

# OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

## Welcome to the February Issue of OUR TOWN

Welcome to the February newsletter! We have some exciting updates to share with you. The community center is almost finished, and we can't wait for you to see it! We also have news from the planning board about their progress with the MBTA Communities Act. Plus, don't miss the public forum later this month where we'll discuss the proposed rail trail project—your input is important!

There are so many fun ways to get involved with the Dover Council on Aging (COA) this month! And don't forget to check out the important public service announcements from our fire department and the board of health.

We hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter as much as we enjoyed putting it together!

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

VOL. 4, NO.2, FEBRUARY 2025

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

#### BOS Updates

#### Town Departments

- Community Center
- Planning Board
- Chickering Elementary
- Rail Trail

#### Boards and Committees

- Conservation
- Board of Health
- Recycling
- Volunteer

## SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER



# Community Center Construction Update

Since our last update, the new community center is truly coming to life!

On the site, the transformation is remarkable—concrete walkways and patios are nearly complete, and the basketball court is currently taking shape. This spring, outdoor spaces will be ready to welcome the community! Inside the building, major milestones have been achieved. The permanent power is officially on, and critical HVAC and electrical systems are up and running. Painting is nearly finished, and above-ceiling inspections have been successfully completed. With that, ceiling tiles are being installed, marking yet another step toward bringing this space to completion. Meanwhile, teams are hard at work on millwork, flooring, whiteboards, wall panels, and even gym equipment. Every day, we're getting closer to creating a vibrant and functional space for the entire town to enjoy!

Looking ahead, we're targeting a Spring move-in for the Town. Stay tuned as we finalize a more precise move-in date.....we can't wait to open the doors and see this center buzzing with activity!

Thank you for your continued support as this exciting project moves toward the finish line.



**Rear (Parking) Entrance 2**



**Rear (Parking) Entrance**



**Gym**



**Dance Room**



**Flex Room**



**Cafe Bar**

# Planning Board/MBTA Communities Act

In 2021, the Massachusetts legislature passed a law (the [MBTA Communities Act](#)) that requires that the 177 municipalities in the MBTA's service area (including Dover) have at least one zoning district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing (housing with at least 3 units on one piece of property) is permitted as of right. Even though Dover doesn't have MBTA services within its borders, because it abuts a town that does provide services it has been deemed to be an "Adjacent Small Town" and so must comply with the law by December 31, 2025.

## What to watch for in February:

- The Planning Board will contract Horsley Witten Group as Dover's MBTA consultant to aid in public education, compiling data, and drafting an MBTA Bylaw to comply with the requirements of the MBTA Communities Act.
- A draft of the text of the proposed MBTA Bylaw will be available on the MBTA Communities webpage.
- The Planning Board will issue a community survey to collect data regarding proposed locations for an MBTA Overlay District and to solicit input about the draft Bylaw language
- The Planning Department will host a public information session with the Council on Aging on February 26, 2025

## Here are some of the ways you can get involved in the coming weeks and months:

- Town Website: Check the [MBTA Communities Multi-family Zoning webpage](#) regularly for updates, resources, FAQs and information on upcoming meetings. This will be an important source for official announcements and documents related to the compliance process.
- Newsletters and Notifications: Subscribe to town newsletters or notifications to receive updates directly in your inbox.
- Social Media and Local News: Follow local social media channels or news outlets that cover town meetings and planning board activities for real-time updates and discussions surrounding the MBTA Communities Act compliance efforts.
- Community Outreach Events: Participate in community workshops and public hearings planned by the Planning Board. These events are designed to gather input from residents and provide information about the compliance requirements and proposed zoning changes.
- Planning Board: Watch the [Planning Board's agendas](#) in the coming months and join in the ongoing compliance conversations to make your voice heard. You can also reach out directly to the Planning Board with your comments, ideas or feedback.
- Special Town Meeting: Attend the Special Town Meeting that will be scheduled for September 2025, at which residents will have the opportunity to debate and vote on the proposed bylaw.

We look forward to working together with Dover residents on this important project.



# Proposed Rail Trail Public Forum

The Town of Dover is thrilled to unveil the proposed Rail Trail Construction Project, an exciting initiative designed to enrich our community's connectivity while promoting outdoor recreation for residents of all ages. This project aims to create a scenic recreational trail and a shared-use pathway, allowing residents to engage in safer and more enjoyable outdoor activities, as well as providing improved transportation options for commuting and leisure.

In crafting the project, numerous town departments and committees have come together in a collaborative effort to shape its vision and objectives. As we move forward, we are dedicated to ensuring transparency and actively seeking the valuable input of our community members throughout this process.

## Public Forum - February 25th

Join us on Tuesday, February 25th, at 6:30 PM for a public forum hosted via Zoom Webinar. This informative session will offer a detailed overview of the project as well as a glimpse into the preliminary designs. It will also be a wonderful opportunity for residents to ask questions and share their thoughts on this community-enhancing endeavor.



