

Mayor's Update



Vote on Northland on March 3

The City Council Tuesday night set the referendum election date when voters will decide the future of the Northland site (located at the end of Needham Street at Oak Street) to coincide with the Presidential Primary on Tuesday, March 3. This is a binding referendum, so your vote matters.

Put the date in your calendar right now. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on election day. You can also take advantage of early voting and cast your ballot at City Hall during the previous week from Feb. 24 through Friday Feb. 28 (8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday).

The deadline to register to vote in this election is Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 8:00 p.m. You can get more voter information and register online [here](#).

Here's the ballot question:

Shall the following measure which was passed by the City Council be approved?

A measure which changes the zoning of parcels of land located at 156 Oak Street, 275-281 Needham Street and 55 Tower Road (commonly known as the Northland Project) from Mixed Use 1 District (MU1) to Business 4 District (BU4). The zoning change would allow for the construction of the Northland Project as described in a special permit and site plan approval granted by the City Council.

How will this work logistically at the polls? When voters come to the table, poll workers will ask voters if they want to vote in both elections. Voters will then receive the requested ballots. If you are not enrolled in one of the four parties holding a Presidential Primary (Democrat, Republican, Green-Rainbow or Libertarian), you can choose any one of those ballots along with the referendum ballot. If you are enrolled in one of the four parties holding a primary, you'll receive that primary ballot along with the referendum ballot.

(Residents' comments on the current Senior Center site.)

NewCAL Project Moving Forward

Well over a hundred residents rolled up their sleeves last Thursday night to help move the Newton

Center for Active Living, or NewCAL, project forward.

Jayne Colino, the Director of Senior Services, kicked off the meeting. She reiterated that older residents have been, and always will be, the primary focus of the plans to build a new center. The building and the programming will be



designed to meet the unique interests and needs of older residents while also opening doors to multi-generational programming when possible and appropriate.

Members of Newton's Council on Aging attended the meeting. This comes on the heels of the Council's recent unanimous vote to confirm that a "main" central facility is critical for Newton's older adults, even as the City continues programs at satellite locations like the Emerson, Lower Falls and Hyde Community Centers.

The charette-style meeting focused on seven potential sites. Participants also weighed in on what we should eventually name the facility.

Some locations are more feasible than others. Sites considered that night were:

- Newton Center Triangle Parking Lot
- Existing Senior Center location in Newtonville
- Former Aquinas Junior College on Jackson Road where Lincoln-Eliot will be located
- West Newton Armory on Washington Street
- Education Center on Walnut Street
- Co-located with the West Suburban YMCA
- Police Headquarters in West Newton Square

Residents posted their thoughts on boards marked for each potential site, sharing creative ideas and providing feedback on the advantages, disadvantages and possibilities at each location.

The hundreds of ideas and comments are now on display at the Senior Center at 345 Walnut Street in Newtonville. You can read the comments there weekdays 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. until next Tuesday, or they're now online [here](#). We welcome more suggestions. Send your input to NewCAL@newtonma.gov.

Going forward, monthly community meetings will keep the momentum and collaboration rolling. The next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 27, at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street. Sign up for project updates by emailing NewCAL@newtonma.gov.



Here is a clip from Monday's 52nd MLK Day Celebration--the Community Chorus signing "Shed a Little Light" by James Taylor. (That's School Committee member Emily Prenner singing the solo at the end.) Our friends at NewTV posted a recording of the program [here](#).

(With Alice Ingerson and Barney Health. Thank you Alice.)

New CDC Program Manager

I'm pleased to welcome Lara Kritzer back to work for the City of Newton as our new Community Preservation Act (CPA) Program Manager to replace the retiring Alice Ingerson.

She is stepping into "big shoes" as we say a huge thank you to Alice who is retiring after 12 great years in the job. Alice's dedication, thoughtfulness and analytical skills brought our CPA process to an incredibly high level of rigor, effectiveness, transparency and professionalism.

Lara is passionate about Newton, both as a resident and a former preservation planner with the City. For the past year, she worked as a preservation planner in Brookline and previously spent 10 years in Concord, MA overseeing their CPA, Local Historic District and Historical Commission activities.

Warmly,



Ruthanne

P.S. Want to eat farm fresh, locally-grown produce from June through October? Newton Community Farm (303 Nahanton Street) is taking enrollment for the Summer Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program. Pick-up produce weekly at a cost of \$667 or on alternate weeks for \$359. Click [here](#) for more information.

P.P.S. Join us on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Newton Free Library, Druker Auditorium, for a screening of the movie *Intelligent Lives*. The film by Dan Habib “tells the stories of three pioneering young people with intellectual disabilities who challenge perceptions of intelligence as they navigate high school, college and the workplace.” A post-screening discussion will be moderated by Lisa Goldthwaite of the Newton Public Schools. The screening is sponsored by Understanding our Differences, the Newton Free Library and the Newton Department of Health & Human Services.

