

OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

Welcome to the JUNE Issue of OUR TOWN

As we welcome June, we also mark the beginning of summer and the culmination of a year's worth of town operations and projects. After the successful Town Meeting and Election in May, we are now shifting our focus towards new goals, priorities and objectives for the summer. As summer approaches, there are numerous town programs offered by the Recreation Department, Council on Aging, and Dover Library, some highlighted in this newsletter! We encourage you to peruse this month's newsletter, where you can catch up on town projects and discover more about town initiatives. Enjoy!

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

VOL. 3, NO.6, JUNE 2024

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

Community Center Update

Town Departments

- Conservation
- Public Works
- Library
- Council on Aging

Boards and Committees

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

SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER



Community Center Club

The Community Center Club continued to meet in April and May and has been involved in a range of different activities, all offering insights into the Community Center project. In April the students were able to visit the construction site and see the steel beam installed that they, along with other and members of the community had signed. They also met Paul Kassabian, a Structural Engineer and Principal at SGH in Boston, specializing in structural design of buildings, bridges and sculptures. Paul injected fun as he explained how structures work and introduced the students to many of his designs and the world of structural engineering. In May the club attended a virtual Community Center Building Committee meeting to learn more about the work and decisions made to ensure that the project continues moving forward. The most recent meeting focused on the finishes for the new Community Center with students joining Mia Zhang, the Interior Designer from the Fennick McCredie Architecture team to look at final selections for the colors and fabrics.



Students Pointing at Steel Beam



Selections for colors and fabrics



Students looking at fabrics and colors

Planning Board

The Planning Board thanks Town Meeting attendees for supporting its Construction Hours and Small & Medium Ground-Mounted Solar Array Bylaws, as well as the Stormwater Management Bylaw and funds for a housing consultant. The Planning Board's FY25 goals include working with the Dover Housing Taskforce to develop a comprehensive housing plan and continuing its Village Center planning activities. Your input is essential on both these initiatives and the Board looks forward to hearing from you as our outreach continues. Information is also available through the Planning Board's website on the Town website. As always, should you have any questions or input please reach out to any of the Board members or Jasmin Farinacci, our town planner at jfarinacci@doverma.gov.

Conservation Commission

Eco-Friendly Pest Control: Balancing Home Safety & Environmental Concerns

Pest control is a common concern for homeowners. Many are turning to eco-friendly alternatives due to the health and environmental impacts of traditional methods. Eco-friendly pest control effectively manages pests while minimizing harm to the environment and human health. These methods avoid synthetic chemicals, reducing pollution and contamination of drinking water supplies. The Conservation Commission encourages residents to learn more about eco-friendly pest control strategies and their benefits. Eco-friendly pest control involves methods and products that are less environmentally harmful than conventional chemical pesticides. These approaches aim to be sustainable, targeting only the pests without affecting other wildlife or the broader ecosystem. This method emphasizes prevention, minimal chemical use, and natural and biodegradable substances where possible.

Here are some effective strategies to implement and maintain an eco-friendly pest control environment.

- Prevention is crucial for sustainable pest management. Remove food and water sources to prevent infestations.
- Seal entry points: Identify and seal cracks and gaps in the foundation, siding, and roof.
- Manage waste and start composting: Keep garbage bins closed, dispose of waste regularly, and consider composting.
- Remove standing water to prevent mosquito breeding.
- Trim vegetation to remove easy pathways for pests to enter.

Natural Remedies

Several natural substances can deter or eliminate pests without the need for harsh chemicals.

Essential Oils: Oils such as peppermint, tea tree, and eucalyptus can repel many types of insects. They can also be used in cleaning supplies, air diffusing, and more.

Diatomaceous Earth: This powder is effective against insects with exoskeletons, like bed bugs and ants, by dehydrating them.

Vinegar: Combining vinegar and water can deter many pests, including ants and spiders.

Herbs and Spices: Planting herbs like basil, mint, and rosemary can naturally repel flies and mosquitoes. Similarly, spices like cayenne pepper and cinnamon can be used to create barriers for ants and other pests.

