



# OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

## Welcome to the December Issue of OUR TOWN

December is finally here, and our town has been busy with many updates to share. Over the past month, several significant actions have taken place, including the approval of a new tax rate, the establishment of a new committee, and the announcement of office hours for the Board of Selectmen members.

Additionally, there are numerous project updates, ranging from the community center to the Department of Public Works (DPW). We encourage you to participate in the various programs happening this month, from Toys for Tots with the Police Department to activities at the Council on Aging (COA) and the Library. There's a lot happening in town, and we're excited to keep you informed!

If you are part of a Town Department/  
board/committee/commission and would like to submit  
content for the January issue, please contact  
[newsletter@doverma.gov](mailto:newsletter@doverma.gov)

## SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER



**VOL. 3, NO.12, DECEMBER 2024**

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

#### **BOS Updates**

#### **Town Departments**

- DPW**
- Board of Appeals**
- Council on Aging**
- Chickering Elementary**
- Community Center**

#### **Boards and Committees**

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



# Board of Selectmen Creates Sustainability Committee

The Town of Dover has formed the Dover Sustainability Committee to tackle greenhouse gas emissions, climate resilience, and environmental sustainability. Created by the Board of Selectmen, this volunteer committee will advise town officials on projects related to water issues and community education.

## Committee Goals:

- Review municipal and school sustainability initiatives with measurable impacts.
- Promote transparency in sustainability goals and public education.
- Partner with community members and organizations to protect resources and improve quality of life.
- Advise residents and businesses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and resource conservation.

The Committee consists of nine voting members: five appointed by Town committees and four at-large members (including two student seats for ages 14 and older) approved by the Board of Selectmen.

The Sustainability Committee welcomes community involvement. Candidates for voting roles as at-large Sustainability Committee members should complete a volunteer interest form on the Town's website at [www.doverma.gov/Forms.aspx?FID=62](http://www.doverma.gov/Forms.aspx?FID=62). Interested community members can also email Commissioner Nagy at [anagy@doverma.gov](mailto:anagy@doverma.gov) to find out more.

## Board of Selectmen Office Hours

We are pleased to announce that Selectmen David Haviland will hold office hours on December 10th from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. This is an excellent opportunity for residents to address any town topics of interest or concern. To ensure that your time is reserved, please contact Mona DiSciullo at [mdisciullo@doverma.gov](mailto:mdisciullo@doverma.gov) to schedule an appointment.

The meetings will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Town House. We encourage residents to make an appointment to discuss town matters, ask questions, or simply to meet with a local elected official. Your participation is important to us and greatly appreciated.



**David Haviland**

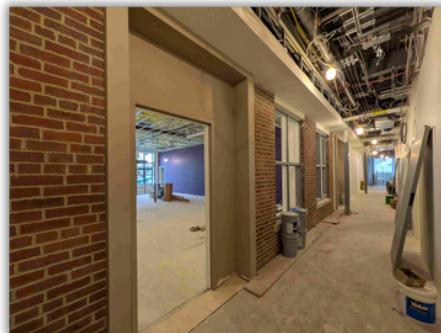
# Community Center Construction Update

## December Update

Since our last update, the project has truly come to life! The site is transforming before our eyes, with key milestones achieved. The asphalt binder course, granite curbs, and light pole bases have been installed. Bollards are being installed to safeguard the emergency generator and transformer, while the septic system is taking shape. Up next? The much-anticipated placement of the concrete ramp and sidewalks, bringing us another step closer to a completed site.

The interior is evolving rapidly with interior painting nearing completion and the finished spaces are taking shape. Ceiling grids are being installed, setting the stage for final ceiling devices. Soon, millwork, flooring, and interior finishes will add the polish that turns this structure into a vibrant, functional space!

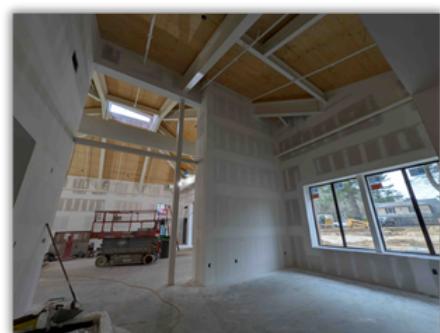
Excitement is truly building as we edge closer to substantial completion in February and the final countdown has begun!



