



# OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

## Welcome to the March Issue of OUR TOWN

Hello there! We're thrilled to announce that the March newsletter is ready for you to read. It's filled with updates from different town departments, including various fun and exciting programs that you can join. Most importantly, this month, make sure to review the essential dates for the upcoming town elections. Exercise your civic duty by voting in the March 5th Primary Election and attending the Caucus for the Annual Town Election on March 11. Additionally, you'll get all the latest news about the Community Center construction progress and the upcoming Annual Town Meeting. We've also included some excellent highlights of the work done by various boards and committees. We hope you enjoy reading it and stay informed about all the fantastic things happening in town!

If you are part of a Town Department/  
board/committee/commission and would like to submit  
content for the March issue, please contact  
[newsletter@doverma.gov](mailto:newsletter@doverma.gov)

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about the newsletter too!



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**VOL. 3, NO. 3, MARCH 2024**

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

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# Town Meeting

## WARRANT COMMITTEE OPEN HEARING

Monday, March 18, 2024

at 7:30 PM

Great Hall, Dover Town House

### About Open Hearing

Dover will be holding an Open Hearing, which is a public meeting for its residents before the Annual Town Meeting. The Open Hearing is an informal and informational meeting that provides an opportunity for residents to learn about the purpose behind each Warrant Article. The proponents of each article are present to explain their reasoning behind the proposals and answer any questions from the audience.

This meeting is an excellent opportunity for residents to learn more about their Town government in an informal setting. As such, it offers an excellent chance to engage with the community and voice any concerns or questions about the proposed Warrant Articles.

Attending the Open Hearing is highly recommended for all Dover residents who want to stay informed and involved in their local government. It's a great way to learn about the issues that are important to the town and its residents and to make informed decisions during the Town Meeting.

**A Complete Draft List of  
Warrant articles and  
information can be found at:  
<https://bit.ly/49NFJFf>**

### Notable Annual Town Meeting Articles:

Please find below a list of notable items that are up for consideration at the May 6 Annual Town Meeting:

- A proposed Budget for FY25 for Both operating and capital items
- Establish a Revolving Fund for the Department of Public Works
- Establish a Revolving Fund for the Community Center
- Appropriation for Housing Study
- Appropriation for One-Time Recreation items
- Accept MBTA Rail Trail Lease Terms and Appropriate Design Funds
- New Bylaw for Construction Hours
- New Bylaw for Small and Medium Scale Solar
- Amendments to regulatory Stormwater Bylaws
- Accept MGL Chapter 164, Section 134 (Electric Load Aggregations programs)
- Citizens' Petition to install Sidewalk on Cross Street
- Citizens' Petition for a Dog Leash Bylaw

**Stay Informed on  
all Town Matters:  
[doverma.gov/653  
/Stay-Informed](https://doverma.gov/653/Stay-Informed)**



# Town Clerk

## Presidential Primary Election and Special Town Election

Vote in Person on March 5 at the Dover Town House, in the Great Hall located at 5 Springdale Avenue. Polls open at 7:00 AM and Close at 8:00 PM. To view sample ballots and learn more about the election please visit: <https://www.doverma.gov/223/Elections>

### Caucus for Annual Town Election

The Caucus is a meeting of citizens called by the Selectmen will be held on March 11, 2024 for the purpose of making nominations for local offices. Any citizen seeking an office may have his or her name placed in nomination, be seconded, and have his or her qualifications stated. The two people receiving the highest number of votes cast for an office become official Caucus Nominees and are so designated on the ballot on Election Day. Please see below for the Open Positions:

Moderator	1	one year
Selectman	1	three years
Assessor	1	three years
Dover School Committee	1	three years
Dover Sherborn Regional School Committee	1	three years
Library Board of Trustees	2	three years
Cemetery Commission	1	three years
Planning Board	1	five years
Planning Board Associate	1	two years
Board of Health	1	three years
Park and Recreation Commission	2	three years
Larrabee and Whiting	3	five years
Constable	1	one year

To learn more about the caucus and annual Town election please visit: [doverma.gov/241/Caucus](https://doverma.gov/241/Caucus)

## Dog License/Rabies Clinic

### Dog Licenses

Dog owners in Dover must obtain a license for their dog(s) annually. The prior year's license expires on March 1, and a \$50 late fee applies to licenses renewed after April 15.

