

# OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

## Welcome to the August Issue of OUR TOWN

We hope you're enjoying your summer. The Department of Public Works is busy with construction projects, and the Board of Health has tips to stay safe from mosquitoes. The Conservation Commission has eco-friendly mosquito control tips. Get involved with Council on Aging programs or enjoy the outdoors with the Open Space Committee. Have a great summer!

**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](mailto:newsletter@doverma.gov)**

**VOL. 3, NO.8, AUGUST 2024**

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

#### Community Center Update Town Departments

- Conservation
- Board of Health
- Council on Aging
- Chickering Elementary
- Employee Spotlight

#### Boards and Committees

- Conservation
- Open Space Committee
- Volunteer

## SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER



# Department of Public Works

## **Willow Street Culvert Construction**

The DPW is excited to announce the start of the reconstruction of the Willow Street culvert. The project is anticipated to begin installing erosion controls around August 1st, and then full roadway closure is anticipated to begin after August 5th. The culvert will be replaced with a precast concrete structure to provide a reliable and safe crossing for many years to come. The project will be sustainably completed within 120 days from the start date. The DPW appreciates your cooperation with the detour to complete this important project for the community.



Pre-construction aerial view of culvert

## **Town Garage DPW Salt Shed Construction**

The DPW is excited to offer an update regarding the salt shed project. To reduce costs, the DPW staff are taking on several phases of this project including erosion controls, demolition, and subsurface excavation utilizing in-house resources. The shed has already been demolished and site work has begun. The bid opening for the building and installation occurred August 1st, with an anticipated start date of early September.



Pre-construction aerial view.



Demolished site of salt shed.

# Conservation Commission

## Protect Dover's Natural Resources by Using Safe, Chemical-Free Mosquito Control

The Dover Conservation Commission asks for your help in protecting the Town's environment by using safe, non-chemical mosquito control. We know residents like to get out and enjoy their yards without being bothered by mosquitoes. However, many are also concerned about using toxic chemicals on the property that may present safety concerns to your family's health and the environment, including your drinking water. Pesticides and insecticides can get into groundwater and contaminate the local drinking water supply, including private wells.

Did you know that mosquito spraying by commercial applicators can violate Dover Bylaws and are largely ineffective? The Town has a bylaw disallowing the use of pesticides in wetlands. In addition, only 0.1% of the pesticide sprays actually impact mosquitos with the rest ending up in the environment and may have harmful side effects on groundwater, animals, and beneficial organisms like pollinators and other insects. Mosquitos resurge in population only 7 days after treatment. Mosquitos also become resistant to pesticides over time, meaning sprays cease to work.

The good news is that there are safe, effective and organic ways to control mosquitoes and other pests in your landscape without the use of toxic chemicals. There have been recent advances in bug repellants, so you do not need to treat your whole yard - look for products containing picaridin, permethrin, IR3535, and Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Licensed, professional Pesticide Applicators may also be able to use all-natural treatments for a whole-yard treatment. It's possible to get outside and enjoy your yard without being bothered by mosquitos (and ticks)!

Before using any chemicals on your property, we encourage you to learn more about safe and effective natural mosquito and pest control options that can be found on the "[beyondpesticides.org](http://beyondpesticides.org)" website, and in the following links:

- [tinyurl.com/LeastToxicMosquitoRepel](http://tinyurl.com/LeastToxicMosquitoRepel)
- [tinyurl.com/EffectiveMosquitoManagement](http://tinyurl.com/EffectiveMosquitoManagement)

To learn how to protect yourself and your family against mosquito-borne illnesses, click on the link below to Mass. Dept. of Public Health Website: at [mass.gov/mosquito-borne-diseases](http://mass.gov/mosquito-borne-diseases).

