

Mayor's Update



It's a busy summer for the Department of Public Works. Street milling, new sidewalks, accessible sidewalk ramps and paving are taking place across Newton.

That's not all. A new bus loop in front of the new Horace Mann School (formerly Carr) will be complete for the first day of school, the demolition of the unused Winchester Street water tank (off Country Club Road) is set to begin and new 8-inch water mains are being installed along Nevada and Linwood Roads. Water mains on Lindbergh Avenue., Kimball Terrace, Rowe, Crescent and Harding Streets and Kensington Avenue are now complete.

A lot of roads are getting a lot of work. Milling and paving has been completed already on River and Beacon Streets from Chestnut to

Woodward, Langdon Road, Westchester Road, Vine Street, Lagrange Street, Norwood Avenue, and Walnut Street from Dexter to Commonwealth. Work is underway or scheduled to begin soon on Cabot Street, North Street, Washington Street from Commonwealth Avenue to Route 128, Commonwealth Avenue from Fuller to Chestnut Street, and Nahanton Street (in the fall). Additionally, Burdean, Deborah, Cynthia, Sevlard, Fenwick, Kewadin, Tamworth and Devonshire Roads are receiving maintenance overlays.

Intersection work at Oak, Christina and Needham Streets is ongoing and should be completed this summer. Preliminary work on both Walnut Street in Newtonville and the West Newton Square Project with roadway, sidewalk and streetscape improvements along Washington Street will now begin in the fall, with the bulk of work starting next spring.

We're on track to spend \$9.5 million this fiscal year on street repairs. We still have a lot more work on aging infrastructure ahead, but we're making progress. I know this work is sometimes inconvenient. Thanks for your patience.



Adding to Newton's Affordable Housing Stock

New developments with 21 or more units of housing in Newton will now have to provide

more units of permanently affordable “workforce” housing.

The definition of “workforce” housing is that it is affordable to households earning greater than 80% and up to 110% of the area median income (AMI). In Newton, a household of four at 80% of the AMI could earn up to \$89,000, and at 110%, could earn up to \$124,630.

The amended Inclusionary Zoning ordinance was drafted by the Newton Planning and Development Department, edited in many meetings by the City Council and passed unanimously by the City Council on Monday night. The amendment still requires that new developments of 7 units or more provide 15% of its units at prices/rents that are affordable to households earning 50% to 80% of the AMI. The new amendment requires an additional 2.5% of the units to be set aside at affordable prices/rents for “workforce” households that earn from 80% to 110% of the AMI.

Beginning in January 2021, all projects with 100 units or more will be required to provide 15% affordable units, and an additional 5% for “workforce” housing, or a total of 20% affordable units altogether.

Newton’s housing is pricey and increasingly unaffordable for many households of all types and income levels. The amendment helps provide more options for people of all means to live in our City.

Bring a Bag, or Pay 10 Cents

The City Council passed an ordinance on Monday night to encourage all of us to use reusable bags when shopping in Newton.

Starting on January 1, 2020, you can either bring your own bag or pay 10 cents per bag for recyclable paper bags provided by the store, pharmacy, market or other retailer. The measure affects approximately 500 retail establishments here and the 10-cent charge will be kept by the retailer.

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It’s a Go for Our Pre-School

Work will begin this summer to renovate the former Horace Mann Elementary School on the corner of Watertown Street and Albemarle Road into the permanent new home of the Newton Early Childhood Program after the City Council approved the site plan on Monday night. Our youngest students are expected to move into their new school in January 2021.

Snow Shoveling Fines Still Pending

The City Council postponed until September a vote on whether to require property owners to clear snow and ice from the sidewalk in front of their property or face a \$50 fine for second and subsequent offenses.

Several City Councilors questioned a provision in the proposal that requires people to go to Newton District Court to appeal a fine, and preferred an arbitrator employed by the City (like our procedure for appealing a parking ticket). However, an arbitrator is not an option for snow shoveling fines. State law requires all municipal fines except parking tickets be appealed to a District Court.

