

OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

Welcome to the APRIL Issue of OUR TOWN

Welcome to the April issue of Our Town! With spring finally upon us, there are numerous opportunities to turn a new leaf and get involved with the Town of Dover. This month, we are heavily focused on preparing for Town Meeting, which is just over a month away. We have compiled resources for everyone to read up on articles ahead of time, to help you make informed decisions. In addition to Town Meeting preparations, spring is here! Spring is a time to start anew, so why not join the Open Space Committee for a guided nature walk? Or celebrate the joy that trees bring to our community by participating in an Arbor Day celebration with the Tree Preservation Committee. And if you do none of the above, we hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter.

If you are part of a Town Department/
board/committee/commission and would like to submit
content for the May issue, please contact
newsletter@dovertownma.gov

SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER



VOL. 3, NO.4, APRIL 2024

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

Town Meeting Warrant
Community Center Update
Town Departments

- **Public Works**
- **Parks and Rec**
- **Council on Aging**
- **Employee Spotlight**

Schools

Boards and Committees

- **Recycling Committee**
- **Tree Preservation**
- **Conservation**
- **Open Space Committee**



Town Meeting

Monday, May 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM

**Dover-Sherborn Regional School - Mudge Auditorium
9 Junction St, Dover, MA 02030**

Town Meeting Warrant Available

The Town Meeting Warrant lists the meeting's time, place, and agenda. A Town Meeting action is not valid unless the subject was listed on the warrant. Town officials will be sending out the warrant to all residents in advance of Town Meeting. It will contain information about the various issues that will be discussed during Town Meeting. View on the Town Meeting webpage [here](https://www.doverma.gov/453/Town-Meeting). <https://www.doverma.gov/453/Town-Meeting>

Warrant Committee Recommendations

The FY25 budget and article recommendations will be presented in April, through the Warrant Committee Report and Recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting. This report is commonly referred to as the 'Blue Book', owing to its blue color. The Blue Book will provide more detailed information and explanations for each article and is expected to be mailed in mid-April. We recommended you bring your copy of the Blue Book along with you to Town Meeting.

Additional Resources available

If you want to know more about town meeting articles and procedures, [please visit our town meeting webpage](#). You can stay up to date with all the information related to the meeting. The page now contains the recording of the warrant committee's open hearing, slide decks from all the presentations, and will be updated with additional information for each article throughout the month of April.

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 (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
- 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

**Visit the Town
Meeting Webpage to
stay up to date**
<https://bit.ly/49NFJFf>



Board of Selectmen

Long-range Water Resources Assessment Report Now Available

In 2021, Town Meeting approved funding for a long-range water resources assessment. The Board of Selectmen retained CDM Smith to conduct a study to evaluate alternative water sources for the town, model the capacity of the aquifer, and provide recommendations for sustainability of water in town.

We are pleased to share that the report has been finalized and is available on our website. A public information session is being scheduled for the Spring to present the findings of this report and answer questions from the public. Once confirmed, detailed meeting information will be shared via this newsletter, our website, and our social media channels.

The salient points made in the report are as follows:

- Alternative supplies for water are available to the Dover, however given the lack of infrastructure to deliver these water sources the cost associated with a town wide distribution system approximate \$225 million.
- Modeling of the sustainability of the aquifer suggests that the aquifer overall is sustainable; however, certain areas in town may experience water supply issues because of increased demands in supply.
- As a town we need to continue to monitor the recharge of the aquifer through our network of monitoring wells.
- In addition, we need to be proactive in our conservation measures and water consumption habits to ensure ample water supply for generations to come.

Read the full report at <https://doverma.gov/567/Dover-Water-Resource-Information>

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**

Dover Community Center Construction Update

Since the latest update about a month ago, the Gym building is now taking shape with the concrete masonry unit block completed and the concrete slab placed. You can now really get a sense of scale. A total of 6 basketball hoops will be provided. The rest of the structural steel will be installed at the gym next, and we will be holding a topping-off ceremony soon where you will have an opportunity to sign one of the steel beams and witness it being lifted into place! The topping off ceremony is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 5th at 10:00 AM at the construction site (Whiting Road entrance). Please make sure to keep an eye out for updates.



