

Mayor's Update



"First Dog" Argus Fuller takes a nap in the Mayor's Office after hours on Wednesday, August 15th.

Noisy Green Line Construction – MBTA Meeting Sept. 6

If you live near the Green Line tracks, this meeting on Thursday, Sept. 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the Newton Free Library is for you. MBTA officials will be giving us details about the extensive construction set to begin in mid-October.

The \$74 million project will replace signals and sections of track along the Green Line D Branch in Newton from Riverside to Reservoir, as well as near one stop,

Beaconsfield, in Brookline.

Here's the bad news: the construction work will occur at night during weekdays and twenty-four hours a day on selective weekends over the course of 25 months. The work will be done on Sunday through Thursday nights from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. and on 15 weekends from 9:00 p.m. on Friday to 5:00 a.m. on Monday. Night work will occur in sections moving from week to week along the tracks.

The good news is the work will make this section of the Green Line more reliable, faster, safer, and when there are signal failures, quicker to fix.

While the improvements are necessary, I'm not going to sugarcoat things. The work will be noisy for residents living near the tracks and inconvenient for riders.

When T service through Newton will be closed during construction times, bus service will be provided.

I'm working with MBTA officials to minimize noisy nighttime work, but a lot will still occur. MBTA officials have assured me that the noisiest work (cutting old track out and then tamping in the new) will only last in each section for a limited number of days. They will also keep residents who live along the tracks informed of when and where the work will be the loudest each week in their area.

Sign-up for email updates from the MBTA on the website and email any questions or comments to the MBTA at DBranchinfo@mbta.com.

The MBTA website MBTA.com has more information about the project [HERE](#).

We're Working on our Roads and Sidewalks

You've probably noticed there are a lot of crews out across Newton doing work on roads and sidewalks. And, yes, they're in bad shape. But by the end of August, we'll have invested \$4 million on roads and sidewalks since the beginning of 2018.

This week alone, roads will be resurfaced on Beacon Street from Walnut to Centre Streets, Commonwealth Avenue from Lowell Avenue to Walnut Street, and from Rowe to Washington Streets; audible signals will be installed at the intersections of Beacon and Watertown Streets, Newtonville Avenue at Harvard Avenue, and

Grove Street at Central and Auburn Streets.

That's just this week! You'll be seeing crews out through October.

One caveat is that the labor dispute and work stoppage at National Grid has halted several gas main projects across the City. Only emergency work is being done.

Want to see what's happening? Check out the Interactive Road Closure Map at newtonma.gov.



Affordable Housing Lottery

There's an opportunity for those meeting income eligibility guidelines to enter the lottery for 11 affordable housing units in Newton. Completed applications and mortgage pre-approvals are due soon, so now is the time to prepare submissions.

Two three-bedroom condominium units are available for ownership at [1521 Beacon Street](#) ([application](#) deadline is 2 p.m. on Monday, August 20th), and another nine rental units are available at [Hancock Estates at 200 Estates Drive](#) ([application](#) deadline is 2 p.m. on Monday, September 10th).

Applications and information about eligibility and the units are available [online](#), or in hard copy at the Newton Free Library.

More State Funding for Green Lights and Electric Cars

For the fourth year in a row, the City of Newton has received a Green Communities Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources.

Most of the \$248,734 grant awarded to Newton will continue the conversion to high efficiency LED lighting at Newton North High School and at Bowen Elementary School. Work at Newton North will include LED lighting at the tennis courts, exterior lighting, and more interior lights. At Bowen, most of the school will be converted to LED lighting.

The grant also includes \$30,000 to help purchase two electric vehicles for the City's fleet and two electric vehicle charging stations to be located at the War Memorial Circle at City Hall. I'm committed to replacing all of our non-emergency light passenger vehicles with electric ones over the next ten years.

The Green Communities Grants awarded to Newton over the past four years total \$932,769. Newton competed for these grants with 210 other Green Communities around the state and was one of 80 communities who received one.

Altogether, we've converted 12 schools and 10 city buildings to high efficiency LED lighting using grants, city funds and utility incentives.

Food to Your Table

I spent Tuesday late afternoon volunteering with a terrific group of Newtonites who are focusing on food insecurity. Founded by two longtime residents, Joan Balaban and Amy Silberstein, [Food To Your Table](#) provides fresh produce from the Newton Farmers' Market and the Newton Community Farm to



Newton residents who might not otherwise have access to healthy, fresh food.

At the end of Tuesday's farmers' market at Cold Spring Park, we gathered surplus food and made deliveries to Casselman House and Weeks House. Food To Your Table is looking for volunteers to help deliver food and I promise it's a great experience to join them and lend a hand! For more information about the program and how to volunteer, visit <https://foodtoyourtable.org/>.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. A news flash: Peet's Coffee just let us know they have found a new location in Newton but they can't tell us where just yet.

