



**IN THIS ISSUE**

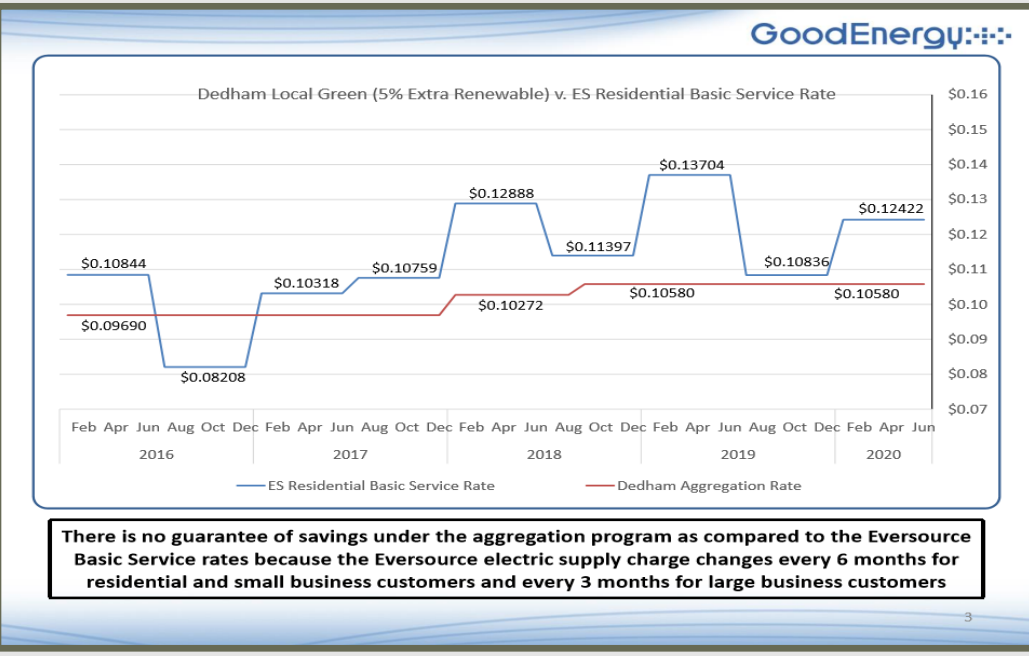
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**Dedham Electricity Aggregation Program Update**

In January of 2016 through Community Electricity Aggregation (a/k/a Community Choice), the Town of Dedham launched a program with Good Energy, a national energy procurement consultant and broker, to develop a program that best meets the needs of our residents and businesses.

Good Energy can have lower, predictable energy rates by pooling or purchasing power. They can also help us use that buying power to build new renewable energy, reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change. Together, we have secured an affordable electricity rate that includes more local renewable energy than required by state law.

| Benefits of Municipal Aggregation  | Savings Since Launch:  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Competitive rates, with a goal of price savings</li> <li>◆ Price stability</li> <li>◆ Local renewable energy options</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Residential: \$1,607,871</li> <li>◆ Small C&amp;I: \$ 207,321</li> <li>◆ Large C&amp;I: \$ 301,823</li> <li>◆ Total Savings: \$2,117,015</li> </ul> |



For more information on this program please visit: <https://masscea.com/dedham> or call Public Power, LLC at (800) 830-2944

# March 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |     |

- ◇ **March 3— March 3rd 2020 Presidential Primary 7:00am**
- ◇ **March 4—Capital Expenditures Committee 6:30pm**
- ◇ **March 4— Design Review Advisory Board 7:00pm**
- ◇ **March 5— Board of Selectmen 6:30pm**
- ◇ **March 5— Conservation Commission 7:00pm**
- ◇ **March 10— Sustainable Dedham Climate Action & Resiliency Plan Public Meeting 6:30pm**
- ◇ **March 10— Dedham Square Study Committee 7:00pm**
- ◇ **March 11— Sustainability Committee 7:00pm**
- ◇ **March 11— Planning Board 7:00pm**
- ◇ **March 17— Master Plan Committee 7:00pm**
- ◇ **March 18— Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00pm**
- ◇ **March 19— Board of Selectmen 6:30pm**
- ◇ **March 19— Conservation Commission 7:00pm**
- ◇ **March 25— Planning Board 7:00pm**

***Did you know?***

The first St. Patrick’s Day parade was held in New York City in 1762. Boston celebrated its first parade in 1812.



