

SPRING  
2019

# THE BOXBOROUGH *Bee*

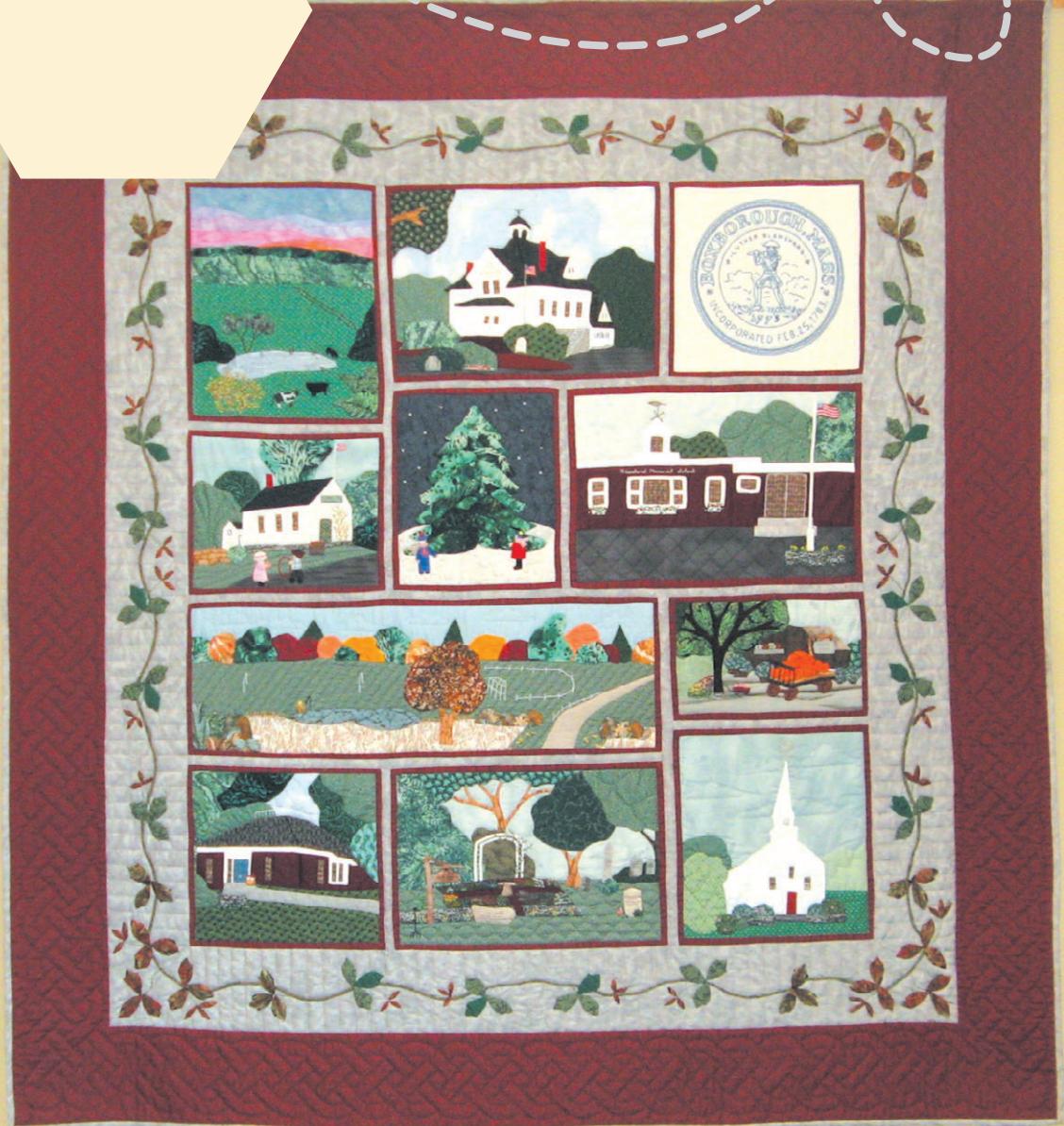


Photo credit: Frank Sibley

BE INFORMED • BE CONNECTED • BE BOXBOROUGH

# Select Board's Corner

This time of year, it's all about Town Meeting. Boards, Committees, Commissions, the Town Administrator and Department Heads develop budgets and warrant articles for the upcoming fiscal year. Both the Finance Committee and Select Board undertake a rigorous process to vet the submitted budgets and warrant articles before voting and finalizing for submission to Town Meeting.

## TOWN MEETING

Town Meeting is the process by which Boxborough registered voters approve budgets, vote on capital purchases, approve bylaws and determine land use. Voters get to say what we value as a community and what we are willing to pay for.

## THE WARRANT

The warrant is a document sent to all households of registered voters setting forth the date, time, place and business of Town Meeting. The Select Board owns the warrant. The warrant includes the budget, as proposed by the Finance Committee, the proposed changes in the compensation and classification plan, and warrant articles.

## TOWN OPERATING BUDGET

The Finance Committee is responsible for the Town's operating budget. They own it. What you see in the warrant is what was voted by the Finance Committee. They will present and explain the budget at Annual Town Meeting. Generally speaking, the Select Board may endorse the budget in its entirety or make recommendations to amend some portion of the budget.

## FINANCIAL WARRANT ARTICLES

Warrant Articles are normally one-time items not considered a part of the operating budget. They include both capital and non-capital items. Capital items include things like the replacement of an ambulance, the purchase of an additional voting machine, or a fire suppression system for the Police Department. Non-capital items include things like funding our cable TV operations or changes in the classification and compensation plan. To further ensure transparency, Boxborough has a long-standing tradition and practice of putting all additions to staff (head count) in a warrant article.

The Select Board votes on most warrant articles, while the Finance Committee votes on all warrant articles. Generally speaking the Select Board does not vote on warrant articles sponsored by other elected Boards, although there are always exceptions to this practice.

## NON-FINANCIAL WARRANT ARTICLES

There are always non-financial warrant articles for consideration.

This year, the Planning Board has submitted 15 warrant articles for Town Meeting. There is a bylaw change for a new Flexible Overlay District and several bylaw changes for marijuana zoning. Changes in the zoning bylaws require a two-thirds vote of registered voters in attendance.



## **SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION ON FLEXIBLE OVERLAY DISTRICT**

The Select Board recommends and fully endorses the zoning bylaw changes for the Flexible Overlay District proposed by the Planning Board. These zoning bylaw changes are strategically aligned with the Master Plan 2030.

The Select Board, Planning Board and Town Planner, in coordination with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), conducted an extensive process of public forums, surveys and community outreach starting in December 2014 and culminating with approval of the plan by both the Select Board and Planning Board three years ago, in January 2016. The top priorities in the Master Plan include: economic development, transportation and infrastructure mobility, water resource management, energy conservation, and meeting the needs of the community (social services, moderately priced housing, and open space/recreational facilities for all ages). The Select Board and Planning Board continue to work together to implement the plan.

The zoning bylaw changes, advances several key priorities for the Town. Economic development improves the quality of life for residents with a village-like area with restaurants, pubs, shops, and other amenities (Master Plan 2030 Strategy 3.1.3 page 15). Land to be gifted to the Town will provide a new location for the Fire Station (Master Plan 2030 Goal 4.2 page 20). Commercial development (Master Plan 2030 Goals 3.2 and 3.3 pages 16 and 18) provides a sustainable tax rate to Town residents.

A sustainable tax rate is not a lower tax rate, it's a rate that provides our community with services at a reasonable cost. With a declining commercial tax base in Boxborough, taxes are shifted from commercial to residential home owners. This zoning bylaw change allows for a modest increase in commercial development to help maintain a reasonable tax rate.

