Issue 8 Summer, 2023

TOWN OF BOXFORD



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, MATTHEW COOGAN

I hope you are all having a great summer. The Town functions on a fiscal year that begins July 1st, with a new budget that was approved at May 9th Town Meeting. In addition, voters approved overrides for the Boxford Elementary Schools and for the Masco Regional District.

<u>Town Meeting approved several other actions</u>, including the purchase of the Dorman Land on Herrick Rd, as well as capital improvements that include a new fire truck,

school security cameras, design of a new playground at Johnson Field, and the phase 2 schematic design of a new DPW facility. Thank you to all the residents who attended Town Meeting and voted at Town Election.

I'd like to congratulate Chief Riter and the Boxford Police Department on achieving accreditation through the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Association. This achievement reflects the Department's commitment to the community by maintaining the highest policing standards in the state. The Select Board will be recognizing the Boxford Police Department at its August 7th meeting.

The Adaptive Reuse of Buildings Advisory (ARBA) Committee has been working with a consultant through the MassDevelopment Real Estate Technical Assistance program on a community engagement effort to help determine the future uses of 4 Middleton Road and 188 Washington Street. There will be a final report public presentation in September. That report, as well as the September meeting, will be posted on the project website at boxfordma.gov/VillageCenters.

The 10 Elm Committee has also been meeting to develop a plan for additional programming offerings at the new Center at 10 Elm. They will present recommendations at the August 7th Select Board Meeting.

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

In the Town Clerk's office, we have been busy administering the oaths of office to employees and volunteers recently appointed or re-appointed to various positions by the Select Board. It is our responsibility to provide them with the information necessary to understand and comply with the requirements of the <u>Open Meeting Law</u>, the <u>Conflict of Interest Law</u>, the <u>Public Records Law</u> and the Town's Codes of Conduct. We are also educating ourselves with regard to changes in election laws and policies in preparation for the four elections we will be administering in 2024:

March 5, 2024: Massachusetts Presidential Primary

May 18, 2024: Annual Town Election

September 3, 2024: Massachusetts State Primary

November 5, 2024: Presidential Election and Massachusetts State Election

In August we will begin to receive and verify nomination papers for these

All registered voters should expect to receive applications to vote by mail in early 2024.

ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

This quarter, we address two commonly asked questions that residents often have about their assessed values. As always, residents who have questions regarding their property value



are encouraged to contact the Assessors' office.

Is the assessment always the same as what I could sell my house for?

Not necessarily. Assessments are historical and not indicative of current market value. They are based on the market value as of January 1st preceding the start of the fiscal year. Fiscal Year 2023 assessments are based on market value as of January 1st, 2022, as determined by sales activity in calendar year 2021. Depending on market conditions, assessments may be higher or lower than current market value. Unless the market is stagnant, your assessment and current market value will typically differ. Sales activity occurring right now (calendar year 2023) will not be reflected in your property tax bill until Fiscal Year 2025.

Does the town collect more taxes when the real estate market is high?

No. It is a common misconception that the town collects more money in a high real estate market. As assessments rise or fall, the tax rate (amount paid per thousand of assessed value) fluctuates depending on the tax levy. The tax levy is the amount of revenue raised through property taxes and is determined by the budget voted on by residents at Town Meeting. The function of an assessment is to ensure that taxpayers are paying no more or no less than their fair share of the tax burden.

As always, we encourage anyone with questions or concerns to reach out to our office.

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR

Real estate tax bills were due on Tuesday, 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 53% of the next tax paid in the previous fiscal year. The total estimated tax increase reflects the \$39.6M budget passed at Town Meeting and the Proposition 2 ½ overrides passed at the Town Election for the schools (\$265,216 for elementary schools and \$266,316 for Masco).

Actual tax bills containing certified property values and the FY 2024 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.

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



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Bookmark Our Website www.boxfordma.gov

COUNCIL ON AGING

It has been an incredibly busy summer due to increased activity and the biweekly BBQ's resuming. Our cookouts are currently being held at 4 Middleton Rd while we wait for the new lawn at 10 Elm to establish itself. Working out of two locations has been a bit challenging but our volunteers have really stepped up and made it work.

We have added several new programs to our schedule. These include a second Chair Yoga class and Qigong, coffee sessions with persons such as Chief Riter, our Veterans' agent and the Tri-Town nurse have been well attended and informative and we intend to keep having these educational morning sessions. Representatives from Bruce Tarr's office were in and helped us to secure Charlie Cards. We hosted Ashland Farms to a fun Karaoke afternoon. We have been fortunate to have a student from Providence College with us for the summer to assist residents with their laptops and cell phones. Our monthly schedule can be found on our monthly newsletter, <u>Boxford Boomers & Beyond</u>.

