



Welcome to the February Edition of OUR TOWN!

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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



Welcome to the February edition of OUR TOWN! This month's edition is packed with updates from departments, boards, and committees related to their current initiatives, upcoming events, important reminders, and more!

Some highlights from this edition include the opportunity for Tax Exemptions for certain groups, Parks & Recreation's 2026 calendar of important events, Dover Library's 2025 year in review, reminders from the tree committee, and an upcoming Saturday Stroll with the Open Space Committee. All this and more, keep on reading to find out what is happening in OUR TOWN!

Town Clerk

Town Caucus Reminders

Town Caucus will be held on Monday, March 2, at 7:30 PM in the Great Hall of the Dover Town House. The Caucus is held for the purpose of nominating candidates to the various elected Board and Committee positions available in the town. For information on available openings, please contact the Town Clerk's Office.

Anyone wishing to be nominated for a position should have someone nominate them at the Caucus. This will be seconded by all attendees, and then the nominee may accept the nomination, if present. If a nominee is unable to be present at Caucus, it is helpful to know that ahead of time. At the end of the evening, all nominees present should see the Town Clerk to sign the acceptance of nomination form, and pick up a packet of information regarding campaign financing. If the nominee is not present, they must call the Town Clerk to set up a time to come to the office, sign the form and pick up the packet of information.

If you are interested in a position, but miss the Caucus, you can request nomination papers from the Town Clerk, as of March 5. 35 signatures of registered voters will be required.

Assessors Office

Do You Qualify For Real Estate Tax Bill Exemptions?

The Assessors office reminds residents that if you are a senior, blind person, or a disabled veteran, you may qualify for an exemption on your real estate tax bill. Applications for exemptions are available on the Assessors page on the town website.

The statutory deadline for applications is April 1, 2026.

Questions about your application? Please contact the Assessors office via phone (508-785-0032 ext. 241), or stop by the office at the Dover Town House (5 Springdale Avenue, second floor) for more information.

[Visit the Assessors Webpage](#)

Parks and Recreation

Middle School Ski Program

We're halfway through our Middle School Ski Program, and it's been going great! Each Friday night, 50 Dover Sherborn Middle School students travel to Nashoba Valley Ski Area for six weeks of skiing, snowboarding, and fun. The group has had an awesome time on the slopes so far, and we're excited for the rest of the session.

DOVER PARKS & REC 2026
IMPORTANT DATES

Spring / Summer Program Registration ...	Wednesday, March 18 th , 2026 at 12pm
Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 4 th , 2026
Fishing Derby	Sunday May 3 rd , 2026
Summer Concert Series	Tuesday, July 7 th , 2026
	Tuesday, July 14 th , 2026
	Tuesday, July 21 st , 2026
	Tuesday, July 28 th , 2026
Back to School Kids Concert	TBD
Fall Program Registration	Wednesday, August 12 th , 2026 at 12pm
Dover Days	Saturday, September 19 th , 2026
Spooky Saturday	Saturday, October 17 th , 2026
Winter Program Registration	Wednesday, October 21 st , 2026 at 12pm
Turkey Bowl	Wednesday, November 25 th , 2026
Welcome Winter	Wednesday, December 9 th , 2026

Sign Up For Parks & Recreation Activities!

Dover Town Library



Fire Department

Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that often goes undetected, catching victims off guard or in their sleep.

Hundreds of people in the U.S. die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than 20,000 visit the emergency room, and more than 4,000 others are hospitalized. This "invisible killer" is produced by burning fuel in cars or trucks, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges, portable generators or furnaces. When the gas builds up in enclosed spaces, people or animals who breathe it can be poisoned. Ventilation does not guarantee safety.

Winter can be a prime time for carbon monoxide poisoning as people turn on their heating systems and mistakenly warm their cars in garages. As the weather turns colder, it is important to take extra precautions.

Safety Tips:

- Have your furnace, water heater, and any other gas or oil-burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year
- Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors
- Have your chimney checked and cleaned every year; make sure your fireplace damper is open before lighting a fire and well after the fire is extinguished

- Never use a gas oven for heating your home
- Never use a generator inside your home, basement, or garage, or less than 20 feet from any window, door, or vent; fatal levels of carbon monoxide can be produced in just minutes, even if doors and windows are open
- Never run a car in a garage that is attached to a house, even with the garage door open; always open the door to a detached garage to let in fresh air when you run a car inside
- Replace old CO alarms every 5 to 7 years, according to the instructions.

When the alarm sounds:

- Leave the building.
- Get out, Stay out!
- Go to the family meeting place.
- Dial 9-1-1 from a neighbor’s house

Council on Aging

The 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 February highlights are below. Sign up for programs by emailing coa@doverma.gov or by using our [Online COA Program Sign-Up Form](#).

KNITTING TOGETHER

Monday, February 2 • 1:00-2:00 PM • *Community Center, Study*

Bring your latest knitting project, share tips, and enjoy good company with fellow enthusiasts. All levels are welcome.