There will be several public forums and other opportunities to learn more about the zoning bylaw changes prior to Town Meeting.

To ensure that the Town's interests are protected, the Select Board and Town Administrator are working on a negotiated "Development Agreement" with Lincoln Properties. The agreement will be tailored to the Town's specifications and requirements.

## **QUESTIONS/CONCERNS**

If you have any questions about Town Meeting, the operating budget, the warrant or zoning bylaw changes, please contact the Select Board at: [selectmen@boxborough.ma.gov](mailto:selectmen@boxborough.ma.gov). As an alternative, you can do it the old-fashioned way and pick up the phone and call us.

Thank you for all you do to make Boxborough an engaged community for all!

# Running for TOWN OFFICE

Boxborough depends on volunteers to keep the town running. Participating in town government can be a challenging and rewarding experience. While many boards are appointed, there are five elected boards: Select Board, Planning Board, Board of Health, Library Trustees, and School Committee. In order to serve on these boards, you must run for office, which is not as daunting as it sounds.

The first step may be to attend meetings of the board you are interested in joining. Meeting dates and agendas are published on the town website ([www.boxborough-ma.gov](http://www.boxborough-ma.gov)) and are open to the public. Attending a few meetings will enable you to see the kinds of issues that come before the board and help you determine whether there's a fit with your interests and skills.

The annual town election is held in May on the second Tuesday following the start of Annual Town Meeting.

# THIS YEAR THE ELECTION IS MAY 21

Each year, at least one seat on each board is on the ballot.

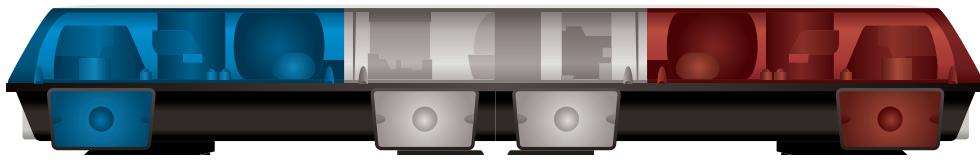
This year the following seats will appear on the ballot:



Candidates qualify to have their names appear on the ballot by taking out Nomination Papers from the Town Clerk, obtaining at least 26 signatures from registered Boxborough voters, and returning them to the Town Clerk for certification. Nomination Papers are made available starting in mid-January. This years' filing deadline is April 2. If you think you might be interested in running, there is still time!

Contact the Town Clerk, Liz Markiewicz, at [lmarkiewicz@boxborough-ma.gov](mailto:lmarkiewicz@boxborough-ma.gov) or (978) 264-1727, for information.

In addition to Board and Committee seats, the positions of Town Clerk, Moderator, and Constable are also elected and will appear on the ballot. There will also be questions on a general bylaw to ban marijuana and zoning bylaws to regulate marijuana.



# BOXBOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT

This month, your Boxborough Police Department is sharing information and tips about scams and frauds, especially towards senior citizens. We receive several calls weekly reporting some type of fraud or con and want to help citizens stay aware and protected.

## Why are seniors targeted?

- They may have a “nest egg” or excellent credit.
- Growing up in the 1930s-1950’s can make seniors more trusting and easily exploited
- Older Americans are less likely to report a fraud due to shame, confusion, or lack of awareness
- Con artists know the effect of age on memory which may make an elderly victim a poor witness or easily confused.
- Seniors are more interested in certain types of products to improve quality of life, i.e. cognitive and physical function, illness and cancer cures



## What are some common scams aimed at senior citizens?

- Microsoft Support Scams: Victims may be called or emailed by what seems to be a legitimate phone number or email web link and told they need to open a program to “fix” a problem that doesn’t exist. The scammer then can take over the computer, and demand money to restore “problem”.
- Medicare Scams: A fraudulent “worker” may call or visit and ask for personal information. In truth, Medicare will never call email or visit and ask for personal information.
- Counterfeit Drug scams: Be aware of illegitimate firms offering very low prices.
- Funeral and Cemetery scams: Potential scammers may attend the funeral of a stranger and take advantage by claiming to know the deceased and ask for money from a debt.
- Anti-aging products- Scammers may offer products with no scientific or medical value, that may be harmful.
- Telemarketing scams: The most popular form of scam because older Americans make more purchases over the phone than younger age groups.
- Fake accident/illness/Grandparent scams: Scammers pretend to be a so-called relative who needs help usually in some far-off place. Often, they request to be paid via Western Union or Moneygram.
- Pigeon Drop: Scammers claim to have found a large sum of money and will split with the victim.

Other popular scams involve fake charities, internet fraud, email “phishing” scams, investment schemes, reverse mortgage frauds and lottery wins.

Be wary of these and other scams. For more information you can look at the FBI’s common fraud schemes webpage.

[www.ncoa.org/economic-security/money-management/scams-security/top-10-scams-targeting-seniors](http://www.ncoa.org/economic-security/money-management/scams-security/top-10-scams-targeting-seniors)

# PLANNING BOARD

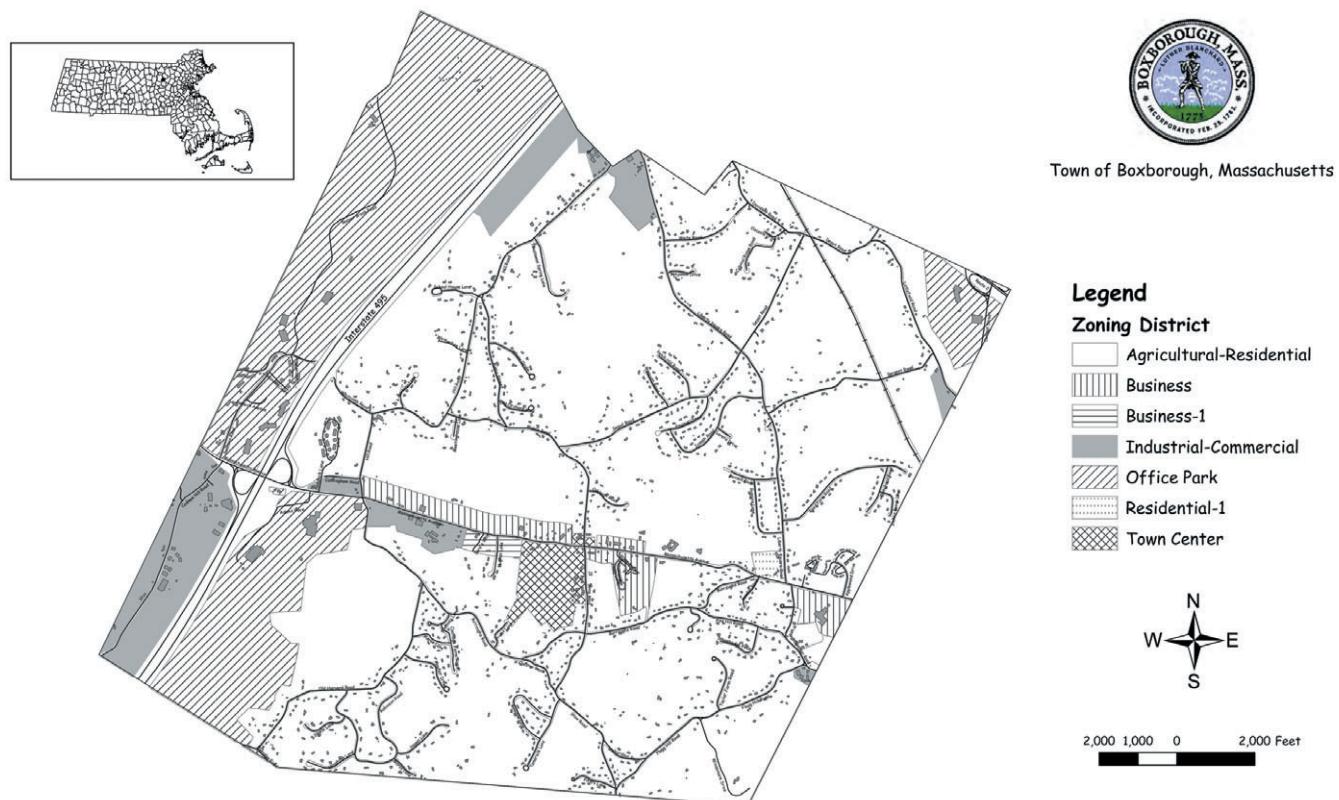
## PREPARING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

by Abby Reip, Chair, Boxborough Planning Board

### WHAT IS ZONING AND WHY DO WE NEED IT?

Zoning bylaws have a powerful impact on quality of life. They help cities and towns control the physical development of land and the kinds of uses that are allowed on each individual property.

