



Pine Echoes



Over 80 Years of Communication
September 6^h, 2024

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South Hamilton, Massachusetts

Trails & Sails at Asbury Grove: September 14 & 15, 2024

Join us for a special opportunity to explore the historic Asbury Grove campground, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as part of the 23rd annual Trails & Sails event. Asbury Grove is offering two time slots for guided walking tours:

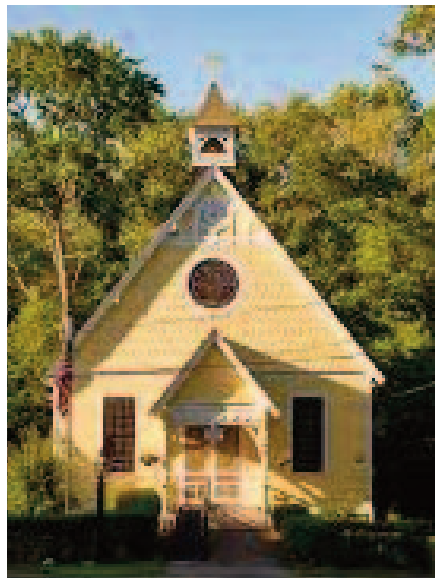
- Saturday, September 14th: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Sunday, September 15th: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

These tours will take you through the 19th-century campground, showcasing the chapel, tabernacle, library, hotel/dining hall, vespers circle, and church society buildings. You'll also visit historic cottages that have been preserved to reflect life during the height of the Camp Meeting period. Additionally, some private residential cottages will be open for viewing, providing a rare glimpse into these treasured homes.

Tours will begin at the Asbury Grove Chapel, built in 1884.

Volunteer and Cottage Owner Opportunities

We are actively seeking volunteers to help make these tours a success! Whether you're able to guide visitors, assist with setup, or support other event needs, your help will be greatly appreciated. Additionally, if you're a cottage owner at Asbury Grove, we invite you to open your cottage for visitors to tour. This is a unique chance to showcase the charm and history of your cottage and to contribute to the success of this important community event. For more information or to volunteer, contact the Asbury Grove Historical Society at ataghistoricalsociety@gmail.com.



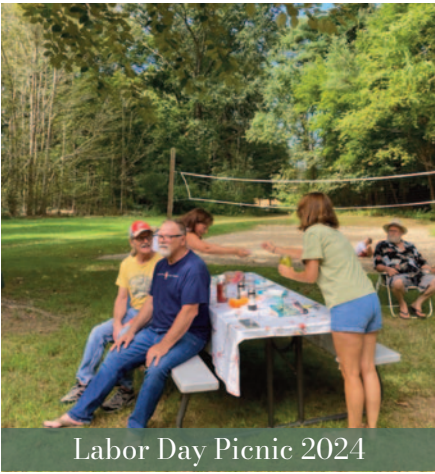
Croc Walk This Weekend!

Get ready for the annual Croc Walk on Sunday, September 10th at 8 a.m. All are welcome to join in this fun 1-mile walk, meeting at 2nd Base on the Ballfield. The walk follows the same path as the Monday night mile and is a fantastic event for all ages, especially seniors, organized by Linda Young.

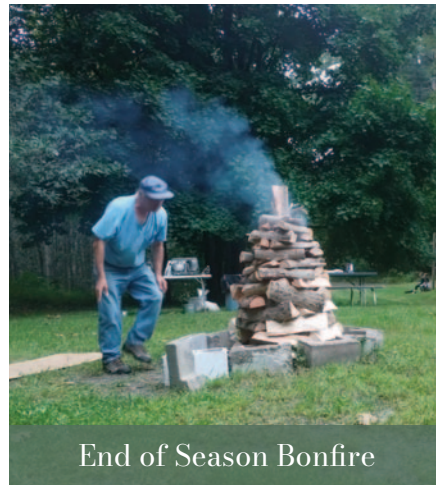
Last year's top finishers were: Bill Zoldac, Katie Krathwohl and Doug Henderson. After the walk, enjoy breakfast and ribbons at Linda's cottage. No running allowed—true race walkers keep one foot on the ground at all times!

