

FALL  
2022

# THE BOXBOROUGH *Bee*



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# Select Board's Corner

When you think of what makes Boxborough special, you might think of our open recreation spaces, our many conservation trails, or events such as Fifer's Day or the FreeBee markets. What do all of these things have in common? People. We owe our gratitude to the many people who work and volunteer to ensure that we have these amenities and more.

The Select Board will be sponsoring two events to thank these fine folks. We will be celebrating our employees with an upcoming appreciation luncheon, and have set aside October 22 to put on an event for our many volunteers. If you have volunteered for the town in any way, look for an invitation soon and let us know if you can make it so that we can plan for food.

There are many ways to show your support for our town—on the town's website is a form for interested volunteers. The Finance Committee, Public Celebrations and Ceremonies Committee, and Council on Aging are looking for assistance. We also have several employment opportunities (you can't beat the commute!). Lastly, thank a volunteer or employee when you see them.

## A New Face at Town Hall

### Kelly Szocik: Town Assessor

My role within Town Hall is Town Assessor. I was seeking to downsize from four municipalities to a single municipality, and Boxborough had an open position. I am most excited about assisting the Town of Boxborough with their overdue assessing projects, bringing the Town up to date, and maintaining the office properly. In the past, I operated construction equipment. I was a Firefighter/EMT and have worked in municipal departments off and on since 1984. I enjoy a challenge and I will work hard to succeed the challenge.



### About the Boxborough Bee

The Boxborough Bee is sponsored by the Well-Being Committee. If you would like to share ideas for articles, share feedback on this publication, or get involved please email the team at [boxboroughbee@gmail.com](mailto:boxboroughbee@gmail.com).



## Volunteer Profiles: Liz Markiewicz and John Fallon

Each year at Fifer's Day, the town of Boxborough awards one resident the Golden Fife Award in recognition of long service to the town, and honors one resident as Parade Marshal. This year, Elizabeth Markiewicz received the Golden Fife Award, and John Fallon was recognized as Parade Marshal. Both Liz and John have served our community as elected officials, as volunteers, and through their participation in so many civic organizations around town.

Liz and her husband John moved to Boxborough in 1994, drawn by the great school system and a new neighborhood that abutted conservation land. Liz started her long volunteer career that same year when their oldest daughter started kindergarten and Liz joined the PTF.

Since then, Liz's many volunteer roles have included nine years on the School Committee, eighteen years as land stewardship coordinator overseeing the maintenance of Town trails, and almost ten years as chair of the Well-Being Committee. She is also chair of the Conservation Commission, serves on the Community Preservation Committee, and served as president of A-B United Way and was on the board for six years.

"Boxborough is a community that depends on its volunteers for so many things," says Liz. "And it's small enough that it's easy to get involved. A lot of newcomers get involved through the schools and I think that is a great way to get started." Plus, she adds, "volunteering is fun!"

Of all the work she has done around town, Liz says that being a land steward has been the most rewarding. "I helped organize the land stewardship program almost 20 years ago," she explains. One of the main attractions of Boxborough is all the open space and conservation land we have. The land stewardship program has been instrumental in creating and maintaining trails. My favorite project was the Hager Bridge that was a collaboration between the Town and Blanchard School. With some federal grant money and CPA funding, we have a wonderful bridge that connects Blanchard School to the trails on the Hager land."

Liz says she was "completely taken by surprise, and very moved" when she learned of her Golden Fife Award. "It was a great honor to be recognized by the community that I have had the pleasure of serving and being a part of for almost 30 years. So many people came up to congratulate me during the day, plus free food and beer all day!"

When not serving the town, Liz is an avid birder and is part of an active bird club in town - the Boxborough Birders.



John Fallon and his wife Pat moved to Boxborough in 1984, looking for a friendly small town with an excellent school system for their two children. The following year, John joined the Finance Committee at the urging of the then-chair, with whom he had worked, and he has served in town government for most of the many years since. John's late wife also began volunteering with local non-profit groups soon after they moved to town, and over time John joined many of these "to support her and then stayed on."

John's many volunteer roles in town government have included moderator, finance committee, Boxborough and Acton-Boxborough School Committees, Boxborough Select Board and numerous other committees. He has also been active in and an officer of the Boxborough Friends of the COA, Friends of the Boxborough Library, Boxborough Historical Society, and Boxborough Minutemen Company as well as Household Goods in Acton, Cooperative Elder Services, and the Massachusetts Moderators Association. John received the Golden Fife Award in 2000.

For John, his most meaningful volunteer roles were serving as Town Meeting Moderator for 18 years; serving on the A-B Regional Junior High and Senior High Building Committee for 8 years to expand the schools to meet the expanding population; and helping to found the Boxborough Museum in 2005.

"There are a lot of wonderful and very talented people who live in Boxborough who really care about the town," says John. His advice to newcomers? "There are many town committees and volunteer groups in town. Find one that best fits your talents and interest and go for it."

John says he was "surprised and honored" when he learned that he had been named Parade Marshal. "I was especially pleased that Liz and I were honored together because we spent so many years working together on town meeting."

When not serving the town, John enjoys spending time with family and friends, and reading non-fiction.

Congratulations to Liz and John on the well-deserved recognition of your service to our town!

