

## Mayor's Update



What a busy time in Newton – Memorial Day observances, graduation ceremonies, the Festival of the Arts, sports, recitals – our Garden City truly is in “full bloom.”

(Pictured I'm with Brigadier General Mario DiCarlo and Post 440 Commander John MacGillivray on Memorial Day at Newton Cemetery.)

### **New Police Headquarters?**

The City received only one response to our request for proposals for a site to locate a new police complex, and at first glance, I've got a few concerns.

That's not to say the whole undertaking is off the table, but let's just say there'll have to be some tough negotiating to get the proposal to a place where it makes sense for the City.

A little background: A few months ago, Police Chief David MacDonald took me on a tour of the Newton Police Headquarters, as well as those in Watertown and Weston. Suffice it to say, ours is in dire need of an upgrade. It's too small, parking is limited, and the building is not up to current safety codes. A new police complex, however, would be very expensive and we have a lot of competing needs.

But what if there were a way to capture the value of the current headquarters, a prized piece of real estate in West Newton Square, and find a way to build a new station, preserve the historic Police Headquarters building, and strengthen the vibrancy of the village center?

We issued a request for proposals last month, with a deadline of today, to see if there was anyone interested.

Mark Development (Robert Korff's company) responded with a plan that essentially trades about 1.7 acres of land off Craft Street (next to our DPW facilities) and provides \$7 million for constructing a new Police Headquarters in exchange for the current Police headquarters, garage and annex in West Newton Square.

An advisory committee made up of Police Chief David MacDonald and other department heads, and four City Councilors (Lenny Gentile, Allan Ciccone, Deb Crossley, and Barbara Brousel-Glaser) has been convened to study the proposal and advise me on how to proceed. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, we're working to get the full proposal from Mark Development posted online tomorrow.

### **Hello Washington Street!**

I'm very excited that work has begun on the future of Washington Street. Public Design Week, where we're looking for everyone's input, gets underway next Tuesday, June 5, and I'm looking forward to seeing what ideas you all have for this important roadway.

I believe in proactive planning, and one of my first priorities after being elected was to address the need for a comprehensive zoning plan along Washington Street. We hired Principle Group because of their expertise working with different groups - residents, local businesses and City Councilors, in a community-based process to build a consensus vision for this area of our city. Over the next 13 months Principle Group will be writing a zoning plan for Washington Street that reflects our collective desires – but we can't do it alone. Get involved!

We're kicking off the week with a hands-on workshop and food social on Tuesday, June 5 starting at 5:30 at Newton North High School. There're seven more days of events and planning sessions on tap through Tuesday, June 12. Mark your calendars and join us. Check the full schedule on the City's website at [newtonma.gov](http://newtonma.gov). Just click on the Hello Washington Street! logo on the homepage.

A Pop Up Workspace will also be opening at 1239 Washington Street (the former Centre Street Ski and Bike) starting next Thursday, June 7 through the 12. Stop by anytime between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. to give input to our consulting team and see some of the work in progress. It's free and all-age friendly, so bring the kids, meet your neighbors, and help us build Newton's future.

### **Yes on the \$475M+ Budget**

One week ago tonight the City Council wrapped up a detailed review of my proposed budget.

After the Council recommended and I approved an additional \$10,000 for the Veteran's historic displays in City Hall and \$25,000 for more outreach for isolated seniors, the City Council unanimously approved the Mayor's recommended budget.

(Pictured I'm with members of Green Newton celebrating Rachel Carson Day in the City of Newton.)



### **I'm Wearing Orange**

I've proclaimed Friday, June 1 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Newton.

I'll be reading the proclamation at a 12:15 p.m. ceremony on the steps of City Hall tomorrow. The proclamation renews our commitment to reduce gun violence and to support efforts to keep guns out of the wrong hands.

I'm working on this with a great group of women, Moms Demand Action. We're asking residents to wear orange on June 1 to help raise awareness of gun violence and honor the lives of gun victims. Orange was the color chosen because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods, and it's a color that symbolizes the value of human life. Yes, it's also NNHS and NSHS colors!

Our City Hall will be lit in orange and the water in our fountain will be colored orange for the month of June to commemorate Gun Violence Awareness Month.

Join me in wearing orange tomorrow.

### **Newton Has Pride**

Come over to the City Hall flag pole (on Homer Street) from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5 to support proudly our LGBTQ+ community. We'll raise the Rainbow flag and fly it for the month of June.

Rev. Brandon Thomas Crowley of the Myrtle Baptist Church will be our guest of honor.

We'll be serving Cabot's ice-cream sundaes after the ceremony. Bring the kids!

There is also a Newton LGBTQ+ slide show currently on display in the City Hall rotunda and online here: [www.newtonma.gov/lgbtq](http://www.newtonma.gov/lgbtq)

### **Bike Newton's Magical Mystery Tour**

Get your helmets on; it's time again for the Tour de Newton. This year we'll be celebrating Bike Newton's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a City Hall rally to end the bike ride on Sunday, June 17 (Father's Day).

The "Magical Mystery Tour" will start from four locations (Newton Centre, West Newton, Newtonville, and Waban) with each route traveling through several villages. Fun surprises and hidden Newton treasures will await bicyclists of all ages along the way.

Sign-up online at [Tour de Newton](#). Registration ends at midnight on June 14. Sorry there will be no onsite registration allowed.



### Leaf Blowers

It's after Memorial Day, so remember, only one leaf blower allowed, and it must be electric or battery operated and 65 decibels maximum.

(Pictured I'm with the Newton Police Honor Guard at the Annual Memorial Day Parade.)

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. – **First-ever PorchFest in Auburndale**, this Saturday, June 2, noon to 4:00 p.m.. An afternoon of free music performed outside of people's homes with more than 60 musicians, dancers, and storytellers. More information is available at [Porchfest](#).

**Nonantum Village Day**, this Sunday, June 3, 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Magni-Coletti Park (386 Watertown Street). Children's activities, a live band, and good food.

