



OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

Welcome to the June Edition of OUR TOWN!

Town Departments

- Board of Selectmen
- Our Schools
- Dover Library
- Fire Department
- Council on Aging
- Friends of COA

Boards and Committees

- Board of Health
- Tree Preservation
- Conservation Commission
- Sustainability Committee

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

What's Inside



THIS EDITION

VOL. 4 NO. 5

Welcome to the June edition of OUR TOWN! Summer officially begins this month, and there are so many updates to share - Learn more about the Town House's new office hours, effective June 16th. See how our schools are preparing for their last day in session, and how the Library has prepared the perfect space to focus on studying or other work! The Fire Department and Board of Health provide safety reminders for cooking and tick prevention, and the Conservation Commission wants to hear from YOU about shaping Dover's Climate Resilience. The Sustainability Committee shares progress, and Tree Preservation shares details on an upcoming Arbor Day stroll. Read on to discover all that is new in Dover!

Board of Selectmen

Town House Business Hours Change:

Starting **June 16th**, the Dover Town House will implement new operating hours in transitioning to a four-day work week. Under this new schedule, Town House employees will maintain the same total number of work hours each week but will condense them into a four-day period. The Town House will now open half an hour earlier at 8:30 AM each day and extend its hours until 7:00 PM on Tuesdays. The office will be closed on Fridays.

	<u>Old Hours</u>	<u>New Hours:</u>
Monday:	9:00AM – 5:00PM	8:30AM – 5:00PM
Tuesday:	9:00AM – 5:00PM	8:30AM – 7:00PM
Wednesday:	9:00AM – 5:00PM	8:30AM – 5:00PM
Thursday:	9:00AM – 5:00PM	8:30AM – 5:00PM
Friday:	9:00AM – 1:00PM	CLOSED

This change in hours will positively impact our residents by offering increased flexibility and improved access to Town House offices for working individuals. With later business hours on Tuesdays and earlier openings each day, residents will benefit from more consistent hours across the various offices in the building. In addition to improving access for residents, this change will also help with recruitment and retention of talented employees.

Our Schools

The End of the School Year is Approaching!

As we wrap up the school year at Chickering, we want to thank the Dover community for their generous support, from Teacher Appreciation week early in May, to end-of-year gifts and the positive energy throughout the year!

Kindergarten celebrated with a musical presentation on May 30, while first-grade students hosted their Animal Research projects for parents and caregivers in early May. **Grades 1, 2, and 3** were challenged to a special STEAM project in the week of May 19. **Grade 4** went to the Tsongas Museum in Lowell to learn about immigration and the Industrial Era on May 20. Upcoming **Grade 5** end of the year celebrations include a Culmination ceremony and after school party sponsored by PTO. And of course, Field Day on June 5th for all! On June 6th, we will host our traditional Flag Day Celebration for grade 1, 2, and 3 students and caregivers.



The last day of school (and school buses!) is **June 17th**.

Dover Library

New Study Pods Available!

The Library is pleased to offer new individual and small-group meeting space! The upper level now boasts two sound-dampening pods for individual users and two shelters with more modest sound-dampening for two users.



These pods are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and they're great for conversation, studying, and reading. The individual pods also offer added privacy for phone calls, Zoom meetings, and more.

These study pods were made possible by a generous, unrestricted bequest from Donald and Mary Louise MacKay. Community support makes a world of difference to the services the Dover Town Library can offer.



Fire Department

Cooking Fire and Burn Safety - PUT A LID ON IT!

Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries in Massachusetts!!! Covering a pan fire with a lid is the safest way to put out a fire.

Keep anything that can catch fire, such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packets, towels and curtains away from your stovetop. For fires inside an oven or microwave, keep the door closed, turn off the appliance and call 9-1-1.



Safety Tips

Put a lid on a grease fire to smother it, then turn off the heat. Baking soda also works.

