

# DOVER DOWNLOAD



News from the City of Dover, New Hampshire



November 28, 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



## Annual Holiday Parade steps off Sunday

The annual Dover Holiday Parade will return to downtown on Sunday, Nov. 30, bringing music, floats and a visit from Santa Claus as the city kicks off the holiday season.

The parade begins at 3 p.m. and will follow its traditional route along Central Avenue (NH Route 108), beginning at the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce, 550 Central Ave., and finishing at Cleary Cleaners, 120 Central Ave.

This year's theme is "Christmas Carols," and organizers say spectators can expect plenty of seasonal spirit from the roughly 60 participating groups and more than a dozen themed floats.

D.F. Richard Energy, recognized as a longtime supporter of the community, will serve as this year's grand marshal.

3:30 p.m.

Sunday (through  
Dec. 7):  
8:30 a.m. to  
12:30 p.m.

The parade will also honor several community members, including 2024 Citizen of the Year Sean O'Connell, 2025 Citizen of the Year Beth Fisher, and Woodman Museum representative Jonathan Nichols, the 2025 Champion of the Arts.

Santa Claus will close out the parade with his traditional appearance.

Organizers encourage attendees to arrive early and thank the many local businesses supporting this year's parade, including platinum sponsor Dover Honda, gold sponsors Flynn Insurance and Hopkins Enterprises, and numerous silver and community sponsors.

The Dover Holiday Parade is organized by the Cochecho Friends, a volunteer committee that includes Nicole Andrews, Robert Carrier, Angela Carter, Aaron Cronkrite, Lori Nollet, Michelle Routhouska, Mayor-elect Dennis Shanahan, and Samantha Tukey.

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## Road closures, traffic restrictions in place for Holiday Parade

Dover Police Chief David A. Terlemezian announces the following road closures and parking restrictions for the Dover Holiday Parade.

On Sunday, Nov. 30, Central Avenue will be closed to all traffic from 2:45 to 4:45 p.m. from the intersection of Chestnut Street to the intersection of Stark Avenue and East Watson Street. This closure includes much of the downtown area. Temporary traffic detours will be in effect, but motorists not coming to watch, participate, or visit the downtown are encouraged to avoid the downtown area entirely.

Additional street closures will be in effect from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. to accommodate parade staging and setup. These include:

- Sixth Street, between Horne Street and Central Avenue;
- Maple Street, between Sixth and Hough streets;
- Grove Street, between Fifth and Hough streets;
- Mount Vernon Street, between Sixth and Milk streets.

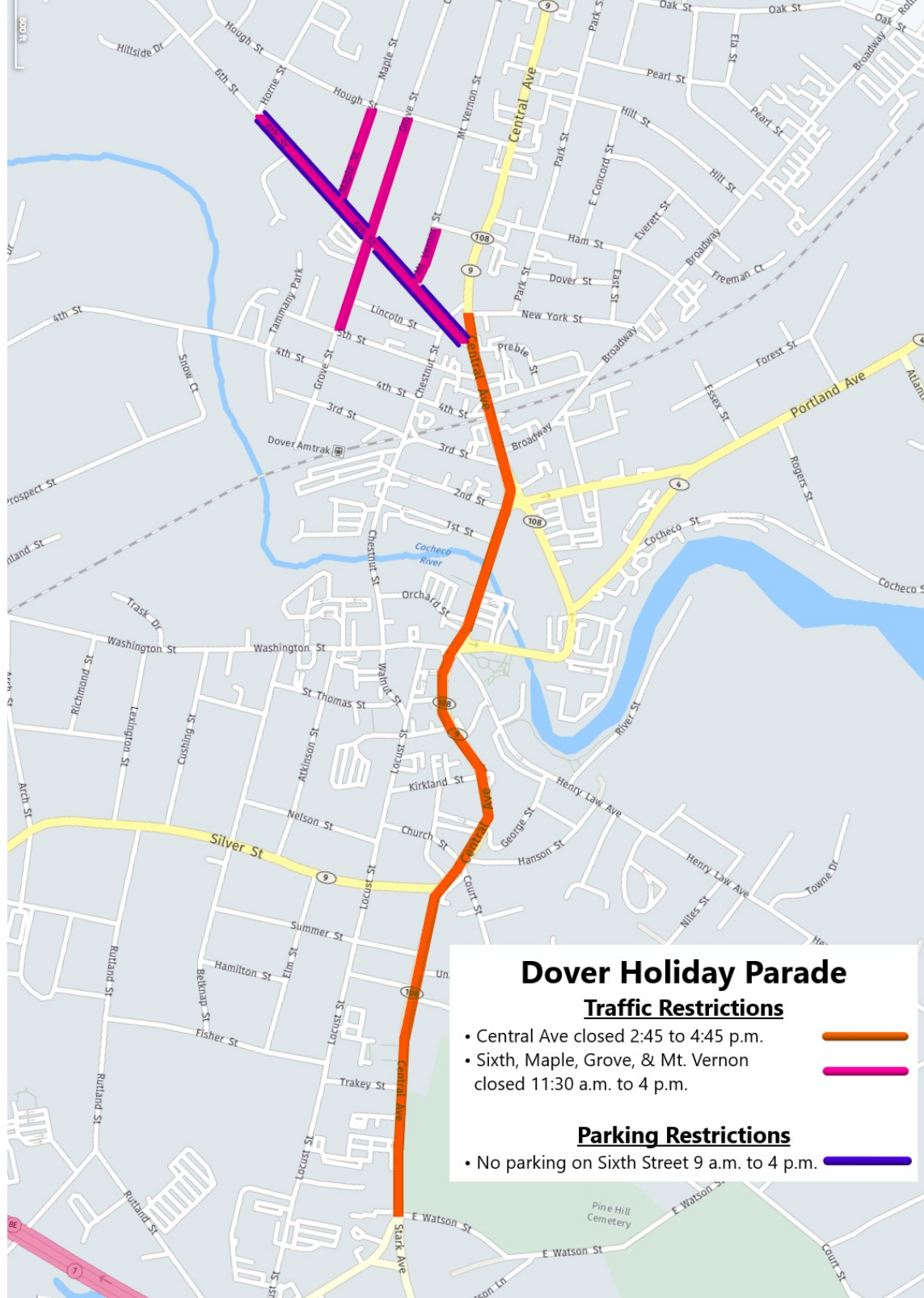
Parking restrictions will be posted on Sixth Street between Horne Street and Central Avenue beginning at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 30, and in other locations where necessary along the parade route. Parking is allowed on most of the parade route, but motorists cannot move their vehicles during the Central Avenue closure.

