



Welcome to the August Edition of OUR TOWN!

Town Departments

- Board of Selectmen
- Our Schools
- Fire Department
- Council on Aging

Boards and Committees

- Open Space Committee
- Board of Health
- Conservation Commission
- Planning Board

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



Welcome to the August edition of OUR TOWN! We have lots of exciting updates to share with residents, such as a grant received to assess traffic signals in the center of town, the first day of school, upcoming programs, and more! The Fire Department has important safety reminders for residents, the Open Space Committee invites you on a Saturday Stroll, the Board of Health has taken on exciting initiatives, and the Planning Board has welcomed a new Town Planner! Read on to find out what has been underway in OUR TOWN!

Board of Selectmen

Dover Public Works Receives MassDOT Local Bottleneck Reduction Grant

Town Administrator Michael Blanchard and Director of Public Works Kevin McCabe are pleased to share that the Town of Dover recently received a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) as part of the state's Local Bottleneck Reduction Program to evaluate the traffic signal at the intersection of Centre Street, Springdale Avenue and Walpole Street.



The state grant includes \$205,236 for redesign and permitting of the intersection. This grant also provides additional construction allowance of up to \$500,000 in total to implement proposed improvements.

The state's Local Bottleneck Reduction Program seeks to fund innovative solutions to modernize traffic signals and address congestion bottlenecks on local roadways to improve traffic flow. The intersection of Centre Street, Springdale Avenue and Walpole Street is the only signalized intersection in Dover.

[Learn More About The Bottleneck Reduction Grant](#)

Caryl Community Center Opening Soon



The Council on Aging and Parks and Recreation are excited to announce their upcoming move into the brand new Caryl Community Center. Staff will begin relocating in early August and the building will officially open to the public in September.

Save the date, Saturday, September 13th will be an exciting day as we celebrate Dover Days and the grand opening of the Caryl Community Center. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.

As we pack and prepare for the move, we may have limited access to phones. If we do not answer, please leave a voicemail or reach out via email. We look forward to welcoming everyone to this wonderful new building for all ages.

Chickering School

Chickering School is looking forward to the return of teachers and students! The first day for students in grades 1-12 is **Wednesday, August 27**, and Preschool and Kindergarten students start on **August 28**. The school buses will be in full swing, and we thank you in advance for paying attention to the warning lights and bus stops.



We anticipate nearly 500 children again this year, with three to five classes per grade. New staff will undergo orientation and a mentorship program, and all staff work diligently to set up engaging learning environments for all. Dover-Sherborn continues as a METCO school, welcoming nearly 40 students from Boston across the four buildings.

For more information, please see our website, doversherborn.org

Fire Department

House Numbers – Don't Play Hide & Seek with the Fire Department

Can firefighters find your house?
Can medics find your house?
Can the police find your house?
Don't play Hide and Seek with your emergency services!

Help us find you quickly by following these important tips:

- Your house numbers should be clearly visible from the street. How about at night?
- Make sure bushes, vehicles, or other things don't block house numbers.
- Your house numbers should be in a contrasting color to your house, at least 4 inches high.
- If you have a rural home or a home setback from the street, mark your address clearly on the mailbox or a post at the front of your driveway.
- Make sure your address is posted by every telephone in your home. In stressful situations it can be very easy to forget your address.
- Make sure all family members know how to call 9-1-1.

Protect your family and property by having large, visible house numbers.

Learn More from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

Council On Aging

Dover Council on Aging invites you to our upcoming programs!

You can check out the **July/August Newsletter** with our full slate of programs. Some August highlights are below. Sign up for programs by emailing coa@doverma.gov or by using our Online COA Program Sign-Up Form.

HELPFUL IPHONE & IPAD TOOLS

Monday, August 4, 1:00–2:00 pm

Dover Library, Community Room

Join the experts from KevTech Services to learn to find lost items, share our locations, create helpful to-do lists, and customize tools in the Control Center. Additionally, learn to set up Medical IDs for emergencies, use Apple Wallet and store cards on our devices for contactless payments, and use the Translate app.



