

Wise Fox

A Monthly Publication of the Foxboro Jaycees
January 2026



Hello and Happy New Year fellow Jaycees,

I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing holiday season with your family and friends!

We had a string of successful winter community projects this December, keeping the traditions alive for another year!



Over 250 Fruit Baskets were once again assembled with loving care and precision by the hands of our members and Mass General Brigham staffers, all under the great leadership of project chairs Monica and Emma Fidler. Special note of thanks to Emma for encouraging and getting the best out of the MGBH kids. This is an impactful project to aid the discretionary fund, and we once again thank Brigham's for their monetary and manpower contributions.

Caroling on the Common had a dedicated group of citizen carolers sing the holiday classics to the expert direction of Aaron Bush and the talented Foxborough High School band. Congratulations to Pam Warren for again chairing and managing this wonderful annual tradition. She handed out candy-cane treats for the participants and got some glow sticks to the band for some extra instrument flair.

Thank you to Lisa for making the wishes of a local senior citizen and local child come true by donating gifts via our Adopt a kid / adopt a senior project.

We also have Caitlin & Anthony Pignone and team Salt for Seniors (Kenny and Bob Webster) out there helping get ice melt salt to our communities' senior citizens. Thanks to them all and Deena for being our bucket benefactor.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of these amazing community projects, especially those who contribute year after year. We hope as the new year is upon us that there will be renewal of community service and Jaycee spirit in us all.

May the new year be one of peace and good health for you all!

Sophia 😊

Secretary's Report

Pam Warren



Welcome to 2026! Another year over and a new one just begun... We are coming into our quieter months, but will be starting to plan all of our Spring and Summer events soon. It's also never too soon to start thinking about joining the Board for next year – if you have any questions about Board duties or would like to run for an office – ask any current board member. Our next GM will be at the South

Foxboro Community Center on January 14th at 7:30 PM. We hope to see everyone there! As always, if you are unable to attend our meetings, but would like to know what happened, or what was discussed about a particular project, you can request a copy of the minutes. You can also ask to add any new ideas to the agenda. Send me an e-mail lccgazette@yahoo.com and I will assist.

Sunshine – If anyone wants to send some Sunshine – let me know. It can be a Congratulations, get well, sympathy, thank you - Get me the details. **“Shared Joy is Multiplied; Shared Grief is Diminished”** Please Share!

Wise Fox – If you would like to have something posted in the Wise Fox, email me at jayceesfoxboro@gmail.com and I will get it included – ANYONE can add to the Wise fox – not just the board. I highly encourage Project leaders to post about events and would love to give a “Shout Out” to members who have made a difference – in the chapter or on their own.

Our Award Winners from the December GMM:

November Jaycee: Lynda Walsh: Lynda has spearheaded the Thank-a-Vet Project for many years with her good friend Jim Devellis. Together they have made this a beloved annual way for the community to give back to our Veterans. (also nominated: Ken Wills, Bob Webster & Gabby Grondalski for work on the Common; Caitlin Pignone & Sophia Manos for their efforts toward Thank a Vet)

November Project: Thank a Vet – Lynda Walsh: Once again the Thank a Vet project brought gift cards, whoopie pies and cards of thanks to our area veterans with the help of a large group of community volunteers.

We want to recognize YOU... Come out to help with a project or volunteer to Chair one in the New Year

Something worth Celebrating...

January Birthdays:

Kevin Mack 7th
Deena Cummings 21st
Amy LaBrache 28th
John Zarella
Kelly Reid

January Anniversaries:

Deena Cummings 2004
Vanessa Shirley 2007
Michael Stewart 2015
Patty Reid 2015
DJ Jolicoeur 2017

Be sure to let us know if we don't have your birthdate (Month & Day) so we can recognize you here!



Project and Jaycee of the Month –

Lynda Walsh and Jim Devellis have run the Thank-a-Vet program for years. A big group of Volunteers from the Community came out on a Wet Saturday to deliver Gift Cards, Whoopie Pies, home-grown Squash and thank-you cards from local school children to Foxboro's Veterans.

