

# DOVER DOWNLOAD



News from the City of Dover, New Hampshire



December 26, 2025



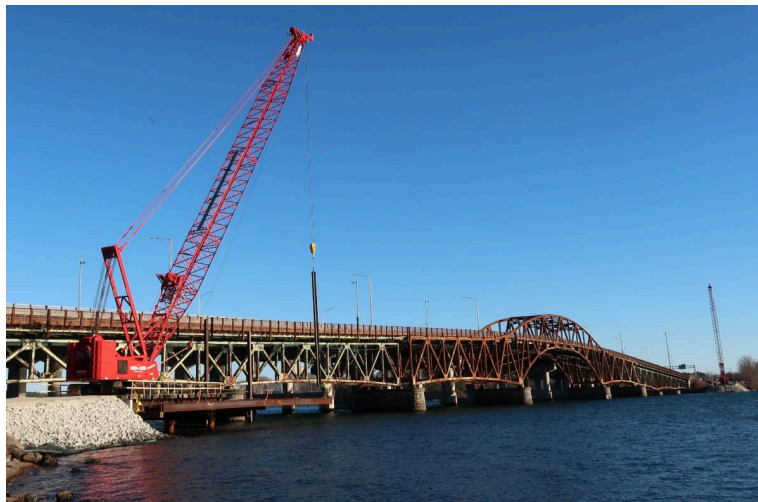
**CITY OF  
DOVER, NH**

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**



A worker guides a steel column into place on a temporary trestle being built on the Dover side of Little Bay.

## Removal of Gen. Sullivan Bridge begins

**Temporary trestles will aid in structure  
removal in 2026**

Contractors are beginning the process to remove the General John Sullivan Memorial Bridge that crosses Little

**hours:**

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

Sunday (through  
Dec. 7):  
8:30 a.m. to  
12:30 p.m.

Bay between Dover and Newington.

In recent weeks, tall cranes have made their way to the Dover and Newington sides of the bridge to help construct temporary trestles on either side of the navigational. Once completed, crews will begin removing the rusted bridge named for the area's Revolutionary War hero, which is expected to start in the spring of 2026.

In October, the New Hampshire Executive Council [authorized contracting](#) with Reed & Reed, Inc., of Woolwich, Maine, for \$28.5 million to remove the superstructure. The removal of the bridge is anticipated to take place between March and October 2026. As part of the process, the navigational channel under the bridge will be closed for up to seven days, currently estimated to occur in early to mid-July 2026. Once the superstructure is removed (the piers will remain), the contractor will remove the temporary trestle between November 2026 and March 2027. The contract's final completion date is June 25, 2027.

During a May 2025 General Sullivan Bridge [update to the Dover City Council](#), before the contractor was selected, Bob Landry of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation discussed closing a lane on the Spaulding Turnpike southbound Ruth L. Griffin Bridge from March to October 2026 to assist in the bridge removal. However, the contractor does not plan to utilize any long-term lane closures or lane shifts for the removal, according to NHDOT. Most of the work will occur from the temporary trestles. There may be some short-term closures during the time the middle span is removed in early to mid-July.

When the Spaulding Turnpike was expanded last decade, NHDOT had planned to rehabilitate the General Sullivan Bridge. However, due to the extensive deterioration, NHDOT found rehabilitation to be too expensive and sought its replacement. When bids for the replacement came in much higher than expected, the NHDOT pivoted to just removing the bridge, with replacement to occur at a later date.

The General Sullivan Bridge was completed in 1934 and carried two lanes of vehicular traffic across Little Bay. The bridge transitioned to a bicycle and pedestrian bridge in 1984 with the opening of the Capt. John F. Rowe Bridge, now the northbound Little Bay crossing of the Spaulding Turnpike. The condition of the General Sullivan Bridge continued to deteriorate and was closed to pedestrian traffic in 2018. Pedestrian traffic has been rerouted to a protected lane on the northbound Rowe bridge since 2019.

