

# OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

## Welcome to the October Issue of OUR TOWN

It's October, and officially fall! Activity at the Town House is back in full swing, with preparation for this year's budget process underway. As we head into the town's busiest months, there is plenty going on in town. There are many opportunities from COA, Conservation, and Open Space to go out and enjoy the fall season. Additionally, you will find project updates on the rail trail and an introduction to Dover's new Interim Fire Chief. 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](mailto:newsletter@doverma.gov)**

## SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER



**VOL. 3, NO.10, OCTOBER 2024**

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

#### Rail Trail Update

#### Town Departments

- Town Admin
- Police/Fire
- Council on Aging
- Chickering Elementary
- Employee Spotlight

#### Boards and Committees

- Conservation
- Board of Health
- Open Space Committee
- Volunteer



# Town Communications Survey

## Town of Dover Wants to Know What You Think!

The Town of Dover wants to improve how it shares information with people who live or work in the community. As part of this effort, the Town is launching an online survey to better understand how community members would like to receive communication from the Town, on which topics, and more.

The survey is online and can be found here by using the QR Code found on flyers around town. It should take less than ten minutes to complete. Survey participants will directly impact how the Town reaches out in the future. The survey will be open September 12 to November 15. For more information, contact the Assistant Town Administrator, Chris Costello, at [ccostello@doverma.gov](mailto:ccostello@doverma.gov) or 508-785-0032.



### TALK TO THE TOWN

The Town of Dover wants to improve how it shares and exchanges information with people

Go to [tinyurl.com/DoverMA](https://tinyurl.com/DoverMA)  
or scan the QR code below  
to take the survey



If you have any questions, please contact  
Chris Costello at [ccostello@doverma.gov](mailto:ccostello@doverma.gov)

The survey is open until November 15, 2024



# Community Center Construction Update

## October Progress Update

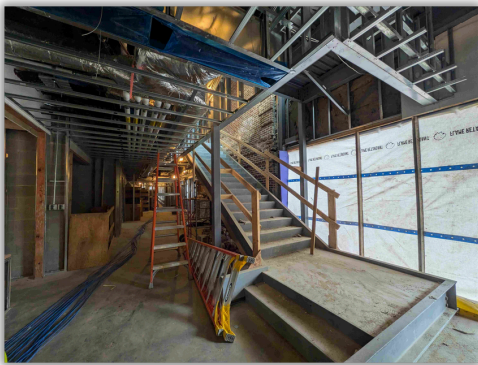
With the buildings dried-in and windows installed and the interior insulation mostly complete, drywall installation has begun. This is a major milestone and marks the completion of the rough trades. At the exterior, brick masonry is well underway and anticipated to be completed within a couple of weeks. You can now get a sense of what the final project will look like on the outside. At the site, the two 30,000-gallon underground water storage tanks have been installed and are mostly backfilled. The project team is currently tracking substantial completion late 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 late February.



Tank Installation



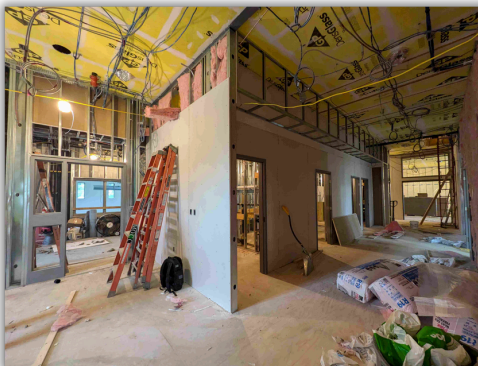
Exterior Brick Progress



Lobby Progress



Office Area Progress



Second Floor Corridor



Gym Progress



# Rail Trail Update

## Overview:

The Town of Dover is excited to announce the proposed Rail Trail Construction Project. This initiative is focused on enhancing community connectivity and promoting outdoor recreation. The goal is to develop a recreational trail and shared-use pathway, providing residents with safer, healthier opportunities for outdoor activities and transportation.



Many town departments and committees have been working together to shape the project's scope and goals. As the project moves forward, we are committed to transparency and due diligence while actively seeking community input along the way.

## Project Timeline:

### Phase 1: Planning and Design (October 2024-April 2025)

The initial phase involves planning and design efforts to create the foundation for the trail project. The town will assemble a working group tasked with defining the project's scope and creating preliminary layouts. Once completed, the preliminary design will be shared with the community, allowing for feedback and suggestions before moving to the next phase.

### Phase 2: Cost Estimation and Funding (Spring 2025)

In this phase, a detailed cost estimate will be prepared, covering construction, materials, labor and long-term maintenance. The town will explore funding options, including federal, state and local grants, as well as potential public-private partnerships. A finalized budget will be created to ensure the project is financially sustainable.

