



Welcome to the May Edition of OUR TOWN!

Town Departments

- Town Clerk
- Fire Department
- Council on Aging
- DPW

Boards and Committees

- Open Space Committee
- Board of Health
- Recycling
- Historical Society
- Conservation
- Tree Preservation

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



We're thrilled to share the newly revamped Our Town Newsletter with you! Over the past year, we in the Dover Town Administration have been passionately working to enhance our communication and connection with residents about local government matters. We take great pride in the newsletter we've developed, showcasing amazing updates from all corners of our organization.

To better serve you, we realized that many of you weren't opening the attached files, so we've transitioned to an e-newsletter format! Now, you'll find all town news conveniently included right in the body of the email, making it easier for you to stay informed with just a click. We can't wait for you to enjoy this improved experience! Happy reading!

Town Meeting and Election

The Town Meeting is Approaching!

Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 5! Please check in anytime starting at 6:15 PM, so we can begin the meeting promptly at 7:00 PM. Our Town meeting webpage has been updated with handouts, presentations, and supporting materials for the articles. You can view it at the link below!

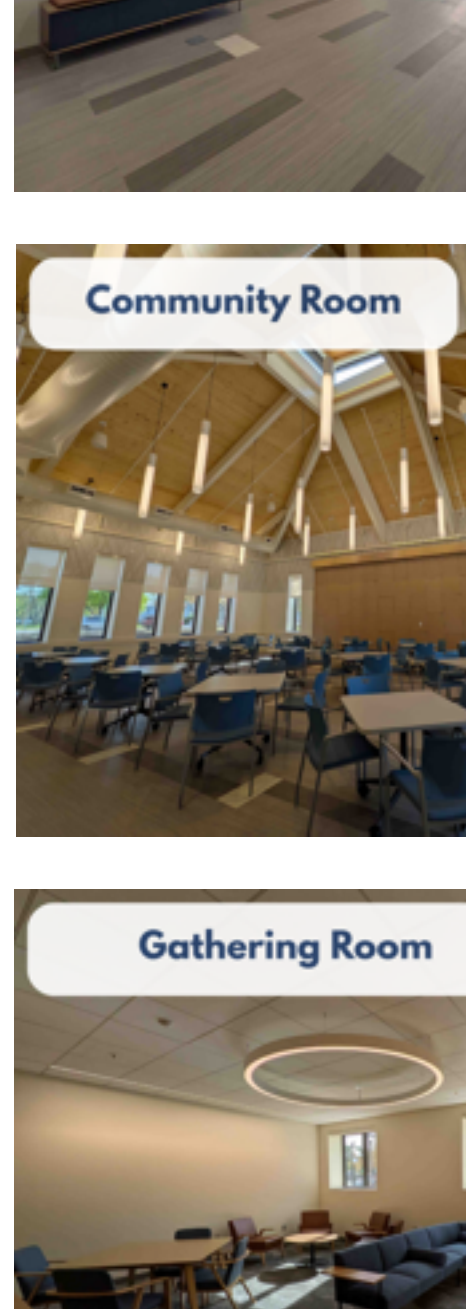
2025 Town Election

Town Election is **Monday, May 19**, from **7AM to 8PM**, in the Great Hall of the Dover Town House. Early Voting Ballots will be available on April 30. Early Voting in Person will be conducted in the Town House as follows:

Monday, May 12, 9AM – 3PM
Tuesday, May 13, 9AM – 4PM
Wednesday, May 14, 9AM – 3PM
Thursday, May 15, 9AM – 4PM
Friday, May 16, 9AM – 1PM

[Visit the Town Meeting Webpage](#)

[Visit the Town Election Webpage](#)