Find more information about the project on the [NHDOT's website](#).



A crane begins lifting a steel column that will be used to create a temporary trestle to remove the General Sullivan Bridge.

## Upcoming New Year's holiday hours for City facilities

**City administrative offices**, including **City Hall**, will be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026, for the New Year's Day holiday. Regular hours will resume on Friday, Jan. 2.

The **Public Library** will be closed on New Year's Day, Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026.

The **Dover Ice Arena** will close at 2 p.m. on New Year's Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025. The Arena will be open until 2 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026, New Year's Day.

The **McConnell Center Recreation facilities** will close at 4 p.m. on New Year's Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025, and will be closed on New Year's Day, Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026.

The **Dover Community Senior Center** will be closed on New Year's Day, Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026.

The **Dover Indoor Pool** will close at 2 p.m. on New Year's Eve, Thursday, Dec. 31, 2025, and will be closed on New Year's Day, Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026.

**Inspection Services**, located at the North End Fire Station on Sixth Street, will be closed on New Year's Day, Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026.



The **Recycling Center** on Mast Road will be closed on New Year's Day, Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026.

**Curbside trash and recycling pickup** will be delayed by one day all week, beginning Thursday, Jan. 1, due to the holiday.

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## City facility closures today, Friday, Dec. 26

### Reminder: Curbside trash and recycling pick-up delayed one day this week

Several City of Dover services and facilities are closed or operating on modified schedules today, Friday, Dec. 26, in observance of the Christmas holiday.

**City administrative offices**, including **City Hall**, are closed today, Friday, Dec. 26. Regular hours will resume on Monday, Dec. 29.

The **Dover Public Library** is closed today, Friday, Dec. 26.

**McConnell Center Recreation facilities** will be open today, Friday, Dec. 26, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. only.

The **Dover Community Senior Center** is closed today, Friday, Dec. 26.

**Curbside trash and recycling pickup** is delayed by one day this week due to the holiday. Residents are reminded to place carts curbside on their adjusted collection day. Thursday's scheduled pick-ups will occur today, and today's scheduled pick-ups will occur on Saturday, Dec. 27.

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## Inauguration of newly elected City Council and School Board is Jan. 5

The newly elected Dover City Council and School Board will be inaugurated on Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, during a 7 p.m. ceremony in the City Hall auditorium. Don Briand will serve as master of ceremonies for the event, which is open to the public.

Prior to the ceremony, the incoming City Council will meet at 6 p.m. in the City Manager's office to elect a deputy mayor, make committee appointments, adopt procedural rules for the upcoming term, and take the official oath of office.

The incoming School Board will also meet at 5:15 p.m. in the City Hall Council Conference Room to elect a chair, vice-chair and secretary, as well as vote on School Board bylaws.

Those elected to serve on the 2026-2027 Dover City Council are:

- Mayor Dennis Shanahan
- At Large – Lindsey Williams
- At Large – Bret Carmichael
- Ward 1 – S. April Richer
- Ward 2 – Lucas Veitch
- Ward 3 – Anthony "Tony" Retrosi
- Ward 4 – Timothy Granfield
- Ward 5 – Richard L. Robison, Jr.
- Ward 6 – Fergus Cullen

Elected to the 2026-2027 Dover School Board are:

- At Large – Robin Trefethen
- Ward 1 – Margaret "Maggie" Fogarty
- Ward 2 – Elizabeth Goldman
- Ward 3 – Seana Hallberg
- Ward 4 – Micaela Demeter
- Ward 5 – Craig Flynn
- Ward 6 – Michelle Clancy

The inauguration ceremony will include the elected officials taking the oath of office. It represents the formal start of the new term for the City Council and School Board.

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## Don't Trash Dover to hold Litter Collection Walk on Saturday

Join Don't Trash Dover on Saturday, Dec. 27, for a one-hour Litter Collection Walk, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Participants will meet at St. Joseph Church and Rectory, 150 Central Ave. The group departs at 9:30 a.m. sharp and returns to the same location at 10:30 a.m. sharp with litter collected for a group photo.