# BOXBOROUGH GOES BACK TO SCHOOL

*Editor's Note: Thanks to John Fallon and the Boxborough Historical Society for expertise and photos.*



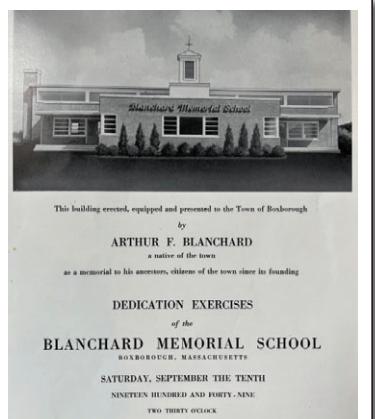
Schoolhouse #2



Schoolhouse #1



Blanchard Memorial School, 1949



Program for Blanchard dedication, 1949



Jeanne Steele Kangas and her sisters, with the flag their mother donated to Blanchard for its grand opening, 1949

It's back to school season! As the kids of Boxborough pack their backpacks and look forward to the new school year, we look back at the history of Boxborough schools.

The history of education in Boxborough is a unique one; a lot has changed in only a couple of generations. Boxborough's older residents born and bred here remember chalk on individual student blackboards in a one-room schoolhouse without running water. It was 1949 before the kids of Boxborough traded their four one-room schoolhouses for a modern school building: Blanchard Memorial School.

A few months after the town of Boxborough was first incorporated in 1783, a special town meeting voted to have 16 weeks of schooling for both boys and girls. By the mid-1800s, the town had built four one-room schoolhouses. Perhaps unsurprisingly, there was always much discussion and debate about the state of the schools. Records from town meetings show debate about building repairs, water and sanitation issues, teacher retention, and curriculum.

Through the late 1800s and early 1900s, there were several failed attempts to build a new school. Once, at the March 1892 town meeting, the town voted to build a new school. But only two months later, the vote was rescinded at a subsequent town meeting, prompting the entire School Committee to resign.

By the 1930s, the Boxborough schools had a coordinated curriculum, attendance and vaccination requirements, and a shared graduated exercise at Town Hall, with students traveling to one of the surrounding towns for high school. But the physical conditions of the Boxborough schoolhouses was deteriorating; the schoolhouses had electricity but reported dry wells, disease outbreaks, sanitation problems, and heating and lighting problems.

Finally, in 1946, Author Blanchard pledged to donate \$50,000 to construct a new state-of-the-art school building if the town could find a site and build the foundation. The construction of the new school was completed by 1949, with Blanchard paying about \$140,000 total in cash and services. The Blanchard School was dedicated on September 10, 1949. At the time, it was the most modern school in Massachusetts.

In the second half of the twentieth century, the Blanchard School was expanded several times to accommodate the fast-growing population, and Boxborough voted to regionalize with Acton and create the Action-Boxborough Regional School District. More recently, regionalization expanded from grades 7-12 to include all schooling K-12.

The Bee interviewed Jeanne Steele Kangas about her experience attending Schoolhouse #2 and Schoolhouse #4 in the 1940s before starting fourth grade at the brand-new Blanchard School in 1949, and interviewed three rising fourth-graders, Jack Connor, Sara Ballard, and Aarush Vemula, about their experience at Blanchard School.

While school is quite a bit different for today's kids than it was only a couple generations ago, some things never change: recess is timeless. Boxborough kids love playing outside with friends!

## Jeanne Steele Kangas

1. *How did you get to the schoolhouse each day? About how long did it take you to get to school?*

We would walk or ride our pony. By "we" I mean my twin sister, Joanne, and me. We would tie the pony to the small oak tree next to the stonewall outside of Schoolhouse #2 (that oak is rather large nowadays), and pump water from the well for him (don't recall what we used for a pail, may have used the one at the schoolhouse or brought one with us). We lived in the house that the Singer family owns on hill road, so it was not even a half-mile to school. There was a schoolbus, and we probably rode that, also.

2. *What types of "school supplies" did you need to bring for school?*

Nothing, I recall. We used chalk at school, to write on our student-sized blackboards, or used the inkwell at the desk to write on paper. Good penmanship was a must, and it was carefully taught. Students were given a reader (book) suitable for their class. There was one teacher and three classes, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the one room schoolhouse. While one class was reading, another class might be reciting aloud, and another class might be studying something else.

3. *What are three adjectives you would use to describe your teacher?*

She was Mrs. Betts, I recall. She was patient yet required good decorum and willingness to learn. She could be stern, especially with some of the boys.

4. *What was lunchtime and recess like?*

Everyone ate at our desks. Our lunchbox had a sandwich, sometimes peanut butter and jelly, and always fruit, usually an apple (our farm grew many apples), and a sweet of some

kind, a cookie or piece of pie or cake. And I believe we were given a small carton of milk. There was always water from the pail that sat on the shelf in the entry with a large metal ladle we all drank from. (That would never be allowed today.)

5. *What is your favorite part of going to school in the schoolhouses?*

What else? Recess. We played mostly in the large field across from the schoolhouse. We played tag, and probably other active games. At Schoolhouse #4 (on Burroughs Road where Pine Hill comes down) we played baseball in the field across the street, just to the east of Pine Hill Road. There's a house there today. We also played on the field directly across Burroughs Road (there's a house there today, also).

## Jack Connor

1. *How do you get to school each day? About how long does it take you to get to school?*

Sometimes when I am early and get ready on time, I will take the bus which picks up at the end of our street. Otherwise, my mom or dad drives me to school. The bus takes a lot longer than if mom or dad drives me especially on the way home. It takes us about 15 minutes to get to school. If I take the bus it takes about 45 minutes to get home from school.

