

Public Facilities Committee Agenda

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

The Public Facilities Committee will hold this meeting a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 7:00 PM in Room 204. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link: https://newtonma-gov.zoom.us/j/84897280616 or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 848 9728 0616

Item Scheduled for Discussion:

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

- #112-24 Appropriate \$1,191,000 for the replacement of Newton's Free Library HVAC System

 HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend

 \$1,191,000 from June 30, 2023 Certified Free Cash to complete the funding for the

 Newton Free Library's chiller and related cooling equipment replacement project.
- #102-24 Periodic Updates from Commissioner of Public Buildings regarding the city's construction projects

 COUNCILOR ALBRIGHT on behalf of the Public Facilities Committee requesting periodic updates on construction projects.
- #120-24 Discussion on Water/Sewer plan and open capital improvement projects

 COUNCILOR ALBRIGHT on behalf of the Public Facilities Committee requesting an update on the Water/Sewer plan and open capital improvement projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Albright, Chair

The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: ifairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.



City of Newton, MassachusettsOffice of the Mayor

Telephone
(617) 796-1100
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(617) 796-1113
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(617) 796-1089
Email
rfuller@newto nma.gov

February 12, 2024

Honorable City Council Newton City Hall 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

Honorable City Councilors:

I respectfully submit this docket item to the Honorable Council requesting the approval to appropriate and expend \$1,191,000 from June 30, 2023 Certified Free Cash to complete the funding for the Newton Free Library's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system which is at its "end-of-life".

In June 2023, Public Buildings Commissioner Morse presented a funding request, #165-23, to the City Council for the sum of \$750,000 to fund upgrades to the library HVAC system. As Commissioner Morse explained at the time, we hoped to have a portion of the project approved to improve our chances of securing a sizable grant from the State.

We were informed recently that the City of Newton received a \$500,000 grant through the Green Communities Grant Program to help fund the Library HVAC Project.

Last week we received eight competitive bids for the Library HVAC project. With the City Council's support for the \$1.191 million in Free Cash, we will be able to move forward with this necessary project that will reduce our carbon footprint, improve the indoor comfort in our busiest municipal building, and provide reliable service.

Attached is a letter of support for the project from Library Executive Director Mercurio. Also attached is a letter from Commissioner Morse, a full project budget spreadsheet and Docket #165-23 showing approval of the initial \$750,000 in funding.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.





CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

PUBLIC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

52 ELLIOT STREET, NEWTON HIGHLANDS, MA 02461

Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor Josh Morse, Building Commissioner Telephone (617) 796-1600 Facsimile (617) 796-1601 TDD/tty # (617) 796-1608

February 14th, 2024

Re: Library HVAC Project

This past summer I presented a funding request, #165-23, to the City Council for the sum of \$750,000 for the purposes of funding upgrades to the library HVAC system. This complemented the \$100,000 approved via docket item #472-22 for the design of the new system. As I explained at the time, that funding was requested to have a portion of the project approved to help improve our chances of securing a sizable grant from the state.

Just recently we were informed that we received a \$500,000 grant through the Green Communities Grant Program to help fund the Library HVAC Project, so our strategy of having a portion of the project previously authorized paid off.

The existing chiller and associated equipment are 33 years old. These systems have a life expectancy of 20-30 years, so they are beyond useful life. As we have previously discussed, the system has struggled to maintain appropriate temperatures in the library over the past few summers. It is becoming increasingly difficult to keep the cooling towers and chiller operational. The cost to maintain and operate this equipment has risen every year.

Last week we received eight very competitive bids for the project. With the City Council's support, we will be able to move forward with this exciting project that will reduce our carbon footprint, improve the air conditioning system reliability, and improve indoor comfort in our busiest municipal building.

Sincerely,

Josh Morse

Public Buildings Commissioner







February 8, 2024

Dear Mayor Fuller,

I'm writing in support of the funding request for the Library HVAC Project. Our HVAC system has exceeded its end-of-life capabilities with many core components failing, such as one of the two necessary cooling towers rendered inoperable. We welcome more than 400k visitors annually and have among the highest circulation in the state, with 1.7 million items borrowed last year. A failed HVAC system negatively impacts our ability to serve the community and have a functional work environment for staff.

