

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, MATTHEW COOGAN



Dear Boxford Residents

I hope you are all enjoying the summer! This is the fourth edition of the Quarterly Community Newsletter. This month marks one year since I started as the Town Administrator for Boxford and I want to thank you all for the warm welcome and support I've received. It's been great to get to meet so many residents and I look forward to another successful year with you ahead.

Looking back to May, at Town Election we saw some changes to the Select Board. After 12 years of dedicated service, Mary Anne Nay chose not to seek re-election. We thank Mary Anne for her commitment to her community, and are grateful she will continue in her role as the ADA Coordinator for the Town. Margaret Chow-Menzer was elected as the new member of the Select Board. Margaret has been a member of the Permanent Building Committee, recently as the Chair. Peter Perkins was also re-elected to his sixth term on the Select Board. Congratulations to Peter and Margaret! For the upcoming year, Barbara Jessel remains the Chair of the Select Board with Chuck Costello serving as Clerk of the Board.

In June, Brendan Sweeney began working for the Town as the new Assistant Town Administrator. Brendan comes to us from state government, where he worked in the executive finance office developing the state's annual operating and capital budgets and, more recently, managing all federal COVID-19 pandemic relief funding for cities and towns. We are thrilled to have Brendan as part of our team and I encourage you all to stop by Town Hall to meet him.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of the summer. Please feel free to stop by my Wednesday afternoon office hours, which are held every other week either in-person or over Zoom.

TOWN CLERK

With Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election behind us, the Town Clerk's office is busy preparing for the September 6 State Primary. Sample ballots are available at <https://www.town.boxford.ma.us/home/news/september-6-2022-state-primary-election>

If you are registered as a Democrat, you may only receive a Democratic ballot. If you are registered as a Republican, you may only receive a Republican ballot. All other registered voters may choose either a Democratic or Republican ballot. You may check your registration status and precinct at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx>. The last day to register to vote or to change party affiliation for this election is August 27. Voters must choose one of three ways to vote in this primary:

- 1. Vote by mail**—Vote by mail applications have been sent to all registered voters. If you would like a vote by mail application and have not received one, you may obtain it at: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/2020-Vote-by-Mail-application.pdf>. Vote by mail applications must be completed, returned, and received in the Town Clerk's office by 5pm on Monday, August 29.
- 2. In person early voting**—In person early voting will take place in the Town Clerk's office on the second floor of Town Hall, 7A Spofford Road, from August 27 until September 2. Hours are Saturday 11am until 5pm and Monday through Thursday 8am until 4:30pm.
- 3. In person voting on Election Day**—Election Day voting will take at Town Hall on September 6 from 7am until 8pm. If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk at 978-887-0710 or rphelan@town.boxford.ma.us

**YOUR
VOTE
MATTERS**

Finally, I am sad to report the departure of Assistant Town Clerk Michelle Johnson, who is leaving the state with her family. Michelle has been an asset to the Town Clerk's office for almost seven years and will be sorely missed. I wish her and her family the best of luck in their new adventure.

Robin Phelan, Town Clerk

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The most notable DPW update this quarter was the successful replacement of the Willow Road culvert. This culvert replacement project was the culmination of many efforts to replace a failed culvert with sustainability and resiliency in mind. The DPW, TEC – our consulting engineer, contractor R. Bates and Son, and many others worked hard to bring the project to completion ahead of schedule and under budget. Roadway improvements were also coordinated with the project. I'd like to thank all involved who worked diligently to complete this project, that includes R. Bates and Sons, EJ Paving, and their subcontractors. I'd also like to thank the Boxford Police Department, Communications Department, School Administration, the Conservation Commission, our Public Works employees, and our neighbors of Georgetown and Groveland. We appreciate the patience of our residents and local businesses throughout this important project.

In addition to this project, the DPW is currently finalizing routine maintenance such as line striping and catch basin cleaning. Further, we are coordinating efforts with the town's paving contractor to pave the remaining roadways on this year's schedule. This includes portions of Rte. 97, Ipswich Road (Georgetown Road to a joint near Kelsey), Main Street (133 to Glendale), and Middleton Road (Burning Bush to Endicott). If funding allows, additional roadways may be added to the list.