2. *What types of "school supplies" do you need to get for school this year?*

Luckily we don't have to buy our own school supplies this year, Blanchard helps pay for them. But, I do like to get fun snacks for snack time.

3. *What are three adjectives you would use to describe your teachers?*

Enthusiastic, Caring, Supporting

4. *What is lunchtime and recess like?*

It's really fun, but really loud. You get to eat with the entire grade from the other classes too so if your friends are in the other classes, you get to see them at lunch and recess. I love the breakfast at school too. There is cereal, different types of delicious breads, like zucchini bread, pumpkin bread, cinnamon bread. There are also different kinds of juice like orange and dragon juice. My favorite lunch item is the teriyaki chicken! At recess I like to play lava monster and tag with my friends and use the swings.

5. *What is your favorite part of going to school?*

I love learning new things and I love seeing my friends. I also love having our school surrounded by beautiful woods and getting out to learn about nature.

## Sara Ballard

1. *How do you get to school each day? About how long does it take you to get to school?*

The bus. Less than an hour.

2. *What types of "school supplies" do you need to get for school this year?*

I don't know yet.

3. *What are three adjectives you would use to describe your teachers?*

Fun, patient, and funny.

4. *What is lunchtime and recess like?*

Very delicious. Pizza, salad, grilled cheese sandwiches. Play Gaga ball, and Soccer.

5. *What is your favorite part of going to school?*

Playing with my friends. And eating lunch.

## Aarush Vemula

1. *How do you get to school each day? About how long does it take you to get to school?*

My brother who is going into first grade and I usually take the bus. It takes us around 30 minutes in the morning and 10 minutes in the afternoon. Sometimes my parents drop both of us at school which is a very short ride.

2. *What types of "school supplies" do you need to get for school this year?*

All I need for school is a backpack and lunchbox. Other things like a chromebook, stationery and stuff like that are provided at school.

3. *What are three adjectives you would use to describe your teachers?*

All the teachers I have had at Blanchard are kind, helpful and fun.

4. *What is lunchtime and recess like?*

At lunch we have a big variety of food like nachos, hotdogs and hamburgers. You can also have milk if you want and we usually have to have one fruit or vegetable. At recess me and my friends play sports like basketball, football (2 hand touch), kickball and soccer. Otherwise we play tag/reverse tag or do the monkey bars at the playground.

5. *What is your favorite part of going to school?*

My favorite part is recess/lunch and P.E. I also like math, science, art, music, library, reading and spelling.



## The Schoolhouses Today

Today, the Boxborough schoolhouses are in private hands. Schoolhouse #1 at 45 Hill Road, "Old" Schoolhouse #2 at 799 Hill Road, Schoolhouse #3 at 630 Liberty Square Road, and Schoolhouse #4 at 179 Burroughs Road have been remodeled as private residences. "New" Schoolhouse #2 at 339 Picnic Street served as the town library in the 1950s and 1960s and is now maintained as a museum. Look for more about this Boxborough treasure lovingly maintained by the Robinson family in a future issue.



# Free Bee Market 2022: Summer into Fall

The FreeBee market team has been building this summer, adding even more volunteers from surrounding towns to oversee the pop-ups between our full markets. With the markets growing in popularity and the need for food even greater with inflation, the message of sharing and sustainability is especially important.

**Take only what you can use today. (Items are at their expiration dates, that's why they are given away for free to us.)**

**Share what has been brought to help avoid waste. (Help everyone go home with something)**



**Summer Pop Ups:** Saturdays from June 18 through August 13, mini FreeBee markets have been popped up on the Boxborough church lawn. These pop-ups have been full of produce gleaned, produce shared by neighbors and lots of bread from Nashoba Brook bakery. The pop-ups ran from 10-3, with food added mid-day. Thank you to all the volunteers who help pick up bread, set up red tents and tables, unpack boxes, and clean up each Saturday. There will be one more pop-up August 27 at 10:30 while we see if we have the volunteer power to continue the pop-ups into Fall. If you want to help make this happen, email us at [freebeecommunity@gmail.com](mailto:freebeecommunity@gmail.com)

Overheard at one Saturday market, one neighbor asking another, "What's this?" holding up a mystery produce. "I'm not sure, but someone here will know. That's what I love here; last week I asked about something and got a wonderful recipe from a neighbor for something I had no idea about!"

**Full Market August 20:** The FULL Free Bee Market in August was bursting with produce, bread and people! The produce tables were full of local vegetables and fruit, with a line that started at 10:00 as folks waited for the market to open at 10:30. From Heather Fleming, "Overall, Saturday's market felt like our most successful to-date.. at least in terms of the volume of food. We rescued two carloads from Boston Area Gleaners, and three truck-loads from Will (our one-man gleaner) plus a freezer of meat, and a trunk's worth of bread from Nashoba Brook Bakery PLUS garden produce from individual backyard gardens!"

The Sustainability table shared information about the drought while student Jacob oversaw the 11 Days of Kindness challenge, giving away mugs of chocolate to promote kindness. #PayItForward911 or [PAY It Forward911.org](http://PAY It Forward911.org)"



"Hi there! Today was our first day stopping by the FreeBee event, and we wanted to say thank you.

We were blown away by the generosity of everyone and the amazing veggies we got. We just moved to Acton, and so were not able to do CSA or a garden this year, and this made us feel a little more we were finally home. Thank you again!"



