

Ashland Directions

Home of the Electric Clock and The Clockers
A Green Community

Residential Customer Ashland MA 01721 PRESORTED-STD U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 35 Ashland, MA Postal Patron

November 2015

P.O. Box 2, Ashland, Massachusetts, 01721 AshlandDirections@verizon.net

Volume 43 Edition 3

Happy Thanksgiving

Special Town Meeting

November 17th - 7pm at Ashland High School East Union Street

Business Notes

-- On The Move --

Mexico City Taqueria

1 West Union Street
Is moving to the former Corner Pub space

-- Look For --

Hamburgs & Fries

1 West Union Street (next to Mexico City Taqueria)

-- Coming Soon --

A & D Landscape

155 Butterfield Drive

Orifice Recycling 157 Butterfield Drive

13/ Butterneta Dirv

Silton Glass

60 Pleasant Street - Suite #7
508.881.1003
(in the United Home Experts building)

JD Millwork

60 Pleasant Street

(in the United Home Experts building)

Nokona Athletic Club

60 Pleasant Street (in the United Home Experts building)

Los Cabos Mexican Bar and Grille

300 Eliot Street (formerly Nello's)

What's Inside

Community Calendar - Page 2 Stories of Ashland - Steve Leacu - Page 3 Classified Ads - Page 4

Religious - Page 4

State Senator Karen Spilka - Page 5 Warren Conference Center & Inn - Page 5 Superintendent of Schools - Jim Adams - Page 6

School Events - Page 7

Through The Eyes of... Neha Shabeer - Page 8
Beyond the Historic Properties Survey - Page 10

Letter From the Finance Committee - Page 12
Decisions At Every Turn - Page 12
Ashland Youth & Family Services - Page 14

Ashland Youth & Family Services - Page 14 Town Manager - Page 14

Board of Health - Page 15

DPW - Page 15

Town Clerk - Page 15

Recreation Dept. - Page 16 Fire Chief - Scott Boothby - Page 16

Public Library & Art in the Library - Pages 17

Life of a Dieting Dietitian - Sarah A. Clarke - Page 18

From the Desk of the Editor - Page 18

Elder News - Pages 19, 20 & 18

Elder Calendars - September - Page 20

Proudly Created & Printed in America

Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 1st - 2am

Trans Versa Classica

Turn Your Clocks

Back One Hour

Change Batteries in Smoke Detectors

Check Furnace Filter

(if your furnace has one)



We Thank Our Supporters Very Much...
Ann & Mark MacKay

Important Insert This Month:
The Homes Connection

Ad Deadline for December 2015 Edition is November 15th



2015 Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah & Happy Kwanzaa Holiday Card

To add your signature to the card, please sign your name in **BLACK INK** in the box below **WITHOUT touching the lines** and send it with your check for \$5 (no later than November 13th) to:

Ashland Directions P.O. Box 2 Ashland MA 01721

Through The Eyes Of... By Neha Shabeer

"We All Matter"

This month, I got the amazing opportunity to sit down and interview the Principal of Ashland High School, Mrs. Kelley St. Coeur! She is one of the friendliest, down-toearth, very professional, and passionate person I've met. She is constantly striving for AHS to become a better place for both students and teachers. She has pushed initiatives, like the Principal's Advisory Council, for students to voice their opinions to help AHS improve. Pop on down to read our interview together to decide how great she is. Or you could just take my word for it!

Neha: What is your educational background?

Mrs. St. Coeur: I graduated from Stonehill College with a Bachelor's in Sociology. I did a year of service and then joined as teaching assistant for kids with social and emotional problems. I really enjoyed it, and that's how I got into special education. I ended up getting my masters degree in Special Education at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs. That's where I did my year of service, out in Colorado! I eventually moved back to Massachusetts because this is where I'm from and I did an administrative license-ship program through one of the local collaboratives with teachers from Boston University. I got licensed first as a Special Ed administrator and later I did my Assistant Principal/Principal administrator license.

Neha: Wow! You've been learning forever!

Mrs. St. Coeur: Yes! Well I find that most teachers have been, since we need to take classes to maintain our license. We have to keep learning constantly, so you have to really love education for this job!

Neha: What are your goals for this year?

Mrs. St. Coeur: Well, we are a great academic school. MCAS scores just came back and the high school did awesome! So we want to keep moving all those positive things forward, but the main priority is looking after everyone's social and emotional health, making sure that kids here are not only learning but are also feeling safe and feeling connected. We want students to get to know teachers, make friends, not feeling stressed over classes, and that sort of thing. This is inline with the whole district's goals, as well.

Neha: Well, I think you're doing a great job! I definitely feel that the high schoolers are less judgmental than they were as middle schoolers.

Mrs. St. Coeur: That's so great to hear! It's definitely that maturity piece, kids are finding themselves and getting to the age where they care less about what others think and just do what interests them. It's great! That's why I love the high school age.

Neha: What are your goals for the next 4 years? Where do you see the high school when we're Seniors?

Mrs. St. Coeur: Well, I think we started off with watching that video about how "We All Matter" and I hope that we continue to be a community that is very welcoming. We hope to have Seniors that don't put down Freshmen like you wrote in your article for the Student Newspaper. It was a first that Kitzia Diaz (the Senior Class President of 2016) welcomed the freshmen at Convocation. So I would like to see that as the norm in 4 years that across-grades, you have that sort of respect for one another.

