

OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

Welcome to the MAY Issue of OUR TOWN

May is a busy month for our town, with lots of preparation for the upcoming town meeting and election. This month's issue of our town newsletter provides pertinent information on both topics. Additionally, there are many opportunities to get involved with the town, whether it be by participating in a fun program with the COA or volunteering on a committee. There are also two major milestones on town projects this month: the community center steel structure is officially complete and the Claybrook Road project is finished. Dover also celebrated Arbor Day and achieved its first Tree City USA designation. We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter.

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

SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER



VOL. 3, NO.5, MAY 2024

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

Town Meeting

Community Center Update

Town Departments

- Town Clerk
- Public Works
- Health Department
- Council on Aging

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 sent out the warrant to all residents in early March. It contains information about the various issues to be discussed during Town Meeting. View it on the Town Meeting webpage.

<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', due to its blue color. The Blue Book provides more detailed information and explanations for each article and was mailed in mid-April. We recommend that 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 has been 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>



Dover Community Center Construction Update

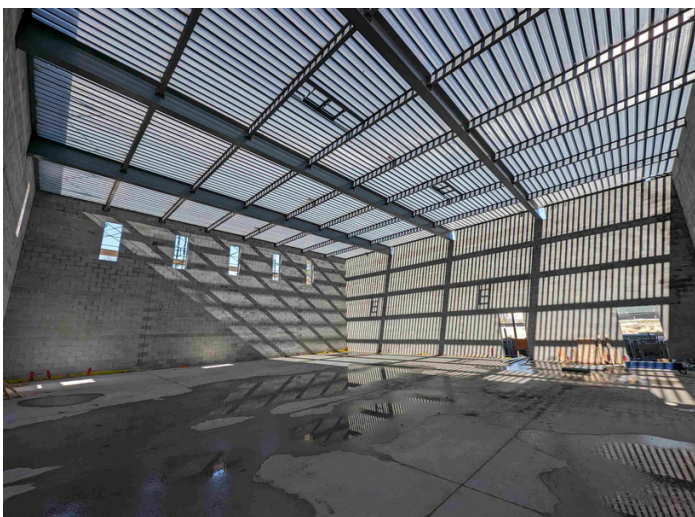
There has been a lot of progress made on the community center since the last update. The structural steel has been completed and was celebrated with a topping off ceremony. Residents of the Town had the opportunity to sign a steel beam and watch it be lifted and installed. The completion of the structural steel is a major milestone as it allows for other work to begin, such as the building envelope and roof. In addition, with the new steel supporting the 1910 building, the temporary supports were removed and interior work, such as underground electrical and plumbing, as well as framing, could begin. The pavilion slab was also completed, Which was another important milestone. With the steel now complete, we should expect to see a lot more activity on site!



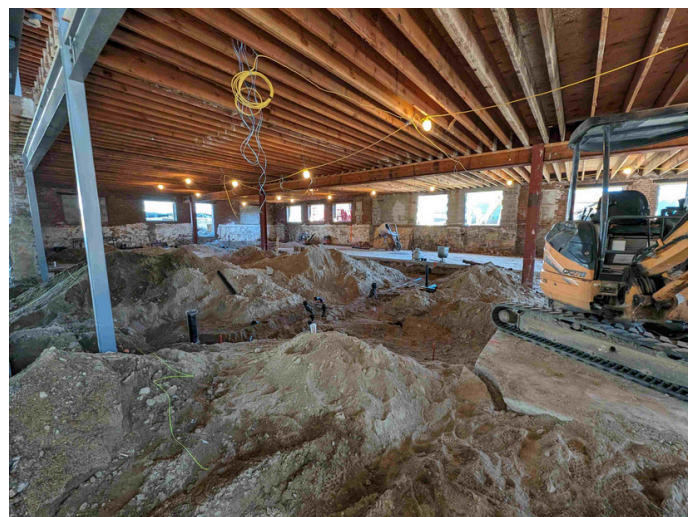
Capping off Steel Beam



Pavilion Building Structure



Interior of gym



Underground electrical work

Town Clerk

Town Election

Election Date: May 20, 2024

Polls open at 7:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM



Options for voting are: in person on Election Day (s); Vote by Mail; Absentee Vote; Early Vote.