Chris Olbrot, Town Engineer & Superintendent

HEALTH DEPARTMENT



The Board of Health posts a COVID update weekly on the town website on Friday: BOH Covid-19 Update.

Need a COVID Test? The Health Department has free test kits available.

Trash Stickers are sold at the following locations: Boxford Community Kitchen, West Village Provisions, Nason's Stone House Farm, Boxford Library, and Boxford Town Hall in the Health Department.

Our 2022 Trash Holiday Pick Up schedule is posted on our website under Trash and Recycling. Waste Management Recycling information can be found on this website: <https://www.wm.com/us/en/recycle-right?id=widget>

Want to get your well water tested? The Health Department ofice has water test kits from Northeast Environmental of Danvers, MA.

Need to get rid of Sharps? There is a Sharps Disposal Kiosk located behind the East Fire Station at 6 Middleton Road.

Mosquito and tick season is here, for more information, please visit our Health Department webpage on how to protect yourself from mosquitoes and ticks. The Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District has been conducting ongoing mosquito pool testing.

Water testing at Stiles Pond Beach commenced on Memorial Day and will continue through Labor Day. Weekly water testing results can be found on the Board of Health webpage.

Lastly, our Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held this October 22, at Masconomet Regional High School.

Stay Safe and Enjoy the Summer!

ONLINE PAYMENTS

Online payments are available!

Purchase trash stickers, dog licenses, burn permits and pay your property or excise tax.

<https://epay.cityhallsystems.com/selection>

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR

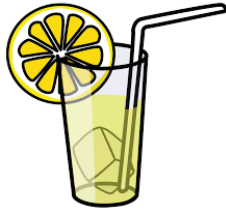
Real estate tax bills were due on Monday, August 1st. Payments may be made via the town's website www.boxfordma.gov, mailed, or deposited in the Tax Payment Drop Box located to the right of the front entrance to Town Hall. Please contact the office at 978-887-3674 if your bill contained a notice of a prior year delinquency to make arrangements for payment to avoid a tax lien.

Tax bills due on August 1st and November 1st are **preliminary** tax bills. Together, they are 51.25% of the next tax paid in the previous fiscal year. **Actual** tax bills containing property values and the FY 2023 tax rate will be mailed on December 30th. Under Massachusetts law, applications for abatement (reduction in tax) cannot be filed prior to the issuance of actual tax bills.



COUNCIL ON AGING

The COA continues to rebuild and expand our post pandemic activities while still being mindful that the number of COVID-19 cases is once again on the rise. The new Zumba, water-color, and bridge classes, as well as the Mystery Book Club, have been met with great success. They join our already successful yoga, chair yoga, and strength training classes. Our Lunch Bunch is back on the road and we have started a new consignment shop tour. We are having weekly BBQ's and other activities under the tent which allows even our most cautious residents an opportunity to socialize.



Watch our newsletter for many new or returned activities this Fall. We will be starting a new grief support group, a ten week "writing your childhood memories" class and many other activities and educational/cultural programming are in the works. Our BBQ's will continue weekly as long as the weather holds.

Excitement has been mounting from all of our older residents as great progress has been made toward the completion of the Center at Ten Elm. The COA Board and staff continue to work closely with the Permanent Building Committee and the architect as each day brings us closer to the building's grand opening. We will finally have space to offer new and exciting activities for both our "Seniors" and multi- generations.

INSPECTIONAL SERVICES/ZONING

Stacey and I have been working together for 6 months now and we have the routine down pat. We continue to improve our interaction and communication with other departments. All of which is important as we begin to receive and issue building permits in regards to the Willows Condo project on Route 133. The Building Department has worked closely with the Fire Department to establish a work schedule for all of the 110 Inspections that are required by State code. Stacey has updated several areas on the website for the Building Department.

In regards to the Zoning Board of Appeals Committee, Stacey has implemented the use of new file containers for all special permit applications, which has allowed her to keep it all organized and in one place. She has updated the Zoning Board of Appeals website with each new filing for 2022 and also keeps all files electronically, which is new in The department.

