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Vaccinations for Individuals 75+ to Begin on February 1st as Part of Phase Two

The Dedham Board of Health strives to keep residents and community members well-informed and prepared to participate in upcoming Dedham Community Covid-19 Vaccine Clinics.

Residents are encouraged to visit dedhamcovid19.com/ for all town updates as the COVID19 situation develops.

Covid-19 Vaccine Clinics will be scheduled by Phase and Priority Group. To see when you will be eligible to receive the Covid-19 vaccine, please visit Mass.gov.

COVID-19 Vaccination in MA: Phase 1 & 2 Eligibility Status

Phase 1	
All phase 1 priority groups	Now eligible
Phase 2	
1 Individuals age 75+	Now eligible
2 Individuals 65+ and individuals with 2+ certain medical conditions	Not yet eligible
3 Early education and K-12 workers, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works, and public health workers	Not yet eligible
4 Individuals with 1 certain medical condition	Not yet eligible

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**



FEBRUARY 2021

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.



WELCOME



Dedham's Newest Team Members!

Three New Faces in Dedham Town Hall:

Submitted by Amanda Smith, PIO

To kick off the new year, the Town of Dedham welcomed two new members to the team on January 4, 2021; John Arnett and Bassem Awad. The Town also welcomed the first Public Information Officer to the team on January 25, 2021: Amanda Smith.

John Arnett has joined the Town of Dedham as the new Finance Director. Most recently serving as the Finance Director for Coventry, Rhode Island, John brings years of experience working in Federal, State, and local government. As a Marine Infantry Veteran, John proudly served our country from 2004 to 2008. Prior to working in Rhode Island, John served as a Financial Institution Specialist in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and as a Budget Officer for the United States Small Business Administration. After only a few minutes of conversation with John, it is evident his passion lies within serving local communities and helping to make the complex financial world more accessible. Throughout his undergraduate career at the University of Connecticut where he earned a degree in Economics, and through his graduate work where he earned a Masters in Public Administration and a Masters in Finance and Economics, John has operated under this question: "What change, if any, will have the most positive impact to the general public?" **Welcome, John!**

Joining the Town of Dedham as the new IT Director is Bassem Awad. Bassem joins the team from the Town of Townsend where he served for over 2 years as the IT Director. There, Bassem was responsible for updating the Town UNIX system to standardized Windows platform. This change introduced virtualization technology using VMware, cloud backup switches, and a new VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) phone system. Prior to working in Townsend, Bassem worked for the Town of Weymouth for 22 years as a Computer System Analyst. In this role, Bassem supported multiple departments, including Public Works, Public Safety, Library, senior center, Engineering, and the Water and Sewer Department, and played an integral role in managing technology projects from the beginning through to successful completion. Bassem graduated from the Wentworth Institute of Technology with a degree in Computer Science. **Welcome, Bassem!**

