

OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

Welcome to the April Issue of OUR TOWN

Happy April, Dover! In this issue of Our Town, we're excited to share important community updates and reminders with you. The Community Center is almost complete, the DPW is working on the Centre Street Bridge redesign, and Parks and Recreation has opened registration for Spring/Summer programs and the April 19th Egg Hunt. Council on Aging is offering a variety of engaging programs, the Fire Department reminds us about lithium-ion battery safety, and the Tree Preservation Committee is gearing up for Arbor Day celebrations! Plus, the Conservation Commission is hosting a Zoom program on native plants and Earth Day actions. There's something for everyone in Dover this month—read on to find out more!

If you are part of a town committee and would like to submit content for the May issue, please contact newsletter@doverma.gov

SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER

and tell a friend about the newsletter too!

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VOL. 4, NO. 4, APRIL 2025

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

BOS Updates

Town Departments

- Community Center
- Our Schools
- DPW
- Parks and Recreation
- Fire Department
- Council on Aging

Boards and Committees

- Board of Health
- Recycling
- Tree Preservation
- Conservation



Board of Selectmen

The Town Meeting is Approaching!

Town Meeting is an historic form of government that allows residents of Dover to engage with their community and actively shape the town's future by voting on proposals. This event provides an opportunity to learn about local issues and make your voice heard. One key topic at Town Meeting is the town's budget, with recommendations from the Warrant Committee for FY2026 being finalized in meetings leading up to the event. These recommendations, detailed in the "Blue Book," will be mailed in mid-April and should be brought to Town Meeting for reference. The Town Meeting Warrant, which outlines the time, place, and agenda, will also be sent to all residents in advance to ensure informed participation.

**Dover-Sherborn Regional
School - Mudge Auditorium
9 Junction St, Dover, MA
02030**

**Monday, May 5, 2025 at
7:00 PM**

**Stay Informed on
all Town Matters:**

**doverma.gov/653
/Stay-Informed**

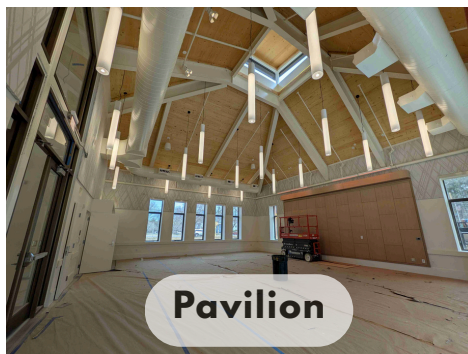


Community Center Construction Update

We're in the home stretch! The new Community Center building is nearly complete, and things are really coming together.

Inside the building, the major work is done. Since our last update, the ceilings are in, gym padding and whiteboards are up, acoustic panels are installed, and final painting and A/V systems are finished. Furniture is set to arrive in mid April!

Right now, we're wrapping up final inspections for the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, along with the fire alarm. Coming soon: a full cleaning (which will make everything shine!), final signage, a walkthrough with the architect to create the punch list, and the elevator inspection.



Community Center Construction Update

Outside, we've already installed concrete walkways, light poles, bollards, and curbs.

Next up: finishing the basketball court fencing, dumpster enclosure, final grading, the service drive retaining wall, landscaping, top layer of asphalt, and final striping and signage.

We're still aiming for a late spring move-in—and we can't wait to welcome everyone into the new space. Stay tuned for details on the ribbon-cutting celebration. It's going to be a big moment for the whole community!

Thanks for your continued support as we bring this exciting project across the finish line!