To explore more about the project and its aims, we invite you to visit the project webpage at <https://doverma.gov/720/Rail-Trail-Project> . If you're unable to attend the public forum, don't worry! We've also set up a Google Form for you to submit questions or feedback at your convenience. Be sure to check our website as the date approaches for access to the link to the virtual meeting.

The form can be accessed here (or on the rail trail website): <https://bit.ly/4jHbPbu>

Should you have any questions regarding this exciting project, please feel free to reach out to Dover Parks and Recreation Director Mark Ghilioni at [mghilioni@doverma.gov](mailto:mghilioni@doverma.gov). We look forward to your participation and input as we embark on this journey to enhance our beautiful town!

# Fire Department

## Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. Fire spreads fast—working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

### Safety Tips

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms so that when one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Working smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan.
- Get out and stay out
- Call 9-1-1 from outdoors or from a neighbor's home.

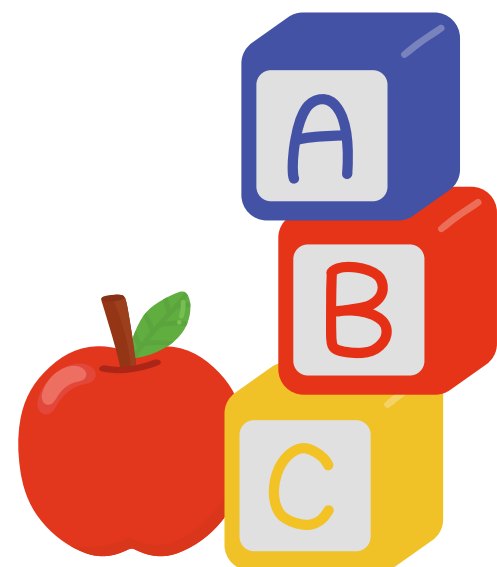


See attached flier from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services for more information. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/smoke-alarms-save-lives/download>

## Chickering Elementary School

Chickering School celebrated the seasons of light in December, learning songs from a variety of cultures and religions around the world. Each celebrates light and the turn of the seasons past the equinox. We continued our tradition of collecting toys for "Gifts for Kids", thanks to the generosity of our families, we were able to send 4 big carloads of gifts! January brought new book groups, non-fiction research at all ages and of course, all other subjects to renewed energy after the winter break.

As we launch into February, Kindergarten registration is underway! We are hosting an information session on February 6 from 3:00-4:00 for any parents who may enroll a Kindergartener next fall. Students must be five years old by September 1st and live in Dover. Please see this link to learn more. <https://bit.ly/3Q4DgOS>



# Council on Aging



Click [here](#)  
for the  
COA  
newsletter

Dover Council on Aging invites you to our upcoming programs. You can check out the Jan/Feb Newsletter with our full slate of programs. Some February 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.

## CHOCOLATE AROUND THE WORLD



Monday, February 10, 1:00-2:00pm

Community Room, Dover Town Library

Presented by Therapy Gardens

Discover the rich, diverse world of chocolate and explore the unique ways cultures around the globe use chocolate. From the spiced chocolate sauces of Mexico to the delicate chocolate-infused pastries of France, and the robust cocoa flavors in island cuisine, this session offers a culinary tour that showcases chocolate's versatility. Small samples available while they last!

## PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB

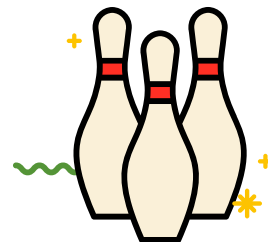


Tuesday, February 11, 2:00-3:00pm

Dover Town Library, 56 Dedham St

The Dover Town Library and the COA's Page Turner's Book Group meets the second Tuesday of the month to discuss selected fiction and nonfiction titles. No registration required. This month's selection is *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. Copies of the book are available at the Library. For more info, contact Liz Fogarty at 508-785-8113 or [efogarty@minilib.net](mailto:efogarty@minilib.net).

## STRIKE UP SOME FUN:



WII BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Wednesday, February 12, 1:00-2:00pm

Community Room, Dover Town Library

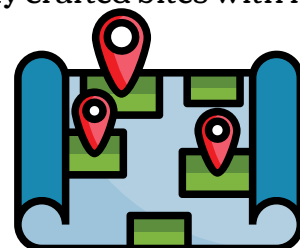
Get ready to roll and enjoy an afternoon of friendly competition, laughter, and great company at our Wii Bowling Tournament! Whether you're a pro or a first-timer, everyone is welcome to join in the excitement! Participants can bowl while seated or standing. Lace up (virtually!) and join us. We can't wait to see you knock down some pins! In partnership with Dover Town Library.

