



Town of Ashland
New Hampshire 03217

TOWN OFFICE
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TOWN BULLETIN

March 14, 2013
Issue # 98

News from the Town Office

The meeting with representatives from Lakes Region Planning Commission and the NHDOT Traffic Bureau on March 8th to discuss the findings in our Road Safety Audit conducted in October 2012 was postponed until Friday, April 5th. The talks will center on the traffic confusion caused by the triangle at the intersection of routes 3/25 and route 132.

The announcement in the Bulletin of the planned meeting caused an Ashland resident to contact the Town Administrator to mention the issue at the traffic island at West Street. Apparently the State had been notified that the markings in the road cause drivers to turn to the left of the island instead of keeping to the right, which makes a case for a head-on collision. The Town Administrator is to contact NHDOT accordingly.

At the Ashland Area Recreation Association (AARA) meeting held in the Booster Club on March 11th, Ashland resident Jae Demers pitched her 'Roller Rink' business plan to the AARA committee to see if they would accept her idea coming under the umbrella of their non-profit organization. Space for this proposal has been located at 37 Winter Street and much has to be done before this project leaves the drawing board.

The Fourth of July Committee met at the Ashland Fire Station on the evening of the 11th to continue with their planning for the July 4th Parade and Fireworks display. Discussions centered on reversing the parade route this year, beginning at the Irving Station and ending at the Fire Station. Talks with the Police Chief will have to be initiated before any decisions can be made, as the parade route is a State ROW which can only be closed for a specified period of time. The reason for the suggestion is that the committee will be having field events for the children after the parade and they feel it would be easier to access the ball field from the back of Town.

The Committee has announced that there will be parade rules and conditions this year which will enhance their efforts to manage risk associated with the event. While these rules are not yet set in stone, suffice it to say that all parade participants will receive and sign for a list of rules and conditions. Last minute entrants will not be allowed. All owners of mobile units such as floats, vehicles, motorcycles and tractors will be asked to provide proof of their liability insurance by submitting a certificate of insurance and hold a valid driver's license. While we have never experienced a close call or tragic event here in Ashland, we need the community to support the efforts to better manage risks associated with our Independence Day celebrations. While these requirements may appear burdensome and a departure from what has been done in the past, we cannot rely anymore on luck.

Only 23% of registered voters turned out for the Town Elections on March 12th probably due to the fact many candidates were running unopposed. Most notable of the results was that the Town was in favor of increasing the Board of Selectmen from three to five members, which will take effect in 2014. All election results may be seen on the Town website at www.ashland.nh.gov

The venue for the Board of Selectmen's work session yesterday was changed from the Town Office to the Fire Station in order to accommodate representatives from NHDOT to discuss the proposed ramp closure at exit 24 scheduled for the beginning of the summer. The Town was informed that closure and detour of traffic was necessary to allow paving of the Interstate. The State project from exit 24 to exit 26 will cost about \$9 million; \$3 million for bridge work and \$6 million for paving. The State representatives informed the Board that the 'on bound South bound ramp' at exit 24 will be closed for approximately eight weeks from the start of the bridge work. The State will put bids out to contractors in early May. This means that traffic coming off the exit into Ashland will not be able to return to the Interstate and will have to continue down route 132 through New Hampton to exit 23 to continue the south bound journey. The Town Office will keep the community apprised of closure dates and will be available to answer any questions and concerns.

The vacancy on the Capital Improvement Program Committee has been filled by Ashland resident Mark Scarano who will be sworn in so he can attend the upcoming CIP meeting on March 20th. Mark is the Economic Development Director for Grafton County.

The Town Office had been advised by the Governor's Commission on Disability that a complaint had been received in their office in regards to the Mechanic Street municipal parking -- the issue being that the handicap spots are not being plowed out allowing access for those with disabilities. The Selectmen have studied paper work including the applicable RSA which they reviewed and after much discussion with the Public Works Director, concluded that they should table any decision until their next meeting scheduled for March 18th. This will give the Town Administrator time to examine the local parking ordinance

The Ashland HEAL Steering Committee is forming a committee to consider improving the Town's walking and biking infrastructure. Anyone interested in serving on this committee is asked to contact the Town Administrator by phone at 968-4432 or by e-mail at townadmin@ashland.nh.gov

The 'Got Lunch' program is back in Ashland and is starting off with its first fund raiser, an ice out contest for Lake Winnepesaukee sponsored by the Common Man restaurant. For details please contact Patti Heinz at 968-1073 or by e-mail at pweden@aol.com. The goal of the 'Got Lunch' program is the provision of healthy food for children during the summer months.

