

SUMMER
2019



Richard Smith as Henry David Thoreau
and Boxborough resident Oisín Barry
stroll on Conservation Trails

Photo credit: Cheryl Mahoney

THE
BOXBOROUGH
Bee 

BE INFORMED • BE CONNECTED • BE BOXBOROUGH

Select Board's Corner

TOWN MEETING

Thank you to Town Meeting for your thoughtful deliberations concerning the annual budget and warrant articles. Some of the larger articles approved at Town meeting included: \$290,000 for an ambulance, \$202,000 for hardware and software upgrades, \$300,000 for road paving, \$210,000 for a roll-off truck and \$48,000 for a marked police cruiser.

Town meeting also supported a non-union salary survey to ensure the fair and equitable compensation structure for our employees, additions to staff including an Assistant Town Administrator to support human resources, procurement, project management and other initiatives, a part-time department assistant to support the Council on Aging and per-diem, non-benefited recording secretaries to support several of our Boards.

For more information about Annual Town Meeting, go to the Town website at www.boxborough-ma.gov, select the BXB-TV On Demand feature, and click on ATM.

A huge "thank you" to John Fallon, Town Moderator, whose perspicacity and advice to the Select Board, Finance Committee, Planning Board and Town Administrator ensured another smooth and well-organized town meeting.

ELECTIONS

The Select Board thanks all candidates for running for office. Congratulations to: John Fallon, Town Moderator, Liz Markiewicz, Town Clerk, Wes Fowlks, Select Board, Nora Shine, School Committee, Abby Reip, Mark White, Rebecca Verner and Cindy Markowitz, Planning Board, Janet Glidden and Rob McNeece, Library Trustees, Bryan Lynch, Board of Health, and Kevin Mahoney, Constable.

Following the elections, the first order of business for the Select Board is to re-organize. This is an annual process where the Board elects the new Chair and Clerk. The Board will re-organize at our June 3rd meeting.

The Board would like to remind all other Boards, Committees or Commissions appointed by the Select Board, that the Chair and Clerk positions (of each Board, Committee or Commission), should rotate among members, with no member serving more than two years in succession in any given office.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

The Select Board has completed the interview process for hiring a new Fire Chief. The Town Administrator is negotiating a contract and we expect the new Chief to start by mid-September. More information will be available once the contract is finalized. In the interim, Chief Randy White will continue to serve as the Town's Fire Chief.

The Town Administrator and the Board accepted with regrets, the resignation of Paul Redmond, Treasurer/Collector and are in the process of interviewing candidates for his replacement.

And finally, the Town Administrator and Board expect to start the process of interviewing candidates for the Assistant Town Administrator and the part-time Department Assistant approved at Town Meeting.

LOCAL CHARACTERS

The people in your neighborhood

FIVE FACTS ABOUT YOUR SELECT BOARD MEMBERS



BOB STEMPLÉ

1. This is my third consecutive term on the Select Board, now entering my 8th year.
2. I honestly enjoy helping my neighbors, whether through the Select Board or as a member of the Fire Department
3. My full-time work is extremely challenging and exciting, being

the Administrative Director for the Division of Infectious Diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital, working with AIDS and Hepatitis patients along with clinical participants.

4. In my spare time, I enjoy playing golf and alpine skiing with my 30 year old son and 32 year old daughter.

5. My favorite activity is spending time with my wife of 34 years, either in the back yard by the pool, cutting the lawn as she tends to her gardens, or traveling to other cities, exploring other countries, their people and how the landscape has changed.



LES FOX

1. My ancestors settled in Virginia's "northern Neck" in the early 1700's, but I was born and raised in western Pennsylvania and came to New England to attend Brown and MIT where I studied physics, emerging with a PHG.
2. My wife Gladys was raised in West Acton. She always had a

horse and is an excellent rider. We purchased the Wetherbee Farm and moved to Boxborough in 1987. I did not get on a horse until I was 50. There is always something to tend to on the farm, and we are surrounded by horses, cats, dogs, chickens and ducks.

3. Around 1998 I noticed the effort of the Town Government Study Committee and was impressed with the work of the dedicated volunteers. When Town Meeting approved the committee's recommendation to expand the Select Board from 3 to 5 members, I was encouraged to run for office. I did, and have been a member since 1999. There is always something new to learn.

4. I love the east coast – from Florida to Maine and am especially fond of the Essex salt marshes and the North Carolina Outer Banks. I have fond memories from 40 years of family reunions at the Outer Banks.

