

# Hometown Weekly Newspapers

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**NEWS**

*Headline  
News*

*Medfield*

*Dover  
Sherborn*

*Westwood*

*Walpole*

*Needham*

*Columnists*

**PHOTO GALLERIES**

## A trip back to the days of Hodgson homes

The history of the Hodgson home lies hidden in Dover center. Nestled at the center the hustle and bustle of Dover's downtown, sit 16 of the 18 remaining Hodgson homes still standing in town. This Saturday, April 5th, Paul Tedesco, president of the Dover Historical Society, will take residents on a walk back in time, on a voyage back to the hay day of the Hodgson prefabricated home.

Dover resident Ernest Franklin (E.F.) Hodgson was the original man behind our nation's prefabricated homes and spearheaded a revolution that made consumers crazy for the simplicity of easily assembled homes. Hodgson called himself "America's First Prefabricator", as his company preceded other popular prefabricating ones like Aladdin, Sears and Montgomery Ward.

Hodgson grew up on Farm Street in Dover. His interest in raising poultry on his parent's dairy farm motivated him to create brooders and coops, or portable, prefabricated houses for chickens. His Peep-o-Day poultry homes were first introduced to the market in 1892.

After creating coops and brooders, Hodgson moved onto working on creating small, prefabricated summer cottages and car garages (auto stables). The Hodgson Home became immensely popular and became popping up all over the world. The company even created summer homes for the Vanderbilts and Queen..

Tedesco and his son James spent years researching the E.F. Hodgson Company and compiled a book based on their research, dubbed "Portable and Prefabricated Houses of the Thirties: The E.F. Hodgson Company 1935 and 1939 Catalogues". The book was released last year and peaked many residents' interest in the history of the Hodgson Company. When the Hodgson family and business was selected as a focal point of last year's Old Home Day, Tedesco and his son organized a map of Dover center, where a majority of the remaining Hodgson homes still stand.

This year, Tedesco decided he wanted to do something to introduce even more Dover residents to the history of the Hodgson home.

Ol realized that most of the 16-18 structures left were within three-quarters of a mile of the Sawin, so that the walk would be feasible in an hour and a half," explained Tedesco.

The walking tour will take participants on a stroll through Dover center, from Dedham Street, down Centre Street and onto Haven Street, before lopping onto Church Street and Springdale Avenue, taking a small trip to Old Meadow Road, and then back to the Sawin Museum. Walkers will be introduced to the main features and nuances of the Hodgson homes, from the wedge key-bolting system, which held the walls of each home together with a lasting grip, to the characteristic plate used to distinguish each Hodgson home.

Tedesco is hopeful that participants will not only learn a little more about the history of the E.F. Hodgson Company, but also the heritage of their hometown.

**This Week's  
Highlights**

**HEADLINE NEWS**

- A trip to China
- Up, up and away
- Volante Farms unveils greenhouse of the future
- World Challenge team is hypnotic
- Art blooms at library
- Spring cleaning on the streets of Dover

**MEDFIELD**

- 4-H fundraiser: seeking bottles & cans
- Forum to explore youth issues
- Fisher in; land issue passes at election

**DOVER/SHERBORN**

- Jazzing it up
- A trip back to the days of Hodgson homes
- Keyes named Sherborn's next town administrator

**WESTWOOD**

- Wegmans eyes Westwood Station
- Bomb scare leaves high school unrattled

**WALPOLE**

- Public invited to Fisher Auction tomorrow
- Important meeting for Civic Assoc.
- Hospital presenting brain seminar at high school

**NEEDHAM**

- The place to "Bee" tonight
- Community Council celebrates 78th year

**COLUMNISTS**

- In the Spotlight- A Journey into the Jungle
- Greg Reviews Music- Kylie Minogue
- Kyla Loves Movies- 'Tyler Perry', '21' & 'Stop-Loss'

- MEDFIELD
- DOVER/SHERBORN
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It's a project my son and I are involved with is to make people aware of what was going on 100 years ago and what was going on was that Hodgson was the first mail order, prefabricated house in the United States," said Tedesco. "If people want to learn more about it, this way they can get involved in it a little more."

The walk is expected to take an hour and a half. Participants should meet Tedesco at the Sawin Museum at 1:30pm, this Saturday, April 5th. In the case of inclement weather, the tour will be cancelled.

### more . . . DOVER/SHERBORN

- 03.APR.08 Jazzing it up
- 03.APR.08 A trip back to the days of Hodgson homes
- 03.APR.08 Keyes named Sherborn's next town administrator
- 27.MAR.08 Dover named one of the 'Best Places to Live'
- 27.MAR.08 Dover spring cleanup this Saturday
- 27.MAR.08 Battle of the Bands rocks Community Center
- 20.MAR.08 Neighborhood coordinators needed for Dover cleanup
- 20.MAR.08 Growing green thumbs
- 13.MAR.08 Battle of the Bands rocks Community Center
- 13.MAR.08 Tickets for 'Carousel' on sale today
- 13.MAR.08 DSHS presenting 'The Sound of Music' this weekend
- 13.MAR.08 Sherborn hosting Open Meeting Law seminar
- 13.MAR.08 'Italian for Beginners' hitting the silver screen tonight
- 06.MAR.08 Sharing the art of storytelling
- 06.MAR.08 A Winter Walk for homelessness
- 06.MAR.08 Scenes from the winter season
- 06.MAR.08 Battle of the Bands this weekend
- 06.MAR.08 Dover PTO presents 10 green tips
- 28.FEB.08 Shades of the moon
- 28.FEB.08 Woodwork performing March 8th
- 28.FEB.08 UPWARD BOUND
- 28.FEB.08 Browsing the world of publishing
- 28.FEB.08 Marketing Mass Libraries
- 28.FEB.08 Explore the gardens of India



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### HOMETOWN WEEKLY READER POLL

Who are you likely to support in the upcoming Presidential Election?

- Hillary Clinton
- Barack Obama
- John McCain

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