

DOVER DOWNLOAD



News from the City of Dover, New Hampshire



December 29, 2023



**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,

Newly elected City Council and School Board to be sworn in Tuesday

The newly elected Dover City Council and School Board will be inaugurated on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024 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 meet at 5:15 p.m. in the City Hall Council Conference Room to elect a chair, vice-chair, and secretary, and vote on School Board bylaws.

Those elected to serve on the 2024-2025 Dover City Council are:

- Mayor Robert Carrier
- At Large – Lindsey Williams
- At Large – Linnea Nemeth
- Ward 1 – April Richer
- Ward 2 – Robert Warach
- Ward 3 – Anthony "Tony" Retrosi

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

- Ward 4 – Debra Hackett
- Ward 5 – Dennis Shanahan
- Ward 6 – Fergus Cullen

Elected to the 2024-2025 Dover School Board are:

- At Large – Robin Trefethen
- Ward 1 – Maggie Fogarty
- Ward 2 – Elizabeth Goldman
- Ward 3 – Carolyn Mebert
- 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.

Upcoming New Year's holiday hours for City facilities

Curbside trash and recycling pickup delayed one day the week of Jan. 1, 2024

City administrative offices, including **City Hall**, will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024, for the New Year's Day holiday. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 2.

The **Public Library** will be closed on New Year's Eve, Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023; and New Year's Day, Monday, Jan. 1, 2024.

The **Dover Ice Arena** will be closed on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 2023. The Arena is open for regular hours of operation on Jan. 1, 2024, New Year's Day.

The **McConnell Center Recreation facilities** will be closed on New Year's Day, Monday, Jan. 1, 2024.

The **Dover Community Senior Center** will be closed on New Year's Day, Monday, Jan. 1, 2024.

The **Dover Indoor Pool** will be closed on New Year's Eve, Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023, and New Year's Day, Monday, Jan. 1, 2024.

Curbside trash and recycling pickup will be delayed by one day all week for the holiday.

City seeks to replace Portland Avenue retaining wall

The City of Dover released a request for proposals this week seeking construction bids to install a retaining wall on Portland Avenue, just outbound from its intersection with Cochecho Street.

In addition to the retaining wall,

the project is also to include installing and widening the sidewalk on a section of Portland Avenue and installing a crash-test railing and new streetlights. Bids for the project are due on Jan. 30, 2024. [Click here](#) for bid materials.



The work would impact Portland Avenue traffic, as traffic is anticipated to be reduced to a single lane of alternating traffic for a significant portion of the project. As such, the city will provide regular updates after the bid is awarded and the project schedule is determined. To sign up for project-specific emails, visit <https://bit.ly/dovernewsletters> and add "Project updates: Portland Avenue retaining wall" to your current email subscription list. The work is also expected to coincide with the project to replace stormwater drainage from the retaining wall to the Cochehco River; that project has not yet gone out to bid.

The retaining wall project was initially authorized through the FY2022-2027 Capital Improvements Program to conduct a stability analysis and investigate whether it would be best to reinforce, repair or replace the wall. Upon investigation, the city concluded the retaining wall needed replacement, as engineers discovered during the stability analysis the current wall does not have support footing and is not technically a retaining wall.

Earlier this month, the City Council authorized bonding an additional \$1,100,000 to fund the project's construction in a resolution appropriating for FY2025 CIP debt-financed projects. The City Council had previously authorized bonding \$850,000 for construction and \$250,000 for design engineering.

For more information about the project, contact Community Services at 603-516-6450. For more bid information, contact the Finance Department at 603-516-6030.



Strafford County Warming Center open Dec.

31 and Jan. 1

The Strafford County Warming Center, located at 30 Willand Drive in Somersworth, will open at 4 p.m. on New Year's Eve, Sunday, Dec. 31, and remain open until 12 p.m. on New Year's Day, Monday, Jan. 1. The Warming Center will reopen Jan. 1 at 5 p.m. and close the following morning at 9 a.m.

Contact the Warming Center for information on transportation to the Warming Center at 603-742-2709. COAST Bus does not operate on Sundays.

Get activation text alerts

Get text alert notifications when the Warming Center is activated by texting "Willand" to 855-935-4402. To contact the Warming Center, call 603-742-2709, or visit their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/warmingcenterofsc>.