Individual Development

Vice President: Caitlin Pignone



Happy New Year! The Christmas season is behind us and a merry season it was. Hope everyone enjoyed a break with their families and friends. As the chair of the Sand for Seniors, this is a reminder to get in touch if you'd like a delivery! If you have a bucket and need it filled, please reach out. Last year we delivered over 75 buckets. This season, only 14! Looking forward to 2026!

January Fun Facts

- ✚ In ancient Rome, January was not always the first month of the year. It was officially designated as the first month in 45 BC when Julius Caesar introduced the Julian calendar.
- ✚ January is National Clean up your computer month making it the perfect time to organize and declutter your digital life.
- ✚ Alaska formally became the 49th state of the United States on January 3, 1959. The 49th and largest state, Alaska, was admitted to the Union by a special proclamation signed by President Eisenhower.

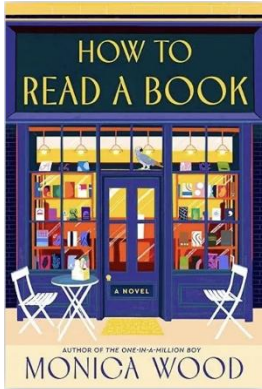
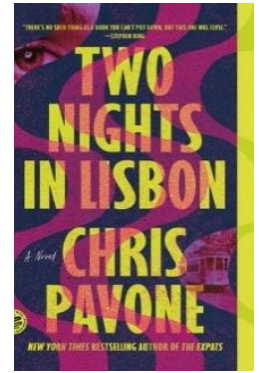
Book Club – Lisa Jolicoeur

On Thursday, December 4, 2025, Book Club members convened to discuss *Midnight Swim Club* by Faith Hogan about three women in an Irish village who form an unlikely friendship through midnight swims in the Irish Sea. The story follows Elizabeth, who is left with crippling debt after her husband's death; Jo, her friend who introduces her to the swims; and Jo's daughter Lucy, who is dealing with personal issues. They find solace in their late-night dips, which leads them to also create a fundraising plan for the local hospice.



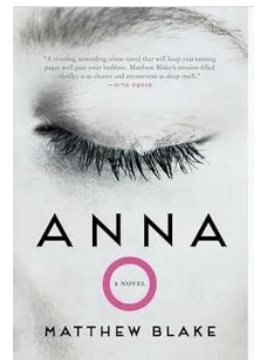
Book Club members enjoyed Christmas cookies, chocolate Jingle Mix, and tea while unpacking what most of us thought was a sweet book with interesting characters who each seek answers to some hard questions about themselves: Dan, adopted, returns to the little village to uncover his identity; there is a local Irish convent where once upon a time, unwed mothers stayed; a recently divorced doctor must decide what is best for her and her teenage son; a woman faces a cancer diagnosis; a woman must cope with the complicated mess her husband left her with guilt, a heavy secret, and a lost child. While many of us were pleased with a pleasantly resolved ending to the novel, some thought it was a bit predictable. Since most of us did not mind the predictability and since the book gave us a lot to talk about, the book earned mostly 1.5's and 2's with one 3 on our rating scale: 1 being "drop everything, turn off the phone, and read; no one should bother me until I am done; I might even be late for work or sunburned if reading outside;" 2 being "good, leave the phone on, recommend to my friends, not good enough to earn a 1 for a potential flaw, but worth reading"; 3 being "glad I bought it and read it, will talk to my book friends about it, but I am not recommending it to all my friends;" 4 being "I regret paying money for the book, but it's tolerable if I didn't pay hard earned money for it"; and 5 being "I wish I had not read it and wasted precious hours of my life."