Community Center

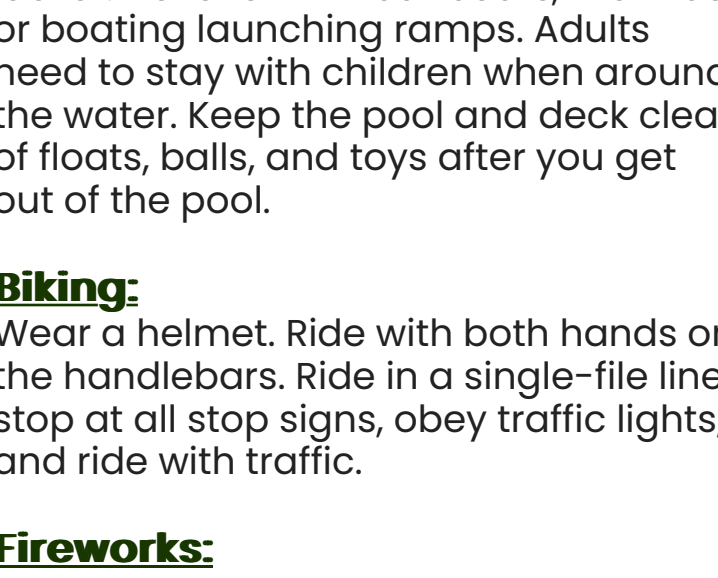
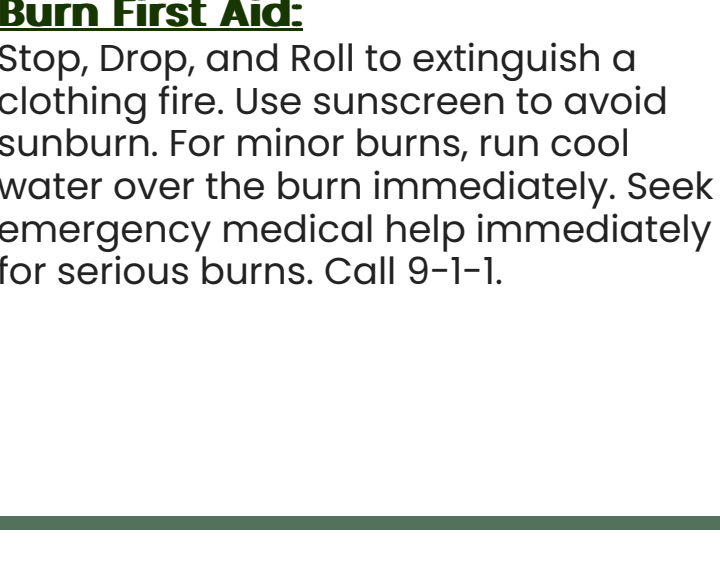
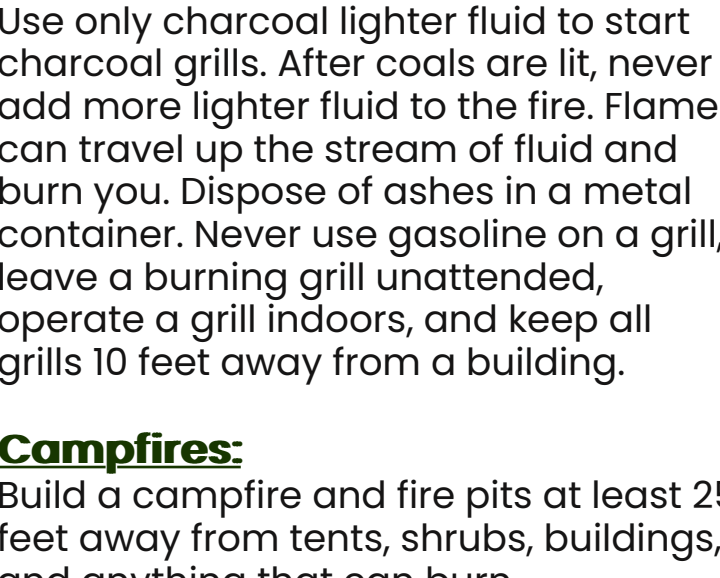
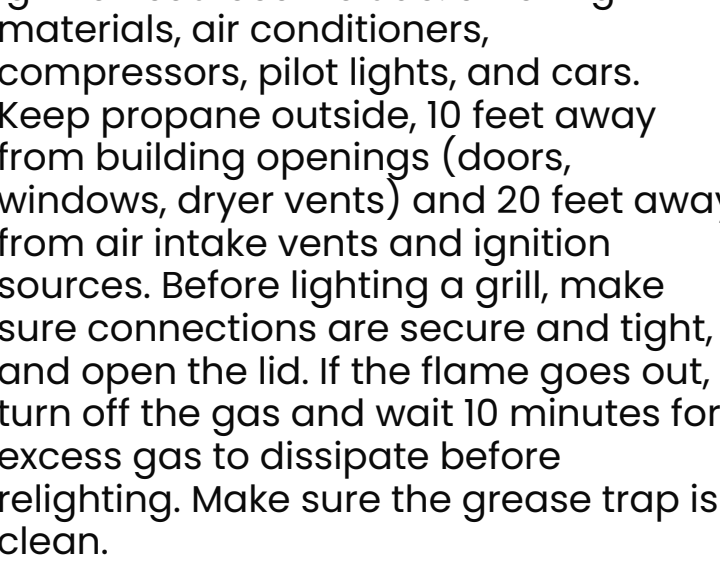
Furniture has been delivered, and final cleaning is scheduled for this weekend, marking the last milestone for the building. We're excited to share photos of the finished interior spaces.

