

SPRING/SUMMER

2021

Bee

THE
BOXBOROUGH



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Introducing Rose Gage, Community Service Coordinator

One of my favorite quotes, by Margaret Meade, is *“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”* These words exemplify community to me and for over 20 years, I have worked in and served many communities throughout five states.

My journey began in New York, where I was born and raised. I loved the culture, diversity, and excitement of the Big Apple, but always knew that I wanted to go away to college. So, at age 17, I started at Marywood University, a small Catholic college in Scranton, PA (yes, home of The Office). It was there that my love of community service and social justice was ignited! After earning my bachelors in Clinical Psychology and my masters in Agency Counseling, I began a career in higher education.

I worked at six different colleges and got students involved with service and activism, through one-time opportunities and weeklong immersion trips, where we traveled around the United States. I worked with issues around food insecurity, homelessness, economic disparity, immigration, HIV/AIDS, education, and racial injustice. While at Bridgewater State University, I decided to take a break from higher education and enter the nonprofit world. I wanted to give back on a deeper level and gained valuable experience running a food pantry and thrift store, working with foster children and foster parents, case managing young adults who were experiencing homelessness, and overseeing a substance use prevention grant. I learned so much about myself, my privilege, how to be a stronger advocate, and how to help people navigate complex systems.

In 2019, after a lot of soul searching and recuperating from major surgery, I decided to go back to school to get my degree in licensed mental health counseling. This has always been a goal of mine, but I thought I couldn't balance it with working full time. So, I cast my fear aside and took the plunge and will graduate from Fitchburg State University in the Spring of 2022!!

APPLY FOR A UNITED WAY GRANT

If you or your neighbor need support to pay rent or an essential bill, contact Community Services Coordinator Rose Gage, Council on Aging Coordinator Kim Dee (if you are 60 or over), or Reverend Cindy Worthington-Berry of Boxborough's United Church of Christ. They will help you to apply for a grant of up to \$1,000 through the Acton-Boxborough United Way. All requests are treated confidentially. No citizenship questions are asked. COVID Relief grants will be ending soon. **Apply by June 21st.**

Thanks to your generosity, the Acton-Boxborough United Way raised last year, more than \$200,000 for residents and local organizations impacted by COVID-19. We have provided 157 families with emergency grants, including 90 Boxborough residents. We also supported critical operational adjustments at 5 local food distribution partners and supported remote learning centers during the pandemic.

Learn more at ABUW.org

I feel very fortunate to be in Boxborough and have already experienced the strong sense of community and have been welcomed by many. As I think about my role, I want to maintain a welcoming, safe, and respectful space where individuals can reach out for the services they need (without shame or blame). I want to be a resource, advocate and champion for people who are experiencing hard times and challenging experiences. Connection is very important and we need to support one another and raise each other up, not tear down.

I am in the office Monday – Wednesday from 9am – 3pm and on Thursday from 9am – 4pm and can be reached at rgage@boxborough-ma.gov or at 978-264-1719. Please visit the following link for more information: www.boxborough-ma.gov/165/Community-Social-Services

When I'm not working and studying, I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling, crafting, cooking, and renovating our tiny house on wheels, which we hope to bring to Fifer's Day in September. We look forward to our maiden voyage in July, when we travel to Oklahoma for our niece's wedding!!!

Get to Know Boxborough's Council on Aging Coordinator – Kimberley Dee



Professionally, I began working in senior services over 15 years ago. Prior to that I worked as a religious education coordinator, office assistant, Travel and Tourism educator and travel agent. I have always enjoyed helping the elders in my family and listening to their stories. So, when the opportunity came up to work as the administrative assistant at the Groton Council on Aging it was an easy decision. I also worked as an activity assistant at Groton's Cooperative Elder Services. Most recently, I served as an activity director at an assisted living community. I became a certified Activity Director and later became a certified Dementia Practitioner.

Working with seniors has become my passion and I feel so fortunate to work with the seniors of Boxborough, the Boxborough Council on Aging, my coworkers at the Boxborough Town Hall and other Boxborough residents and community groups. I see us as a referral source for seniors in need of many forms of assistance, as well as providing our older adults with social, educational, fitness, nutritional, health, wellness, volunteer opportunities and local transportation services. We also produce "The Boxborough Buzz" newsletter for information, programs and services to our great population of residents over the age of 60.

