



IN MEMORY OF ROBERT ALDENBERG



The Town of Boxford is mourning the loss of Robert Aldenberg, our beloved Inspector of Buildings of 8 years. Bob passed away on Monday, December 6, after a brief illness.

Bob lived a life of public service. He served as the Building Inspector in the Town of Melrose, a Call Firefighter and Dispatcher in Town of Middleton, and a Police Officer in the Town of Lynnfield, to name a few.

Bob's work ethic and dedication set an example for all who worked with him. The Town of Boxford was fortunate to have had Bob, not only as a highly valued employee, but also as a friend. Bob met every day with his expertise, enthusiasm and sense of humor. He will be deeply missed by all.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, MATTHEW COOGAN

Happy New Year Boxford residents, I hope you had a great holiday season. I am looking forward to 2022 and my first full year as Town Administrator. This is the second edition of the Quarterly Community Newsletter and my office will continue to work on ways to improve communication with residents throughout the coming months. In addition to news and updates here, I will be hosting open Office Hours beginning again on **Wednesday, February 2**, available every other week to all residents, either in person or through [Zoom](#). We also hope to add the broadcast of events and updates from our offices and town activities using Facebook Live and other social media platforms to help strengthen our reach and engagement within the community.



Likewise, this year, we are going to be using technology to support an open and direct line to services here at town hall, including new online permitting software and a public GIS tool. To learn more about these programs and what's happening in Boxford, please sign up for the bi-weekly Town Administrator's Reports to the Select Board. You can also attend a Select Board meeting in person through Zoom, or find recordings of every meeting through [Boxford Cable Access Television](#) (BCATv).

SPECIAL REMINDER! For residents seeking an impactful new year's resolution, consider giving back to your community and getting involved with Town governance. There's not a better way to make a difference in your community than to volunteer and join a board or committee. Our list of vacant positions is available on the town website [here](#).

TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk's office wishes to remind residents that 2022 dog license applications and payments are due no later than January 31, 2022 to avoid the \$25 per dog late fee. [Licenses can be purchased online](#).

If you have not already done so, please complete and sign your Annual Street Listing (town census form) as soon as possible. It should include the names and dates of birth of all individuals in the household.

On February 10, 2022, nomination papers will be available for Boxford's May 17, 2022 Annual Town Election. The following seats will be on the ballot:

- Select Board (seat currently held by Mary Anne Nay)
- Select Board (seat currently held by Peter Perkins)
- Board of Assessors (seat currently held by David Benson)
- Board of Health (seat currently held by Alexander Constan)
- Board of Library Trustees (seat currently held by John Paul Ryan)
- Boxford School Committee (seat currently held by Elizabeth Palmer)
- Boxford School Committee (seat currently held by Kimberly Nguyen)
- Boxford School Committee (seat currently held by Brianna Erickson)
- Masconomet School Committee (seat currently held by Joseph McLean)
- Planning Board (seat currently held by Patrick Canonica)
- Planning Board (seat currently held by Holly Langer)
- Board of Commissioners of Trust Funds (seat currently held by Bankson Riter)
- Town Clerk (seat currently held by Robin Phelan)



Robin Phelan, Town Clerk

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health will be hosting vaccine and booster clinics at Masconomet Regional High School Saturday, January 22nd and Saturday February 12th from 9am to 12pm. A sign-up link will be posted on the town website. These clinics will have Pfizer for ages 12 and up, Pfizer ages 5-12, and Moderna and J&J for age 12 and older.

Covid testing kits will soon be available for Boxford residents through the town, details will be available on the town website soon.

The Town of Boxford continues to have a [mask mandate](#) in all town buildings and stores.

[Covid updates](#) continue to be posted on the Town website weekly on Fridays.

Trash Stickers can be purchased Monday through Thursday from 8-4:30 in the Board of Health Department on the second floor in Town Hall.

Kendell Longo
Director of Public Health



MASCONOMET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Masconomet Regional School District and the Masconomet School Committee invite you to keep up with the latest news and information from the Middle and High School. We hope that the following links will be useful.

