

Town Hall Talk

A Message From the Dedham Board of Health

The Board met briefly and discussed the MASK UP DEDHAM campaign. Signs have been placed at Memorial Park, Oakdale Common and Condon Park. Additional signs have been ordered and will be placed throughout Town.

The purpose of the campaign is to draw attention to the importance of wearing a mask, and the positive effects it has on slowing the spread of the virus. The Board encourages residents to participate in and support the Mask Up Dedham campaign – together, we CAN make a difference.

In support of the Mask Up Dedham campaign, Select Board Chair Dennis Teehan said, “Masking is one of the most important ways to help control the spread of COVID19. Wear your mask whenever in public, be sure to practice proper hygiene and do not touch your mask!!”

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JANUARY 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.





Assessor's Department

Important Tax Information

The Town of Dedham operates on a fiscal year that starts on July 1st and ends on June 30th each year. We use a quarterly tax billing system, meaning we mail tax bills four times per year:

- First quarter: July 1 (Preliminary Tax Bill)
- Second quarter: October 1 (Preliminary Tax Bill)
- Third quarter: January 1 (Actual Tax Bill)
- Fourth quarter: April 1 (Actual Tax Bill)

Therefore, be on the lookout for your **3rd QUARTER** tax bill for Fiscal Year 2021.

The 3rd Quarter actual tax bills will have the new valuation set by the Assessors and approved by the Department of Revenue as well as the new set tax rate approved by our local Select Board. Your actual tax is calculated by taking the new assessment valuation per thousand multiplied by the new tax rate. The actual tax due is the balance remaining after the first and second preliminary tax installments are credited against the total tax due and is payable in two equal installments split on the 3rd and 4th Quarter Tax Bill.

The Fiscal Year 2021 Tax Rates are as follows.

Residential: \$13.67

CIP: \$28.86

Fiscal Year 2021 Assessment Values are how the properties exist as of January 1st, 2020. Residential values are based on sales activity during the calendar year 2019 while CIP (commercial, industrial and personal property) values are derived based on market data (income and expenses, data sheets, etc.) from calendar 2019. Fiscal Year 2021 Assessment Values are printed on the 3rd Quarter tax bill, but can also be found online [here](#).

If you have questions regarding your FY2021 Assessment Values, you can contact the Assessor's Office at (781) 751-9130. Please keep in mind what is important when determining fair and equitable assessment values; recent sales prices, condition, neighborhood, building area, lot area as well as a variety of other factors.

After discussing your FY2021 Assessment Value with the staff in the Assessor's Office and reviewing comparable properties, if you still have a difference of opinion of value, you may appeal your assessment to the Board of Assessors by filing an abatement application. The application must be filed with the Board of Assessors no later than February 1st or have a United States Post Office postmark of no later than February 1st. The information regarding filing an abatement application is also located on the back of your tax bill. Please remember that you are appealing your assessment value and NOT your actual taxes.

While we understand that 2020, as a whole, has been extremely difficult and trying for everyone, it should be noted that the FY2021 Assessment Values are how the properties existed as of January 1st, 2020 and the values are derived from sales and market data from calendar year 2019, which was prior to the Pandemic and economic effects of Covid -19.

Charter Review Committee

Dedham Town Governance Survey



Do you want to share your thoughts on what is and isn't working in Dedham government? For example, should we consider a form of government other than Town Meeting? Should there be term limits for elected officials? Should all department heads report to the Town Manager?

The Charter Review Committee is inviting all Dedham residents to complete a brief, anonymous survey on what they think of how our government is organized and operated. Questions relate to Town Meeting; elected and appointed boards and committees; the reporting structure for department heads; term limits; and your thoughts on being involved in town government as a citizen.



This survey is for **EVERYONE** who has an opinion on Dedham's government. You can find the survey [here](#).



Council on Aging

We had a Very Successful Mitten Tree!

Happy Healthy New Year to all!

Let's hope for a MUCH better New Year.

We were very pleased that we had a very successful Mitten Tree Project this year. People were so generous, and we were able to provide gifts for 35 needy seniors in our community with the help of so many. Special thanks to Senator Mike Rush, Representative Paul McMurtry, the Goddard School of Dedham, the Dedham Police Department, Stop and Shop, Town Hall Staff and many seniors in the community. We were able to fulfill the wish lists of seniors who otherwise would have little.

