

# OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

## Welcome to the September Issue of OUR TOWN

A highlight of September in Dover is Dover Days. Look out for the yellow stamp to see just some of the many groups who will be there! If friends or neighbors haven't signed up for this newsletter yet, tell them to come and say hi and sign up at the Town of Dover booth at Dover Days. You can also ask about the Community Center Club and ways to volunteer for the Town.

Hope to see you at Dover Days. Until then here are some updates and news from the Town for September.

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

## 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



**VOL. 2, NO.9, SEPTEMBER 2023**

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

#### Board of Selectmen

#### Town Departments

- Parks and Recreation
- Council on Aging
- Department of Public Works
- Board of Health
- Library

#### Schools

#### Boards and Committees

- Planning Board
- Conservation Commission
- Dover Cultural Council
- Community Center Club
- Recycling

#### General

- Call for Volunteers



# Board of Selectmen



In  
Brief

## BOS/Warrant Committee

A Warrant Working Group consisting of three Warrant Committee members, the Town Administrator and a BOS member was formed to assess Warrant Committee roles and responsibilities, review budget timelines, resident outreach efforts and messaging content. The goal is to complete the review by December, including identifying and planning next steps.

## Chief of Police Search Committee

Police Chief McGowan will be retiring this month. The seven members of the search committee, along with Russ Stevens of Public Safety Consultants, LLC, the firm hired to assist the Town with this recruitment, met in August to review 30 resumes submitted for the position and chose eleven applicants to move on to the next phase. The Committee will continue to meet in September for applicant review and interviews.



## Hale

Watch this space for information to come next month!

## Community Center Project Update Groundbreaking

The Town of Dover formally broke ground on the long-awaited renovation of the Community Center, the first step toward creating an inclusive, multi-generational building that will serve as a focal point for activities in town.

During the ceremony on August 2, Ford Spalding, Building Committee Chair, thanked the many community members who gave their time and expertise throughout the planning phase, saying "We did not arrive at this day alone." and "We can all agree, it takes a community to build a community center." Mr. Spalding also thanked current and past staff members who provided vital support.

Board of Selectmen Chair Bob Springett recognized Community Center members for collaborating with Parks & Recreation and the Council on Aging to make the Center an important part of Dover life. Mr. Springett added that community input played a significant role in guiding the Building Committee throughout the project. "Rather than tell people what we wanted to do, we asked them," he said, "It's a spectacular day for the town, and a spectacular day for the community. For Ford and me, this has always been about community, and giving the community options to pursue."

## Dover Selectmen break ground on the Community Center Project

Left to Right John Jeffries, Bob Springett,  
Robyn Hunter



two men and a woman standing in front of building and digger shovelling sand



# Board of Selectmen

## Members of the Community and the Town help to break ground!

Group of people wearing hard hats in front of a building and a digger shovel sand



From left to right: Karl Warnick, Mark Ghiloni, Dana White, James Stuart, Nan Vaida, Amee Tejani



**Ford Spalding, Building Committee Chair speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony**

## Community Center Project Update

As you pass through the Town center, you will see that construction fence is up and designated trees have been taken down in advance of site work. In and outside of the Community Center discovery and proper abatement of hazardous material is underway and should be completed by mid-September when the demolition of all but the 1910 building portion will commence, and should be done by the end of September. For additional information, including the construction timeline, please click [here](#) or contact [Ford Spalding](#).

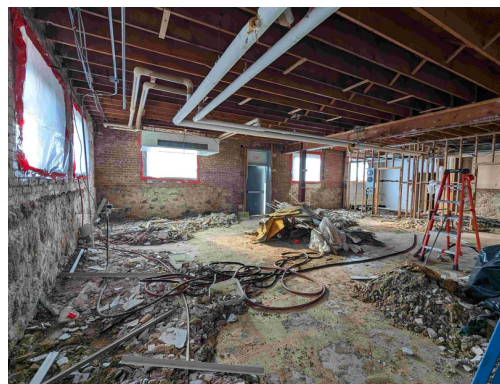
Large brick building with blocked out windows



**Front of the Community Center**



Green construction fence and trees next to section of grass



Inside a building with pipes and walls exposed



Building with trees being cut down in front of it, red cutting machine and person in safety clothing

**Construction fencing around the Community Center**

**Inside Community Center**

**Tree work at rear of Community Center**

See below for information on how students can get involved in the Construction Project with the Community Center Club





# Meet the Team

## Town of Dover Welcomes new Town Planner

The Planning Board is pleased to welcome Jasmin Farinacci as the new Town Planner. The Board appointed Ms. Farinacci unanimously on Aug. 14. She officially starts on September 6, but attended several meetings in August. Ms. Farinacci comes to Dover from the town of Lancaster, where she served as Director of Community Development and Planning. In addition to planning

responsibilities, she supervised other land use and building department functions. She has also worked in planning for the towns of Wareham and Bridgewater. Jasmin brings experience in grant writing, project management, zoning analysis, and housing development.

