

From "Town of Needham"
<ahaelsen@needhamma.gov>
To ccostello@doverma.gov
Date 2025-06-13 10:00:37+00:00
Subject The News You Need(ham) - June 13, 2025

[View this email in your browser](#)

The News You Need(ham)

News from the Town of Needham

June 13, 2025

Good morning Needham,

Some important updates to share:

- *

On Tuesday, Secretary Rebecca Tepper of the [Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs](#) declared the Southeast Region has been downgraded to [Drought Status Level 0](#) – Normal Conditions, joining the Connecticut River Valley, Western, Central, and Northeast Regions. As a result, the Town of Needham has lifted all restrictions on outdoor water use.

- *

The Town will hold a free paper shredding event at the [Recycling and Transfer Station](#)

(RTS) this Saturday, June 14th from 10 am-2 pm. A valid RTS sticker is required to participate and there is a limit of 5 paper boxes per vehicle. Need an RTS sticker? Find more information on how to get a free residential RTS sticker on the [Town's website](#).

• *

Non-emergency Town offices will be closed on Thursday, June 19th in observance of Juneteenth.

Town to Host Juneteenth Observance on June 19th

Join your neighbors and local and state leaders for a recitation of the Emancipation Proclamation, remarks, and reflection in observance of Juneteenth. The event will be held on Town Common, in front of Town Hall, on Thursday, June 19th at 9:30 am. All are welcome!

Large House Review Committee Survey Open Until June 16th

Did you miss Monday night's Large House Review Committee's Public Input Session? You can find the recording of the meeting on the [Town's YouTube Channel](#).

Take the Survey!

The Committee is conducting a survey to collect feedback from stakeholders on the large house issue in Needham. The short survey will only take a few minutes to complete and will be open until Monday, June 16th at 11:59 pm. Click the button below to take the survey.

Find more information on the Committee on the [Town's website](#).

Questions or additional feedback may be sent to planning@needhamma.gov.

Take the Large House Review Committee

Survey

Kevin Keane to Host Select Board Office Hours on June 18th

Select Board Member Kevin Keane will hold office hours on Wednesday, June 18th from 5-6 pm in the Select Board Chambers at Needham Town Hall. Rotating members of the Select Board host office hours each month to offer residents the opportunity to speak directly with a Board member about issues of importance to them.

Each hour-long session is hosted by an individual Board member who chooses the date, time, and location for the meetings. Members may also choose to schedule appointments with residents for each office hours session. During these sessions, members may provide their personal views and opinions, which may not represent those of the entire Select Board.

Full details for each upcoming office hours will be published on [this informational page](#) on the Town's website no later than two weeks before the session is hosted.

To schedule an appointment with a member, please contact them directly via the contact information listed for the appointment. For questions about the office hours program, please email otm@needhamma.gov.

Public Meeting for Pilot Off-leash Dog Area on Rosemary Trail to be Held on June 23rd

A joint meeting of the **Park & Recreation Commission** and the **Select Board** to consider piloting the Rosemary Trail as an off-leash dog area is scheduled for Monday, June 23rd at the Memorial Park Fieldhouse, 92 Rosemary Street, and via Zoom.

The goal for this meeting is for Town staff to present the pilot proposal and allow Board/Commission members to solicit feedback from abutters and the community on the proposal. More information, including the Zoom link, can be found on the Town's website by clicking the button below.

Pilot Off-leash Dog Area on

Rosemary Trail

Board of Health to Hold Public Hearing on June 20th on Article 1

The [Needham Board of Health](#) will host a public hearing on Friday, June 20th at 9:15 am in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room and via Zoom. The purpose of the hearing is for the Board of Health to consider adoption of the following:

- *

Proposed revisions to [Board of Health's Article 1](#) include inserting a new Section G specifying that no retailer or person shall sell or distribute or cause to be sold or distributed oral nicotine pouches with a nicotine content greater than six (6) mg per individual pouch.

- *

Other minor formatting changes and small edits will also be made to the article.

How to Provide Feedback at a Public Hearing:

1. 1.

Attend the meeting in person to speak

2. 2.

Attend the meeting by Zoom and raise your virtual hand to ask to speak. Zoom link:
<https://needham-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/86770986259?pwd=6wGsBNzVBSQOmHpcOnnabQfyF0GnuM.1>

3. 3.

Send written comments in advance of the hearing to healthdepartment@needhamma.gov or to by postal mail to: Needham Public Health Division, 178 Rosemary St, Needham, MA 02494.

