

## Town of Ayer

1 Main Street, Ayer, Massachusetts 01432  
Phone: (978) 772-8220 Fax: (978) 772-3017  
[www.ayer.ma.us](http://www.ayer.ma.us)

### SPRING 2024 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

**Town Manager**  
*Robert Pontbriand*

**Asst. Town Manager**  
*Carly Antonellis*

**Town Accountant**  
*Kerry Cooper*

**Benefits & Payroll Manager**  
*Amanda Lewis*

**Building Commissioner & Zoning Enforcement Officer**  
*Charlie Shultz*

**Town Clerk**  
*Susan Copeland*

**Conservation Commission Agent**  
*Heather Hampson*

**Council on Aging Director**  
*Dr. Katie Petrossi*

**Dept. of Public Works Director**  
*Dan Van Schalkwyk, P.E.*

**Economic Development Director**  
*Alan Manoiian*

**Finance Manager, Treasurer/ Tax Collector**  
*Barbara Tierney*

**Fire Chief**  
*Timothy Johnston*

**Library Director**  
*Luke Kirkland*

**Park Department Director**  
*Jeff Thomas*

**Town Planner**  
*Danny Ruiz*

**Police Chief**  
*Brian Gill*

**Social Worker**  
*Brittany Beaudry*

Hello Neighbor!

The days are getting longer and the temperatures are rising which means spring is on its way! The year is still young, and we would like to offer you a challenge. Here's your 2024 Townie Bucket List—everyone wants to be a 'Townie' but do you have what it takes? Start small with this checklist and see how you measure up. Keep an eye out for future Community Newsletters with more Townie games and challenges to come!

<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you Registered to Vote?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you receive email E-Alert notifications from the Town?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you attended a Town Meeting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you brought your licensed dog to the Ayer Dog Park?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you attended a program at the Ayer Library? (Bonus point if you have a library card!)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you volunteered for a Town event?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you been to the Annual Fire Department Turkey Party?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you adopted a fire hydrant and/or storm drain near your home to keep it clear of debris?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you know when and where the annual salamander migration is?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you voted in a local Town election?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you explored the Nashua River Rail Trail?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you attended a Memorial Day or Veterans' Day observation?

This spring Community Newsletter is jam-packed with information and events happening in your community. We hope you enjoy!

### TOWN HALL GENERAL HOURS OF OPERATION

**Monday, Wednesday, Thursday – 8:00am to 4:00pm**  
**Tuesday – 8:00am to 6:00pm**  
**Friday – 8:00am to 2:00pm**

# Town Government

## FY 2025 Town Budget Update

The development of the Town's Budget is a public process which starts in October and culminates with Town Meeting approval of the budget in April each year. It is imperative that the public be informed about the Budget and play an active role in getting informed, asking questions, and offering public input. All FY 2025 Budget information including DRAFT budgets and budget related documents can be found on the Town's website at [www.ayer.ma.us/budget](http://www.ayer.ma.us/budget).

Additionally, this information is available to the public upon request to the Town Manager's Office at Town Hall during normal business hours.

As we move through the FY 2025 Budget Process, there are some key dates the public should note:

### March 2024

#### March 27th, 6:00pm at Town Hall:

The Second Public Budget Forum at which the Town Manager will present DRAFT #3 of the FY 2025 Budget to a joint meeting of the Select Board and Finance Committee. The public is invited to attend and to ask questions and offer input. This second forum follows the same format as the January 24<sup>th</sup> forum.

### April 2024

April 2nd, 6:00pm: The Select Board will finalize and approve the Annual Town Meeting Warrant which includes the FY 2025 Budget at this meeting.

April 5th: The Annual Town Meeting Warrant will be publicly posted at various public locations throughout Town and on the Town's website. The Warrant will also be sent to print and mailed to all Ayer households. Copies of the Warrant are available at the Town Manager's Office upon request during normal business hours.

April 22, 7:00pm: Annual Town Meeting in the Auditorium of the Ayer Shirley Regional High School, 141 Washington Street.

The public is also encouraged to contact the Town Manager directly at either 978-772-8220 x100 or at [tm@ayer.ma.us](mailto:tm@ayer.ma.us) with any budget questions. We are here to answer any of your questions and to make sure that you have all the information you need. Thank you.

