students. To date, b.LUXE has given 13 individuals the gift of a beauty career, and is honored to provide some of the resources and professional training necessary to make their dreams a reality.

This was one of our largest salon groups to travel to Mexico and we decided to teach a class on hair extensions. We brought enough supplies to provide all 18 students with an amazing swag bag that included flat irons, professional hair care products, makeup and styling tools. To give our class an extra boost, Heather treated them to a complete hair extension kit from Belami Hair with enough supplies for the entire class to master the cutting-edge trends of the hair extension industry. Our trip was made all the more remarkable thanks to the generous support of Masello Salon Services, Goldwell and J Beverly Hills - three distributors who we are forever grateful for!

Our holiday had it all - beautiful beaches, delicious meals and time to relax, unwind and reconnect. It was the perfect blend of business and pleasure with days spent laughing 'til we could laugh no more and every step on the warm, soft sand reminding us how lucky we are to work side-by-side each day.

Our travels together proved the strength of friendship - how it can solidify us on our path and encourage great accomplishments. It's a lesson in both personal relationships and professional pursuits that will stay with us forever.



b.LUXE
hair & makeup



Scan for this month's specials!

We're counting down the days till we see our Martello sisters next year! Their welcoming spirit and kind-hearted nature was a blessing we won't soon forget

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April 2023 at the Ashland Library

Special Event:

Exciting News! The Friends are hosting a PUTTS4PAGES Mini Golf at the Library fundraiser on Saturday, April 1st and Sunday, April 2nd! Tickets on sale now!

"MockTails and Mini-Golf" - Friends of the Ashland Library Fundraising Event *For Adults
Saturday, April 1 @ 6:30-8:30pm

Play Mini Golf in the Ashland Library - Friends of the Ashland Library Fundraising Event
Sunday, April 2 @ 11am-4pm

Contact the Friends (president@friendsoftheapl.org) with any questions, esp if you would like to help sponsor the event - we love our local organizations!

PS:

April 1st 10-1pm is also the Friends Mini-Booksale and Donation day. They are going to be exhausted but happy!

Adult:

Nature Photography with Steve McGrath *Field Session

Saturday, April 1 @ 10am
Join photographer Steve McGrath out in the "field" to learn how to take the best pictures!

Artist Reception: Meet Pamela Dorris DeJong

Saturday, April 1 @ 1pm
Learn all about Pamela's art, and be wowed by both the Orbs 3D exhibit on the walls and in the glass case.

Essential Oils with Hannah Stein: Lemon and Wild Orange

Tuesday, April 4 @ 6:30pm
Join fellow Ashlander and Hannah Stein, Owner of Ashland REIKI & Wellness Center, in this new series as we explore the benefits of using essential oils in your daily life. This month we discuss lemon and wild orange!

Virtual - Environmental Book Club

Wednesday, April 5 @ 6:30pm
Read "How to Give Up Plastic" by Will McCallum.

HYBRID - Romance Book Club

Thursday, April 6 @ 6:30pm
Read Romantic Suspense Romances

Virtual - Aftermath: Fast Fashion and Textile Waste

Thursday, April 6 @ 7pm
Did you know that Americans throw out more than 34 billion pounds of used textiles per year? Dr. Julia DeVoy will trace the current state of textile waste in the United States, its global public

health impacts, and associated issues of environmental injustice.

The Garden of Words: A Writing Workshop

Friday, April 7 @ 10:30am
Friday, April 21 @ 10:30am
Join us to put into writing your story or come to commune with other budding authors as we learn how to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard :).

A Meditative Outdoors Spring Walk with Hannah Stein

Saturday, April 8 @ 10am
Join fellow Ashlanders and Hannah Stein, Owner of Ashland REIKI & Wellness Center, on this walk designed to increase your awareness of the relaxing and healing benefits of nature that you can discover right here in Ashland, Massachusetts.

ReWilding: Native Plant Gardening for the Planet and ALL Her Inhabitants with Trevor Smith

Saturday, April 8 @ 10am
Native plants and pollinators are all the buzz these days. What are natives? Why should we plant natives? How can we work them into our landscape and gardens? All this and more will be covered in this brief class providing you with all you will need to know to go make informed decisions for your landscape.

Cookbook Club

Saturday, April 8 @ 12pm
Cook from "Good Veg: Ebulient Vegetables, Global Flavors: A Modern Vegetarian Cookbook" by Alice Hart

Card Making with Jan Poppendieck

Monday, April 10 @ 6:30
Registration opens two weeks prior and this program fills up quickly!

