

SPRING  
**2023**

# THE *Bee* THE BOXBOROUGH



BE INFORMED • BE CONNECTED • BE BOXBOROUGH



# Select Board's Corner

Spring is coming and with it the promise of new beginnings, new life. All in nature needs rejuvenation every year as does even the human creation we call "government." It is important to keep our Town refreshed and renewed with new ideas, new life experience - new people. There are so many opportunities to participate in the governance of our Town as a volunteer. You can run for elected office for the Select Board, the Planning Board, the School Board, the Board of Health, the Library Board of Trustees, or the Town Moderator. You can be appointed by the Moderator to the Finance Committee or by the Select Board to a multitude of committees including the Personnel Board, the Public Celebrations & Ceremonies Committee, and the Sustainability Committee. Whatever your interest or your passion, there is a way you can serve your community. Please help us all rejuvenate, refresh, and enliven the spirit and strength of our community. The Town's website at [www.boxborough-ma.gov](http://www.boxborough-ma.gov) will give you more information and the means to contact the Town Administrator's office to express your interest in volunteering. We will all appreciate and benefit from your service. We need YOU!!!

Diana Lipari  
Boxborough Select Board Chair



May this simple piece of stone be a constant reminder of the cost of freedom paid by the men and women of our Armed Forces of America, their families and loved ones. Whether in peace time or war in defense of our country and those rights which we as Americans daily embrace. For those who gave their lives may this memorial be a symbol of their commitment for generations to come, the price paid by the selfless sacrifice of those who served. May this humble plot of earth be a foundation for the freedom they preserved.

## About the Boxborough Bee

The Boxborough Bee is a quarterly publication 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).



*Cover Photo Credit: Alexis Presti-Simpson, Boxborough resident*

# New Faces at Town Hall

## Melissa Pelletier - DPW/Fire Department Administrative Assistant

I assist both the Director of Public Works and the Fire Chief in the overall management of both offices. My prior municipal experience consists of being a Deputy Town Clerk and an Assistant Director for the Council on Aging. I am most excited about continuing my commitment to public service. I believe in making local government easily accessible to everyone. I have 3 children, and a chocolate lab Maggi and it's no secret she is my favorite!



## Zachary Stillman - Police Department Dispatcher

I am a new hire at the Boxborough Police Department as a dispatcher. I am most excited about having a job in the career field I went to school for. Some interesting facts about me are that I am one of eight kids, I joined the military right out of high school, and that I play lacrosse.

# Town Election Season is Here!

Boxborough's website and the League of Women Voters - Acton Area have everything you need to participate in local elections as a voter or as a candidate. The League of Women Voters - Acton Area has resources to help you get started as a candidate including videos with advice from former candidates and candidate checklists for our member towns. What to consider when you decide to run? We've got you covered.

Explore the links below to learn about open positions in Boxborough and key dates for voter registration, elections, and Town Meeting. Boxborough has vacancies to fill this spring with skilled and engaged citizens like you!

Deadline for pulling nomination papers March 24, 2023

Last day to submit nomination papers March 28, 2023

Position	Number of open positions	Term
Select Board	2	3-year term
Select Board	1	1-year term
School Committee	2	3-year term
Planning Board	2	3-year term
Library Trustees	2	3-year term
Board of Health	1	3-year term
Constable	0	3-year term
Town Moderator	1	1-year term
Town Clerk	0	3-year term

## League of Women Voters Election Resources

- Candidate Checklists <https://www.lwv-actonarea.org/>
- Running for Office Videos <https://bit.ly/LWV-AA>

Boxborough Website <https://bit.ly/boxboroughelections>

# Remembering Honoring Celebrating

Jeanne Steele Kangas



It seemed fitting in this issue full of Town Meeting information and town events, that we should take a moment to honor and celebrate one of Boxborough's champions, Jeanne Steele Kangas, who died January 10.

To say she lived a full life would have been an understatement. From raising a family to creating a legal firm and partnership in Concord to leading Appalachian Mountain Club expeditions around the world to her countless roles as an active citizen and tireless volunteer, Jeanne moved through the world with integrity, energy and gusto.

In fact, Jeanne was interviewed for the Boxborough Bee as a "Women of Boxborough" volunteer in March 2022. <https://www.boxborough-ma.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/129>

Some words from John Fallon, former Town Moderator and friend, one of many who spoke at the celebration of Jeanne's life held at UCC Boxborough --

*Jeanne loved ideas and loved to discuss them. She was a woman of strong principles but was open to reason and rational argument and was not afraid to change her mind. She was what I would call a compassionate conservative, fiercely dedicated to fiscal conservatism but socially liberal and a defender of everyone's right to freely live their life the way they wanted.*

*As anyone who has come to the Boxborough Town Meeting knows, she was always willing to engage in a healthy political debate and urge you to "support your finance committee" (except when she thought they were wrong of course). However, she had the ability to "disagree without being disagreeable". She would never demonize her opponents. Once the debate was over, people were still her friends no matter whether they agreed with her or not.*

*She was a mainstay of many civic and nonprofit organizations as noted in her obituary. She was very active in state politics, holding a high office in the Massachusetts State Republican Party for many years. In 1973 she was the first woman ever elected to the Boxborough Selectboard and she held a number of other town positions including Chair of the Steele Farm Advisory Committee. In 1972 the State refused to patch Route 111. Jeanne led 40 other women who staged a "dig-in" behind a sign saying "Caution: Women at Work" and patched the road themselves, getting on TV and in the national press in the process.*

*Last but not least, Jeanne was dedicated to Boxborough as a place. When Jeanne was growing up, Boxborough was a town of under 500 people and she walked to a one room wood schoolhouse without running water. Jeanne was open to "smart growth" and moving the town forward. However, she also believed passionately in "preserving the past for the future" so reminders of Boxborough's rural heritage continued to exist. For Jeanne this meant preserving Boxborough's open spaces, the stories and artifacts of those who had come before us, and especially Steele Farm and the its farm house which to her was not only history but a part of her life growing up.*

*Jeanne's drive, dedication, intellect, ability and especially her wonderful smile will be greatly missed by us all.*

Watch Jeanne and her sister in action, in this interview at the 2004 Republican Convention. Jeanne was a delegate; her sister was outside the fence protesting. This interview shows her love of her family and her deep civility.

