

OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

Welcome to the July Issue of OUR TOWN

As we head into the summer months there is a lot happening in Dover! The Council on Aging and the Library have events coming up; there are guided walks sponsored by the Open Space Committee. Also included in this month's newsletter are updates from the Board of Selectmen, and the Highway Department provides information on their street paving plans over the next couple of months.

Our next newsletter will come out in August.
Enjoy your summer!

If you are part of a Town board/committee/commission and would like to submit content for the July issue, please contact [Ruth Townsend](#)

VOL. 2, NO.7, JULY 2023

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE...

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**MEET THE TEAM
COMMUNITY CENTER CLUB**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
WORKS**

PARKS AND RECREATION

**POLICE
SCHOOLS**

LIBRARY

RECYCLING

COA

**OPEN SPACES
BOARD OF HEALTH**

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS
QUICK LINKS**

SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER

**and tell a friend
about the newsletter too!**

Click [Here](#) To Sign Up
Click on the 'News Flash' section
(the bottom section)
Then Click on
1 Dover Town News





In Brief

Community Center Project

Voters approved the Building Committee's request for \$6.6 million in additional funding for construction on a new Community Center at the June 3 Special Town Meeting (STM) and the June 12 Special Town Election (STE). Construction is planned to begin in July. For the STM results [click here](#), and for the STE results [click here](#).

Board of Selectmen (BOS) Membership Size

The BOS Membership Size Committee met on June 14 to present summaries of the three types of information they would need to make an informed judgment on the BOS membership size question. The areas of inquiry are: How does Dover work; What makes Dover, Dover; What criteria should be used to select "like towns" for comparative purposes. The three subgroups presented and discussed their summaries and discussed ways to use the summaries to aid in the selection of a consultant to do further research in the fall.

MBTA Housing Density Mandate

In 2021, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts adopted a new law, Multi-Family Zoning Requirement for (Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority) Communities. Municipalities served by the MBTA are required to zone districts "of reasonable size" for multi-family housing at a "gross density" of 15 dwelling units per acre. The law applies to 175 cities and towns, including Dover. The Planning Board has been working through the steps required to comply with the law. For additional information about this Act, [click here](#).

At a meeting between the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen on June 7, the Planning Board discussed the work required to complete the final phase to be in compliance with the law. A consultant provided by Mass Housing Partnership will help guide the Town through this process. This phase requires the Town to designate appropriate space for the housing and adopt by-law changes to remove impediments to development.

Under the MBTA's mandate, Dover's housing requirement is targeted at 102 units. At this time, the Town does not know which higher-density housing developments will qualify toward the benchmark. The approval process will include a Special Town Meeting in 2025 to vote on the by-law changes. Compliance must be completed by the end of December 2025.

Hale

The Town is continuing its efforts to acquire a Conservation Restriction on the Hale Education site, in collaboration with the Town of Westwood, to protect the property from development in perpetuity.

The Hale property, about 1,200 acres in the two towns, is considered one of Dover's gems. The land abuts 109-acre Powisset Farm and 595-acre Noanet Woodlands, which are owned by the Trustees of the Reservations, and conservation land owned by or protected by land trusts or the towns. The property features an extensive 15-mile trail system, four ponds, acres of beautiful beachfront, woodlands, and meadows. Thousands visit the property each year for passive recreation. Hale Education also hosts community events, camps, school programs, and other outdoor education. A Conservation Restriction will prevent Hale Education from dividing the property and selling it to developers at market rate. This will prevent residential development and protect Dover's rural character.

In Depth



Board of Selectmen cont.



In
Depth

Hale continued

The Conservation Restriction is expected to cost about \$10 million. The Town will fund the Conservation Restriction through a 20-year bond issue. It is estimated the bond will cost the owner of a median home, valued at \$1.25 million, an average of \$284 per year. The Board of Selectmen is reviewing other funding sources to support the purchase and reduce the impact on taxpayers.

Voters will be asked to vote on this expense twice. A special Fall Town Meeting will be asked to approve a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion, which requires a two-thirds approval for passage, and also in a townwide referendum, which requires a majority vote for approval.

