

WINTER
2018/19

THE
BOXBOROUGH
Bee 

Steele Farm
Photo credit: Tom Colley,
courtesy of Boxborough
Historical Society

BE INFORMED • BE CONNECTED • BE BOXBOROUGH

Select Board's Corner

WELCOME TO RYAN FERRARA

When the Boxborough Select Board met in December 2017, to discuss what qualities the Board and town residents wanted in a new Town Administrator, we came up with a very long list. We wanted a Town Administrator who would manage by "influence", work collaboratively with Town Department Heads, demonstrate sound judgement and decision-making skills, possess strong Interpersonal, customer service, conflict resolution and communication skills, was able to delegate tasks to appropriate staff, and most importantly, had a good sense of humor.

We weren't looking for someone who walked on water, just someone who could help calm the waters when they got a little rough as they sometimes do.

Those qualities were tested during Ryan's first two weeks in Boxborough. His first task was to interview and hire a Town Assessor, a Building Inspector and a Treasurer/Tax Collector, all of which are crucial to serving the residents of the Town. Having checked off those boxes, Ryan started working on transportation for Boxborough students who planned to attend 3 different Vocational Education schools. Given that the school year was only a few short weeks away, this was not an easy task but, Ryan came through and delivered!

On his eleventh day in Boxborough, the Town was served with a citizen's petition to call a Special Town Meeting within the next 45 days. This was the first time in at least 50 years, maybe longer, that a citizen's petition to call a Special Town Meeting, was served on the Town. Luckily, with over 20 years of extensive experience in municipal governance, including the last 6 years as the Assistant TA in Middleton, Ryan was up to the task! With the help of John Fallon, Town Moderator, Town Hall staff, and Kirby Dolak, Littleton Cable TV, the Special Town meeting came off without a hitch.

We are privileged to have Ryan Ferrara join the Town of Boxborough. He has a wealth of knowledge in human resource management, budget management, procurement, negotiating contracts and collective bargaining. And a great sense of humor! Please join the Select Board in welcoming Ryan to our Town.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BOXBOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT

After three years of arduous work, the Boxborough Police Department received accreditation from the Massachusetts police accreditation commission. The commission requires compliance with 257 mandatory standards. These standards impact officer and public safety, address high liability/risk management issues and generally promote operational efficiency throughout the police department.

Congratulations to Chief Warren Ryder and Lieutenant Warren O'Brien who led the initiative and to the entire Boxborough PD for achieving this significant milestone. We applaud your initiative and efforts!

SELECT BOARD GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In September, the Select Board met with Ryan Ferrara, Town Administrator to review progress on current goals and realignment of goals for the current fiscal year.

The Board will continue to focus on goals identified in the Master Plan, as well as several far-reaching initiatives including the development a five-year operational plan, a disaster recovery and continuity of operations plan, and identifying land for the development of a new Fire station. What's more, the Board is excited by the opportunity to work with Lincoln Properties on a potential economic development plan at the 1414 Mass Ave location.

Town Hall Has Some New Friendly Faces

We had some great new team members join Town Hall this summer. Welcome aboard to our new Town Administrator, Assessor, Building Inspector, and Treasurer/Tax Collector. They've shared some of their favorite things about Boxborough winters. What are yours? Send them to BoxboroughBee@gmail.com!



RYAN FERRARA

Town Administrator
since July 2018

What brought you to Boxborough? I wanted to advance my career by working in a thoughtfully managed community. The Boxborough Select Board has been very supportive

of me since I started and I feel fortunate to be working for such a dedicated group. My favorite thing about Town is the dedicated and thoughtful volunteers who serve on Town board and committees--similar to the Select Board, a great team to partner with.

What do you love most about your job? I enjoy working with boards and residents to help make things more efficient and advise in the future path of the town. The investments the Town makes today will establish what the town will be for future generations. Residents can contact me by phone: 978-264-1712 or email: rferrara@boxborough-ma.gov

What do you love about winter? I enjoy alpine skiing and hiking with my family.



SANDY GENNA

Town Assessor
since August 2018

What brought you to Boxborough? During my interview I was impressed that everyone in Boxborough was so nice. I like working in a smaller town with a friendly atmosphere.

What do you love most about your job? I like being part of a team here and assisting citizens. I can help residents get information about their property and documents such as deeds, maps, and plot plans when needed. If residents want to know more about their property they can email me at sgenna@boxborough-ma.gov or call 978-264-1720

What do you love about winter? My favorite thing about winter is the beauty that surrounds us after a snow fall. I ski every weekend as a ski instructor and race on Monday nights.