Dover Police is coordinating with CSX Transportation railways for the temporary suspension of freight trains at the downtown crossings to accommodate the event. Amtrak Downeaster passenger train service will not be interrupted.

Questions about traffic implications may be directed to the Police Department's Traffic Bureau at 603-742-4646.

The Dover Holiday Parade is produced by Cochecho Friends, a group of local citizens. Additional information is available at <https://cochechofriends.com/dover-holiday-parade>.





## 24-hour closure of Locust and Hale streets at intersection starts Dec. 3

**Locust Street to reopen Dec. 10; Hale Street Dec. 17**

Locust Street and Hale Street will be closed at the intersection 24 hours a day starting on Wednesday, Dec. 3 for utility work. All vehicle traffic will be detoured around the intersection.

Locust Street is expected to reopen by Dec. 10, with Hale Street expected to reopen on

Dec. 17.

Locust Street will be closed on the southern part of the Hale Street intersection. Access to the McConnell Center will be from Chestnut Street. Access to Hale Street will be from Central Avenue.

Inbound Locust Street traffic will be detoured on Kirkland Street to Central Avenue. Outbound Locust Street traffic will be detoured on Saint Thomas Street to Atkinson Street. Flaggers will be stationed at major intersections to assist with traffic flow.

A section of parking spaces on Locust and Kirkland streets will be posted for no parking from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. A section of spaces on Hale Street will be posted for no parking 24 hours a day for equipment staging.

The McConnell Center/Dover Public Library parking lot will be open and accessible from the Chestnut Street side of Locust Street. The City Hall parking lot on Hale Street will be accessible from Central Avenue.

The closure is to allow the excavation of the intersection to move utilities and install drainage infrastructure as part of a [drainage improvement project](#). Once the contractor clears the intersection, work will continue on private property toward the intersection of Kirkland and Academy streets.





## City Council to hold special meeting for warming center budget amendment

### CIP workshop follows special meeting

The City Council will hold [a special meeting](#) at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 3, to introduce a fiscal year 2026 budget amendment for the City of Dover's portion to help fund a permanent warming center on Strafford County land in Dover. The City Council is expected to refer the resolution to a public hearing and vote at its Wednesday, Dec. 10 meeting.

The resolution would appropriate \$1,698,878 for the emergency warming center that the Strafford County Commissioners propose to build at the former humane society site near the county jail. The county would supply the land at no cost, and the tri-cities of Dover,

Rochester and Somersworth would divide the estimated \$3.5 million project cost in proportion to each city's portion of the combined equalized assessed property value. Rochester would contribute \$1,316,593, and Somersworth would contribute \$484,593. Dover's portion would be partly offset by the planned sale of the current warming center at 30 Willand Drive in Somersworth after the conclusion of the winter season, as well as the proceeds from a recent sale of city-owned property in Rollinsford.

The Dover City Council discussed the county warming center proposal at its Oct. 8 and Oct. 22 meetings.

Immediately following the special meeting, the City Council [will hold a workshop](#) on the FY2027-2032 Capital Improvements Program. The [CIP was introduced](#) to the City Council and Planning Board in October. The Council is expected to vote on the CIP resolutions at its Wednesday, Dec. 10 meeting.

Both the special meeting and the CIP workshop will be held in City Hall's Council Chambers, which will be televised [online](#) and on DoverTV.

