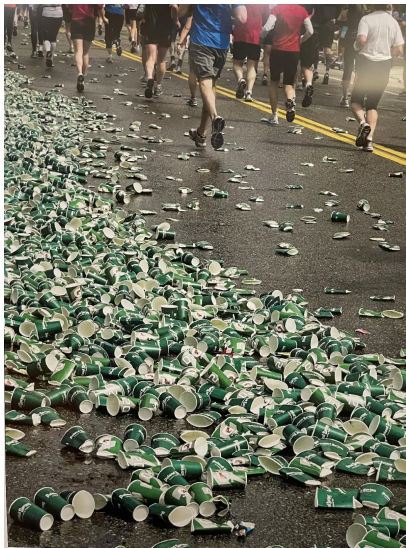


SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

Thursday, April 7, 2022

## Mayor's Update



### Here Come the Runners

Baseball at Fenway Park and the 126th Boston Marathon, both in person a week from Monday on Patriots Day, April 18: Great signs of spring!

Thirty thousand official runners from countries around the world (with two important exceptions) will be making the turn at Washington Street onto Commonwealth Avenue at Newton's Fire Station 2 to then head up Heartbreak Hill.

*(Photo by Newton resident Howard Fineman)*

The road closures and parking restrictions in Newton along the route begin at 8:00 a.m. and stay in place until approximately 6:00 p.m. Figure out alternative routes as Newton is bisected and plan for traffic delays as no cars will be allowed to cross the Marathon Route until the course is reopened.

Hats off to so many people in the Newton Police, Newton Fire, Public Works and Parks, Recreation and Culture Departments who have been working for months on logistics and safety plans. Please remember that "If you see something, say something." Call the Newton Police Department at 617-796-2100 or dial 911.

### Team Newton

Our fingers are crossed for good running weather on Marathon Monday for all the athletes, including the 40 members of Team Newton. Every runner or charity on our team has a connection to Newton. (This includes my former Executive Aide, Marine Lt. Noah Rivkin, who is running to raise money for the City of Newton Veterans Services Department). Find the list of athletes and the organization they're raising money for at [newtonma.gov/TeamNewton](https://newtonma.gov/TeamNewton) and good luck to everyone.

---

*Newton Police are now using  
two new hybrid cruisers on*

*patrol, a first for NPD. Police cruisers are in use 24 hours a day, so finding the time for recharging is difficult. The hybrids provide better gas mileage and reduced CO2 emissions than gas powered cruisers without having to be taken out of service for recharging. Great reviews so far from Chief Carmichael. The City's 30 vehicle sedan fleet used in other departments is all electric.*




---

## **Congratulations David Fleishman**

My heartfelt congratulations to School Superintendent David Fleishman who today announced he will be leaving Newton after 12 years for a “natural next step” as the President/Chief Executive Officer of JVS Boston, one of the largest providers of adult education and workforce development services in New England.

David has found a new opportunity that aligns perfectly with his deep commitment to education. His letter to the Newton Public School community exudes excitement, and I am excited for him.

David is rightfully proud of instituting full day kindergarten and making real strides in embracing diversity, equity and inclusion as well as constructing three new elementary schools, expanding and unifying the City-wide inclusive pre-school program, and transforming NPS with 1:1 technology. Perhaps his greatest legacy will be his gift for recruiting and hiring exceptional educators.

Good luck David, and thank you for giving our students, families, caregivers, educators, and staff your all for twelve years.

---

## **NPS Budget**

My goal since the pandemic began has been to provide the Newton Public Schools with financial support to help teaching and learning in these difficult times. We have been “all in” on using CARES and ARPA funds to cover their COVID-19 related costs.

Yesterday, as the NPS financial team scrubbed their books, they let me know of \$1.1 million in COVID-19 related projects that had not yet been reimbursed as well as a number of summer projects involving ventilation and new space for specialized programs. These one-time COVID related expenses are exactly the right use of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and I immediately agreed to provide the funding.

