

Dover

commuter heaven

In many ways Dover is uniquely situated at the transportation hub of New Hampshire.

Just a few miles from Portsmouth and the beaches at the Hamptons and Rye, the small city (pop. 27,000) is also situated at an intersection of highways that brings the traveler to Manchester along Route 125 to 101, or along Route 4 or 9 to Concord, connecting with highways to the Monadnock Region and on to Keene and the Vermont border. Or there is Interstate 95 in nearby Portsmouth to take the motorist down to Boston or up the coast in Maine. For lovers of lakes, estuaries and mountains, there is Dover's own Great Bay and Little Bay, and Route 16 takes a landlubber on an hour's drive to the Lakes Region and on to North Conway and the White Mountains.

For those who don't like to drive Dover has the good fortune of being a stop on the Downeaster, the Amtrak line that runs back and forth between Portland, Maine, and Boston several times a day. The "locals" like riding in both directions, says Matt Mayberry, with Remax Realty Center in Dover.

"It's just the ease of the commute," says Mayberry. "It's another option for our residents to get where they want to go — to Portland for a Seadogs game or the Fleet Center. You don't have to deal with parking or tolls." CJ Trailways offers bus trips in both directions for those who prefer cruising the interstate to raiding the rails, Mayberry says.

As for taxes, "We do operate under the tax cap and we're living with it," he says. Yet the school system is more than adequately funded, he is happy to say, with a student-

teacher ration of 22:1, above the New Hampshire average. And a \$64 million waterfront redevelopment plan is in the works for the small, but ambitious city.



\$395,000
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Starter homes may still be purchased from the \$180,000 to \$200,000 range on up to \$230,000 to \$240,000, Mayberry says. Larger homes may be found in the neighborhood of \$400,000. At whatever price, buyers are paying about \$50,000 less than they would for an identical house and lot in a similar neighborhood over the bridge in Portsmouth, Mayberry says. "With good schools and restaurants, recreational activities and plenty of things to do, we say, 'Come on over and save the money.'"

Herm Stolzenburg, a retired Navy man, came to Dover 40 years ago from Key West, Fla., when he was assigned duty at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. He lives in the Morningside Park neighborhood, built in the 1950s to provide homes for airmen based at the Pease Air Force base. It has since become home to civilian residents and a number of retired servicemen, he says.

"It's a peaceful, quiet neighborhood," he says. Morningside Park, just down the street from his home, is a large park with baseball, football and soccer fields providing attractive open space and a wealth of outdoor recreational activities for young and old alike. Stolzenburg, who was named Dover's Citizen of the Year in 2008, says he has always found the neighborhood and the city to be full of friendly people.

"I don't think I would have stayed here 40 years if I didn't think so," the New Jersey native says.

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