5. I enjoy reading physics texts and papers (really!) historical biographies and watching good cinema (eg., Kubrick, Kurosawa, Ford, Coppola, etc).



MARIA NEYLAND

First fact – I hate to give "five facts" about myself!

1. I am the oldest daughter of Greek immigrants and speak fluent Greek.
2. I love to cook, but hate to bake.
3. I can do my own oil change.
4. My passion is my family – husband, 3 daughters and 2 dogs.

5. My guilty pleasure and stress reliever is playing Candy Crush. I have been playing the same game since 2015 and am on level 3667.

And I'm still giving 5 facts about myself!



SUSAN BAK

1. I grew up in Niagara Falls NY and went to school in Buffalo where winters lasted forever. (I'm not a snow person).

2. More than anything else, I love dining out. Just ask my husband!

3. I once had a speaking part in a national television commercial for Marshalls. I was the only one

recruited from my theater group who could say Marshalls with an "R" as opposed to Mahhhshalls.

4. Even though my career at the TJX Companies was challenging and interesting, I love retirement more!

5. I spend my free time with my husband Hoff, playing golf (not very well), hiking and traveling.

P.S. This was harder than I thought it would be.



WES FOWLKS

1. Graduated ABRHS class of 2005.

2. In 2011 broke the world record for the largest snowball.

3. Lives in controlled chaos (2 kids and 4 dogs).

4. Has been on the Patriots season ticket waiting list since 2006.

5. Successfully convinced his friend from college to buy the house next to him.

Notes from THE BOARD OF HEALTH

There are labs in Massachusetts that provide testing on ticks as a service to the public for a fee. The purpose for these tick tests is to learn what diseases ticks may be infected with and to track their location to better understand the risk of tick-borne illness in our

communities. The Laboratory of Medical Zoology (LMZ) is an academic research lab at the University of Massachusetts Amherst that offers this testing locally. Since LMZ's research focuses on infectious diseases, especially those transmitted via other animal species (ticks), they make a perfect community health collaborator.

In conjunction with the Boxborough Board of Health, the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health is partnering with the LMZ to provide a reduced fee for the testing of ticks. This discount is made possible by a generous grant from The Friends of Nashoba Nursing Service and Hospice and the LMZ. The partnership will provide a reduction in the testing fee for up to 150 ticks to be submitted by Nashoba's citizens this season. Boxborough residents can utilize this reduced rate service for tick testing by accessing 25\$ coupons at the LMZ's website: www.tickreport.com.

Tick testing should NEVER be considered a substitution for medical diagnosis; however, having these specific results may help you and your health care provider determine the best way to protect you from and/or treat tick borne illness. Only your health care provider can offer medical advice and/or prescribe treatment.

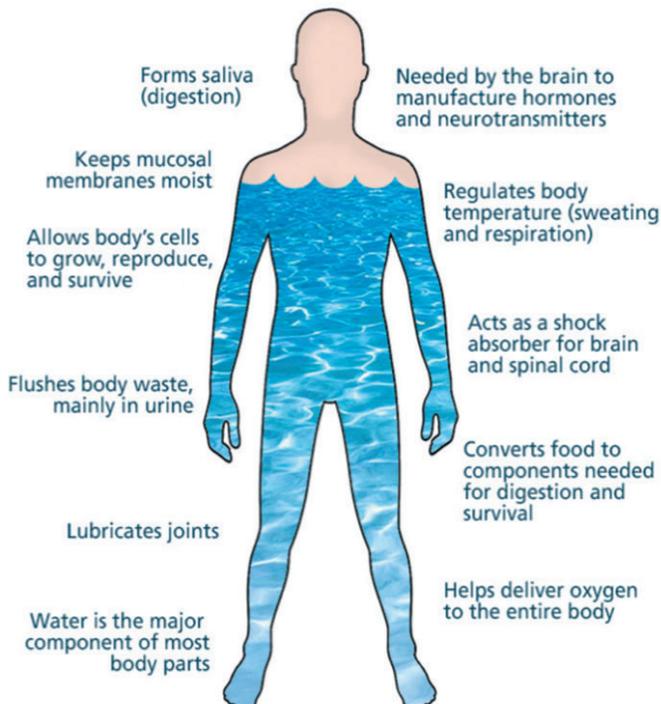
If you are interested in learning more about tick testing, please visit www.tickreport.com and follow the instructions for submission. The fee reduction will be applied at the time the payment is processed.