Boxborough has seven districts or zones that define what's allowed. See the zoning map below for each. This map can be found in the Zoning Bylaw on Town's website.



Within each district, there are established permitted uses, prohibited uses, and uses that may be permitted by a special permit granting authority (either the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals).

For example:

2110 Automobile Service Station shall mean any establishment where gasoline and other petroleum products are sold and may include accessory facilities for the sale of other retail products, but excluding any motor vehicle maintenance activities such as vehicle repair, or auto detailing.

USE	Agricultural Residential	Residential-1	Business	Business-1	Office Park	Town Center	Industrial Commercial
Automobile service station	No	No	No	No	Special Permit	No	Special Permit
Self-storage facility	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes

In this example, a business owner could not build a gas station anywhere in the Agricultural-Residential District, but could apply to the Planning Board for a special permit to build in the Office Park or Industrial Commercial Districts. Our zoning bylaw defines each use and details the uses that are permitted in each district.

Per Mass General Law, any changes to a town's bylaw requires a two-thirds majority vote by Town Meeting.

So, now that you have an overview of zoning, keep reading to learn about the Planning Board's proposed changes to Boxborough's Zoning Bylaw.

"wherever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government" ~ Thomas Jefferson

The Planning Board is proposing new zoning bylaws at Town Meeting and has gathered input from public hearings, meetings, forums, and outside professionals to formulate these bylaws.

## **WHAT ARE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ZONING BYLAW?**

### **CREATING A FLEXIBLE OVERLAY DISTRICT**

#### **What is an overlay zoning district?**

An overlay zone is a zoning district which is applied over one or more established zoning districts and establishes use regulations for the covered properties while the underlying regulations of the existing zoning remain in place. Overlay zoning is often used to promote specific types of development to meet a communities' needs.

#### **Where is the proposed overlay district?**

This overlay will cover some parcels in our Office Park zone that are near I-495 on Route 111 and on Swanson Road, as well as two properties on Codman Hill Road that are in the Industrial Commercial zone.

#### **Why are we proposing an overlay district?**

The Planning Board is proposing an overlay district to allow for additional uses in what has otherwise been undeveloped and/or underutilized property along Interstate 495.

The Planning Board's proposal was driven by the Economic Development Committee which was re-established to help achieve the goals of Boxborough's Master Plan 2030.

Boxborough 2030 was prepared with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and provides a long term vision for the town. It was developed "through public outreach and community sensing" and the top priority that came out of the plan was to

**"Encourage economic development** which will improve the **quality of life** for residents, such as supporting development of a **village-like area** with restaurants, pubs, shops, fitness and health services, and other amenities. Economic development should not be pursued simply to increase the commercial tax base."

The current zoning for Office Park and Industrial Commercial zones do not allow for many of the uses that our Master Plan set forth as goals. If we update the use tables and dimensional requirements, we can realize the village and amenities that we so desire.

The Master Plan's goals with respect to future land use development areas specified the land along the I-495 corridor. Our proposed overlay district targets these parcels.

#### **How will the overlay zone district differ from the underlying Office Park or Industrial Commercial zone?**

To create a business-friendly overlay zone, we have added and updated some of the use definitions and expanded what is allowed in this district. For example, current zoning in the underlying districts for service shops, restaurants/bars, retail stores, or craft shops/art studios requires a special permit. In the proposed overlay district, the uses would be allowed "as of right."

USE	Office Park	Industrial Commercial	Flex Overlay District
Service Shop	Special Permit	Special Permit	Yes
Retail store	No	No	Yes
Craft Shop or Art Studio	Special Permit	Special Permit	Yes
Restaurant/Bar	Special Permit	Special Permit	Yes

Applicants would go through the site plan approval process which provides for an adequate review of development plans which may impact traffic, drainage, town services, environmental quality, and community character.

We have also proposed some changes to the dimensional schedule, allowing more coverage of land so as to accommodate some of the expanded uses such as warehouses. Please visit the Planning Board's website which contains a complete text of the proposed bylaw.

There will also be a series of informal gatherings to answer questions and explain the implications of the proposed changes. Stay tuned for more information on when and where these gatherings are occurring by visiting the Planning Board's page on the Town's website.

## **BUT, WAIT, THERE'S MORE!**

### **A ZONING BYLAW REGULATING RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA**

Like it or not, legalization of recreational marijuana (RM) was approved by Massachusetts voters in November 2016. Boxborough was among the many cities and towns in the Commonwealth that voted in favor. Cities and towns are now responsible for the regulation of recreational marijuana establishments (RME's) within their borders, and Boxborough needs to address this issue through zoning.

Recreational marijuana establishments (RME's) include more than just retail "pot shops." RME's, per Massachusetts law, include the following businesses: marijuana cultivator, marijuana testing facility, marijuana research facility, marijuana product manufacturer, marijuana retailer, or any other type of licensed marijuana-related business which is not a Registered Marijuana Dispensary.

Currently, Boxborough has a temporary moratorium on RME's that will expire on June 30, 2019. The outcome of the proposed zoning bylaws voted at Town Meeting will determine WHICH, if any, types of RMEs are allowed and WHERE they may locate.

This begs the question: Why is the Planning Board putting forth a complicated RM bylaw when we already had a Special Town Meeting in September 2018 that passed a ban?

The bylaw that STM passed in September 2018 is a general bylaw, not a zoning bylaw, and it does not regulate land use pertaining to RMEs.

Massachusetts Attorney General recommends that towns adopt a zoning bylaw to affect a ban.

A general bylaw is more apt to be legally challenged primarily because the threshold to pass (simple majority) is much lower, and it can be argued that a town favored a general bylaw to ease the passage of the bylaw.