—Robert A. Pontbriand, Town Manager

## Annual Town Meeting Monday, April 22nd, 2024 7:00pm—ASRHS Auditorium

The 2024 Annual Town Meeting (ATM) will be held on Monday, April 22nd at 7:00pm in the auditorium of the Ayer Shirley Regional High School, located at 141 Washington Street.

Voters will check-in with poll workers before entering the auditorium. Copies of the Warrant, and other supporting documents will be available.

The Council on Aging will offer complimentary van service to Town Meeting for those without transportation or uncomfortable driving after dark. Please contact the Senior Center at 978-772-8260 to reserve your ride.

## Annual Town Election Tuesday, May 14th, 2024

The Ayer Annual Town Election will be on Tuesday, May 14th, 2024 from 7:00am to 8:00pm.

Unless otherwise noted, all Elections take place at Ayer Town Hall, 1 Main Street, on the second floor in the Great Hall.

### The following offices will be on the ballot:

Assessor (1)	3-year term
Board of Health (1)	3-year term
Commissioner of Trust Funds (1)	3-year term
Constable (1)	3-year term
Library Trustee (2)	3-year term 1-year term
Park Commissioner (2)	3-year term 3-year term
Planning Board (2)	3-year term 3-year term
Regional School District Committee (1)	3-year term
Select Board (1)	3-year term

## Nashoba Associated Boards of Health 2024 Pet Rabies Clinics

In conjunction with our Member Boards of Health, the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health have scheduled rabies vaccination clinics throughout the District to provide an opportunity for residents to have their dogs and cats vaccinated. We are grateful for the support we receive from the participating veterinarians to provide this valuable and important service.

**All dogs and cats over six (6) months of age, those not previously immunized, and those with a blue rosette (2021) rabies tag must be immunized.** The tag for 2024 will be a red heart. Depending on the vaccination status of your dog or cat the veterinarian will inform you of the expiration date for the rabies vaccine given to your pet.

- \* Please bring a copy of your pet's last rabies certificate if you have it \* Residents of Nashoba towns may attend any clinic \*  
 \* Cats must be brought in cages or closed boxes during the last half of any clinic. \*

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>VETERINARIAN</u>	<u>DATE &amp; TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>COST</u>
<b>AYER</b>	Bryan Clifford	Fri, 4/5, 5-6pm	Ayer Animal Hospital, 196 West Main St.	\$20.00 CASH ONLY
	Corynne Orzech	Fri, 3/29, 5-6pm		
<b>BERLIN</b>	Nimrod Arad	Sat, 3/23, 10-11am	Highway Barn, 112 West St.	\$20.00 CASH ONLY
<b>LANCASTER</b>	Nimrod Arad	Sat, 3/23, 11:30-12:30pm	Fire Station, 1055 Main St.	\$20.00 CASH ONLY
<b>PEPPERELL</b>	Flanagan	Sat, 4/20 9-10:30am	Jersey St. Fire Station	\$20.00 CASH OR CHECK
<b>TOWNSEND</b>	Flanagan	Sat, 4/20, 11-12:30pm	Highway Dept., 177 Main St.	\$20.00 CASH OR CHECK

*Serving the towns of Ashburnham, Ashby, Ayer, Berlin, Bolton, Boxborough, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Lancaster, Littleton, Lunenburg, Pepperell, Shirley, Stow, Townsend, and the community of Devens, in partnership with your local Board of Health.*

### 2024 Animal & Fowl Permits

**Permits are due to the Ayer Board of Health Office by May 31st, 2024**

- ALL animals such as chickens, cows, pigs, and goats need a permit from the Board of Health
- Visit [www.ayer.ma.us/board-health/pages/permits](http://www.ayer.ma.us/board-health/pages/permits) to will out the permit application online.
- The \$30.00 fee can be paid online or at the Board of Health Office located on the 3rd floor of Town Hall. We can only accept cash or check payments in person.

Please contact the Ayer Board of Health  
 by calling 978-772-8220 x:145 or by  
[emailing sbenoit@ayer.ma.us](mailto:sbenoit@ayer.ma.us)

### 2024 Dog Licenses

Town and state laws require that all dogs aged six (6) months and older be licensed each year. Licenses can be purchased in person at the Town Clerk's Office, by mail, and online. Proof of current rabies vaccine is required before any licenses are issued.