Personally, I grew up in Townsend, MA and lived in Pepperell for over 30 years. I graduated from North Middlesex Regional High School and Salem State College. I am now a resident of Leominster, MA. I have two children, Michael is a high school history teacher and Tina is a labor & delivery nurse. They are both planning weddings within the next year or so.

I really enjoy listening to music, especially live country, classic rock, contemporary Christian and classical musical performances with my friends and family. I enjoy going for walks, reading novels, playing word and board games, and traveling in the US and abroad. I enjoy watching sports, primarily Red Sox and Patriots games and I can also be seen wearing garb that coordinates with the game of the day or most seasonal holidays.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our drive by or zoom events during the pandemic, but I hope we will all be able to get to know each other in person before too long!

I can be reached at kdee@boxborough-ma.gov or at 978-264-1717. Visit our website at www.boxborough-ma.gov/286/Council-on-Aging for more information on the resources we provide seniors.

Council On Aging (COA) Van Service

COA van service is available to all Boxborough residents age 60 or older, and to adults with disabilities. Rides are available Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The van travels to surrounding towns and may be used for grocery shopping, medical appointments, the pharmacy, and more. It is sanitized between trips to reduce the risk of COVID-19. Drivers and passengers must wear a mask or other face covering. To book a ride, call 978-264-1730, preferably two days in advance. Current fare is \$1 each way for local trips.



Boxborough 2021 Annual Town Meeting

Annual Town Meeting is scheduled to start on Saturday, June 12, at 9 AM. Rain date is Sunday, June 13. The meeting will be held at the Boxboro Regency Hotel where voters can enjoy either inside seating in the Parade Room, or outdoor seating in the parking lot. Both locations will be able to hear speakers, speak themselves, and vote on all articles. Presentations will be shown indoors on screens, and presentation materials will be available to voters sitting outdoors. Voter check-in begins at 8:15 AM, Seating will be set in pairs six feet apart, and attendees are urged to wear masks for everyone's protection. The meeting will run straight through the day and the plan is to finish on Saturday. Food will be available from the Regency or attendees can bring their own food. Town Meeting warrants were mailed to every Boxborough household and are also available on the town's website.



Please remember to bring items for the AB Food Pantry (www.actonfoodpantry.org)

The following items are especially needed:

Hot and Cold Cereals
Hearty Soups
Dried or Canned Beans
Canned Meats/Fish
Rice
Pasta & Sauce
Toilet Paper
Detergents
Incontinence Items
Diapers (especially sizes 5 & 6)

Newest Select Board Members

As a result of the town election on May 18, two new members are joining the Select Board: Diana Lipari and Jennifer Campbell. Diana is a former member of the Finance Committee. Jennifer was an elected member of the Library Board of Trustees for 9 years. Each brings a different perspective to the Board. Details coming and info from our new Select Board our next issue in August!



Community in Covid



Despite the isolation and challenges of COVID, our community of Boxborough and its residents worked hard to maintain connections and take care of each other. Some of these efforts were more public, some much quieter, and some unseen. As we slowly step back into our post-COVID lives, we wanted to celebrate just some of the amazing ways we kept our community going.



Library:

Virtual travel, cooking and more
Virtual story times
Book bundles
Craft kits
Hosted pop-up store for fire relief victims
Open by appointment



Food for all:

Food pantry drive through and delivery
Region offered breakfast, lunch and meal kits to all
Nicole opened her car hatch weekly for food pantry drop offs
Neighbors shopping for each other (Neighbor Brigade)
Lasagna love



Fire Relief effort:

Over 40 volunteers led by Heather Fleming, Becky Neville, Rev Cindy W-B
Raised money, furniture, home goods
Volunteers advocated to find housing
Individuals connected to each resident who wanted an advocate
Freebee market for free goods/food



Community Support fund:

Overseen by Boxborough UCC
Has given out gift cards, gas cards, rent support and more totalling over \$18,000 dispersed
Feed the Need virtual fundraiser raised over \$6,000 to help



Celebrations:

Birthday parades
Santa fire truck route
Easter bunny parade
Outdoor Merrie Christmas fair
Virtual Bluegrass Christmas concert
Virtual coffeehouse

Community Behind the Scenes During Covid

Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.
- Fred Rogers

Like Fred Rogers said, when times are scary, look for the helpers. There have been so many ways that the community of Boxborough has reached out and helped each other. We wanted to especially express our gratitude for a few “quiet heroes” of our community.



