

News from the City of Dover, New Hampshire



May 2, 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:

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



Dover Main Street's annual Dover Pride Clean Up Day is Saturday

Dover Main Street will host its annual Dover Pride Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 3, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Volunteers are invited to help beautify the city by participating in cleanup efforts at 10 designated areas throughout Dover. Participants should bring their own rakes, gloves and gardening tools.

Registration is available online at www.dovermainstreet.org, or volunteers can sign up in person at the Cocheco Mills Courtyard on the morning of the event.

Following the cleanup, volunteers will be treated to a complimentary all-you-can-eat pizza lunch at 11:30 a.m.,

provided by Kendall Pond Pizza.

The event is sponsored by Breezeline.

For more information, visit www.dovermainstreet.org.



Downtown light replacement project continues on Tuesday

Central Avenue's Third Street left-turn detour will be in effect

Crews will resume the downtown light replacement project on Tuesday, May 6. This work will block Central Avenue's left-turning lane onto Third Street during working hours, which is anticipated to continue for three more days.

Motorists will instead be detoured to the Third Street lot just north of the Broadway intersection before the train tracks. Central Avenue's southbound U-turn lane may also be intermittently closed, though crews plan to keep the lane open. Downtown parking is not expected to be impacted.



The light upgrades the median of Franklin Square is part of an overall project to upgrade aging downtown street lights, many of which were installed in the late 1970s. The goal is also to improve the overall lighting, including around the crosswalks, for improved visibility and pedestrian safety. Two new lights have been installed and are operational in the Central Avenue crosswalk between Third Street and Broadway.

The initial phase in Franklin Square will help city staff determine how much of the buried

electrical conduit can be reused. If the existing conduit can be utilized, staff hope similar conditions exist for the conduit under the sidewalks of Central Avenue, reducing the impact to the public for the light installation and the project's total cost.

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

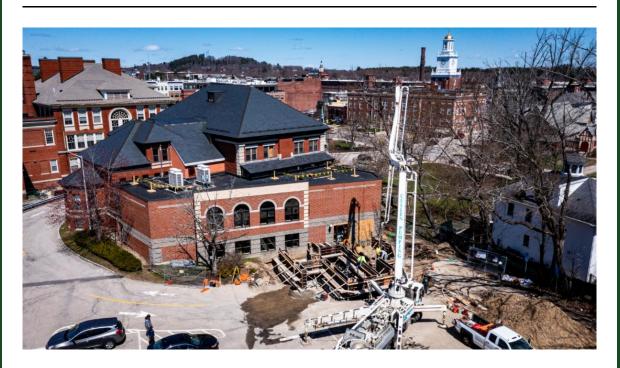
Central Avenue rail crossing closure extends through Saturday

Central Avenue will be closed at the railroad crossing through Saturday, May 3, as part of upgrades by the rail owner, CSX Transportation. The crossing will reopen once the work is completed.

CSX had originally planned to close Chestnut Street, but <u>changed course</u> this week due to equipment needs. Chestnut Street remains open during the Central Avenue closure. That intersection will be upgraded at a later date, not yet determined.

The Amtrak Downeaster will maintain a limited schedule, and overnight freight trains will continue during closure.

The closure is part of an overall track upgrade between the Brunswick, Maine and Haverhill, Massachusetts train stations. Work includes replacing roughly 124,000 ties, adding 500 tons of ballast stone per track mile and resurfacing 124 miles of track. The Federal Railroad Administration awarded Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority and CSX a \$27 million grant for the upgrades; CSX is funding the rest of the \$35 million project.



Library project enhancing accessibility, renovating programming spaces

The renovation of the Dover Public Library is well under way. The \$7.1 million project that began in March includes adding an addition and extensive interior renovations.

The most visible aspect of the project, at least from the outside, is the construction of the addition on the parking lot side of the library. Last week, crews poured 40 yards of concrete to create the foundation.

