

## Mayor's Update

On Wednesday I passed a “Mayoral milestone”— my 100<sup>th</sup> day in office. With the support of an amazing team at City Hall, I can honestly say that this is the best job I've ever had. And we've only just begun!



There's always a lot to report and I thought I'd start with a few quick tidbits:

- I'm excited to get working with all of you on the future of Washington Street from West Newton Square to Newton Corner. The kickoff community meeting with our team from Principle Group is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, May 1. Please save that date and stay tuned for details on time and location [HERE](#).
- We're beginning the process of scoping out what and where a Newton Center for Active Living or NewCAL, the name we're currently using for the new senior center, will be. The first in a series of meetings to hear about the process, timeline, and to share input that will help to create a new facility is scheduled for June 19, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street.
- A reminder that it is NewtonSERVES season...now is the time to sign up for service projects for Sunday, April 29th. Register [HERE](#).

### Regional Bike Share Program Coming This Summer

We're thrilled to tell you that we'll have a bike share program up and running in Newton this summer.

We've joined a partnership with the Massachusetts Area Planning Council and 14 other communities in Metro Boston to bring two state-of-the-art dock-less bike share program to Newton this summer. They will let you pick-up and then drop-off a bike virtually anywhere in our city or any of the other participating cities and towns including our neighbors Needham, Waltham and Watertown.

Using one of the bikes from [LimeBike](#) or [Spin](#) will be easy. You'll be able to lock and unlock the bicycles with a smartphone, take a ride, and drop it off in any of the participating communities. There will also be a system in place to pay with cash for those of you who don't use a smart phone. Along with traditional pedal bikes, there will also be some pedal-assist electric bikes available.

This is the kind of innovative program that will make traveling through all our villages easier, greener, more accessible, and fun.

Kudos to Nicole Freedman, the City's Director of Transportation for all her work to make this happen.

Who's ready to take a ride with me this July?

### Last Beam up at Cabot

Today the final steel beam (signed by Cabot students who are currently at Carr) was placed.

I was thrilled to be able to see that signed beam hoisted onto Cabot this afternoon, and yes, I'm also thrilled that Humpty Dumpty has survived the construction and will be taking his place

back at the school when the new doors are opened.

The placement of the last beam is a big deal, and means the project is right on schedule open in September 2019.

It's in our DNA here in Newton that we care about our children and invest heavily in education. Teachers are the heart and soul of our schools. But for our teachers to be effective educators, and for our students to meet their full potential, we need to have buildings that support all their efforts.



Cabot Elementary School will be terrific.

### **Austin Street Construction: Newtonville is (still) open for business!**

For those of us who haven't kept close tabs on this project, the municipal parking lot on Austin Street in Newtonville will be the site of a mixed-use apartment and retail building with 68 apartments, 23 of which will be affordable.

As the next phase of the construction project begins (you'll be seeing big machines starting excavation work soon), the City is working closely with Austin Street Partners to ensure that we all have plenty of [parking options](#) as we live, work, and play in Newtonville.

Beginning on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> there will be 49 metered parking spaces for up to 3 hours at the Austin Street lot, and four accessible spaces. There will also be 20 complimentary spaces at Star Market for 30-minute parking. In addition, there will be complimentary long-term parking available at 100 Jackson Road, with free [shuttle service](#) running approximately every 20 minutes on weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We know it might be a little inconvenient at times during the construction period, but we'll try to make things as easy as possible on our residents and visitors to Newtonville. For updates on the project visit our 28 Austin Street [website](#).



### **Join Me on Sunday and on Marathon Monday**

The weather forecast isn't promising, but I'm still looking forward to the Heartbreak Hill Road Race this Sunday and the Boston Marathon on Monday.

I'll be starting off the Sunday races at 11:30 a.m. by participating in the Family Walk and Run (I'll be walking!). Preparation for Monday's Boston Marathon started months ago, but this is the weekend when things really get busy for our Department of Public Works, Parks and Recreation Department, Fire Department, and of course Police Department.

Carolyn Stapleton of the Parks and Recreation Department was out this afternoon with staff from the Mayor's Office making sure the course was all-set, and all the barriers, signs, and clear trash bags will be going up over the weekend.

And if you see some low-flying helicopters over Newton over the weekend, they're part of pre-race security. They'll be flying in grid patterns over the route to establish baseline conditions. The flights will only be during the daytime, and similar flights were made over the course in previous years.

### **Budget Address This Tuesday**

This coming Tuesday night, April 17, I'll be giving my budget address which will outline my spending priorities for the coming fiscal year which begins on July 1. My speech at the Council Chambers in City Hall will begin at 8 p.m.. My detailed budget proposal will be available on the

City's website on Tuesday night, so take a look if you want to see how every dollar will be spent.

This budget invests in our priorities and maintains our commitment to financial sustainability and wise spending while at the same time ensures we invest in our employees, our facilities, our underfunded obligations, and most fundamentally, services to our residents.

### **New and Promoted Newton Firefighters**

One of the best parts of this job is being able swear-in new firefighters and police officers, as well as those moving up to new positions.

On Tuesday 11 new firefighters joined the Newton Fire Department, and five more were promoted.

It was a proud moment for family members, especially those who came forward to pin the badge on their loved ones.



With yesterday's terrible news of the murder of Barstabe Police Officer Sean Gannon, I am especially mindful of the inherent risks that our firefighters and police officers face daily. I know I speak for all of us when I say I am grateful for their service.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

