



IN THIS ISSUE

Updates	1
Meeting Schedule	2
Council on Aging	3
Endicott Estate	4
Human Resources	5
Police Department	6
Dedham Public Schools	9
Sustainability	10
Office of the Treasurer/Collector	12
Planning & Zoning	13
Youth Commission	15

Updates about Town Services

The Select Board and Town Manager, working with many other boards, committees, Town departments, and staff, are doing everything in their power to keep our residents safe, healthy and supported at this time. Below is a summary of some town and community services. See also: [Health Updates](#), [Community Service Updates](#), [Town Services A to Z](#), and [Quarantine Guides](#).

CLOSED: Public Buildings, Facilities, Playing Fields, Basketball Courts

Until **Monday, May 4**, these public areas are closed:

- Town buildings and facilities.
- Playgrounds, playing fields, basketball courts.
- Senior Center. (Council on Aging staff are available to help by phone.)

Town Hall is closed to the public, but staff members are working on site and remotely. We will strive to respond to queries in a timely manner. How to reach us:

[Contact Town staff](#) directly by phone and email,

If you're not sure who to contact, please [see the list of Town departments](#), or

Call the Town Manager's call center, (781) 751-9100, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.



The Town of Dedham now has an official Facebook page. Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/TownofDedham/>

APRIL 2020



Did you know?

Paul Revere never actually yelled "The British are coming!" Although he did warn patriots along his route, his mission depended on secrecy.

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.

Council on Aging

The Dedham Council on Aging, has been closed to the public for about 3 weeks, and we really miss seeing our seniors and staff face-to-face. Our current efforts have focused on helping our neediest seniors by supporting the Dedham Food Pantry with delivering groceries and essential goods to about 54 households on the customary Pantry days, twice a month. We are grateful to Lynn Rogal and her volunteers and the Trustees of



the Dedham Food Pantry who are our heroes, sourcing and packing up to 7 bags of goods for each needy senior and family household on the days the Pantry is open. We also thank the Town Staff who have been so cheerful and flexible in helping to delivering the groceries. We are also concerned about the social isolation of our seniors, and the COA staff has been making calls every day to our seniors who are home, as we all are, but often without access to family, online services and the neighbors they normally can see to share happy visits. We expect to expand our online and cable presence in the coming weeks and are always happy to try to help solve any problem for seniors and their families. Just call the Council on Aging at 781-326-1650.

Sheila Pransky, LICSW, Director



Endicott Estate



Nicholas G. Beram Veterans Association (BERAM)

A year after World War II ended, the Nicholas G. Beram Veterans Association was founded for the express purpose of advancing and supporting an association that would foster and promote social, civic, educational and benevolent activities. A local organization, the Nicholas G. Beram Veterans Association (BERAM) is named in honor of the first acknowledged serviceman of the American/Arabic community to die in action during World War II.

Active for over 70 years, all members of BERAM served in either World War II or the Korean War. In current years membership has decreased to about 30 members but they remain committed to raising funds for their scholarship awards program which serves about 25 youths annually.

BERAM hosts their monthly meetings at the Endicott Estate.



BERAM members including the Ladies Auxiliary

Human Resource Department

Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)

FFCRA was signed into law on March 18, 2020 and is effective from April 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020. The purpose of FFCRA is to assist employees affected by the COVID-19 outbreak with job-protected leave and emergency paid sick leave. The Town is obliged and committed to following the mandates of FFCRA.

More information about FFCRA including the Town's FFCRA Policy is available [here](#).

Free Resources Available to all Town Employees

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

- **Coronavirus Resource and Training Center:** How to stay healthy & well (and manage your stress as well as your mental and emotional health) during coronavirus shutdowns.
- **Stress Relief Program:** Call the EAP between 9 am and 5 pm EST Monday – Friday at 1-800-252-4555 or 1-800-225-2527 and ask to speak with a Stress Relief Counselor.
- **Substance Abuse Counseling:** Call the EAP 24/7 at 1-800-252-4555 or 1-800-225-2527 to speak with a professional counselor who has at least five years' experience dealing with substance abuse and other personal issues.
- **Financial Coaching:** If you need help with budgeting, debt, money management issues or savings, you can call the EAP at 1-800-252-4555 or 1-800-225-2527 or access the Personal Finance Education Center through the EAP's website.
- **One-on-One Personal & Professional Coaching:** Effective Communication, Home Purchasing, Student Debt, Succeeding as a Supervisor, etc.