With the arrival of spring weather, the contractor is preparing to install plantings and sod, which will dramatically enhance the exterior and bring the site to life. Once landscaping is complete, the final asphalt paving and pavement markings will be completed in the parking areas.

The project team is eagerly awaiting the Building Commissioner's final inspection for the Temporary Certificate of Occupancy. Once issued, it will allow staff to move in, begin settling into the new space, and prepare for the public opening.

We can't wait to welcome the community into this beautiful new facility. Stay tuned for details about the ribbon-cutting celebration—it will be a proud and memorable moment for everyone involved!

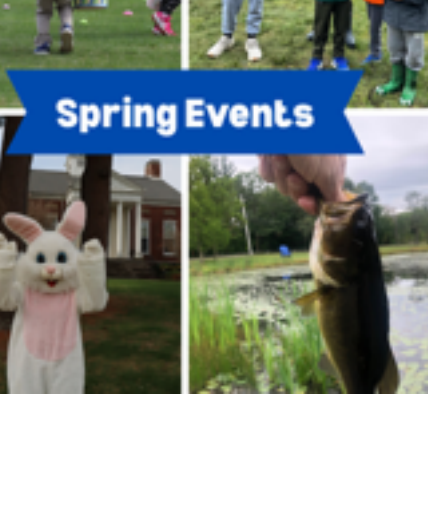
Thank you for your continued support as we bring this incredible project across the finish line.



Fire Department

Summer Fire Safety

Summer is a time for fun, but it is important to make sure you and your family are being cautious when having summer fun. Here are some tips you need to know about keeping your family and home safe this summer!



Outdoor Cooking

Gas Grills:
Propane is heavier than air and sinks. A leaky grill can be a hazard. Possible ignition sources include: smoking materials, air conditioners, compressors, pilot lights, and cars. Keep propane outside, 10 feet away from building openings (doors, windows, dryer vents) and 20 feet away from air intake vents and ignition sources. Before lighting a grill, make sure connections are secure and tight, and open the lid. If the flame goes out, turn off the gas and wait 10 minutes for excess gas to dissipate before relighting. Make sure the grease trap is clean.

Charcoal Grills:

Use only charcoal lighter fluid to start charcoal grills. After coals are lit, never add more lighter fluid to the fire. Flames can travel up the stream of fluid and ignite you. Dispose of ashes in a metal container. Never use gasoline on a grill, leave a burning grill unattended, operate a grill indoors, and keep all grills 10 feet away from a building.

Campfires:

Build a campfire and fire pits at least 25 feet away from tents, shrubs, buildings, and anything that can burn.

Burn First Aid:

Stop, Drop, and Roll to extinguish a clothing fire. Use sunscreen to avoid sunburn. For minor burns, run cool water over the burn immediately. Seek emergency medical help immediately for serious burns. Call 9-1-1.

Swimming/Boating:

Always swim with a buddy!!! Always use a US Coast Guard approved life safety jacket. Never swim near boats, marinas, or boating launching ramps. Adults need to stay with children when around the water. Keep the pool and deck clear of floats, balls, and toys after you get out of the pool.