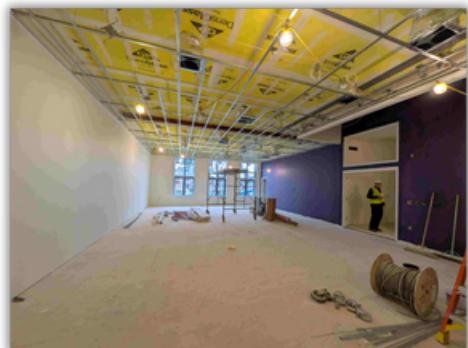
**Connector Corridor**



**Sitework Progress**



**Pavilion**



**1910 Dance Hall**



**Septic System Progress**



**1910 Second Floor**

# Board of Appeals

An application has been filed with the Board of Appeals for a Comprehensive Permit under M.G.L. Chapter 4OB, Sections 20-23 to construct a 42-unit (11 affordable) apartment building at 81/85 Tisdale Drive, Dover, MA 02030 with all associated site improvements. The next session of the required public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, December 12, at 7:00 PM and will be conducted via Zoom. The link and instructions for the December session are posted with the meeting agenda on the town's website. The applicant will provide the meeting a summary of its proposal.

To view application materials and project history, please visit. <https://www.doverma.gov/750/81-85-Tisdale-4OB>

Further updates will be posted on the webpage as the application process continues.

## Police Department



### Toys for Tots and Fill the Cruiser event

Please join us on December 7th from 3:30pm to 5:30 pm for our Fill the Cruiser event. Bring your Toys for Tots unwrapped gifts to the Dover Police Station and help fill a cruiser!

Toys for Tots collection is now **\*\*OPEN\*\*** in the lobby at the Dover Police Department! Donations will be accepted until December 10th.

Help the Dover Police  
**FILL THE CRUISER!**



# Department of Public Works

## Transfer Station Sticker Reminder:

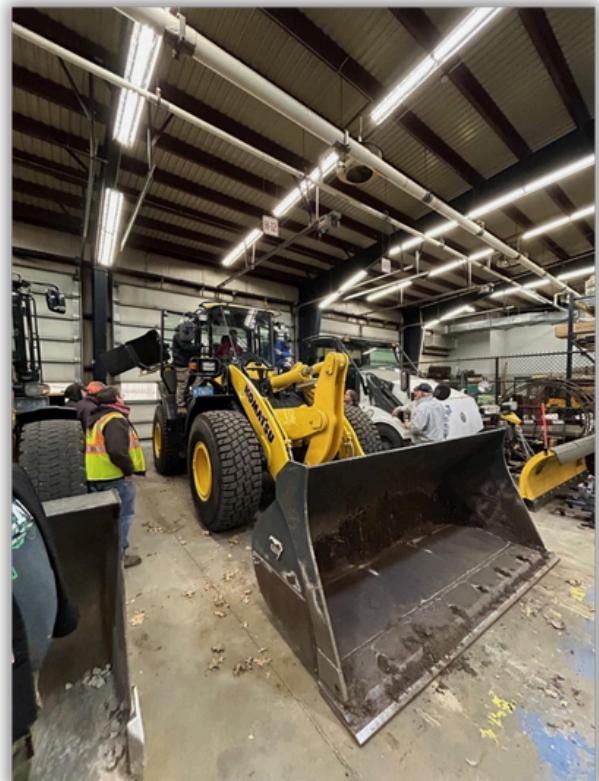
If you missed us on Saturday, November 16th, issuing new stickers at the transfer station, don't forget to get one by January 1st! Stickers are being issued Between 8 am-4 pm Monday-Thursday at the Town garage and Friday 8 am-1 pm. Can't make those hours? Online is always an option! Follow the steps on the webpage <https://www.doverma.gov/184/Transfer-Station>



## DPW Equipment Training

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is excited to announce that its new Komatsu WA320 front-end loader is now officially in service. This equipment was approved during the 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

This month, the crew successfully underwent comprehensive training that covered essential topics such as safety protocols, operational features specific to the Komatsu loader, and maintenance procedures to ensure optimal performance and longevity of the equipment. This training will empower the team to utilize the loader effectively while maintaining a safe working environment.



# Finance Department

The fiscal year tax rate (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025) has been set at \$11.27 for every \$1000 of assessed valuation for your property. The prior year tax rate was \$10.96/\$1000. Part of the reason for the tax rate increase is related to the debt service cost of the new Community Center.

