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# The Garlick Press

**August 29, 2024**

Statewide and District Updates

## Legislative Updates

- **\* On Friday, August 23rd, 2024, Governor Healey signed into law a comprehensive maternal health bill.** This legislation creates a state licensure pathway for midwives and lactation consultants, encourages the creation of more freestanding birth centers, establishes a grant program to address mental health and substance use disorder, and expands the statewide universal postpartum depression and major depressive disorder screenings for perinatal individuals. For more information, [click here](#).
- **\* Our weekly budget updates continue!** On July 29th, 2024 Governor Healey signed into law our \$57.78B Massachusetts state budget for fiscal year 2025. The FY25 budget builds on the many strengths of the Massachusetts economy and addresses some of the state's biggest challenges. This budget is balanced, responsibly controls spending growth, and protects taxpayer dollars. Over the next month I will be sharing highlights from our state budget.

# District Updates

## Needham

- **\* Early voting continues this week in Needham!** See the graphic above or visit the [Needham Website](#) for more information.
- **\* The League of Women Voters of Needham have put together a voter information toolkit for the state primary on September 3, 2024 to assist Needham voters.** To view the toolkit, [click here](#).
- **\* Needham's 3rd Annual Overdose Awareness Vigil will take place on Thursday, August 29th at 6:30 pm at the Memorial Park Gazebo.** This will be an opportunity to remember those affected by the opioid epidemic and renew our sense of hope as we head into National Recovery Month in September.
- **\* The Substance Prevention Alliance of Needham (SPAN) is asking for support for their Nicotine Free Generation community policy option.** This would phase out the sale of nicotine products to future generations of young people. To learn more about the Nicotine Free Generation policy, [click here](#). The Needham Board of Health is accepting input from the community at a public hearing during their meeting on Friday, September 5th at 9:30 am at 1471 Highland Ave, Needham. Letters of support can be emailed to [healthdepartment@needhamma.gov](mailto:healthdepartment@needhamma.gov) or mailed to Public Health Division, 178 Rosemary St, Needham, MA 02494.
- **\* Needham's Plugged In Band will be hosting a series of music workshops for all ages throughout the month of August.** If you are interested in learning to play an instrument or song writing, [click here](#) to see the full August schedule.
- **\* The Needham Community Council is seeking volunteers to join their team of 80+**

tutors serving the needs of Needham's diverse English language learning community. Training will be provided, with classes being held in October. Please email Program Director Sheila Roberts to sign up at [sroberts@needhamcouncil.org](mailto:sroberts@needhamcouncil.org).

### Dover

- \* **Early voting continues this week in Dover!** See the graphic above or visit the [Dover Website](#) for more information.
- \* **Blue Moon Breads and Powisset Farm Stand will be distributing donated baked goods and local produce, partially funded by the Dover COA.** The next distribution will be on September 12th from 12:30-1:00 pm at the Most Precious Blood Church Parking Lot (30 Centre Street). Please note this is available to seniors.
- \* **The Dover Swap Shop is now accepting latex paint for reuse and recycling through October 30th.** Only latex paint cans that are at least 1/2 full in their original container with label identification will be accepted.
- \* **The Dover Library will be hosting Outdoor Super Awesome Fun Time on the Library Lawn for young children and their caregivers.** There will an energetic array of movement, songs, music, stories, and fun, followed by indoor portion for sensory activities, crafts, and more fun. This will take place on Friday, August 30th and Tuesday, September 1st from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. For more information about this event and others hosted by the Dover library, [click here](#)
- \* **The Town of Dover is looking for volunteers interested in getting involved in local government and serving on a board, commission, or committee.** There are various opportunities for those that are interested, with terms ranging from one to five years. If you're interested in serving, [click here](#)
- \* **The Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that West Nile Virus has**

**been detected in mosquitos collected from Dover.** West Nile Virus is commonly transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquitoes that carry this virus are common throughout the state and are found in urban as well as rural areas. While West Nile Virus can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe infection. For more information and prevention tips, [click here](#)

- **\* The Board of Assessors will be conducting cyclical property inspections in the following months.** Peter Krajewski and Jim Harris, representatives of Patriot Properties, Inc., will be conducting property measures and inspections over the forthcoming months. These inspections pertain to properties that have not been visited within the last decade or that have recently obtained a building permit. This program is mandated by the Massachusetts General Law. For more information, [click here](#)

