

OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA



Welcome to the November Issue of OUR TOWN

November is finally here, and there's so much for you to enjoy! Don't miss the fun opportunities provided by the Council on Aging, recreation programs, and Open Space that celebrate the beauty of fall. You'll also find exciting updates about the community center and various projects from the Department of Public Works (DPW). Additionally, we have important information regarding our ongoing communications survey and a new sticker requirement for the transfer station that you'll want to know about. This month's newsletter is packed with great tidbits, and we hope you enjoy it! Happy November!

**If you are part of a Town Department/
board/committee/commission and would like to
submit content for the June issue, please contact
newsletter@doverma.gov**

SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER



VOL. 3, NO.11, NOVEMBER 2024

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE...

Rail Trail Update

Town Departments

- **Town Administrator**
- **DPW**
- **Council on Aging**
- **Chickering Elementary**
- **Community Center**

Boards and Committees

- **Conservation**
- **Board of Health**
- **Open Space
Committee**
- **Volunteer**



Town Communications Survey

Town of Dover Wants to Know What You Think!

The Town of Dover wants to improve how it shares information with people who live or work in the community. As part of this effort, we have launched an online survey to better understand how community members would like to receive communication from the Town, on which topics, and more.

The survey is online and can be found here by using the QR Code found on flyers around town. It should take less than ten minutes to complete. Survey participants will directly impact how the Town reaches out in the future. The survey will be open September 12 to November 15. For more information, contact the Assistant Town Administrator, Chris Costello, at ccostello@doverma.gov or call 508-785-0032.



 **TALK TO THE TOWN**
The Town of Dover wants to improve how it
shares and exchanges information with people

**Go to tinyurl.com/DoverMA
or scan the QR code below
to take the survey**



**If you have any questions, please contact
Chris Costello at ccostello@doverma.gov**

The survey is open until November 15, 2024



The flyer is a vertical rectangular card with a light orange background and a darker orange border. At the top left is a blue megaphone icon. To its right is the title 'TALK TO THE TOWN' in bold blue letters, followed by a subtitle in smaller blue text. Below this is a white rectangular box containing the survey URL and a QR code. Under the box, there is contact information for Chris Costello. At the bottom of the flyer is the official seal of the Town of Dover, Massachusetts, which is circular and features a building, a tree, and the text 'TOWN OF DOVER MASSACHUSETTS' and 'INCORPORATED 1759'.

Town Declares State of Drought

On October 11th, the Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary declared a Level 1 - Mild Drought for Central and Northeast Regions of Massachusetts, Including Dover. This was in response to two months of below normal rainfall and was informed by recommendations and discussions by the Drought Management Task Force (DMTF).

For a Level 1 - Mild Drought, the DEP recommends areas limit non-essential water use, including irrigation, to one day per week before 9 am and after 5 pm. Given the drought status for Norfolk County, the water conservation measures recommended by the MA DEP, and the localized drought impacts that are evident through the Towns monitoring wells, the Board of Selectmen have declared a state of drought and limit all non-essential water use, including irrigation, to one day per week before 9 am and after 5 pm.

Town House Roof Project

The roof replacement project at the Dover Town House is progressing well. This project involves a complete roof replacement, as well as the replacement of deteriorated wood blocking, gutters, and the cupola's wood siding. The roof replacement began in the spring of 2024 and is expected to be completed by the spring of 2025.

Currently, the focus is on completing the gutters, downspouts, and the siding surrounding the skylights. In the spring, the final work involving the flashing around the cupolas and the primary roof will mark the completion of the project.



Gutters



Gutters

Community Center Construction Update

November Update

Since our last update, we've hit some exciting milestones! The building's exterior and interior insulation are complete, and drywall installation is nearly finished. With finishing underway, the interiors are really taking shape, and the excitement around the project's progress is palpable. This drywall phase is a major achievement, marking the completion of rough mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection work.

On the outside, we're gearing up for the next steps: grading, retaining walls, fencing, curbing, and paving. As we track toward substantial completion by late January, the countdown to turn over the building to the Town (and begin the move-in process) has officially begun! By late February, final touches will wrap up, and the vision will be fully realized. Stay tuned as we bring this project to life!