- ***The Planning Board is not advocating for the allowance or prohibition of RMEs. Rather, we are presenting a zoning bylaw that gives Boxborough voters a better way to either regulate or prohibit (ban) RME's.***
- ***A zoning bylaw will ensure that IF any RMEs are allowed in Boxborough, they will be properly located and regulated.***
- ***IF RME's are not allowed, the ban under a zoning bylaw will be much stronger compared to the ban under a general bylaw.***

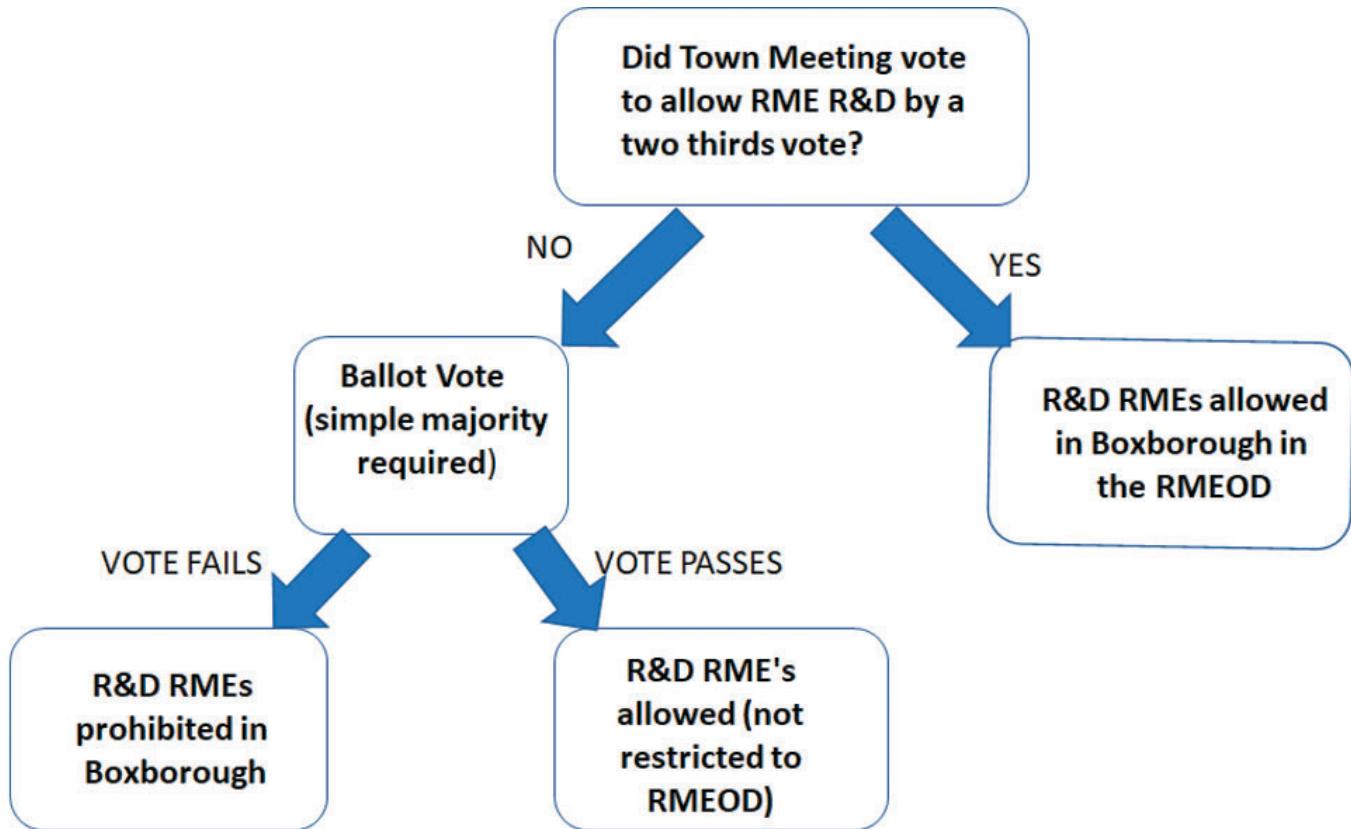
The proposed bylaw separates each type of RME and asks voters to decide whether or not to allow any RMEs in Boxborough. The outcome will determine WHICH, if any, types of RMEs are allowed and WHERE they may locate.

Any vote by Town Meeting to ban any of the RMEs must go to a "vote of the voters." In other words, a vote to ban at Town Meeting must be reinforced by a ballot vote with the same results (ban). The reason for needing two votes (to

ban) is due to the results of the November 2016 election in which a majority of Boxborough voters favored legalizing recreational marijuana. The Attorney General has determined that towns favorable to legalization must take this two step process to "overturn" the will of the voters.

Take a look at the flow chart for the example article to understand how the scenarios of Town Meeting votes can unfold:

**ARTICLE: "The following types of Recreational Marijuana Establishments are permitted in the Town of Boxborough: Research and Development"**



**LEGEND**

R&D	Research & Development
RME	RME Recreational Marijuana Establishment
RMEOD	RMEOD Recreational Marijuana Establishment Overlay

Again, two votes are required for a prohibition (Town Meeting and ballot); one vote (Town Meeting) is required for approval. For the purposes of this article, I have simplified the bylaw, outcomes, and implications. Do your homework to make an informed choice!

Please review the materials on the Planning Board's page of the Town website before Town Meeting.

Consider attending meetings and informal gatherings or reach out to any of us on the Planning Board directly with questions.

# Nashoba Associated Boards of Health

# BOXBOROUGH HAS A TOWN NURSE?



## Tamara Bedard, RN

Community Health Manager  
For the last 14 of her 24+ years in nursing, Tamara has specialized in public health, working for NABH. She has truly enjoyed working with each community to promote health and wellness.



## Susan Hoag, LPN

Susan joined the NABH public health nursing team August 1st, 2016. You will see her out and about at clinics in each town.

# Did you know

It's true! Boxborough is one of the 16 communities that make up the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (NABH). Through this Association, Tamara and Susan serve as the "Town Nurses" for all of these communities, including Boxborough. Tamara works closely with her staff nurse, Susan Hoag, LPN to provide high quality Public Health Nursing services to promote wellness across your lifespan. These services include things like: monthly clinics for health screenings, information and resource referrals, education and outreach, and home visits as needed. The nursing team also works closely with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to focus on disease prevention. They aim to prevent disease and protect the health of our communities by providing immunization clinics, regular communicable disease investigation and follow-up, and by responding to disease outbreaks.

Tamara and Susan look forward to getting to know residents so they can best serve and meet the specific needs of the community. They invite you to attend the well adult clinics where you may have your blood pressure or blood sugar checked, or just talk about your concerns and receive individualized attention and care. Tamara and Susan are also available for home visits to make general assessments and help with coordinating care or making referrals to community and other resources that help promote independence, support aging in place and enhance quality of life.

Tamara and Susan wish all Boxborough residents health & happiness, and they extend an offer to assist in any way they can. Please feel free to contact Tamara with any questions or concerns:

**978-772-3335 or 1-800-427-9762 ext. 340**

**MISSION:** *We are dedicated to serve all our community residents, of any age, particularly the underserved and at-risk. Our goal is to promote healthy people, healthy families, and a healthy environment through compassionate care, education, and prevention.*

# Notes from THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Mosquitoes are clearly annoying pests. They swarm, buzz, and generate itchy bites. They also spread viruses that cause diseases such as West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. When health surveillance demonstrates the local presence of these viruses, spraying adult mosquitoes with insecticide is indicated for public health and safety.

Use of insecticides presents environmental concerns making it preferable to find other methods for disease prevention.

Boxborough is a member of the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP). Utilizing maintenance, monitoring and larvae control, this successful mosquito prevention program controls the mosquito population in Boxborough largely without spraying insecticides.

There is no treatment for Eastern Equine Encephalitis. In Massachusetts, about half of the people identified with EEE died from the infection. People who survive this disease will often be permanently disabled. Few people recover completely.

West Nile Virus causes few symptoms in most people, however, persons older than 50 years of age have a higher risk of developing severe illness. Up to 1% of people infected with WNV will develop severe illness, including encephalitis or meningitis.

## CENTRAL MASS. MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT



### How does CMMCP control mosquitoes without spraying to kill them?

**LARVAL MOSQUITO MONITORING** Wetlands and suspected mosquito larval sites are monitored from March through September to determine the need for larval mosquito control. By controlling mosquitoes in their larval stage the need for adult mosquito spraying is greatly reduced.

**DITCH MAINTENANCE** Mosquitoes need still, stagnant water to complete their metamorphosis from egg to adult. The CMMCP conducts maintenance on ditches, culverts and man-made ponds to improve water quality, increase water flow, restore historic flow patterns and reduce the potential for larval mosquito habitat.

**MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE** Mosquito populations are monitored in both the larval and adult stages to determine the appropriate control methods to be employed, record prevalent mosquito species, and determine disease transmission potential. The surveillance program routinely sends samples to be tested for mosquito-borne viruses.

**LARVAL MOSQUITO CONTROL** The material of choice for larvicide is called Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*). It is a bacteria that doesn't reproduce. When the mosquito larvae eat the Bti it is fatal to the mosquito but has little impact on other aquatic life. In Boxborough a granular type of Bti is delivered by helicopter, usually mid-April, to hard to reach wetlands determined to be primary mosquito breeding areas.

Another product used by CMMCP is called methoprene. Methoprene is an insect growth regulator specific to mosquito larvae. The presence of methoprene in the water prevents mosquito larvae from hatching, but doesn't harm anything else. CMMCP uses methoprene in catch basins only. Storm drains throughout town are monitored to see if they are holding water, and if so, methoprene is added to reduce the potential of mosquito from these areas.

For more information go to  
[www.cmmcp.org](http://www.cmmcp.org)

# Adventures at the Library

The library is revving up on events this Winter and Spring



In January, Bright Stars Theater brought their Heroes of the Underground Railroad performance to the library, with actors bringing history to life. A four-session series of Mindfulness through Theater began, with participants leaving with tools for introspection and practiced meditation.

In February, genealogy researcher Seema Kenny spoke on DNA analysis and how to use the information result to trace your ancestry. Wellness related programs continued with Using the Power of the Mind-Body Spine Connection for Health and Healing, where chiropractor Dr. Diamond talked about mind and body connection, and the balancing of our inner and outer worlds technique that can melt away stress and works as a powerful addition to a healthy living regimen.

More events are planned for April and May (descriptions of the event follows):

Program Name	Performer/Presenter	Date	Day	Time
Edible Perennial Gardening and Landscaping*	John Root	4/18/2019	Wednesday	6:30PM
Korean Culture Program	KSCPP	4/27/2019	Saturday	11AM
Mom's WWII Letters	Corinne Smith	5/21/2019	Tuesday	7PM
Monarch Butterfly	Dan Stimson	5/29/2019	Wednesday	7PM
Meditation for Healthy Living	Dr Allan Hughes	6/8/2019	Saturday	11AM
Mindful Mornings on the Lawn	Various Instructors	5/25-6/29	Saturdays	10-11AM

In April, we have a presentation on Edible Perennial Gardening and Landscaping, and a Korean Culture Presentation that will end with Korean food sampling. In May, listen to a story of history and genealogy and a stack of WWII letters, later, come back for a presentation about the beautiful Monarch butterflies. Join us on the front lawn for a multi-generational Mindful Morning series, Saturdays from 10-11am, where local instructors will lead each session.

The library is teaming up with Bettering Boxborough Together and Ivy Child International to bring this FREE 6-week mindfulness program to all residents starting May 25. No pre-registration or prior experience is required. This mindfulness series welcomes all ages and ability levels. See the flyer later in the newsletter for more details. Come once or come often!

In June we have rescheduled (from our March snow day), Dr. Allan Hughes - Meditation for Healthy Living, on Saturday, This presentation is about 'food for the soul' and simple meditation.

In addition to special programs, we have regular events as well. Join us for Monday Movies at 1pm with selections that range from classics to the newest releases. Suggestions welcome! On Wednesdays at 2pm our knitting group meets in the Local History Room. New comers are always welcome.

# Children's Programs at the Library

Ongoing Programs 3/7/2019

For additional details call the library at 978-263-4680 & ask for the Children's Desk!

Or check our online calendar at <http://www.boxlib.org>

Many thanks to the Friends of the Library for their generous support of our programs!

## STORY TIME & CRAFT

Mondays at 10:30-11:15 AM

Preschool aged children are invited to join us on Monday mornings for an interactive story time and a craft designed to promote reading readiness. This interactive theme-based story time includes songs, stories, creative movement, and finger plays appropriate for children age 12 months & up years. Siblings are welcome!

## TODDLER TIME

Wednesdays at 10:30-11:15 AM

Drop-in for a morning of stories, rhymes, finger plays, and songs that promote early literacy skills through story time. Parents, caregivers & children ages 12 months to 3 years (older siblings welcome) are invited to this special story time. To encourage the development of the five early literacy skills (singing, rhyming, reading, movement, and art) children will enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, movement, and musical instruments in a nurturing setting. Stay after for a craft! This interactive program is perfect for children ages 12 months & up. Siblings are welcome

## LEGO CLUB

Meets once a Month – 3:00-5:00 PM  
Story & Craft Room

Children ages 4 & up are invited to drop in and build a LEGO structure. Bring a friend and share your building ideas! We supply the LEGO's -- you supply the creativity. Once finished, the masterpieces are displayed in the Children's Room for everyone to enjoy! DUPLO's are available for the youngest Lego enthusiasts.

## DROP-IN CRAFT

Twice a Month – 3:00-5:00 PM  
Story & Craft Room

Children ages two to fifteen are invited to participate in a creative craft. The benefits of Arts & Crafts include - bilateral & fine motor coordination, development of visual processing, self-regulation, self-esteem, bonding, and fun!

## BOOK GROUPS

Meet Once a Month

4, 5, 6, & 7 Grade – at 4:30-5:15 PM

Children in 4th, 5th or 6th Grades at Blanchard are invited to join us one afternoon per month for a book discussion group. A pizza snack will be provided. To sign up, please call the library at 978-263-4680 and ask for the Children's Desk.

## EARLY RELEASE MOVIE

Is shown once or twice a Month  
Thursday, 2:00-3:30 PM

Children are invited to join us for a movie on "Early Release" Thursdays. We will choose a movie rated G or PG to show on the big screen in our spacious meeting room. Or on a slightly smaller screen in our Story & Craft Room. Bring a friend and enjoy the show!

## April School Vacation Week Events

**CREATIVE DRAMA WORKSHOP**  
Tuesday April 16 at 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Ages 8-13! (Class Size Limited – Sign-up requested\*)

**TODDLER STORY TIME!**  
Wednesday April 17 at 10:30 AM

**STEPHEN THE MAGICIAN!**  
Wednesday April 17 at 3:00-3:45 PM

Featuring madcap magic, comedy and animals!  
Suitable for ages 3 up!

**LEGO CLUB!**  
Thursday April 18 - 3:00- 5:00 PM

Ages 4 up! Drop-in!

# BOXBOROUGH

# Tae Kwon Do



Free Instruction until the end of the school year for all Acton-Boxborough Regional Students Grades 7-12 who are new to the program!

The Boxborough Recreation Commission is proud to offer this special wellness opportunity for Acton Boxborough students in grades 7 through 12 who may have an interest in the martial arts. As we complete the school year, new students to the program in grades 7-12 can experience the martial arts for free. For the past 5 years, the Recreation Commission has been offering traditional Tae Kwon Do instruction under the guidance of Master Rick Barrett, 5th Degree Black Belt. Master Barrett, in addition to his study of the martial arts, is a career Teacher and Educational Administrator who has developed this program as a way to support the overall wellness of the community.

Through the study of the Tae Kwon Do, students have the opportunity to work individually and as part of a supportive team in pursuit of their own social and emotional learning by setting and achieving short and long term goals, developing and maintaining positive relationships and strengthening positive decision-making skills. Tae Kwon Do cultivates both inner and outer strengths which support the social-emotional intrapersonal and interpersonal cognitive development in the areas of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship building.