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## City Council, School Board hold joint fiscal meeting Dec. 3

The City Council and School Board [will meet jointly](#) on Wednesday, Dec. 3 to discuss the development of the fiscal year 2027 budget and receive a preliminary calculation of the FY2027 tax cap.

The joint meeting begins at 6 p.m. in City Hall's Council Conference Room and will be televised [online](#) and on DoverTV.

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## School Board budget review continues

The School Board will continue its fiscal year 2027 budget development [at a workshop](#) on Monday, Dec. 1.

At this week's [budget workshop](#) on Nov. 24, School Board members reviewed the FY27 budget book. Dover School District Chief Financial Officer Michael Limmani walked the School Board through the document. Limanni said many of the numbers included in the budget are the district's best conservative estimates and will be further refined over the coming weeks.

The budget book includes a summary of estimated revenues and expenses, summaries by function and programs, employee compensation by school and employee categories, as well as detailed budget line items. The budget book is available on the city's [FY2027 Budget Revealed webpage](#), along with video recordings and other School Board budget documents. The Dover School District also has a [budget page](#).

School Board budget workshops will continue on Monday, Dec. 8, and Monday, Jan. 6, with a budget adoption date slated for Monday, Jan. 12. The public is welcome to provide input at any of the School Board's meetings and workshops or by [emailing the School Board](#).

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**Brent Lesperance of the City of Dover's Facilities, Grounds and Cemetery Division guides the city's Christmas tree into place at Henry Law Park on Nov. 26. Crews from Community Services and SavATree assisted with trimming and setting the tree, which was donated by Carol and Alan Brown of Rochester.**

## **City of Dover to hold 40th annual Christmas tree lighting Dec. 5**

Dover Recreation will present the City of Dover's 40th annual Christmas tree lighting on Friday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m. at Henry Law Park, continuing one of Dover's longest-running holiday traditions.

This year's program will begin with remarks from Recreation Director Kevin Hebert, followed by a welcome from Mayor Bob Carrier. The Dover Middle School Chorus will lead attendees in seasonal songs before former Mayor Andy Galt switches on the tree's lights. Local vocalist Nancy Gurick will also lead the crowd in song, and the program will conclude with closing remarks from Hebert.

The city's holiday tree, donated by Carol and Alan Brown of Rochester, was installed at Henry Law Park on Nov. 26 with assistance from crews with Dover Community Services and SavATree.

This year's lighting also features the added support of Light Up Dover, a community effort led by the Dover City Lights Committee in partnership with the nonprofit Communitively. The group helped secure the holiday tree, raised funds for new lights and ornaments, and coordinated volunteers for decorating.

The event is free and open to the public.

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## **Holiday hours for City offices and facilities**

The following city facilities are closed today, Friday, Nov. 28:

- City administrative offices, including City Hall
- The Public Library
- The Indoor Pool
- Dover Community Senior Center
- Inspections Services on Mast Road

The Fitness Center and Butterfield Gym at the McConnell Center will be open today from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Ice Arena will open at 1 p.m. for a tournament.

## **Holiday affects curbside trash and recycling pickup**

Curbside trash and recycling pickup is delayed one day this week on Thursday and Friday only.

## **Public parking holidays**

Downtown parking is free on Friday, Nov. 28, part of the Plaid Friday initiative, except for the Orchard Street Parking Garage and Dover Transportation Lot, which are paid parking 24 hours a day.



## **Flag raised at Dover City Hall in honor of Native American Heritage Month**

Mayor Robert Carrier, Mayor-elect Dennis Shanahan, City Councilor Debra Hackett, Committee for Racial Equity and Inclusion Chair José Feliciano, fellow member Whitney Carrier, and former member Kathleen Blake joined Denise Pouliot, the Sag8moskwa (head female speaker), and Paul Pouliot, the Sag8mo (head male speaker/grand chief) of the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook-Abenaki People in raising the Cowasuck Band flag at Dover City Hall for Native American Heritage Month on Nov. 24.

Following the raising of the flag, Denise Pouliot, read the City of Dover's land acknowledgement statement: "This event takes place at Cochecho (CO-chi-co) on



N'dakinna (n-DA-ki-na), now called Dover, New Hampshire, which is the unceded traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki (a-BEN-a-ki), Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples, past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land, waterways, living beings, and the Aln8bak (Al-nuh-bak), the people who have stewarded N'dakinna (n-DA-ki-na) for many millennia.”

The flag will fly in front of City Hall through Monday, Dec. 1.



## Upcoming Meetings:

### **Conservation Commission Forest Management, Dec. 1, 5:30 p.m.**

The Conservation Commission Forest Management Subcommittee will hold a regular meeting on Monday, Dec. 1, 2025, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in the First Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

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

### **School Board, Dec. 1, 6 p.m.**

The School Board will hold a workshop session on Monday, Dec. 1, 2025, beginning at 6 p.m., in Council Chambers at City Hall.

