



OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

Welcome to the September Edition of OUR TOWN!

Town Departments

- Caryl Community Center
- Chickering School
- Parks & Recreation
- Fire Department

Boards and Committees

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

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

What's Inside



THIS EDITION

VOL. 4 NO. 10

Welcome to the September edition of OUR TOWN! With Summer coming to a close, lots of new initiatives are underway in Dover. Dover Days is just around the corner, and the Caryl Community Center will be opening its doors to the public! The Chickering School is getting back into routine, and Parks and Recreation has Fall Programs up and running! The Board of Health is gathering sign-ups for the annual Flu Clinic, and the Planning Board is gearing up for the upcoming MBTA Information Session and Special Town Meeting! The Fire Department reminds residents of safety measures for your dryer, and the Conservation Commission teaches you how to care for your lawn this fall. All this and more, read on to find out what has been in the works in OUR TOWN!

Special Town Meeting

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!

Caryl Community Center

The time is almost here! The grand opening for the Caryl Community Center is just around the corner; Join us on **Dover Days, Saturday, September 13, 2025**, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by tours of this stunning new facility! The ceremony will take place at **10:30 AM**, and tours will run from **11:00 AM until 1:00 PM**.



We cannot wait for residents to explore this new space! The Community Center Building Committee that has worked diligently on this project cannot wait to show you all of the work that has been accomplished. See how the historic building has transformed into something new, and learn about program opportunities that will be offered from the Council on Aging and Parks & Recreation.

We hope to see you there!



Dover Days

Join Dover Parks & Recreation at Dover Days! On **Saturday, September 13, 2025**, from **10:00 AM until 3:00 PM**. Town Center will be full of events, booths, games, and more!

Dover Days is a perfect place to connect with your community, learn about town initiatives, and enjoy a beautiful September Saturday! The rain date for this event is scheduled for Sunday, September 14, from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

This event is FREE for general attendees!

Learn More About Dover Days

Chickering School



Chickering School opened its doors for the 25-26 season, welcoming 480 students, PK to grade 5. With three to five classrooms at each grade level, we are maintaining our school committee policy of 17-22 students per class.

We are excited to continue serving (free) breakfast and lunch to all students, thanks to Massachusetts funding. We continue with our second year of implementing the Reveal Math curriculum. Both Pune Hill and Chickering are in the process of an ELA curriculum review as well.

Our first assembly was last week, where we welcomed our new and returning students.

We ask that all drivers and pedestrians pay special attention as our amazing bus drivers navigate around town.

Parks and Recreation

Fall Programs Registration Now

Open!

Exciting news, registration for fall programs is officially open! We have a mix of familiar favorites and brand-new offerings, from sports and STEM programs to arts, fitness, and everything in between. Spaces are limited, so make sure to sign up now to secure your spot and make the most of an engaging and fun-filled fall season!

Nu Bingo – A Night of Fun for Adults

Get ready for a night unlike any other! On **Saturday, September 14th at 6:00 PM**, NuBingo is taking over Dover Rec for a high-energy evening of music, dancing, and interactive bingo rounds. Enjoy themed games, a live DJ, and awesome prizes, all while socializing with friends and neighbors. Leave the kids at home and come ready to let loose, dance, and bingo like never before!



[Register For All Programs HERE!](#)

Fire Department

Prevent Dryer Fires

With a few simple tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.

Clean the filter screen before and after each load.

Cleaning the filter screen keeps the vent clear. When accumulated lint clogs the vent, the dryer can overheat and cause a fire. Clean the lint filter before and after each cycle. Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.

Clean vents to the outdoors.

Clean the hose pipe that vents to the outdoors twice a year. Use a vacuum cleaner to clean out accumulated dust and lint.

Wash the filter screen every 6 months.

Chemical residues left by dryer sheets can clog the filter and overheat the dryer. Wash the filter with warm, soapy water and a soft brush to remove the residues.

Venting System

Check the venting system behind the dryer to make sure that it is not damaged, crushed or restricted. Make sure that the outdoor vent covering opens when the dryer is operating.

Stay home while the dryer is in use.

Turn off the dryer before leaving the house.



Don't dry mop heads.