1. Vote by Mail ballots can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office with a complete vote-by-mail application. For those who want to vote by mail, you can bring your ballots to the Town Clerk's Office, drop them in the drop box at 5 Springdale Avenue (silver box in the semicircle driveway on Springdale Avenue), or mail them through the post office.

2. Absentee Ballot - An absentee ballot is essentially the same as voting by mail, with the exception that you can come and vote an absentee ballot in person at the Town Clerk's office, during office hours, as soon as ballots are available.

3. Early Voting in Person at the Dover Town House, in the Great Hall located at 5 Springdale Avenue on the following dates and times:

Monday, May 13 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Tuesday, May 14 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Wednesday, May 15 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Thursday, May 16 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Friday, May 17 9:00AM - 1:00PM



4. Vote in Person on May 20 at the Dover Town House, in the Great Hall, 5 Springdale Avenue. Polls open at 7:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM.

Department of Public Works

In April, the final construction work on Claybrook Road was successfully completed. The work included a thorough inspection of erosion controls to ensure the safety and stability of the road. Wetland topsoil was installed to improve drainage and prevent environmental damage. The road was paved with great attention to detail, ensuring a smooth and durable surface for drivers. The only remaining tasks are to plant vegetation for aesthetic improvement and to provide a natural habitat for local wildlife, as well as to stripe the road to ensure clear and visible markings for safe navigation. As a result, Claybrook Road is now fully paved, open, and ready for public use.



Claybrook Rd. Aerial View



Claybrook Rd. Aerial View

Employee Spotlight



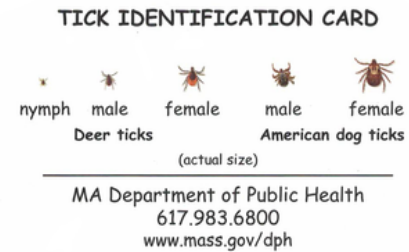
Susan Young, the Administrative Assistant for the Building Department in Dover, has been an active participant in the Pan Mass challenge for a long time. Pan Mass is a non-profit organization that provides funding for cancer research through its fundraising program. Susan got involved with Pan Mass in 2002 as a volunteer, and later as a rider. She has also raised sponsorship funding through what is called a "virtual ride." This year, Susan will be taking on the role of crew leader. we wish to recognize Susan for her commitment and involvement in this program.

Board of Health

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM TICKS

HOW TO KEEP SAFE FROM TICKS:

- Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts.
- Tuck your pants into your socks.
- Use EPA-approved insect repellents.
- Avoid wooded areas, tall grass and leaf litter.
- Buy clothing treated with 0.5% permethrin, or use a permethrin treatment on clothing (apply to clothing not being worn and let dry).
- Check for ticks on clothing, pets, gear and these parts of your body: hair and scalp, ears, underarms, belly button, waist, between the legs and the back of the knees.
- Lawns should be well-maintained so backyards don't become tick hotspots.



TICK REMOVAL:

If you find a tick attached to your skin, removing it as soon as possible is important to reduce the risk of disease transmission. Removing black-legged ticks within 36 hours, even if the tick is infected with *Borrelia burgdorferi*, nearly eliminates your risk of contracting Lyme disease. It is only recommended that you remove ticks mechanically using fine-tipped tweezers.

- Pull the skin taut to allow as much access to the tick mouthparts as possible.
- Grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible. Avoid using blunt tweezers or your fingers, as this can increase the risk of tearing the tick and spreading any potential infection.
- Pull upwards with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick, as this can cause parts of the tick to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouthparts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
- Clean the bite area and your hands. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
- Dispose of the tick. Submerge the live tick in alcohol, place it in a sealed bag/container, wrap it tightly in tape, or flush it down the toilet. Try to avoid crushing a tick with your fingers.
- Avoid "Alternative" removal options. DO NOT use nail polish, petroleum jelly, or heat to make the tick detach from the skin. These methods are not effective and may increase the likelihood of transmitting a pathogen to the host.

If bitten by a tick, monitor the bite site for signs of Lyme disease or other illnesses over the next few weeks. Talk to a healthcare provider about preventative doxycycline and seek medical advice if symptoms develop, based on tick type, location, and local prevalence of tick-borne illnesses.