## September 10th: 10:30am-1pm: FULL FreeBee Market with Harvest Fair

This year we are once again blending a full Free Bee Market with elements of the Boxborough Harvest fair. We will have our usual free food, books, crafts, flowers, and bouncy house along with some Harvest Fair traditions! Come see farm animals at the petting zoo and help make apple cider. (Did you know some folks say Boxborough got its name long ago from its "famous" apple orchards, with the apples sold in boxes!) Enjoy the sounds of the Nashoba Valley Band as you visit with neighbors and collect and share free food. The Boxborough Grange is showcasing backyard chickens as well. Find out more about all those chickens you see (and hear) around town, and maybe you'll be able to take home some free eggs!

Schedule:

**10:30 Market opens**

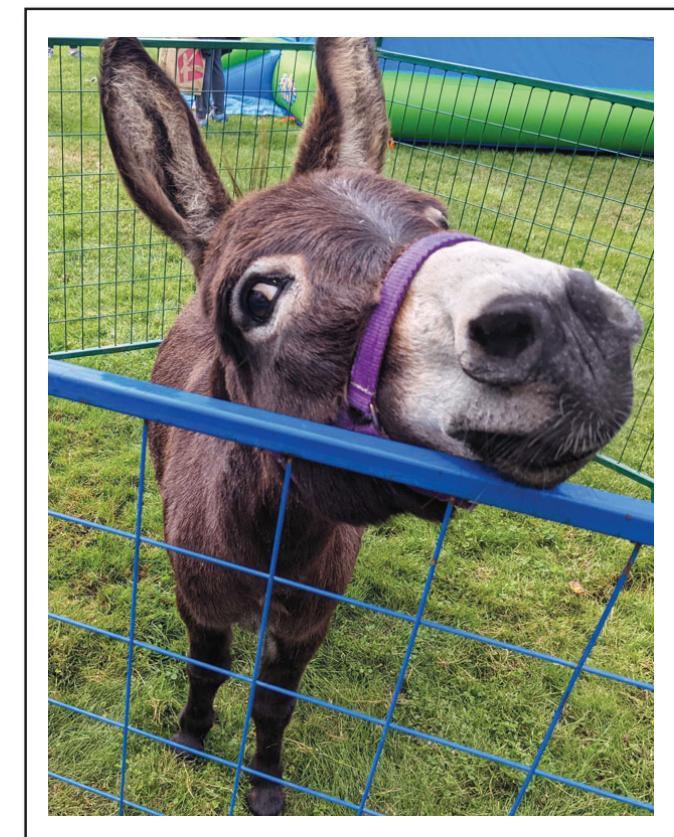
**10:30AM-12:30PM Farm animal petting zoo**

**11:00AM-Noon Nashoba Valley Concert Band**

**10:30AM-1:00PM Apple cider press**

## Oct 15th, 10:30am-12pm: Final FULL FreeBee Market

Our last FULL FreeBee Market of the season with a Halloween twist! We hope to have another costume exchange, and more. Join our planning team to help us make this a very special finale.



Want to know more or join our growing band of volunteers? Email [freebeecommunity@gmail.com](mailto:freebeecommunity@gmail.com). If you or your organization has something to share at our next two full FreeBee Markets, just email and we'll reserve a spot!

# Rec Commission Update: Another Successful Flerra Summer Playground in the Books!



The Flerra Summer Playground program provides Boxborough, Acton and surrounding towns with a half-day summer fun experience for elementary school students. After two long years of COVID, we were finally able to have a "normal" summer once again. Our enrollment cap was lifted, as it will be going forward, and we were able to have as many friends as possible join us for four weeks of summer fun!

Our staff consists of entering 8th and 9th grade volunteers, and high school age paid counselors grade 10 and above. A typical day at Flerra Summer Playground consists of games in the field - such as dodgeball and tenni-ball, with arts & crafts and board games under the tent! Each week we order big, inflatable water slides for what we call "Water Wednesdays" to cool the kids off from the hot summer sun! On the last day of the program, we have our annual water balloon fight and a big talent show to highlight the incredible talent these kids have - singing, dancing, plays, you name it!

We at Flerra Summer Playground really try to make the program a community effort and we can't thank our friends, neighbors and fellow community members enough for all the crafts, games, and other donations they made to us this year. Follow us on Facebook @Flerra Summer Playground to keep up with all that we do.

Can't wait to see everyone back again next July! Happy back to school!!!

*- The Flerra Summer Playground Team*

## Boxborough Rec Running Club Starts Sept 14th



Boxborough Rec Commission's running club at Blanchard Memorial School will meet every Wednesday 8:00-8:45am before school, starting on Wednesday, September 14th. Running club is open to all ages. Participants run around the school yard; three times around is a mile and for every mile each participant get a charm. Kids and parents can walk, skip, run, or dance -- feel free to join the fun this fall. All are welcome!

## A-B Family Network Kicks Off 2022-23 Season



Calling all families with young kids! Are you looking for some mom-camaraderie? Some dad-friends? Programs and events for your toddler or preschooler? A weekly email filled with local family-friendly things to do?

The Acton-Boxborough Family Network (ABFN), a non-profit organization run by and for local parents, is kicking off its 2022-2023 calendar with a membership sale and a full slate of events.

ABFN organizes programming and resources to support and connect local families that have kids under 8 years old. Powered by an annual membership fee and local sponsors, ABFN hosts both members-only events -- e.g., parenting webinars, playground meet-ups, family outings, and moms and dads nights out -- and public events like clothing swaps and holiday-themed parties. Members get a weekly email with upcoming ABFN events and a list of other local events for family-friendly fun.

