WHAT'S GOING ON IN

Dunstable?

SUMMER EDITION | JUNE 2026

Annual Town Meeting Results

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in Dunstable's 2026 Annual Town Meeting on May 11. The Town Meeting Warrant consisted of 26 articles for residents to consider regarding the Town's operating budget, capital investments, infrastructure improvements, zoning updates, standard but important annual articles for Town operations to function properly, and other community priorities for the coming year.

The meeting resulted in the approval of the FY27 Operating Budget, funding for a variety of municipal capital improvements such as library HVAC upgrades, the purchase of a new police cruiser, and new vehicle extrication equipment, water infrastructure investments, and several financial stabilization transfers meant to strengthen the Town's long-term fiscal health. Residents also approved updates to the Town's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) zoning bylaw consistent with the new state ADU law, the creation of a Council on Aging programming revolving fund, a local option meals tax, a cold storage warehouse zoning amendment, and a marijuana retail excise tax.

Several Community Preservation Act projects also received approval, including the restoration of the Central Cemetery historic fence and repairs to the Rideout Cemetery stone wall.

Not all articles advanced, though. No action was taken on the proposed Water Enterprise Transfer as it was not needed and the proposed changes to the Community Housing Zoning Bylaw were deferred to allow for additional refinement of the amended language. Articles related to breweries and distilleries rezoning and marijuana retail rezoning did not receive the necessary support for approval. The proposal to change zoning to allow for breweries and distilleries in the B-2 Zoning District missed receiving the necessary 2/3rds majority by only 1 vote.

Town Meeting was another example of Dunstable residents engaging in thoughtful civic engagement and informed decision-making. We appreciate the respectful discussion, civil debate, and participation throughout the meeting.

Thank you to all who attended and helped shape the next year and the future of our community.

Town of Dunstable

CONTENTS

2 Library HVAC Improvements Underway

3 Sign-up for CodeRED

5 LEAP Grant Update

9 Annual Election and Recount

10 Route 113 and Town Center Visioning

Library HVAC Improvement Project Underway

The Town has begun Phase 1 of the HVAC improvement project at the Dunstable Public Library. The project is designed to address aging mechanical systems, improve comfort for library patrons and staff, increase energy efficiency, and begin transitioning portions of the building to heat-pump technology.

The library's existing heating and cooling equipment is well beyond its useful life. The building currently relies on four original natural-gas boilers and aging air handling and cooling systems, many of which have become increasingly difficult and costly to maintain. Temperature monitoring conducted during the winter months found that several areas of the library regularly fell below recommended comfort levels during operating hours.

Phase 1 of the project includes upgrades to three HVAC units serving key areas of the library. The 3 units serving the children's area and main library reading/book area; offices, computer room and the cove area; and special collections room will be replaced with heat pumps.

This first phase of the project is funded through a combination of Community Preservation Act funds approved at the 2025 Special Town Meeting, an FY26 state budget earmark, Town capital funding approved at the 2026 Annual Town Meeting, and net metering credits. Together, these funding sources are expected to cover the full project cost of approximately $235,525.

This work represents the first phase of a longer-term strategy to modernize the library's HVAC infrastructure. Future phases are expected to address the remaining air handling units and building controls, continuing to improve efficiency and reducing reliance on fossil-fuel heating systems. The Town intends to pursue additional grant opportunities, including Green Communities funding, to help offset future project costs.

Construction is now underway and is anticipated to be substantially completed by the end of June. The Town appreciates the patience of library patrons and staff during the project and looks forward to providing a more comfortable, reliable, and energy-efficient facility for the community.



Dunstable Secures $148,000 Green Communities Grant for Energy Improvements

Dunstable successfully secured a $148,000 grant through the Massachusetts Green Communities Division to support energy-efficiency improvements at municipal facilities.

The Green Communities program provides technical assistance and grant funding to help municipalities reduce energy consumption, lower operating costs, and implement clean-energy projects in public buildings. Dunstable's grant will fund improvements at Town Hall, the Highway Garage, and the Dunstable Public Library.

As part of the grant-funded work, the Town has completed LED lighting conversions at all three facilities. The project replaced older lighting fixtures with modern, energy-efficient LED technology that will reduce electricity usage and improve lighting quality throughout the buildings.

The grant also includes funding for weatherization improvements at the same facilities. That work is expected to begin in the coming months and will focus on reducing energy loss, improving building performance, and further lowering utility costs.

We hope these investments will help the Town reduce long-term operating expenses while improving municipal facilities and advancing local sustainability goals. By leveraging state grant funding, Dunstable is able to make meaningful infrastructure improvements without relying solely on local real estate tax dollars.

The Town appreciates the support of the Massachusetts Green Communities Division and remains committed to pursuing grant opportunities that improve public facilities and infrastructure, and enhance services.