### Phase 3: Final Planning and Approval (Fall 2025)

Once a comprehensive plan is developed and budget estimates are finalized, the project proposal will be presented to town meeting for approval. During this phase, residents will have another opportunity to review and provide feedback before construction begins.

## Get Involved

The Town is seeking interested volunteers with experience related to the construction of similar rail trails in Massachusetts or knowledge of public construction projects. Those interested in volunteering and whose expertise is in this field may contact Parks and Recreation Director, Mark Ghiloni, at [mghiloni@doverma.gov](mailto:mghiloni@doverma.gov).

**[doverma.gov/720/Rail-Trail-Project](https://doverma.gov/720/Rail-Trail-Project)**



# Dover Police and Fire Open House

Dover Police and Fire

**OPEN HOUSE**

Sunday October 6th

**11AM-2PM**



★ ★ ★  
At the Dover Fire and

**POLICE STATION**

# Cultural Council

Apply for a grant from the Dover Cultural Council!  
Please fill out a very short survey to help guide us in our funding!

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 which 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.

Please take this very short survey to let us know what types of programs and events you would like us to support. Thank you! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024DCC>.



## Transfer Station

### DPW Will Issue New Stickers for the Town of Dover's Transfer Station

Located at 211 Powisset St. As of January 1st, 2025, every resident who utilizes the transfer station will be required to have the new sticker. As in the past, there is no fee associated with the new sticker. The application process can be done online or in person. If completed online you can skip the wait and have your sticker(s) mailed to your residence. To complete the application process online, please go to: <https://www.doverma.gov/184/Transfer-Station>. In-person applications can be completed at the town garage, located at 2 Dedham St. In Addition, the recycling committee will also be available the weekend of November 16 at the transfer station to help with stickers. To obtain a new transfer station sticker, you will need the following:

- Vehicle Registration
- Proof of Residency- may be substantiated with a valid driver's license, property tax bill, lease, utility bill, or other similar documentation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us via email at [towngarage@doverma.gov](mailto:towngarage@doverma.gov) or by phone at 508-785-0058.

# Open Space Committee

## New Bog Bridge in Wylde Woods!

Dover Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee are excited to announce that their joint subcommittee, the Land Management Working Group, built a new bog bridge over a large wetlands crossing in Wylde Woods this past summer! The bridge is a few minutes walk from the Centre Street turn out (map) in Wylde Woods along the blue trail.

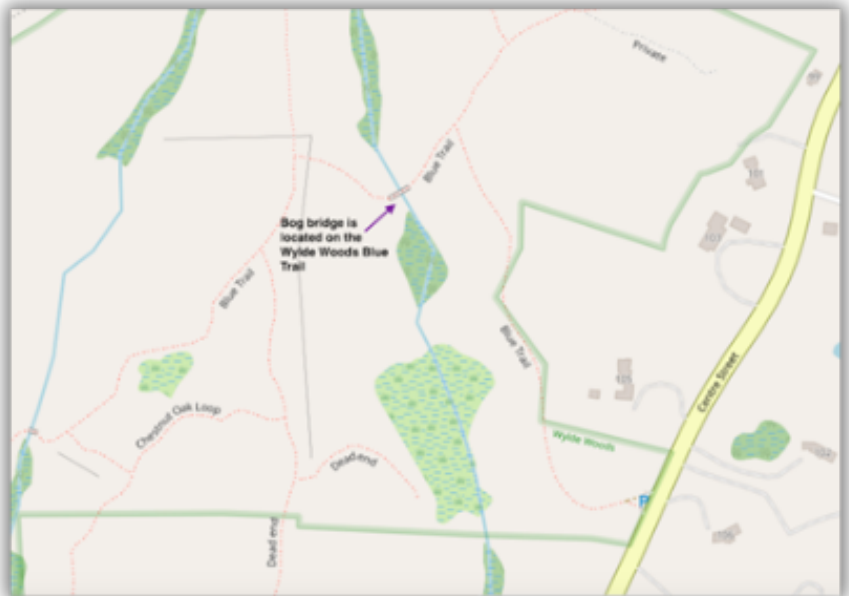
The Land Management Working Group replaced an old bridge built and donated by local Boy Scouts many years ago. The previous bridge had suffered significant wear and tear over time, eventually requiring a new structure to take its place. This new bog bridge is built close to the standard design circulated by the US Forest Service and follows an example recommended by our friends at DLCT. The new bog bridge is somewhat smaller, reducing impact on the wetlands it spans, and uses materials that provide better traction for trail users.