CSPAN interview with Jeanne & Joanne:  
<https://www.c-span.org/video/?183187-3/republican-convention-preview>



# Be Like Jeanne



Are you looking for opportunities to BE LIKE JEANNE and become a more active part of our vibrant community? Here are five different opportunities!

## **Boxborough Public Celebrations and Ceremony Committee**

Do you love the community spirit in Boxborough? Here is a chance to be a part of keeping the town's spirit going while having fun in the process. The Boxborough Public Celebrations and Ceremony Committee (PCCC) is looking for new members. The PCCC hosts the Memorial Day parade, the Tree Lighting, and works with the Boxborough Minutemen for Fifer's Day. All the processes, contacts and timelines are documented so you are not reinventing the wheel. It's a great way for new folks, or newly retired, to join in the community fun. Sign up by contacting Town Hall directly or email [pcccbboxborough@gmail.com](mailto:pcccbboxborough@gmail.com).

## **2023 Fifer's Day Planning**

Planning has started for the 2023 Fifer's Day, which is scheduled to take place on Saturday June 17 at Flerra Field on Stow Road. Fifer's Day is organized by the Boxborough Minutemen Company in association with the Town of Boxborough Public Celebrations and Ceremonies Committee, as well as many other town organizations. The Day commences at 9:30 am with the Fifer's Four Mile Road Race. This is followed by a parade from the Blanchard School to Flerra Meadows at 11:00 am and then presentation of the Golden Fife Award. The Fair will commence at noon and include food and barbecue, including a vegetarian option, children's games and activities, volleyball tournament, booths representing Town organizations, and a craft fair. There will be live music throughout the afternoon. If you would like to get involved by helping with planning of Fifer's Day, or helping on the day, please contact us through the Boxborough Minutemen Company web site at [boxboroughminutemen.org/contact-us](http://boxboroughminutemen.org/contact-us)

## **FreeBee Market**

The FreeBee team is coming out of hibernation, and will be meeting soon to decide on our schedule (and frequency!) of our events in 2023. Now that it is midway through February, we're thinking about our love for spring, community, backyard growing, and reducing waste with food rescue. As we think ahead to the 2023 season of FreeBee, we are more aware than ever that this project is one that we tackle \*with\* the community, \*for\* the community.

Would you like to join us this year? we'd love to hear from anyone who can share some of their time and energy - anything from an hour here and there, to going 'all in' and joining our organizational team. Let

us know what works for you in this short survey [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTEgXva1L\\_AagbnvxHUYIqvE3Z\\_QLdy0iSfARUUir5oKR7Hg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTEgXva1L_AagbnvxHUYIqvE3Z_QLdy0iSfARUUir5oKR7Hg/viewform)  
We're excited to get our planning under way!

## **Boxborough News Project**

Do you regularly wonder "what's going on" around town? Do you find yourself wishing you could turn to a reliable resource when rumors are flying? Would you love to be able to grab a Boxborough newspaper from your mailbox and read timely, neutral coverage of town news and events?

Over the past several months, a group of Boxborough residents has begun to explore the possibility of launching an independent, nonpartisan newspaper. Inspired by the success of start-up newspapers in surrounding communities, our mission is not only to create a reliable local news source, but also to bring the community together in a way that only a shared local paper can.

We believe that by reporting accurately on town issues, establishing a space for opinions and dialogue, and facilitating communication about local happenings, a Boxborough newspaper would add a new and valuable dimension to our community. In short, we think that a town with a local newspaper is healthier than one without.

To make this vision a reality, we need to build a skilled and committed volunteer organization. We need folks from all demographics and backgrounds; we need enthusiasm and ideas. If you want to get involved, want more info, or have a suggestion for the project, please reach out to [boxboroughnews@gmail.com](mailto:boxboroughnews@gmail.com)

## **The Boxborough Minutemen Company**

The Boxborough Company of Minutemen will hold Company meetings on Sunday March 19 and Sunday May 21 at the Boxborough Community Center at 30 Middle Road starting at 8 pm. For information please contact Captain Tony Newton at [captain@boxboroughminutemen.org](mailto:captain@boxboroughminutemen.org), or 617 448 5931.

The Boxborough Minutemen Company is open to anyone of least 18 years of age who is interested in service to the Town and/or perpetuating the memory of the Minutemen of 1775. Our members may participate in any number of the Company's activities including marching in parades, organizing the annual Fifer's Day town festival, performing seasonal clean-ups on Route 111, sponsoring the Boy and Cub Scouts, providing volunteers to the Blanchard School and other service organizations, and participating in our various social functions. The Company also provides financial support to a variety of service organizations and sponsors a number of annual scholarships to Boxborough students who are continuing their education after high school. 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).



# Save the Date for Boxborough's Annual Town Meeting

**WHO:** Boxborough residents and voters

**WHAT:** Boxborough's Annual Town Meeting

**WHEN:** Starts Monday, May 8th at 7PM. Additional nights, as needed, will be Tuesday May 9th, Wednesday May 10th, and Thursday May 11th. [Note the change to consecutive nights.]

**WHERE:** Blanchard Memorial School

**REMINDERS:** The last day to register to vote in order to be eligible to vote at Town Meeting is April 28th. The Warrant will be posted by April 24th and will be mailed to all households.



## Town Meeting Fun Facts

- Boxborough's first Town Meeting was held on March 10th, 1783, just a couple of weeks after the town was founded on February 25th
- Town Meeting has taken place at multiple locations over the years: the old meeting house at the top of Middle/Hill Road (which burned down in 1953), the Town Hall Grange room, the Blanchard School, and the Boxborough Regency
- There have been only seven different Moderators over the last 81 years. Of those, two Moderators served a combined three years, so the other four have served 78 years!
- Town Meeting was initially held in March because most of the residents were farmers and there was nothing to do in March. It was moved to May in the 1970s.