Thank You, Joan Ferrari, for 40 Years of Service

The Town recently celebrated the retirement of Joan Ferrari, recognizing an extraordinary 40 years of dedicated service to our community.

Since joining the Town in 1986, Joan has been a steadfast and invaluable member of the Dunstable team, serving as administrative support to the Board of Health and helping residents navigate countless questions and services over four decades. Throughout her career, Joan became a resource for town officials, employees, and residents.

Among her many contributions, Joan was instrumental in creating and managing Dunstable's Trash and Recycling Program, a service that has benefited many residents and remains an important part of the Town's operations today.

On April 28, town employees and members of the Board of Health gathered to celebrate Joan's retirement and thank her for her years of service. While we are excited for Joan as she begins this new chapter, her presence, institutional knowledge, laughter, and friendly demeanor are already missed at Town Hall.

On behalf of the Town of Dunstable, we extend our sincere gratitude and thanks to Joan for her remarkable 40 years of service and wish her many years of happiness, good health, and well-deserved relaxation in retirement.

Thank you, Joan, for all you have done for Dunstable.

Stay Connected CodeRED Emergency Notification System

The Town is pleased to introduce CodeRED, a new emergency notification system designed to help keep residents informed, prepared, and safe during emergencies and other events.

CodeRED allows the Dunstable Police Department, Fire Department, and other Town officials to quickly deliver information directly to residents through phone calls, text messages, emails, and mobile app notifications. Whether it is a severe weather event, road closure, public safety incident, water emergency, or other emergency, CodeRED provides a fast way for the Town to communicate important information when it matters most.

One of the system's key features is its ability to send notifications to specific geographic areas. Because contact information is linked to a street address, alerts can be targeted to only those neighborhoods or residents affected by an incident, while town-wide notifications can be sent when broader communication is needed.

Residents are encouraged to register for CodeRED and verify their contact information to ensure they receive alerts. This is especially important for mobile phone numbers, text messaging preferences, and email addresses. Users can also customize the types of notifications they receive, update their contact information at any time, or opt out of alerts if desired.

Creating an account is simple. Residents can visit the CodeRED registration portal at accountportal.onsolve.net/dunstablema, download the CodeRED mobile app from the App Store or Google Play, or text the keyword DUNSTABLE to 24639 to get started. Register today to help ensure you receive timely and accurate information during emergencies and other important community situations.

If you need assistance registering for CodeRED, please contact Town Hall at (978) 649-4514.

The Town strongly encourages all residents to sign up and make sure their information is up to date. Staying connected is one of the simplest and most effective ways to stay informed and help keep our community safe.

CODERED
By CRISIS24

Join the Town Administrator for questions, conversation, and coffee!

Join Dunstable Town Administrator Jason Silva for casual coffee and conversations at Farmhouse Cafe on Pleasant Street! This is a great opportunity to discuss any local issues and hear directly from Town officials.

July's coffee will take place on Thursday, July 16 at 10 AM. Jason looks forward to seeing you there and don't forget, he's buying! Mark your calendars and bring your questions and ideas!

Overview of Approved FY27 Budget

At the 2026 Annual Town Meeting, the Town's Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget was approved, adopting a financial plan that maintains municipal service levels while also managing significant cost pressures facing the Town.

The approved FY27 Operating Budget totals $14,770,208, an increase of $829,524, or 5.95%, over the FY26 adjusted budget of $13,940,684. Education assessments, retirement obligations, and debt service account for the overwhelming majority of the budget growth. School assessments are increasing by $570,337, or 6.37%, representing more than two-thirds of the total budget increase.

Education remains the largest portion of Dunstable's budget. The Town continues to face the challenge of rising school costs while state Chapter 70 education aid increases remains modest in comparison. This creates continued pressure on local taxpayers, particularly in small communities like Dunstable where property taxes remain the primary source of revenue.

In FY27, total operating revenues are projected at $14,773,038. Property taxes account for approximately 87.3% of those revenues, emphasizing the Town's reliance on the tax levy and the limits placed on municipal revenue growth under Proposition 2½. Local receipts are projected at $850,000, state aid is projected at $414,527, and the budget also uses $249,216 in Free Cash, $25,000 in overlay surplus, and smaller departmental allocations totaling $38,863.

The FY27 levy limit is projected at $12,897,588 for operating, with the total tax levy, including excluded debt, projected at $13,195,432. This represents an increase of $608,722, or 4.84%, over FY26.

It is important to note that part of this increase is tied to voter-approved excluded debt payments associated with the PFAS Mitigation Project. Unlike ongoing operating costs, excluded debt is connected to specific capital investments and will reduce when those obligations are paid down.