With the good weather of summer, the van has expanded its Lunch Bunch travels to include more distant locations, such as the Holy Grail and Pickity Place. It also made a hugely popular shopping trip to Frugal Fannies. This fall we will continue to offer trips to more distant locations both for lunch and shopping.

The fall brings back the programs that went on summer hiatus as well as newly added events like Taco Tuesday and Mocktail Monday. Watch for an upcoming Fashion Show as well new speakers and events.

Your input into what you would like to see at the Senior Center is always welcome and if possible, we will try our best to make it happen.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The DPW has been busy with typical summer operations such as but not limited to: roadway improvements, roadside brush cutting, street tree pruning and removal, field maintenance, building maintenance, and repairing drainage systems due to the persistent and heavy rains.

The Department is also currently working with National Grid in order to repair two problematic natural gas leaks prior to paving operations. The DPW plans on paving the following streets in the coming weeks in what is expected to be the first of two phases of paving for the 2023 season. The first phase includes: Ipswich Rd (from Pond St. to Town Hall), the King George Neighborhood off of Rte. 97, Oak

Ridge Road, and Lockwood Lane. Phase 2 of the paving plan is still being developed as we evaluate remaining funds after Phase 1 has been completed and new money is made available through the state.

Most recently, DPW staff was able to assist the Boxford Athletic Association (BAA) in creating a memorial for Mr. James Locke at the softball field formerly known as Boy Scout Park. The memorial was installed with for the an unveiling on Sunday, July 30th, by Mr. Locke's family, friends, teammates and others. It is clear that he had a positive impact on the BAA, the community as whole and that he is missed by many. The DPW hopes that creating this memorial pays proper tribute to his legacy.



BOXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Late spring and early summer are always a busy time for the Boxford Police Department. It is an honor for the department to work with the residents and other stakeholders of our community. We enjoy working with many different organizations and groups in Town for the Memorial Day Parade, the Color Run, the Fourth of July festivities, and Middle and High School graduations and with our friends at the Garden Club, the Friends of the Little Red School House and the West Boxford Improvement Society. Working with these groups to assist them with their community events helps us give back to the community we serve. Special thanks this month to Officer David Barker and Officer Deven Fiandaca for their dedication to the Color Guard.

Chief Riter is pleased to announce that the Boxford Police Department achieved state accreditation.



The executive board of the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC) voted unanimously to award the department this honor at their meeting held on June 21, This achievement validates Department's commitment to the community by maintaining the highest policing standards set forth by the MPAC. Chief Riter like to thank Lieutenant Matthew Dupont, Officer Kurtis Anderson and Officer David Barker who were instrumental in the process. Every Boxford Police Officer in the department did their part to see this process through completion. We'd also like to thank Scott Wilson for his volunteer hours as Community Liasson to the process.

Caption: Left to right Chief Russell Stevens - Hamilton Police and MPAC President, Lieutenant Matt Dupont, Officer Dave Barker, Chief Jim Riter, Officer Kurtis Anderson, Rick Rathblun - MPAC Executive Director.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Department recently replaced the phone system in the Police/Communications building. Our prior system served us well but a critical failure of the voice mail component necessitated a replacement of the entire system as the manufacturer no longer was making telephones. We are familiarizing ourselves with this new system so please bear with us over the next few weeks. The good news is that it is the same telephone system in use at Town Hall and at The Center at 10 Elm so there are interconnection benefits.

We continuing the implementation of the new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System (RMS). This is a critical software for the Communications Department and contains all the computer data maintained and used daily by the Communications, Police and Fire Departments. Along with our vendor, ProPhoenix, we have completed the first 2 of 5 phases of implementation. We will be entering the training phase soon and hope to be using the system in training mode within the next few months.

BOXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

For updates on what is going on with the Boxford Fire Department, like our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/



LAND USE

The Conservation Commission completed the review and approval of a proposed access drive to the rear of the town government complex at 7 Spofford Road. This drive is intended to provide access to a new DPW facility to be designed and constructed in what is now a stockpile yard located behind the solar field and closed landfill. Great care was taken in the design and permit review to ensure that no former landfill soils would be disturbed and wetland impacts would be minimized.

