

THE BALLARDVALE GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALLARDVALE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Vol. 8, No. 2

BallardVale , Massachusetts

August 2008

New Businesses

BallardVale welcomes two relatively new additions to the businesses in the center of town --- BallardVale Café and Kismet Wellness Center. BallardVale Café is located between Spinner's Pizza Parlor and Sunday's General Store at 195 Andover Street, across from the train station. Owners Sharron and Paul Tirone opened the café in January 2007. Business owners for many years, the café is their first "food venture". They are open for breakfast, lunch and dinner take-out providing homemade baked goods, sandwiches, salads, soups, main course specials, ice cream, desserts and more. Sharron Tirone recalls that she and her husband wanted to open a coffee shop, and they had a very good feeling about the location when they visited BallardVale. "I also felt nostalgic really because my parents used to own a business right across from the train. This spot felt so right!" The BallardVale Café is a welcome addition to the neighborhood. Visit them for a delicious treat, and their website for more information at www.ballardvalecafe.com/index.html.

Kismet Wellness Center is located across the street on the second floor of 204 Andover Street. Owned by Andover residents Bridget and Jon Fletcher, and her parents Helene and Tom Quinlan, the Center offers an array of mind and body fitness programs and services for adults and kids. Adults can take yoga and kickboxing classes. Spa services include a variety of styles of massage, reiki, shiatsu and reflexology. For the kids, Kismet offers martial arts classes, yoga and art classes, movie nights and more. Bridget Fletcher, with a software business background, was looking to open a business that she could feel passionate

about. And with four kids, she wanted it to be family-friendly, providing enriching valuable programs for kids and adults. Fletcher remembers falling in love with the space, a renovated former mill building. "It has so much character, and it was sad to see it unoccupied", she recalls. Kismet Wellness Center has been active and lively since its opening in April 2008. Fletcher says she feels fortunate to be in BallardVale, and the neighborhood is fortunate, too. Visit the Center soon and visit their website at www.kismetwellness.com/.

Money to Be Used for Playground

BallardVale Crossing is a residential development built on nearly six acres of once-industrial land in the center of BallardVale. Although the proposed development is located outside of the BallardVale Historic District boundaries, local developer Willard Perkins worked with the BallardVale Historic District Commission in an effort to build a project that was compatible with the character of the local residential area. Perkins and the Commission agreed that an amount of money made from the sale of some of the units would be put toward much-needed improvements to the playground in BallardVale center. The playground currently has a ball field, an area with playing equipment such as slides and swings, a basketball court and picnic tables.

The BVHD Commission and local landscape architect Chris Huntress are seeking

input from BallardVale residents regarding the use of the money that has been put aside for improvements to the playground. If you have ideas for changes or enhancements to the playground, please contact Chris Huntress at chris@huntressassociates.com.

Become a Member

Current BallardVale Historic District Commission members are:

Jim Sheldon, Chair -- jlsheldon@verizon.net
Diane Derby, V. Chair -- derby01@comcast.net
Bruce Taylor, Sec'y --- BTaylor143@aol.com
Ron Abraham --- ccamel@comcast.net
Leo Greene --- Lmg31ka@comcast.net
David Hart --- davehart43@hotmail.com
Sherry Kirby --- sherrykirby@mac.com
Lynn Smiledge --- lsmiledge@comcast.net

Gazette Editor (non member), Mary Bogan --- mpbogan@comcast.net

Patti D'Agata, Secretarial Support in Andover Town Offices, Community Development and Planning --- PDAgata@andoverma.gov

If you are interested in joining the BVHD Commission, contact one of the members listed above or fill out a Talent Bank Form at the Andover Town Manager's Office, 36 Bartlet Street. You can print out a Talent Bank Form from the Forms and Publications section of Andover's website <http://andoverma.gov/>.

Block Party 2008

Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008
12:00 noon- 4:00pm
BallardVale Playground