Registration information for the Boxborough Tae Kwon Do program can be found on the Town of Boxborough Website under the Recreation Commission. There is no better time to grow as a martial artist. We look forward to seeing you!



# Winterfest



## Who Needs Snow When You're This Creative?

Thank you to the Recreation team who created a Winterfest to remember! There might not have been snow at Steele Farm, but there was so much else that kept families and friends together all afternoon. Kids ran up and down the hill, creating impromptu skating rinks on the huge puddles, joining in the very popular human foosball game tucked next to the barn or munching away on popcorn and other treats. If children weren't having their faces painted, or trying out a variety of children's activities, or watching the ice sculpting of a frozen couch, they were busy just hanging out with their friends on a sunny, cool afternoon. It was a real chance for community, with parents and other adults enjoying the local brews and foods, while children zoomed happily around. Our thanks to the many people who made this day possible, including a grant from CHNA 15 to support healthy initiatives overseen by Bettering Boxborough Together, which funded the foosball, banner and additional promotion for the event.



SUMMER 2019

# MINDFUL MORNING SERIES



**May 25 - June 29, 2019 • Saturdays 10-11am**  
**Sargent Memorial Library Lawn (427 Mass Ave, Boxborough, MA)**

\*\*\*\*\* **FREE** \*\*\*\*\*

**Open to all ages (0-90+) and abilities. Bring your own mat.**

**Hosted by Ivy Child International, in partnership with  
Bettering Boxborough Together & Sargent Memorial Library.**



[ivychild.org/mindful-morning-series-summer](http://ivychild.org/mindful-morning-series-summer)



[tinyurl.com/summermindfulmorning](http://tinyurl.com/summermindfulmorning)

# ABRSD Blanchard Grade 5 Destination Imagination Team GOES TO STATES!

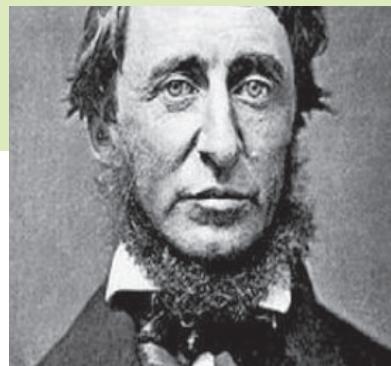
On Sunday, March 10, The 5th Grade Blanchard DI team competed at their regional tournament. This team had been working on their challenge since September and the hard work paid off with a first place win at regionals! The team will move on to States on March 30th. On Sunday, the team also won the "Renaissance Award". This award is not always given out. "The Renaissance Award recognizes those among us who demonstrate extraordinary amounts of effort and preparation in their solutions or outstanding skill in engineering, design, execution, or performance."

All of the staff, students and families at Blanchard Memorial Elementary School are very proud of our team and wish them the best of luck at States!

**State Tournament: March 30th, 2:00 PM • WPI Campus Center • Game On Central Challenge Presentation**



Pictured Above (L-R): Emma Klein, Mahima Ramesh, Shay Bernard, Ananya Rao, Caroline Murphy, Sahithi Setty, Luke Torgerson.  
Not pictured: Team Manager, Jennette Kollmann



# HIDDEN

## Part 1: Celebrating Henry David Thoreau's Walk through Boxborough

Saturday, May 18 • 11:00-1:30 • Sargent Memorial Library parking lot  
(rain date Sunday May 19)

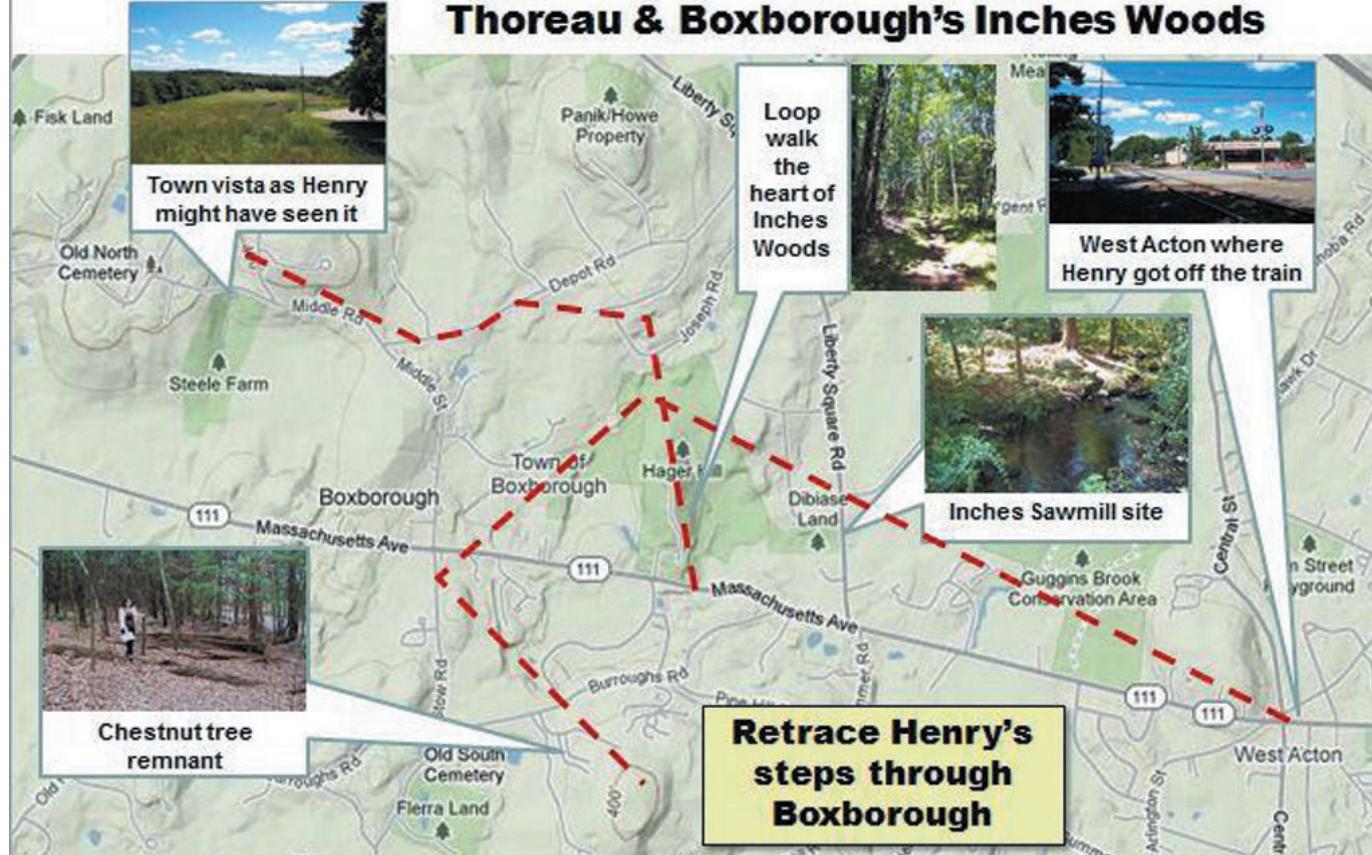
Spring is coming and it's time to celebrate here in Boxborough! Did you know that Henry David Thoreau also admired these woods, this land? In the 1860s, he passed through town by train, and was so enamored that he set out for a walk through Boxborough, specifically to see "this noble forest....only eight miles from me" now called Inches Woods.

We're celebrating this walk on Saturday May 18 by having Henry David Thoreau come here to Boxborough once again! (He will be re-enacted in character by Richard Smith, an expert known for his work at Walden Pond in Henry's cabin.) Come and hear what Thoreau has to say, bring questions of your own, and follow him on a trail walk through much of the same area, up behind the library and Blanchard Memorial School, on the Hager Land.