Biking:

Wear a helmet. Ride with both hands on the handlebars. Ride in a single-file line, stop at all stop signs, obey traffic lights, and ride with traffic.

Fireworks:

Enjoy professional, supervised fireworks displays. The possession and use of fireworks by residents is illegal in Massachusetts. This includes sparklers, party poppers, snappers, firecrackers, cherry bombs, and more. Sparklers can reach 1200°F and cause third-degree burns. It is illegal to purchase fireworks in another state and transport them into Massachusetts. If you want to see fireworks, go to a public show put on by experts.

Gasoline and Lawn Mowers:

Gasoline vapors are highly flammable. They stay on your clothing and can ignite if you light a match or cigarette. Store gasoline only in approved containers, outside, or in a building away from the house. Never keep gasoline inside a house. Keep gasoline away from all heat sources, including: smoking materials, pilot lights, campfires, and grills. Never fuel a lawn mower while it is hot. Let it cool off first. Keep hands and feet away from a mower while it is running.

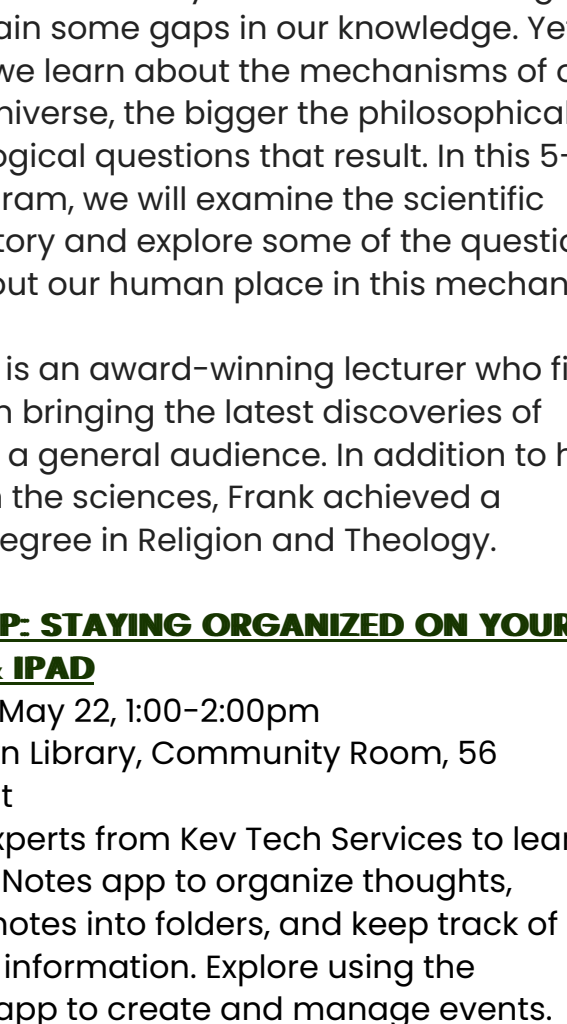
Recreation Department

SPRING EVENTS!

Thank You for an Egg-cellent Egg Hunt

We had an amazing time at our Welcome Spring Egg Hunt on April 19th. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate with us! It was a beautiful morning filled with smiles, laughter, and lots of eggs!

Check out the recap of this fun event on the Parks and Recreation Department's Instagram!



Gearing Up for the Fishing Derby

Location: Channing Pond
Time: Sunday, May 4th | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Grab your fishing gear and join us for a fun and exciting day by the water! Trophies, prizes, and plenty of great catches are waiting. Don't miss out, let's reel in some memories together!

Council on Aging

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

TALK WITH THE TOWN LIBRARY

Dover Town Library, Community Room
Tuesday, May 6, 1:00–2:00pm
Join Library Director Bethany Klem and Friends of the Library representative Marie Nagode for an engaging discussion about the latest happenings at Dover Library. Discover new programs, resources, and ways to get involved with the Friends. Bring your questions and curiosity!

PAGETURNERS BOOK CLUB

Dover Town Library, 56 Dedham Street
Tuesday, May 20 at 2:00pm
Book: The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman
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@minilib.net

MEN'S LUNCH

Wednesdays, May 21 at 12:00pm
The Post at Dover Legion, 32 Dedham Street
Cost: \$5.00
Join us for an enjoyable afternoon and great discussions. RSVP by May 19.