Thank you to Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry!

The fire at Swanson Road galvanized efforts of care and support in unprecedented ways. Behind the scenes, volunteers spent countless hours finding furniture, clothing, and housing for the displaced residents. One local leader who has been largely unseen but consistently leading the efforts to support not only the displaced residents, but the volunteers as well, is Rev Cindy Worthington-Berry, the pastor of UCC Boxborough. Rev Cindy was one of the first on the scene on Feb 10 to begin the lengthy process of support. She worked with the police, fire and Red Cross that night and is still overseeing help as needed, months later. Cindy created a leadership team with Heather Fleming and Becky Neville that galvanized over 40 volunteers from Boxborough and Acton to become experts and advocates for the residents.

Officer Rob Arakelian praised Reverend Cindy for springing into action and coordinating efforts. He said “Boxborough is fortunate to have Reverend Cindy Worthington-Berry as a part of the Community. Reverend Cindy is continuously strives to make a positive contribution by consistently stepping up to aid Boxborough residents in need. When the Swanson road fire occurred, Reverend Cindy sprang into action. She personally responded to the Emergency Operations Center established at the Regency and offered emotional and financial support to those families displaced by the fire. She utilized the UCC Church's Community Support Fund to provide for those in need of replacing essentials and played a pivotal role in assisting displaced residents in finding temporary and permanent housing.”

Two residents from Swanson Road fire, Bob and Louise Johnson, had this to say,

“What struck us most is her tenacity to keep helping and helping as time continues on. More than two months after the fire Cindy attended a Zoom meeting with owners, residents, and the condo management company. She spoke up strongly on behalf of the owners and residents. Many of us step forward momentarily and then get busy with other things in our lives, not Cindy. Cindy's network of advocates share this same quality. We could list the items that Cindy has done for the group of fire victims but a much much shorter list would be what she hasn't done.”

Time and time again Rev Cindy has stood with those in need in the community, and not just for the fire relief effort. Griet Dehandschutter of the A-B United Way adds,

“So many volunteers have spontaneously remarked how they felt inspired by Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry during this past year. When Rev. Cindy sees a vital, unaddressed need, she will work together tirelessly to figure out a solution. Food security partners came together at the start of pandemic to create the Food Security Task Force. Cindy's probing questions led to better solutions to the immense challenge of getting food on the table of every single resident. She brings empathy, deep listening, a calming presence, and a healthy dose of humor to meetings. She stepped forward to assist residents with keeping a roof over their head with the A-B United Ways COVID-19 Emergency Grants. She is a bridge-builder in the AB Racial Justice Collaborative. On behalf of the entire A-B United Way team, we thank Cindy for her exemplary community leadership in an extraordinary year!”

We truly are grateful for her leadership and commitment to the Boxborough community!

Thank you to the Boxborough Regency Hotel and manager Christina Phanord

Boxborough is so fortunate to have a neighbor as caring as the Boxborough Regency Hotel. On the night of the fire, manager Christina Phanord immediately opened the hotel to the residents of Leverett House. The Regency used their van to transport residents to their emergency homes at the hotel and welcomed town leaders and volunteers to set up food and clothing stations for all of those affected by the fire. Support from Christina and the whole team at the Regency has been consistent and generous throughout the three months since the fire. Rooms have been offered to the residents at a discounted price, the Minuteman Grille has provided free food and also discounted meals. Operationally, the hotel provided safe, distanced space for Town Hall staff to use to meet with residents in the first several weeks after the fire. Even as recently as last month, the Regency served as a venue for residents to reconnect in a social gathering, offering them a free gathering room, discounted refreshments, and festive decorations. It was a perfect reunion now that most of the residents have successfully moved into new apartments. Through all this generosity and caring, it was clear that the Regency is proud to be part of our community. They saw a need that they could fill, and - like all good neighbors - stepped up and stepped in to help these Boxborough residents when they needed it most. The Regency has also worked with our COA to hand out drive through meals and much more. Thank you to all the staff at the Regency for all you have done!



Police And Fire Departments Embrace The Call Of Duty!!