"I am thrilled to be joining Dover's land use team. I was so impressed with the common vision of Dover's future and the focus on a team approach that were discussed during my interviews. The goals of the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen are exciting ones and I look forward to working with them, The entire staff and Dover's citizens to make Dover an even more exceptional place to live." Jasmin said.

## Parks and Recreation

**Dover PARKS & RECREATION**

**Dover Days Fair**  
10:00AM - 3:00PM  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th  
THROUGHOUT DOVER CENTER

**Dover PARKS & RECREATION**  
*Fall 2023*  
REGISTER TODAY!

Click here to register for programs and find out more.

**Dover PARKS & RECREATION**  
*where you live, where you grow*



Below are just three of the events COA is offering this month. Click on the link below or email the COA at [coa@doverma.gov](mailto:coa@doverma.gov) to learn about other events.

## **Hale Education Coffee, on Monday, September 18 at 10:30 a.m. in the Dover Town Library, Community Room.**

The COA invites residents to attend this information session about the proposed conservation restriction for the Hale Education (formerly Hale Reservation) property. This 1,200-acre property is divided between the Dover and Westwood communities. Join members of The Trustees and Dover Land Conservation Trust to learn how this impacts the Town and get your questions answered. Coffee and light refreshments provided.



## **Talk With The Town: Town Administrator, on Tuesday, September. 26 at 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall of the Dover Town House.**

Meet Dover's new Town Administrator Michael Blanchard and hear updates on Town projects and Selectmen's Goals for Fiscal Year 2024. Coffee and light refreshments provided.



Head and shoulders of a man in a suit

## **Lifetime Learning: American Artists and the Landscape on Wednesdays, September 13 & 20, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Community Room of the Dover Town Library**

Instructor: Deborah Stein, PhD, Cost: \$20

American artists have long found the elements of the landscape to provide a rich language for expressing the hopes and fears of their new and developing nation. In this two-session program, explore the work of selected American artists from the early years of the Republic through the turn of the twentieth century. We will set the stage with a glimpse into the landscape tradition in seventeenth through nineteenth-century Europe, examine how these European classical and romantic threads found their way into American artistic production, and consider the impact of factors such as the vast and untamed lands of the American continent as well as burgeoning industrialism and urbanism. Deb Stein specializes in 18th and 19th-century American and European fine arts and visual culture and in the history of collecting and museums. She holds a Ph.D. from Boston University in the history of art and architecture. Professor Stein is a Visiting Lecturer at the College of the Holy Cross, where she is teaching the history of architecture.



Head and shoulders of a lady in red sweater and white shirt

To sign up for events or for more information, email [coa@doverma.gov](mailto:coa@doverma.gov)



Click [here](#)  
for the  
COA  
newsletter



## Pet Waste Pollutes Our Waters

Clean and beautiful water is important to our families, our environment, our economy, and our quality of life. Did you know that animal waste from pets can pollute our waters? When left on the ground or disposed of in a drainage catch basin, pet waste is washed away by rain, melting snow, and ice into storm drains that carry it to our rivers, ponds, lakes, and drinking water. Animal waste contains a high concentration of harmful nutrients, bacteria, and disease-causing microorganisms.



### What You Can Do

Pet owners or pet walkers must properly dispose of the waste by picking it up, wrapping it, and placing it in the trash. Even the toilet isn't the right place for pet waste!

- **Never throw pet waste, including used pet waste bags, in a catch basin or storm drain!**

### Dover's Requirements

To protect our waters, the Town of Dover requires that pet owners or their keepers immediately and properly dispose of their pet's solid waste deposited on any public or private property not owned by that person.

Please note that people with assistance animals are exempt.



### Contact Us

For more information, please contact the Dover Highway Department at 508-785-0058.