AFTERNOON MOVIE

Wednesday, August 6 at 1:00 pm

Dover Town Library, Community

Room

Cool off with us this summer and watch *The Boys in the Boat*, the inspiring true story of an underdog rowing team that captured the world's attention at the 1936 Olympics. Set during the Great Depression, this beautifully filmed drama celebrates grit, teamwork, and the human spirit. Enjoy refreshments and an afternoon of uplifting entertainment!

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB: FILM AND DISCUSSION

Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream

Tuesday, August 19, 2:00 pm

Community Room, Dover Town Library

If you haven't made it to London this summer for the newest production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, then come to the Page Turners Book Club for a Shakespearean adaptation like none other! We'll watch the film from award-winning director Julie Taymor (*The Lion King* on Broadway, *Frida*, *Titus*). This immersive and darkly poetic cinematic experience brings the play's iconic fairies, spells and hallucinatory lovers to life. Beating at the center of the film is an emotionally moving take on the deeper human aspects of Shakespeare's beloved tale. Discussion of William Shakespeare's popular comedy will follow the film.

NATURE TRAVEL TALK: SOUTHERN BAJA SUR, MEXICO

Marine Giants: Humpbacks and

Whale Sharks

Wednesday, August 20, 11:00 am

with Joy Marzolf of The Joys of Nature

HYBRID: Dover Library, Community Room & Zoom

Marine mammal watching in Southern Baja Sur is full of drama! Humpback whales launch themselves into the air in the Southern Gulf of California. Travel a little north to near Cabo Pulmo, where crested caracara can be seen along the road, and endemic Xantus' hummingbirds can be found at a small oasis in the desert hills. In La Paz, visitors can swim with friendly California sea lions as they chase fish and each other. Baja is not just a place for marine mammals! It is the home of whale sharks, where snorkelers can see these amazing bus-sized fish up close. Baja is truly a land of marine giants and more.

PADDLE AT FARM POND

Thursday, August 21, 10:00–11:30 am

Sherborn Yacht Club at Farm Pond

We had a wonderful afternoon paddling at Farm Pond in July and even got a close-up view of the resident bald eagle! Join us for our next session on the beautiful Farm Pond. Canoes (fit up to three), single kayaks, and double kayaks are available. Sherborn Yacht Club is generously offering this program to the COA for free. Staff will help everyone into and out of the boats and will provide any instructions. No experience necessary!

TRAVEL TALK: SAFARI IN BOTSWANA

With Paul Pilch

Monday, August 25, 1:00–2:00 pm

HYBRID: Dover Library, Community Room & Zoom

Botswana is the top rated safari country in Africa. The Okavango Delta in the north of the country is a UNESCO World Heritage site and is the largest inland delta in the world. Water from rainfall in the Angolan highlands floods the Okavango in the African winter, attracting a great diversity of wildlife. That, plus the privacy and comfort of its private reserves and parks, explains its popularity. Paul Pilch is a lifelong natural history buff, photographer, and enthusiastic traveler who has been on safari in four African countries, three times in Botswana.

UKULELE JAM SESSION

Thursday, August 28, 11:00 am–12:00 pm

Location TBD

Whether you're preparing for the fall fun with ukulele classes or just want to keep your fingers nimble, join this jam session! Note that this is a social gathering for those with ukulele experience.

Sign up for COA Events!

Open Space Committee



Second Saturday Stroll on Snow Hill

August 9th, 10:30 am to ~noon

Explore Dover's Open Spaces
Guided Walks for Friends & Families

Please join the OSC for a guided walk through wooded Snow Hill, sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (osc). We will walk through Dover's town-owned conservation land on Snow Hill and into the Dover Land Conservation Trust's Snow Hill Reservation. Enjoy the many ledges and erratics that the glaciers have left us on these 250 acres of protected hilltop. Sadly, the ancient hemlock, likely the oldest tree in Dover, has succumbed.