The group is run entirely by an all-volunteer Board - parents with already-full plates! - committed to creating a community of local families who can learn from and lean on each other.

"Being part of ABFN can give you your own village" says co-chair Kristen Callahan, mom of Andrew (4) and Ethan (1), who joined ABFN in March 2020 to meet other local young families.

Co-chair Julia Day, mom of Arthur (4) and Diana (2), joined ABFN "not too long after my first was born. I saw ABFN flyers around when we were house-hunting, and I was looking to meet people! It can feel very isolating as a new parent, as a parent of little kids. But the more I interact with other families, the easier it is to really see that we all have similar challenges and things going on. It helps me feel connected and keep that broader perspective. I also just like getting to see other families and share fun experiences together."



Kristen and Julia became co-chairs of the organization in 2021 when the prior chair of three years stepped down. "When the need arose, I decided to take it on," Kristen says. "Being able to put together programming for our young families is so much fun and helps me meet people I otherwise may not have met." "I wanted to keep the organization going strong and serving the needs of our members and community" adds Julia. "I have a lot more great, fun memories from this time in my life thanks to ABFN."

This Fall, in addition to its regular programming for members, ABFN is hosting several events open to the public:

- New Baby Event: September 27th, 1-3pm at the Acton Arboretum. Open to all who have welcomed a new baby in the past year.
- Annual Halloween Spooktacular: October 23rd at RJ Grey Junior High School Gym. Sensory friendly 9:30-10am and general admission 10-11:30am.
- Fall/Winter Clothing Swap: November 6th, 8-10am at the Parker Damon parking lot in Acton. Make a donation and/or "shop" for new-to-you items!

For those who are interested in becoming members, the September Membership Sale lets new member families save \$10 off the annual member fee. Visit [abfamily.org](http://abfamily.org) and use code SEPT22ABFN to join.

For those who might want further involvement, ABFN is still recruiting volunteers to help with events and to join the Board. Anyone interested can contact [chair@abfamily.org](mailto:chair@abfamily.org).

# News From the Library

Dear readers,

As I write this entry, we are in the midst of wrapping up the Summer Reading Program and finalizing the Young Services Department's programs. As a result, I don't have a full slate of programs ready for you yet, but here is some of what we already have planned.

**For the adults:** We have a series of art talks scheduled and they are fantastic! From September to December, on the evening of every last Wednesday of the month, Jane Oneail, an educator and the founder and CEO of Culturally Curious will be doing a delightful presentation on different topics over Zoom:

- September 28 - Art of the Scandal: Thefts, Vandals and Forgeries - A look at the most brazen criminal acts in the art world.
- October 26 - Starry Night and Sunflowers: The Genius of Vincent Van Gogh - The life, work and tragic death of one of the world's most beloved artists.
- November 30 - Merry Rockwell Christmas - Humorous and heartwarming images of people coming together for the holidays.
- December 28 - John Singer Sargent: Master with a Brush - A look at the masterful nineteenth-century artist and his celebrated Grand Manner portraits.

Jane's programs are highly recommended and we hope you can join us! Registration is required. Please see our Event Calendar for more information.

**For the whole family:** We are working with some community members to bring you the area's first ever Diwali Festival! The Festival will take place on the Library's lawn. There will be crafts and dances and food and Henna artists and so much more. Please keep an eye out for more details!



**For teens and tweens:** DnD and DnD-like clubs will be continuing with the quests and adventures! We are also adding a coding workshop! Be sure to check our website and follow us on social media for updates on these programs!

**For the littles:** We will be trying out different story time and craft time offers to accommodate busy schedules. Again, check our website and follow us on social media for updates!

By the time you are reading this, dear reader, the day will have shortened and the weather cooled. We will be looking for cozy stories instead of beach reads. Visit us. We have all sorts of books to share. We hope to see you at the library. Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Your librarians The above are just what we have planned for the Summer. More is coming in the Fall. Be sure to subscribe to our newsletter, or follow us online to stay up to date!

## Library Staff Intro

### Peishan Bartley (Director)

- Favorite genre: I try to read everything but I have a special soft spot for fantasies and any books that are a little quirky, a little different, a little non-mainstream.
- A favorite book: this is so hard. Maybe *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke? It meets all the criteria I listed above. I also love the *Murderbot* series, and would automatically request any new books by Emma Donoghue or Claire North.
- Hidden skill or hobby: I am a decent swimmer (horrendous diver though).



### Jennifer Bauder (Senior Library Assistant)

- Favorite genre: I'll read almost anything but I love historical fiction and fantasy the most.
- A favorite book: As a native of upstate New York, I enjoyed exploring the history of this region through the "Into the Wilderness" series by Sara Donati. Set in the late 18th century the author imagines the lives of the descendants of Hawkeye- the famous protagonist from James Fennimore Cooper's classic "Last of the Mohicans".
- Hidden skill or hobby: I savor being in the kitchen and exploring various cuisines. I could talk to you all day long about food!- especially if you ask me about some central New York favorites like Utica greens, chicken riggies, tomato pie or Halfmoon cookies.

### Meghan Bouffard (Information Services Librarian)

- Favorite genre: Horror & Thrillers
- A favorite book: Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia: An atmospheric gothic tale set in 1950s Mexico. Full of vivid visual descriptions, a decaying, molding mansion, and a fiery protagonist - this book is one you can't put down until you know all of its secrets.
- Hidden skill or hobby: I love thrifting and my favorite things to collect are: Nancy Drew books, VHS tapes, viewmaster reels, and anything with cats or unicorns on them.