Any questions regarding the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health's partnership with LMZ should be referred to Jim Garreffo, at 978-772-3335 ext. 305.

Tamara Bedard, RN | TOWN NURSE'S CORNER

Remember to stay hydrated this summer to beat the heat! Here are some tips on staying safe in the summer sun.

What Does Water do for You?



HEAT STROKE

SYMPTOMS

- High body temp (103° or higher)
- Hot, red, dry skin
- Fast, strong pulse
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Confusion
- Passing out

WHAT TO DO

- Call 911 right away! This is an emergency.
- Move the person to a cooler place
- Help lower the person's temp with cool cloths
- Do NOT give the person anything to drink

HEAT EXHAUSTION

SYMPTOMS

- Heavy sweating
- Cold, pale, clammy skin
- Fast, weak pulse
- Nausea/vomiting
- Muscle cramps
- Tiredness or weakness
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Passing out

WHAT TO DO

- Move to a cool place
- Loosen clothing
- Put cool, wet cloths on your body or take a cool bath
- Sip water

GET MEDICAL HELP

IMMEDIATELY IF:

- You are throwing up
- Symptoms are getting worse
- Symptoms last longer than 1 hour

Free Yoga & Mindfulness

Free yoga and mindfulness on the Sargent Memorial Library lawn continues Saturday mornings through June. Join Ivy Child International and the Bettering Boxborough Together team for a revitalizing start to your day and a chance to win raffle prizes from local businesses. A different local instructor will lead class each week from studios like Revolution Community Yoga, Gina's Studio, Xhale Massage, and Moncreaff's Martial Arts, Yoga and Fitness. See you Saturdays at 10am!



THE BOXBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Since 1962, the all-volunteer Boxborough Historical Society has worked to implement its motto to "Preserve the Past for the Future". The Society endeavors to help our residents learn about their home town, its place in history, and to care about preserving that history. We have many exciting programs coming up and would encourage you to join us, including Channel 5's Ted Reinstein speaking about his book "Country Stores" on October 20.

The most recent effort to "Preserve the Past for the Future" was our two-year Capital Campaign to Save the Steele Farmhouse which raised over \$100,000 from mostly local donations, and from grants. The Society sought to help the Town to preserve the 1784 Levi Wetherbee (Steele) farmhouse, a classic representative of the deep patriotic and agricultural heritage of Boxborough. Built by one of the Town's founders who fought in the Revolutionary War, the Town purchased the farm in 1994 to preserve this bucolic farmscape and its original dwelling place. Through the efforts of committed town officials, boards, employees, and volunteers it is now listed on the National Historic Register and preserved under a conservation and historic preservation restriction under the co-oversight of the Trustees of Reservations and the Society.

The historical society also maintains various historical archives at the Boxborough Museum. The Boxborough Museum at 575 Middle Road will be open Sundays June 9, July 14, and August 11 from 2 to 4pm. Come see Boxborough's 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. The newest exhibits are in the "Founding Families" series and about the Wetherbee and Whitcomb families. Admission is free and all are welcome.

To find out more, please visit the Society's booth at Fifer's Day on June 15, at Facebook page Boxborough Historical Society and our website <http://www.multimgmt.com/BHSociety/bhs1.htm>.

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 June 9, July 14, and August 11. Come see Boxborough's historic treasures including the 1850's scale which is sensitive enough to weigh a penny and strong enough to calibrate a 50 pound weight, the "new" hearse built in 1881, and the "old" hearse (come and see how old is old). Admission is free and all are welcome. For more information or if anyone wishes to arrange a private tour for a small group at a different time please call John Fallon at 978-264-0069.



**Boxborough Police
Officers' Association**
520 Massachusetts Ave
Boxborough, MA 01719

OFFICERS

Jeffrey C. Landgren
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Vice President

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Christopher D. Lowney



Greetings from the Boxborough Police Officers' Association!

Once again, we are conducting the 2019 fundraiser on our own; as a result, the full amount of every donation comes directly to the Boxborough Police Officers' Association (BPOA), and is redistributed back into the Community.

With your generous donations, we have been able to sponsor worthwhile community causes and promote the welfare of our members.

Recent sponsorships include:

- College scholarships for two graduating Seniors of Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
- Funding our Senior Community's Annual Luncheon
- Sponsorship of the A-B Rotary Club's Veterans Day Breakfast
- Donations to Families of Massachusetts Public Safety Personnel injured or killed during the performance of their duty

We have enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope for mailing your donation. Should you lose the envelope; donations can be mailed to the address located at the top left of this page.