Virtual: The ABCs of Immigration: An Introductory Series

Monday, April 10 @ 7pm
The ABCs of Immigration, provides an overview of common immigration statuses, the privileges and restrictions associated with each, and common pathways to obtain legal immigration status — including through family and humanitarian protections.

Virtual: Q&A with Author Kate Spencer

Tuesday, April 11 @ 7pm
We are thrilled to host author Kate Spencer for this very special Q&A about her incredibly fun and funny debut novel, "In a New York Minute", while also

talking about all of the incredible projects she is involved in! Bring your questions as this will be a rapid fire Q&A!

Mystery Book Club

Wednesday, April 12 @ 6:30pm
Read "The Woman in the Library" by Sulari Gentill

Virtual - Going Zero Waste As a Family with Sarah Robertson-Barnes

Wednesday, April 12 @ 7pm
Learn how to manage eco-anxiety and lessen your impact on the planet with easy-to-implement sustainable living tips for busy families. All ages are welcome!

Art for Adults with Nancy Atkinson

Thursday, April 13 @ 6:30pm
Every month, Nancy will teach us drawing techniques with different mediums, papers, and ideas. Virtual - Friday Night Film Discussion

Friday, April 14 @ 7pm
Watch "And Then We Danced"

Virtual - Author Christopher Morash Discusses "Dublin" - The Place and the Literati!

Saturday, April 15 @ 10am
If you are a fan of classic literature and love a pint o' Guinness while you're reading, join us for this conversation with author & professor at Trinity College Christopher Morash as he discusses his book "Dublin: A Writer's City" which unfolds a book-lover's map of this unique city, inviting us to experience what it means to live in a great city of literature.

Name That Tune - Showtunes *For Older Teens and Adults

Saturday, April 15 @ 2pm
Hello my baby, hello my honey, Hello my ragtime gaaaaal.... Let's get for Showtunes! Whether it's Oklahoma or Jagged Little Pill, there will be something here for you!

Saturday Knit and Crochet Club and Workshop: Flower Center Squares

Saturday, April 15 @ 2pm
Join us this week for our monthly special Saturday Workshop- Crocheting Flower Center Squares.

Bio/Memoir Book Club

Wednesday, April 19 @ 11am
Read 'Bookends' by Zibby Owens

Half-Past Crafts

Wednesday, April 19 @ 6:30pm

We will be learning how to make pom poms, and then using them to make adorable cockatoos!

Virtual: Q&A with Romance Author Mia Sosa

Wednesday, April 19 @ 7pm
If you haven't read Mia Sosa, you are missing out! Her books will bring a smile to your face, warmth to your heart, and heat to your cheeks. We are so looking forward to having this time to ask her all of our burning (pun intended) questions about her books, writing, and inspirations.

Great Decisions Discussion Group

Thursday, April 20 @ 6:30pm
Discuss War Crimes

Virtual -Author Louise Gray discusses "Avocado Anxiety and Other Stories About Where Your Food Comes From"

Saturday, April 22 @ 10am

In an effort to make sense of the complex food system we are all part of, Louise Gray decides to track the stories of our five-a-day, from farm to fruit bowl, and discover the impact that growing fruits and vegetables has on the planet.

Virtual - Romance Authors Ilona Andrews and Jeaniene Frost Celebrate a Book Birthday!

Saturday, April 22 @ 4pm
It's a very special book birthday! We're celebrating the 2nd book from Bones' perspective - Jeaniene Frost's "Both Feet in the Grave" - another MUCH anticipated addition to her Cat and Bones series. And, who better to celebrate with than good friends Ilona and Gordon Andrews (who are well acquainted with much anticipated books!).

Virtual - LGBTQ+ Book Club

Monday, April 24 @ 7pm
Read "I Wish You All The Best" by Mason Deaver

Virtual: Rights and Benefits for Immigrants: An Introductory Series

Monday, April 24 @ 7pm
Attendees will receive a broad overview of immigrant eligibility for health and safety net programs. This training also discusses best practices for interactions with law enforcement and preparation for worst-case scenarios.

Virtual: Front Street Readers Book Club

Tuesday, April 25 @ 6:30pm
Read "The Salt Path" by Raynor Winn

Virtual - Nature Photography (Discussion Session) with Steve McGrath

Tuesday, April 25 @ 7pm
Be prepared to share and chat about your nature pics.

Virtual - Friday Night Film Discussion

Friday, April 28 @ 7pm
Watch "Nowhere in Africa"

Virtual: Trivia Night - TV Commercials

Friday, April 28 @ 7pm
Join us on Zoom to test your knowledge! This month, we will be looking at TV commercials. Play solo or organize a team! The ability to view slides on a screen is all you need for this fantastic trivia fun!