There is no doubt that COVID has challenged people in different ways and stretched many beyond their limits. However, at the height of the pandemic, when there were many unknowns, a great deal of fear, and a shortage of supplies, Boxborough's Police and Fire Departments truly stepped up to the plate and worked to provide a greater sense of safety throughout the town. They were at the forefront of this crisis and behind the scenes orchestrating protocols and procedures to ensure the wellbeing of residents. Detective Steven Patriarca participated in daily briefings with FEMA, MEMA, Board of Health, and other state and local agencies.

Both departments, led by the Chiefs, established an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Boxborough Regency. With the assistance of Town Clerk Liz Markiewicz, they obtained a certified voter list of Town residents. After being reassigned from their regular patrol duties, Officers Tyler McElman and Robert Arakelian then contacted over 800 residents by telephone who were considered to be at risk for COVID and possibly restricted to their homes. This led to open communication with residents regarding the most current pandemic related information available, and recurring contact with those who tested positive and those considered to be high risk. If they were unable to contact a resident by telephone, police officers and members of the fire department conducted in person wellbeing checks with the resident.

In addition, they coordinated with other outside agencies, including Boxborough's UCC and the Neighborhood Brigade, to assist at risk residents with obtaining the following:

- Groceries
- Prescriptions
- Personal protection equipment (PPE) including masks and sanitizer

They also coordinated the procurement and distribution of PPE to public safety staff and members of the community, including cloth masks made and generously donated by residents.

Finally, they assisted in the establishment of a mass public safety vaccination clinic at the Boxborough Regency which administered COVID vaccinations to Police, Fire, EMS and Public Safety dispatchers from 17 surrounding communities.

As we continue to work through this pandemic, we thank the Police and Fire Departments for all of their hard work.



Acton Boxborough Regional School District Summer Meal Program

(Will be available until the end of July)

The summer meal program will be available until the end of July and is open to ALL Boxborough residents. **Free** curbside grab and go meal kit pick up is available on Wednesdays from 3:30pm-5:00pm at the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School Hayward Road entrance. Each week we provide each person with a bag consisting of meals for the week (7 breakfasts and 7 lunches). Additionally, we provide you with 1/2 gallon of milk and for families of 2 or more we are providing a local fresh produce box to take home.

If for some reason you are unable to drive to pick up the meals (due to illness/quarantine) you can request delivery through the Acton-Boxborough Neighbor Brigade.

- Email **abqualifiedlunch@neighborbrigade.org** or call **(866) 896-3599** to reach a voicemail where you can leave your information.

We look forward to seeing you at the curbside contactless pickup and it is our pleasure to serve our community!

Kirsten Nelson
Food Service Director

Acton-Boxborough Family Network is hosting a.... **CHILDREN'S CLOTHING SWAP!**

Saturday June 5th

8:00am – 10:00am

Mt Calvary Lutheran Church

472 Massachusetts Avenue; Acton

(Event will be outdoors and socially distanced)

Open to the Public

People can bring gently used clothing that their children have outgrown and/or pick up items in current sizes. You don't have to bring items to shop!!

****Sizes are limited to newborn to size 6 kids****

DID YOU KNOW?

If you or a friend or family member need adult diapers & feminine hygiene products, please visit the library as they have these items free for residents. Visit the library's website for hours: <https://boxlib.org/> or call 978-263-4680 to learn more about how you can get these items.

While you are there, don't forget to check out the other resources that are free to borrow. The library also hosts events and programs for all ages. Check their website or follow them on social media (@boxlib) for the most up to date news.

At the Library

Dear readers,

As I write to you on this May day, we have just entered the peak of Spring. Though we are still finalizing our summer and fall plans, here are a few big ones for you to look forward to:

Antiracism Events and Programs

(beginning in June 2021)

We are one of the 300+ libraries that was awarded a special grant to host community wide initiatives. With Boxborough's population expanding and diversifying, we are using this incredible resource to host a series of activities to examine the ideas of race, and promote the ideas of inclusion and love. Please check in later for more details! *The events will be made possible by ALA's LTC: Focus on Small & Rural Libraries grant.*



Community Conversation:

Understanding Racism

(Thursday 6/24/2021 @7pm via Zoom).

