

AVMA Friends and Alumni Monthly Digest

October 2021

Hi everybody!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the AVMA Friends and Alumni Monthly Digest – thanks for reading! The goal here is to send out a quick update each month to let you know what the show choirs have been up to, what’s coming up on the calendar, and ways you can continue to support the program if you’re so inclined. Expect something to come out once a month, on or around the first of the month, during the show choir season. This issue will be longer than usual because we’re about to cover a lot of ground for the first time. Make sense? Let’s hope so, because we’re done with the preamble and moving on to this month’s update.

Record Breaking AVM Car Wash Sep 18. For the first time in two years, we were able to hold a Saturday morning car wash in the West Middle School parking lot, and what a car wash it was. Not only did we tie a record by ruining zero clear coat finishes on any of the cars, but **we set a record by raising \$2296 over the course of five hours!** Whether it was pent-up pandemic demand, or especially compelling sign holding on Shawsheen Road, or what, the kids’ performance blew away all of our expectations. Some alumni were there as well, both getting their cars washed and even helping wash the cars. If you missed out, don’t worry – we’ll be holding another car wash in the spring. Your cars will be totally gross by then so you’ll definitely need them washed, and the kids will be there with soapy water and songs at the ready.



Andover Thrives Performance Sep 25. Instead of the standard Andover Days this year, the



town held an Andover Thrives event at the Lower Shawsheen/Balmoral soccer field as part of the celebration of the town’s 375th anniversary. But like past Andover Days, the show choirs all came out and performed a few songs for the crowd. We live-streamed it on the public-facing Andover Vocal Music Association Facebook page. If you missed it live, we loaded [a recording of the](#)

[performance](#) on the [AVMA YouTube channel](#). Give it a view and while you’re there, hit the Subscribe button on our channel so you’ll be among the first to know when we upload more content.

AVMA Friends and Alumni Monthly Digest

Tasty Tuesdays. AVMA has really upped its game when it comes to Tasty Tuesdays (aka and perhaps formerly known as Family Dinner Nights), where you get a meal from a local restaurant on a Tuesday and that restaurant donates a portion of the bill back to AVMA. We've got a few lined up for the rest of 2021, and here are the dates and times:

- **Tues Oct 5: 34 Park in Andover.** 34 Park will donate 15% of all orders that day – lunch or dinner, take-out or dine-in – back to AVMA. No secret handshakes, no promo codes – any and all customers at 34 Park will contribute to the fundraiser!
- **Tues Nov 2: Otto Pizza in Andover.** Same deal as 34 Park – 15% donation, no promo codes, dine-in or take-out – but only for orders from 4-9 PM.
- **Tues Nov 9: Andover Bookstore.** Tasty Tuesday becomes Texty Tuesday when the Andover Bookstore contributes 20% back on purchases from 5-7 PM. Last year they accepted phone orders and shipped packages out of town, so if you're no longer local, you might have an opportunity to participate in this one!
- **Tues Dec 7: The Chateau in Andover.** 15% donation, all meals all day. There may be a promo code involved though – if there is, we'll let you know ahead of time.



All of these events are great ways to not only support the show choirs but also local businesses, so mark your calendars today and we hope to see you at all of them!

AVM Broadway Cabaret Fri Oct 15 7 PM. Again, after a one-year hiatus, we're excited to have an in-person AVM Broadway Cabaret on Friday Oct 15 at 7 PM at the Collins Center.



We'll get to see all three show choirs perform, along with an array of solo and small group acts taking on a variety of songs from Broadway musicals. A few more details for now, with more to come:

- We will be selling tickets, both online ahead of time and at the door. As soon as we have the link for the advanced ticket purchasing, we'll get it out on our social media channels.



AVMA Friends and Alumni Monthly Digest

- Remember to bring your masks! Since we'll be indoors at the Collins Center, we need to have our masks on.
- The show will have an intermission during which we'll all get a mask break outdoors. (Fingers crossed for good weather!) We will also set up a small concessions stand so you can enjoy a snack and a drink during the break.
- We're not sure yet if we'll be able to manage a livestream or recording to post on YouTube, so make it a priority to join us in person! If we can swing something online, we'll let everybody know.

We can't wait for Oct 15 – see you there!

Other Ways to Support AVMA. In addition to the Tasty Tuesdays and live performances during the school year, we've set up a number of other options that people can choose to help support our program.

- **Scrip/RaiseRight.** Scrip/RaiseRight is a fundraising program in which you purchase gift cards from any of hundreds of stores and businesses through them, and a percentage of the value of the gift cards get donated back to AVMA. We're not talking about random online vendors that nobody's heard of – we're talking Starbucks, Apple, Best Buy, the Gap, Stop & Shop, Chili's, Panera, you name it. And we're talking some pretty significant cash back percentages – 10%+ in many cases, with occasional promotions taking things as high as 20%.

Scrip/RaiseRight offers up a really easy way to support AVMA without really costing you any more than you were going to spend on purchases in the first place. With the holidays sneaking up on us, now's a great time to sign up and support AVMA. And it's open to everybody!

To sign up for Scrip and RaiseRight, follow these instructions:

1. Go to <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Login/Enroll> and use enrollment code **DLEE76C872773**.
2. Download the RaiseRight app on your smartphone.
3. Visit <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop/Product/Browse> to see all the different vendors and the rebate percentages for each.



AVMA Friends and Alumni Monthly Digest

- **AmazonSmile.** AVMA also participates in AmazonSmile. Similar to Scrip/RaiseRight, AmazonSmile is a super easy way to donate back to AVMA each time you make a purchase on Amazon. To set up AmazonSmile to benefit AVMA, [follow these instructions](#), and be sure to select Andover Vocal Music Association as the organization you want to support. Then, each time you buy anything on Amazon, .5% of the purchase price will be donated back to AVMA. It doesn't seem like a lot, but over time, with enough people participating, it adds up!
- **AVMA Booster Club.** While the AVMA Booster Club has traditionally focused on families of active AVM members, we want to give friends and alumni the opportunity to support the program with a donation to the AVMA Booster Club. Most of the show choir program's operating budget comes from the generosity of the friends, families, and businesses that contribute to our many fundraising activities. And since we are a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your donations are 100% tax-deductible and eligible for corporate matching if you work at a company that has such a charitable program in place.

If you'd like to join the AVMA Booster Club with a tax-deductible donation, you can [click this link](#) and head over to our PayPal page, or if you'd rather write a check, you can send it to AVMA Treasurer Lisa Kole, 1 Trombly Ct, Andover, MA 01810 and she'll take it from there. The amount you pay is entirely up to you. Thank you in advance for your consideration!

Links. We rely primarily on social media to get the word out on happenings and events and to otherwise communicate with the rest of the community. So if you haven't done so already, please give a subscribe or a like or a follow to the:

- **AVMA YouTube Channel:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGreFvbQIEKB_OrD7RLNY0g
- **Andover Vocal Music Association public Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/AHSVocalMusic>
- **AVMA Twitter Account:** https://twitter.com/andovervma_org

And that'll do it for this month! We encourage you to share this digest with any folks not on Facebook who you think would be interested in it. And if you (or they) would like to receive future Monthly Digests directly via email, please use this [Google Form](#) to share your name and addresses with us. We promise all you'll get from us is the Monthly Digest: we won't spam you with plugs for our second cousin's landscaping business or anything like that.

The AVMA Board