If the City Council approves the ordinance this fall, all of us will need to clear our

sidewalks within 24 hours of when the Newton Department of Public Works determines a storm's end. People who "demonstrate hardship due to a combination of health and financial duress" would receive exemptions.

(Photo: The Newton Fire Department did training drills at Crystal Lake this week. Firefighters drill and train in what they call "target hazards" on their roles in these surroundings.



Firefighters are also studying the construction on new buildings, including Austin Street. Firefighters are developing pre-fire strategies to prepare for emergencies during construction and after occupation.)



2nd Annual
SCHULTZ FAMILY
KIDS
TRIATHLON



Kids and Adaptive Triathlon

David Schultz organized a mini-triathlon in Newton last summer as a fun activity for his three kids. They loved it, and begged their Dad to make it an annual tradition.

Tragically, David Schultz passed away in May while participating in a triathlon. Now Mark Kelly, Newton's Director of Special Needs, is honoring his friend by continuing David's legacy of promoting youth fitness, inclusion, goal setting, community spirit and joy.

Join the 2nd Annual Schultz Family Kids Triathlon on Thursday evening, July 25, at

Newton North High School (457 Walnut Street). The race is for kids ages 6 to 12 and Athletes Unlimited Adaptive participants of all ages. Arrive by 5:30. Roads will be closed at 6:00, and the events will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The course includes a short swim in the Newton North indoor pool (lifeguards will be in the water in each lane to assist athletes), a bike ride (two wheelers, training wheels or tricycles are welcome) along Elm Road, Walnut Street and Tiger Drive Loop, and a run (or walk) around the Newton North outdoor track.

Athletes will receive a finishers medal. Stay for the post-race family celebration with music, fun activities and ice-cream. Thank you to the City of Newton Parks and Recreation Department, Life is Good, Cabot's Ice Cream and Athletes Unlimited!

Entry fee is \$20 prior to race day, and \$30 on race day. Register online at

t.ireg.com/1507. Questions? Contact Mark Kelly at mkelly@newtonma.gov, or at 617-796-1527.

Monday Movie Making in the Highlands

Film crews will shoot scenes for Defending Jacob, the upcoming television series based on a book by Newton author William Landay, in the Highlands on Monday.

Filming will run from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 15 on the section of Lincoln Street from Walnut Street to Chester Street. Businesses will be open and the road will be open to through traffic during filming with the help of police details. The Hartford Street parking lot in Newton Highlands will be used by the film crew. There will also be no parking along either side of Lincoln Street, so pedestrians don't accidentally end up in a scene. (But, customers can get into the businesses in between shots.)

The murder mystery Landay wrote is set in Newton. The story involves a district attorney whose son is charged with murder. The Paramount Television series stars Chris Evans (a.k.a. Captain America) and Michelle Dockery (a.k.a. Lady Mary in Downton Abbey), and is directed by Morten Tyldum (Jack Ryan, Passengers).

Filming went smoothly at Cold Spring Park (Newton received a \$20,000 location fee to improve the trails) and at the Zervas Elementary School playground (the Newton Public Schools received a \$15,000 film fee). The City will receive compensatory lost parking fees for the Highlands shoot.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

(Photo: With James Freas of the Planning Department in the Drill Hall at the West Newton Armory.)

P.S. Yesterday we had a terrific tour of the decommissioned West Newton Armory on Washington Street with representatives from Mass Housing and many City Councilors. One exciting possibility is to develop the building into 100% permanently affordable housing with the City taking control of the property for just \$1 from the State.



P.P.S. The Draft Washington Street Vision Plan is now online. I'll write more about it in my next email. In the meantime, you can read it [here](#).

P.P.P.S Are you're new, or newish, to Newton? Come on over to my office at City Hall next Wednesday, July 17 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and ask questions and give me your suggestions. I'll be joined by Newton residents Martha Heinemann Bixby and Caitlin Cusick of "Welcoming Newton" a grassroots group created to support newcomers to Newton and help them get involved in what's happening around the City.

P.P.P.P.S Congratulations to the US Women's National Soccer Team!