Neha: What is one message you want every AHS student to take with them when they graduate?

Mrs. St. Coeur: We all matter.

Neha: As a female authoritative figure, what advantages and disadvantages do you feel you have?

Mrs. St. Coeur: That's a tough one! As female, I find it sad that the disadvantages come to mind more quickly. I think it's hard to balance - being a mom and work, as I spend quite a bit of time here. So, my daughter will say, "You have another meeting?" So learning to balance that. I think dads experience that as well but you don't hear about it as much. It's usually women who work longer hours who get judged more than men who do. But the advantage is that women, especially in this field are very supportive of each other. I'm actually going to a "Women in Leadership" meeting next week. So there are really a lot of great opportunities to keep growing and keep challenging myself.

Neha: Do you think it is more difficult, easier, or the same to be a student now versus 20 years ago?

Mrs. St. Coeur: I think it's much more difficult now, there is a lot on your plate. I think classes and expectations have got more difficult. Everyone does a lot more and that's just an expectation in society. When I was in high school, I played a sport and didn't do anything else because of that sport. It seems like now, kids are doing sports, clubs, working a job, babysitting, doing it all! It's great that

November 2015

Neha continued from previous column

there are a lot more opportunities right now, but there is a challenge of learning how to balance all of that which kids twenty years ago didn't have to do.

Neha: Last question and then you're off the hook! How do you think you can help increase girls involvement in academic clubs, such as Academic Decathlon and Robotics which are primarily dominated by boys?

Mrs. St. Coeur: That's a great question! I think we need to get girls that are already very invested in them to get out there, do some advertising, and really get the word out to people. You mentioned Robotics and last year Mr. McGowan started a girls team to draw girls in. It was really a challenge and that's something we definitely want to change. So we'd really like girls who are already involved to get out there and invite people to get involved in these great initiatives.

Neha: Yeah, I think that's so important because STEM is becoming a very large field in these times. I know that in computer science class of thirty students, there are only 6 girls currently which is a very small fraction of the class. Mrs. St. Coeur: Yes, our guidance counselors really push for girls to get into that sort of career. Also, there are also a lot of local and statewide conferences that we try to encourage girls to go to and will continue pushing in that direction

Thank You Mrs. St. Coeur for taking time out of your busy schedule to do this interview with me. It was a pleasure! Shout out to Haley Boccuzzi for being my cameraman during this interview.

For more about the world through my eyes, keep reading my monthly column:)



Funding Innovative Education

Ashland Education Foundation Presents Second Annual Casino Night

Join the Ashland Education Foundation on Friday, November 13th for Casino Night! The event will be held at Kelly's Restaurant, 28 Front Street, Ashland at 7pm. Gather your friends and neighbors for a fun evening playing Blackjack, Craps, Texas Hold'em and Roulette to raise money for the AEFI Teacher Grant awards. There are only 150 tickets available for this event, which can be purchased online for \$20 at our website http://www.AshlandEducationFoundation.org/casino-night. Tickets will sell fast so be sure to purchase yours soon!

Ashland Robotics Club Robot Rodeo

This Fall, the Ashland High School Robotics Club is putting together a new event for Ashland, The Robotics Rodeo. The Robotics Rodeo is a public event designed to engage the community in learning about, playing with, and envisioning the future of robotics and technology. The club will be holding the program on November 21st starting at 10:30am in the AHS cafeteria on the same day that the Make-A-Wish Club will be holding an arts and crafts event. Kids of all ages and their families are encouraged to attend this joint endeavor to have fun and learn new things.

The Robotics Rodeo will feature hands on engagement for kids and adults alike. Have you had a chance to build a robot before? Have you ever raced robots through an obstacle course, or made a robot swim? Would you like to learn a little about programming, engineering, or would you just like to have fun? Then this is your chance! For one entry price, participants can engage in both robotics and arts & crafts fun while supporting to great causes. Lunch and snacks will be available for purchase.

The Robotics Club is a competitive high school club that competes in an annual regional competition called Botball. Through used Lego donations from Ashland residents, a Patriots ticket raffle, and events like the Robotics Rodeo, students work to help raise over \$4,400 to register two teams for this competition and for related supplies. If you are interested in donating, or helping us raise funds or if you would like to volunteer to assist our Robotics team? Please contact Chad McGowan (advisor) at CMcgowan@ ashland.k12.ma.us and let us know.

Community Survey Regarding 1:1 Program In Ashland Public Schools

Ashland Public School's Technology Committee is investigating the implementation of a 1:1 computer device program for APS starting no earlier than the 2016-2017 school year. This survey will help us collect data to measure parent interest in a 1:1 program.

A 1:1 program is designed to put a computer in the hand of every student at the chosen grade level(s). Additionally, a 1:1 program provides teachers and staff with extensive professional development and ongoing support to update and maintain curriculum that properly integrates the 1:1 devices

Web address of the survey: $\underline{\text{https://www.surveymonkey.}}$ $\underline{\text{com/r/aps1to1}}$

If you know any APS parent who doesn't have access to this electronic survey, please inform them that a paper copy can be picked up in any school main office.

Paul Carpenter PCarpenter@ashland.k12.ma.us

The printing and/or distribution of this newspaper is made possible in part by sponsorship of the following:

Ashland Lions Club,

Greater Ashland Lions Club,

Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs

and the

Warren Conference Center & Inn

