

News from the City of Dover, New Hampshire



February 16, 2024



CITY OF DOVER, NH

288 Central Avenue Dover, NH 03820 603-516-6000

City Hall hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Recycling Center hours:

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



City Manager presents proposed FY2025 budget to Council

Budget workshops begin next week

City Manager J. Michael Joyal, Jr. presented the proposed fiscal year 2025 budget to the City Council at its meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024. The presentation kicks off several weeks of budget meetings, workshops, and public hearings.

The City Manager's proposed budget includes the School Board's recommended budget for the School Department, which it adopted on Jan. 16, 2024. The proposed budget and

a video recording of the City Manager's presentation are posted on the FY2025 Budget Revealed webpage. Other budget meetings, presentations, and associated budget documents will be posted to this page. Video recordings of the School Board's budget review and associated budget documents are posted on the Budget Revealed page. Physical copies of the complete budget are available for review at the City Clerk's office and Dover Public Library.

The total proposed FY2025 budget totals \$198,713,177 across all funds, an increase of \$12,036,666, or 6.4%. The General Fund budget totals \$157,993,146, an increase of \$8,432,880, or 5.6%.

As proposed, the budget exceeds the tax cap calculation for the General Fund by \$2,110,950, with the School Board's recommended budget being \$2,136,019 above the school side of the tax cap calculation, which is slightly offset on the city side being \$25,069 below its half of the tax-cap calculation. This week, Joyal told the City Council the tax cap overage results from a \$2,511,925 decrease in anticipated state education funding for FY2025. For the City Council to adopt the budget as currently proposed would require a two-thirds affirmative vote by the City Council as opposed to a simple majority.

Based on the average residential property assessment of \$457,687, the estimated average property tax bill, based on the proposed budget, is \$9,040, an increase of \$481, or 5.6%. The final tax rate for Fiscal Year 2025 will be certified by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration in the fall of 2024 once it has information on the adopted budget and taxable assessed property values.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the public education side of the budget at its meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024. The public hearing on the city-side of the budget will be held at a special meeting on Wednesday, March 20.

Upcoming budget meetings and workshops

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.

City Council workshop
Budget review: School, Executive, Finance, Library, Welfare,
and DoverNet departmental budgets

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m. City Council regular meeting School budget public hearing

Wednesday, March 6, 7 p.m.

City Council workshop
Budget review: Police, Fire and Rescue, and Planning
departments

Wednesday, March 20, 7 p.m.

City Council special meeting
City budget public hearing
City Council workshop to follow the special meeting
Budget review: Community Services and Recreation budgets

Wednesday, April 3, 6 p.m. City Council workshop General budget review
Following workshop: City Council special meeting for budget
adoption

Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m. City Council regular meeting Fallback budget adoption date

Sign up for the Budget Revealed newsletter

The City Manager releases a weekly newsletter, Budget Revealed, which provides a host of information about the FY2025 budget process, including a recap of any budget presentations that week and a preview of what will occur the following week. Sign up for the newsletter here: https://bit.ly/doverdownload. Select "Budget Revealed" from the list of newsletters.

An archive of the newsletters will be posted to the FY2025 Budget Revealed page.

City offices closed for Presidents Day

City administrative offices, including City Hall, will be closed for Presidents Day on Monday, Feb. 19, 2024. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

The Public Library and the Dover Community Senior Center will also be closed on Presidents Day. The Indoor Pool will close at 1 p.m. on Presidents Day.

Curbside trash and recycling pickup are not affected by the holiday.

Dover's public schools are in session on Presidents Day. The schools will close the following week for winter recess.

Dover schools seek community input on strategic priorities

The Dover School District seeks community feedback on the district's strategic priorities through an online survey. The 2.0 Strategic Plan Steering Committee, which has been meeting since last fall, developed the survey to update the priorities in the district's strategic plan.

The survey asks community members to review several proposed focus areas and rank them in order of importance for the district's success.

In addition to the community survey, separate surveys have been sent to students, parents, and staff.

Community members are asked to complete the strategic plan survey before March 1. Feedback will help shape district priorities and decision-making in the years ahead.

The strategic plan is the topic of a School Board workshop on Monday, Feb. 19, beginning at 6 p.m. in School Board Chambers, Room 306, at the McConnell Center.