## The Road to Annual Town Meeting

By the time you take your seat at Annual Town Meeting, town employees and volunteers have spent months preparing and reviewing the budget, the warrant, and meeting logistics.

### November

- Budget requests submitted to Town Administrator

### December

- Executive Office coordinates with Blanchard to schedule Town Meeting
- Select Board opens warrant for article submissions
- Deadline for capital requests
- Town Administrator presents budget recommendations to Select Board and Finance Committee

### January

- Budget Saturday
- Deadline for all article submissions
- Select Board closes warrant

### February

- Capital Saturday
- Select Board and Finance Committee review draft warrant articles

### March

- Select Board and Finance Committee conduct votes and draft recommendations on warrant articles
- Select Board signs final draft of warrant

### April

- Warrant printed, mailed, and posted by Constable
- Executive Office coordinates with DPW and Blanchard regarding meeting set-up
- Motions reviewed by Town Counsel
- Town Meeting presentations due
- "Town Meeting Preview" with Town Administrator and Moderator on Cable TV

### May

- Executive Office coordinates with BXB-TV
- Moderator conducts Town Meeting walk-through
- Town Meeting

## From the Desk of the Finance Committee

### Hello Boxborough Residents

We hope you enjoyed our inaugural edition of the FinCom report in the December Boxborough Bee. We will continue to provide you with the details regarding the financial side of the town.

The Special (Fall) Town Meeting occurred on November 15 with a good attendance. We were able to get through all the warrant articles in one night. Most of the articles were covered by free cash. The real good news is that the Town received a land grant that covers two thirds of the purchase of the Sargent Road land originally purchased at ATM. There will be a discussion at ATM on whether to continue with bonding as approved or allow the Town to utilize free cash to finalize the purchase.

By the time you read this issue the Boxborough FinCom along with the Select Board and the Town Management team will be preparing for our Annual Town meeting. The Town will have held their annual Budget Saturday and their Capital Saturday. There is a potential for a large number of warrant articles though we are working to pare them down over the next few weeks. Unfortunately, the increase in the budget is based on a number of factors including the regional school assessment, the employee contractual (COLA) salaries, and healthcare costs. It might be worth reminding you regarding the school assessment from the approved regional agreement. Boxborough's share is a three-year rolling average of the Boxborough student population. Right now Boxborough's student population is growing as a percentage faster than Acton's. The student population will change over time, but we expect increased assessments for at least 7 and potentially 9 or 10 years until Acton's student percentage of population surpasses Boxborough's.

Some things to watch for in the upcoming warrant for ATM along with the budget are capital items for the library (replacement roof and electrical work), DPW (road paving, backhoe, replacement of the inground fuel tanks), fire department (additional Tanker (increase from 1 to 2), cistern inspections and a replacement of the command vehicle), police department (cruiser, replacement bullet proof vests), CPC (housing), Steele Farm (outside painting, roof work), Town Hall (1/2 time assistant accountant, roof), and Town wide items (tree health survey, chlorine system for Hager well and technology to move to the Cloud). Please note that this is not a complete list. Please stay tuned to the Boxborough web site for the draft warrant including the full budget as they are posted. As they say in the advertisements and with some editorial liberty, "an educated audience is our best legislature". And don't forget to attend the Town Meeting in person as your vote counts.

Your Finance Committee

Maria Neyland (Chair), Becky Neville, Priya Sundaram, Keshava Srivastava, Antony Newton, Gary Kushner (clerk)

## Building Committee to Share Studies for New Public Safety Facilities

Boxborough residents and town meeting voters will soon learn of plans to deal with the Town's antiquated fire station and overcrowded police station.

During the coming months, the Boxborough Building Committee will hold forums focusing on the Town's public safety buildings. The meetings will give the public an opportunity to help the BBC finalize recommendations and make plans to seek funds at a town meeting for a preliminary design study.

BBC Chair Les Fox says, "We encourage citizens to participate in discussing the steps we must take to protect ourselves, our families, and those who serve us." The public meetings will give residents the opportunity to ask questions about building sites, construction planning, and projected costs.

In February, the BBC received a professional study by Context Architecture reviewing and updating previous assessments of space and personnel needs for fire, police, and dispatch. Context Architecture, which specializes in designing public safety facilities, emphasized that new public safety facilities should be designed to efficiently and economically serve the Town for at least 30 years.

The BBC forums will also compare Boxborough's current and potential future public safety facilities with those of similar towns in the region.

In 2013, the Town began work to address issues arising from the outdated and inadequate buildings where our public safety personnel work to serve Boxborough residents and the general public. In 2018, at the recommendation of the BBC, the Town purchased a building to house Department of Public Works offices, workshops, and equipment. And now, the fire, police, and dispatch center need significant attention.

The BBC chair is a member of the Select Board, and the vice chair is a member of the Finance Committee. Its 11 members represent a broad cross section of the community. The Select Board has asked the BBC to make recommendations to ensure the Town will have adequate facilities to meet its long-term public safety needs.

Background information may be found in the "Public Safety Facilities Report" at <https://bit.ly/3YMqRkQ>.

The QR code on this page opens the BBC website which has links to a number of helpful documents.





# Liberty Field Scheduled to Break Ground in March

After a long and challenging road, the much-anticipated Liberty Field revitalization project at 110 Liberty Square Road is scheduled to break ground in March, if the weather cooperates. "We are beyond excited that this project is finally underway" said Recreation Commission members Hilary Greven and Megan Connor (Chair). "We look forward to Liberty Field becoming a gathering place for all ages and abilities."

Currently, Liberty Field has two soccer fields, a baseball field, and serves as an access point to the Patch Hill conservation trails. The planned construction will add two tennis/pickleball courts, a basketball court, an adult fitness area, a universal playground, an ADA-compliant paved path with connection to the trails, and a covered pavilion with seating (to be available for private events). It will also overhaul the baseball field and improve irrigation and drainage for all existing fields.