Beyond education, other major cost drivers include the County Retirement Assessment, which is increasing by $105,016, or 21.89%, and debt service, which is increasing by $135,737, again, due largely to the first scheduled payment associated with the PFAS Mitigation Project.

The FY27 budget also includes a number of targeted reductions and reallocations. Departments worked to identify savings, align budgets with actual spending trends, and defer or reduce non-essential expenses where possible. These efforts helped offset increases in areas such as public safety, technology, schools, general liability insurance, retirement, and other contractual obligations.

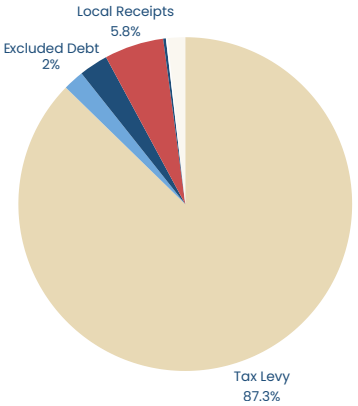
The Town's reserve position remains an important part of its financial strategy. The General Stabilization Fund is projected at $570,632, while the Capital Improvement Program Stabilization Fund is projected at $201,081, for combined stabilization reserves of $771,713. When combined with remaining Free Cash, the Town's total reserve position is projected at just over $1 million. While this represents a stable reserve base, it remains below the Town's policy goal, meaning continued attention to reserves will be important moving forward.

The Town's five-year forecast shows that long-term financial challenges remain. Total expenditures are projected to grow from approximately $14.77 million in FY27 to nearly $18.94 million by FY31, with education costs expected to be the largest driver of that growth. This forecast demonstrates the ongoing need for planning, cost control, grant funding, regional collaboration, and continued advocacy for improved state support.

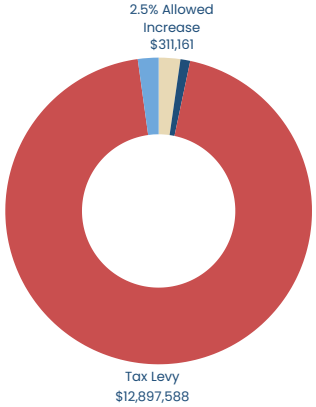
The Town thanks the Select Board, Advisory Board, Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, Town of Groton, department heads, staff, boards, committees, and residents who participated in this year's budget process. Their collaboration and input helped shape a budget that attempts to consider both the needs of the community and the financial realities facing the Town.

Residents interested in learning more are encouraged to review the full FY27 Operating Budget on the Town website.

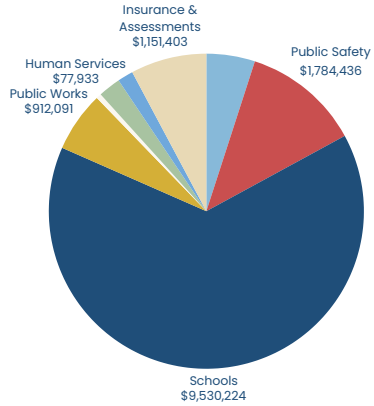
REVENUE



TAX LEVY



EXPENDITURES



FY26 - FY31 Capital Improvement Plan Finalized

The Town recently completed its Fiscal Year 2026–2031 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), a comprehensive roadmap to guide capital investments in municipal facilities, infrastructure, equipment, public safety assets, recreation facilities, and other long-term community needs. The plan identifies capital projects across all departments and provides a framework for evaluating, prioritizing, and funding improvements over the next six years. The CIP serves as an important planning tool that helps ensure the Town's limited resources are invested strategically and responsibly based on priority and need. The CIP was reviewed, amended, vetted, and approved by the Town's Capital Planning Committee.

The plan seeks to maintain and improve roads, culverts, infrastructure, public buildings, parks, conservation land, and public safety equipment. The CIP helps the Town anticipate future needs and address them proactively before they become larger and more costly challenges. By planning ahead, the Town can better coordinate projects, pursue grant opportunities, and reduce the likelihood of emergency repairs or unexpected expenditures.

This year's plan includes 71 capital project requests totaling more than $30 million over the six-year planning period. While the Town is not expected to fund every project identified in the plan, documenting these needs provides a clearer picture of future obligations and allows Town officials to make informed decisions about priorities and available resources. The largest categories of identified needs include Highway Department projects, public safety investments, and improvements to municipal buildings and facilities.

Among the projects included in the FY26 capital program are continued investments in the PFAS Mitigation Project, Union Building improvements, roadway paving, library HVAC upgrades, Larter Field stabilization planning, public safety equipment replacements, and other infrastructure and facility improvements. Many of these projects leverage grant funding, Community Preservation Act funds, Chapter 90 funding, or other outside revenue sources to reduce the impact on local taxpayers.