2024 licenses were due by March 1st, 2024. All renewal licenses are now subject to a \$50.00 late fee per household. 2024 dog tags have been advertised and available in the Town Clerk's Office since December 19th, 2023.

Late fees do not apply to dogs that were under six (6) months old and ineligible for a rabies vaccine and/or arrived to Town after the March 1st deadline.

**Fees: \$10 neutered/spayed dogs; \$15 intact dogs.  
 No Fee for seniors (70+) or service dogs**

Visit [www.ayer.ma.us/dogs](http://www.ayer.ma.us/dogs) for more information.

### Where to get your 2024 Fishing and Hunting Licenses

Licenses can be purchased online via [www.massfishhunt.mass.gov](http://www.massfishhunt.mass.gov) or in person at the MassWildlife Northeast District office located at 85 Fitchburg Road, Ayer, MA. Online purchases will require payment by credit card, although new licenses, no-cost duplicate re-prints, and stamps will be immediately available and printable from your home printer.

Stay up to date with the latest wildlife and outdoor recreation news from MassWildlife by following their Seasonal Announcements here: [www.mass.gov/info-details/seasonal-announcements-from-masswildlife](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/seasonal-announcements-from-masswildlife)

For more information on licensing requirements, please visit [www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-fisheries-and-wildlife](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-fisheries-and-wildlife).

**Hunting, Fishing, and Sport Licenses are NOT available at the Town Clerk's office as of 2012.**

# Department of Public Works

25 Brook Street, Ayer, MA \* 978-772-8240 \* Monday-Friday: 7:30am - 3:30pm

Dan Van Schalkwyk, DPW Director, recently gave a presentation related to Sewer Rehabilitation at the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA). See photos below.

The New England Water Environment Association is a dynamic organization of over 2,100 highly qualified and motivated water and wastewater professionals located throughout New England, who volunteer their time, energy, and expertise in order to preserve, protect, and manage one of our most precious resources here in New England, our water environment.<sup>1</sup>



Photos courtesy of Dan Van Schalkwyk



**National Drinking Water Week** is May 5th through May 11th! We will recognize and share the importance of drinking water.

**National Public Works Week** is May 19th through 25th! We will share some of the essential duties that the DPW and all of its employees perform to service the Town.

Follow the Town of Ayer on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AyerMA](http://www.facebook.com/AyerMA) for the latest updates directly from the Town. You can also sign-up for E-Alerts and get important updates from the DPW and other Town departments sent right your email inbox! Visit [www.ayer.ma.us](http://www.ayer.ma.us) and find the E-Alerts Sign-up shortcut in the Citizen Action Center on the Town's website homepage.

## Upcoming Major Construction in 2024

- Completion of Sandy Pond Road Sewer Rehab
  - West Main Street Bridge Replacement
  - Sandy Pond Road Complete Street
- Willow Road Water Main Replacement
- Cambridge Street Water Main Replacement
  - Annual Road Paving

Does your street or neighborhood need repairs made?

Fill out our Service Request form online at [www.ayer.ma.us/department-public-works/webforms/service-request-comment-form](http://www.ayer.ma.us/department-public-works/webforms/service-request-comment-form)

Join us in welcoming Lora Prescott to the Town of Ayer! She began as a DPW Department Assistant in late February. Be sure to stop by and say hello!

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.newea.org/about-us/>

## **Conservation Commission—Tree Removal Policy**

The Ayer Conservation Commission would like to remind homeowners that any tree removal within the 100-foot buffer zone from a wetland (including ponds) or 200-foot buffer zone from a river must be reviewed by the Conservation Agent for approval. Trees and other vegetation play an important role in protecting our water bodies and keeping our properties cool in the summer and warmer in the winter.

The Conservation Commission developed a Tree Removal Policy at the end of 2022 which outlines the guidelines for residents that wish to have a tree removed from their property. The guidelines are in place to help residents understand the process, allow for hazardous trees to be removed while minimally disturbing wildlife, and to request new trees or shrubs be planted when applicable.