There has been some talk in neighboring communities that New Hampton, Bristol and Ashland are to be approached regarding a proposal for wind farm projects. New Hampshire WindWatch, a group opposing new wind power projects in our region and statewide, conducted an e-mail campaign to lawmakers scheduled to consider a statewide moratorium for wind farm projects. WindWatch is supporting House Bill 580 co-sponsored by Senator Jeanie Forrester, calling for this moratorium until the state issues a new comprehensive energy plan.

This morning a Consulting Appraiser from Primex is to review all the Town buildings as part of our Insurance Carrier's Property analysis and the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator will be carrying out the annual audit of Buskey's on Main Street.

Tomorrow evening the AARA is hosting another 'Kids Night Out' from 6 pm to 8:30 pm at the Booster Club. As it will be a Shamrock theme night, please have your kids dressed in Green. The cost is only \$5 per child.

Ashland Elementary School news

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized in February for their contributions during the month of January:

Kindergarten - Katie Lane and Makayla Latuch

Grade 1, Mrs. Spears - Christopher Rubbe

Grade 1, Mrs. Stokloza - Sally Saige Inkel

Grade 2 - Madison Chipman

Grade 3 - Vanessa Schwartz

Grade 4 - Joseph D'Ambruoso

Grade 5 - Amber Dow

Grade 6 - Ryan Hardy and Stine Williams

Grade 7 - Gillian Mayes

Grade 8 - Morgan Buyer

Staff member honored was Mrs. Joanne O'Connor, middle school language arts teacher.

STATE SPELLING BEE

Ashland School is very proud of eighth grader Shivan Patel who participated in the State of N.H. level of the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Concord on Saturday, March 2nd. Shivani was this year's school champion and therefore earned the honor of representing Ashland during the state bee.

Represent us she did! Our super speller placed 12th in a field of 192 spellers! Congratulations, Shivani!

Meetings & events scheduled for the week commencing March 18, 2013

Monday March 18th

Ashland Board of Selectmen
Elementary School Library
16 Education Drive (off School Street)
7 pm

Wednesday March 20th

Ashland Capital Improvement Program Committee
Ashland Fire Station
9 Main Street
7 pm

Thursday March 21st

Ashland Water & Sewer Commissioners

Utility Office

6 Collins Street (side entrance)

5:30 pm

The Ashland Board of Selectmen`s meetings can be seen on public access local channel 3 at the following days/times:

Ashland BOS CH 3 Regular Schedule:

<u>TUE</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THU</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>	<u>SUN</u>
12:00 PM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	12:00 AM	07:00 AM	12:00 AM
4:00 PM	6:00 PM	5:00 PM	07:00 AM	12:00 PM	09:00 AM
09:00 PM	08:00 PM			05:00 PM	05:00 PM

Important Telephone Numbers

Town Office hours: Mon. Tues. Wed. & Fri. 8am-4pm; Thursday 8am-5pm

Phone (603) 968-4432

Board of Selectmen: Chairman Jeanette Stewart

Phone (603) 968-7240

Vice Chair Dan Golden

Phone (603) 968-3484

Phil Preston

Phone (603) 968-7959

Police Department

Phone (603) 968-4000

Fire Department -NON EMERGENCY-

Phone (603) 968-7772

Public Works Department

Phone (603) 968-3166

Utility Department hours: 8am-4pm Mon-Fri.

Electric

Phone (603) 968-3083

Water & Sewer

Phone (603) 968-4002

Parks & Recreation Department

Phone (603) 968-9209

Health & Welfare Department

Phone (603) 968-4432

Welfare hours: 5:30-7:30pm Thursday.

Transfer Station hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12-4pm;

Saturday 8am-4pm.

Phone (603) 968-9032

Building Inspector hours: Thursday 3:30-5pm

Phone (603) 968-4432

Library hours: Mon, Tuesday, Thursday 1-7pm; Friday & Saturday 10am-2pm. Closed: Wednesday & Sunday. Phone (603) 968-7928
Ashland Food Pantry hours: Thurs.12-6 pm; Fri. 12-6 pm; Sat.10 am-2 pm
Closed: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. Phone (603) 968-9698

Please remember the Town website at www.ashland.nh.gov should be consulted when looking for specific information about the Town.
This newsletter helps the Town Office share information and establish a direct connection with our audience, the residents (and taxpayers) of Ashland who are unable to view our website or attend Selectmen meetings. We try to keep them informed and remind them of the many ways their local government is working to improve their quality of life.

Paul C. Branscombe,
Town Administrator