

# DOVER DOWNLOAD



News from the City of Dover, New Hampshire

December 4, 2020

## City Council authorizes grant purchase of building for tri-city warming center

At its meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 2, the City Council formally accepted a grant from the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) that will cover the purchase of a facility along with equipment and staffing costs to operate an emergency extreme cold weather warming center for the Tri-City area. The grant allows for the purchase of an existing building located in Somersworth, NH that is immediately available and able to be configured to begin operations later this month.

By the grant's requirements, the emergency extreme cold weather warming center will be operational by Dec. 14 and staffed for the remainder of 2020. Beginning on Jan. 1, 2021, the warming center would open only on extreme weather days, City Manager J. Michael Joyal, Jr., told the Council. Strafford County has a separate grant that will cover the costs of its Integrated Delivery Network, Region 6 (Strafford County/Seacoast), staffing the facility during life threatening weather conditions for up to 60 days beginning on Jan. 1.

"The intent in securing this grant funding is for this not to be used as a shelter, but as an emergency weather warming center for the Tri-City communities," Joyal said.

He explained that last winter, the tri-cities of Dover, Rochester and Somersworth worked closely with Strafford County IDN staff, community volunteers and local churches to provide overnight emergency warming locations in area churches and other municipally owned facilities. Because of COVID-19 concerns, that practice cannot be relied upon this winter. "There is truly a need for an alternative location to be established this year," Joyal told the Council.

The Tri-City Partnership, led by the mayors of Dover, Somersworth and Rochester, have been seeking to establish an alternative location for a regional warming center for several months to accommodate social distancing and other challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Continued availability of grant funds from the NHHFA for homeless sheltering needs, which is from the state's allocation of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Securities (CARES) Act for COVID-19 related needs, were identified by staff right before the Veteran's

Day holiday. But to be eligible to use the funds, it required a facility to be purchased and become operational in less than 5 weeks, the middle of December, Joyal noted.

After consulting with representatives from Somersworth, Rochester and Strafford County the City of Dover moved forward to secure the grant, as it was best positioned to receive authorization and proceed immediately with administering the grant in order to get a new facility up and running by the deadline.

The original grant award was \$975,240, which covers the \$749,900 purchase of a code-compliant property, all closing costs, equipment, supplies and staffing needed to be up and running. Joyal told the Council that since the award, the City has requested additional funding for an emergency backup generator, and NHHFA has agreed to provide the grant monies to cover those costs too. The grant also covers the cost of installing fencing and purchasing a van to transport people to and from the warming center.

"Grants like this are just a godsend," said Mayor Robert Carrier. "This is wonderful for those people in need."

Joyal indicated that he anticipated after this winter this season the continued use of the facility would be discussed by the Tri-City Partnership to determine if the facility should be retained for continued use or sold and the funds reinvested elsewhere in a longer-term homeless sheltering facility serving the tri-city area. He also said the estimated yearly maintenance cost would be no more than \$20,000, and, if the facility is retained beyond this winter, the City would discuss with the other communities how those costs could be covered utilizing other continuing grants.

The Council voted 7-0 to authorize receiving and expending the grant monies, and, 7-0 in a separate vote, to authorize the property purchase at 30 Willand Drive in Somersworth. Deputy Mayor and Ward 2 Councilor Dennis Ciotti recused himself from the discussions and vote, as he is an abutting landowner to the property in question. Ward 4 Councilor Joshua Manley was absent from the meeting.



## 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

## State DRA sets Dover Tax Rate

The City of Dover's property tax rate for fiscal year 2021 (tax year 2020) has been calculated by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) and certified on Dec. 3, 2020, at \$24.85 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The Finance Department is preparing for tax bills to be mailed out Friday, Dec. 11, with the first half of the tax bill due Monday, Jan. 11, 2021. The second half of the tax bill would be due Tuesday, Jun. 1, 2021.

The tax rate set by the DRA represents a decrease of 34 cents or a 1.3 percent decrease over the prior year. Based on the average residential property assessment of \$314,444 for fiscal year 2021 (tax year 2020), the total tax levy would be \$7,814, a \$247 or 3.3 percent increase over last year. Based on the median residential assessment of \$294,650, the total tax levy would be \$7,322, a \$245 or 3.5 percent increase over last year.

There are four components of the tax rate: the city portion, local education portion, state education, and Strafford County. The tax rate of \$24.85 is broken down as follows:

- City: \$9.19, a decrease of 9 cents over the previous year;
- Local education: \$11.37, a decrease of 15 cents over the previous year;
- State education: \$1.93, a decrease of 5 cents;
- County: \$2.51, a decrease of 5 cents over the previous year.

**Center hours:**

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

For more information, contact the City of Dover Finance Department at 6013-516-6030.



## **Arts Commission offers application for public art installations**

The Dover Arts Commission provides an application for art installations at public locations. The public sites are the McConnell Center Cafeteria, the Public Library, Henry Law Park and City Hall.

The application can be downloaded directly at:  
<https://go.usa.gov/xpnGx>.

The Arts Commission and City Manager review all applications from area artists. Upon the recommendation of the Arts Commission and City Manager, applications are forwarded to the City Council for final approval.

For more information, visit the [Arts Commission page here](#).



