

Friday, May 27, 2022

Mayor's Update



Last night, the Newton City Council voted to reject the entire Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 by a vote of 13 to 11. A majority of the Councilors wanted me to allot an additional \$1.4 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds to the Newton Public Schools and therefore rejected the entire Budget.

Neither state law nor the City Charter allows the City Council to reject an entire Budget as a whole, so my Recommended Budget will go into effect.

I have consistently prioritized the funding for our students and our teachers. I always will. I heard the compassion and concern of our Councilors for our students and our teachers. I understand.

Our future is our children and my FY2023 Budget prioritizes our students and the Newton Public Schools. Our other departments altogether— Police, Fire, Health & Human Services, Public Works, Parks, Recreation & Culture, the Library, and so many more —are seeing their budgets increase by only 3% or \$4.2 million for a total of \$141 million. In contrast, the Newton Public Schools is receiving a larger increase of 3.5% or \$8.9 million, for a total of \$262 million.

Importantly, these significant investments come while school enrollment is down by 1,000 pupils, meaning these funds have an even greater impact on each student and faculty member.

As our children are our top priority, this is fitting and proper.

The School Committee discussed the NPS Budget extensively, with the leadership of School Committee Chair Tamika Olszewski, and voted for it almost unanimously (8 to 1). Through the School Committee's Budget process from mid-March to early April, we identified additional COVID expenditures for the City to cover. This included educational technology, social, emotional and mental health support staffing, COVID related projects that had not yet been reimbursed as well as a number of summer projects involving ventilation and new space for specialized programs. At that time, I added \$3.38 million in ARPA funds to cover

one-time costs, as well as additional City revenues to support Newton Public Schools.

Given our weaker revenues in the aftermath of the pandemic, I strategically used \$4.6 million dollars in ARPA funding a year ago to support School and Municipal operating budgets and tapered it to \$3 million this year. We'll taper the amount again for next year's operating Budget.

Why taper? This is done strategically. We need to decrease the use of ARPA funds for the operations of the schools and the city as these funds are both limited and time limited. Rather, we consciously have focused our one-time funds for NPS heavily on one-time costs such as facility improvements and COVID related expenses. We all understand that using one-time funding sources to address on-going operations is not responsible.

Let me elaborate on the use of Federal funds for NPS. More than \$10.7 million of Federal and State funding went straight to the NPS during the last two years for COVID expenses. My Administration has simultaneously ensured that the Newton Public Schools have access to funding from Federal and State sources to cover *in full* all COVID costs. Of the \$7.8 million in federal CARES Act funds that came to the City, we allocated 82% or \$6.4 million to NPS to support the health and safety of our students, educators and staff. Thus far, we have invested \$16 million of our ARPA funds in programs and initiatives for our students and NPS. I have also directed an additional \$1.7 million in funding to NPS from other sources, including from FEMA.

To summarize, I have directed more than \$24 million of funds that came to the City over to NPS in the last two years, in addition to the \$10.7 million direct federal and state COVID aid awarded to NPS.

Let me also elaborate on my overall strategy for the use of our ARPA funds.

With each commitment of Newton's ARPA funds, I have endeavored to be strategic in purpose with the investment of these one-time funds. To date I have appropriated \$7.6 million to supplement the operating budgets of the Newton Public Schools and our city departments, \$5.5 million to assist our most vulnerable residents, \$5.3 million for school infrastructure projects , \$4.1 million for public health and ventilation projects in municipal (non-NPS) buildings, \$4.4 million to recognize the dedication to public service and public safety of our more than 3,500 city and school employees who worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to serve our community, \$2.8 million for roadway and village center improvements, and \$1.5 million for the arts, culture, outdoor spaces and recreational facilities.

Right now, I am carefully watching the impact of the current COVID variants and thinking about the needs and investments that may still arise.

We need to invest strategically the remainder of our ARPA funds and, as you can imagine, I have received and continue to receive many, many, many suggestions for worthy projects, including from almost all of the City Councilors. The dollar value of the suggestions greatly outstrips the funding that still remains.