If you have any questions on the Tree Policy or if your property needs permission from the Conservation Commission for tree removal, please contact the Conservation Agent, Heather Hampson, by emailing [concom@ayer.ma.us](mailto:concom@ayer.ma.us) or calling 978-772-8220 x:143

## **PACE—People of Ayer Concerned About the Environment**

People of Ayer Concerned About the Environment (PACE) is a resident organized and volunteer based environmental group that has been actively advocating for a healthier Ayer since 1997.

### **PACE is welcoming new members! No experience needed!**

This spring, PACE will be launching their 3rd year of hand-pulling invasive water chestnuts from Grove Pond, and volunteers are definitely needed! We will provide all the equipment: canoes, life jackets, paddles -- or you can bring your own (kayaks are super helpful!) All we need is YOU! Pulling will start on Mother's Day weekend in May. Please 'like' our Facebook page, [facebook.com/PACEayer](https://www.facebook.com/PACEayer) and keep an eye out for postings to sign up. For more information, please email [PACEayer@gmail.com](mailto:PACEayer@gmail.com).

— Laurie Nehring, President of PACE



*Photo courtesy of Laurie Nehring*

## **Stormwater Utility Advisory Workgroup**

Ayer, like other municipalities across the country, confronts the need to repair or replace aging infrastructure essential to our daily lives. Among these are multiple culverts - structures that safely direct water under roads and/or sidewalks - that need immediate attention. According to Mass.gov's Resilient Mass projections<sup>1</sup> our state can expect an additional 1-6 inches of annual rainfall by 2050, dramatically increasing the possibility of catastrophic damage and expensive repairs.

To meet the need for responsible action and conform to more stringent EPA and state regulations, the Town's Department of Public Works, under the leadership of Director Dan Van Schalwyk, has formed a Stormwater Utility Advisory Workgroup to review action plans and potential funding structures for Ayer. The Goal: To present a practical, equitable plan for a Stormwater Utility Fund at Fall Town Meeting in October.

Your input is not only welcomed but encouraged! Please see [resilient.mass.gov/changes/changes-in-precipitation](https://resilient.mass.gov/changes/changes-in-precipitation) for more information on the impacts of changing precipitation, and check out the Department of Public Work's webpage at [www.ayer.ma.us](http://www.ayer.ma.us) for more information on the Stormwater Utility Advisory Workgroup.

<sup>1</sup> <https://resilient.mass.gov/changes/changes-in-precipitation>

# Springtime Outdoor Walking & Cycling Destinations in Ayer

*By Alan S. Manoian, Dir. AOCED*

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**The Historic Hill District Neighborhood:** Planned and laid-out between 1858-1870, this is one of Ayer's most architecturally distinctive, walkable, bikeable, and fascinating historic residential neighborhoods - located in the heart of your township. As you stroll, pause and observe the noteworthy types of architectural styles of the grand homesteads that line Washington Street and many side streets including, Greek Revival, Italianate, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Gothic Stick, Dutch Colonial, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Moderne, and conventional. And of course, it's the concentration of traditional homestead "front porches" that create the special experience of encountering, conversing, visiting and connecting between the front porch and the sidewalk with the neighbors of Ayer's Historic Hill District Neighborhood. The Historic Hill District Neighborhood also is the home to some of Ayer's impressive, precious, and massive "old growth" neighborhood trees – walk, explore and you will encounter the massive old growth Beech Trees at 53 & 37 Washington St., the American Sycamore at 60 Washington St., the Conifer at 29 Washington St., and the great Oak at 95 Washington St.

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**The Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge/The Nashua Riverfront:** It comes as a surprise to some folks from Ayer and beyond, that here you can visit, experience, and enjoy a genuine National Wildlife Refuge just a short walk, bicycle-ride, and/or canoe/kayak trip away. View a map of Ayer and you will see that the majestic and gently-northward flowing Nashua River makes up the entire western boundary of the Town of Ayer. Yes, the Town of Ayer is a riverfront community! The great Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge offers five-miles of hiking trails along the riverfront, where you can observe, hear and explore the natural habitat of countless migratory birds, waterfowl, mammals, native pollinators, reptiles, and don't forget the great fishing. The US Fish & Wildlife Service manage the National Wildlife Refuge. Access the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge by parking at "The Triangle Pollinator Garden" on MacPherson Rd. in Ayer and/or the Bill Ashe Visitor Facility & Canoe Launch at 80 Hospital Rd. in Devens. The Nashua River was designated as a National Wild & Scenic River in 2021. This wonderful natural refuge was created and is maintained to ensure the survival of native wildlife species – right here in your Town of Ayer. Experience the "refuge" with your family, friends, visitors and neighbors this Spring!

