

Mayor's Update



Newton's first retail marijuana store is likely to open early next week.

Garden Remedies at 697 Washington Street in Newtonville currently is an appointment only medical marijuana dispensary. It is scheduled to have its final inspection by state regulatory officials this Thursday, May 9.

The exact opening date next week will be determined after the results of the inspection are finalized by the state Cannabis Control Commission, most likely late Friday afternoon.

Garden Remedies will become the 16th adult-use retail establishment to open in Massachusetts but only the second one in Greater Boston. In March, a store opened on Rt. 9/Boylston Street in Brookline Village.

I continue to be in close touch with Garden Remedies working with Newton Police, Law, Transportation, Health & Human Services and Planning Departments to have an orderly and safe opening.

Consistent with the special permit approved by the City Council, retail customers at least 21 years old with valid, government-issued identification will be allowed entrance by appointment only. Each person is allotted a 15-minute appointment for at least the first week so we can assess lines, traffic, parking and other issues. Ten-minute appointments might be scheduled after the first week.

There is no customer parking at Garden Remedies now. An onsite parking lot will open this summer. Metered parking is available on Washington Street.

Garden Remedies is hiring its own security. In addition, they are hiring Newton Police details for at least the first 90 days to help with traffic, parking and any other issues. The Newton Police Department will also be doing directed patrols in the area.

Garden Remedies' hours are Monday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. They will be closed on Sundays.

Cypress Tree Granted Special Permit for Retail Sales

The City Council voted (18-2) on Monday night to grant a special permit for a second adult retail marijuana store. Cypress Tree Management is located at 24-26 Elliot Street, just off Rt. 9/Boylston Street at the edge of Newton Highlands and Newton Upper Falls. The City Council had already granted Cypress Tree approval for a registered medical marijuana dispensary at this location. But, the medical marijuana dispensary has not yet opened.

As Cypress Tree is still in the state licensing process and needs to renovate its building, it is many months away from opening. When it does, it will open simultaneously for retail and medical adult only marijuana sales.

(New carpeting is in and other renovations are underway at the Newton Free Library.)

Protect Yourself from Measles

Review your measles vaccination status.

The Newton Health and Human Services Department encourages everyone to check their vaccination history because measles outbreaks are occurring throughout the United States and abroad. While there are no current reports of measles locally and we have only had one case in Massachusetts, the Centers for Disease Control reports an increase of 60 cases of measles from the previous week and 764 cases this year in 23 states across United States through May 3..



Measles is highly contagious. The disease starts with a fever, runny nose, cough, red eyes and sore throat followed by a rash that spreads over the body. If you are exposed to measles and you do not know if you are immune, you will most likely need to stay home until you can produce evidence of immunity or until the 21-day incubation period has passed.

Health officials consider you protected from measles if you have written documentation showing at least one of the following:

- You received two doses of measles-containing vaccine after age 1 and you are a school-aged child (K-12) or an adult who will be in a setting that poses a high risk for measles transmission, including college students, healthcare workers and international travelers.
- You received one dose of measles-containing vaccine, and you are a pre-school aged child, an adult who will not be in a high-risk setting, a laboratory confirmed that you are immune, or you were born in the United States before 1957.

Additionally, people who were vaccinated prior to 1968 with either inactivated (killed) measles vaccine or measles vaccine of unknown type should be revaccinated with at least one dose of live attenuated measles vaccine. Killed measles vaccine, which was available in 1963-1967, was not effective. Check with your health care provider if you have questions about your measles immunity.

More information about measles and where to get a measles vaccine is [here](#).

(I had the great pleasure of proclaimed May 5, 2019 Israel “Izzy” Arbeiter Day in the City of Newton for his decades of transformative work helping Holocaust survivors live their lives with dignity and sharing crucial lessons of survival, kindness, generosity, and tenacity with all of us across this good City and beyond.)

Better Bus Project Getting Better

I’ve been pushing back on some of the MBTA’s proposed “Better Bus Program” route changes in Newton, and they listened. They didn’t make all the changes the City’s transportation staff and I wanted, but they did make some restorations to service from their original proposal. In fact, of the 47 changes the MBTA originally proposed, after the MBTA received feedback, they only revised 9 of them; 3 of the 9 revisions are in Newton.



We were able to maintain the Route 60 bus stop at the Chestnut Hill Mall, preserve some service on the Route 59 bus along Elliot Street and maintain service as it is in the morning, mid-day and weekend on the 501, 502, 503 and 504 routes between downtown Boston and Newton Corner.

The City transportation staff and I are meeting with the MBTA service planners next week when we’ll get more details and have another opportunity to speak with the MBTA about the approved changes in Newton bus service.



Newton
POWERCHOICE
Clean electricity for Newton

The Competition Is On!

Will Newton have the most people choose 100% renewable electricity? Or, will the title go to Brookline?

We’re competing with Brookline for bragging rights over which community can have the highest percentage of customers sign up for the

100% renewable option.

Brookline and Newton both have municipal aggregation programs and negotiated more renewable energy for electricity customers than Eversource provides. Newton’s program, Newton Power Choice, provides the equivalent of 60% renewable as the

standard. In both communities, customers have the option to opt-up and choose 100 percent New England renewable electricity.

Let's try to win this friendly competition! Newton is already having an important impact on increasing the supply of renewable power. Approximately 140 communities have municipal aggregation and only some of those (about 40) have green energy sources (wind, solar) as part of their programs like Newton Power Choice. Newton Power Choice is responsible for *fully half* of all those communities' green power purchase.

To choose the 100% renewable option, first locate your Eversource account number and then call 866-968-8065 or click [here](#).

Don't be fooled... Many companies provide misleading information promising bargain pricing and renewable electricity. But many of their prices are no bargain! Many also charge high fees if you decide to end your contract. If you are interested in 100% renewable electricity, participate in the well-vetted Newton Power Choice program. (The City makes no financial profit on Newton Power Choice; we've vetted it thoroughly to make sure it is cost effective for our residents and businesses and good for the environment.)

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. Join me on Saturday, May 18 at the Newton Public Works Fair. Kids can "touch-a-truck," and there will be games and activities run by the DPW staff. You can also bring a donation to help fill a truck with non-perishable food donations for Newton food banks.

P.P.S. It's Teacher Appreciation Week. Say thank you to our educators and consider a donation to the [Newton Schools Foundation's Honor Thy Teacher Program](#).

P.P.P.S. The Kids Fun Fest with amusement rides and camp info is this weekend on Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12 at City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Ave., from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Let's hope the rain finally ends.

NEWTON PUBLIC WORKS FAIR

Saturday, MAY 18TH, 2019 12PM-4PM
NEWTON CITY HALL WAR MEMORIAL

PUBLIC WORKS PARKWAY	TRAFFIC THRUWAY	UTILITIES UNDERPASS	RECYCLING ROADWAY	DPW MAKING IT HAPPEN
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RAIN DATE: Sunday, May 19, 2019

JOIN IN THE FUN and test your knowledge of all we do at DPW:

- Public Works Week Appreciation Ceremony with Mayor Fuller
- Touch-a-Truck, games, and activities run by DPW staff
- Meet and Greet with DPW staff
- Giveaways while supplies last



Newton Food Banks are especially looking for:

- Low Sugar Cereals
- Coffee/Tea
- Oatmeal
- Protein/Granola bars

HELP US FILL-A-TRUCK!
Bring non-perishable food donations and receive a \$1 off coupon for the onsite ice cream truck.

T-SHIRT GIVEAWAY while supplies last!