Before hiring a professional service to spray for mosquitoes, consider using natural and preventative measures first. If you do decide to hire a mosquito control company, ask them to use organic and natural treatments. Additionally, check if your property contains sensitive wetland areas that need protection from chemical exposure. Pesticide applications near wetlands require approval from the Commission, so make sure to get the necessary approvals before treatments. If you have any questions or concerns about protecting the environment, contact the Conservation Commission at 508-785-0032 extension 7 or email at [lhagerty@doverma.gov](mailto:lhagerty@doverma.gov). Thank you for helping to protect the environment!



# Board of Health

**The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced on 7/30 that West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in mosquitoes collected from Dover, Massachusetts.** In 2023, 10,765 mosquitoes from across the state were sampled and tested for WNV and 164 samples were positive.

WNV is most commonly transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquitoes that carry this virus are common throughout the state and are found in urban as well as more rural areas. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe infection.

**By taking a few, common sense precautions, people can help protect themselves and their loved ones:**

## **Avoid Mosquito Bites**

- **Apply Insect Repellent** when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with **DEET** (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), **permethrin**, **picaridin** (KBR 3023), **IR3535** or **oil of lemon eucalyptus** [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.
- **Clothing Can Help** reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours** - The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. When risk is increased, consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. If you are outdoors at any time and notice mosquitoes around you, take steps to avoid being bitten by moving indoors, covering up and/or wearing repellent.

## **Mosquito-Proof Your Home**

- **Drain Standing Water** – Many mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or getting rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools and change water in birdbaths frequently.
- **Install or Repair Screens** - Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all your windows and doors.

Information about WNV and reports of current and historical WNV virus activity in Massachusetts can be found on the MDPH website at: [www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito](http://www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito).



## EXPLORE SOUTHWICK'S ZOO

Wednesday, August 7

Cost: \$20; Bring money for lunch

Transportation funded by Friends of Dover COA

Travel with the COA to explore and discover something new at Southwick's Zoo in Mendon. They are home to over 850 exotic animals from around the world and offer an array of unique and exciting experiences. Feed a giraffe, see New England's largest collection of primates, enjoy their one-of-a-kind Bird Show, and so much more! Afterwards, enjoy lunch at Galliford's Restaurant & Tavern, the full-service restaurant located next to the zoo. Galliford's offers a varied menu featuring classic comfort food as well as burgers, salads, seafood, pizza, and more.

## POTTERY PAINTING

Wednesday, August 14: 11:00am

The Pottery Place, First Floor

at Park Street Books, 504 Main St, Medfield

Cost: \$5.00

Choose from a variety of pieces to paint: mugs, plates, vases, ornaments and more. Keep your pieces or gift them. Join us for a fun morning! (Inside or outside, weather permitting).



## PADDLE AT FARM POND

Wednesday, August 21, 10:00am

Sherborn Yacht Club at Farm Pond

Cost: Free!

Get out on the water and have some fun! Enjoy a summer day on the pond in a kayak or canoe. Instruction and water safety guidance will be offered.



## ADVENTURES IN NOVA SCOTIA: EXPLORING HISTORY AND NATURE

with The Joys of Nature

Monday, August 26: 10:30am

Hybrid: Zoom and in Person

Community Room, Dover Town Library, 56 Dedham St

Learn about the history and nature of Nova Scotia, as well as its long ties to New England. See how farming has changed in the Annapolis Valley from the unique techniques of the earliest French settlers of Grand Pre, now a UNESCO World Heritage site, to the vineyards of today. Visit the historic port and homes of Yarmouth and learn about the "Age of Sail" and the role it played in the 18th and 19th century as people traveled back and forth to the US. Wildlife also migrates back and forth between our countries. See birds and butterflies in ancient fields and seals and seabirds along the rugged coast that is dotted with lighthouses. Enjoy a virtual visit to our neighbor to the North.