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**The Pine Meadow Pond Conservation Trails:** Hiking the unspoiled 125-acre New England woodland terrain, topography, geology, hydrology, wildlife habitat, flora, fauna, and natural serenity of Ayer's Pine Meadow Pond Conservation Trails is sure to be one of your most healthful, invigorating and memorable springtime local experiences. Located at the geographic center of Ayer, the majestic and expansive woodland of comfortably hilly terrain and ancient glacial granite outcroppings framed by the calming backdrop of Pine Meadow Pond (Upper Flannagan's Pond) provides Ayer residents and visitors with a world-class eco-tourism experience and Springtime natural escape right in the heart of your busy little township. The Pine Meadow Conservation Trails are publicly accessed at Groton-Harvard Rd. and Oak Ridge Drive. Bring the kids, bring the dog, bring the grandparents, bring your friends – and immerse yourself in the beauty and tranquility of the natural world in Ayer. Ayer's Pine Meadow Pond Conservation Trails are good for your mind and body, especially in the Spring!

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**The Historic Woodlawn Cemetery Monumental Architecture Walk:** Ayer's Historic Woodlawn Cemetery on Harvard Rd. was established in 1868, although there are believed to be older burials at the sacred site. The Cemetery existed before Ayer was chartered as a township in 1871, and at a time when the location of the Cemetery was the ancient Colonial center of the village of South Groton. The Colonial village center later known as "Old Common" was completely obliterated with the construction of the "Rotary" (the Fredrick Carlton Circle) in 1941 by US Army - however, the ancient and fascinating Cemetery survived the coming of the Rotary. Woodlawn Cemetery makes for a unique and meaningful Springtime walking/bicycling exploration and visitation. Here you will discover an impressive assembly of noteworthy memorial stone architectural types and artfulness. This is the "architecture of the afterlife" – showing many examples of masterful granite and marble stone symbolic carving including, a finger pointed towards Heaven, the oak leaf (long life), the lamb (loss of a child), the weeping willow (sorrow), the broken column (young life cut short), and many more. Make a point of locating the "broken Roman column" monument of Capt. Leander King who made the supreme sacrifice at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. Enjoy your time visiting so many of the old Ayer families and family members that eternally rest here together – it is not a somber experience, but joyful to visit those who have come before us. At the rear-center portion Woodlawn Cemetery you will discover rows of uniform white grave memorials dating from the WWI – this is the fascinating and powerful National Cemetery Administration Soldier's Lot; take some time to explore this special Ayer heritage destination place this Spring.

## Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce

The Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit business advocacy, community and economic development association committed to the support of its members' growth and success

### Upcoming Events:

- **March 19th:** Taste of Nashoba, a signature event showcasing the best food and beverages from around the region! Held at Lawrence Academy, Groton from 5:30 - 8:00pm.
- **March 26th:** Nashoba Valley Hiring Event, a bi-annual event connecting job seekers with employers from across the region. Held at the Devens Common Center, Devens from 10:00am - 2:00pm.
- **April 3rd:** Breakfast with the Boss, series sponsored by Fidelity Bank. Guest panel will include Ayer Town Manager, Robert Pontbriand. Held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Devens from 8:00 - 9:30am.
- **Monthly:** SCORE free small business counseling. Available by appointment only, call 978-425-5761 for more information.

**Interested in any of these events?**

Visit [www.nvoc.com](http://www.nvoc.com) for more information and event registration!