To obtain a license, visit the Town Clerk's Office in the Dover Town House or call 508-785-0032, ext. 226 to have a license application mailed to you. Alternatively, download the form at <https://www.doverma.gov/246/Dog-License>. Submit the completed application, proof of up-to-date rabies vaccination, and the appropriate fee in person or by mail to the Town Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 250, Dover, MA 02030.

### Rabies Clinic Saturday, March 16, 2024

On March 16, 2024, between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., you can take your cat or dog to the Dover Highway Department, located at 2 Dedham Street in Dover, to get them vaccinated at a cost of \$15.00 each (cash only). Additionally, the Dover Town Clerk will be present to license dogs for the year 2024. sponsored by the Dover Board of Health and Town Clerk



# Dover Community Center Construction Update

The new Dover Community Center is starting to take shape! If you have a chance to drive next to the project, you may see a shiny new gray steel structure. This structure is for the "Pavilion" building where the kitchen, café, and open community room with projector will be located. At the back of the existing building, the concrete block wall for the Gym building is well underway and nearing completion. A total of 6 basketball hoops will be provided at the gym. Once the masonry block is installed, steel will be erected in this area. A Topping Off Ceremony is currently being planned and details will be circulated once a date is finalized.

For additional information, please visit the Building Committee updates page at <https://www.doverma.gov/452/Community-Center-Building-Committee>.



Pavilion building frame being constructed



Weather Protection



Removal of existing storm structures

## Parks and Recreation

### REGISTRATION FOR SPRING & SUMMER WITH DOVER PARKS & RECREATION WILL OPEN ONLINE, BEGINNING THURSDAY, MARCH 14th at 10:00AM

Spring programs are typically scheduled during March / April / May each year and Summer during June / July / August. Some programs, or program sessions may begin earlier or run a bit later in either season.

To visit our online registration portal, [CLICK HERE](#) (or manually copy [doverrec.activityreg.com](http://doverrec.activityreg.com) into your browser). For general program descriptions for activities planned throughout each year, browse through the [Programs page of the Town website](#). Or, select the [Seasonal Events page](#) to see what Special Events we have coming up!



Spring/Summer Brochure



Now Hiring: Summer Counselors

# Volunteer Spotlight

Ford Spalding has dedicated 48 years to serving on various boards and committees in the Town of Dover. We want to express our sincere gratitude for his commitment and hard work. After many years of exceptional service to the town, we wish Ford all the best as he moves out of the Town of Dover and is no longer able to continue serving on Dover Board and Committees due to the residency requirement.

During Ford's time in Dover, he was actively involved in the Warrant Committee, Board of Selectmen, Board of Fire Engineers, Dover Sherborn Regional School Committee, Dover Sherborn Regional Building Committee, Minuteman School Committee / Minuteman Building Committee, and Chair of the Community Center Building Committee.



Ford is a committed individual who strongly believes in serving his community. He has been actively involved in volunteer work for many years, demonstrating exceptional commitment and consistently going above and beyond the call of duty. Among the significant accomplishments that he was involved in are the closing of the Town Dump and constructing the Town Transfer Station, co-chairing the new DS Regional Middle School and renovating the High School and campus, chairing the Minuteman Regional new High School and campus renovation, as well as chairing the Dover Community Center Project. Despite his impressive achievements, Ford always was humble, approachable, and willing to offer guidance and support to those who sought it. His contributions have left a lasting impact and serve as an inspiration to those who seek to make a positive difference in their surroundings.

## Volunteer on a Board or Committee

Participating in community service has numerous benefits, such as enjoying government service and engagement, understanding the process of municipal government, building personal relationships, meeting interesting people of all ages, and achieving accomplishments for citizens.

Dover's boards, commissions, and committees are made up of citizens who volunteer their time to help the town. They work together to address complex issues and recommend policies that shape our community. The town By-laws (Town Code) establish these groups. We offer various opportunities for interested individuals to participate. Terms vary from one to five years. Some committees require specific expertise. Some committees have associate members. Vacancies on full committees are typically filled from the pool of associates. If you would like to serve on a board or committee, please visit the following link:

<https://www.doverma.gov/596/Volunteer-on-a-Board-or-Committee>

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

# Council on Aging



Click [here](#)  
for the  
COA  
newsletter

Dover's Council on Aging invites you to our upcoming programs.