Meals, donations and volunteers needed

Karlee's Home Team seeks meals and other donations to provide for those who stay at the center. [Click here](#) to sign up to bring a meal. [Click here](#) to see the current list of needed items. They also seek volunteers to help. Email Karleeshometeam2023@gmail.com for more information.

Upcoming Meetings:

School Board, Jan. 2, 5:15 p.m.

The School Board will hold an organizational meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, beginning at 5:15 p.m., in the Council Conference Room at City Hall.

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

City Council, Jan. 2, 6 p.m.

The City Council will hold an organizational meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, beginning at 6 p.m., in the Office of the City Manager at City Hall.

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

Inauguration of City Council and School Board, Jan. 2, 7 p.m.

The Inauguration of City Council and School Board will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, beginning at 7 p.m., in the City Hall Auditorium.

Recycling Center accepting Christmas trees

The City of Dover Recycling Center on Mast Road is now accepting 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.

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.

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

Planning Technical Review, Jan. 4, 10:30 a.m.

The Planning Board's Planning Technical Review Committee will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, beginning at 10:30 a.m., in the Council Conference Room at City Hall.

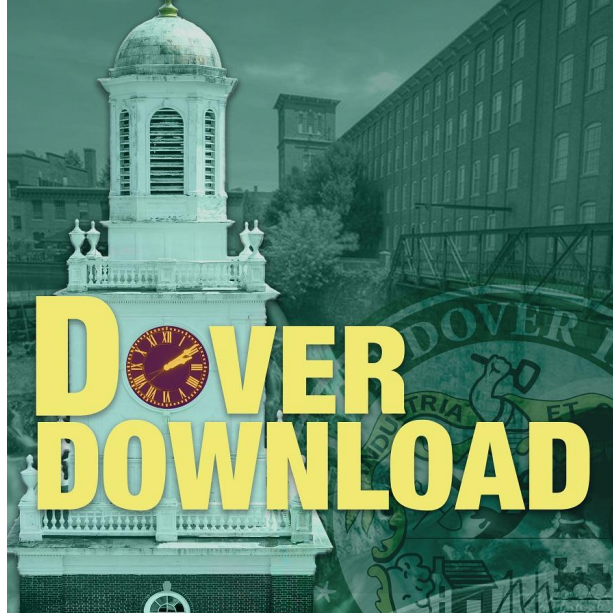
To view the meeting agenda, [click here](#).

Library Board of Trustees, Jan. 4, 4 p.m.

The Library Board of Trustees will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, beginning at 4 p.m., at the Dover Public Library, 73 Locust Street.

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/>.



Latest episode: Bob Steele on his time as Dover's City Manager

In the latest episode of Dover Download, Deputy City Manager Christopher Parker chats with former Dover City Manager Bob Steele about his time working for the city in the late 1970s and 1980s. Listen wherever you get your podcasts or at <https://bit.ly/3v5r9tD>.



Missed the meeting? Catch it again online

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

Simply visit www.dovernh.viebit.com to begin watching meetings on demand. Online meetings are organized by agenda item for convenience.

Dover Download 'Question of the Week'