Never move a burning pan. You can be badly burned or spread the fire.

Never use water or a fire extinguisher on a grease fire. Water spreads the fire and the force of an extinguisher can splash flaming grease out of the pan.

Microwave Oven Safety Tips

Plug the microwave oven directly into the wall outlet – never use an extension cord.

Make sure the microwave oven is at a safe height, within easy reach of all users.

Food heats unevenly in microwave ovens. Stir and test before eating or giving to children.

Never heat a baby bottle in the microwave. Since a microwave oven heats unevenly, it can create hot pockets, leading to burns. Warm a bottle in a bowl of warm – not hot or boiling – water, or by running it under the tap.

Stand by your pan. Don't leave anything cooking on the stovetop unattended.

Wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose-fitting clothing can easily catch fire.

If your clothing catches fire, STOP, DROP & ROLL to put out the flames. Put burns in cool running water. Call 9-1-1 for help.

Keep pot handles turned inward to prevent accidental spills of hot contents.

Microwaved food and liquid can get very hot. Use caution to avoid scalding.

Microwaved food and liquid can get very hot. Use caution to avoid burns.

Always supervise children when they are using a microwave oven.

Use only microwave-safe food containers or dishes. Never use aluminum foil or metal in a microwave oven.

Don't store things in the oven.

Unplug appliances such as toasters and coffee makers when not in use.

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 June highlights are below. Sign up for programs by emailing coa@doverma.gov or by using our Online COA Program Sign-Up Form.

Online COA Program Sign-Up Form

TALK WITH THE TOWN: BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday, June 4, 11:00am-12:00pm
Community Room, Dover Town Library
Join us to welcome Board of Health's new Public Health Nurse Gael Varsa. Learn about the services available and current public health initiatives. Whether you're curious about wellness resources, vaccinations, or local health care plans programs, this is a chance to connect and stay informed.

PAGETURNERS BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, June 10, 2:00-3:00pm
Dover Town Library
Book: Lab Girl by Hope Jahren. 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

LEGISLATIVE TALK WITH REP. JOSHUA TARSKY

Monday, June 9, 11:00am-12:00pm
Community Room, Dover Town Library Join State Representative Joshua Tarsky for a legislative update and share your concerns about community issues.

TECH HELP: PERSONALIZING YOUR IPHONE & IPAD

Thursday, June 12, 1:00-2:00pm
Community Room, Dover Town Library Kev Tech Services will review different ways to customize the iPhone and iPad to suit your preferences. Learn to reorganize Home Screens, create folders, change the appearance of displays, and change the image used for the wallpapers and Lock Screens.

TRAVEL TALK: ICELAND IN WINTER – A JOURNEY AROUND THE COUNTRY'S RING ROAD

Wednesday, June 25, 11:00am-12:00pm
HYBRID: Dover Town Library, Community Room & Zoom
With Photojournalist Barry Pell

Iceland, an island nation in the North Atlantic, is about the size of Kentucky but with only 365,000 people. It was settled by the Vikings a thousand years ago and has over two million annual visitors today. While most tourists arrive in the warm months, the lecturer drove the entire circumference during the challenging winter weather season. At this time, Iceland's attractions, its volcanoes, steaming hot springs and geysers, towering glaciers, black lava fields, and remote farms and churches, are dusted and glazed in a winter wonderland of snow and ice. Add to this the wild reindeer herds, the hardy pony-sized Icelandic horses, and the surreal colors of the Northern Lights make winter a very special (and uncrowded) time to see the country.

See The May/June COA Newsletter

Friends of the Council on Aging



UP IN SMOKE BBQ

The Friends of the Dover Council on Aging invite all Dover residents to join us outdoors at the American Legion for our annual “Up in Smoke BBQ” on **Wednesday, June 11, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

As usual, hot dogs, hamburgers, and sausages will be served along with various types of salads, desserts, and cold drinks. A cash bar is also available at the American Legion. Music will be provided by the Backwards Hats while we sit and enjoy the company of our friends.

