

# OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

## Welcome to the August Issue of OUR TOWN

In this issue we are celebrating a long-serving Town employee, and warmly welcoming a new member of the team! We also are giving updates on road construction projects in town; updates on the Community Center construction project and letting you know about events in August.

We are looking forward to September, with school information and Parks and Recreation is providing information on the upcoming Dover Days - a wonderful community event.

Enjoy this month's issue of Our Town. See you at Dover Days!

**If you are part of a Town board/committee/commission and would like to submit content for the September issue, please contact Ruth Townsend**

**VOL. 2, NO.8, AUGUST 2023**

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

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### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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#### TOWN DEPARTMENTS:

**Parks and Recreation**

**Council On Aging**

**Department of Public Works**

**Board of Health**

**Library**

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### SCHOOLS

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#### BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

**Community Center Club**

**Open Spaces**

**Recycling**

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### GENERAL:

**Call for Volunteers**

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## 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



# Board of Selectmen



In  
Brief

## Community Center Project

The Community Center Project Management Team, Architects and the General Contractor met on July 11 to confirm the start of the construction timeline. Work began on the site on July 24, installing a construction trailer and fencing around the property. Final completion of the project is scheduled for October 2024.

M. O'Connor Contracting is the construction manager and now controls property access. Feel free to contact Ford Spalding, Chair of the Building Committee, if you have any questions. Progress updates will be provided each month.



View through construction fence of building and cyclist going past the fence

## Board of Selectmen (BOS) Planning Meeting

Planning meetings in July focused on setting Town priorities for FY 24, including the onboarding of our new Town Administrator, filling critical open positions, pursuing select modernization initiatives and a reassessment of the Annual Town Meeting format.

## Chief of Police Search Committee

Police Chief McGowan will be retiring in September 2023. The seven members of the search committee met in July with Carl Valente, Interim Town Administrator, and Russ Stevens, of Public Safety Consultants, LLC, the firm hired to assist the Town with this recruitment. The vacancy has been posted with Chief and Patrolmans' Associations across New England and in the Eastern U.S. Applications are due Aug. 4.

## Hale

The Dover negotiation team, Michael Blanchard, Town Administrator and Carl Valente, Acting Finance Director, along with Town Counsel, continue to refine the Conservation Restriction (CR) document to protect the Town's long term interest. The CR will be a permanent restriction on the use of the property. A release of the draft CR and an executive summary is anticipated in mid-August, assuming the Town of Westwood Select Board also authorizes release of their CR. For more information on the Hale project, please refer to our January issue by clicking [here](#).

## Water

It is already August and typically lawns are turning yellow, flowers are wilting, and water usage is at its seasonal peak. This is not the case this year with all the rain we have had. As hearty New Englanders, we all know that in New England if you don't like the weather, just wait a while and it will change. In spite of the abundance of rain over the past few months, we may find ourselves facing a dry spell in the coming months; so it's important for all of us to smartly manage our water. Smarter water use reduces the strain on our aquifer, the sole source of water for everyone, whether we get our water from a private well, or a private water company. (Aquarion)

Last summer we faced a serious drought. It was also the first summer that the Town's Water Restriction Bylaw was in effect, which allowed the Board of Selectmen to implement and activate the Water Restriction Bylaw Enforcement Policy. The policy covers all water sources in the Town including private wells and is tied to the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection guidance.



In  
Depth



## Water continued,

Signs will be posted throughout the Town when restrictions are in effect. For more information on the enforcement policy, contact the Board of Selectmen's office or access the policy on the Town website: [www.doverma.gov/567/Dover-Water-Resource-Information](http://www.doverma.gov/567/Dover-Water-Resource-Information).

Don't wait until we are in a drought to start to reduce your water consumption. The list below provides a few tips to reduce water consumption and protect our natural resources:

### Outdoor use

- A healthy lawn requires watering 2 to 3 days a week.
- To maximize the impact of watering make sure the water can be absorbed by the soil.
- Water outdoors in the early morning hours.
- Install a sensor on your irrigation system - no need to water your lawn when it is raining out.
- Install a drip irrigation system for flower beds and vegetable gardens.
- Collect and reuse rainwater. Residents may purchase rain barrels at the Department of Public Works.
- Use a cover on your swimming pool to reduce evaporation.
- Monitor children's water play.
- Don't cut grass too short - keeping grass at least three inches tall shades the roots and reduces water loss.