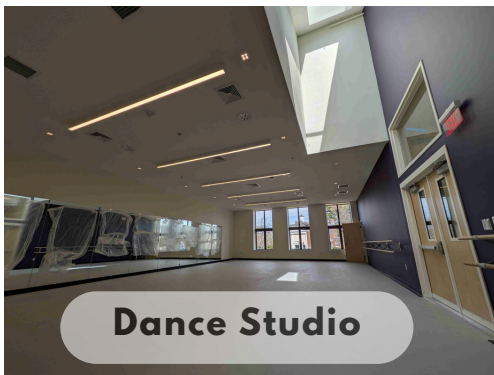
Main Entrance



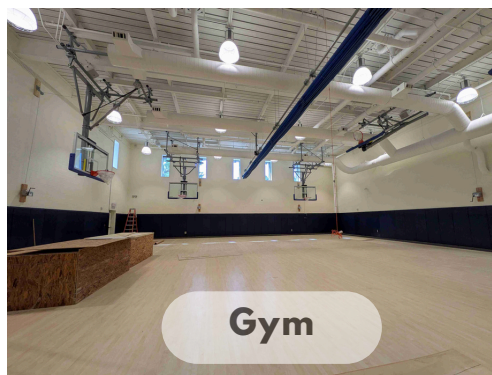
Basketball Court Fence



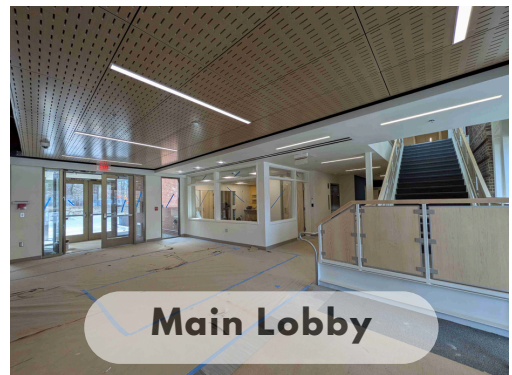
Dance Studio



Gym



Main Lobby

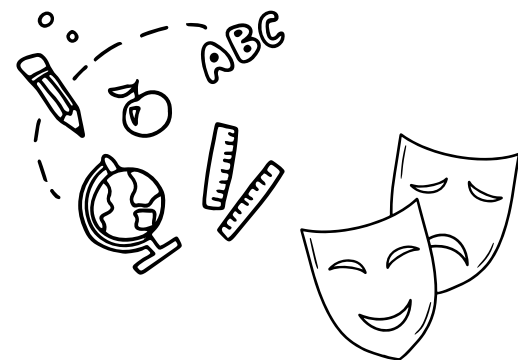


Our Schools

Spring brings mud to the playground, windy recesses, field trips, and MCAS testing. Field trips this past month included our grade 2 students traveling to the Regent Theater to see Miss Frizzle, and grade 5 students ventured to the McAuliffe Center in Framingham to experience space travel. MCAS will run from early April to May, with online testing for grades 3, 4, and 5.



We invite you to join us on April 9 at 3:30 p.m. at the Dover Library for a reading of *If You Plant a Seed* by our Chickering students, followed by a discussion with our students about conflict and peace.



Department of Public Works

Centre Street Bridge:

As many are aware, the Town received a federal earmark from Congressman Auchincloss that included this project in the FY23 community project funding request. This funding will cover the redesign of a bridge over the Charles River, which was originally built in 1847. The project is currently under contract for design and is included in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). Activities for survey work, environmental wetland flagging, and geotechnical borings are ongoing. This project's design phase will take place over 6 years to adhere to DOT design criteria and processes. Please stay tuned for public outreach in the coming months and project updates.

Training:

DPW coordinated with the Town's insurance provider, MIIA (Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association), during which they provided a seminar on Hot Works to Dover and surrounding towns. This presentation focused on Hot Work, which is any work process that involves heat, sparks, or flame that is capable of starting fires or explosions. Examples include, but are not limited to, welding, cutting, grinding, soldering, heat treating, hot riveting, torch-applied roofing, abrasive blasting, and powder-driven fasteners.

Parks and Recreation

SPRING INTO FUN!


Spring/Summer Registration is Open!

Get ready for an exciting season of activities, sports, and fun! Our Spring/Summer programs are now open for registration. Don't miss your chance to sign up before spots fill up!

Save the Date: April 19th – Welcome Spring Egg Hunt Event!

Join us for a festive Egg Hunt filled with surprises, laughter, and springtime cheer! Bring the whole family for a morning of egg-citing activities.

 **Location:** Town Common

 **Time:** 10am (The egg hunt begins precisely at 10:05 am, arriving late by even 1 or 2 minutes, you will likely miss it)

Come celebrate the season with us. Register today and hop into the fun!



Fire Department

Lithium-Ion Battery Safety

Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries power everything from smartphones and laptops to scooters and electric vehicles. They have a very high energy density, meaning that they pack a lot of power into a small device. If lithium-ion batteries are misused, or if they are defective, that power can cause a fire or explosion.

Safety Tips

- Purchase only devices that are listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Look for the lab's mark on the packaging and device.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device. Aftermarket and generic accessories have been linked to serious Li-ion battery fires.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.
- Charge devices on a hard, stable surface. Never on a bed, couch, or pillow.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's charging instructions.
- Plug the charger directly into a wall outlet, not a power strip or extension cord.

Lithium-Ion Batteries Are EVERYWHERE!