# Conservation Department

## 10 Tips for an Environmentally Friendly Yard

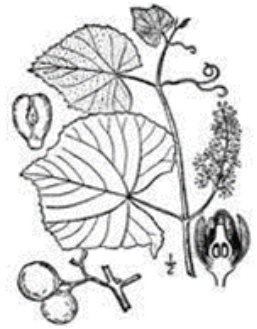
### 1. Go Green With Your Lawn

A super-green, lush carpet of grass that's the envy of your neighbors might sound appealing at first thought. But in reality, maintaining such a lawn can cause big water quality problems. Fertilizers and pesticides applied in excess are washed into rivers, streams, and wetlands, so limiting their use can make a big difference. Even better, convert manicured lawns to natural meadow, beds of native perennials, shrubs, or forest. Here are three quick tips for a great, green lawn:

a. **Kill Insects with Kindness** - Or at least keep them away with natural deterrents. A list of non-chemical, natural insect repellents is available at: [www.eartheasy.com/live\\_natpest\\_control.htm](http://www.eartheasy.com/live_natpest_control.htm)

b. **Fight Weeds with Eco-Friendly Herbicides** - Try Deadeye (a vinegar-based formula) and WOW (nitrogen fertilizer) made from corn gluten. You can also pour boiling water or white vinegar on smaller weeds, like ones in walkway cracks.

c. **Go Native** - When landscaping your property, use native species (plants indigenous to Massachusetts) whenever possible. They require less water than grass does, because they have deeper roots and can store more water. Also, many of these species provide food and cover for local wildlife, providing a sanctuary from suburban sprawl. For more information, see: [www.greenscapes.org](http://www.greenscapes.org) and [www.grownativemass.org](http://www.grownativemass.org).



### 2. Don't Let Those Creatures Go (info about invasive animals and plants)

Although exotic animals can be great pets, and ornamental plants can make beautiful decorations, many of these species are invasive. In fact, some of the same characteristics that make these species desirable, like hardiness and rapid growth, are the same characteristics that allow them to out-compete native plants and animals in the wild. So never release aquarium pets or bait into the water. Also, use native plants and animals in water gardens, since predators like the great blue heron often carry water-garden residents to neighboring habitats. For more on what you can do, see: [www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/qi/aquatic-species.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/qi/aquatic-species.pdf)

### 3. Plant a Rain Garden

Locate it in a natural low spot where it can intercept runoff from streets, driveways and walkways. Keep it at least 15 feet away from building foundations. For more information, check out: [www.raingardennetwork.com](http://www.raingardennetwork.com).

### 4. Compost yard waste

A lot of people think that because grass clippings, brush, and other yard waste are 'natural', it is okay to dump huge piles of them in the woods or wetlands. Dumped yard waste actually destroys the underlying vegetation and wildlife habitat, prohibiting new trees and shrubs from growing. Leaf dumping near water bodies often results in flooding problems upstream. Roadside ditches, used to remove road runoff, can get clogged from leaves dumped by residents and landscapers. In Dedham, yard waste (leaves, grass, brush, and small branches) is collected bi-weekly, on recycling day, on a seasonal basis. In addition, the Town of Dedham Environmental Department offers residents the Earth Machine compost bin for backyard composting. The compost bins are \$43.00 and can be picked up with prior arrangement by contacting the Environmental Department at 781-751-9210 or [rjohnson@dedham-ma.gov](mailto:rjohnson@dedham-ma.gov). For more information on the Earth Machine visit [www.earthmachine.com/the\\_earth\\_machine.html](http://www.earthmachine.com/the_earth_machine.html).

### 5. Scoop the Poop

It's a dirty job, but if you don't do it, you're directly contributing to local water quality problems. Pet waste contains parasites that can cause human (and pet) health problems and can be harmful to our wetlands and streams. Please pick up after your pet and never throw pet waste into a storm drain or waterway.



### 6. Don't be a Drip

Oil, gasoline, and antifreeze from cars, trucks, lawnmowers, and boats are highly toxic to wildlife. If you notice a leak, fix it immediately to keep these toxins from polluting our waterways.

### 7. Drain Swimming Pools Wisely

Never drain a pool or a hot tub directly into a body of water. The best option is to discharge chlorinated water over landscaping using the following steps: (1) shut off the chlorination system or stop adding chlorine one week before draining pool water; (2) make sure the pH level is between 6.5 and 8.5, the normal pH range of surface and ground waters; (3) Drain pool water where it will not flow directly into a street, gutter, wetland, or onto someone else's property.