The addition will improve the side entrance into the library, which has become the de facto main entrance due to its proximity to the parking lot. The new entrance will provide direct and accessible access to all three floors with a new stairwell and elevator. There will also be a set of bathrooms on each floor.

On the top floor, the addition will extend above a section of the library's main floor – the addition built in the late 1980s – creating additional programming space on the library's third floor.

Inside, the beloved 1905 Carnegie Library currently looks drastically different. Crews have spent considerable time stripping the interior to prepare for renovation. In the process, they've uncovered the original wooden and glass floors that have been hidden for decades. Sections of the wooden and glass floors will be restored as part of the project.

The interior restoration will open sections of the library that have been closed for storage and staff space, providing additional space for collections and programming areas. The Children's Room footprint will expand into a sizable section underneath the main part of the library, previously used for storage. The little nub on the backend of the library will become a cozy reading nook. The elevated section of the Children's Room will be transformed into a programming space, with a new accessibility ramp.

On the library's main floor, areas are being renovated for current and future needs. With the new entrance from the parking lot, the area that previously held the periodicals and computers will become a lounge with chairs and desk space for reading and working. The main desk will move into the room that was previously the reference section. Where the main desk was located will be part of the adult book collections, along with neighboring areas, including areas previously used for storage. There will also be a Teen Room, providing a dedicated area that can be closed off for games, movies and other programming.

The top floor is also being renovated, including in the lecture hall, which will get a facelift and a new sprinkler system, where most components will be tucked out of sight above the ceiling. Other spaces on the top floor will be renovated for staff space.

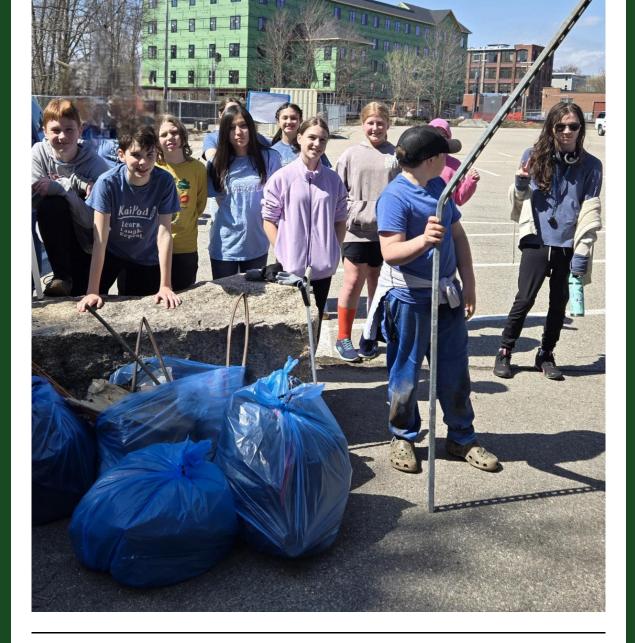
Library staff have been posting many photo updates to their Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/DoverPLNH) and Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/doverpubliclibrary/) accounts for those who would like to follow along with the construction process. Find floor plans and other construction updates at https://www.dover.nh.gov/government/city-operations/library/about-us/renovation/.

Library operations have moved to the McConnell Center during the renovation project.



Cleaning up the Community Trail on Earth Day

Two local groups helped remove trash along the Dover Community Trail to celebrate Earth Day last week. Employees from GlobalSign organized a cleanup of the trail starting from the Watson Road trailhead. Meanwhile, students and educators from KaiPod Learning removed garbage along the trail, starting at the Transportation Center and continuing along the Cochecho River landing area. Their work helps to maintain the trail area and the scenic riverfront and is a great example of how local partnerships can make a lasting difference. Interested in organizing your own clean-up? Contact City Planner Erin Bassegio at e.bassegio@dover.nh.gov.



Upcoming Meetings:

Conservation Commission, Forest Management Subcommittee, May 5, 5:30 p.m.

The Conservation Commission's Forest Management Subcommittee will hold a regular meeting on Monday, May 5, 2025, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Conference Room, City Hall.