During the summer of 2023, our HVAC system proved incapable of reliably cooling and regulating humidity. Temperatures on the second and third floors were routinely over 80 degrees, causing visitors to cut visits short and be unable to use study rooms due to lack of ventilation. We received frequent complaints from residents and staff about how uncomfortable the temperatures were in the building. Without the air handlers working properly to move air around the building, we purchased and borrowed many fans from the Building Department to improve airflow. We relocated staff from office spaces on our third floor and needed to replace computers that were overtaxed from prolonged high temperatures. Humidity is also a hazard - not only to prevent mold in our physical book collections - but also a general safety issue. We ran a dehumidifier all summer to prevent condensation from creating slip hazards on the lobby's terrazzo floor. And once when the HVAC failed, humidity built up and caused the saturation of ceiling tiles which fell in areas of the lobby next to the Circulation Desk. On June 19, a crack in an airconditioning pipe outside the building resulted in complete failure of the air-conditioning system requiring us to close the Library to the public and send staff home. At that time, over a dozen portable AC units were installed in offices and meeting spaces to augment the overtaxed system. While these units helped nurse the system through the season, they provided insufficient temperature relief and were loud and illsuited for a library environment.

Technology, energy efficiency standards, and climate conditions have changed extensively since Newton Free Library opened its 91,405 square foot building to the public 32 years ago. The Building Department had HVAC technicians on site nearly every summer day to keep things running at the system's limited capacity, but the existing system is unable to handle cooling our large building sufficiently. It is a critical need to replace and upgrade the library's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. We deeply appreciate the funding that has already been allocated to keep the dying system running and to spec out a new replacement system. I cannot advocate more emphatically on the need to fund the execution of this project to ensure Newton Free Library remains a thriving well-utilized community resource for all.

Sincerely, Jill Mercurio, Library Director



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

PUBLIC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

52 ELLIOT STREET, NEWTON HIGHLANDS, MA 02461

Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor Josh Morse, Building Commissioner Telephone (617) 796-1600 Facsimile (617) 796-1601 TDD/tty# (617) 796-1608

February 6, 2024

Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor Newton City Hall 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton Centre, MA 02459

Re: Library HVAC

Dear Mayor Fuller:

The Public Buildings Department requests \$1,191,000 to replace the existing chiller and related cooling equipment with a new chiller (Air Source Heat Pump).

This funding request reflects the receipt of a \$500,000 Green Communities Grant which has reduced our request by that total.

Sincerely,

Josh Morse

Public Buildings Commissioner

cc: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer Jonath an Yeo, Chief Operating Officer Alex Valcarce, Deputy Buildings Commissioner William Ferguson, Co-Director of Sustainability

02.06.2024

| Phase 1 - New Library AC System | | |
|---|------|-------------------|
| (calendar year 2024) | | |
| Design and Construction Administration | \$ | 160,000 |
| New AC System - Phase 1 | \$ | 2,150,000 |
| Sub Total | \$ | 2,310,000 |
| Contingency | \$ | 231,000 |
| Total Project Cost | \$ | 2,541,000 |
| Less Green Communities Grant - Received Upfront | \$ | (500,000) |
| Less Existing Appropriations | \$ | (850,000) |
| Additional Funding Request for this Phase | \$ | 1,191,000 |
| !Less Incentive Upon Completion of Project | \$ | (10,000)1 |
| (Net City Cost for Project | \$ 1 | <u>,1s1,000 1</u> |

#165-23

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 20, 2023

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Rebecca Walker Grossman and the Public Facilities Committee through its Chair Alison Leary to appropriate and expend the sum of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) from June 30, 2022 Certified Free Cash to a Public Buildings Department Capital Account to fund the replacement of the Newton Free Library's HVAC system as detailed in the FY24-FY28 CIP be and is hereby approved as follows:

> FROM: Free Cash

> > {0001-3240} \$750,000

TO: Library HVAC System

(7830B115-582500).....\$750,000

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved 22 yeas O nays 2 absent (Councilors Bowman and Laredo)

Mayor

Digitally signed by Mayor Ruthanne Fuller Ruthanne Fuller Date: 2023.06.23

15:48:08 -04'00'

