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DEDHAM TOWN MEETING DETAILS– SPRING/SUMMER 2020

TOWN MEETING will be held in person on Monday, August 10th, at 6:00 pm.

To protect the safety of the community, this Town Meeting will be held outdoors on the Dedham High School football field, 140 Whiting Ave. In the case of inclement weather, Town Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 11th at 6:00 pm.

For more details, including COVID-19 safety precautions, click [here](#).

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the 2020 Annual Spring Town Meeting Warrant Articles on which Town Meeting members will be voting. Printed warrant books have been mailed to elected Town Meeting members. If you have questions, please contact your precinct chair or the Town Clerk’s Office.



AUGUST 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.

Residents are encouraged to visit the website, dedhamcovid19.com, for all town updates as the COVID-19 situation develops. Visitors can subscribe via email to receive notifications for new posts.

Locally, residents are always encouraged to contact the Dedham Health Department at 781-751-9220 with any questions or concerns.

By continuing to practice social distancing, regular handwashing, and wearing a face covering, we can ensure that our return to the new normal is not delayed.



Council on Aging

We are pleased to announce that we have received a grant from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to provide transportation during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The eligible riders will be:

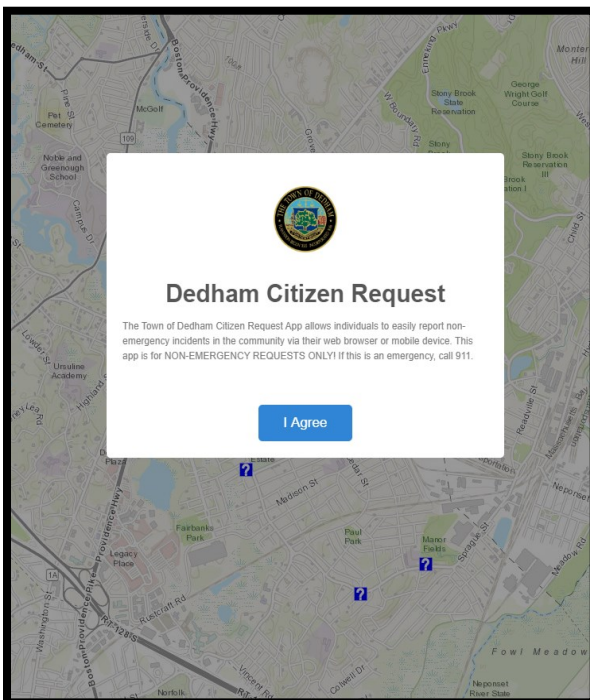
1. Seniors (over age 60)
2. Veterans
3. Disabled Adults

We can provide transportation via taxi to a doctor appointment, and other vital trips.

Please call the Dedham COA during business hours at **781-326-1650**.

Advance notice is required

Department of Public Works



Public Works has launched a new citizen request app to enable individuals to report non-emergency issues in the community by using a web browser or mobile device. Visit the [Service Request](#) page to learn more.

Requests are sent to Public Works staff who review them and create work orders. Once the work has been completed, the work order is closed.

Service requests should be for non-emergency issues only. If you should have an emergency, please call 911.

Dedham Police Department



Police advise residents to lock car doors at night

Chief Michael D'Entremont and the Dedham Police Department would like to advise residents to properly secure their vehicles to prevent break-ins and avoid being easy targets for thieves this season.

The summer season is most popular for vehicle thefts and break-ins, and July is recognized by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) as National Vehicle Theft Prevention Month. According to the NHTSA, each year over 770,000 vehicles are stolen and 40.9% are never recovered.

Dedham Police report that the most frequently stolen vehicle parts in town are wheels and catalytic converters. Additionally, the NHTSA warns that parts such as radios, doors, engines, transmissions, air bags and radios, as well as items left in vehicles such as GPS units, cellphones, iPads, laptops, and purses are often targets for thieves.

There are many types of devices that can be purchased to either make your vehicle more difficult to break into or steal, or easier to track and potentially recover. Among these devices are wheel locks which can prevent someone from stealing wheels, rims, or tires. Wheel lock sets include four lug nuts with a unique pattern and a matching key that is used to install or remove the lug nuts. A list of additional anti-theft devices is available from the NHTSA and the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB).

"There are several types of systems and devices that you can use to help protect parts of your vehicle, but common sense also goes a long way in protecting your vehicle," Chief D'Entremont said. "Locking your car, removing valuables and parking in a well-lit area are important safety measures. In addition, call the police if you observe anybody you don't know lingering around your vehicle, especially during the nighttime hours".