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

LIFETIME LEARNING HISTORY TALK: CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

Instructor Jon Huibregtse, American and East Asian History Professor, Framingham State University

Dover Town Library, Community Room

Thursday, May 2: 1:30-3:00pm

Cost: \$10

In October 1962 the world's two Superpowers, the US and USSR, came perilously close to nuclear war over the installation of nuclear missiles in Cuba that could strike deep into the US. Explore the roots of this crisis and how reasonable men in both countries prevailed, avoiding war.

A GLIMPSE INTO ANCIENT SHIPS, SHIPPING AND THE FIELD OF NAUTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Cosponsored with the Dover Historical Society

Wednesday, May 15 at 10:30am

Dover Town Library, Community Room & Zoom

The Mediterranean Sea contains hundreds of thousands of ancient shipwrecks from warships from naval battles to merchantmen that sank due to adverse weather conditions. The lecturer, underwater archaeologist Helena (Laina) Wylde Swiny, will tell the story of one of the ancient cargo ships, the late 4th-early 3rd century BC Kyrenia Ship that sank off the north coast of Cyprus ca. 295 BC. Learn about the rediscovery of the ship in 1967, from underwater excavation, lifting of the cargo and hull, to preservation treatment and reassembly. The ship and its contents are on display in Kyrenia Castle.

LIFETIME LEARNING HISTORY TALK: BOSTON VS. NYC: A RACE TO BUILD THE SUBWAY

Instructor Jon Huibregtse, American and East Asian History Professor, Framingham State University

Dover Town Library, Community Room

Thursday, May 16: 1:30-3:00pm

Cost: \$10



SUBWAY

Long before the Red Sox/Yankees rivalry, the Hub and the Big Apple competed to become the first American city to construct a subway. Both cities suffered from congestion, traffic jams, and too many horses. Subways offered a way to lessen those problems, and, just as important, whichever city built a subway first would claim bragging rights.

Council on Aging

PILGRIM BLUEGRASS GOSPEL BAND

Tuesday, May 21 at 2:30pm
The Dover Church, Kraft Hall

The Pilgrim Bluegrass band returns for an afternoon of music! The group includes Geoff and Michele Sauter on vocals and mandolin, 5-string banjo, and resophonic guitar; Bob Cocks on guitar and vocals, Francesca Wier on vocals, and Greg Algieri on upright string bass and vocals. Come enjoy songs dating back to the 19th century, all in a bluegrass format with amazing vocal harmonies.



POTTERY CLASS

Wednesday, May 22: 10:30am-12:00pm
Dover Town Library, Community Room
Instructor: Simone Azevedo: Cost: \$5.00

Come play with clay! Learn to make pottery using basic hand building techniques such as pinch or slab. No experience needed. Your piece will be fired and glazed. RSVP by May 17.

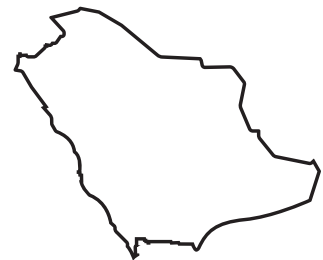


TALK WITH THE TOWN: BOARD OF HEALTH

Tuesday, May 28 at 1:00pm
Dover Town Library, Community Room
The COA welcomes Health Director Jason Belmonte. Join us to learn how this department supports Dover residents.

TRAVEL TALK: SAUDI ARABIA AT THE CROSSROADS

with Photojournalist Barry Pell
Wednesday, May 29 at 11:00am
Dover Town Library, Community Room & Zoom



Saudi Arabia, the largest nation on the Arabian Peninsula, has witnessed enormous changes during the last hundred years: notably, the rise in power of strict religious conservatives and untold wealth from the discovery of the world's largest source of petroleum. The Saudi royal family, who has ruled the country since the 1930s, is now embarked on a new course: reducing the nation's dependence on oil, in part by opening the country for tourism, eliminating the religious police and severely curtailing the influence of religious leaders. This is an exciting time to observe a country on the cusp of change and to meet its people.