Thus, I am providing an additional \$1.51 million in ARPA funds, which in turn will relieve some of the budget challenges facing the Newton Public Schools.

Altogether we have provided NPS with just under \$16 million of ARPA funds and \$6.4 million of CARES funds. The allocation for the NPS operating budget for next fiscal year, FY2023, is also increasing by 3.5% or almost \$9 million to \$262 million.

School Superintendent David Fleishman is using these funds to support students' academic, social and emotional needs. More specifically, he will reinstate approximately 20 full-time positions. These include elementary literacy interventionists and math intervention aides at all elementary schools, two and four teacher teams at the middle schools, and secondary school guidance counselors.

Our children are our highest priority and these one-time ARPA funds are helping a lot.

---

## Landscaper Registration

Spring clean-up and yard work season is near, and that means landscapers are starting to work in Newton. If your landscaping company is using leaf blowers, make sure the company is registered with the City.

All commercial landscapers who use leaf blowers in Newton need to register with the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) before working on properties in the City.

To register, landscapers need to provide contact information and attest that they understand Newton's ordinance which prohibits the use of all leaf blowers at or above 65 decibels, no exceptions. Landscapers will also need to post registration information on their company vehicles. The registration fee is \$50, and companies can be fined for violations. Multiple fines could result in a suspension of operating privileges in Newton.



Please know that homeowners can be held responsible and fined if their landscaper is unregistered and violates the noise ordinance at their property.

We hired a seasonal inspector who will be proactively enforcing our new landscaper registration program in cooperation with the Police Department.

Gas or electric leaf blowers that meet the decibel requirement are allowed for spring clean-up Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. through Memorial Day, Monday, May 30.

During the summer between Memorial Day to Labor Day, all gas-powered leaf blowers are prohibited and just one electric or battery powered leaf blower per property is allowed at one time.

Find additional info [here](#).

---

## Creepy Scam Involving NPD



The Newton Police Department recently took a report of a telephone scam where the male caller identified himself as a “Newton PD Lieutenant from the Tax and Fraud Department.” He informed the caller they were being audited. The scammer then instructed them to purchase gift cards

and provide him with the barcode and banking information to help them “sort it out.”

Unfortunately, the caller identification showed the incoming number as 617-796-2100 which is the real NPD main number.

Please know that gift cards can never be used to pay fees, fines or bail, and that our Newton Police Department would not call making such requests.

Be aware that scammers can “spoof” or make incoming calls appear to be from other phone numbers. If you have any doubt about a caller’s motivation or identity, hang up right away and call the Newton Police using the real telephone number 617-796-2100.

---

### **Newton to Get \$2.12M From Opioid Settlement**

The City of Newton will receive \$2.12 million over the next decade and a half to deliver programs and services to help those in our community struggling with substance use disorder and to stand up new education and prevention initiatives for residents of all ages.

This money is our share of \$210 million being distributed among Massachusetts cities and towns. The funds are part of a landmark settlement won by Attorney General Maura Healey and 13 other Attorney Generals around the country to hold opioid manufacturers and distributors accountable for their role in the opioid crises. The State is receiving another \$310 million from the settlement.



*(Photo: With Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll, Attorney General Maura Healey, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and a family member who lost a loved one to an overdose at Tuesday’s press conference announcing the settlement.)*

This public health crisis has caused unspeakable trauma, suffering, and grief to many individuals and families across Newton. While funding does not erase the pain that substance use disorders create, these funds allow us to provide prevention, education, intervention, treatment and recovery services for

those impacted by the crisis that has taken the lives of thousands of people in

Massachusetts. These funds will directly help fortify and expand programs and services for Newton individuals and families.

We expect to receive the first round of funds this summer, followed by annual installments through 2038.

During the coming weeks, I will work with Newton Health and Human Services Commissioner Linda Walsh and Director of Social Services Meghan Kennedy on how best to invest these funds to expand support for those struggling with substance use in the City and to provide prevention services to all Newton residents.