- Use plenty of mulch. Mulch provides ground cover that cools the soil, retains moisture, and controls weeds

### Indoor use

- Fix all leaks - not only faucets inside the house, but also outdoor faucets and garden hoses
- Check your toilets for leaks - put food coloring in the tank and see if it appears in the bowl.
- Upgrade to WaterSense-labeled faucets or aerators, which reduce flow by up to 30 percent.
- Purchase a water-efficient shower head.
- Run only full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine.
- Consider collecting "graywater" such as water captured by a dehumidifier. This water may be used on plants and vegetables.
- Shower for one minute less.
- Buy water-efficient appliances. Look for the "Energy Star" label.
- Switch to on-demand water heaters close to your showers and kitchen sink.
- Steam your vegetables! It uses less water, and improves flavor and nutrition, too.

Together we can conserve water one drop at a time!



Red and orange flowers being watered with a spray



## WATER USE RESTRICTIONS



### LEVEL 0

NORMAL CONDITIONS:  
NO RESTRICTIONS

### LEVEL 1

MILD DROUGHT: OUTDOOR WATERING  
LIMITED ON ONE DAY PER WEEK,  
5 P.M. TO 9 A.M.

### LEVEL 2

SIGNIFICANT DROUGHT: WATERING  
LIMITED TO HAND-HELD HOSES OR  
WATER CANS, 5 P.M. TO 9 A.M.

### LEVEL 3

CRITICAL DROUGHT:  
BAN ON ALL NON-ESSENTIAL OUTDOOR  
WATER USE

### LEVEL 4

EMERGENCY DROUGHT: BAN ON ALL  
NON-ESSENTIAL WATER USE

# Meet the Team

## Town of Dover Welcomes new Town Administrator Michael Blanchard

The Board of Selectmen is pleased to welcome Michael Blanchard as the new Town Administrator. The Board appointed Mr. Blanchard unanimously on May 18. He officially started with the Town on Monday, July 17, but has been actively involved in a number of Town matters in recent weeks.



Mr. Blanchard comes to Dover from the Town of Easton, where he has served as Assistant Town Administrator since 2018. He also has worked as Health Director and Assistant Town Administrator/Human Resources Director in Milton, and as Framingham's Director of Public Health. Mr. Blanchard holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from University of Massachusetts Lowell and a Master's Degree in environmental health from Tufts University.

"I am very excited to be Dover's new Town Administrator and look forward to meeting and working with the residents of Dover," Mr. Blanchard said. "I have quickly learned that Dover is a special place with rich history, beautiful open spaces, excellent schools, and a well-run municipal government supported by diligent staff, board and committee members, and residents who make this a great place to live. I am honored to be a part of that."

Interim Town Administrator Carl Valente will continue to serve the Town as Acting Finance Director. The Board wishes to thank the members of the Town Administrator Search Screening Committee for their work.

## Parks and Recreation

### Dover Days -- Saturday, Sept. 9, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Meet the owners of many local businesses and members of various Town organizations and several state representatives. Bring the whole family along and enjoy food, games and fun together - the Dover Days Fair is enjoyable for all ages! Parks and Recreation is now taking BOOTH RESERVATIONS for the 2023 #doverdaysfair on its online registration portal! Click [here](#) to register. There are a limited number of vendor spaces available. All spaces will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't delay, sign-up soon!

Saturday, Sept. 9, (Rain Date: Sunday, Sept. 10)

#### DOVER RESIDENT FEES:

\$35/booth (with NO power source)  
\$65/booth with access to  
gas generator

#### NON-RESIDENT FEES:

\$45/booth (with NO power source)  
\$75/booth with access to  
gas generator

Please note...

- A \$10 late fee will be added to all reservations after 1 p.m. on Fri. Aug. 11.
- Vendor registration will end once available spaces have filled/ or 5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 31 - without exception.

Please contact [bmcguire@doverma.gov](mailto:bmcguire@doverma.gov) with booth questions or concerns.



Grassy area outside a building with a tent, table, tree and american flag





Click [here](#)  
for the  
COA  
newsletter

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

### **Pottery Painting**

Wednesday, Aug. 2 at 10:30 a.m. at The Pottery Place, first floor at Park Street Books & Toys, 504 Main St., Medfield, Cost: \$5

Choose from a variety of pieces to paint: mugs, plates, vases, ornaments and more. Keep your pieces or gift them. Join us for a fun morning!

