



OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

Welcome to the January Edition of OUR TOWN!

Town Departments

- Parks & Recreation
- Fire Department
- Department of Public Works
- Council on Aging

Boards and Committees

- Tree Committee
- Open Space Committee
- Board of Appeals
- Recycling Committee
- Conservation Commission

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

What's Inside



THIS EDITION

VOL. 5 NO.1

Welcome to the January edition of OUR TOWN, and Happy New Year! The Town of Dover has lots of updates for 2026. Thank you to all the residents who joined our email list in 2025. Be sure to stay connected here and across all our platforms so you never miss an update from OUR TOWN!

Read on to learn about program opportunities, safety reminders, department updates, upcoming community events, and more!



Register For All Programs HERE!

Parks and Recreation

Welcome Winter Event

On Thursday, December 11th, the community came together for a festive Welcome Winter celebration. Families enjoyed seasonal crafts, music, and tasty treats from the waffle truck before gathering for the tree lighting. Thank you to everyone who joined us to kick off the winter season and celebrate with neighbors and friends. We loved celebrating with you and look forward to more community fun ahead.

Register for Adult and Youth Programs

Registration is still open for a variety of adult and youth programs through Dover Parks and Recreation. Spots are limited, and programs fill quickly, so we encourage residents to register as soon as possible to secure a spot. Visit our website for program details and to sign up today.

Fire Department

Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

Home fire deaths have been cut in half since the early 1970s, when smoke alarms were first marketed. Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. Fire spreads fast—working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

Safety Tips

- Smoke alarms should be installed in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area; on every level of the home; and in the basement.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms so that when one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Change batteries twice a year when you change your clock.
- Replace alarms after 10 years. Check the manufacturing date printed on the back of your alarms. When purchasing new smoke alarms, choose one with a sealed, long-life battery. Choose alarms from a well-known, national brand.
- NEVER disable alarms or take out the batteries for any reason.
- Working smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan. Plan and practice a home fire escape route



- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Get out and **Stay Out**
- Call 9-1-1 from outside or from a neighbor's home.
- See attached flier from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services for more information.

Learn more from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

Department Of Public Works

It was a busy summer. The DPW has been reshaping their infrastructure, and you may have noticed the changes. The new stormwater conveyance system now captures all site runoff and reinfiltrates it on-site. This upgrade replaced an undersized system, which previously backed up and caused facility flooding in August 2023.

Photo courtesy of the Dover Police Drone unit



DPW crews completed the in-house reconstruction of more than 1,900 linear feet of new sidewalk along Dedham Street this summer.

On Friday, December 19th, the department responded to more than 15 incidents involving downed trees, downed wires, and road closures. The team worked tirelessly alongside Dover Police and Fire to remediate hazards and clear obstructions from the public right-of-way, ensuring the safety of the community.



Council on Aging

Dover Council on Aging invites you to our upcoming programs at the Community Center. You can check out the [January/February Newsletter](#) with our full slate of programs. Some January highlights are below. Sign up for programs by emailing coa@doverma.gov or by using our [Online COA Program Sign-Up Form](#).

TRAVEL TALK: NICE & THE FRENCH RIVIERA

Tuesday, January 6 • 1:00-2:00 PM • Community Room

With Barry Pell, Photojournalist

The Riviera stretches along France's southeast coast and into the mountainous Alps. This sunny sliver of land has been occupied for over three thousand years by different rulers, who left their mark on the landscape, architecture, lifestyle and food. Learn about the fascinating history of the region, including palaces, seafront, and cliff-hanging villages.

TALK WITH THE TOWN: POLICE CHIEF

Wednesday, January 7 • 11:00 AM-12:00 PM • Community Room

Join Police Chief Vinci to hear updates, ask questions, and engage in an open conversation about safety, community issues, and local initiatives.

TECH CLASSES WITH KEVTECH SERVICES

Monday, January 12 • 1:00-2:00 PM • Activity Room

Back to Basics: An Intro to Smartphones and Tablets

This introductory class introduces new users to the basics of using the iPhone and iPad. We cover the hardware of the iPhone and iPad, important areas of the devices, and accessing common tools like the flashlight, alarm, and camera. Even seasoned users will learn something new!