LADIES' LUNCH

Wednesdays, May 21 at 12:30pm
The Post at Dover Legion, 32 Dedham Street
Cost: \$5.00
Monthly ladies' lunch will alternate eating in town and traveling to a nearby restaurant. Join us this month at The Post at the Dover Legion. RSVP by May 23

LIFETIME LEARNING: PROBING THE CREATIVE UNIVERSE

Monday, 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.

TECH HELP: STAYING ORGANIZED ON YOUR IPHONE & IPAD

Thursday, May 22, 1:00–2:00pm
Dover Town Library, Community Room, 56 Dedham St
Join the experts from Kev Tech Services to learn to use the Notes app to organize thoughts, separate notes into folders, and keep track of important information. Explore using the Calendar app to create and manage events.

[Sign up for the COA Newsletter!](#)

Open Space Committee

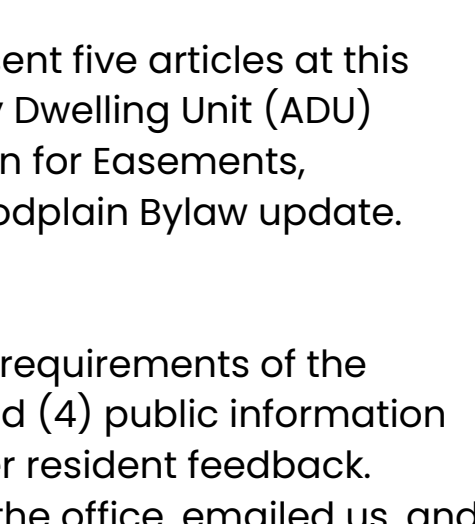
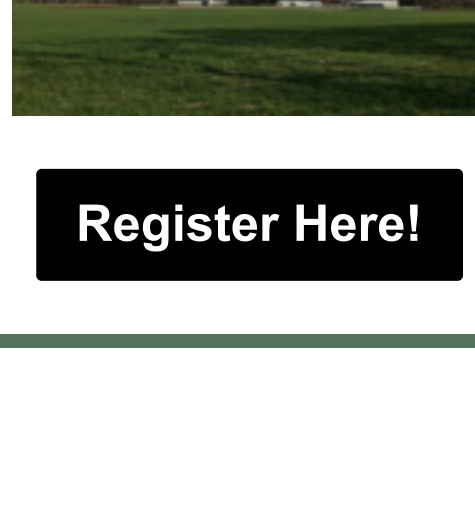
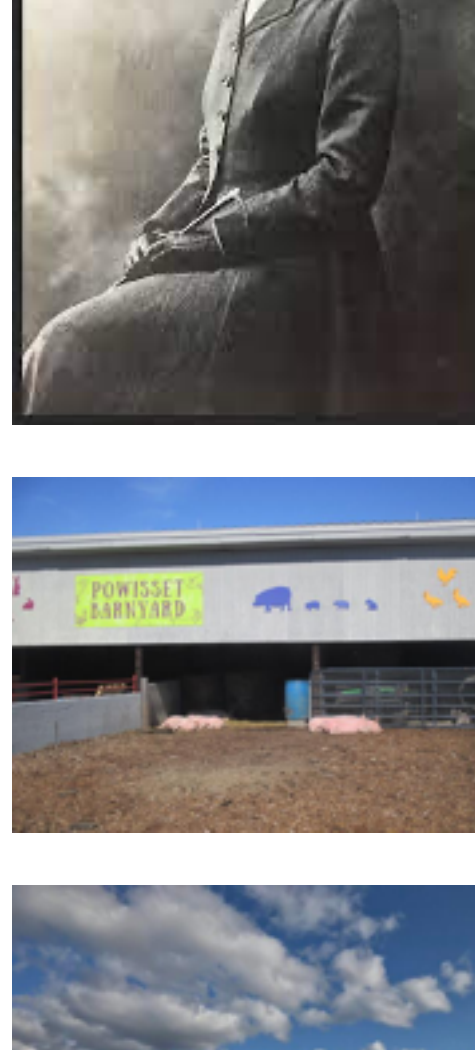
Second Saturday Stroll at Powisset Farm