## **Tune in tonight at 6 p.m. for Dover's annual Christmas Tree Lighting**

The 35th annual Christmas Tree Lighting in Henry Law Park will be held virtually tonight, Friday, Dec. 4, 2020 at 6 p.m.

The tree lighting, which is being held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic, will feature some of the the familiar traditions of previous years, including carols sung by Nancy Gurick, who has been a part of the event for all of its 35 years. The event is hosted by Recreation Director Gary Bannon and includes welcoming remarks by Dover Mayor Robert Carrier. Former Mayor Andy Galt will be on hand in his raccoon coat to power up the tree's lights.

To watch the tree-lighting festivities, tune in to Channel 22 at 6 p.m., view live online at <https://dovernh.viebit.com>, or watch live on the [City of Dover's official Facebook page](#).

Bannon said anyone in the community who would like to help decorate the tree are welcome to hang weatherproof or weather-resistant ornaments.

For more information, contact the Recreation Department at 516-6401.



## Festival of Trees brightens up downtown tonight

The Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce will hold the 11th annual Dover Festival of Trees tonight, Friday, Dec. 4 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Rivermill at Dover Landing. Kennebunk Savings is the underwriting sponsor for the event.

Festival of Trees features over 25 trees and wreaths elaborately decorated by local businesses and organizations to be auctioned and raffled off. The Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce takes the health and safety of the community seriously, and is making modifications to ensure the event is safe and enjoyable:

- Pre-registration ([dovernh.org/fot](https://dovernh.org/fot)) is required to limit the number of attendees in the facility at any given time. This will help ensure social distancing. This limit will be in accordance with the state and local mandates and guidelines for Covid-19.
- Face masks will be required to be worn by each person in the venue.
- Complimentary hand sanitizer will be available.
- If the Dover area sees a significant increase in Covid-19 cases, this event will be shifted to a virtual format.

Tickets are \$5 for those 13 years and older. Children 12 and under will be admitted free

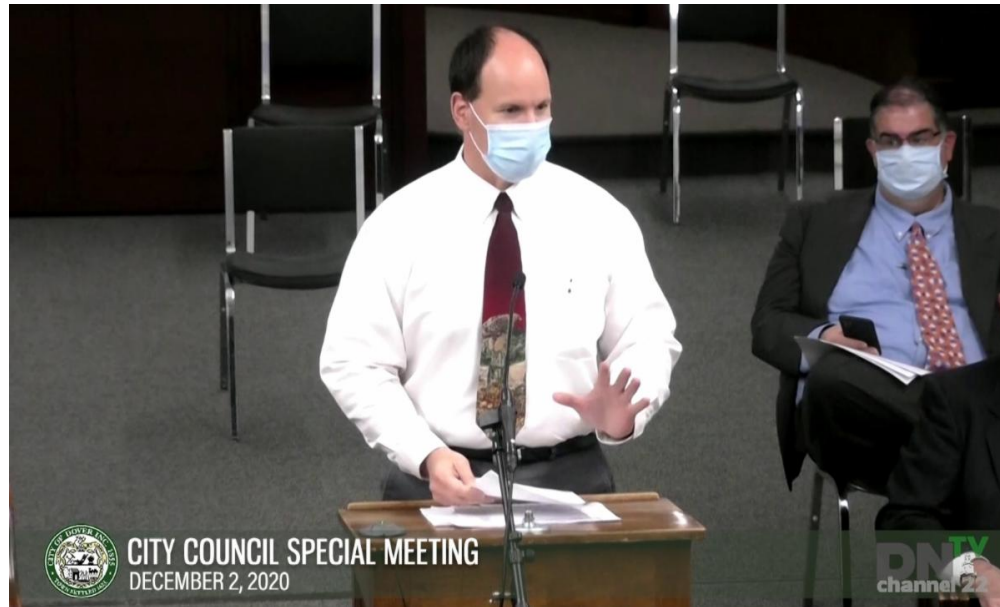


**Festival of Trees**

(registration still required). All children under 12 will receive a goodie bag sponsored by The Closet Connection. For each \$5 ticket, the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce will donate \$1 to the Dover Food Pantry run by First Parish Church. The \$5 admission fee also earns each person an entry into the Raffle Tree Drawing.

Those unable to attend can still participate by purchasing a raffle ticket for a chance to win the Raffle Tree. Tickets for the Raffle Tree are just \$5, and the winner will take home a fully decorated tree and tree stand along with hundreds of dollars in gift cards to local restaurants and retailers.

The Festival of Trees is a fundraiser that benefits the Dover Chamber's City Lights Committee, a volunteer group of residents and Chamber members dedicated to illuminating downtown Dover during the holiday season and hanging American flags on Central Avenue during the summer months.



Dover's Finance Director, Dan Lynch, above, discusses with the City Council Wednesday a resolution to authorize a Tax Anticipation Note.

## Council authorizes Tax Anticipation Note

The City Council unanimously authorized the issuance of a Tax Anticipation Note at its [Dec. 2 meeting](#) this past Wednesday.

The Council's authorization for the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) allows the City of Dover to borrow \$17 million to meet cash flow needs in December. The City has two significant payments to make in December. One is \$9,562,961 to the Strafford County government for its portion of the property taxes collected by the City, due Dec. 17. The other is \$4,060,576 for debt service payments due Dec. 15.