Bluetooth Headsets and Headphones, Cell Phones, Computer Peripherals, Digital Cameras, EReaders, Game Controller's, Laptops & Tablets, Watches, Smoke/Fire/Carbon Monoxide Alarms, Surveillance & Alarm Systems, Electric Vehicles, Mobility Scooters, Ebikes & Scooters



Use Manufacturer's Suggested Replacement Batteries for Devices

Disposal

- Do not discard lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycling is the best option.
- Find a recycling location at: www.call2recycle.org

See attached flier from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services for more information.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/lithium-ion-battery-safety/download>

Council on Aging

Dover's Council on Aging invites you to our upcoming programs. You can check out the [March/April Newsletter](#) with our full slate of programs. Some April highlights are below. Sign up for programs by emailing coa@doverma.gov or by using our [Online COA Program Sign-Up Form](#).



KNITTING TOGETHER

Mondays, April 7 at 1:00pm

Dover Town House, Fireside Room

Calling all knitters—beginners to experts! Join us for a cozy afternoon of knitting, conversation, and creativity. Bring your latest project and enjoy a relaxing time with fellow crafters.

PAGETURNERS BOOK CLUB

Dover Town Library

Tuesday, April 8 at 2:00pm

Book: The Tragedy of Richard III by William Shakespeare. We will view the 1995 film adaptation of Richard III and discuss the works afterwards. Pageturners is led by Dover Librarian Liz Fogarty.

Copies of books are available at the Library. For more info, contact Liz at 508-785-8113 or efogarty@minlib.net

LIFETIME LEARNING: PORTRAITURE OF PROMINENT BOSTONIANS

Wednesdays, April 9 & 16, 11:00am-12:30pm

Dover Town Library, Community Room

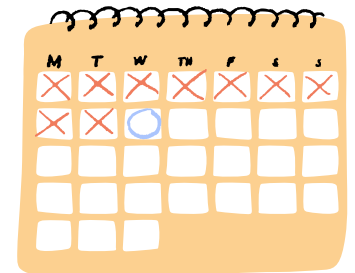
Sponsored by Friends of Dover COA

Instructor: Deborah Stein, PhD

Cost: \$20.00

This course will cover portraiture of prominent Bostonians from the 17th century through the mid 20th century, with attention given to the stylistic development of the medium, the artists, the sitters, and the cultural context of Boston's fine arts climate. Artists such as John Singleton Copley, Gilbert Stuart, John Singer Sargent, and Cecilia Beaux will be discussed. There will be a special segment covering the sculpted portraiture of Amelia Peabody, on display at the Sawin Museum in an exhibition by the Dover Historical Society entitled "Amelia Peabody: Artist, Philanthropist and Visionary."

Deb Stein specializes in eighteenth and nineteenth-century American and European fine arts and visual culture and in the history of collecting and museums. She is a Visiting Lecturer at the College of the Holy Cross. She has also taught art and architecture at Boston College and Boston University and has been a long-time lecturer in the galleries at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.



LIFETIME LEARNING: PROBING THE CREATIVE UNIVERSE

Mondays, April 14 and 28, May 5, 12 and 19

11:30am on Zoom: Cost: Free

Instructor: Frank Villa

Science has compiled a comprehensive and detailed natural history of our universe though there remain some gaps in our knowledge. Yet the more we learn about the mechanisms of our creative universe, the bigger the philosophical and theological questions that result. In this 5-week program, we will examine the scientific creation story and explore some of the questions raised about our human place in this mechanical universe.

Frank Villa is an award-winning lecturer who finds great joy in bringing the latest discoveries of science to a general audience. In addition to his degrees in the sciences, Frank achieved a Master's Degree in Religion and Theology.

BROADMOOR GUIDED WALK

Wildlife Sanctuary, Natick

Wednesday, April 23: Cost \$5.00

Take a seasonal nature walk with a Mass Audubon guide and learn about songbirds, ducks, geese as well as the lush plant life. The trails range from easy to rugged through the shade of mature woodlands into open fields and along the edges of streams, ponds, and marshland. Space limited.

TALK WITH THE TOWN: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Tuesday, April 29 at 1:00pm

Dover Town Library, Community Room

Join Dover Town Administrator Michael Blanchard to review articles on the Town Warrant for the May 5 Town Meeting and hear updates on Town projects.

RUTH BADER GINSBERG - "I DISSENT"

Wednesday, April 30 at 11:00am

Dover Town Library, Community Room

Performed by Sheryl Faye

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an American lawyer and jurist who served as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1993 until her death in September 2020. Ruth Bader Ginsburg's life was one of achievement: as a lawyer, professor of law, a judge, and then a Supreme Court justice; she stood out because she was not afraid to dissent, disapprove, and disagree with conditions of unfairness and inequality. This show is the inspiring story of how she changed her life--and ours.