The dryer's heat can ignite cleaning chemical residue on mop heads.

Vacuum the motor area.

The dust and lint in the vent pipe can ignite if it gets hot enough. Vacuum the motor area if you can get to it. You may have to remove a panel. Make sure the electrical power is shut off to the dryer before removing the back panel.

Avoid overloading the dryer.

With busy schedules and to-do lists that go on for miles, it's easy to procrastinate on laundry and cram as much as we can into one load of laundry. Split up larger loads so that your dryer doesn't overload. The fuller your dryer is, the longer it will take to dry your clothes and the hotter it will get.

Flammable materials.

Items that have come into contact with flammable substances (like gasoline, cooking oils, or cleaning agents) should not be dried in a dryer, as this can pose a fire hazard.

Keep the surrounding area clear.

Vacuum lint and dirt from the area surrounding your dryer on a regular basis -- lint is highly flammable and can become a fire hazard if enough piles up. Keep cleaning products and baskets of clothing away from your dryer as well. By limiting the amount of clutter near your dryer, you decrease the chances of a potential fire hazard.

**Learn More from the
Massachusetts Department of
Fire Services**



**Sign Up For
The Flu Clinic!**

Board of Health

The Annual Flu Clinic is Just Around the Corner!

The Dover Board of Health is pleased to host the 2025 Annual Flu Shot Clinic!

Join us on **October 3, 2025**, at the Dover Town House (5 Springdale Avenue), from **11:00 AM – 5:00 PM**. Shots will be administered by pharmacists from Pine Hill Pharmacy.

We owe the success of previous clinics to residents like you! Sign up today and secure your time slot.

Open Space Committee

Third Saturday Stroll on Pegan Hill

September 20, 10:30 AM to –noon

Guided Walks through Dover's Open Spaces

Please join us for a guided walk on Pegan Hill, sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC). Come experience over 100 spectacular acres of varied ecosystems with views to Mount Monadnock in NH, Mount Wachusett, and the Blue Hills! Pegan Hill was a sacred site for Natick's Praying Indians, who came back to bless its return to use by all, forever. Enjoy this unique property, made possible by a partnership between the Dover Land Conservation Trust (DLCT), New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF), The Trustees, and the Natick Conservation Commission.



Walking will not be too strenuous, but will be over uneven and possibly wet ground, so wear appropriate footwear and bring walking sticks, binoculars, and cameras. Families with kids welcome, as are polite dogs on leash. We will stroll in misty rain to shine.

Parking information will be provided to registered participants on **Friday, September 20th**. **Free but Pre-registration is Required**

Register Here!

Enthusiastic about Dover's outdoors and natural land?

Dover's Open Space Committee (OSC) is looking for two additional members to join its engaged team of citizens. OSC members are involved with many of the governmental and nonprofit organizations that steward Dover's spectacular open spaces. Given this broad representation, discussions during OSC's monthly meetings cover many topics, from the desirability of preserving particular properties to efforts that encourage the use of open space by Dover residents (e.g., monthly walks).

To enhance our perspective, we would particularly welcome interest from residents with children. However, enthusiasm for our beautiful natural lands and genuine interest is the most important. To learn more, please contact Amey at amoot@doverma.gov

Recycling Committee

UPCOMING RECYCLING COMMITTEE EVENTS

- Dover Days – come visit the Recycling Committee table at Dover Days on Saturday, 9/13 to learn more about what Dover residents can do to reuse, recycle, and reduce!
- New Life Furniture Bank (NLFB) will be collecting furniture and household goods/linens in good condition on Saturday, 9/20.
- Special Recycling Weekend – Saturday, October 18 at the Dover Transfer Station. Additional details to follow in the October Newsletter.

Did you know? K-cups are NOT recyclable

UNLESS you separate all the parts (filter, foil top, plastic cup, plastic ring, and coffee grounds) and wash the plastic cup, which is the only part that could then be placed in the plastics recycling bin. Please dispose of whole used K-Cups in the trash.