## VALENTINE'S DAY RECEPTION

Friday, February 14, 12:00-1:00pm

Dover Town Library

Celebrate love and friendship with the COA. Gather with us for a heartwarming afternoon of fun, food, and festive activities as we embrace Valentine's Day together. Enjoy a spread of lovingly crafted bites with fun surprises. RSVP by Feb 10.



## TALK WITH THE TOWN:

PLANNING BOARD

Wednesday, February 26, 11:00am-12:00pm

Community Room, Dover Town Library

The Planning Board will present its warrant articles for the May Town Meeting and discuss the MBTA Communities Act, which the Town must implement by the end of 2025. Come share your feedback on these important topics.

# Recycling Committee

Did you know that approximately 230,000 tons of textiles are thrown away as trash in Massachusetts each year? It's time to make a change. Rather than tossing your old clothes, blankets, and other textiles in the garbage, consider donating them instead. Not only is it the right thing to do, but it's also the law. Remember, textiles are never trash, and it's illegal to throw them away.

The Dover Recycling Committee would like to thank the residents of the town for recycling many tons of textiles again in 2024. Let's keep up the good work. All clean and dry textiles, even if they are torn, worn, or stained, can be donated for reuse or repurposing. You can deposit these items in the textile bins located at the Transfer Station and schools.

The used textile industry is substantial. Anything that cannot be sold in retail locations will be sold for other purposes. Here are some tips for recycling textiles:

- Take clothes in "great condition" to a consignment store for sale
- Donate clothes in "good condition" to Circle of Hope, Goodwill, or other organizations
- Recycle clothes in "poor condition" in the textile bins
- Donate towels, tablecloths, and linens in "great condition" to A Place To Turn
- Take towels and sheets in "good condition" to an animal shelter



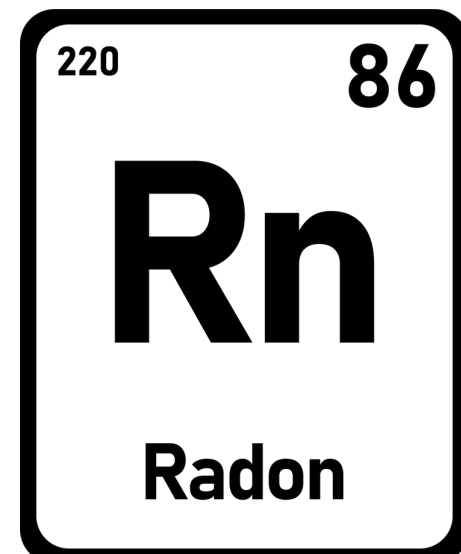
By recycling textiles, we can cut down on the amount of waste that ends up in landfills. Remember to deposit only dry and odorless clothes in any condition, to help keep our environment clean and safe. Let's work together to make a difference and keep textiles out of the trash.

## Board of Health

Radon Detectors Available through Massachusetts DPH  
Is Your Home Safe from Radon?

Radon is an invisible, odorless gas and the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. About 1 in 15 homes in the U.S. have unsafe radon levels, but the only way to know if your home is affected is to test. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is offering free radon test kits now through March 31. Call (800) 723-6695 or email [DPHIAQ.radon@mass.gov](mailto:DPHIAQ.radon@mass.gov) to request yours today.

Stay healthy, Dover!



# Conservation Commission

## **Conservation Commission Seeks New Members Join Us in Protecting Dover's Environment and the Climate!**

Do you care deeply about protecting Dover's environment and addressing climate change in our community? If the answer is yes, please consider joining the Conservation Commission! The Commission is currently seeking 1 new member and 2 associate members. On the Commission, you'll connect with others who share your passion for protecting our Town's natural resources as well as make a meaningful difference in addressing our increasingly urgent environmental challenges.

The Conservation Commission is responsible for protecting natural resources throughout Dover, including wetlands and wildlife habitat, and for protecting and managing town-owned conservation land in Dover, such as Wylde Woods.

To protect our drinking water quality and quantity as well as critical habitat, the Commission is responsible for administering and enforcing the local and state Wetlands Protection Laws and Regulations as well as the state Riverfront Act. In this role, the Commission reviews, in detail, proposed projects in or near wetlands and other water resource areas. It approves projects with required conditions that maximize protection of wetland resources, or denies proposed work that will negatively impact wetland resources.

As a member of the Commission, you can look forward to a challenging and rewarding experience! We're looking for volunteers with a strong interest in environmental protection with experience in engineering, science, law, regulatory policy or a related field. Free training for new Commissioners is provided.

The Commission meets remotely twice a month, usually on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. We encourage you to attend an upcoming meeting to learn more about what the Commission does - our next meetings are scheduled on Feb. 12th and Feb. 26th at 7:30 pm and please check the Town Website Calendar for the Agenda and Zoom Link.

If you'd like more information or have any questions about joining the Commission, please contact our Conservation Agent, Janet Bowser, at [jbowser@doverma.gov](mailto:jbowser@doverma.gov). Please consider joining us in protecting Dover's environment!





# 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