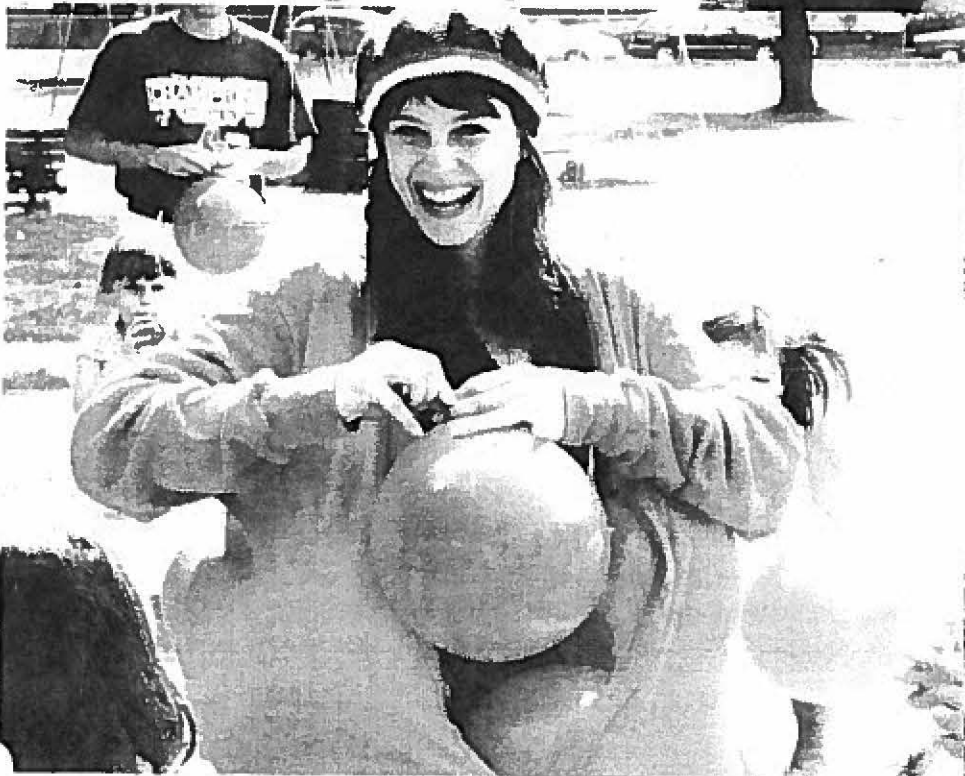
It's Block Party time of year! The BallardVale Block Party will be held on Saturday, September 6. Food, drinks, grills and other essentials have been provided in the past by loyal sponsors, including Sunday's General Store, BallardVale Café, Spinner's Pizza, Piantadosi Bread, Cronin's Ice Cream, F.P.Reilly & Sons, Elm Street Automotive, Wyeth & Sodexo and the BallardVale Historic District Commission.

Hamburgers, hotdogs, drinks and snacks will once again be provided. (Andover's Department of Health food guidelines for public gatherings discourage potluck food offerings.) A suggested donation of \$5.00 per person (\$20.00 per family cap) is appreciated to defray the cost of food. Please make checks payable to "BallardVale Block Party" and send by September 1 to: Chris and Diane Huntress, 17 Tewksbury Street, Andover, MA 01810. To contribute additional money or be involved in planning, please contact Chris or Diane at 978-475-7738 or dhuntress@verizon.net.

Be sure to come to see what's in store this year!

A Picnic Tragedy: The Pole Hill Murder

Pole Hill, once known as "The Grove", was home to a picnic area and dance hall that attracted many people for summertime dances and parties. You'll have to look carefully to find remnants of "The Grove's" festive past --- the dance hall or the refreshment stand. And evidence of the murder that shut down the dance hall may be even harder to find. On exhibit at the Andover Historical Society now, and updated weekly, is a serialization of the Pole Hill murder. Each week you can read a new chapter in the story. Be sure to visit the Andover Historical Society over the next several weeks to find out what happened at Pole Hill!



Photos from Block Party 2007!

BallardVale

Historic District Commission

*Andover Town Offices
36 Bartlet Street
Andover, MA 01810*

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See you at the Block Party!

CALENDAR

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Sept. 6 (Saturday) | Annual BallardVale Block Party
Playground in BallardVale Center – 12 noon – 4:00 pm |
| Sept. 10 (Wednesday) | BallardVale Historic District Commission monthly meeting
Town Offices – 2 nd Floor Conference Room – 7:00 pm |
| Oct. 1 (Wednesday) | BallardVale Historic District Commission monthly meeting
Town Offices – 2 nd Floor Conference Room – 7:00 pm |
| Nov. 5 (Wednesday) | BallardVale Historic District Commission monthly meeting
Town Offices – 2 nd Floor Conference Room – 7:00 pm |
| Dec. 3 (Wednesday) | BallardVale Historic District Commission monthly meeting
Town Offices – 2 nd Floor Conference Room – 7:00 pm |
| Dec. 7 (Sunday) | Annual Tree Lighting festivities
BallardVale Green – 5:00 pm |