First Floor Corridor



Second Floor Corridor



Gym



Community Room



Second Floor Connector



West Elevation



Dance Studio



**Underground Storage
Tanks**

Open Space Committee

2nd Saturday Stroll from Larrabee-Whiting Estate



Please join us for a free guided walk from Dover's Larrabee-Whiting property, sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC) in partnership with the Dover Historical Society (DHS).

On November 9th, we will walk through the Larrabee fields and on to Hale's wooded trails. We will appreciate Larrabee's classic field on Strawberry Hill, learn about this property bequeathed in support of the poor of Dover and explore the cellar hole of an early African American resident of Dover. Walks will not be too strenuous but will be over uneven and possibly wet ground so wear appropriate footwear and bring walking sticks, bug spray, sunscreen, binoculars and cameras. Long pants, socks are suggested against briars & ticks!

We will stroll in misty rain to shine. Polite dogs on leash welcome. Parking & meet-up information will be emailed to registered participants Friday 11/8.

The link to the eventbrite to register for parking instructions is: <https://Stroll-from-Larrabee.eventbrite.com>

Land Management Working Group

The Land Management Working Group is organizing a trail work day at the Town Conservation Land at Snow's Hill on Sunday, November 10, at 2 PM. If the weather is rainy or temperatures drop below 40°F, we will postpone the event to the rain date of Saturday, November 16, at 10 AM. We will meet at the Snow's Hill turn-out. Feel free to bring your own hand tools (not motorized and no chainsaws). Volunteers must be at least 14 years old.

Tasks for the day will include installing new trail markers on the Blue (Whistler) Trail in the Wylde Woods/Centre Street Conservation Corridor and trimming and clearing the trail as needed.

For any questions, please contact anagy@doverma.gov. We look forward to seeing you there!

Parks and Recreation

Winter Registration is OPEN!



Chickering Elementary School

Chickering School was thrilled to host our annual International Night last week. Friends and families shared the traditions and food of 20 different countries and cultures and we were treated to 6 different performances.

MCAS results have been released to the public and each year this provides an opportunity to review our teaching and learning. Overall all students in the state of Massachusetts demonstrated lower scores. As usual, at Chickering we showed growth in some areas (grade 3 Math, grade 5 Science, Engineering and Technology) and area for growth (Written Production: Write a paragraph based on the reading).

As we approach the elections next week we shared several resources appropriate to read with our younger learners and future voters. For example, *President of the Jungle*, *Vote for Our Future*, *Duck for President* and *Sofia Valdez, Future Prez*.

Department of Public Works

Dover Land Conservation Trust Project

Dover DPW recently completed a project on behalf of the Dover Land Conservation Trust (DLCT.) The DLCT wanted to provide parking along Strawberry Hill Street for access to the Blake Reservation. The DPW was provided impervious pavers and completed the parking spaces in early October. As a reminder parking is permitted from Dawn to Dusk, and Please do not use neighbors' driveways for turning around.



Pavers

Minuteman Regional Vocational DPW Collaboration Project

Dover DPW has partnered with our vocational school Minuteman Regional Technical High School, to refurbish our existing cold storage facility. This facility houses our salting equipment during the spring and summer months to protect equipment from debris and inclement weather. The carpentry work is being led by Mr. Frank LaRosa their carpentry instructor, and constructed by sophomore students. The project will be ongoing all academic semester. We look forward to updating the community with the repaired facility.



Cold Storage Facility

DPW Salt Shed Facility

The new salt shed construction has reached substantial completion. The remaining steps include pavement, loading ramp, and fencing. Rest assured this will be ready for use during winter months, to providing public safety to the community during the snow and ice months.



Salt Shed

Board of Appeals

An application has been filed with the Board of Appeals for a Comprehensive Permit under M.G.L. Chapter 40B, Sections 20-23 to construct a 42-unit (11 affordable) apartment building at 81/85 Tisdale Drive, Dover, MA 02030 with all associated site improvements. The first session of the required public hearing is scheduled for Monday, November 4, at 7:00 PM and will be conducted via Zoom. The link and instructions for the November 4 session will be posted with the meeting agenda on the town's website. The applicant will provide the meeting a summary of its proposal.

To view application materials and project history, please visit. <https://www.doverma.gov/750/81-85-Tisdale-40B>

Further updates will be posted on the webpage as the application process continues.