As I proceed with my decision-making process, I will continue to listen carefully to the recommendations. These are difficult decisions, ones that I do not take lightly. I will evaluate each of the suggestions I have received with an eye toward providing help for those most impacted by the pandemic, supporting one-time investments by the Newton Public Schools and the City, and seeding initiatives that will help Newtonians and our City not just stabilize and recover but permanently be more resilient, livable, vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has been one of the most unprecedented and challenging events of all our lives. The impact of COVID-19 on so many fronts for NPS students, families, teachers, and staff cannot be overstated. Teachers and staff have been magnificent. Overnight they had to transform face-to-face teaching and learning into virtual settings, and then reinvent education once again as our children reacclimated to in-person learning after having spent so many months learning in a remote/hybrid setting.

I will continue my commitment to meeting the academic, social and emotional needs of our children and to supporting our teachers and educators who do this important work. We will continue to monitor closely and assess our educational and financial situation in the coming year and will work with our NPS partners to address the highly complex challenges that we face.

I spoke to the City Council after their rejection of the Budget last night. I closed my remarks by saying that as Mayor, I am always looking out for our residents in all 13 villages; students in our 15 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 2 high schools and many more specialized programs; our older residents, our low-income residents, and our residents who are marginalized.

I work assiduously on delivering all our services in an effective and efficient manner: whether fixing our roads, picking up our trash, plowing the snow, maintaining our athletic fields, opening our pool and beach, or supporting our businesses, artists, musicians and community life.

I am leaning in on the safety of everyone in Newton through police, fire, ambulance and emergency services.

I am investing in Newton's future, our housing and transportation needs, and our sustainability—both environmentally and financially. I am addressing the \$1 billion dollar liability I inherited for pensions and retiree health care. We made a promise to our employees, and I will honor it.

This is my focus. This is my deep responsibility.

This FY2023 operating budget, the capital improvement plan investments, and the deployment of our CARES and ARPA funds as well as the time and talents of our extraordinary 3,500 employees are all directed for the good of this good community.

Man Sentenced for Human Trafficking In Newton

With the excellent work of Newton Police Officer Katie Doyle, a 29-year-old Randolph man was found guilty yesterday in connection with human trafficking in Newton. The court sentenced him to not less than seven years nor more than seven years and one day for trafficking persons for sexual servitude and a sentence of not less than three years nor more than five years on the charge of deriving support from prostitution.

“This case was about power, control, money, and exploitation. To the defendant, the victim was essentially just a commodity -- a sexual product to be sold over and over again,” said District Attorney Marian Ryan in an announcement of the conviction made yesterday with Newton Police Chief John Carmichael.







Officer Doyle, who serves as a member of the FBI Boston Division's Child Exploitation – Human Trafficking Task Force, was the Newton Police Department lead investigator.

Officer Doyle and Newton Police executed a human trafficking sting at a Newton hotel in 2018, arresting the defendant in his car in the hotel parking lot. The defendant repeatedly subjected a female victim to commercial sexual activity, selling her via internet advertisements, working her around the clock and forcing her to engage in degrading sexual conduct with customers.

Read the entire statement from District Attorney Ryan and Chief Carmichael [here](#).

