

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

A summary of news, events, and other announcements for the week of September 7, 2021

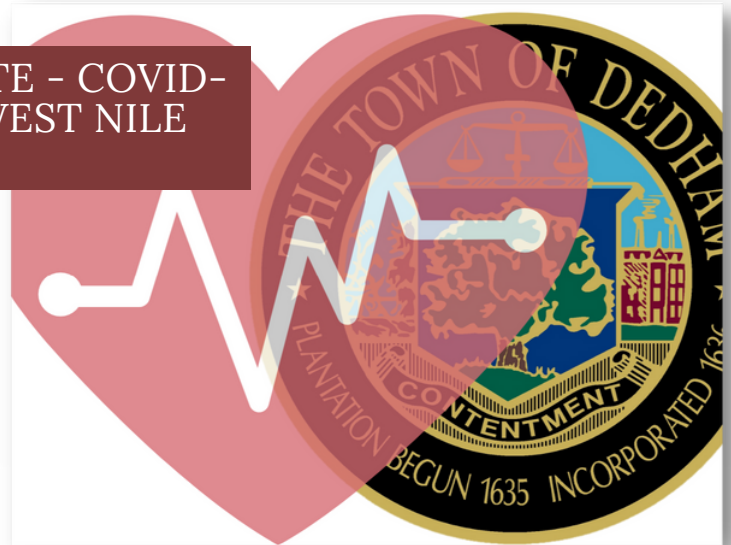


DEDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT TO HOLD CEREMONY IN REMEMBRANCE OF 9/11 VICTIMS

The Dedham Fire Department will host the annual ceremony to remember the victims of 9/11 on Saturday, September 11, 2021 at 9:45 a.m. Please read page 3 for more information.

WEEKLY BOARD OF HEALTH UPDATE - COVID-19 VACCINE, VACCINE CLINICS, WEST NILE VIRUS, & MORE

The Dedham Board of Health released their weekly update on September 3rd about confirmed cases of Covid-19, vaccine clinics, West Nile Virus, and more. Read their full update on page 3.



MASSWILDLIFE DETERMINES BIRD FEEDERS NOT CAUSE FOR CONCERN

MassWildlife is providing an update on the bird illness in other states and modifying its recommendations regarding bird feeding. The full update from MassWildlife can be found on page 5.



MASSWILDLIFE



DEDHAM PUBLIC ART PROJECT IN DEDHAM SQUARE

Through a collaboration with Dedham Civic Pride, the Dedham Library Innovation Team and local artists, a new artistic feature is coming to Dedham Square. Read page 5 for more information.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING PROJECT UPDATES

For a summary of construction work onsite this week and for potential impacts to travel around the project site, please see page 6.



PUBLIC MEETINGS & UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS



Meetings and events around Town are being held in-person, virtually, and using a hybrid model in an effort to keep everyone engaged and involved. Check out page 7 for a list of upcoming meetings and community events happening around Town.

DEDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT TO HOLD CEREMONY IN REMEMBRANCE OF 9/11 VICTIMS



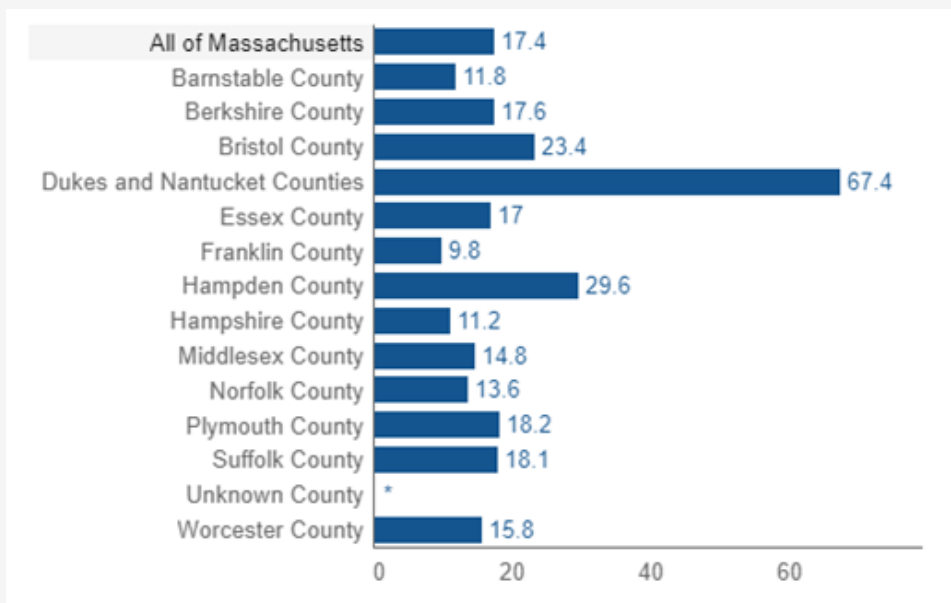
On Saturday, September 11, 2021, the Dedham Fire Department will hold a memorial ceremony in remembrance of the victims of the terrorist attacks that took place 20 years ago on September 11, 2001. This ceremony will take place in front of Fire Headquarters at 9:45 am.

This annual ceremony is to remember and recognize those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 in New York City, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania, as well as, all U.S. Service Members and First Responders who have lost their lives since that date.

All members of the community are welcome to join the members of the Dedham Fire and Police Departments as we observe of the 20th anniversary of this tragic event.

WEEKLY BOARD OF HEALTH UPDATE - COVID-19 VACCINE, VACCINE CLINICS, WEST NILE VIRUS, AND MORE

The Board reports that as of Thursday, September 2nd, there have been 2,587 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Town. This is an increase of 32 cases from last week's update. Currently, there are 33 active confirmed cases.



14-DAY AVERAGE DAILY INCIDENCE RATE PER 100,000 PEOPLE PER COUNTY IN MA (AUGUST 8TH - AUGUST 21ST)

TAKEN FROM THE STATE'S COVID-19 INTERACTIVE DATA DASHBOARD.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

WEEKLY BOARD OF HEALTH UPDATE (CONTINUED)

COVID-19 Vaccine

The Board encourages anyone who is eligible and unvaccinated to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Anyone 12 years and older is eligible for the vaccine. The vaccine is safe, free, and effective – even against the Delta variant. Getting vaccinated will help Dedham get back to normal. Go to [Vaxfinder.mass.gov](https://www.vaxfinder.mass.gov) or contact your local pharmacy or healthcare provider for information about getting the vaccine.

Booster Dose for the General Public

More guidance from federal authorities is needed before administering booster shots to the general public. A booster for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has not been recommended at this time. The Board will continue to update residents as more information becomes available.

Board of Health Vaccine Clinics

Currently, there are no scheduled COVID-19 vaccination clinics through the Board of Health. When more guidance about booster shots is available, the Board will look into holding clinics. Flu clinics are in the process of being planned. The Board will send out notification once the flu clinic schedule has been finalized.

MassNotify

MassNotify is a tool that works through smartphones to privately alert users who may have been exposed to COVID-19. You can enable MassNotify on your iPhone or Android phone to add another tool to our fight against the spread of COVID-19.

- By opting in, your smartphone will share anonymous codes with other MassNotify users using your phone's Bluetooth.
- MassNotify codes contain no personal information or location data and are completely anonymous.
- If another user you've been near tests positive for COVID-19 within a 14-day period, you will be notified. If you test positive, you can easily and anonymously notify others to stop the spread of COVID-19.

1st Positive Human West Nile Virus Case this Season– Middlesex County

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced on Wednesday, September 1st that a Massachusetts resident tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The resident was likely exposed in Middlesex County. The risk level of WNV in Dedham remains low. Regardless, it is important that Dedham residents take precautions to prevent mosquito bites.

The **Norfolk County Mosquito Control District** treats all catch basins in Dedham to prevent mosquito breeding. Additionally, you can request spraying in your area by calling the Mosquito Control District at **(781)762-3681**.