Celebrating Amelia Peabody
May 10th, 10:30 am to noon
Guided Walk through Dover's Open Spaces
★ Free but please Register ★
Parking information will be emailed to registrants
Friday, 4/25

Please join the OSC for guided walks on the 2nd Saturday of the month in March through December, sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC). On May 10th, we will walk through the mown hay fields at the back of the Trustees' Powisset Farm and into the abutting 32 acres of Dover Town-owned woodland.

In conjunction with the **Dover Historical Society's** exhibit on the extraordinary life and art of Amelia Peabody, we will be exploring her innovative farm, Powisset. If time and staff allow, the Trustees will give us a tour of her then world-class piggyery.

This walk will not be too strenuous but will be over uneven and possibly wet ground, so wear appropriate footwear and bring walking sticks and cameras. Sorry, farm animals, so **no dogs allowed**. We will stroll in misty rain to shine. Parking information will be sent Friday morning 5/9, and again early Saturday.



[Register Here!](#)

Planning Board

Planning Board Updates for Town Meeting and MBTA Communities Act Compliance

Town Meeting, May 2025: The Dover Planning Board will present five articles at this year's Annual Town Meeting: amendments to the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) bylaw, updates to the Site Plan Review process, authorization for Easements, Administrative Edits to the Zoning Bylaw, and a required Floodplain Bylaw update.

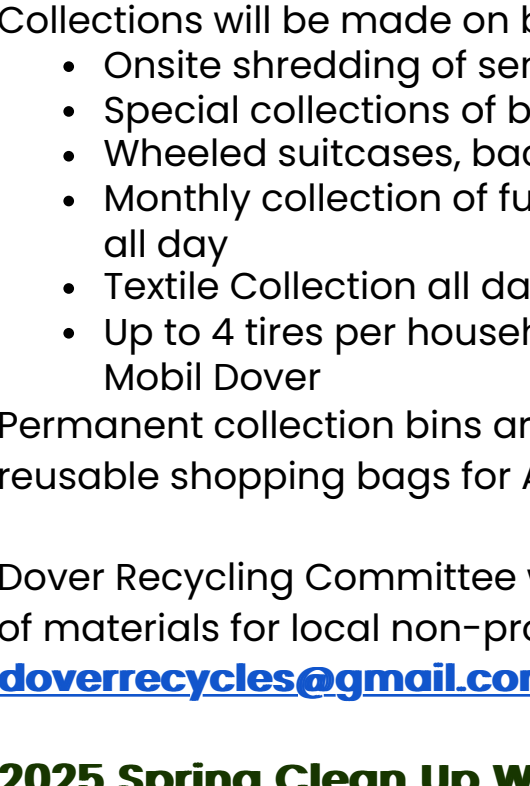
MBTA Compliance

The Planning Board continues to work towards meeting the requirements of the state-mandated MBTA Communities Act. The Board has held (4) public information sessions and circulated a community-wide survey to gather resident feedback. Thank you to the many residents of Dover who have called the office, emailed us, and participated in our various Information sessions. Your feedback and ideas have been invaluable as we navigate the complex issues at play here in Dover.

Next steps include submitting a draft zoning proposal to the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) for pre-review in Mid-May. The outcome of this pre-approval process will guide continued compliance efforts.

We encourage all residents to stay abreast of updates (including possible updates from the pre-review process about site selection) in the coming months by regularly checking the town's [MBTA Communities Act Compliance web page](#).

SAVE THE DATE: A Special Town Meeting is scheduled for September 29th at 7:00 pm to vote on the final MBTA Communities zoning proposal. Your participation is essential as we continue shaping Dover's future together.



Historical Society

Where can you see an exhibition about a pioneering woman – which also includes *The Titanic*, *Star Trek*, and John Singer Sargent? In Dover, of course!

Amelia Peabody: Artist, Philanthropist & Visionary is now open! The exhibition, organized by the Dover Historical Society, is on view at the Sawin Museum (80 Dedham Street), Fisher Barn (107 Dedham Street), and Dover Town Library (56 Dedham Street).