If you'd prefer, electronic donations can be made through our PayPal site located at: www.paypal.com with the donation directed to the following email address: rarakelian@boxborough-ma.gov

Each and every donation, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated!

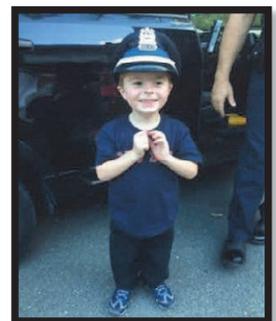
If you have any questions or would like to nominate a worthy community cause for future consideration for BPOA assistance, please contact Officer Robert Arakelian at 978-264-1747.

We thank you for your consideration and continued support!

Sincerely,

Robert A. Arakelian

Robert A. Arakelian
Treasurer
Boxborough Police Officers' Association





Boxborough Fifer's Day

June 15, 2019

On Saturday June 15 Boxborough will celebrate Fifer's Day at Flerra Meadows on Stow Road in Boxborough. Fifer's Day is jointly sponsored by the Boxborough District Minuteman Company and the Town of Boxborough's Public Celebrations and Ceremonies Committee. 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 Meadow 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, donut eating contest, booths representing Town organizations, and a craft fair. There will be live music throughout the afternoon. For more information or to sign up for a non-profit booth, craft booth, road race, or volleyball please go to www.fifersday.org.



2019 EVENT SCHEDULE

- 9:30AM **Fifer's Four Road Race**
Start at Flerra Meadows
Awards follow completion
- 11AM - NOON **Parade**
Parade steps off at Blanchard School to Flerra Meadows via Stow Road, Awards, Flag Salute, National Anthem Golden Fife Award
Parade Marshall Luther Blanchard & Lucie Hager
- 12-7PM **Food and Drink**
Hot Dogs, Burgers, Chicken Dinner, Sausage Subs
Soft Drinks, Beer & Wine
Cooked and served by your very own Minutemen!
- 12:30-5PM **Craft Fair, Exhibits, Booths**
Open for all to see and enjoy! Find out more about local non-profit organizations – help them with their fundraising or just browse the crafters stalls for that unique gift!
- 1-5:00PM **Volleyball**
Volleyball tournament starts – Both serious and neighborhood brackets
Volleyball Finals and Awards Ceremony

ENTERTAINMENT

- 12:30-2:30PM **Merrimack Valley Bluegrass**
- 3:30-5:30PM **Tom Yates Group**

KIDS ACTIVITIES & RIDES *

- 12:30-5PM **Moonwalk**
Bounce to your heart's content.
Sponsored by Lincoln Property.
- 12:30-5PM **Obstacle Course**
Challenge your friends, brothers, sisters, and parents up over and under this fun 50 foot course.
- 12:30-5PM **Wrecking Ball**
Test your skills. Sponsored by the Boxboro Regency.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 12:30-5PM **The Dunk Tank**
Sponsored by the Middlesex Savings Bank.
- 2:30-3PM **Donut Eating Contest**
Sponsored by Dunkin
- 12:30-5PM **Kids train rides**
Central Station is in left field.

* Wrist bands let the kids play all day on the inflatables

Summer Adventures at the Library

The library is gearing up for some summer fun. In addition to hosting the Mindful Morning series in collaboration with Bettering Boxborough Together and Ivy Child, we have a couple of special events planned for the adults, and a full calendar ready for when school's out! **boxlib.org**

ADULT PROGRAMS



JAZZIN' THE BLUES
June 20th, Thursday, 7 PM

Come on a musical journey with recording musician Paul Speidel, starting from the beginnings of Jazz and its Country Blues roots, through each subsequent period of Jazz evolution, right up to the modern day with examples of the Blues influences—not just in Jazz—but also Latin, Soul and Rock-n-Roll! With his guitar, Paul and his acoustic bass player would highlight the characteristics of swing, simple musical forms and improvisation as defined in each stage of Jazz' development. Pieces by classic artists are emphasized, and introduced with some background and history of the music, plus memorable tidbits about the piece or composer (famous renditions, etc.). It's music history told in the form of a live concert.

KID'S PROGRAMS

We will officially kick off this year's Summer Reading Program with a magic show by Scott Jameson on Tuesday 7/9. From there, there is just about a different activity every day at the library. From Emergency Vehicle Day to Flower Pot Decorating Workshop; from puppet show to Lego club. For detail schedule, please check the event calendar on our website at: boxlib.org.