We'll have other activities too, for young and old! Have you ever read the series of children's books about Thoreau starring a bear named Henry? We'll have Henry resources to share, and lots of information about how to stay safe in the woods, including "Tick Man" the mannequin! Pick up your Passport through Boxborough, a trail walking challenge that starts that same day!

This event and the Passports Through Boxborough challenge are collaborations between the Boxborough Historical Society, Boxborough Land Stewards and Bettering Boxborough Together as part of Hidden Treasures, a regional celebration of the natural, cultural and historic "treasures" located within the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. For more information about this and other creative, community organized treasures to explore see <http://freedomsway.org/>

### Thoreau & Boxborough's Inches Woods



# TREASURES

## Part 2: Passports Through Boxborough: A Trail Challenge

Our volunteer Land Stewards have been working hard in all seasons to make trails accessible and enjoyable so that we can step out and into the woodlands, wetlands and fields around us. Our walk with Henry David Thoreau on the Hager Land is a kick-off to our Passports Through Boxborough trail challenge. Can you visit and walk 12 of our best-known trails in town? We'll be giving out trail passport books, complete with maps for you to use on your adventure. At each trail there will be a stamp for your passport. How many trails can you visit? Can you walk all of them by Fifer's day? Harvest fair?

Send us feedback about your walks on the Boxborough Land Stewards Facebook page or through email to the [boxboroughbee@gmail.com](mailto:boxboroughbee@gmail.com). Take selfies, meet up with friends, enjoy what so many have enjoyed before you!

And take your first step on this challenge with Henry David Thoreau on May 12!



Your Passport contains 12 trail maps, a town map and a place for stamping! It's small enough to fold in half and tuck in your pocket too.



Colin Clark and Kayley Kraft love walking the boardwalks through Half Moon Meadow trail

# Neighbors HELPING

## YOUTH AT WORK!

This issue we're showcasing some of the amazing projects that have happened at Blanchard and RJ Grey. Enjoy reading these inspiring stories not only conducted by our students, by written up by them as well.



### RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Meghan Lawson is a 13 year old Boxborough resident and RJ Grey eighth grader who spent this past winter planning and executing an extraordinary event to help in the fight against world hunger. Here is Meghan's story:

On January 12th, 122 members of the Acton-Boxborough community came together to package 15,768 meals with the organization Rise Against Hunger. This project all started in my 6th-grade year at Blanchard Memorial School. Every year, the 6th-grade does a Stand-Up For Project, where the 6th-graders chose to advocate for

something they are passionate about. For my project, I decided that I would stand up for world hunger. After the project was over and the year was ending, I felt inclined to take it one step further, and actually do something about it. A few years earlier, I had participated in a different Rise Against Hunger packing event at Boston College with my family. I saw children as young as four making a difference in world hunger and I thought we could do this in my community. I am so thankful the employees at Rise Against Hunger took a thirteen-year-old seriously and took the time to meet and discuss with me the requirements to host a packing event.

On the day of the event, after unloading and setting up, people finally began to arrive to begin packaging meals. When everyone first began to arrive, our venue assistant first began by informing us about the event and how it would work. For the packaging, there were 3 different types of stations to work. The first was the meals themselves. People would scoop 1 cup of rice, 1 cup of soy, a tablespoon of dried vegetables, and a packet of vitamins into a plastic bag. This small bag would be able to produce 6 full meals by adding water. Then, the bags were taken to the measuring and sealing station, where rice was either added or taken away from the bag in order to be between 385 or 391g. The bags were then sealed and taken over to the final station. The bags were taken to a large grid where they were labeled and packed into boxes. Each time we reached 1,000 meals (about 5 boxes), someone randomly would be called up to ring a gong, to let everyone know we were one step closer to reaching our goal.

I feel like as the event continued, it really began to sink in for everyone what we were doing and how we were making a change. In the end, after about 2 1/2 hours, we finally reached 15,000 meals, and I felt a sense of accomplishment throughout the room. Everyone had worked so hard to reach our goal and we all left knowing that we had made a difference in fighting the battle against world hunger.

Thank you to everyone who donated their money, time, and support. I would like to thank Mr. Shen and Mrs. Frey at the RJ and finally, thank you so much to Wedgewood Pines for their incredible generosity for donating their venue for the event. Everyone put in so much effort in order to make this event possible and I am incredibly grateful.

You can donate to this organization through <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/>

# Neighbors

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS



6th graders helping pack candy in to bags for veterans.

Chinese philosopher Confucius once said that "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." The sixth graders at Blanchard Memorial School take that idea to heart when it comes to community service. These students have been diligently working to give back to their community for the past few months with several community service projects.

Blanchard sixth graders took the idea of service learning and community service to heart when they had the first community service of the year, which occurred between October 31st and November 10th. Throughout October and November, the whole school collected over 100 lbs. of candy to deliver to veterans at the VA hospital in Bedford, MA. With the help of Mrs. Contini, Ms. Burke and Bobby Sweet, the founder of "Sweets for Soldiers", the sixth grade helped after school on a Friday to pack the candy into bags, and with the bag, a little heartfelt thank you note was tied to the bag. The sixth grade collected over 300 bags full of candy as a way to say thanks to the veterans for their service.

Another community service project we did this year was a hats, soxs, gloves and mittens drive during December. Everyone at Blanchard collected new hats, soxs, gloves and mittens for homeless or less fortunate people to stay warm during the winter. Some six grade volunteers, helped Mrs. Fredericks count the items. We ended up donating over 200 items to the Acton-Boxborough food pantry. While doing this, we helped spread a little love and warmth this past holiday season.

Ever heard of the Super Bowl? Of course you have because our beloved New England Patriots competed in it this year and won! Blanchard did a spin off of the Super Bowl and called it the "Souper" Bowl. The "Souper" Bowl was a non-perishable food drive. The Acton-Boxborough Food Pantry was running low on supplies after the holiday season, so we gave them a little boost. A special shout out to Mrs. Chavez for helping load and deliver the food. Thanks to everyone at Blanchard, we collected more than 350 items to deliver to the food pantry!



Two 6th graders helping spread the word around school.

**A big thank you to everyone that helped with all the community service projects! At Blanchard, we take our STARR values seriously. All of these projects used Support, Teamwork, Attitude, Responsibility, and Respect. Our school practices each value everyday, which will be important in the future. Stay tuned for more 6th grade community service events, as they plan for their K-3 literacy afternoon on March 7th and some other spring events as well! As the saying goes, " Stars can't shine without darkness." Blanchard has many shining stars that help brighten the darkness.**

# Boxborough Events

## Boxborough's Museum Open Hours

The Boxborough Museum at 575 Middle Road will be open from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Sunday April 14 and May 19. 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.

## Monthly Acoustic Music, Poetry and Spoken Word Open Mike at the Sargent Memory Library

Local songwriters, poets, musicians and storytellers are invited to a monthly Open Mike at the Sargent Memorial Library in Boxborough. All ages and levels of experience are welcomed to share their art. Open to everyone in the community to perform or just to listen. No charge. To register to perform, contact Dan.Tappan@Gmail.com.

For more details see <https://dantappanmusic.com/open-mike>  
Upcoming dates: Monday May 6 & Monday June 3.

## The Boxborough Company of Minutemen

The Boxborough Company of Minutemen will meet on Sunday May 19 at 8 pm in the training room on the second floor of the Boxborough Fire Station. For information please contact Captain Eric Michnovez at [captain@boxboroughminutemen.org](mailto:captain@boxboroughminutemen.org), or 617-671-5259.

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.