The Book Club will not be meeting in January due to a scheduling conflict, so **For February 5th**, we will be discussing **“Two Nights in Lisbon”**, a thriller novel by **Chris Pavone** about a woman named Ariel who wakes up in a Lisbon hotel to find her husband, John, has disappeared. The book follows her desperate search, which leads her to uncover secrets about his life and confront her own hidden past as she races against a deadline to save him from a dangerous situation. It is known for its clever plot twists and exploration of themes like marriage, trust, and deception.



AND we will also be reading the originally planned book for February - **“How To Read A Book” by Monica Wood**: This is a book about redemption, forgiveness, and starting over. While not obvious at first, it is also about complex family dynamics. Harriet is a retired English teacher who leads a book club in a women’s prison near Portland, Maine. Imagine the most buttoned-up woman among felons, and you have this very unique group of women. When the book opens, Violet is an inmate at the prison (and in the book club) and about to be released. After she is released, she moves into an apartment close to Harriet’s house. Not only that, but it also turns out that Harriet’s new friend Frank (who is the handyman at the bookstore she frequents) was married to the woman Violet killed in a drunk driving car accident. (Do you feel the tension?)

For March, we will be reading “Anna O” by Matthew Blake. Anna Ogilvy was a budding twenty-five-year-old writer with a bright future. Then, one night, she stabbed two people to death with no apparent motive—and hasn't woken up since. Dubbed “Sleeping Beauty” by the tabloids, Anna's condition is a rare psychosomatic disorder known to neurologists as “resignation syndrome.”



Please see the calendar for January & February Events



Hundreds of Fruit baskets waiting to be distributed by the Discretionary Fund before Christmas.

Thanks to the great group of Volunteers – led by Emma and Monica Fisler – who assembled the Baskets.

Thanks also to the folks from Brigham & Women’s who co-sponsored and brought lots of helpers.

Community Development Committee

Upcoming Projects:

Common Decorating / Nativity Take Down – 1/10 (Morning) – Kenny Wills

The Holiday season is over, time now to take down and store away all the decorations and the Nativity set – we need help to get it all done as quickly as possible in the cold.

Sand For Seniors – Caitlin Pignone

Caitlin and her crew have already been distributing buckets of salt / sand to our seniors for the winter season – if you have time to help make deliveries or collect empty buckets, contact her.

Completed Projects:

Fruit Baskets – December 17 – Emma & Monica Fisler

We had a great group of Jaycees and Folks from Brigham and Women's who gathered at St. Mark's Church to help assemble over 250 baskets of Fruit for the Discretionary fund. Emma and Monica kept things extremely well organized and we had it all done fairly quickly.



Adopt a Kid / Senior – Lisa Jolicoeur

One of the "quiet projects" where we work with the Discretionary Fund and the Senior Center to get gifts or gift cards for a Kid and a Senior in the community. Lisa purchased the toys requested for the child and a few Uber Gift Cards for the Seniors – we made some people very happy this Christmas! Thank you Lisa for taking care of this.

Caroling on the Common – 12/18 – Pam Warren

Thank you to the Foxboro High School Music Program & Alumni Band for playing our traditional set of Christmas Carols on a clear, but chilly night on Foxboro Common. Mr. Masse came back to conduct the group and lead an enthusiastic group of people in singing some classic tunes.



Ways and Means

Vice President: Marc Rivard



Happy New Year!

I hope everyone has enjoyed the holidays!! We have one more project (not Ways & Means) that will complete the 2025 year. We hope to see you on January 10th when we take down the Common decorations and Nativity. The more help we have, the less time we will need to spend in the cold! And as always, if you have any other fundraising ideas, please let me know.



We have some wonderful new pieces for our Nativity set – the 3 Kings, a Camel and new Sheep!

Thanks to Bob Gillis for the great photo



Membership

Gabby Grondalski & Kyle Godinho

Happy New Year, everyone! As we step into 2026, we look forward to an exciting year full of projects and collaboration. Know someone who has "volunteering" listed as a New Year's resolution or is interested in learning more

about the Jaycees? Encourage them to attend our next GM or email us!

Jaycees Apparel & Merch:

Need a hat or a shirt? Let us know by emailing gab.grondalski17@gmail.com .