Presenter Joy Marzolf loves to share her knowledge about wildlife, wildlife photography



# Rail Trail Update

The Town of Dover has received a \$184,760 grant from the MassTrails program, funded by the Healey-Driscoll administration. The grant will be used to design, engineer, and obtain permits for a potential recreational trail and shared-use pathway in Dover. This project aims to improve community connectivity and promote outdoor recreation to support healthier lifestyles. Town departments and committees will work together over the next few months to create a comprehensive plan for the rail trail's design, which will be shared with the public for feedback before moving forward. Mark Ghiloni, the Parks and Recreation Director, expressed excitement about collaborating with stakeholders to enhance Dover's recreational infrastructure through the Dover Rail Trail project.

Jasmin Farinacci, the Dover Town Planner, expressed gratitude to the Healey-Driscoll administration for the funding. Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll stated that the MassTrails program enhances connectivity and encourages exploration and appreciation of the diverse resources in Massachusetts.

Future updates on the Rail Trail project can be found on the Town of Dover's website. For any questions, residents are encouraged to contact Recreation Director Mark Ghiloni at [mghiloni@doverma.gov](mailto:mghiloni@doverma.gov).

## Open Space Committee

**2nd Saturday (Long) Stroll up Powisset and Noanet Peaks**  
**Saturday, August 10**  
**10:30am**



Please join us for a guided walk organized by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC). We will walk through The Trustees Noanet Woodlands and up both Noanet peak and Hale's Powisset peak to enjoy the spectacular views! Note that this will be a longer and steeper walk than usual.

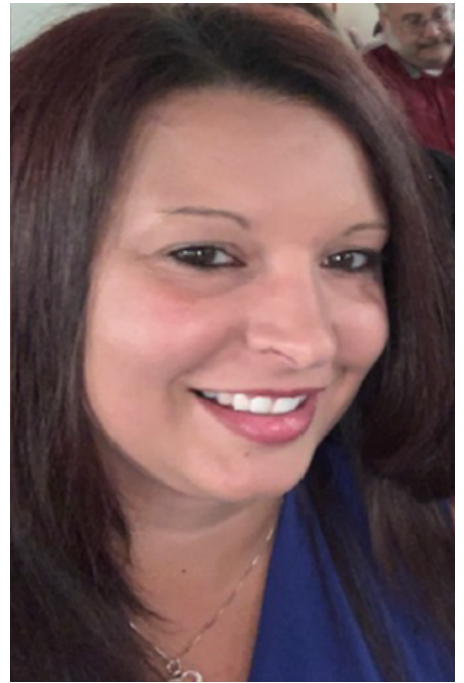
Also, visit the Powisset Farm Store (9 am - 4 pm) before or after the stroll!

Parts of this walk will be somewhat strenuous and parts will be over uneven ground, possibly slippery rocks and include steeper pitches so wear appropriate footwear. Bring water, walking sticks or hiking poles, binoculars and cameras as well as sunscreen and bug/tick protection. We will stroll in misty rain to shine. Sign up at: <https://bit.ly/3LYeEVK>

# Employee Spotlight

## Welcome Ashley Gemma!

Ashley Gemma is the newest addition to the Town of Dover Public Works Department. She was hired in April as the office manager, a newly created position within the department. Prior to joining the Dover team, she worked in the Treasurer's/Collector's office for the City of Framingham, and later in the mayor's office as the Licensing Coordinator. Ashley is enjoying her experience at the Town of Dover, and she is pleased with the friendly residents and her colleagues. The DPW is thrilled to have Ashley as part of the team and warmly welcomes her to the department.



## Chickering Elementary School

Chickering is excited to welcome our students, first through fifth grade back to school on Wednesday, August 28th. Our preschool and Kindergarten students begin on August 29th. The school buses will be running their routes extra carefully the first few days, so we hope that everyone can be patient!

We expect just over 500 students to return to school, with 26 classrooms and nearly 80 contracted Special educators, Service providers, Educational Assistant and classroom teachers.

We will be starting a new Math curriculum, Reveal, from McGraw-Hill, along with Pine Hill in Sherborn. In addition, all Dover-Sherborn schools are instituting ParentSquare as a comprehensive communication system for families and school.





# 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