Stacey and I plan to organize the plan room and all the past ZBA files chronologically within the next few months. This is not a small task.

Online permitting is on the horizon. Town Administrator Matt Coogan, Stacey, and I have been working closely with the OpenGov Consultants. The goal is to go live with online permitting in January 2023. The Building Department is very excited for this and is anticipating a smooth transition.

The Plumbing and Electrical Inspectors are well supported by Stacey. They are gearing up for the additional workload as the Willows Project gets underway.

Peter Delaney, Inspector of Buildings

LAND USE

The Conservation Commission continued to review and approve wetland permit applications at a brisk pace during the spring and early summer of 2022. Notable applications included approval for the development of a new house at 104 King George Drive and extensive tree work and roadway repair at the Camp Wakanda access drive. A legal action in Superior Court relating to 6 Gunnison Road was decided in favor of the Commission.



The Planning Board recommended approval of home improvements at 363 Main Street in accordance with controlling case law in Gale v. Gloucester, 80 Mass.App.Ct 331 (2011). The Board also recommended approval of a new storage shed at the DPW garage. A site plan was reviewed and approved for a new farm stand at 7 & 9 Ipswich Road, with a recommendation to the Select Board that "No Parking" signs be considered for the shoulder of Ipswich Road in the vicinity of the farm stand. Upon subsequent discussion with the Select Board, it was determined that the situation would be monitored for a period of time prior to making a decision on the signs.

The Community Preservation Committee is working with the Land Committee to provide funding for the survey, appraisal, wildlife study, and conceptual design to support the purchase and use of approximately 35.5 acres of undeveloped land on Herrick Road known as the Dorman property. If matters proceed as hoped, the Land Committee will present a request to appropriate funds for the purchase and development of the Dorman land at the next Town Meeting.

MASCONOMET SCHOOL COMMITTEE



The Masconomet School Committee encourages all community members to follow the Committee's blog, available on the Masco website here: <https://www.masconomet.org/domain/207>. You will also find links to the Masco app, the School Committee's Facebook page, the Superintendent's blog, and newsletters from the Middle School and High School principals.

For information regarding Masconomet Middle School ongoing happenings, newsletters and/or events, please visit the following web page: <https://www.masconomet.org/Domain/9>

For information regarding Masconomet High School ongoing happenings, newsletters and/or events, please visit the following web page: <https://www.masconomet.org/Domain/8>

For information regarding events and/or activities with some of Masconomet RSD's partners, please visit the following web page: <https://www.masconomet.org/Page/841>

For information regarding the Masconomet School Calendar for the 2022-2023 school year, please visit <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nFBvriyJmmy3V8TdO6l41JQxyAg888t/view>

For information regarding the meeting schedule for the Masconomet Regional School Committee for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year, please visit https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Q_OkzA4mAr0IAUZ0Lcp7G61Be-IX8Df4/edit?usp=sharing&oid=113323593184293228078&rtpof=true&sd=true

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BOXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



As per normal, it has been a busy summer so far across the Tri-Town Schools. To begin, the Boxford Schools thank the Department of Public Works for their collaborative efforts on the repaving of the Spofford Pond playground area (pictures below). Additionally, our annual summer programming is underway with both the Extended School Year program and our Summer Academy program serving elementary students from Boxford, Middleton, and Topsfield. The newer Summer Academy has a focus on math and literacy while students build friendships and develop social skills. This grant-funded program, which also ran last year, will continue next summer as well.

The schools also want to recognize and thank Chuck Costello (Select Board), Dan Volchok (FinCom), and Julie Flynn (School Committee) for serving as the Boxford representatives of the Tri-Town School Union Regional Planning Board. This purpose of this recently formed committee is to assess whether or not to regionalize the elementary districts of Boxford, Middleton, and Topsfield in the coming years. A regional planning board has several responsibilities, including studying the fiscal and educational advisability of establishing a Regional School District and then ultimately submitting a report of its findings and recommendations to the respective Towns. This will be a long-term study and process and additional information can be found here: <https://www.tritownschoollunion.com/committees/ttu-regional-planning-board>



Before and after photos of recent paving project at Spofford Pond School.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Have you visited our Facebook page lately? <https://www.facebook.com/BoxfordFireDept>

Over the last few months, our page has been more active. Firefighter Tilston started a weekly statistical update on Fridays as well as a spot light series. The current spot light series involves our fleet of vehicles. We are open to suggestion on other topics you might find interesting.

