

Mayor's Update

Green Repaved Roads

Take a drive or bike ride on Chestnut Street between Beacon Street and Route 9 or on Dedham Street near the border with Boston. For the first time in ages, the potholes are gone. Better yet, the technique we used to repave is substantially more environmentally friendly, faster and lasts much longer.

Thanks to Newton's Department of Public Works, Newton is one of the early adopters in Massachusetts putting this "cold in-place recycling paving" technology to work.

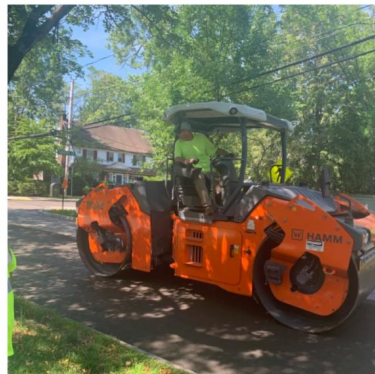


Cold in-place recycling paving crews from the contractor Indus treated two sections of deteriorating roadway on Chestnut Street and Dedham Street this week. While the cold in-place recycling process will be complete on these two streets by the end of the week and the surface is smooth and drivable, a topcoat of asphalt will be added on both streets the week of July 19. (The cold in-place recycling paving needs to "cure" before the topcoat goes on.)



What's so special about this technique?

In a typical road rehabilitation, the old, deteriorated pavement is dug up and hauled away. Then new material, manufactured at a blacktop plant, is transported to the paving site. Our Chestnut Street and Dedham Street projects are about 1.25 miles so all those trucks and wasted existing material plus the new materials have a huge environmental impact. Also, all the steps take a lot of time.



I visited the construction site on Monday to see the cold in-place recycling process firsthand:

- A huge cold in-place recycling machine mills off the top 4 to 5 inches of asphalt. Inside the machine, a 12-foot wide milling drum crushes the old asphalt and mixes it with new liquid asphalt and Portland cement additives to revitalize the material.

- Once the milled material has been well blended with the stabilizing additives, the revitalized mixture is deposited back onto the road with a paver machine.
- Next, large compactors roll over the surface to compress the material and achieve the required density. After compaction, the recycled road can be re-opened to traffic very quickly. All of these steps are done in one day.
- The newly paved and drivable surface then “cures” for two weeks.
- During the two-week curing period, all manholes and other utility structures are raised in preparation for the final topcoat of pavement.
- After the two weeks of curing, a wearing course of 1.5 inches of new hot mix asphalt is applied. With the strong cold in-place recycled base, this wearing course can be preserved to ensure these roads last and provide a smooth ride for 15 to 20 years. (The method we used to use required repaving in about 10 years.)

By using cold in-place recycling paving instead of removing and replacing the pavement material, greenhouse gas emissions are cut by about 40%, 100% of the in-place material is reused, construction delays are dramatically reduced, and a longer lasting road is created.

Huge thanks go to Newton’s Engineers and DPW staff, with special shout-outs to Frank Nichols and Gabe Federico, for using this technique which is still quite new to Massachusetts.

NewMo 2.0 Launches on Tuesday, July 6

We’re ready to launch NewMo 2.0 next Tuesday, July 6.

NewMo 2.0 (Newton in Motion) dramatically expands access to and from public transit for all residents who live in any village and neighborhood of the City as well as for all employees and visitors in Newton.

Any resident, anyone who works in Newton, and any visitor here can book a \$2 on demand, shared ride to connect to the MBTA Green Line or Commuter Rail system, Needham Street and the Wells Avenue Office Park area.

You can start signing up for NewMo 2.0 today. It’s free to sign up. Plus, it’s easier if you’re all set to go before you want to take your first ride.

Download the NewMo app (search for NewMo Newton) on a smartphone or call 617-655-8019 to get started. Those without access to a smartphone can both sign up and book a ride by calling 617-655-8019.

Rides cost \$2 (with the first five free) and will be paid directly through the app or charged to your credit card when you use a telephone to call for a ride. Qualifying low-income residents can receive discounted rides for 50 cents. To see if you qualify for discounted rates, contact Nicole Freedman, at nfreedman@newtonma.gov.

NewMo 2.0 builds on the NewMo 1.0 system that has operated for our older

residents since 2019. Those already using NewMo will continue to receive the same service.