The CIP is intended to be a living and breathing document that is reviewed and updated routinely as community needs, priorities, and funding opportunities emerge. Town officials will continue to evaluate projects based on priority, community benefit, financial feasibility, and available funding.

Oak, Mill, and Main Street Intersection Safety Improvements

The Town recently hosted a Public Information Meeting with representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and transportation engineering consultants TEC, Inc. to review the results of a traffic and safety study and discuss potential improvements at the intersection of Main Street, Oak Street, and Mill Street.

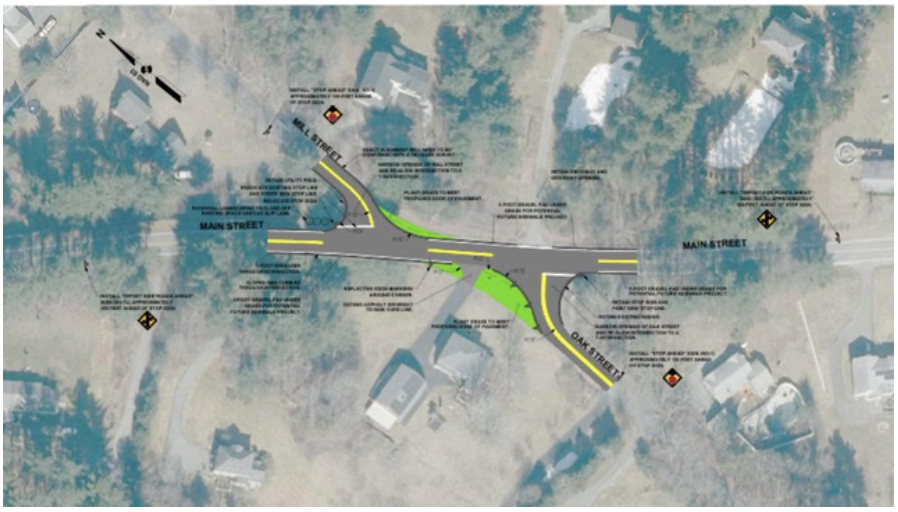
The study was completed through MassDOT's Local Early-stage Actionable Planning (LEAP) Program and examined traffic patterns, vehicle speeds, sight distances, roadway geometry, and crash history at the intersection. The project was initiated in response to concerns regarding the intersection's safety, unusual layout, and operational challenges.

During the presentation, consultants explained that Oak Street and Mill Street can appear to operate as a single skewed intersection because of the unusually wide opening of Oak Street. The study found that this configuration can create confusion for motorists and contribute to safety concerns. Additional findings included higher-than-posted vehicle speeds along Main Street and limited sight distance for drivers exiting Mill Street.

The study identified opportunities to improve safety and traffic operations through targeted roadway improvements. The recommended concept would realign Oak Street and Mill Street to create two more clearly defined intersections meeting Main Street at angles closer to 90 degrees. Other recommendations include revised curb geometry, improved pavement markings, enhanced signage, and a design to better define the travel path for motorists and improve driver awareness.

Residents attending the meeting had an opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback, and learn more about the study findings and draft conceptual recommendations. The conceptual design remains in the planning stage, and no final decisions have been made regarding implementation. Town staff will continue reviewing the study recommendations, public feedback, potential funding opportunities, and next steps.

The Town would like to thank MassDOT, TEC, Inc., and all residents who participated in the discussion. Additional information and project materials are available on the Town website.



Recognizing our dedicated volunteers and employees

Making a Difference is a peer-to-peer employee and volunteer recognition program

The Town has created a program, Making a Difference, a peer-to-peer recognition program each month to recognize and acknowledge the amazing work taking place within the walls of Town Hall, and outside of Town Hall, to make a difference in our community.

Many volunteers and employees have been recognized through this program, nominated by a colleague, a volunteer member of a board or committee, or a supervisor to recognize the difference they are making in the community.

For the months of February, March, April, and May the following employees and volunteer have been celebrated through this program:



February
Highway Department x2

March
Linda Cutler
Carol Rock
Dave Tully and Highway Department
Matthew Tully
Lacey McCabe
Jeff Rosen
Jason Silva
Charles Kunz

April
Sue Fayne x2
Bryan McManus
Chuck Raffoni
Mary Dow
Jean Haight

May
Brynn Durno
Rob Fiero
Scott Lewis
Leah Basbanes
Alan Chaney

Town Awarded $120,000 Complete Streets Grant

The Town has been awarded a $120,000 Complete Streets Design Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to advance plans for new pedestrian safety improvements in and around Town Center. The funding will support the design of a new sidewalk on Main Street between High Street and Highland Street, as well as the design of a safe pedestrian crossing connecting residents to the Dunstable Free Public Library. The proposed project addresses a longstanding gap in Dunstable's pedestrian network.