Healthwise - Coronavirus Resource Center

- The WSHG has also provided us an amazing resource to Healthwise, offering a Coronavirus Resource Center. Here you will find videos and articles on a variety of coronavirus topics, including social distancing, when to call for help, how to talk to children about coronavirus, what to do if you have COVID-19 and much more. You will also find an array of *questions and answers*, such as: how to disinfect your phone, can my pets get COVID-19, what is the length of the illness, and more.

Sleep 101 - Offered through WSHG and Tufts Health Plan

- Sleep is important for our overall well-being because it plays an important role in physical, mental, and emotional health. The Sleep 101 Series will help you learn the importance of getting a good night's rest, and ways to practice healthy sleep habits to improve your sleep hygiene.

Please note that all the above-mentioned information, links, and additional free resources are available via the Town's [website](#).

Dedham Police Department



As an essential service provider, the men and women of the Dedham Police Department remain on duty to respond to emergency needs in the community. With this being said, we have made adjustments to our operations in order to protect the health and well-being of our officers and civilian personnel.

- You will still see officers on patrol in the community. We are trying to follow CDC guidelines by limiting our interaction with members of the community and practicing social distancing;
- We have implemented practices to limit close interactions amongst officers and civilian personnel while maintaining continuity of operations;
- We urge community members with non-emergency policing needs such as reporting a hit and run accident to a parked vehicle, identity theft, scams, lost or stolen property and anything else that does not require an officer to respond in person to be reported by calling the Dedham Police Department at 781 326-1212 to make a phone report. Further details can be obtained by officers via electronic mail if necessary. Please do not come to the police station to make such reports;
- Firearms license renewals shall be processed via mail only. Completed applications along with the required processing fee and proof of residency/business ownership can be mailed to the police station for processing. If you are applying for the first issuance of a firearms license, you may mail the appropriate documents to us for processing once we return to a more normal state of operations;
- If you do call the Dedham Police Department for a situation which does require an officer to respond, Public Safety Dispatchers will be making inquiries related to persons present with symptoms of illness so that responding personnel may be informed and take necessary precautions. We ask for your patience.

Please protect yourself during this public health crisis and comply with emergency measures put in place to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. While maintaining social distance, please keep an eye on senior citizens and any vulnerable persons in your neighborhood.

Dedham Police Department



WILLIAM JAMES
COLLEGE

INTERFACE Referral Service

The town of Dedham is home to many support services for individuals and families seeking mental health resources. The availability of mental health referral service is free of charge to Dedham residents through the Interface service provided by William James College. The Dedham page to their website is here: <https://interface.williamjames.edu/community/dedham>. The phone number to call is:

HELPLINE

888-244-6843 (toll free)

Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm.

The INTERFACE Referral Service remains open for business and our Helpline is available Monday through Friday 9am-5pm. If you are seeking a therapist and wondering about what telemental health is like, our [guide](#) provides information to help you learn more! Massachusetts is also proud to introduce the [Network of Care](#) which directs constituent's to a range of behavioral health and social service resources including resources for navigating the COVID-19 outbreak.

When was your last blood donation?

Healthy, eligible individuals are strongly urged to donate to help avoid potential shortages due to **coronavirus**.



American
Red Cross



Dedham Public Schools

School Nutrition

The Dedham Public Schools School Nutrition Department, led by Director Jeanne Johnson, has worked incredibly hard to offer meals to students who were eligible for free or reduced lunch. The USDA has relaxed the eligibility requirements and the Nutrition Department now offers breakfast and lunches seven days a week to all children under the age of 18 and all enrolled students (Life Skills) up to age 21.

These meals are provided free of charge and since this initiative began on Monday March 16, it has grown from approximately 50 students to now 350 students.

Additionally, for the past two weeks, the School Nutrition Department has provided home delivery of meals to those students whose families are either quarantined or lack available transportation to come to one of our three distribution centers: Avery Elementary at 336 High Street, Riverdale Elementary at 143 Needham Street and Dedham Housing Authority at Veterans Road.