Property owners will receive their 3rd quarter tax bills by the end of December. Payment is due by February 3, 2025 to avoid late fees and interest. The 3rd quarter tax bill also includes the new assessed valuation for all properties.

For the quickest processing of your tax bill, the Town recommends either using the online bill pay on the Town's website (<https://www.doverma.gov/544/Pay-Bill-Online>) or using the self-addressed envelope that comes with the tax bill (please be sure to include the remittance portion of your bill). This is sent directly to the Town's 'lock box' service and is typically processed within one business day. Payment at the Town House or through your bank's online bill pay service, while accepted, typically results in a delay in processing, as these payment methods must be processed manually by Town staff. (when using online bill pay service please mail to the Town Hall and include the current bill number in the memo)

## Board of Health

### **2024 Flu & COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic**

The Board of Health is pleased to announce the success of our recent drive-through flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinic! With over 100 attendees, pharmacists from Pine Hill Pharmacy administered both standard and high-dose flu shots, along with the latest single-dose Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines. Thank you to everyone who participated!

### **New Mercury Collection Pail**

We're pleased to announce a new addition in the Board of Health office: a mercury collection pail! Residents can now safely dispose of mercury-containing items, such as thermometers and thermostats. For more information on safe disposal, visit the Board of Health page on the Dover town website.

### **Free COVID-19 Rapid Tests Available**

As we approach the holiday season, we want to help you stay healthy. The Board of Health office now offers free COVID-19 rapid tests. Stop by to pick one up, and let's keep our community safe and healthy this winter!

# Open Space Committee

## 2nd Saturday Stroll in Hale with Cider & Donuts

**December 14th, 10:30 am to ~12:30 pm**  
**Guided Walk through Dover's Open Spaces**

**\*\*\* Free but please Pre-Register \*\*\***

**<https://Hale-cider-donuts.eventbrite.com>**

**Encourage your friends and neighbors to come too!**

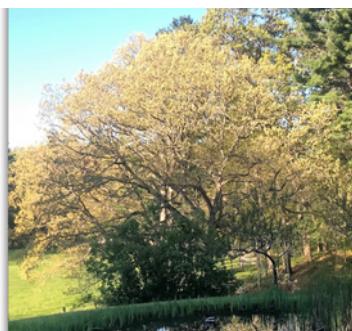


Join us for a guided walk on December 14th, celebrating conservation efforts at Hale, sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC). We'll explore some of the 20 miles of trails connecting Dover's Larrabee Estate and the Trustees' Noanet Woodlands and Powisset Farm, covering over 2300 acres of open space.

After the walk, enjoy hot cider and donuts at the Lodge. Aaron Morehouse, Hale's new Executive Director, may join us to share insights about Hale's programs and protected land. The walk will be relatively easy but over uneven and possibly wet ground, so wear appropriate footwear and bring walking sticks, gloves, binoculars, and cameras. Polite dogs on leash are welcome. We'll walk rain or shine. Parking and meet-up details will be emailed to registered participants on Friday and Saturday morning.

## Tree Preservation Committee

The Dover Tree Preservation Committee would like to highlight a common and beautiful tree in Dover: the White Oak (*Quercus alba*). This impressive tree can reach up to 150 feet tall and live for over 200 years. It is easily recognized by its rounded leaf tips, unlike the sharply pointed leaves of the Red Oak (*Quercus borealis*). Native to eastern North America, the White Oak provides excellent shade and is water-resistant, making it popular for bridge and dock construction as well as boat building. The acorns are an important food source for various birds and animals, including Blue Jays and squirrels. Currently, the leaves are falling, turning a lovely russet color. For more information about this and other New England trees, please [click here](#). See below for pictures of a 130 year old white oak in each season. Photo Credit to: Boynton Glidden



**White Oak Summer**



**White Oak Fall**



**White Oak Winter**

# Parks and Recreation

The Dover Parks and Recreation Department held its 4th Annual Flag Football Turkey Bowl on Wednesday, November 27th, bringing together Kindergarten through 5th graders for a day of friendly competition and fun. The weather was wonderful, making it the perfect setting for the kids to enjoy some outdoor activity before the Thanksgiving holiday. With plenty of enthusiasm and team spirit, the children had a fantastic time playing, cheering, and making memories. A big thank you to all the participants, coaches, volunteers, and parents who helped make this year's Turkey Bowl a success! We look forward to seeing everyone next year!