PAGETURNERS BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, January 13 • 2:00-3:00 PM • Dover Town Library

Birding under the influence: Cycling across America in search of birds and recovery by Dorian Anderson

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

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Thursday, January 15 • 12:00-1:00 PM • Conference Room

With Gael Varsa, RN, BSN, Dover Board of Health

Check your blood pressure and get tips from Public Health Nurse Gael Varsa at the monthly clinics. Quick, easy, and important for your health!

INTERGENERATIONAL LADIES LUNCH

Wednesday, January 21 • 11:30 AM-1:00 PM • Community Room

Join us for a special lunch bringing together members of Dover Council on Aging and Dover Mothers Association for an intergenerational gathering! Enjoy a delicious meal, lively conversation, and the chance to share stories, experiences, and laughter across generations. Sign up by January 15.

OPEN ART STUDIO

Wednesday, January 21 • 1:00-3:00 PM • Activity Room

Join local art teacher Ivana Luttazi for a relaxed, creative drawing session. Each meeting will offer something different—a still life setup, a new technique or a project to explore. All sessions will focus on building your drawing skills in a supportive, open-studio environment. All levels are welcome!

FROM VIRGINIA TO OREGON: A CROSS-COUNTRY CYCLING ADVENTURE

Thursday, January 22 • 1:00-2:00 PM • Community Room

Come hear local residents George and Nelly Estes as they share their 2025 cycling adventure. Since retirement in 2014, they have crossed the United States twice by bicycle and have travelled more than 10,000 miles on multi-day tours. Learn about the obstacles, hazards and joys of travelling by bicycle on their unique trips.

CARDMAKING WITH FABRIC

Tuesday, January 27 • 1:00-3:00 PM • Activity Room

Cost: \$2.50 per card

Learn from instructor Beth McGaw in this fun and creative card-making session! Escape the winter blues with vibrant floral designs with an option to create heartfelt Valentine's cards. Learn Beth's unique, easy-to-follow techniques using fabric.

Online COA Program Sign-Up Form

Tree Committee

ARE YOU AWARE OF THE NEW DOVER TREE PROVISIONS?

The Town's NEW Stormwater Management Bylaw has updated project and tree considerations that may apply to your project.

The bylaw applies if any one or combination of the following project conditions is met:

- Any change of existing grade of more than 5,500 sq. ft. or 25% of the lot, whichever is smaller, OR
- Clearing of existing vegetation of more than 5,500 sq. ft. or 25% of the lot, whichever is smaller, OR
- Storage of more than 100 cubic yards of excavate or fill, OR
- Any activities within Wetland Resource Areas and their Protected Buffer Zones require separate permits from the Dover Conservation Commission before any activities may be performed.

Should your project fall under the Stormwater Management Bylaw, please keep in mind that no tree removal/site work is allowed until after a Chapter 159 Stormwater Permit is obtained. Detailed survey plans of work areas are required for review and approval. Contact the Dover Town Engineer at engineer@doverma.gov to discuss proposed site work and tree removal.

Keep in mind that this new bylaw requires that all Protected Trees 6' diameter or greater, and their root systems in the perimeter setbacks, must be preserved and protected with a marked and maintained Tree Protection Zone during construction activities.

Required Mitigation may include the replacement of protected trees and/or contributions to Dover's Tree Protection Revolving Fund.

Open Space Committee

2nd Saturday Stroll to Explore Erratics

January 10th, 10:30 AM

Please join us for a guided walk, sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC). On January 10th, we will walk through The Trustees' Noanet Woodlands. Conditions permitting, we will investigate some of the spectacular erratics, some off the trail!



This walk will be more rigorous than our usual walks. It will be over uneven and possibly wet and slippery ground, so wear appropriate footwear. Wear warm clothing, hats, gloves, and bring walking sticks, binoculars, and cameras. Polite dogs on leash welcome. We will stroll in misty rain or flurries to shine

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

[Register Here!](#)

Board of Appeals

At its November 5 meeting, the Board of Appeals acknowledged receipt of an important letter from Tisdale Land, LLC ("Developer.") The Developer withdrew its Ch. 40B application to construct 42 rental units (11 of them affordable) at 81-85 Tisdale Drive. The Board, after determining that the Town's consulting engineers had been fully paid from Developer's escrowed funds, voted to return the escrowed balance. The matter is now concluded. The Developer's withdrawal letter is posted on the Board's webpage.