It would be important to mention the scores of volunteers that have assisted food service personnel in the distribution of meals at the three pickup locations as well as Athletic Director Steven Traister and Sam Rippin, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance who have both been delivering the meals to residences in Dedham.

For more information about this program please contact Jeanne Johnson at

jjohnson@dedham.k12.ma.us

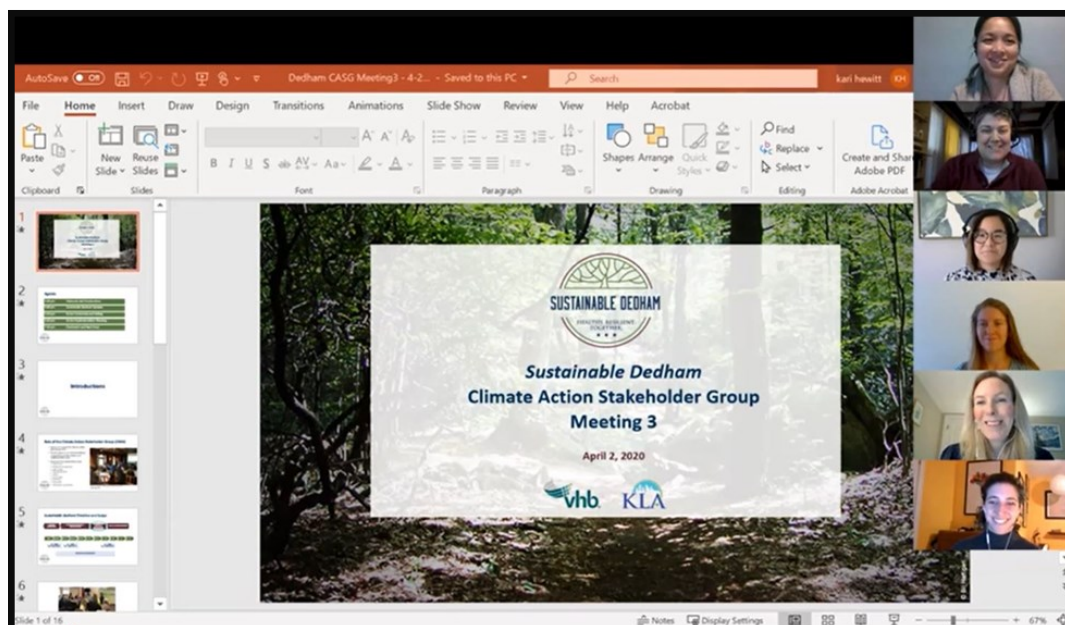
Sustainable Dedham



Environmental Department

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Plan Update

The Sustainable Dedham Climate Action & Resiliency Plan meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 10th was re-scheduled due to the Coronavirus and taken virtual to protect our residents, employees and consultants. On Thursday, April 2nd we had over 22 people participate in a livestream of the plan and I couldn't be more thrilled by how well it went. Participants were able to engage through virtual polling, answering questions that would have been addressed using flip boards and stickers if the meeting was in person. Consultants from KLA and VHB did a fantastic job hosting the meeting and navigating unfamiliar features as we broke out into separate "meeting rooms" for a deep dive into topics. If you missed it, don't worry, the full recorded meeting will be posted on the Environmental Departments webpage.



Sustainable Dedham

Other Updates

The virus has pushed back many of our planned events including the Sustainability Advisory Committee's bi-annual recycle day and Earth Day events. We have a tentative June date for the Recycle Day, but are considering pushing it out to the fall. Earth Day events will be virtual this year with opportunities to engage in a livestream event with Environmental Coordinator, Virginia LeClair and the Sustainability Advisory Committee where residents will hear

about recent programs and have an opportunity to ask questions. We will also be sharing resources and webinars for home composting, green cleaning tips and environmental activities to keep the little ones busy and you sane during this time. Follow us on social media @Sustainable Dedham on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. We hope you will join us virtually as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.