- Dr. Michael Harvey posts *Superintendent's News & Announcements* on the front page of the Masconomet website. This page also includes links to Dr. Harvey's blog and his reports to the Masconomet School Committee: <https://www.masconomet.org/>
- High School Principal Dr. Mary Jo Carabatsos publishes a Weekly Memo, available under "Announcements" here: <https://www.masconomet.org/Domain/8>
- Middle School Principal Dr. Philip McManus posts Weekly Updates here: <https://www.masconomet.org/Domain/9>
- The Masconomet School Committee publishes a blog post following each regular School Committee meeting. You can find and follow the blog here: <https://www.masconomet.org/domain/207>



Masconomet Holiday Music Concert, December 2021



WHEN:

MONTHLY
2ND WEDNESDAY
6:30 - 6:55 PM

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Community Forum:

The Community Relations Subcommittee will be reserving 20 minutes at the beginning of their meetings* for open community discussion.

We welcome questions and comments about the School Committee's activities and priorities, about relations between Masconomet and the community, and about your own ideas and priorities.

Please join us!

Draft schedule** for this year:

- January 12, 2022
- February 9, 2022
- March 9, 2022 (NOTE time change 5:30pm)
- April 13, 2022
- May 11, 2022
- June 8, 2022 (NOTE time change 5:30pm)

* ZOOM LINK is in each Agenda - these are posted under Public Meetings tab on Masconomet website at least 48 hours prior to meeting time.

**Meeting schedule is subject to change

BOXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Happy New Year from the Boxford Elementary Schools!

2022-2023 Kindergarten Registration is now open. All students are required to be five years of age on or before September 1st, 2022 to enroll in kindergarten. To begin registration (and for more information) please visit the Harry Lee Cole School website, "Important Links" and then click on "Boxford New Student Registration." There you will find a welcome letter which details all the necessary documentation with links to each of the forms. The earlier that families can register the better as it helps with planning for the next school year. Completed registration documents can either be scanned to registration@boxfordschools.org or mailed to Cole School, 26 Middleton Road, Boxford, MA 01921. Registration documents should be received by Friday January 28, 2022. Current eligible preschool students do not need to register.



The Boxford Parent/Teacher Organization (BPTO) hosted "Boots and Bling" - a beautiful auction this past fall which raised money to benefit our schools. We thank them for their continued support and we thank our staff and community partners for their amazing donations. Additionally, the schools want to thank the Boxford Elementary Schools Trust (BEST) for their continued support of our schools through their BEST grant program. BPTO and BEST hold monthly meetings with parents, teachers and staff each month to communicate about school needs.



Finally, the schools collaborated with Pastor James at First Church Congregational Boxford to host our first food donation right before Thanksgiving. The student council members organized the event at Spofford Pond and Cole School students also participated. It was a successful food drive. Cole and Spofford collected over 1,000 items. We appreciate all of our community partners!

Dr. Scott Morrison, Superintendent

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



The DPW has transitioned into winter operations. Over the Christmas holiday weekend, the staff did a great job managing a difficult ice and snow event, spending much of their own holiday on the roads treating for icy conditions and plowing. Sometimes overlooked as frontline or essential workers, we were reminded just how dedicated and dependable our DPW workers remain, even during the most challenging times. Thank you, Boxford DPW Staff.

For 2022, DPW is concentrating on exploring grant opportunities and making progress on various future projects for the new year and beyond. This includes investigating potential projects for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for building resiliency within our culvert and drainage systems. Further, we continue to work on the backlog of projects caused by COVID and are hopeful that the 2022 construction season allows us to complete some important work that was suspended or delayed during the pandemic. This includes but is not limited to: the culvert replacement on Willow Rd, improvements to the Rail Trail off of Pye Brook Ln, the design and permitting of several other culverts identified in the town-wide inventory, resuming design on the Rte. 133 TIP project, and resuming design and permitting of the DPW Auxiliary Fabric Building.