Tax Anticipation Notes are authorized by the Municipal Finance Act of New Hampshire Statutes. It required a public hearing and City Council to pass TAN authorization by a two-thirds vote.

Finance Director Daniel Lynch said the request was needed because of the delay in the certification of the City of Dover's property tax rate by the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA), which occurred Thursday, Dec. 3. However, tax bills will not be issued until Friday, Dec. 11, to account for printing and preparing them for mailing. The due date for the first half of the tax bill will be due Monday, Jan. 11, 2021. The second half of the tax bill would be due Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

"Provided property tax collections are consistent with prior years, there will be insufficient tax collections to make timely payment of operation expenses," it states in the City Council's

[background material](#) for the Dec. 2 meeting.

Lynch said that, historically, most tax bill payments occur two weeks after bills are issued. If bills were issued on Dec. 11, two weeks later would be Dec. 25, after the due date of both the County and Debt Service payments.

Last year, the tax rate was certified on Nov. 18, and the first half tax bills were issued on Nov. 27 with a Dec. 27 due date. By Dec. 17, 2019, 68.4 percent of tax payments were received, which allowed for regular operation expenses, mid-year debt service payments and payment to Strafford County. However, three days earlier, on Dec. 14, 2019, only 22.2 percent of tax payments had been received.

Lynch said the City would work with its bank of record for the short-term loan. Lynch told the Council the interest rate would be 1.34 percent and would be paid back by Jan. 31, 2021. The interest cost would be approximately \$28,000.

Because the loan would be short term, Lynch said the note would not affect the City's bond rating. Lynch said the City is also tapping its unassigned fund balances to limit how much would be needed to borrow to continue regular operations.

The Council meeting is televised on Channel 22 and can be viewed at <https://dovernh.viebit.com/index.php>.



## **City Council considers lease-to-own request at Enterprise Park, fine schedule at Dec. 9 meeting**

The City Council will meet for its last regular meeting of 2020 on Wednesday, Dec. 9. One agenda item for the Council to consider is whether to refer a resolution to authorize borrowing \$1.7 million to build a production facility on an Enterprise Park parcel for a Dover-based business in a lease to own program to a public hearing in January.

If approved in January as currently drafted, the City of Dover would provide funding to develop a City-owned Quality Way parcel. The firm would pay debt service costs and have the option to purchase the building for the remaining cost of the loan during a specified period of the agreement. If the firm chose not to buy the building, it could continue to lease and pay debt service costs. If the firm wanted to purchase the building at a later date, the sale price would then be based on the property's assessed value, City Manager J. Michael Joyal, Jr. told the City Council [at a workshop](#) this past Wednesday, Dec. 2. The firm would also pay the assessed property tax for the parcel.

Economic Development Director Daniel Barufaldi told the Council the firm seeking the lease-to-own option is Popzup Popcorn, which has outgrown its space at the Washington Mills at 1 Washington St., in Dover. Barufaldi said that it appeared likely that if the deal was not approved, that Popzup Popcorn would relocate out of the City and the region because there is no building available to suit their needs. He noted that medium-sized facilities, between 5,000 to 10,000 square feet, are challenging to come by and are costly to build.

The City of Dover Business and Industrial Development Authority (DBIDA) owns the parcel in question and unanimously approved the request to come before the City Council for approval, Barufaldi said. He noted that Dover has successfully used this program in the past with success to aid companies to expand in the City or relocate here. Other neighboring cities, such as

Rochester and Portsmouth, have also utilized a similar program, Barufaldi told the Council.

DBIDA is an 11-member advisory committee for the City of Dover and acts as the manager of the City's business park, Enterprise Park.

Also on the agenda is a public hearing on the adoption of an updated fine schedule.

In the past, the City Council adopts a fee and fine schedule annually with the City's budget. However, with the adoption of the City's new code in February 2020, the fine schedule became part of the City's code adoption ordinance. Therefore, the fine schedule is now part of an ordinance and is to be updated by way of an ordinance amendment.

Revisions being considered in these ordinance updates include:

- Deletion of references to "FY20" given that the fine schedule will not be geared toward the City's fiscal years and insertion of a revision month/year to identify and bookmark the most recent revision going forward;
- Chapter 69: (1) imposing limitation on fines for "at large" violations consistent with RSA 466:30; (2) replacement of inadvertent textual reference with Section 17(A) reference;
- Chapter 141: (1) creating new Section 12 fine provisions; (2) retitling the section addressing Table violations to correspond with title headings used in the City's new code; (3) deleting vestigial references to "City Ordinance #166-30"; (4) technical amendments to the Section 23 section to clarify and update Code references; (5) clarifying that the table violation fines escalate as the fine remains unaddressed; (6) retitling "OTHER" section to correspond with the City's new code, as well as delete references to provisions not part of the current code.; (7) incorporate the current Code reference for chronic meter offenses; and (8) include a specific fine for weight limit violations.

There is a second public hearing regarding other proposed changes to Chapter 141 of the City's code.

The amendments to Dover Code 141-23 are technical and meant to update and correct references to the current code.

The amendment to Dover Code 141-30 would update the ordinance to require paid parking 24 hours a day in all metered parking areas in the Orchard Street Parking Garage. The Dover Parking Commission made the recommendation following a 4-2 vote at its Oct. 20 meeting.

The City Council meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The public is welcome to attend the meetings, provided they wear a face mask and follow COVID-19 social distancing guidelines.