You can check out the March/April COA newsletter with our full slate of programs.

Some March highlights are below. Sign up by emailing [coa@doverma.gov](mailto:coa@doverma.gov) or by using our [Online Sign-Up Form](#).

## Talk with the Town: Dover Police Chief

Wednesday, March 13, 10:30-11:30am

Community Room, Dover Town Library

The COA welcomes Dover's new Police Chief Joseph Vinci.

Join us to meet Chief Vinci, hear updates on public safety issues, and ask your questions.



## The History of Jordan Marsh

With Historian Anthony Sammarco

Wednesday, March 20, 11:00am-12:00pm

Community Room, Dover Town Library

Eben Dyer Jordan was the co-founder with Benjamin Lloyd Marsh of Jordan Marsh in 1851. Jordan and Marsh were skillful and enterprising entrepreneurs and they would rapidly expand their business from wholesale to retail. Boston Historian Anthony Sammarco recounts the story of this partnership and the move to a newly designed five-story building, which unveiled the novel concept of department shopping under one roof. Come learn about this regional New England icon and how, by the 1970s it had become the largest department store chain in the nation.

## Fun with Ukulele

Mondays, March 11 to May 20, 1:00-2:00pm

Instructor Greg Luzitano

10-week session: Cost \$60

Kraft Hall, The Dover Church, 17 Springdale Ave



Grab your ukulele and play along with friends. Returning and new participants welcome from Dover and beyond. This class is open to all adults. Bring a soprano, concert or tenor ukulele with GCEA tuning.

Greg Luzitano has been delighting audiences with his creative and skillful interpretations of popular songs across genres since 2006, with countless performances showing off his versatility. He has self-produced six albums and teaches guitar, bass, piano, and ukulele with *Jamming With You*

## Massachusetts Land Court with Chief Justice Gordon Piper

Tuesday, March 26, 1:00-2:00pm

Community Room, Dover Town Library



Every March, during Judicial Outreach Month, judges engage with communities across Massachusetts about their work and importance of an impartial and independent judiciary. Join us to meet the Honorable Gordon Piper, Chief Justice of the Land Court. He and his family have resided in Dover for more than 25 years. Chief Justice Piper will speak generally about the Massachusetts Trial Court, in particular about the Land Court and the kinds of cases it hears, and about some of the key challenges and issues facing the courts in Massachusetts.

# Schools

## Chickering Elementary School

February was an exciting month at Chickering, especially because our PTO hosts the Books from the Heart event! Students and families purchase books from a wide selection that are then dedicated to a staff member and added to our library collection for all to use. This year we received over 400 books! Thank you PTO!

To celebrate the 100th day of school, Valentine's Day AND our amazing community, we invited everyone (students and adults) to create a heart with at least their name and lots of reasons to love or why they love Chickering. The hundreds of hearts are filling our walls. We had just over 500 students and nearly 100 adults, creating hundreds of reasons to love Chickering.



This week we share the Chickering Specialist and FLES Newsletter Winter 2024 edition. Check it out at <https://bit.ly/3v2qbls>

## Dover Sherborn High School

The winter regular season has concluded for DS and we are now in tournament season and preparation! The regular season records are as follows:

Girls swim and dive: 5-4

Girls basketball 13-7

Boys swim and dive: 5-4

Boys basketball 12-8

Girls indoor track and field: 2-3

Girls ice hockey 5-12-3

Boys indoor track and field: 4-1

Boys ice hockey (DS Weston Co-Op): 16-4

Gymnastics: 4-3

Boys Nordic: 6th Place

Girls Nordic: 6th Place

**Congratulations to Alia El-Hilali who was named the Hometown Weekly Student Athlete of the Month for February.**

**Alia El-Hilali**



**Sport:** Field Hockey and Nordic Skiing  
**School:** Dover-Sherborn High School

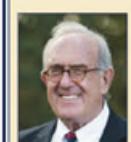
Congratulations to Alia El-Hilali for being named the February Student Athlete of the Month! Alia is a two sport student athlete and captain on the Nordic ski team this Winter and also was on the field hockey team in the Fall. Alia also played on the girls lacrosse team her freshman and sophomore year. The Nordic team MVP says her favorite part of being on the DS Nordic Ski Team is "the encouraging environment. Even if you don't know how to ski, which I didn't when I joined the team, the coaches and players still encourage you to join the team and push you to improve." The Dover native also was named most improved her Sophomore year season of Nordic. In addition to Nordic, she was an integral part of the field hockey team which made the MIAA D3 Final Four her junior and senior year, and the MIAA D3 Elite 8 her sophomore year. The senior plans to major in linguistics next year at college.

