



Welcome to the October Edition of OUR TOWN!

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- Historical Society
- Recycling Committee

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



Welcome to the October edition of Our Town! Fall is a busy season in Dover, and this issue is full of news and events you won't want to miss. Catch up on Special Town Meeting results and celebrate the grand opening of the new Community Center. The Dover Cultural Council is now accepting grant applications for 2026 events, while the Council on Aging highlights its October programs. The Board of Health invites residents to the annual Flu/COVID Clinic, and the Fire Department shares seasonal safety tips along with an invitation to their upcoming Open House. Plus, find updates from the Recycling Committee, details on a retirement party at the library, and a fascinating look at the legend of the Dover Demon from the Historical Society.

All this and more, read on to find out what has been happening in OUR TOWN!

Special Town Meeting

Special Town Meeting passes the MBTA Communities Act Bylaw.

At the September 29th Special Town Meeting, voters passed a new Zoning Bylaw Ch. 185-50 and Overlay District by a vote of **250 in Favor** and **29 opposed**.

This favorable Town Meeting vote will enable Dover to submit a District Compliance Application to the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. The application is due by **December 31, 2025**, in order for Dover to remain eligible for millions of dollars of annual and one-time state grants.

The Planning Board thanks Dover's voters and the team of local government volunteers and Town staff that supported our efforts over the past 3 years.

Find Information On The Bylaw



Caryl Community Center

The Caryl Community Center Opens Its Doors

The Caryl Community Center is officially open to the public! A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held during Dover Days on September 13, 2025, and since then, the building has been welcoming visitors, offering programs, and hosting events for all ages.

We are grateful to everyone who joined us at the grand opening and to the many people who helped bring the project to completion, including current and former members of the Community Center Building Committee, the Board of Selectmen, the Council on Aging, the Parks and Recreation Commission, Town staff, Fennick McCredie Architecture, and M. O'Connor Contracting, Inc. The ceremony was led by Town Administrator Michael Blanchard and included a citation from State Senator Becca Rausch, presented by her District Director Aidan Doherty. Speakers at the event included Dick Malcolm, Chair of the Community Center Building Committee; Robyn Hunter, Chair of the Board of Selectmen; and Representative Josh Tarsky.

Parks and Recreation and the Council on Aging have moved into their new offices at the Community Center and are excited to see so many participants and visitors enjoying the new space. If you haven't stopped by yet, we invite you to visit the Caryl Community Center at 4 Springdale Avenue!



Dover Cultural Council



Are you planning an event or program in 2026? Apply for a grant from the Dover Cultural Council!

The Dover Cultural Council (DCC) administers funds it receives each year from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the state agency whose mission is to "promote excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residences, and to contribute to the economic vitality of our communities."

The 2026 grant cycle is now open. Applications and more information can be found on the Massachusetts Cultural Council website, linked below. Deadline for submissions is **October 16**.

Learn More from the Massachusetts Cultural Council

Chickering School

Chickering School is off to a great start this year! Our students are deep into a wide variety of learning experiences in all areas of the curriculum.



Once again, we hosted the Great Cereal Challenge, bringing in over 500 boxes of cereal to donate to our local food pantry! We set up a school-wide domino rally with all the boxes before we packed them up to go. **Watch the video by clicking on the photo!**

The end of September brought our Open House for parents of existing students to visit, tour classrooms, and meet all our teachers. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held in late October.

Parks and Recreation

Dover Days

Thank you to all the amazing volunteers, town departments, community organizations, sports teams, local businesses, and everyone who joined us for this year's Dover Days Fair and the Grand Opening of the Dover Community Center. It was a truly special day, filled with fun, celebration, and community spirit. We're so grateful for the incredible support that made both the fair and the grand opening such a success. None of it would have been possible without you!



Adult Programs

Be sure to check out our adult programs with more exciting opportunities coming throughout the year! If there's a program you'd like to see offered, we'd love to hear from you. Please reach out to Nicole Wainwright at nwainwright@doverma.gov with your ideas.