SEPTEMBER TIP FROM RecycleSmartMA: Back to school means packing lunches. Plastic cling wrap does NOT go in the recycling, and it can't go with the plastic film and bags you take back to the grocery store. Help reduce plastic waste and opt for one of these alternatives:

- containers
- aluminum foil
- silicone bags
- covers

Recycle
Smart

Containers



Aluminum foil



Plastic Wrap Swaps

Bento boxes



Silicone bags or covers



Conservation Commission

Eco-Friendly Fall Lawn Care Tips

Taking care of your lawn in an environmentally friendly way can help you maintain a beautiful lawn, support a healthy ecosystem, and help to protect Dover's land and water. It may even save you some time and money. Homeowners should be aware that they are responsible for what lawn care contractors and landscapers do on their property and should discuss lawn care options with all contractors to help protect our health and the environment.

Here are some recommended eco-friendly lawn care tips:

Avoid Pesticides

Minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides, which can contaminate natural resources and pose health risks. Consider natural alternatives or integrated pest management techniques. Be sure to never use herbicides, pesticides, or synthetic fertilizers near wetlands, streams, ponds, or rivers.

Fertilize Naturally

Use organic, slow-release fertilizers to promote healthy soil and grass growth. Organic and slow-release fertilizers applied in the fall will be ready to nurture new growth in the spring. Find organic and slow-release fertilizers at your local nursery or order online.

Water Wisely

If there is enough rain, turn off your irrigation systems. During drought conditions, avoid watering your lawn or do so sparingly in the early morning. Use rain barrels to collect rainwater for watering your lawn, which are available at the Town Garage or Transfer Station.

Clean Up Responsibly

When cleaning up your yard, avoid blowing or raking leaves into the street where they can clog storm drains and catch basins, which can lead to water pollution and cause flooding.

Compost Leaves

Shredded leaves make excellent compost that can enrich your garden, or be brought to the leaf compost area at the Transfer Station. Compost bins can be purchased from the Town garage, Transfer Station, home improvement stores, or can be made yourself!

Mow High

Before the first frost, raise the height of your mower blades to around 3 inches. This will shade the soil and help retain moisture. This reduces the need for watering and promotes healthier roots.

Leave Grass Clippings

Don't bag your grass clippings. Use the mulching setting on your mower and leave them on the lawn. This adds nutrients back into the soil & saves fertilizer costs, known as "grasscycling".

Aerate

Consider aerating your lawn if your soil is compacted. This improved water infiltration and root growth. You can rent an aerator at a local home improvement or equipment rental company, or ask a landscaping service.

Overseed

Overseeding in the fall can help thicken your lawn and fill bare spots. Thicker grass leaves less room for weeds and eliminates the need for herbicides. Choose native or drought-resistant grass species.

Use Manual Tools

Use a rake instead of a leafblower, eliminating noise and greenhouse gas emissions. The car company Edmunds estimated that driving a Ford F-150 Raptor truck from Texas to Alaska would emit the same amount of air pollution as a mere half-hour of yard work with a two-stroke, gas-powered leaf blower.

Plant Native Trees and Shrubs

Until the first frost, Fall is a great time to plant native trees and shrubs. They require less maintenance and provide habitat for local wildlife.

Mulch Leaves

If you don't want to compost leaves, you can also shred them with a mulching mower and leave them on the lawn. This adds organic matter to the soil.

Reduce Lawn Area

Consider reducing the size of your lawn by planting more native plants or creating natural areas with less grass area. This can save water, create habitats, and reduce maintenance.

Click HERE For more Information

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

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 (5) 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 EOHLG as part of 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 EOHLG cautioned Dover that no discretionary review can be instituted as part of the By-Right Site Plan Review process. Further, EOHLG 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.

On August 18, 2025, the Planning Board hosted an all-board, commission, and committee Information Session. On August 26, 2025, the Town hosted an information and update session for the property owners and residents of County Court/Tisdale Drive, which is the location of the proposed MBTA Communities Overlay District. On August 28, 2025 the Attorney General completed a pre-adoption review and issued a favorable response to the Town of Dover. Also in August, the Board of Selectmen, Warrant Committee, Capital Budget Committee, Board of Health and Personnel Committee voted to support the draft Bylaw.

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 Stop By our Information Station!

Dover Days – Saturday, September 13, 2025

10:00 AM until 3:00 PM

There will be an MBTA Information Station at the Board of Selectmen's Booth



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