## Friends of the Ayer Library

### Dining for a Cause at Tiny's Restaurant!

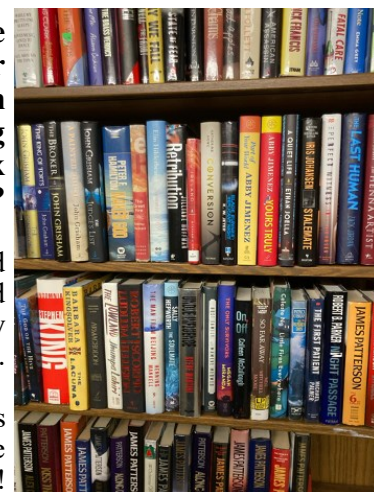
Support the Ayer Library by dining in or ordering to-go from Tiny's Restaurant (2 Groton School Rd. 978-772-2917) on Tuesday, March 26th between 5:00 and 8:00pm. A portion of the proceeds from each meal will be given to The Friends to help support Ayer Library programs and services.

**Did you know the Friends of the Ayer Library maintains an always-open (during library hours) book and media sale?**

Hardcover books and DVD's are \$1.00 and Paperbacks are only .50 cents.

Stop by the The Friends Book Cellar today and see what treasures you find!

**Want to do more to support The Friends?**  
Visit [www.ayerlibrary.org/friends](http://www.ayerlibrary.org/friends) to find out how!



## Ayer American Legion Post 139 Flag Placements & Memorial Day Parade Events

**Saturday, May 18th:** Flag placement at Woodlawn Cemetery beginning at 8:00am. Then continuing on to St. Mary's cemetery.

### Saturday May 25th Memorial Day Parade

- 8:20am: Meet at Woodlawn Cemetery for Memorial Day exercises.
- 9:30am: Meet at St. Mary's Cemetery for Memorial Day exercises
- Directly following the ceremonies at St. Mary's: Parade units will assemble at the Department of Public works before stepping off towards Ayer Town Hall.
- Following a brief memorial ceremony at Town Hall, the parade will continue down to Pirone Park for the final memorial service, the Naval ceremony.

**The parade is estimated to step off at 10:00am and arrive at Town Hall at 10:30am**

## Ayer Cultural Council

The Ayer Cultural Council's mission is to promote, nurture and maintain the vitality of the cultural resources within the Ayer community. With the annual grant from the State, our role is to distribute the funding appropriately to support various activities that would enhance cultural awareness in the Ayer community.

This year, the Ayer Cultural Council approved 21 grants in total. These include local events such as Elijah T. Grasshopper & Friends at the Ayer Community School, Children's Songs and Singing at the Family Partnership, and a Decorative Paper Workshop at the Ayer Senior Center.

Other projects coming in 2024 will include a Build a Flag Workshop through Clear Path for Veterans on Devens, Open Door Connections at the Discovery Museum in Acton, and Artistic Movement: Moving to Heal at the Virginia Thurston Healing Garden in Harvard.

**Want to help enrich lives through culture with the Ayer Cultural Council?**

For more information on the ACC and how you can get involved, please visit their website, [www.ayer.ma.us/cultural-council](http://www.ayer.ma.us/cultural-council)

# Ayer Youth Summer Sports Camp Opportunities

There will be several sports camps and clinics being offered in Ayer this summer by the Ayer Parks Department! If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Thomas at the Park's Office by calling 978-796-5915 or by emailing [parks@ayer.ma.us](mailto:parks@ayer.ma.us)

## Panthers Basketball Clinics—For players entering Grades 3-9

**Girls:** June 24-27 (limited to first 50 paid registrations)

**Boys:** July 8-11 (limited to first 50 paid registrations)

**Times:** 8:30am—12:00pm

**Cost:** \$85.00, \$70 if registered before June 21st

**Location:** High School Gym

This four-day clinic will be run by the ASRSD coaches and players and cover basic fundamentals as well as advanced techniques that players will be needing as they progress to the middle and high school levels. Players will be grouped according to age and skill level. Each session will include rotating skills stations, competitions, and scrimmages. Each player will receive a t-shirt and Panther towel. Players are required to bring drinks and a snack, dress for a full days activity and, of course, come with a positive attitude and ready to play!