Gym Space



Exterior Gym

Community Center Club

The community center club had a busy month of activities. Project Manager, Al Esteves, led a project which took students through the mechanical and plumbing sheets. The students were divided into groups and traced the path of the plumbing fixtures and diffuser exhausts in the building. This helped them understand the building's workings and the important factors to consider during the design. Later, the students visited the construction site and took a fascinating tour of the community center, where they got to see the side of what will be the recreation room. The students were excited to learn about the construction process and impressed by the progress made so far. During one of the sessions, Paul Kassabian, a Structural Engineer, joined in. He taught them principles of structural engineering through interactive exercises and examples of projects from around the world and locally in Boston. Paul also has a YouTube channel where anyone can check out his inspiring projects and presentations. You can find the link to the channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/@PaulKassabian>.



Student Observing



Structural Engineer Demo



Al Esteves Demo

Department of Public Works

Town Garage Drainage Improvements

The Public Works team has been busy gearing up for this upcoming construction season. Crews have been working around the town garage campus. Replacing old corrugated corroded metal drainage pipe original to the E.F. Hodgson Co. facility. Replacing this failed infrastructure will help reduce the overall cost of the project (in the design stages now), and to provide a reliable and resilient drainage conveyance system at the Town Garage.



New Drainage Pipe

Work Zone Safety & Temporary Traffic Control

The town partnered with our insurance provider MIIA (Mass Interlocal Insurance Association) to offer a seminar on Work Zone Safety & Temporary Traffic Control to Dover and surrounding towns. It was focused on the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), proper work zone devices, and Temporary Traffic Control Area



Safety Class

Employee Spotlight



Courtney Daniels

Amy Gow, the Town Assessor, is pleased to announce that Courtney Daniels has been promoted to the position of Assistant Town Assessor. Courtney, or Corrie as she is commonly known, has been working in the Assessors Office for the past year and is excited to take on the additional responsibilities of her new role. During her time with Dover, Corrie has demonstrated integrity and professionalism, along with her friendly and helpful attitude, which has made her a valued member of the assessing team. She has also built strong relationships with employees and residents alike. In her spare time, Corrie fosters dogs and puppies for PAWS New England.

Board of Health

Updated COVID Vaccine Information from the Centers for Disease Control

- For most people, COVID-19 infection causes mild to moderate symptoms. However, severe disease is most likely to occur in older adults. In 2023, most COVID-19 deaths and hospitalizations were among people aged 65 years and older.
- As a consequence, on February 28, 2024, the CDC updated its COVID-19 vaccine guidance by recommending that all people ages 65 years and older should receive one additional dose of any updated (2023-2024 Formula) COVID-19 vaccine (i.e., Moderna, Novavax, Pfizer-BioNTech). For more details go to www.cdc.gov

The CDC continues to recommend that all individuals stay up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccinations, especially those with weakened immune systems, who are also at risk for severe disease. People should discuss their specific situations and recommended vaccine protocols with their healthcare providers.

Parks and Recreation

Dover Parks and Recreation's **SPRING AND SUMMER BROCHURE** is online now!

Spring programs are typically scheduled during March / April / May each year and Summer programs 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](https://doverrec.activityreg.com) (or manually copy 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!



View the
[2024 Spring & Summer Brochure](#)



Dover Council on Aging invites you to our upcoming programs.
You can read the March/April COA newsletter with our full slate of programs.
Some April highlights are listed below. Sign up for programs by emailing coa@doverma.gov or by using our Online Sign-Up Form.

CLIMATE CHANGE: SIMPLE, SERIOUS, & SOLVABLE

with Meteorologist Harvey Leonard

Tuesday, April 9, 12:15-1:45pm

The Dover Church, Kraft Hall, 17 Springdale Ave

Cost: \$5.00

Join us for lunch and meet Harvey Leonard, WCVB Channel 5's Chief Meteorologist Emeritus. Harvey will discuss the difference between weather and climate, and how climate change is simple, but real, and why it is serious. For more than 45 years, Harvey forecast Boston weather and guided us through hurricanes, nor'easters, and more. Come meet this legendary weatherman, learn about climate change, and bring your weather questions! Sign up by April 2.



ONE FAMILY: HUMAN ORIGINS, HEREDITY AND THE MYTH OF RACE

Wednesdays, April 10 & 17: 10:30am-12:00pm

Dover Town Library, Community Room

Instructor Frank Villa

Cost \$20

Lifetime Learning Course Sponsored by Friends of Dover COA

The program aims to explore human diversity through genetics and DNA evidence. The discussion will cover DNA basics, contributions to families, and insights on ancestry tracing. Frank Villa, an accomplished lecturer with degrees in Science and Theology, will lead the program. He is a former high school physics and earth science teacher, commercial pilot, flight instructor, and small business owner.