Adult Recurring:

Knit and Crochet Club

Saturdays at 2pm
Mondays @ 6pm - Beginning ELL Conversation Circles
Thursdays @ 2pm

Advanced ELL Conversation Circles

Fridays @ 11sam

Tweens and Teens:

Saturday Video Games

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

Let's Draw Really Dumb Stupor Heroes with Rick Stromoski

*For Grades 5-8
Wednesday, April 19 @ 3:30pm

Learn to draw really dumb Stupor Heroes like Balloon Boy, Mosquito Girl, Hot Dog Man, Giraffe Woman, and Too Much Caffeine Man, with award winning cartoonist Rick Stromoski in this fun interactive virtual cartooning class. The presenter will be virtual, but the event will be IN-PERSON at the library.

Afterschool Video Games

Friday, April 21 @ 3:30pm
Come to the library after-school to play switch games with your friends! Nintendo Switch, Xbox, games and snacks will be provided.

Children:

Saturday Story Time

*For Ages 3 and up
Saturday, April 1 @ 10:30am
Saturday, April 8 @ 10:30am
Saturday, April 22 @ 10:30am
Come listen to Ryan read some of his favorite stories aloud!



Courtesy photos by Eesha Gorantla

Keep Calm And Play Bingo

BY SUSAN MANNING
STAFF WRITER

The Ashland High School Student Council is back at it raising money for the school.

“This is our 13th Annual Bingo Night,” said AHS teacher and student council advisor, Joshua Wiczer.

The event, which is being held Wednesday, April 26, at 6:30 PM, is usually a popular one with as many as 200 attending.

“We usually get about 200 people at this event, and it’s a great mix of ages — from elementary school kids to senior citizens. And we have a lot of participants who come every year!” said Wiczer.

All proceeds will go to the Ashland High School Student Council, who in turn will put the money back into the school.

“In recent years, we helped fund the new electronic sign in the front of the school, purchased banners for the lightpoles in the parking lot, purchased a propane grill for use by any high school group and we’re in the process of purchasing water bottle filling stations to replace two drinking fountains in the high school, as

well as track uniforms for the Unified Track Team. We’ve also used some of our proceeds to help run school-wide events,” he said.

So why should people come? “Bingo night is always a whole lot of fun, for participants of all ages! Participants will have the opportunity to win gift cards donated by local businesses and restaurants,” said the teacher.

For an up-to-date listing of all prizes donated, see: <https://sites.google.com/ashland.k12.ma.us/stucoashland/events/bingo-night>

This event is run by the Ashland High School Student Council and will be MCd by Lisa Dunn and Sue Reap, two teachers at the high school.

Costs: \$10 for a pack of 6 cards good for the entire night. \$1 for a Bingo dauber. Free water, coffee, and baked goods; pizza will be available for purchase.

This event will be held in the high school cafeteria: Ashland High School, 65 E. Union St., Ashland.

Any questions? Contact the Student Council at: STUCO. ashland@ashland.k12.ma.us



TOURNAMENT

continued from page 1

selves a spot in the post-season.

Unfortunately the Clockers have not been successful once they’ve gotten there.

Under the guidance of coach Katie Blasi, Ashland has been a one and done team in the tournament. Last year, the Clockers were the 20 seed entering the Division 2 State Tournament after going 11-9 in the regular season, but for the second year in a row couldn’t get out of the first round as they fell to Plymouth North.

Having lost 13 seniors from last year’s squad may look daunting on paper, but Blasi is very optimistic about the upcoming season and believes that she has a solid group of returners as well as some up and coming junior varsity players.

“It’s a reload season, so to speak,” the Ashland Coach said. “I really believe that we are going to have a super strong season with this team and are looking to go beyond that first round in the tournament.”

In order to get ready for the new season about 30 girls took it upon themselves to join an indoor league this past winter and the Coach believes that this is a definite plus.

“By playing during the winter this is going to help the girls get ready for the upcoming season,” Blasi said. “It should get the rust

Sports

knocked off and they’ll be ready to go. Hopefully after the last two years of leaving the tournament in the first round, the girls will be hungrier and have that experience.”

Leading the Clockers onto the field and into the playoffs this season will be senior co-captains Jenna Fitzsimons and Sophie Brandt.

Fitzsimons, according to her coach, is an incredible player that can play all over the field. She is definitely a leader on the field. With her being able to play all three zones, Blasi can really rely on her and will adjust her position depending on the opposition and where the team is in need. Last spring, she notched 10 goals for the Clockers.

