

# WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

*A summary of news, events, and other announcements for the week of January 18, 2022*



**Select Board  
wants to hear  
from you!**

## SELECT BOARD TO HOST SECOND OF TWO VIRTUAL LISTENING SESSIONS FOR TOWN GREEN PROJECT

The Dedham Select Board is hosting the second of two public listening sessions tonight, January 18th, and invite public comment for the proposed Town Green project at 600 High Street. Read more on page 3.

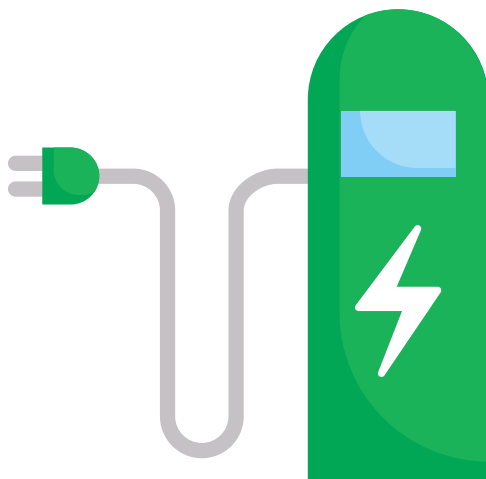
## BOARD OF HEALTH UPDATE – JANUARY 14, 2022

The Dedham Board of Health reports as of January 13, 2022, there have been a total of 4,314 total confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Dedham, and 466 new cases since the January 6, 2022. The full update is on page 4.



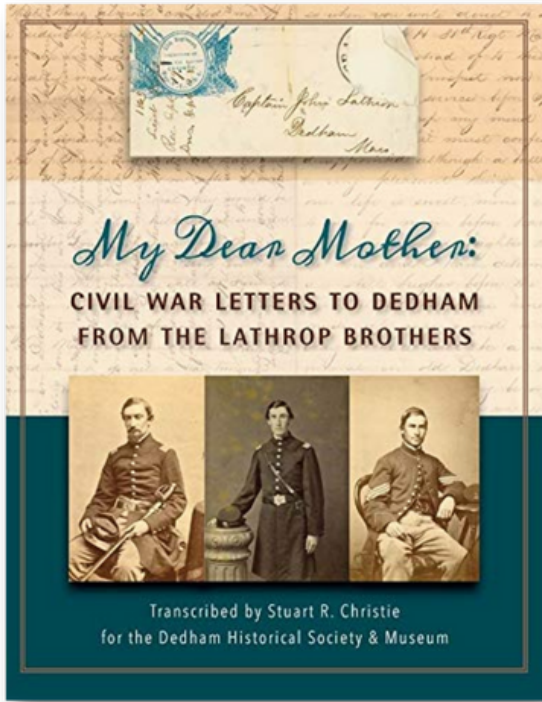
## ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION INSTALLATION AT TOWN HALL

Construction began this week to install a new, electric vehicle charging station in the front parking lot at Town Hall. Read more on page 4.



## COUNCIL ON AGING TO HOST EVENT WITH LOCAL HISTORIAN

The Dedham Council on Aging invites everyone to attend an upcoming event with Dedham resident, Stuart Christie, on Thursday, January 20, 2022. Join them as Mr. Christie shares his research and stories from the Lathrop Brothers as captured in their letters sent home to Dedham. Read more on page 5.



## PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING PROJECT UPDATES

The Public Safety Building project team is prepping for winter weather and the building structure is taking shape. Read what to expect this week on page 6.



## PUBLIC MEETINGS & UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

View this week's schedule, review posted agendas, and find out how to attend upcoming events and meetings on page 8.



## SELECT BOARD TO HOST SECOND OF TWO VIRTUAL LISTENING SESSIONS FOR TOWN GREEN PROJECT

The Select Board is encouraging those who were not able to attend the first listening session on Tuesday, January 11 to join them next Tuesday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom to share comments and suggestions regarding the proposed Town Green project on the Police Station property. A recording of the first listening session is available on Dedham TV local channels and on [www.dedhamtv.com](http://www.dedhamtv.com).

Over seventy participants joined the first Select Board listening session on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 via Zoom and expressed their feedback regarding the **proposal prepared by the Dedham Square Planning Committee (DSPC)**. The Select Board is using all feedback that residents and taxpayers have shared with them during the listening sessions and through written communications to inform them as they review the proposal and take an official vote to recommend the project to Town Meeting or to seek additional information.