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

## Friends of the Boxborough Library Used Book Sale

Due to popular demand, the Friends of the Boxborough Library has expanded its used book sale to a three day event. The weekend will start with a Preview Sale for members on Friday, April 5 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm. (Memberships will be available at the door). The usual main sale will take place on Saturday, April 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A new Everything Must Go sale will be held on Sunday April 7 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Bring a bag (or bags) to the book sale on Sunday during this time and 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 April 1 through April 4 at the library during regular library hours. Please no VCR tapes or magazines or any material in really poor condition.

## "Then We Went to Powhatton's"

April 7

On Sunday April 7, the Boxborough Historical Society will present Duncan Brown, a curator at the Boxborough Museum, speaking on "Then We Went to Powhatton's" a collection by Evelyn May Whitcomb McGregor, Diaries 1892-1947. The presentation will be in the Morse Hilberg Room of the Boxborough Town Hall (29 Middle Road) starting at 1:00 PM. Please come and hear how a member of Boxborough's founding families related to the events of the day over the first half of the 20th century. Admission is free and all are welcome.

## Council On Aging Mah Jongg Workshop

Thursday April 11

Join the Council on Aging for a FREE mah jongg workshop on Thursday April 11, 2pm at the community center. Mah Jongg is a fun tile based game steeped in a long tradition of strategy and mystique. Similar to popular group card games, Mah Jong is played in tables of 4. Trade tiles to build your winning hand and block other players from doing the same. This game is sure to keep you on your toes, no wonder it's so popular at Councils on Aging across the country. Come see what it's all about! Our current mah jongg players will teach new players and demonstrate how the game is played.

## First Friday Community Dinner in Stow

Free Community Dinner at First Parish Church in Stow (353 Great Road) - Guest Table holds monthly dinner first Friday of the month from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Everyone welcome and there is no charge but donations are gratefully accepted. Doors open at 5pm. Email [fpcguesttable@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:fpcguesttable@fpc-stow-acton.org) or call 978-897-8149 for more information. Guest Table is made possible from grants from Stow Community Chest, Acton Boxborough United Way, and private donations.

## Community Housing Fair

Looking to buy or rent a new home locally? Wondering whether you can afford it? The communities of Bolton, Boxborough, Devens, Hudson, Littleton, and Stow invite you to stop by our Community Housing Fair on Thursday, April 4th, 2019, 4:00-7:00 pm, at the Pompositicut Community Center, 509 Great Road, Stow. Meet with representatives from more than a dozen town agencies, non-profit organizations, and developers that provide affordable housing. Learn from housing specialists in our rotating "mini-sessions": "What is Affordable Housing?", "55+ Housing Options," and "Is a Deed-Restricted Home the Right Move for Me?" Light supper provided, Kids Welcome, RSVPs Appreciated: [nancy@metrowestcd.org](mailto:nancy@metrowestcd.org)

## Protect Yourself From Medicare Fraud!

Did you know that \$60 to \$90 billion of our tax dollars are lost to Medicare fraud each year?

Come meet Christina O'Neill, a representative of the Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol (MA SMP) Program on Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. at the Sargent Memorial Library, 427 Massachusetts Ave, Boxborough, MA 01719, and participate in a discussion on how to prevent, detect, and report healthcare errors, fraud and abuse. We all can have an active role in protecting Medicare for ourselves and future generations.

This free information workshop will provide you with the tools to become a more informed and engaged health care consumer including information about the new Medicare cards with random numbers rather than Social Security numbers.

For more information and to reserve your seat please contact Council on Aging Coordinator Lauren Abraham at 978-264-1717 or at [LAbraham@Boxborough-MA.gov](mailto:LAbraham@Boxborough-MA.gov).

If you cannot attend this workshop but have questions about your healthcare bills, Medicare Summary Notices, or other health insurance explanation of benefits statements, please call the MA SMP Program office at 800-892-0890.

This event is jointly sponsored by the Boxborough Council on Aging and the Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol Program. The Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol Program is funded in part by grant number 90-MP 0226-03-01 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living, Washington, DC 20201.

## Household Hazardous Waste Day

Saturday April 13, 2019 • 9:00am – 1:00pm

577 Massachusetts Ave. Highway Barn

### Proof of Residency Required

- Paint Strippers/ Thinners
- Solvent Adhesives
- Lighter Fluid
- OIL BASED PAINT ONLY
- NO LATEX-dry out, put in trash
- Used oil
- Poisons, Insecticides, Fungicides
- Chemical Fertilizers
- Weed Killers
- Moth Balls
- Flea Control Products
- Fuels/Gasoline/ Kerosene
- Engine Degreaser
- Brake Fluid/ Carburetor Cleaner
- Transmission Fluid
- Car Wax, Polishes
- Driveway Sealer
- Roofing Tar
- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Rubber Cement & Airplane Glue
- Fiberglass
- Resins
- Photo Chemicals
- Chemistry Sets
- Furniture Polish
- Floor & Metal Polish
- Rug & Upholstery Cleaner
- Oven Cleaner
- Drain & Toilet Cleaner

THESE ITEMS ARE ALWAYS ACCEPTED AT THE TRANSFER STATION WITH STICKER: Batteries, Including Automotive, Cell Phones, Propane Tanks, Thermometers & Thermostats, Fluorescent Bulbs

URGENT NOTE: OUR TOWN PAYS \$30 - \$60 PER VEHICLE

Less Cars = Less Cost. Consolidate with your neighbors.

Keep our cost down. Please contact The DPW with any questions 978-264-1790

## Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council Presents Eleventh Annual Our World Film Series 9

Mark your calendars for late April and May: Four successive Friday nights at Acton Town Hall in the Faulkner Room, 204, at 7:00 pm. All events are free and open to the public. Light refreshments provided. All four nights will conclude with a discussion of the film(s) shown. More information is available at <https://abccourworld.wixsite.com/abccourworld>

**APRIL 26:** Massachusetts film schools: *A Short Night* Boxborough's own filmmaker and professor of film, Todd Davis, presents a selection of recent short films produced by film students from Massachusetts colleges. The filmmakers are invited to attend and discuss their work with the audience.

**MAY 3: A Man Called Ove** The title character is a lonely, grumpy ex-railroad employee obsessed with his home association rules. His life is upended when a new Persian family moves in across the street. A Swedish-Norwegian collaboration written and directed by Hannes Holm, this endearing film is faithfully adapted from the best-selling novel by Fredrik Backman. PG-13.

**MAY 10: Your Name** An anime feature, this gorgeous fantasy is a time-and-gender-warping labyrinth filled with twists and turns and unexpected transformations. You find yourself rooting throughout for the two teenage leads in a tale of undying love and devotion, bring the kids and teens. Written and directed by Japanese director Makoto Shinkai, this award winning film is rated PG.

**MAY 17: The Insult** An Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Language Film in 2018, our third Writer/Director film is from Lebanon's Ziad Doueiri. Native Christian Tony is deeply offended by Muslim Palestinian refugee Yasser. Their argument kindles nationwide passions. Tony and Yasser are overtaken by forces beyond their control and forced into a powerful courtroom drama. Rated R.



## Council on Aging March Luncheon

The Boxborough Council on Aging would like to thank the Boxborough Minutemen and the Blanchard Woodwind and Brass ensembles for hosting a wonderful luncheon on March 13th. More than 40 guests enjoyed a hearty baked ham dinner and a variety of sweet treats. After lunch guests enjoyed a performance from the talented Blanchard Woodwind and Brass ensembles led by instructor Chris Baird. The young musicians played a range of music and then joined the crowd for dessert! For more information about Council on Aging activities contact Lauren Abraham at 978-264-1717 or [LAbramham@boxborough-ma.gov](mailto:LAbramham@boxborough-ma.gov).