Take the survey at:

https://app.sli.do/event/cbnZBzsc2buZSMgnepTams



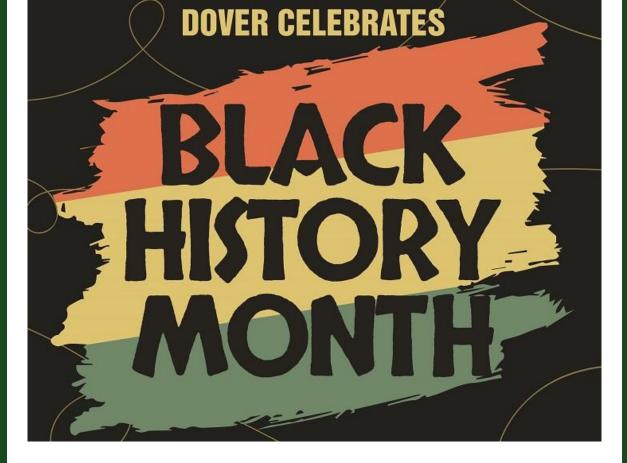
Deadline to order Veterans Park bricks in time for Memorial Day is Feb. 28

The Recreation Department will order another round of engraved bricks for Dover Veterans Park to be added for Memorial Day in May. The deadline to have bricks included in that order is Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 4 p.m.

Orders collected after the deadline through Aug. 31, 2024 will be sent in the next batch to be installed in the park by Veterans Day. The cost is \$100 for an 8-inch by 8-inch brick and \$50 for a 4-inch by 8-inch brick. The only requirement to have a name engraved is for the person to be a veteran. All bricks are engraved consistently with a full name, military rank and branch, and years of service and/or conflict. Upon request, bricks may also be grouped by family or service time.

Orders can be placed online at https://polarengraving.com/cityofdovernewhampshire. Contact the Recreation Department at 603-516-6410 with questions or help with ordering.

The Dover Veterans Park was dedicated on Veterans Day 2017. It now has more than 900 engraved bricks honoring veterans.



City Council proclamation honors Black History Month

Dover Mayor Robert Carrier read a proclamation at the Feb. 15, 2024 City Council meeting to recognize February as Black History Month.

"Each year, the Dover City Council takes pride in recognizing February as Black History Month," said Dover Mayor Robert Carrier, reading from the proclamation. "This month is a time for honoring and exploring the culture and history of African Americans, as well as recognizing that our society's rich diversity is one of our greatest strengths."

The proclamation outlined the history of Black History Month, which originated in 1915 when Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. It recognized the contributions of African Americans in helping create progress against slavery, Jim Crow laws, and the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Carrier presented the proclamation to City Councilor At-Large Linnea Nemeth, who also serves on Dover's Committee for Racial Equity and Inclusion.

The proclamation stated there is a continued need to eliminate barriers and empower all Black people. It encouraged everyone "to recognize and confront these issues by standing in the gap at every opportunity, eliminating barriers with fearlessness and determination to empower Black people to promote and protect their health and wellness."

In the proclamation, Carrier called on Dover residents to observe February with appropriate programs, activities, and reflections. He also urged residents to continue efforts "to create a world that is more just, equitable and prosperous for all."

The full proclamation is available on the city's website at dover.nh.gov.

No matter what some package labels state, due to limitations at MRFs (Material Recovery Facilities), it's not possible to recycle everything made of plastic, metal, glass, and paper. Residents may use this online search tool to identify acceptable recyclables for our community: www.recyclesmartma.org

For more information, please call Community Services at (603) 516-6073.



WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED?



METAL

Food and beverage cans. Empty and rinse.



PLASTIC

Bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs with a #1, #2, #5 marking BUT not all #1, #2, #5 are currently being recycled; these include soft plastics such as bags, Styrofoam, hard plastics which are solid color black, blue and brown. Empty and replace cap.



GLASS

Bottles and jars. Empty and rinse.



PAPER AND CARDBOARD

Mixed paper, newspaper, magazines and boxes.



FOR HELP IDENTIFYING ACCEPTABLE RECYCLABLES, VISIT WWW.RECYCLESMARTMA.ORG.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Upcoming Meetings:

School Board, Feb. 19, 6 p.m.