## Dover-Sherborn Athlete of the Month

Sponsored by



**DOVER COUNTRY PROPERTIES**  
Distinctive Properties & Country Estates



Sponsored by Jay Hughes of the Dover-Sherborn class of 1969. Jay is a longtime resident of Dover with deep roots in our community, having grown up, raised his family, and situated his business here. While attending Dover-Sherborn, Jay played three varsity sports: Football, Basketball, and Track & Field. Following his graduation from Harvard College, he returned to Dover to begin careers in both real estate and in municipal fire and rescue. In 2016, Jay retired from the Dover Fire Department after 50 years of service, with 23 years as Fire Chief. He remains a local fixture as he continues to oversee the bustling operation of Dover Country Properties, his real estate firm, located in the heart of Dover. A Dover-Sherborn Athletics Hall of Fame inductee, Jay is an avid supporter of our town's student athletes.

4 Walpole Street, Dover, MA 02030  
Cell: 508-269-3322 • [dovercountryproperties.com](http://dovercountryproperties.com)

# Recycling Committee

## April is Spring Clean-up Month for Dover's streets and parks.

It's a perfect time to get a head start on Dover's April Clean-Up of streets and parks, no bugs, no poison ivy and no snow or ice!



Last year 400 residents participated in this effort. 2024's goal is again to have 100% of the 159 streets and parks cleaned up. All Dover residents are invited to help achieve this goal by signing up for a street that is important to you. All local clubs and organizations are encouraged to join in the clean-up. Help with a section of our main through-streets where roadside trash is most significant and consider adopting it for year-round monitoring. The condition of most bottles and cans makes them unacceptable at recycling centers, so it will not be necessary to separate trash from recyclables. The Recycling Committee will supply bags and arrange for street safety signs to be posted. Registration is easily accessible at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/2OFOE4AA9AA2BA6FA7-47800879-2024#/>

## Dover 2024 Rain Barrel Program

In the summer of 2023, Dover experienced many inches of rain within a few hours on several days. On August 8, more than 8 inches of rain fell on parts of Massachusetts. Drivers were stranded in their cars. Centre Street was closed in several areas due to flooding which also caused considerable damage to the Town Garage. By October 2, there had only been 5 rain-free weekends since Memorial Day. The climate crisis is here to stay. Floods followed droughts and droughts will follow floods. Rain Barrels can be part of the solution.

- Rainwater is an alternative source during droughts
- Using rainwater for your lawn can decrease your water usage by up to 40%
- Rain water is a chlorine and chemical-free water source for your lawns and gardens
- Rain barrels help reduce pollution and erosion
- Rain Barrels improve watershed and health



Sixty gallon BPA free Rain Barrels, manufactured in Massachusetts, are available exclusively to Dover residents for purchase at the Dover Transfer Station for a deeply discounted rate of \$60. Pay on line <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/transactioninfo.aspx> or by check at the transfer station

## Save the Date Special Recycling Day May 11

- Onsite shredding of sensitive documents at the Transfer Station
- Special collections of bikes, wheeled suitcases, and paper and plastic reusable shopping bags for charity organizations
- Monthly collection of furniture and household goods for New Life Furniture Bank

# Tree Preservation Committee



## The Impact of Trees on Mental Health

This time of year can be difficult for some of us as we begin to experience “cabin fever” with the gray days while we wait for spring. Trees, and the outdoors have been found to serve as a vital tool in combating some mental health challenges. An article by PennState Extension discusses the benefits of children connecting with nature and a resulting increase in their focus and attention ([Click here for article](#)). In addition, research has also found that individuals who spend more time in forested areas exhibit less signs of depression and anxiety. Spending as little as 20 minutes a day outdoors has been proven to reduce anxiety and provide an increased concentration and attention span ([Click here for study](#)). We are fortunate to live in a community that values open space preservation and trees, therefore providing many of us with a natural therapy to deal with the stresses of daily life. All in all, preserving trees throughout Dover serves as a benefit for the health of our residents in many ways and makes our beloved town look beautiful. For more information about the many benefits of trees, please check out our new Dover Tree Preservation Committee webpage!