The public is also encouraged to participate remotely by phone or email. Call and leave a message at 516-MEET (6338) or email the City Council at [CityCouncil-All@dover.nh.gov](mailto:CityCouncil-All@dover.nh.gov). To have your voice heard ahead of the meeting, please call or email at least two hours before the meeting begins.

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## Upcoming Meetings:

### School Board, Dec. 7, 6 p.m.

The School Board will hold a special meeting on Monday, Dec. 7, 2020, beginning at 6 p.m., in Room 305 at the McConnell Center. To view the meeting agenda, [click here](#).

### Ordinance Committee,

## Blasting at waterfront bluff on River Street resumes Monday

Maine Drilling & Blasting will resume drilling and blasting the bluff on River Street starting Monday, Dec. 7.

The blasting is expected to last less than two weeks and is part of site work related to the Waterfront Development Project on River Street. The project will remove approximately 3,500 cubic yards of the bluff and is the continuation of blasting from February until mid-March 2020. It stopped then to not interfere with the spring fish run.

## Dec. 8, 8:30 a.m.

The Ordinance Committee will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the First Floor Conference Room at City Hall. To view the meeting agenda, [click here](#).

## City Council, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.

The City Council will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Conference Room at City Hall. To view the meeting agenda, [click here](#).

The blasting is part of a \$1,515,337 contract the City of Dover has with Severino Trucking Co. Inc. for bluff removal to prepare the site for future construction; Severino Trucking subcontracted the blasting to Maine Drilling & Blasting. The Cochecho Waterfront Development Advisory Committee (CWDAC) selected the firm Cathartes in 2018 to develop the 23-acre City-owned property that borders the Cochecho River. The CWDAC unanimously approved the development agreement with Cathartes in September of 2019. CWDAC's next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Currently, Cathartes is revising its Phase 1 design plans. Once revised, Cathartes will bring the plans to the Technical Review Committee for review before seeking Planning Board approval.

For more information, contact the Planning Department at (603) 516-6008. For questions or concerns about blasting, contact Christopher Scott of Maine Blasting & Drilling's Safety Department at (603) 232-8538.



**WINTER IS COMING**

**ARE YOU READY?**

**Text DoverNH to 99411 to receive parking ban alerts**

**Sign up for text alerts at [bit.ly/dovercodered](https://bit.ly/dovercodered)**

**Sign up for e-mail alerts at [bit.ly/doverdownload](https://bit.ly/doverdownload)**

**Current ban status: [bit.ly/doverban](https://bit.ly/doverban) or 516-PARK**



## Be prepared, sign-up for parking ban alerts

Parking Manager William Simons reminds City drivers to sign-up for parking ban alerts ahead of the looming winter season.

Users can receive text and/or email alerts if a winter parking ban is declared, which requires the removal of all vehicles from public ways to allow street and sidewalk plowing. To receive text



alerts, visit <https://bit.ly/dovercodeder>, or text "DoverNH" to 99411 from your phone. To receive email alerts, visit <https://bit.ly/doverdownload>.

Simons also reminds drivers that seasonal winter parking restrictions begin Tuesday, Dec. 1 and last until Thursday, April 1, 2021.

### **'As-needed' winter parking bans**

During snow or ice events or storm cleanups, the Community Services Director may declare a winter parking ban. When a ban is declared, all vehicles must be off public ways by the time the ban goes into effect. If vehicles are not removed, they may be ticketed and/or towed.

There is usually no challenge on storm nights getting vehicles off the roads. "People get it," said Parking Manager Bill Simons.

But it can be a struggle to clear the roadways during a parking ban for storm cleanups, which occur when it is not snowing. Ninety-five percent of parking tickets for winter parking ban violations come on cleanup nights, Simons said.

"That's the challenge we have every year," he said. "The goal is not to give out any tickets or have any cars towed, and let Community Services do their job." A parking ticket is \$50. A tow is likely to be above \$100.

Storm cleanups occur so Community Services crews can remove high snow banks or push snow back so that City streets and sidewalks are passable and prepared for when the next storm arrives.

Unless a parking ban is declared, vehicles may be parked on the street except for areas covered by the seasonal winter parking restrictions.

### **When a winter parking is declared**

A parking ban will be declared by 3 p.m. to begin at a designated time later that evening. When a ban is declared, parking is prohibited on City streets, sidewalks and adjacent parking areas, such as the angled spaces on School or First streets, and the parking bay on Dover Street. Vehicles found in violation of the parking ban may be ticketed and towed at the vehicle owner's expense.

An easy way to determine if you are in the right spot is to ask, "Am I parked on private property and not on any portion of the public right-of-way?" If the answer is 'no,' you need to move your vehicle onto private property or an authorized public parking lot or to the public parking garage.

A map of the downtown parking ban area that begins at 1 a.m. can be viewed here: [Downtown Parking Ban map](#).

Apartment building owners are encouraged to alert all tenants about the parking ban. The new storm-based parking ban ordinance replaces the former winter parking ban, which was in effect overnight from Dec. 1 to April 1 on all public roadways.

### **How to receive winter parking ban notifications**

Notifications of parking bans are [posted here](#), on Channel 22, the City's website, social media, and distributed to local news media. People can also call 516-PARK (7275) to check if there is a storm-related parking ban.