A UNIVERSE OF STORIES! SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2019



The 2019 theme is A Universe of Stories!® Our kick-off event is on Tuesday, July 9th at 4:00 pm – featuring the magic of Scott Jameson! Later in the summer, on Thursday Aug 15th at 5:30 – 7:00 pm - celebrate your children's reading success at our Annual Ice Cream Party -- with Bubbles & Balloons by Ed Pop! Sign up begins June 10th – Create your online reading log & pick up our Calendar of Events!

The 2019 Statewide Reading Program is funded by the Friends of the Library, the AB Cultural Council, the Mass Regional Library System, the Mass Board of Library Commissioners, & the Boston Bruins!"

Recreation Commission Activities:

There's still time to sign up for the Flerra Summer Playground

On behalf of the Recreation Commission we would love to notify everyone that we are taking registrations for Flerra Summer Playground at town hall. The link can be found at: <http://www.boxborough-ma.gov/recreation-commission>. Parents and caregivers can sign their children up ages 5-12 at town hall for any week or all 4 weeks. Price for the first week is \$70, the other weeks is \$90 with a cap of \$270 per family per week.

In addition to the flerra summer program, we have teamed up with At Bats and the Boxborough Gymnastics Center to offer after care and activities for children so their day does not have to end at 12:30. Please check in with these two businesses in town for information on their programs.



Boxborough Events

Middle Road Community Garden

The Boxborough Middle Road Community Garden will soon be opening for the 2019 growing season. The Garden is located at the intersection of Middle Road and Depot Road. Basic plots are \$20. Water is available via an old style hand pump and it is advised that gardeners fence their plots. Tools and watering cans may be left in the garden during the season. Organic gardening practices are not mandated. Contact Owen Neville at 978-263-3285 or middleroadgarden@gmail.com for more information.

What's in a Name?

The Town of Boxborough's Energy Committee has been doing some soul searching the past few months and has a new vision, mission and name, the Sustainability Committee.

Our Vision:

To promote a culture of sustainability that will be fully integrated into our community for the benefit of present and future generations.

Sustainability Committee chair (and leading light) Francie Nolde puts it this way:

We chose the word sustainability because it implies that the demands we place on our environment can be met without negatively affecting people to live well, now and into the future. It requires awareness and commitment not to use more resources than one needs.

One way of looking at it is through the eyes of pollution: we don't put more pollution into the environment than it can cope with. Fossil fuels are not sustainable because the atmosphere cannot break them down into nontoxic components that it can cope with. Thus, solar in Boxborough means less harmful impact on our air through reduced carbon output.

Our Sustainability Committee has tasks that aim toward ecological balance. This means education, awareness, and motivation. We hope our townspeople will follow principles regarding energy usage (reduction and sources), climate change, waste, recycling, and natural resources. The interplay between human behavior and environmental outcomes depends on us and our mindsets.

We want people to realize that to have a happy and healthy community, we have to pay attention to how we live and what we're doing.

The Sustainability Committee welcomes all to our monthly meetings. Come share your thoughts and ideas and join in the fun. Normally the 2nd Wed. of every month, 7-9pm at Town Hall. Exact dates are posted on the Town Calendar www.boxborough-ma.gov.

Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council is Seeking Council Members

If you like arts, culture and humanities, you can use your interests and talents by joining the Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council. We are looking for volunteers from Acton or Boxborough who would be interested in serving as council members.

The Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council (ABCC) plays a vital role in enhancing local arts and culture. The members of the ABCC are volunteers who enjoy supporting arts, culture and humanities in their communities. ABCC members take pride in taking up this important responsibility towards the advancement of local public arts and cultural programming.

Our annual grants program supports local independent artists, school initiatives, museums, theater groups, filmmakers and many other programs that add to the cultural vibrancy and diversity of our community. For 2019, we granted over \$13,000 to 43 projects.

The ABCC is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

If you would like to be a part of the Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council, please write to abccinformation@gmail.com or visit our website at www.actonboxboroughculturalcouncil.org for more information.

The Boxborough Council on Aging Needs YOU!

Would you like to be more involved in your community? Are you interested in intergenerational programming? Social justice and equitable access? How about a love of needlework to help launch a sewing and quilting club at the community center? Want to join a Chair Yoga or Gentle Mat Yoga class? Ever pondered shaking your groove thing at a Line Dance class? Weekly Walkers Club? Well then you're in luck. The Council on Aging is seeking new members to fill openings on the board and activity volunteers. We welcome Future Seniors under 60 years of age! We are also still accepting applications for paid part-time van drivers to expand transportation services. The COA is also seeking a Boxborough resident to serve on the Minuteman Senior Services regional membership committee; this opportunity involves a monthly meeting at Minuteman headquarters in Bedford. Contact the COA to learn more about these opportunities: 978-264-1717 or email LABraham@boxborough-ma.gov.