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER Mayor



City of Newton, Massachusetts Purchasing Department Comparison of Bids INVITATION TO BID #24-39

MAIN LIBRARY HVAC SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Bid Opening: February 1, 2024 at 10:30 am

PROJECT MANAGER: JOSH MORSE

| BIDDERS | Riverdale Plumbing | Enterprise Equipment | CAM | GENERAL MECHANICAL | VETERANS DEVELOPMENT | GENERAL AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING | PJ KENNEDY | NB KENNEY |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|
| TOTAL BASE BID | \$2,150,000.00 | \$2,260,968.00 | \$2,297,000.00 | \$2,392,000.00 | \$2,491,212.00 | \$2,492,000.00 | \$2,540,000.00 | \$3,151,000.00 |

| Riverdale Plumbing | | | |
|------------------------|----------|---------------------------|------|
| Award Recommended To: | | Chief Procurement Officer | Date |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| 20865 | | 0111502-524070 | |
| Vendor # | | Acct & Org#'s | |
| Allen | | | |
| | 2/8/24 | | |
| Department Head | Date | Mayor or her designee | Date |
| | | | |
| Notes Regarding Specia | fic Bids | | |



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

PUBLIC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

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Sincerely,

Josh Morse

Public Buildings Commissioner

cc: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer Alex Valcarce, Deputy Buildings Commissioner William Ferguson, Co-Director of Sustainability

Library HVAC Equipment Upgrade Budget

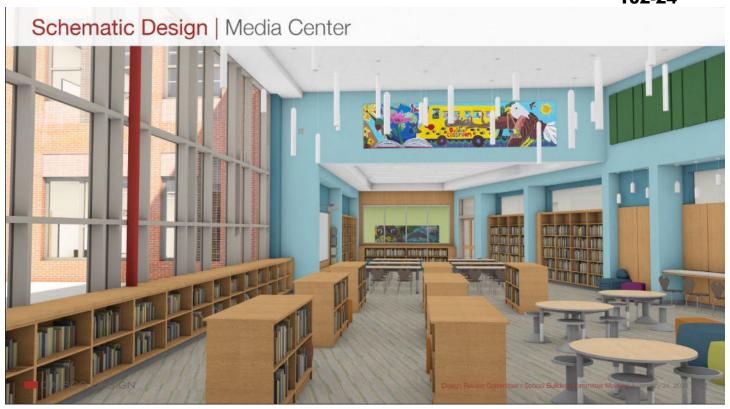
| \$ 160,000 |
|-------------------|
| \$1,677,000 |
| |
| \$1,837,000 |
| |
| \$ 183,700 |
| |
| \$2,020,700 |
| |
| -\$ 850,000 |
| |
| \$1,170,700 |
| |
| <u>-\$ 10,000</u> |
| |
| \$1,160,700 |
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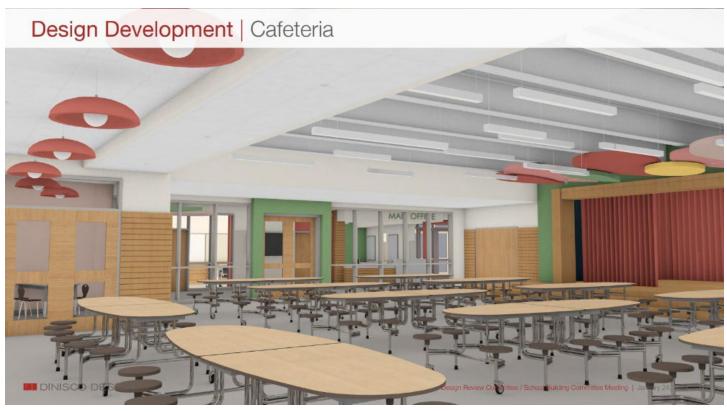
Comprehensive Capital Project Update February 2024 Edition Josh Morse – Public Buildings Commissioner

Countryside School Project



The above rendering is just one of several design concepts being considered.