Recycling Committee

Dover Special Recycling Day May 11

The Dover Recycling Committee announces its spring special recycling day on Saturday, May 11 for shredding, special collections of bikes, wheeled suitcases, back packs, duffel bags, paper and plastic reusable shopping bags for charity organizations and up to 8 tires per household for disposal.



Document Shredding

On-site document enhanced shredding is being provided by Norfolk District Attorney Michael Morrissey with the financial support of Jay Hughes and John Hughes of Dover Country Properties. "Safely destroying old financial documents, bank statements and sensitive papers is an important guard against identity theft," said DA Morrissey. An industrial-grade shredding truck will be on site on Saturday from 9AM-12PM. Dover residents may bring up to 6 paper bags of personal/sensitive documents.

Backpack Collection

A special collection of backpacks, wheeled suitcases and duffel bags, all with working zippers, for distribution to Boston's homeless by Generic Ministry. See their website for more information on this non-profit <https://www.genericministry.org/>



Bike Donation

The Bike Connector, <https://www.bikeconnector.org/>, will accept bicycles on Saturday from 9AM-12 PM. This non-profit, which works with schools and community organizations, accepts bikes in any condition and repairs them through an educational workshop. It then provides the bikes to those in need for affordable transportation to school, activities and work.

Furniture Collection

Special furniture collections are being offered on Saturday, May 11, June 15 and July 20. New Life Furniture Bank of Walpole will be on site to accept specific items of furniture for families in need. New Life, a non-profit, accepts furniture and household items to provide them at no charge to those in need. It does not accept items needing repair. If an item is not suitable for a family member or friend, it is not suitable for donation. Please check their website for acceptable items <https://newlifefb.org/>.

DONATE ❤️

Dover Transfer Station RED vehicle stickers are required for participation.

Open Space Committee

2nd Saturday Stroll in Hale

Please join us for a guided walk, sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC) in partnership with the Dover Historical Society (DHS). On May 11th, we will walk through Hale. We will sample a few of the over 20 miles of trails which are interconnected Dover's Larrabee Estate, Trustees of Reservations' Noanet Woodlands and Powisset Farm - a contiguous landscape of over 2300 acres of open space!



Guided by DHS experts, we will see several of the sites that indigenous peoples used, including where they quarried felsite for arrows and tools. We will also learn about the over 100-year history of Hale and its vision for the future, including protecting the land with a Conservation Restriction (CR).

Walks will not be too strenuous but will be over uneven and possibly wet ground so wear appropriate footwear and bring bug spray, sunscreen, walking sticks, binoculars and cameras. Polite dogs on leash welcome. We will stroll in misty rain to shine. Parking & meet-up information will be emailed to registered participants on Friday 5/10.

Registration link: <https://stroll-in-Hale.eventbrite.com>

Dover Historical Society

The Sawin Museum and the Caryl House with the Fisher Barn, have now re-opened and can be visited Saturday May 11th, and June 8th, from 1 - 4pm.

There is a new exhibit at the Sawin on Amelia Peabody, which forecasts a major exhibit being organized on the numerous roles that Miss Peabody played during her lifetime, and her significance to the Town of Dover, which includes the donation of the hundreds of acres that make up the Noanet Woods.

The Fisher Barn is being reorganized, with new exhibits that highlight the role of agriculture in Dover. Visitors are welcome.



Sawin Museum

Tree Preservation Committee

Exciting Updates from the Tree Preservation Committee: Tree City USA Status and Stormwater Management Bylaw

Spring has brought exciting developments for our Tree Preservation Committee, and we are thrilled to share them with you!

We are proud to announce that Dover has been awarded Tree City USA status, a testament to our community's commitment to preserving and enhancing our local forest. During the application process, our committee highlighted the hard work and dedication of our past and present residents who have contributed their resources and/or their time toward preserving community lands, retaining our rural feel, and nurturing a sustainable Dover community. To learn more about this prestigious designation, please visit the Arbor Day Foundation.

In addition to this honor, we have been working closely with the Department of Public Works to revise and update the Stormwater Management Bylaw. This important piece of local legislation is designed to address the challenges of stormwater runoff and its impact on our environment and infrastructure.

