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DONATE NOW TO HELP PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

The Dedham COVID-19 Relief Fund, established by Dedham Town Manager Leon Goodwin, the Select Board and other community leaders in partnership with United Way of Massachusetts Bay, will help individuals and families who have been financially impacted by this coronavirus pandemic with a focus on our most economically vulnerable neighbors.



BACKGROUND

As COVID-19 reverberates across hospitals, offices, schools and homes, Dedham residents are struggling with how the disease, and its economic fallout, will impact their ability to eat, stay in their homes and ensure access to medical care and other critical supplies. This fund was established to mobilize those who can give to do so generously to support their neighbors.

WHAT CAN THE DEDHAM COVID-19 RELIEF FUND HELP PEOPLE WITH?

Immediate needs have been defined as access to food and other basic needs. Funds raised will support expanded food distribution at the Dedham Food Pantry and additional support from Dedham’s St. Vincent de Paul chapters (St. Susanna’s Church and St. Mary’s Church) at the outset. In the coming weeks and months, we’ll be working with the United Way and other local human services agencies to provide deeper financial support to individuals and families in need.

HOW CAN I GIVE TO THE DEDHAM COVID-19 CARE FUND?

You can give to the fund by [clicking here](#). All gifts are tax-deductible and 100% of the proceeds (net credit card fees) will go to individuals seeking assistance via nonprofits already working in our community. You may also give via your Donor Advised Fund by including “The United Way Dedham COVID-19 Relief Fund” in your recommendation details. Our tax ID number is 04-2382233.

HOW WILL MY DONATION HELP?

All donations will be collected by United Way and distributed by established Dedham & Dedham-serving non-profit organizations with a track record of administering assistance funds. These funds may pay for rent and other housing needs, food, utilities, internet connectivity for families with school-aged children, childcare, medications and other basic needs.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I NEED ASSISTANCE?

The Dedham COVID-19 Relief Fund exists to mobilize those who can give to support their neighbors. If you are in need of food assistance, find out how to get food from the Dedham Food Pantry [here](#). We are forming a coalition of Dedham-based and Dedham-area providers who will distribute emergency financial assistance. Dedham has also created a Resource Line at (781) 751-9126 to help residents be connected to resources. The Resource Line is staffed Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Outside of those hours, residents can leave a voicemail that will be returned the next business day. Translation services are available in Spanish and Arabic, with additional languages to be added.

JUNE 2020

Public meetings are being postponed or held remotely. The state's Open Meeting Law has been modified to enable local governments to carry out essential functions during the COVID-19 outbreak per the governor's emergency order. Please refer to [the Town calendar](#) to join a public meeting remotely by using the links or dial-in instructions published in the meeting's agenda.

Enjoy summer at a NEW Community Table

While this summer may feel very different from summers in the past, we can still enjoy and take advantage of our local outdoors spaces! This week, picnic tables and trash barrels were installed at some public spaces in Town: Town Hall (Bryant Street), Oakdale Common (Oakdale Street), Franklin Square (near the main Library), Condon Park (Bussey Street) and at Dedham Crossing (under the bridge in Dedham Square.) These areas will be great spaces for our residents and their immediate families to enjoy being outdoors, as well as a much-needed change of scenery from your own backyard. The Health Department and Department of Public Works encourage residents to bring their own sanitizer, wear masks if they are in close proximity to others, and dispose of trash in the barrels provided.



Oakland Common



Dedham Town Hall

The tables are just one part of a plan town officials are rolling out to support businesses as they navigate the new requirements to open safely. The Planning Board, Select Board, and Board of Health recently hosted a joint forum to collect ideas and begin to streamline processes where possible.

Small businesses with ideas for creative use of outdoor space are encouraged to contact John Sisson, Dedham's Economic Development Director at jsisson@dedham-ma.gov.

Dedham Parks and Recreation



The Dedham Parks & Recreation Department has continued to work closely with local health officials regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic. We have spent the last couple weeks reviewing the states re opening phases, along with the restrictions & guidelines set forth for Summer Recreation Day Programs. With great consideration for all the recreation participants, staff members and the community at large we have made the decision out of an abundance of caution to cancel all of the Dedham Parks & Recreation Summer Day Programs.

