

DOVER

Other Town Reports

2010



Report of the **Town Library**

Beth Paisner, Chairman
Mark Bush
Holly Collins
Elizabeth Freeman
Joan King
Joan Stapleton
Cheryl Abdullah, Director

The Dover Town Library has a new mission statement: “To bring you free, open access to the world’s knowledge, information, and culture.”

The library is undergoing a dramatic transformation, and we feel it reflects our changing face and forward-thinking ideas. The most obvious change is in our appearance. Private donations from our community, a call to action from the Trustees’ Annual Appeal, the generous support from the Friends of Dover Library, and a grant from the State of Massachusetts have made remodeling and reorganizing possible throughout the library. The Trustees’ Annual Appeal monies allowed the purchase of new shelving for the multimedia collection of music, DVDs, and talking books. Gift monies paid for the reconfiguration of the main floor. These changes have opened up the space with more seating options, show off our beautiful architecture, provide more natural light, highlight a variety of technology, and better showcase our collection. All phases of the project, from planning to execution, involved repurposing, recycling, and taking other environmentally friendly approaches.

A state grant funded a 52-inch flat-screen television for our community room, where a host of programs are featured monthly, from foreign films to stimulating authors and intellectual presentations. The grant also funded a gaming area for children of all ages. Our game station encourages computer and robotic literacy, team building, the development of both analytical skills and hand-eye coordination, and socialization, all under the guise of having fun. State funding paid for the games, which are available for use in the library or at home. Private gifts helped transform the main entry into a more welcoming environment, and state funds paid for a small bistro café, where anyone can enjoy a cup of coffee or hot chocolate, read a magazine, or catch up with old friends.

Library hours are now more consistent, with a daily opening at 10 a.m. Evening hours have been extended to 8 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. To accommodate commuters, we are open until 6 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays. We no longer have “summer hours,” but we happily serve our community on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout the year.

Twelve computers, four iPads, and six iPod touch units are available for public use, and Kindles are available for home use. Speed Reads cut waiting times for the most popular titles. All materials, including new magazines circulate for three weeks, with the exception of Speed Reads, which circulate for one week, and games. The library tries to purchase a variety of materials that entertain and stimulate individual well-being; however, should an item not be available on our shelves, we are part of the 43-member Minuteman Consortium, which includes many area colleges and universities. Access to what you want is therefore highly probable; or, we may consider your request for us to purchase an item.

Programs are an important part of library service and introduce ideas and culture to our community. Chinese New Year and Hanukkah celebrations, Thursday Teas, Wacky Field Day, and Mandarin Storytimes are made possible through the generous support of the Friends of Dover Library. The Dover Cultural Council paid for several programs this year, including the St. Patrick's Day celebration, during which more than 350 people enjoyed the festivities.

Although tax dollars sustain our existence, much of our support and success comes from the Friends of Dover Library—whose FY10 gift of \$34,306 was raised from memberships, the Dover House Tour, the Spelling Bee, and the Tile Project—as well as from private donations and gifts from community members. These gifts assist us with renovations, providing innovative technologies, such as Kindles, iPads, and iPod touches, and offering our many programs throughout the year. The Dover Town Library plans on playing a strategic role in catapulting us into the 22nd century. Visit us or find us online at <http://dovertownlibrary.org>.

Library Statistics for FY2010

(July 2009–June 2010)

State Aid	\$8,987
Circulation	124,063
Library Visits	89,638
Items Loaned	24,161
Items Borrowed	12,842
Holdings	68,389
Registered Borrowers	3,759
Programs Offered	340
Attendance at Programs	5,755

Report of the Cemetery Commission

Bill Herd, Chairman

Carol Jackman, Secretary

Jon Wolff

This past year, 11 grave lots were purchased at the Highland Cemetery: 7 four-grave lots, 2 two-grave lots, 1 six-grave lot, and an additional lot that can hold three cremations. The income from the sale of these lots was \$18,800, and the perpetual care income for the past year was \$47,000, for a total of \$65,800.

Twenty-seven funerals were held in 2010, 13 of which were cremations. Six of the funerals were for veterans who had served in the U.S. Armed Forces. A total of \$20,550 was collected for all 2010 funerals. This amount includes surcharge revenue of \$7,800 for holiday or weekend burials. Income from setting foundations and markers totaled \$3,000.