We would like to invite you to a special program about the complex, hefty, and difficult subject that is racism and share your thoughts and stories with each other. Maybe you have experienced it, maybe you don't think it exists in our lovely town. We would like you to come, share, listen, and learn, together. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/boxlibracismworkshop>. *This event is made possible by ALA's LTC: Focus on Small & Rural Libraries grant.*



Summer Reading Program, Tails and Tales (July and August)

Our lovely Youth Services Librarian, Heather, is working on a series of programs and activities around this year's Summer Reading Program theme, Tails and Tales. Stay tuned!

Shakespeare on the Lawn – Much Ado About Nothing (Saturday 8/29/2021 @7:30pm)

You hear it right! We are bringing Shakespeare to Boxborough! We will be hosting Brown Box Theater for a live, in-person, outdoor performance of the play Much Ado About Nothing on the library lawn. A workshop on Shakespeare's plays will be held that afternoon at 1:30pm, format to be determined. *This event is made possible by the generous donation of the Friends of the Library, the Sargent Memorial Library Foundation, and the Whitcomb House Trust.*

We have much in our pipeline that still needs to be finalized. Make sure to check in with us to stay up to date! We hope to see you in person soon! Happy reading!

NEW FREE Local Community Market: Free Bee Market at UCCB

Starts JUNE 5 and June 19



If you drove down 111 around midday on Saturday May 1, you may wonder what was happening outdoors across from Town Hall. What you saw was a "soft opening" of a free community market, designed to celebrate our agricultural roots, help overcome food insecurity, and bring neighbors together. This mini-launch event was geared to the residents who were burned out of their condos in February and those who volunteered to help them navigate finding new homes and the details involved in getting them settled in. But.... we are hoping this will evolve into an ongoing public event, so keep your eyes posted for more details to come!

Our next Free Bee Market at UCCB will be on June 5th! Everything is FREE and all are welcome! Come and "shop" from the generous prepared foods and produce gleaned from Roche Brothers, as well as baked goods

and lasagnas from the community at large. We have seeds to share, and more! Please come to this community event, complete with music and a chance to say hello to neighbors and share what we have amongst us!

We think of this as a win-win-win! Let's give away what extra foods we have and avoid waste, offer free food on a Saturday when food pantries and local suppers are generally closed and create community together!

**When: JUNE 5 and 19 from 11-1pm
at UCC Boxborough 723 Massachusetts Avenue**

Come and take, come and browse, come and just say hello!

Look for more info on our Facebook page **FREE BEE NETWORK AND MARKET!**

Liberty Field Capital Project

After 6 years of discussing and planning for capital improvements at Liberty Field, the Recreation Commission is now seeking funding for the Liberty Field Capital Project at Annual Town Meeting, Saturday, June 12th.

At the 2016 Town Meeting, approval was received to design a site plan, develop construction documents and affiliated cost estimates for Liberty using Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds. The site plan, construction documents and cost estimates were completed in 2019 and the next step is to hopefully implement that plan creating an all-encompassing recreational space benefitting everyone in the community.

The Recreation Commission will be presenting 2 articles at Town Meeting, both of which need to pass in order to complete the full project at Liberty. The first one, Article 6, is asking for CPA funds (money that has already been collected from taxes and matched by the state). If only Article 6 is approved, it would cover the ADA accessible paved path, including new handicap parking spaces, a direct connection to the trail head of Path Hill Conservation trails and improving the irrigation and drainage of the current soccer fields.

Article 7 is for the remainder of the project which includes: tennis and pickleball courts; a basketball court; adult fitness area; universal playground for all ages; covered pavilion with seating; overhaul/renovation of the current baseball field which will create a convertible 46' x 60' and 50' x 70' field, covering a wider range of ages able to use one field.

The current recreational spaces in Boxborough cater mostly to the youth with adults having to travel elsewhere to use recreational facilities. While there are many beautiful trails in town, they are not all accessible and may not be of interest to those looking for a flat area to walk or run away from traffic.

For the playground area, the goal is to incorporate equipment that is inviting to the smallest children, but also challenging for the older kids. Including equipment that encourages children with any type of disability to play (universal design) is extremely important.

During this past year there has been an increased interest in exercising outdoors and seems to be an enduring trend. The adult fitness area would allow residents to engage in cardio, resistance and strength training without going to a gym.

The covered pavilion could be a place for friends and families to meet up for a picnic or used for local groups to hold small gatherings.