Website – Bob Gillis:

Bob does an amazing job keeping our website current and maintaining the archives! Stay up to date with upcoming projects or take a walk down memory lane with the photo galleries from projects in years past – you might find some inspiration for reviving a classic. See his “Website Fun Fact” for recent updates...

Jaycee Photographs:

Do you have any cool Jaycee or Jaycee event photos? We 'd love to see them and share them on our website or social media. Please send any items you'd like to share to Bob, Marc, or Pam. You don't need to be on the board to contribute to the website, our social media, or Wise Fox.

Social Media: Shout out to Marc and Bob for all of their hard work keeping our pages up to date!

Be sure to “Like” us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FoxboroJaycees>) and Follow us on Instagram ([foxborojaycees](https://www.instagram.com/foxborojaycees)) and you can always find the latest updates at www.foxborojaycees.org.

Have a question or a new idea? Email the board: jayceesfoxboro@gmail.com

Foxboro Jaycees Website Fun Fact - January 2026:

by Bob Gillis

If you check the web site Jaycee news stories for 2014, you will read the following:

"The Foxboro Jaycees web site was launched in late 1997, and around May 1998 there had been about 1100 visitors. While various site counters have been used since (most notably stat counter for the past 10 years or so), every effort has been made to ensure the count is fairly accurate.

Adjustments were made a few times when the site had run without a counter for a month or so (and was bumped up by about 1000) and also dialed back a few times when testing was needed and repeat reloads were "faking out" the numbers (the count was reduced).

In general, repeat refreshing of the pages won't increase the counters anymore.

So, with the caveat that no site counter is perfect, and that count has been adjusted on occasion, it's been mostly "left alone" these past years and the fact remains that on March 26, 2014, we hit 250,000 unique visitors — that's a QUARTER MILLION unique visits to the site since its inception. That is AWESOME."

2026: Well, flash forward 11 years later and the count (at this writing) reads 0491325 -- which means sometime before the end of 2026, the Foxboro Jaycees web site will hit a HALF MILLION unique visits! So -- please visit our website and encourage others to do so, as we hit half a million (and beyond), suggestions for improvements are welcome, and as always, enjoy the website and all it offers!

Foxboro Jaycees Website Updates / Changes

Jaycee friends — I had some vacation time this past week and was able to dig in and make several improvements to the Foxboro Jaycees website. Important note: nothing has been removed.

I updated the menus, project listings, and several sections to better reflect who we are today— highlighting current projects and initiatives while moving retired projects into the archive.

What changed:

- **New menu: Awards / Recognition** – Monthly and annual awards, Key Man, and Life Member lists now live here instead of under "History."
- **Membership menus consolidated** – The "Membership" and "Member" menus have been combined into one with a clearer, more logical layout.
- **Updated content** – The "Who Are the Jaycees" and "What Jaycees Do" sections were rewritten to remove references to retired projects and instead focus on our active work across all four areas: ID, Ways & Means, Community Development, and Membership. These sections are now more dynamic and inviting, showcasing both current efforts and notable past achievements.
- **Reorganized History section** – Retired projects are now listed in chronological order, making them easier to find, learn about, or even spark ideas for a future revival.

The goal of these updates is to present our chapter as vibrant and active — keeping our history accessible but putting the spotlight on what we're doing now.

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<i>January 1, 2026 New Year's Day</i>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Book Club 7:30 - "Two Nights in Lisbon" by Chris Pavone	9	10 Common Deco Take-down
11	12	13	14 <i>GM 7:30 PM at SFCC</i>	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Board meeting on Zoom	29	30	31

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5 Book Club 7:30 - "How To Read A Book" by Monica Wood	6	7
8 Superbowl Sunday 	9	10	11 <i>GM 7:30 PM at SFCC</i>	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 
15	16 President's Day	17 Lunar New Year	18 Ash Wednesday	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Board meeting on Zoom	26	27	28