I love going on walks and snowshoeing too.

BENTLEY HERGET

Town Building Inspector
since August 2018

What brought you to Boxborough? I really like the rural character of Boxborough.

What do you love most about your job? Safety is really important to me. I use my years of experience in the building trade to do very thorough inspections. I want to make sure every building in town is as safe as it can be for residents. If you notice a building safety issue please let the Building Department know so we can check it out. Call us at 978-264-1726.

What do you love about winter? I really enjoy the change in seasons. Winter is a chance to recharge and look forward to the return of spring.



PAUL REDMOND

Town Treasurer, Tax Collector
since August 2018

What brought you to Boxborough? I grew up in a small, close knit community (like Boxborough) and that has always appealed to me. Also, in a previous position, I worked with members of the town's financial team and found them professional and great to work with.

What do you love most about your job? I love that I get to see how the hard earned tax dollars that our residents pay are turned into various programs and projects. If you have questions about about your real estate, personal property, and excise tax bills you can call 978-264-1715 or email predmond@boxborough-ma.gov. And residents can pay those bills online or right here at my office in Town Hall.

What do you love about winter? My favorite part of winter is spending time with family and friends during the holidays. I also enjoy watching the Patriots play deep into the playoffs!

What's True about Flu? 2018-2019 Season Update

Flu is a disease of the body's breathing system, including the nose, throat and lungs. Flu is short for "influenza." Flu is caused by a virus and it can be very serious. Every year in the U.S. seasonal flu causes thousands of hospital admissions and deaths. Getting an annual flu vaccine is the best protection.

180 pediatric deaths had been reported to CDC during the 2017-2018 season. Although influenza vaccination is effective in preventing influenza-associated deaths among children, 34 percent of U.S. parents say their child is unlikely to get a flu vaccine this year.

While some people who get vaccinated may develop influenza, vaccination may make their illness milder. Vaccination reduces deaths, intensive care unit (ICU) admissions, ICU length of stay, and overall duration of hospitalization among hospitalized influenza patients.

Flu vaccine for the 2018-2019 season have been updated to better match circulating viruses.

- The CDC recommends people get immunized early in the fall each year.
- It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies that protect against flu to develop in the body.
- Flu continues to present a health risk as late as March so getting vaccinated later, even into January, may still be beneficial.

Everyday Prevention Helps Too

- Flu viruses spread from person to person through droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk.
- Flu viruses also may spread when people touch something with flu virus on it and then touch their mouth, eyes, or nose. Many other viruses spread these ways too.
- People infected with flu can infect others beginning a day before symptoms develop and up to 5-7 days after becoming sick. That means you may be able to spread the flu to someone else before you know you are sick as well as while you are sick.
- Stay home and limit contact with others when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and throw the used tissue away promptly.
- Wash your hands often with soap or alcohol based hand rub.

Getting an annual flu vaccine is the first and best available way to protect yourself and your family from flu and its potentially serious complications. Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctor's visits, and missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations. Flu vaccine also has been shown to significantly reduce a child's risk of dying from influenza. The more people who get vaccinated, the more people will be protected from flu, including older people, young children, pregnant women and people with certain long-term health problems who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness.



Everyday preventive actions can help slow the spread of germs that can cause many different illnesses and may offer some protections against the flu.

Nashoba Associated Boards of Health

Thanks You!

Dear Boxborough,

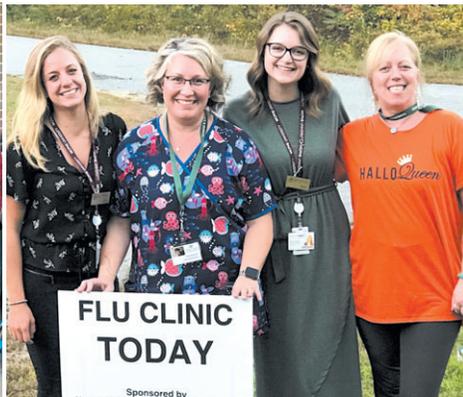
On behalf of Nashoba Associated Boards of Health I want to extend a GREAT BIG THANK YOU for the community support we received during our flu clinic season!