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

## **Sunday hours at the Recycling Center**

The City of Dover Recycling Center on Mast Road is open additional hours on Sundays, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., through Sunday, Dec. 7.

The Recycling Center's regular hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information about the Recycling Center, call 603-516-6450.

## **Current bid opportunities with the City of Dover**

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

- [Dispatch Alarm Modernization](#)

[here.](#)

## **City Council and School**

**Board, Dec. 3, 6 p.m.**

The City Council will hold a joint workshop session with the School Board on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Council Conference Room, City Hall.

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

## **City Council special meeting followed by workshop, Dec. 3, 7 p.m.**

The City Council will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025, beginning at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers in City Hall. Immediately following the meeting will be a workshop session.

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

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

## **Planning Technical Review Committee, Dec. 4, 10:30 a.m.**

The Planning Board's Planning Technical Review Committee will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, beginning at 10:30 a.m., in the Council Conference Room, City Hall.

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

## **Library Board of Trustees, Dec. 4, 4 p.m.**

The Planning Board's Planning Technical Review Committee will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, beginning at 4 p.m. in Room 306 of the McConnell Center.

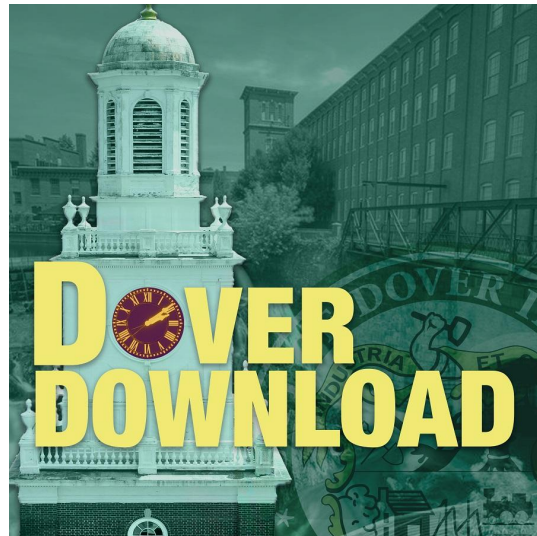
To view the meeting agenda, [click here.](#)

For a complete list of upcoming meetings, visit <https://www.dover.nh.gov/governme>

- [6 Ford Pickup Trucks](#)
- [Central Avenue Urban Core Water Improvements Phase I](#)

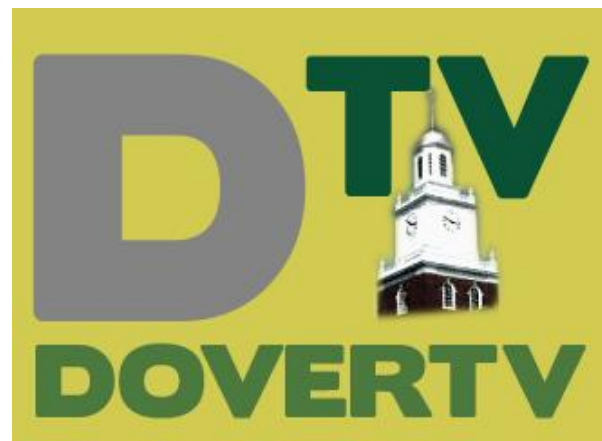
Current bid documents can be accessed on the Finance Department's [bid page](#). Vendors can also join the City's bid list by visiting the site.

For more information, contact the Finance and Purchasing Office at 603-516-6030.



## **Lighting Up Dover: Holiday Festivities and Community Collaboration**

In the latest episode of the Dover Download podcast, Deputy City Manager Christopher Parker chats with Christine Sieks and Doug Glennon about holiday festivities and downtown Dover activities. Listen wherever you get your podcasts or at <https://bit.ly/3LQfuHF>.



**Missed the meeting?  
Catch it again online**



## 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:

- Recreation Advisory Board
- Racial Equity and Inclusion Committee
- Zoning Board of Adjustment
- Conservation Commission
- Downtown Dover TIF
- Open Lands Committee
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee
- Waterfront TIF
- 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.

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 [dovernh.viebit.com](http://dovernh.viebit.com) to begin watching meetings on demand. Online meetings are organized by agenda item for convenience.

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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.