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

Arts Commission, May 5, 6:30 p.m.

The Arts Commission will hold a regular meeting on Monday, May 5,

City of Dover reminds residents of Pine Hill Cemetery guidelines

As the Memorial Day holiday approaches, the City of Dover would like to remind residents and visitors of the guidelines in place at Pine Hill Cemetery to preserve its beauty, serenity, and safety. By following these guidelines, the community can ensure that the cemetery remains a respectful and peaceful space for all who come to remember and honor their loved ones.

The City of Dover asks residents to adhere to the following guidelines for floral displays and personal items at Pine Hill Cemetery:

- Flowers may be placed on lots starting seven days before May 26 and must be removed no later than seven days after May 26
- · Planting flowers directly into the ground

2025, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Room 323 of the McConnell Center.

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

Planning Board, TDR Subcommittee, May 6, 5 p.m.

The Planning Board's Transfer of Development Rights Subcommittee will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, beginning at 5 p.m., in the First Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

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

City Council, Appointments Committee, May 7, 6 p.m.

The City Council's Appointments Committee will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, beginning at 6 p.m., in Council Conference Room, City Hall.

To view the meeting agenda, click here.

Planning Technical Review Committee, May 8, 10:30 a.m.

The Planning Board's Technical Review Committee will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2025, beginning at 10:30 a.m., in the Council Conference Room, City Hall.

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

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

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

- is not permitted.
- To ensure safety, the use of glass or breakable containers on lots is prohibited.
- Flat, ground-level foot markers should be kept free of any items.
- Lots featuring monuments with extended bases on the sides are allowed to hold flowers longer than seven days after May 26.
- Items not in accordance with these guidelines (e.g., solar lights, remembrance lights, wooden signs, shepherd hooks, personal items, etc.) will be removed and disposed of by the Cemetery Department.

The City of Dover appreciates the community's understanding and cooperation in adhering to these guidelines. If residents have any questions or concerns, please contact Facilities and Grounds Superintendent Mark Colonna at 603-516-6480.

Current bid opportunities with the City of Dover

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

- McConnell Center Boiler Evaluation and Purposed Placement Plan
- Pest Management Services
- Rebid Purchase of Snow Removal Equipment for Bobcat Track Loaders
- PFAS Fire Department Uniforms and Clothing
- <u>Consulting Services Inflow & Infiltration</u> Reduction Project
- Medical Supplies As Needed
- Sale of City-Owned Surplus Vehicles

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.

commissions helps guide Dover's policy decisions.

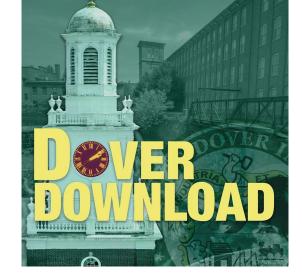
Want to get involved? There are currently committees seeking members to fill regular and alternate member vacancies, including:

- Recreation Advisory Board
- Planning Board
- Racial Equity and Inclusion Committee
- 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/

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.



The Planning Board through the Decades: A Conversation with John Swartzendruber about the 2000s

In the latest episode of the Dover Download podcast, Deputy City Manager Christopher Parker chats with John Swartzendruber, a former Planning Board member who served from 2003 until the 2010s. This is the third episode in a series looking back at the Planning Board over the years. Listen wherever you get your podcasts or at https://bit.ly/3GC123m.



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

National Community Survey coming soon

Help guide Dover's next steps

In a few weeks, the City of Dover will launch The National Community Survey. Randomly selected households will receive mailed survey invitations. If you receive an invite, please follow the instructions and share your input. Your feedback will help us make important plans for our future.



If you aren't selected for this initial survey effort, we'll also share a community-wide survey soon. To become a member of the City of Dover's digital sounding board and get notified when this community-wide survey is available, follow this link and register for a Polco profile: polco.us/n/res/signup.

Thank you for helping to create a better community for all.

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.