Acton Boxborough Rotary Club Summer at Wings and Wheels

Summer may seem a long time away, but soon enough it will arrive, and we' ll all be looking for great ways to spend those beautiful summer evenings. Here's a great one: Wings and Wheels Cruise-In/ Fly-In at Minute Man Air Field, 302 Boxboro Road in Stow MA! The fun happens from 5-8 pm, every Thursday in June, July, and August (except the week of July 4).

Wings and Wheels offers wonderful specialty cars and small planes to wander among, admire, and ask about. Proud owners will be glad to show you their beautiful cars and planes. The kids and grandkids can sit in a plane' s cockpit, honk an yah-OO-gah! horn, or clamber up an enormous army transport truck. Pets on leash are also welcome.

It' s all brought to you by the Minute Man Air Field, the Rotary Clubs of Acton-Boxborough and Westford, EAA Chapter 196, the Lions Club of Stow, and Nancy' s Air Field CafÉ. Your donation at the gate will help with the local and international service initiatives that Rotary and Lions Clubs support, and Club members will be happy to tell you about them in more detail.

If you' re hungry, you can order hamburgers and hot dogs, veggie dishes, desserts. Thirsty? We' ll have fresh-squeezed lemonade, soda, or beer & wine. There are plenty of shaded spots to sit, eat, and chat, and music to provide a relaxing vibe.

And if the kids get restless, head to the Kids' Corner, where they can color, have their face painted, or try a bean bag toss.

Looking for a particular kind of car or plane? See the schedule below.

June 7	American	Tail draggers
June 14	British	Bi-planes
June 21	German	Home builds
June 28	Italian	Classic
July 12	Amer. & Japanese	Tail draggers
July 19	British	Bi-planes
July 26	German	Home builds
August 2	Italian	Classic
August 9	American Hot Rods	Tail draggers
August 16	British	Bi-planes
August 23	German	Home builds
August 30	Italian	Classic

Join us as we celebrate summer at Wings and Wheels! For more information, contact WingsandWheelsMA@gmail.com or www.wingsandwheelsMA.org.

Contribute to the Bee

Do you have a local event or program you'd like to submit to the Fall 2019 edition of the Bee? Is there a local business or character you think we should profile? Email the details in plain text to BoxboroughBee@gmail.com. Photos are welcome, please send them as separate files.



Boxborough Students in Action

Blanchard Outdoor Plan

The Blanchard Outdoor Learning Plan at Blanchard Memorial Elementary School seeks to solidify and extend our commitment to getting children outdoors. We believe in the multitude of benefits associated with outdoor learning - from social-emotional regulation and health to the enormous opportunities to extend traditional learning in math, science, and language arts through our natural world. Last fall, the Blanchard PTF engaged local landscape architect and designer, Lemon Brooke, to create an outdoor plan to address accessibility and ADA-compliance, increase access from the school to the abutting wetlands and forests, and create additional outdoor learning spaces to support teacher requests for formal outdoor classroom activities.

Once completed, the project will not only have a direct impact on the school and the 500+ student body - but will also serve as a space to support numerous community stakeholders. While the Town of Boxborough has many trails for public access, the location of the Hager Land Access Trail is unique – it has ample parking, is located on a main road with clear signage, and is in the center of town. The space is currently utilized by Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts who regularly use school facilities for meetings, and the general public. As such, the space extends potential use beyond education to stewardship and recreation. Bird watching is another key draw to this space, featuring over 105 species of birds throughout the year; the Plan also allows accessible viewing for people of limited mobility.

The schematic designs have been completed, and we are ready to kick off fundraising for phase one implementation. You can view the plan, and make a donation toward the project at www.blanchardptf.org/plan. We look forward to the community's support in helping us take the next critical step of fundraising and look forward to sharing the results of this project's impact on our next generation of land stewards, explorers, and educators.