### 8. Deadwood is Good Wood

Deadwood is an essential component of forests and wetlands. It provides habitat for a myriad of organisms. Forest health revolves completely around decomposing wood and leaves. Whether a standing oak that is riddled with woodpecker holes or a fallen willow that has created a snag in a small brook, deadwood fosters forest life. Think twice before you "clean up" or clear cut your forest.

### 9. Wetlands are Wonderful

Wetlands are valuable because they reduce flooding, provide wildlife habitat, help recharge aquifers, and filter polluted water. Yet wetlands may not be wet all the time. Low areas that flood in the spring may also be wetlands. All kinds of wetlands are protected by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. Over 15% of Dedham falls under wetland regulations, so your property may, too. Always contact your local conservation commission before you consider working near wetlands and waterways (781-751-9210).



### 10. Protect Wetlands by Planting a Vegetative Barrier Around Them.

If you live on the banks of a stream or adjacent to a wetland, a vegetative buffer is particularly important to prevent runoff from washing pollution directly into these waters. A native vegetative buffer zone will help maintain water quality, recreational resources, wildlife habitat, and property value.



# Dedham Public Library

## **March 4 at 6 at the Main Library - Left on Pearl Documentary**

Join us for a screening of *Left on Pearl*, a documentary film about a highly significant but little-known event in the history of the women's liberation movement. One of the film's executive producers, Susan Jacoby, will be on hand to introduce the film as well as answer questions after the film.

## **March 5 at 6:30 at the Endicott Estate (656 East St) - Mental Health Panel Discussion**

The panel will focus on how to improve mental health awareness and strategies to support those who suffer from depression and anxiety across the community.

The following participants will be on the panel:

- ◆ **Ashley Dube, Psy.D, NCSP, LEP**, Director of Counseling for the Dedham Public Schools
- ◆ **Angela Osei-Mensah, LICSW**, Youth Services Counselor for Dedham Youth Commission
- ◆ **Nancy Frumer Styron J.D., Psy.D**, Clinical Director of The Children's Room (grief support agency), Arlington, MA
- ◆ **Jim McCauley, LICSW**, Associate Director of the Riverside Trauma Center.
- ◆ **Katherine King, Psy.D**, Geropsychology faculty at William James College.

Other mental health professionals from the Dedham school system and community will also be in attendance and may be available to share resources. The program is free and open to all.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with light refreshments and a chance to gather and mingle. The panel will go from 7-8 p.m., followed by a Q and A session with the audience.

## **March 12 at 6:30 at the Main Library - Sleep Workshop**

This 90 minute presentation will demonstrate techniques for overcoming common sleep problems like "trouble falling asleep," "difficulty staying asleep," "excessive thinking," "waking too early," and "daytime sleepiness." Rick Clerici C.Ht., is a Certified Clinical Sleep Educator and has helped thousands of people increase the quality and quantity of their sleep.

## **March 26 at 6 at the Main Library - Mental Health Book Discussions**

Book discussions for the 5 books will take place on the same evening. We will have mental health professionals on hand the help answer some of the tough questions/issues that might arise.

These programs are presented by the Dedham Human Rights Commission, Dedham Public Library, Dedham Library Innovation Team, and Friends of the Dedham Public Library as part of the One Book Dedham program.

Programs are subject to change; some programs require registration. Please visit the library's website for up-to-date program and registration information.

# Dedham Facilities

## FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE– Exterior LED Lighting upgrades

The Dedham Facilities and Maintenance department is continually looking for opportunities to participate in all available energy rebate programs with Eversource. We have partnered with Virginia LeClair, Environmental Coordinator, to identify projects that will help to reduce our carbon footprint.