While Main Street connects Town Center, Swallow Union Elementary School, the Library, and other important destinations, pedestrian infrastructure remains incomplete. The lack of sidewalks and accessible crossings creates safety concerns for all residents, especially children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities.

The design effort will evaluate options for a continuous sidewalk and higher-visibility crosswalks. The project will also examine roadway conditions, drainage, utility locations, and any necessary easements to develop construction-ready plans. The proposed improvements have been identified as priorities through the Town's Complete Streets Prioritization Plan, Master Plan, Walk Dunstable initiative, and Town Center Visioning Project, all of which highlighted the need for safer pedestrian access and enhanced walkability.

Securing this grant is an important step toward improving connectivity, accessibility, safety, and quality of life in Dunstable. Once the design phase is complete, the Town will be positioned to pursue future funding opportunities to construct the project and continue building a safer, more walkable Town Center. The grant-funded design work must be completed by December 31, 2027.

Free Notary Services at Town Hall

Did you know Dunstable residents can access free notary services at Town Hall through the Town Administrator and Town Clerk?

Appointments are recommended to ensure availability. Please contact Town Hall to schedule.

Turtles Crossing!

Don't forget! As the weather gets warmer, turtles are coming out of hibernation. Many of our brook area roadways have turtles trying to safely cross the pavement. Please be alert and aware as you drive around Town!

Dunstable Represented on State PILOT Commission

The Town is pleased to share that Town Administrator Jason Silva has been appointed by the Governor to serve on the Commonwealth's Commission on State-Owned Land Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT), a statewide body established by Governor Maura Healey to examine and strengthen the program through which Massachusetts compensates municipalities for tax-exempt state-owned properties.

The Commission has been tasked with reviewing the effectiveness of the current PILOT system and developing recommendations to ensure it remains fair, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of communities across the Commonwealth. Its work will include evaluating how state-owned land impacts municipal finances and identifying opportunities to improve support for cities and towns.

Over the coming year, Commission members will meet regularly with state officials, municipal representatives, policy experts, and stakeholders from across the state. The Commission is also expected to conduct public engagement and listening sessions to gather input from communities throughout the state.

For Dunstable and other small communities, participation provides an opportunity to ensure local perspectives are included in conversations about state policy and municipal finance. The Commission's recommendations may help shape future approaches to supporting municipalities that host tax-exempt state-owned properties.

The Town looks forward to contributing to this important statewide discussion and helping advance policies that support strong and sustainable local government across Massachusetts.



Town Center Baseball Field Rehabilitation Project Completed

The Town of Dunstable is pleased to announce the successful rehabilitation of the Babe Ruth Baseball Field located behind the Dunstable Fire Station. Funded through the Community Preservation Act (CPA), the project was led by the Dunstable Parks and Recreation Commission in partnership with the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District and Groton-Dunstable Youth Baseball.

For several years, the field had fallen into disrepair and was no longer suitable for play. The rehabilitation project focused on restoring the field to safe and playable conditions by removing vegetation from the infield and baselines, rebuilding the pitcher's mound and home plate area, re-establishing proper infield geometry, installing new bases and anchors, replacing foul poles, repairing rutted areas, improving grading throughout the field, and clearing access routes to the facility.

The project was made possible through collaboration among community partners. The Parks and Recreation Commission provided leadership throughout the effort, while the School District and Groton-Dunstable Youth Baseball worked closely with the Town to support the field's return to service. Together, these organizations helped ensure that student athletes once again have access to a playable baseball surface in Town Center.

The Town extends its appreciation to the Community Preservation Committee, Town Meeting voters, the Parks and Recreation Commission, Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, and Groton-Dunstable Youth Baseball for their partnership and commitment to enhancing recreational opportunities in Dunstable.

While this project allowed the Town to make the field playable quickly to meet the seasonal needs of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District and youth baseball, there are still improvements to the field that are needed long-term. It is our hope that this Babe Ruth Field will serve local youth and families for years to come.



Town Administrator Joins STAM at the State House

In April, Town Administrator Jason Silva joined members of the Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts (STAM) Executive and Legislative Committees at the Massachusetts State House to advocate for STAM's legislative priorities focused on initiatives and programs supporting small communities like Dunstable.

During the visit, STAM representatives met with Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, the Governor's Chief of Staff, state legislators and their staff, and representatives from the Massachusetts Municipal Association. Discussions included topics to address the unique needs of small towns as the Commonwealth develops its Fiscal Year 2027 budget and considers municipal policy initiatives.

Some of the priorities discussed included strengthening Chapter 70 education funding through formula reform, increasing Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) for municipalities, investing in local infrastructure through Chapter 90 funding and the creation of a Municipal Building Authority, and advancing the Municipal Empowerment Act to provide communities with additional flexibility in addressing financial and operational challenges.