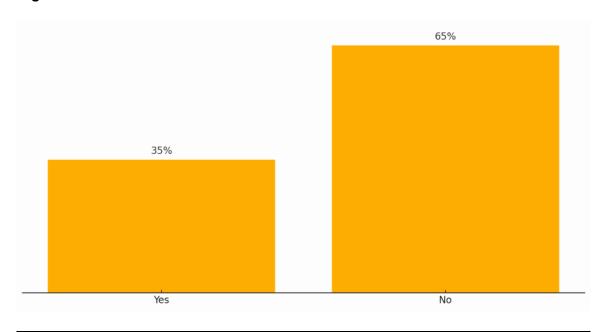
This week's question:

"How do you usually travel around Dover?"

Let us know here: https://polco.us/m2gkm8

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, "Did you graduate from Dover High School?"





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>.

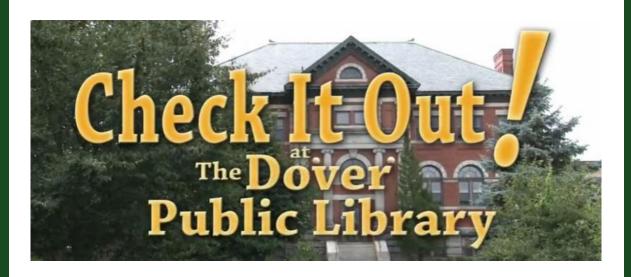
May 1623 — Pennacook families begin planting corn on what the first European settlers at Dover Neck would call Bellamy Bank, near the Bellamy River. A local Sagamore oversaw the fertile farmland when colonists arrived. The Pennacook planted corn on the site, which was fertilized with fish caught during the spring runs.

May 5, 1777 — During the American Revolution, each town in New Hampshire was responsible for providing a certain number of soldiers to support the Continental Army. On May 5, 1777, Dover voted to appoint Col. Otis Baker, Capt. Thomas Young, and Capt. John Hayes to recruit the remaining men needed to fill Dover's share of soldiers for the state's battalions. The town authorized them to offer the best terms possible to encourage enlistment. To support this effort, the town also directed the selectmen to provide the committee with funds to pay the recruits. This money would be raised through the town's next tax collection.

May 3, 1825 — Dover held its annual military parade and inspection, a civic tradition common in the early 19th century, when local militia companies played an important role in both defense and public life. That year, the Strafford Guards, a local militia unit, marched in formation before the home of the Honorable William Hale, a prominent Dover statesman. During the ceremony, a beautifully crafted regimental flag, referred to as a "standard," was formally presented to the Guards on behalf of the women of Dover.

May 6, 1854 — Temperatures on this day sank below freezing, causing ice nearly an inch thick to form in some areas. The cold weather was accompanied by heavy snow.

May 4, 1863 — William H. Hackett, a local soldier who served in the 35th Massachusetts Regiment during the Civil War, was buried in Dover on this day. Hackett had been killed months earlier at the Battle of Antietam in Maryland, one of the bloodiest battles in American history, fought on Sept. 17, 1862. Though he died on the battlefield, Hackett's remains were eventually returned to his hometown, where he was honored and laid to rest among family and fellow citizens.





Learn how to experience bird migrations with author Heather Wolf

It's an exciting time in nature. The weather is warming, animals are coming out of hibernation, flowers are beginning to bud and, from March 1 through June 15, we see the return of our feathered friends from the south.

Learn how to experience spring bird migrations to the fullest on Monday, May 12 at 7 p.m. in a virtual talk presented by Dover Public Library in partnership with Ashland Public Library. Sign up is needed to receive a link to the live stream. Registration can be found on the Dover Public Library's website.

In "Spring Bird Migrations", author Heather Wolf shares tips for jumping into the nature documentary happening around you. Learn how to find more migrating birds and witness their fascinating behaviors, as well as cue into birds that will be breeding and raising young in your area.