This has not been an easy decision for the Parks & Recreation Department, however, we feel the community's wellbeing is our top priority. We will spend the coming weeks looking at options for "new types of programming" that will meet the restrictions as well as provide different recreation & leisure activities for families and individuals.

We will continue to plan accordingly to assure that fall recreation programs will be ready to open as more information is provided and the re-opening phases continue. Stand assure that all proper adjustments will be made to the programs as needed, and participant safety will remain our top priority as we move forward with our fall programs.

All participants of Dedham Recreation Summer Programs will be issued a full credit, for those interested in a refund please visit <https://www.dedham-ma.gov/departments/parks-recreation/program-refund>

Dedham Parks & Recreation hopes to see you and your family soon!

Dedham Police Department



On May 13, 2020 the Dedham Police Department was awarded \$5,903.54 from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to support pedestrian and bicyclist safety. Funding under this grant will be used to add traffic enforcement patrols in areas where traffic crashes have been experienced in higher frequencies, conduct crosswalk decoy operations to address operators who fail to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and to purchase reflective zipper pull tags for distribution in areas of high pedestrian traffic. The Dedham Police Department is most appreciative of this funding to support safety in the community.



During May, through funding provided by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Dedham Police Department participated in the National Click It or Ticket campaign. This campaign focused on high visibility traffic enforcement in areas where we have experienced a higher concentration of vehicular crashes, traffic complaints or documented high speeds, such as High Street, Cedar Street, Providence Highway, Mt. Vernon Street, Sprague Street, Washington Street and East Street. Officers conducted 64 hours of high visibility enforcement during this campaign focused on enforcement of risk taking behavior and seat belt usage.

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Officer Brian Cullinane on Providence Highway.

Dedham Police Department



Animal Control



Early summer is definitely toddler time in Massachusetts for our local wild animals. The winter has thawed and the love was in the air during the chilly spring months. This inevitably leads to babies and animal sightings in and around your yards even in a suburb like Dedham.

Quite a few of our mammal wildlife friends have had their mating snuggles between February and April and spent the latter part of Spring eating whatever they could find and eventually looking for a place to have their babies. By June and into July most mammal infants in Massachusetts have grown into toddlers learning the ropes of how to live their

best animal lives. Seeing moms and young in the yard is fairly common and normal in late June and early July.

Some moms are awesome and will defend their kids with gusto and bluster. Groundhogs (AKA Woodchucks or Whistle Pigs) and their babies (pups) can be seen bumbling around gardens and running under sheds or porches. Moms can be loud and seem fierce if you get too close to the kiddies! Raccoon moms can be found rummaging through your trash and popping in and out of attics, shed dormers or trees in the yard with the young not far behind learning where to be safe and where to get food. Raccoon moms will be pretty vocal in an attempt to distract you from her children.

Some species are less attentive parents and sometimes the young can be found wandering without mom. Skunks have terrible eyesight and not the most agile of walkers and it's not uncommon to have a youngster (kit) wandering solo. Opossums are our only marsupial and once the babies (joeys) leave the pouch they ride on mom as she maneuvers through the trees. Finding a youngster that couldn't hang on can be an occurrence this time of year.

Some oddball species to this seasonal mating and birthing routine are the squirrels and bunnies. Squirrels have two litters of babies (kits) each year. One in February/April and another in June/July. Bunnies will mate and have babies (kits) at any time of the year between April and September. Small Brown bats (most common in and around our homes) mate in the fall but due to their biology, moms don't conceive until spring. They usually have only one baby (pup) at a time and about a month after birth, they are fully weened.

June is usually when Turkey eggs hatch and the young (poults) can be seen scurrying after mom as they walk through your yard or down the street. Other nesters in June are the Goldfinches. They wait until summer because they are strictly seed feeders to their young (chicks) and need the plants to be seeding instead of sprouting. Robins, Cardinals and Blue Jays also lay eggs in June for their second round of babies (chicks) they have each year.