We also want to thank Selectboard Member Sarah MacDonald, the Dedham Food Pantry, the Dedham Housing Authority Staff, HESSCO and many volunteers who helped provide Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to hundreds of needy seniors and families for the holidays.



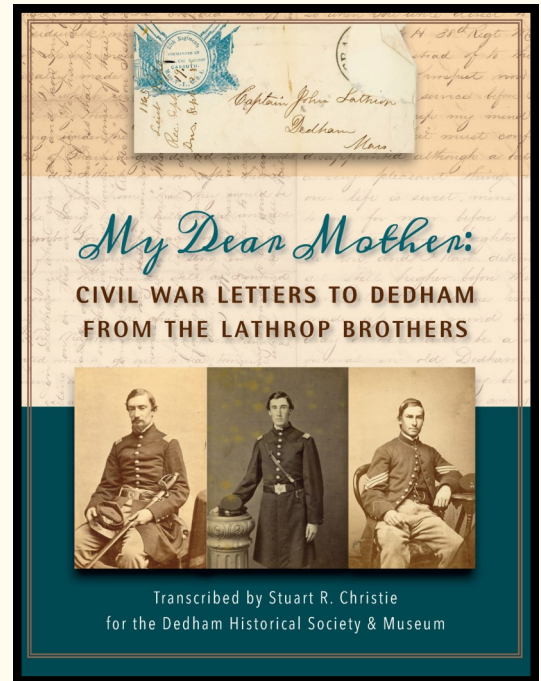
Dedham Historical Society & Museum

Announces New Publication

NEW BOOK BRINGS THE CIVIL WAR HOME IN LETTERS FROM THE LATHROP BROTHERS

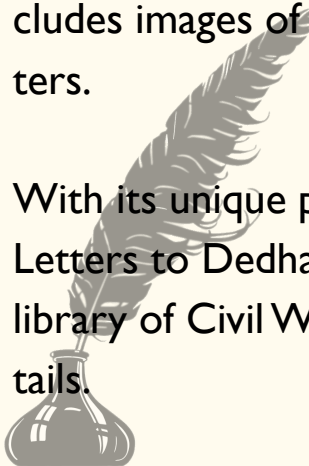
John, Julius, and Joseph Lathrop of Dedham enlisted to fight for the Union after the Civil War broke out in 1861. During the next four years, they wrote roughly 100 letters home to their mother and sisters. More than 150 years later, the Lathrop letters come to life in the new book, *My Dear Mother: Civil War Letters to Dedham from the Lathrop Brothers*.

Between them the Lathrop brothers saw action across the breadth of the war, from Antietam and Fredericksburg in the East to Port Hudson in the West. The letters tell of the fierce battles, long marches, camp life, and their dedication to the Union cause. When the war ended, only two brothers returned home.



In 1928, a descendant donated the letters to the Dedham Historical Society. Three years ago, volunteers began the painstaking process of transcribing the letters for publication. Along with photographs of the brothers, the book includes images of battlefield maps hand-drawn by John and Julius in their letters.

With its unique perspective from three siblings, *My Dear Mother: Civil War Letters to Dedham from the Lathrop Brothers* is an important addition to the library of Civil War letters and diaries. Visit www.dedhamhistorical.org for details.



Dedham Police Department



Municipal Road Safety Grant

The Dedham Police Department was recently awarded \$24,991.10 in grant funding from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security under the FFY2021 Municipal Road Safety Grant Program. These funds will be used to add patrols during designated enforcement campaigns focused on Winter Impaired Driving (through January 23, 2021), Distracted Driving (April 2-18, 2021), Click It or Ticket (May 17 -31, 2021), Speed (June 11 – 27, 2021) and Summer Impaired Driving (August 20 – September 6, 2021). Officers assigned to these patrols dedicate 100% of their time to traffic enforcement working to increase safety on our roads. This grant will also provide the Department with two additional pole mounted speed display units. Once acquired, these speed display units will be deployed to streets where we experience higher concentrations of vehicular crashes and/or speed infractions.