## Panthers Soccer Clinics—For players entering Grades 1-8

**Dates:** August 5-8

**Entering Grades 1-4:** 8:00am—11:00am

**Entering Grades 5-8:** 12:00pm—3:00pm

**Cost:** \$85.00, \$70 if registered before July 19th

**Location:** High School Track

This four-day clinic will be run by the ASRSD coaches and players and cover basic fundamentals as well as advanced techniques that players will be needing as they progress to the middle and high school levels. Each player will receive a t-shirt and Panther towel. Players will be grouped according to age and skill level. Each session will include rotating skills stations, competitions, and scrimmages. Players are required to bring a snack and dress for a full days activity and, of course, come with a positive attitude and ready to play!

## Ayer Youth Softball Clinic—For girls entering Grades 3-8

**Dates:** July 9-11

**Times:** 9:00am—12:30pm

**Cost:** \$35.00

**Location:** Pirone Park

This clinic will be overseen by the Parks Department, with instruction offered from both adult and junior coaches. Each player will receive a t-shirt and Panther towel. Ideal for all levels of play, with mentoring and skill development for younger players and advanced skills instruction for more experienced players. Space is limited to the first 40 players to register.

## Ayer Youth Baseball Clinic—For girls & boys ages 7-12

**Dates:** June 25-27

**Times:** 9:00am—12:30pm

**Cost:** \$35.00

**Location:** Pirone Park

This clinic will be overseen by the Parks Department, with instruction offered from both adult and junior coaches. Each player will receive a t-shirt and Panther towel. We will cover all aspects of the game such as hitting, pitching, fielding, and, of course, the “secrets of winning ballgames!” Space is limited to the first 40 players to register.

## Summer Miniball—Age Range: 4-7 (Preschool through entering 2nd Grade)

**Dates:** July 11, 18, 15 & August 1 (Thursdays)

**Times:** 5:50—6:15pm

**Cost:** \$35.00 (includes t-shirt & Panther towel) Limited to the first 20 paid registrants

**Location:** Page Hilltop Elementary Gym

The Ayer Parks Department is pleased to announce that we will once again be offering the “Miniball” basketball program! This is specifically designed for players ages 4-7, ideally for kids entering Grades K-2. We will work on fundamental skills tailored to the players who sign up, with the objective to help players gain confidence and a love for basketball. Players under 6 years old need to have a parent or guardian also participate as part of the program.

## Summer Mini-Soccer—Age Range: 2-5

**Dates:** July 9, 16, 23, 30 (Tuesdays)

**Times:** 6:00pm—6:45pm

**Cost:** \$35.00 (includes t-shirt & Panther towel) Limited to the first 20 paid registrants

**Location:** Pirone Park

The Ayer Parks Department will be offering a Mini-Soccer program this summer! This is specifically designed for players ages 2-5 (entering Kindergarten and younger) with the objective to help players gain confidence and a love for soccer. Players will need to have a parent or guardian also participate as part of the program.

# MORE INFORMATION & ONLINE REGISTRATION

[www.ayer.ma.us/parks-recreation](http://www.ayer.ma.us/parks-recreation)



## **Town of Ayer Senior Work-off Property Tax Abatement Program**

Ayer senior citizen property owners, who reside in the Town of Ayer, can receive a Tax Deferral through participation in the Senior Work-off Program!

The purpose of this program is to provide qualified, efficient resources to meet identified needs of the Town, and assist senior residents in paying their property tax bills. By drawing on expertise and skills, it fosters greater participation and engagement in public service.

There are **NO** limitations on the income or assets of applicants.

Program participation for FY 2025 is:  
Up to 125 hours for a maximum abatement of \$1,875  
This program runs January 1st through October 31st.

### **Interested in learning more?**

Contact Amanda Lewis in the Benefits & Payroll Office by calling 978-772-8220 x:146 or emailing [alewis@ayer.ma.us](mailto:alewis@ayer.ma.us)

## **Don't forget your MassHealth Redetermination!**

**Due to the federal government ending the COVID-era continuous coverage requirements on April 1, 2023, MassHealth has returned to their regular renewal processes.**

Up until April 2023, due to the federal public health emergency, federal rules allowed people to keep their MassHealth coverage even if their circumstances changed. On April 1, 2023, MassHealth began redetermining eligibility for all 2.4 million enrollees. These redeterminations will continue through April 2024. Moving forward, as was the case before the public health emergency, MassHealth will require renewals on an annual basis.