### Barbara Breese (Senior Library Assistant)

- Favorite Genre: Mystery
- Favorite Book: The Fethering Series by Simon Brett. This series has all the usual cozy requirements-- a small, gossipy village, eccentric characters, multiple suspects. But it also touches on ageism, new age therapies, work/life balance, and the importance of friendships.
- Hobby: Likes cooking but rarely follows a recipe closely.



### Anne-Marie Mulligan (Technical Services Librarian)



savage appraisal of a totally automated American society of the future.  
(San Francisco Chronicle)

- Favorite genre: I read many genres - totally open to suggestion - well, not horror! I love nonfiction, contemporary fiction, and mystery series.
- Favorite book: I am currently reading *Player Piano*, Kurt Vonnegut's first book published in 1952! My son stumbled across this title and was raving about it. I enjoy discussing books with him. It's accurately described as, "A funny, accurate description of a totally automated American society of the future."
- Hidden skill or hobby: I enjoy biking, hiking - anything outdoors. My secret talent is making baby blankets.

### Heather Waddell (Youth Services Librarian)



- Favorite genre: I love a wide range of genres, but anything with a creepy edge is my favorite. Like gothic, horror, ghost stories, thrillers, true crime, and dark fantasy! (On the flip side, there's a big spot in my heart for picture books, and I think more adults should read them!)
- Favorite book: The series I'm currently in love with is the *Wayward Children* novellas by Seanan McGuire. I especially like that each book has a new protagonist and a new tone, but they all still fit together seamlessly.
- Hidden skill or hobby: I'm an award-winning apple pie baker! I even have one of those secret recipes that's not written down anywhere. I love all kinds of baking, but pies are my special love.

### "I Am More" Exhibit and Open House

Sargent Memorial Library, with UCC Boxborough and Acton Boxborough United Way

September, 2022

Contact: Cindy Worthington-Berry, 978-263-7387, cindyworthingtonberry@gmail.com

I am more than my depression...

I am more than my grief...

I am more than my learning disability...

These are the declarations of the individuals highlighted in "I Am More," a collaborative art and writing exhibit created by artist Amy Kerr (amykerrdraws.org), on display at the Sargent Memorial Library in Boxborough this September. The exhibit features paintings of individuals from around Massachusetts, including Acton and Littleton, accompanied by essays to remind us we are more than our life situation, health diagnosis, mental illness or physical differences.

The exhibit came out of the artist's own struggle with depression. Kerr, who lived

in Acton for 16 years before moving to Gloucester, was inspired to share her story and the stories of others as they recognize they are more than the daily challenges they live with. The faces and essays include

issues that many struggle with including cancer, suicide, PTSD, anxiety, poverty, sexual abuse, surviving the Holocaust, and poverty. The portraits depict the subjects in some of their favorite locations or enjoying their favorite activities. According to Kerr, "The pain they live with is just one facet of a person with skills, gifts, loves and hopes that are sometimes overshadowed by the struggle for wellness. The purpose of 'I Am More' is to shine a light on these gifts and start a conversation about these often

taboo subjects with the hope of encouraging others to reach out for help and support, and to feel less alone. In light of the pandemic, these messages are needed now more than ever."

The exhibit is sponsored by UCC Boxborough, Sargent Memorial Library, and Acton Boxborough United Way. All are invited to an Open House on Tues., Sept. 20, 7 pm. There will be refreshments, resources and special guests. This will also be an opportunity to learn more about ABUW's upcoming initiative around mental health.

For more information contact Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry and cindyworthingtonberry@gmail.com.

# Updates from the Sustainability Committee



## Boxborough Drought

Massachusetts declared (7-21) that Boxborough is in Level 3 "Critical Drought" status. Massachusetts Drought Management states that Level 3 communities should place a "Ban on outdoor watering" and "Temporarily limit installation of new landscapes and plants." Citizens are also told to "Take shorter showers! No more than five minutes," and as "toilets are the number one indoor water use, install WaterSense labeled toilets and faucets." The State's Drought Management team says, "Do not water your lawn." The real estate section in Sunday's "Globe" (7-31) says to homeowners, "turn off your automatic lawn irrigation system, and let the grass go dormant for the summer. (It may brown temporarily, but it won't die.)" It says that grass doesn't grow in this weather, so stop cutting it until cooler weather. The Level 3 Drought status makes no distinction between towns with private wells (such as most of Boxborough) or towns with public water. The declaration covers the Northeast and Central Regions of the State, including Middlesex County. Learn more at [www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management](http://www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management).

## 2040 Challenge

Have you ever wanted to single handedly save the planet or at least do your bit and have bragging rights? Now is your chance! Create a Personal Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and earn a "2040 Energize Boxborough" button by putting your PCAP on the Energize Boxborough website. Don't know how to start? Looking for a small team of 6 early adopters for the next 2040 Course which starts on Tuesday Oct. 4th and runs for five Tuesdays. Time 6:30 PM to 7:50PM on Zoom (no need to use fossil fuel). To sign up contact Marjorie Kamp (marjoriek@comcast.net), your guide, for 2040 and PCAP. Be sure to put "2040" in the subject line.