Trips may begin or end anywhere in Newton provided one leg begins or ends at a designated stop or service areas. These include:

- Newton Center Langley Lot/Newton Centre Green Line,
- Newtonville Commuter Rail Station,
- Chestnut Hill Green Line Station,
- Newton Highlands Green Line Station,
- Needham Street,
- Wells Avenue area (includes the Wells Avenue Office Park, UMass Mt Ida, JCC, Nahanton Woods Condominiums).
- Needham Heights Commuter Rail Station.

While NewMo 2.0 will not do drop offs and pickups at every commuter rail and T station, people anywhere in Newton can get a ride to and from the Green Line or to the Commuter Rail Framingham/Worcester line or the Needham line on Mondays through Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Are you a local business or non-profit interested in rides for patrons or employees? Email brian.kerrigan@ridewithvia.com for more information about community partnerships.

Questions? Visit our website at newtonma.gov/Newmo or email NewMo customer support at newmo@ridewithvia.com, or call Via at 617-655-8019.

The Tuesday Newton Farmers' Market opened for the season at Cold Spring Park (1094 Beacon Street) yesterday and will be open on Tuesdays at this location through October 19, 1:30 – 6:00 p.m. The Saturday Farmers' Market is open through Oct. 16 at Newton North High School, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m (352 Lowell Avenue). Fun to meet Instagram star Butters (@puggybutters – 67,000 followers!), visit booths including Green Newton's, and see Newtonians shopping local even on the steamy, almost 100 degree day.



(Photo: With me at the Green Newton booth are Margaret Ford, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commissioner Nicole Banks, Owen Peterson, Akiva Lind and Alicia Ddung.)

Getting an Estimated Water Bill?

Is your water bill based on an estimated reading? It's easy to tell as the water bill will be orange and clearly marked as an estimate.

What's going on? Some of the transponders which electronically send the water usage information to Newton's water billing department have stopped working (before the end of their useful life and while still under warranty). Thankfully, the water meters themselves are working correctly.

We apologize for the inconvenience. Malfunctioning transponders are being removed and replaced.

Since some of the transponders are not sending meter readings from the water meters, the City is estimating consumption based on computer generated averages of four "like periods" over the past four years.

We encourage you to send your actual meter reading to the water billing department if you get an estimated bill. Please know (no surprise) everyone will eventually have to pay their actual bill.

Click [here](#) for more information and for instructions on how to read your water meter.



West Newton Armory

Plans to transform the West Newton Armory on Washington Street just east of West Newton Square into 100% permanently affordable housing are taking the next important step forward.

The City of Newton is issuing a "Request for Proposals" tomorrow, Thursday, July 1.

We're seeking a partner who can transform the property into a wonderful home that helps advance our affordable housing goals. We're looking for a partner with creative ideas founded in a commitment to serving and supporting the future occupants, while simultaneously being sensitive to the neighbors and neighborhood; a partner that can produce a project that is architecturally appealing, consistent with our environmental and sustainability goals, while helping to further our fair housing initiatives and brings a strong track record of affordable housing projects.

The deadline for submissions is Sept. 30, 2021.

Find more information about the Armory and read the feasibility study [here](#), and read the final Request for Proposals [here](#) tomorrow, Thursday, July 1.

An email from Molly Hillis Elliot, Newton South High School Class of 1994 and a member of the cross country and indoor and outdoor track team, caught my eye

yesterday morning.

Molly wrote to make sure we knew that NSHS girls' coach of cross country and indoor & outdoor track and field, Steve McChesney, will be honored on Saturday as the National Scholastic Athletics Foundation National Coach of the Year.



This lifetime achievement award covers his career which began in Eugene, Oregon in 1980 and continues today in Newton.

Coach McChesney's teams have won more than 1,000 dual meets and finished first or second 21 times in All-State meets.

Molly said it best:

"I am forever indebted to Steve for sharing his passion, joy and knowledge of running with me and my fellow NSHS Lions. Through his coaching, I stayed focused on academics and athletics which allowed me to happily and successfully navigate high school. Through Steve's coaching, I made it to Georgetown where I met my husband Mark. So not only am I grateful to Steve for the gift of lifelong health and wellness but also for my wonderful family!"

Watch the presentation of the award to Coach McChesney at the National Scholastic Athletic Foundation High School Nationals at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday by clicking [here](#).

Congratulations and thank you Coach!

(Photo: Coach McChesney with Molly Hillis Elliot and the 1993 Newton South All-State Championship Cross Country team.)



Enjoy the July 4th holiday weekend here in Newton.