(Screenless) Explorers Week at

Blanchard Memorial

by Sabina Flohr, age 8

"Screen Free Week" (screenfreeweek.org) is happening at Blanchard Memorial School from June tenth – June fifteenth. In this persuasive paragraph, I am trying to encourage all the other people in Boxboro to participate. The first reason is that there will be lots of activities during the week, led by the Sargent Memorial Library, Girl Scout Troop 62918, Silver Unicorn Bookstore, the Blanchard Bulldogs Running Club, Boxboro Gymnastics Center, Fun World Language Academy, Boxboro Tae Kwon Do, Periwinkle Glassworks, Metrorock Littleton, and many more! Think of all the fun things you can do without screens! The second reason is that using screens too much takes away all your free time that you could be using for other things, such as all the activities mentioned earlier in this article. And the old saying is, "If you use screens too many times, your eyes will turn square." To prevent square eyes, get outside and enjoy nature and/or read paper books and learn something new! At the end of the short five days (which I'm sure will go by too quick) you will be left with a smile and that good feeling that you get when you accomplish something big!

For more information, including the calendar, please see www.blanchardptf.org

A Visit from The Adam Ezra Group

By: Betsy Collyer, Tahani Dole and Kathryn Contini

What comes to mind when you think of writing in school? Perhaps you think about writing stories or a formulaic essay. Well, for the sixth graders at Blanchard Memorial, they recently got to experience a whole new writing experience.



On Monday, May 20th, the entire Adam Ezra Group joined Blanchard students for a songwriting workshop experience. With the help of Corinna (fidel), Poche (bass), Alex (drums), Bobby (sound), and Adam (guitar/lead vocals), students were walked through the songwriting process during

their regular ELA time. From choosing the mood, to crafting the narrative of the lyrics, the band made the process engaging and relevant for the students.

Adam started the workshop by getting personal and explaining his mission. As a kid, Adam had a difficult time with ELA; he was bad at spelling, handwriting, and vocabulary. He was discouraged as a kid, and thought that he just wasn't good at ELA. Eventually, when he was an adult, he was introduced to the art of songwriting. He could easily put his words and thoughts into songs. Adam said, "I wish I'd known that when I felt discouraged with ELA. It would have made me feel better about myself." Now, he can express his ideas in a song, without having to worry about bad penmanship, grammar, and spelling. It doesn't matter what the song looks like, it's how it sounds and is performed.



With that, the classes got to work developing a song. All the classes got to pick what they wanted their song to be about. First Adam gave them three beautiful and distinct melodies to choose from. Once that was decided on, they brainstormed what they wanted their song to be

about. With that out of the way, they got to use Poche, Alex, and Corinna as their puppets. They gave them 2-3 melodies, harmonies and beats to choose from to go along with their song. Soon after, they got to start writing the song! They were separated into 3 groups to work on the three main parts of the song. The 6th graders had to involve lyrics that made sense in the context, lyrics that went along with the beat and melody of the song, and lyrics that express the meaning of the song. As soon as all three groups were finished, Adam worked his magic, adding a chorus, fixing mistakes, and making the three parts flow! Then the incredible band sang the song for the classes!

After a quick lunch break, it was time for the concert portion of the day. The gym was full of ecstatic 4th, 5th, and 6th graders ready for the Adam Ezra Group to perform. After the 6th graders met up with the band earlier, they already felt comfortable around them. After everyone quieted down, Adam introduced himself and the band and told a little about himself. Finally, after much waiting, the band started playing. The rock band played about four different songs. All the songs were unique in their own way. Finally, Mr.Labb and Mrs.Contini came up with the band and sang "Free Falling". Everyone got up out of their chairs and some even sang along. At the end, the band told us to sing a harmony while the band sings. The band is super fun and interacts with the audience a lot.



When asked how the day went, the band said, "We loved collaborating with the students at Blanchard Memorial School. Each of their songs was very different, but all were creative and thoughtfully written. Thanks so much for being wonderful hosts." A sixth grader reflected that, "It was an incredible experience that I never would have gotten otherwise. I think everyone deserves the opportunity to do it." Another said that, "It was so helpful to hear that others are facing challenges and that they were able to overcome them."

The rave reviews are in. Many thanks to Adam, Corinna, Poche, Alex and Bobby for an unforgettable day of music and fun. It certainly was a highlight of the year!

Celebrating Boxborough Trails with a Walk with HENRY DAVID THOREAU



Henry David Thoreau (aka Richard Smith) led a group of enthusiastic walkers through the woods on the newly cleared Hager Land trail on May 18 as part of the Hidden Treasures program with the Freedom's Way National Heritage Association. The event started in the library with Alan Rohwer leading an introduction to Thoreau and his interest in Boxborough. Alan set the scene at 1860, explaining how Thoreau documented his walks in his journal, and in particular admired the oak forest of Boxborough known as Inches Woods,

"The handsomest thing I saw in Boxboro was this noble stand of oak wood. I doubt if there is a finer one in Massachusetts" wrote Thoreau.