Massachusetts law requires everyone to have health insurance, and the Commonwealth continues to lead the nation with more than 97% of residents covered.

Be on the lookout for your renewal forms (many in a **blue envelope**) in the mail at any time during this one-year period. For more information visit [mass.gov/masshealthrenew](https://mass.gov/masshealthrenew).



## **Grief & Healing Support Groups**

*Nashoba Associated Boards of Health*



Monthly, drop-in Grief & Healing Support Groups are held throughout the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health service area. Facilitated by grief counselor Karen Campbell, MSMHC, these groups offer a safe space for adults to share experiences of the grief journey.

These groups honor all types of grief, including grief due to loss, change, and transitions. In recognition that grief has no time frame, those who grieve are welcomed at any time in their journey. Those wishing to attend a group meeting may attend at any meeting location, there is no requirement to attend meetings only in your resident community.

Visit [www.nashoba.org/grief-support](http://www.nashoba.org/grief-support) to learn more about the Grief Support Program. For group dates, times, and locations please visit [www.nashoba.org/calendar](http://www.nashoba.org/calendar).

For more information, please contact Karen Campbell, NABH Grief Counselor at 978-772-3335 x:322

*This free, public service is provided to the community by Nashoba Associated Boards of Health. The grief support program would not be possible without the generous support of the following funders: Emerson Health, Health Equity Partnership of North Central Mass CHNA 9, Community Foundation North Central Massachusetts, and the Haley Cremer Foundation.*

# Quick Reference Guide

## Town Hall

1 Main Street, Ayer, MA  
www.ayer.ma.us

**Town Manager:** Robert Pontbriand  
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 100

**Assistant Town Manager:** Carly Antonellis  
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 100

**Finance Manager, Treasurer/Tax Collector:** Barbara Tierney  
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 152

**Town Clerk:** Susan Copeland  
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 153

**Building Commissioner:** Charlie Shultz  
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 154

**Town Planner:** Danny Ruiz  
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 144

**Veteran's Agent:** Mike Detillion  
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 148

**Conservation Commission:** Heather Hampson  
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 143

**Economic Development:** Alan Manoian  
(978) 772-8220 Ext: 141

## Regional School District

### Page Hilltop Elementary School

Phone: (978) 772-8600  
Address: 115 Washington Street, Ayer, MA

### Ayer Shirley Regional Middle School

Phone: (978) 772-8600  
Address: 1 Hospital Road, Shirley, MA

### Ayer Shirley Regional High School

Phone: (978) 772-8600  
Address: 141 Washington Street, Ayer, MA

### Nashoba Valley Technical High School

Phone: (978) 692-4711  
Address: 100 Littleton Road, Westford, MA

## MART Van Service

**To Arrange a pickup call: (978) 772-8261**

The MART van is available five days a week, by appointment only, during Council on Aging (COA) business hours Monday-Friday 9a-3p.

At least 24 hours advance notice is needed for an appointment (*no same day appointments please!*)  
Charges are \$1.00 in Ayer, each stop, and \$2.00 each stop out of Ayer.

# **Emergency: DIAL 911**

### Police Department (Non-Emergency):

(978) 772-8200  
Police Chief: Brian Gill  
Address: 54 Park Street

### Animal Control:

(978) 772-8200 Ext: 559  
Animal Control Officer: Julie Thomas  
Address: 54 Park Street

### Fire Department (Non-Emergency):

(978) 772-8231  
Fire Chief: Timothy Johnston  
Address: 1 W. Main Street

### Ayer Library:

(978) 772-8250  
Director: Luke Kirkland  
Address: 26 E. Main Street  
Website: [www.ayerlibrary.org](http://www.ayerlibrary.org)

### Department of Public Works (DPW):

(978) 772-8240  
Director: Dan Van Schalkwyk, P.E.  
Address: 25 Brook Street

### Council on Aging (COA):

(978) 772-8260  
Director: Dr. Katie Petrossi  
Address: 18 Pond Street Rear

### Park Department:

(978) 796-5915  
Director: Jeff Thomas  
Address: 35 Bligh Street

### Department of Social Work:

(978) 501-3333  
Social Worker: Brittany Beaudry  
Email: [bbeaudry@ayer.ma.us](mailto:bbeaudry@ayer.ma.us)