While Fitzsimons is putting the ball into the net, Brandt on the other will be looking to keep it out of the Ashland goal. The senior goaltender was named to the Tri-Valley league All-Star team and leads the team from the back of the field with her high lacrosse IQ.

In addition to the captains Ashland will be looking to a handful of juniors to carry the play on the field. Anna Magennis was not only the Clockers MVP last spring but was also named to the TVL All-Star squad and will be playing for UCONN in the future on the collegiate level. She is a talented individual that has some impressive stick skills and is able to score.

Julia Schreiver is another athlete who Blasi can use in just about any position, although she is primarily a middie for the team.

“Julia was a TVL All-Star Honorable Mention last year,” the Clocker Coach said. “She is a super strong defender who is an aggressive player that sees the field well and can also score.”

Two other juniors, Maggie Carter and Lizzie Forster, are two of the team’s strongest defenders and played a huge part on last year’s team. The Coach is hoping that duo can carry that effort forward while taking a step up to take on a bigger role this season.

Blasi sees this team as a strong, talented one that is thoroughly balanced; having nine returning players that are spread out over the entire field. All having the ability to be a star for the Clockers in any game.

“We definitely have the ability to do well with this talented group. We will be focusing on our stick skills while playing good lacrosse as a team and if we can do that we should be able to get past the first round this year,” Blasi said. “This is a team-oriented group and I am hoping that they come together quickly and early in the season to put us on that right path.”

Ashland hosted Holliston on Friday, March 31, to open the season.

Ashland Town News
now has its own
Facebook page!

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LIBRARY

continued from page 12

Lego Club

*For Kids Age 5 & Up
 Thursday, April 6 @ 4pm
 Thursday, April 20 @ 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.

Family Movie: Puss in Boots: The Last Wish

Friday, April 7, 2023
 (animated, rated PG)

Read to a Dog with Knives and Machete

(yes, those really are the dog's names!)
 *For kids who are reading on their own

Thursday, April 13 @ 6pm
 Thursday, April 27 @ 6pm
 Children with some reading ability will have the chance to read to one of our registered therapy dogs for 10 minutes.

Joy of Nature-- Wild World of Reptiles

*For Ages 4 and Up
 Saturday, April 15 @ 10:30am
 What is the difference between a lizard and a snake and a crocodile and an alligator? Can turtles really leave their shells like they do in the cartoons? Are snakes really slimy? Learn more about our wonderful scaly friends and meet some reptile special guests.

***SPECIAL* PJ Story Time (Stuffed Animal Sleepover!!!)**

Tuesday, April 18 @ 5:30pm
 Come to PJ Story Time today for a special event! Bring your stuffed animals with you and they will have a sleepover at the library. Who knows what crazy things they'll get up to?

Let's Draw Really Dumb Stupor Heroes with Rick Stromoski

*For Grades 5-8
 Wednesday, April 19 @ 3:30pm
 Learn to draw really dumb Stupor Heroes like Balloon Boy, Mosquito Girl, Hot Dog Man, Giraffe Woman, and Too Much Caffeine Man, with award winning cartoonist Rick Stromoski in this fun interactive virtual cartooning class. The presenter will be virtual, but the event will be IN-PERSON at the library.

Bird Stories and Wooden Birdhouse Craft *For Grades K-4

Friday, April 21 @ 2pm
 Paint a wooden birdhouse that can be used as an indoor decoration

Robotics Demonstration

Saturday, April 22 @ 10-4pm

Ashland Moms - Little Crafters

Monday, April 24 @ 10:15am
 The Mom's Club of Ashland and the Friends of the Ashland Public Library are offering a story & craft program for infants thru age 5.

Children Recurring:

Monday Afternoon Story And Craft

*For Ages 4-7
 Mondays @ 4:30pm

Project ABC Play, Learn, and Grow Group *For Ages 0 to 5

Tuesdays @ 11am

PJ Story Time with Ryan (and his stuffed animals!)

*For Ages 3 and up
 Tuesdays @ 5:30pm

Lapsit

For Infants & Toddlers and their Caregivers
 Wednesdays @ 10:30am

Friday Afternoon Story And Craft

*For Ages 4-7
 Fridays @ 4:00pm

Crafty Saturdays

Drop in Crafting
 Saturdays @ 10-3pm

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

Saturday, April 1st 10-1pm
 The Friends have their sale to the First Saturday of the Month from 10-1pm on Saturday February 4th. Pop on by to grab some deals and, if you have some donations well, we'll take those, too! It's a combination book sale/donation day!