What is Trails & Sails?

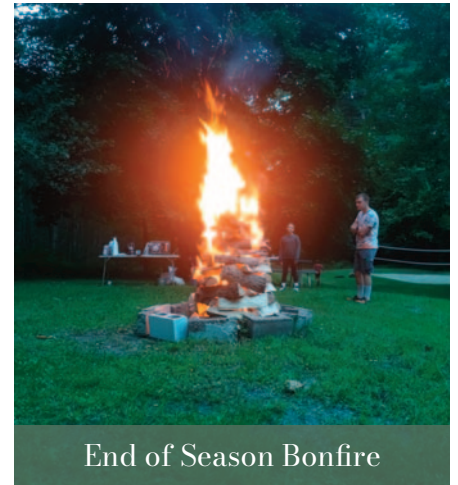
Trails & Sails is an annual event series organized by Essex Heritage to promote awareness and appreciation for the natural, cultural, and historic resources of Essex County. Events range from historic house tours to outdoor adventures and bring communities together to celebrate the rich heritage of the region.



Labor Day Picnic 2024



End of Season Bonfire



End of Season Bonfire

The Extra! Extra! Column by Paula Ricci

It Takes a Village – Gratitude and Grace at the Grove

What a season it's been! From the first BBQ to the last picnic, this summer at Asbury Grove has been packed with moments that remind us of the simple joys in life—a day by the pool, Tuesday night ice cream, movie and game nights, a delicious breakfast at the coffee shop, or the delightful experience of getting “Groved” on a stroll with your dog. Of course, the heart of the Grove lies in the many cherished events that fill our weeks—Vesper Services, fun runs, parades, scavenger hunts, youth center activities, chapel prayers, clam bakes, prayer groups, chili cook-offs, Camp Meeting Week, and so much more. These moments seem to pop up out of nowhere, as if by magic, but in truth, it's more than magic.

This summer, I got a small taste of just how much work goes on behind the scenes to make these events happen. From the Worship Committee to Ladies Aid; from Ground's Committee to the countless volunteers, there's a whole village of people working quietly to create the moments we all enjoy. It's the collective work of many hands and generous hearts that bring the magic to life. And today, I want to take a moment to say thank you to those villagers. Your effort and dedication make this community the special place it is.

For my first two years here, I was more of an observer, cautiously dipping my toe into Grove life, watching and waiting for the right time to dive in. That's just my way. But when I was ready to jump in this year, I did so fully—feet, body, and soul—and let me tell you, it wasn't always easy. At times, I felt in over my head, unsure of how I'd manage. Then, I did

something simple, yet profound: I asked for help. And just like that, people showed up. Food was prepared, pots and pans were washed, and tables were put back in place in the blink of an eye—all because I asked.

It struck me then how powerful it is to simply ask. When you need help from a neighbor, Ask. When you need support from a friend, Ask. And when you need guidance or comfort from the Lord, Ask. Too often, I find myself holding back, thinking my prayers are too small or my worries too trivial. But as scripture reminds us, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

As we close out this beautiful summer, let's all take a moment to be grateful for the people who make Asbury Grove such a wonderful place. Let's remember the power of asking, both of each other and of God. And let's each consider what role we might play in shaping the seasons to come. After all, it takes a village—but what a village we have!



Labor Day Picnic 2024

Help & Donations Needed

The youth program is in need of 18-20 gallon storage containers to store supplies over the winter months. If you have any extra tubs available to donate, please bring them to the Youth Center porch. We will put them to good use!

Upcoming Christmas Fair

Post-Season Event Planning is underway for this year's Christmas Fair, scheduled for November 22nd and 23rd. This event has been a longstanding fundraiser, supporting the restoration of our historic facilities. We are currently collecting gift items, toys, decorations, and jewelry. Volunteers are also needed to help prepare for the fair. Starting in September, we will meet every other Monday night to work on fair items. More information will be available soon. For questions, contact Kathy or Sandy at (978) 998-9749.