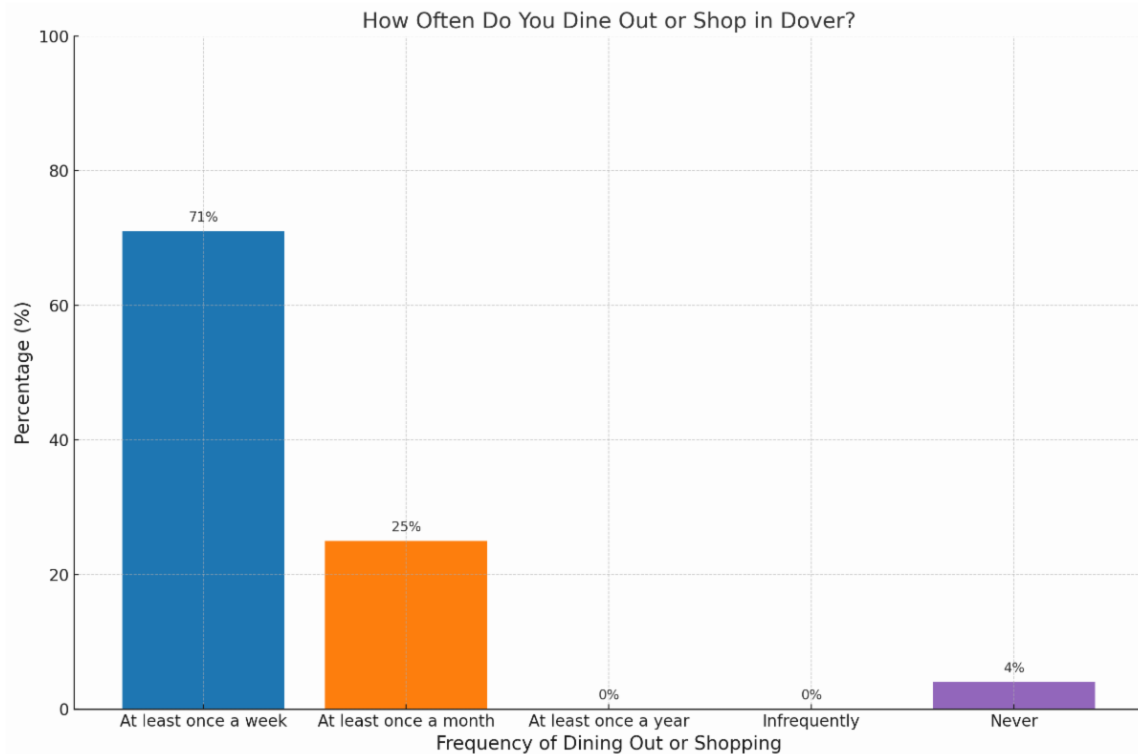
We want to hear from you! In each edition of Dover Download, we're looking for your response to our question of the week. A new poll will appear each week in Dover Download, along with the previous week's results. Participating is easy – just click on the link below to cast your vote.

This week's question: **Do you commute to work or school? If so, how?**

Let us know here: <https://polco.us/msfg9c>.

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.

Here are the results from last week's poll, which asked, "How often do you dine out or shop in Dover?"



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](#).

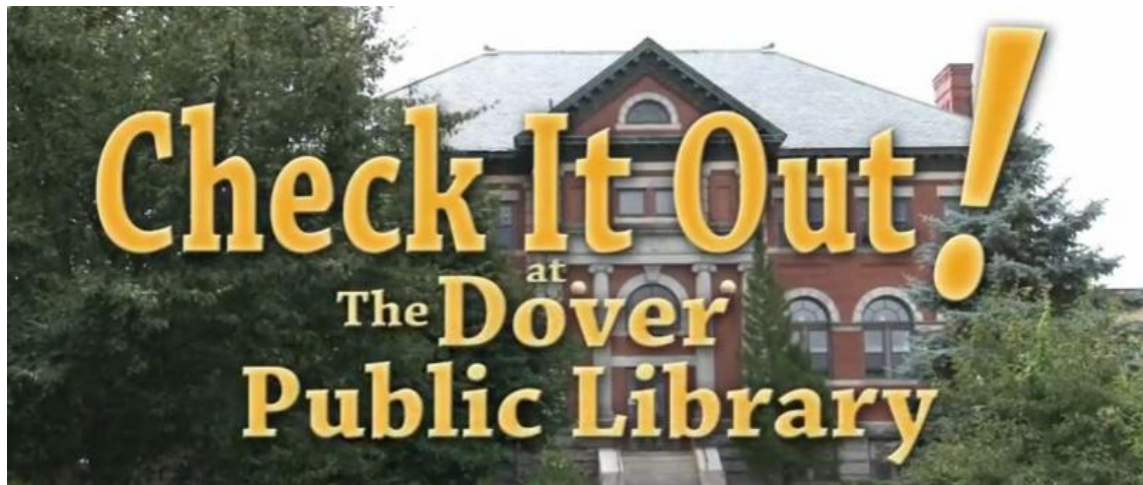
Jan. 3, 1844 — Moses W. Ham of Farmington, left Dover in the evening for his home during a severe storm, and was found dead the next morning near Gage's Hill (Garrison Hill), with his horse and sleigh near by.