Amelia Peabody (1890–1984) is a name **everyone in Dover should know**. Her name adorns the walls of museums, laboratories, hospitals, and universities as founder, supporter, donor, and guiding light. She was an accomplished sculptor who gained great fame early in her career, but shifted priorities to focus on helping WWII soldiers recover through art therapy.

If you are an animal lover, as Amelia Peabody was, you will delight in seeing the horses, dogs, rabbits, raccoon, skunk, pheasant, and other bird sculptures that she created (all on view at the Sawin Museum, Fisher Barn, and Dover Town Library). They are wonderful!

And Dover was her home! At one point, she owned 1/3 of the town. These are the lands we know today as Noanet Woodlands and Powisset Farm. She valued open space and understood the therapeutic power of nature long before it was recognized as essential to our wellbeing.

In the 1940s, she was exploring **affordable and sustainable housing**, and built the first solar home in the US at Powisset Farm in 1948.

Don't miss seeing this landmark exhibition in your own backyard! The National Sculpture Society, The National Association of Women Artists and numerous other arts organizations have embraced this exhibition – it is a big deal and a unique opportunity.

For hours open and more information, please visit doverhistoricalsociety.org

Board of Health

2025 Rabies Clinic a Success!

The Board of Health would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's annual Rabies Clinic. Held on Saturday, April 5th, the event served a total of 22 animals—16 dogs and 6 cats.

A special thank you to the Town Clerk and Dr. Christina Poor of Norfolk County Veterinary Service in Walpole, MA, whose support helped make this clinic possible.

We appreciate the continued commitment of our community to the health and safety of Dover's pets. See you next year—and until then, stay safe and healthy!

Recycling Committee

Spring 2025 Special Recycling Day

Join the Recycling Committee at the **Transfer Station on Saturday, May 17th**. Collections will be made on behalf of several non-profit organizations, including:

- Onsite shredding of sensitive documents from 9–12 by Highland Shredding
- Special collections of bikes for The Bike Generator, all day
- Wheeled suitcases, backpacks, Duffel bags for Conner's 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 4 tires per household for disposal, both days from 9AM–3PM, supported by Mobil Dover

Permanent collection bins are in the swap shop for tennis ball recycling, clean reusable shopping bags for A Place to Turn, and string lights.

Dover Recycling Committee welcomes suggestions for ongoing or special collections of materials for local non-profits or other recycling initiatives. Drop us a line at doverrecycles@gmail.com

2025 Spring Clean Up Was a Success!

Thank you to all who participated in the Spring Clean Up event! Even though the April event is officially over, you can still continue to do your part to keep Dover's streets trash-free year-round. And May offers delightful weather to get those steps in or visit a new area of town while helping to keep our streets clean!

Rain Barrels Available at the Transfer Station

As of April 22, 2025, approximately 38% of Massachusetts is under drought conditions, and 33% is abnormally dry. Dover has declared a Level 1 Mild Drought, and outdoor watering has been limited. This is the perfect time to pick up a rain barrel. Cost is \$60, and inventory is limited at the transfer station. Get yours now – your garden will thank you later!

Conservation Commission

Eco-Friendly Spring Lawn Care Tips

Caring for your lawn in an environmentally friendly way helps maintain its beauty, supports a healthy ecosystem, protects Dover's land and water, and may even save time and money. Homeowners are responsible for the actions of lawn care contractors and landscapers, and should discuss lawn care options with them to help protect our health and environment.

Embrace eco-friendly spring lawn care! Try natural fertilizers and skip pesticides for a healthier environment. [Discover a complete list of helpful tips to create a thriving yard here!](#)

Department of Public Works and Tree Preservation Committee

The Department of Public Works and the Dover Tree Preservation Committee are celebrating Arbor Day by giving away free tree seedlings! Join us at the Dover Public Works on Friday, May 2nd, from 8 AM to 1 PM to pick up your choice of a Fraser fir, white oak, or lilac. There is a limit of one seedling per resident, while supplies last. Any remaining seedlings will be available at the Transfer Station on Saturday, May 3rd, from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM or until they are gone.