Saturday, July 3

2:00 p.m. Newton community members read the famous Frederick Douglass speech which he first delivered on July 5, 1852 entitled "**What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?**" Jackson Homestead, 527 Washington Street. (In case of rain, the reading

will be moved to the tents at Walnut Park. Please join us there for the reading and then walk to Jackson Homestead for the museum tour.)

6:30 p.m. Newton's own 4th of July pops concert hosted by the **New Philharmonia Orchestra**. Plenty of lawn seating is available; consider bringing a picnic dinner. I'm practicing for my part reciting Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait." Newton Centre Bowl, 69 Tyler Terrace. (Rain date Monday, July 5, 4:00 p.m.)

Sunday, July 4

10:00 a.m. **Kids Morning**, complete with a patriotic costume promenade, a pet parade, a decorated scooter/bike parade, live music by long time Newton performer David Polansky, and free Cabot's ice cream for all. Newton Centre Bowl, 69 Tyler Terrace.

12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Bring a picnic lunch to Albemarle field, enjoy the music of **The Great American Brass Band**, and take a dip in Gath Pool (daily pass available for purchase at the door). 250 Albemarle Road.

6:30 p.m.: Enjoy the music of **East Coast Soul** and their premier Boston musicians and singers for Classic Rock, R&B and Pop. Newton Centre Bowl, 69 Tyler Terrace. (This concert will be rescheduled to a later date this summer in case of rain.)

Gath Pool and Crystal Lake are open for special holiday hours Saturday and Sunday. Click [here](#) for more details and the full schedule of events from our Parks, Recreation & Culture team.

Delays in Yard Waste Collection

We are currently experiencing up to a two day delay in yard waste collection. Please continue to put your yard waste out on your regular collection day, and leave it out until it is collected.

The delay is caused by a challenging labor shortage faced by Waste Management, the company that collects Newton's trash, recycling, and yard waste. Our priority is ensuring that trash and recycling continues to be picked up on schedule, so the yard waste collection is experiencing the delay. We're in frequent contact with Waste Management, and we know they are working hard to hire more staff.

Also, a reminder that there will be no trash, recycling or yard waste collection on Monday, July 5 because of the July 4th Holiday. As a result, everyone's regular collection day will be pushed back one day later next week.

Last week I had the pleasure of dedicating a bench in Newton Centre in honor of Carol and Richard Beard. Carol and Dick were tireless advocates for the rights and needs of people with developmental disabilities and remarkably



wonderful people. (Photo: With Lincoln and Forrest Beard and City Councilor Brenda Noel, Executive Director of Pathway to Possible, the non-profit organization the Beards were instrumental in founding that provides housing, support and advocacy for people with cognitive and developmental disabilities and their families.)

Investing Federal ARPA Dollars

The City of Newton will receive approximately \$63 million in American Recovery Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funding. There are specific guidelines from the U.S. Department of Treasury on how they can be used. Two critical ones are that the funds must be used to respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts, and to reflect revenue loss by the municipality.

I want our investments to take into account your ideas for the best uses of these one-time significant funds.

Let me hear from you at our community listening session on Zoom on Thursday, July 8, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The Zoom link is:

Newton ARPA Community Listening Session
Thursday, July 8, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88058919787?
pwd=Z3d6Z1pUb3U3aJMWZIZ2UxbjBRdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88058919787?pwd=Z3d6Z1pUb3U3aJMWZIZ2UxbjBRdz09)

We'll give a short presentation about the guidelines and requirements on how the ARPA funds can be used right at 6:00 p.m. You can drop in at any time. If you're there before 8 p.m., I'll stay on as long as someone has a suggestion. Raise your hand (we'll let you know how to do it on Zoom) if you'd like to speak; we'll call on folks in order and make sure that everyone that wants to has a chance to share their ideas.

In addition, you're welcome to give me suggestions by email. Send along your ideas to ARPAinput@newtonma.gov. Please send your thoughts along by the end of the day on Friday, July 9.

I have several goals for how we invest these one-time ARPA funds. We should seed those initiatives that will help Newtonians and our city not just stabilize and recover but permanently be more resilient, more livable, more vibrant, more inclusive, and more sustainable. We should invest the funds using the lens of equity, ensuring all geographic areas of Newton, all ages, all ethnicities, and all people are supported

while we help those hurt by the pandemic. Our ARPA investments should be complement those of State and Federal programs.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. We wanted to get this Update out today before the holiday weekend begins. The COVID-19 weekly data is released on Thursday evenings - if you're interested in the latest numbers, you can find them [here](#) tomorrow. Have a wonderful 4th.