We vaccinated over 2,400 residents in our district throughout the month of October. Flu vaccination is a public health priority and we're happy that so many residents (aged 6 months-100!) got vaccinated and value the protection that immunization can offer. We couldn't have done it without the support of our town managers, town nurses, medical reserve corps, library staff, school administrators, nurses & staff, Councils on Aging, outreach and social workers, Police and Fire departments, boards of health, MCPHS nursing students, Nashoba Nursing Service & Hospice staff and many volunteers. Wishing you wellness,

Tamara Bedard, RN | Community Health Manager, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health



L-R: Jane Crocker NNSH volunteer, Joan Goddard, NNSH volunteer



L-R: Jamie Mangiacotti MCPHS nursing student, Tamara Bedard, RN, Danielle Croteau, MCPHS nursing student, Susan Hoag, LPN



L-R: Susan Hoag, LPN, Cindy Jaksina, RN, Tamara Bedard, RN

Boxborough Emergency Reserve Corps CPR/First Aid class

Saturday, January 12th 9am-1pm

The Boxborough Emergency Reserve Corps (BERC) will be hosting a CPR and First Aid class on Saturday, January 12th from 9am-1pm at the Blanchard Memorial Library training room for current and new BERC volunteers. The event will include an orientation for new volunteers including Medical Reserve Corps overview and CPR/First Aid training. For more information, please contact Julie Pratt at jpratt@boxborough-ma.gov or 978-264-1726.

The Boxborough Emergency Reserve Corps (BERC) is a subcommittee of the Board of Health and a member of the Massachusetts Region 4A Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), a group of volunteers from 33 communities around Boston (metro west). The mission of the MRC is to assist first responders (fire, police, and EMT personnel) utilizing trained medical professionals and support staff, during times of emergency both natural and terrorist in nature, and to educate the general public regarding emergency preparedness. Working with the town's first responders, BERC enhances Boxborough's ability to handle unexpected emergencies. There is a need for both medical and non-medical volunteers to serve on the BERC. Anyone interested in becoming a BERC volunteer or for more information, please visit www.boxborough-ma.gov/boxborough-emergency-reserve-corps



Boxborough's Annual Winterfest at Steele Farm

The Boxborough Recreation Commission will be hosting its annual Winterfest on Saturday, January 26, 2019 from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. at Steele Farm located at Middle Road in Boxborough. This is a wonderful event for your entire family to celebrate the joys of winter with your fellow Boxborough friends and neighbors. Bring your sleds for some sledding fun with friends! No snow? No problem. We will have plenty of other activities to keep the spirits high that afternoon and a bonfire to keep you warm and toasty. A delicious soup and fresh bread station and mulled cider and wine will be featured by Orange Door Kitchen from West Acton. Desserts from Biousweet Confections will be for sale. Check out the delicious beer and hard cider tastings from True West of Acton and Pony Shack Cider of Boxborough too! Jam will also be for sale by Boxborough's own, Stowaway Preserves. The Acton Boxborough Family Network will feature activities for children and the Taylor School will also be on hand to entertain the kiddos with the theme of the "The Mitten" book by Jan Brett. Free face painting sponsored by Acton Open Door will be available too. Come see an Ice Sculpture Artist busy at work too as he creates a masterpiece right in front of your eyes at Steele Farm. Bring your family and competitive spirit to participate in a game of Human Foosball too!! It's going to be a great day!!





MAKING THE MOST OF OUR *Conservation* during the winter months *Trails*

Winter is no time to hibernate! If you pack away your hiking boots at the first sign of snow, you are missing out on great opportunity to stay active outdoors. And you don't even have to leave town! Boxborough has over 25 miles of trails, in which to hike, snow-shoe and cross-country ski during the winter months. The woods are beautiful in the snow, when even familiar trails are transformed. While you can snowshoe on any of our trails, Steele Farm is by far the most popular for cross-country skiers, with a combination of gentle hills and open fields. Just across Hill Road, the Have Not Pond Conservation Area offers another relatively easy terrain for beginner skiers. For a more challenging experience, the Patch Hill Conservation Area provides a large network of trails that are more rugged and that can be accessed from numerous trailheads: Avebury Circle, Patch Hill Road, Hill Road, Liberty Field, Liberty Square Road and Depot Road.

For those just wanting to go on a winter hike, all of our trails are suitable. Just be mindful that snow and ice can be slippery. To enhance your experience, hiking poles are helpful for balance, with the added bonus of making your work-out even more aerobic! And if you'd like a winter walk on flat terrain, check out the paved trail on the Cisco campus off Beaver Brook Road. Before you head out, check the weather and dress appropriately—layers, wool socks, gloves, hat. This will enhance your enjoyment and keep you safe.