Visit Our Website

Fire Department

Halloween Safety Tips

Decorations

- Pumpkin carving is the leading cause of Halloween injuries. Leave it to adults. Use carving tools rather than kitchen knives.
- Use glow sticks or battery candles instead of open flames in pumpkins
- Keep scarecrows, cornstalks, and hay bales away from doors, stairs, and windows. Keep exits clear.
- Keep flammable decorations away from heat sources.



Costumes

- Children should carry a flashlight, and costumes should be bright-colored or have reflective tape to highlight them.
- Be sure all parts of the costume are labeled flame-retardant.
- Costumes should not have trailing material or tails long enough to trip on.
- Pointed objects such as swords and pitchforks should be made of soft material.
- Be sure your child can see clearly if they wear a mask.

Trick or Treating

- Young children should always trick-or-treat with an adult and head out early. For older kids going alone, review the ground rules first.
- Know what neighborhoods they will be in.
- Don't allow them in areas with which you are not completely comfortable.
- Have the children stay in a group.
- Let them know what time to be home.
- Give them a cell phone to use if necessary.
- Use sidewalks and cover one side of the street at a time.
- Cross only at the corners, never dart out between parked cars.
- Never accept a ride in a car or go inside a home unless it is a friend.
- Only approach houses where the outside lights are on, as a signal of welcome.
- Bring bags home to be checked by an adult before eating a single treat.

SAVE THE DATE: Fire & Police Open House

The Dover Fire and Police Departments invite you to join them at the upcoming Open House!

Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Location: Fire Station (1 Walpole Street)

Stop by to enjoy food and games, and learn more about your public safety buildings!

Visit the Fire Department Webpage!



"Operating Smoke Detectors Saves Lives"

Council on Aging

Dover Council on Aging invites you to our upcoming programs at the Community Center. Sign up by emailing coa@doverma.gov or by using our [COA Program Sign-Up Form](#).

TALK WITH THE TOWN: PARKS & REC DIRECTOR

Tuesday, October 7 1:00–2:00 PM *Community Room*

Director Mark Ghiloni welcomes you to the newly renovated Community Center! Hear about what's new in the building, upcoming programs for all ages, and get a behind-the-scenes look at how it all came together.

LIFE TRANSITIONS BINDER CLASS

Thursdays, October 9, 16, 23, 30, 1:30–3:00 PM *Activity Room*

Cost: \$40

Join Sandra Batra of LifeLink Consulting LLC for a four-part series to create a personalized binder with your personal, financial, medical, and property information. Materials provided. Sponsored by Friends of Dover COA

THE MIDNIGHT RIDE OF PAUL REVERE

Friday, October 17 11:00 am–12:00 PM *Community Room*

Join storyteller Johnny Kinsman for a presentation about the fateful midnight ride of Paul Revere and William Dawes and hear details rarely shared. Sponsored by Friends of Dover COA

DECOUPAGE PUMPKINS WITH THE CAPTURED GARDEN

Friday, October 24 11:00 AM–1:00 PM *Community Room*

Cost: \$25

Join Deborah Trickett, owner of The Captured Garden, for a hands-on workshop in creating pumpkin centerpieces with decoupage, pressed flowers, and leaves. All materials provided. Sponsored by Friends of Dover COA.

LEAF PEEPING WALK AT HALE

Monday, October 27 10:00–11:00 AM

Join us for a crisp autumn stroll through the vibrant fall foliage of Hale Reservation! Participants should be comfortable walking at a steady pace. Wear layers, bring your camera, and experience the peaceful beauty of New England's Fall.

NAVIGATING THE SETTINGS ON IPHONE & IPAD

Monday, October 27 1:00–2:00 PM *Activity Room*

Join the experts from Kev Tech Services for a general overview of the Settings app. Learn to sync data, use WiFi and Bluetooth, manage Apple accounts, and customize devices with features like Do Not Disturb and notifications.

In addition to special classes, the COA offers a range of weekly fitness classes such as line dancing, sculpt and stretch, strength and stability, gentle mat yoga, and chair yoga. If you are interested in learning more, visit the COA newsletter and use their online program sign up form.