## Chickering Elementary School

Chickering school is proud to share that in conjunction with our amazing PTO and generous families, we delivered 36 complete Thanksgiving dinners, each with a \$50 supermarket gift card + 32 bags of extra food donations to Family Promise Metrowest. As we learn about food insecurity through several books (example: Maddie's Fridge by Lois Brandt and Pa, Me, and Our Sidewalk Food Pantry by Toni Buzzed) students can understand the needs around the communities.

Did you know that we recite the Pledge of Allegiance each morning, read by fifth graders with the morning announcements? And, each day two fifth graders raise the American Flag to start the day.

Coming up: our Festival Of Lights sing-a-long!

# Dover Town Library

## Gingerbread House Making at the Library!

Tuesday, Dec. 10th 3:30-4:30pm,

Thursday, Dec. 12th 3:30-4:30pm,

Saturday, Dec. 14th 11:00AM-12:00pm

Join us to create your own festive Gingerbread House. Starting with a milk carton, use graham crackers, icing, and candy to decorate a house to your heart's content. All supplies provided. This program is best for children ages 3+. Space limited. Registration required.

## VIRTUAL: NEW ENGLAND GHOST STORIES WITH AIN'T IT SCARY

On Zoom! Have you ever had an experience that you simply cannot explain? The Ain't it Scary? with Sean & Carrie podcast hosts a presentation covering a short history of paranormal and ghost stories in New England - from the cases of the Conjuring series-inspiring Warrens to hauntings relating to major historical events to some of the spookiest and strangest stories based in the Northeastern US. Feel free to bring your curiosity, questions, and an open mind! For teens and adults! Zoom link will be emailed before the event. Registration required.

## DSHS Athletics

DSHS Athletics had a fantastic fall season! The boys and girls cross country teams excelled at the MIAA Divisionals, with the girls finishing 4th and the boys as state runners-up in 2nd place. At the Cross Country MIAA All States, the girls placed 14th and the boys 13th. The field hockey team reached the Elite 8 but lost to the #1 ranked Sandwich. They secured victories over Belchertown (3-1) and North Middlesex (4-2) to advance. The golf team placed 4th in the MIAA D2 Sectional Tournament, with Matt Bowen qualifying for the individual tournament.

The girls' soccer team also made it to the Elite 8, losing 2-1 to #4 ranked Nipmuc after defeating Archbishop Williams (5-1) and Auburn in overtime (3-2). The football team had a strong postseason, concluding their season against Brookline, with their final game against Medfield on Thanksgiving.

The boys' soccer team made history by winning the first boys' soccer state championship since 2010, finishing their remarkable journey by defeating Norwell 2-0 for the title.



Photo Credit:  
James Dillon





Dover Council on Aging invites you to our upcoming programs. Check out the November/December Newsletter with our full slate of programs. Some December 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.

## **DOVER POLICE HOLIDAY BRUNCH**

Saturday, December 7, 10:00am-12:00pm

Chickering School, 29 Cross Street

Join the COA at this annual event. Meet your local police as they cook a delicious breakfast for seniors to celebrate the holidays! RSVP today!



## **TECH SUPPORT CLASS**

Taking and Organizing Photos

Wednesday, December 11, 11:00am-12:00pm

Community Room, Dover Town Library, 56 Dedham St

Presented by KevTech Services

Learn the basics of using apps on your iPhone. In this class, we dive into the Camera app on the iPhone, exploring different features of the camera and adjustments that can be made for taking pictures in different settings. We also go into Photos and discuss organizing photos into Favorites and Albums. Sign up to enhance your tech skills! Limited to 15 participants. For iPhone or iPad users only.

## **SAND FOR SENIORS**

Dover COA in partnership with the Men's Breakfast Group at The Dover Church will once again prepare and deliver buckets of sand/salt to Dover seniors. If you would like a bucket of sand/salt (complete with lid and scoop) for your steps or walkway, sign up by Dec 9. Buckets will be delivered Dec 14. Funded by Friends of Dover COA.

## **WAMPANOAG PEOPLE, PAST AND PRESENT**

Monday, December 16, 10:30-11:30am

Community Room, Dover Town Library, 56 Dedham St

Funded by Friends of Dover COA

Join us to learn about the important Wampanoag Leaders from the 1600's to 2024. Tim Turner, Associate Director for Indigenous Education for Plimoth Patuxet Museums, will speak on Massasoit, Tisquantum (Squanto) and Hobamock (a Wampanoag War Leader) and the current leaders in the Wampanoag Nation today.