## Energize Boxborough

Don't miss the fun. Go to [EnergizeBoxborough.org](http://EnergizeBoxborough.org), sign in as a user, and play with all the Actions. Figure out how to create a Personal Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and see how you can start the process of reducing your carbon emissions and increase your contribution to slow down the warming trend. The Boxborough Sustainability Committee has two summer interns who will call you if you signed in as a guest on [EnergizeBoxborough.org](http://EnergizeBoxborough.org) during Fifer's day to check in to see how you're doing with the website. Please offer suggestions about your experience. Thanks!

## Celebrating Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry on September 25th



**Where:** UCC Boxborough, 723 Mass Ave

**When:** 9:30am Church Service, 11am Luncheon and Community Open House

The UCC Boxborough church invites community members to join us in celebrating Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry's ten years in the Boxborough community! There will be a special service in the church sanctuary at 9:30 to celebrate those ten years locally along with 25 years since ordination for Rev. Cindy. All are always welcome to join in the service, which will have a guest preacher and special music.

There will be an outside celebration and community open house with a lunch and cake for all! This outside celebration will have food, a few speakers and gifts, and a chance to get together as a community to say thank you to someone who has done so much for our town. Beyond her more obvious recent work with the Swanson Road fire relief and Free Bee Market, Rev Cindy has been behind the scenes on issues of food insecurity, racial justice, mental health and more for years. She has counseled and found resources for those in need in the community with discretion and grace and been a valued colleague to our Community Support Coordinator, often filling in the gaps solo when the town was without that position.

How can you celebrate with us? Come to either or both events! Or write a thank you for us to share...

Help us create a Book of Gratitude by sharing a story or tribute in an email or note to be included.

The luncheon will be paid for with free will donations. All donations in excess will be donated into the Community Support fund. If you would like to contribute, please send a check made out to UCCB with CWB celebration in the memo line.

Send your notes and RSVP (so we will have plenty of food to share!) to either the church at [boxborochurch@verizon.net](mailto:boxborochurch@verizon.net) or [laurence.wellington@verizon.net](mailto:laurence.wellington@verizon.net) or [mary.j.pavlik@gmail.com](mailto:mary.j.pavlik@gmail.com)

# Updates from the Council on Aging

The Boxborough Council on Aging offers a wide range of services, information, and referrals for Boxborough residents ages 60 and up that include:

- Van transportation to medical appointments, pharmacy, grocery shopping, etc, (also for adults with disabilities)
- Fitness, Yoga and Tai Chi/Qigong Classes
- Free monthly lunches
- Social, entertaining and educational programs
- Senior Tax Work Off Program
- Information and referral services to the Boxborough Rental Assistance Program, Minuteman Senior Services (Options Counseling and programs such as Medicare SHINE Program, Meals on Wheels, Care Management, In-Home Services, Bill Paying Assistance and more), Acton Food Pantry, Boxborough Neighbor Brigade, Household Goods, Northeast Legal Aid and NAMI of Central Middlesex (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
- Vaccine & Wellness Clinics through the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health Fuel Assistance Program through SMOC – The Southern Middlesex Opportunity Council

Upcoming Events for Seniors at the Boxborough Community Center: (For information or to register please call 978-264-1730 or send email to [cregan@boxborough-ma.gov](mailto:cregan@boxborough-ma.gov))

- **Monthly Lunch, Wednesday, September 14 at noon** sponsored by the Friends of the Council on Aging. Menu of meat and vegetarian lasagna, garden salad and dessert will be offered.



• **Live Show, Wednesday, September 14 at 1:30pm.** The Concord Traveling Players will perform staged readings of amusing, relatable sketches with a nod to aging gracefully and laughing at ourselves. Some musical interludes will be included.

• **The World of Dolls, Wednesday, September 28 at 1pm.** Janice McIntyre of Jenny Baby's Doll Hospital will present a fun talk on the history of dolls with a display of over 50 collectable dolls from the late 1800's through modern day. You are encouraged to bring a doll and its story.

• **Monthly Lunch, Wednesday, October 12 at noon** sponsored by Vibalogics.

• **Live Music, Wednesday, October 19 at 1:30pm.** The Workingman's Duo will perform music from the 1950's through the 1970's with vocals on guitar and bass.

• **Medicare Open Enrollment Presentation, Thursday, November 3 at 12:30pm** offered by Minuteman Senior Services' SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) Program.

• **Monthly Lunch, Wednesday, November 9 at noon** sponsored by the Boxborough Fire Department.

• **Live Music, Wednesday, November 16 at 2pm** instrumental pieces from multiple genres will be performed by talented pianist Mark West.

The Boxborough Council on Aging Board is looking for new members! Volunteering to serve on the Board involves meeting once a month at the Town Hall to discuss and vote on matters pertaining to the support and enrichment of Boxborough's senior residents and participating as much as you would like in our programs. Please consider joining us. You are welcome to attend our next board meeting on Wednesday, September 21 at 10am in the Town Hall or contact Kim Dee at 978-264-1717 or at [Kdee@boxborough-ma.gov](mailto:Kdee@boxborough-ma.gov) or BCOA Board Chairperson Bill Litant at [wlitant@boxborough-ma.gov](mailto:wlitant@boxborough-ma.gov) for more information.

# Save These Dates!

## **Boxborough Museum Open: September 11, October 9, November 13**

Come see Boxborough's treasures. The Boxborough Museum at 575 Middle Road will be open from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Sunday September 11, October 9, and November 13. Come see Boxborough's historic treasures including the 1850's scale which is sensitive enough to weigh a penny and strong enough to calibrate a 50 pound weight, the "new" hearse built in 1881, and the "old" hearse (come and see how old is old). Admission is free and all are welcome. For more information or if anyone wishes to arrange a private tour for a small group at a different time please call John Fallon at 978-264-0069.