To view trail maps and to find a trail near you, you can go to the Town website:
<http://www.boxborough-ma.gov/conservation-commission/pages/conservation-trail-maps>

Boxborough Events

Boxborough Tae Kwon Do Food Drive!

Please join our team as we embark on our first food drive during the holiday season. In support of the Acton Boxborough Food Pantry, the Boxborough Tae Kwon Do team will actively engage in collecting food goods as a way to give back to our community. For new students age 7 and older, in lieu of class fees, please consider joining our team during the month of December by dropping off a bag of groceries which we will ensure is delivered to the Acton Boxborough Food Bank. Registration forms can be found on the town website. For the donation of a bag of groceries, you have the opportunity to receive training throughout the entire month of December!

As our program is a community program, it is only fitting that we work in order to support our overall community. Please consider joining our program as ours is truly a community-based program.

Thank you for the support, Master Rick

Christmas Tree Sales!

Looking for a tree this year but missed the Steele Farm cutting day? Look further down Middle Road right at the corner of RT 111 to find cut trees just ready for your home! Hours are 5-7pm M-F and Sat. Sun. noon-6pm starting December 1. Make sure you say hello to Rob Warwick, who knows all there is to know about these trees!

Longest Night Service

Wed., Dec. 12 • 7 pm • UCC Boxborough, 723 Mass. Ave.

The season of light and joy can also be a time of loneliness and grief. This time of commercialism and busyness can leave us hungry for meaning. Join us for a simple service of music, readings and candlelight that provides an opportunity to center in and experience the sacred presence. This gathering is designed especially for those dealing with loss or having a difficult time, but all can find comfort in this peaceful service. After the service, we join together for tea and cookies.

TRASH TALK

December 12, 2018 - 7:30 PM

Sargent Memorial Library, Boxborough

Wait a minute...is that plastic clam shell recyclable? Yogurt container? Milk carton? Did you say plastic bags? Come get some answers and learn how to recycle right! The Boxborough Energy Committee invites you to a Presentation by Julia Greene, MassDEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator

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 January 13, February 10 and March 10. 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 Minuteman Meetings

The Boxborough Company of Minutemen will meet on Sunday January 20 and Sunday February 24 at 8 pm in the training room on the second floor of the Boxborough Fire Station. For information please contact Captain Eric Michnovetz at 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.

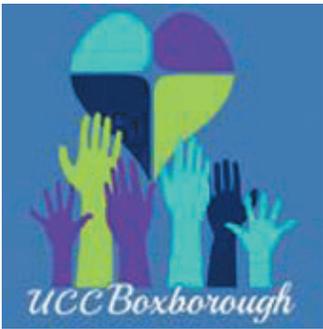


Neighbors HELPING Neighbors

Winter time with it's darker days can be a challenging and isolating time for many. It's no wonder that we celebrate light, gratitude, and giving as fall ends and winter begins. In that spirit of good news and community, here are a few ways neighbours are helping neighbors. Want to join in? Who else do you know that we can add to this list? Good things are happening all around us; let's work together to share some of what we already do while thinking about what else can be done! Here are just few:



Boxborough MA Fire Department is having a Toys For Tots drive again this year. Not only are your local firefighters always there for residents when needed, they have also been known to drive Santa to the tree lighting! To help with their toy drive, here are the details: There is a TOYS FOR TOTS drop off box at the Fire Station. If anyone wishes to donate a toy to help underprivileged children they may drop it off at the Fire Station located across from the Blanchard School, at 502 Mass. Ave. They are looking for new, non-violent, unwrapped toys for boys and girls of all ages. Residents are asked to have their donations in by no later than THURSDAY, December 13th.



Boxborough United Church of Christ The white church on the corner of Rt 111 and Middle Road <http://www.boxboroughucc.org/> The UCC Boxborough church is community resource for those who need a hand and those who are ready to lend a hand, regardless of faith. This fall the church has just completed a holiday gift bag project for Concord prison outreach which culminated in a carol sing in Concord with folks from South Acton and the Boxborough church along with Reverend Cindy Worthington-Berry.

The church has expanded their annual collection of gifts and clothing for 30 children for the Department of Family Services with the generous help of Town Hall employees. Plans for expanding the program next year are in the works.

The drive below has been going on for over a decade within the church, and this year the opportunity has broadened out for you to help those out in cold this winter in Worcester.