City of Newton Health & Human Services Department

<p>SAFE Coalition www.safecoalitionma.org/home Support Hotline: 508-488-8105</p> <p>SAFE is a judgement free community organization committed to educating and supporting those affected by substance use disorder and mental health concerns across southeastern MA. Staffed by trusted, trained professionals and peer support volunteers, SAFE empowers individuals and their loved ones by breaking down barriers to treatment and emotional support in a way that inspires success on the journey to recovery.</p> 	<p>Newton-Wellesley Hospital Substance Use Services (SUS) www.nwh.org/sus Schedule a consultation: 617-243-6062</p> <p>NWH Substance Use Service provides consultative and ongoing outpatient services to adults suffering with substance use disorders. Our multidisciplinary team is committed to supporting patients during both the evaluation period and throughout the stages of recovery. We provide a safe and non-judgmental environment for those struggling with all manner of addiction.</p> 		
<p align="center">CRISIS SUPPORT</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="537 457 808 604"> <p>Mental Health: Riverside Emergency Services 800-529-5077 24-hour support 365 days / year</p> </td> <td data-bbox="808 457 1073 604"> <p>Suicide Prevention: Samaritans 877-870-4673 Call or Text 24-hour support 365 days/year</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Mental Health: Riverside Emergency Services 800-529-5077 24-hour support 365 days / year</p>	<p>Suicide Prevention: Samaritans 877-870-4673 Call or Text 24-hour support 365 days/year</p>
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<p>Dual Recovery Anonymous Mental Health & Substance Use www.draonline.org</p> <p>Dual Recovery Anonymous is a Twelve Step, self-help membership organization for people with a dual diagnosis. Our goal is to help those who experience a dual illness. Both illnesses affect us in all areas of our lives; physically, psychologically, socially, and spiritually.</p> <p>Talk with someone to learn more about dual recovery Paul - 781-320-2183 or 781-762-7075, 1/64 - 774-317-0895</p> 	<p>Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 617-426-9444 www.aaboston.org</p> <p>Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problems and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.</p> 
<p>Smart Recovery www.smartrecovery.org</p> <p>Self-Management And Recovery Training (SMART) is a global community of mutual-support groups. At meetings, participants help one another resolve problems with any addiction (to drugs or alcohol or to activities such as gambling or over-eating).</p> 	<p>Refuge Recovery www.refugerecovery.org</p> <p>Refuge Recovery is a Buddhist-oriented, non-theistic recovery program that does not ask anyone to believe anything, only to trust the process and do the hard work of recovery. This program provides a systematic approach to treating and recovering from all forms of addiction.</p> 
<p>Women For Sobriety 215-536-8026 www.womanforsobriety.org</p> <p>This program is inclusive of all women, regardless of financial resources, race, religion, abilities, and backgrounds. With both in-person and online meetings, the New Life Program provides supportive, empowering, secular, and life-affirming principles that address the unique needs and challenges of women in recovery.</p> 	<p>The Luckiest Club www.theluckiestclub.com</p> <p>Our online sober community is built to foster connection and support during one of life's greatest challenges. With community membership you'll have access to daily meetings and 24/7 safe space through our forum. We have dedicated meetings for women, men, people of color and those a part of the queer community.</p> 

Help is available. The Newton Health and Human Services staff has listed resources available for those in crisis in our area. Printed cards will be available at City Hall, schools and at Newton Police and at Fire Headquarters. Click on the photos to see larger, more readable images and [here](#) for additional support information.

Washington Street Redesign

West Newton and Newtonville Village Centers are humming with upgraded roads and bike lanes, improved sidewalks and new seating, better lighting and more trees, and new retailers, restaurants and apartments. Plus, reconstruction of both commuter rail stations (and the one Auburndale) is on the horizon.

Now we're setting our sights on improving Washington Street itself between West Newton Square into Newtonville and eventually to Church Street. The multi-phased project will consider how to use the space from the edge of the fence next to the Pike over to the sidewalks in front of businesses and homes from West Newton Square to Newtonville. Our goal is to make the streets and sidewalks

safer, more beautiful and more pleasant for everyone (pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, shoppers and visitors).

We'll be working with [Howard Stein Hudson](#) which will provide design and engineering services for this Washington Street Redesign Project.

The first step is to involve the community – residents in the neighborhoods along Washington Street and from across the City who travel along Washington Street, people who own businesses in the area, and those who work there. A number of community meetings are being planned to share information and get input. (Dates and times will be shared soon.)

We will review alternatives and decide on a preferred option to start a multiyear trial between Chestnut and Lowell Streets. The trial will use temporary materials, to see if tweaks or more significant redesign is needed before permanent changes are made.

At that point, the City will apply to MassDOT as part of the state's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to receive funding for the permanent reconstruction project which could extend as far as Church Street.