Wolf is the author of "Find More Birds: 111 Surprising Ways to Spot Birds Wherever You Are" and "Birding at the Bridge: In Search of Every Bird on the Brooklyn Waterfront." A Brooklyn-based birder, photographer, and educator, she works with Cornell Lab of Ornithology as a web developer, teaches birding classes at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and gives walks and talks for various organizations in New York City and beyond.

This Week at the Library

Monday, May 5, 10 to 10:45 a.m. Preschool STEM Storytime McConnell Center, Room 306

Join us for a new Spring session of STEM storytimes for kids aged 3-5. We will explore the science of mud and wind, and discover some of the furry spring animals who share this Earth with us. Registration required.

Monday, May 5, 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. Big Kids Storytime

Wednesday, May 7, 10 to 10:30 a.m.
Family Storytime
McConnell Center, Room 306
Children of all ages with caregivers are invited to attend this program that includes stories, fingerplays, songs, and puppets.

Wednesday, May 7, 11 am to 12 pm All Abilities Chapter Book Club Great Bay Services

Join the All Abilities Club! These weekly

McConnell Center, Room 306
Join us for a fun storytime for kids in grades K-2. We'll read more in-depth books, and follow our stories with an accompanying craft. Children attend this event independently, without a caregiver.

Registration required.

Monday, May 5, 7 to 8 p.m.
Why We Read with Shannon Read
Virtual: Sign up for link at
https://ow.ly/BOlq50VK6r2

Chat with author Shannon Reed about her book, "Why We Read: On Bookworms, Libraries, and Just One Page Before Lights Out". Why do we read? What compels us? What holds our attention? Shannon will have the scoop and will be answering lots of questions!

Tuesday, May 6, 9:30 to 11:30 am Adult Knitting Group McConnell Center. Room 323

Knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us with their projects for an in-person crafting circle. All levels welcome.

Tuesday, May 6, 10 to 10:30 a.m.
Baby Storytime
McConnell Center, Room 306
For babies 0-24 months with caregiver. A joyful, half-hour lap sit story time with books, songs, movement, and rhyme.

Tuesday, May 6, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Genealogy Group McConnell Center, Room 306

Whether you're new to genealogical research or a seasoned pro, this group is a great way to meet others who share the same passion, can give you advice in your research, and listen to your newly-discovered family histories.

Tuesday, May 6, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
From Sewer to Superstars:
The Untold Story of the Teenage
Mutant Ninja Turtles
Virtual: Sign up for link at
https://ow.ly/AkxB50VK6zi

Join Professor Dan Yezbick for a thrilling tour of the obscure underground and alternative comics that inspired the creation of the world's most beloved reptilian heroes, born right in the City of Dover NH! Along the way, he will share the many exciting and eclectic forms, and sources that inspired Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird's terrific turtle warriors and survey the best of the global multimedia phenomenon that still celebrates their legacy of humor and heroism.

programs are geared towards adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their caregivers. At each session, we will read several chapters from a popular book. We will end with activities and crafts related to the book and some time for socializing.

Wednesday, May 7, 3:30 to 4:30 pm Drop-In Art Lab for Kids McConnell Center. Room 306

Kids of all ages are invited to bring their imagination and creativity to the Drop-In Open Art Lab. A variety of supplies will be available for you to use to create artwork of your own design.

Wednesday, May 7, 6:30 to 8 pm Chess Group McConnell Cafeteria

Adults and teens are invited to drop in to play a game or two and meet other folks interested in all things chess. Please bring a chess set if you have one!

Thursday, May 8, 10 to 10:45 a.m. Arts and Crafts Storytime McConnell Center. Room 306

Arts and Crafts Storytime is for children ages 3-5 who are ready to attend storytime independently, without a caregiver. Each session will focus on a different theme. Books, songs, rhymes, and an art activity will all be part of the fun. *Registration required*.

Thursday, May 8, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Reading Rainbow Book Group McConnell Center, Room 306

Join Reading Rainbow, Dover Public Library's Queer book group as we discuss *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin. Copies of the book will be available to borrow from the library and some through Hoopla or Libby. All are welcome at this inclusive book group.