The Conservation Commission is responsible for preserving and protecting the Town's wetlands and open space. 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 7 or emailing us at: lhagerty@doverma.gov

Department of Public Works

The Eversource Vegetation Management Department donated 11 trees to the Town of Dover. After utility pruning work, the goal is to plant tree species compatible with utility wires and improve the pruned area's appearance. The trees were planted along Dedham Street, between Chestnut Street and the Westwood town line. Several hazardous trees were recently removed from this area. All donated trees were planted under or around utility lines and are compatible species. This initiative aims to promote the planting of appropriate tree species near utility lines. Eversource Energy and its contractor planted these trees with the assistance of the Dover Department of Public Works (DPW).



New Trees



New Trees

Employee Spotlight



Liam Frazier

Liam Frazier is the newest addition to the wonderful team at the Town of Dover Public Works Department. He began his journey with us on January 1st, 2024. Before joining our team, Liam worked at the Medfield Parks and Recreation Department. He's got his hoisting license and just recently earned his commercial driver's license at the end of April. Liam has been a firefighter for the past five years and is certified in CPR and first aid. We're thrilled to have Liam on our team, where he has quickly become invaluable.

Dover Town Library

Teddy Bear Picnic

Tuesday, June 11 11:00 AM–12:00 PM - Library Lawn

Come join Sarah Gardner of Music with Sarah for a fun-filled hour of interactive songs and music activities on the library lawn! Bring a blanket, your favorite stuffed animal, and a snack.

No registration is needed: open to all ages.

Mobile Mini-Golf

Thursday, June 20 1:00–7:00 PM

School's out! Visit the Dover Town Library this afternoon to sign up for our Summer Reading Program and play a round of mini-golf right in the library!

No registration is needed: open to all ages.

Prison Book Program Talk for Teens and Adults

Saturday, June 29 11:00 AM–12:00 PM - Community Room Dover Town Library

Join us in welcoming Kelly Brotzman, the Executive Director of the Prison Book Program, located in Quincy MA. In this seminar we will be learning about the Prison Book Program and what it does for those who are incarcerated in this informational seminar for adults and teens. This is a great opportunity to learn how you can volunteer your time or your used books as well as learn about the prison system when it comes to providing books for those behind bars.

No registration is required.

Big Truck Day

Thursday, June 27 12:00–2:00 PM - Library Lawn

Big Truck Day returns! Kids will have a chance to explore some of the massive machines that share our roads and keep Dover moving. The trucks will be parked on Dedham Street. No registration required.



Mini Golf



Big Truck Day



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 June highlights are below. Sign up for programs by emailing coa@doverma.gov or by using our Online COA Program Sign-Up Form.

DANCING THROUGH THE DECADES

Tuesday, June 4 at 1:00pm

The Dover Church, Kraft Hall, 17 Springdale Ave.

Enjoy the art of dance with Eileen Herman-Haase and Raul Nieves, owners of Dance Caliente, as they engage, inspire, and entertain with theatrical ballroom dancing, dazzling period costumes, amusing stories, nostalgic music and audience participation. Four uplifting dances are performed during the one-hour show. This program is funded by a grant from the Dover Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II “HER MAJESTY”

with Presenter Sheryl Faye

Wednesday, June 5: 11:00am

Dover Town Library, Community Room

She was a true icon, inspiring people around the world with her strength, courage, resilience, and dedication to a life of service. Her reign of 70 years and 214 days was the longest of any British monarch and the longest verified reign of any female head of state in history. Since 2003, Sheryl Faye has masterfully brought to life important historical women to both children and adults across the U.S. Join us for her one-woman show of this remarkable royal monarch.

TALK WITH THE TOWN: TOWN CLERK

Wednesday, June 12 at 11:00am

Dover Town Library, Community Room

The COA welcomes Town Clerk Felicia Hoffman. Join us to learn how this department supports Dover residents.