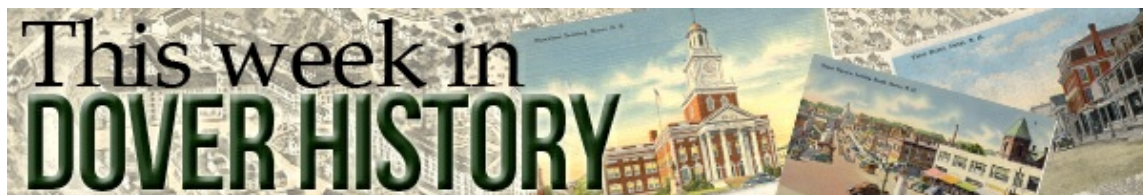
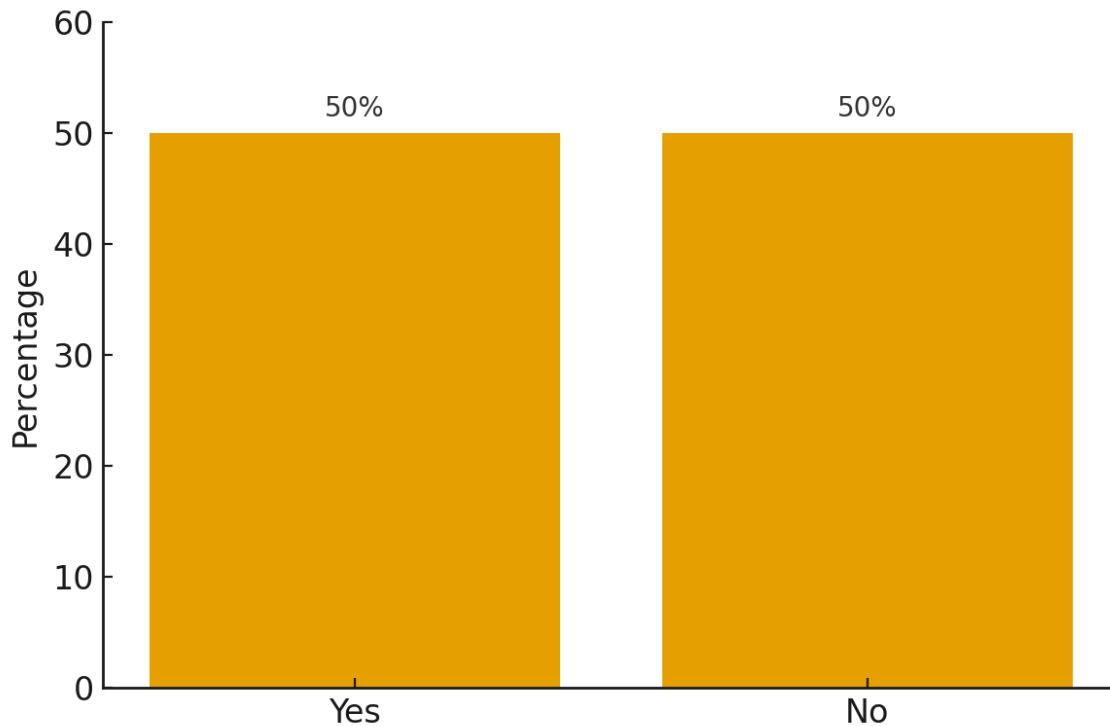
This week's question:

### "Are you a cable television subscriber?"

Let us know here: <https://polco.us/m9w4mx>

*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 ever participated in an activity at the 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 [located here](#).

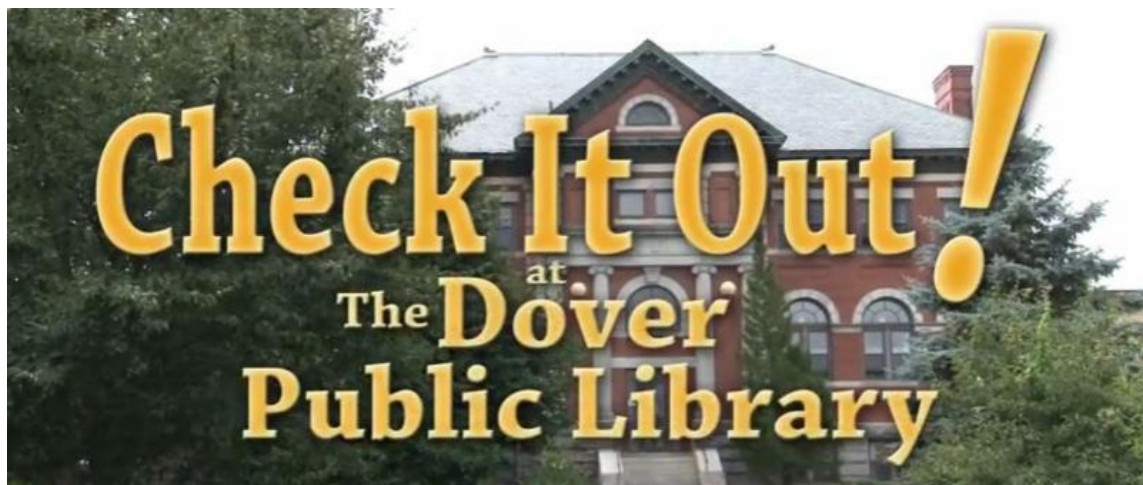
**Dec. 3, 1798** — Dover voters approved a measure stating that winter road clearing, referred to then as “breaking out” the roads, would be treated the same as any other highway work. In practical terms, this meant that residents who performed snow-clearing labor would be compensated just as they were for routine road maintenance during the warmer months. In the late 18th century, Dover was still a rural New England town where most public works were carried out by residents rather than by a dedicated municipal workforce. Townspeople were often required to perform a certain amount of road labor each year or pay an equivalent tax.