Board of Health

Bird Flu: Here's what you Need to Keep in Mind

Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) affects wild and domestic birds nationwide. In Dover, where agriculture is abundant, residents should stay informed.

The risk to humans is low, mainly affecting those in close contact with sick birds or infected cattle. Pet owners should be cautious—keep dogs leashed and cats indoors, especially in affected areas. Farm cats should avoid hunting birds or mice and not be fed raw meat or milk.

Waterfowl face the highest risk, so eliminate standing water and keep domestic birds away from wild ones. Poultry owners should prevent flocks from free-ranging. Residents should avoid handling sick or dead birds.



Recycling Committee

Spring 2025 Special Recycling Day at the Transfer Station will be held on Saturday, May 17th.

Collections will be made on behalf of several non-profit organizations. Dover residents with green vehicle stickers are invited to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

- Onsite shredding of sensitive documents from 9-12 by Highland Shredding
- Special collections of bikes for The Bike Collector, all day
- Wheeled suitcases, back packs, duffel bags for Generic Ministry, 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, all day
- Up to 8 tires per household for disposal, both days from 9AM-3PM, supported by Mobil Dover



In addition, you may have noticed that we have added permanent collection bins in the swap shop for tennis ball recycling, clean reusable shopping bags for A Place to Turn, and string lights.

Recycling Committee (Cont.)

April is Spring Clean-up Month for Dover's streets and parks.



It's that time of year again!

2025's goal is to once again have 100% of Dover's 159 streets and our parks cleaned up. Dover residents of all ages are invited to help us achieve this goal by signing up for a street that is important to you, and local clubs and organizations are encouraged to join in the clean-up. You can help with a section of our main streets where roadside trash is greatest, and consider adopting an area for year-round monitoring.

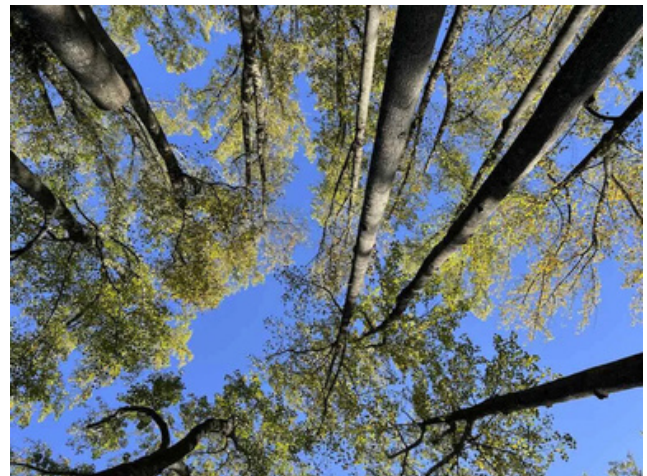
Large bags can be picked up at the Transfer Station or Highway Department for the big streets and your own kitchen trash bags should be sufficient to use for the smaller streets. It is not necessary to separate recyclables from trash for the street clean up.

Safety signs will be posted along the major traffic roads.

Register for your street at: <https://tinyurl.com/mry3n4p8>

Tree Preservation Committee

On Friday, April 25th, Arbor Day will be celebrated across the country, and our committee has been busy identifying events for Dover residents! The Dover Department of Public Works is partnering with Dover Park & Rec and the Cemetery Commission to plant trees in the center of our community.



Tree Preservation Committee (Cont.)

In addition, several events will occur the following week:

- tree planting at the Chickering Elementary School
- a variety of tree-related activities at the Dover Town Library including children's craft activities on Tuesday, April 29th at 3:30 pm
- tree seedling giveaway at the Dover Town Garage on May 2nd, and the Dover Transfer Station on May 3rd
- tree hike with the Open Space Committee on Saturday, April 26

Please keep watch for additional information about how you can participate in these events as we get closer to the dates!

Other local and regional events can be found here:

Arbor Day Foundation: <https://www.arborday.org/arbor-day-events>

Speak For The Trees Boston: <https://treeboston.org/arborweek2025/>

The Trustees: https://thetrustees.org/places-to-go/?_region=metro-west



Arbor Saturday Stroll with the Tree Preservation Committee

April 26th at 10:30 am

Guided Walk through Dover's Open Spaces

*** Free but please Register ***

<https://ArborDayStroll.eventbrite.com>

Parking information will be e-mailed to registrants on Friday, 4/25

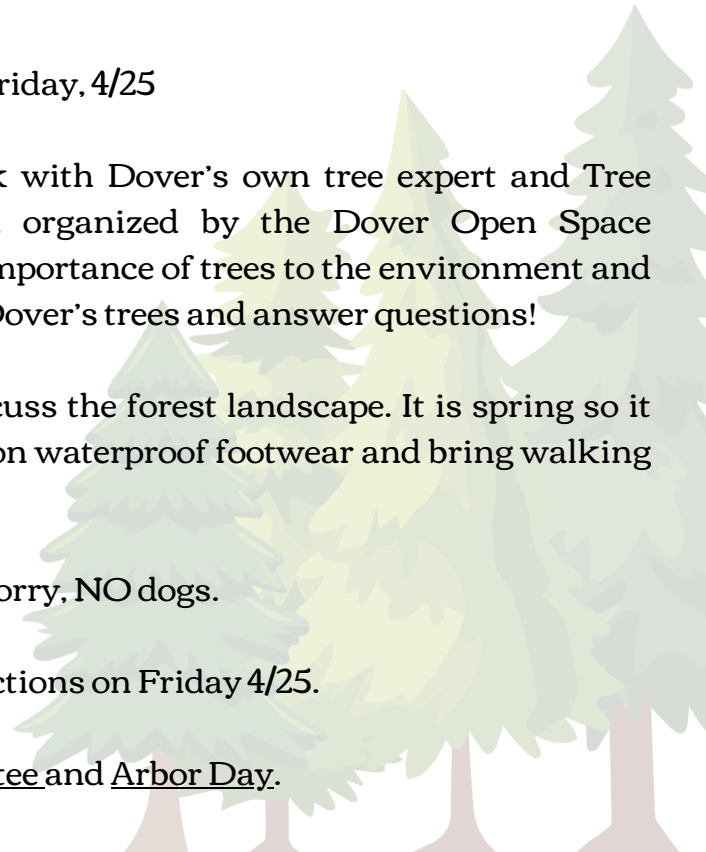
Please join us for this special Arbor Day guided walk with Dover's own tree expert and Tree Preservation Committee member, Jay Crocker, and organized by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC). Jay will give a brief overview of the importance of trees to the environment and water in Dover, point out identifying characteristics of Dover's trees and answer questions!

This walk will be leisurely as we identify trees and discuss the forest landscape. It is spring so it will be over uneven, muddy, and likely wet trails so put on waterproof footwear and bring walking sticks, cameras, hats & gloves, etc.

Kids are welcome! We will stroll in misty rain to shine. Sorry, NO dogs.

Please look for an e-mail with meeting & parking instructions on Friday 4/25.

Click to learn more about the [Tree Preservation Committee](#) and [Arbor Day](#).



Conservation Commission

Make Every Day EARTH DAY! Climate Actions Everyone Can Take to Protect Our Planet

FREE Zoom Program on the Importance of Native Plants April 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM

On Earth Day, April 22nd, we pause to appreciate all that our planet gives us. We also think about what we can do to better conserve and restore it. Our natural resources, wild places, and the creatures big and small that inhabit our natural world, all elicit wonder and deserve our protection. “Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts,” said writer and conservationist Rachel Carson. “The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.” The need to protect our planet has never been greater than it is now and while the official Earth Day celebration is April 22nd, the many threats that our environment is facing make it critical to take action and make every day Earth Day.

We are experiencing the devastating effects of climate change first-hand and if we work together, we can do something about it. Massachusetts has a climate action plan with ways for every person, business, city, and town to make a difference. Please click on [this link](#) to go to the State of Mass. Climate Action page to learn more about what you can do to help protect our community, save energy and save money.



LEARN HOW

The Commission also encourages you to attend a FREE Zoom Program on April 10th from 7:00 - 8:30 PM that will focus on “Planting in Community and Planting for the Future.” Plants are the foundation of ecosystem food webs, harnessing sunlight to produce sugars that they can exchange in beneficial relationships with pollinators above ground and microbes in the soil below. As pollinator populations decline, soil health diminishes, and our atmosphere overloads with carbon, plants can play an essential role in restoring ecosystem health. In this program, Soil ecologist and educator Rachel Neurath will explore the incredible potential of native plants to support pollinators, store carbon, and restore soil health. [Click HERE for more info and to register.](#)

The Conservation Commission is responsible for preserving and protecting the Town’s wetlands, open space and natural resources. If you’re planning a construction project or tree removal and you think there may be wetlands on or near your property, please contact the Commission Office before starting any work by calling 508-785-0032 extension 7 or emailing us at: lhagerty@doverma.gov.

State Representative John Tarsky



We hope you have enjoyed this slice of life from Our Town. Look out for our next update at the beginning of MAY. Until then we hope you enjoy the beginning of spring!

Click below to stay updated on Town news