Stay tuned for how to become involved – the design process includes substantial and ongoing input from Newtonians as well as from the City Council.

For more information and/or to get on the project mailing list, please email Director of Transportation Planning Nicole Freedman (NFreedman@newtonma.gov).

COVID-19 Update

We're seeing some improvement in our COVID-19 cases this week. We had 281 confirmed cases in Newton over the past seven days from May 19 to 25, 81 fewer than over the previous seven days. (Remember, these numbers may be directionally correct, but do not include most of the people who are testing positive with at home rapid antigen tests.)

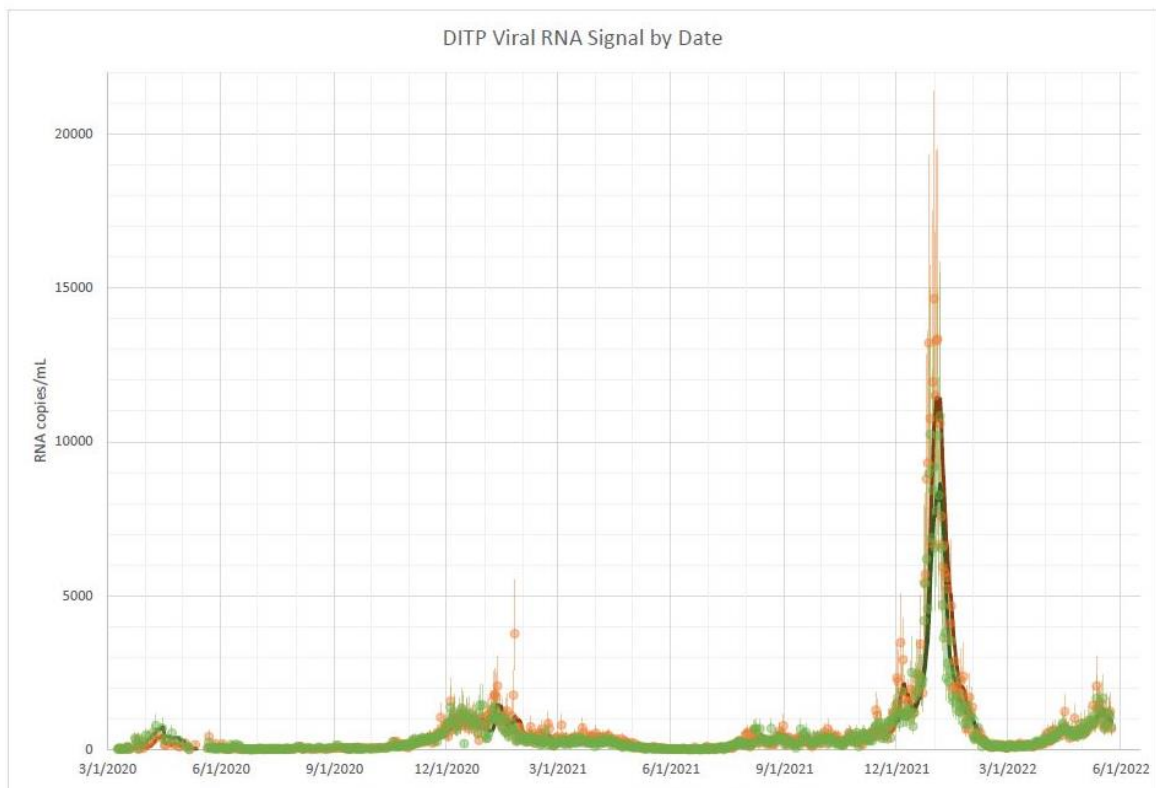
As of Tuesday, May 24, Newton-Wellesley Hospital is caring for a total of 21 patients with COVID-19, and one of these patients is in the ICU. Approximately 50% of these patients are hospitalized primarily for COVID-19. The hospital reports a decline in the total number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 after a high of 32 positive patients on May 11.