Ashland Lions Club April 2023 Update

Ashland Food Pantry Collection

Food Pantry Collection at Market Basket on Saturday, April 8th 9am – 3pm. We will be collecting non-perishable items for the Ashland Food Pantry. Shoppers will be given a list of desired items as they enter the store, and Lions will collect them as shoppers leave the store. Cash donations, as well as Market Basket gift cards will also be gratefully accepted. The Lions would like to thank Bill Gazard of Ashland Mini Storage for his donation of a box truck that we will use to transport the collected food to the food pantry.

Drug Take Back program

On Saturday, April 22nd Ashland Lions will be assisting the Ashland Police in collecting unwanted, unused, or expired prescription and non-prescription drugs for safe and proper disposal. This drive will be held at the Ashland Police Station 10am - 2pm. Sharps: needles, syringes or lancets will also be collected. This drive coincides with the National Drug Take Back Day initiative held twice a year.

Ashland Lions Meat Raffles

Ashland Lions will continue its tradition of meat raffles at TJs Food and Spirits in Ashland. Come join the fun on Saturday, April 1st 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!

Thank you TJs Restaurant!

If you live in Ashland, you're probably familiar with TJs Restaurant and Spirits on Rte 135. What you may not know is just how much TJs and the Tomasz family does for the community. TJs has hosted the Ashland Lions for their monthly dinner meetings, meat raffles, holiday parties and officer installations. Ashland Lions would like to thank the Tomasz family and TJs Restaurant for their continued support of the Ashland Lions and the Ashland community!

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!

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Real Estate Corner



51 Bellview Heights in Ashland recently sold for \$515,000. . Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages

Ashland Recent Home Sales

Date	Ashland	Amount
03/17/2023	8 Roberts Road	\$463,000
03/16/2023	40 Acton Road	\$635,000
03/15/2023	34 Lantern Way	\$739,000
03/14/2023	51 Bellview Heights	\$515,000
03/08/2023	507 Main Street	\$440,000
03/08/2023	170A Algonquin Trail	\$578,000
03/06/2023	237 Algonquin Trail	\$506,000
02/28/2023	165 Eliot Street	\$851,000
02/28/2023	51 Haven Way	\$425,000
02/23/2023	3 Leland Farm Road	\$416,000

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Thinking of Selling your Home? Achieve Maximum Value!

Wondering what improvements will yield the biggest return on your investment?

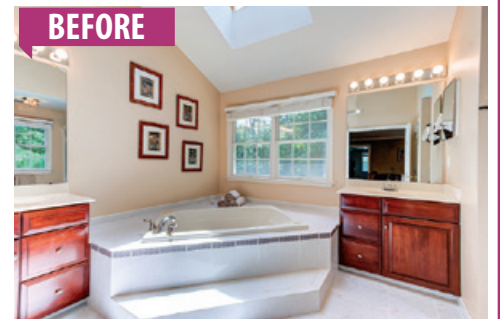
Let's start with the entryway! Curb appeal is the first impression. With the snow gone, now is a great time to walk around the home and see how it fared over the winter season. Does the house need paint or a power wash, is there any window or trim rot, do gutters need to be cleaned or reattached? Trimming bushes and adding plantings, fresh mulch and flowers in planters is a great way to spend a weekend outside in this nice weather. To really make the property pop, adding a fresh coat of paint on the house and deck, replacing rotted trim with Azek materials, replacing garage doors and seal coating the driveway are reasonably priced improvements that will make a big impact.

Kitchens and baths are where you will receive almost 100% return on your investment, within reason.

However, spending \$300,000 on a new kitchen or \$75,000 on a new primary bath likely will not see a similar return. Replacing appliances that have seen better days, installing new counters, backsplashes and hardware, and sometime updating the cabinetry and/or hardware will make a huge impact. Oh, and floors! There are rare times that we do see timeless floors where we can strip and replace all the grout and the floors will look much newer. Did you know you can sand and poly plastic shower inserts to make them look new again, or glaze a tub to make it shine?

Then there is paint! A \$50 can of paint is worth thousands on the wall. Buyers are looking for fresh and neutral paint colors that are in style and are the current trend. I love taking a trip to the local paint store to see the new colors that I know will make a huge impact with bringing a dated home into the new century. Changing a room to a lighter color typically will help it make it feel brighter and bigger. Go grab a few samples and see how they look in different parts of the room, and how they match the furniture and the floors. If the whole house needs to be painted, consider choosing a total of three or four colors, keep them neutral and make sure that they work well together. Neutral sells as it allows a buyer to picture themselves and their furniture in the home.

Refinishing floors, replacing carpet and replacing window seals also are great ways to achieve a better return on your investment. My rule of thumb is if we can make double the money of your investment, then it's likely worth the effort!



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