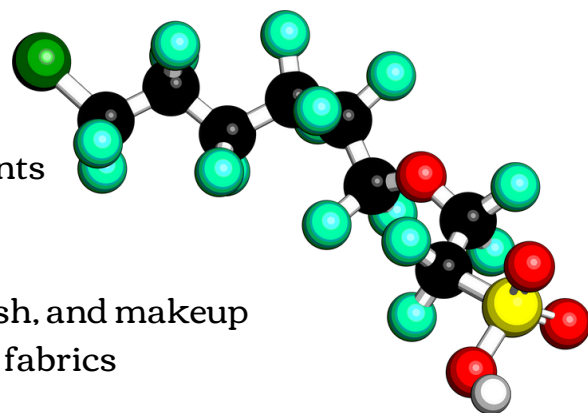
Board of Health

Information on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that are resistant to heat, grease, oil, and water (CDC, 2024). They are known as "forever chemicals," meaning they are extremely persistent in our environment and bodies. They can lead to health problems such as liver damage, thyroid disease, obesity, fertility issues, and cancer (European Environmental Agency).

PFAS can be found in the following (Wisconsin DHS):

- cleaning products
- water-resistant fabrics, such as rain jackets, umbrellas, and tents
- grease-resistant paper
- nonstick cookware
- personal care products such as shampoo, dental floss, nail polish, and makeup
- stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics



Some ways to reduce exposure to PFAS include:

- filter drinking water (use a filter certified to remove PFAS, such as whole-house, under-sink, or pitcher filter)
- avoid PFAS-containing products (avoid products with "fluoro" or "perfluoro")
- use safe cookware (replace non-stick with stainless steel or cast iron)
- limit consumption of takeout and delivery, as many food containers are coated with PFAS



Dover Council on Aging invites you to our upcoming programs. You can check out the November/December COA Newsletter with our full slate of programs. Some November highlights are below. Sign up for programs by emailing coa@doverma.gov or by using our Online COA Program Sign-Up Form.

SAND FOR SENIORS

Dover COA in partnership with the Men's Breakfast Group at The Dover Church will once again prepare and deliver buckets of sand/salt to Dover seniors. If you would like a bucket of sand/salt (complete with lid and scoop) for your steps or walkway, email coa@doverma.gov or call the COA at 508.315.5734. Buckets will be delivered December 14. Funded by Friends of Dover COA.

TECH HELP WITH DSHS STUDENTS

Wednesday, November 6 at 1:00pm

Dover Town House, Selectmen's Meeting Room

Are you confused by your phone, iPad, or other device? When you hit the wrong button, do you know how to get back? Do you know there's an easier way to do something, but you just don't know what it is? What other issues do you have? Bring your device and questions and get individual help from the experts-high school students!



UPPER CHARLES TRAIL WALK

Friday, November 8 at 10:00am

Interested in learning more about Rail Trails? Dover resident Justine Kent-Uritam will lead a one hour walk (2 miles round trip) along the Upper Charles Trail in Holliston. The walk will be on a hard-packed surface and will take place misty rain to shine. For over two decades, Justine was the Executive Director of the Upper Charles Conservation Land Trust (www.uppercharles.org), which conceived of the 26 miles of the rail trail in 1996. The walk and parking are free, but bring money for lunch and join us at a local restaurant afterward. Limited to 10 walkers. Meet at the Town Garage parking lot to carpool. Priority to Dover residents.

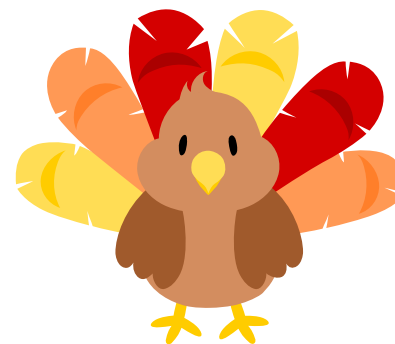
COA THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

Tuesday, November 12 at 12:15pm

The Dover Church, Kraft Hall, 17 Springdale Ave

Cost: \$5.00; FREE for Veterans

Gather with the COA to enjoy a Thanksgiving feast and give thanks for good food, good friends and a great community. RSVP by November 4.