- Hats (and more) for the Homeless

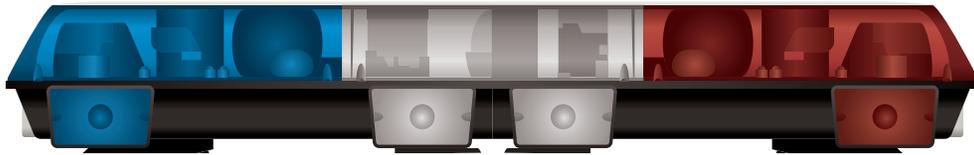
When doing your shopping this year, please be sure to add the homeless to the list. Please contribute a gift of loving warmth to those in need, such as a hat, scarf, warm socks, or gloves/mittens. Adults and children's sizes are both needed, and they must be new. There is a marked box in the Community Center and one inside the office area of the church. The last day to donate will be Sunday, December 16th. If you would like to donate and can't make it to the drop off sites, contact Mary Pavlik @mary.j.pavlik@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your caring and generosity.



Neighbor Brigade Neighbor Brigade has come to Acton and Boxborough through the hard work of two South Acton neighbors, Kathleen Surdan and Laura Maira. Together, they work as chapter leaders to coordinate help that is needed on a temporary base, connecting neighbor to neighbor through a website and social media. Their focus is on short term assistance with meals, transportation, and dog walking. Their site includes a list of tasks that need to be done, an organized calendar and more details about their chapter. They also oversee focused collections

and assembly, of items like baby items for Household Goods, or diapers for Acton Community Supper and Food Pantry. To find out more, including how to register for help or how to volunteer, go directly to their website <http://www.neighborbrigade.org> and look for the Acton-Boxborough chapter. You will find forms and more information there. Kathleen adds that they are "need blind" and just ask for basic information from those who need assistance, and will do a simple background check on those who do volunteer. She adds that many people volunteer for just one or two tasks, and others are regulars each week or month. You can also email Kathleen directly at actonboxboroughma@neighborbrigade.org

We'd love to know about other neighbor helping neighbor activities for our Spring 2019 edition! Please let us know what's happening around you.



BOXBOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT



Greetings from your Boxborough Police Department! We are available to serve you 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For emergencies ONLY, call 9-1-1. Our regular business phone number is 978-264-1750. "No call to small" as we pride ourselves on exemplary service for everyone.

October 24, 2018, the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission voted to award Accreditation to the Boxborough Police Department. Achieving Accreditation demonstrates our ongoing commitment to delivering an exemplary level of police service to everyone who lives, works or visits Boxborough. We'd like everyone to know that the Boxborough Police Department does not do this alone. We partner

with several community organizations as part of our efforts to keep our town safe. Here is some information about just one of our partners;

Domestic Violence Services Network (DVSN). DVSN works in collaboration with communities to end domestic violence. They strive to empower and educate all peoples in ways that respect their dignity and choices while promoting their safety. Victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking come to DVSN from:

DVSN accommodates requests for accompaniment to Ayer, Framingham, Lowell, Cambridge, or any other court with jurisdiction over abuse prevention orders sought by a DVSN client.

For the past four years, DVSN has averaged approximately 1,200 referrals or requests for service annually. 90% of their clients reside in one of the 13 partner communities: Acton, Boxborough, Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Maynard, Lexington, Lincoln, Stow, Sudbury, Wayland, Weston and Hanscom Air Force Base.

We will profile some of our other community partners in future newsletters.

Finally, as we head into the colder weather season, we'd like to pass along some winter driving tips.

- Be sure to get plenty of rest before embarking on long trips. You'll need to be attentive to weather and traffic conditions
- Never warm up your vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage
- Make sure that your vehicle has proper winter tires and they are inflated to the manufacturer's recommended pressure
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to prevent gas-line freeze up
- Don't use your cruise control on slippery roadways
- Look and steer in the direction that you wish to go
- Always wear your seat belt
- Keep in mind that stopping on a snow-covered road takes much longer as on dry pavement
- Don't stop when going up hills. It can be dangerous trying to get your vehicle moving uphill once it's been stopped
- Stay home. If you don't have to go out, don't. Keeping roadways clear for snow removal crews will let them get the job done more quickly

Adventures at the Library

Library Announcement

Thank you to those who participated in the Friends Fall Book Sale. And thank you to those who contributed to our food pantry donation collection during September and October. We were able to bring over 6 full boxes of items to the Acton Food Pantry. They were very much appreciated. Want to participate in our next "You Give We Forgive" food drive event or be reminded of future book sale dates? Subscribe to our newsletter or like us on Facebook to be in the loop.

