



(Above): Diane Barry Preston, co-founder of Livable Dedham, speaking during Part 1 of the organization's Spring Housing Series, "Aging in Community," on April 22.

Photo contributed to The Dedham Times

## Livable Dedham holds Part One of Spring Housing Series

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The Dedham Times

Over 50 residents and elected officials joined Livable Dedham and a panel of age friendly experts for Part 1 of its Spring Housing Series, "Aging in Community," on Monday, April 22 at the Dedham Middle School.

Livable Dedham aims to help Dedham residents of all ages and abilities have access to high-quality, affordable housing, and community-based support services.

The series was created to build awareness, discussion, and momentum around increasing housing options in Dedham, where 41% of residents are projected to be age 55 or older by 2030.

Part 1 of the series focused on Home Modifications and Community Supports. This theme was chosen to respond to data from Livable Dedham's 2016 community survey, which found that 71% of Dedham's older adults want to stay in Dedham as they age.

Of those who want to stay in their homes as they age, 42% said they would need to modify their homes to do so.

The survey also found that over 60% of residents would like to see more accessible, affordable housing developments and an increase in community support services.

Kimberly Blakemore, Program Officer, Tufts Health Plan Foundation, began the panel discussion by highlighting the importance of providing appropriate housing options for our aging population, which among other benefits helps to reduce healthcare costs.

The Tufts Health Plan Foundation has recognized the work of Livable Dedham with grants totalling close to \$112,000 over the past two years.

Brian Harvey, owner, Harvey Home Modifications, used photos to demonstrate numerous ways people can modify their homes as they age, including considerations of lighting, doorway width, countertop height, and bathroom design.

Antron Watson, Age-Friendly Director of AARP Massachusetts, gave attendees the AARP HomeFit guide, and explained how the guide helps people identify solutions to make their homes more appropriate and safe as they age.

Sheryl Leary, Director of Planning and Community Development at Health & Social Services Consortium (HESSCO) described the types of services their organization provides to Dedham residents.

Last year, HESSCO provided Dedham resi-

dents with thousands of hours of services such as family caregiver support, legal services, options counseling, and home care. HESSCO services are available at a sliding scale - the cost of services such as home care are based on income and available to all residents.

Sheila Pransky, Director, Dedham Council on Aging, explained the range of programming and services available through the Dedham Senior Center. She noted many people are unaware Dedham has an Outreach Coordinator who focuses on solving people's problems, and that the Senior Center is able to help residents stay active and connected in the community even when they are no longer driving.

The panel concluded with an opportunity for residents to ask questions about Dedham's housing inventory and zoning changes that would support the development of age friendly housing options.

Diane Barry Preston, co-founder of Livable Dedham, expressed appreciation to all of the elected officials who attended the Forum.

"Creating age-friendly housing options to meet our growing demand will take collaboration between multiple boards and committees. It was wonderful to have so many elected officials present and interested in working on this important issue for our community."

In total, eight of Dedham's Boards were represented, including the Planning Board, Select Board, Housing Authority Board, Parks and Recreation Commission, Board of Health, School Committee, Library Trustees, and Commission on Disability.

Part 2 of the Spring Housing series will be held on Tuesday, June 4, 7 p.m. at the Dedham Middle School. The Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance will provide an overview of Accessory Dwelling units (ADUs) and opportunity for discussion. ADUs are apartments within or attached to owner-occupied homes on a single lot, often called "in-law apartments."

Participants will learn more about why Governor Baker and other housing advocates are encouraging communities to loosen zoning restrictions so that more residents will have access to this sustainable and valuable housing option.

Livable Dedham is a member of the AARP/WHO Network of Age-Friendly Communities and a grateful recipient of generous funding from Tufts Health Plan Foundation and the AARP.

Please visit [www.livablededham.org](http://www.livablededham.org) or contact [livablededham@gmail.com](mailto:livablededham@gmail.com) for additional information or to be connected with any of the resources discussed above.

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## Dedham Retired Men's Club meetings

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**Friday, May 10 –**  
**Michael W. Morrissey, DA Norfolk County**

Dedham Retired Men's Club speaker will be Norfolk County District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

DA Morrissey will focus on the structure of his office and what he has accomplished in his eight years as District Attorney. The meeting will be held on Friday, May 10 at the Endicott Estate, 656 East St., Dedham, at 9:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, May 14 –**  
**Lynn Museum and Historical Society**

Dedham Retired Men's Club will travel to Lynn to tour the Lynn Museum and Historical Society on May 14.

The museum displays depict important events in the city's industrial past, from the manufacture of women's shoes to the production of jet engines.

Any retired man interested in going should contact Chuck at 781-329-0634.

**Tuesday, May 21 –**  
**Dedham Historical Society and Museum**

Dedham Retired Men's Club will travel to Dedham Square and visit the Dedham Historical Society and Museum on May 21. The Dedham Historical Society owns one of the foremost collections of Dedham Pottery and the original site of Jeremiah Shuttlesworth's home, Dedham's first Postmaster in the late 1700s.

**Friday, May 24 –**  
**Annual Memorial Service**

Dedham Retired Men's Club will hold its Annual Memorial Service on Friday, May 24 at the Endicott Estate beginning at 9:30 a.m. The Celebrant this year will be Rev. Wayne Belschner, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Dedham. Club members and their families are invited to remember and honor the life and memory of our deceased members in spiritual readings and in song.

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