

Mayor's Update



Winter Parking Ban Shortened

The Overnight Parking Ban will be four weeks shorter this winter. Overnight on-street parking in Newton is now prohibited from Dec. 1 through March 31. (The previous parking ban was from Nov. 15 to April 15.) Thank you City Council for the vote last night.

Need overnight parking this winter? Free municipal parking lot permits are available through the Newton Police Department, Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Permits are for Newton residents only. They are given out on a first-come first-served basis and are good for parking only during the Winter Parking Ban. Bring a valid driver's license and vehicle registration.

Get Ready to Shovel

Get your shovels and snow blowers ready. The City Council last night passed an ordinance that requires homeowners to clear their sidewalk within 24 hours of a storm's end (unless conditions warrant more time) or face a written warning for the first offense, and a \$50 fine for second and subsequent offenses.



The Department of Public Works is responsible for enforcement through calls to 311.

Exemptions will be granted for residents who "demonstrate hardship due to a combination of health and financial duress or religious circumstances."

While we will all need to find a way to keep our sidewalks clear this winter, Newton will be much more walkable year round.



Learn More About NewCAL

In the coming weeks and months, residents will have at least 10 opportunities to learn more about the Newton Center for Active Living, or NewCAL, the community center focused on seniors. The top ranked site for NewCAL is to coexist with

the Albemarle-Gath Pool complex.

The five community meetings (in green below) will give residents a chance to ask

questions and hear directly from the project team. The meetings in blue are with committees and commissions when residents will hear elected and appointed officials discuss the plans. No votes are anticipated at these meetings.

These meetings will provide detailed information on the site ranking process and early ideas on site layout scenarios at Albemarle. We will be looking for community feedback.

In anticipation of the meetings, more information will be posted online [here](#) by the end of the day on Friday, Sept. 6, including details on more than 40 sites considered for NewCAL as well as answers to frequently asked questions.

In the coming weeks and months, the City will work with many stakeholders to decide if Albemarle is the right site by looking at alternative site plans with the help of the architectural team. We look forward to working with the Parks & Recreation Commission, the Council on Aging, the City Council, neighbors of Albemarle and the Day Middle School, and community members.

While the Albemarle-Gath Pool site is the top ranked location for NewCAL and will be studied in depth, the City will continue to consider non-city-owned sites until a final proposal is sent to the Parks and Recreation Commission, Council on Aging and the City Council.

NewCAL Meeting Schedule:

- **Monday, Sept. 9** – Finance Committee - City Hall, Room 222 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Sept. 11** – Design Review Committee - Library, Trustees Room at 6:00 p.m.
- **Monday, Sept. 16** – Parks and Recreation Commission – City Hall, Room 211 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Sept. 18** – Programs and Services Committee – City Hall, Room 211 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, Sept. 19** – Community Meeting - Ed Center, Room 111 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Monday, Sept. 23** – Community Meeting - F.A. Day School, Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Sept. 24** – Council on Aging - Senior Center, at 7:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, Oct. 24** - Community Meeting - Ed Center, Room 111 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, Nov. 21** - Community Meeting - Ed Center, Room 111 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, Dec. 12** - Community Meeting - Ed Center, Room 111 at 7:00 p.m.

To be kept informed about the NewCAL project, please sign up at newcal@newtonma.gov.

(Recognizing the DPW crew that worked through the night earlier this summer to fix a water main break under Needham Street.)

Regulating Short-term Rentals

The City Council last night approved our first ever ordinance on short term



rentals (i.e., AirBnBs) that goes into effect on Jan. 2, 2020.

The new ordinance balances the need to preserve “the quiet enjoyment of Newton neighborhoods” while maintaining the ability of homeowners to earn extra money renting rooms.

The ordinance allows homeowners to rent rooms to people in their primary residence where they live at

least nine months a year. The number of bedrooms that can be rented is capped at three, and the number of renters at nine at any given time. The Council put no cap on the number of nights per year that homeowners may rent rooms.

Residents must register with the State and with the City of Newton before renting rooms; abutters and abutters to abutters must be notified within 30 days of registering as short-term rental; and the home must pass an inspection.