The Litter Collection Walk is open to all and is a great way to get some exercise and meet new people while helping out the community.

Don't Trash Dover provides the bags and has litter grabbers and safety vests available to loan, if needed. Those with their own litter grabbers are encouraged to bring them. Gloves are recommended.

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3LhnAJc>

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## Recycling Center accepting Christmas trees

The City of Dover Recycling Center on Mast Road is now accepting natural Christmas trees during regular hours.

Trees must be free of all ornaments, lights, tinsel, tree bags, and tree stands, or they will not be accepted.

Trees can be placed in the brush pile.

Artificial trees are not accepted in the brush pile and should be discarded as regular trash.

The Recycling Center is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Community Services at 603-516-6450.

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## Upcoming Meetings:

### School Board, Jan. 6, 6 p.m.

The School Board will hold a workshop session on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026, beginning at 6 p.m., in Council Chambers at 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/>.

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## 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:

- Conservation Commission
- Downtown Dover TIF
- Open Lands Committee
- Racial Equity and Inclusion Committee
- Recreation Advisory Board
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee
- Waterfront TIF
- Zoning Board of Adjustment

The complete list of boards and committees can be found at [www.dover.nh.gov/government/boards-and-commissions/](https://www.dover.nh.gov/government/boards-and-commissions/)

## Current bid opportunities with the City of Dover

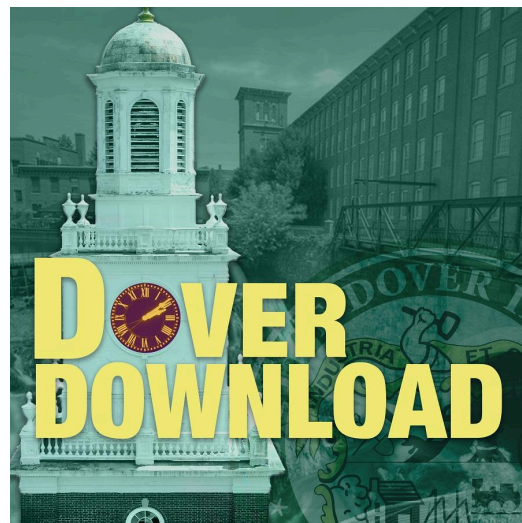
The City of Dover is currently accepting bids for the following projects:

- [Dispatch Alarm Modernization](#)
- [Professional Consulting Services - Transportation Chapter of the Master Plan](#)
- [Plumbing and Heating Services as Needed](#)
- [Sale of City Surplus Property](#)

Current bid documents can be accessed on the Finance Department's [bid page](#). Vendors can also join the City's bid list by visiting the site.

For more information, contact the Finance and Purchasing Office at 603-516-6030.

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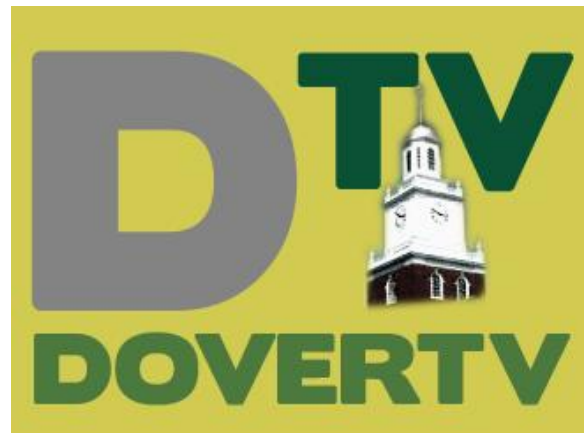
## Dover Green: Mayor Bob Carrier's Journey from Hill Street to City Hall

In the latest episode of the Dover Download podcast, the first of two parts, Deputy City Manager Christopher Parker chats with retiring Mayor Bob Carrier about his deep roots in Dover and lifelong commitment to community

To apply, complete an application, [available here](#) and at the City Clerk's Office, and either drop it off at the Clerk's Office or email it to City Clerk Jerrica Vanslyvong-Bizier at [j.bizier@dover.nh.gov](mailto:j.bizier@dover.nh.gov). 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.

service. Listen wherever you get your podcasts or at <https://bit.ly/45b4fQE>



## Missed the meeting? Catch it again online

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

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

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## 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 results for the previous week. Participating is easy. Click on the link below to cast your vote.