THE PHYSICS OF FOOD:

What Science can teach us about making tastier ice cream

With Professor Rama Bansil

Tuesday, June 25 at 1:00pm

Dover Town Library, Community Room

It is not just about being an artful chef, it's about understanding the science of phase transitions: how one thing transforms into something else. Professor Bansil will demonstrate how exceptionally smooth ice cream can be made very rapidly using liquid nitrogen. Bansil developed a course on Physics of Food and Cooking for undergraduates at Boston University to explain the science behind conventional as well as novel gastronomic cooking techniques. She has presented these methods to audiences ranging from elementary school children to seniors.



Friends of Dover Council on Aging

The Friends of the Dover Council on Aging invite all Dover residents to a community event for all ages to join us outdoors at the American Legion for our "Up in Smoke BBQ" on Thursday, June 13, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. As usual, hot dogs, hamburgers and sausages will be served along with various types of salads, dessert and cold drinks. A cash bar is available at the American Legion. The Backwards Hats will entertain us with music while we sit and enjoy the company of our friends. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Children under 10 eat free! Payment will be made on the day of the event. To register, please contact the Dover Council on Aging at 508-315-5734 by June 10, 2024.



Dover Cultural Council (DCC)

The Dover Cultural Council (DCC) was recently featured by the Massachusetts Cultural Council in their May newsletter, Amplify Youth Voices in Your Work. The article encouraged local cultural councils to include high school students on their committees, as they can offer both a different point of view and valuable information to aid grant decision-making.

The DCC has as one of its members, Dover-Sherborn High School senior, Antonio Saenz. Antonio currently serves as Secretary after joining the DCC last year. He had previously worked evaluating grant applications as part of the Youth in Philanthropy program at the Community Foundation for MetroWest. Antonio's term will soon be coming to an end as he heads to Rice University to continue his studies.

Are you a "rising junior" who is interested in the arts? The DCC is looking for a new high school student to join our committee. Please contact Judy Schulz at jschulz@doverma.gov. For more information on the DCC, visit <https://massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/dover/>



Recycling Committee

Recycling Committee

2024 Spring Clean Up - Thanks to all who signed up to pick up trash on 100% of Dover's streets this year. While we allocate April as our annual clean up month, we hope that Dover residents will make a year-round effort to keep their streets garbage free. It sure looked nice out there!



Our May 11th Special Recycling Day was a BIG success! In addition to our regular collections for Bike Connector and New Life Furniture, we also asked for donations of wheeled luggage and backpacks for Generic Ministries (<https://www.genericministry.org>) and shopping bags for local food pantry, A Place to Turn. Thanks to everyone who came out with bikes, housewares, furniture, luggage, and bags for these worthwhile organizations!

The next Special Recycling Day will be Saturday, October 19th.

REMINDER: Invasive plants (such as garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, winged euonymus, common reed and European buckthorn) CANNOT be disposed of in the compost pile at the Transfer Station. To help curb their continued spread, please bag these invasives and place in the solid waste/trash containers.

Housing Task Force

Exciting news from our May Town Meeting! The Dover Housing Task Force (DHTF) has secured \$100,000 in funding. This will allow us to hire a consultant to help develop a plan to address our housing diversity challenge.



The objective is to create a plan that balances the preservation of our open spaces with the development of a variety of housing options. This will make it easier for long-time residents to remain in town without the burden of managing large properties.

We want your input every step of the way! To achieve this, we are initiating an outreach campaign to ensure that our plan aligns with the desires of Dover residents. This will involve establishing a citizen task force, distributing surveys to all Dover residents, and organizing information sessions as our ideas take shape.

Your input is essential! If you're interested in helping to shape Dover's future and staying informed about our progress, simply click the link below.

<https://www.doverma.gov/667/Land-Use-Housing-Development>

Open Space Committee

Saturday Stroll in Wylde Woods

June 8th, 10:30 am to ~noon

***** Free but Pre-registration is Required *****

Guided Walks through Dover's Open Spaces

Please join us for a guided walk, sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC). We will walk through Dover's town-owned conservation land, Wylde Woods (aka the Centre Street Corridor). Come enjoy over 200 acres of your open space, enjoy the wooded trails and the rebuilt bog bridge! Walks will not be too strenuous but will be over uneven, rocky and possibly wet ground so wear appropriate footwear and bring walking sticks, binoculars and cameras as well as sunscreen, water & tick/bug repellent. Polite dogs on leash welcome. We will stroll in misty rain to shine. Parking information will be provided to registered participants on Friday morning and again early on Saturday.