State funding and policy decisions have had a direct impact on Dunstable's ability to support local schools, maintain roads and public facilities, invest in public safety and public works services, and continue delivering the municipal services residents rely upon. We hope these advocacy efforts help ensure that the voices of small towns are heard and that communities like Dunstable receive the resources and support needed to remain strong and fiscally sustainable.



Congrats, Class of 2026!

Congratulations to all local students graduating from Groton Dunstable Regional High School and Greater Lowell Technical High School this year.

Their graduation is a result of hard work, perseverance, and they all should be proud of their achievements in and outside of the classroom. Whether graduates are continuing their education, entering the workforce, serving in the military, or pursuing new opportunities, we are excited to see what their future holds.

On behalf of the Town of Dunstable, congratulations to the Class of 2026. We wish you continued success and happiness in the years ahead, and hope you will come back and visit Dunstable often!

Laptop Lending Program Offered at Dunstable Public Library

The Dunstable Public Library is now offering a new resource for our community.

Funded through a Digital Equity Grant by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, and made possible through a partnership between the Dunstable Public Library and the Council on Aging, a Laptop Lending Program is now available to the public.

You can now borrow a laptop from the library to use in the building or take home with your library card. Need internet access too? We also have a hotspot available to borrow.

This program is meant to help expand access to technology for those who may need it for school, work, telehealth appointments, job searches, or staying connected.

Get ready for Oktoberfest and the Oktoberfest 5K!

Registration is now open for the 2026 Dunstable Oktoberfest 5K! Last year, more than 100 runners and walkers kicked off Oktoberfest weekend by participating in the race before enjoying a day of food, entertainment, and community fun at the annual festival. Oktoberfest and the 5K will take place on Saturday, October 10, 2026.

The Recreation Commission encourages participants to register early to help ensure the minimum number of runners needed to hold the event. Proceeds from this year's race will benefit Boston Children's Hospital and the Dunstable Recreation Commission.

Whether you're a competitive runner, casual walker, or simply looking for a fun way to start the day, the Oktoberfest 5K is great for all participants. Registration is $40 per runner and you can register online at runsignup.com/Race/MA/Dunstable/DunstableDash.

2026 Annual Town Election and Recount Update

The Town of Dunstable held its Annual Town Election on May 19, 2026, with a voter turnout of approximately 22% of the Town's 2,799 registered voters. Residents elected officials to several local boards and commissions, including the Board of Assessors, Advisory Board, Planning Board, Board of Health, Cemetery Commission, Water Commission, Commissioners of Trust Funds, and other offices.

The closest race was for a 3-year term on the Select Board. Following the initial count, David Tully, III was declared elected by a single vote, receiving 303 votes to Jacob Lewon's 302 votes. Pursuant to Massachusetts election law, a recount was subsequently requested and conducted by the Dunstable Board of Registrars on June 4, 2026.

Following the recount, the Board of Registrars certified revised results showing both candidates receiving 302 votes, resulting in a tie and a failure to elect a Select Board member. The Board of Registrars further certified that the election outcome had changed from the original results and that no candidate was elected to the office. **The Select Board has called for a Special Election to fill the vacancy on July 21, 2026.**

The Annual Town Election also included an unfortunate circumstance involving the Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee. During the day of the election, it was discovered that the Dunstable School Committee seat was inadvertently omitted from the ballot. Incumbent School Committee Chair Lacey McCabe was the sole certified candidate for the position and should have appeared on the ballot unopposed. As a result, no election could be held for the seat, creating a vacancy. In response, the Select Board and the remaining Dunstable member of the Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee, Christina Andriole, have appointed Lacey McCabe to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Town Election in accordance with the Groton Dunstable Regional Agreement.

Given these unusual circumstances, the Select Board and Town Administrator are currently working with State Representative Margaret Scarsdale and State Senator Vanna Howard to file special legislation authorizing the Dunstable Select Board and the remaining Dunstable member of the Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee to jointly appoint an individual to fill the vacancy for the full term of 3 years.

The Town extends its appreciation to all candidates who sought office, the election workers and volunteers who helped administer the election, and the residents who participated in the process. This election was evidence that every vote matters.

Speed Feedback Sign Installed on Pleasant Street

The Town was selected to receive a new speed feedback sign through the MassDOT Municipal Speed Feedback Signage Program. The sign was recently installed on Pleasant Street and is intended to encourage safer driving by providing real-time feedback to motorists about their vehicle speed.

Speed feedback signs are designed to increase driver awareness and promote compliance with posted speed limits. Studies have shown that these signs can be an effective tool for reducing vehicle speeds and improving roadway safety.

