

THE BALLARDVALE GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALLARDVALE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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BallardVale, Massachusetts

Fall 2014

Playground Improvements Slated

By this time next summer, look for the Ballardvale Playground to be much improved. Funding has been appropriated, a designer has been selected, and the scope of the project defined. Upgrades will be made to the central part of the site (this round of funding will not cover the ball field or the basketball court).

Improvements will include rebuilding the underlying drainage system, adding parking, and installing new play equipment. The site will also be made accessible to users with disabilities.

Ed Ataide, deputy director of Plant and Facilities for the town, plans to schedule neighborhood meetings starting this fall to give residents a chance to let the designer know what types of equipment they would like to see in the new play area. (Meeting notices will be posted at andovetma.gov.)

Ataide expects work on the project to begin in early spring. The playground will be closed during the project, which he anticipates will take several weeks.

Fire Station Committee Formed

The town manager has formed a building committee for the BallardVale Fire Station project, and the group is expected to have its initial meeting in September.

The proposal to renovate and expand the existing BallardVale Fire Station, rather than build a new facility at a different site away from the center of the neighborhood, was approved at Town Meeting last May.

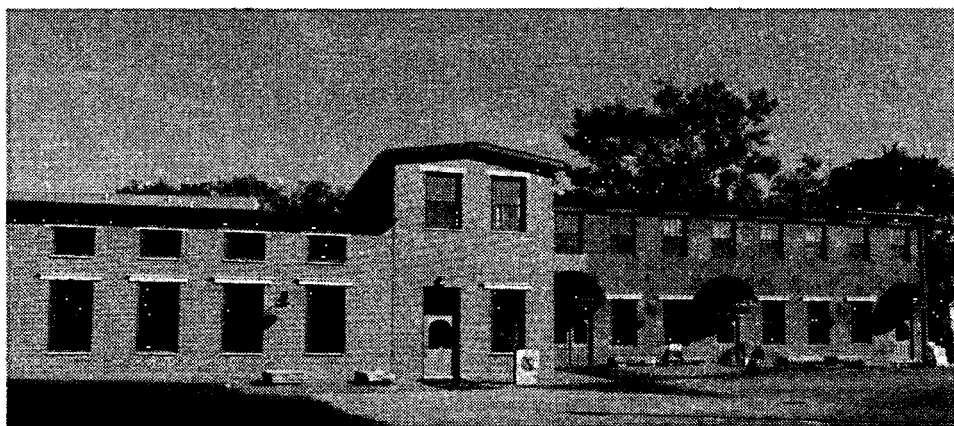
This successful articles were presented as an alternative to the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board of Selectmen, and the BallardVale Fire Station Site Selection Committee, which were in favor of constructing the entirely new facility elsewhere. Nevertheless, the articles were approved.

According to the articles, the project will involve purchasing land from abutters as well as building a 2,500-square-foot addition and renovating the current 19th century building to accommodate modern equipment, administrative needs, and living spaces.

Master Shin's Martial Arts Makes New Home in Ballardvale

Master Shin's Martial Arts, which previously rented space in Dundee Park in Andover for 15 years, has officially made the move to Ballardvale with an impressive 2,000-plus-square-foot addition at the historic mill complex near the Shawsheen River.

The two-story red brick building at 200 Andover Street was designed by architect Mark Yanowitz of Verdeco Designs, LLC, in Andover. It features a 40-by-40-square-foot-studio space with 17-foot-high ceilings on the first floor and offices on the second level. The red brick exterior and windows of the martial arts studio addition continue the original building design and maintain the historic look of the original mill complex, visible at the right of the photo below.



"We worked very closely with the [BallardVale] Historic District Commission and the nearby condo association to come up with something that blended in to the existing structure," said Yanowitz, who partnered with J. D. LaGrasse & Associates, Inc., also at One Elm Street in Andover, on the final design.

Master Shin, a native of South Korea who specializes in tae kwon do, said he works with over 200 family members during the school year. While his studio addition was under construction, Master Shin conducted his classes in the first floor of the original building.



For Master Shin, pictured (left) with Mark Yanowitz, the new martial arts studio adjacent to the Ballardvale train station represents a milestone in his business. "It's very exciting to finally own my studio space," said Shin, who began training in martial arts at age 9 and currently holds a 6th Dan in tae kwon do (World Taekwondo Federation). He is also a certified black belt in hapkido, judo, and jujitsu. According to mastershin.com, he has close to 40 years of experience in martial arts

and has taught post-secondary students at Northeastern and Brandeis, as well as Wellesley College.

“We are excited to now be able to work with families here and teach their children important values along with discipline,” Shin continued. “We are just a small piece of the puzzle, but an important piece.”

Conservation Commission Request

Ballardvale residents enjoy many acres of beautiful conservation land nearby, but not everyone who uses these recreational areas is respectful of the surrounding ecology or the effort it takes to maintain the trails and facilities.

The Conservation Commission is especially concerned about nighttime fires and partying at the Pole Hill picnic area, and asks residents to call the Andover police if they notice anyone trespassing after dusk (and anyone there after dusk without permission is trespassing).

FAQs

Ask the BVHD (BallardVale Historic District Commission) . . .

Where are the monthly meetings of the BVHD? Can anyone attend?

Meetings are usually held in the second floor conference room at the Town Offices, and all are welcome. Meeting dates and agendas are posted in advance at andover.ma.gov.

Why is “Ballardvale” sometimes spelled “BallardVale”?

That midcap “V” is a historical spelling, and since the BallardVale Historic District Commission is all about authenticity, that’s the spelling you’ll see in commission documents.

In the 1700s, the village was known as Ballard’s Vale, after one of the earliest settlers, William Ballard, who founded the first mills — a grist mill and a sawmill — on the Shawsheen River (a “vale” is a valley).

Eventually, that spelling was shortened to BallardVale, and then the current Ballardvale.

Questions? Suggestions? Feedback?

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:

Karen English / kfeenglish@gmail.com
Joe Halpern / jochalp@gmail.com

BallardVale
Historic District Commission
Andover Town Offices
36 Bartlet Street
Andover, MA 01810

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CALENDAR

- October 1** **BallardVale Historic District Commission Monthly Meeting**
Town offices, second floor conference room — 7:00 p.m.
- October 26** **Halloween Parade**
Ballardvale Playground — dusk, weather permitting. Watch for signs
posted at the playground with event information, rain date, etc.
- November 5** **BallardVale Historic District Commission Monthly Meeting**
Town offices, second floor conference room — 7:00 p.m.
- December 3** **BallardVale Historic District Commission Monthly Meeting**
Town offices, second floor conference room — 7:00 p.m.
- December 7** **Holiday Tree Lighting**
BallardVale Green — 5:00 p.m.