To sign up for email notifications, [click here](#), and select the "Parking Ban Alerts" option. Sign up for text alerts via the City of Dover's emergency notification system, CodeRED, by texting "DoverNH" to 99411. Please note that cellular phone carrier and/or text message fees may apply.

Text alerts are also available by creating an account and logging into the City's emergency notification system, [CodeRED](#). Once you've created a managed account, you can select the option for Parking Ban Notifications under additional notifications. Please note you'll need to provide a phone number capable of receiving text alerts. Depending on your cellular phone

carrier and plan, fees may apply.

## **Where to park during a parking ban?**

Most of the public parking lots have areas available for overnight parking. [Click here](#) to view a map of municipal parking lot locations in the downtown area. The Orchard Street Parking Garage has limited short term spaces available and is for "Permit Parking Only" above the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (look for signs). Overnight parking is available in spaces 101-278. From 2 a.m. to 6 a.m., the fee is \$1/hr and can be paid at the meter after 9 p.m. or from your phone with the "[FLOWBIRD](#)" app.

## **Seasonal winter parking restrictions for 2020-2021 Season**

In addition to winter parking bans that can be called at any time, there are several streets where seasonal winter parking restrictions are in place from Dec. 1 to April 1. These streets, listed below, do not allow parking at any time, day or night, between Dec. 1 and April 1. These additional restrictions were needed due to the limited width of the roads and concerns about plows and emergency vehicles being able to pass. An updated list of no parking restrictions can be found at [www.dover.nh.gov/government/city-operations/police/parking-bureau/winter-parking-restrictions/](http://www.dover.nh.gov/government/city-operations/police/parking-bureau/winter-parking-restrictions/), or in [Chapter 141-48](#) of the City's codes. Since last year, there have been streets added to the seasonal parking ban, including prohibitions on parking on specific sides of streets. In a few cases, the ban has changed from one side of the street to the other.

The following streets are included in the seasonal winter parking restrictions:

- Baker Street, no parking on northerly side (odd numbered)
- Belknap Street, no parking on the westerly side (odd numbered), from Washington Street to Silver Street
- Belknap Street, no parking on the easterly side (even numbered), from Silver Street to Fisher Street
- Cushing Street, no parking on the easterly side (even numbered)
- Everett Street, no parking on the westerly side (odd numbered)
- Elm Street, no parking on the westerly side (odd numbered)
- Essex Street, no parking on the southwesterly side (even numbered)
- Everett Street, no parking on the westerly side (odd numbered)
- Fifth Street, no parking on the northerly side (odd numbered), from Chestnut Street to Grove Street
- Fifth Street, no parking on the southerly side (even numbered), between Grove Street and Tammany Park
- Folsom Street, no parking on the southerly side (even numbered)
- Forest Street, no parking on the northwesterly side (even numbered)
- Fourth Street, no parking on the southerly side (even numbered), from Chestnut Street to Grove Street
- Hamilton Street, no parking on the northerly side (odd numbered)
- Hancock Street, no parking on the southwesterly side (even numbered)
- High Ridge Drive, no parking on southerly side
- Lexington Street, no parking on the easterly side (even numbered)
- Lincoln Street, no parking on the southerly side (even numbered), from Chestnut Street to Grove Street
- Nelson Street, no parking on the southerly side (even numbered), from Locust Street to Atkinson Street
- Plaza Drive, no parking on easterly side (even numbered), from Norway Circle northerly to end of street
- Richmond Street, no parking on the westerly side (odd numbered)
- Rogers Street, no parking on the southwesterly side (even numbered)
- Saint Thomas Street, no parking on the northerly side (odd numbered), from Atkinson Street to Belknap Street, and two spaces in front of 33/35 Saint Thomas Street
- Summer Street, no parking on the southerly side (even numbered)
- Third Street, no parking on the southerly side (even numbered), from Chestnut Street to Grove Street
- West Concord Street, no parking on the northerly side (odd numbered)
- Young Street, no parking on the southerly side.

When a parking ban is declared, both sides of the listed streets are restricted, as are all other city streets.

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## **Dover Fire Toy Bank seeks donations**

The Dover Fire Toy Bank, coordinated by current and retired members of the Dover Fire & Rescue, began helping a dozen families in the City of Dover. It has now grown to aid more than 350 families. While the holiday season often conjures up visions of Santa and toys, the Toy Bank also provides educational aids, warm clothing, and boots to many Dover children.

While Dover Fire Toy Bank welcomes games and toys donations, there is also a real need for essential items for many Dover families. Hats, jackets, boots, scarves, gloves and other clothing are needed to meet demand, along with personal hygiene items. Demand is typically highest for infants and those aged between 9-12 years old. The Dover Fire Toy Bank also appreciates donations of gift cards to area businesses, including grocery and mall stores. Don't have time for shopping? Donate money and let the Toy Bank do the shopping for you.

If you would like a collection box for your business or organization to collect donations, call (603) 516-TOYS (8697) and leave a message. We will get you one as soon as possible.

Toy Bank volunteers are available to come to you to pick up donations, including monetary gifts. Or you can drop off new, unwrapped items at the City of Dover's three fire stations: Central Fire Station (9-11 Broadway), South End Fire Station (25 Durham Road) or the North End Fire Station (262 Sixth St.) anytime until Christmas Eve.