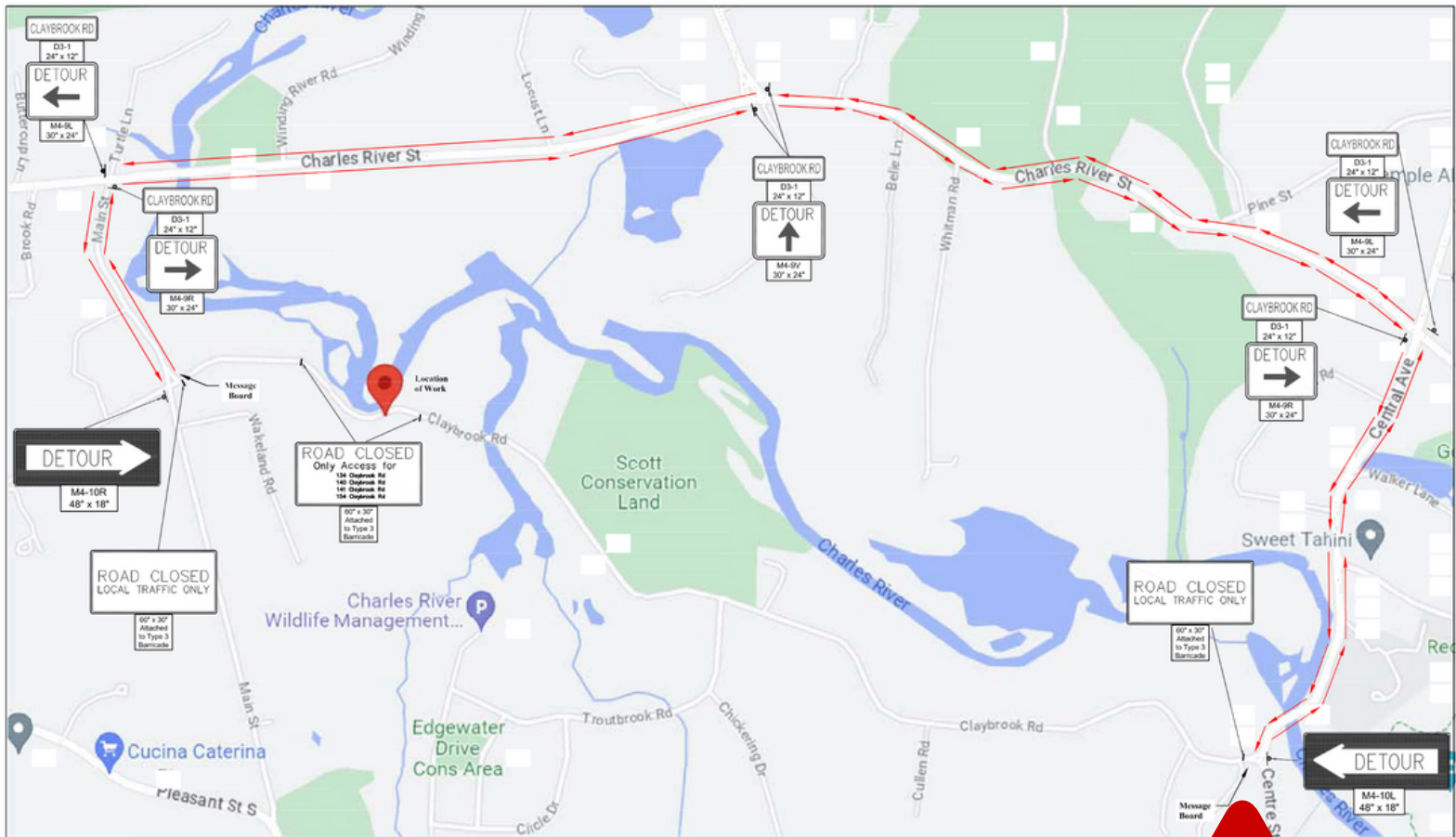
Black and white dog holding red leash in it's mouth



# Department of Public Works

## The Claybrook Road Project

Work has started on repairing the damaged section of Claybrook Road close to Main Street. It is expected that the road will be closed from the beginning of September with a detour in place. See image below for the route the detour will take.



Map of a section of Dover MA showing road closures and detour

## 2023 Pavement Management Program

Micro Surface work is tentatively scheduled for 10th and 11th of September for Main St and Pleasant St. 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.**



# Board of Health

## **Looking for SHARPS disposal?**

On July 1, 2012, a Massachusetts law went into effect banning the disposal of medical sharps in household waste. Dover residents can bring used needles, syringes, and lancets to the Board of Health office located at the Dover Town House, 5 Springdale Avenue. Sharps should be stored in secure containers (red sharps containers) and can be dropped off anytime during business hours: 8:30-3:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday.