The current baseball field at Liberty was unfortunately not created properly; the outfield is uneven with the backfill of tree stumps emerging from the ground, in addition, the infield collects a lot of water, not draining properly. Drainage is also an issue with the soccer fields, requiring days to dry out before they can be used safely.

A revitalized Liberty Field can inspire the adoption and maintenance of a healthy lifestyle, build and strengthen community ties, and bring people together without the boundaries of creed, culture or age. Playgrounds and recreational/fitness spaces are central to the well-being of the community and more so than when they are combined side-by-side: children playing while adults young and old enjoy sports and fitness together. The Recreation Commission believes that Liberty Field can become a benefit to all in Boxborough, making it a more a desirable place to live.

"Americans do not perceive their local park and recreation services as a luxury, but rather view them as a vital part of what makes their community vibrant, livable, and worth the investment" - National Park and Recreation Association



2021 FLERRA SUMMER PLAYGROUND REGISTRATION

The Boxborough Recreation Commission will be conducting its popular Summer Playground Program in four separate sessions in July for all students in Boxborough, Acton and surrounding towns . The program is open to children who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2021 through those entering grade 7 in the fall. The program will consist of crafts, games and sports!

To follow the proper COVID regulation guidelines and to create a more equitable program this summer, please sign your children up for no more than two sessions. We will also be capping each week at 110 students and groups will be broken down by grade in groups of no more than 12 (10 students and 2 counselors to assist). Please also note that this program will comply with any MA state and local requirements or orders in response to COVID-19.

Cost is \$100 per week. No child will be denied the opportunity to attend due to financial hardship. For families facing financial difficulties, please contact Erin Twomey at Boxborough Town Hall at etwomey@boxborough-ma.gov or 978-264-1721 for more information.



Dates of the Sessions

Session #1 | Monday, July 5 – Friday, July 9

Session #2 | Monday, July 12 – Friday, July 16

Session #3 | Monday, July 19 – Friday, July 23

Session #4 | Monday, July 26 – Friday, July 30

Summer Playground is conducted daily from 8:30 AM to 12 NOON. Summer Playground is held at FLERRA FIELD, Boxborough.

Weekly Themes for Each Session

Week 1 (7/5-7/9) = Birthday Party Week- Flerra Turns 50!

Week 2 (7/12-7/16) is Imagination Week

Week 3 (7/19-7/23) is Wild about Nature Week

Week 4 (7/26-7/30) is Olympic Week.

[Flerra Summer Playground Registration Link](#) (go to municipality and go to parks and rec and click Flerra). Registration is subject to availability based on the 110 enrollment cap.

We may be opening up to more than two weeks per student, if we have enough spaces. But, for now, please only select up to two weeks. Thanks!

Fifer's Day with Harvest Fair

With anticipated easing of event gathering restrictions later this summer/early fall, we are excited to announce plans are underway to celebrate Fifer's Day 2021 on Saturday September 11th, at Flerra Meadows on Stow Road in Boxborough. Fifer's Day is jointly sponsored by the Boxborough District Minuteman Company and the Town of Boxborough's Public Celebrations and Ceremonies Committee. This year we are extremely pleased that the Harvest Fair will join the Fifer's Day celebration on Flerra Field, adding agricultural exhibits and activities to the expected mix of Fifer's Day events for the day! Let's see what folks are growing in town this summer! More details are coming about how to enter your exhibits for the Harvest Tent.

The day begins with the Fifer's Four Mile Road Race in the morning, followed by a parade from the Blanchard School to Flerra Meadow, and then the presentation of the Golden Fife Award. The fair activities start at noon and include food and barbecue, children's games and activities, volleyball tournament, booths representing Town organizations, a craft fair, and live music throughout the afternoon. Stay tuned for more details as plans become solidified!



Boxborough Land Stewards

With so many of us working from home this past year it isn't surprising that trail usage has markedly increased. Boxborough has over 25 miles of trails, which provided welcome opportunities for residents to get out of the house safely. Thanks to the Town's recognition of the importance of preserving open space, most of us live within easy walking distance of a trail system. Over this past year, many people discovered the accessibility of the Cisco campus on Beaver Brook Road. The Town has a trail easement along the sidewalk that goes all the way to the town-owned Fifer's Field. The paved pathways are ideal for kids on bicycles and roller skates, as well as in strollers. Steele Farm trails were well-used by dog-walkers and horseback riders while Patch Hill with its miles of trails could accommodate dozens of hikers without being crowded. Navigating some of our larger conservation trail systems can be challenging. There are trail maps at most trail heads, but many people find using a map app on their phones to be much easier. These apps show the trails and your position on them. AllTrails, maps.me and Open Streets are just some of the options.