Preliminary Hale Property Tax Impact

TAX IMPACT of \$10m		Year 1	Year 5	Year 10	Year 15	Year 20	Annual Cost: 20 Year Avg. \$
Assessed value 1	\$ 750,000	\$ 140	\$ 195	\$ 173	\$ 150	\$ 128	\$ 170
Assessed value 2*	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 210	\$ 325	\$ 288	\$ 250	\$ 213	\$ 284
Assessed value 3	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 280	\$ 455	\$ 403	\$ 350	\$ 298	\$ 397
Assessed value 4	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 350	\$ 585	\$ 518	\$ 450	\$ 383	\$ 511
Assessed value 5	\$ 2,750,000	\$ 420	\$ 715	\$ 633	\$ 550	\$ 468	\$ 624

Note 1: Assumes \$10m bond. Other funding sources are being reviewed and evaluated by the Board of Selectmen in order to mitigate the taxpayer impact.

Note 2: Assumes 3.4% interest rate

* Approximate Dover median assessed value for FY23

We will continue to update the community in the coming months.

Meet the Team

Next month we will be meeting **Michael Blanchard**, Dover's new Town Administrator, who starts with us on **Monday, July 17.**

Community Center Club

Students - Be a part of the Community Center Project

For Middle School and High School Students interested in a career in Architecture, Project Management or Construction, or Interior Design

Register by clicking [here!](#)

If you have any questions or would like to know more contact Ruth Townsend at carylfeedback@dooverma.gov



Community Center Club for Students Grades 6-12 Follow the project to build a new Community Center and get involved!

We are offering a rare opportunity for students to follow the Community Center Project through to completion. As a member of this club, you will follow the project step by step with professionals from the Project Management, Architecture, and Construction Team as well as other industries who will help us to complete this new center.

Workshops will be held twice a month (at most), on Wednesday evenings at 7pm, in person at the Dover Town House, starting in September.

There will also be the opportunity to receive letters confirming attendance at these sessions to use for college or work applications.

REGISTER in the link in this post.

Questions? Contact Ruth Townsend at carylfeedback@dooverma.gov.



Department of Public Works

2023 Pavement Management Program

The Dover Public Works Department will be implementing the first year of its Pavement Management Program. This year's program, which totals approximately \$1.2 million, is focused on pavement preservation and spans over 9 miles. The program will use leading-industry methods to ensure the work is completed as efficiently as possible and that the road surface improvements last for many years. The Town aims to cause the least disruption possible to drivers and residents. Thanks to the community for its patience during this work.

IMPORTANT FOR DRIVERS AND RESIDENTS:

- Work begins on July 12 and will continue throughout the summer.
- Roadwork starts at 7 a.m. and may continue into the evening hours as needed.
- Night work will make it possible to keep roads open during the day to allow normal traffic flow. However, night work, which is performed between 8 p.m. to 3 a.m., may be disruptive at times.
- There may be times when you do not have full access to your driveway.
- It is crucial that vehicles and pedestrians follow all signs and observe traffic control crew instructions to avoid damage to the road work as well as vehicles.

Schedules are subject to change due to unforeseen conditions beyond our control such as weather, equipment-related issues, and contractor commitments. Additional work may be added or altered as budget and the construction season allows.



Click [here](#) to see where crews will be working.
Check back for updates on the website using this link, and sign up for notifications [here](#).

If you have any questions, please call the Public Works
Offices (8:00 AM – 3:30 PM) at (508) 785-0058.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AS THIS WORK IS COMPLETED.

Solar Power comes to Dover's Town Buildings

Director of Public Works Kevin McCabe announces that the Town Garage rooftop solar array has gone online, providing a new source of renewable energy and advancing the Town's climate goals.

The project went live on Monday, June 19. The 614-panel array will produce about 281,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of renewable energy in its first year, replacing electricity the Town purchases from EverSource. The panels will generate about 70,000 kWh annually for the Highway Department garage, making its energy footprint net zero.

The remaining 210,000 kWh will result in net metering credits that will be applied to EverSource energy costs for other Town Buildings and departments: Town House, Police and Fire Department, Dover Town Library, Caryl Community Center, and the Transfer Station.

Continued.

Department of Public Works cont.

The project is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 233 tons over 20 years, equal to the emissions of 46 passenger vehicles. The Town signed a letter of intent in 2021 with Solect Energy of Hopkinton to install the array. Town Meeting then authorized the Board of Selectmen and Board of Assessors to negotiate and enter a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) agreement with Solect Energy. The signed 20-year purchase-and-lease agreement provides that Solect Energy will pay the Town an annual sum. The Town expects to save about \$250,000 during the lease, through both reduced energy costs and PILOT revenue.