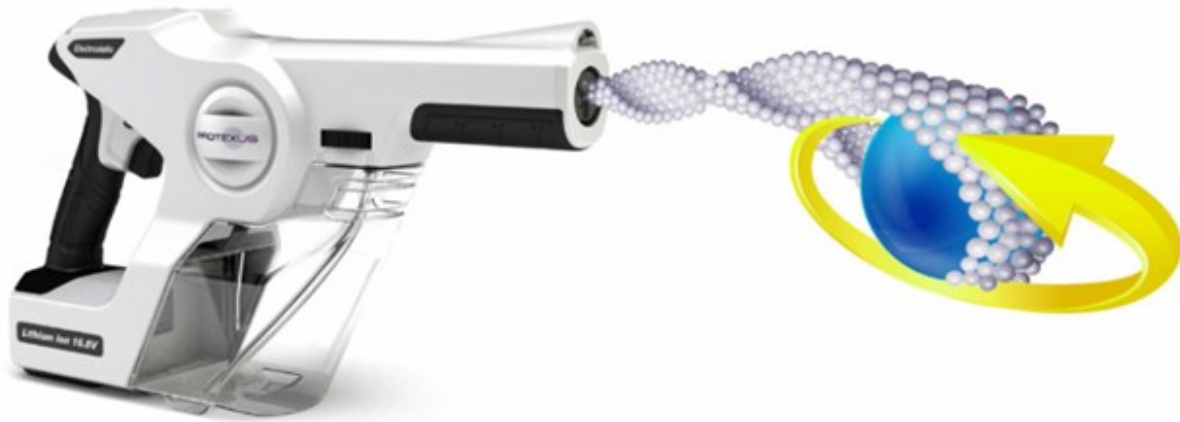
We recently completed an LED Exterior Lighting upgrade at the Dolan Parks and Recreation Center which upgraded 19 exterior lights ranging from 75 to 190 watts to LED lights using only 15 to 38 watts. This energy savings project will result in estimated annual savings of \$1,857 and was funded from our solar renewable energy credit (SREC) revenues, which the Town receives from selling the electricity generated by the solar panels on town and school buildings.

During the Spring of 2019, we also upgraded the school building exterior lights with LEDs which are estimated to save over \$73,000 annually. We replaced exterior lights ranging from 455 to 1080 watts down to LEDs using only 10 to 300 watts. Below is a chart showing the number of exterior LED fixtures that were installed on the school buildings as well as the reduction in wattage and the annual savings for each building.

| <b>SPRING 2019 DEDHAM LED LIGHTING UPGRADES</b> |                   |              |                       |
|---|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Location</u>                                 | <u>Wattage</u>    | <u>Count</u> | <u>Annual Savings</u> |
| DHS/DMS Pole lights                             | 455 to 150 watts  | 6            | \$7,678.68            |
| Riverdale Exterior                              | 1080/75 to 300/15 | 16           | \$16,452.52           |
| Capen Exterior                                  | 455/60 to 150/15  | 24           | \$16,616.16           |
| Oakdale Exterior                                | 460/60 to 150/15  | 22           | \$14,241.22           |
| Greenlodge Exterior                             | 460/60 to 150/10  | 24           | \$18,315.54           |
|   | <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>92</b>    | <b>\$73,304.12</b>    |

## FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE - EvaClean Disinfectant

The Facilities and Maintenance department has purchased the EvaClean Protexus disinfectant system to use within the Dedham Public Schools to help stop the spread of viruses and infections. The custodial group is very excited to have this new tool to help disinfect the school desks and chairs, cafeteria tables, bathrooms and frequently touched surfaces like doors and light switches. Below is a photo of the sprayer that is used along with a description of the EvaClean program from their website: <https://evaclean.com/about-us>



EvaClean's Touchless Disinfection & Sanitizing Tools:

### Protexus Cordless Electrostatic Sprayers

#### What is the EvaClean Program?

The EvaClean Infection Prevention Program is a fully integrated program using a single chemistry solution throughout the whole cleaning process. By using one chemistry, NaDCC, throughout the cleaning process you eliminate confusion about what to use when. Our tablets have one set of directions for both cleaning (PUR:ONE) and disinfecting (PUR:TABS). By combining both the technology and chemistries into one complete solutions package, EvaClean allows workers and infection prevention experts to standardize their processes and eliminate many of the training and education challenges faced in programs that still use mops, buckets, wipes, rags, and spray bottles with a multitude of chemistries each with their own unique usage guidelines, dwell times, and safety procedures. The EvaClean Program optimizes workflow, simplifies training, and reduces costs, while delivering more predictable and repeatable results that greatly exceed those of current disinfection and sanitizing programs.

# Office of the Treasurer/Collector

## March 2020 Billing Information

Excise tax bills mailed on February 7, 2020, are due on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Interest accrues the day after the due date. Unpaid bills will receive a demand bill afterwards with fourteen days to pay; Deputy Collector warrants will be sent twice on accounts remaining delinquent with additional fees for each step; and finally, licenses/registrations will then be flagged at the RMV for non-renewal. Please call the staff at 781-751-9160 if an expected excise tax bill was not received.