**Nov. 30, 1847** — The Strafford Bank moved from its old location near the Dover Hotel to Central Square.

**Dec. 1, 1999** — At a ceremony on this day, the Dover Housing Authority dedicated its community center as the Seymour Osman Community Center, naming it after the longtime supporter of a variety of social programs at DHA. Osman was at the ceremony, which was attended by more than 100 people. Osman, who moved to Dover in 1945, was president of United Tanners from 1963 until his retirement in 1978. His community activities include working with groups including the United Way, Heart Fund, Little League and Temple Israel. Osman's received the Rotary's Paul Harris medal for his work with the underprivileged, and the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce's 1991 Citizen of the Year. In 1967 he won the Christian and Jew Award for Brotherhood by the Interfaith Religious Council in Dover. Osman also helped form the Dover Business and Industrial Development Authority and was a member of the Wentworth-Douglass Hospital Board of Trustees.

**Nov. 30, 2001** — The Dover City Council approved a resolution formally dedicating the Dover Transportation Station to former downtown mills owner and train aficionado Joseph Sawtelle, recognizing his contributions to the local economy and numerous charitable organizations. Sawtelle, who died in 2000, donated the land where the train station now sits. He was also responsible for the rehabilitation of more than 700,000 square feet of mill space into office space, adding more than 1,700 jobs in Dover.



## This Week at the Library

**Sunday, Nov. 30**  
**Library closed for Holiday Parade**

**Monday, Dec. 1, 10 to 10:45 a.m.**  
**STEM Storytime**  
**McConnell Center, Room 306**  
Children aged 3-5 are invited to participate in a science storytime this Fall. Each week, children will discover a Fall theme, utilizing stories, songs, and games, and highlighting a STEM activity.  
*Registration required.*

**Tuesday, Dec. 2, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**  
**Adult Knitting Group**  
**McConnell Center Cafeteria**  
This group is open to anyone who has a love for knitting, crocheting, and related fiber arts. All levels are welcome, no

**Thursday, Dec. 4, 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, Dec. 4, 10 to 11 a.m.**  
**Cover 2 Cover Book Group**  
**Residence at Silver Square**  
Join us on the first Thursday of every month to discuss a book. December's selection is *Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams. Copies of the book can be borrowed at the Adult Circulation Desk.

instructions provided! Bring your works-in-progress and any finished objects you would like to show off to the group.

**Tuesday, Dec. 2, 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, Dec. 2, 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.

**Wednesday, Dec. 3, 10 to 10:30 a.m.**  
**Family Storytime**

**McConnell Center, Room 306**

Children of all ages with caregivers are invited to attend this program with stories, fingerplays, songs, and puppets.

**Wednesday, Dec. 3, 3:30 to 4:30 pm**  
**Drop-In Open 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. We will have a variety of supplies available for you to use to create artwork of your own design.

**Wednesday, Dec. 3, 5 to 6:30 p.m.**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 3, 6:30 to 8 p.m. .**  
**Get Lit! Book Club**  
**The Office Lounge**  
**21 Third Street, Dover**

Join the Library's adult book group to discuss *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. Copies of the book will be available to borrow at the main circulation desk of the library. All are welcome!  
*Registration required.*

**\*Please note:** There are now two time slots for Get Lit: 5 and 6:30 pm, and kindly ask that folks register in advance for their preferred time slot as spots will be capped at 15 participants per session.

This ensures that we can provide attendee numbers for our restaurants. If you can no longer attend, please cancel your registration before your selected meeting time. Thank you for your patience as we try this new system!

New members welcome.

**Thursday, Dec. 4, 4 to 5 p.m.**  
**Library Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**McConnell Center, Room 306**

Library Board of Trustees monthly meeting. Open to the public.

**Thursday, Dec. 4, 6 to 7 p.m.**  
**Learn to Use Libby: Drop In Session**  
**McConnell Center, Room 306**

Discover Free Audiobooks & Ebooks with Libby! This easy-to-use app lets you borrow thousands of audiobooks and ebooks straight to your phone, tablet, or laptop — all with your Dover resident library card. Drop by our casual help session with Nick and Rachel, who'll walk you through getting Libby set up on your device. No registration, no stress — just bring your device, your library card and we'll handle the rest.

**Thursday, Dec. 4, 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, Dec. 5, 2 to 3:15 p.m.**  
**Minute to Win It for Teens:**  
**Winter Edition**

**McConnell Center, Room 306**

Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for a fun round of winter themed minute to win it games! Small prizes will be awarded to lucky winners, and snacks will be provided!

**Friday, Dec. 6, 10 to 11 a.m.**  
**Bingo!**

**McConnell Center, Room 306**

Start your Saturday off right with some rousing rounds of bingo! We'll be giving away small prizes for lucky bingo winners, and snacks and drinks will be provided. This program is open to participants of all ages, and no registration is required.