### **Medfield**

- **\* Early voting continues this week in Medfield!** See the graphic above or visit the [Medfield Website](#) for more information.
- **\* Medfield SWAP is seeking volunteers.** They are looking for strong lifters for one 3 hour shift on Saturdays from 9:00 am -12:00 pm or 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm for the month of September. Please email Nancy Irwin [nancyirwin@gmail.com](mailto:nancyirwin@gmail.com) for more information.
- **\* The Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that West Nile Virus has been detected in mosquitos collected from Medfield.** West Nile Virus is commonly transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquitoes that carry this virus are common throughout the state and are found in urban as well as rural areas. While West Nile Virus can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe infection. For more information and prevention tips, [click here](#).

## Norfolk County Arbovirus Report

The hot months of summer bring an increased risk of mosquito-borne illnesses. West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE or “Triple E”) are viruses that occur in Massachusetts and can cause illnesses ranging from mild fever to more serious diseases like encephalitis or meningitis. Mosquito testing for EEE and other diseases is conducted from June to October. This section of Garlick Press will share weekly reportings of Arbovirus in Norfolk County.

### Risk Levels:

**Needham:** Remote for EEE and moderate for WNV

**Dover:** Low for EEE and moderate for WNV

**Medfield:** Low and moderate for WNV

To learn more about mosquito-borne illnesses, [click here.](#)

To learn how to protect yourself against mosquito-borne illnesses, [click here.](#)

## Statewide Updates

- **\* The Executive Office of Veterans Services and the US Department of Veteran Affairs are hosting New England's first VA 1-on-1 Veterans Assistance Expo.** This event will take place on Wednesday, September 4, from 9:00 am - 8:00 pm at Gillette Stadium. This will be an opportunity for service members, veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors to connect with representatives from the US Department of Veterans Affairs, state and community partners. Services and resources include, PACT Act screenings, healthcare guidance, education benefits, claims assistance, and employment opportunities. To learn more, [click here](#)
- **\* The Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Office of International Trade and Investment (MOITI), in collaboration with the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center and the Massachusetts Export Center are announcing the Massachusetts State Trade Expansion Program (STEP).** This program is intended to help

offset international business development and related marketing costs for small businesses. For more information on how to apply, [click here](#). STEP will be hosting a grant application webinar on Friday, September 13th from 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm, to register, [click here](#)

- **\* The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced that C&W Facility Services in Needham was awarded a \$55,760 training grant as a part of the Workforce Training Fund Program.** This funding will be used to fund training for current and newly hired employees. Grants are awarded on a rolling basis throughout the year, with 1,490 new jobs expected to be added by 2026. For more information on the grant process, [click here](#)
- **\* State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg and the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) have announced a ten-week Building a Logo contest for the MSBA.** This contest will be open to all 10th, 11th, and 12th grade public school students, and is a great opportunity for young artists to expand their artistic horizons and gain recognition for their creativity and skill. For more information, [click here](#)
- **\* The Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) announced that it is awarding \$1 million in funding to support families impacted by substance use disorder.** The distribution of funding to grantees will improve accessibility to services, making a profound impact on the lives of Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, foster the growth of new and existing programs, and enhance substance use disorder care across the state. To learn more, [click here](#).
- **\* In the month of August, Highland Street launches August Adventures, a month-long celebration with free admission to different museums and cultural institutions.** Free admission to museums and cultural institutions will vary by day. This week features the Sports Museum and Boston Bruins Heritage Hall (8/29), the Cape Cod Museum of Art (8/30), and the Mass Audubon Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary. Some venues may require advanced registration which will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, [click here](#).

## Resources

If you are in need of information, resources, or support, please [visit my website for a list of resources](#) regarding unemployment assistance, food assistance, housing, and mental health. Additionally, for town-

specific information visit the Towns of [Needham](#), [Dover](#), and [Medfield](#)'s websites.

I am always here to support my constituents. If you are in need of assistance, my office is available to help, and we can always be reached by phone, email, or by visiting us at the State House in Room 473G.

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