The Commission also held a public hearing on the <u>draft Open Space and Recreation Plan document</u> prepared by the <u>Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee</u>. This document is a "master plan" of the Town's open space and recreation needs, based in part upon a community-wide survey, and includes an action plan for addressing those needs. The draft document is undergoing final edits and is expected to be submitted to the state for approval shortly.

The Stiles Pond Advisory Committee, formed jointly by the Conservation Commission, the Board of Health, and Stiles Pond abutters, distributed a mailing to all households within the Stiles Pond watershed. The mailing provided information on how to protect the water quality and ecology of Stiles Pond, and provided contact information for persons interested in participating in the protection of Stiles Pond.

The <u>Planning Board</u> reviewed a proposed 40B project on Silvermine Road consisting of four one-bedroom apartments contained within a structure resembling a single-family house. A formal 40B permit filing of this 40B project to the ZBA may follow. The Board also reviewed and approved an "Approval not Required" plan for the revision of lot boundaries made necessary to facilitate the purchase of a 41-acre lot on Main Street by the Essex County Greenbelt Association. This new open space parcel will complement the 75-acre Boxford Common as well as the soon-to-be purchased 35-acre "Dorman Land" to create over 150 contiguous acres of preserved open space stretching from Main Street to Herrick Road.

The <u>Community Preservation Committee</u> celebrated the passage of every warrant article it sponsored at Town Meeting in May. <u>Approved warrant articles</u> include funds for the purchase of the 35-acre Dorman Land and funds for the design of a new playground at Johnson Field.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Things in the Building Department are moving along in a forward direction. Teresa Mason has settled in quite well as the Department's Administrative Assistant and has embraced the various department functions well. The new <u>OpenGov permitting software</u> has kept her busy developing new skills with the many reports that can be generated. She has used her new talents to get myself, Doug and Rick working together with the new ipads and the various program tools. She also provided some initial training for the DPW and the Fire Department so they can also interact with the online permit applicants. I invite you to check out the new <u>Facebook page Inspectional Services</u> page created with Teresa's tremendous knowledge of the platform. Our goal is to update the Facebook page often, and make it an easily accessible place that residents can access with questions they may have.

Teresa and I toured the town from West Village to East Village, to give her some bearing of the different business', schools, and fire stations. I wanted her to be familiar with the ongoing Willows Project, since a lot of online permits coming through are for this project, so we stopped by and toured one of their homes in the final stages before decorating commenced. My goal with this tour was to help Teresa familiarize herself with addresses and locations when residents try to explain their particular situation in person or over the phone.

Lastly, we are working to get all of the past ZBA files on Laserfiche, so that the files are more searchable and accessible. I'm considering doing this same process for the Building Department Street files, as this will help bring our department into the 21st century.

BOXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

It has been another busy summer so far across the Tri-Town Schools. Summer programming is underway for both students and staff with both the Extended School Year program and our Summer Academy program serving elementary students from Boxford, Middleton and Topsfield. Many staff are also participating in a variety of summer professional development opportunities as well.

The end of the school year brought with it a poignant dedication to former BPD D.A.R.E. Officer Michelle Nowak. Michelle was a beloved member of the Boxford community having served as the D.A.R.E. Officer for the 6th-grade class at the Spofford Pond Elementary School for many years until her



passing on September 23, 2017. To honor Officer Nowak, sixth grade teacher Vanessa Boyle led an effort with her students and colleagues to have the driveway into Spofford Pond named "Michelle Nowak Way."

The School Department greatly appreciates the cooperation of all town boards and committees, the staff and students at Spofford Pond school, and our colleagues at Town Hall to help support that endeavor. To the left is a picture from that ceremony of Michelle's family members holding that sign. It was a beautiful dedication ceremony.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

BOXFORD LIBRARY

Upcoming Programs & Events:



SUMMER at the Boxford Town Library

<u>August</u>

- Summer Reading Party for Kids, featuring magician George Saterial, Thursday, August 10, at 2:00 pm.
- **Medicare** presented by Gerald Lodge, Tuesday, August 8th, at 6:00 pm.
- **Henna Tattoos at the Library**, with Henna artist Mandy Roberge, Thursday, August 17, at 1:00 pm (Recommended for everyone age 6 years and up)

September

- Preschool Storytimes: Tuesday and Wednesdays at 1:30 pm
- Music & Movement with Marybeth Maes (CFCE) Thursday mornings at 10:00 am.
- Lego Club begins meeting again on the fourth Thursday at 4:00 pm.
- Recipes From Tuscany (Virtual), Tuesday, September 12, at 7:00 pm, via Zoom.