Sewer bills mailed February 21, 2020, are due on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Interest accrues the day after the due date. Sewer bills are not part of a mortgage escrow tax account with lenders, but is the responsibility of the property owner to pay on time. Please call 781-751-9160 if a bill was not received.

Payments can be mailed to the lockbox in envelopes included with tax, and sewer bills; paid online via the Town's website ([www.dedham-ma.gov](http://www.dedham-ma.gov)) on Invoice Cloud using an ACH method from a bank account for \$.40, or a credit card (with processing fees); or brought to Town Hall for processing. **When mailing a check, please allow enough time to have it arrive well before the due date to avoid interest charges. A postmark is not accepted.**



# Police Department



## Dedham Police to Host 10th Citizens Police Academy

The Dedham Police Department is pleased to announce that we are planning to host the Department's 10th Citizens Police Academy. This is an informational program designed to provide citizens of Dedham with an inside look at the inner workings of a modern police department. This will be an interactive forum which will allow for the exchange of information between police officers and citizens. Citizens of all ages are invited to attend. This is a unique opportunity for citizens and officers to build trust and understanding related to policing services in Dedham. There is no cost to attend this program.

Participants will be presented with information from Dedham Police Officers, Dispatchers and civilian personnel. Material related to E-911, crime prevention, juvenile issues, alcohol enforcement, regional law enforcement councils, court procedures, the Sex Offender Registry, firearms and firearms licensing, narcotics, crime scene investigation, traffic issues, motor vehicle law and animal control will be discussed. A tour of the Dedham Police Station will also be a part of the program.

This will be a 9 week program. The Academy will meet once per week on Tuesday nights starting at 6 pm. Each session will last up to 2 hours. The Academy will run on the following Tuesday nights: April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26 and June 2. Those interested in attending should contact Chief Michael d'Entremont, 600 High Street, Dedham, MA 02026 or email [mdentremont@police.dedham-ma.gov](mailto:mdentremont@police.dedham-ma.gov) to express your interest in participating. Please call 781 751-9304 with any questions.



### Another Successful Ski Trip!

86 Dedham Middle School students along with six Dedham Police Officers and Dedham Public Schools Staff spent a day on the slopes on Wednesday February 19, 2020. School Resource Officers Jason Sullivan is the chief organizer of this trip.

# Dedham Public Schools

## Music in Our Schools

Did you know? March is recognized as National Music in our Schools Month. Music and Fine Arts have become a key focal point for Dedham Public Schools, as the district looks to rededicate and expand efforts around creating opportunities for students to explore avenues in the arts. The 2019-2020 school year introduced in-school, instrumental music classes for all Elementary students in 4th and 5th grade. Over 160 elementary students now enjoy learning to play trumpets, flutes, clarinets, trombones and percussion as part of their school day.

“Learning an instrument and learning how to perform together as an ensemble is more than just about the music. Students are learning how to work together, to persevere and to express themselves in new ways,” said Eytan Wurman, Dedham Public Schools Director of Fine and Performing Arts.

At the Middle School and High School Dedham students are gaining increased visibility and recognition at the State level, with four High School students performing in the MMEA Eastern District Senior Festival in January, and four additional students who will perform in the Junior Festival this month.

On Wednesday, February 5th, over 300 students from Dedham Public Schools took to the stage for an all-town instrumental concert. Dedham students from 4th through 12th grade performed together showcasing the incredible musical talent across all age groups. In the spirit of celebrating music from the whole town, the concert also featured a performance by the Dedham Community Band. The evening concluded with a finale performance of Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy” featuring all performers, ranging from ages 9 - 73.



Be sure to catch the talented Dedham student musicians and performers in one of the many upcoming March events:

|                             |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| <b>MARCH 10</b>             | <b>Heald Night of Jazz</b>                           | <b>DMS Auditorium @ 7:00PM</b>                         |
| <b>MARCH 20</b>             | <b>Avery Musical - Cinderella...If the Shoe Fits</b> | <b>Avery Elementary @ 7:00PM</b>                       |
| <b>MARCH 20, 21, and 22</b> | <b>DHS Senior Musical - MAM-MA MIA</b>               | <b>DHS Auditorium @ 7:00PM (3/22 - 2:00PM matinee)</b> |
| <b>MARCH 25</b>             | <b>ALL TOWN CHORUS CONCERT</b>                       | <b>DHS Auditorium @ 7:00PM</b>                         |

## Healthy Hearts at DHS for Valentine's Day

Dedham High School held a special event on Thursday, February 13th - where DHS students were able to undergo a free ECG heart screening to check for previously undiscovered heart conditions. The program hopes to identify those students who may have a serious heart condition which can often go undetected during annual physicals. With sudden cardiac arrest ranking as a leading cause of student athlete fatality, this is a critical issue.

