

## Mayor's Update



### Detour on Monday at Dedham and Nahanton Streets

Dedham Street at Nahanton Street will be closed to cars so paving work can be completed (finally!) this coming Monday, Nov. 4 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Large trucks, school and MBTA buses will be allowed through, but all other vehicles in both directions, from Oak Hill and West Roxbury or from Route 128 and Needham, will

be detoured.

I know this will be inconvenient. But because of the cold temperatures at night this time of year, the paving needs to be done during the day. I'm grateful for your patience during this long construction process which was extended because of work delays by National Grid.

The end is in sight.

### Horace Mann: Listening, Acting

Teachers, administrators and parents have raised serious and important concerns about a number of issues at the new home for the Horace Mann Elementary School (the former Carr) at 225 Nevada Street.



We are listening. We are acting.

With the Newton Public Schools, we are taking immediate steps to address several issues including acoustics, fencing, windows, paint, classroom sinks and bathroom facilities.

Other issues, including the size of classrooms and playground elements, require a longer process. Together with the Horace Mann community, the School Department, School Committee and the City's Building Department, we'll be working with an independent consultant and plumbing and playground specialists to put together a plan of action to address these issues as well.

We made mistakes. We are learning from them and using them to help improve the process of making decisions and the decisions themselves.

Even as Horace Mann is getting some necessary remedies, planning for other schools scheduled for improvements — the Newton Early Childhood Program, Lincoln-Eliot, Franklin, Countryside, and Ward — is moving forward.

## **Newton Innovation Center Closing**

I have made the difficult decision to phase-out in four months the Newton Innovation Center co-working space located in a City of Newton building in Newton Corner.

The Newton Innovation Center (NIC) opened in 2016. Mayor Setti Warren partnered with MassChallenge and the Cambridge Innovation Center (CIC) to offer below-market rate co-working space and affiliated conference rooms at the former Newton Corner library at 124 Vernon Street.

The goal was to support individual entrepreneurs and startups and strengthen the innovation ecosystem in Newton. MassChallenge, however, pulled out in 2017. The Newton Innovation Center continued with a partnership between the City of Newton, the Newton Needham Regional Chamber and the Cambridge Innovation Center. I am grateful for our wonderful partnership with MassChallenge, the Chamber and the CIC and I know the below-market rates and the culture at the NIC supported many entrepreneurs.

Several factors contributed to my decision to close the Newton Innovation Center. In the past few years, the co-working industry has expanded enormously so alternatives are now more plentiful, including in Brighton and Needham. Very few entrepreneurs graduated from the NIC to a next office here in Newton.

While useful to the entrepreneurs located there, the NIC never became the hub of entrepreneurial activity that nourished Newton's innovation economy; rather, many successful efforts at growing Newton's economy happened separate from the NIC. A recent study of the NIC commissioned by the Chamber concluded the current building size and location are not well-suited or situated for growth or success.

The City, the Chamber and the CIC are committed to helping the individuals and businesses currently located at the Newton Innovation Center find other opportunities before the NIC closes on March 1, 2020. Devra Bailin, Newton's Economic Development Director, will work directly with the current members of the NIC to find alternative co-working options.

The City, the Chamber and the CIC are also committed to working together to bring co-working options to Newton.

We are in the process of determining how the building will be utilized moving forward, including evaluating the space for use by a City department. We will work closely with the City Council to determine its future if it is not used by a City department.

## **Vote on Tuesday**

Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. this coming Tuesday, Nov. 5, for the City's municipal election for City Council, School Committee and Neighborhood Area Councils. Mark your calendars to vote.

For those of you who vote at the

former Horace Mann School in Newtonville (Ward 2, Precinct 1) you'll still be voting in the same location at 687 Watertown Street at the corner of Albemarle Road. The school moved to 225 Nevada St. (formerly the Carr Elementary School), but the polling location is staying at the former Horace Mann Elementary School for this election.



### **New Leadership and Firefighters on the NFD**

Yesterday afternoon we gathered at City Hall to promoted nine officers and swear in seven new members of the Newton Fire Department.

It's a great new chapter in the Newton Fire Department. With the leadership of Chief Gino Lucchetti, Assistant Chief Michael Smith, new Deputy Chiefs Eric Fricke and Greg Gentile, the excellence of Newton's Class 1 Fire Department is assured.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. The renovated municipal parking lot on Austin Street in Newtonville across from the Star Market opened today. Parking is free for 2 hours until the end of the year.

P.P.S. Do you have left-over prescription drugs to dispose of or papers that need shredding? Call 617-796-1660 today and reserve a time to do both on Saturday, Nov. 9, 8:00 a.m. to noon at 115 Rumford Ave.

P.P.P.S. Have an opinion on the future of Webster Woods? Let the Community Preservation Committee hear your opinion at a public hearing on Wednesday, Nov. 6,



BRING UNWANTED CANDY TO BE  
DONATED TO TREATS FOR TROOPS  
**TREATS  
FOR  
TROOPS**



# PUMPKIN SMASH 2019

## GREEN YOUR HALLOWEEN

COMPOST YOUR PUMPKIN  
AT THIS LOCATION:

1000 COMMONWEALTH  
AVE

NEWTON CITY HALL  
WAR MEMORIAL CIRCLE

Remove candles and decorations.

DON'T TRASH IT.  
**SMASH  
IT!!**

Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

11 am - 2 pm

at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall Chambers at City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Ave. I'm requesting \$15.7 million in Community Preservation Act funding to preserve in perpetuity 17 acres of forest at 300 Hammond Pond Parkway.

P.P.P.S. Newton Public Schools' Creative Arts & Sciences is hosting its first ever CAS AuthorFest on Wednesday November 6th. *25 authors and illustrators are presenting at many schools.* At the end of the day, all 25 presenters will be at Zervas Elementary School library between 3:15 and 5:30 for a meet and greet and book sale and signing that is open to the whole community. Information can be found

[here.](#)