DSHS BRASS AND BARBERSHOP QUARTETS CONCERT

Wednesday, April 24, 3:00-4:00pm

Kraft Hall, The Dover Church, 17 Springdale Ave

After a wonderful performance at our Cookies and Concert event in December, the Dover Sherborn High School Barbershop Quartet, Harmonic Imbalance, is back by popular demand! Additionally, the high school's Brass Quartet will perform as well. Enjoy light refreshments and two very talented groups.



TALK WITH THE TOWN: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Thursday, April 25, 10:30-11:30am

Community Room, Dover Town Library

Join Town Administrator Michael Blanchard to review articles on the Town warrant for the May Town Meeting and hear updates on Town projects.

Chickering Elementary School

Chickering students in grade 2 are learning a Maypole dance in anticipation of our May Day celebration, while grade 3 is learning folk dances to share with families too. Our older students, in grade 3, 4 and 5 are preparing for MCAS testing in early April and another round in early May. This testing helps the school to assess curriculum and teaching and demonstrates to families student learning and growth. We all participated in an emergency food drive for A Place to Turn with the donation of hundreds of boxes of cereal and macaroni and cheese.

Dover Sherborn High School Athletics

Congratulations to our #5 ranked Dover-Sherborn/Weston boys ice hockey team who won the MIAA D4 State Championship Game on Sunday, March 17th vs. Hanover with a score of 5-1! The championship came from a tough run of wins vs. Boston Latin Academy, Dedham, Sandwich, and Winthrop in a double OT & shootout. This is the first time in school history DS has won the boys ice hockey state championship. Our TVL All Star for boys ice hockey from DS was Brayden McKenna. Our TVL Honorable Mentions are Patrick Benson (DS), Sawyer Garzone (DS), Andrew Marden (DS), Calvin Roman (DS). Coach Alex Marlow was named TVL Small Coach of the Year. The goalie from Weston (Andrew Goldstein) was also named the TVL MVP, along with Sam Hinkley as a TVL All Star. (State championship picture attached).

The Boys basketball team ranked at #23 had a great tournament run by upsetting the #10 St. Mary's and #7 Apponequet before facing the tough #2 seed Old Rochester Regional team. The Girls basketball team ranked at #8 also had a good tournament run by beating Saugus and putting up a great fight against the Pentucket team. The Boys indoor track and field team placed 9th in the MIAA D4 State Race and the Girls indoor track and field team placed 24th in D4. The MADS gymnastics team placed 7th at the MIAA State Competition. The Boys alpine ski team won the Mass Bay East while the Girls Alpine ski team placed second. The Boys Nordic team placed 6th in the Mass Bay East while the Girls Nordic team placed 4th. The Boys swim and dive team placed 27th at the MIAA D2 Sectionals while the Girls swim and dive team placed 17th.

Congratulations to all athletes on a terrific winter sports season!



Boys Hockey Team Championship

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/20FOE4AA9AA2BA6FA7-47800879-2024#/>

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

Open Space Committee

Vernal Pool & Native Tree Walk

Saturday Walk & Wade on Pine Street

April 13th, 10:30 am to around noon

Guided Walk through Dover's Open Spaces

*** Free but please Register ***

<https://Vernal-Pool-Native-Tree-Walk.eventbrite.com>



Vernal Pool

Please join us for this special guided walk with professional wetlands scientist Paul McManus of EcoTec, organized by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC) and the Dover Tree Preservation Committee. We will walk through private land off Pine Street on Snow Hill to view its certified vernal pools and hear about its selection of native trees. This special property is permanently protected by a Conservation Restriction (CR) to DLCT. The generous landowner will also be attending! The walk will not be too strenuous but will be over uneven and wet ground. Wear rubber boots to approach the vernal pools. Bring polarized sunglasses to see into the water, as well as walking sticks, binoculars, and cameras. We will stroll in misty rain to shine. Sorry, NO dogs this time. Kids welcome! Coffee, muffins, scones & cookies will be available.