Materials were purchased by the Conservation Commission, and donated by the Department of Public Works. Use of the tractor needed for demolition of the old bridge was kindly lent and operated by Jerry Arnold. The bridge was built by Greg Kahoun and Rick Nagy, and installed by Jon Sampson, Rick Nagy, Greg Kahoun, and Anna Nagy. Nevin Weinberg of Belvoir Tree Service provided a key service in transporting the bridge segments to the Wylde Woods entrance.

If you're interested in helping with Dover lands and trails, please contact [trails@doverma.gov](mailto:trails@doverma.gov) or Anna Nagy at [anagy@doverma.gov](mailto:anagy@doverma.gov).



**New Bridge**



**New Bridge Location**



# Board of Health



## Dover Board of Health Updates

The Dover Board of Health has a few important updates to share:

- **Flu & COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic:** We are hosting a flu shot and COVID vaccine clinic on October 18th from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Dover Highway Department Lot. Our sign-up form is located on our main webpage. Be sure to bring your insurance card (and Medicare Part B card for those 65+). SIGN UP at [doverma.gov/171/Board-of-Health](https://doverma.gov/171/Board-of-Health)
- **Mosquito Updates:** We are regularly posting updates on local mosquito activity and the spread of mosquito-related health concerns, including West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Stay informed and protect yourself!
- **Free COVID Test Kits:** The Board of Health office currently has free COVID take-home test kits available. Stop by to pick one up while supplies last! Stay safe and healthy, Dover!



## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District is hosting an open house on October 8, 2024, in Millis, Massachusetts, to revise the 1984 Charles River Natural Valley Storage Area (CRNVSA) Master Plan. The plan covers areas in Millis, Medfield, Norfolk, Franklin, Holliston, Needham, Sherborn, Bellingham, Dedham, Dover, Medway, Newton, Wrentham, Walpole, Natick, and Boston.

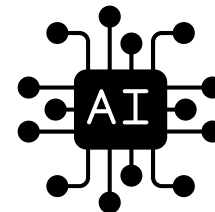


The open house will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Millis Public Library Roche Bros. Community Room at 961 Main Street in Millis. The revision aims to address changes in regional land use, population, outdoor recreation trends, and USACE management policy. Key topics include updated land use classifications, new natural and recreational resource management objectives, and special issues such as invasive species management and threatened and endangered species habitat. Following the open house, a 30-day public comment period will begin on October 8 and end on November 9. Comments can be submitted in writing at the open house or digitally via the comment link on the Charles River Natural Valley Storage Area Master Plan revision website. <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Flood-Risk-Management/Massachusetts/Charles-River-NVS/>.



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 October highlights are below. Sign up for programs by emailing [coa@doverma.gov](mailto:coa@doverma.gov) or by using our [Online COA Program Sign-Up Form](#).

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & CHAT GPT



Presented by Senior U

Monday, October 7, 11:00am-12:00pm

Dover Town Library, Community Room

Virtual Reality. Chatbots. Deep Fakes. Is the technology world moving too fast? Do you know what these terms mean? Enjoy an in-person, real presentation on artificial intelligence. Bring your questions.

## LIFE TRANSITION BINDER



Thursdays, October 10, 17, 24, 31 at 1:30-3:00pm

Dover Town Library, Community Room

Instructor Sandra Batra. Cost: \$40.00

Are all your important details organized in one place so your family can easily access it if you need assistance? Join Sandra Batra of LifeLink Consulting LLC in this four-part series to create a customized binder that incorporates all your life details, including personal data, property, financial, retirement and insurance details, medical, and service provider information. Take control and act now so your loved ones have the information they need in the event of an emergency and you have peace of mind. Materials provided. This program filled to capacity last Spring, so sign up while spots remain!

## HALLOWEEN CARDMAKING WITH BETH

Wednesday, October 16 at 12:30-2:30pm

St. Dunstan's Church, 18 Springdale Ave

Sponsored by Friends of Dover COA

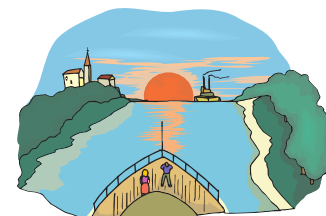
Create unique Halloween cards from fabric with Beth. The Girl Scouts will join us for this intergenerational event.

## TRAVEL TALK: PANAMA CANAL

with Photojournalist Barry Pell

Monday, October 21 at 11:00am-12:00pm

Dover Town Library, Community Room & Zoom



The Panama Canal is more than an engineering achievement: the Canal united the world, fostering global trade and prosperity, as well as a fusion of races, history and cultures. The completion relied on the United States to open in 1914. Learn about the history, controversies, and design of this strategic waterway.