The Recreation Commission recently met with contractor Green Acres Landscaping and Construction to discuss the construction timeline. Weather permitting, the project will begin in March. At that time, the entire parking lot and field will be closed and unavailable for public access. Once demolition is complete, the playground and adult fitness areas will be constructed. Portions of Liberty Field will re-open to the public as construction is completed, including the playground and fitness area, basketball court, and



tennis/pickleball courts. The fields will be last to complete since time is needed for grass to grow. The Recreation Commission expects the entire project to be completed in June 2024.

It has been a long road for the Recreation Commission, "from the pandemic delaying a Town Meeting vote, to getting support from the town for a large budget project, to having to ask the town for more funding in November," said Greven, and they are grateful that the community has rallied around the initiative. "We would not have gotten to this point without all of the support we received."

The Liberty Field project began back in 2015, when the Recreation Commission started to discuss ways to enhance the quality and variety of recreation programs and facilities, per the Boxborough Open Space and Recreation Plan. In 2016, the Rec Commission received approval to develop a site plan and cost estimates using Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds.

After much work and discussion, the Rec Commission came before Annual Town Meeting in June 2021 seeking funding for the project: \$300,000 in CPA funding and a \$1.255 million bond. The articles passed, and the project pushed forward. But when the lowest bid received was considerably over budget and attempts to get a MassTrails grant, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and a state earmark failed, the Rec Commission decided to ask for more funding at November 2022 Special Town Meeting. The town approved additional funding (out of the town reserve funds, so as to not have to increase any taxes) and the project was awarded to Green Acres Landscaping and Construction out of Lakeville, MA.

"We will notify residents via the town website and social media once construction has begun," said Connor. "We cannot wait to share a revitalized Liberty Field with all of you!"





# Sustainability Committee Celebrates “Green Community” Potential

Finally, Boxborough can become a Green Community because of signed legislation: A bill that allows towns like ours, served by a municipal electric light plant, to receive grants for renewable energy projects, reduced carbon footprint, and energy savings. At Town Meeting, voters will have the opportunity to vote on accepting a small monthly electric surcharge that goes toward funding the grants and receiving large grants in return.

CELEBRATE PASSAGE OF THE “BOXBOROUGH BILL”  
WITH SEN. JAMIE ELDRIDGE AND REP. DAN SENA

**FRIDAY MARCH 10 5:30-6:30**

SARGENT MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
427 MASS AVE. BOXBOROUGH MA

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS.

LEARN ABOUT THE SUSTAINABILITY  
COMMITTEE’S WARRANT ARTICLE TO MAKE  
BOXBOROUGH A GREEN COMMUNITY

**GREEN  
BOXBOROUGH**

## “BOXBOROUGH BILL” OPENS DOOR TO GREEN COMMUNITY FUNDING



**Boxborough, MA**

**February, 2023**

Recent passage of the “Boxborough Bill” unlocks significant state support for our Town. Boxborough can now apply for a [Green Communities](#) designation through the MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER). Green Communities are **eligible for grants, technical assistance, and local support** to help municipalities reduce energy use and costs through the implementation of clean energy projects in municipal buildings, facilities, and schools. As of 2022, 290 of Massachusetts’ 351 municipalities have become Green Communities and are benefitting from this program.

**DOER estimates that Boxborough will be eligible for an initial grant of \$130,000 and up to \$200,000 annually to implement projects that reduce energy use and costs.**

Examples of projects completed by nearby Green Communities include purchasing electric vehicles (EVs) for the town fleet, installing EV charging stations, weatherizing and upgrading municipal buildings to LED lighting, hiring an Energy Manager to oversee energy upgrades and associated programs, and installing roof-mounted solar panels on an elementary school. Since 2020, **Acton has received almost \$300,000 from the Green Communities program** to fund energy conservation measures in buildings, purchase or lease EVs, and support other clean energy initiatives.

**For more information check out:**

[www.mass.gov/orgs/green-communities-division](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/green-communities-division)

[www.masscec.com](http://www.masscec.com)

Or you can contact your own Boxborough Sustainability Committee with any questions:

[sustainabilitycommittee@boxborough-ma.gov](mailto:sustainabilitycommittee@boxborough-ma.gov)

**What can I do to help?**

**VOTE YES**

**on the GREEN COMMUNITIES  
WARRANT ARTICLE!**

To participate in the Green Communities program, the Town must adopt, at Town Meeting (**Monday May 8, 2023**), a surcharge anticipated to cost the average Boxborough taxpayer \$5.04 a year. This money goes to the [MA Clean Energy Center](#) that collects funds for grants. If the Town votes to adopt this surcharge, and after meeting DOER criteria, the Town will receive an initial grant of \$130,000 and become eligible for future grant funding of up to \$200,000 annually to make upgrades to buildings, vehicle fleets, and reduce the energy costs of the municipality.

**Want to celebrate the “Boxborough Bill” with the Boxborough Sustainability Committee and special guests on Friday March 10?**

**Scan the QR code below or visit**

[www.energizeboxborough.org](http://www.energizeboxborough.org) to RSVP!



# New Flerra Summer Playground Initiative Seeks Community Guests

An invitation from Flerra co-director Laura Spurling: Are you crafty and want to come do a special craft? Are you a scientist and want to expand young minds? Are you an animal expert and want to take the kids ponding or bird watching? Do you train service dogs and want to come talk about that? Or are you a musician and want to share with us? Have some fun skill we didn't list?

We would LOVE to have people in our community help make Flerra the special experience it is for the kids in our community. FSP runs July 8-28, M-F. We would ideally love a visitor who could stay 9-11am(ish) but we are flexible on timing as we appreciate anyone willing to visit! Please reach out to the Rec Commission if you would like to participate.