The foxes and coyotes round out our tour of early summer wildlife behavior. By June fox babies (pups) are well on their way to being weened and leaving home by July or August. Both mom and dad raise the pups and can be seen coming and going from under sheds and porches and decks. Coyotes are similar to the foxes as the young (pups) are born in April and are on their way to be leaving the den as adults by late summer. This makes June a time that they are still dependent on mom and dad but eagerly explore their surroundings. The biggest difference is their dens are far less likely around your house and far more likely in the woods, preservation and conservation lands in and around Dedham.



During the later spring weeks it was pretty common to see a lot of mammal moms wandering during the day as they were looking for some extra bulk up foods and places to have their babies. As we head into mid-summer it will be just as common to see parents bringing food back to hungry children and young animal kids running and bumbling in their new environment.....that might also be considered your back yard as well.

If you have any questions about the behaviors you witness from the animals in your neighborhood please contact the officer at 781-751-9106. Animal Control is very limited when it comes to removing animals but can always offer suggestions on ways to minimize how good your yard may look to our wildlife friends.

Dedham Youth Commission

Update on Summer Programming

The Dedham Youth Commission has continued to work closely with local health officials regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic. We have spent the last couple of weeks reviewing the states re opening phases, along with the restrictions & guidelines set forth for Summer Youth Programs. With great consideration for all the program participants, staff members and the community at large, we have made the decision out of an abundance of caution to offer all of our summer programs remotely, instead of in person.

As you can imagine, this has been a very difficult decision by the DYC staff, however, we feel the community's wellbeing is our top priority. It should also be noted that there are several barriers out of our control (Regis College not allowing camps or programs this summer, the closing of school buildings, hiring freeze of temporary summer staff, etc.).

We will be sending emails and mailings to all registered summer program participants detailing the logistics and online schedules of our College Bound, Journey and Launch Programs. We are staying positive during this uncertain time and certainly plan on providing your child with an interactive series of online (zoom) activities, workshops, guest speaker panels and discussions inline with the goals and mission of our programs. We will still build healthy relationships with youth over the summer and look forward to serving them in person in the very near future. Stay safe!

DYC Character Visits

Last month the Dedham Youth Commission made a lot of kids and parents smile through our social distancing visits from Woody and Forky of Toy Story 4. The DYC team, dressed as these characters, visited over 75 streets in Dedham, putting smiles on hundreds of kids faces. We had a great time waving "hi," singing and dancing with the kids, even giving some birthday shout outs along the way. Check out the DYC facebook page for future Character Day visits and events.



Endicott Estate

Blooming at The Endicott Estate

For those of us who grew up in, or spent the majority of our lives here in New England there really is nothing quite as beautiful as the beginning of the spring and summer seasons. With more than 18 acres of rolling lawns, grand elm, beech and willow trees there is always plenty of beauty to appreciate when walking by the Endicott Estate.

We recently discovered the name for this beautiful shrub that grows on the middle lawn; *Linnaea amabilis*, more commonly known as a “beauty bush”. This old-fashioned shrub, belonging to the Honeysuckle family, gained popularity in the eastern part of the United States following World War I. The beauty bush became almost a defining shrub in American gardens made between the World Wars. This along with the many other blooms coming to life around the Estate truly make the Estate’s grounds the epitome of springtime in New England.



Linnaea amabilis or beauty bush

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linnaea_amabilis



Engineering Department

Rustcraft Road Sewer Improvements Project

In April of 2020 the Engineering Department put out to bid the Rustcraft Road Sewer Improvements project. The bid opening was held on April 26th and after reviewing the submitted bid and checking references, the project was awarded to RJV Construction, Corp. out of Canton, MA.

The existing 6" force main and pump station that was installed in 2008 in anticipation of the upcoming Legacy Place Development has reached and gone slightly beyond its service capacity in its 12 years of service and is starting to place strain on the existing pump station and force main. There are quite a few other parcels that are anticipated to be developed in the future that would require a connection to the pump station for its sanitary service. The Town hired Weston & Sampson to design the pump station and force main improvements that would be required to adequately service the existing customers today but also the potential developments of the future.