This week's question:

**"What kind of local information do you like seeing in Dover Download?"**

Let us know here: <https://polco.us/fwsm8d>

*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. Responses are anonymous.*

Here are the results from last week's poll, which asked, **"What is one City resource you think residents should know more about?"**

Here are the top five responses:

- Dover's public parks
- Dover's green spaces and walking trails
- Audio and ebook downloads from the Dover Public Library
- COAST paratransit door-to-door bus and van transportation service (not provided by city)
- E-mail updates on city projects



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 [located here](#).

**Jan. 2, 1643** — At a town meeting, Dover's residents adopted a rule to maintain order and support local authority. Anyone who harassed, argued with, or interfered with town-appointed officials while they were carrying out their lawful duties would face escalating penalties. The first offense would result in a formal warning, the second in a fine of five shillings, and the third in a fine of one pound for each violation.

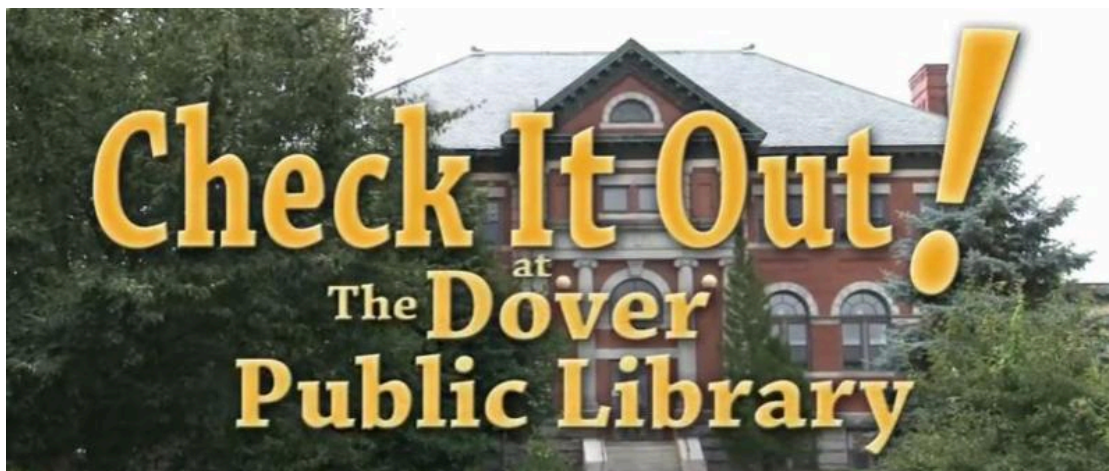
**Dec. 26, 1810** — Around 9 p.m., residents were startled by cries of fire as a major blaze broke out in a large downtown building owned by printer Samuel Bragg Jr. The fire began in the bindery on the lower floor, which was filled with books and loose paper. The upper floor housed Bragg's printing office and bookstore, while other parts of the building were occupied by shopkeeper Philemon Chandler and shoemaker Jesse Varney. The fire spread with extraordinary speed. By the time the alarm could be fully raised, flames had already engulfed the stairway to the printing office. Despite the rapid response of townspeople and local fire crews, the entire structure was soon consumed. Nearby buildings also caught fire, including the home of Samuel Bragg Sr. and a small house owned by Mrs. Marshall, both of which were destroyed. Another nearby building, occupied by Horace Parmele and his family, was heavily damaged during desperate efforts to prevent the fire from spreading further. Remarkably, no lives were lost. However, nearly all property in the printing office and bookstore was destroyed. The fire prompted appeals for charitable assistance to help the affected families rebuild.