Virtual Public Meeting on June 25th to Review Plans for Alder Brook Project Phase I

In collaboration with the [Charles River Watershed Association](#) and BETA Engineering, the Town of Needham has been developing engineering designs for a bioretention basin (engineered rain garden) for the parking lot at DeFazio Park. The bioretention basin would help to improve water quality, reduce stormwater runoff, provide pollinator habitat, and enhance flood protections along Alder Brook

near DeFazio Park along Dedham Avenue.

Join the upcoming virtual public meeting on Wednesday, June 25th at 7 pm to learn more about the final engineering designs for the project. [Registration is required for the Zoom link.](#)

Thank you to the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management Coastal Habitat and Water Quality Grant Program for providing funding for this project.

Sunita Williams Lands on Top of Town Hall Replica in the Children's Room at Needham Public Library

The much-beloved Lego replica of Needham Town Hall and Town Common, on display in the children's room at the [Needham Public Library](#), recently got a fun new addition. Olin College Professor Brad Minch constructed a space capsule and Needham's own Sunita Williams out of Legos, both of which now sit on the roof of Needham Town Hall. Williams, a NASA astronaut and commander of the Starliner mission which launched in June 2024, returned to earth in March 2025 after spending nine months aboard the International Space Station.

The replica was constructed by Needham resident Nick Tatar in 2014 and updated in 2023 following the new design and renovation of the Town Common. Nick originally constructed the mini reproduction of Town Hall in 2014 for the Town's 300th birthday celebration. The model was made out of approximately 15,000 Lego pieces and took him about 3 months to construct in his free time. Go check it out!

Youth and Family Services to Host End of School Year Party for Middle and High Schoolers on June 16th

School is (almost) out for the summer and

[Needham Youth and Family Services](#) is hosting a celebration for middle school and high school students! They're planning an End of the School Year Dance Party at the gazebo at Memorial Park on the last day of school, Monday, June 16th from 12-2 pm.

Teens can enjoy snacks, music, games, and hang out with Officer Rocket

and Ghost. There is no cost to attend and no sign-up is necessary.

Update on Rosemary Pools Hours and Programs

The hours for the Rosemary pools 2025 season are as follows:

Through June 18

Weekdays:

7-10 am: Lap Swimming and Water Walking

Weekends:

11 am-4 pm: Open Swim

June 19

The pool will be closed for staff training.

June 20-June 29

Weekdays:

7-10 am: Lap Swimming and Water Walking

12:30 pm-7:30 pm: Open Swim

Weekends:

10 am-6 pm Open Swim

June 30-August 8

Weekdays:

7-10 am: Lap Swimming and Water Walking

8:30 am-12 pm: Red Cross swimming lessons

12:30-7:30 pm: Open Swim

Weekends:

10 am-6 pm: Open Swim

August 9-August 31

Weekdays:

7-10 am: Lap Swimming and Water Walking

12:30 pm-6:30 pm: Open Swim

Weekends:

11 am-4 pm: Open Swim

Needham Park and Recreation will host three sessions of swimming lessons this summer. The 2-week long sessions will be offered on the following dates:

- *

June 30-July 11 (no lesson July 4)

- *

July 14-July 25

- *

July 28-August 8

For descriptions of swimming lessons and class times, information on daily and seasonal pool passes, and the Sharks Swim Team, please refer to the **Rosemary Pools Summer 2025 brochure**. To register for swimming lessons, please visit **www.NeedhamPrograms.com**.

Needham Public Library Announces Summer Reading Program

The **Needham Free Public Library** has summer reading programs for all ages. Kids up to 6th grade can earn prizes, books, and Dragon Cards for reading, plus enjoy fun events like a laser show, movies, a magic show and LED mini-golf. Teens (grades 7–12) can complete themed BINGO boards to win raffle prizes and discover new favorite reads. Adults can play our Reading Board Game and enter prize raffles. Everyone gets a free book just for

signing up! To get started and for more information, click the button below or stop by the library.

Needham Free Public Library Summer Reading

Program

Council on Aging's Programming for Seniors

[The Needham Council on Aging](#) (COA) offers social events, weekly fitness classes, drop-in games including Bingo, Bridge, Mahjong, Canasta and more at the Center at the Heights (CATH), 300 Hillside Avenue. More information on classes and drop-in game times can be found in the May/June issue of [The Needham Compass](#), COA's newsletter. The following programs have no cost to attend unless otherwise noted.

Television Dads: Now & Then

Monday, June 16, 1-2 pm

Remember Father Knows Best, My Three Sons, Leave It to Beaver? How were fathers portrayed in the 50's and 60's? How have they been characterized since then? We will discuss how TV dads have changed along with social norms. In honor of Father's Day, join Theater Director and Film Educator Deb Block for this interesting presentation about tv dads we all remember.