Jan. 2, 1895 — A newly elected City Council was inaugurated at City Hall on this day. Mayor A.M. Foss delivered an inaugural address, stating that Dover had a total of \$750,300 in liabilities, \$350,000 of which was debt for the Water Works.

Jan. 1, 1898 — Mill workers at the Cocheco Manufacturing Co. expressed concern over rumors their employer was planning a reduction in wages. When asked on this day, the mill's agent, Charles Fish, said, "Up to the present, I have not received any instructions that would lead me to believe that a reduction in wages will take place immediately."

Jan. 3, 1932 — Fire destroyed both Morrill blocks in Franklin Square. Twenty-six businesses were destroyed. The blaze required firefighters from as far away as Haverhill, Mass., and burned so hotly that the sprinkler system in the Strand Theater was set off. For more about this fire, one of the worst in the city's history, tune in to the Dover Download podcast on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, [here](#) or wherever you get your podcasts.

Jan. 2, 1997 — Dover's video rental stores were among statewide outlets voicing opposition to a proposed five-cent tax on video rentals. The tax, proposed by State Rep. Martha Fuller Clark of Portsmouth, was intended to raise money for school technology programs.



This Week at the Library

Sunday, Dec. 31 and Monday, Jan. 1
Library closed for New Year's Holiday

Tuesday, Jan. 2, 6 to 8 p.m.
Dungeons & Dragons: Adult Group
Drop in and play Dungeons & Dragons with Game Master Dave. This 18 and older group is for new and veteran role-playing gamers to join us in the library for adventure, strategy, and imagination. The group will meet every Tuesday night; come when you can. No experience or materials are required.

Wednesday, Jan. 3, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Adult Knitting Group
Knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us with their projects for an in-person crafting circle. All levels welcome.

Wednesday, Jan. 3, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
All Abilities Chapter Book Club
Join the All Abilities Club! These weekly programs are geared towards adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities and

Thursday, Jan. 4, 10 to 11 a.m.
Cover 2 Cover Book Group
Join us on the first Thursday of every month to discuss a book. January's selection is *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman. Copies of the book can be borrowed at the Adult Circulation Desk. New members welcome.

Thursday, Jan. 4, 5 to 8 p.m.
Magic the Gathering
Join every Thursday to play Magic the Gathering. Collect cards, build decks, and duel other players. All ages and skill levels welcome. No materials required.

Thursday, Jan. 4, 6:30 to 8:15 p.m.
Two Eyed Cyclops: Sci-Fi and Fantasy Book Club
Join for a lively discussion of *Circe* by Madeline Miller. All are welcome!

Thursday, Jan. 4, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.
Meditation class
Try this free meditation series to learn

their caregivers. We will be reading *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum. All are invited to join us.

Wednesday, Jan. 3, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Finding Mental Wellness: virtual series
Improving your mental wellness is internal and requires a great deal of reflection! Over 6 weeks Audrey will educate you about positive psychology, help you to gain confidence, give you grounding techniques, explain how the brain works, let you become aware of your fears and enlighten you with self-care tips and tricks. This course will be around 45 minutes and requires a notebook for light journaling.

Registration required.

how to be more relaxed and mindful. The Lift Method, created by Dover resident, Thomas McGreavey, is an enhancement to traditional mindfulness meditation that can soothe anxiety and ease the flight/fight/freeze response on the spot.

This class is being offered over six sessions. Come to as many as you'd like.

Friday, Jan. 5, 3 to 4 p.m.

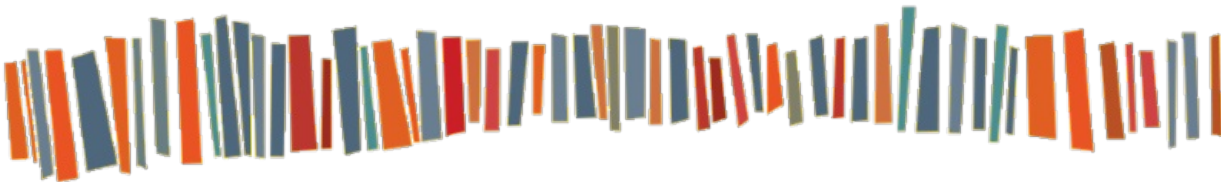
Fun Friday

Tweens and teens in grades 5-12 are welcome to join us after school on Fridays for hot chocolate, snacks, and gaming!

