

Summer is Here
By John Petrin, Town Manager

Our Memorial Day Parade in remembrance of those who have served and particularly for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice always seems to kick off summer for me. It also means the end of our legislative season as Town Meeting and Elections are concluded. This year's event continued the trend of the last couple of years of having a wonderful turnout of people, including veterans and scouts. I want to thank the leaders and parents of the various scouting groups for making the effort to have our young citizens attend so that they can learn about the heroics of those who serve and have served. They have been highly respectful and add so much to the event. I know that the veterans truly appreciate their participation. Once again kudos to the organizers of the event on a job well done.

With summer being here, that means Summer Concerts, sponsored by the Ashland Day Committee, are upon us. Mike Duca always does a great in organizing the various bands. It is a wonderful opportunity for a night of free entertainment. Take the family out for great food off the grill available from the Ashland Lions and the sounds of the various bands. The concerts on are on Tuesday nights start at 7:00 pm. There is no concert on July 6. I always enjoy the evening activity with great people and music.

Over the last month, we conducted two forums on economic development. We had about 20 people attend each of the two sessions. It was pretty much the same people who attended both sessions. Many ideas were placed on the table for discussion. The main piece I would like to address is retention. The number one issue that will attract new business is the support that is shown to the businesses we currently have. New business will look to see how we treat the business we currently have with foot traffic. Please consider "Ashland First" when shopping. If you are one of those people who want a bakery, a coffee shop or other amenity, then please frequent the good folks we have now. Many of these shops and businesses are locally owned and provide much to our community.

Congratulations to Michael Fabbri on his being named one of this year's recipients of the William C. O'Malley Prosecutor of the Year Award by the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association. Mike has been on the Finance Committee for a very long time and he and his family are always active in the community.

The Ashland Garden Club is once again providing beautiful flowers and plants in order to cultivate a beautiful Town. Their arrangements can be seen in the various islands and public buildings around Town. Thanks for taking the time to water and cultivate these plantings on a regular basis. They certainly provide the physical beauty for Ashland Pride.

Sheriff James DePaola Middlesex Sheriff Youth Public Safety Academy is once again being offered to teach 9, 10 and 11 year old children about public safety. This year's academy for Ashland youngsters will take July 19-23. Flyers are available at the police station or online that gives more details about the program. We had about 50 youngsters in last year's program and they all enjoyed it. It is free and worth the time.

Please remember the Food Pantry for donations of food and household goods. Donations can be made by dropping off items at public buildings such as the Post Office. Your consideration is appreciated. Please also consider a financial donation to **The Ashland Emergency Fund**, at P.O. Box 112, Ashland, MA 01721. The Fund supports residents in need and the Food Pantry. The Board of Selectmen continues to coordinate food drives with the cooperation of Market Basket and Shaw's. They had one scheduled for Father's Day on June 20. Happy Father's Day.

To follow what is happening in your community, follow the events and happenings in the MetroWest Daily News and WACA-TV as they provide superb coverage. Our website at www.AshlandMass.com has been recently revamped. There is much information on the site for you to peruse. We are the recent recipient of the Common Cause Massachusetts 2010 e-Government Award with Distinction for our website. We are proud recipients of their highest award.