**Town Green Project Listening Sessions**  
THE SELECT BOARD WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Dedham Square Planning Committee has presented their final project proposal to the Select Board for the Town Green Project at 600 High Street (Police Station property) and the Select Board would like to invite the public to share their feedback and comments. Two virtual, public listening sessions have been scheduled, details shown below:

<b>EVENT DATES</b>	<b>Tuesday, January 18, 2022</b> 6:30 p.m. via Zoom	Watch the January 11th Listening Session on <b>Dedham TV</b>
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Zoom information is available on the Town website calendar at [www.dedham-ma.gov/calendar](http://www.dedham-ma.gov/calendar)

**Join the conversation!**

The listening sessions are intended to be open and productive public discussions about the Town Green proposal and to share constructive comments and feedback with the Select Board on the future of the Police Station property.

Can't attend or want to submit written comments? Send an email to the Select Board at [freshideas@dedham-ma.gov](mailto:freshideas@dedham-ma.gov) or mail comments to Town Hall Attn: Select Board, 450 Washington Street, Dedham, MA 02026

DEDHAM-MA.GOV | @DEDHAMTHRIVES

### EVENT DATES

The upcoming virtual, public listening session will be held: **Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**

View the January 11, 2022 recording on [Dedham TV](#)

The primary goals of these listening sessions are for the Select Board to hear directly from the public about the proposal and to hear what they envision to be the best option for the Police Station property, located at 600 High Street in Dedham Square. Each listening session includes a public comment period where attendees who wish to speak will be given 3 minutes and all comments and questions will be documented as part of the public record. The listening session will not include a question and answer session with the Select Board.

The Select Board is planning to continue their discussion and take a vote at an upcoming public meeting. All meeting agendas are posted with the Town Clerk and made available on the Town website where they are also be shared via email to subscribers. To sign up to receive email notifications for Select Board meetings, please visit [www.dedham-ma.gov/subscribe](http://www.dedham-ma.gov/subscribe) to enter your email address and choose "Select Board" from the list.

The process to review the potential use and reuse of the current Police Station Property at 600 High Street began in 2019 when the Select Board asked the DSPC to evaluate and research the economic development opportunities for this space. The DSPC is a group of more than twenty volunteers, representative of each Dedham precinct, who have contributed their time and a variety of skills and experience to this process. The DSPC **presentation of the final proposal to the Select Board in November 2021** marked the culmination of more than two years of diligent work and research that included the professional expertise of design and real estate consultants, and a series of community engagement events with residents from each precinct and neighborhood who expressed a variety of opinions and suggestions for the property that were incorporated into the final proposal to the Select Board.

As the Chief Executive Office of the Town, the Select Board must now complete the next step in the overall process by taking a vote to recommend the project to Town Meeting for funding or vote to seek additional information based on their findings and review of the proposal.

For those who cannot attend or would prefer to submit their comments in writing can send an email to the Select Board at [freshideas@dedham-ma.gov](mailto:freshideas@dedham-ma.gov) or mail your comments to Town Hall Attn: Select Board, 450 Washington Street, Dedham, MA 02026.

To review the full proposal prepared by the Dedham Square Planning Committee and to revisit the community engagement efforts completed by the Committee over the past two years, please visit [www.dedham-ma.gov/600high](http://www.dedham-ma.gov/600high). The report has also been separated into sections for review and download.

## BOARD OF HEALTH UPDATE – JANUARY 14, 2022

Below please find COVID-19 information as of January 13, 2022. More statistics can be found on [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).

	Total Cases	New Cases	14-day Percent Positivity	Fully Vaccinated Residents
Dedham	4,314	466 (since January 6, 2022)	12.73%	19,729
MA	1,135,380	22,184 (on January 11, 2022)	15.03%	5,137,794

NOTE: These numbers do not include the people who tested positive with at-home antigen tests.

### **Biden-Harris Administration Requires Insurance Companies and Group Health Plans to Cover the Cost of At-Home COVID-19 Tests**

The Biden-Harris administration announced as of Saturday, January 15, 2022, insurance companies and group health plans will cover the cost of at-home COVID-19 tests. This coverage will enable people with private health insurance to get at-home tests paid for by their insurance provider, or they can be reimbursed for the cost by submitting a claim to their insurance provider. Insurance companies and health plans are required to cover 8 free over-the-counter at-home tests per covered individual per month. The tests must be authorized, cleared, or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A list of FDA-approved test kits can be found in this update on the Town's website. Contact your insurance provider for more information.

### **Baker-Polito Administration Launches Tool for Residents to Access COVID-19 Digital Vaccine Card**

Residents can now access a virtual copy of their COVID-19 vaccine card through the State's My Vax Records program. The program allows people who received their vaccination in Massachusetts to access their own vaccination history and generate a COVID-19 digital vaccine card. The electronic record shows the same information as a paper CDC vaccine card: name, date of birth, date of vaccinations, and vaccine manufacturer.

The program is easy to use - a person enters their name, date of birth, and mobile phone number or email associated with their vaccine record. After creating a 4-digit PIN, the user receives a link to their vaccine record that will open upon re-entry of the PIN.