Dedham Trails

The environment has never been more important to each of us as we go to nature to seek out a setting that will offer some sense of respite or relief. Research in this area has shown that nature has considerable benefits to cognitive functioning as well as providing mental recovery alleviating stress. We hope you are all taking care of yourselves during these times and going out on daily walks, runs and hikes. Dedham's Trails are still open and we encourage you to use them while maintain social distancing protocols. As the weather warms the Water Trail provides another opportunity for us to re-



connect with nature as we explore the Charles River using the interpretive maps available at many of the canoe launches and on www.dedhamtrails.com. The Dedham Water Trail offers 3 sites for putting in – the Dolan Center, 269 Common Street, Town Landing – off of Bullard Street and Needham Street Launch. As always, wear a life jacket and be prepared for changes in conditions. We look forward to seeing you on the trails – send us your pictures or tag us @dedhamtrails on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Happy and safe Trails!

Office of the Treasurer/Collector

Office of the Treasurer/Collector – Important April Billing Information

Excise tax bills mailed on February 7, 2020, that were due on March 9th can still be paid per the instructions below. Demand bills have not yet been issued. Please call 781-751-9160 if an expected excise tax bill was not received. I expect that the next RMV excise tax billing will be mailed at the end of May.

The 4th quarter real estate, and personal property tax bills mailed on March 31, 2020 are now due on June 1, 2020, per the Select Board's vote on April 9th to extend the due date per the Governor's new legislation. Please monitor the Town's website for a notice regarding interest once the Department of Revenue further clarifies the new laws.

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.



Planning & Zoning Department

Department Operations Update

The Department has made significant changes to our operations in order to continue providing essential, important and highly beneficial services to the Town of Dedham. As such, the operations of the Department are being conducted through email or telephone. Please visit the department's webpage for contact information, here:

<https://www.dedham.ma.gov/departments/planning-zoning>.

The department is encouraging potential applicants to delay filings until the Commonwealth's Emergency declaration has been lifted. Furthermore, both the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals have been advised to not conduct public hearings virtually or over telephone conference. Due to the potential inability for every citizen of Dedham to participate virtually or via the phone, any public hearings are being continued until the Commonwealth's Emergency declaration have been lifted.

Recent Planning Board Approvals

Dedham Health & Athletic Complex – Convert an existing two-story, +/- 1,600 sq. ft. racquetball court and rock-climbing studio into two (2) new studios for the facility's "Base" program at 200 Providence Highway.

Brian Cummings – Change the use of an existing two-family dwelling to commercial storage/showroom and one dwelling unit, including improving the existing parking layout and landscaping at 126-128 Milton Street.

Sign Code Study

The Town is teaming up with consultant [Harriman](#) to update Dedham's Sign Code. The Study will seek to modernize the current sign code, with a goal of a more efficient sign permit/review process. The Study is expected to begin in May 2020, with the consultants interviewing the many Town stakeholders where the sign code has a role.



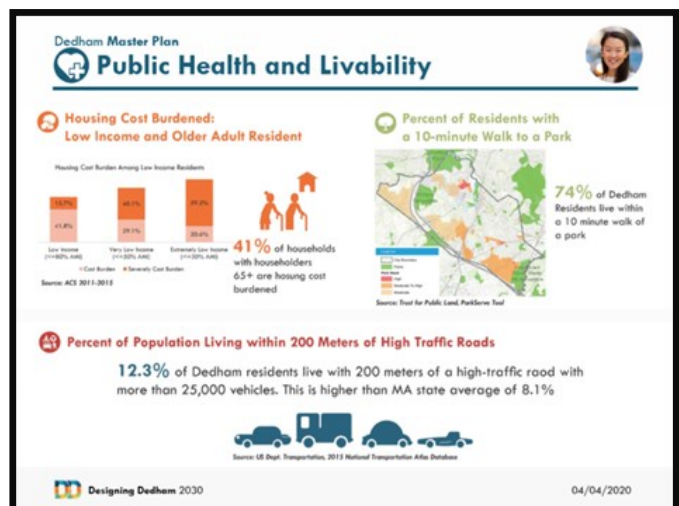
Planning & Zoning Department



We are so happy to announce that the department now has a live Facebook page. Check us out at Dedham, MA: Planning & Zoning, by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/Dedham-MA-Planning-Zoning-102768344683729/?epa>, where we will have updates on town studies, meetings, events and more. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, email one of the staff members in the department or easily send a message via the chat function.