To Learn more about vernal pools go to: <https://www.vernalpool.org> and <https://thetrustees.org/nature-ecology/vernal-pools/>

Highland Cemetery

Highland Cemetery Head Stone Cleaning

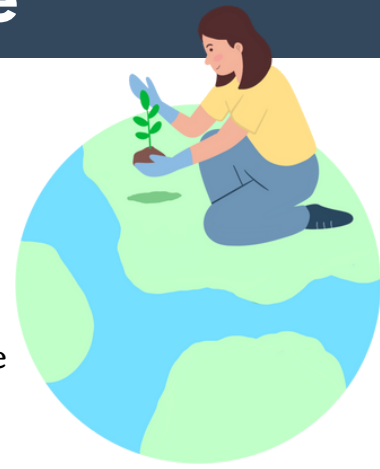
As a final resting place, Dover's Highland Cemetery holds the memory of many beloved friends and family members. Each gravestone marks a precious life once shared. Over time, gravestones become discolored and worn. Some find this to be disappointing, others appreciate a stone's natural wear. Stone cleaning is not included in a cemetery's Perpetual Care Program. In fact, a state mandate requires that each plot owner remit permission for any cleaning to take place.

The Cemetery Commission invites you to be part of our evolving headstone cleaning program. If you would like your family's gravestone to be included in our cleaning rotation schedule, we would greatly appreciate hearing from you.



Please contact: rdauphinee@doverma.gov

Tree Preservation Committee



Arbor Day is April 26! Celebrate in Dover!

Arbor Day is April 26th! The Tree Preservation Committee invites you to join us as we celebrate Arbor Day in Dover. We have worked with a variety of local groups to create opportunities for our community members to learn about and explore our local trees as well as those around the world. We hope your family can take advantage of the local events happening throughout the month of April, which can be found listed below:

Student Opportunities:

- The Chickering Elementary School students will have the opportunity to celebrate the planting of a new tree on their campus on Friday, April 26th, as well as bring home their own sapling to plant with their family! There will also be tree-related book displays in the school library and tree-related information available to the students.
- During the month of April, the middle and high school library will have tree-related book displays. In addition, the Dover-Sherborn Sustainability Task Force will be holding a tree planting at the high school campus (date TBD). The group hopes to plant the sapling next to Lindquist commons and is currently fundraising to make the initiative possible. If you would like to donate, please venmo Angela Lin, @angelalin17 and in the description write "Sustainability Task Force"
- The children's section of the Dover Town Library will have tree related books and activities available for our young residents throughout April. In addition, they will host an Arbor Day Crafts and Activity event for children on Wednesday, April 24th from 3:30 - 4:30 pm
<https://dovertownlibrary.org/programs-events/calendar/>

Adult & Family Opportunities:

- The Open Space Committee is hosting a Vernal Pool & Native Tree walk on Saturday, April 13th at 10:30 am <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vernal-pool-native-tree-saturday-walk-wade-tickets-836913038427?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>. If you haven't attended these walks before they are a great family opportunity to learn about, and explore, our wonderful Dover community!
- The Dover Town Library will have a tree-related activity in the adult section throughout the month of April and a beautiful book display highlighting the beauty and benefits of trees. In addition, there will be a lecture given by one of Dover's own tree arborists on Thursday, April 25th at 6:30 pm in the Community Room on the ground floor. We hope you are able to attend and learn about the trees on your property!
- There will be a new tree planted in the Highland Cemetery during the month of April to compliment the peaceful beauty of our community resting place. This beautiful site offers residents the opportunity to honor and pay our respect to those no longer with us.

Conservation Commission



Everyone Can Take Climate Action: Check Out These Steps You Can Take and Make Every Day Earth Day!

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated worldwide on April 22 with a wide range of events held to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

First celebrated in 1970, Earth Day started with the simple desire to protect our natural resources for future generations. After witnessing a devastating oil spill off the coast of California, Senator Gaylord Nelson organized a National Earth Day to educate Americans about the value of our wild lands and the threats that could destroy them. "The wealth of the nation is its air, water, soil, forests, minerals, rivers, lakes, oceans, scenic beauty, wildlife habitats and biodiversity... That's all there is. That's the whole economy," Nelson explained in a letter about why he created Earth Day. The need to protect our planet has never been greater than it is now and while the official celebration is April 22, the many threats that our environment is facing make it critical to take action and make every day Earth Day.

In Massachusetts, we are experiencing the effects of climate change first-hand. If we work together, we can do something about it. Massachusetts has a climate action plan with ways for every person, business, city, and town to make a difference.

Please click on the link below to go to the State of Mass. Climate Action page to learn more about what you can do to help protect our community, save energy and save money.

[LEARN HOW TO HELP PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY HERE](#)

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