Christopher Olbrot, DPW Superintendent /Town Engineer

BOXFORD POLICE



The Boxford Police Department wishes you a Happy New Year and a reminder that the winter storm season is upon us. Boxford does have an overnight parking ban on public roads from December 1st through April 1st.

Keeping your vehicles off the street is a great help to the Department of Public Works while plowing and sanding.

If you hire a plow contractor for snow removal, please request the contractor not plow across roadways. This can create snow windrows that are dangerous to the traveling public and hamper snow removal. Remember to clean all snow and ice off of your vehicle, including the roof and remember to defrost windows well prior to operating the vehicle. Following these guidelines will keep all of us safe when on Boxford roads during the winter.

James Riter, Chief of Police



BOXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

The 2022 Burn Season begins January 15th and runs through May 1st. Permits are \$20.00 and can be purchased online through the [Fire Department webpage](#) on the Town Website. Fires cannot start before 10:00am and must be extinguished by 4:00pm. While your permit is good for the entire season, a daily activation is required to burn on any particular day.

Remember that open burning is for yard cleanup. Please do not burn trash, construction or other manufactured materials. All fires must be attended with a means to extinguish your fire readily available.

Never use gasoline or other flammable liquids to start your fire. Instead, use dry kindling with paper. Old Christmas trees are another good source but will burn very quickly and hot. You should wear long sleeves for protection from embers. Additional information is available on the Town's [website](#).

Finally, weather conditions can change quickly causing fires to spread. Manage the size of your fire and be willing to extinguish early if the weather changes. Do not wait to call 911 if you need help. Last year we responded to 12 brush fires with one consuming 8 acres, as seen in the photo.

Brian Geiger, Fire Chief



COMMUNICATIONS

As we are entering winter storm season the Boxford Communications Department would like to remind residents of what to do if your electricity goes off.

If your electricity goes off, please notify National Grid at 1-800-465-1212.

- You will be connected with an automated system which will immediately alert National Grid as to your outage.
- If multiple residents in your area call it will immediately alert National Grid to a more widespread outage.
- It is very important that ALL residents experiencing an outage call National Grid immediately when an outage occurs so that prompt repair of the problem can begin.
- Please do not call the Police or Fire Departments to report an outage unless you have an emergency.
- If you do have an emergency please call 911.

Warren Gould, Director of Communications



INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

The Building Inspector's office is still feeling the pain from the loss of our long-time building inspector Bob Aldenberg. Bob was a fixture for many years here in Town Hall and is greatly missed. With his passing, the office is in transition.

Dave Harris, the alternate building inspector who has been doing all the field inspections for the past three years, has agreed to be the interim building inspector until January 31, 2022. Peter Delaney will be appointed as the permanent Building Inspector on or before January 31st. He is currently in the process of becoming certified by the state and formerly approved by the Select Board. Peter and Dave have been working cooperatively to make this transition seamless.

The Building Department is pleased to announce that Stacey Wright will start as the new administrative assistant on January 18th. We would like also to express gratitude to the two temporary administrative assistants, Joan Gordon and Dawn Seymour who worked together for the past few months to get the office organized and sort through the back log of paperwork in preparation for Stacey's arrival. Please stop by to welcome Stacey Wright to the office and the Boxford community.

The newly formed Building Inspector's office team is looking forward to a productive 2022! Please stop by and say hello.
Peter Delaney, Inspector of Buildings

BOXFORD LIBRARY

New Library Hours In 2022

The Library began the New Year with new hours of operation.

The new schedule is:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Friday - Saturday: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Beginning Tuesday, January 18, the Library will offer a new service, **Grab & Go**. Residents can request to have their on-hand items checked-out and available on a cart right inside the front door of the library at 7A Spofford Rd. This service is perfect for when you either don't feel safe coming in due to illness, or only have time to grab your items and go. Call the library at 978-887-7323 to request **Grab & Go**.

