



(Above): DCH camper Nathan Jeanniton, working outside the Dedham Public Library's Main Branch.

Dedham Community House campers take part in clean-up and planting project with Livable Dedham & Dedham Civic Pride

Contributed to The Dedham Times

Livable Dedham and the Dedham Community House are partnering this summer, funded by a grant from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation, to add a programming component to the Dedham Community House's Teen Camp which focuses on community service and civic engagement related to age-friendly initiatives – making our community a great place to grow up and grow old.

This week, the campers this week focused on volunteerism and participated in a cleanup and planting project with Dedham Civic Pride at the Dedham Public Library's main branch.

Over the course of the program, campers are learning about an aging population and exploring solutions for our community related to transportation, communication, volunteer opportunities and programs and activities for older adults, with the goal of providing mutually rewarding intergenerational experiences for all involved!

Here is the summary of the activity, by campers Caitlin Manos and Hannah Kane:

On Monday, Janet Holmes from Dedham Civic Pride visited camp to share her experience with volunteerism. During her time with us, we discovered that many of us at camp had volunteered in a number of ways in our own communities. Janet discussed the many ways that volunteers help to build a safe and thriving community in order to fill the needs that would otherwise be postponed.

Several of us raised our concerns that we noticed during our walk audit (such as overgrown shrubs and grass) as possible volunteer projects.

Later in the week we went to the main branch of the Dedham library in order to assist in several maintenance and beautification projects that have been postponed, either from a lack of funding or manpower. We did yard work, such as raking the gardens, planting, and painting inspiring messages on rocks we found. On some of these rocks we left our hopes to cheer up anyone who sees or picks one of the stones up, including messages such as "hope," "be happy," "smile," and "love."

In front of the building, some campers worked on weeding the garden bed and placing several pots with plants around a decorative rock circle. In another area, campers reimaged a rock garden bed and replaced the stones with dirt and new plants.

Through this community service project, we made our public library a better place that more people can enjoy while learning the impact that we can have on a community by doing small tasks that smaller organizations may not be able to complete due to their own service of the community.



(Above): Janet Holmes of Dedham Civic Pride, with campers from the Dedham Community House's Teen Camp, in front of the Dedham Public Library's Main Branch.



(Above): Campers participated in a clean-up and planting project with Dedham Civic Pride, at the Dedham Public Library.

Photos contributed to The Dedham Times



(Above): Janet Holmes, with campers.