**Dec. 26, 1812** — John Wheeler issued a notice calling the proprietors of the Dover Cotton Factory to meet on Jan. 19, 1813, at 5 p.m. The meeting was to be held at the home of Lydia Tibbetts and was intended to formally organize the company under its recently granted act of incorporation. Incorporated in 1812 with a capital investment of \$50,000, the Dover Cotton Factory marked the town's first serious effort at large-scale manufacturing. Because the lower falls of the Cochecho River were already occupied by sawmills and gristmills, the factory was built about two miles upriver. It became known for many years as the "Upper Factory." Like many early industrial ventures, the enterprise achieved only limited success in its early years. John Williams served as the company's agent.

**Dec. 29, 2015** — Dover received the first snowfall of the season on this day, the second-latest snowfall ever recorded in New Hampshire, according to the National Weather Service in Gray, Maine. Dover received a messy mix of snow and rain.

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## This Week at the Library

**Saturday, Dec. 27, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**  
**Learn to Use Libby: Drop In Session**  
**McConnell Center, Room 306**

Discover Free Audiobooks & Ebooks with Libby! This easy-to-use app lets you borrow thousands of audiobooks and ebooks straight to your phone, tablet, or laptop with your Dover library card. Drop by our casual help session with Nick and Rachel, who'll walk you through getting Libby set up on your device. No registration, no stress — just bring your device, your library card.

**Monday, Dec. 29, 6 to 8 p.m.**  
**Teen Dungeons & Dragons**  
**McConnell Center, Room 306**  
Do you love the idea of exploring fantastical worlds? Do you have a love of collaborative gameplay and an active imagination? Then Dungeons and Dragons is for you! Join Dungeon Master Michael for this beginner series where

you will create your own character, play in a story campaign, learn the basics. This program is for teens in grades 6-12 and all supplies (and snacks) will be provided. Register once for the six week session.

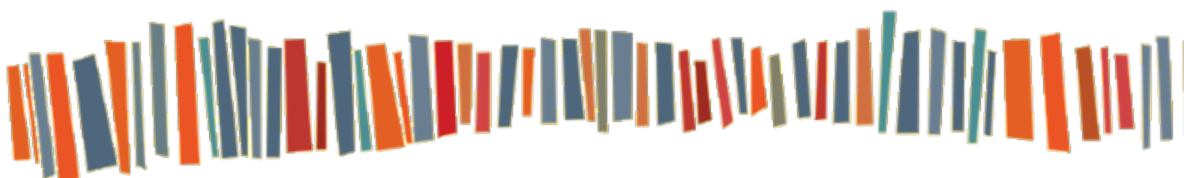
**Wednesday, Dec. 31, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

**New Year's Crafternoon**  
**McConnell Center, Room 306**

Kids of all ages and their caregivers are invited to make some New Year's Eve crafts while supplies last! No registration required.

**Wednesday, Dec. 31**  
**Library closing at 4 p.m.**

**Thursday, Jan. 1**  
**Library closed for New Year's Day**



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## Dover Chamber accepting 2026 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 provide an opportunity for GDCC member businesses to celebrate excellence in their companies and to 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, Feb 12, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Regatta Banquet and Conference Center in Eliot, Maine. The 2026 Annual Awards Gala will be underwritten by Newburyport Bank.

The GDCC encourages businesses and residents to reflect about individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the community and consider [nominating them](#) for one of the Chamber awards. All nominations are due by Jan. 27 at 5 p.m. The deadline for student scholarship applications is March 10.

"Our educators, advocates, dedicated residents, nonprofit organizations, and businesses are true assets of our community," said Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce 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."

To nominate a candidate, visit [www.dovernh.org/awards](http://www.dovernh.org/awards).

For details on Dover Chamber membership and other programs, or for a schedule of activities, call (603) 742-2218 or visit [www.dovernh.org](http://www.dovernh.org).