Keeping the trails in shape is the job of a dedicated group of land stewards who keep the paths cleared and well-marked. After every storm there are downed trees and fallen branches to take care of. Every summer brings rampant growth that must be cut back. Without the hard work of our stewards the trails would soon become overgrown or impassable.

Our trail system has also benefited over the years from the numerous Eagle Scout projects that have provided bridges, boardwalks and trailhead kiosks. In addition, every year Acton-Boxborough Regional High School has a Community Service Day in which we typically have two-dozen high school seniors volunteering on trail projects led by our stewards.

Boxborough is lucky to have so many volunteers of all ages engaged in maintaining the quality of our trail system. The land steward program is always looking for new volunteers—if you're interested please email Liz Markiewicz at ainslie78@comcast.net.





Boxborough Rental Assistance Program

Accepting new applications

Eligible households may receive monthly rental assistance of \$250, for up to three years, through the program. The following income limits apply:

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5
TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME LESS THAN	\$50,750	\$58,000	\$65,250	\$72,500	\$78,300

Housing units assisted through the program must be located in Boxborough and other eligibility requirements apply; there are a limited number of slots in the program. [The annual application period is from Monday, June 14, 2021 through Friday August 13, 2021. However, applications are accepted at any time; if all slots are filled, eligible applicants will be added to a waiting list.](#)

For the application packet & additional information, go to **the town website: www.boxborough-ma.gov**
(Go to Departments >Community & Social Services > Rental Assistance Program)

Applications and guidelines also available at:
Town Hall • Sargent Memorial Library

For questions and application assistance contact:
Rose Gage, Community Services Coordinator
Phone: 978-264-1719 or Email: rgage@boxborough-ma.gov



Programa de Boxborough de Asistencia para el Alquiler

Estamos aceptando solicitudes nuevas!

A través de este programa, los hogares que califiquen pueden recibir asistencia para el alquiler, por un monto mensual de \$250, durante hasta tres años. Se aplican los siguientes límites de ingresos anuales:

Número de personas en el hogar	1	2	3	4	5
INGRESO TOTAL DEL HOGAR POR DEBAJO DE	\$50,750	\$58,000	\$65,250	\$72,500	\$78,300

Las unidades de vivienda que reciben asistencia a través del programa deberán estar en Boxborough y se aplican otros requisitos para poder calificar; además, hay un número limitado de cupos en el programa. [El período anual de inscripción comeca na segunda-feira, 14 de junho de 2021, e vai até a sexta-feira, 13 de agosto de 2021. Entretanto, as inscrições são aceitas a qualquer momento; caso todas as vagas estejam preenchidas, as pessoas que se inscreverem e tiverem direito ao auxílio serão adicionadas a uma lista de espera.](#)

Para obtener el paquete de solicitud e información adicional, **visíte el sitio web de la ciudad: www.boxborough-ma.gov**
(Ir a Departments > Community & Social Services > Rental Assistance Program)

Las aplicaciones y los lineamientos también están disponibles en:
El Ayuntamiento (Town Hall)
La Biblioteca "Sargent Memorial"

Si tiene preguntas o necesita ayuda con la solicitud, contacte a:
Rose Gage, Coordinadora de Servicios Comunitarios
Teléfono: 978-264-1719 or Email: rgage@boxborough-ma.gov



Programa Auxílio-aluguel de Boxborough

Estamos aceitando novas inscrições!

