

THE BALLARDVALE GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALLARDVALE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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BallardVale, Massachusetts

Fall 2015

Home Improvement

Take a tour of village projects

The Ballardvale “village-scape” is always changing as neighbors tackle repairs, additions, and upgrades. Look for progress on these latest projects, approved by the BallardVale Historic District Commission.

On Andover Street the old German Social Club at No. 154, once a gathering spot for mill workers, is now a residence with a 2010 sympathetic addition. At 183–187, the grassy lot on the corner of Center Street now has an attractive cedar fence in place of the old chain link.

In the extensive renovation planned at 211 Andover Street, initial work has been focused on the hillside behind the house, where the existing retaining wall was failing. The homeowner, who inherited the property from her grandmother, was able to purchase a section of the hillside from St. Joseph Church. The house is pictured below.



Look for two projects on Center Street. One at No. 60 replaced the rear decks on the six condo units, and the other at No. 63 is a 2005 barn designed to look sympathetic to the period of the 1850 main house.

At 14 Marland Street, a new shed with a roofline that matches the house will be built. New construction sympathetic to neighboring houses was approved for 9 Clark Road and 9 Chester Street. Meanwhile, restoration of older homes at 11 Oak Street and 11 Tewksbury Street is nearing completion.

If you are planning a project that involves exterior work on a home in the Historic District, you’ll need a certificate from the BVHDC before obtaining a building or demolition permit.

The newly revised application includes a flow chart indicating the process and time frame, and are available online at Andover Historic Preservation website: preservation.mhl.org. Applications should be submitted at least three months prior to the desired start date and received a minimum of 12 days before a BVHDC meeting in order to be on the agenda.

BVHDC meeting dates and agendas are posted at andover.ma.gov. All are welcome.

Firehouse Update

According to Andover Director of Plant and Facilities Ed Ataide, the Ballardvale fire station project is “high on the selectmen radar” for the future. Approved at the 2014 Town Meeting, the project was put on hold by town leadership once it was determined that insufficient funds had been appropriated. Meanwhile, Ataide reports that needed repairs to the dormitory area of the current facility are underway.

Meet a Neighbor

A chat with Sharron Tirone



Sharron Tirone, who has owned the Ballardvale Café with her husband, Paul, since 2006, says she loves working in Ballardvale because “it’s like stepping back in time.” And the Café certainly has that welcoming, retro feeling. The cozy space has just a few tables, and from the kitchen emanates the smell of good, old-fashioned home cooking. Sharron prepares almost everything on the premises, including her signature muffins and scones.

With the exception of Sundays — the only day the Café is not open — Sharron leaves her house in Amesbury when it’s dark and starts cooking at the Café at 5:30 in the morning, to be ready to open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. (8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays). She says her biggest sellers are breakfast choices, and her chili and soups are also popular. Also on the menu are sandwiches, burgers, hot dogs, salads, and Richardson’s ice cream. Sharron also runs a catering business.

No matter what day it is, it’s not unusual to see Paul and their daughter Stephanie also working at the Café. Paul enjoys all sorts of discussions with customers, but as a former state representative, he is particularly fond of debating local politics. “We’re on a first name basis with a

lot of the people who come in here”, Sharron says “and that’s what makes it fun.”

The Ballardvale Café also hosts a bible study Friday nights. Sharron, a member of Andover Baptist Church, says everyone is welcome to join the group, which usually draws between nine and 11 people. “Ballardvale has been good to us,” Sharron says. “We really love the community and the people here have been wonderful.”

In the Swing

Officially open since Sept. 13, the playground at BallardVale Park is popular across age groups. From tykes to teens, kids are enjoying the play equipment at this ADA-accessible facility, while grown-ups relax on a nearby bench or at a picnic table in the gazebo. Instrumental in making the new playground a reality were Andover’s Director of Plants and Facilities Ed Ataide, who put in long hours maximizing available funding, and local parents Melanie Krance and Ellen Townson. According to Townson, the next item on the playground “wish list” is an upgraded, historically appropriate new fence, and she anticipates a fundraising effort in the spring.

Boo!

The Sunday evening before Halloween may have been the new BallardVale Park’s busiest night yet, when dozens of children paraded to the playground in costume and stayed to play with their friends and enjoy seasonal treats. Donna MacLean, one of the event’s organizers, estimates that between 70 and 100 children participated in this annual village tradition.



From left: Dylan MacLean, Cole LaChapelle, and Will Dorsey at the Halloween festivities.

Traffic Concerns

Approximately 50 residents concerned about traffic safety on Tewksbury Street turned out on October 27 for a meeting at the library with town officials. Residents learned that a speed study will be conducted before a speed limit can be posted, a truck exclusion will be researched, the intersection with Chester Street will be evaluated, and the double yellow lines will be eliminated when the top coat of asphalt is applied next spring. A warrant article for new sidewalks is being drafted for approval at Town Meeting. Tuesday, Dec 1st was the first meeting toward that effort. Also, residents can request removal of berms (no new berms will be added) and that streetlights be turned on. To begin the process of having a streetlight turned on, email Director of Municipal Services Chris Cronin: ccronin@andoverma.gov.

Village Stories Old and New

BallardVale Babies

In the first decades of the 20th century, before hospital births became the norm, many babies arrived in private birthing clinics, or sanatoriums. Ballardvale parents were fortunate in having a flourishing clinic, the O'Donnell Sanatorium, right in the neighborhood. In the cover story in the Fall 2015 issue of "The Newsletter" of the Andover Historical Society, editor Tom Adams describes this facility. Opened in 1926 across from the village green at 13 Center Street by experienced nurse Katherine O'Donnell, the

sanatorium thrived for more than 20 years, and most Andover babies of that period were born there. The building was demolished after the sanatorium closed in 1946; the house now on that site was constructed in 1967.

FAQs

Ask the BallardVale Historic District Commission...

Does the BVHDC have any special requirements for new storm windows?

The BVHDC recommends that your historic windows be supplemented with unobtrusive storm windows. Exterior storm windows are preferable to interior models, which will not prevent condensation on the inside of the original windows. Many "invisible" models are available for both exterior and interior storm windows.

Go Paperless!

To receive the next issue of the BallardVale Gazette via email, send your name, street address, and email to Karen English: kfeenglish@gmail.com.

If you have a question for the BallardVale Historic District Commission or a suggestion for a topic you'd like to see covered in a future issue of the BallardVale Gazette, please contact the editors:

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**BallardVale
Historic District Commission**

Andover Town Offices

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CALENDAR

January 6	BallardVale Historic District Commission Monthly Meeting Town offices, second floor conference room — 7:00 p.m.
February 3	BallardVale Historic District Commission Monthly Meeting Town offices, second floor conference room — 7:00 p.m.
March 2	BallardVale Historic District Commission Monthly Meeting Town offices, second floor conference room — 7:00 p.m.