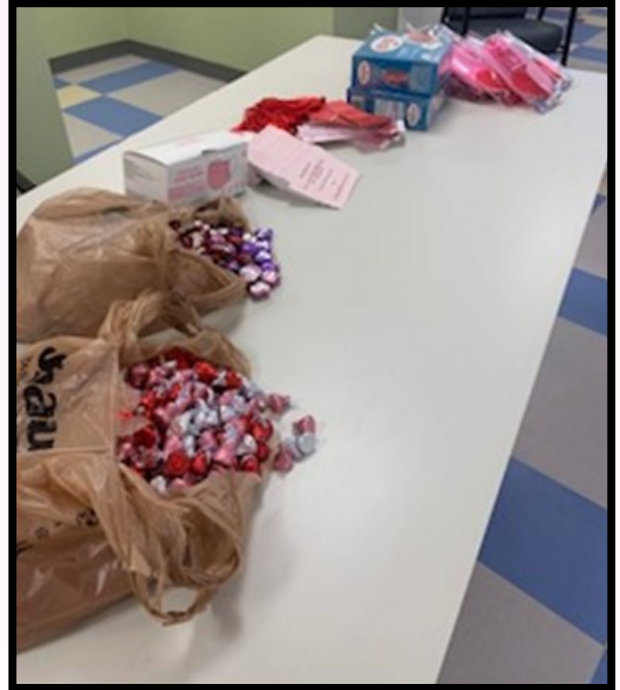
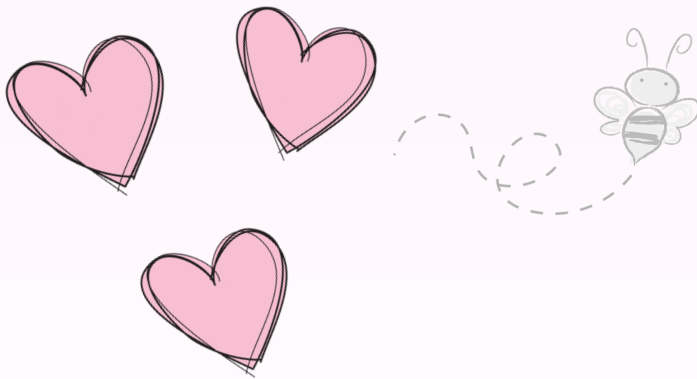
Filling the new role as Public Information Officer is Amanda Smith. Amanda previously served as a Communications Specialist in the private sector, developing and executing outreach plans to increase community and stakeholder engagement for various transportation projects across the State. Prior to that, Amanda served as the Community Information Specialist for the Town of Foxborough. While in Foxborough, Amanda helped to establish a strong social media presence on behalf of the Town and worked with the IT Department to redesign and launch the new Town website. She was also able to incorporate her hobby as a photographer to document Town events and build out a catalog for use in various communications. Using a variety of virtual and in-person tools, Amanda has found efficient and innovative ways to open lines of communication and encourage a dialog between Town offices and residents. Amanda is excited to join the Town of Dedham and support this community. With her passion for civic engagement and building relationships, Amanda hopes to serve this great Town as a partner and a resource. **Welcome, Amanda!**



Council on Aging

Happy Valentine's Day!

We are getting ready to send out our bags of goodies to our food pantry clients.



Dedham Fire Department



Adopt A Fire Hydrant This Winter



- The Dedham Fire Department is asking that residents assist us with keeping the fire hydrant closest to their residence clear of snow during this winter season.
- Please shovel snow only if you are able and when it is safe to do so.
- We would appreciate any and all assistance that residents are able to provide.

*During an emergency every second counts!
- Fire Chief William Spillane*



Space Heater Safety Tips

Space heaters are a great way to warm specific rooms in your home without having to crank up the thermostat, but using space heaters doesn't come without risk! Use the tips below to keep your home safe.

DO: Plug your space heater directly into the wall outlet.



DO: Keep your space heater in low-moisture rooms.

DO: Keep your space heater at a safe distance (at least 3 feet) from kids, pets and flammable items.



DO: Buy a unit with an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over, or you forget to shut it off.



DO: Always follow the directions and take a broken space heater to a qualified appliance service center.



DON'T: Leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you leave the house or go to bed.

DON'T: Place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.



DON'T: Use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to overheat, and can be a tripping hazard.



DON'T: Try to repair a broken space heater yourself.



DON'T: Put your space heater in your bathroom. The moisture can damage the unit, which could cause it to malfunction.





REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Senior Hours on Wednesdays extended through March for customers who need to conduct RMV transactions.

The RMV will designate Wednesdays in February and March at 17 RMV Service Centers to serve customers age 75 and older.

These service centers will be dedicated to processing all Registry transactions for older customers. A reservation is required.

Providing older adults with a designated RMV service center every Wednesday through March will result in a safer space for customers to visit.