The following are safety tips to ensure you and your family have a fun and safe September while outdoors:

Mosquito-Proof Your Home:

- Drain standing water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and kiddie pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.
- Install or repair screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly fitting screens on all your windows and doors.

Avoid Mosquito Bites:

- Apply insect repellent when outdoors. Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535 according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under 3 years old.
- Be aware of peak mosquito hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning.

Clothing can help reduce mosquito bites. Wearing long-sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

MASSWILDLIFE DETERMINES BIRD FEEDERS NOT CAUSE FOR CONCERN

The following advisory was provided by MassWildlife:

MassWildlife is providing an update on the bird illness in other states and modifying its recommendations regarding bird feeding. In mid-July, due to an unknown illness in birds from other states in the mid-Atlantic and mid-west region, MassWildlife requested the public report bird mortalities and stop using bird feeders and bird baths. Since then, MassWildlife has been monitoring bird mortality reports and communicating with other state wildlife biologists and wildlife disease professionals. This announcement comes after MassWildlife participated in a recent regional meeting with northeastern state and federal wildlife biologists and other natural resource professionals.

MassWildlife thanks all residents who reported bird mortalities or took other actions to protect bird populations. Although there were some reports of sick birds showing symptoms consistent with the mystery illness, it was not confirmed to be found in Massachusetts. The cause of large scale bird mortality events documented in at least 10 states since May remains unknown despite extensive and continued testing at the National Wildlife Health Center and other laboratories. While no definitive illness or cause of death has been determined, reports of sick and dead birds have dramatically decreased in the impacted states. Researchers have ruled out all of the typical bird illnesses including avian influenza, West Nile Virus, and Newcastle Disease. Furthermore, toxicology results have been negative for heavy metals and common pesticides and herbicides. Wildlife disease specialists found no direct evidence linking the disease to cicada brood emergence events. No human health or domestic animal (livestock, poultry, pets) issues have been documented.

Based on current knowledge, there is no indication that bird feeders and baths are contributing to the spread of this recent illness. Despite this, MassWildlife cautions rushing to put your bird feeders back up, as bird seed and suet are known to attract other animals like rodents, bears, and turkeys, which can cause conflicts between humans and wildlife. If you choose to resume feeding birds, MassWildlife advises taking certain bird health and safety precautions. Since birds congregating at feeders and baths can still spread other diseases, take extra care to disinfect these surfaces on at least a weekly basis. **Clean with soap and water then disinfect with a 10% bleach solution, rinse with clean water, and allow to air-dry. If you observe dead or sick birds at or near a feeder, MassWildlife recommends removing and cleaning feeders and leaving them down for at least two weeks.**

Rather than using bird feeders, MassWildlife suggests considering alternatives which attract birds to yards such as planting native plants, shrubs, or trees, installing water features, and erecting bird houses. These bird-friendly actions safely attract a wider variety of birds while avoiding the potential nuisance issues associated with bird seed (i.e., rodents, bears). Learn about how to attract birds to your yard naturally without feeders.

State wildlife officials will continue to monitor the situation in Massachusetts and communicate with wildlife disease specialists on this illness. If you observe any sick birds showing crusty eyes and neurological symptoms (i.e., stumbling, inability to fly), please report it to MassWildlife using this online form. When new information on the disease becomes available, it will be shared.

DEDHAM PUBLIC ART PROJECT IN DEDHAM SQUARE

Press Release submitted to the Town of Dedham:

Dedham, Massachusetts – Dedham Civic Pride, the Dedham Library Innovation Team, and local artists, thecollab, are joining together to organize The Dedham Public Art Project, an exciting outdoor art installation that will make Dedham even more beautiful!

The project will involve painting the cement barriers that have been placed to allow outdoor dining in Dedham Square. The initial phase of the project will take place on September 12th, when artists Kate Bergeron and Jaimie Varasconi of thecollab (thecollabprojects.com) will paint thirteen of the barriers along High Street in Dedham Square with volunteer support from local artists and educators.