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## Dover's Festival of Trees returns on Dec. 5

The 16th annual Dover Festival of Trees will take place on Friday, December 5, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Rivermill at Dover Landing. The event is free and open to the public.

The Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce, the festival host, is pleased to announce that Kennebunk Savings will once again serve as the Underwriting Sponsor.

"We look forward to bringing this celebratory, festive event to the community every year to help usher in the holiday season," says Kennebunk Savings Assistant Vice President and Market Manager Dory Polanco-Arias.



Dover's premier holiday festival will feature 32 trees sponsored and decorated by local businesses, all available to be taken home through silent and live auctions. The event also includes choir performances, free goodie bags and a scavenger hunt for children, refreshments and holiday desserts, and even a visit from Santa.

The Festival of Trees is a fundraiser that benefits City Lights, a volunteer group dedicated to illuminating downtown Dover during the holiday season.

For more information on the 16th Annual Festival of Trees, contact the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce at (603) 742-2218 or visit [dovernh.org/FOT](http://dovernh.org/FOT).

Headquartered in Kennebunk, Maine, Kennebunk has branch and office locations in York County, Maine, and seacoast New Hampshire, including the Dover branch at 701 Central Ave. For more information call (800) 339-6573 or visit [kennebunksavings.com](http://kennebunksavings.com).

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## Support local merchants on Plaid Friday and Shop Small Saturday

Show your support for the local merchants who help Dover thrive by shopping local this holiday season.

Many Dover businesses are participating in Plaid Friday, Nov. 28, and Small Business Saturday on Saturday, Nov. 29.

Plaid Friday is an alternative to Black Friday and encourages people to do their holiday shopping with locally owned and independent businesses. Small Business Saturday is held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving during one of the busiest shopping periods of the year.

Check out plenty of special offers from local merchants this weekend and throughout the holiday season.



## How to reduce home cooking fire risks

With the holiday season upon us, the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office is joining with Dover Fire and Rescue and the Red Cross Northern New England Region to urge all Granite State families to practice fire safety while cooking in the kitchen.

This week, leaders from the organizations spoke to the news media about tips to keep families and homes fire-free this holiday season. The event concluded with a live demonstration, where those in attendance witnessed how fast cooking fires can spread. The video of the demonstration can be viewed here: <https://dovernh.viebit.com/watch?hash=MhMWVv1vnUTXHJfi>.

"Home cooking fires are a leading cause of residential fires in New Hampshire," said New Hampshire State Fire Marshal Sean P. Toomey. "Nationally, cooking fires spike during the holiday season. This is a great time to collaborate on sharing key home cooking fire safety messaging when so many people are busy in their kitchens. Better awareness can help bring home cooking fire incidents down year-round."

With so much going on during the holidays, it is easier to become distracted. Left unattended, food can burn and cause fires. Clothing and other combustibles too close to the stovetop can also ignite.

"The City of Dover Fire and Rescue would like to stress the importance of safe cooking practices while families are preparing their holiday meals," said City of Dover Fire and Rescue Deputy Chief Brendan Driscoll. "Here are a few reminders: do not leave food on the stove unattended, keep clutter away from any hot surfaces, and fires involving cooking oils should not be extinguished with water. If you have a fire at your home, leave quickly and call 911 from a safe location. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season."

Follow these additional safety tips for holiday cooking:

- Never leave the kitchen when food is cooking on the stovetop. Frying and sautéing need constant attention.
- When roasting a turkey, stay home and check it regularly.
- Use timers to keep track of longer cooking times.
- Keep flammable items, like oven mitts, wooden utensils, food wrappers and towels, at least 3 feet from the stove.
- Avoid wearing long sleeves or loose fabrics near heat sources.
- Keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the



- pan, turn off the burner, and let the pan cool completely.
- For oven fires, turn off the heat and keep the door closed until the fire is out. Open the door cautiously, standing to the side. Call the fire department if unsure.
- Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from cooking areas. Place hot foods and liquids away from counter and table edges.
- The usage of turkey fryers with oil is discouraged due to serious burn risks. Safer options include buying a fried turkey from a store or using an oil-free fryer.

"With multiple dishes being prepared while entertaining guests, it is easy to get distracted," said Stephanie Couturier, regional CEO, Red Cross Northern New England Region. "It is vital to stay attentive in the kitchen — and know what to do if a fire starts. The Red Cross responds to nearly 20% more home fires during November and December than other times of the year. It is important to have working smoke alarms and practice a fire escape plan with your family."

Home fires are the nation's most frequent disaster, claiming seven lives (mostly children and the elderly) every day across the country, and injuring more than 30. Working smoke alarms save lives, doubling chances of survival. The Red Cross may be able to help anyone who cannot afford to purchase smoke alarms or is physically unable to install one. New Hampshire residents can visit [redcross.org/EndHomeFiresNNE](https://www.redcross.org/EndHomeFiresNNE) or call 1(800)464-6692 (Option 4) to schedule a free installation. The Red Cross will follow up to schedule a smoke alarm installation and fire safety education appointment.