**Grab &
Go** 

Neighbor To Neighbor



We are in the final planning stages of an exciting Library Programming initiative. **Neighbor to Neighbor** is a community-based programming series where Boxford residents will be learning new skills, talents, and expertise from their neighbors.

More information to come on our website and social media by the end of January.

Kevin Bourque, Library Director

CONSERVATION, PLANNING, CPC

The Conservation Commission welcomed two new members in late fall of 2021, Doug Hamilton and Greg Kokorda, and gave a fond farewell to longtime members Peter Delaney and Mark Mitsch. The Conservation Commission members were busy in recent months wrapping up the review and approval of the Willows at Boxford elderly housing project and the proposed new parking areas for the Cole and Spofford Pond Schools.

The Planning Board carefully reviewed the Cole and Spofford Pond School projects for scale and design. Comments from the Board resulted in modifications to the parking lot design for Cole School to include a greater separation from Middleton Road and enhanced plantings.

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is looking forward to receiving new applications for funding by the February 4, 2022 deadline. These applications will be considered for funding at the Annual Town Meeting in May, 2022. If you are interested in applying for funding for a CPC eligible project, please contact Ross Povenmire at rpovenmire@town.boxford.ma.us.



Ross Povenmire, Director of Land Use

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



Like our facebook page [@OfficialTownBoxfordMa](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialTownBoxfordMa)

BOOKMARK OUR WEBSITE www.boxfordma.gov

SUBSCRIBE TO E-ALERTS [click here](#)



COUNCIL ON AGING



With the current spike in Covid cases, the COA is working to offer services safely to our residents. We are exploring alternative resources to keep our residents actively engaged. These may include additional programming through the use of Zoom, BCATv or Facebook. Digital formats can be challenging, but safety is our top priority and we will provide assistance to anyone have difficulty accessing our programs.

Details on events, and activities, and programming can be found in the COA [monthly newsletter](#) available on the [town website](#). We continue to offer our fitness programs in person. However, other in-person activities are being limited or may be postponed until we feel they can be safely resumed. It is our fervent hope that by Spring we will be able to resume our normal activities.

Pam Blaquiere, Director, Council on Aging

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR

Real estate and personal property tax bills for FY 2022 were mailed on 12/30/21. The remaining tax due for the fiscal year is calculated by multiplying the new property valuation by the tax rate of \$15.22/M and subtracting estimated payments made on Aug. 1st and Nov. 1st. The balance is due in equal installments on Feb. 1st and May 2nd. Please contact the office at 978-887-3674 if you did not receive a bill. Payments may be conveniently made online through the [town website](#).

Motor vehicle excise tax bills for 2022 for all vehicles garaged in Boxford and registered as of Jan. 1st will be mailed in late February and due within 30 days.



Ellen Guerin, Treasurer/ Collector of Taxes

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>



Photo courtesy of Alex Constan

THE CENTER AT 10 ELM

Construction of the Center at 10 Elm continues to progress. When completed this fall, it will be the new home of the Boxford Council on Aging and a new community space for all residents to enjoy. Residents will notice that the former library wing has been demolished and we can now see the beginnings of the new wing of the center. The foundation and concrete slab for the wing was poured over the last several weeks. Framing will begin later in January. A Lot of attention and care has been taken throughout the historic renovation of the Cummings House, including shoring up the foundation and roof rafters. Residents can track the progress of construction on the [project page](#) of the town website.

The COA is excited to be able to expand their square footage and their offerings when the Center at 10 Elm opens. 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 10ElmFoundation.org.

ASSESSOR

The Assessing department has completed the Fiscal Year 2022 Interim Revaluation of all assessed property values. FY22 assessments were derived through an analysis of qualified property sales that occurred in calendar year 2020. The total assessed valuation of taxable property in town has increased by approximately 8%, but changes will vary for individual properties depending on factors such as style and condition of property.

The Fiscal Year 2022 tax rate has been set at \$15.22 per thousand of assessed value, which is a rate decrease of five percent over last year.