As residências que atendam aos critérios podem receber um auxílio-aluguel mensal de \$250 dólares por até três anos por meio do programa. Aplicam-se os seguintes limites de renda:

Número de pessoas na residência	1	2	3	4	5
RENDA TOTAL DAS PESSOAS NA RESIDÊNCIA MENOR QUE	\$50.750	\$58.000	\$65.250	\$72.500	\$78.300

As unidades residenciais que recebem o auxílio devem ser localizadas em Boxborough, além de cumprir outros requisitos de admissibilidade; há um limite de vagas no programa. [O período anual de inscrição comeca na segunda-feira, 14 de junho de 2021, e vai até a sexta-feira, 13 de agosto de 2021. Entretanto, as inscrições são aceitas a qualquer momento; caso todas as vagas estejam preenchidas, as pessoas que se inscreverem e tiverem direito ao auxílio serão adicionadas a uma lista de espera.](#)

Para ver os documentos necessários para inscrição e outras informações, **acesse o site da cidade: www.boxborough-ma.gov**
(Acesse Departments > Community & Social Services > Rental Assistance Program)

Você também pode se inscrever e receber orientações na:
"Town Hall"
Biblioteca "Sargent Memorial"

Para tirar dúvidas e receber ajuda para se inscrever, fale com:
Rose Gage, Coordenadora de Serviços Comunitários
Telefone: 978-264-1719 or Email: rgage@boxborough-ma.gov



HELPFUL COMMUNITY RESOURCES

COVID has taught us that we need community, must lift each other up, must not shame others for their struggles, and can pay it forward in many ways. Please reach out if you need support. For more resources, contact Rose Gage, Community Services Coordinator, at rgage@boxborough-ma.gov or at 978-264-1719.

<https://www.boxborough-ma.gov/165/Community-Social-Services>

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESOURCES:

Advocates Psychiatric Emergency Services: [800-640-5432](tel:8006405432) (24/7 number)
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center: [1-800-841-8371](tel:18008418371) (24/7 helpline); <https://barcc.org/>
Department of Mental Health: www.mass.gov/DMH
Eliot Community Human Services: www.eliotchs.org
MA Substance Abuse Helpline: [800-327-5050](tel:8003275050) (24/7 helpline); <https://helpline-online.com>
National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI): <https://namicentralmiddlesex.org>
National Suicide Prevention Hotline: [800-273- TALK](tel:800273TALK) (8255)
The Trevor Project (saving young LGBTQ lives): [1-866-488-7386](tel:18664887386) (24/7 helpline)
William James College Interface: <https://interface.williamjames.edu>

CHILDREN & YOUTH RESOURCES:

Acton-Boxborough Family Network: <https://abfamily.org/>
Danny's Place Youth Services: <https://www.dannys-place.org/>
First Connections: <https://jri.org/services/foster-adoption-ecs/first-connections>
Daycare Subsidy Program: <https://www.boxborough-ma.gov/487/Acton-Regional-CBDG-CV-Childcare-Subsidy> (For assistance with day care and after school program costs – for those who qualify)
Doli Atamian Campership Program (for scholarships to summer programs): <https://www.doliatamiancampership.com/>

DISABILITY & VOCATIONAL RESOURCES:

Employment Options: www.employmentoptions.org
MA Rehabilitation Commission: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-rehabilitation-commission>
Minuteman ARC: www.minutemanarc.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES:

Domestic Violence Services Network: www.dvsn.org; [888-399-6111](tel:8883996111) (confidential & toll free helpline)
Gifts of Hope Unlimited: www.giftsofhopeunlimited.org
Safelink Hotline: 877-785-2020; www.casamyrna.org

FOOD RESOURCES:

Apply for SNAP benefits: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-snap-benefits-food-stamps>
Apply for WIC benefits: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-the-women-infants-children-wic-nutrition-program>
Acton Community Supper & Food Pantry (located in Boxborough): www.actonfoodpantry.org
Mount Calvary Community Supper (Acton): <https://mtcalvaryacton.org/community-supper>
Open Table (located in Maynard): www.opentable.org
Stow Food Pantry: www.stowfoodpantry.org
Sudbury Food Pantry: www.sudburyfoodpantry.org

HOUSING RESOURCES:

Acton Housing Authority (applications for Section 8 housing): www.actonhousing.net
SMOC's Rental / Mortgage Assistance Program: <https://www.smoc.org/housing-consumer-education-center.php>

LEGAL AID RESOURCES:

MassLegalHelp: www.masslegalhelp.org
Metrowest Legal Services: <https://mwlegal.org/>
Northeast Legal Aid: www.northeastlegalaid.org

SENIOR RESOURCES:

Minuteman Senior Services: www.minutemansenior.org
Cooperative Elder Services: www.elderdayservices.com