



Thank you, Alan Benson

Alan Benson retired from his position as Town Administrator in August after 30 years of service to the Town of Boxford, 22 of them serving as Town Administrator. We wish Alan well and thank him for all his years of service to the Town of Boxford.



Pictured above from left to right: Senator Bruce Tarr, Representative Tram Nguyen, Retired Town Administrator Alan Benson, Representative Lenny Mirra, Representative Brad Hill

Town Administrator, Matthew Coogan

Hello Boxford Neighbors, Happy Fall!

On behalf of the Department Heads and staff, I am pleased to release the first edition of the *Town of Boxford Community Newsletter*. We hope this quarterly update will be useful to residents to learn more about all the activities, projects, and services administered by your dedicated municipal staff. Thank you to our hard-working team and to the dozens of volunteers on boards and commissions who all contribute to making Boxford such a special community.

I am also grateful for the warm welcome I've received as your new Town Administrator. It's been a pleasure to get to know the town and meet many of our residents. It's my goal to continue to connect with you and expand communications. Please use the links throughout this newsletter for additional information. You can also visit the [Select Board webpage](#) for meeting agendas and minutes, as well as sign up to receive bi-weekly [Town Administrator Reports](#).

I look forward to meeting all of you in the community and wish everyone a safe and happy season ahead.

Matt



REOPENING OF TOWN HALL AND THE BOXFORD TOWN LIBRARY

Town Hall

After being closed for 16 months due to the Covid-19 pandemic and renovations to the HVAC system, Town Hall welcomed the public back into the building on July 20, 2021.

Boxford Town Library: A New Experience

The Boxford Town Library reopened to the public on the first floor. The impact of the renovation is dramatic. The layout of the first floor was improved to open up spaces that are filled with natural light. Walls were removed, the ceiling was raised to a uniform height, and administrative space was consolidated. The areas that underwent the most significant change were the front lobby, Young Adult Room, and Adult Services.

Upon entering the main entrance is a new Main Circulation Desk. Locating the Main Circulation Desk just inside the front entrance provides a connection between the Youth and Adult spaces that never existed before.

The renovation enables the library to enhance services to children. The Young Adult Room was doubled in size, increasing natural light. Three tactile activity panels are now available for infants and toddlers. An additional seating area and more collection are available in the Young Adult Room. Three youth PCs are also now available.

In Adult Services, the impact of the renovation is most significant in terms of usable library space. The barrier-free room allows for maximum availability of floor space and natural light. Services to adults are enhanced by adding a modular conference table, additional seating areas, and a permanent Reference Desk.

Come in and experience your newly renovated library!

<https://www.boxfordlibrary.org>



BOXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

It has been a busy and exciting start to the 2021-2022 school year! September marked the third school year impacted, to some degree, by the global pandemic. Teachers and students are excited to be back in a full-time, in-person learning model and have such gratitude for the continued support from the many organizations that support the schools. Below are several updates as they relate to the schools:

- Similar to the broader community of Boxford, Covid activity has remained minimal in the schools.
- The district is participating in a Science of Reading training, which shares the contributions of experts from relevant disciplines such as education, special education, literacy, psychology, neurology, and more as it relates to reading.
- The Boxford schools have received a Department of Education grant to support the training and implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) in both elementary schools. This is a school-wide approach to promoting positive behavior.
- Recently, the multi-age class at Cole School participated in the “Cardboard Challenge” inspired by Caine’s Arcade to promote innovation and design thinking (picture above).



Superintendent Scott Morrison (right) and Assistant Superintendent Matt LaCava (left) join students in the multi-age classroom at Cole School in order to participate in the “Cardboard Challenge” inspired by Caine’s Arcade to promote innovation and design thinking.

THE CENTER AT 10 ELM

On July 28, the Town of Boxford held a groundbreaking ceremony at the location of our newest project, The Center at 10 Elm. Follow our website for updates on the project: [The Center at 10 Elm](#)

The Center at 10 Elm will be a community hub for all ages and interests from the BAA to Astronomy and beyond! It will be a place to meet for exercise, meals, and much needed companionship. It will be a place for school children to gather for after-school programs, post-game pizza parties and for grown-up cooking classes. It will be the community center that Boxford residents deserve, and may be proud of. The Center will also be the new home for the Boxford Council on Aging (COA). The COA is excited to be able to expand their square footage and their offerings. If you would like to learn more about the COA and its programs, classes, and events, please visit the Council on Aging page on the town website. If you would like to help shape the youth, arts, recreation, and cultural offerings at the new Center or are interested in one of the sponsorship opportunities, please visit: <https://www.10elmfoundation.org>



COUNCIL ON AGING

This fall the COA has some of our most popular programs on offer. Yoga, strength training, grief support group, News and Views, the Science Guy and Mahjong all help to keep our seniors happy, healthy and fit. On December 1st, local physical therapist Roisin Keon will present a Balance and Fall Prevention workshop and offer a free balance assessment to all attendees.

For all the latest info on these and other COA happenings, our monthly newsletter is online:

[COA Newsletter](#)

We would also like to congratulate COA Director Pam Blaquiere for being one of four finalists for Congressman Moulton’s Peter J. Gomes Service Award. The award is given annually to an individual in the MA Sixth Congressional District who epitomizes the qualities of integrity, compassion, and commitment to community. Pam was nominated by State Representative Nguyen for her dedication to Boxford’s seniors, particularly throughout the COVID pandemic. In the past year, Pam set up a system to safely provide groceries to seniors during the COVID quarantine, spent countless hours, days and weeks securing vaccination appointments for seniors, and championed the plan for the Center at 10 Elm. Congratulations to Pam!