“This project is a significant step forward for the Town in our ongoing work to meet sustainability goals,” Mr. McCabe said. “Dover has long embraced alternative energy solutions, and we will continue to look for new opportunities to expand our climate resilience.”

Parks and Recreation

Dover P&R's Social Media Posts recognized by National Recreation and Parks Association

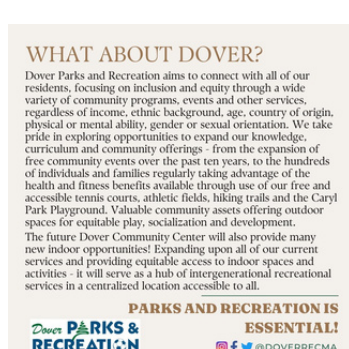
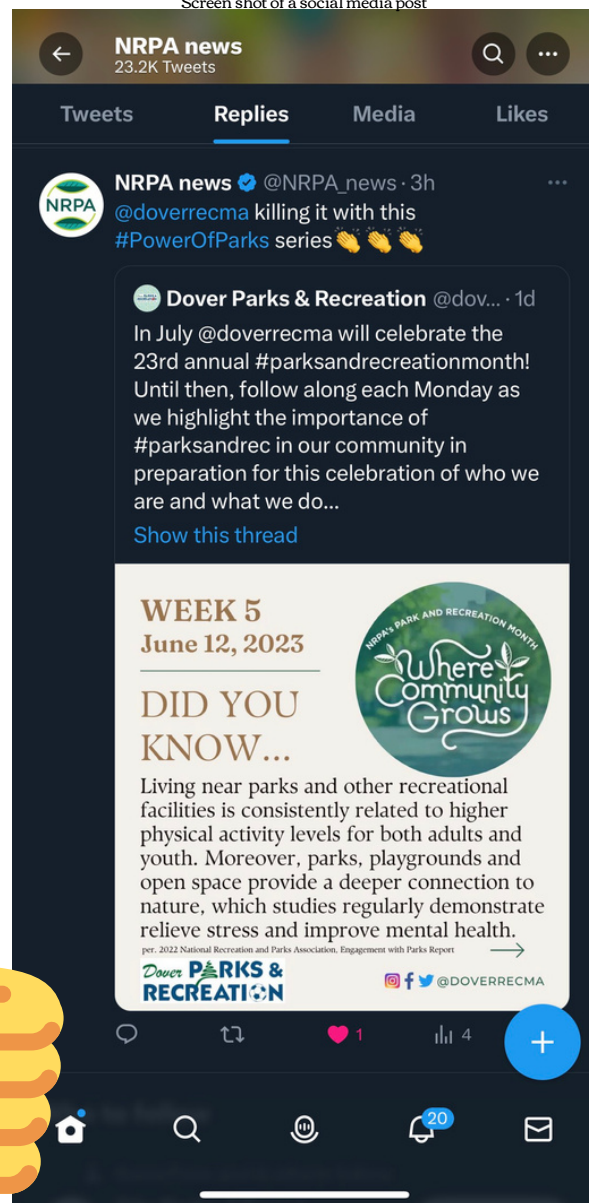
In July, Dover Parks and Recreation will be celebrating the 23rd annual National Parks and Recreation Month with the theme Parks and Recreation is #wherecommunitygrows.

In preparation for this annual celebration, each Monday over the past month and a half, Dover Parks & Rec has posted interesting facts about Recreation's impact across the U.S., and highlighting relevant facts as to how Recreation is implemented in our Dover community.

These weekly posts have been recognized and shared by the National Recreation and Park Association! Dover Parks & Rec reached a new online community and created a model for other Recreation Professionals to follow.