The Countryside School project is currently in the schematic design phase in partnership with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, MSBA. In November and December, the City Council reviewed and approved the site plans and total project budget. Shortly thereafter, the MSBA voted unanimously to authorize their Executive Director to execute a project scope and budget and project funding agreement with the City of Newton for the Countryside Elementary School Project. This step

102-24

secures more than \$20M in state grants for the project. This is a monumental step forward for the Countryside community, and with this step the Countryside School Project will now move into the final design phase with MSBA.

The current design development, DD, phase will last another few months. At the end of the DD phase, we will begin construction documents which is that last design phase and it takes roughly 9 months to complete. This means that by this time next year we will be wrapping up the design work and preparing to bid the project out to contractors.

We've still got a tremendous amount of design work left to do, but you can review all project information, presentations, and materials at <u>countrysideelementaryschoolproject.com</u>.

We anticipate the bulk of construction starting in the summer of 2025 and completing construction in the summer of 2027. Based on the latest schedule, we may be able to get started on some of the early construction work ahead of schedule.

The next Countryside Project presentation to the Design Review Committee will be on Wednesday, February 28th at 6:00pm and you can join the meeting when it starts by clicking here.

The last Countryside meeting was with the Design Review Committee on January 24th, and the recording of that meeting can be seen <u>here</u>.

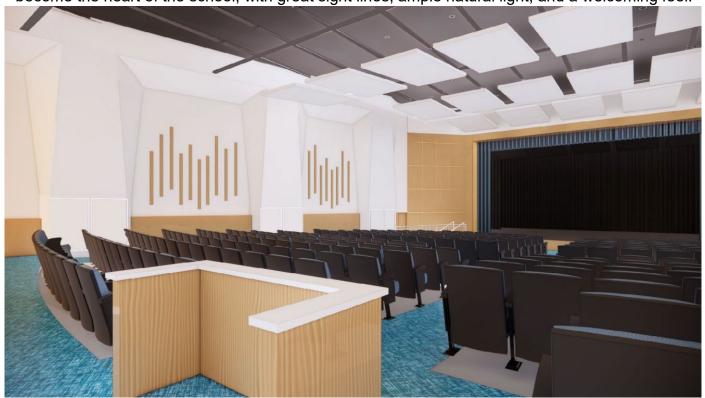
If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at countryside@newtonma.gov.

Lincoln-Eliot School Project





The view above is what staff, students, and parents will see as they enter the school. The library has become the heart of the school, with great sight lines, ample natural light, and a welcoming feel.



The auditorium will be an incredible asset for Lincoln-Eliot and the entire community.

LINCOLN-ELIOT Lincoln-Eliot ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Leopards

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 – 6:00 PM Virtual via ZOOM, Link to register:

https://www.tonmargov.zbpm.os/y82979255080

Referto

ballow / Away meeting dates, for upcoming meeting dates, registration links, and more information!

Construction Activities

- Contractor Mobilization
- Site Erosion and Sedimentation Control: Secure perimeter fencing, gates, signage, including silt fencing and straw wattles
- Tree Protection

Upcoming

- Demolition of Convent & Chapel
- Limited site work
- · Interior abatement
- Interior wall demolition

Consultant Team

Hill International – Owner's Project Manager Arrowstreet – Architect CTA Construction Managers – General Contractor

Contacts

For general project inquiries:

Alex Valcarce – City of Newton Project Manager (617) 796 - 1600

For project updates, please visit:

https://www.newtonma.gov/government/publicbuildings/capital-projects-investing-now-fornewton-s-future/school-projects/lincoln-eliot







SCHOOL PROJECT COMMUNITY UPDATE





Overall Construction Schedule

Dec. 2023 Summer 2025 Fall 2025 Ground Breaking Substantial Completion Occupy School

Save The Dates:

Lincoln-Eliot Community updates will be the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM for the project duration, unless otherwise noted.







Sometimes you need to make a mess. The convent is being taken down to make way for the new gym/office/library addition.

The Lincoln-Eliot School project will be the largest capital school investment that is fully funded by Newton in our city's history. This is just one of the many ways in which we are investing heavily in our children, our educators, and in our public school infrastructure.

Construction is well underway, with the site fencing up, trailers in place, and selective demolition in full swing. The convent will be demolished in the next few weeks.