The Pleasant Street location was identified based on local traffic and safety considerations. In this location, the speed limit changes from 45 mph to 35 mph and is in the area of the General Store at the Groton and Pleasant Street intersection. The sign will be programmed for the roadway's posted 35 mph speed limit and will be powered by solar energy. As part of the program, the Town will submit speed data to MassDOT collected by the sign, helping the Commonwealth evaluate the effectiveness of the speed feedback signage program and support future traffic safety initiatives.

Dunstable appreciates MassDOT's partnership in supporting the Town and local roadway safety along Pleasant Street. A big thank you to Police Chief Erik Hoar for spearheading this effort and to the Highway Department for assisting with the installation of the sign.



Route 113 and Town Center Visioning Report

Over the past year, the Town, in partnership with the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG), has undertaken a comprehensive Town Center Visioning Process to help guide future planning, investment, and decision making in Town Center. The effort builds upon several initiatives, many of which are happening all at once, including Walk Dunstable, the Union School Restoration Project, the Open Space and Recreation Plan, Main Street sidewalk planning, the Town Center Community Path project, and the Route 113 Complete Streets redesign effort.

Community engagement was an important part of the process. More than 340 residents participated through a town-wide survey, public workshops, and a community walk audit, representing over 10 percent of Dunstable's population. Participants reflected a broad cross-section of the community and provided feedback about what residents value most about the Town and how they envision the Town Center in the years ahead.

Residents consistently identified several priorities for the future, including improving pedestrian safety and walkability, preserving historic resources, protecting open space, strengthening connections throughout Town Center, supporting small-scale local businesses, and creating additional opportunities for community gathering. Throughout the process, participants emphasized a desire for thoughtful, incremental improvements that enhance the Town Center while preserving Dunstable's rural and agricultural heritage.

The vision that was created aspires to create a welcoming, safe, and walkable area around Dunstable's civic core, where growth respects the Town's historic and agricultural roots while supporting local businesses and strengthening connections to parks, trails, conservation land, and community destinations. Focus areas identified in the report include mobility and safety, economic development, housing, open space and conservation, and historic preservation.

One of the strongest themes throughout the process was the need to improve safety and accessibility along Route 113. Residents expressed support for expanded sidewalks, safer crossings, improved bicycle and pedestrian connections, and traffic calming measures that better balance Route 113's role as both a major roadway and Dunstable's Main Street. The visioning process also highlighted opportunities to strengthen the Town Center as a destination for local shopping, dining, recreation, and community events while maintaining the scale and character that residents value.

The Town Center Visioning Process does not create new regulations or authorize specific projects. Instead, it establishes a framework that will help guide future planning efforts, zoning discussions, grant applications, and capital investments entirely based on community feedback and insights. As the Town continues work on the Route 113 Corridor Study, Community Path planning, Union School redevelopment, and other initiatives, the visioning process provides a roadmap to ensure future improvements reflect the priorities and values expressed by residents.



Cultural Facilities Planning Grant Awarded for Union School Building

The Town has been awarded a $35,000 Cultural Facilities Technical Assistance Grant for the re-use planning of the Union Building.

The grant will allow the Town to hire a consultant to help lead a comprehensive feasibility and planning process to advance the Union School Building's reuse. Their work will begin with project coordination, including a review of all previous studies and confirmation of a detailed work plan with Town staff and the Union Building Rehabilitation Committee. They will conduct a feasibility and market analysis that evaluates community arts programming needs, assesses demand for artist studios, and refines potential program scenarios and space-use options.

At the conclusion of the project, the consultant will produce a final feasibility report. The report will summarize all findings, recommendations, and next steps. Once complete, the plan will be presented to Town leadership, the Union School Building Rehabilitation Committee, and the community.

At the same time, the Town continues to advance the interior design expected to be substantially complete by the end of June. At this point, the Town will have design plans and cost estimates in-hand for the interior construction of the building.



News in Brief

Beach Days at Camp Massapoag

The Town of Dunstable is excited to once again offer Beach Days at Camp Massapoag, providing residents a chance to enjoy this beautiful local treasure.

Time: 12 PM - 4 PM

Location: Camp Massapoag

- July 11
- July 25
- August 8

Open Space Plan Advances

The Town's updated Open Space and Recreation Plan has received conditional approval from the state. The Town is now working to address several state-requested revisions before receiving final approval.

New Contracts

The Town has entered several new contracts: Comprehensive IT Management Services with Umbral Technologies for 1-year, Nitsch Engineering to advance feasibility and concept design work for the Town Center Trail Loop, GPI Engineering to begin design of the Route 113 Complete Streets project, and mowing and landscaping with DeMatos Landscaping, and fertilizing with Pro Turf.

Town Hall HVAC

New air handling and condensor units were installed at Town Hall. This project was funded with CPA funds and completed by Green Flow Solutions.

Website Update

The project to update the Town's website is advancing and expected to be completed by the end of summer. Look out for the new website launch in early fall.