2023 Christmas Vesper and
Covered Dish Fellowship

Cottage Owners Meeting Overview

At the recent Fall Cottage Owners Meeting, a variety of updates and reports were shared, highlighting both accomplishments and upcoming plans within the Asbury Grove community. Although this overview is not exhaustive, it will give a sense of what happened in the Chapel on that beautiful August morning after the last Coffee Shop of the season.

This year's Camp Meeting was a success, with morning prayers kicking off each day and 36 participants by the end of the week. Bible Study and Prayer leaders Dan and Gina Blaze, who guided these sessions, are scheduled to return in October. Additionally, the chapel is now open for daily morning prayers, offering a quiet place for reflection and spiritual growth. United Methodist Church (UMC) has designated Rob Parody as the UMC representative to Asbury Grove.

The youth program wrapped up its season with a fun-filled trip to Canobie Lake, while the Wednesday evening teen program was also a great success. Looking ahead, the community is encouraged to engage with next summer's youth program, fostering connections between generations and strengthening our sense of unity.

On the administrative side, quarterly bills will be distributed during the first week of October. Cottage owners interested in making monthly payments are welcome to do so. In grounds-related

matters, residents are reminded not to place furniture on their front lawns or in the open space in front of the Grove on Highland Street. Everyone is encouraged to find ways to dispose of unwanted items without burdening the community. Please obtain a sticker from the town if needed. Any concerns or issues regarding grounds should be sent via email. For those who wish to leave a vehicle at the Grove during the winter, please contact the office. Only one car per cottage is allowed, and it must be parked in the designated area, fully licensed, registered, and insured.

Updates on the Wesley House renovation were also shared, with new windows, painting, roofing, and plumbing projects in progress. The community is invited to participate in ****Trails and Sails****, a program offering tours and cottage visitations. If you're willing to open your cottage for these tours, please contact Bill Zoldak to be added to the list.

The meeting was a valuable time to reflect on the year's progress and look ahead to future events and opportunities. More details from the meeting will be available in the minutes, so please keep an eye out. As always, the collaboration and participation of all cottage owners are vital to keeping the Grove community vibrant and welcoming.

End of Season Reminder

As we wrap up the season, please note that the End of Year Slide Show and Covered Dish Supper has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 14th at 6 PM in the Dining Hall. We hope to see you there to celebrate all the wonderful memories we've made this year! Additionally, the Men's Class will continue into September, and the Ladies Prayer Group will also be meeting regularly. We encourage you to join these ongoing gatherings as we transition into the fall season.



The Watchful Eye

Suspicious Activity: If you see anything suspicious or unusual, report it immediately to Safety & Security, or call 911 if necessary.

End of Season Note

As we wrap up another wonderful season, I want to personally thank everyone who submitted information, photos, and content to the Pine Echoes. Your contributions have brought this newsletter to life and truly reflect the heart of our community. I'd also like to express special gratitude for the unwavering support of the Cottage Owners Association and Paula Ricci, our very own Pine Echoes Reporter, whose dedication made this season extra special.

This marks the close of my third season leading the Pine Echoes, and I'm excited to share that since taking the reigns I've published more than 50 multipage PDF issues, with many more emails sent throughout the year. We now have 360 people on the Cottage Owners Newsletter Email list! Of those, 296 check the Pine Echoes emails, and around 185 people are reading the PDF weekly—thank you for being so engaged!

During the offseason, if you have any notices, please email them to pineechoesnewsletter@gmail.com and send me a quick text to follow up. My number is listed in the Asbury Grove Cottage Owners list. Looking ahead to next year, I'm excited to announce that we will have printed copies of the Pine Echoes available. We are currently exploring places and ways to distribute them, so if you're interested in helping, please reach out via email.

I'd love to keep hearing from you! Feel free to send story ideas, photos, poetry, or any other creative writing that connects to the Grove community. And don't forget to share any achievements or recognitions you'd like to celebrate. Just a reminder, submissions should be sent at least two weeks before your event. Thank you again for making Pine Echoes something special. I look forward to keeping the connection going throughout the year!

Thank You,
Katherine DeSilva

www.PineEchoes.info



Labor Day Vespers Service 2024