## Conservation Commission

### The Importance of Protecting Open Space

Dover's open space and the natural resources they protect are at the heart of what makes Dover special. Our community has long recognized the importance of protecting open space for a wide range of critical benefits that include the following:

Preserving open space can significantly improve our water quality and quantity by buffering wetlands and streams, and can reduce climate change impacts, such as flooding, drought, and extreme heat. Protected open spaces and greenways provide recreational opportunities and increase property values, while also preventing economic loss from floods and costly pollution. Open space areas contain critical wildlife habitat that helps plants and animals survive and thrive. Preserving Dover's open spaces and creating greenways helps to define who we are as well as where we live.

The Conservation Commission is responsible for preserving and protecting the Town's wetlands and open space. If you're interested in helping to protect Dover's open space or are planning a construction project or tree cutting and you think there may be wetlands on or near your property, please contact the Commission office before starting any work by calling 508-785-0032 extension 233 or emailing us at: [lhagerty@doverma.gov](mailto:lhagerty@doverma.gov).



# Open Space Committee



## Second Saturday Strolls

Guided Walks  
10:30 am to ~noon



Explore Dover's  
Open Spaces

Walks are free but please register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/saturday-strolls-in-dover-217389>

*Parking information will be sent to registrants on Friday & Saturday mornings.*

Please join us for guided walks on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month in March through December, organized by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC). This year we are partnering with other Dover committees and organizations to add historical or other perspectives to enhance our sense of place. We walk through **Dover's town-owned conservation land** as well as land generously owned & maintained for us by **Hale**, the **Dover Land Conservation Trust** (DLCT) and **The Trustees**. These non-profits are supported by your donations and provide public access to all their properties. If you are not yet a contributor or member, please consider it.

Walks will not be too strenuous but will be over uneven, slippery and possibly wet ground so wear appropriate footwear and bring walking sticks, binoculars and cameras. Bug/tick repellent or clothing is often a good idea. Polite dogs on leash welcome on most walks (see stroll description).

Walks will be 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 hours. We will stroll in misty rain to shine.

# Dover Historical Society

## Six Degrees of Separation

### The Artist Gilbert Stuart, Dover's Ruggles Whiting, and George Washington

The celebrated American artist Gilbert Stuart, who painted portraits of the first six Presidents, also painted a portrait of Dover resident Ruggles Whiting that is on display at the Sawin Museum. Stuart is perhaps best known for his portrait of George Washington, which appears on the \$1.00 bill.



New England's local historical societies are a treasure trove of artifacts accumulated over several centuries, ranging from the mundane to the significant. Perhaps ironically, the small size and local nature of the typically volunteer-staffed organizations that have preserved these objects for successive generations have, to an extent, also kept them out of the larger public eye. The portrait shown above is that of an early Dover, Massachusetts resident, Ruggles Whiting (1779-1827). It was given to the Dover Historical Society by Mrs. Frank Willey in 1961. While unsigned, the portrait has been attributed to the celebrated American artist Gilbert Stuart (1755-1827) and is believed to have been exhibited as such at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts in 1917.

Ruggles Whiting was born in Dover on December, 29 1779 to Aaron Whiting and Mehitable Smith. Aaron Whiting was the younger brother of Captain Daniel Whiting, the town's first tavern keeper and a Revolutionary War hero. A prosperous farmer and businessman in his own right, Aaron Whiting was one of the partners who, in 1789, acquired the fourth mill privilege on Mother Brook in Dedham and established a mill for the blocking of copper coinage.

Read More:

<https://curiousyankee.substack.com/p/ruggles-whiting>

## Quick Links

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

[LEARN MORE](#)



→ Register for the Community Center Club

[LEARN MORE](#)



**Click below to stay updated on Town news**