Walks will not be too strenuous but will be over uneven and possibly wet ground, so wear appropriate footwear and bring WATER, bug/tick spray, walking sticks, binoculars, and cameras. Polite dogs on leash welcome. We will stroll in misty rain to shine.

Parking information will be provided to registered participants on **Friday morning** and again early on **Saturday before the walk**.

Register Here!

Free but Pre-registration is Required

Board of Health



Town of Dover Employees Get CPR Certified

The Board of Health was pleased to host CPR/AED trainings for Town employees, making for a safe, more prepared environment! Life Support Systems brought their skills to the Town House & instructed 28 employees through the process of administering CPR & AED. Employees found the training to be informative and important – emergencies can arise out of the blue, and it is always better to be prepared!

Find an AED Close to You on PulsePoint!

The Board of Health is excited to take part in the initiative to identify AED locations and access in town! PulsePoint is a free app that allows users to register and manage the locations of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in their community. It is a simple way to locate an AED nearby and help improve cardiac arrest survival rates. The app is integrated with leading emergency medical dispatch systems, allowing telecommunicators to inform callers of precise AED locations. The companion app – PulsePoint Respond notifies CPR-trained individuals of nearby cardiac emergencies in public places. Public Health Nurse Gael Varsa has played a major role in registering AEDs across town!

Conservation Commission



Protect Dover's environment with safe, non-chemical mosquito control! Enjoy your yard without mosquitoes—and without the risks of toxic chemicals that can harm your family, the environment, and drinking water. Pesticides and insecticides can contaminate groundwater, including private wells.

Did you know that commercial mosquito spraying can violate Dover Bylaws and is largely ineffective? Spraying pesticides in wetlands is prohibited, and only 0.1% of sprays actually affect mosquitoes—the rest contaminate the environment, harming groundwater, animals, pollinators, and other beneficial insects. Mosquito populations bounce back within 7 days, and repeated use leads to pesticide resistance, making sprays even less effective.

The good news is that there are safe, effective, organic ways to control mosquitoes and other pests without toxic chemicals. New repellents mean you don't need to treat your entire yard—look for products with picaridin, permethrin, IR3535, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Licensed professionals may also offer all-natural, whole-yard treatments. You can enjoy your yard without mosquitoes or ticks! Before using chemicals, explore natural pest control options at beyondpesticides.org and the links below:

Least Toxic Mosquito Repel Effective Mosquito Management

To learn how to protect yourself and your family against mosquito-borne illnesses, click on this link below to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Website: mass.gov/mosquito-borne-diseases.

It's also important to know if your property includes sensitive wetland areas that must be protected from chemical exposure, including mosquito spraying. Any pesticide application in or near wetlands by professional contractors requires approval from the Commission. Residents are responsible for securing this approval before treatment. Wetlands are delicate, vital ecosystems protected by both State and Dover laws and bylaws.

The Conservation Commission is charged with protecting and preserving the Town's 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 having a professional service apply any chemicals on your property. You can reach the Commission Office by calling 508-785-0032 extension 7 or by emailing us at conservation@doverma.gov. Thank you for helping to protect our environment!

Planning Board

The Town of Dover welcomes our new Town Planner, Melissa M.

SantucciRozzi: Melissa brings to Dover an education in Planning and 25 years of multi-disciplinary municipal planning experience. She earned her bachelor's degree in Regional Planning from Westfield State University. Her municipal planning career started in the Town of Burlington, MA, where she held the position of Assistant Director of Planning. After a few years, she moved to the Town of Braintree, where she held several positions as Principal Planner, Assistant Director of Planning and Community Development, and in 2020 was appointed as the Director of Planning and Community Development. Her area of expertise and knowledge covers the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Land Use Law, Housing, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission/Preservation, and Community Preservation. In addition to her professional employment, she has volunteered as a member of the Watertown Zoning Board of Appeals for 22 years and has been the chair for over a decade.