Catch up with the past six weeks (and follow along throughout July as we celebrate!) by visiting @doverrecma on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter #ParksAndRecreationIsEssential

Screen shot of a social media post



Police

Road Safety

With summer upon us, and nicer weather (hopefully) on the way, more people will be out and about, both on foot and on bicycles. In addition, the upcoming road repairs and detours scheduled over the next few months, make this the perfect time to offer a few reminders of road safety:

For vehicle drivers

- Vehicle drivers can help keep bicyclists safe by always checking over their left shoulder before opening their car door. This can help avoid collisions between bikes and car doors.
- Vehicle drivers should also remain aware of their surroundings while driving, paying special attention to bicyclists, pedestrians, and other vehicles. Safe riding requires cooperation from all road users.
- Check all mirrors and blind spots before changing lanes or merging and allow more distance when driving behind a motorcycle.
- The Vulnerable User Law requires drivers to maintain a four-foot distance when passing, even if it means crossing double yellow lines.

Plan to be seen

- Wear neon, fluorescent, or other bright clothing whether walking or biking. Safety vests are available at Dover COA for our seniors.
- Whenever possible, ride during the day
- If you must ride at night, wear reflective clothing and use flashing lights.

Follow the rules of the road

- Bicyclists must follow the same rules as motorists. Get acquainted with traffic laws. Pedestrians walk facing (against) traffic.
- Ride single file in the direction of traffic
- Remain alert, keep your head up and look around: watch for opening car doors and other hazards
- Use hand signals when turning and use extra care at intersections
- Never hitch onto cars
- Before entering traffic, stop and look left, right, left again and over your shoulder

As always, be aware of your surroundings. Keep headphone volume low so you can hear what is going on around you when walking. Stay off your phone, the distraction could be deadly.

For more information on bicycle safety, [click here](#).

For more information on pedestrian safety, [click here](#)



Cyclist wearing helmet riding on country road

Schools

Chickering Elementary School

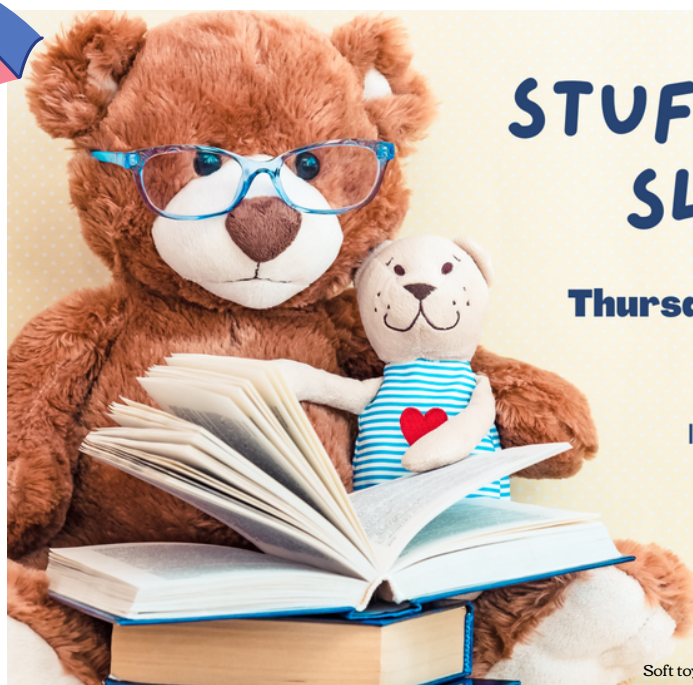
Chickering wrapped up the school year on June 16 (no snow days!) this year. Seventy-eight fifth graders were promoted in a ceremony on June 15. All students celebrated the last day in an all-school assembly, singing and dancing to the end of the year.

Chickering thanks the PTO and families for their support this year. The school was able to welcome back their parent volunteers and bring back a full Curriculum Enrichment program, enhancing the Chickering experience for all. Chickering wishes everyone a great summer!

School sign saying 'Chickering School'



Library



STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER

Thursday, July 13th 4-5pm

Bring your stuffed animal to the library, make a bed, and tuck it in. Then follow the updates on the library's Facebook page to see how much fun all the toys are having!

Open to all ages. No registration needed.

Soft toy teddy and smaller soft toy reading a book

WINGMASTERS

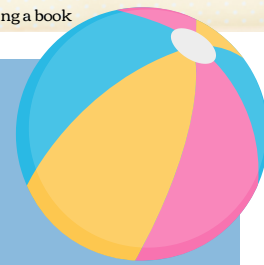
BIRDS OF PREY

THURSDAY, JULY 20TH AT 4:00PM

Join us in the Community Room to meet five live birds of prey native to New England.