Larter Field Master Plan

The Parks Commission continues its work to complete the field stabilization design and master plan for Larter Field. Expect a final public meeting to review plans in late July.

Scoop the Poop: A Small Action That Protects Our Environment

As more residents enjoy walking their dogs around town, it's important to remember that picking up after our pets is about more than being courteous, it's also about protecting public health and the environment.

When dog waste is left on the ground or disposed of in storm drains, rainfall can carry harmful bacteria, parasites, and other pollutants into nearby streams, rivers, ponds, and wetlands. Unlike wastewater from our homes, stormwater is not treated before it enters local waterways. As a result, pet waste can contribute to water pollution and make recreational areas less safe for people and wildlife.

Dog waste contains microorganisms that can negatively impact water quality and the environment. With millions of dogs across the country producing millions of tons of waste each year, even small amounts left behind can add up quickly. The longer waste remains on the ground, the greater the chance it will be washed into storm drains and nearby water bodies.

Picking up after your dog is a simple action that makes a meaningful difference. Please remember to bring a waste bag when walking your pet, properly dispose of waste in the trash, and help keep Dunstable's parks, trails, neighborhoods, and waterways clean for everyone to enjoy.



Stay updated on what's happening in Town

Stay updated on what's happening in the Town of Dunstable and the work of your local government! There are many ways to stay informed:

- Sign-up to receive email notification on our website, www.dunstable-ma.gov/subscribe, provide your email in the appropriate fields, and check off any notices you would like to receive.
- Follow us on Facebook: @dunstablema and Instagram: @townofdunstable
- Subscribe to our Youtube Channel: @townofdunstable3179
- Follow us on LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/town-of-dunstable/
- Follow us on NextDoor at Town of Dunstable

Get Involved! Join a Town Board or Committee

The Select Board has begun making annual board and committee appointments and reappointments. Now is the perfect time to step up and serve. We're looking to fill vacancies and welcome new voices across a wide range of committees.

We have opportunities for residents of all backgrounds and interests whether you have a few hours a month or more time to give, the town could benefit from your experience, expertise, insight and commitment.

Interested? Send an email to select-board@dunstable-ma.gov.

Town of Dunstable
511 Main Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

PRSRT STD

ECRWSS

U.S. POSTAGE

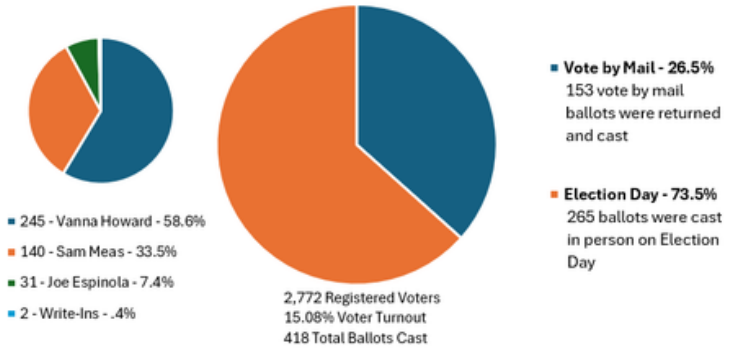
PAID

LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Special State Election on March 3, 2026 Results

Overall, out of 2,772 registered voters, the Town of Dunstable cast a total of 418 ballots in the Special State Election on March 3, 2026 to fill the vacant State Senate seat. This translates to a 15.08% voter turnout. Of the 418 ballots cast, 153 or 26.5% were vote by mail and 265, or 73.5% were cast in person on Election Day.

In Dunstable, Vanna Howard received 245 (58.6%) votes, Sam Meas received 140 (33.5%) votes, and Joe Espinola received 31 (7.4%) votes. There were also 2 write-ins.



Summer Concert Series Schedule

Are you ready to rock, swing, sway, groove, and tap to the beat of old faves and new notes?

Drum roll, please... introducing the 2026 Dunstable Summer Concert Series lineup! Thanks to the Summer Concerts Committee for organizing an amazing lineup of bands this year! Concerts are on Wednesdays from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM and rain dates are on Thursday.

June 24 – Fiddle Fire – High Energy Charlie Daniels tribute band
July 1 – Delta Generators – Blues, Roots, R&B, Americana and Rock
July 8 – Bush League – Classic Rock cover band
July 15 – Rampage Trio – High-energy blues-rock dance band and also VEHICLE NIGHT
July 22 – Rubin Brothers – Vaudeville duo, featuring jazz, swing, and original music
July 29 – AJ and the Groove – Classic jazz with a modern twist

Gather your lawn chairs and kin and come on down! Well-behaved, on-leash dogs on the Common are permitted.

Want to help? Contact dunstablesummerconcerts@gmail.com.

