

# DOVER DOWNLOAD



News from the City of Dover, New Hampshire



February 14, 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 hours:**



## **City Council receives Fiscal Year 2026 budget**

**Budget review continues Feb. 20**

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



City Manager J. Michael Joyal, Jr. presented the proposed fiscal year 2026 budget to the City Council at its meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025. 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. 6, 2025. The proposed budget and a video recording of the City Manager's presentation are posted on the [FY2026 Budget Revealed webpage](#), where other budget documents will be posted in subsequent weeks. All of the School Board's budget documents are posted on the same page. Physical copies of the FY2026 budget are available for review at the City Clerk's office and Dover Public Library, which is temporarily located in the McConnell Center.

The total proposed FY2026 budget totals \$207,557,289 across all funds, an increase of \$8,770,483, or 4.4%. The General Fund budget totals \$169,004,444, an increase of \$10,937,669, or 6.9%. As proposed, the budget exceeds the tax cap calculation for the General Fund by \$2,389,687, with the School Board's recommended budget being \$2,526,603 above the school side of the tax cap calculation, which is slightly offset on the city side being \$136,916 below its half of the tax-cap calculation. 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 \$524,638, the estimated average property tax bill, based on the proposed budget, is \$10,109, an increase of \$578, or 6%. The final tax rate for Fiscal Year 2026 will be certified by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration in the fall of 2025 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. 26, 2025. The public hearing on the city side of the budget will be held at the City Council's Wednesday, March 12, 2025 meeting. Members of the public may also voice their input during the Public Forum section of any City Council meeting or budget workshop, or email the City Council at [CityCouncil-All@dover.nh.gov](mailto:CityCouncil-All@dover.nh.gov).

## Budget Meeting Schedule

All budget meetings begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

- Thursday, Feb. 20 – Workshop: School, Executive, Finance, Planning, and Welfare departmental budget presentations
- Wednesday, Feb. 26 – Regular Meeting: School Budget Public Hearing
- Wednesday, March 5 – Workshop: Police, Fire and Rescue, and Recreation departmental budget presentations
- Wednesday, March 12 – Regular Meeting: City Budget Public Hearing
- Wednesday, March 19 – Workshop: Community Services, Library, and DoverNet departmental budget presentations
- Wednesday, March 26 – Regular Meeting (Public can speak during Public Forum)
- Wednesday, April 2 – 6 p.m. Workshop: General Budget Review
- Wednesday, April 2 – Special Meeting: Budget Adoption (immediately following the workshop)
- Wednesday, April 9 – Regular Meeting: Fallback budget adoption date

During the budget season, City Manager Joyal will also release a weekly newsletter that recaps any budget-related presentations and a look ahead to what will occur the following week. Sign up for the newsletter at [bit.ly/doverdownload](https://bit.ly/doverdownload), and select "Budget Revealed" from the list of newsletters.

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## Dover Chamber announces 2025 Annual Award winners

The Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce (GDCC) this week announced its 2025 Annual Award winners, who will be honored March 13 at the Chamber's Annual Awards Gala. This year's Annual Awards Gala is underwritten by Newburyport Bank.

"We are thrilled to support the Greater Dover Chamber once again in bringing the community together for the Annual Awards Gala," said Newburyport Bank President John Burcke. "Each year, we are impressed by the positive impact that individuals and businesses have on the growing Greater Dover area. We're proud to be part of this event and honored to be a neighbor in the community."

**Business of the Year** is **D.F. Richard Energy**, a 93-year-old family business focusing on exceptional customer relationships and reasonable prices with premier products and services. The company's founder, Daniel Richard, instilled his sense of community involvement onto his children. To this day, D.F. Richard Energy and its employees are actively involved in the communities they serve, following the example set by Daniel F. Richard.

**Nonprofit of the Year** is **Reach for the Top Therapy Services**, which provides comprehensive outpatient occupational, physical and speech therapies for children with exceptional needs. Families benefit from a supportive environment where they actively participate in therapy sessions, fostering a collaborative approach to care. Reach for the Top continues to grow and adapt, guided by their commitment to excellence, inclusivity, accessibility and community impact.



This year's **Community Arts Champion** is **Woodman Museum Executive Director Jonathan Nichols**. Under his leadership, the Woodman Museum is recognized as a significant cultural institution in Dover. In addition to seasonal art displays, Jonathan has created opportunities for book launches, a woodworking exhibit, a "Flax to Linen Project" in partnership with the University of New Hampshire and a permanent Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles exhibit at the Woodman.

**Elizabeth Fischer** is the **2025 Citizen of the Year**. She is a Dover native who has been involved with organizations such as the Woodman Museum, Rotary Club of Dover, Pope Memorial Humane Society, Dover Main Street, the Joe B. Parks Riverwalk Public Gardens, Dover Recreation Advisory Board and the Wentworth-Douglass Hospital Community Advisory Committee. Beth's volunteerism and civic service to the City of Dover are unparalleled.

The **David K. Bamford Educator of the Year** is **Dover Adult Learning Center (DALC) of Strafford County Executive Director Deanna Strand**. During her 11-year tenure, Deanna has advocated for and administered adult education at the city and town, county and state levels while educationally supporting a diverse population of adult students. She has devoted her professional life to the betterment of DALC's students, local communities and area businesses.

The 2025 Annual Awards Gala will be held at GDCC member business The Red Barn at Outlook Farm in South Berwick on Thursday, March 13, at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$90 each and include a networking reception and full dinner.

Other sponsors include Profile Bank; Cleveland, Waters and Bass, P.A.; First Seacoast Bank; D.F. Richard Energy; Wentworth-Douglass Hospital; Breezeline; Eastern Bank; Leone, McDonnell & Roberts, P.A.; J.R. Heald Builders and Orpheum Apartments & Cowork. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [dovernh.org/awards](https://dovernh.org/awards) or call the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce at 603-742-2218.

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## Section of Library lot closes Wednesday as construction begins

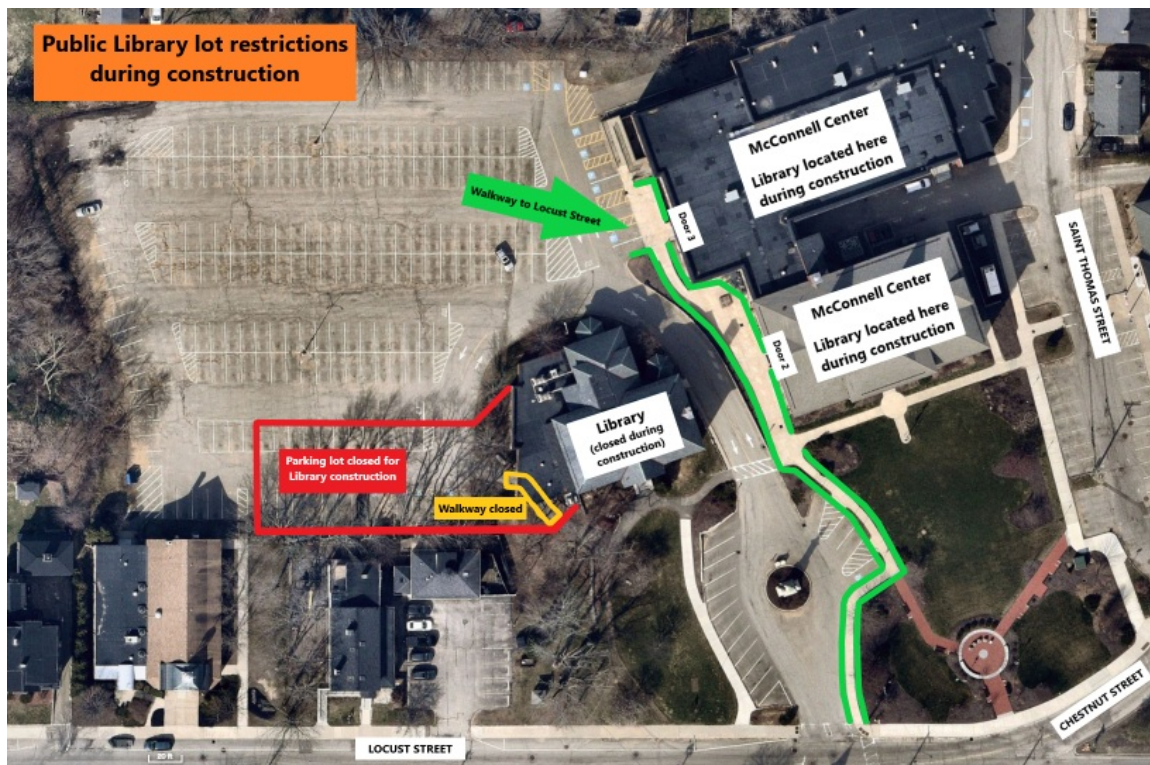
### Walkway through Library's portico will also close

A section of the Dover Public Library's parking lot will be fenced off and closed to the public as construction crews mobilize to the site for the library's renovation project. The walkway underneath the library's portico will also be closed.

Approximately 20 parking spaces will be closed for the fence where materials and equipment for the project will be kept. With the library's walkway closed, Library Director Denise LaFrance encourages the public to cross over to the McConnell Center and utilize its sidewalk to Locust Street.

The library's physical space at 73 Locust St., closed to the public on Jan. 13 for the renovation project that will add accessible entrances and programming space. The historic front façade of the building will remain unchanged, as will its detailed woodworking throughout. The new addition on the parking lot side of the library will create two entrances: One for the Children's section on the ground floor and another for the main library section on the first floor. The work is anticipated to take about a year. Stay up to date with library renovation plans at <https://www.dover.nh.gov/government/city-operations/library/about-us/renovation/>.

During the renovation project, library operations have been moved to the McConnell Center. Adult services are located in the cafeteria, and Children's services are in Room 305. Library events occur in Room 306.



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## Some city facilities, offices closed Monday, Feb. 17 for Presidents Day

City administrative offices, including City Hall, will be closed for Presidents Day on Monday, Feb. 17, 2025. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

The Public Library and the Dover Community Senior Center, both located in the McConnell Center, will also be closed on Presidents Day. The Senior Center will be open briefly for a travel presentation at 9 a.m.

The Indoor Pool will close at 1 p.m. on Presidents Day.

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

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Dover Police Chief William Breault, right, presents Officer Jonathan Palmer with an Exceptional Service Award on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, for Palmer's life-saving response to a teenager who had fallen through ice on the Cochecho River in January.

## Dover Police Chief honors officer for life-saving response

On Thursday, Feb. 13, Police Chief William Breault recognized Officer Jonathan Palmer for his quick actions that likely saved the life of a teenager who had fallen through ice on the Cochecho River.

While patrolling the Dover Community Trail on Jan. 8, Palmer encountered a disoriented teenager in wet clothing walking in freezing conditions. The teen had fallen into the river, and the teen's clothes were beginning to freeze in temperatures between 15 and 20 degrees Fahrenheit with winds up to 30 mph.

Palmer immediately called for medical assistance and helped the teenager reach a nearby meeting point with emergency responders. He assisted in removing the frozen clothing as the teen started to lose mobility and contacted the teen's father to bring dry clothes.

According to Dover Fire & Rescue, Palmer's timely intervention prevented what could have become a life-threatening situation as hypothermia was setting in.

Palmer encountered the teen during his routine patrol as part of his Problem Oriented Police Officer assignment.

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### Upcoming Meetings:

**Parking Commission, Feb. 18,  
8:30 a.m.**

The Parking Commission will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in

### Current bid opportunities with the City of Dover

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

- [Hot Bituminous Paving \(Asphalt\) Laid In Place](#)



the Council Conference Room, City Hall.

To view the meeting agenda, [click here](#).

### **Joint Building Committee, High School Athletic Complex, Feb. 18, 5:30 p.m.**

The Joint Building Committee for the Dover High School Athletic Complex will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025, beginning at 5:30 p.m., the First Floor Conference Room at City Hall.

To view the meeting agenda, [click here](#).

### **Waterfront Development Committee, Feb. 18, 5:30 p.m.**

The Cochecho Waterfront Development Advisory Committee will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025, beginning at 5:30 p.m., the Council Conference Room at City Hall.

To view the meeting agenda, [click here](#).

### **Energy Commission, Feb. 19, 5:30 p.m.**

The Energy Commission will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in the First Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

To view the meeting agenda, [click here](#).

### **City Council, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.**

The City Council will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025, beginning at 7 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall.

To view the meeting agenda, [click here](#).

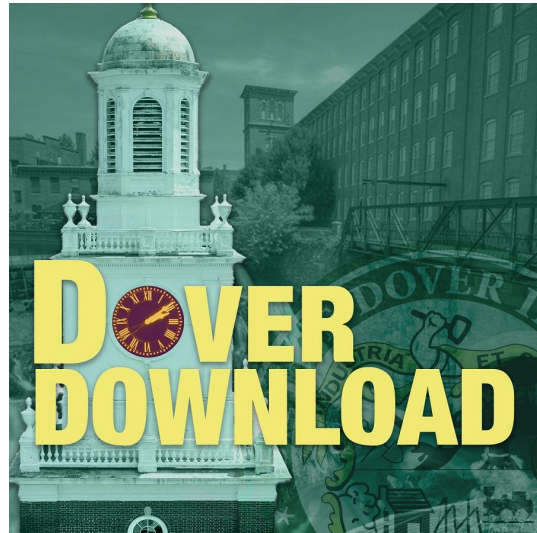
### **Planning Board, Technical Review Committee, Feb. 20, 10:30 a.m.**

The Planning Board's Technical Review Committee will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025,

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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## **From Vision to Action: Understanding Dover's City Council Goals**

In the latest episode of the Dover Download podcast, Deputy City Manager Christopher Parker chats with Director of Media Services Mike Gillis about Dover City Council's goal-setting process and the current council goals. Listen wherever you get your podcasts or at <https://bit.ly/4b1PuRR>.

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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:

- Heritage Commission
- McConnell Center Advisory Committee
- Planning Board
- Racial Equity and Inclusion Committee
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee

beginning at 10:30 a.m., in the Council Conference Room, City Hall.

To view the meeting agenda, [click here](#).

### **City Council, Feb. 20, 7 p.m.**

The City Council will hold a budget workshop on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025, beginning at 7 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall.

To view the meeting agenda, [click here](#).

### **Zoning Board, Feb. 20, 7 p.m.**

The Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Dover Police Department, 46 Chestnut St., First Floor Conference Room.

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/>.

- Utilities Commission
- Zoning Board of Adjustment

The complete list of boards and committees can be found at

[www.dover.nh.gov/government/boards-and-commissions/](http://www.dover.nh.gov/government/boards-and-commissions/)

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 Vansylyvong-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.

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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:

**"Have you used any of Dover's public fitness facilities, including the gym or Butterfield Gym at the McConnell Center?"**

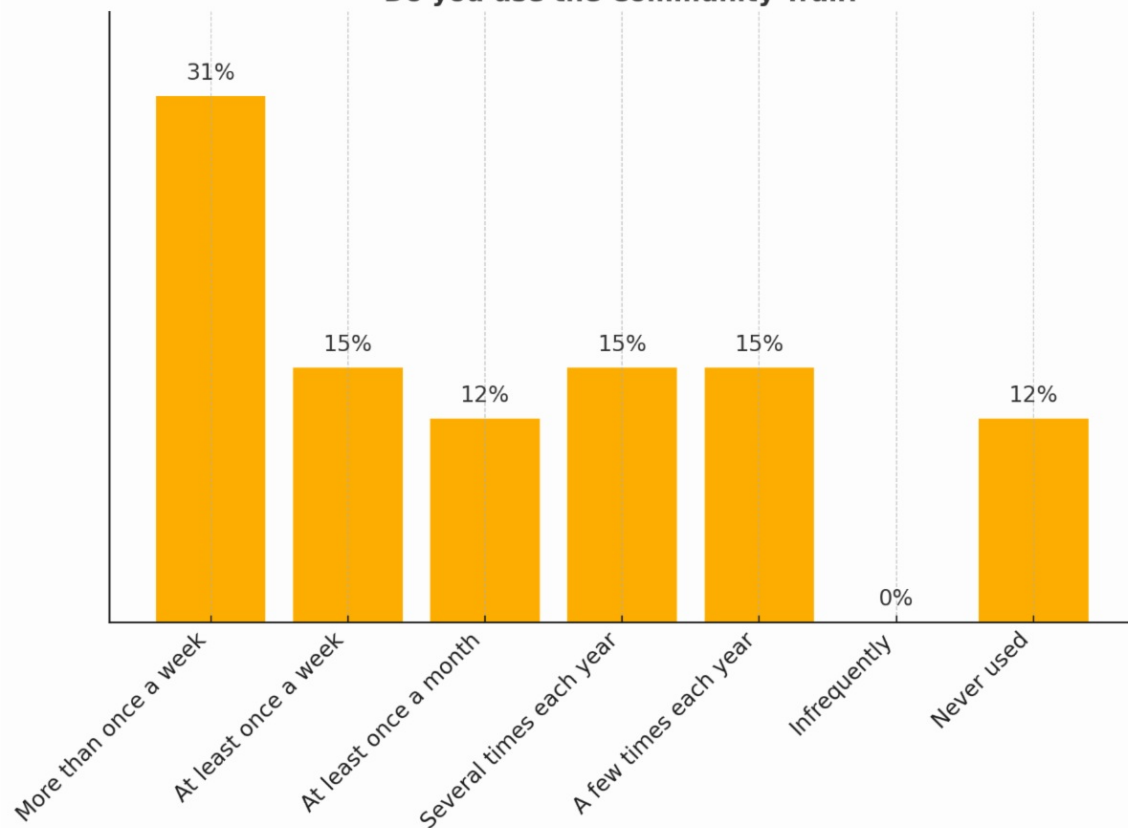
Let us know here: <https://polco.us/mkqtg8>.

*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, **"Do you use the Community Trail?"**



### Do you use the Community Trail?



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](#).

**Feb. 14, 1792** — A new publication, "The Phoenix" appears in Dover, a month after the printing office of Eliphalet Ladd, burned down and caused the suspension of his former paper. His new title, "The Phoenix," begins on Feb. 14, and contains communications reflecting upon citizens for delinquency in not assisting in extinguishing the flames. His criticism continues until in the paper of Feb. 29, when the editor says: "Several pieces are received respecting the fire, but as there has been too much already published concerning that accident, we forbear troubling our readers with anymore on the subject — as it has become too personal and abusive to be admitted."

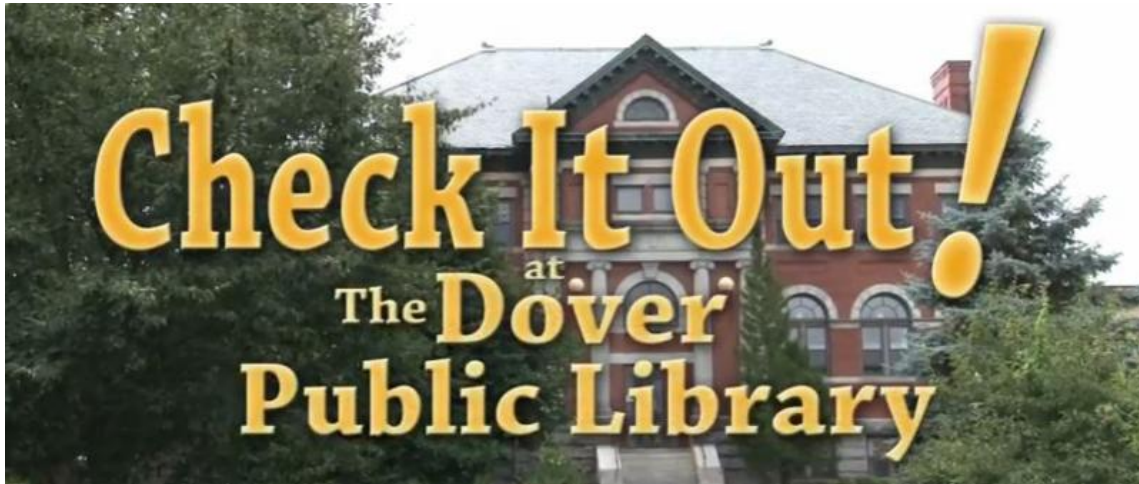
**Feb. 17, 1856** — A severe snow storm snarls all traffic in Dover, including train traffic. Due to the snow, no trains could reach Dover on any railroad for four days.

**Feb. 18, 1974** — The Ramada Inn on Silver Street in Dover was damaged by a late-night fire that had rekindled hours after it had first been put out, forcing the evacuation of about 20 people. Part of the building's roof collapsed, and the rest suffered smoke and water damage. Then Fire Chief Walter Oates said it was hard for firefighters to find the source because flames had traveled between a false ceiling and the roof.

**Feb. 18, 1999** — President Bill Clinton leads an invitation-only roundtable discussion on health care in the auditorium at Dover City Hall. Among the event organizers was former Mayor George Maglaras, who was with Clinton at a campaign stop at the Dover Elks in

1992, during the presidential primary. At the Elks, Clinton, who was then expected to drop out of the race, delivered his "last dog dies" speech that turned the tide of his ailing bid for the Democratic nomination. During that speech, he said, "I will tell you something. I'm going to give you this election back, and if you'll give it to me, I won't be like George Bush. I'll never forget who gave me a second chance, and I'll be there for you till the last dog dies — I want you to remember that." Clinton went on to place second in the New Hampshire primary and eventually won the presidential election. He would make several return trips to Dover.

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## This Week at the Library

**Monday, Feb. 17, All Day**  
**Library closed for Presidents Day**

**Tuesday, Feb. 18, 3 to 4:30 p.m.**  
**Learn to Cross Stitch**  
**McConnell Center in Room 306**  
Learn the basics of cross stitching in this beginners class. You'll stitch a simple design on a bookmark. All supplies will be provided and no previous experience is necessary. This class is intended for students aged 12 and up.  
*Registration required.*

**Wednesday, Nov. 20, 10:30 to 11:45 am**  
**Caregiver Cafe**  
**McConnell Center in Room 323**  
Join Cornerstone VNA for a morning of support, education, and conversation.  
Loved ones are welcome.

**Wednesday, Feb. 19, 7 to 8 p.m.**  
**Virtual Author Hour: Joseph Finder**  
Bestselling author Joseph Finder will discuss his new thriller, "The Oligarch's Daughter", in conversation with bestselling author Lisa Gardner, in this installment of Author Hour in Massachusetts. *Register for livestream*  
*link: <https://ow.ly/FLOo50UY76R>*

**Thursday, Feb. 20, 6 to 7:30 p.m.**  
**Learn to Cross Stitch**  
**McConnell Center in Room 306**  
Learn the basics of cross stitching in this beginners class. You'll stitch a simple design on a bookmark. All supplies will be provided and no previous experience is necessary. This class is intended for students aged 12 and up.  
*Registration required.*

**Friday, Feb. 21, 7 to 8 p.m.**  
**Virtual Author Hour:**  
**Victoria Christopher Murray**  
Bestselling author Victoria Christopher Murray will discuss her new historical fiction novel, "Harlem Rhapsody", in this installment of Author Hour in Massachusetts. *Register for livestream*  
*link: <https://ow.ly/YzEk50UY7sh>*





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## ***Dover Legion's 'Veterans' Cafe' brings service members together***



Courtesy/American Legion Post 8

Residents of Langdon Place in Dover gather during the Veterans' Cafe event on Feb. 3, sharing stories and memories over pastries and refreshments. The monthly program, organized by American Legion Post 8 in Dover, brings together veterans living in assisted care facilities throughout the city. Wearing their "Veterans' Cafe" shirts, these former service members are among dozens who participate in these regular gatherings held at various facilities, offering opportunities for connection and recognition of their military service.

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## **Deadline to order Veterans Park bricks in time for Memorial Day is Feb. 21**



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 Friday, Feb. 21, at 4 p.m.

Orders collected after the deadline through Aug. 15, 2025 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 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 603-516-6401 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.



## **Garrison Players Arts Center presents The Ghost Train**

The Garrison Players Arts Center will present "The Ghost Train," written by Arnold Ridley and directed by Elaine St. Jean. The play is about six passengers who find themselves stranded late at night in the waiting room of an isolated Cornish railway station. Ignoring the stationmaster's ghostly tales and dire warnings, they decide to stay where they are until morning—with terrifying consequences.

Garrison Players Arts Center is located at 449 Roberts Road, Rollinsford, at the corner of Portland Ave (Route 4). Show dates are the weekends of February 28-March 2, March 7-9, and March 14-15. Show times are Friday's at 7:30 p.m., Saturday's at 4 p.m., Sunday's at 2 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets (Adults \$22, Seniors \$18, Students \$15) visit: [www.garrisonplayers.org/the-ghost-train](http://www.garrisonplayers.org/the-ghost-train)

Garrison Players Arts Center (GPAC) is a nonprofit, volunteer-based community theatre group dedicated to enriching the area's cultural life by presenting high-quality theatrical performances for family audiences. Established in 1953 in Dover, the Players encourage people of all ages to enjoy and participate in the many facets of the performing arts and to help maintain the Garrison Players Arts Center. For more information about auditions, shows, volunteering, sponsorship, or GPAC, visit the website at [www.garrisonplayers.org](http://www.garrisonplayers.org).

## 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:

- **Secretary Community Services, Part Time**
- **Police Officer**
- **Water Exercise Instructor II, Part-Time**
- **Swim Instructor, Part-Time**
- **Lifeguard I, Part-Time**
- **Heavy Equipment Mechanic**
- **Diesel Mechanic**
- **Engineering Intern**
- **Arena Maintenance / Ice Resurfacers**
- **Laborer - Public Works Streets & Storm Water**
- **Truck Driver - Streets**
- **Custodian - McConnell Center, Part-Time**
- **Public Safety Systems IT Technician**
- **City Attorney**

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:

- **Family Services Counselor**
- **Unified High School Volleyball Coach**
- **Girls Varsity Tennis Head Coach**
- **Title I Interventionist**
- **Paraprofessionals**

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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