The Town of Dover is very fortunate to have as our supervisor Lawrence (Rusty) Dauphinee, who always keeps our cemetery looking great. His caring way with families who are undergoing difficult times is truly appreciated. The assistance from the Dover Highway Department, on an as needed basis, is another asset that we could not do without. Their services are very much appreciated.

This past year the Cemetery Commissioners voted that as of November 1, 2010, dogs would no longer be allowed in the cemetery. This was a very difficult decision to make, but the Commission determined that it was necessary to promote the upkeep of the cemetery.

Memorial Day is the day that Highland Cemetery seems to have the greatest number of visitors, and as a town we can be very proud of everyone's support during this time. We wish to thank the George B. Preston Unit 209 of the American Legion Auxiliary for having a group of volunteers place geraniums at all the veterans' graves and for being sure that the flags are in place in time for the Town ceremony. We also wish to thank the Memorial Day Committee for its work each year on the beautiful ceremony conducted at our Memorial Star. Additional thanks go to the Town for budgeting the funds needed to buy the plants and flags.

This year we continued to add new plantings throughout the cemetery. We especially want to thank Strawberry Hill Landscaping & Irrigation, Inc. for their continued maintenance on the hill by the flagpole and stonewall. We very much appreciate the many positive comments from people in town about the appearance of our cemetery.

The Commission would like to remind the citizens of Dover that we have a gift fund and that any donations to it would be most appreciated.

Report of the Historical Commission

Jane Moore, Chairman
Janet Comiskey-Giannini
Kay Guild
Thomas Johnson
Charlotte Surgenor
Paul Tedesco

The Historical Commission was established under Chapter 40, Section 8D, of the General Laws of Massachusetts for the purpose of the preservation, protection, and development of the historical or archaeological assets of the Town. It consists of seven members appointed by the Board of Selectmen principally to administer the Demolition Review, Chapter 96, of the Town Bylaw. Its aim is to encourage owners of “preferably preserved historically significant buildings” to seek ways to preserve, rehabilitate, or restore such buildings rather than demolish them. By furthering these purposes, the Bylaw’s intent is to preserve the cultural heritage of Dover. To that end, the Commission is empowered to advise the Inspector of Buildings on the issuance of permits for the demolition for buildings constructed prior to 1929.

In 2010, the Commission advised on three demolition permit requests:

- 103 Centre Street: house voted not historically significant (May 4, 2010)
- 71 Main Street: house voted not historically significant (June 1, 2010)
- 3 Farm Street: house and garage voted not historically significant (July 23, 2010)

Report of the Council on Aging

Betty Hagan, Chairman	Jane Hemstreet
John Walsh, Vice-Chairman	Phil McChesney
Alice Baranick, Treasurer	Barbara Murphy
Eleanor Bouldry	Lou Theodos
Jeanne Gavrilles	Rita Walenduk

Janet Claypoole, Director
Carl Sheridan, Outreach Worker
Suzanne Sheridan, Administrative Assistant

The Dover Council on Aging (COA) was established by the Town in 1976, pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 8B, of the Massachusetts General Laws.

The year 2010 was a productive one at the Council on Aging as we continued to offer programs and services designed to meet the needs of Dover’s seniors and the families caring for them, in coordination with the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The senior population consists of residents 60 years of age and older, approximately 21% of Dover’s total population. Due to a continuing increase in the senior population, the COA is experiencing an increase in information and referral calls and other service activities.

Outreach worker Carl Sheridan (retired Dover police chief) has continued to provide assistance to the community’s elder population by visiting the seniors, identifying their needs, and referring them to appropriate services. He also coordinates services with the Dover Police Department to connect with isolated and at-risk seniors.

The COA works with Bay Path Elder Services, this region’s Area Agency on Aging, which offers various homecare and community services for seniors. Suzanne Sheridan is the Dover COA liaison to Bay Path and is a member of their board of directors.