Wylde Woods Trail

To Register, please go to: <https://stroll-in-wylde-woods.eventbrite.com>

Warrant Committee News

As we wrap up another successful Annual Town Meeting, we would like to thank Melissa Herman, Steve Migausky, Peter Smith and Jerry Chen for their service to the town on the Warrant Committee as their terms come to a close.

We would also like to solicit feedback from the community on our Blue Book process. As part of our overall effort to improve communication and streamline this process, we are evaluating the option of migrating the Blue Book online, rather than printing and mailing it.

Some of the benefits to having the Blue Book online are the ability for everyone to review the warrant articles with access to detailed data as soon as it is updated, ease of editing for the Warrant Committee, cost savings by not printing and mailing, saving trees, and the reduction of trash.

We also realize some people want to get the hard copies mailed to them, so we will look for ways to accommodate that preference as part of this enhancement. Please let us know of your concerns and questions.

Tree Preservation Committee

Thank you to all those in the community who supported the Stormwater Management Bylaw at our May Town Meeting. The vote sends a clear message that our community continues to value and take steps toward further protecting our water and natural resources.

Embrace the Beauty of Spring: Plant Native Species!

Spring is the perfect time to breathe new life into your gardens. But why settle for just any plants and trees when you can choose native species? Native trees and plants are nature's own masterpieces, perfectly adapted to thrive in your local environment.

Here's why native tree and plant species are an ideal choice for your gardens:

Ecological Harmony:

Native plants have evolved alongside local wildlife, creating essential habitats and food sources for birds, butterflies, and other beneficial creatures. By planting natives, you foster biodiversity and support your ecosystem's delicate balance.

Low Maintenance, High Rewards:

Forget the constant upkeep. Native species are resilient, requiring less water, fertilizer, and pesticides than exotic plants. Once established, they often thrive with minimal intervention, saving you time and effort in the long run.

Water-Wise Solutions:

With rising concerns about water conservation, native plants are a smart solution. Their deep root systems help prevent soil erosion and improve water infiltration, making them drought-tolerant and perfect for sustainable landscaping.

Seasonal Splendor:

From the early blooms of spring to the fiery foliage of autumn, native plants offer a kaleidoscope of color year-round. Whether creating a serene backyard oasis or a vibrant urban garden, there's a native species to suit every style and season.

Looking for the perfect native tree species for your area? Check out our comprehensive native planting list on our town website <https://www.doverma.gov/661/Tree-Planting>.



Dover-Sherborn Athletics

The DS Spring Regular Season has come to a close. Varsity records are listed below, with the MIAA D3 Power Rankings in parentheses for the top 32 teams in each division. The top 32 teams make the tournament, it will begin after Memorial Day Weekend.

Sailing 3-4-1

Girls Tennis 14-2* (Ranked #5 in MIAA D3)

Boys Tennis 14-2* (Ranked #8 in MIAA D3)

Girls Lacrosse 11-9* (Ranked #15 in MIAA D3)

Boys Lacrosse 10-8* (Ranked #8 in MIAA D3)


Girls Track and Field 2-3

Boys Track and Field 4-1

Softball 2-14

Baseball 12-8 (Ranked #18 in MIAA D3)

*TVL Small Champions



Hometown Sports
April 2024
Dover-Sherborn Athlete of the Month
Sponsored by
DOVER COUNTRY PROPERTIES
Distinctive Properties & Country Estates

Sport: Lacrosse and Field Hockey
School: Dover-Sherborn High School

Congratulations to senior girls lacrosse captain, Kelly Devine, for being named the April student athlete of the month! Devine was also a member of the 2023 First Four Field Hockey team this Fall, and has been a part of both programs all four years of high school. The three-year lacrosse starter for the Raiders has been an integral part of the program, winning two MIAA D3 state championships back to back the last two years. This year she hopes to lead her team to another state championship run in the MIAA D3 State Tournament. The Dover native has scored 15 goals so far this season with only three games in, starting 4-0 on the season. She stated that her favorite memory of being on the team is "winning the state championship last year, because that team was so dynamic!" Devine will be attending Elon University in the Fall, majoring in Marketing, and playing club lacrosse for the school.