The Library has a marvelous book, CD, and DVD collection. Have you noticed that we have expanded our graphic novels collection for the Young Adults? If there are any materials that you think would be a great fit for the Library, please don't hesitate to let us know. We also circulate non-book items, such as telescope and hotspots. Visit us and see what else we offer.

Recurring Programs

The Library hosts several recurring weekly or monthly programs, including Senior Movies on Mondays, knitting/craft club on Wednesday afternoons, book clubs for adults and kids (4th to 7th graders), toddler story times, craft times, and Lego clubs. Please check the Library calendar on our website (boxlib.org) for program times and movie titles.

Library Events

The Library has had a busy summer and fall with programs for both kids (such as the Spooktacular magic show) and adults (such as North Sea Gas and the local foraging presentation). We have also been busy collaborating with different organizations on different events, such as the Owl Prowl with the Better Boxborough initiative, and the WWI Armistice 100th Anniversary celebration with the Veteran's Memorial Committee. We have plenty planned for the winter as well:

Madrigral Singer

Thursday December 13th • 7pm

Start the festivities of this holiday season with the ABRHS Madrigal Singers' annual Traditional Holiday Music Concert with songs past and present from the fabulous group and some light refreshments. Surround yourself with friends, good cheer, and beautiful music. This program is sponsored by the generosity of the Friends of the Boxborough Library. Everyone is welcome.

Heroes of the Underground Railroad

Tuesday January 22th, 2019 @7pm

Bright Star Touring Theatre, a national professional touring theatre company based in Asheville, NC, will be bringing their acclaimed show Heroes of the Underground Railroad to Boxborough. Heroes of the Underground Railroad is an inspiring exploration of the lives and work of notable Abolitionists and slaves from America's Underground Railroad. The play sheds light on everything from secret messages along the routes to music from the period. This family friendly program is made possible by the support of Whitcomb House Trust.

Mindfulness Through Theater Techniques Workshop

Wednesdays @7pm from January 16th - February 13th

This 5-session workshop for adults (18 and up, young adults welcome) is presented by Meredith Charles of Drama Out of the Box. Using theater techniques, Meredith will teach participants how to become more mindful of their body, speech, mind, and surroundings. Have fun and learn new ways to connect with yourself! Registration is required so we can get a headcount for session size. No need to commit to all five sessions. This program is co-sponsored by the Recreational Committee.

We have much more planned for Spring starting with a presentation on Autosomal DNA for Genealogical Research in February, Meditation for Healthy Living and an Active Bystander Workshop for March, an Edible Perennial Gardening presentation and a Korean Culture Event in April, and a WWII Letters presentation in May. All the above are just the adult events. We have a series of children's programming for February break planned, too, including a Creative Drama workshop and Lindsay and Her Puppet Pals show! Keep yourself informed of Library happenings by visiting our website: www.boxlib.org or follow us on Facebook. We hope to see you at the Library!

Looking Ahead

The library would like to hear from you! We will be conducting a survey early next year to ask you what you would like the library to be, and what you would like to find in the library's collection. Your voice matters if we are to make the library truly belong to all of us. Stayed tuned!



Owl Prowl Fun at the Library

The Bettering Boxborough Together team held this fun community event in early November. Thanks to help from library staff, the Boxborough Birders, and the Boxborough Land Stewards, more than 100 community members gathered at the Sargent Memorial Library to learn about owls and get a taste of Boxborough's many walking trails.

Wendy Ernst, a teacher naturalist from Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, started the evening off by introducing three of her fine feathered friends: a screech owl, a great horned owl, and a barred owl. She shared some interesting facts about owl life that audience members of all ages enjoyed. Claudine, who attended with her children, said she found it fascinating that the feathers of a screech owl weigh more than its skeleton and one her sons especially loved seeing the great horned owl.



After the presentation, volunteer guides welcomed audience members on a brief walk on trails behind the library to listen for owls in the wild. Then the crowd enjoyed hot chocolate, snacks, and a chance to chat with their neighbors before the evening ended. Mary Ellen, a local senior, was impressed by the presentation and enjoyed seeing so many children participate in a fun evening activity.

The Bettering Boxborough Together project looks forward to teaming up with more town organizations to host additional walks during the Healthy Communities Implementation Grant. Where would you like to stroll? What topics would you like to learn more about? Let us know at BoxboroughBee@gmail.com!