For more details and to see other events and programs as they are planned, visit our Events Calendar at www.boxfordma.gov/town-library

Library News Notes:

- Saturday Hours Return: Saturday, September 9, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- **The Library will be at Apple Fest!** Come visit our tent on Saturday, September 16, from 10:00 am until close.

VETERANS AGENT

North Andover-Boxford Veterans' Services supported the 3rd annual flag retirement ceremony on June 11th. The ceremony was planned and executed by Pack 89 and Troop 87 and was conducted at Ridgewood Cemetery in North Andover. Scouts from Troop 87 and Pack 89 led a formal ceremony and supervised the retirement of many flags.



Our office is still actively assisting veterans with their disability claims and the PACT act information sessions are still ongoing. If you have any questions or would like to find out more about these events, please contact our office at 978-688-9525.



Let's talk, Tri-Town! How do we have difficult conversations about topics that matter to us? How do we navigate them with civility, compassion, and curiosity?

Join Tri-Town Council, our partners and community members to explore the idea of "calling in" and its impact on our conversations, understanding, and relationships with each other. 3 conversation dates to choose from! August 17, August 20 or August 22nd.

For more information, please click on the links below:

LETS TALK TRI-TOWN

TRI TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS

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. Masco spring sporting events, concerts, special events and Class of 2023 events are being featured with many 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.

BOXFORD PTO



1st Annual Popsicles on the Playground Sunday, August 27

1:00-2:30PM — Harry Lee Cole School

3:00-4:30PM — Spofford Pond School

This is a family event for ALL our Boxford Elementary Cole and Spofford Pond families. The Boxford PTO invites you to attend at no cost. This is our warm welcome back to school. We look forward to seeing everyone and meeting new families.









BOXFORD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Sunday, July 30, The Boxford Athletic On Association and the Town of Boxford dedicated the softball field at Boy Scout Park, officially naming it Jim Locke Field. Jim was a force for the BAA as a board member, youth coach of multiple sports, and men's softball commissioner. He passed away August 15, 2021 after a long battle with cancer. Jim's contributions to Boxford and the BAA cannot be overstated. We honor his legacy and hope the people of Boxford will remember Jim when they visit his memorial garden that overlooks the softball field in his name. Many thanks go out to the Select Board, the DPW, Tom Stevens, and men's softball commissioner Tim Feeney for their exceptional work on Jim's memorial. It is a beautiful spot to enjoy a few peaceful moments.

Stiles Pond needs your help! To offset the rising operational costs of running the beach, we have a few ideas, such as: increase member & day pass fees; open membership to other towns; form a fundraising committee; ask the town to contribute an annual stipend to defray costs; welcome individual and corporate donations and sponsorships; invite residents to participate in the discussion about how to increase resources: Message baa.stilespond.beach@gmail.com. For more details, please see the Infographic that was posted to the BAA page on Facebook.

WEST BOXFORD IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

Thank you to everyone who came out for our <u>West Boxford Improvement Society</u> Summer Fest on Saturday, July 29. It was great to see our Boxford community having such a fun afternoon!







Now is the perfect time to remind you that every Monday night, WBIS sponsors a very gentle yoga class at Lincoln Hall, 561 Main St, Boxford. Doors open at 6, class runs 6:30 - 7:30, all levels, drop in, \$10 donation. A really fun time and a great group of yogis! Hope to see you there!

BOXFORD PARK PROGRAM



Boxford Park Program wrapped up its final week of the Summer 2023 Season. The program hosted hundreds of children and CITs over five, sunny weeks kicking it off right after school got out!

Since then, participants have enjoyed sports, games, lots of water activities, arts, crafts, music, engineering projects, team building, slime, tie-dye, and the cherry on top- an icecream truck! Themes this year included USA, Shark Week, Safari, Slimetopia, and Game Over. Everyone from Age 5 to Adults were also given a free BPP tee...Check out the new logo!

Internship Opportunities and Counselor Positions will be posted next spring followed by the children and CIT online registration through the My Rec system.

A special thank you to Boxford Police for their detail, DPW for constructing the new storage shed, Spofford Pond School for its second year hosting the summer park program, and for all the staff at town hall working hard behind the scenes. Weekly newsletters can be found on our website Boxford Park Program.









Summer Safety for Seniors 2023

Summer brings warm weather, outdoor activities, and get-togethers with friends and family. The Public Nurses offer a few tips to ensure that these activities don't include food-borne illnesses.

Food Preparation Safety:

Older adults are at an increased risk for complications from common food-borne illnesses like E. coli, and salmonella due to chronic illnesses, autoimmune conditions, immune systems weakened by age, and the risk of dehydration from certain medications.