The cost is **\$10.00** on the day of the event. Children under 10 eat free! To register, please contact the COA office at **508-315-5734** or register at contact@coafriends.org by June 9th.

Tree Preservation

Arbor Saturday Stroll with the Tree Preservation Committee

June 14th at 10:30 am

Guided Walk through Dover's Open Spaces

***** Free but please Register *****

Parking information will be emailed to registrants on Friday, 6/13

Please join us for an Arbor-focused 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 will be over uneven, muddy, and likely wet trails so please wear waterproof footwear and bring walking sticks, cameras, bug spray, hats, sunscreen, etc.

Kids are welcome! We will stroll in misty rain to shine.

Please look for an e-mail with meeting & parking instructions on Friday 6/13.
Click to learn more about the Tree Preservation Committee and Arbor Day.

Register Here!

Board of Health

Tick Safety Reminders

As the weather becomes warmer and outdoor activity increases, the Board of Health wants to keep residents mindful that TICKS ARE EVERYWHERE! Following a mild winter, ticks are more prevalent this year and carry diseases such as Lyme.



Check yourself for ticks after spending time outdoors. The best places to check include:

- Inside and behind the ears
- Along your hairline
- Back of your neck
- Armpits
- Groin
- Behind your knees
- Between your toes
- Legs
- Look for new "freckles" (ticks can be very small)

If you do find a tick, remove it with fine-point tweezers or a tick key. Monitor for flu-like symptoms and rash, and contact a healthcare provider to discuss if you should take a preventive dose of doxycycline. Pets can piggyback ticks right into your home. Be sure to comb after spending time outdoors.

To learn more about tick prevention, removal, and follow-up, visit the link below

[Tick Safety Guide](#)

Conservation Commission

Help Shape Dover's Climate Resilience – Free Zoom Event June 12, 6:30 PM + Flood Survey

Adapting to the impacts of climate change is a daunting task, but Dover and many other local cities and towns are facing this challenge head-on!

For the past four years, Dover and two dozen other communities in the Charles River Climate Compact (CRCC) have collaborated with the Charles River Watershed Association and the engineering firm Weston & Sampson to identify opportunities to reduce flooding and build resilience to climate change.

Join us on Thursday, June 12th, at 6:30 PM to learn about innovative mitigation solutions, how we're utilizing pond storage and their potential to reduce extreme flooding; along with other actionable recommendations to safeguard our watershed's future.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about building climate resilience and how you can be part of the solution!

Please take our Flood Survey to help us identify flood solutions you would like to see in our community!

[Register For Our Zoom!](#)

[Take Our Survey!](#)

Sustainability Committee

Sustainability Committee Progress and Upcoming Initiatives

Because sustainability intersects with so many different aspects of Dover town operations and planning, the Sustainability Committee is meeting with other relevant town committees and agencies to coordinate priorities and maximize impact. While working towards an overarching, multi-year Climate Action Plan, the Committee is initially prioritizing shorter-term goals around water management, energy efficiencies, and biodiversity.

For example, the Committee will be launching a volunteer energy coaches program in the fall to help residents leverage resources at the state and local level to save money on their energy bills by upgrading insulation, installing triple-glazed windows, and considering more efficient sources of energy like heat pumps and solar panels. We are recruiting energy coach volunteers in town who can share their own experiences making their homes more energy- and cost-efficient and help residents get started by pointing them toward available resources.

Other initiatives will focus on prudent water management (despite the recent rain, Dover is still at Level 1 Mild Drought!) and ways to increase biodiversity for more resilient and sustainable landscapes.

Find out more on the Committee's website or contact Committee Chair Anna Nagy at anagy@doverma.gov, and stop by our booth at Dover Days on September 13th.

Visit our Webpage



Town of Dover | 5 Springdale Ave | Dover, MA 02030 US