Dedham Police Department



Holiday Food Pantry Donation

A Department favorite holiday tradition continued on Sunday December 20, 2020. The Department's School and Community Resource funding provided for a donation of 1,081 lbs. of spiral ham to the Dedham Food Pantry. Several officers, family members and Ruby (#gofidog) were on hand to assist in the distribution of the hams and other food assistance from the food pantry. Thanks to Ralph, John and Kirk from Stop and Shop who assisted with the procurement of the hams for distribution today. Special thanks to Lt. Black who once again brought his entire family to help out!



Dedham Police Department

Riverside Community Care's Law Enforcement Clinical Support Program

The Town has contracted with Riverside Community Care to provide the Police Department with a Master's Level Clinician ("Riverside Clinician") to provide on-site clinical support to serve the community as part of Riverside Community Care's Law Enforcement Clinical Support Program (the "LECS Program"). Such partnerships have become common practice with Police Departments. Ideally, we look for ways to better serve community members struggling with mental health issues in the community while the situation is not a crisis. This can help to reduce the need for hospital transports and the demand on emergency rooms.

A sampling of the responsibilities associated with this position include:

1. Provide flexible mobile or station-based intervention, counseling, assessment, triage, referral and education to the community as requested by the police department.
2. Meet with the family members of a struggling minor in the community at an agreed upon location, which may include school, home or the library.
3. Assist with referrals for mental health treatment and support services.
4. Respond with law enforcement to calls requiring mental health support.
5. Outreach with community members to provide guidance in the development of safety plans.
6. Provide crisis evaluation and assistance to community members seeking substance abuse treatment.

Our Clinician's name is Kim Kidders-Montoya. She began work in Dedham during December. Kim's regular schedule with the Police Department includes Tuesdays and Fridays from 1 pm – 9 pm and Thursdays from 1 pm – 5 pm.

Riverside Community Care

Leading the Way in Behavioral Healthcare & Human Services

Dedham Police Department



Recent Promotions and Appointments with the Dedham Police Department

Officer Michael Feeley promoted to Sergeant effective December 27, 2020:

Officer Feeley 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 promoted to Sergeant effective December 28, 2020:

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 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 effective December 27, 2020:

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

Retirement: Officer Cathy Doherty

Officer Cathy Doherty retired from the Dedham Police Department effective November 29, 2020. Cathy served the community as a Police Officer for almost 33 years. Cathy had a strong ability to communicate and enjoyed conversation. This is an invaluable tool for a Police Officer. She was a supporter of youth programs run by Officer Arthur Munchbach earlier in her career. She was involved with Departmental Domestic Violence efforts under Chief Teehan. Later in her career, Cathy became the lead organizer and keeper of the Front Desk area. She organized documents, conducted inquiries to support administrative efforts and acted as the face of the Department, handling inquiries from members of community who entered the lobby to seek assistance or file a report.

Best wishes to Cathy for a long and healthy retirement!



Department of Public Works



Snow Plowing and Removal

To report an area in need of the plowing or removal of snow, please use our [online service request](#) form.

DPW may hire contractors to assist in plowing and/or removing snow seasonally. Contracts are typically finalized in October each year. For more information, please call (781) 751-9350.



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



Endicott Estate



What a year!

2020

This year has undoubtedly been one to remember.

The Endicott Estate rang in 2020 celebrating love and new beginnings, and while events and gatherings may look and feel differently than ever before; we are grateful for our close community and another year creating new and wonderful socially-distant memories!



Happy New Year from the Endicott Estate.



Facilities Department

Dedham Public Safety Building Project

Ground has broken and excavation is in progress for the new Public Safety Building starting with removal of topsoil and beginning of underground utilities and foundation excavations.

Project Estimated Completion Spring 2023.



