



## **Dover Main Street: Celebrating 25 Years of Community Engagement**

In 2024, Dover Main Street celebrated 25 years as a non-profit organization dedicated to its mission: *"Preserve the past, promote the present, and facilitate the future."*

Since 2000, the annual Clean Up Day has been a flagship event for Dover, bringing together a dedicated group of volunteers—ranging from 100 to 250 people—each spring to clean up the city after the winter season. This event embodies community spirit while also providing significant cost savings for the city.

Dover is adorned with 33 historical markers that highlight the rich history of our community, offering educational walking tours and providing historical insights to both residents and visitors. Dover Main Street ensures the ongoing maintenance of these markers and actively seeks opportunities to place new ones.

For many years, Dover Main Street has played a key role in the city's *Lighting of the Holiday Tree* and the arrival of Santa, bringing joy and festive cheer to the community. More recently, downtown ice sculptures have become a picturesque backdrop for countless family photos.

During the pandemic, the *Santa Drive-By*, a three-hour event around Dover, was introduced as a creative solution to keep the holiday spirit alive despite the cancellation of many traditional events, including the holiday parade.

The *RunB4UCrawl 5K Race and Pub Crawl* has been a popular event for over 12 years, attracting more than 700 runners, along with their friends and family, to Dover each year. This event contributes to the city's vibrancy and economic activity.

Since 2015, Dover Main Street has held its *Annual Food Drive*, consistently collecting an average of 1,500 pounds of food each year for the Dover Food Pantry to support those in need.

The *Adopt-A-Spot* program, thanks to the dedication of Dover Main Street volunteers, has significantly reduced maintenance and groundskeeping costs at numerous locations throughout the city. This initiative serves as a shining example of community involvement and beautification.

Dover Main Street continues to support other local organizations, including the Arts Commission, downtown merchants and restaurants, the Chamber of Commerce, and various community groups.

Robert Carrier, Mayor  
City of Dover, New Hampshire