

OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA



Welcome to the September Issue of OUR TOWN

It's September, and although our summer fun is winding down, activity at the Town House is picking up! As we proceed into the town's busiest months ahead, we are starting off right with a welcome back for the community with Dover Days! There are many opportunities from COA, Conservation, and Open Space to go out and enjoy a few more moments of summer. Additionally, you will find project updates from the Community Center, DPW, and Housing Task Force. It's a great edition of the newsletter this month. We hope you 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**

SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER



VOL. 3, NO.9, SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Community Center Update Town Departments

- Conservation
- DPW
- Council on Aging
- Chickering Elementary
- Volunteer Spotlight

Boards and Committees

- Conservation
- Open Space
Committee
- Volunteer



Dover Days

This annual celebration of all things Dover kicks off the start of a new school year, celebrates the fall season, and brings our community together like no other local event! Meet the owners of many local businesses and members of various Town organizations and several state representatives.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

10:00am - 3:00pm

DOVER CENTER

(rain date: Sunday 9/15 from 12 - 4pm)

FREE for general attendees!

Bring the whole family along and enjoy food, games and fun all together - the Dover Days Fair is enjoyable for all ages!



Dover **PARKS & RECREATION**

2024 Dover Days Fair

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th
10:00AM-3:00PM DOVER CENTER

Community Center Construction Update

We are happy to report that all the buildings at the Community Center are dried-in save for the windows. With the 1910 building structural upgrades complete, the interior trades were mobilized. Overall, framing is now complete and rough electrical and plumbing, fire protection and HVAC activities are well under way with several inspections completed. Drywall installation will commence once inspections are complete. Brick masonry is ongoing at the building exteriors and the project team is getting ready for building envelope/window testing. Site activity progress includes completion of the domestic water tie-in at the main line along Springdale Ave. Additionally, installation of the underground infiltration system was completed, and installation of the remaining storm system is ongoing. The project team is currently tracking substantial completion early in January. This is when the building will be turned over to the Town and move in can begin. Final completion, when non-life safety items are completed, is anticipated for the beginning of February.



Department of Public Works

Willow Street Culvert Construction Update.

The Willow Street culvert project is well underway. To date the old culvert was demolished and removed, followed by subsurface grade preparations. During the week of August 19th, the Construction team installed the precast footings and set the precast culvert. The next steps included setting the additional wing walls and backfilling and compaction around the culvert.



Demolition aerial view, Photo courtesy of DPD Drone unit.



Construction aerial view, Photo courtesy of DPD Drone unit.

Hunt Drive Rail Crossing

The DPW is excited to announce the railroad crossing at Hunt Drive has been removed and repaved. This area presented challenges with roadway conditions and snow & ice operations. After dealing with the MBTA for nearly 2 years, Dover was granted permission to remove the rail set.



Conservation Commission

**Celebrate National Public Lands Day on
Saturday, September 28**



The Conservation Commission encourages residents to celebrate National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 28 by visiting and enjoying free admission to one of the 18 National Historic Parks, trails and sites within Massachusetts. National Public Lands Day celebrates the connection between people and green space, inspires environmental stewardship and provides an opportunity to explore America's public lands for education, recreation and overall physical and mental health. National Public Lands Day is organized annually and led by the National Environmental Education Foundation, in partnership with the National Park Service.

There are many ways you can participate in National Public Lands Day. Whatever you choose to do, we encourage you to share Your Park Story.

- Visit a national park for free. Here are the national parks in Massachusetts.
- Take part in a volunteer work project. Certain in-park projects may provide a fee-free day coupon to be used on a future date. See the list of National Public Lands Day events below or check out all volunteer events at national parks by using Volunteer.gov, keyword search National Public Lands Day.
- Have fun and enjoy the health benefits of being outdoors.
- Learn how you can protect public lands and Leave No Trace when you visit
- Or get outside and enjoy all the open spaces right here in Dover: Outdoor Recreation

The Conservation Commission protects and preserves the Town's natural resources and open space. Contact them if you have questions about environmental protection or if you think there may be wetlands on or near your property. You can reach the Commission Office at 508-785-0032 extension 7 or by emailing lhagerty@doverma.gov. Thank you for helping to protect our environment!