Topsoil being piled up and readied for removal



Underground utilities and excavation in progress



Facilities Department



Mucciaccio Pool Building – Window Replacement Project

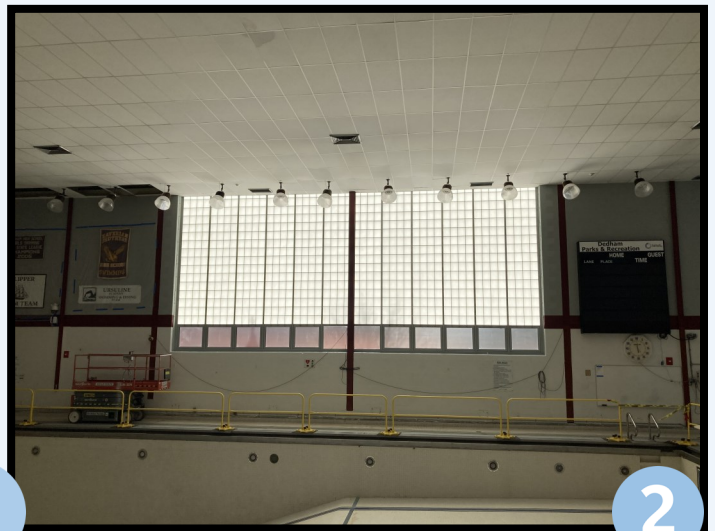
Window installation is now complete. Windows have been caulked, screens installed, touchup painting done, ceiling tile at new windows replaced.

1. Interior view of new windows at West side of building
2. Interior view of new windows at South side of building
3. Exterior view of new windows on South and West side of building

Final as-built drawings and Punchlist in progress for record.



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2



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Facilities Department

Mucciaccio Pool Building – HVAC System Renovations

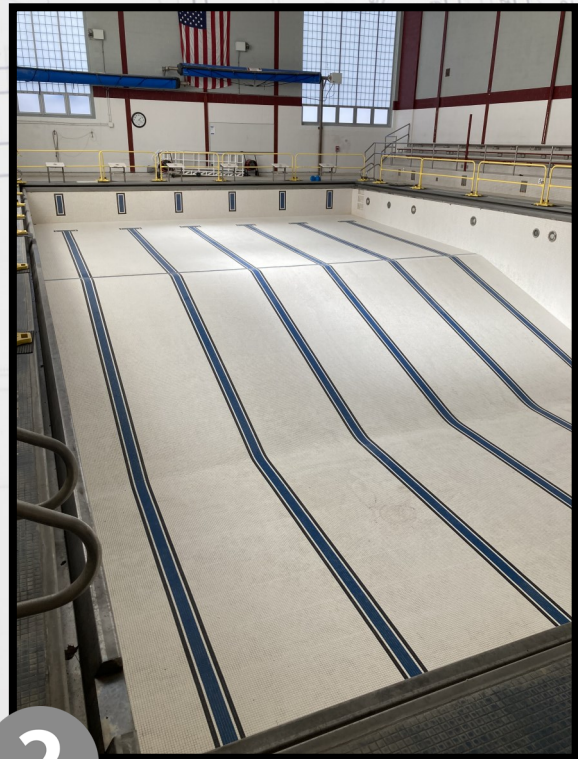
Work has begun on the replacement of the existing rooftop air conditioning/heating units serving the main pool area which are out of commission and no longer serviceable. Units will be replaced with new dedicated “Pool-Pak” HVAC System with new ductwork and modifications to existing electrical and plumbing systems to service new equipment.

1. Excavation begins for new mechanical concrete pad at ground level adjacent to South side of building for new HVAC unit.
2. Pool drained in advance of scaffolding installation to access pool ceiling.

Estimated completion April 2021



1



2

Planning & Zoning Department



Designing Dedham Open House - January 26

Join us for our second of three open houses geared towards exploring the main topic areas of the Designing Dedham 2030 Master Plan. We will focus on Housing, Public Health, Natural Cultural and Historic Resources for this fun, informative and interactive event!

We look forward to seeing you!

Register [here](#).

Save the dates!

Community Open Houses



December 7th, 2020
7:00 pm

Topics covered:

-  **Economic Development**
-  **Transportation**

Register for this event:
<http://bit.ly/DD2030-12-07-2020>

January 26th, 2021
7:00 pm

Topics covered:

-  **Housing**
-  **Public Health/Livability**
-  **Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resources**

Register for this event:
<http://bit.ly/DD2030-01-26-2021>

March 23rd, 2021
7:00 pm

Topics covered:

-  **Land Use**
-  **Municipal Facilities and Services**
-  **Governance**

Register for this event:
<http://bit.ly/DD2030-03-23-2021>




Designing Dedham





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