The designated RMV service centers for customers 75+ are:

- Brockton
- Danvers
- Fall River
- Greenfield
- Lawrence
- Leominster
- Martha's Vineyard
- Nantucket
- New Bedford
- North Adams
- Pittsfield
- Plymouth
- Revere
- South Yarmouth
- Springfield
- Watertown
- Worcester

Customers 75 and older will be able to visit the RMV service centers listed above by reservation only, Wednesdays through March.

Select the "Senior Transaction" option in the "Make/Cancel a Reservation" transaction at www.Mass.Gov/RMV to view availability and make a reservation at one of these locations.

Below are the options for an appointment:

- If you are a AAA member, you may make a reservation now to renew your driver's license/ID or registration at a AAA location. Visit www.aaa.com/appointments to schedule your visit.
- If you are not a AAA member, visit Mass.Gov/RMV to make a reservation to visit an RMV Service Center. Select the "Senior Transaction" option on the "Make/Cancel a Reservation" transaction.
- Email the RMV for assistance at MassDOTRMVSeniors@dot.state.ma
- Call the RMV at **857-368-8005**.

Dedham Historical Society & Museum

Black History Month & Dedham

Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

In honor of Black History Month, the DHSM will delve into the archives and museum collections to “meet” members of the Black community in Dedham. The history of Black men and women in Dedham stretches back several hundred years, though records of their lives are not as abundant as they should be. February’s webinar will introduce you to some of the individuals who have contributed to Dedham—initially unwillingly as slaves—and the history of Black Americans in Dedham through to today



Register in advance for this webinar by visiting www.dedhamhistorical.org/current-events, using the link [here](#), or scanning QR code below.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please call 781.326.1385 with questions.



Dedham Police Department



Stay Alert!

Recent Scam: Multiple reports have been received recently reporting spoofed calls from Eversource requesting payment be sent via Zelle to avoid the discontinuation of service.

Eversource would never call a customer and request payment be sent in this manner.

Don't be fooled!



9PM Routine: During early January, the community was victimized by an overnight crime spree where numerous vehicles were entered and in some cases items stolen. Unfortunately, such situations occur from time to time. Generally, those intent on committing such crimes walk neighborhoods looking for unlocked vehicles. Unlocked vehicles are rummaged through and items stolen. You can protect your-

self from being victimized by establishing a 9 PM routine. Each night, make sure you have removed valuables from your vehicle, closed all vehicle windows and lock your vehicles doors.



#9PMRoutine

LOCK UP

your car, house, windows, garage, gate, shed

TURN ON

exterior lights, security camera, alarm system

BRING IN

valuables from your car, yard, patio

Dedham Police Department



Sergeant Promotions

Sergeant Promotions: On January 21, 2021, two new Police Sergeants were sworn in during a ceremony in front of the Town Hall.

◆ **Sergeant Michael Feeley Jr.:** Sergeant Feeley Jr. has been a police officer in Dedham for just under 8 ½ years. He has a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati. He represented the Department well in serving as a School Resource Officer for 1.5 years. Officer Feeley's has participated in Department traffic efforts under grant funding. He has also shown a willingness to work with the Department's investigators when called upon to do so.

◆ **Officer Steven Munchbach:** Officer Munchbach has been a police officer in Dedham for a little over 8 years. Officer Munchbach has a Masters of Professional Studies in Criminal Justice from Fort Hays State University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Curry College. Officer Munchbach was awarded the Department's Officer of the Year award for 2019. Officer Munchbach

participates in the Department's Police Accreditation efforts. The Accreditation program is a tedious but important initiative to ensure that the Department is maintaining current polices consistent with recognized best practices and operating in accordance with these policies. Officer Munchbach assists with Department efforts in registering sex offenders in accordance with State law. Officer Munchbach has been an active officer on the street. His overall activity level on the street is that of a leader.