Last week, we had our first community construction update meeting and you can watch the meeting recording here. Our next community construction update meeting will be on February 27th at 6:00pm and you can join the meeting once it starts by clicking here.

The schedule for the project remains the same with students moving into the new home for the start of the 2025/2026 school year. To stay up to date on the project, you can check out the project website at http://lincolneliot-necp-projects.com/. You can also follow us on social media at

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070249892653, https://www.instagram.com/newtonmapbd/, or https://twitter.com/NewtonMAPBD.

If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at lincolneliot@newtonma.gov, or you can check out our project website at lincolneliot-necp-projects.com.

Franklin School Project



The above concept is now the preferred option for the Franklin School Project.



The design team is starting to imagine what the new Franklin School could look like. The above rendering is just one of many options being considered.

We are currently working to evaluate several different concepts with respect to the building massing, elevations, and what the building will look like. We're also working on some minor refinements to the floor plans. The recent refinements resulted in a reduction of the building height, and a softening of the massing among other things.

The next Franklin School Project meeting will be with the Design Review Committee on February 14th at 6:00pm and you can join the meeting once it starts by clicking <u>here</u>.

The last Franklin School Project meeting was on January 10th and the recording of that meeting can be seen here.

We anticipate starting construction in the summer of 2025 and completing construction in the summer of 2027.

To review the presentation, project information, and materials you can go to our project website here. If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at franklin@newtonma.gov.

Horace Mann School Project

The Horace Mann Project is still moving through the end of the feasibility and beginning of the schematic design period. The exterior designs and interior floor plans are becoming more refined, and the subconsultants are working on things like civil, geotechnical, interior building system engineering designs. Our landscape architect is continuing to develop and refine the plans, but the concept is well established at this point.

We are simultaneously working with our design team and owner's project manager to develop our construction phasing schedule and logistics plan.

We will be working with the Design Review Committee and City Council in the coming months to start the review and approve the site plan and schematic design package. Once this is complete, we will move into a 3-month design development phase, before the final design phase which will last another 9 months.



The above rendering shows the new 2-story addition to the right of the existing school on Nevada Street.



The above image shows the view from the playground looking towards the new building addition. The playground equipment is not shown here, but it will be a new universally accessible playground.



The above image is what you'll see with your back to the baseball diamond, looking towards the new building addition.



The new entrance off of Nevada Street, (above), was an area that we felt could be improved. The intent is not to make the new entrance overpower the original main entrance of the historical building, so the design team will be working to simplify and soften the design in this area.

The next Horace Mann School Project meeting will be with the Design Review Committee on February 14th at 6:00pm and you can join the meeting once it starts by clicking <u>here</u>.

The last Horace Mann School Project meeting was on January 10th and the recording of that meeting can be seen <u>here</u>.

To learn more about this project you check out our website here. If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at horacemann@newtonma.gov.

102-24 Newton Center for Active Living, NewCAL, Project



Over the past few weeks our construction team has mobilized. The construction fencing is up, the trailers are placed, and selective demolition has commenced. Our crews are carefully removing the various historically significant elements for restoration and incorporation into the new facility.



Above - The crews are delicately removing granite elements from around the site. Below the chandelier is being carefully removed for restoration.

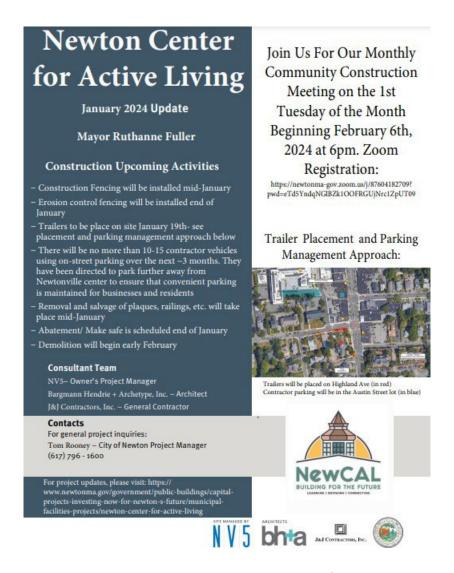




In the above image the granite elements are being carefully stored for future use. Behind them in this picture are the sections of fence that have been salvaged for reinstallation.