Designing Dedham 2030: Virtual Community Workshop

A virtual community workshop was held on April 4, 2020 to kick-off the [Designing Dedham 2030](#) Master Plan process. The event, which brought over 100 live participants and 300 Facebook Live viewers together, was hosted by the Town's master plan consultant, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). The workshop provided an overview of the Master Plan process thus far, discussed the Master Plan topic areas (housing, economic development, public health, transportation, etc.) and utilized live polling regarding issues and opportunities for the Town. As next steps, an online survey has been setup on the project's website (www.designingdedham2030.org) for Dedham residents and stakeholders to define priorities and goals in each of the topic areas. The project website is also a great resource to learn more about the master plan process, find project documents, view videos, and sign up for future events/notifications.



Youth Commission

Summer Programs Update

Registration for summer programs has been extended to **April 24**.

These programs include the following: College Bound, Journey, and Launch. Registration forms can be downloaded from the Youth Commission facebook page or email rblaney@dedham-ma.gov.

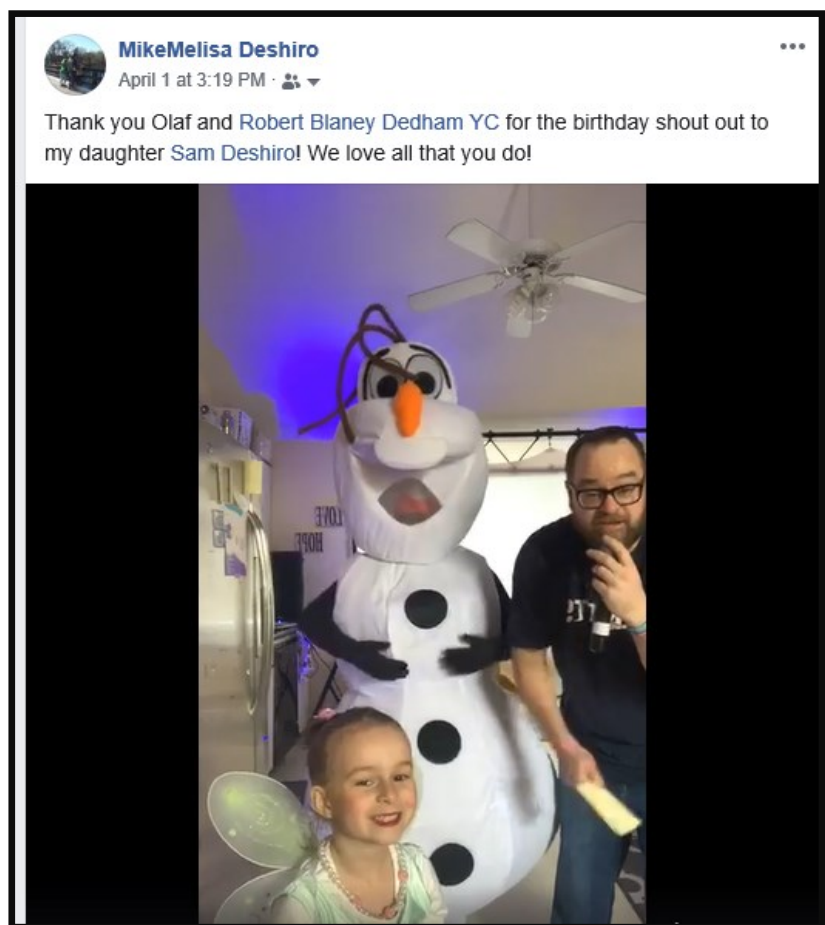
Unfortunately, our annual Character Day Celebration event for April 22 has been postponed.

This event, which usually hosts over 200 kids, is one of our main fundraisers to assist families in need in Dedham.

But good news! The NYC will be hosting a weekly activity or event live on facebook with a costumed character.

Olaf and the NYC held an awesome family dance party and sing along last week.

Woody from Toy Story, Curious George, Elsa & Anna from Frozen and the Paw Patrol Pups are all in line for upcoming facebook live events for kids and families. Check out the Dedham Youth Commission facebook page for updates. Donations (not required) of any amount can be made at the end of each weekly show. Money raised will be used to provide gift cards to families financially affected by the COVID 19 crisis.





Town of Dedham, MA

26 Bryant St, Dedham, MA 02026

(781)751-9100

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

Please subscribe to receive notification of each new issue!