Registration begins in April

## FLERRA SUMMER PLAYGROUND

**Weekdays**  
**8:30am - 12:00pm**

\$125 per week  
with a cap of \$375 per family\*

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
JULY 5-7	JULY 10-14	JULY 17-21	JULY 24-28

**Activities**

- ✓ Dodgeball
- ✓ Tennis-ball
- ✓ Arts & crafts
- ✓ Water Wednesdays
- ✓ Talent Show

**FUN & CREATIVE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES FOR BOYS & GIRLS GRADES K-7**

\*Session 1 - \$75 with a cap of \$225 per family

## Help Blanchard Install a New Playground

Blanchard students cherish their outdoor time, especially recess and free play. Over the years, their experiences outdoors have been affected by an outdated playspace that is reaching a level of disrepair. We want a play structure that embodies the welcoming, inclusive and accessible environment reflected within our walls. While we know that the old structure was the ideal at the time, we have outgrown our structure and wish to evolve with our student needs while providing a safe area for students in the more immediate future by avoiding inevitable injuries and repairs. This project will improve our school and the surrounding community. Our vision aligns with our values by creating an accessible and inclusive play structure and welcoming experience that supports equitable play, and a greater sense of belonging.

We hope for donations, grants, and corporate matching to reach the total. Ways you can help:

- Do you have a corporation willing to match donations? Let us know!
- Do you have grant writing experience? Let us know!
- Skilled at smaller scale projects that require no monetary contributions? Let us know!
- We invite you to make a financial donation in any amount.

Your **Tax-Deductible** donation will ensure:

- A safe, inclusive, and accessible playground.
- Creative and fun experiences for a generation of children.
- An opportunity for students to participate in civic engagement and generate ideas for the design and engineering process.
- Investment in a lasting tribute to the community, and a physical representation of our welcoming, inspirational community!




**BOXBOROUGH RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTS**

# 5K

**APRIL 2, 2023**  
**STARTS 12:00 PM**

registration begins  
online at 11:00am

**STEELE FARM**  
484 Middle Rd  
Boxborough, MA

**RUN BXB**

All funds raised will go toward the New Blanchard Playground



# Grace Connor to Represent Boxborough as Project351 Ambassador

Kindness. Compassion. Humility. Gratitude. These are the values of Project 351, a nonprofit that each year recognizes a single eighth-grader from each of the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts as an “unsung hero and quiet leader” who exemplifies these values. This year, RJ Grey eighth grader and Boxborough resident Grace Connor was selected as Boxborough’s Project351 ambassador.

Throughout the coming year, Connor and her fellow ambassadors will participate in Project351’s “customized service learning, hands-on community building, and values-based leadership training” and coordinate “four statewide service and civic engagement campaigns: a spring service in March to benefit Cradles to Crayons, a hope and gratitude walk in May to honor our military and veterans, a 9.11 tribute service in September to support the Mass Military Heroes Fund and a fall service project to benefit hometown food pantries.”

For her Spring project to benefit Cradles to Crayons, an organization that collects clothes for kids ages 12 and under, Connor is partnering with RJ Grey classmate and Acton’s Project351 ambassador August Patterson to set up clothing donation bins at their school and church. Connor also hopes to add a donation bin site in Boxborough.

Before Connor was chosen by her teachers at RJ Grey, she had never heard of Project351. “I was called into the principal’s office and was like ‘what is going on?’ Once I found out I was so excited to be a part of this project and felt so honored!”

So far, Connor has learned “how to make friends, become a better leader, and find your why.” Your ‘why,’ she explains, is “why you do something, what inspires you to inspire others.



Personally, I haven’t fully found my why yet, but I would say so far it is to make others smile.”

As a Project351 Ambassador, Connor wants to “make the world a better place.” Of course, “me being an ambassador won’t change the world,” she says, “but one small step at a time goes far.” When not working on her Project351 community service, Connor is involved in Student Council, school musicals, AB town travel soccer, Ski Club, Cooking Club, and Fit Club, and is looking forward to being a part of the track team again this spring at RJ Grey.

Congratulations, Grace, on representing Boxborough as our Project351 ambassador!

## Boxborough Tae Kwon Do

For over 8 years, Boxborough Tae Kwon Do has become a central program for youth and adults throughout our community and beyond. What started out as a small endeavor, has turned into a life-changing opportunity for hundreds of martial artists. Boxborough Tae Kwon Do is led by Master Rick Barrett, an internationally certified 5th Degree Black Belt. Through his efforts, as well as the efforts of his leadership team, students have the opportunity to study a traditional Korean martial art. The program has a keen focus on building each student’s individual foundation as a practicing martial artist.

Housed in the Blanchard Gymnasium, Boxborough Tae Kwon Do trains Monday through Friday with a focus on traditional Tae Kwon Do. Much of the focus within each training session revolves around the development of mindfulness in movement from a beginner’s

level all the way up to the experienced martial artist. Though many martial arts schools focus their attention on the sporting aspect of Tae Kwon Do, the Boxborough program remains dedicated to the traditional values and aspects of training for which students develop their own foundation for growth. This foundational training provides, if done properly, the martial artist the opportunity to build upon technique with success as the individual enters into the higher levels of their training.

Throughout the years, Boxborough Tae Kwon Do has maintained the belief and practice of recognizing excellence according to student merit and skill. Promotions at all levels, to include Black Belt, are not based on how many class hours a student attends class. Rather, promotional recognition is truly earned based on the individual’s acquisition of skill and dedication to one’s martial arts journey. This promotional practice is inclusive of traditional training, and as such, Boxborough Tae Kwon Do practitioners continually perform well when participating in state and regional sanctioned tournaments.

Boxborough Tae Kwon Do is a year-round program for which new students age 7 and up are encouraged to join at any time. While the first class can be challenging for any new student, we proactively assist and support new students as they begin their martial arts journey. Our philosophy is that the most important student in the room at any time is the new student. New students are always welcomed to visit, to ask questions and to take the first step towards a life changing journey.

Registration for Boxborough Tae Kwon Do can be found on the town’s website: <https://epay.cityhallsystems.com/selection>



# News From the Library

Dear Readers,

The best thing about being a small library in a small town is that we get to work closely with you, our users. We love receiving book requests, magazine title suggestions, and program ideas from our patrons. If what is wanted is within our power, we work to make them happen. From time to time, we come directly to you to ask what you would like to see at the library using short surveys. Please take a minute to fill those out. Our resources are limited, and we use it carefully, aiming to make the most impact with what we have. Your opinions help us make choices. The short survey we put out last year directed our programs this year. And it is based on a patron's recommendation that we added a new book discovery website, BookBrowse ([www.bookbrowse.com/BOX](http://www.bookbrowse.com/BOX)), for our readers to use. BookBrowse offers book reviews, read-alike suggestions, and book discussion guides. Together with NoveList, another book discovery website that our patron has access to, you can gather information about a book beyond what the book flap tells you, search for titles based on your mood, a theme, or a writing style, and find what to read next!