How to Spot Scams & Fraud with the Better Business Bureau

Tuesday, June 17, 11 am-12 pm

Worried about getting taken in by the latest scam? Attend a discussion with the Better Business Bureau on current scams and learn how they educate consumers to prevent victimization by scammers.

Cooking with Jessica

Tuesday, June 17, 3-4 pm

Join Jessica Weiss in the CATH's kitchen as she walks you through delicious seasonal recipes.

Coffee Talk with CaptionCall

Wednesday, June 18, 9:45 – 10:30 am

CaptionCall is a free service that provides captions for phone calls for people with hearing loss. CaptionCall uses a captioned telephone with a built-in screen that displays captions in real time. The captions show what the other person is saying and allow people with hearing loss to participate in phone calls, handle affairs, and call for help.

Inferno! The Great Boston Fire of 1872 with Anthony Sammarco

Wednesday, June 18, 1-2 pm

Join Anthony for a presentation about *Inferno: The Great Boston Fire of 1872*, written to commemorate the 150th anniversary of a devastating fire that destroyed 65 acres of land in Boston, destroyed 776 buildings downtown, caused more than \$73 million in damage (or \$1.6 billion in 2022 dollars) and killed 20 people.

Rainbow Social Hour on the Deck

Wednesday, June 18, July 16, August 20 (Every 3rd Wednesday), 2:30 pm

Rainbow Social Hour is an LGBTQIA+ social group that welcomes all who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community. Weather permitting, enjoy refreshments and a cold drink on the CATH's beautiful roof deck.

Breakfast with Rep. Josh Tarsky

Friday, June 20, 9:30 – 10:30 am

Join Needham's State Representative Josh Tarsky for breakfast and learn more about what's going on at the State House and in Needham.

For more information and to register for any of the COA programs, call the Center at the Heights at 781-455-7555.

Needham Community Education's New Course Offerings

NCE's Summer Adult Programs catalog is now available and registration is underway. The digital catalog can be viewed on the [NCE website](#).

These programs, beginning/happening soon still have availability:

Celebrating Native Plants (in-person): Gardening expert, Joanne Neale, invites you to tour her garden and learn about how she lightens her gardening workload through the use of native plants, plant combinations and other gardening

techniques. She will share tips that will enable you to establish a low-maintenance garden that is also a haven for birds, butterflies and native pollinators. Saturday, June 21, 9:30-11:30 am.

Planning for Private School Entrance Exams (virtual): Is your student applying to an Independent or Private School in the coming year? Unsure of which exam(s) are required for admissions? Join this informative virtual workshop to learn about the ISEE/SSAT exams and the current testing landscape in private school admissions. We will discuss the levels of exams, exam formats (paper vs. computer-based), overview of content, testing timelines, and how your student can prepare. Students and parents will leave with an understanding of the exam requirements, timelines, and resources. Tuesday, June 24, 7-7:45 pm.

Concrete Chic! (in-person): Concrete is more than a utilitarian material, it can be used to craft unique vessels and art objects. Have fun experimenting with concrete as you make four items: a succulent dish, a trinket tray, an egg and an item of your choice (selecting from 20 molds that the instructor will provide). You will learn how inexpensive items can be used to create beautiful pieces. All necessary materials will be provided. Just bring your creativity! Thursday, June 26, 11 am-2 pm.

Register for classes online or by phone at (781) 455-0400 extension 5. For questions, contact NCE Program Director Amy Goldman at extension 11214 or at amy_goldman@needham.k12.ma.us.



Needham Women's Club Hosts Garden Tour on June 14th

On Saturday, June 14th, the [Needham Women's Club](#) will host the 2025 Needham Garden Tour from 10 am-3 pm. The tour will feature a diverse array of local gardens, from lush landscapes to creative backyard retreats. Visitors will have the opportunity to stroll through beautiful settings, gain inspiration for their own gardening endeavors, and connect with fellow garden enthusiasts. During check in for the tour at the [Needham History Center and Museum](#) (NHCM), there will be a Maker's Market featuring local artisans offering a selection of handmade goods and a raffle for containers and floral arrangements on display at the NHCM and gardeners' homes. Proceeds will support Needham charitable organizations.

Opening Day of the Needham Farmers Market is Sunday, June 15th

Opening Day of the 14h Season of the [Needham Farmers Market](#) is this Sunday, June 15th. The market will run from 11 am - 3pm on Garrity's Way in front of Needham Town Hall every Sunday through the end of October. Featuring local produce, meat, fish, baked goods, coffee, flowers, and locally sourced and locally produced foods. Live music and local artists, too.

Looking for Work? The Town of Needham is Hiring!