The painted barriers will enhance the outdoor dining experience, celebrate the vibrancy of Dedham, and welcome visitors to explore and enjoy our town.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

DEDHAM PUBLIC ART PROJECT IN DEDHAM SQUARE (CONTINUED)



DEDHAM PUBLIC ART PROJECT
BARRIER CONCEPT
(CLICK ON IMAGE ABOVE TO
ENLARGE)

Janet Holmes from Dedham Civic Pride said, “The public art project will complement the Civic Pride Flower Pots that are located around town, further beautifying our charming town and increasing its vitality.”

Phase 2 of the project will take place in Spring 2022; the group hopes to collaborate with local young artists from the community to paint all of the remaining barriers around town.

All paint and supplies will be provided by donations received from local organizations, businesses, and volunteers.

When creating the design for the Dedham Public Art Project, thecollab focused on creating a unique, engaging backdrop for the community that invokes energy and vibrancy. Kate said, “Jaimie and I developed this custom design for Dedham because we believe that public art has the power to connect communities, empower individuals, and bring joy to its viewers.”

Stop by Dedham Square between 8 am and 4 pm on Sunday, September 12th to say hello and watch the painting in progress!

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING PROJECT UPDATES

What to expect September 7, 2021 (Tuesday) through September 10, 2021 (Friday):

- The project site remains closed to the public.
- On **Tuesday, September 7, 2021**, contractors will begin to trench for under slab utilities in the new parking garage area.
- Mechanical, plumbing, and electrical contractors will be onsite again this week to layout the installation of systems prior to concrete slab placements.
- The dewatering system remains in place and operational.
- Expect periodic entrance and exit of large trucks at the project site entrance, located at the intersection of Washington Street and Bryant Street. Please expect minor traffic delays at this intersection.
- No additional traffic impacts or pedestrian impacts are anticipated during this week.

For more information and to sign up for weekly construction updates, visit the [Public Safety Building Project page](#).



IMAGE TAKEN ON FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 3, 2021 FROM THE
PUBLIC VIEW AREA OUTSIDE TOWN
HALL

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENT UPDATE:

NEW WEBPAGE AND BANNERS FOR POLICE STATION PROPERTY PROJECT



To provide background information and to highlight the various ways to stay engaged, a new webpage has been created on the Town website for the Police Station Property Project, located at 600 High Street. Visit the project page at www.dedham-ma.gov/600high and learn about the work completed to date by the Dedham Square Planning Committee.

As of Tuesday, September 7, 2021, two new banners have been hung outside the Police Station building along High Street and Washington Street to spread the word about the project and about the upcoming virtual community event on September 14th: **Hey, Dedham. What's next for 600 High Street?** A QR code is included on the banner to access the project page and to register to attend the event. Also shown on the banner is the history of the building, an overview of the surrounding properties, and who to contact with questions or ideas for the project.

It is the unrelenting goal of the DSPC to provide an opportunity for each Dedham resident to participate in this process and take pride in the outcome that will serve this community for years to come. To learn more about the DSPC and about this project, visit www.dedham-ma.gov/600high, or contact John Sisson at jsisson@dedham-ma.gov.

PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMUNITY EVENTS THIS WEEK

Agendas and event information are linked below. Meeting information is also available on our website calendar



Tuesday, 9/7/21:

- **Open Space & Recreation Committee** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Blue Hills Regional District School Committee** at 7:00 p.m. Hybrid Meeting

Wednesday, 9/8/21:

- **Dedham Farmers Market**, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at First Church Green
- **Active Transportation Working Group** at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Board of Assessors** at 5:30 p.m. via Teleconference
- **Planning Board** at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Thursday, 9/9/21:

- **Board of Library Trustees** at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Select Board** at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **Cultural Council** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Charter Review Committee** at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Events shown as listed on the Town calendar as of 9/7/21

Don't forget to check out the [Dedham Public Library events calendar!](#)

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!



Sign up to receive news, updates, and other announcements, delivered right to your inbox from the Town of Dedham on our website. The best part is, you can select the topics you are interested in and update this information at any time!



Departments across Town have set up social media accounts to share information, as well as post about exciting news around Town. Visit our [Social Media page](#) to find the accounts you want to follow!