SAVE THE DATE



Acton-Boxborough Family Network's **ANNUAL SWEETIE** *Valentine's Day Party!*



SAVE THE DATE for the Acton-Boxborough Family Network's Annual Sweetie Valentine's Day Party! The party will take place on Saturday, February 9th, 2019 from 10-11:30am at the gym at Blanchard Memorial School, 493 Massachusetts Ave in Boxborough.

A sensory friendly pre-party will take place from 9:30-10:00 AM. For more information, please email publicevents@abfamily.org.

Children of all ages and their families are welcome to come and enjoy the crafts and activities, photo booth, music and refreshments!

The ABFN Sweetie Valentine's Day party is free for ABFN members, all adults and children under 1. The fee for nonmembers is \$3/child with a \$10 maximum per family.

At the party, ABFN will be collecting donations of small NEW stuffed animals to donate to the Acton Police Department who distributes them to children who have been in accidents.

Please go to www.abfamily.org for more information or email publicevents@abfamily.org.



CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP!

This season the Boxborough Minutemen will be collecting and (with help from the DPW) disposing of Christmas trees on Saturday, 5 January 2019

Residents have 2 options for tree disposal:

Option 1: Deliver your tree to the DPW (THE OLD LOCATION!!) between the hours of 9:00 and 2:00. We will accept your tree and dispose of it – cost \$5.

Option 2: Have us collect your tree at your home (out at the street please) – cost \$10. Please fill out the form below and place in the box in the town hall lobby or mail to: Boxborough Minutemen, 650 Mass Ave., Boxborough, MA 01719 before 1/4/19 with your cash or check (made out to: Boxborough Minutemen).

Forms may be picked up at the town hall reception area, the library, the transfer station house, or printed on line from: www.boxboroughminutemen.org.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Telephone: _____





Flerra

PLAYGROUND

Improvements to the Flerra playground have been implemented after the Town voted to support this project at the Annual Town Meeting in May with funding through the Community Preservation Act (CPA). Additional equipment has been added that includes: 1 playhouse; 1 new springer toy for toddlers and younger children; 3 pieces of rotating play equipment; and 1 rope climbing/exercise structure for older children. Also, 3 new colorful picnic tables and 4 benches have been placed around the perimeter. In the spring the Recreation Commission is aiming to complete this project by adding an ADA accessible pathway from the parking lot to the the playground.



Boxborough Recreation Commission Winter Sports Program

The Boxborough Recreation Commission is once again sponsoring a Winter Recreation Program for all children in grades K-6. This will be an instructional and fun program that allows the children to engage in a fusion of youth sporting activities. What a great way to rid the winter blues with some exercise on cold, winter mornings indoors! The program will be held Saturdays in the Blanchard School Gymnasium beginning January 12, 2019 and will continue through March 23, 2019. There will not be a session held February 9th. Grades K-6 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. There will be an option for children in the younger grades to be picked up at 10:30 a.m. or stay the whole time if they would like. The registration fee is \$50 per child/per program with a family maximum of \$100. Registrations should be mailed to the Recreation Commission, Boxborough Town Hall, 29 Middle Road, Boxborough, MA 01719. The registration deadline is December 21, 2019. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Boxborough and returned with the registration form. Please put the child's name on the check. Scholarships based upon need are available upon request to a Recreation Commission Program contact: Megan Connor at megt1596@yahoo.com or Cassy Bosworth at cbosworth@boxborough-ma.gov. Hope to see you there!



**2019 WINTER PROGRAM – SATURDAY MORNING GYM
REGISTRATION FORM**

Please Use A Separate Registration Sheet For Each Child

The Boxborough Recreation Commission is once again sponsoring a Winter Recreation Program for all children in grades K-6. This is an in-house instructional and fun program that allows the children to engage in a fusion of youth sporting activities. The Program will be held Saturdays in the Blanchard School Gymnasium beginning January 12, 2019 and will continue through March 23, 2019. **There will not be a session held February 9th.**

Grades K-6 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Option for kids in the younger grades can be picked up at 10:30 a.m.

Registration Fee is \$50 per child/per program with a family maximum of \$100.

There must be a minimum of 10 registrants with a maximum of 30 registrants per session.