◆ **Appointment to Sergeant Detective, Michael Doyle:** Sergeant Detective Doyle has been a police officer in Dedham for over 18 years. He has served as a Sergeant for the past 3+ years. He has significant experience in investigations which he developed by serving as a Detective with the Department for 5 years. He was assigned as a Task Force Officer with a federal agency for 4 years. He has developed significant working relationships with investigators at the local, state and federal level. He has served the Department as Court Prosecutor for over 3 years. His experience in working with court personnel will further benefit the Department's investigative efforts.



Dedham Police Department



Congratulations Detective Deborah Gonski!

Officer of the Year 2020, Detective Deborah L. Gonski: During roll call on January 21, 2021, Detective Deborah Gonski received the Department's Officer of the Year award for 2020. Detective Gonski has been a member of the Department for 9 years. Over the past year, Detective Gonski was instrumental in numerous investigations. She worked collaboratively with multiple outside agencies and other Department members in the investigation and resolution of three significant cases. These cases included the armed robbery of a gas station which included the assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon, a murder investigation and an indecent assault and battery on a child investigation. Detective Gonski maintains positive relationships with members of the Dedham District Court and Norfolk County District Attorneys Office. She consistently goes about her work in a positive and professional manner.



Department of Public Works



When to Contact Us

Please contact DPW at (781) 751-9350 with questions about trash and recycling, road and sidewalk maintenance, traffic signals, street lights, street signs, snow removal, or the treatment of public shade trees.

Service Requests

Report non-emergency issues -- potholes, broken street lights, etc. -- by using the [Service Request](#) tool.

Emergencies

In the event of an after-hours emergency, such as a sewer back-up or street flooding, please contact the on-call manager by calling Central Dispatch: (781) 751-9300.



Mental Health Resources

Riverside 24/7 Crisis Line: (781) 769-8674

[Riverside Community Care Telehealth Services](#) – To get started, contact the Riverside Outpatient Center at (781) 329-0909

[Lion Rock Recovery](#) - a telehealth recovery company is offering free COVID anxiety support group meetings.

National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

Other Resources:

[William James College INTERFACE Referral Service](#)- 888-244-6843 (toll free) INTERFACE provides free and confidential information as well as referrals for alcohol & drug addiction. Helpline available Monday through Friday, 9 am-5 pm, at 888-244-6843 (toll free). This is a free, confidential referral service.

Engineering Department



2020 Engineering Department Annual Update:

Each year the Engineering Department takes some time out to summarize the ongoing and completed projects handled by our department. For those interested in downloading and reading our annual update please visit [here](#).



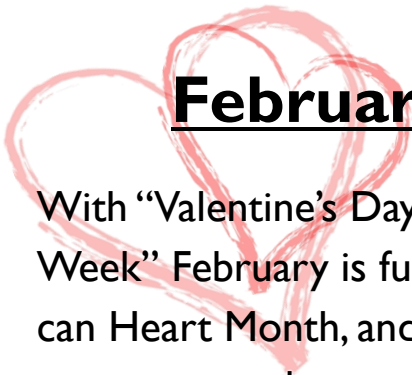
Social Media:

Please find and follow the Engineering Department on Twitter at @tod_engineering. The Engineering Department will be utilizing this Twitter account to post information related to our stormwater system and what we all can do as a Town to improve the water quality of waterways and natural resources.

Stormwater:

Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader? – The Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA) has put together a survey to assess the knowledge of our Dedham residents as it pertains to stormwater. We encourage all members of households and families to compete in this survey to see who is the smartest when it comes to stormwater knowledge. The information collected from this survey will assist NepRWA and the Town of Dedham to develop outreach that will have the greatest impact on improving our local water quality. Please click [here](#) to be taken to the survey.





February is American Heart Month

With “Valentine’s Day”, “Random Acts of Kindness Week”, and “Marriage Week” February is full of love from beginning to end. February is also American Heart Month, and taking care of the health of your heart is more important now than ever before.

According to the *National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute* “Research shows that we're more successful at meeting personal health goals when we join forces with others.”

Make sure you show yourself some TLC and find out ways you and your families can stay healthy and stay involved by visiting [here](#).