### **Travel Talk: Historic Lands of the Basque People with Photojournalist Barry Pell**

Wednesday, Aug. 16 at 10:30 a.m. at Dover Town Library, Community Room and on Zoom

The Basque region is located in the western Pyrenees Mountains, straddling the border of Spain and France. The territory is the home of the Basque people, who have existed for thousands of years, and are defined by a unique language, a distinctive cuisine, and some singular music, dance and sports. Basque identity coexisted with the Roman Empire, survived the conflicts of the Middle Ages and was severely repressed during Spain's Franco dictatorship. It is now re-emerging with full vigor and great pride.

Barry Pell is a world traveler and photojournalist. He has traveled widely over five decades, visiting and documenting landscapes and cultures in 170 countries on all continents.



Group of people sat eating outside on street with church tower in background

### **Paddle at Farm Pond**

Wednesday, Aug. 23 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Sherborn Yacht Club at Farm Pond

Cost: \$5

Get out on the water and have some fun! Enjoy a summer day on the pond in a kayak or canoe. Instruction and water safety guidance will be offered. Life jackets are provided. No experience necessary! We are also looking for volunteers to assist seniors on the water. Email Amee at [atejani@doverma.gov](mailto:atejani@doverma.gov) if you're interested.



People kayaking on lake with blue sky and clouds

## **Department of Public Works**



The Claybrook Road Project is anticipated to start construction on Aug. 1. Access will be limited to local abutting houses and closed to through traffic. Once the detour is established, signage will be posted.

2023 Pavement Management Program continues through the summer, Click [here](#) to see where crews will be working, and check back for updates on the website using this link. Sign up for notifications [here](#). If you have any questions, please call the Public Works Office (8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) at 508-785-0058.

**Thank you for your patience as this work is completed.**

# Department of Public Works continued

**THANK YOU!**

## Recognizing 40 Years of Service: Robert 'Bobo' Beckwith

If you don't know Robert 'Bobo' Beckwith, chances are you've seen him around Dover.

July marked his 40th year of working for the Town. He was born and raised in Dover (his mother was Nancy Scholz Beckwith, beloved driver of school bus #4). He joined the Town in July 1983 at Highland Cemetery where his uncle, George Scholz, was Superintendent. In July 1988 he joined the Highway Department, and became an on-call firefighter for Dover in 1989.

Today he is the Highway Department's jack of all trades. You may see him cleaning and sweeping the streets, repairing mailboxes, plowing our roads, filling in at the Transfer Station, or helping at the cemetery. He is always willing and available to help our residents, who greatly appreciate his work.

Thank you, Bob, for your 40 years of dedicated service to the Town!



Man in neon yellow t-shirt

## Board of Health

### Did You Know?

The Town of Dover does not have a sewer system and is 100% reliant on septic systems. Here are some septic system maintenance tips:

- It is recommended that septic systems be pumped every 3-5 years. If you have a garbage dispenser, it is recommended that your system be pumped annually.
- Not all systems are created equally so be familiar with your specific system and know where it is located. Unless it is specifically designed for it, you should avoid parking on or putting anything on top of your system.
- Always utilize a licensed professional for inspection, pumping, and repairs. A list of licensed contractors can be found at the Dover Board of Health office.
- Use bleach, disinfectants, and drain and toilet bowl cleaners sparingly and in accordance with product labels. Do not use septic system additives unless they are approved by Mass. Department of Environmental Protection.
- Use water sparingly and be sure to fix leaks as soon as possible. Avoid putting anything down your sinks, drains, or toilets that does not belong there. This includes: garbage, food, cosmetics, feminine products, and even "flushable" wipes.
- Divert water sources such as roof drains, house footing drains, and sump pumps away from the septic system.
- Should you have any questions on your specific system, please contact the Dover Board of Health office located on the first floor of the town house. Click [here](#) for contact details.



Person wearing blue gloves bending over and holding septic tank cover



# Library

## August events at the Library

Highlights of two of the many events at the Library this month, click [here](#) for more events.

### Instrument Petting Zoo

Saturday, Aug. 12, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Bach to Rock's Instrument Petting Zoo gives kids and their families the chance to explore different instruments and discuss some basic musical concepts with the staff! There will be a guitar, ukuleles, a floor piano, simple percussive instruments, and more - no experience needed!



## LEGO Club

THURSDAYS AUGUST 3RD, 10TH, AND 17TH

4:00-5:00PM

Kids are invited to drop in on Monday afternoons in May to participate in LEGO Club! Each week we will have an optional building challenge.

Finished creations will be displayed in the Children's Room.