Kelly Devine

Sponsored by Jay Hughes of the Dover-Sherborn class of 1988. Jay is a longtime resident of Dover with deep roots in our community. Having grown up, raised his family, and educated his business here. While attending Dover-Sherborn, Jay participated in varsity sports: Football, Basketball, and Track & Field. Following his graduation from Sherborn 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 32 years of service, with 23 years as Fire Chief. He remains a local figure as he continues to oversee the building operations of Dover Country Properties. His real estate firm, located in the heart of Dover & Dover-Sherborn Athletics Hall of Fame building, Jay is an avid supporter of our town's student athletes.

4 Walpole Street, Dover, MA 02030
Call: 508-269-3122 • dovercountryproperties.com



Hometown Sports
May 2024
Dover-Sherborn Athlete of the Month
Sponsored by
DOVER COUNTRY PROPERTIES
Distinctive Properties & Country Estates

Sport: Outdoor Track and Field, Indoor Track and Field, and Soccer
School: Dover-Sherborn High School

Congratulations to senior track and field captain and mid-fielder, Matt Rooney, who has been named the May Hometown Weekly Student Athlete of the Month at Dover-Sherborn High School! Rooney has been running since the 8th grade when he lived in London, England, and was on a cross country team there. He was named the TVL MVP in 2023, placed first in the 800M at the MIAA D3 State Meet in 2023, qualified for Nationals in multiple events throughout his time as a student athlete at DS, and was named team MVP twice in indoor track and field and once in outdoor track and field. "The Dover resident says his favorite thing about being on the track and field team is 'the camaraderie.' The track team is huge, but everyone is friends with each other, so everyone ends up hanging out with each other during practice." The three sport student athlete is headed to George Washington University to run Track and Field at the NCAA D1 level and major in Political Science.

Matt Rooney

Sponsored by Jay Hughes of the Dover-Sherborn class of 1988. Jay is a longtime resident of Dover with deep roots in our community. Having grown up, raised his family, and educated his business here. While attending Dover-Sherborn, Jay participated in varsity sports: Football, Basketball, and Track & Field. Following his graduation from Sherborn 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 32 years of service, with 23 years as Fire Chief. He remains a local figure as he continues to oversee the building operations of Dover Country Properties. His real estate firm, located in the heart of Dover & Dover-Sherborn Athletics Hall of Fame building, Jay is an avid supporter of our town's student athletes.

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Call: 508-269-3122 • dovercountryproperties.com

Congratulations to our April and May Hometown Weekly Student Athletes of the Month: Kelly Devine and Matt Rooney.

Parks and Recreation

Mark your calendars for the return of our FREE, annual #SaturPLAY family event! Families from throughout the metro-west area are all invited to join us for the return of this exciting afternoon event, filled with FREE ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS with Dover Parks & Rec staff: PLUS a FULLY INTERACTIVE, LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE featuring Jeff from @jamminwithyoumusic!

SATURDAY JUNE 8th

1:00-2:30pm on the DOVER TOWN COMMON

- (Instrument Play and Interactive Musical Performance will begin at 1:15pm)

FREE FOR ALL, AND ALL ARE WELCOME!

Whether you stay from beginning to end, or just stop by for a bit, you won't want to miss out on this awesomely fun, free event!



Dover PARKS & RECREATION
Satur-Play
FREE DROP-IN FAMILY EVENT!
featuring... an interactive, upbeat and engaging MUSICAL PERFORMANCE by **JEFF** from **JAMMIN' WITH YOU** with DANCING, PROPS, MUSICAL GAMES and INSTRUMENT PLAY!
June 8th
FROM 1:00 - 2:30pm
AT Dover Town Common

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>



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