# Library

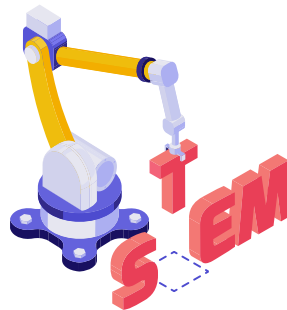
## September events at the Library

Highlights of two of the many events at the Library this month. Click [here](#) for more events and registration.

### Mystery Bag STEM Challenge

Monday, September 11, 18, and 25 from 3:30–4:30 PM

Kids will receive a bag of mystery items and then use those materials to complete a design challenge! There will be a different STEM challenge each Monday in September!



**PROFESSOR  
BUGMAN**  
ENTOMOLOGY ADVENTURES



## ARTHROPOD PETTING ZOO

Wednesday, September 20th

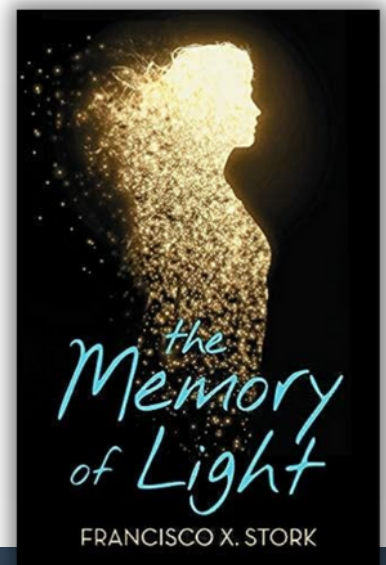
2:00–3:00pm

Amazing creatures have amazing adaptations! And what better way for kids to discover these concepts than through hands-on experiences with a whole zoo of exotic invertebrates?

No registration needed. Best for ages 5+.

## Dover-Sherborn Reads with Francisco X. Stork Tuesday, September 19 7:00–9:00 PM via Zoom

Join the Dover Library, DS Aide (Dover-Sherborn for Anti-Racism, Inclusion, Diversity & Equity) and the Sherborn Library for this powerful VIRTUAL discussion of this year's Dover-Sherborn Reads book. Author Francisco X. Stork, will share excerpts from his YA novel *The Memory of Light* followed by a community conversation, and an author Q & A moderated by Mark Cecil, host of *The Thoughtful Bro* author interview show. Register below to receive an email with the Zoom link. Copies of the book available at Dover & Sherborn libraries. Books will be raffled at the event! Register for this event with the link on our website.