We will also share posts regarding emergency operations when safe and appropriate, such as the gas tanker truck that rolled over on July 9 (see photo). Not all emergencies will receive their own posts. The goal of operational posts is to make residents aware of ongoing emergencies and their impact such as road closures. Please understand that we will not speculate on causes of accidents or other emergencies. In addition, we may not reply directly to all comments. We prefer email or personal conversations.

Photo- Boxford crews setting up a fog pattern stream to push gas fumes away so that a member of Coady's Towing could cut into the tank. Crews then pumped gas out safely to another tank truck.



POLICE

Fiscal Year 2022 Staff Review:

FY 2022 saw a number of staffing changes at the Boxford Police Department. Officer Tammy Broughton graduated from the Full-Time Police Academy in November of 2021. Officer Attilio J. Paglia completed the Full-Time Police Academy in June of 2022. Officer Paglia, while being a newly certified, full-time Police Officer in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, also brings with him a Maine Police Certification and a Wisconsin Police Certification along with twenty-three years of police experience with the Boxford Police Department and several other state agencies.

Officer Robert Smith and Officer James Bernhard were both hired for full-time positions. Both officers were formerly with the Middleton Police Department. Both officers are Masconomet graduates and together they bring over twenty years of full time police experience to the ranks of the Boxford Police Department.

The Boxford Police Department continues its goal of Community Policing. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to Chief Riter.



COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Department often receives many calls about wild animals and wildlife. Recently there have been multiple sightings of a bear in town. The State has online resources available to answer your questions about wild animals and animal interactions with people. You can view these guides by going to the [Mass.gov website](https://www.mass.gov) and searching for the particular animal in question and you will find many helpful resources. In addition, the Mass.gov website has forms that you may need for other tasks such as Motor Vehicle Crash reports and Firearms License applications. Just use the search bar on the Mass.gov website; we are sure that you'll find it to be a very helpful resource.



Photo courtesy of Duke DeVilling

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BOXFORD LIBRARY

What's News in the Library Upcoming Events

August

- **Summer Reading Party for Kids:** featuring Animal World Experience and Benson's Homemade Ice Cream, Wednesday, August 10, at 4:00 pm
- **Hydrangeas:** Which One is Right for Me: Thursday, August 11, at 11:00 am, via Zoom
- **Poetry Circle:** Tuesday, August 16, at 7:00 pm

