

Summer Activities in Ashland

By John Petrin, Town Manager

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 5. I always enjoy the evening activity with great people and music.

Fire Lieutenant Lyn Moraghan is organizing a new summer camp program for females who think that the fire service may be an option in their future. It is a unique program for girls to explore options for women in the fire and emergency services. The camp will run August 1-5 at the Cedar Street Fire Station from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. There are still a couple of openings available. If you have interest, please contact Lt. Moraghan at the Fire Department. Thanks to Lt. Moraghan and the volunteers that will staff the program for their dedication and leadership.

Sheriff Peter Koutoujian's 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 18-22. 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.

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.

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.

Congratulations to the Ashland Medical Reserve Corps on receiving an award from the District for supplying the most volunteers deployed during an emergency during the winter ice storms in Worcester. This shows the commitment of our local people who assist during emergencies. We thank these hard working volunteers. Michael Gurnick has led our local contingent for the last six years and does an outstanding job in coordinating our efforts in this area of homeland security. Thanks to Michael for his talents, knowledge and dedication.

It is that time of year where the Selectmen make their annual appointments to the various committees in Town. If you have an interest in serving on one of the many committees and boards, please contact a Selectmen or our office. Town Moderator Adam Shuster is also looking for people who are interested in serving on the Finance Committee. Please contact him at townmoderator@ashlandmass.com if you have interest in local government and numbers.

Want to once again point out that Ashland Directions is a great resource for our citizens. Thanks to Al Porter and other Direction supporters for keeping up a wonderful local tradition. Please remember to support the local businesses that contribute to this publication as well as to all the great causes in Town. Without their financial support and good will, many local groups would be searching much further for their budgetary support. Please remember to not only wish for new business but to actually support those who are here by SHOPPING LOCALLY FIRST.

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.

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 recipient of the Common Cause Massachusetts 2010 e-Government Award with Distinction for our website. We are proud recipients of their highest award.