Registration for the Winter Program is by mail only. Registrations should be mailed to the Recreation Commission, Boxborough Town Hall, 29 Middle Road, Boxborough, MA 01719. **Registration deadline is December 21, 2019.** Do not return this form to the School. **Checks should be made payable to the Town of Boxborough** and returned with the registration form. Please put the child's name on the check. *Scholarships based upon need are available upon request to a Recreation Commission Program contact: Megan Connor at megt1596@yahoo.com or Cassy Bosworth at cbosworth@boxborough-ma.gov.*

The gymnasium can be cold on weekends. Please plan accordingly. Children must wear sneakers in the gym; however, it is requested that the sneakers be carried and put on at the school in order to prevent tracking of dirt and snow into the school. **Children should bring a water bottle and nut-free snack to enjoy at the 10:30 a.m. break**

It is essential that all children be picked up promptly at the end of their session. If you are unable to pick up your child at the assigned time, be sure to make other arrangements.

Participant's Name *[Please print clearly]* _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade: _____
Address: _____ Home Phone# _____ E-mail address: _____
Emergency Name: _____ Emergency Phone#: _____

Medical Contact Information: (Physician name, telephone #; relevant medical information, i.e. allergies, **Special Needs**)

AUTHORIZATION/WAIVERS:

(Please see reverse also)

Medical authorization & physical condition identification:

I authorize whatever medical care may be necessary in the event of an emergency. I acknowledge that insurance is not provided by the Town of Boxborough, the Recreation Commission, its staff or volunteers for this program. I accept the responsibility for payment of any medical expense.

Parent/Legal Guardian (sign)

Parent/Legal Guardian (print)

Date

For Office Use Only:

Amount Paid \$ _____

Waiver: Program Instructor/Director Gift Certificate/voucher Scholarship

Authorization by: _____

RECREATIONAL AND VOLUNTEERS ACTIVITIES RELEASE AGREEMENT

I/We, the undersigned

_____ (father, mother or guardian - circle or insert legal relationship to participant, e.g., "participant" "parent," "guardian")

of _____ a minor, do hereby consent to my child's participation in
(insert name of child, if a minor)

_____ (name of activity)

I/We also agree to forever RELEASE the Town, a municipal corporation of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and/or all of their employees, officers, agents, board members, volunteers and any and all individuals and organizations assisting or participating in voluntary athletic or recreation programs of the Town, ("the Releasees") from any and all claims, actions, rights of action and causes of action, damages, costs, loss of services, expenses, compensation and attorneys' fees that may have arisen in the past, or may arise in the future, directly or indirectly, from known and unknown personal injuries to my child or property damage resulting from my child's participation in the said Town and/or Public School's voluntary athletic or recreation programs which I/we may now or hereafter have as the parent(s) or guardian(s) of said minor child and which said minor child has or hereafter may acquire, either before or after reaching majority.

I/We also promise, to INDEMNIFY, REIMBURSE, DEFEND, and HOLD HARMLESS the Releasees against any and all legal claims and proceedings of any description that may have been asserted in the past, or may be asserted in the future, directly or indirectly, including damages, costs and attorneys' fees, arising from personal injuries to my child or property damage resulting from my child's participation in the Town and/or Public School's voluntary athletic or recreation programs or administration of first aid.

I/We further affirm that I/we have read this Parental Consent, Release from Liability and Indemnity Agreement, and that I/we understand the contents of this Agreement. I/We understand that participation in these programs is voluntary and that the participant is free to choose not to participate in said programs. By signing this Agreement, I/we affirm that I/we have decided to allow my child to participate in the Town and/or Public School's athletic or recreation programs with full knowledge that the Releasees will not be liable to anyone for personal injuries and property damage my child or I/we may suffer in voluntary Town and/or Public School's athletic or recreation programs.

Signed:

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature
(Parent/Guardian must sign if participant is a minor)

Dated: _____

Parent or Guardian's Name [Please print clearly]

PHOTO RELEASE

I _____ hereby authorize the Town of Boxborough's Recreation Commission to publish photographs taken of the undersigned minor children. I release the Town of Boxborough from any expectation of confidentiality for the undersigned minor children and attest that I am the parent or legal guardian of the children listed below and that I have the authority to authorize the Boxborough's Recreation Commission to use their photographs for publicizing the **Boxborough Winter Program**.

I acknowledge that since participation in publications and the town website produced by the Town of Boxborough is voluntary, neither the minor nor I will receive financial compensation. I further agree that participation in any publications and website produced by the Town confers no rights of ownership whatsoever.

Sign: _____
Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature
(Parent/Guardian must sign if participant is a minor)

Dated: _____

Participant's Name [Please print clearly]

Please use a separate application for each participant