Please use these common-sense strategies when parking and exiting your vehicle:

- Take your keys. Don't leave them in your vehicle.
 - Close all windows and lock all doors.
 - Never leave valuables in your vehicle. Anything stored inside your vehicle should be out of sight or in the trunk.
 - Never leave credit cards/debit cards, cash or your wallet or purse inside of your vehicle overnight.
 - Park in well-lit areas or preferably inside a garage, if possible. Park in visible areas where your vehicle is not hidden by foliage or larger vehicles. Install lights with motion sensors near where you park your vehicle.
- Get in the routine of double-checking that your vehicle is locked and secure each night around 9 p.m. This is known as the 9 p.m. Routine.

I If your vehicle has been stolen or broken into, follow these steps:

1. Call the police to report a theft or break-in. A copy of the police report and/or a case number will be needed to provide to your insurance company.
2. You may be asked to provide the license plate number, make, model and color of the car, the VIN number, and any identifying characteristics.
3. Contact your insurance company to file a claim within 24 hours of when you discovered your vehicle was stolen or broken into.

If you find your vehicle before authorities, contact the police immediately and then your insurance company.



Dedham Police Department



Sgt. Det. Bob Walsh Retires as of July 18, 2020

Bob had been with the Department for almost 25 years. He did a lot of great work during this time. He was a proactive patrol officer regularly assigned to the Providence Highway area. He was a member of the Department's Honor Guard and Mountain Bike Patrol. As a uniformed officer he looked deeper into incidents leading to more involved investigations. By doing this, he positioned himself to assume the role of a detective for the Department. He earned the assignment and served as a detective for over 12 years. Bob was promoted to Sergeant during March of 2015. As a Sergeant, he served as the Administrative Commander and a patrol supervisor. As a patrol supervisor, Bob looked for teaching moments to mentor officers. During 2017, the opportunity to return to the Detective Unit as the Investigative Division Commander presented itself and Bob seized the opportunity.

Amongst many commendations over the years, Bob was recognized as the Department's Officer of the Year in 2013. Bob always possessed and displayed a passion for being a Police Officer. He showed empathy in dealing with all members of the public. Bob accepted opportunities to meet with members of the public to discuss crime prevention or other police issues and always represented the Department in a positive manner.

A tremendous amount of experience and dedication will be moving on with Bob's retirement. Thank you to Bob for all that he did and represented, and best of luck for a long and healthy retirement.



Endicott Estate

A Great Time was Had by All!

On July 29, 2020 the Dedham Police Department in association with the Parks and Recreation Department hosted their Annual Bike Rodeo at the Endicott Estate. They ran 3 sessions to focus on bike safety, community interaction and summer fun. The Rodeo attracted over 100 children, and all participants received a t-shirt, bicycle helmet (courtesy of Attorney David White through Project Safe Kids) and a hot dog lunch provided by Chuck Wagon.



Engineering Department



Rustcraft Road Sewer Improvements Project Update:

Construction for the Rustcraft Road Sewer Improvements Project began in full swing on Monday, 6/22. The project started at Station 48+86 (near #105 Rustcraft Road) with the excavation for and installation of the new 10" force main. As of 7/29, the contractor has installed approximately 2,200 LF of the 10" force main. Construction will continue to head towards the Kiss N' Ride along Rustcraft Road over the next month or two. Police details are out each day directing traffic around the work site.

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>

Office of the Treasurer/Collector

Office of the Treasurer/Collector – August Important Billing Information

Below is a status update on the Town's sewer bills, as well as the real estate, personal property, and excise tax bills. Please call 781-751-9160 with any questions.

- ◆ The 1st quarter FY21 real estate, and personal property tax bills mailed on 6.30.20 are due on 8.3.20. Payments can be mailed to the lockbox in envelopes included with bills; paid online with Invoice Cloud via the Town's website (www.dedham-ma.gov) using an ACH method from a bank account (\$.40 fee); or a credit card (fee scale based on balances). Checks can be placed in the secure silver drop-box located in the alcove to the left of the main entrance to the new Town Hall. (The box is attached to the building). Payments received after hours in the drop-box will be credited on the next business day. Interest accrues on payments received after the close of business on August 3rd. Online payments can be submitted on the due date until almost midnight to be on time without interest penalties.
- ◆ The FY20 real estate, and personal property tax bills are past due with interest accruing daily. Demand bills will be issued shortly on unpaid balances. Partial payments are allowed, but interest will be charged on any balance remaining until paid in full. Postmarks are not accepted. After the demand period, bills will be assigned to the Deputy Collector, PKS, to send warrants with additional fees, and interest. Partial payments can be made to that office until the tax taking process begins when physical liens are recorded on properties to protect the Town's legal interest in each property.
- ◆ Motor vehicle excise tax demand bills that were due on 6.12.20 for bills originally due on 3.9.20 are now assigned to the Deputy Collector, PKS. They mailed warrants on 7.20.20 so payments must be made directly to their office. Warrants include additional fees set by MA General Law plus more interest. Partial payments are NOT accepted on motor vehicle excise taxes.
- ◆ Motor vehicle excise tax demand bills that were due on 7.28.20 for bills originally due on 6.29.20 are being assigned to the Deputy Collector shortly. Warrants must be paid directly to PKS. Partial payments are NOT accepted on excise taxes.
- ◆ Sewer bills that were due on 7.1.20 are now delinquent with interest accruing daily. Please make your full payment promptly to avoid additional interest. Partial payments are allowed even though interest will accrue on any balance remaining after the due date until paid in full.
- ◆ New sewer bills will be mailed in August, but a date has not yet been set. When received, please pay them promptly to avoid the bills being added ("liened") to the real estate tax bills in December.