Thoreau himself, played by well-known reenactor Richard Smith, stepped forward in character and spoke about his interest in the town and its woods, quoting from his journals "On any moral question, I would rather have the opinion of the farmers of Boxboro' than of Boston and New York put together." and adding his own personal quips.



The group then headed onto the Hager Land Trail, part of those former woods. Henry stopped often to admire the canopy of trees, the birds and wetlands along the way and chat, holding court and answering questions. Over 30 walkers enjoyed this chance to learn, walk, and laugh together on a gorgeous sunny spring day. The walk ended back in the library for more questions, and a chance to see the marvelous replica desk constructed by Rich of Boxborough Hardwood Furniture.

The trail is now marked by a new kiosk, complete with trail map and a history of Thoreau and his visit for all to read. Thank you to Alan Rohwer for lending us his expertise in his knowledge of Thoreau. Our thanks as well to Boxborough Land Stewards, who oversaw the volunteers from Crown Castle clearing the trails. This event was a partnership between the Land Stewards, the Sargent Library, the Boxborough Historic Commission, and Bettering Boxborough Together, New trail maps are available at Town Hall and the library, complete with 12 trails in all in an easy to fold booklet. This project is funded through CHNA15 DoN funds from Lahey Hospital & Medical Center and Winchester Hospital"



UCC Boxborough Historic Renovation Underway

For over 180 years the Boxborough church has stood at the corner of Middle Road and Massachusetts Avenue, right in the center of Boxborough. The original Meeting House church was constructed in 1833, and converted to a two-story building in 1890. New structures were added over the years: Fellowship Hall (now the Community Center) in 1964, and a new Sanctuary building in 2000.

Last year, the congregation began the Open Doors Project in order to make the facilities more welcoming and available to the wider community. The renovation of the Community Center was completed a year ago as Phase I of the project, to rave reviews from members of the community. In Phase II, the Meeting House church building will be renovated, the "latest" renovation of this original building since 1890. Much of the work is structural: The building sits largely on piles of stones and cinder blocks, as shown.

But much of the work is intended to increase the welcome to all:

- a single, accessible main entrance
- a new farmer's porch on the Middle Road side, facing Town Hall
- a large, fully-accessible gathering space on the second floor
- informal meeting space on the first floor

One other change immediately visible on the outside: the steeple, which is seriously deteriorated, will be replaced by 4 Gospel Points. This will restore the look of the building to the way it was before 1990, when the steeple was installed.

Construction on Phase II will begin by the end of June and is projected to be complete early next year. Mangel Architects of Harvard prepared the design and Green Leaf Construction of Leominster will carry out the work. The cost of Phase I and Phase II together is \$1.8 million, of which \$1.6 million has been raised among church membership.

Phase III of the Open Doors project involves creating an outdoor common, an attractive gathering place on the lawn on the Middle Road side of the church. Planning will begin when Phase II is complete.

The Community Center, BCC space, and sanctuary space will remain open during construction, and the grounds will be available as well for the Harvest Fair.

Questions? Look on the Boxborough UCC website at <https://www.boxboroughucc.org/> under OPEN DOORS or attend a free ice cream social Open Doors Scoop: Thursday, June 20, 7-9:30pm & Saturday, June 22, 11:00am - 12:30pm



COA VAN

Need a ride to the doctor? A lift to the food pantry? Or to one of your favorite library programs? The COA Van can help! The Boxborough Council on Aging van is now available on Mondays 12p-5p, Tuesdays 9a-4p, and Wednesday 9a-4pm. For \$1 each way Boxborough residents age 60+ or 18-59 with disabilities can call 978-844-6809 at least one day in advance to book transportation on the van. When space is available residents under 60 without disabilities may also ride.

Would you like to help your neighbors and earn some money while you do it? The COA is hiring part time and back up van drivers. All you need is a regular Massachusetts license and a clean background check/driving record. All other training will be provided. Call to learn more: 978-264-1717.



Contribute to the Bee

Do you have a local event or program you'd like to submit to the Fall 2019 edition of the Bee? Is there a local business or character you think we should profile? Email the details in plain text to BoxboroughBee@gmail.com. Photos are welcome, please send them as separate files.

Stay up to date and follow us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/betteringboxboroughtogether