The School Board will hold a workshop session on Monday, Feb. 19, 2024, beginning at 6 p.m., in School Board Chambers, Room 306, the McConnell Center.

To view the meeting agenda, <u>click here</u>.

School Board, Feb. 19, to follow workshop

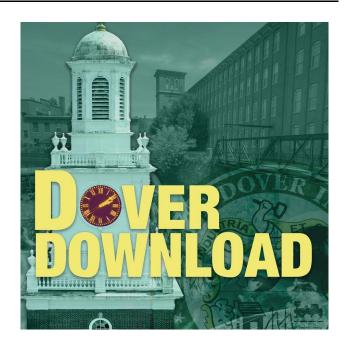
The School Board will hold a special meeting on Monday, Feb. 19, 2024, following the workshop session, in School Board Chambers, Room 306, the McConnell Center.

To view the meeting agenda, <u>click here</u>.

Joint Building Committee: Athletic Complex, Feb. 20, 5 p.m.

The Joint Building Committee for the Dover High School Athletic Complex will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024, beginning at 5 p.m., in the Superintendent's Conference Room, Room 402, at the McConnell Center.

To view the meeting agenda, click here.



A conversation with developer Eric Chinburg

In the latest episode of Dover Download, Deputy City Manager Christopher Parker chats with Eric Chinburg, owner of Chinburg Properties, which has owned and redeveloped the mills in downtown Dover for the past 15 years. Listen wherever you get your podcasts or at https://bit.ly/488NtAo.



City Council, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.

The City Council will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024, beginning at 7 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall.

To view the meeting agenda, <u>click here</u>.

Planning Board Technical Review Committee, Feb. 22, 10:30 a.m.

The Planning Board's Planning Technical Review Committee will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024, beginning at 10:30 a.m., in Council Conference Room, City Hall.

To view the meeting agenda, click here.

For a complete list of upcoming meetings, visit https://www.dover.nh.gov/government/open-government/public-meetings/.

Missed the meeting? Catch it again online

Don't forget: If you missed the live City Council, School Board or Planning Board meetings on Channels 22 and 95, you can catch them again, online and on demand.

Simply visit <u>www.dovernh.viebit.com</u> to begin watching meetings on demand. Online meetings are organized by agenda item for convenience.

Registration open for Dover Main Street's Run Before You Crawl 5K

Registration is open for Dover
Main Street's 10th annual Run
Before You Crawl 5K on
Saturday, March 16, beginning
at 9 a.m. This kick-off to the
2024 Dover Race Series
features a loop course, starting
and ending at St. Mary's Church on 4th St.

Over 10 restaurants will offer crawlers food apps and drink specials from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Do one, do both! For more information or to register, visit:

https://www.doverraceseries.org/events/run-before-you-crawl-5k-2024.html

Dover Download 'Question of the Week'

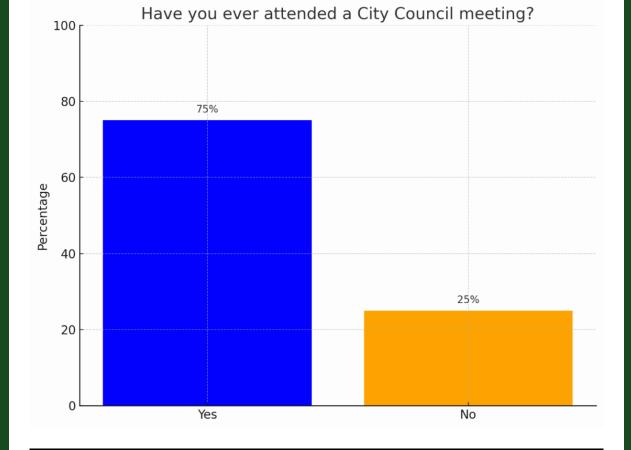
We want to hear from you! In each edition of Dover Download, we're looking for your response to our question of the week. A new poll will appear each week in Dover Download, along with the previous week's results. Participating is easy – just click on the link below to cast your vote.

This week's question: "What is your favorite museum pass to request from the library?"

Let us know here: https://polco.us/fhnkx5.

Please note that if you don't already have an account with Polco, the city's polling system, you will be asked to create one.

Here are the results from last week's poll, which asked, "Have you ever attended a City Council meeting?"





