

Friday, July 2, 2021

Mayor's Update

There's a saying from my Jewish faith that teaches a little bit of light dispels a lot of darkness.

This morning Newton Police Chief John Carmichael, Lt. Bruce Apotheker (NPD's Civil Rights Officer), City Council Vice President Rick Lipof, Rabbis Chaim Prus and Shalom Ber Prus of Newton's Beth Menachem Chabad and I joined the



Unity Vigil at Brighton Common called in the aftermath of the stabbing yesterday of Rabbi Shlomo Noginski, just a short distance from Newton.

We went representing the people of our City. An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us. Together we stand as one, we speak up for one another, and we shine a bright light on antisemitism and hate.

(Photo Credit to Suzanne Kreiter of the Boston Globe. Read the Globe article on the Unity Vigil [here](#).)

Shared Streets Grant III

We have some more good news for biking, walking and dining outdoors in Newton. MassDOT just awarded the City of Newton a third *Shared Streets and Spaces Grant* for \$150,969.

The City recently completed two Shared Streets and Spaces projects using \$353,000 in funding from previous grant rounds. These rounds added two Park & Pedal electric bike stations and six new Bluebikes bikeshare stations (plus one station move).

This third round of funding supports three important initiatives focused on safe streets, shared mobility and, we hope, outdoor dining.

We will be installing Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) at three crosswalks in Newton Centre. At these intersections, people using the crosswalk will be able press a button which turns on flashing yellow lights to alert approaching cars and thus increase pedestrian safety.

The grant will also fund one new bike share station and one to two station moves. (As we optimize our system for ridership, if a station is very low performing, we move it to a location where it will benefit more residents.)

Lastly, we hope to construct platforms for 3 or 4 restaurants in their outdoor dining areas to raise the seating from street level up to sidewalk level. This helps customers with all levels of mobility enjoy outdoor dining.

Per the grant requirements, all projects must be implemented by December 31, 2021. Special thanks go to Nicole Freedman, Director of Transportation Planning, for shepherding the grant application process. For more information, please contact Nicole at NFreedman@newtonma.gov.



New Phil Pops Concert Moved to Monday

The uncertain weather forecast for the weekend caused us to postpone Saturday's New Philharmonia Pops Concert. The forecast

looks warm and dry for the new date and time on Monday, July 5 at 4:00 p.m. in the Newton Centre Bowl, the grassy area below the hut off 69 Tyler Terrace.

It's a great concert with music for all including youngsters and the young at heart with sing a longs, Aaron Copeland's "Lincoln Portrait," and the Star Spangled Banner for the final number.



Tomorrow afternoon's scheduled reading of the famous Frederick Douglass address, "What to the Slaves is the Fourth of July," at 2:00 p.m. is moved to the tents behind the old Aquinas School on Walnut Park (see a map [here](#)). Join us there for the reading and then walk over to the Jackson Homestead for a museum tour.

The Kids Morning fun is still on schedule for Sunday, July 4, 10:00 to noon, at the Newton Centre Bowl adjacent to the Newton Centre Playground, 69 Tyler Terrace as are the picnic, music and swim at the Gath Pool from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m., 256 Albemarle Road, and the East Coast Soul Concert at 6:30 p.m. also at the Newton Centre Bowl.

Paula Gannon and Newton's Cultural Development staff will post any schedule changes [here](#), and on their Facebook page [here](#). Fingers crossed for dry weather.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. The entertainment continues next weekend in Newton.

Newton Community Pride's Linda Plaut Newton Festival of the Arts is next Saturday and Sunday, July



10 – 11, with a weekend full of music from Jazz and Baroque Harpsichord to Rock and Classical Guitar, Opera and Soul. The Newton Nomadic Theater is also hosting a Story Slam Saturday night at 5:00 p.m. at the Hyde Bandstand in Newton Highlands.

See the full schedule and information about the performers [here](#).



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