Public Buildings Project Manager Tommy Rooney is seen above with the time capsule from 1938. It was successfully removed and transported to Jackson Homestead for safe keeping until the Groundbreaking event when it will be opened.



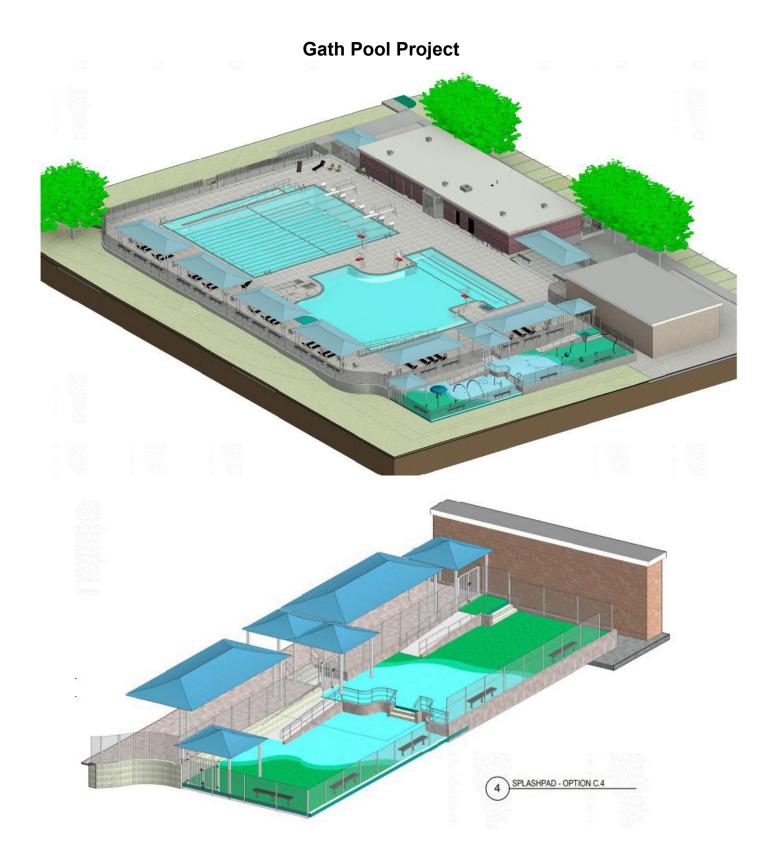
Join us for our monthly community construction meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month beginning February 6th, 2024 at 6pm. Zoom Registration: https://newtonma-gov.zoom.us/j/87604182709.

Contractor parking will be pretty light for the next ~3 months with 10-15 vehicles expected. We will be working hard to ensure that the contractors park in spaces further removed from Newtonville center to maintain those spaces for the businesses and residents. We'll be monitoring this situation carefully and adjusting as needed to cause as little disruption as possible throughout construction.

As previously mentioned, the project was delayed a little by having to go back out to solicit more bids from contractors to complete the construction. Our team is currently working to update the project schedule, but the new facility will open in 2025. A Ribbon Cutting event will be here before you know it!

Speaking of events, we will also be reaching out soon with a date for the Groundbreaking event. Stay tuned!

Additional project info, meeting recordings, and presentations can be found at newcal.projects.nv5.com. If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at newcal@newtonma.gov.