The proposed Stormwater Management Bylaw will be voted on at the upcoming Town Meeting, scheduled for May 6th at 7 p.m. Your participation in this meeting is vital, as it will shape the future of stormwater management in our town. For detailed information about the Stormwater Management Bylaw, please take a look at Article 20 of the Annual Town Meeting Blue Book, distributed to all Dover residents, or click on this link.

We strongly encourage you to join us at the Town Meeting to learn more about these important initiatives and to have your voice heard on matters that directly affect our community. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to making Dover a green and sustainable place to live.

Chickering School



First and Second grade Chickering students have been learning about Japan, Japanese festivals and dance. In late April they gathered for a celebration of the Cherry Blossom festival. We will celebrate Flag day on June 7th with our traditional gathering for Kindergarten - grade 3 with songs, poems and recorder performances. Our fifth graders are preparing for their transition to Middle School, hosting MS visitors and planning a field trip to the MS in early June.

Conservation Commission

The Importance of Protecting Pollinators and Reducing Pesticide Use

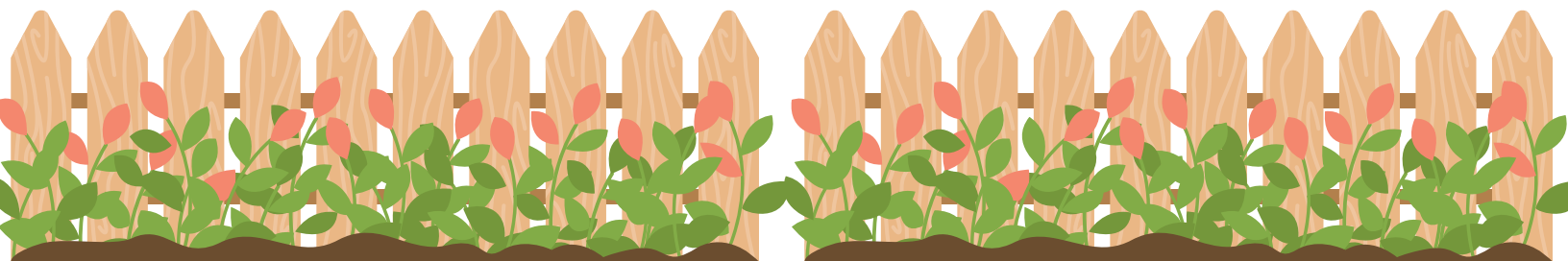
Pollinators like honeybees, butterflies and birds are hard at work providing vital but often unnoticed services. They pollinate a wide variety of crops including apples, bananas, blueberries, strawberries, melon, peaches, potatoes, vanilla, almonds, coffee and chocolate. You can help protect these vital pollinators in your yard and garden by reducing and eliminating the use of pesticides and herbicides and planting a diversity of native plants. You may have heard that many pollinators are disappearing due to pesticide and herbicide use, climate change, habitat loss, disease and increases in environmental contaminants that have all contributed to the decline of many species of pollinators. Pollinators that can't find the right quantity or quality of food (nectar and pollen from blooming plants within flight range) don't survive. Did you know that dandelions are the first food for bees emerging in the spring? Leave them in your yard and feed the bees! Dandelion petals and leaves are also edible and can be used in salads.

Three-fourths of the world's flowering plants and approximately 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. More than 3,500 species of native bees help increase crop yields. Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of pollinators.



Please visit the [Xerces Conservation Society Webpage](#) to learn more about how to help Bring Back the Pollinators and how to reduce pesticides in yards and gardens. The Pollinator Partnership offers 32 different planting guides to improve pollinator habitat. [Enter your zip code on their webpage here to find your planting guide.](#)

The Dover Conservation Commission is responsible for preserving and protecting the Town's wetlands, open spaces and natural resources. If you're 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 the office at: lhagerty@doverma.gov.



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. Dover's 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**

Memorial Day Committee



Dover's Memorial Day Observance is an annual event that takes place every May 30th. This year, it will be held on a Thursday, May 30th at 6:00 pm. The observance will take place on the Springdale Avenue side of the Dover Town House. We encourage you to bring your lawn chairs and join us as we honor the US military personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the freedoms we all enjoy.

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