# Planning Board

## Possible Housing Development by Pulte Homes on Junction Street

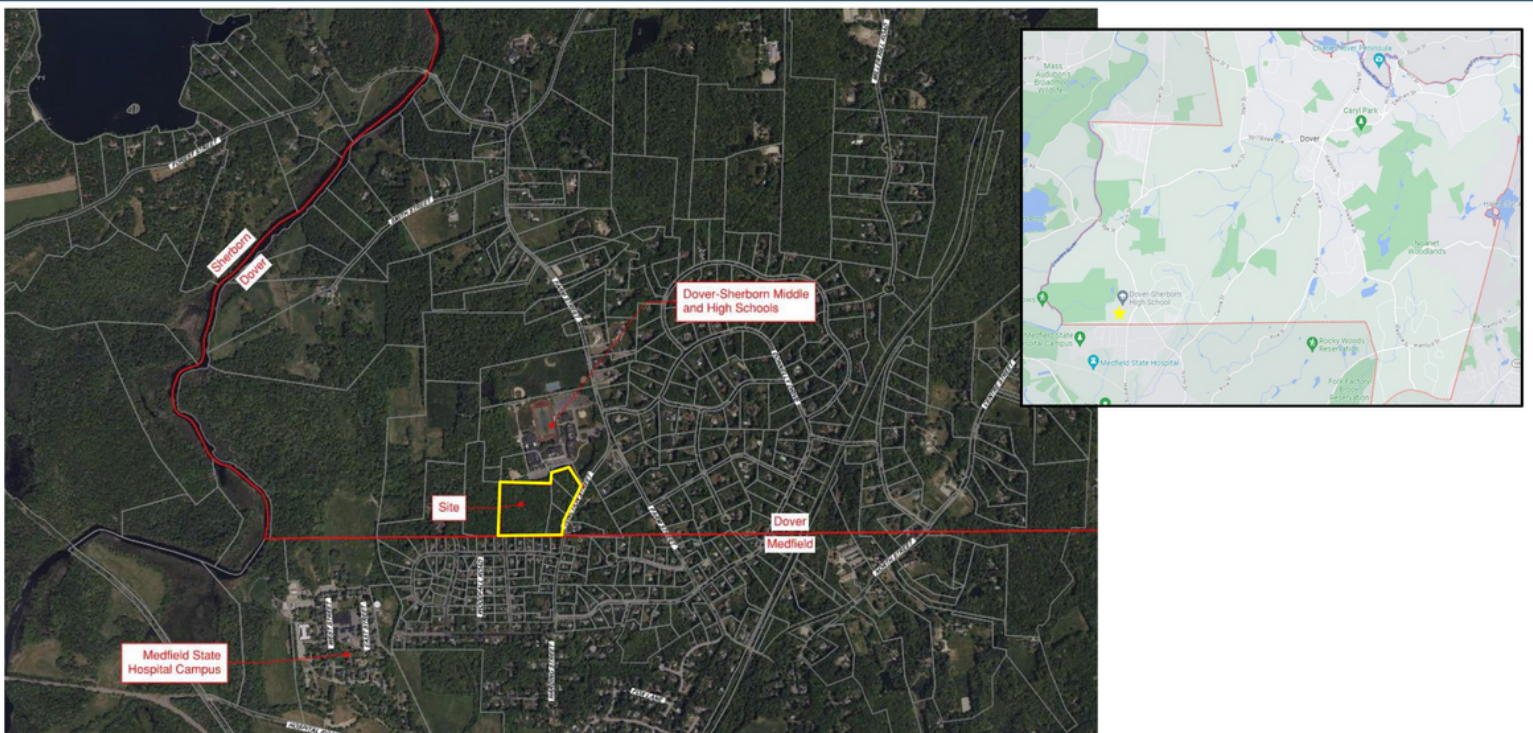
This summer the Dover Planning Board received a proposal from Pulte Homes for a multifamily development on approximately 17 acres on Junction Street, between the Dover-Sherborn Region campus and Medfield town line. A meeting was held with Pulte representatives, Land Use Department staff and board members, and Planning Board and Board of Selectmen members on Aug. 1. The meeting can be watched here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73WbG8KYjU8>.

Pulte has submitted an ANRAD application (Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation) to the Conservation Commission. The Public Hearing on this application will be opened at the Commission's meeting on Sept. 13. The agenda will be posted on the Town Calendar the week of the meeting. Pulte has met with Medfield officials to discuss obtaining water and sewer services from the Town of Medfield.

The August meeting was the beginning of a process that will currently involve the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Building Inspector, Board of Selectmen and the Department of Public Works. The Planning Board is intent on keeping all interested residents informed. If you would like to be on our email list for meeting notifications, please send an email to [shall@doverma.gov](mailto:shall@doverma.gov). A web page is now available that will be a repository of all documents filed by Pulte to Dover's land use departments: <https://www.doverma.gov/646/Pulte-Homes---Junction-Street>.

The Planning Board welcomes your comments and questions. Please send them to [shall@doverma.gov](mailto:shall@doverma.gov) and [clisbon@doverma.gov](mailto:clisbon@doverma.gov)

### Junction Street Property



Section of map showing a part of Dover MA



# Conservation Commission



## Protect Dover's Natural Resources with Safe, Chemical-Free Mosquito Control and Organic Lawn Care

The Dover Conservation Commission asks for your help in protecting the Town's environment by using safe mosquito control measures and natural lawn care. Residents like to get out and enjoy their yards without being bothered by mosquitoes, and are concerned about using chemicals that may present safety concerns to their family's health and/or to the environment, including drinking water. The good news is that there are safe, effective, and organic ways to control mosquitoes and other pests in the landscape without the use of chemicals. Before using any chemicals, the Commission encourages residents to learn more about the safe and effective natural mosquito control options that can be found in the following links:

[How to Repel Mosquitoes Safely](#)

[Backyard Mosquito Management](#)

[The Truth About Mosquitoes, Pesticides and West Nile virus: A Beyond Pesticides Fact Sheet](#)

Residents considering hiring a professional service to spray for mosquitoes or other pests on their property are encouraged to first try the safe and effective natural and preventive measures outlined in the links above. Residents who hire a service are encouraged to ask them to use organic, natural treatments. Most companies will provide these services upon request. In addition, it is important to know if the property being treated contains any sensitive wetland areas that need to be protected from chemical exposure, which includes spraying for mosquitoes. The Conservation Commission is charged with protecting the Town's natural resources and is available to help residents with any questions or concerns about protecting wetlands, wildlife habitat and drinking water supply on their property. Residents should contact the Commission if they think there may be wetlands on their property to see if any approvals are needed before having a professional service apply any chemicals on their property. Thank you for helping to protect our environment! You can reach the Commission's office by calling 508-785-0032, ext. 233 or by emailing [conservation@doverma.org](mailto:conservation@doverma.org).