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## Critical need for blood donors

Every day, thousands of patients rely on lifesaving blood donations. The need for blood is constant.



**American  
Red Cross**

More donors, especially those with type O blood, are needed to ensure that patients have lifesaving blood products available for emergencies and regular medical treatments, including for accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer.

Schedule a blood donation appointment through the [Red Cross Blood Donor App](#), visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). [Learn more about](#) the donation process.

### Upcoming blood donation opportunities in Dover

- Tuesday, Dec. 30, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., [Wentworth-Douglass Hospital](#), 789 Central Ave.
  - Tuesday, Dec. 30, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., [Dover Moose Hall](#), 45 Chestnut St.
  - Friday, Jan. 2, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., [Bill Dube Ford/Toyota](#), 40 Dover Point Road
  - Tuesday, Jan. 6, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., [St. Mary Church](#), 25 Chestnut St.
  - Saturday, Jan. 10, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., [The Praxeum](#), 97 Piscataqua Road
  - Tuesday, Jan. 13, 1 to 5:30 p.m., [Langdon Place](#), 60 Middle Road
  - Thursday, Jan. 15, 12:30 to 5 p.m., [Dover Baptist Church](#), 151 Washington St.
  - Tuesday, Jan. 20, 12 to 5 p.m., [Dover Moose Hall](#), 45 Chestnut St.
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## COAST to host public meeting on proposed ADA paratransit eligibility changes

The Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation (COAST) will host a public meeting at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, to discuss proposed changes to the evaluation process for new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit applications.

The meeting will take place at Community Action Partnership of Strafford County, 577 Central Ave., Suite 10, Dover. All members of the community are invited to attend and offer feedback. Remote attendance options are available by emailing [info@coastbus.org](mailto:info@coastbus.org)

COAST's ADA Complementary Paratransit service provides origin-to-destination shared-ride transportation for individuals whose disabilities prevent them from independently using the agency's fixed-route bus system, as required under the ADA. Eligibility for this service currently involves an application and functional evaluation process.

The proposed changes, which do not affect the status of existing ADA-approved clients, are intended to refine how future applicants are assessed and to ensure that paratransit resources are allocated efficiently while continuing to meet the needs of riders with disabilities. Details of the revisions will be discussed at the meeting.

COAST provides a variety of transit options across Strafford and Rockingham counties, including local and regional bus routes, ADA Paratransit, and demand-response services. For more information about COAST services, visit [www.coastbus.org](http://www.coastbus.org)

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## 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:

- **Police Officer**
- **Swim Instructor, Part-Time**
- **Lifeguard I, Part-Time**
- **Fire Fighter/AEMT**
- **General Legal Counsel**
- **Diesel Mechanic**
- **Heavy Equipment Mechanic**
- **Utilities Laborer**
- **Truck Driver - Utilities**
- **Heavy Equipment Operator I-Utilities**
- **Seasonal Snow Plow Driver, Part-Time**
- **Lab Technician - Water Resources**
- **Utilities Supervisor**
- **Engineering Secretary**
- **Health/Fire Life Safety Officer**
- **Maintenance Specialist - Streets**
- **Municipal Construction Project Administrator**

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

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## 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:

- **Childcare Coordinator-Dover Adult Learning Center (DALC)**
- **Credit Recovery Proctor**
- **ESOL - Newcomer Interventionist (One Year Only)**
- **Long Term Substitute - Anticipated Speech Language Assistant**
- **Long Term Substitute - Speech Language Pathologist**
- **Long Term Substitute Grade 7 Special Education**
- **Noon Aide**

- Noon Supervisor
- Paraprofessionals- Special Education
- Special Education Teacher/Case Manager
- Substitute Nurses
- Substitute Teachers
- Summer School Proctor

For more information about these positions, [click here](#).

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**CITY OF DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE** | [www.dover.nh.gov](http://www.dover.nh.gov)



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City of Dover | 288 Central Avenue | Dover, NH 03820 US

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