Melissa has worked on thousands of residential, multi-family, retail, commercial, medical, office, and industrial projects, both small and large scale. In addition to permitting her skills include a variety of other Planning related projects and activities such as Grant Writing and Administration, Transportation Mitigation, Planning and Corridor Studies, Zoning Bylaw Text and Map Amendments, Requests for Proposals and Procurement, Comprehensive Permits and Safe Harbor Analysis, Master/Comprehensive Planning, Housing Feasibility, as well as Affordable Housing Preservation, Monitoring and Production just to highlight a few.

Throughout her professional career, she has had the pleasure of representing several Mayors at the state level through the Metropolitan Planning Organization, MAPC, and MetroMayors. She has extensive experience in municipal operations, not only at a local level, but is familiar with the state laws, regulations, codes, and legislation that govern the Planning discipline. She can be reached at 508.785.0032 Ext: 240 or msantuccirozzi@doverma.gov.

MBTA COMMUNITIES ACT UPDATE

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. We encourage all residents to stay abreast of updates by regularly checking the town's MBTA Communities Act webpage. Dover's MBTA Communities Act webpage is now accessible from the NEWS FLASH section located on the front page of the Town's website or by using the link below.

On June 27, 2025 the Planning Board received two (2) comments from EOHL from the pre-adoption review comments. The comments were minor in nature and related to excluding MBTA multi-family housing developments from the Special Permit requirements for Material Removal in Zoning Bylaw Section 185-38 and EOHL cautioned Dover that no discretionary review can be instituted as part of the By-Right Site Plan Review process. Further, EOHL opined that County Court/Tisdale Drive was a suitable location for the MBTA Communities Act Zoning Overlay District. The two (2) comments will be addressed through minor revision to the draft Zoning Bylaw Section 185-50, in consultation with our Consultant and Legal Counsel.

The Planning Board formally filed the MBTA Zoning Amendments with the Board of Selectmen on July 15, 2025. On July 24, 2025, the Planning Board presented the MBTA Zoning Amendments to the Board of Selectmen. The matter was discussed in detail. The selectmen voted unanimously to transmit the Zoning Amendments to the Planning Board for review.

Please Save the Date:

MBTA Communities Act – Planning Board Public

Hearing

Join the Planning Board on September 8, 2025, at 7:00 PM on ZOOM for a Public Hearing where the Proposed New Zoning Bylaw Section 185-50 and MBTA Communities Multi-Family Zoning Overlay District will be presented and discussed by the Planning Board with an opportunity for Public Comment. As part of the Public Hearing the Planning Board is required to make a recommendation on the zoning amendments.

Join Our
Sept. 8
ZOOM!



Please Save the Date

MBTA Communities Act – Special Town Meeting

Join the Planning Board on **September 29, 2025, at 7:00 PM** in the **Mudge Auditorium of Dover Sherborn High School** (9 Junction Street) for a Special Town Meeting regarding the MBTA Communities Act. At the meeting, Dover citizens will be asked to vote on a proposed update to the zoning bylaw that would allow multi-family housing by right in a specific overlay district location at County Court/Tisdale Drive in order for the Town to be in compliance with the MBTA Communities Act.

Visit The MBTA Communities Act Webpage!

Sustainability Committee

Don't Miss Out on Money-Saving Tax Credits!

The recent spending bill passed by Congress eliminates federal tax credits for electric vehicles after September 30, 2025. If you purchase a new all-electric vehicle, plug-in hybrid, or fuel cell electric vehicle between January 1, 2023, and September 30, 2025, you may qualify for a federal income tax credit of up to \$7,500. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity! Choosing a more efficient vehicle can positively impact our local climate.

Tax incentives for specific clean home and energy products—such as heat pumps, solar panels, and home energy audits—are scheduled to expire on December 31, 2025. If you are thinking about replacing or upgrading these important components of your home, now is a great time to consider installing a clean energy product, before incentives expire.

To learn more about vehicle incentives and program requirements, visit [Federal Government Vehicle Incentives](#)

To find out more about home clean electricity products and associated incentives, visit [Federal Government Home Incentives](#)