In addition, homeowners are responsible for making sure renters don’t become a nuisance by being noisy, creating trash, causing parking or traffic issues or creating any other nuisance beyond which normally occurs in the immediate residential area. Three violations of these restrictions will result in an inability to rent for six months.

Toy Store and Café Coming to Austin Street

Residents will be moving in at 28 Austin Street in Newtonville in the next few weeks. By December, they will be joined by the toy store Henry Bear’s Park and Caffè Nero, a European style coffee shop serving pastries and sandwiches.

Hurricane Dorian

Even as we monitor Hurricane Dorian’s progress up the coast of Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas our hearts go out to the people of the Bahamas.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the City of Newton are monitoring the storm. There is still a lot of uncertainty about Dorian’s exact course and intensity as the storm moves north toward the New England coast. Current forecasts are for Dorian to follow an offshore track passing about 140 miles off the coast of Nantucket early Saturday morning as a Category 1 hurricane.

We will continue to monitor the storm and will be prepared to respond.

(Recognizing Childhood Cancer Awareness Month at City Hall with the Swersey Family.)

Help Us with Conservation, Biosafety, and Historic Preservation

We have opportunities for residents who want to get involved and serve as volunteers on a City

board, committee or commission.

The [Newton Conservation Commission](#) has openings for alternate members. The Commission is responsible for protecting the City's wetlands and managing the City's Conservation land. Preference will be given to applicants familiar with wetlands, conservation, or open space issues. Useful skills include law, engineering, botany, wildlife ecology, and regulation. Interested residents should attend a Conservation Commission meeting to get a sense of the role of a Commissioner; the next meetings are scheduled for Thursday, September 12 and Thursday, October 3. The Commission meets year-round, every three weeks on Thursdays, at 7:00 p.m. at Newton City Hall. Questions? Contact Jennifer Steele at jsteel@newtonma.gov.

The [Newton Biosafety Committee](#) (NBC) is recruiting new members. The NBC is charged with ensuring that all research activities are conducted in full compliance with state and federal regulations as they pertain to the use of rDNA. The committee reviews all applications from life science companies in the City and advises the Commissioner of Health and Human Services prior to issuing a permit for the use of recombinant DNA. The Mayor and City Council appoint members to this committee. The committee is looking for members who represent the fields of public health, occupational health, infectious disease or environmental health. Questions? Contact Aimee Sullivan at asullivan@newtonma.gov.

The [Newton Historical Commission](#) is comprised of residents who want to serve as stewards of the City's Demolition Delay and Local Landmark ordinances. Preference will be given to applicants with historic preservation and/or architectural experience, and people with a demonstrated interest in working with property owners to ensure positive outcomes. The commission meets year-round on the fourth Thursday of the month in City Hall. Questions? Contact Katy Holmes at kholmes@newtonma.gov.

A full listing of our Boards and Commissions can be found [here](#).

Any general questions about Boards and Commissions should be directed to Amalia Timbers at atimbers@newtonma.gov.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. Want to take a look inside the newly renovated Cabot Elementary School? Join us on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a Community Open House at Cabot, 229 Cabot Street in Newtonville and say hello to Humpty Dumpty.

P.P.S. Marijuana is Legal. Now What? Newton



Health and Human Services Commissioner Deborah Youngblood will moderate a panel discussion on Wednesday, Sept. 18 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Newton-Wellesley Hospital (Shipley Auditorium, 2014 Washington St.) on what the legalization of marijuana means to your health, family and Newton. The event and parking is free.

P.P.P.S. Is your community group, educational institution or organization working to bridge racial, ethnic, religious and cultural differences in Newton? The Harmony Foundation is accepting grant proposals. Grants typically range from \$200 to \$1,500. Applications may be submitted for programs in 2019 or 2020. Apply by Monday, Sept. 30. Find more information [here](#).

P.P.P.P.S. Nice to be named #2 in the Nation on the SafeWise list of America's Safest Cities to Raise a Child. (Carmel, Indiana was first and Johns Creek, Georgia third).