7 Days of **Self-Care**



#SelfcareSunday



Create your **self-care checklist** for the week

#MindfulMonday



Know your **blood pressure numbers** and other heart stats

#TastyTuesday



Try a **tasty, heart-healthy recipe**

#WellnessWednesday



Put your **heart** into your wellness routine

#TreatYourselfThursday



Treat your heart to some **relaxation and fun**

#FollowFriday



Share who **inspires you** to show your heart more love

#SelfieSaturday



Post about your favorite way to take care of **your heart**



#OurHearts

HELP REIMAGINE OUR DOWNTOWN

A community meeting about how Dedham can recreate the Police Station in a way that will benefit the entire community!

Tuesday, February 9
7 pm - 9 pm
Zoom.com

Register for the event at:
bit.ly/HelpReimagineOurDowntown



ABRAMSON & ASSOCIATES, Inc.
Real Estate and Public-Private Development Advisory Services

Comments/Questions:

John Sisson
Economic Development Director
jsisson@dedham-ma.gov



TAKE THE SURVEY

VFW Parkway/Providence Highway Corridor Action Plan

Dedham and Boston are creating a transportation action plan that will identify changes and improvements for the area between the intersection of Spring Street and VFW Parkway in West Roxbury and the Marine Rotary at Washington Street in Dedham. Tell us what should be addressed!

Visit: mapc.ma/VFWProvidenceStudySurvey

Learn more: www.mapc.org/dedham-boston-corridor-plan



Stop the Spread of COVID-19

Wear a mask or face covering

Always wear a mask or face covering when you're in public – even outdoors. You could have COVID-19, have no symptoms, and still infect other people. Masks can help prevent the spread of the virus. Masks protect other people.



Wash your hands before putting your mask on and after taking it off. Don't touch the front of the mask. Handle it only by the ear loops or ties.



Cover your nose and mouth with the mask. Pull the bottom down under your chin. Adjust it until it fits snugly against the sides of your face. Your mask should not restrict breathing.



Remember, your mask must cover your nose and mouth at all times.

For more, visit: mass.gov/MaskUp

 Massachusetts Department of Public Health

7/30/2020

Show our local businesses some love!

- Tell your friends and family about our wonderful local, small businesses.
- Follow them on social media and engage with their posts.
- Always be kind.

Dedham

MA

* Designed by townmapsuk.com

#StopTheSpread

Dedham: Need a mask?

Free masks are available to those who need them

Contact one of the volunteers below to place an order:

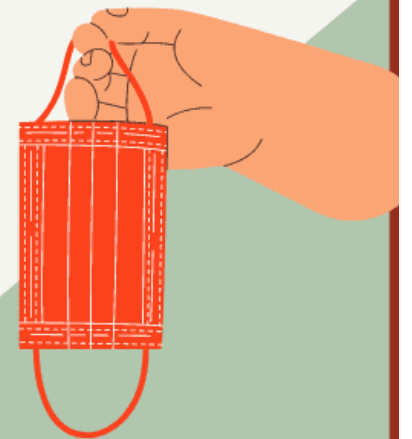
Renee Houle: email Rmhoule01@yahoo.com

Janine Mancuso: call 919-345-5455 or email Janine924@gmail.com

Heather Springer: email hspringe@yahoo.com

Dedham Pharmacy: call 781-326-7007 or email dedhamrx@gmail.com

Thank you to the above Dedham residents for donating their time!



Want to make your own mask?

Check out this video from the CDC <https://bit.ly/howtomasks>

How to use a mask

#KeepDedhamSafe



1. **Clean hands** with soap & water or alcohol-based sanitizer before applying mask.
2. **Cover your mouth and nose.**
3. **Avoid touching the mask.** If you do, clean hands again.
4. **Do not reuse single use masks.**
5. **Wash cloth masks** between use.
6. **Clean hands** with soap & water or alcohol-based sanitizer after removing mask.



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