Housing Task Force

Housing Consultant Proposal

In 2023, the Dover Board of Selectmen established the Dover Housing Task Force (DHTF) to develop a comprehensive housing strategy. The DHTF's mission is to balance housing diversity and open space preservation, while complying with regulations. The goal is to provide a roadmap for future planning aligned with residents' aspirations. The DHTF will create a "Toolbox of Options" to empower the town with development choices reflecting community values. The town plans to engage a consultant for these services in the coming weeks.



After choosing a consultant team, the town expects the lead consultant to meet with town staff and the Housing Task Force to help finalize the project scope, tasks, team roles, priorities, and timeline. In general, the project scope includes developing a comprehensive plan for housing and development that takes into account the town's rural character and resource limitations while complying with changing state regulations. The consultant will present options and recommendations for involving town staff, boards, committees, and the community in the planning process. They will also review and suggest changes to the town's current land use, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, and zoning regulations to promote development while preserving the town's rural character and natural resources.

Dover Cultural Council

Are you planning a program or event for 2025? Apply for a grant from the Dover Cultural Council!

The Dover Cultural Council (DCC) provides grants to support a variety of artistic projects and activities that serve our community such as exhibits, festivals, artist residencies or performances, workshops and lectures. As part of a network of 329 local Cultural Councils throughout the Commonwealth, the DCC annually obtains funds from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency that supports community-oriented arts, humanities and science programs.

We are currently accepting applications for 2025. Forms and filing information are available online: <https://www.mass-culture.org/Dover>. When preparing your proposal, please be sure to consult Dover's town-specific "Local Guidelines to make sure you are eligible. Completed proposals are due Oct. 16.

Recycling Committee

PAINT RECYCLING

The Dover Swap Shop is now accepting latex paint for reuse and recycling through October 30. The only paint accepted is latex paint that is likely to be reused. Cans must be at least ½ full, in the original container with label identification.



How to Dispose of Latex Paint at Home:

- Cans with less than 1-inch of latex paint: Dispose of directly with regular trash.
- Cans with more than 1-inch of latex paint: Dry before disposal. Mix with kitty litter and dispose in regular trash.

Oil paint is prohibited and considered household hazardous waste. Dover collaborates with nine other local communities to facilitate the safe and sustainable disposal of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). Each town has certain days designated when residents can bring in household hazardous waste items for disposal.

<https://www.doverma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3530/2024-Town-HHWD-Listingxlsx---Sheet1>

Curbside Composting for Kitchen Scraps

Dover offers a robust program at the Transfer Station to collect our food waste and deliver it to an anaerobic digester to be converted into energy. This program is open to all residents with a transfer station sticker available at no cost. Food waste makes up 20% to 40% of the waste for a typical household. Our goal is to take this out of the trash stream and convert it to energy or compost it, keeping it out of incinerators and landfills. Some residents have indicated an interest in curbside composting. The Recycling Committee reached out to a private vendor, Black Earth Compost, that has offered to add Dover to the many local communities using this service. This program is not sponsored by the town; however Black Earth Composting provides this service to our school system and is an approved hauler by our Board of Health.



We encourage anyone interested to reach out directly to them. Preregister through the signup form at blackearthcompost.com to bring curbside compost to your home. Black Earth will provide services directly to Dover residents at a reasonable fee. To get started in Dover they will require approximately 100 households. 53 households have preregistered. If you are interested, please sign up at <https://blackearthcompost.com/>



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



COOKING AT POWISSET FARM: VIETNAMESE SOUP

Thursday, Sept 12, 11:00am-1:00pm

Dover and Westwood COAs offer cooking classes at the Farm. In this hands-on class with Chef Thi, we'll make flavorful, satisfying Pho, a Vietnamese culinary favorite. Create classic Chicken Pho with broth, noodles and herbs, as well as vegetable fresh rolls with a peanut dipping sauce.