## TALK WITH THE TOWN: SELECTMAN DAVE HAVILAND

Tuesday, October 22: 1:00-2:00pm

Dover Town Library, Community Room

Meet Dave Haviland, Dover's newest Selectman, and hear updates on Town projects and goals the Selectmen have developed for FY2025.





## ON SAFARI IN TANZANIA

with The Joys of Nature

Monday, October 28: 10:30-11:30am

Dover Town Library, Community Room & Zoom

Discover the amazing wildlife of the plains of Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti with Joy Marzolf. From lions, impala, gazelle, and zebras to ostrich, hippos, flamingos and elephants! Come learn about these National parks that enable visitors to see African wildlife and more.



## WICKED FUN HALLOWEEN PARTY

Tuesday, October 29 at 12:15-1:45pm

Kraft Hall, The Dover Church

Trick or treat! Join us at a Halloween luncheon for spooktacular treats and wicked fun! Costumes are highly encouraged. Please RSVP by October 22.

## TALK WITH THE TOWN: ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Wednesday, October 30 at 11:00am-12:00pm

Dover Town Library, Community Room

Meet Chris Costello, Dover's Assistant Town Administrator, and hear updates on the Town's ongoing communication study and further communication strategies.



## Recycling Committee

The Dover Recycling Committee announces a Special Recycling Day at the Transfer Station on October 19. Collections will be made on behalf of several non-profit organizations. Dover residents with vehicle stickers are invited to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

- Onsite shredding of sensitive documents from 9-12, supported by Jay and John Hughes, Dover Country Properties
- Special collections of bikes for The Bike Collector, all day
- Wheeled suitcases, back packs, duffel bags for Generic Ministry, all day
- Paper & plastic reusable shopping bags for A Place to Turn, all day
- Monthly collection of furniture and household goods for New Life Furniture Bank, all day
- Textile Collection all day, bagged clean and dry textiles for recycling,
- Tennis Balls all day, for recycling through <https://www.recycleballs.org/>, all day
- Up to 8 tires per household for disposal, both days from 9AM-3PM, supported by Dover Mobil





# Open Space Committee

## Second Saturday Stroll in DLCT's Bartlett Pines



**October 12th , 10:30 am to ~noon**  
**Guided Walks through Dover's Open Spaces**  
**\*\*\* Free but Registration is Required \*\*\***

Please join us for a guided walk, sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC). On October 12th at 10:30 am, we will walk through the Dover Land Conservation Trust's tranquil Bartlett Pines reservation at the mouth of Trout Brook as it enters the Charles River.

We will be joined by the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) to give us some insight into the importance of Trout Brook to the Charles. Walks will not be too strenuous but will be over uneven and possibly wet ground so wear appropriate footwear and bring walking sticks, binoculars and cameras. Polite dogs on leash welcome. We will stroll in misty rain to shine.

For meeting & parking information, please register at: <https://Stroll-in-Bartlett-Pines.eventbrite.com>

## Meet the Staff

### Welcome Interim Fire Chief James Wright!

Chief Wright was recently appointed as the Interim Fire Chief of the Dover Fire Department. His journey in the fire service began in the mid-70s, accompanying his father, a call firefighter, on emergency calls. In 1984, at 19, he became a volunteer firefighter with the Amherst Fire Department while pursuing an Electrical Engineering degree. In May 1985, he joined the Air Force National Guard as a firefighter. Then in January 1990, he became a full-time civilian firefighter for the 104th Fighter Wing in Westfield while also serving as a call firefighter in Athol.

His experience leading fire departments came In March 1997, when he was appointed Fire Chief for the Town of Athol. Following his experience in Athol, in 2011, he accepted the Fire Chief position for the Town of Sharon and retired in March 2023. After retiring, he served as Interim Chief for the Town of Norwood for four months. After a year of retirement, he found a job posting for the Town of Dover Fire Department. He is excited to utilize his knowledge and experience to support the department's development and success.

# Conservation Commission

To maintain a beautiful lawn and support a healthy ecosystem while protecting Dover's land and water, homeowners should discuss environmentally friendly lawn care options with contractors.



Here are some eco-friendly lawn care tips:

**FERTILIZE NATURALLY:** Remember to use organic and slow-release fertilizers for healthy soil and grass growth. Avoid synthetic fertilizers as they can harm the environment. Organic fertilizers are easy to apply and come in liquid and slow-release granular types. Applying them in the fall prepares the soil for new growth in the spring, maintaining important soil nutrients and reducing the need for additional chemicals.