**COA September/October
Newsletter**

**Sign up for COA
Events!**

Dover Library

Dover Librarian Nancy Tegeler Retires

Please join the Dover Town Library and the Friends of the Dover Town Library in an afternoon of appreciation for all that makes our library a special place in the community. We'll have light refreshments and a special farewell for Nancy Tegeler, who is retiring from the Children's Room after 9 years of dedicated service.

Date: Monday, October 20, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Location: Dover Town Library

Dover Library Events Calendar



Historical Society

Do You Believe?

Liz Fallon

The Dover Demon is one of Massachusetts' most intriguing and enduring mysteries, capturing the imagination of residents and visitors alike. The creature was first reported in April 1977 when several high schoolers claimed to have encountered a strange, eerie figure late in the night in wooded areas close in proximity to each other. Described as a small, hairless creature with glowing eyes and long, spindly limbs, the Dover Demon's appearance and obscure nature have kept it at the center of local folklore for decades.

The incident sparked widespread curiosity and speculation, with many questioning what the teens saw that night. Some believed it was an alien entity, while others thought it might have been a rare animal or a bizarre hoax. Over the years, investigators and enthusiasts have looked into the sightings, collecting firsthand accounts and examining the evidence. Its story has inspired numerous authors and artists who find the creature's strange appearance and unexplained origins captivating. The Dover Demon has become a symbol of the unknown and the unexplained paradoxes that lurk just beyond our understanding.

Every spring, when the third graders from Chickering Elementary School visit the Dover Historical Society, the question about the Dover Demon is always the same—they ask what happened and if the creature was real. It's a story that sparks their curiosity and imagination, making it a favorite part of their visit.

The Dover Historical Society is excited to announce a temporary exhibit "The Dover Demon: Uncovering a Local Legend," on display through the end of the year. Featuring a comprehensive look at the investigation, including photographs, newspaper articles from the time, and detailed descriptions of the sightings, the exhibit aims to shed light on the story's historical context and the enduring curiosity it continues to inspire. Visitors will have the chance to explore firsthand witness accounts from those who encountered the creature, giving a vivid perspective on that extraordinary night.

This upcoming exhibit will provide a fun and educational opportunity for visitors of all ages to delve into a true local legend that has captivated the community for over four decades. The Sawin Museum, located at 80 Dedham Street in Dover Center, will be open on the second Saturday of October, November and December from 1pm to 4pm. To schedule a private appointment or group visit, please contact the Dover Historical Society at info@doverhistoricalsociety.org or 508-785-1832.

Board of Health

The Dover Board of Health is pleased to host the 2025 Annual Flu Shot and COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic!

This event is a key part of our ongoing public health efforts, and its success each year is thanks to the continued participation of residents like you. Protect yourself and your community—get your flu shot *and* stay up-to-date on your COVID vaccine!

When: Friday, October 3, 2025 | 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Where: Dover Town House, 5 Springdale Avenue

Administered by: Pharmacists from Pine Hill Pharmacy

Sign Up For Your Time Slot [HERE!](#)

Board of Appeals

The Board of Appeals is presently considering an application for a Comprehensive permit under State law Ch. 40B to construct 42 apartment units (11 affordable) on a 5.1-acre parcel behind the County Court community. The hearing has been extended so that the proposed plans of the Developer, not yet finalized, meet the standards of the engineering consultants employed by the Board (at Developer expense). Although scheduled to conclude on October 30, the hearing will be extended further and possibly into 2026. A public session of the hearing will be scheduled after the Board's consultants are in agreement that the plans are ready for Board review. A site walk will also be scheduled.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Board is allowed 40 days under State law to deliberate and decide whether to approve a comprehensive permit. Any such permit, if granted, would not permit construction without demonstration of an adequate public water supply, access to Tisdale Drive, and such other conditions as the Board determines are desirable and not contrary to Chapter 40B.