Recommended for ages 6 and up.

Owl sat on limb of tree



*For more events
and to register
[click here.](#)*

*News
letter*



Join the Dover Town Library mailing list by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Library's website



SUMMER FUN FAIR

Tuesday, July 25th 11:00am-1:00pm

Join us on the library lawn for our annual fun day of games, food, and prizes! This year the hilarious Mr. Vinny the Bubble Guy will entertain us with big, giant, beautiful bubbles.

All ages. No registration needed.

Library cont.

The Dover Board of Library Trustees honors the Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund

The Dover Library Trustees are pleased to announce that the recipient of their annual recognition award is the Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund. The Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund generously supported the conservation of three of the Library's Peabody sculptures: Garden Pony (located outside the entrance to the Children's Library), Boy on a Horse, and Children in a Pony Cart (both found inside the lobby at the front door). The three sculptures are part of a group of works Dover resident Amelia Peabody (1890-1984) donated to the Library to commemorate the opening of the new library building in 1968. Miss Peabody was a prominent artist in the Boston and New York art worlds and exhibited her works widely in museums and juried exhibitions until the age of 85. Joshua Craine, Head Conservator and Principal of Daedalus, Inc., explained the process of restoring the sculptures, at a reception on June 14.



Sculpture of children in a pony cart

Children in a Pony Cart



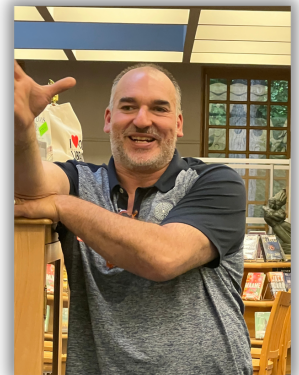
White sculpture of boy on a horse

Boy on a Horse



Sculpture outside a door of a pony

Garden pony



Man in grey tee shirt in library

Joshua Craine, Head Conservator and Principal of Daedalus, Inc.

Recycling Committee

July's Recyclable of the Month – Plastic Don't be Fooled by the Triangle of Chasing Arrows!

Those familiar numbers on the bottom of plastic containers are known as Resin Identification Codes (RIC). The numbers (1-7) represent the kind of resin (plastic) used in the manufacturing of a product. Contrary to popular belief, the numbers DO NOT indicate whether something can be recycled or not.

And yet, many of us believe that the RIC is shorthand for “recycle this!” The reason? Those little numbers are wrapped up in the very recognizable international recycling symbol, a triangular logo of three clockwise “chasing arrows.”

So, if the code is only meant to identify the type of resin in a plastic container, why include the chasing arrows at all? Because when the arrows were first introduced (more than 30 years ago) they were there only to show that the resin container was potentially recyclable.

The bottom line? Ignore the RIC. Focus instead on the shape of a plastic item. If it's a bottle, jar, jug, or tub, put it in the recycling. If it's not, you can toss it in the trash. Black plastic always goes in the trash.

Not sure what to do? Click [here](#) for more information.



Recycling Committee cont.



Transfer Station Tidbits – Not Just Trash!

Books, CDs, DVDs, and Video games may be donated to charity in the always book bins. Magazines and VHS tapes cannot be donated and should be placed in the trash.

Furniture collections are on the third Saturday of every month for charity.

Textile bins are always available for cast-off clothing, linens, shoes, backpacks, purses, and small area rugs. Please bag all items.

Food waste from BBQs and parties, including bones, seafood shells, corn cobs, and all edibles can be placed in the food waste section. Please bag all items.

Aerosol cans are NOT RECYCLABLE! Please place in trash.

Waxed cartons (milk, soup) are NOT RECYCLABLE. Please place in trash.

COA

Join the Council on Aging for one or all of these great events. Contact the COA at coa@doverma.gov or call 508-315-5734 to register.



[Click here](#)
for the
COA
newsletter

COA Summer Luncheon

Dover Legion, Tuesday, July 11, 12-1:30 p.m.

Gather with the Dover COA and enjoy the music of singer/songwriter Sean Fullerton.

This event is sponsored in part by a grant from the Dover Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. RSVP by emailing coa@doverma.gov by July 3.