The following events are from various historical records, sources, and texts about the history of Dover.

For more on the history of Dover, visit the Dover Public Library, Locust Street, and the Woodman Museum on Central Avenue. The Public Library also maintains an online collection of historical information <u>located here</u>.

Feb. 17, 1824 — Notice was given that the Savings Bank for Strafford County, located in Dover, was organized and ready to receive deposits.

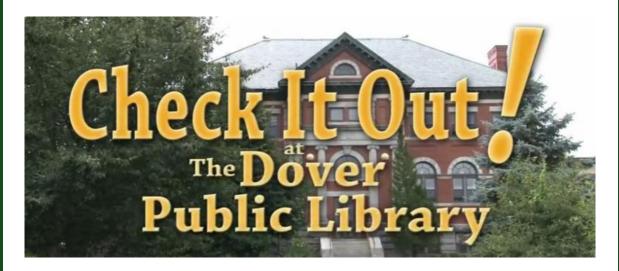
Feb. 17, 1856 — A severe snow storm occurred on this day, stopping all travel. No trains were able to reach Dover for four days.

Feb. 22, 1865 — Bells throughout the city were rung, and a grand salute was fired in commemoration of the fall of Charleston, S.C., and the hoisting of the Union flag at Fort Sumter.

Feb. 18, 1960 — Fire departments from two states responded to a major fire in a mixed-use building on Central Avenue, opposite City Hall. The fire threatened adjacent buildings, leading to the evacuation of four families. The building's owners, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Foreau, escaped their second-floor apartment shortly after midnight. Assistance was requested from nearby towns, and the fire, which started in Bob's Luncheonette on the ground floor, caused an estimated \$50,000 in damage.

Feb. 21, 1998 — City officials, including newly elected City Council members, School Board members, and then-Mayor Wil Boc gathered at The Loft at Strafford Farms for an inaugural event hosted by the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce. The evening served as an opportunity for elected officials and local business leaders to meet, discuss city-

business relations, and visit the recently opened farm-themed pub and dining room upstairs at the Strafford Farms restaurant. The informal event provided a chance for casual mingling over drinks and food between decision-makers and business owners.



Glow-in-the-dark indoor mini golf at the Dover Public Library

Looking for a fun, all-ages activity during February vacation week? Then come join us for a night of indoor glow-in-the-dark mini golf. Join the Dover Public Library on Saturday, March 2 for this after-hours event as One Up Games converts the library into 18 holes of custom-made LED mini golf.

The event will have three sessions available based on age. Families with children ages 0-6 are welcome to come play between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Families with children ages 7 and up are invited to golf between 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Adults and teens will finish up the night with mini golf sessions between 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Registration is required as space is limited.

This event will feature music, custom-designed golf clubs, LED golf balls, plenty of fun, and, yes, a very dark library.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required, and space is limited.

For more information or to sign up, visit the library's website at <u>library.dover.nh.gov</u> or call (603) 516-6050.

This Week at the Library

Monday, Feb. 19, All Day Library closed for Presidents Day

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 10 to 10:30 a.m. Mother Goose on the Loose

For babies through 2 years and parent/caregiver, Mother Goose on the Loose is a 30-minute program with nursery rhymes, songs, puppets, and short stories. A joyful and fun gathering that promotes early literacy skills.

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 6 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb, 21, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Chess Group

Adults and teens are invited to drop in to play a game or two and meet other folks interested in all things chess. Please bring a chess set if you have one!

Thursday, February 22, 10 to 10:45 am Arts and Crafts Storytime

Arts and Crafts Storytime is for children ages 3-6. Each session will focus on a different theme. Books, songs, rhymes, and an art activity will all be part of the

Dungeons & Dragons: Adult Group

Drop in and play Dungeons & Dragons with Game Master Dave. This 18 and older group is for new and veteran role-playing gamers to join us in the library for adventure, strategy, and imagination. The group will meet every Tuesday night; come when you can. No experience or materials are required.

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 9:30 to 11:30 am Adult Knitting Group

Knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us with their projects for an in-person crafting circle. All levels welcome.

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 10 to 10:30 a.m. Family Storytime

Children of all ages with caregivers are invited to this program, which includes stories, fingerplays, songs, and puppets.

Weds, Feb. 21, 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Caregiver Cafe

Join Cornerstone VNA for a morning of support, education, and conversation.