Saturday, Jan. 6, 2 to 3 p.m.

Yankee Swap Party

Did you receive some gifts over the holiday season that were weird, not something that you like, or maybe something that you already have? Swap it out for something new! Please bring your gift wrapped and ready to swap. This event is for teens in grades 6-12.



**COAST report shows ridership and demand up
in 2023**

Economic impact of nonprofit regional transportation provider estimated at \$26.4M

The nonprofit Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation, more commonly known as COAST, recently released its 2023 Annual Impact Report. The report details increased demand and ridership across their fixed route and demand response services in Fiscal Year 2023. In addition, COAST's direct, indirect, and induced effects on spending and the economic impact of access provided by their services are estimated to have been over \$26.4 million.

COAST connects people and communities in two primary ways: with fixed route buses that serve eight communities in the Greater Seacoast area and by providing demand response and paratransit services to 13 New Hampshire and Maine communities. COAST also operates TripLink, a regional transportation call center that takes trip requests on behalf of COAST, Community Action Partnership of Strafford County, Community Rides, Ready Rides, and Rockingham Nutrition & Meals on Wheels, and serves as a regional information and referral source for transportation services in southeastern New Hampshire.

"As housing prices on the Seacoast have continued to climb, the distance between economic opportunity and the communities where people can afford to live is increasing," said Rad Nichols, COAST Executive Director. "COAST's fixed route services play a critical role in connecting our Seacoast workforce and the businesses that employ them."

Over the last fiscal year (October 2022 to September 2023) COAST reported 268,048 customer trips on their fixed route services to and from work, classes, medical services, shopping, and social activities (up 10.6% over FY2022), avoiding an estimated 1.96 million miles of car travel, and saving 755 tons (1.5 million pounds) of greenhouse gases from being emitted into the atmosphere. These trips also represent an estimated savings of \$467,000 in avoided gasoline and maintenance expenses for riders.

COAST's demand response services saw similar gains in FY23. Older adults and individuals living with disabilities took 23,006 trips to work, classes, medical services, shopping, and social activities (up 18.4% over FY22). These riders traveled an average of 7.1 miles, totaling 163,500 miles.

"Operating in the second oldest state in the U.S., COAST helps seniors to maintain their independence," Nichols said. "By providing transportation options beyond driving, COAST keeps people connected to their communities and the services they rely on for support as they grow older."

TripLink new client registrations were up 26%, and the number of trips facilitated by the regional call center increased 25.7% to 38,520. Forty-nine percent of the TripLink-facilitated rides traverse multiple communities.

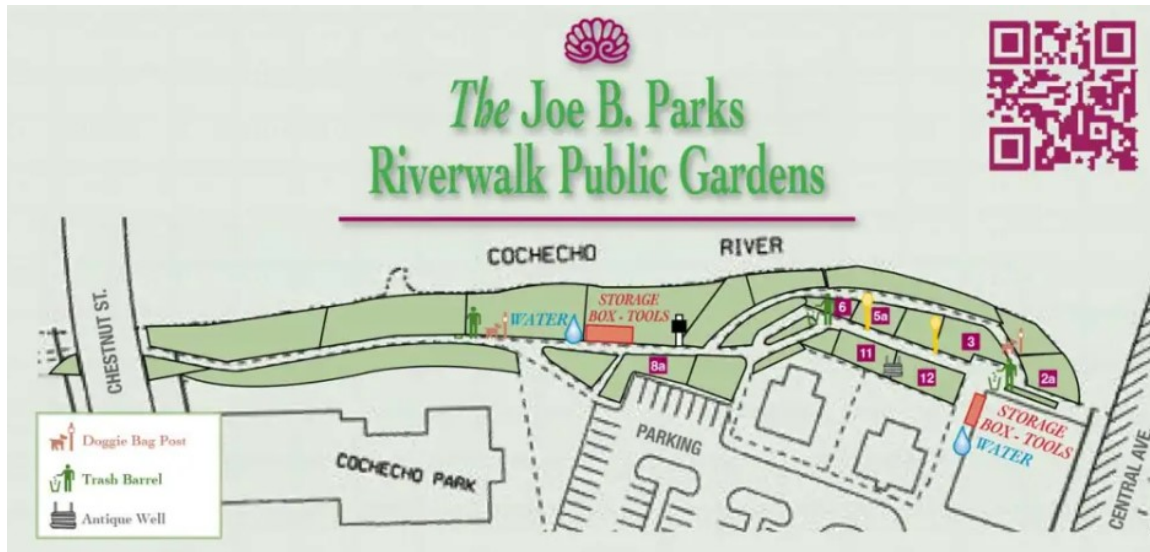
"COAST is an essential service provider and an important partner for social services agencies across the Seacoast," said Jeff Donald, ACT Regional Mobility Manager. "By providing the transportation link between health, social, and other support services, COAST ensures that everyone can access the opportunities they need to succeed."