The new tax rate and property values are reflected on the bills that were mailed out on December 31, 2021. This bill contained two remittance forms, one for the payment due on February 1st and one for the payment due on May 2nd.

Property values for all parcels in town are available on the town's website. Residents who have questions regarding their property value are encouraged to contact the Assessors' office at 978-887-6692 before February 1, 2022.

The period for filing Real Estate Tax Exemptions for residents who are eligible for property tax relief is currently ongoing.

Some of the programs available include:

- Legally Blind
- Disabled Veterans
- Seniors 65 years +, with low to moderate income
- CPA Surcharge Exemption



Anyone interested in applying for an exemption should contact the Assessors Office at (978) 887-6692, Monday - Thursday 8:00am to 4:30pm. Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2022 for the current tax year.

Kristin Hanlon, Director of Assessment

VETERANS SERVICES

Happy New Year!

Veterans Services have updated their office hours for the Town of Boxford. Office hours are as follows: Boxford Senior Center on the 1st Thursday of each month 9am-11am. Boxford Town Hall 3rd Thursday of each month 9am-11am.

VA Bedford is still running their COVID Vaccination Clinic Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 to 3:30 to get your booster on just call into the clinic at 781-687-4000

Veterans Services continues to distribute our monthly mobile food pantry to Veterans and surviving spouses with the support from the Greater Boston Food Bank if you have any questions or would like to know more information, please contact our Administrative Assistant Jillian Kemp at 978-771-3791

VA Bedford will be on-site at the Haverhill VA CLINIC 209 Summer Street Haverhill, MA 01830 the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month from 9:00am - 3:00 pm to assist Veterans enrolling in VA healthcare and requesting VA ID cards. Can't make the clinic? You can also call to schedule a telephone appointment 781-687-3348 or email VABEDOUTREACH@BA.GOV Please be safe and we are here for you all.

For additional information please call (978) 688-9525 or cell at (978) 771-3791.

Joe LeBlanc, Director of Veterans Services



TRITOWN COUNCIL



Over the past 5+ decades, Tri-Town Council (TTC) has worked with thousands of youth, parents, educators and vested community members providing parent education, youth programs, professional development, prevention services, after-school enrichment and various types of family and community support. Our mission is driven by foundational prevention and positive youth development frameworks, and we seek to intentionally strengthen the social and emotional well being of Tri-Town youth and to reduce and prevent at-risk behavior by growing and fostering healthy youth behaviors.

Website: tritowncouncil.org

Events Calendar & Resources [HERE](#)

Tri-Town Council's Youth Health and Safety Guide [HERE](#)

2021 Annual Report [HERE](#)



PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD OPEN FOR BOXFORD COMMUNITY ELECTRICITY

The Town of Boxford has released a draft plan for the Boxford Community Electricity program and the plan is available for public review and comment. Boxford Community Electricity will seek to provide more electricity options and more renewable energy for residents and businesses in Boxford. The Plan describes how the electricity program will be structured and operated, and the Plan is available at boxfordelectricity.com, Town Hall, and the library.

Boxford Community Electricity will provide multiple options for electricity supply, with different amounts of renewable energy so everyone can find the right balance between their budget and renewable energy. The program will not change our electric utility - National Grid will continue to deliver electricity, maintain poles and wires and respond to power outages. If you participate in Boxford Community Electricity, only the "Supply Services" portion of your National Grid bill will change ([see sample bill here](#)).

The development of the Boxford Community Electricity Program started with the passing of an authorizing resolution at the 2020 Spring Town Meeting. The Town of Boxford then ran a competitive process to select an experienced energy consultant that would assist with program development and implementation. The Town selected Good Energy, L.P., and Good Energy has been working with Town staff and the Boxford Sustainability Committee in developing the program plan.