The Board also conducted a public hearing on the Town's application (through the Highway Department) for a Special Permit to redesign and improve the Powissett Brook culvert under Wilsondale Street. A special permit was required under Bylaw Section 185-29 (River and Stream Protection) because work would be within 50 feet of Powissett Brook. Based on detailed exhibits and testimony the Board granted the Special Permit. Subject to funding approval, work is expected to commence next year. The Board's detailed written decision was filed with the Town Clerk on November 12 and, with no appeal taken in the requisite 20 days, is now final.

[Visit the Board of Appeals Webpage](#)

Recycling Committee

Upcoming Events

Dover Recycling Committee and the DPW will host a special **Styrofoam Recycling Weekend** on **January 10-11, 2026**, at the Transfer Station. All Styrofoam needs to be clean (no food residue, labels, stickers, or tape).

We will be accepting the following Styrofoam materials:

- Egg Cartons
- Styrofoam Coolers
- Food Cups & Trays
- Styrofoam Packaging

Unacceptable Styrofoam materials include:

- Polyurethane Foam
- Foam Wrapping
- Pluck Foam
- Packing Peanuts

General rule of thumb – If the material doesn't SNAP when bent, we can't accept it.

Dover will be hosting our first **Repair Café**, in partnership with Westwood Environmental Action Committee, Sustainable Medfield, and Medfield's Transfer Station, on **Saturday, January 31st** at the Community Center from 12:30 – 3:30 PM. Volunteers with repair skills will be donating their time and tools to help community members fix common items, including clothing, jewelry, lamps, clocks, bikes, and small appliances. The fix is free, but is not guaranteed. Residents are required to bring the required parts and sign a waiver. There will be a small "parts store" for common items.

New Life Furniture Bank will be collecting gently used furniture and household goods at the Dover Transfer Station on **Saturday, January 17th**. Your donations will help people transitioning out of homelessness. Items must be in good condition (no damage or stains), not be oversized (most will go into small apartments), and be practical for everyday use. For more information on what New Life accepts, please visit their website.

[Visit New Life Furniture Bank's Website](#)

Don't forget! String lights should NOT be placed in recycling bins or trash.

String lights get tangled and jam the equipment. There is a bin specifically for string light collection in the swap shop. Please place your no-longer-needed light strings there.



Did you know?

Wreaths and holiday centerpieces are NOT recyclable. Whether they're real or fake greenery, if you can't reuse them, put them in the trash. (Consider removing the baubles first to get crafty with next year.) A RecycleSmartMA tip!

Conservation Commission



Experience the Wonders of Nature in Winter

Nature in winter may appear quiet, but our open spaces are teeming with activity if you know where to look! The Conservation Commission encourages you to bundle up and head outside to explore the world of winter, from owls and songbirds to wildlife tracks in the snow. In addition to Dover's extensive acres of conservation land and open space to explore, we encourage you to visit Mass Audubon's Broadmoor Sanctuary is right next door in South Natick at 280 Eliot Street. The Broadmoor Sanctuary encompasses 624 acres of forests, meadows, marshes, and wetlands along the Charles River with over 8 miles of trails. It's a great place for hiking and wildlife, and birdwatching – birdwatchers have identified over 175 species on the property! A sampling of their upcoming winter programs is listed below.

Upcoming Broadmoor Programs for Families & Children

Family Night Hike and Owl Prowl

Saturday, January 10 & February 7 • 4:30-6:00 PM

Search the skies for signs of owls on an evening hike through fields and forests.

12 Days of Winter

Sunday, January 25 • 2:00-3:30 PM

Read a cozy winter storybook all about wildlife in winter, meet a live rabbit, and create your own winter animal tracks book to take home.

Winter Birds

Saturday, January 31 & Sunday, February 22 • 2:00-3:30 PM

Find out how birds stay warm in the winter by meeting a live songbird, crafting a simple bird feeder, and taking a stroll around the sanctuary to look for birds in the wild.

Animal Tracks & Signs

Saturday February 7, March 14 & 22 • 2:00-3:30 PM

Uncover the secrets of winter wildlife as we search for tracks and signs from otters, rabbits, deer, coyotes, and more.

Creatures of the Night

Saturday, March 14 • 6:00-7:30 PM

Observe our wild neighbors who come out at night on an evening stroll through the sanctuary as we search for Wild Turkeys, owls, American Woodcocks, and more.

[Visit Mass Audubon's Website](#)



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