Monetary contributions can be picked up or mailed to Dover Fire Toy Bank, P.O. Box 1712, Dover, NH 03821-1712. Please make checks payable to The Dover Fire Toy Bank.

Because of COVID-19, Dover Toy Bank will not be seeking volunteers to help wrap presents this season.

For more information, call (603) 516-TOYS (8697).

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## **Statewide mask mandate in effect**

On Nov. 19, Gov. Chris Sununu issued an emergency order instituting a statewide mask mandate.

The mask mandate will remain in effect through Jan. 15, 2021.

Per the order, everyone over the age of 5 in New Hampshire must wear mask or cloth face coverings over their noses and mouths when in public spaces, indoors or outdoors, when unable to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from persons outside their own households.

According to the emergency order, "public spaces" include any part of private or public property that is generally open or accessible to members of the general public. Public spaces include, but are not limited to, lobbies, waiting areas, outside plazas or patios, restaurants, retail businesses, streets, sidewalks, parks, beaches, elevators, restrooms, stairways, parking garages, etc.

The mandate does not apply to the following:

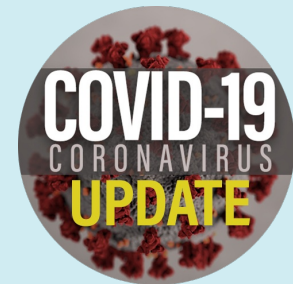
- Educators, students, and staff within K-12 schools;
- Any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a mask or other face covering;
- Any person consuming food or drink or sitting at a restaurant or table to eat or drink;
- Any person engaged in physical strenuous physical activity;
- Any person giving a religious, political, media, educational, cultural, musical, or theatrical presentation or performance for an audience;
- Any person who is deaf or hard of hearing, and any person while communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing or who has a disability, medical condition, or mental health condition that makes communication with that individual while wearing a mask or face covering difficult;
- Any person obtaining or providing a service that requires the temporary removal of a mask or face covering;
- Any person asked to remove a mask or face covering to verify an identity for lawful purposes; or
- Any public safety worker actively engaged in a public safety role and when a mask or face covering would seriously interfere in the performance of their public safety responsibilities.

The mandate also does not apply to individuals who decline to wear a mask or cloth face covering because of a medical or developmental issue or difficulty breathing.

The entire order [can be viewed here](#).

## Are you receiving the city's COVID-19 updates?

Want to receive the latest information about the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic and how it affects your community? Sign up for the City of Dover's email updates and you'll receive helpful information from local and state health officials about the pandemic, including how you can protect yourself and others, how to safely enjoy the holidays, what to consider before traveling, and much more.



To start receiving the email updates, visit <https://bit.ly/doverdownload> and select COVID-19 updates from the list of city newsletters.

For more information, visit the City's COVID-19 online resource at <https://www.dover.nh.gov/services/covid19.html>.

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## Dover Police now accepting names for Christmas Basket Program

The Dover Police Department is now accepting names, addresses and phone numbers of needy families residing in Dover for the Annual Christmas Basket Program. The Police Department conducts this program through Dover Police Charities each December to provide a Christmas dinner to families in Dover.

Last year, 125 baskets of food were distributed to families throughout the community. In addition, a large quantity of food was provided to the Dover Children's Home and My Friend's Place.

In order to make this program a success, donations are needed from the community. Non-perishable food items, canned goods, or monetary donations will be accepted at the Dover Police Department, 46 Chestnut St. (checks should be made payable to Dover Police Charities). If you cannot arrange for delivery of your donated food to the police station, call 742-4646 and pick up will be arranged.

Employees of the Dover Police Department will prepare and deliver the baskets on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, there will be changes in the delivery procedure from previous years. The delivery will be contact-free. Employees making the deliveries will leave the baskets outside the recipient's home and contact them by phone. In addition, no volunteers are requested this year.

For more information, contact the Dover Police Department at 603-742-4646.

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## **Water and sewer bills reflect new rates**

Bills for third-quarter water and sewer usage include increased water and sewer rates that began on July 1.

There was a delay in sending water and sewer bills this quarter due to a meter reading equipment issue. To resolve the problem, the City had to locate and purchase a replacement meter reading device for older meters, which delayed bills being mailed out to customers.

The fiscal year 2021 budget approved by the City Council on May 14 included an increase to both sewer and water rates. The water rate increased to \$5.54 per unit, a 2.6 percent increase. The sewer rate increased to \$9.47 per unit, a 4.6 percent increase. One billing unit is equal to 748 gallons, or 100 cubic feet. (*Editor's note: The billing unit information here corrects the number of gallons per cubic foot as stated in a previous article.*)

While the billing period is from July 1 to Sept. 30, the utility reading dates for customers will vary. The water and sewer billing department's goal is to take the first reading in early June and have the next reading by the end of September. Depending on the date of the readings, the billing window may be longer than previous billing cycles. Read dates for each billing cycle is located on the utility bill.

For instance, if the reading for water and sewer customers was between June 2 to Sept. 13, that's a total of 103 days, 13 days longer than a typical 90-day billing cycle. The Community Services Department has made it a priority to switch out older water meters with new ones, which is expected to expedite meter readings.

While the City of Dover instituted an emergency outdoor water ban, it went into effect on Aug. 21. If the last meter reading was June 2, then 80 days of the 113-day billing cycle, or 71 percent, occurred before the water ban. Customers may have used more outdoor water than usual on gardens and lawns to make up for the lack of rainfall this summer before the water ban was enacted.