Saturday, May 10, 2 to 3 p.m. Sea Shell Trinket Dish Craft McConnell Center, Room 306

Kids in grades 3–6 are invited to get creative and make their very own unique trinket dish using beautiful sea shells and decoupage techniques.

Registration required.





Registration now open for the Dover Community Trail ChalkFest on June 8

Get ready to let your creativity shine at the Dover Community Trail ChalkFest, a fun-filled event for all ages hosted on Sunday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Coordinated by the Dover Community Trail Advisory Committee in partnership with the Dover Arts Commission, this event invites you to join us on the trail and turn the pavement

into a masterpiece. Whether you're a seasoned artist, a doodler, or just looking for a great time outdoors, come make your mark.

Each participant will get a five-foot-by-five-foot square to create their chalk art between the Fisher Street Trailhead and Central Avenue/Route 108. Chalk will be provided, or feel free to bring your favorite colors. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per entry, which will cover event costs, with any excess going toward the Community Trail fund.

Prizes will be awarded in different age categories, and snacks and water will be provided.

Registration is encouraged via Google Forms, and we can't wait to see what you'll create.

Additional details will be sent to registrants before the event date, and questions about the event can be shared via the Google Form above or directed to City Planner Erin Bassegio at <u>E.Bassegio@dover.nh.gov</u>.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH!



Show your support for mental health awareness month and display a green light in your storefront or window for the month of May.

To join in, scan this QR code







Fri 5/16/2025 - National DAY of Mental Health Awareness Wear GREEN all day long at home, school or work!

Promoted by



Want to learn about the Dover Mental Health Alliances?

www.dovermentalhealthalliance.org

Or contact Suzanne Weete at suzanneweete@communitypartnersnh.org

Dover Athletic Foundation to hold virtual information session on Tuesday

The Dover Athletic Foundation will host a virtual information session Tuesday, May 6, from 8-9 p.m. to discuss plans for funding the renovation of Dover High School's athletic complex and future facilities.

The newly formed foundation aims to create sustainable funding for athletic facilities throughout Dover.

Community members with connections to or passion for Dover sports are encouraged to attend. Registration is available at https://forms.gle/NEni2Yz1e85HQMNZA.

For more information about the event or foundation, contact School Board member Michelle Clancy at m.clancy@dover.k12.nh.us.

Clancy and School Board member Craig Flynn, who also serve on the Dover Athletics Joint Building Committee (JBC), are also leading fundraising efforts to help defray the cost of the proposed replacement of athletic fields at Dover High School. To learn more about the JBC's work, visit https://www.dover.nh.gov/government/boards-and-commissions/joint-building-committee-athletic-complex/.



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

- Water Exercise Instructor II, Part-Time
- Swim Instructor, Part-Time
- Lifeguard I, Part-Time
- Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- Diesel Mechanic
- City Attorney
- Water Treatment Operator
- Fire/Life Safety Inspector, Part-Time
- Maintenance Specialist-Meters & Backflow
- Truck Driver Street
- Laborer Public Works Streets & Stormwater
- Account Clerk II City Clerk Tax Collection
- Afternoon Library Page
- Arena Maintenance Specialist
- Firefighter / AEMT
- Building Inspector
- Laborer Facilities, Grounds & Cemeteries

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:

- Third Grade Teacher
- Maintenance Technician
- Grounds Crew for C&W Services
- Cleaner for C&W Services
- Human Resources Director
- Dean of Instruction
- District Student Support Counselor
- Math Teachers
- Elementary School Classroom Teacher
- STEM Teacher
- EMT Instructor
- Student Support Counselor
- Special Education Teachers/Case Managers
- Comprehensive Family & Consumer Science Teacher
- District School Psychologist
- Title I ESOL Interventionist
- Paraprofessionals
- Girls JV Field Hockey Coach
- JV Girls Lacrosse Coach
- Noon Supervisor
- DHS Ski Team
- Boys JV Soccer Coach
- Boys Varsity Soccer Coach

For more information about these positions, click here.

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





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