BLACK HEROES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Tuesday, February 3 • 11:00 AM-12:00 PM • *Community Room*

While some Americans protested British rule, many Black men and women, enslaved or born into bondage, fought for freedom in the Revolutionary War. Some were promised emancipation, others defended the land they called home. Through cannons and spies, these brave individuals played central roles in America’s fight for independence. Join orator Johnny Kinsman as he highlights their remarkable stories.

TALK WITH THE TOWN: TOWN PLANNER

Thursday, Feb 5 • 1:00-2:00 PM • *Community Room*

Meet Town Planner Melissa SantucciRozzi and hear an overview of the Planning Board articles slated for Town Meeting and general updates on ongoing Planning Board initiatives. Come learn what’s underway and what’s ahead for Dover, and bring your questions!

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, February 10 • 2:00 PM • *Dover Town Library, 56 Dedham St*

This month's book is *Foster* by Claire Keegan. Watch the film adaptation *The Quiet Girl* followed by discussion in the Library's Community Room. Page Turners is led by Dover Librarian Liz Fogarty. Copies of the book are available at the Library. For more info, contact Liz at 508-785-8113 or efogarty@minlib.net.

VALENTINE'S SOCIAL

Friday, February 13 • 11:00 AM-12:00 PM • *Activity Room*

Celebrate love, friendship, and community at a Valentine’s Social! Join us for delicious treats, festive activities, and cheerful company.

COOKING WITH ROBERTA: THE ART OF THE DUMPLING

Wednesday, February 18 • 11:00 AM-1:00 PM • *Community Room Kitchen*

Cost: \$25; Limited to 12 students
In this fun, hands-on class, Chef Roberta Hing teaches you to create dumplings using traditional pork filling and homemade dumpling wrappers. Make both Crispy Pan-fried Pot Stickers and Savory Wontons along with different dipping sauces. A crispy dessert dumpling will finish off the feast.

TECH CLASS: STAYING IN TOUCH USING PHONE, MESSAGES, AND FACETIME

Thursday, February 19 • 11:00 AM-12:00 PM • *Community Room*

This class focuses on using the iPhone and iPad to stay in touch with friends and loved ones. Learn about sending texts in Messages, managing contacts in Phone, and setting up video calls in FaceTime. We also learn to use Siri to make calls and send messages.

WHAT TO READ NEXT: AN AFTERNOON WITH THE DOVER TOWN LIBRARY

Tuesday, February 24 • 1:30-2:30 PM • *Dover Town Library, 56 Dedham St*

Celebrate National Book Lovers Month this February! Join Librarians as they share top picks for new book releases and highlight exciting upcoming programs. Discover your next great read and get inspired by all the library has to offer.

[Sign up for COA Events](#)

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 inches 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.

Visit the Stormwater Webpage



Open Space Committee

2nd Saturday Stroll or Snowshoe

Saturday, February 14th | 10:30 AM
FREE but please register!

Please join us for a guided walk or snowshoe, sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC). On February 14th, depending on the conditions, we will walk or snowshoe through Dover’s own Wylde Woods.

This may be more rigorous than our usual walks. It will be over uneven and possibly wet and slippery ground, so wear appropriate footwear for the conditions - snowshoes or tall boots with Yak Trax or similar non-slip protection. Wear warm clothing, hats, gloves, and bring walking sticks (ski poles), binoculars, and cameras. Polite dogs on leash welcome. We will stroll in flurries to shine.

Parking information will be provided to registered participants on Friday morning and again early on Saturday before the walk. Conditions willing, we will NOT be parking at the pull-out on Centre Street, so please look for the email on Friday.

Register Here!

Planning Board

In October, the Planning Board initiated the process to fill the vacant associate position on the Board. The call for interest was promoted on the town website, town newsletter, and various announcements and posts on social media with help from Dover’s communications team. Shortly after the Planning Board undertook this task, full member William Motley submitted his resignation on November 11, 2025. This resignation resulted in the need to appoint an associate member and a full member to fill the vacancies until the 2026 Town Election. The call for interest resulted in responses from five Dover residents. Out of the five residents who expressed interest, ultimately only four of them participated in an interview with the Planning Board. Interviews were conducted by the Planning Board in an open session on November 17, 2025, and December 8, 2025. At a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board held on January 5, 2026, nominations were made by the Planning Board for both the alternate and full member positions. During that joint meeting, a vote was taken by both boards to unanimously appoint Nicholas Boehm as the full member and Eric Aborjaily as the alternate member.

The Planning Board thanks Mr. Motley for his years of service on the Planning Board and welcomes Mr. Boehm and Mr. Aborjaily to their newly appointed roles on the board. The Board also thanks the other applicants for their interest in serving on Planning Board.