## Dover Cultural Council



### Need funding for an event or program?

Apply for a grant from the Dover Cultural Council (DCC)! The DCC provides grants to support a variety of artistic projects and activities that serve our community such as exhibits, festivals, artist residencies or performances, workshops and lectures.

As part of a network of 329 local Cultural Councils throughout the Commonwealth, the DCC annually obtains funds from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency that supports community-oriented arts, humanities and science programs.



The DCC is accepting applications for 2024. Forms and filing information are available online: <https://www.mass-culture.org/Dover>. When preparing your proposal, please be sure to consult Dover's town-specific "Local Guidelines" <https://www.doverma.gov/315/Dover-Cultural-Council-DCC> to make sure you are eligible. Completed proposals are due October. 17.

The Council would also like to hear from you to help them set their funding priorities, please fill out a short (five question) survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DoverCC2023>

If you want to meet the members, or have any questions, stop by the DCC booth at Dover Days!

**Dover  
Days**

# Community Center Club



People on construction site, wearing safety clothing



Architects images of Community Center



Samples of paint colors and other materials for Community Center

## 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).**

Architecture aerial plans



Front door of current Community Center



Blue prints for interior of Community Center



Interior image of Community Center



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

Register  
Here

Students  
Be a part of the  
Community  
Center Project

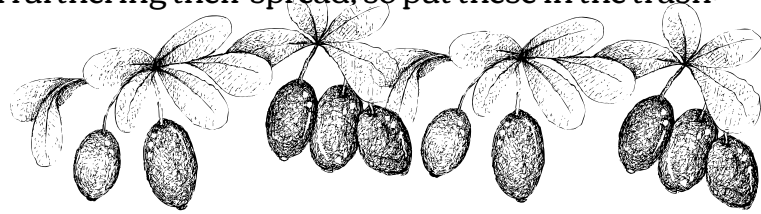




## September Recyclable of the month - Invasive Plants

Invasive plant material and grass clippings are not suitable for composting at the Transfer Station. If you are removing invasive plant species, do not bring them to the leaf and yard waste compost pile at the Transfer Station. Composting invasive species can aid in furthering their spread, so put these in the trash:

- Garlic Mustard
- Purple Loosestrife
- Japanese Barberry
- Multiflora Rose
- Winged Euonymus
- Common Reed
- European Buckthorn



Proper disposal of invasive plant parts is important to prevent inadvertently spreading the plants during disposal. Some species can re-root from small cut sections. Some may ripen even after a plant has been pulled. Simply composting in a backyard compost pile will not typically provide enough heat to kill seeds and roots. "Invasive" plants are non-native species that have spread into native or minimally managed plant systems in Massachusetts. These plants cause economic or environmental harm by developing self-sustaining populations and becoming dominant and/or disruptive to those systems.

Compostable Yard Waste (leaves and flowers) is acceptable in the composting area. Prohibited material includes invasive plants, grass clippings, bushes, tree trunks, limbs and stumps or plastic bags.

## 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 in the lobby of the Dover Police Station. No questions asked! Furniture Collections are on the 3rd Saturday of every month for charity.

Food waste from your BBQs and parties, including bones, seafood shells, corncocks and all edibles can be recycled at the transfer station, please bag all items.

Donation bins are always available at the transfer station including Book and Textile recycling for local charities.

## Visit the Recycling Committee at Dover Days

Join the Recycling Committee with their special guest Wade Hayes, our Transfer Station specialist at Dover Days on Saturday, Sept 9. They look forward to greeting everyone and answering any recycling questions you have. There will also be Rain Barrels available for sale. Whether you have an underground cistern or a small barrel by the side of your house, storing rainwater can prevent water from flooding your yard during the rainy season. Be prepared for the next drought!

**Dover  
Days**

Man in orange top talking to a group of young students in front of recycling sign



Wade Hayes at the Transfer Station with a group of students from Chickering Elementary School and a group

# 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 questions 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

Want to speak to someone about volunteering for the Town? Come and see us at the Town of Dover booth at Dover Days.

**Dover Days**

## September 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 September 18.**

Click below to stay updated on Town news