Some important things you can do to protect yourself from common food-borne illnesses are:

- Keep a watch on product dating and expiration dates.
- Avoid raw/undercooked poultry and meats, soft cheeses, and eggs, avoid sprouts, hot dogs, & deli meats - all of which have higher risks of food-borne illnesses.
- Always thoroughly wash fruits and vegetables.
- Cook foods to safe temperatures. Use a food thermometer to ensure that meat and poultry are thoroughly cooked.
- Don't thaw meat on the counter.
- Always keep raw meat separate from ready-to-eat foods. Don't cross-contaminate foods or surfaces. Store uncooked meat and poultry on a refrigerator shelf below fruits and vegetables so they cannot drip onto ready-to-eat foods.
- Refrigerate cooked foods promptly within 2 hours, don't leave them out! Foods that contain potentially hazardous ingredients such as mayonnaise left in the sun can cause GI illnesses.
- Keep in mind food that has "gone bad" doesn't always. "Taste bad" don't gamble, and when in doubt throw it out.
- Wash your hands before and after handling food.
- Know the symptoms of food poisoning diarrhea, stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, cramps, and/or fever. Always seek medical care if symptoms persist, and report food-borne illnesses to the health dept.

For more information on Safe Food Handling, visit the USDA website at Safe Food Handling and Preparation Food Safety and Inspection Service

Sun & Heat Safety:

The heat index is the combination of humidity and air temperature. It's essential to be aware of the heat index and take the following precautions to avoid heatstroke:

Keep in mind the following tips when trying to stay cool.

- Be aware of the UV Index and take precautions to limit sun exposure on days when the UV index is 3
 or higher. Stay away from direct sun exposure as much as possible. If possible, plan your outdoor
 activities either early in the morning or when the sun starts to set. Buy a broad-spectrum sunscreen
 lotion or spray with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher. Apply the sunscreen liberally to all
 exposed skin.
- Air conditioning is your friend in summer. Spend as much time as possible in air-conditioned spaces. If you don't have an air conditioner, go somewhere that is air-conditioned. For example, read a book at the library, walk around in indoor malls, watch that new movie at the theater, or meet your friends at the senior center. (Note: The federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps adults 65 and older who have limited incomes cover the cost of air conditioners and utility bills. To reach your state's LIHEAP program, call 1-866-674-6327.)
- Stay hydrated. Drink plenty of cool water, clear juices, and other liquids that don't contain alcohol or caffeine. Alcohol and caffeine cause you to lose water in your body by making you urinate more.
- Dress appropriately. Whenever you can, try wearing loose, light-colored clothes. Avoid dark-colored clothes as they may absorb heat. Top it off with a lightweight, broad-brimmed hat and you are dressing like a pro! These simple changes will help you both stay cool and avoid sunburn.
- Cool down! Take tepid (not too cold or too hot) showers, baths, or sponge baths when you're feeling warm. Don't have the time? Then wet washcloths or towels with cool water and put them on your wrists, ankles, armpits, and neck.

For more tips on Sun & Hot Weather Safety Visit: <u>Tip Sheet: Hot Weather Safety Tips for Older Adults | HealthInAging.org</u>

Tick & Mosquito Safety:

Ticks and mosquitos are abundant in summer, so use insect repellent when going outdoors. Older adults and those who have weakened immune systems are more likely to develop severe diseases that may be transmitted by ticks and mosquitos. Apply EPA-registered insect repellent with one of the active ingredients listed below. When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, even for people who are pregnant and breastfeeding.

- DEET
- Picaridin
- o IR3535
- Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE)
- Para-menthane-diol (PMD)
- o 2-undecanone

- Wear loose-fitting long clothing. Covering your skin with long-sleeved shirts and long pants can help stop ticks and mosquitoes from biting.
- Avoid brushy areas. Ticks prefer moist and humid environments, particularly in or near grassy, brushy, or wooded areas. You may come into contact with ticks during outdoor activities, around your home, or when walking through leaf litter or near shrubs. Avoid wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter and walk in the center of trails to prevent contact with ticks.
- Prevent ticks on dogs. Dogs are very susceptible to tick bites and tickborne diseases. Talk to your veterinarian about the best tick prevention products for your dog year-round.

For more information on tick and mosquito prevention visit: Fight the Bite! Prevent Mosquito and Tick Bites | Division of Vector-Borne Diseases | NCEZID | CDC

Have a safe and healthy summer!