TECH SUPPORT CLASSES

Transportation Using Uber or LYFT

Wednesday, November 13 at 11:00am

For iPhone or iPad users only

This class dives into two popular ride-share apps, Uber and Lyft, and teaches participants to use them to find rides, order groceries, and much more. We learn to book rides for ourselves and others, add payment methods, and stay safe while ordering rides. Limited to 15 participants.

TALK WITH THE TOWN:

DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Monday, November 18 at 10:30am

Dover Town Library, Community Room

The COA hosts Dover's Director of Public Works Kevin McCabe to share an update on projects. Do you have questions about streets, trees, or the transfer station? Here is an opportunity to ask them!



Transfer Station

DPW Will Issue New Stickers for the Town of Dover's Transfer Station

Located at 211 Powisset St. As of January 1st, 2025, every resident who utilizes the transfer station will be required to have the new sticker. As in the past, there is no fee associated with the new sticker. The application process can be done online or in person. If completed online you can skip the wait and have your sticker(s) mailed to your residence. To complete the application process online, please go to: <https://www.doverma.gov/184/Transfer-Station>. In-person applications can be completed at the town garage, located at 2 Dedham St. In addition, the recycling committee will also be available the weekend of November 16 at the transfer station to help with stickers. To obtain a new transfer station sticker, you will need the following:

- Vehicle Registration
- Proof of Residency- may be substantiated with a valid driver's license, property tax bill, lease, utility bill, or other similar documentation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us via email at towngarage@doverma.gov or by phone at 508-785-0058.

Conservation Commission

We share our town with a diverse range of wildlife that you may come across in your yard, neighborhood or in and around our open spaces. We have a responsibility to future generations and all living things to protect the environment, so we can all thrive together. Protecting ecosystems and nature includes protecting wildlife.



Here are a few ways that you can help protect Dover's wildlife:

Slow Down While Driving

Roads can be hazardous for animals crossing. Please drive carefully, especially near ponds and open spaces. Additional "Wildlife Crossing" signs will be installed in these areas.

Plant Native Species

Start in your own backyard by planting native trees, bushes, and plants that provide food for wildlife. Consider supporting organizations like ACTrees.

Reduce Lawn Area

Minimize traditional lawns by planting vegetable or flower gardens with native species. Even small changes can have a big impact.

Avoid Harmful Chemicals

Chemicals can harm beneficial wildlife like bees and butterflies. Use natural pest control and organic fertilizers instead.

Pick Up Trash

Collect litter to protect wildlife from dangerous debris like plastic. It also keeps our community looking good.

Donate or Volunteer

Support animal rights organizations and local shelters. Donations and volunteer efforts help protect wildlife and care for animals in need.

For questions about wetlands or environmental protection, contact the Conservation Commission at 508-785-0032 extension 7 or lhagerty@doverma.gov. Thank you for helping protect our environment!



Recycling Committee

The Dover Recycling Committee is thrilled to announce the introduction of two new year-round collections at the swap shop. Gently used plastic, cloth, and handled grocery bags will be donated to our local food pantry, A Place To Turn (APTT). APTT uses approximately 7,500 bags each month to provide healthy food to hundreds of families.

Additionally, tennis balls will be sent for reuse and recycling through RecycleBalls.org. Local DSHS senior Stacey Liu has partnered with this non-profit organization, which separates the felt from the rubber to create natural crumb rubber for various surfaces. It is worth noting that tennis balls take 400 years to decompose.



Volunteer on a Board or Committee

Participating in community service has numerous benefits, such as enjoying government service and engagement, understanding the process of municipal government, building personal relationships, meeting interesting people of all ages, and achieving accomplishments for citizens.

Dover's boards, commissions, and committees are made up of citizens who volunteer their time to help the town. They work together to address complex issues and recommend policies that shape our community. Dover's By-laws (Town Code) establish these groups. We offer various opportunities for interested individuals to participate. Terms vary from one to five years. Some committees require specific expertise. Some committees have associate members. Vacancies on full committees are typically filled from the pool of associates. If you would like to serve on a board or committee, please visit the following link:

<https://www.doverma.gov/596/Volunteer-on-a-Board-or-Committee>



Quick Links

➡ Interested in serving on a volunteer board/committee/commission? Click to learn about the process and vacant positions.

LEARN MORE



➡ Register for the Community Center Club

LEARN MORE



Click below to stay updated on Town news