Access your digital vaccine card at [MyVaxRecords.Mass.Gov](http://MyVaxRecords.Mass.Gov).

If you are unable to locate your record, or to report discrepancies in immunization records, [use this link to submit a request for further assistance](#).

### **COVID-19 Vaccine**

Residents 5 years and older are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine and residents 12 years and older are eligible to get a COVID-19 booster. The Board encourages anyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. Vaccine appointments can be scheduled at [vaxfinder.mass.gov](http://vaxfinder.mass.gov).

## **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION INSTALLATION AT TOWN HALL**

Construction began this week to install a new, electric vehicle charging station in the front parking lot at Town Hall. The charging station will be located at the southwest end of the front parking lot, adjacent to the south entrance off Washington Street. Below is a rendering of the location of the new charging station [as presented to the Planning Board on January 12, 2022](#):



*continued on page 5*

## ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION INSTALLATION AT TOWN HALL (CONTINUED)

Weather-permitting, the south driveway entrance to Town Hall will be closed on Wednesday January 19, 2022 to allow for the trench excavation across the driveway, installation of new conduit, backfill, and installation of asphalt along the cut driveway. Police officers will be onsite during this time to help direct traffic into and out of the Town Hall parking lot through the north driveway entrance (closest to the Fire Station).

What to Expect:

- **Tuesday, January 18, 2022:** The preparatory work will include preliminary excavation work along the existing fence line, at the planting bed in front of the parking spaces, and saw-cutting the asphalt in advance of the actual demolition and excavation of the driveway.
- **Wednesday, January 19, 2022:** The construction and installation work will include digging up and excavating across the south driveway entrance into Town Hall. The south driveway entrance to Town Hall will be reopened as soon as possible, with the use of temporary steel plates, if necessary.

\*Please exercise caution when driving into or exiting the South Drive as the driveway will be reduced to ½ of its width to allow for continued access into Town Hall and the Senior Center during this time.

Electrical Work will then follow to run power and control wiring and complete the installation of the power distribution box and the charging station itself. Additional software & programming work will complete the installation.

Anticipated Project Timeline:

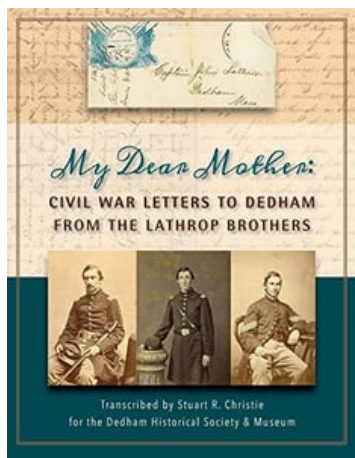
- Excavation work is expected to last one week, weather-permitting, from January 17 through January 21, 2022.
- Wiring and installation of distribution box and charging device should follow the second week (week of January 24, 2022).
- Final hookups, installation of new Eversource meter, software downloads, and programming will follow on the third week (week of January 31, 2022).

Please note: Per the approved agreement with the Planning Board, the parking spaces adjacent to the new charging station are not intended to be reserved for electric vehicles only. Any employee or visitor with business at Town Hall can park in those spaces.

We will provide construction updates as the project continues. Thank you in advance for your patience as we continue to improve Town Hall.

## COUNCIL ON AGING TO HOST EVENT WITH LOCAL HISTORIAN

A Presentation on *My Dear Mother: Civil War Letter to Dedham from the Lathrop Brothers*  
Thursday, January 20th at 5:30 p.m.  
RSVP by calling **781-751-9495**



During the American Civil War, scores of Dedham men proudly answered the call to serve. In fact, there were several companies composed almost exclusively of Dedham men. In the four years during which these men served, they sent numerous letters back to Dedham describing their lives in camp and in battle. Fortunately, hundreds of these letters were provided to the Dedham Historical Society and Museum for preservation.

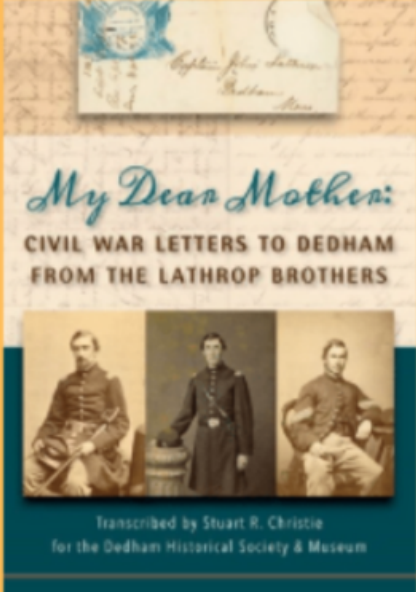
*continued on page 6*

## COUNCIL ON AGING TO HOST EVENT WITH LOCAL HISTORIAN (CONTINUED)

Stuart Christie, a 40 year Dedham resident and avid amateur historian, spent three years in the DHSM archives transcribing the letters of three Dedham brothers, each of whom served in separate units during the war. During a five month period, the oldest brother John fought in the Battles at South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. His younger brother, Julius, initially fought under General Burnside in North Carolina before being transferred to Louisiana where he fought and died under General Banks. Youngest brother Joe, who initially served in the infantry, was discharged and then returned to serve in the cavalry.