## Coding Club for Kids

Thursday March 9, 16, 23, and 30,  
4:30pm

In person at the Library for kids 3rd grade and up. Registration required.

Code a Raspberry Pi with us! Learn how computers work and build a light-up creation over this 5 session series. All materials are provided. No prior knowledge or experience required, but please pre-register.

## North Sea Gas

Wednesday May 10, 7pm

In person at the Library for anyone!  
No registration required.

North Sea Gas is a highly entertaining Scottish folk band that packs their hour-long performance with great music and storytelling. They have played at the Library for many years, always to a full house, and always bringing so much joy to all in attendance. If you've come to their show before, you know what a good time they always bring. If you've never seen their performance, you are in for a treat!

## Adult Craft Nights

Monthly. Thursdays at 6pm

Led by our Information Services Librarian, Meghan Bouffard, come make a wonderful and practical craft with friends and neighbors. Let your creativity lead and see where it takes you.

There is always something going on at the Library. Please follow us on our social media channels (@boxlib), subscribe to our newsletter (<https://boxlib.org/quicklinks/newsletter-signup>), or look up our event calendar (<https://boxlib.org/news-events/events-calendar>) for our offerings. We hope to see you at the Library!



Going back to programs. This winter, we had the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School's Madrigal Singers carol us; hosted 4 marvelous art talks by Jane Oneail from Culturally Curious; held highly attended adult craft nights; and taste tested Superfood samples that Kim Larkin brought to her Superfood 101 talk. Our Spring programs are shaping up marvelously too. Here are a few highlights. For the full menu, please check our Event Calendar ([boxlib.org](http://boxlib.org)), and follow us on our social media channels (Facebook and Instagram) for the latest news!

## Bake it Till You Make it: Live!

Saturday March 4, 1pm

In person at the Library for older teens and adults.  
Registration required.

In this multifaceted event, author and baker, Dayna Altman, will share her mental health story while conducting a cooking demonstration. Using ingredients as metaphors, Dayna will discuss her trials and triumphs living with depression, OCD, and an eating disorder, as well as becoming an advocate in the mental health community. Participants will bake, learn, share, and hopefully grow with her and together.

## Boxborough Library Spring Used Book Sale: March 31 to April 2

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, March 31 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, April 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Everything Must Go sale will be held on Sunday April 2 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Standard size bags will be provided; pay \$3 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. Cash and checks only.

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 March 27 through Thursday March 30 at the library during regular library hours. Please no VCR tapes or magazines or any material in really poor condition.



## Thank you from the Boxborough Community Services Department

The Community Services Department would like to thank all residents and organizations (Boxborough Minuteman and St. Vincent DePaul's Society) who generously donated gift cards for the Holiday Support Drive. We were able to support over 25 Boxborough families (~76 individuals) this past holiday season by collecting about \$3,100 in gift cards for grocery stores, Target, Walmart, etc.

Along with a gift card drive, we had 8 sponsors who purchased gifts from family wish lists. These sponsors included Danny's Place and the Acton Boxborough Regional School District Staff as well as 6 individuals.

Furthermore, we would like to thank Beacon Santa as they assisted seven families in an additional \$1,300 in Target gift cards. ABRSD also collected clothing in specific sizes for families to pick up when they came in. Finally, we utilized Toys for Tots to provide toys for families to choose from when they came to pick up their gift cards.

Thank you to Dana Labb who we worked with closely to identify needs in the community. The Community Services Department supports people in Boxborough all year round. If you would like to donate grocery gift cards, gas or visa, they will gladly be accepted. Please contact Wendy Abetz, Community Services Coordinator at 978-264-1735 or [wabetz@boxborough-ma.gov](mailto:wabetz@boxborough-ma.gov) to arrange a drop off or pick up time.

## BCTrust Annual Meeting

You may have seen marathoner Dave Barnett out running the streets of Boxborough, but now you can find out what else he's been up to for nearly 3 decades before recently retiring. We are excited to announce that new Board Member, and long-time Boxborough resident, Dave Barnett will be the speaker at Boxborough Conservation Trust's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 21st at 7pm at the Sargent Memorial Library. All are welcome to join us at this free event, the first of several that will celebrate BCTrust's 25th Anniversary this year!

As President & CEO Emeritus, Dave Barnett spent 28 years at Mount Auburn leading a transition to more ecologically friendly landscape design and maintenance practices on this 175-acre site in Cambridge/Watertown. A primary focus of Dave's presentation will be the restoration of a four-acre portion of the cemetery to the New England woodland that was eloquently described at the founding of Mount Auburn in 1831. Phased over 25 years, this project included the removal of Norway maples and other invasive species and the planting of several thousand plants native to New England, comprising 120 species of trees, shrubs and woodland groundcovers. With a vernal pool in the center of this woodland, preserving the habitat for the significant population of Spotted salamanders was a key focus. The project also included the successful re-introduction of American toads, Gray tree frogs and Spring peepers – which had all disappeared from Mount Auburn due to past "cemetery maintenance" practices.

Dave will also share examples of other smaller-scale projects, ranging from a butterfly/pollinator garden to the replacement of turf with native species of groundcovers to the planting of bird-attracting trees and shrubs. Images from Dave's own property in Boxborough will attempt to reiterate what last year's annual meeting speaker, Doug Tallamy, told us about how all of us individually can "bring nature home" and make a difference in making the earth more resilient and wildlife friendly.