Loved ones are welcome.

Weds, Feb. 21, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
All Abilities Club: Legos
Join us in building with Legos. Use your imagination to make your own creation or try one of the challenges provided.

Wednesday, Feb 21, 6 to 8 p.m. Family Game Night

Play a fun selection of card and board games, and meet other board game enthusiasts in the community! You're also welcome to bring your own games. All ages are welcome.

fun. Registration required.

Thursday, February 22, 5 to 8 p.m. Magic the Gathering

Join every Thursday to play Magic the Gathering. Collect cards, build decks, and duel other players. All ages and skill levels welcome. No materials required.

Thursday, Feb. 22, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Cocheco River Writers

Join a community of local writers on the fourth Thursday of every month. Discuss ideas, get tips, and share your work with others in a low-key, inviting atmosphere. Whether you want to write creatively for fun or for publication, this group is a great way to hone your craft!

Saturday, Feb. 24, 2 to 3 p.m. Lego Club

Come build at Lego Club! There will be a specific "Challenge-of-the-day" to work on or you can build their own creations. This is a family event for people age 5-99. All LEGO creations stay at the library. CAUTION: Legos are a choking hazard to children under the age of 3.

Saturday, Feb. 24, 2 to 3 p.m. Tech Help

Do you need help with basic computer or technology skills? There will be teen volunteers available to assist you during this time. We will have library computers available for use or bring your own device (laptop, phone, or tablet).



Help plan for the future of Dover's natural resources at Feb. 22 event

The Strafford Regional Planning Commission, in association with the City of Dover, is conducting an inventory of natural resources in Dover. They invite interested parties to join them to plan for the future of Dover's natural resources on Thursday, Feb. 22, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium, 288 Central Ave, for a fun night of activities. Join members of the Conservation Commission, city staff, and partners at Strafford Regional Planning Commission and Resilience Planning and Designs to help build a vision together. RSVP at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DOVNRI





Dover Police to hold open house March 4

The Dover Police Department is hosting a community open house on March 4 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The event will take place at the Police Department, located at 46 Chestnut St.

The open house will allow residents to go behind the scenes of the police department and learn about its daily operations. Attendees will be able to explore the facilities, meet patrol officers and detectives, and learn about various divisions like the school resources unit and prevention services.

There will be no formal agenda. The goal is to foster connections between community members and law enforcement through informal interactions.

Police Chief William Breault will be available to answer questions about public safety, the department's policing approach, and any other topics.

The open house is open to all.

Joe B. Parks Riverwalk seeks garden tenders

The Joe B. Parks Riverwalk Public Gardens seeks individuals to help tend to the gardens or help with special projects. Tenders are needed for weekly sweeping, trash pickup, weeding, and general clean-up to keep these garden beds looking good—no gardening talent is needed.

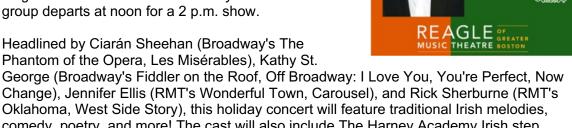
Volunteers may select a garden bed or task. Gardening tools are available onsite in the shed, and free two-hour parking is available near the Dover Post Office.

To learn more and to sign up, visit: https://www.joeparksgarden.org/index.php/our-roll volunteers-caregivers/

Join the Dover Community Senior Center for a St. Patrick's Day concert

Join the Dover Community Senior Center on Sunday, March 10, at Boston's Reagle Music Theatre, for *The* Magic Of Ireland: A St. Patrick's Day Concert. The group departs at noon for a 2 p.m. show.

Headlined by Ciarán Sheehan (Broadway's The Phantom of the Opera, Les Misérables), Kathy St.



Change), Jennifer Ellis (RMT's Wonderful Town, Carousel), and Rick Sherburne (RMT's Oklahoma, West Side Story), this holiday concert will feature traditional Irish melodies, comedy, poetry, and more! The cast will also include The Harney Academy Irish step dancers showcasing the rich tradition of Irish dance with their precision and grace.

Price includes deluxe coach transportation, theater seat, and driver gratuity. Full payment of \$130 members/\$140 not-yet-members is due at signup.

For more information, contact Linda Jarvis at 603-516-6420.