The water and sewer billing department encourage anyone who questions their water and sewer bill to call the department. Office staff can review each account, look at usage and compare it to historical use. Contact the water and sewer billing office at 516-6028.

Director of Community Services John Storer noted an increase of about \$125,000 to the sewer budget due to increased costs to dispose of biosolids generated from the sewer system. The water budget increased by about \$95,000 in FY 2021. Part of the increase is due to more water testing. The City of Dover has always tested its water to ensure it meets federal and state standards. In addition, the City of Dover has begun regular testing of its 11 production wells for unregulated, emerging contaminants, such as PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). That cost is about \$100,000 annually, Storer said.

## Water leaks lead to higher bills

Historically, the number one cause of a high bill is a leaking toilet. You do not have to see or hear a leak to have one. One way to check for leaks is to check the little blue dial on the face of your meter. If that dial is slowly turning while no water is being used, then there is a high likelihood of a leak somewhere inside the home.

More ways to check for leaks:

- Check the overflow tube in the back of the toilet tank, and if there is water flowing over into it, you have an issue.
- Put food coloring into the back of the toilet tank. If that color shows up in the toilet bowl after 30 minutes, you have an issue.

The water and sewer department recommends homeowners spot check the reading on their meters to help alleviate the possibility of a high bill due to a leaking toilet or some other issue they are not aware of. They also recommend landlords check the meter readings on their rental properties at least once a month to keep an eye on a possible issue within the rental unit.



The following events are recorded in "Notable Events in the History of Dover, New Hampshire: From the First Settlement in 1623 to 1865," by George Wadleigh, and several other historical sources.

For more on the history of Dover, settled in 1623 and the oldest permanent settlement in New Hampshire and seventh oldest in the country, visit the Dover Public Library, Locust Street; and the Woodman Museum, Central Avenue. The Public Library also maintains an online collection of historical information, [located here](#).

**Dec. 9, 1775** —The Committee of Safety, being required to take charge of a company of Tories sent from New York, ordered 19 of them to be sent to the Dover jail, 28 to Exeter, 14 to Amherst and 7 to Portsmouth.

**Dec. 8, 1811** — Died, Mr. Samuel Bragg, Jr., editor and printer of the Dover Sun. "In the death of Mr. Bragg the town of Dover has experienced a great loss. He was a very industrious and enterprising man of steady habits and attention to his business. He had by his assiduity and great diligence acquired a very handsome property, when about twelve months since, while absent on a journey he was in a moment stripped of almost every dollar by the all-devouring element of fire. This disaster took such hold of his mind, as, after a while, to produce a dejection of spirits, and invite a complication of disorders which has thus early put a period to his mortal existence."

**Dec. 8, 1818** — The Dover Franklin Academy was incorporated this year, receiving a liberal endowment for the times from public spirited citizens, the chief of which was in the land on which it stands and several lots on Central street adjoining, the gift of Daniel Waldron. "We are happy to be able to inform the public that the Academy in this place, so much needed and so long expected, was on Saturday last solemnly dedicated to God and to Science; that it is now opened for the reception of students, and that about 25 have already commenced their studies in various departments of literature and science. The dedicatory services were commenced by appropriate sacred music, performed in scientific style by a select choir. This was followed by a very devout and appropriate prayer by Rev. Mr. Clary. Mr. Andrew G. Thayer, the preceptor elect of the institution, then delivered to a numerous, brilliant and highly gratified audience an Address, in which were portrayed in true glowing colors, the blessings of religious, moral, literary and scientific education, and the several duties of teachers and pupils, in such a manner as to evince his thorough acquaintance with the subject, and to afford a flattering expectation that his election to the office of preceptor will be a lasting blessing to all who may

enjoy the benefits of his instruction."

**Dec. 9, 1830** — The Dover Relief Society is organized. The Hon. William Hale is named president, and Asa A. Tufts is named treasurer and secretary. The society was formed "to investigate poverty and public health problems, consists of a statement on the potential dangers of manufacturing to community norms and a report on living and working conditions among local manufacturing employees: young workers leaving schools; overcrowded and unhealthful housing; excessive hours of work.

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## This Week at the Library

### **Tues., Dec. 1—Thurs., Dec. 31, All Day VIRTUAL Cookbook Club**

Join us for a virtual exploration of *Pie Squared* by Cathy Barrow. Throughout the month of December, send in pictures of your dishes created with recipes from the books and a small description of your cooking process, how you felt about the recipe, and/or your thoughts on the books. We will share your creations on our social media pages throughout the month. Photos can be sent to Emily at [e.fortin@dover.nh.gov](mailto:e.fortin@dover.nh.gov), or tag us on Instagram @doverpubliclibrary.

### **Mon., Dec. 7—Sat., Dec. 12, All Day Fine Forgiveness Week**

Bring in a donation of canned or non-perishable food, and the library will forgive up to \$50 in fines on your account! Not valid on replacement costs for lost items.

### **Monday, December 7, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Read WITH a Librarian**

Sign up to have a librarian read with your child! Depending on your child's age and reading ability your child might want to only be read to OR they may read to us! Either way this a great opportunity to gain reading confidence and encourage a love for reading! Once you register we will be in touch with you by Sunday evening to schedule a time that works best for your schedule between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. This program is best for Toddlers/Preschooler through age 9.