Planning and Zoning Department



Proposed new Norfolk & Dedham Insurance Corporate Building

Planning Board Update

The Planning Board held a Scoping Session on July 22, 2020 regarding a proposed new corporate headquarters for Norfolk & Dedham Group at 222 Ames Street by the Norfolk & Dedham Group. The proposed project would demolish Norfolk & Dedham’s existing 41,070 sq. ft. office building and construct a 53,000 sq. ft. new office building with 190 off-street parking spaces. “As a business that has been located in Dedham since 1825, we appreciate Norfolk & Dedham’s desire to continue to call Dedham home for the foreseeable future”, said Planning Board Chairman John Bethoney. “The Planning Board will review the proposed project to ensure any community impacts are understood and addressed.” The project is expected to officially file for a Special Permit for a Major Nonresidential Project in Fall 2020.

Zoning Board of Appeals Update

The Zoning Board of Appeals voted 5-0 on July 19, 2020 in favor of the Town of Dedham’s proposal to demolish the existing incinerator smokestack at 5 Incinerator Road and replace it with a new cellular tower. The new 195 ft. wireless cellular tower would allow the continuation of existing wireless services located on the smokestack and provide an opportunity to expand the Town’s Fire and Police Department’s communications capabilities.



Existing Town of Dedham incinerator smokestack and ZBA approved new Town of Dedham wireless communications tower, located at 5 Incinerator Road

Planning and Zoning Department

Sign Code Study

Have you seen commercial signs in Dedham that you think are too tall -- or too short? Too big or too small? Too brightly lit or not bright enough? The Dedham business community depends on signage to draw in customers. At the same time, Town regulations place limits on signage to protect the aesthetics of our public ways. There is a balance, but sometimes Town regulations become outdated, fail to provide clear direction, or simply don't lead to beneficial outcomes.

As a result, the Town has begun a study to review and update the existing Dedham Sign Code. The consultant for the study, Harriman, has recently completed a review of the existing Sign Code and the application process. Harriman has also conducted interviews with several Dedham stakeholders. Click [here](#) to view the documents and to stay updated on the Sign Code Study.



Designing Dedham 2030 Master Plan Update

On July 15, the Master Plan Team held a Youth Focus Group with teenagers from Dedham Middle School and High School. The conversations were to inform them of the Master Plan process and to hear about their needs and reactions to what they want to see in Dedham.

This was the first targeted outreach to Dedham youth, as the team continues to develop creative ways to engage the younger generations into the Master Plan process.

Are you a middle school or high school student who lives in Dedham?

Earn \$10 for
Dunkin' Donuts...



...while sharing
your opinions
about Dedham



Middle School Focus Group July 15, 12-1 pm
High School Focus Group July 15, 1-2 pm
More info: rblaney@dedham-ma.gov
#DesigningDedham2030

Planning and Zoning Department

Analysis of Dedham Police Station

Consultants working with the Dedham Square Study Committee have been studying potential uses for the police station property at 600 High Street. The station was built in 1962, and the department plans to move into the new combined public safety building when it is completed.



The Committee's study includes examining this site in the context of Dedham Square's history. The police station is located on the site of what was once Memorial Hall, an impressive civic building honoring Dedham residents who died in the Civil War. It was torn down in 1962. Two other historic buildings were also razed in the twentieth century: the Greenleaf Building, at the corner of High and Washington streets, and the Dedham Train Station, which sat on the Keystone parking lot.

The team has been evaluating different strategies, along with the fiscal implications and the feasibility of each approach. Strategies include reusing the police station and garages, keeping only some of the structures, creating a combination of civic and commercial spaces, surplusing the site to allow private development, and opening the site to create more green and civic space. Some of the proposals increase the amount of parking on the site, while others would reduce it. The Committee will be presenting its findings to the Select Board by year's end.



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

450 Washington Street (Ames Building)

(781) 751-9100