In conjunction with these funds and efforts, the City of Newton is prioritizing the development of the Newton Substance Use Prevention Coalition. Chief Carmichael and staff from the Newton Police Department and Meghan Kennedy are working closely to expand our partnerships across the community. Our goals include preventing the onset and initiation of substance use within our community, reducing stigma associated with substance use disorder, and supporting our neighbors experiencing the impacts of substances.

I stood with the Attorney General, fellow Mayors and families of those who have lost loved ones yesterday to announce these funds and I'm grateful for the leadership of AG Healey and her team for successfully leading this effort.

---

## Talk to Someone

I read every report written by the Newton Police about hate and bias incidents and I take a look at the 911 call log daily to get a sense of what's going on in our City.

What I'm seeing is the stressors of our times—the pandemic, gun violence, the war in Ukraine, dismissive politics, financial insecurity, the climate crisis, inequities – affecting our residents in concerning ways.

People of all ages are having trouble coping and we're seeing this manifest itself in small and large ways. We're seeing more fights and more incidents of hate and bias in our community. Talking to parents, guardians and care givers, educators, and school nurses, I know they're seeing a lot of anxiety and pain in our schools.

After so many months of watching our youngsters, families and seniors try to hold it all together as the pandemic engulfed us, our feelings of loss and uncertainty are coming out, sometimes in unhealthy and concerning ways.

How can we help? Here's what our social workers have found. What's important, for our children and for ourselves, is that we try not to sit alone with those feelings of worry, anger and isolation. Encourage ourselves and our children to let their feelings out in healthy and productive ways. One way is by talking to a trusted adult or professional.

Find some helpful resources at [newtonma.gov/mental-health](https://newtonma.gov/mental-health).

Warmly,

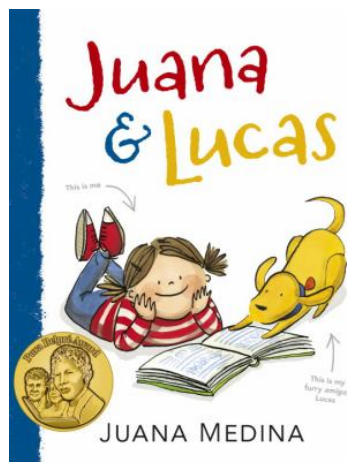
Ruthanne

P.S. The John M. Barry **Boys and Girls Club Basketball Marathon** is back tomorrow night, Friday, April 8, and kicks off with the Newton Police vs. Newton Fire game at 6 p.m. at 675 Watertown Street. Games will continue all night long. (I'll be wearing neutral purple and cheering for both sides.)



P.P.S. Come meet wonderful authors and illustrators at the **Newton Public Schools' PTO's Creative Arts & Sciences AuthorFest** on Tuesday, April 12. Twenty-one authors who are presenting to students in grades K through 8 during the day will be on hand for an after school book sale, signing and meet & greet at the Cabot Elementary School (229 Cabot St., Newtonville) between 3:15 and 5:30 p.m. A selection of books will also be on sale at Newtonville Books. Thanks go to the Newton Schools Foundation, the Village Bank and the Harmony Foundation for supporting this celebration of literacy.

P.P.P.S. How Do You Feel About Climate Change? Newton has a goal to become carbon-neutral by 2050. To understand how we might achieve this, the **Newton Citizen's Commission on Energy** is asking residents for their input. Help inform the Commission through this confidential, 10-minute [survey](#). You may also choose to join a small group of residents for future "listening sessions" to discuss opinions more fully. At the end of the survey, you can indicate your interest in these sessions and/or request to receive the survey results.



P.P.P.P.S. **Join award winning author and illustrator Juana Medina** for a virtual visit on Tuesday, April 12. Ms. Medina, winner of the Pura Belpré award, will talk about her books, especially *Juana and Lucas: Muchos Changes*, the most recent book in her Juana and Lucas series. She will also do a drawing demonstration and take questions. Ms. Medina suggests attendees come ready with their own art supplies to create along with her. This program is recommended for children ages 3-9 and their families. Registration is required, click [here](#) for the Zoom link.