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## Dover Main Street begins Holiday Food Drive to support local pantry

Dover Main Street has launched its annual Holiday Food Drive, encouraging residents to help ensure a festive season for neighbors in need.

The drive runs from through Dec. 19, with all donations delivered to the Dover Food Pantry. Nonperishable food items can be dropped off at more than two dozen participating downtown businesses.

This year's collection sites include:

**Aplomb Art Café; Birch Theory; Christopher's Third St. Grille; Cinco's Cantina – Dover; Dover Pottery; East Cozy Trading; Garrison City Beerworks; Hello Again; Hong Asian Noodle Bar; Janetos; Jewelry Creations; Kendall Pond Pizzeria; Market Square Jewelers; My Country Store; Ohana Kitchen; OTTO Pizza; Pin Up Hair Salon; Potter's Green & Gift; Positive Directions; Replenish Refinery; Riverbend Pizza; Ross Furniture; Pete's Bargain Basement; Suite Studio; The Art Center; The Brunch Club; The June Cork Pub; The Shop by Wheat; Thirsty Moose; Two Bees Café; Upright Acupuncture; and Wing-Itz.**

A continually updated list of participating merchants is available at [dovermainstreet.org](https://dovermainstreet.org).

Dover Main Street organizes the annual drive to support the Dover Food Pantry during the busy holiday season.

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## **Dover Fire Toy Bank accepting applications, seeking donations**

The Dover Public Welfare Office is now accepting applications for Dover Fire and Rescue Toy Bank through Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025. The annual Toy Bank provides gifts for children in need each holiday season.

To be eligible, children must be 12 years old or younger and residents of Dover. Proof of residency is required by presenting a current utility bill and photo identification. Applicants should provide the child's name and date of birth only. Specific gift requests will not be taken.

Applications can be submitted at the Dover Welfare Office, located at the McConnell Center, 61 Locust St., Suite 334. Gift pickup will be Sunday, Dec. 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the main entrance of 121 Broadway. For more information, contact the Dover Welfare Department at 603-516-6500.

### **How to help:**

Collect new toys within your organization for age groups from newborn to 12 years old. If looking for a specific need to fill, the infant and 9-12 age groups are always in need for both boys and girls. If you need a collection box, please call 603-516-TOYS, leave a message, and we will get you one for your business. Collection boxes will be distributed this month.

Purchase gift cards to area businesses, mall stores, and grocery stores are always appreciated.

Shop for hats and mittens, gloves and scarves that are needed for the cold winter. These gifts help ensure each child receives these essentials.

Collecting monetary donations within an organization and shopping for gifts helps greatly. If you don't have time to shop for these items, the Toy Bank will do it for you.

Monetary contributions can be picked up on location or mailed to Dover Fire Toy Bank, P.O. Box 1712, Dover, NH 03821-1712. Please make checks payable to The Dover Fire Toy Bank.

## City transitioning to ParkMobile for mobile parking payment

The City of Dover is transitioning its mobile parking payment system to ParkMobile in the coming weeks. Users are encouraged to download the ParkMobile smartphone app for a seamless transition.

[ParkMobile](#) has similar pay-by-phone and pay-by-text options as Dover currently has. ParkMobile is also utilized in some private lots in Dover that operate independently of the city.

Dover's municipal metered lots and on-street parking will still utilize the Flowbird pay-by-phone app until the transition is complete.

ParkMobile smartphone app [is available](#) via [Google Play](#) and the [Apple App Store](#).

For more information, contact the Parking Bureau at 603-516-6132

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## 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:

- **Parking Enforcement Officer, Per Diem or Part-Time**
- **Police Officer**
- **Swim Instructor, Part-Time**
- **Lifeguard I, Part-Time**
- **Fire Fighter/AEMT**
- **Diesel Mechanic**
- **Heavy Equipment Mechanic**
- **Utilities Laborer**
- **Truck Driver - Utilities**
- **Heavy Equipment Operator I-Utilities**
- **Seasonal Snow Plow Driver, Part-Time**
- **Engineer**
- **General Legal Counsel**
- **Lab Technician - Water Resources**
- **Utilities Supervisor**
- **Engineering Secretary**
- **Health/Fire Life Safety Officer**
- **Heavy Equipment Operator-Streets/Stormwater**

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:

- **Long Term Substitute Social Studies DHS/Bellamy Academy**
- **ESOL - Newcomer Interventionist (One Year Only)**



- **Clerical Aide Short Term Assignment**
- **Long Term Substitute - Anticipated Speech Language Assistant**
- **Paraprofessional - Special Education**
- **DALC Teacher-English for Speakers of other Languages (ESL)**
- **Substitute Teachers**
- **Long Term Substitute - Speech Language Pathologist**
- **Long Term Substitute Grade 7 Special Education**
- **District Special Education Administrative Assistant**
- **Third Grade Teacher**

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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