*Best for kids ages 5+. No registration needed.*

## Schools

### Chickering Elementary School

Chickering Elementary School is looking forward to welcoming students on Wednesday, Aug. 30. Kindergarten and preschool students will visit with their caregivers on that day and everyone else will join them for a full day. That's right: the buses are back. The school continues with its earlier start time, with doors opening at 7:35 a.m. and the day beginning at 7:50 a.m. Students are dismissed at 2:15 p.m. There will be about 480 students at Chickering in the fall, with four or five classes per grade and two integrated preschool classes.

School buses lined up with teacher and young pupils stood by them



# Schools continued

All K-5 students participate in Spanish, Physical Education, Music, Art, Library and Technology instruction throughout the week. Chickering continues to have a highly qualified team of classroom, Specialists, FLES, Special Education teachers, service providers (Guidance, Occupational and Physical therapy, Speech and Language), and General and Special Education assistants to support each learner. Built over 20 years ago, the Chickering School gleams like new thanks, to the careful attention of our custodial team and the outside maintenance by Parks and Recreation. They are delighted to share their space on evenings and weekends with Parks and Recreation, Community Education, as well as several independent camps and classes.

Chickering is generously supported by its PTO throughout the year with Curriculum Enrichment events, teacher grants, and community outreach. They will start the year with the Great Cereal Box Challenge again, Students will collect unopened boxes of cereal, create a gigantic domino rally through the school and then donate the cereal to local food pantries.

## Community Center Club

**Students  
Be a part of the  
Community  
Center Project**



### **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.

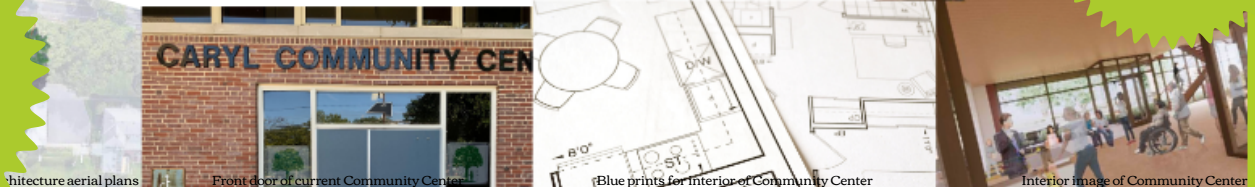
There will also be the opportunity to receive letters confirming attendance at these sessions to use for college or work applications.

**REGISTER** in the link in this post.

**Questions? Contact Ruth Townsend at [carylfeedback@doverma.gov](mailto:carylfeedback@doverma.gov).**

**Register  
Here**

**Interested in  
Architecture,  
Project  
Management,  
Construction,  
or Interior  
Design**





# Open Spaces

## Guided Walk (free but please register)

**Saturday, Aug. 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 Dover's 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!



Large rocks with tree tops in distance

In addition to climbing Hale's Powisset Peak, you will walk through the Trustees' Noanet Woodlands, touch Dover's Larrabee-Whiting Estate and sample just a few of the 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, the project to protect Hale will be discussed, especially relevant for Dover and Westwood citizens.



## Recycling Committee



Eyeglass donation box

### EYEGLOSS RECYCLING

The Dover Recycling Committee is excited to announce its newest initiative to increase recycling by collecting eyeglass donations on behalf of the Lions Club. Bring all your unused old glasses to one of the collection boxes which are located at the Library, the COA office, Town Clerk's office, and swap shop. Donate ANY eyeglasses - Prescription and Reading, Clear and Sunglasses, Adult and Children's, even clip-ons (Do NOT include eyeglass cases, please).

An estimated 120 million people are visually impaired because of uncorrected refractive errors (far and near sightedness). The Lions Club collects used eyeglasses, determines the prescription strength, and dispenses recycled glasses to those in need, free of charge.

### Transfer Station Tidbits - Not Just Trash!

- Drugs and medications are a public safety issue, leading to accidental poisoning, overdose, and abuse. There is a permanent prescription drug disposal unit located in the lobby of the Dover Police Station. No questions asked!
- Furniture collection at the transfer station is the third Saturday of every month.
- Food waste from your BBQs and parties, including bones, seafood shells, corncoobs, and all edibles. Bag all items, no plastic bags please, and place in bins at the transfer station.
- Always available donation bins at the transfer station include book and textile recycling for local charities.



Town of Dover Transfer Station sign

# Interested in Town projects?

## CALL *for* VOLUNTEERS

**Do you have some free time?**

**Want to meet new people in town?**

**Add skills to your resume?**

**Gain experience in new areas or more experience in old areas?**

**Would you like to learn more about town projects?**

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 getting involved 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

## August 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 September's newsletter?**  
**Please submit content to Ruth Townsend by Aug. 18.**

Click below to stay updated on Town news