Board of Appeals

The Board of Appeals did not meet in January. A scheduled hearing for January 22 to consider a contractor’s request for a variance was cancelled due to the contractor’s decision to withdraw the application.

Visit the Board of Appeals Webpage

Recycling Committee

Upcoming Recycling Committee Events:

New Life Furniture Bank will be collecting gently used furniture and household goods at the Dover Transfer Station on Saturday, **February 21st**. 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 practical for everyday use. For more information on what New Life accepts, please visit their website below.

Visit New Life Furniture Bank's Website

Don’t forget! Our local food pantry, A Place to Turn, needs your clean, new, or gently used paper bags with handles. Please place these in the large bin with A Place to Turn signage in the Swap Shop. Dirty, torn, non-reusable paper bags should go in the cardboard recycling trailer.

Thank you to everyone who turned out for our Styrofoam Recycling Event in January. With Westwood’s help, we filled almost a third of a very large trailer with styrofoam that will be ground and re-purposed for insulation and other uses, instead of heading to a landfill. We hope to have another event next year – stay tuned!

You may have noticed the new aluminum/small metals recycling bin at the Transfer Station! Please help keep this new bin from overflowing and cans from blowing about on windy days by bringing all of your deposit cans to the Deposit Shed at the lower level of the Transfer Station. Not only does this leave space for the aluminum that should be in the new bin; but redemption of the cans brings needed funds to the Town to support the Transfer Station.



Did you know? Winter Edition

Our Swap Shop is a great place to donate or pick up gently used winter sports gear like skis, ski poles, snowboards, and skates. If you can't find what you want at the Swap Shop, check out used sections at pro shops, in online marketplaces, and sustainability groups. Not only will you give these items a second chance, you'll save money, too!

A RecycleSmartMA tip!



Conservation Commission

Managing Invasive Plants on Your Property

The Conservation Commission encourages homeowners to remove and manage invasive plants on their properties. These species create long-term ecological, financial, and property management problems that typically worsen if left unaddressed. Homeowners are essential to help the Commission combat invasive plants and promote a healthy landscape and ecosystem. We encourage residents to attend this FREE webinar presented by the Mass. Pollinator Network that will help you identify common invasive plants and guide you through the best ways to manageinvasives on your property.



Photo of Garlic Mustard, a Common & Aggressive Invasive Plant Found in Dover

FREE Webinar via Zoom
Tuesday, February 24, 2026
7:00 - 8:15 PM

Register For This Presentation

The Commission strongly recommends that homeowners only use natural and manual methods to remove invasive plants without the use of any chemicals or herbicides in order to protect their health and safety and protect against toxic contamination of our natural resources and drinking water supplies.

Managing invasive plants on your property will help address the following issues:

1. Loss of Native Plants and Wildlife Habitat

Invasive plants outcompete native vegetation for light, water, and nutrients. As native plants decline, so do the insects, birds, and pollinators that depend on them. This results in an altered landscape with reduced biodiversity and diminished ecological function.

2. Increased Maintenance and Control Costs

Once established, invasive plants are difficult and costly to control. They often require repeated mechanical removal and professional management. Early intervention is significantly less expensive than large-scale remediation after the infestation spreads.

3. Spread to Neighbouring Properties and Conservation Land

Many invasive species spread aggressively via wind-borne seeds, birds, or underground root systems. A single unmanaged yard can lead to the spread of invasives into adjacent properties, wetlands, and protected open space.

4. Damage to Soil Stability and Drainage

Some invasive plants have shallow or poorly structured root systems that fail to stabilize soils. This can contribute to erosion, increased runoff, and degraded drainage, particularly on slopes or near wetlands and water bodies.

5. Impacts on Property Value and Aesthetics

Properties dominated by invasive plants often appear unkempt and are less attractive to buyers. In some cases, lenders or buyers may require invasive species management as part of property transactions or permitting processes.

6. Increased Risk to Trees and Infrastructure

Certain invasive vines and shrubs (e.g., bittersweet, knotweed) can girdle trees, damage fences, undermine foundations, and obstruct drainage systems. Over time, this can result in costly repairs or the need for tree removal.

7. Regulatory and Permitting Implications

In Massachusetts, invasive species within wetland resource areas or buffer zones can complicate permitting under the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act and the Dover Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Failure to manage invasives may limit future improvements if work is required later. Please contact the Conservation Commission if you're thinking of removing invasives in or near any wetland resource areas.

8. Missed Opportunity for Climate Resilience

Native plant communities are better adapted to local climate conditions and extreme weather. Invasive-dominated landscapes are less resilient to drought, flooding, and storms, increasing long-term vulnerability.

The Conservation Commission is charged with protecting, preserving, and enhancing the Town's wetlands, natural resources, and open space. We are available to help you with any questions or concerns you may have 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 starting a project or removing any trees. You can reach the Commission Office by calling 508-785-0032 extension 7 or by emailing dtakacs@doverma.gov. Thank you for helping to protect our environment!



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