## 2025 Friends of the Council on Aging Membership Drive

Please support The Friends of the Dover Council on Aging with a tax-deductible donation/membership for 2025. We hope that you will continue to support our efforts to expand and enhance programs for our seniors. We provide events such as our annual "Up in Smoke" BBQ, Harvest Spirits Cocktail Party, Fireside Cheer Cocktail Party and Lifetime Learning courses which offer opportunities for communitywide participation. The other many events we support are listed in the COA's weekly eNewsletter. To become a Member or donate, please go to [coafriends.org](http://coafriends.org) and click on the Join Us page.

## Recycling Committee

The Dover Recycling Committee (DRC) announces guidelines for recycling during the holiday season to encourage residents to continue to reduce, reuse, recycle, and conserve town funds.

### RECYCLE – DO NOT THROW IN THE TRASH

- CHRISTMAS TREES, WREATHS, AND PLANTS: Strip all ornaments, tinsel, and wires and deposit in the yard waste section of the Transfer Station.
- FOOD WASTE: Bag all food waste including turkey carcasses, egg shells, all bones, fruits, and vegetables, and deposit in the Food Waste barrels at the Transfer Station.
- HOLIDAY STRING LIGHTS (TANGLERS): Place in the metals bin at the Transfer Station. These are a **HUGE** contamination hazard in the recycling stream.
- CARDBOARD BOXES: Break down and flatten all boxes and remove plastic liners and Styrofoam. Include greasy pizza boxes.
- REFUNDABLE BOTTLES AND CANS: Place in the barrels at the deposit trailer.
- TEXTILES: Bag dry textiles (old clothes, shoes, bedding, etc.) in any condition and place them in the textile bins at the Transfer Station or the Middle and High Schools.
- BATTERIES: Non-alkaline and button batteries should be given to the Transfer Station personnel.

### THROW IN THE TRASH

- WRAPPING PAPER: DO NOT THROW IT IN THE MIXED PAPER TRAILER. It goes in the regular trash since it is chemically treated with fire retardant and cannot be recycled
- STYROFOAM & PLASTIC LINERS: Throw in the trash.
- BLACK PLASTIC: Throw in the trash.
- WAXED CARDBOARD: Milk, juice, soup cartons-throw in the trash.
- ALKALINE BATTERIES: Throw in trash.

### SPECIAL PERMANENT COLLECTIONS IN THE SWAP SHOP

- EYEGLASSES: Lions Club Recycle for Sight
- SHOPPING BAGS: A Place to Turn Food Pantry
- TENNIS BALLS: Recycle Balls
- CLEATS: Cleats for Kids

# Conservation Commission

## Help the Conservation Commission Monitor Dover's Drought Conditions

The State has declared a Level 3 Critical Drought in Dover and much of the State due to the severe lack of rain over the past few months with many locations recording their lowest rainfall ever as climate change is driving more frequent and severe droughts. Streamflow has dropped significantly, resulting in dry brooks and streambeds, exposed sediments, and limited fish passage. Groundwater levels are declining throughout the State

Because of this, the Conservation Commission is partnering with the Charles River Watershed Association to monitor drought conditions along the Charles River in Dover and its tributaries.

If a local stream, tributary, or part of the Charles River near you appears to be dry or at a much lower water level than usual, please send a photo to Janet Bowser, the Town's Conservation Agent, at [jbowsler@doverma.gov](mailto:jbowsler@doverma.gov) and to [rsmith@crwa.org](mailto:rsmith@crwa.org). We will be submitting this information to the State Drought Task Force to help them make accurate status changes to the level of drought conditions.

All residents are encouraged to minimize their overall water use. [Click here](#) for more information and steps you can take .

The Conservation Commission is charged with protecting and preserving the Town's wetlands, natural resources and open space. We are available to help you with any questions or concerns about protecting our environment. If you think there may be wetlands on or near your property, please contact the Commission to see if any approvals are needed before starting a project or removing any trees. You can reach the Commission Office by calling 508-785-0032 extension 7 or by emailing us at: [lhagerty@doverma.gov](mailto:lhagerty@doverma.gov).

Thank you for helping to protect our environment!



Powisett Brook, Dover MA, during normal conditions (left) and during drought conditions (right)



# 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**