FINANCE

Town of Boxford, MA \$6,960,000 General Obligation Bonds Net 1.579%

The Town of Boxford received competitive bids from bond underwriters on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, for a \$6,960,000, 20-year general obligation bond issue. Piper Sandler & Co. was the winning bidder on the Bonds with an average interest rate of 1.579%. The Town received a total of 7 bids on the Bonds. Bond proceeds will be used to finance various capital projects.

Prior to the sale, S&P Global Ratings (S&P), a municipal credit rating agency, assigned a rating of "AAA" to the Bonds, the highest rating attainable. The rating agency cited the Town's very strong economy, strong management with good financial policies and practices, strong budgetary performance, very strong budgetary flexibility and liquidity, very strong debt and contingent liability position, and strong institutional framework as positive credit factors.

The bids for the Bonds were accepted at the offices of the Town's financial advisor, Hilltop Securities Inc., at 54 Canal Street in Boston, Massachusetts.

TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk's office would like to remind our residents that the 2022 annual street listing and dog license applications will be mailed to each household in early December and should be filled out and returned to Town Hall as soon as possible. We continue to work to get the town's historical records digitized and published on the town website.

STAY UP TO DATE ON WHAT IS HAPPENING IN TOWN!!!



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www.boxfordma.gov



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PUBLIC SAFETY

BOXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department is a combination workforce consisting of both career and on-call firefighters. The Town's two fire stations are staffed Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM by career firefighters. On evenings and weekends, emergency calls are handled by our on-call members who arrive at the station to retrieve equipment prior to their response. The department functions under a 3-tier response which includes police, fire, and ambulance. The police are often the first professional responder to arrive at any emergency.

In September, the Fire Department launched a Medical Response Pilot Program for Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The pilot program employs a dedicated firefighter who is required to respond directly to all emergencies from their home to the emergency scene in a department vehicle. The vehicle contains the same medical equipment, including medical drugs, as our current rescue vehicles. In addition, the vehicle carries fire equipment to assist home owners with fire alarms or carbon monoxide detection.

The pilot program will also evaluate the Fire Department's response times. Specifically, we are studying if the direct response reduces the arrival times of the Fire Department to medical calls. The program will run through December and results will be reported back to the Select Board in early 2022.

Visit the Boxford Fire Department webpage for more information: <https://www.town.boxford.ma.us/fire-rescue-ems>

BOXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Boxford Police Department continues to work collaboratively with the Boxford Fire Department to improve the emergency medical response for all emergency calls in town. We'd like to congratulate Officer Tammy Broughton who will be graduating from the Massachusetts Police Academy on Friday, October 22nd. The Police Department is scheduled for its' State Certification Examination in February of 2022.

The Boxford Communications Department wishes to congratulate Dispatcher Trainee, Madeline Pitcairn, for completing her State 911 Certification class. Maddi will be finishing her in-house training on 10/29 and will be the newest addition to our roster.

COMMUNICATIONS

As a reminder all residents can receive emergency and urgent Town notifications by phone, text or email by going to [Telephone Notification Sign Up](#). Please fill out the form with your phone and email information and return it to the email address at the top of the form or drop it off at the Communications Center located within the Police Station.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

In late summer and early fall, the DPW caught up on permitting and procurement due to the late town meeting. Some of the more significant procurements include a 3-year pavement reconstruction contract that was awarded to EJ Paving out of Methuen MA and the Willow Road culvert reconstruction project to Bates and Sons.

In addition, the DPW made some significant drainage repairs. Collapsing catch basins and a large outfall pipe were replaced in September in anticipation of final paving on Main St. near the West Center. In mid-October, the DPW replaced the partially collapsed culvert on Lockwood Ln which caused a large sinkhole and partial roadway closure.

Furthermore, the DPW, in collaboration with other town departments and the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, successfully filed the town's annual Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) report with the EPA and DEP. This annual report is a significant effort to ensure the town is in full compliance with the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program.

Looking ahead, the DPW is planning on wrapping up the construction season. Prior to winter, it is the DPW's goal to begin the 2021 Roads Program and mill and pave Main St (133 to Glendale), Middleton Rd. (Burning Bush to Endicott), Moonpenny Dr., Crooked Pond Rd, Roberts Rd, and Harris Rd. Under the same contract, we will be seeking to add more streets (to be determined) next spring. DPW will be transitioning to winter operations and focusing on snow removal.

HEALTH

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

There is also an ongoing COVID vaccination clinic held Thursdays at Topsfield Town Hall, second floor, from 2-3:30pm. Registration can be found on the [Topsfield Website](#) under COVID Information. The CDC has clarified that there does not need to be a lapse of time in between vaccinations.

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

Mosquito pool testing for the 2021 season has concluded.

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>



Saturday, October 30
5-7:30
Johnson Field, 7
Spofford Rd

Online registration required.
www.boxfordpto.org

BTA/BOLT PUMPKIN HUNT ON BOXFORD COMMONS

Saturday, October 30, 2021
9:00 AM 6:00 PM
Boxford Common

*Happy Halloween and happy
pumpkin hunting on Boxford
Common's trails!*

the Y SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30
9:30 AM START, REG OPENS 8:30
5 PRIZES FASTEST M/F • AGE GROUP AWARDS • PRE-REG ENDS 09/30/21

**WILDCAT 5K TRAIL
& WALK-RUN FUN**

Start/Finish at Stiles Pond Day Camp, Boxford • Hosted by the Danvers YMCA
Community Sponsored by:

