

## News from the City of Dover, New Hampshire



#### CITY OF DOVER, NH

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

## City Hall hours:

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

#### Recycling Center hours:

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



en-government/budget-revealed/

## Council to take up other business, including equipment purchases, at Feb. 26 meeting

The City Council will hold its first fiscal year 2026 budget public hearing at its Wednesday, Feb. 26 regular meeting.

The public hearing is on the public education portion of the proposed FY2026 budget, which the School Board adopted at its Jan. 6 meeting. The public school's budget was presented at the Council's Feb. 20 workshop. A video recording and presentation slides from the workshop are available on the FY2026 Budget Revealed online resource, which also includes the School Board's budget meetings and documents.

The public hearing on all other portions of the proposed FY2026 budget will be held at the City Council's Wednesday, March 12 meeting.

#### February 21, 2025

Also on the City Council's Feb. 26 agenda:

- Authorizing the expenditure of \$146,820 for the city's share for the Municipal Alliance for Adaptive Management. The Municipal Alliance for Adaptive Management is a collaboration of communities and stakeholders within the Great Bay that created an adaptive management framework to improve water quality and reduce total nitrogen in the Great Bay estuary and complies with the federal Great Bay Total Nitrogen Permit. It was founded by the cities of Rochester, Dover and Portsmouth, and its membership includes Newington, Epping, Exeter, Rollinsford and Milton. The Municipal Alliance is open to all communities in the Great Bay watershed.
- Authorizing the expenditure of \$785,000 for a pumper truck for Dover Fire and Rescue. If approved, the new apparatus will replace the frontline service of a 2015 fire engine, which will in turn replace the 1995 reserve engine.
- Authorizing the expenditure of \$149,610 for three new T450 T4 Bobcat track loaders. Community Services utilizes skid steer track loaders for various parts of its operations and are the primary units for sidewalk plowing and treatment.

<u>Click here</u> for the complete agenda.

The meeting will be held it City Hall's Council Chambers starting at 7 p.m. it will televised and <u>streamed online</u>, where it will also be available on-demand.



Dover School District Assistant Superintendent Christine Boston, left, and Chief Financial Officer Michael Limanni respond to questions during the City Council budget workshop this week.

#### **Budget deliberations continue**

The City Council heard budget presentations from several departments this week, including Education, Executive, Finance, and Welfare. The budget workshop, along with related budget documents and presentations shared at the meeting, can be viewed at the <u>FY2026 Budget Revealed</u> online resource.

Following Wednesday's public hearing, the City Council will continue budget deliberations over the next several weeks.

#### **Budget Meeting Schedule**

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

- Wednesday, Feb. 26 Regular Meeting: School Budget Public Hearing
- Wednesday, March 5 Workshop: Police, Fire and Rescue, Recreation, and Planning 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 sends 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 <u>bit.ly/doverdownload</u>, and select "Budget Revealed" from the list of newsletters.



Current and former members of Dover Fire and Rescue perform in the 2017 Fire Safety Festival, "Safety Wars." Dover Fire and Rescue is bringing back the popular series to local schools later this year after a six-year hiatus.

## Fire Safety Festival returning to educate and entertain local students

#### Dover Fire and Rescue seeks donations for popular event

After a six-year hiatus, Dover Fire and Rescue is bringing back its Fire Safety Festival, marking the 25th anniversary of its program that has helped educate children throughout the community about fire safety.

The festival's centerpiece is an original theatrical production written, produced and performed by Dover firefighters. The show will be presented to approximately 2,000 students from kindergarten through fourth grade at Dover's public and private elementary schools in May or June 2025.

This year's theme follows an uncle and nephew's educational adventure at Dover's Central Fire Station, featuring popular songs reimagined with fire safety messages. The production teaches essential safety lessons including "stop, drop and roll," emergency preparedness, and the importance of knowing multiple escape routes during a fire.

The department is seeking community support to fund the \$9,000-\$12,000 production costs. Each student receives a T-shirt, coloring book, and fire safety prevention materials.

Four sponsorship levels are available:

- Diamond Level (\$1,500+): Exclusive donor listing on cast gift and premium logo placement on festival T-shirts
- Gold Level (\$800-\$1,499): Large logo on festival T-shirts
- Silver Level (\$500-\$799): Medium logo on festival T-shirts
- Bronze Level (\$100-\$499): Business name listed on T-shirts

Donations must be received by April 1, 2025, for inclusion on this year's T-shirts. Checks should be made payable to "City of Dover- Fire Safety Festival" and mailed to 288 Central Ave., Dover, NH 03820, or dropped off at any Dover fire station. Include "Children's Fire Safety Festival" in the memo line.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Dover Fire and Rescue at (603) 516-6148.

Previous performances, which have featured themes from "Shrek," "Toy Story," "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" and "Star Wars," are available to view on the City of Dover's website at <u>https://www.dover.nh.gov/government/city-operations/fire-and-rescue/fire-prevention-and-safety/fire-safety-festival/</u>.

## Great Bay Rowing will not pursue a boathouse city's waterfront development

#### Citing escalating costs, will seek new home for operations

Great Bay Rowing announced to the Cochecho Waterfront Development Advisory Committee that it will seek a new permanent home and no longer pursue building a community boathouse for its operations at the city's waterfront development.

Great Bay Rowing President Scott Bogle <u>said at the committee's Feb. 18 meeting</u> that GBR's board made the "difficult decision" after receiving the report of GBR's funded geotechnical study of the site. Bogle said that based on the results of the study, GBR estimated it would have to raise "at least another million" for site remediation and soil stabilization costs to build the concrete piers to support the building's foundation, bringing GBR's total estimated construction costs to more than \$3 million. Great Bay Rowing has been working with CWDAC for the past few years to build and maintain a state-of-the-art community boat house. Bogle thanked the city for being a long-standing partner of the organization.

Great Bay Rowing has utilized the city's waterfront for more than a decade and played an instrumental role in contributing funds for the construction and installation of the paddle dock, one of the first pieces installed for the public park for the waterfront development. The paddle dock will be installed seasonally at the waterfront site once the shoreline stabilization and other site improvements for the public park are completed.

For more information on Great Bay Rowing, visit https://www.greatbayrowing.org/.

## Dover Athletics Joint Building Committee seeks fundraising team volunteers

To help defray the cost of the upcoming athletic fields replacement at Dover High School, the Dover Athletics Joint Building Committee (JBC) is seeking community volunteers to participate in fundraising efforts for the project. This fundraising team will be led by volunteers, with JBC and School Board members Michelle Clancy and Craig Flynn acting as liaisons. Participation is open to anyone in the community passionate about sports.

If interested in getting involved, contact Michelle Clancy at <u>m.clancy@dover.k12.nh.us</u> and/or Craig Flynn at <u>c.flynn@dover.k12.nh.us</u> by Friday, March 7.

Meeting frequency and location (virtual/in person) will be determined by the fundraising team, with the first meeting taking place by the end of March.

To learn more about the project, visit <u>https://www.dover.nh.gov/government/boards-and-</u> commissions/joint-building-committee-athletic-complex/.



## Bridge work necessitates intermittent closure of New Bellamy Lane next week

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation will close New Bellamy Lane to

through traffic intermittently next week by the Route 16/Spaulding Turnpike overpass for bridge maintenance work.

NHDOT said the closure would be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, Feb.24-25, and Thursday, Feb. 27.

Crews will utilize jackhammers to remove deteriorating sections of concrete on the bridge. Another crew is scheduled for March 12 to apply shotcrete in those sections, which is a method of applying concrete projected at high velocity.

For more information, contact NHDOT at 60-271-3734.



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

Join Don't Trash Dover on Saturday, Feb. 22, for a one-hour Litter Collection Walk, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Participants will meet at Garrison Hill Park, 10 Abby Sawyer Memorial Drive. 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, including a decision to postpone the event due to the weather, visit <u>https://bit.ly/41rkRSQ</u>.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

Trustees of the Trust Fund, Feb. 24, 9 a.m.

The Trustees of the Trust Fund will hold a regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, beginning at 9 a.m., in the Council Conference Room,

## Current bid opportunities with the City of Dover

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

- <u>Garrison Reservoir to Oak Street &</u> Broadway Water Transmission Main
- Hot Bituminous Paving (Asphalt) Laid In

City Hall.

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

#### Downtown Dover TIF Advisory Board, Feb. 24, 3 p.m.

The Downtown Dover TIF Advisory Board will hold a regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, beginning at 3 p.m., in the First Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

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

#### City Council, Feb. 26, 7 p.m.

The City Council will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025, beginning at 7 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall.

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

#### Planning Board, Technical Review Committee, Feb. 27, 10:30 a.m.

The Planning Board's Technical Review Committee will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025, beginning at 10:30 a.m., in the Council Conference Room, City Hall.

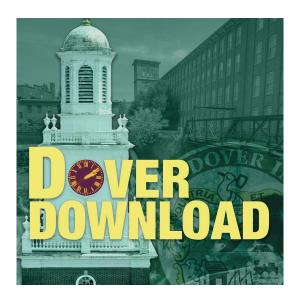
To view the meeting agenda, <u>click</u> <u>here</u>.

For a complete list of upcoming meetings, visit <u>https://www.dover.nh.gov/governme</u> <u>nt/open-government/public-</u> <u>meetings/</u>. <u>Place</u>

- Pavement Markings
- <u>Reflectorized Pavement Lines</u>

Current bid documents can be accessed on the Finance Department's <u>bid page</u>. 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.



### Breaking Down Dover's Budget: A Conversation with the City Manager about the FY2026 Plan

In the latest episode of the Dover Download podcast, Deputy City Manager Christopher Parker chats with City Manager J. Michael Joyal, Jr. about Dover's FY2026 budget process and presentation. Listen wherever you get your podcasts or at <u>https://bit.ly/432kRtl</u>.

#### 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:

Arts Commission

- Ethics Commission
- Heritage Commission
- McConnell Center Advisory Committee
- Planning Board
- Racial Equity and Inclusion Committee
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee
- Utilities Commission
- Zoning Board of Adjustment

The complete list of boards and committees can be found at <u>www.dover.nh.gov/government/boards-andcommissions/</u>

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

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

## 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.

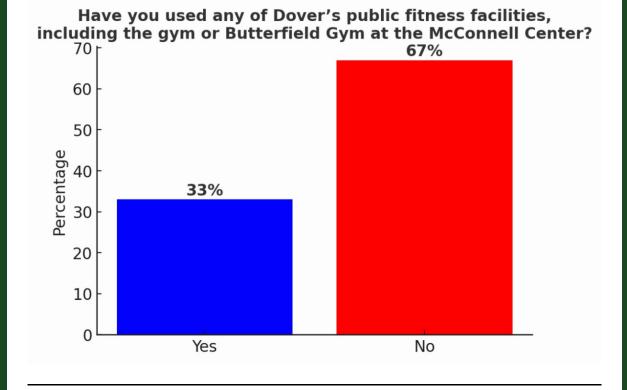
This week's question:

#### "Have you ever used the Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation (COAST) bus system?"

Let us know here: <u>https://polco.us/mhwste</u>.

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





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

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

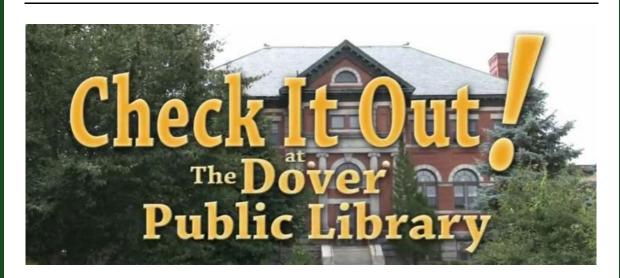
**Feb. 22, 1754** — Residents of Dover submitted petitions requesting the creation of an independent parish, which they proposed to name Somersworth. In response, the colonial Assembly appointed a committee to survey the area and assess whether forming a separate parish was justified. The committee was tasked with evaluating the land and community needs before making a recommendation. However, the petitioners were responsible for covering all costs related to the review. "Summersworth" had already been recognized as a separate parish in 1729, allowing residents to build their own meetinghouse and manage local religious affairs. However, the push for full independence continued, and in 1754, residents again petitioned for official recognition. After years of efforts, Somersworth was finally incorporated as a separate town in 1754, fully breaking away from Dover's governance. Later, in 1893, Somersworth became a city, reflecting its growth and industrial development.

**Feb. 21, 1843** — Nathaniel W. Ela passed away at the age of 77 on this day. For nearly 50 years, he operated Ela's Tavern, a well-known and frequently visited inn located on Dover Landing. His establishment served as a key gathering place for travelers, merchants, and locals. During Ela's time, the Landing was a bustling area, central to trade and transportation, making his tavern an essential stop for those navigating the region.

**Feb. 22, 1855** — The Piscataqua Bridge became impassable and was permanently closed after approximately 500 feet of its structure was destroyed by ice. Built in the early 19th century, the bridge was a crucial transportation link, connecting communities on either side of the Piscataqua River. However, like many wooden bridges of the era, it was vulnerable to harsh New England winters, particularly the movement of thick ice flows.

**Feb. 23, 2002** — Plans were underway to move the historic Paul Wentworth House, originally built in 1701 in Dover, New Hampshire, back to the state after it had been relocated to Dover, Massachusetts, in the 1930s. The house, a significant example of early New England architecture, was in jeopardy of being razed, prompting the Dover Historical Commission in Massachusetts to explore options for its preservation. The house was originally constructed for Paul Wentworth, a member of a prominent New Hampshire family, and had connections to Revolutionary War patriots. The structure had suffered neglect over the years, and efforts to restore it were deemed impractical given its current location. Historians and local officials viewed this as a unique opportunity to return the house to its original region and preserve an important part of New Hampshire's colonial history. Following these efforts, the Paul Wentworth House was successfully moved to Rollinsford that same year, in 2002. It underwent restoration and became a centerpiece for historical education, now operated by the Association for Rollinsford Culture and History (ARCH). The house serves as a museum and community resource, reflecting the area's rich colonial past.

**Feb. 25, 2004** — The Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce named Robert E. Marston as its Citizen of the Year, recognizing his lifelong dedication to community service and historical preservation. Born in Rockland, Maine, on Oct. 19, 1922, Marston was a decorated World War II veteran who served as a Staff Sergeant in the Army Air Force's "Hell Hawks" 365th Fighter Bomber Group. After the war, he earned an electrical engineering degree from the University of Maine and built a distinguished career as a consulting and sales engineer. A Dover resident since 1951, Marston was deeply involved in civic and historical efforts. He co-founded the Dover Heritage Walk, served as president of the Dover Historical Society, and completed a book on Dover's history from 1850 to 1950. He was also a state legislator, a longtime trustee of the Dover Public Library, and an active member of the First Parish Church. Marston passed away on Nov. 28, 2005, at the age of 83, leaving behind a legacy of service, scholarship, and dedication to New Hampshire's oldest city.



## Children's Room announces school vacation week programming

Looking for something fun and local to do during February break? Join the Dover Public Library Children's Room for a week of free activities. The library has recently relocated to its temporary McConnell Center location but will continue hosting programs.

On Monday, Feb. 24, join the library for a Family Vacation Storytime at 10 a.m. This event will take place in Room 306 at the McConnell Center. Celebrate family winter fun. All ages are invited with a caregiver. No registration required.

On Tuesday, Feb. 25, the library will host its first Crafternoon for Kids in the new space. This event is for children in grades 1-5 and requires registration. Children will make emoji pillows. The event will take place at 10 a.m. in Room 306 of the McConnell Center.

On Wednesday, Feb. 26, Wildlife Encounters will bring their Animal Ambassadors at 10:30 a.m. This event does not require registration and will take place at the City Hall Auditorium. All ages welcome.

On Thursday, Feb. 27, the UNH Marine Docents program will discuss the importance of estuaries to our local habitat. They'll provide hands-on activities for children. This event is geared toward children in grades 2-6 but all are welcome. The program will be held at the City Hall Auditorium at 10 a.m. No registration required.

On Friday, Feb. 28, children will explore a Turing Tumble Machine. This STEM event is for children in grades 3-6. Registration required. The event will take place in Room 306 at the McConnell Center at 10 a.m.

For more information or to register for programs, visit <u>library.dover.nh.gov</u> or call 603-516-6052.

## Dover Public Library hosts virtual discussion on cult psychology

Dover Public Library will host a virtual discussion with author J.W. Ocker about his book "Cult Following: The Extreme Sects That Capture Our Imaginations -- and Take Over Our Lives" at 7 p.m. Monday, March 3.

In partnership with Ashland Public Library in Massachusetts, the presentation will explore the psychology behind some of history's most notorious cults. Ocker will discuss groups including the Branch Davidians, who the FBI raided in Waco, Texas, and NXIVM, a 21st-century cult that operated under the guise of personal development seminars and attracted Hollywood actresses.

The presentation examines cults' power of attraction, the nature of belief, the need for belonging and the exploitation of trust.