Patrick Roche from Good Energy presented a brief overview of the program at the Select Board meeting on December 8, 2021. A recording of the presentation can be found on the Boxford Cable Access TV ([direct link here](#)). At the meeting, the Select Board opened a public review process which will continue until the January 18, 2022, Select Board meeting. The public is invited to submit comments about the Program Plan on the program website boxfordelectricity.com or in writing to Town Administrator, 7A Spofford Road, Boxford, MA 01921. Verbal comments can also be submitted during the Public Hearing which will be held on January 18, 2022.

Following the public review and hearing, the Select Board will vote on whether to approve the Plan and submit it to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU). After review and approval by the DPU, the Town will be able to launch the Program.

BOXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRUST

The Boxford Elementary Schools Trust (BEST) has been a funding partner of the Boxford School District for the past 26 years. Our mission is to help prepare our schools for the future by funding innovation in its varying forms. By awarding teacher requested grants, we have funded innovative teaching techniques, tools and professional development that have created substantive positive improvement. To learn more about BEST or get involved visit: <https://bestforboxford.org/>

Upcoming BEST events:

- **Starting Tuesday, January 18th, All You Need Is Love:** Order a personalized valentine for teachers and staff at HLCS and SPS. BEST will bundle the card with a \$5 Dunkin Donuts gift card, some sweet treats and deliver the goody bag to the teacher or staff member on **Monday, February 14th.**

BOXFORD PTO

Happy 2022 from the Boxford Parent Teacher Organization (BPTO)!

We are planning great things for the second half of the school year at Harry Lee Cole and Spofford Pond. Below are upcoming opportunities to support the BPTO, our schools, students, and staff.

For the Love of Kids & Cookies Fundraiser

Online Cookie Orders January 10 - February 3, 2022
Cookie Pickup February 17, 2022



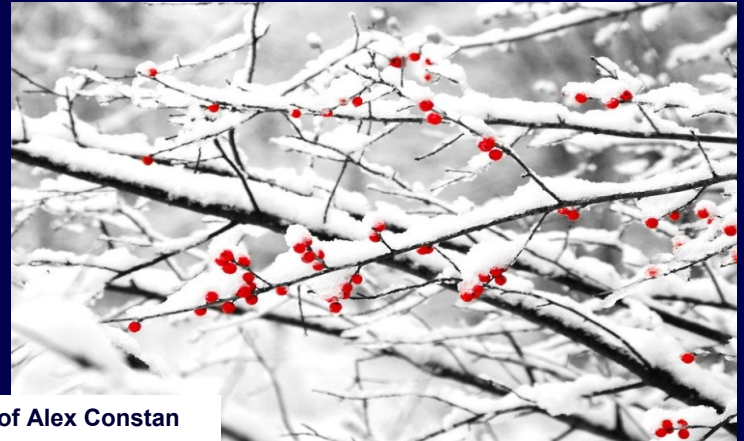
DIY Family Pizza Night Fundraiser

Online Pizza Kit Sales January 17-31, 2022
Pizza Pickup February 9, 2022



We look forward to seeing you at a BPTO event!

To contact the BPTO boxfordpto@gmail.com or visit www.boxfordpto.org



Photos courtesy of Alex Constan

WEST BOXFORD IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

The 2021 Winter Festival, sponsored by the West Boxford Improvement Society, took place on Saturday, December 4, from 9am - 3pm. The festival was a hit and all who came were filled with holiday spirit. Folks enjoyed holiday shopping, crafts, festive food, hayrides, raffle items, handmade gifts, pet photos, and MORE! We look forward to next year's festival!!



Drop-in Restorative Yoga Classes for the New Year

Please join us Monday nights at 6:30 pm at Lincoln Hall in Boxford for a safe, socially distanced restorative yoga class!

Where: Lincoln Hall (upstairs), 563 Main Street (intersection of Route 133 and Main Street), Boxford Monday nights.
\$10 drop in fee.

Soup and Chowder Festival

Our soup and chowder festival is planned for Saturday, March 12, at Lincoln Hall, 563 Main Street (intersection of Route 133 and Main Street). Details to follow!

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WBIS01885>