The project is slated to start in June and end before December of 2020.

For more detailed information regarding this project and to get week to week updates on project schedule, please visit the Town's website at <https://www.dedham-ma.gov/departments/engineering/projects/rustcraft-road-sewer-improvements>



Environmental Department



Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020 Update

The Town will be releasing this month their updated Hazard Mitigation Plan for public review and comment. This Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is a product of the Dedham Hazard Mitigation Committee (HMC). Once the two-week public comment period concludes the Environmental Department will be seeking approval of the plan by the Dedham Select Board, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

This 2020 HMP update was led by the Environmental Department and developed in conjunction with the Town's Climate Action and Resiliency Plan, the second phase of the Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) initiative. Dedham is among the first in the State to run the MVP directive concurrently with a hazard mitigation plan update. This efficiency better utilizes stakeholder time and broadens the discussion on resiliency.

The HMC's overview of past natural hazard occurrences verifies that the Town is vulnerable to diverse events including flooding, high winds, winter-related hazards, and intense storms. The discussion puts the likelihood of these events into historical perspective and recognizes that although the probability of thunderstorms and lightning events may be higher, the intensity and potential impacts from less likely events such as hurricanes can be far greater.

The risk assessment portion of the plan confirms that the Town has much to lose from these events. The identified vulnerabilities include flood prone drainage systems and infrastructure, bridges, water supply systems, dams, critical municipal hazard response facilities, populations, businesses, schools, recreation facilities, natural and historic resources.

To address these risks the 2020 HMP put forth a clear mission, a distinct set of goals and 20 specific mitigation actions. To implement the plan, important goals must be met. Among others the Town should protect public health, safety and welfare; reduce property damages caused by natural disasters; minimize social dislocation and stress; and reduce economic losses and minimize disruption to local businesses.

The purpose of the Dedham Hazard Mitigation Plan Update is to set forth guidelines of short-term and long-term actions, which will reduce the actual or potential loss of life or property from natural hazardous. This plan was constructed using input from a variety of municipal and private stakeholders and the general public was involved in the planning process. This plan serves as guidance to help the Town reduce their losses and vulnerabilities relating to natural hazards.

The plan will be posted on the Environmental Department's website at <https://www.dedham-ma.gov/departments/environmental> for review. Comments may be sent to Environmental Coordinator, Virginia LeClair at vleclair@dedhamma.gov and should be received by Wednesday, June 17th.

Office of the Treasurer/Collector

Office of the Treasurer/Collector – Important Billing Information

Thank you for your patience, and understanding during these very difficult times, which is much appreciated. My staff, and I are working diligently to process payments, and respond to the public inquiries while working with a skeleton crew on a rotating basis. Many taxpayers who normally come into Town Hall have adapted well to utilizing the online payment system, and the secure rear drop-box as a new way to make payments to the Town. Thank you!

Demand bills were issued on excise tax bills that were mailed on February 7, 2020, and due on March 9th. The demands are due on 6.12.20, and can be paid per the instructions below. Two new motor vehicle excise tax bill commitments were also issued on 5.29.20 with a 6.29.20 due date. Please call 781-751-9160 if an expected excise tax bill was not received.

Sewer bills are being mailed with a 7.1.20 due date. Partial payments are allowed even though interest will be accrued on any balance remaining after the due date.

The 4th quarter real estate, and personal property tax bills mailed on 3.31.20 are now due on June 1st, per the Select Board's vote on April 9th to extend the due date per the Governor's new legislation. Interest on the 4th quarter bill only will be waived on full payments made no later than June 29th. Partial payments are allowed, but interest will be charged on any balance remaining after the 29th. Postmarks are not accepted.

Payments can be mailed to the lockbox in envelopes included with bills; paid online via the Town's website (www.dedham-ma.gov) on Invoice Cloud using an ACH method from a bank account (\$.40 fee), or a credit card (fee scale based on balances). Also, checks can be placed in the secure drop-box at the rear entrance to Town Hall.





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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