“Very few students or parents ever know about underlying heart issues, so the opportunity to do something proactive and preventative, something that may save one of our students someday, is invaluable,” said Dedham Superintendent Michael Welch. “Our school community is fortunate to have an athletic trainer and health services staff who passionately pursue opportunities like this on behalf of the students.”

The screenings - done by Mass Heartbeat - were offered free-of-charge thanks to funding provided by the 21 Fund. The 21 Fund was founded to honor the memory of Joseph “Joey” Glynn, a star basketball player at Cardinal Spellman High School, whose life was cut short by an undetected heart condition while playing summer league basketball in 2013.

The DHS event set record participation totals for Mass Heartbeat - with 249 people registered and 230 people screened. Both of those totals are Mass Heartbeat records for a single day event. A huge thank you to our Health Services staff and Athletic Trainer Megan McColgan for coordinating the event.



### Learn More About What's Happening in our Dedham Schools:

Community members interested in learning more about the events and incredible efforts by educators and students in Dedham Schools can learn more by visiting the District homepage at [www.dedham.k12.ma.us](http://www.dedham.k12.ma.us). Regular story features are added throughout the month, as well as all School Committee and school communications, including the [Superintendent's 30 Updates](#).

# Sustainable Dedham

## Sustainable Dedham Climate Action Stakeholder Group Meeting

Please mark your calendars for our next public meeting on the Sustainable Dedham Climate Action & Resiliency Plan on **March 10, 6:30pm-8:30pm** at the Italian American Club, 21 Allen Lane. At this meeting we will discuss details on specific strategies, prioritize goals and identify actions and discuss implementation. Your participation in this plan is critical to its success.

Please RSVP for this event at <https://sustainablededhamplan.eventbrite.com>



# Youth Commission

## REGISTER NOW FOR CHARACTER DAY EXPLOSION

Looking for a family friendly and fun activity to do during April vacation? Looking to see your kids have the biggest smiles ever? If so, we have the event for your kids and you! Come on down to the Motherbrook Arts & Community Center on Wednesday, April 22nd for the CHARACTER DAY EXPLOSION!

At this event, all your favorite kid's characters will be attendance to party and celebrate with you!

10 CHARACTERS are already confirmed: Elsa, Anna & Olaf from Frozen. Woody, Forky & Mr. Potato Head from Toy Story. Chase, Everest & Sky of Paw Patrol. Daniel Tiger from PBS. There will be games, activities, photobooth, candy, live DJ & Dancing! You must preregister online at Eventbrite.com. Search the event on Eventbrite (Character Day Explosion) for more details and to register. \$15 pp. Proceeds benefit Dedham children and families.



## SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Is your teen looking for a fun and "hands on" paid internship this summer? If so, have him or her visit us in our office at the high school. Internships are available for the months of July and August. Internship opportunities range from program counselors, to placements at the Dedham Library, Facilities Department and local businesses.

## PARENTING 2020

Hello Parents! Great news! Angela Osei Mensah, our LICSW on staff, will be broadcasting a show for parents every first and third Wednesday of the month - PARENTING 20/20. Check it out for great information, tips and resources! REMEMBER TO CHECK IT OUT EVERY 1st and 3rd WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH ON THE DEDHAM YOUTH COMMISSION FACEBOOK PAGE! Or go to the attached link: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwZ8ubHXZ0-TIFPc8h74I\\_Q/videos?view=0&shelf\\_id=0&sort=dd](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwZ8ubHXZ0-TIFPc8h74I_Q/videos?view=0&shelf_id=0&sort=dd)

*Parenting 20/20*  
*Episodes*

\*Dedham Youth  
Commission Facebook  
page

\*[www.parenting2020.com](http://www.parenting2020.com)





Town Hall Talk will be published monthly and will be available on the [Town website](#).

Please subscribe to receive notification of each new issue!

**Town of Dedham, MA**

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