

A Community Event

By John Petrin, Town Manager

Ashland Day was recently held on September 17. This is a great event which can be considered one of the Town's signature events. So much of our community comes together that day. It is truly amazing how many people you get to see and talk to during the day. This is the day in which many of our community groups gather to recognize Ashland as a community. As we all know, Ashland is a premier community and a great place to live and work. This is a day in which we can celebrate that together.

The day was a wonderful day in all respects. Huge crowds showed up to beautiful weather. Fall was in the air early but quickly heated up as the day went on. It seems that the crowds grow larger every year. The members of the Ashland Day Committee and the many volunteers and groups that participated put in a phenomenal effort to showcase Ashland. Kudos to the Ashland Day Committee for all they do. This day was a capstone to a great summer of concerts and events sponsored by the Committee.

The Ashland Day Auction the night before was as fun as always. Enjoyed the rapid pace of items presented. Thanks to our businesses that support this fundraising effort so that Ashland Day can be as successful as it is. Remember the catchphrase of the Ashland Business Association, "Think Ashland First". This is so true. It is up to you to help economic development in Town. Buy in Ashland as much as possible.

The Friends of the Ashland Public Library were named Citizens-of-the-Year and Regina Gemma was honored as Grand Marshall for the Day. What these people do is unbelievable. The Friends are always visible at the Library through their programs and support. Our Library is one of our cornerstones as a community, and these people have the energy and dedication to maintain that. Regina is a volunteer extraordinaire. She is a quiet person who is always in motion at all the Ashland Day events and provides a lot of assistance to other endeavors such as the Fire Explorers. She may not be the voice of these groups but is certainly a person that gets it done. Congratulations to these people for caring and being an integral part of our community.

I personally want to thank the Friends of the Council on Aging for their recognition. They presented me and the Town with a wonderful wood display of the various badges and insignias of the Ashland Police Department. This was in honor of all the Town employees who assist the elders at their various events. It is our pleasure, as well as being fun, to interact with these great people who provide so much to our elder population. I was certainly touched by the award. Thanks to Doug Scotland for his workmanship in designing and building the display case. It will look great in Town Hall.

The Ashland Garden Club will be celebrating their 20th anniversary next year. They do a lot in providing beautiful flower and garden displays throughout Town. They are seeking ideas on how they can commemorate their anniversary. Please feel to contact Diane Roberts or myself with any ideas.

As to beautifying the Town thanks goes out to Margot Ellsworth and Jon Fetherston. They were instrumental in putting in the new flower barrels and flags in the islands downtown. Your pride is certainly on display.

Congratulations and thanks to Sergeant Steve Zanella who is retiring from the Police Department after a 42-year career. This is longer than the average police officer. He has always been there for those who may need a little extra care. Even during his last week, he was helping citizens who were distressed by Tropical Storm Irene. I heard from one resident who told me that he stopped by to check on her as he knows she does not able to get out of the house as often as she would like. That personal touch will truly be missed.

The Ashland Coalition for Teenagers continues to sponsor events and will conduct their second annual bonfire on October 1st. Thanks to all who volunteer to make this possible.

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.