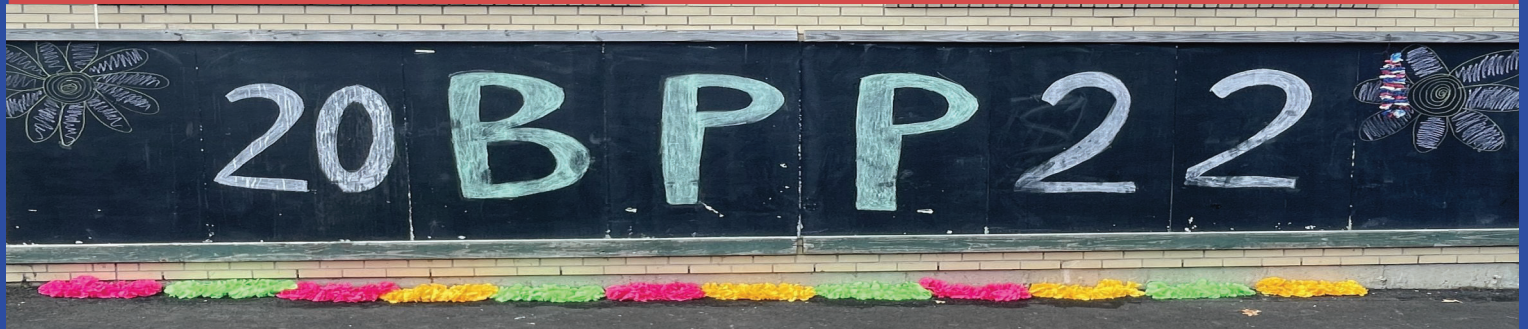
September

- **Preschool Storytimes:** Preschool Storytimes return IN-PERSON, beginning in September! Tuesday and Wednesdays at 1:30 pm
- **Saturday Hours Return:** Saturday, September 10, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- **The Library will be at Apple Fest!** Come visit our tent on Saturday, September 17, from 10:00 am until close.
- **Encanto** Movie showing: Come celebrate Hispanic Cultural Heritage Month on Friday, September 23, at 6:00 pm.

For more details, see our Events Calendar at www.boxfordma.gov/town-library



BOXFORD PARK PROGRAM



The Boxford Park Program ran for 5 weeks, beginning on July 5. It ran 3 days per week ending on August 4. Led by Director Meredith Penta, the Park Program hosted over 200 Boxford children and staffed 35 employees.

Each week had it's own theme:

- Week 1—Party in the USA
- Week 2—Mermaids & Pirates
- Week 3—Superheros
- Week 4—Animal Adventure
- Week 5—Aloha Summer

Activities included: themed arts & crafts, soccer, cornhole, baseball, basketball, badminton, open field free play, spike ball, water balloon fights, pirate pool, 3 different slip and slides, mermaid tail sprinklers, giant Jenga, tug-o-war, lots of face paint, and to close out the final week, a visit from Novelty Ice Cream and Slush Truck.

On super hot days, the children were treated to a cool down when the DPW turned on the automatic sprinklers in the fields and the Boxford Fire Department visited and sprayed everyone with their super soaker firehose!



BCATV Boxford Cable Access Television

BCATV is a 501(c)(3) non-profit incorporated in 2005 currently operating 3 cable television channels for the enjoyment of the residents of Boxford. Our funding comes from a small access fee on each cable subscriber's monthly cable bill.

Our **Government Channel, Comcast Ch 8 / Verizon Ch 39**, records and plays back most Boxford government meetings. Many of the meetings are broadcast live whenever possible. We have been providing this service since our incorporation over 15 years ago.

Our **Educational channel, Comcast 99 / Verizon 40**, is oriented towards Masconomet events. Currently Masco spring sporting events, concerts, special events and Class of 2022 events are being featured with most being broadcast live on our website streaming channel.

Our **Public Access channel, Comcast Ch 8 / Verizon Ch 45**, covers other Boxford events not mentioned above, such as youth sports, local concerts, Memorial and July 4th Parades, BAA Men's Softball starting mid-June, etc.

The homepage of our website, www.BoxfordCableTv.com, lists links to all the upcoming live streaming events for the next 10 days. In addition, there is a [TV Schedules](#) link and an [Upcoming Events](#) link on our home page which provide a quick way to see what is going on in Boxford over the upcoming 10 days.

Further down on our homepage is our **Video On Demand (VOD) widget**, which allows residents to playback previously recorded event videos and even download them as desired. There are also links to other websites of specific interest to the residents of Boxford.

In summary **BCATV** strives to strengthen our community by increasing and enhancing communication among our residents via our website and our 3 local cable access television stations.

VETERANS SERVICES

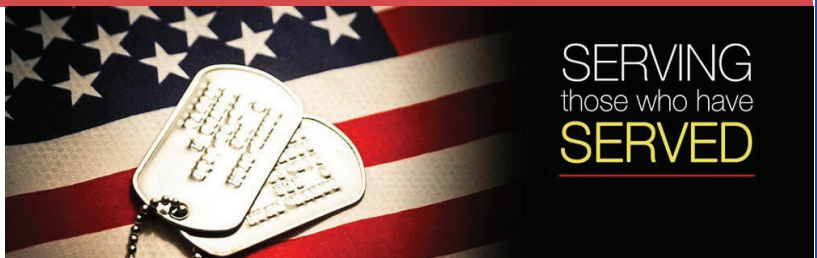
Please see the below breakdown of our Veterans' Affairs (VA) benefits numbers for those enrolled in VA Healthcare and other benefits through the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA).