## CREW - Carbon Reduction for Earth Wellbeing

**Description:** Five week course on CLIMATE CHANGE drilling down into the book, 2040, A Handbook for the Regeneration based on the documentary 2040, by Damon Gameau. Here is a 58-minute preview if you want a headstart. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zaTGMi11hs>

**Vision:** To spark the exponential transformation needed for a flourishing Earth now!

**Mission:** Build teams/CREWs to create Personal Climate Action Plans to reverse Global Warming and spread the word to the rest of all human beings by telling others about the course. <https://www.carboncrewproject.org>

**Class Structure:** Maximum number of students is 6 to allow for all to participate in discussion and the generation of new ideas. Each on-line (no fossil fuel burned) session lasts 1 hour, 20 minutes with homework assignments of reading in the book (available at most local libraries or Amazon), watching various videos on-line and writing your own Personal Climate Action Plan.

**When:** At the mutual convenience of all 6 students

**Cost:** Free. It just takes your commitment and time to advance your understanding of the causes and solutions to reversing Climate Change.

To Enroll, email the Instructor [marjoriek@comcast.net](mailto:marjoriek@comcast.net) with "2040" in the subject line. She will reach out to you when she gets 6 students who are interested.

**Instructor/Leader:** Marjorie Kamp. A former pharmaceutical purchasing executive now highly trained in delivering this course out of her passion for environmental preservation and climate change mitigation.

### Testimonial from CREW Grads:

*CREW increased my focus on sustainability and introduced new routines into our daily life. – Rachel*

*Joining the Crew discussion group for the 2040 project was a very rewarding experience. I was surprised to find that my carbon footprint was so large but was able to learn more than a few ways to reduce my impact. It was also helpful to listen to other peoples' opinions of the coming climate crises. – Gary & Kathie*

## 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 March 12, April 16, and May 21. 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.

## Why was a Child's shoe hidden in the wall of a House for 300 years?

On Sunday May 21, the Boxborough Historical Society will conduct its annual "Hidden Treasures" event. Every May for the last 8 years, Freedom's Way, a consortium of 45 cities and towns that were involved in the events of 1775, has sponsored a "Hidden Treasures" event to highlight notable items and places in each municipality. This year Duncan Brown of the Boxborough Historical Society will explain the story of why a child's shoe was hidden in the wall of a Boxborough house for 300 years and the journey the shoe took to come home to the Boxborough Museum.

The house, owned by James and Hannah Whitcomb, was built in 1721 in a portion of Harvard later incorporated into Boxborough in 1783. During renovations in the 1950's the small shoe was discovered within a wall in the oldest part of the house. Concealed shoes have a long history throughout Europe and in early New England homes and a single child's shoe was commonly used.

The presentation will take place in the Morse Hilberg Room of the Boxborough Town Hall at 29 Middle Road starting at 1:00 pm. Admission is free and all are welcome to attend.

## Veterans Services

Attention Veterans and surviving spouses. Do you know what benefits you are eligible for? Need financial and/or medical assistance? Please contact James MacRae, Acton-Boxborough Veterans' Service Officer, at 978-929-6614 or [jmacrae@actonma.gov](mailto:jmacrae@actonma.gov) to discuss potential Veteran benefits you may be entitled to.

## Local Chefs Take Center Kitchen for Open Table's Chopped for Charity Gala

Open Table, the MetroWest charity dedicated to fighting hunger and building healthy communities, has announced that acclaimed local chefs Ben Elliot of Concord's Salt Box Kitchen, Matt Kenah of Acton-based WECO Hospitality, and Kelcy Scolnick of Winchester's Wright-Locke Farm will compete at this year's *Chopped for Charity* gala with television and radio personality Chef Joe Gatto as the Master of Ceremonies. Celebrity judges include Tiziana Dearing of WBUR Radio, Andy Husbands of The Smoke Shop BBQ, and Peter Malloy of Nashawtuc Country Club.

This year's *Chopped for Charity* will be held at the beautiful and spacious Nashawtuc Country Club in Concord, MA, on Friday, April 28. In addition to the chefs' challenge, the gala will also feature raffle baskets, silent and live auctions, and a cash bar. A light meal will be provided, including delicious desserts from the Open Table kitchen. A VIP reception takes place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; doors open for general admission at 6:30 p.m. VIP tickets are \$200 and include preferred seating, a private reception, meet the chefs, and a high-end spirit tasting. General Admission is \$150 per person. Tickets are available starting February 10th at [Opentable.org/chopped](http://Opentable.org/chopped).



## SAFER HOMES, SAFER COMMUNITY

### Community Gun Buyback

Saturday, May 6, 2023 - 9am-12pm  
Saint Matthew's United Methodist Church  
435 Central Street, Acton, MA 01720

You'll receive a gift card for each unwanted firearm you turn in and help reduce the risk of suicide, accidental discharge, and domestic violence.

*Bring firearms unloaded with the safety engaged in a bag, box, or case. Leave the unloaded firearms inside the trunk of your vehicle upon arrival.*

*The Middlesex Sheriffs Office and Massachusetts State Police will safely destroy all guns. For further information please visit [www.middlesexsheriff.org](http://www.middlesexsheriff.org).*

NO I.D. REQUIRED  
NO QUESTIONS ASKED



[bit.ly/ABcares](https://bit.ly/ABcares) | [ABcarescoalition@gmail.com](mailto:ABcarescoalition@gmail.com)

AB CARES IS A COMMUNITY BASED COLLABORATIVE EFFORT THAT SEEKS TO PREVENT SUICIDE ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN AND SUPPORT ALL WHO ARE IMPACTED BY SUICIDE.



# Soak in the Effervescent SpongeBob Musical

with Open Door Theater at The Dragonfly  
Theater, R.J. Grey Jr. HS in Acton  
March 24-April 2, 2023

For its 43rd season, Open Door Theater is performing *The SpongeBob Musical* through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals, with seven shows in March 2023 (based on the beloved animated series created by Stephen Hillenburg and features a book by Kyle Jarrow, with original songs by Yolanda Adams, Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith, Sara Bareilles, Jonathan Coulton, Alexander Ebert of Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros, The Flaming Lips, Lady A, Cyndi Lauper, John Legend, Panic! At the Disco, Plain White T's, They Might Be Giants and T.I., and songs by David Bowie, Tom Kenny and Andy Paley. Additional lyrics are by Jonathan Coulton, with additional music by Tom Kitt. The musical production was conceived by Tina Landau). Open Door Theater's Production is Directed by B James Kelly, with Music Director Kathryn Denney, Choreographer Becky Robichaud, Stage Manager Lisa Jensen-Fellows and Produced by Sam Gould and Dawn Gomez.