COAST is in the planning stages for a new maintenance, operations, and administrative facility at its current location in Dover. The project will be funded through a combination of funding from federal, state (including CDFA tax credits that are available to businesses who wish to support COAST in exchange for receiving a tax credit), local, and private sources. The City of Dover recently issued a site plan approval and conditional use permit for the project following a review by the Planning Board.

"We are proud of the accomplishments of 2023," Nichols said. "However, COAST faces a challenging financial future as we seek to raise the remaining funds needed to construct our new facility while also replacing several federal grants that are coming to an end. In the coming year, we are optimistic that the communities COAST serves will recognize the important services we offer their residents by strengthening their financial support of our operations. We are also looking forward to growing our base of support among the

business and philanthropic community.”

More information about COAST, its routes, and schedules can be found at coastbus.org.



Adopt a tree in Dover's Joe B. Parks Riverwalk Public Gardens

The Joe B. Parks Riverwalk Public Gardens offers an Adopt a Tree program, providing the opportunity to help rebuild the garden's tree canopy. The program makes for a meaningful last-minute holiday gift.

The downtown riverside garden aims to address its decaying ash trees, which have fallen victim to the emerald ash borer beetle. By adopting a tree, individuals, families, and organizations can participate in a fundraising effort to plant new species along the garden's winding paths.

Options include crabapples, elms, tupelos, river birches, red maples, and ginkgoes, carefully selected for their beauty and resilience. In all, nine trees remain available for adoption. An art installation is also slated for one garden area, pending sufficient funding.

To adopt a tree or learn more, visit www.joeparksgarden.org and click on the [Adopt a Tree link](#) at the top of the page. Questions can also be directed to contact@joeparksgarden.org.

Miss Dover Donates Holiday Stockings for Perinatal Patients Seeking Treatment at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital

Miss Dover, Anna Sargent, donated self-care holiday stockings to perinatal patients seeking treatment for substance use disorder (SUD), at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital on Tuesday.

The donation is personal for Sargent, a nursing student and employee of the hospital

because her mother lives with alcohol use disorder and is in long-term recovery.

"I cannot imagine how different her story would have been had she not had the resources and support systems that she did for recovery," Sargent said. "That is why I am so passionate about serving our communities with substance use disorder," she said.

The stockings included items like pre-paid cell phones, gas cards, and ride-sharing gift cards which are essential items for families that provide them with rides to medical appointments, connection to treatment, pediatric appointments and access to food. The phones also provide safety for patients in intimate partner violence situations or with other personal safety concerns.



"Stigma and multiple barriers continue to prevent the perinatal population from accessing SUD recovery services, prenatal care, education, and other community resources and tools," said Lindsay Ginter, a women's health case manager at Wentworth-Douglass. "It is crucial that the Seacoast is cognizant of how everyone has been impacted by substance use disorder in some way and the positive impact the community can have on those battling this disease."

The "WDH STRENGTH" team (Supporting Treatment, Recovery, Education, Newborn care, Growth to Transition Home) offers the perinatal population case management services for connection to social determinants of health resources, clinical coordination for clinical education, and education on risks and harm reduction practices. The team also assists with the initiation of Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), social work services for emotional support, and access to other resources and community services in the postpartum period. The program caught the attention of the White House last year.