The letters have been compiled into a book entitled, My Dear Mother: Civil War Letters to Dedham from the Lathrop Brothers. Stuart is going to talk about this amazing family, who were the descendants of the first Puritan minister in Sitate and who continued to live in Dedham into the mid-20th century. He will also discuss the letters themselves, read some of the highlights of these letters and share some of the findings he made while going through these letters.

In almost two years of presenting his work on this book, this will be the first presentation made in person. Some of the brothers' artifacts will also be on display during the presentation.



**Third Thursday  
Evening Event**

**Civil War Letters to Dedham**  
**Thursday, January 20th**  
**at 5:30 p.m.**

**Come hear local historian, Stuart Christie,  
discuss his book on civil war letters  
written by the Lathrop brothers  
to their family in Dedham.**

**RSVP to 781-751-9495**

## PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING UPDATES

**What to expect January 17, 2022 (Monday) through January 21, 2022 (Friday):**

- The project site remains closed to the public.
- The stormwater infiltration system excavation was completed, and installation is underway. The system was inspected by Nitsch Engineering on **January 6, 2022**, as requested.
- As of **Friday, January 14, 2022** crews have completed the spray fireproofing in the basement. The work has been inspected and crews received the required signatures.
- Eversource is scheduled to return this week to install the fifth and final utility pole along Bryant Street.
- Roofers will continue to install the roof framing and parapet walls at the edges of the roof.

*continued on page 7*

## PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING UPDATES (CONTINUED)

What to expect January 17, 2022 (Monday) through January 21, 2022 (Friday):

- The exterior cold-formed metal framing and Densglass sheathing installation is **substantially complete**. Crews will continue the installation of interior cold formed metal framing this week.
- 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.

Project Team Contact Information:

- Immediate issues or concerns, please contact the Dedham Town Manager's Office at **781-751-9100**.
- For general questions or concerns, please contact the project team at **[psb@dedham-ma.gov](mailto:psb@dedham-ma.gov)**
- For more information about the Public Safety Building Project, please visit the project website at **[www.dedham-ma.gov/psb](http://www.dedham-ma.gov/psb)**
- Download our **[project team contact information flyer](#)** on the project website.

*Click on the images below to enlarge*



**Caption:** Photo of exterior walls of the building using a drone on January 13, 2022. The silver material lining the exterior walls is the air and vapor barrier material, designed to prevent the permeation of water vapor.

**Caption:** Photo of the building interior to show the progress of cold-formed metal framing underway as of January 13, 2022.



# PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMUNITY EVENTS THIS WEEK

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



**Town Green Project Listening Sessions**  
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6:30 p.m. via Zoom  
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**THE DOSA PARENT ACTION TEAM PRESENTS**  
**JON MATTLEMAN - THE SECRET LIVES OF TEENS AND TWEENS**  
Join counselor Jon Mattleman for a fun and dynamic virtual program about what teens and tweens are really thinking, what they fear, why they do not share more, and how adults can effectively support them, especially during COVID-19.

JANUARY 11TH & 18TH  
7-8 PM  
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT KRISTINA KING AT [KRISTINA.KING@DedhamMA.GOV](mailto:KRISTINA.KING@DedhamMA.GOV)

## Tuesday, 1/18/22:

- **Dedham Housing Authority** at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **Capital Expenditures Committee** at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Select Board - Public Listening Session** at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **DOSA Presents: The Secret Lives of Teens and Tweens with Jon Mattleman** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom (Register using this link: <https://event.webinarjam.com/register/350/q7m5rsxx>)

## Wednesday, 1/19/22:

- **Parking Appeals Hearings** at 9:00 a.m. at Town Hall
- **Building, Planning, and Construction Committee** at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Human Rights Commission** at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **Zoning Board of Appeals** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **School Committee** at 7:00 p.m. at the Avery Elementary School

## Thursday, 1/20/22:

- **Council on Aging** at 5:00 p.m. Hybrid Meeting at Senior Center and via Zoom
- **Select Board** at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **Conservation Commission** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Events shown as listed on the Town calendar as of 1/18/22. Don't forget to check out the [Dedham Public Library events calendar](#) and the [Dedham Public Schools 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!

## Follow Us!

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!



Sign up for **CodeRED notifications** to receive emergency notifications and other alerts released by the Town, such as snow emergencies, road closures, or public safety alerts directly to your landline or mobile device. (Please note: CodeRED is used sparingly.)