Ongoing Programs and Services

Ongoing programs include strength/fitness classes, gentle yoga, chair yoga, bridge, art class, computer instruction, bimonthly podiatrist visits, book club, and the medical equipment loan program. The Afternoon Tea follows our monthly blood pressure clinic. Under the instruction of Alice Baranick, the COA continues to offer a weekly craft class. SHINE (Serving the Health Information Needs of Elders) counseling provides free counseling for seniors with health insurance questions. In partnership with the Dover Police Department, seniors have access to fitness room equipment. Seniors also utilize the bocce ball court located at the American Legion.

Ten Dover property-owning seniors participated in the Senior Tax Work-Off Program under the auspices of the COA. In exchange for working as part-time temporary help in various municipal departments, seniors earned up to \$1,000 toward their property tax bill. Participating departments included the Treasurer's Office, the Building Department, the Council on Aging, the Board of Health, the Dover Library, Parks and Recreation, and the Engineering Department. The COA also coordinated the Salvation Army Kettle Program at Dover Market during the holidays. The program collected contributions totaling \$1,807, which goes to help families in need.

Other ongoing services provided by the COA include information and referral, transportation to medical appointments, outreach, care planning, and crisis intervention. The COA produces a monthly newsletter that is mailed to more than 700 families. During November, which is National Caregivers Month, the COA provided a series of classes for family caregivers. Hosted at Dover Sherborn Middle School, the classes focused on how to care for an aging parent and offered information, resources, and support to families caring for a loved one at home or long distance.

Trips

The Dover-Sherborn Travel Committee successfully coordinated several trips with the COA, including to the Boston Flower Show, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Peabody Essex Museum, Paw Sox, Tanglewood, Drovers Roast at the Salem Cross Inn, and the Rockettes Holiday Show.

Luncheons

Our main draw each month have been our luncheons, which have featured: educational topics; entertainment programs; TRIAD Speakers (from the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office and the Dover Police Department); town history presentations; an annual volunteer recognition luncheon; spirituality luncheons presented by Dover faith-based organizations; Grace Church luncheons; and holiday gatherings, including the Dover Police Association Brunch and the Dover American Legion Dinner.

Grants

The COA received grant assistance from three major supporters this year. Bay Path Elder Services provided multiple grants to Dover COA, all funded through Title III Older Americans Act federal funding. These grants supported the twice weekly Gentle Yoga classes, a series of "Food for Life" nutrition classes, and a Medication Management Seminar, featuring a pharmacist who assisted seniors in understanding and managing their own medications. The COA also received a Formula Grant from Massachusetts Department of Elder Affairs, which partially funded the fitness class, as well as provided support for the COA's administrative assistant position. Finally, the Dover Cultural Council awarded the COA with a grant that funded two seminars focused on the benefits of nutritional strategies of the Okinawan and Mediterranean cultures.

Volunteers

Fiscal year 2010 once again saw an increase in our volunteer hours to 5,962 hours provided by more than 100 individual volunteers, a 4% increase from 2009. Volunteers are one of the COA's most important and valuable assets. Many Dover residents volunteer their time to support our seniors and help with programs and services. The COA could not provide its full range of programs without the time, energy, and enthusiasm of these individuals, and it greatly appreciates the kindness, generosity, and skills they bring to the programs.



Claybrook Road barn. Photo by Jeff Farrell.

Report of the Dover Cultural Council

Beth Benjamin, Chairman
Jane Johnstone, Recording Secretary
Rose Mahoney, Treasurer
Erin Gorden, Publicity
Wendy Bornstein
Beth DeBor
Sue Sheridan

The Dover Cultural Council (DCC) administers funds that it receives each year from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), the state agency whose mission is to “promote excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents, and to contribute to the economic vitality of our communities.” These funds, which originate as annual appropriations of the Massachusetts Legislature, are awarded in the form of grants to individuals and organizations that support the MCC’s mission and provide cultural benefit to the Dover community.