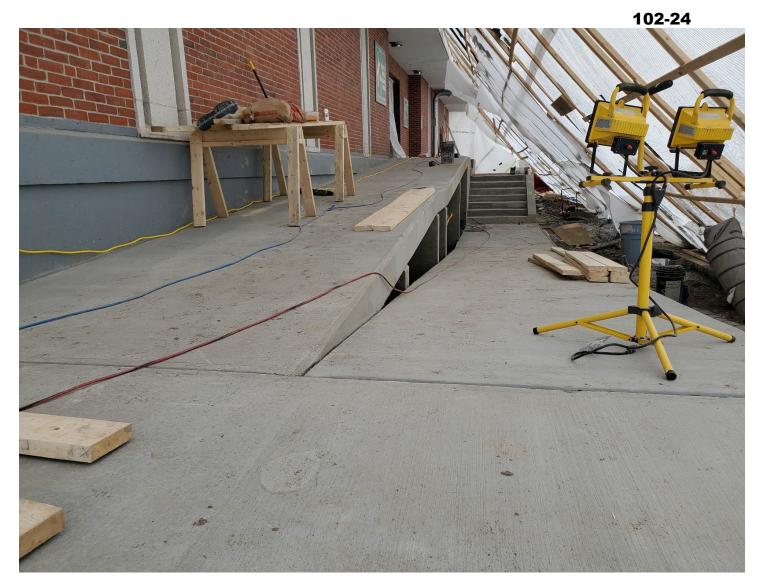




It may be a little chilly outside, but that doesn't stop us from pouring concrete. Most public pools construction projects occur over the winter, so the crews are very accustomed to pouring concrete at this time of year. In the next few weeks, the competition pool seen above will be completely poured out.



The framing crews are already forming the zero-entry recreational pool. Once the competition pool concrete pours are complete, we'll start pouring concrete for the recreational pool.



The new fully accessible main entrance is well underway. In the above image you can see the new accessible ramps are nearly complete.



Selective demolition has really ramped up inside the bathhouse. Doors have been removed, and walls are being partially demolished as needed to create the new private restrooms and to make the facility fully accessible.

We are slated to complete construction next spring in advance of the 2024 swim season.

The new pool design and all previous project materials can be viewed at http://www.newtonma.gov/gathpoolproject.

The funding for this project is a share between ARPA funds applied by Mayor Fuller, state funds secured by Representative Khan, and a large amount of funding from the Community Preservation Committee.

If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at gathpool@newtonma.gov.

Police Facility Project

Using ARPA funds previously authorized by Mayor Fuller, we have been working on a comprehensive project to improve the physical conditions of Police Headquarters, and the Police Annex and Garage. While we are still very early on in the process, we know that this project will result in a significant improvement in the Police facility infrastructure.

Complementing the investment of more than \$2M for the replacement of the HVAC system, and information technology and communications upgrades, the Police Facility Project includes but is not limited to upgrades to the following building systems and areas:

- Security
- Accessibility
- Electrical
- Lighting
- Plumbing
- Roof
- Masonry
- Finishes

In addition to the improvements to the building systems, this project will evaluate how best to utilize the spaces throughout the existing buildings. We will be evaluating how best to adjust the buildings and the use of the facilities to optimize the adjacencies and functions of the Newton Police Department.

One major priority of this project will be to create a new appropriately sized dispatch center, with the adjacent support spaces needed to train new dispatchers and to ensure that the Dispatch Division has everything they need to support Newton Police, Newton Fire, and the entire community. Although this is a major project priority, the improvements to the facilities will benefit every member of the Newton Police Department.

This project will also include a training room similar to the one shown below that was recently built for the Medford Police Department.



Our work to date has been focused on evaluating the existing conditions of the building systems in each of the three Police facilities, as well as the development of a program. The program is a document that identifies the space needs for every function in the department both now and in the future. I often refer to this document as the recipe for the cake we're baking.

The design team is working with representatives from the entire Police Department to refine floor plan options to find the best possible solution that will meet the demands of a 21st century Police Facility.

Projects come in all shapes and sizes

Working its way through the City Council approval process is a large package of projects that may be small compared to the ones above, but they are extremely important to the principals, PTO's, parents, and students in the schools, and to the Police and Fire Departments as well. These projects represent a \$6.25M investment of one-time money on one-time needs.

- North High pool air handling unit replacement
- Peirce School roof replacement
- Mason Rice School roof replacement
- Newton South High School chiller replacement
- Williams School auditorium ceiling, restroom, and playground improvements
- Bigelow and Brown Middle School PA system upgrades
- Restroom upgrades at Day, Mason Rice, Bowen, Memorial Spaulding, and Peirce Schools
- Parking lot repaving at Brown Middle School
- Parking lot repaving and fence installation at Police Headquarters
- Fire Station #2 heat pump and building electrification project

While these projects may seem small, they are high priorities for everyone who works or learns in, or uses, these facilities. Sometimes the smallest projects are the most transformative.