**CLEAN-UP RESPONSIBLY:** When cleaning up your yard, avoid blowing or raking leaves into the street where they can clog storm drains and catch basins, which can lead to water pollution and cause flooding.

**COMPOST LEAVES:** Consider composting shredded leaves instead of disposing of them in a landfill. You can bring them to the leaf compost area at the Dover Transfer Station or purchase compost bins from various locations. Contact the DPW at 508-785-0058, ext. 110 before purchasing to check availability. You can also make your own compost bin by visiting <https://www.sunset.com/garden/backyard-projects/build-perfect-compost-bin>.

**OVERSEED:** Overseeding your lawn in the fall can help thicken it and fill in bare spots. Thicker grass leaves less room for weeds and eliminates the need for herbicides. Choose native or drought-resistant grass species that require less water and maintenance.

**USE MANUAL TOOLS:** Consider using a rake instead of a leaf blower to gather leaves, as leaf blowers are noisy and produce significant greenhouse gas emissions. Edmunds estimated that some gas leaf blowers generate 23 times the carbon dioxide of a Ford F-150 Raptor truck and 300 times more non-methane hydrocarbons.

**PLANT NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS:** Fall is a great time to plant native trees and shrubs until the first frost. They require less maintenance and provide habitat for local wildlife. The Native Plant Trust/Garden in the Woods in Framingham provides extensive information on native plants and how to convert your lawn into a native landscape, as well as how to avoid and manage invasive plants. For more info, visit <http://www.nativeplanttrust.org>.

The Conservation Commission protects the town's wetlands and open space. Contact us at 508-785-0032 ext. 7 or [lhagerty@doverma.gov](mailto:lhagerty@doverma.gov) for any questions about environmental protection. Thank you for helping to preserve our environment!



# Dover Planning Board Seeks Associate Member

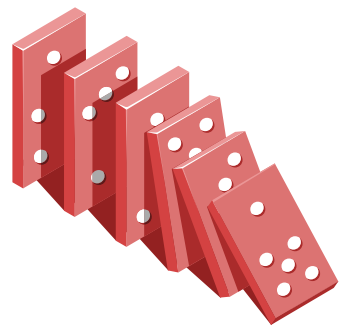
## **The Dover Planning Board is looking for an associate member.**

The Planning Board uses bylaws and regulations to address short and long term issues facing Dover. It is currently working with the Dover Housing Taskforce to develop a toolbox of options for housing (see <https://www.doverma.gov/667/Land-Use-Housing-Development>); providing input on Ch. 40B affordable housing applications; developing a bylaw to meet the legal requirements of the MBTA Communities Act for zoning of multifamily housing; writing regulations to revitalize and protect Dover's village center; and addressing the impacts of development on stormwater management, tree removal and Dover's open space priorities. Next year, we will be updating the 2012 Dover Master Plan through a community engagement process.

During the last several years we have proposed and the Town has passed bylaws addressing construction noise, accessory dwelling units, solar array construction and floodplain protection. Information about the Board is available at <https://www.doverma.gov/257/Planning-Board>. Please take a look, explore the links and contact any of the Planning Board members if you would like to explore this opportunity. To apply, please go to <https://www.doverma.gov/596/Volunteer-on-a-Boardor-Committee>.

## Chickering Elementary School

September and October bring lots of adjustments as we re-learn schedules, great new and old friends and teachers. Everyone is learning our new Math curriculum, Reveal, and being "curious" about numbers. Chickering students celebrated the start of the school year with a boxed Cereal drive for A Place to Turn, a food pantry in Natick. Families donated nearly 470 boxes of cereal which were run in a domino rally, created by our fifth graders. All students were able to watch the excitement and you can see it [here](#) too! Thank you to our PTO for organizing and delivering!



Our new communication tool, "Parentsquare" is in place for all four schools. This helps our families tremendously, as all communication comes through one application, in a similar format. We are grateful to the Dover community for their continued support, in the budget, in helping us to keep children safe as they travel to and from school and in your generosity of donations and good will.



# Friends of the Dover Council on Aging

## HARVEST SPIRITS COCKTAIL PARTY (Featuring Comedy and Magic)

The Friends of the Dover Council on Aging invite our neighbors to join us for our "Harvest Spirits Cocktail Party" as we celebrate Autumn in New England. We will provide music, delicious hors d'oeuvres, cider and drinks. The cost is \$5.00 per person to be paid at the door. This event will take place on Friday, October 18th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. upstairs at the American Legion. A cash bar is available. Please register by October 15th at [contact@coafriends.org](mailto:contact@coafriends.org).



## 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