The Department of Public Works recently celebrated Arbor Day by planting new trees in our town. They added beautiful native trees, including dogwood, maple, and cherry, which improve our landscape and help local wildlife. New trees were planted at the following:

At Chickering Elementary:

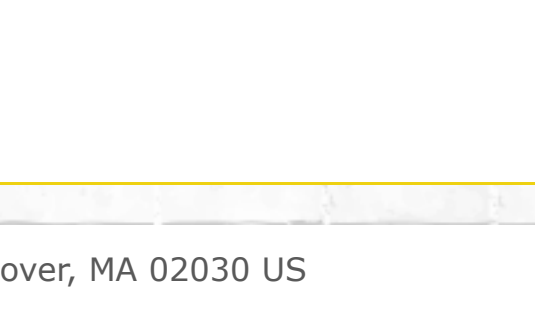
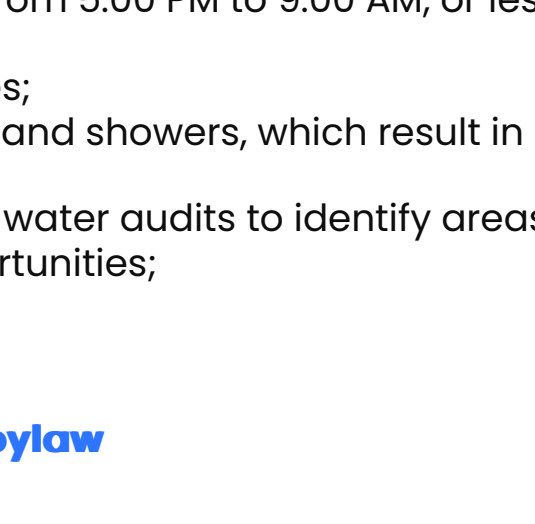
- 1 Pink Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida 'Rubra'*)

Highland Cemetery

- 1 Cherokee Princess Dogwood (*Cornus florida*-White Flowering)
- 1 Cherokee Brave Dogwood (*Cornus florida*-Pink Flowering)
- 1 Autumn Flowering Cherry (*Prunus subhirtella 'Autumnalis'*)
- 1 Bloodgood Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*)

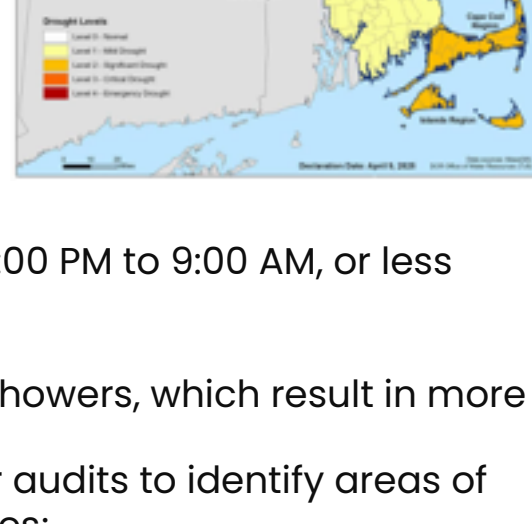
Town Common (Eagle Memorial):

- 2 Cherokee Brave Dogwood (*Cornus florida*-Pink Flowering)
- 2 Cleveland Select Flowering Pear (*Pyrus Calleryana* 'Cleveland Select')



Drought Status

The Town of Dover is in a Level 1 Drought. Below are recommendations for communities and individuals living and working within a Level 1 – Mild Drought, including those utilizing a private well. Learn more about the drought status at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drought-status>



Residents and Businesses:

- Minimize overall water use;
- Limit outdoor watering to one day per week from 5:00 PM to 9:00 AM, or less frequently if required by your water supplier;
- Plant only local and drought-resistant species;
- Fix indoor leaks, such as from toilets, faucets, and showers, which result in more than 60 percent of indoor use;
- For larger buildings and businesses, conduct water audits to identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation opportunities;
- Minimize lawn sizes; and,
- Harvest rainwater for outdoor watering.

[Learn More about Dover's Water Restriction bylaw](#)