"With my public platform, I hope to raise awareness about the need for recovery resources and support in the Greater Dover area and encourage others to do the same," Sargent said.

Those interested in donating to the program may do so through the following Amazon wish list webpage: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2AL9DO39E8SOJ>



Don't miss your chance to win \$10,000 cash. Tickets are on sale now for the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce's 22nd Annual Sweepstakes. Tickets are \$50 each, and only 300 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held Feb. 13 at Filotimo Casino at Dover Bowl. You do not need to be present to win. To purchase your lucky ticket, visit dovernh.org/sweeps.

Election workers needed for January's Presidential Primary Election

The City Clerk's Office is seeking election workers in all six wards to help staff Dover's polling places during the upcoming Presidential Primary Election on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024.

Election workers are paid positions, and the City Clerk's office provides necessary training. The only requirements are that election workers must be at least 18 years old and a Dover resident. Election workers assist with various duties on election day, including aiding voters, maintaining order, opening and closing the polls, and processing the vote counts.

For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 603-516-6018 or email City Clerk Jerrica Vansylvong-Bizier at j.bizier@dover.nh.gov.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

of NEW HAMPSHIRE

Buy a membership this
December and get One
Guest Option FREE!

HOLIDAY MEMBERSHIP

Members play for
free ALL YEAR!



Sale

Free Workshop & Water Testing for Dover Private Well Users



The Seacoast Private Well Initiative
invites residential private well users in Dover to register for:

Dover Private Well Workshop

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 @ 6:00PM

Dover City Hall Auditorium
288 Central Ave, Dover

Dover residents invited to free workshop on private well water safety

The Seacoast Private Well Initiative invites residential private well users in Dover to a free workshop and water testing event. Aimed at educating homeowners on the health risks associated with common well water contaminants, this event is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024, at 6 p.m. at the Dover City Hall Auditorium, located at 288 Central Ave.

Participants will learn about contaminants that may affect their well water, such as radon, arsenic, lead, and PFAS, and the importance of regular water testing. The workshop will cover the types of contaminants to test for, reasons for testing, and the process of collecting water samples. In addition, attendees will receive guidance on selecting the appropriate water treatment solutions if contaminants are found.

The event is part of an ongoing effort to ensure the safety and health of the community's drinking water. Experts will be on hand to explain the testing process, and private well attendees will leave with a test kit and instructions for returning filled bottles for analysis.

Please register for the workshop by sending an email to confirm attendance to Amy Hudnor, Private Well Coordinator for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, at welltest@des.nh.gov.

The Seacoast Private Well Initiative, supported by NHDES, the New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund, and the Seacoast Commission on Drinking Water, encourages all private well users in Dover to take advantage of this opportunity.

For further information, please contact Amy Hudnor at (603) 271-5986 or via the [provided email address](#).

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 the:

- Energy Commission
- Pool Advisory Committee
- Committee for Racial Equity and Inclusion
- Recreation Advisory Board
- Arena Commission
- Open Lands Committee
- Utilities Commission
- Committee to Address Community Housing Needs

The complete list of boards and committees can be found at 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. 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.

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**
- **Firefighter/EMT**
- **Public Safety Dispatcher**
- **Enterprise Systems IT Administrator**
- **Custodian - City Hall**
- **Truck Driver, Streets**
- **Truck Driver, Utilities**
- **Laborer**

- Utility Laborer
- Arena Attendant
- Water Treatment Operator
- Camera Operator
- Planning Division Supervisor
- Prevention Programmer
- Maintenance Mechanic, Streets
- Lifeguard I
- Swim Instructor I

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

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:

- Dover High School Boys Head Tennis Coach
- Special Education Paraprofessional
- Dover Middle School Boys Head Lacrosse Coach
- Paraprofessionals
- Coach Winter Cheering
- Special Education Teacher Case Managers
- Substitute Teachers
- Long Term Substitute School Counselor
- Paraprofessional
- Special Education Teacher Case Manager
- Paraprofessional
- ELL Tutors
- Literacy Interventionist Specialist

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

CITY OF DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE | www.dover.nh.gov



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

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