Dover Chamber accepting annual award nominations

The Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce (GDCC) is now accepting nominations for its Annual Awards in the following categories: Citizen of the Year, David K. Bamford Educator of the Year, Business of the Year, and Nonprofit of the Year. The GDCC also awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a local area student pursuing higher education.

These awards allow GDCC member businesses to celebrate excellence in their companies and recognize individuals and non-profits who have made a lasting impact in the Greater Dover community. All awards will be presented at the GDCC's Annual Awards Gala, scheduled for Thursday, May 9, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Red Barn at Outlook Farm in South Berwick, Maine. The 2024 Annual Awards Gala will be underwritten by Newburyport Bank.

The GDCC encourages businesses and residents to reflect on individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the community and consider nominating them for one of the Chamber awards. To submit a nomination, visit www.dovernh.org/awards. All nominations are due by March 18 at 5 p.m.

"Our educators, advocates, dedicated residents, nonprofit organizations, and businesses are true assets of our community," says GDCC President Margaret Joyce. "If you know or have observed an outstanding individual, business, or nonprofit organization that deserves to be honored by the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce this year, please let us know by submitting a nomination."

The GDCC Annual Awards Gala serves as a marketing and sponsorship opportunity for local businesses. For information about potential sponsorship in connection with the Annual Awards Dinner, email GDCC President Margaret Joyce at margaret@dovernh.org.

The Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit association of businesses, professionals, individuals, and organizations working together to advance the economic well-being of its members and the community. For details on Dover Chamber membership and other programs, or for a schedule of activities, call (603) 742-2218 or visit www.dovernh.org.

Volunteer boards help keep Dover vibrant

The City of Dover is a vibrant community due in large part to the significant energy and talent of citizen participation on the city's many boards, committees, and commissions. Input from these boards, committees, and commissions helps guide Dover's policy decisions.

Want to get involved? There are currently committees seeking members to fill regular and alternate member vacancies, including:

- Energy Commission
- McConnell Center Advisory Committee
- Library Board of Trustees
- Pool Advisory Committee
- Committee for Racial Equity and Inclusion
- Recreation Advisory Board
- Arena Commission
- Open Lands Committee
- Utilities Commission

The complete list of boards and committees can be found at www.dover.nh.gov/government/boards-and-commissions/

To apply, complete an application, <u>available here</u> and at the City Clerk's Office, and either drop it off at the Clerk's Office or email it to City Clerk Jerrica Vansylyvong-Bizier at <u>j.bizier@dover.nh.gov</u>. Applicants are welcome to apply to any board or commission. Applications are kept on file for one year.

The City Council appoints citizens to boards and commissions from recommendations of its Appointments Committee, which meets regularly to review applications.

City of Dover employment opportunities

Want to work for the City of Dover? The City's website offers an updated list of open positions, including job descriptions and a downloadable application for employment. The City of Dover is now seeking applications for the following positions:

- Firefighter/EMT
- Police Officer
- Public Safety Dispatcher
- Lifeguard
- Swim Instructor

- Planning Division Supervisor
- Camera Operator
- Water Treatment Operator
- Arena Attendant
- Enterprise Systems IT Administrator
- Heavy Equipment Operator, Utilities
- Maintenance Specialist
- Water Exercise Instructor
- Account Clerk
- Laborer, Utilities
- Truck Driver, Utilities
- Human Resources Office Assistant

For more information about these positions or employment opportunities with the City of Dover, click here.

Dover School District employment opportunities

Want to work for the Dover School District? The District's website offers an updated list of open positions, including job descriptions and online applications. The District is now seeking applications for the following positions:

- Day Porter at Dover High School
- Substitute Teachers
- Dover Middle School Girls Head Lacrosse Coach
- Dover Middle School Head Baseball Coach
- Dover High School Boys Varsity Lacrosse Coach
- Special Education Paraprofessional
- Long term maternity leave 3rd grade
- Literacy Interventionist Specialist
- DALC Teacher-Adult Foundational Skills and High School Equivalency Preparation
- Dover High School Boys Head Tennis Coach
- Special Education Paraprofessional
- Dover Middle School Boys Head Lacrosse Coach

For more information about these positions, <u>click here</u>.

CITY OF DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE | www.dover.nh.gov





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