Brown Bag Lunch

On July 18 at the Legion, enjoy a meal with friends in a cool spot. Bring your lunch, and the COA will provide drinks and an ice cream truck! RSVP by emailing coa@doverma.gov by July 12.

Wine & Cheese Reception

Wednesday, July 12, 4-6 p.m., at Powisset Farm Store

Powisset Farm welcomes Dover and Westwood COAs for a special event. Join us for wine, cheese, mid-summer cheer and shopping for COA members. The Powisset Farm Store features gorgeous fresh food from Powisset and other Trustees farms, as well as local farms. Specialty foods, home goods, toys, and more are locally sourced, sustainable, or created by women and BIPOC makers. Enjoy this beautiful setting with friends and browse the unique offerings.



Glasses of wine grapes next to a wooden board with cheese on it

Open Spaces

Guided Walks over the Summer (free but please register)

Saturday, July 8, 10:30 to 1 p.m.

(Long) Stroll from Caryl Park through Noanet Woodlands to Hale

July 8's guided walk from Dover's Caryl Park through the Trustees' Noanet Woodlands and into Hale is sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC).

The walk will proceed from Dover's Caryl Park, by the mill ponds in the Trustee's Noanet Woodlands, cross Dover's Larrabee-Whiting woodlands and on to Hale's trails and by its Powisset Pond. You will sample just over 4 miles of the remarkable network of trails that connect this exceptional open landscape of over 2,300 acres!

This walk will be longer than other strolls. It will be under forest cover but it may be hot and/or humid. Please bring water. It will be over uneven, possibly wet ground so please wear appropriate footwear and bring walking sticks, sunscreen, binoculars and cameras. Polite dogs on leash welcome. We will stroll in misty rain to shine. Parking and meet-up information will be emailed to registered participants on Friday, July 7.

To register, click [here](#).

Saturday, August 12, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Up Hale's Powisset Peak

August 12th's guided walk will take you up Powisset Peak in Hale, and is again sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC). There will also be an opportunity to visit the Powisset Farm Store (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) before or after the stroll!

In addition to climbing Hale's Powisset Peak, you will walk through the Trustee's Noanet Woodlands and touch Dover's Larrabee-Whiting Estate and will sample just a few of a remarkable network of trails that weave through this exceptional open landscape of over 2,300 acres!

Walks will not be too strenuous but parts will be over uneven ground, possibly slippery rocks, and include steeper pitches so wear appropriate footwear. Bring walking sticks, water, binoculars and cameras as well as sunscreen and bug/tick repellent. Sorry, NO dogs this time. Kids are welcome! We will stroll in misty rain to shine. Parking information will be emailed to registered participants on Friday, Aug. 11.

To register, click [here](#).

In addition to strolling, on both walks the project to protect Hale will be discussed, especially relevant for Dover and Westwood citizens.



Path through woodland



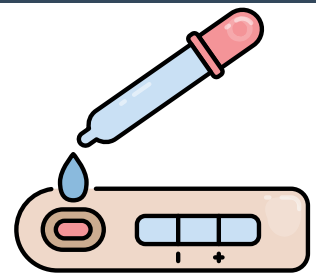
Large rocks with tree tops in distance

Board of Health

Free Covid Tests

Free COVID-19 rapid test kits are available in the Board of Health office Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for Dover residents.

Did you know the Town has a COVID-19 page? Click [here](#) for the most up-to-date COVID-19 news from the Board of Health.



Interested in Town projects?

CALL *for* VOLUNTEERS

Do you have some free time?

Would you like to learn more about town projects?

Add skills to your resume?

Gain experience in new areas or more

experience in old areas?

Meet new people in town?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, have you considered volunteering for a Town Board/Committee or Commission? Many of our Town volunteers have checked off some of the items above by working with the Town. Take a look at the different areas available and send in the form if you are interested in learning more.

Click [here](#) to learn more about
the vacant positions

Click [here](#) for the form

July Quick Links



Learn about the new Water Restriction Bylaw and Water Restriction Enforcement Bylaw Policy.

LEARN MORE



Interested in serving on a volunteer board/committee/commission? Click to learn about the process and vacant positions.

LEARN MORE



See the DPW Pavement Management Program schedule

LEARN MORE



Register for the Community Center Club

LEARN MORE



Want to contribute to August's newsletter?
Please submit content to Ruth Townsend by July 18.

Click below to stay updated on Town news