Under the MCC’s Local Cultural Council Program, the most extensive grassroots cultural support network in the nation, the DCC awarded \$5,300 in grants for Fiscal Year 2010 to:

- Dover Historical Society for *Dr. George Caryl’s Medicines*
- Dover Parks and Recreation for *Music Festival at Dover Days*
- Dover-Sherborn High School for *Survivors of the Cambodian Genocide-Khmer Rouge*
- Dover-Sherborn High School for *Griot*
- Friends of the Dover Library for *Authors and Issues*
- Friends of the Dover Library for *Musical Teas*
- Tricia Silverman for *Cultural Foods: Nutritious Habits of Healthy Populations*
- The Trustees of Reservations for *Fall Harvest Festival and Contra Dance*

The Dover Cultural Council participated in the September 2010 Dover Days Fair as a way to provide information about funded grants and the grant application process. Further information and grant application forms for the Local Cultural Council Program are available on the MCC website: <http://www.massculturalcouncil.org>.

Report of the Memorial Day Committee

Janet MacKenzie, Chairman
Carol Jackman
Jay Sullivan

The Memorial Day exercises were held on May 30, 2010, at 6 p.m. It was a pleasure to have so many townspeople at the ceremony on the Springdale Avenue side of the Town House. The members George B. Preston Post 209 of the American Legion posted the colors and Rev. Dr. C. Maxwell Olmstead from The Dover Church delivered the invocation. United States Air Force Major (Select) James D. Hunt, presently serving at Osan Air Base in the Republic of Korea, delivered the principal address. Members of the Chickering School Fifth-Grade Band under the direction of Janice Barry presented a musical selection. The Committee continued the tradition of introducing all veterans in attendance, after which Rev. John J. Grimes of the Church of the Most Precious Blood offered a benediction.

The parade to Highland Cemetery took place under the supervision of Chief Marshal Ford Spalding of the United States Navy. The parade stopped enroute so that flower bearer Jay Sullivan, Eagle Scout, could place flowers at the Town Monument. The parade buglers were James Andrew and Seth Novitch. The graves of all veterans were individually decorated with geraniums and flags by the Dover American Legion Auxiliary, assisted by Dover Boy Scout Troop One.

Graveside services were conducted by Rev. Peter DiSanto of Grace Church. The traditional reading of the names of Dover’s own, who served their country and are no longer with us, was carried out by the Committee. The parade then returned to the Town House for the raising of the flag and a prayer by Rev. Mark C. McKone-Sweet of St. Dunstan’s Church. This was followed by a wonderful cookout that the American Legion provides each year at the conclusion of the ceremonies.

A special thank-you goes to all those who made this ceremony possible, including the Town House staff, Rusty Dauphinee from Highland Cemetery, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Highway Department, the Boy Scouts, our townspeople, the American Legion, and Tim Wider for the loan of the Civil War flag that hung on the Town House for the ceremony.

Report of the
Department of Veterans' Services

John J. Logan, Jr., District Director

The Department of Veterans' Services performs those functions assigned to it by Chapter 115 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Chief among them is the administration of a program of benefits provided to veterans and their families who are in need.

The Department maintains a depository of discharges and records of service for matters to be brought before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, including claims for pension, compensation for service-connected disabilities, educational benefits, burial benefits, and headstones and markers. This office also processes applications for hospitalization and medical care.

Veterans Administration (VA) benefit forms are available in this office, located at Needham Town Hall, 1471 Highland Avenue, Room 27. The Director is here to serve our veterans and is glad to provide assistance, including help with filing the appropriate paperwork for applicable benefits. Please call us at (781) 455-7532.



Photo by Lisa Hadrick.

Report of the
Energy Coordinator

Erika Nagy Lert

The Energy Coordinator assists Dover residents who are experiencing financial hardship by providing them with information about the various sources of state and private energy funding and also by helping individuals and families apply for state energy assistance from the South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC). In the event of an imminent shutoff, the Energy Coordinator may disperse emergency funds to help defray energy costs.

In 2010, there was a slight decrease in requests for energy assistance in Dover. Of the requests processed, a majority resulted from chronic concerns related to prolonged job loss and underemployment. Others were due to increased energy costs and decreased personal income.

The Energy Coordinator also is a Salvation Army representative and can assist those who need emergency food or clothing. Individuals in financial distress, including those facing energy shutoff notices or critical food shortages, should contact the Energy Coordinator as soon as possible. All contacts and assistance are strictly confidential. For more information, please visit <http://www.doverma.org/energy.php>.



Winter stream. Photo by Rick Brace, copyright © 2011 Mbrace Studios.

Notes



Photo by Dee Douglas.