### **Wednesday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Read WITH a Librarian**

Sign up to have a librarian read with your child! Depending on your child's age and reading ability your child might want to only be read to OR they may read to us! Either way this a great opportunity to gain reading confidence and encourage a love for reading! Once you register we will be in touch with you by Sunday evening to schedule a time that works best for your schedule between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. This program is best for Toddlers/Preschooler through age 9.

### **Wednesday, December 9, 10 to 11 a.m. Matter of Fact: Non-Fiction Book Club in the Lecture Hall**

Dover Public Library is starting a new book group dedicated to non-fiction, exploring history, science, essays, and biography. This month's book will be *Sex Robots and Vegan Meat* by Jenny Kleeman. You can borrow a physical copy or read it on Hoopla. Reach out with any questions, comments, and future book recommendations to [a.soniabolduc@dover.nh.gov](mailto:a.soniabolduc@dover.nh.gov). Registration required.

### **Wednesday, December 9, 4 to 4:45 p.m. Online Storytime**

Check out a new session of Miss Tina's storytime. This storytime and all previous recordings may be viewed at: <https://bit.ly/2z4EDcp>

**Friday, November 20, 10 to 10:30 a.m.**

**Tuesday, December 8, 10 to 10:30 a.m.**  
**Family Storytime in the Lecture Hall**  
Families are invited to join us for storytime in the Lecture Hall. Kids of all ages with an adult will enjoy stories, songs, and rhymes. A craft will be available to take home. Please register for this event since attendance is limited to 5 groups. Groups will be appropriately distanced and please wear a mask.

**Mother Goose on the Loose**  
Mother Goose On the Loose is back! Please join Miss JoJo for lots of songs, rhymes, stories and silliness! This program is for babies through Pre-K, siblings are always welcome. You will be required to submit your library card information upon registering as this program is for patrons of DPL only. Once you are approved, you will be provided with a secure link to our virtual session via Ring Central.



## Food Drive at Henry Law Park Dec. 12

The Rotary Club of Dover, Gather food pantry, and Community Action Partnership of Strafford County will host a food drive at the Rotary Arts Pavilion at Henry Law Park in downtown Dover next Saturday, Dec. 12, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The sponsors' goal is for the community to provide enough non-perishable food donations to fill the Rotary Arts Pavilion. These donations will assist neighbors in need throughout this holiday season. Curbside drop off will be available.

For more information, contact Ron Richard at [ron@dfrichard.com](mailto:ron@dfrichard.com), or Marion Cheney at [macheney@comcast.net](mailto:macheney@comcast.net).



## Dover Rotary to hold Holiday Decorating Contest

The Rotary Club of Dover is launching a Holiday Decorating Contest this year, which will be held Dec. 6-12. Submit your Dover address and contact info via Facebook or send an email to [jfmunro1954@gmail.com](mailto:jfmunro1954@gmail.com), decorate the outside of your home for the holidays, and you'll be entered to win a prize in four different categories: Kid Friendly; Colorful; Original; Traditional.

The team of Dover Rotarian elves will tour homes between 5-7 p.m., Dec. 6-12, and winners will be notified on Dec. 12.

The winner will receive a basket of holiday goodies and a 'winner' sign for the front lawn.



Dover Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 1312  
7th Annual **Operation Warm** Fundraiser 2020

# firefighters

OPERATION **warm** | more  
than  
a coat



providing warmth, confidence and hope to children  
in need through the gift of **brand-new** winter coats

BUY RAFFLE TICKETS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN

**\$1,000**



PHILBRICK'S GIFT CARD

Dover, NH

**\$20/ticket: only 150 tickets available!**

email [local1312fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:local1312fundraising@gmail.com) to purchase yours

**DRAWING HELD LIVE ON FACEBOOK**

5:30 PM December 9th

winner notified after drawing

Monetary donations can be made by cash or check to

**Dover Professional Firefighters Local 1312**

**PO Box 1004, Dover, NH 03820**



## City's boards and commissions seek to fill several vacancies

The City of Dover is a vibrant community due in large part to the energy and talent of citizen participation on boards and commissions.

## 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 the

The City's boards and commissions encourage public participation and are seeking new members to fill several vacant positions.

Joining one of the City's numerous boards commissions not only offers a chance to give back to the community, it can be a rewarding and valuable experience, and helps shape the City's future.

For a complete list of the City's boards and commissions, as well as more information about vacancies and how to apply, [click here](#).

To download an application for board and commissions, [click here](#).

Completed forms should be returned to the City Clerk's Office in person, by mail, or by email. Committee application forms are kept on file for one year from date of submission.

For more information, contact the City Clerk's office at 516-6018.

following positions:

- **Police Officer**
- **Firefighter/EMT**
- **Wastewater Treatment Plant Electrical Technician**
- **Heavy equipment mechanic/Automotive technician**
- **Parking Enforcement Officer**
- **Utilities Supervisor**

For more information about these positions or employment opportunities with the City of Dover, [click here](#).

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## Missed the meeting? Catch it again online

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

Simply visit [www.dovernh.viebit.com](http://www.dovernh.viebit.com) to begin watching meetings on demand. Online meetings are organized by agenda item for convenience.