LIFE TRANSITIONS BINDER INFO

Thursday, September 12, 1:30-2:30pm

Dover Town Library, Community Room, 56 Dedham St

Are all your important details in one place in case of an emergency? Sandra Batra of LifeLink Consulting is offering a 4-week series in October to create a customized binder. Attend this free session to learn more!

MEDICARE 101

Monday, September 16, 11:00am-12:30pm

Hybrid (Zoom and In Person)

Dover Town Library, Community Room, 56 Dedham St

Join us as MetroWest SHINE presents an overview of Medicare for people turning 65 or those just signing up. Bring your questions! The MetroWest SHINE program provides free, unbiased health insurance counseling for Medicare beneficiaries of all ages and their caregivers. MetroWest SHINE is funded and administered by the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs.



LIFETIME LEARNING: HISTORY AND POLITICS

Wednesdays, September 25, 2:30-4:00pm

Dover Town Library, Community Room

Instructor Jon Huibregtse

Cost \$10



Non-Consecutive Presidents: Take Two?

Only once in United States history has a president, Grover Cleveland, served non-consecutive terms in 1884 and 1892. As this fall's election approaches, Americans may, for a second time, elect a candidate they voted out of office four years earlier. The nation has changed significantly since 1888, still there are striking parallels between then and now. Dr. Huibregtse received his BA and MA from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire and his doctorate from the University of Akron. He teaches American and East Asian history at Framingham State University.

Open Space Committee

Third Saturday Stroll on Sacred Pegan Hill

September 18th , 10:30 am to ~noon

***** Free - Please Pre-register at Link Below *****

Guided Walks through Dover's Open Spaces

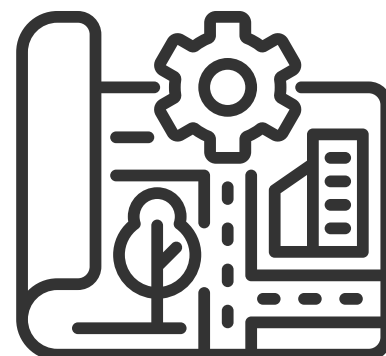


Please join us for a guided walk on Pegan Hill, sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC). Come experience over 100 spectacular acres of varied ecosystems with views to Mount Monadnock in NH, Mount Wachusett and the Blue Hills! Pegan Hill was a sacred site for Natick's Praying Indians, who came back to bless its return to use by all, forever. Enjoy this unique property, made possible by a partnership between the Dover Land Conservation Trust (DLCT), New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF), The Trustees and the Natick Conservation Commission.

We will stroll in misty rain to shine. Parking information will be sent to registrants on Friday 9/20. Free but please register at: <https://Stroll-on-Pegan-Hill.eventbrite.com>

Volunteer Spotlight

The Planning Board is excited to announce that Val Lin, an associate member of the Planning Board since 2021, has been appointed by the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen as a full-voting member to fill a vacancy created by a member moving out of town. Val was a valued member of the team that developed the Stormwater Bylaw approved at the May 2024 Town Meeting and she is chair of the Planning Board's Tree Committee, which obtained Tree City USA designation for Dover and sponsored the many activities celebrating Arbor Day this past Spring.



This fall, the Planning Board will use a public process to fill the open associate member position. For information about the Planning Board please check out our webpage here: <https://www.doverma.gov/257/Planning-Board>.

Chickering Elementary School

Chickering School is back in full session, with students returning on August 28th. We have about 500 students enrolled this year, consistent over the past three years. We celebrated the return to school with a Welcome Back assembly on August 30, singing our school song, "Chickering Rocks" and reading Only One You, by Linda Kranz. The author shares great wisdom in a colorful and engaging format. For example, "Always be on the lookout for a new friend" and "Know when to speak and when to listen".

Next week we will host the Great Cereal Challenge again where we collect cereal for a giant domino rally in the school and then we donate the boxes to A Place to Turn, modeling for our students how we can support others. Last year we collected over 600 boxes of cereal to donate!



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