# **Boxborough Library Fall Used Book Sale: November 4, 5 and 6**

Due to popular demand, the Friends of the Boxborough Library used book sale will continue as a three day event. The weekend will start with a Preview Sale for members on Friday, November 4 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 pm. (Memberships will be available at the door). The main public sale will take place on Saturday, November 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Everything Must Go sale will be held on Sunday November 6 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Standard size bags will be provided; pay \$2 to fill each bag however you like.

The sale will take place in the meeting room of the Sargent Memorial Library, 427 Massachusetts Avenue. Proceeds from the sale of books will go toward additional library programs and museum passes.

Please support this sale by donating your gently used hard covers, paperbacks, and audiovisual items and attending this sale. Books will be accepted from Monday October 31 through Thursday November 3 at the library during regular library hours. Please no VCR tapes or magazines or any material in really poor condition.



## **Veteran's Day: November 11**

The Town of Boxborough will be honoring our veterans and current Armed Service members, Friday morning, November 11th, Veterans Day, at the Veteran Tribute Memorial located at the Sargent Memorial Library. More details will be posted on the Town's website [www.boxborough-ma.gov](http://www.boxborough-ma.gov) in the coming months.



# **UCC Boxborough Merrie Christmas Fair: November 19**

A Boxborough event for over 60 years.  
Online Silent Auction, Local handmade gifts,  
Children's Table, Snack bar and more!

# Community Announcements

## **Police Chief Seeks Input**

The interim Police Chief James DiGianvittorio would like your thoughts on crime and policing in the Town of Boxborough. The Chief has developed a survey designed to get input from town residents to provide the police department with a better understanding of the perceptions and wishes of the community. These results will be used to enhance policing services and to provide direction to the department, with the goal of making the department as responsive, cost efficient and compassionate as possible. Your answers are completely confidential and your identity will NOT be known. Hard copies of the survey can be found at the library, Town Hall and the police department. You can also download the application from the Town website: <https://www.boxborough-ma.gov>. The deadline is September 15.

## **Veterans' Services**

On August 2nd the Senate passed The PACT Act into law. Now a veteran can submit claims for various cancers and other ailments from burn pit exposure. Additionally, the PACT Act includes a new presumptive condition from Agent Orange: Hypertension. Please contact James MacRae, Acton-Boxborough Veterans' Service Officer, at 978-929-6614 or [jmacrae@actonma.gov](mailto:jmacrae@actonma.gov) to submit a claim or if you have further questions.

## **Message from the Boxborough Fire Department**

Some friendly reminders for smoke and carbon monoxide safety:

- Have working smoke & CO detectors on every level of your home, outside bedrooms, at the top of open stairs and at the base of cellar stairs.
- Maintain smoke detectors.
- If the detectors use regular batteries, change them at least once a year. An easy way to remember is to change the batteries when you change your clocks. A “chirping” sound indicates that it’s time to change the batteries.
- Smoke detectors must be replaced every 10 years. Smokedetectorsarelabeledwiththeirdateofmanufacture. If there is no label, they are older than 10 years and must be replaced.
- Call your local fire department for further questions and ask for the fire prevention officer to guide you on smoke detectors
- If you hear smoke and CO detectors going off: **Please evacuate building and call 911 immediately.**

Both old and new residents of the town are welcome to come and make new connections with others in town.

For more information visit  
[www.boxboroughminutemen.org](http://www.boxboroughminutemen.org). Interim

# Welcome to Wendy Abetz, Boxborough's Community Services Coordinator!



Wendy has been working in Town Hall supporting the community services since last August, assisting former CSC Rose Gage and filling in for the position when it was vacated this past spring. She brings not only the experience and connections she has already made, but her considerable expertise in business. Wendy is a people person with skills in outreach and marketing as well as networking and communication. She has already made life better for Boxborough residents through her work with the rental assistance program BRAP and her established connections to ABUW, Acton Food Pantry, St. Vincent De Paul, and Boxborough UCC.

**Wendy Abetz**  
**Community Services Coordinator**  
**Town of Boxborough**  
**29 Middle Road**  
**978-264-1735 | [wabetz@boxborough-ma.gov](mailto:wabetz@boxborough-ma.gov)**  
**Hours: Monday 11-4 | Tuesday 8-3 | Wednesday 10-4 | Thursday 8-3**

## Message from the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health

Greetings from all of us at Nashoba Associated Boards of Health! This month, we want to call your attention to something really important: September is Suicide Prevention Awareness month, and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline has a new number: it's 9-8-8. The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a national network of state and local crisis call centers supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). 988 is the mental health crisis version of 911. It's three digits instead of ten; it's easy to remember and easy to dial; it's available 24/7, 365 days a year, and it's free and confidential. This transition is part of a federal level initiative to address our nation's growing mental health crisis, which has been named a top priority by the HHS. ***If you're thinking about suicide, are worried about a friend or loved one, or would like emotional support, the Lifeline network is available 24/7 across the United States.*** The bottom line is that you are not alone, you matter, and there is hope- it's a phone call, text or chat away!



### Resources:

988 Lifeline: <https://988lifeline.org/>  
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI): <https://www.nami.org/home>  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): <https://www.samhsa.gov/>