33 Boxford veterans were enrolled in Fiscal Year 2020; that number was 36 for Fiscal Year 2021

and 52 for the fiscal year that just ended, 2022. Across these years, the department had a total of 1,331 unique encounters with Boxford veterans. That is an average of 25 appointments per veteran. This number sounds high; however, if you consider quarterly blood work needs, specialty clinics, home health visits, counseling appointments, and vaccination appointments, the numbers make more sense.

Enrollments went up during the past few years of the COVID-19 pandemic, which could be attributed to the vaccine being available and distributed at the federal level earlier than was the case at the municipal level.

Disability claims and pensions are administered through the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and are reported from the VBA to the Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services (DVS) per month in awards and grants. In 2020, the Town of Boxford received \$70,000 per month, totaling \$840,000. In 2021, \$80,663.46 was awarded per month for an annual total of \$967,956.00, an average of \$1,416.90 for each of the 57 Boxford recipients. This is an increase of approximately \$120,000 from the year prior that was provided to Boxford's veterans and their dependents.



SERVING
those who have
SERVED

BOXFORD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



Stiles Pond Beach has been open for about a month. We are having a lot of fun and scooping a lot of slushies at the pond! Just a reminder: You must be a Boxford resident or town employee to purchase a summer membership or day pass for the beach, and any guests must be accompanied by a Boxford resident, town employee, or beach member. Memberships are available online at baasports.com and day passes/guest passes are available at the lifeguard stand for \$5 per person per day. While there's still plenty of summer left, coming this fall the BAA is excited to partner with Inclusion Sports to pilot a small-group, non-competitive sports program for children ages 3-10 years old, which will run from September 10 - October 29. This is a truly inclusive program that

encourages fun, movement, and community engagement for kids of all abilities! Details and registration will be available soon on the BAA website. We are looking forward to bringing Inclusion Sports to Boxford!

WEST BOXFORD IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

Weekly Yoga @ Lincoln Hall

Every Monday night at Lincoln Hall there is an energizing, yet gentle yoga class at 6:30 pm with the best group of yogis ever! Embrace your intention to make time for YOU ... whether you're a beginner or have been practicing yoga for a while, please drop in for an inspirational class where you can reset from the demands of life, strengthen your body, and invigorate your mind, body, and soul.

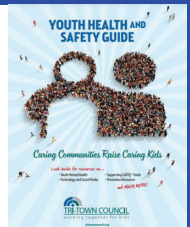
\$10 drop-in fee ~ no commitment ~ please bring your mat.

Where: Lincoln Hall (upstairs), 563 Main Street (intersection of Route 133 and Main), Boxford. There's plenty of parking on the side and in the back. It's the perfect way to begin your week!



Sponsored by
the West
Boxford
Improvement
Society.

Proceeds from
weekly classes
go right back
into our
community.



Dear Tri-Town Community Member:

Have you seen Tri-Town Council's Youth Health and Safety Guide? You can access it [HERE](#) or at tinyurl.com/TTC-youth-health-guide.

Within this guide you will find lots of resources to support healthy youth behaviors and habits, information about current youth trends and issues, youth substance use prevention information, tips for talking with teens about some of the "stuff" that matters, and the critical role caring adults play in the lives of young people.

Tri-Town Council has been serving Tri-Town youth and families for 5 decades and counting. We envision supporting a community where **ALL** youth have the relationships, supports and skills necessary to grow and develop into resilient, healthy, thriving adults. How? By intentionally strengthening the social and emotional well-being of Tri-Town Youth, growing and fostering healthy youth behaviors, and preventing and reducing the "at risk" ones.

But this work takes **ALL** of us! Whether you are a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, neighbor, friend, twenty-something to one-hundred something, we **ALL** have a role to play in supporting our young people because ***caring communities raise caring kids***. And in the words of author, motivational speaker and teen expert Josh Shipp... "**All kids are one caring adult away from being a success story.**"

May this guide support YOU in supporting YOUTH!