The [Town of Needham](#)'s current open positions include:

- *

Assistant Director of Public Health for Nursing and Behavioral Health

- *

Crossing Guard

- *

Deputy Town Manager

- *

Inspector of Plumbing and Gas (new!)

Town of Needham Job

Openings

***Please note that the meetings below are linked to the relevant agenda if they have been posted by the Town Clerk's office. Agendas must be posted 48 business hours in advance of the meeting.*

Friday, June 13, 2025

Council of Economic Advisors, 8 am via Zoom

Monday, June 16, 2025

Trustees of Memorial Park, 5 pm, Memorial Park Field House

Historical Commission, 7 pm, Town Hall, Select Board Chambers and via Zoom

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Charles River Health District Advisory Board, 9 am, Rosemary Recreational Complex, Hillside Conference Room

Subcommittee for the School Committee for Negotiations, 3:30 pm, Emery Grover School Administration Building, Room 302

Large House Review Committee Working Group, 4:30 pm, Public Services Administration Building, Webster Room

Commission on Disabilities, 5:30 pm via Zoom

School Committee, 6:30 pm, Broadmeadow School, Performance Center and via Zoom

Planning Board, 7 pm, Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room and via Zoom

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Needham Retirement Board, 9:30 am, Town Hall, Highland Room

Friday, June 20, 2025

Board of Health, 9 am, Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room and via Zoom

Board of Assessors, 9:30 am, Town Hall, Highland Room

Meetings above are shown as listed on the Town calendar as of 6/12/25. Don't forget to check out the **Needham Meeting and Events calendar** for updated information. You can also sign up to receive meeting notices and agendas on the Town's **"Notify Me"** page.

Saturday, June 14, 2025

The Needham High School Habitat for Humanity Club is holding a **community yard sale** at Needham High School (A and B gyms) from 12-4 pm. To donate gently used items including clothing for all ages (adults, teens, children, infants), toys, sports equipment, puzzles, books, jewelry, tools, collectibles, and various household goods (kindly ensure that all donated items are clean and free from holes or stains). You can drop off your contributions on Friday, June 13th, from 3-5 pm or on Saturday morning, June 14th, from 8 am-11 am right before the yard sale begins. If these times don't work for you, please reach out to arrange an alternative drop-off. For questions please contact diana_parkhurst@needham.k12.ma.us.

Sunday, June 22, 2025

First Parish of Needham Unitarian Universalist will host Music on the Lawn at 23 Dedham Avenue from 4-5:30 pm. Featuring the First Parish Players, Fresh Air, ICONix & Friends, and Not Dead Yet. Dancing and singing along is encouraged and all are welcome. Rain Date is Thursday, June 26th at 6 pm (indoors if raining).

Thursday, July 3, 2025

The Needham Exchange Club hosts its annual festivities the evening before July 4th with a fun-filled lineup of activities including pony rides and face painting for children, a pie eating contest, and a concert featuring the band Reminisants followed by fireworks at dusk. More details can be found [here](#). **Sign up for The Exchange Club's email notifications** about the fireworks and July 4th parade. .

July 4, 2025

The **Charles River YMCA** is hosting its Annual July 4th Road Race on Friday, July 4th starting at 8:30 am. Registration is \$35 until June 30th and then \$40 from July 1st-July 4th. Online registration closes on July 2nd at 2 pm. The first 400 people to register receive a limited-edition T-shirt. Visit www.ymcaboston.org/events for more information and to register.

The Annual 4th of July Parade, organized by **The Needham Exchange Club**, will begin at 9 am at the Town Common. Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick, who will be retiring in early July, will serve as the parade's Grand Marshal. Find a map of the parade route [here](#).

July 13, 2025

The [5th Masonic District](#) will host a Community Blood Drive from 8 am-1:30 pm at 1101 Highland Avenue. This event is open to all eligible donors and aims to help replenish local blood supplies for hospitals and emergency services. With supplies often running low, especially after the winter months, community support is more important than ever. Just one donation can save up to three lives. All donors are encouraged to [schedule an appointment in advance](#). Participants will receive a complimentary breakfast and a token of appreciation for their generous contribution.

Check out the [Community Calendar](#) on the Town's website!

Did someone send you this newsletter? Subscribe directly using this [sign-up link](#)! We want to hear from you! Send questions or comments to Amy Haelsen, Director of Communications & Community Engagement at ahaelsen@needhamma.gov. If you're inclined, please forward this newsletter on and urge others to subscribe. Thanks for reading!

Town of Needham
1471 Highland Ave.
Needham, MA 02492
781-455-7500
www.needhamma.gov

This email was sent to ccostello@doverma.gov

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Town of Needham, MA · Needham Town Hall · 1471 Highland Ave. · Needham, MA 02492 · USA