Open Door's multicultural cast will present 7 performances **March 24-April 2, 2023** at the Dragonfly Theater, R.J. Grey Jr. HS, 16 Charter Road, Acton, MA 01720. All performances are relaxed/sensory friendly and feature ASL interpretation and open captioning. There will be audio-described performances on the second weekend. Tickets are \$15. Discounted tickets for EBT, WIC and ConnectorCare Cardholders.



Open Door Theater is one of the only integrated, accessible theater companies in the nation to stage full-scale productions featuring actors with disabilities, who are Deaf, on the Autism spectrum, neurodiverse, and have blindness, mobility and cognitive challenges.

## Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council Presents: 14th Annual ABCC Our World Film Series

The ABCC Our World Film Series returns for four successive Friday nights in late April/early May. Live and in person at a new location, Boxborough's Sargent Memorial Library Meeting Room, all programs start at 7:00 pm. The screenings are free and open to the public. Light refreshments provided.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 28: A Short Night.** The 11th annual Our World Short Film Program, presenting a selection of recent short films produced by film students from Massachusetts colleges and universities. The filmmakers are invited to attend and discuss their work with the audience.

**FRIDAY, MAY 5; FRIDAY MAY 12; FRIDAY MAY 19:** Our World Foreign Film Series: screening a selection of award-winning and critically acclaimed feature films from around the world. Speakers will introduce each film and will lead a brief discussion with the audience afterward. Film selections will be posted on the ABCC Our World website and Facebook page.

More information on the series and prior year's film selections is available at our website <https://abccourworld.wixsite.com/abccourworld>, or our Face-book page <https://www.facebook.com/ABCCOurWorld>.

# Boxborough Announces the Boxborough Emergency-Assistance Program (BEAP)

The Boxborough Emergency-Assistance Program (BEAP) will provide eligible households impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its lingering economic impacts with a financial assistance payment of up to \$1,000 to help pay common household expenses such as rent, mortgages, utilities, other household fees, medical and prescription expenses, and the like.

Applications will be accepted starting January 2, 2023. Application forms and program guidelines will be available on the Town's web site of [www.boxborough-ma.gov](http://www.boxborough-ma.gov) (click on departments, then Community & Social Services, then Boxborough Emergency Assistance Program), by emailing Wendy Abetz at [wabetz@boxborough-ma.gov](mailto:wabetz@boxborough-ma.gov) or Natalie Steele at [nsteele@boxborough-ma.gov](mailto:nsteele@boxborough-ma.gov), or by calling the office at 978-264-1735. Paper copies will also be available at Boxborough Town Hall and the Sargent Memorial Library.

You are eligible if:

- Your household's annual income does not exceed the 80% Area-Median-Income Limits as published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Your household's liquid assets do not exceed \$1,000 for a one-person household or \$3,000 for a larger household.

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Annual-Income Limit	\$78,300	\$89,500	\$100,700	\$111,850	\$120,800	\$129,750	\$138,700
Liquid-Asset Limit	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000

## Self-Preservation and Self-Care During Trying Times

Let's face it: it's been a loooooong few years. We may be feeling burnt out, tired, anxious, uncertain, overwhelmed, and every other in-between shade of difficult emotion you can imagine. Now, more than ever before, it's important for us to take care of ourselves mentally and emotionally. But what does that look like in a post-pandemic, pre-endemic COVID world? Here are a few tips to help you help yourself (and others) manage difficult emotions.

- Getting enough sleep: We say it all the time, but sleep is SO important for optimal physical, mental and emotional functioning.
- Cutting back on social media: Constant exposure to the news, so often filled with "negatives," coupled with the carefully curated seemingly "perfect" lives of our peers can be overwhelming, misleading and impact our ability to cope. Consider taking a break from socials (maybe even electronics in general, within reason) if you're feeling emotionally compromised. You may be surprised how much this is impacting your mental health.
- Nourishing your body: A healthy diet can improve and support optimal brain functioning. Omega-3 fatty acids seem to be of particular benefit. Stay hydrated and limit your caffeine and alcohol intake.
- Moving your body (in ways that feel good to you): Scientific evidence tells us that exercise is good for physical and mental health. Exercise helps your brain and body release chemicals to boost your mood and ease stress.
- Talking to someone you trust: We all struggle sometimes, but it's important to know that we don't need to struggle alone. Reach out to trusted supports such as a therapist, friends, family, or colleagues- sometimes saying something out loud can help you start to work through it.

- Name what you're experiencing: Whether to a trusted confidant or on your own, reflecting on and naming the emotion you are experiencing can help give you the space to process it.
- Practice gratitude: Research indicates that taking the time to notice and reflect on what you're grateful for can have a positive impact on your sleep, emotions and even your immune system! It doesn't have to be big things, either; you can be grateful for the warm and satisfying cup of tea you had with breakfast.
- If you are experiencing a mental health crisis: Help is available! If you are in Massachusetts, you can contact the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line (BHHL) by calling or texting 833-773-2445. "The BHHL connects individuals and families to the full range of treatment services for mental health and substance use offered in Massachusetts, including outpatient, urgent, and immediate crisis care. Call for real-time support, initial clinical assessment, and connection to the right evaluation and treatment." - Mass. Dept. of Public Health. The BHHL is available 24/7, 365 days per year. You can learn more by visiting <https://www.mass.gov/emergency-crisis-services>. In addition, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is now the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, reachable by dialing 988, and is active across the United States.



**Nashoba Nursing Service & Hospice**  
**Nashoba Associated Boards of Health**  
 "Your COMMUNITY, Your CHOICE Since 1931"