Ocker is a national bestselling author of macabre travelogues, children's books and horror novels. He created OTIS: Odd Things I've Seen (oddthingsiveseen.com), chronicling his visits to cultural, artistic, natural and historical oddities through articles, photos and podcasts. His work has appeared in CNN.com, The Atlantic, Rue Morgue, The Boston Globe, The Guardian and Time. Originally from Maryland, he has lived in New Hampshire for more than a decade.

The free event is open to the public. Visit <u>library.dover.nh.gov</u> or call 603-516-6050 to register and receive the livestream link.

The library has temporarily relocated to the McConnell Center during renovations of the main building. The Children's Room is in Room 305, while Adult and Teen services are in the McConnell Center's cafeteria.

### This Week at the Library

Monday, Feb. 24, 10 to 10:45 a.m. Family Vacation Story Time McConnell Center in Room 306 A special Family Storytime to celebrate family winter fun! Read books, sing songs and participate in a fun activity.

> Monday, Feb. 24, 6 to 8 p.m. Teen Dungeons & Dragons McConnell Center, Room 306

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7 to 8 p.m. Virtual Author Hour: Elinor Lipman Bestselling author Elinor Lipman will discuss her new romantic comedy, "Every Tom, Dick & Harry", in this installment of Author Hour in Massachusetts. *Register for livestream link:* https://ow.ly/VnYa50V2sUZ

Thursday, Feb. 27, 10 to 11 am

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 a one-shot story campaign, and learn the basics of D&D 5th Edition. This program is for teens entering grades 6-12 only, and all supplies will be provided.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 25, 7 to 8 p.m. Virtual: The Good Mother Myth

Poet and Essayist, Nancy Reddy, joins us to discuss her book, "The Good Mother Myth: Unlearning Our Bad Ideas About How to Be a Good Mom", a timely and thought-provoking debunking of the bad ideas that have for too long defined what it means to be a "good" mom. This program is for all of the caregivers who struggle to be the best they can be with societal pressures constantly trying to influence our good instincts. *Register for livestream link:* https://ow.ly/c9lu50V2quF

#### Wednesday, Feb. 26, 10:30 to 11:30 am Wildlife Encounters City Hall Auditorium

Join Wildlife Encounters and their Animal Ambassadors for a special family friendly vacation event for all ages!

#### Wednesday, Feb. 26, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Get Lit! Book Club

The Office Lounge, 21 Third St, Dover Join the Dover Public Library's adult book club to discuss *The Friend* by Sigrid Nunez. Copies of the book will be available to borrow at the main circulation desk of the library. All are welcome!

#### All About Estuaries: UNH Marine Docents/Sea Grant City Hall Auditorium

Do you know what creatures live in an estuary, and why they're so important? Did you know they are called "the nursery of the sea?" We will explore these questions and many more with hands-on activities, such as measuring water salinity, identifying estuarine bird calls, and handling a live horseshoe crab. This event is geared for children in grades 2-6, but all ages are welcome.

#### Thursday, Feb. 27, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Cocheco River Writers McConnell Center Room 306

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

Friday, Feb. 28, 10 to 11 a.m. Turing Tumble Adventure McConnell Center Room 306 Astronaut Alla is stranded on a deserted planet. Her only hope of escape is fixing a strange, broken computer she found... and she needs your help! Kids in grades 3-6 are invited to come play with the Turing Tumble, a fun and challenging game where players solve logic puzzles by building mechanical computers powered by marbles. *Registration required*.

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Joe B. Parks Riverwalk seeks garden tenders

With spring just around the corner, the Joe B. Parks Riverwalk Public Gardens seeks individuals to help tend to the gardens or help with special projects. Garden tenders will nurture and maintain a diverse array of plants and flowers, helping to create a vibrant and inviting atmosphere for visitors to enjoy.

No specific gardening experience is necessary. Individuals, groups, and businesses are welcome.

To learn more, visit <u>https://www.joeparksgarden.org/index.php/our-volunteers-caregivers/</u> or call 603-817-1843.

### **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 Resurfacer
- Laborer Public Works Streets & Storm Water
- Truck Driver Streets
- Custodian McConnell Center, Part-Time
- Public Safety Systems IT Technician
- City Attorney
- Custodian City Hall, Part-Time

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

### **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, <u>click here</u>.

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