Open Space Committee

Second Saturday Stroll in Medfield State Forest to the 'Gates of the Charles'

October 11th, 10:30 am to ~noon

Please join us for guided walks on the 2nd Saturday of the month in April through November, sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC). On October 11th, we will walk through the Medfield State Forest (mostly in Dover!) to the 'Gates of the Charles', across the Charles River from the Trustees of Reservations' Rocky Narrows. If there is time and interest, we will loop through Medfield State Hospital's hay fields.

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

Parking information will be sent to registrants on **Friday, 10/10.**

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



Cemetery Commission

A Peaceful New Chapter at Highland Cemetery

Did you know that over 80% of burials at Highland Cemetery are now cremations? With this profound shift in how we honor our loved ones—and with cemetery expansion limited by the surrounding forest—the Cemetery Commission thoughtfully chose a path forward that balances tradition, community need, and environmental stewardship. The result is the creation of our beautiful new columbariums and garden.

The word columbarium finds its roots in the Latin columba, meaning dove—a symbol of peace. Historically used to describe structures that housed doves, the term now refers to a dignified and simple structure for the interment of cremated remains. This new space, thoughtfully designed and built with care, is more than a final resting place. It is a serene setting for remembrance and quiet reflection—an enduring tribute to those who came before us.

This project, shaped by a deep respect for the land and our community's evolving needs, enhances both the beauty and function of Highland Cemetery. It invites us all to pause, remember, and find peace amidst nature and memory.

For additional information, please email Rusty Dauphinee at:
rdauphinee@doverma.gov

Conservation Commission

The Importance of Protecting Our Wetlands

Dover contains large amounts of wetlands that are critical to keeping our drinking water supplies clean, preventing flooding and storm damage, reducing climate change, and supporting a variety of wildlife.



Wetlands are disappearing rapidly due to development, pollution, and climate change. When they're lost, all these benefits are diminished or gone, which can have widespread environmental and economic consequences.

Wetlands are incredibly important ecosystems for many environmental, economic, and social reasons. **Click the button below to learn more about why they matter.**

Learn More About The Importance of Protecting Wetlands

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!

Recycling Committee

The Recycling Committee would like to thank Janit Greenwood for her many years on the committee and her many contributions over those years to the Recycling Committee, Transfer Station, and the Town of Dover. We would also like to welcome and introduce our newest committee member, Joan Roth. Joan is a long-time Dover resident and former nurse. We are excited to have her join the Recycling Committee.

Upcoming Events:

The Fall Special Recycling Day will be held at the Transfer Station on **Saturday, October 18th**. Once again, we'll be collecting items noted below for several non-profit organizations and offering on-site shredding from **9-12**.

- Bikes in good condition for The Bike Connector
- Wheeled suitcases, backpacks, and duffel bags for Generic Ministries
- Monthly collection of furniture and household goods for New Life Furniture Bank

We will also be collecting clothing to benefit Boston's homeless, served through Generic Ministries. High need items include winter clothing, sneakers, jeans, sweatpants, and hoodies for both men and women. A separate bin will be set up next to the standing Bay State bins for these items.

And don't forget our permanent collection bins in the swap shop for tennis ball recycling, clean reusable shopping bags for A Place to Turn, and string lights, in addition to our regular textile collection stations, accepting clean, bagged clothing, linens, shoes, and other textiles.

There will be a Repair Café held on **Saturday, October 18th, from 9-12** in Westwood at the Deerfield School. Dover residents are welcome to bring items such as clothing, jewelry, lamps, bikes, and small appliances to be fixed by local volunteers. Dover will be holding a Repair Café in February... stay tuned for more details!

Latex paint collection in the Transfer Station Swap Shop will end on **October 31st!**

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Did you know? Not all glass is recyclable.

DO recycle glass bottles and jars, emptying out any liquid or food residue first.

DO NOT put things like mirrors, window panes, drinking glasses, glass dishes, and vases in the glass recycling bin. These have different melting points than glass bottles and jars, so they can't be processed together. Broken glass is also a no-go – it's a safety hazard. Put these items in the trash. A RecycleSmartMA tip!