Data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's two-week tracking period from May 8 to 21 shows Newton's incidence rate (which measures the number of cases per 100,000 population) went down very slightly to 54.1 from 55.1 during the previous week. The positivity rate is now 8.1% of the 9,193 tests performed on Newton residents coming back positive, up a bit from the 7.7% (9,868 tests) last week.

The latest MWRA wastewater tracking data from Tuesday, May 24 shows the curve going down, good news since this data has been a reliable predictor of cases during the pandemic. Click [here](#) to see all the data.

Wastewater COVID-19 Data

Biobot Data - samples submitted through 05/24/2022



No one in Newton died with COVID-19 this week. Our cumulative total number of Newtonians who died with COVID-19 since the pandemic began remains at 202 family members, friends and neighbors.

The CDC continues to show Middlesex County, where Newton is located, in the high transmission level category. (Read more at the CDC data tracker page [here](#).)

During this time when the community transmission level is high, the Newton Health & Human Services Department continues to strongly encourage people to wear masks in indoor public spaces, stay up to date with vaccines/boosters, get tested if experiencing symptoms, and consider taking additional precautions if at a higher risk for severe illness.

Newton Public Schools COVID-19 Data

The Newton Public Schools had 257 cases among students and 38 among staff from May 19 to 25. (Over the previous seven days, there were 359 cases among students and 42 among staff.) The Newton Public Schools is strongly recommending students and staff wear a mask indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status. Find more information on the Newton Health and Human Services Data [page](#).

NPS Vaccine Data

Our latest data from May 9 shows 86.86 % of NPS students in K-12 have had at least one vaccine doses, and 84.51% have had at least two.

See the chart below for grade level vaccine information.

Vaccination Rates for Newton Public Schools Students by Grade		
Grade	Students with at least two doses as of 5/9/2022	Students with three doses as of 5/9/2022
K	79%	4%
1	76%	3%
2	81%	4%
3	78%	3%
4	78%	3%
5	82%	3%
All Elementary (K-5)	79%	3%
6	81%	10%
7	88%	57%
8	89%	59%
All Middle School	86%	43%
9	91%	63%
10	90%	60%
11	91%	67%
12	91%	67%
All High School	91%	64%
All Eligible NPS Students	85%	33%

Two Exciting New MassDOT Shared Streets and Spaces Projects

Newton just received grants for two new exciting transportation projects from the MassDOT Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Program.

The design and installation of the Albemarle Traffic Calming and Bike Lane Project received \$198,000 in funding. The Albemarle Road and Brookside Avenue corridor is heavily used by pedestrians, bicyclists, motor vehicles, and school buses and short-term parkers.



To improve safety, the project will slow down cars, add bike lanes, enhance crossings, and improve operations. The project uses quick-build and highly effective materials such as paint, flexposts and rubber speed cushions.

Over the last 18 months, the City worked closely with residents to design the project. The process also included listening sessions and meetings with transportation groups in the City, before culminating in a public meeting in March. The City will continue working closely with stakeholders, residents, and Councilors throughout the final design process, which is anticipated to begin in August. Installation is targeted for next spring/summer 2023.

Special thanks to the Solomon Foundation which seeded the idea for this project, funded the concept design (now complete) and has been a tremendous supporter throughout the process.

Find more information on the project [here](#).

The purchase of four more Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB's) in Newton for \$48,000 was also funded in another grant.. Coupled with existing City funding for RRFB's, we will be adding a total of six new RRFB's. Locations are still

to be finalized, but two of them will be Centre Street @ Hyde Street and Brookline @ Hartman.

Installations will begin this summer and may continue into 2023.

Since 2021, the City has received five Shared Streets Grants totaling \$750,000. This has helped us add seven Bluebikes stations, two Park & Pedal electric bike stations, and four restaurant outdoor dining platforms in addition to the four RRFB's and the Albemarle improvements planned in this round. While many folks in City Hall helped craft the grant applications, special thanks go to Newton's Director of Transportation Planning, Nicole Freedman.



Special thanks to the Boy Scouts from Pack 355 who helped plant flags at City Hall and 8th graders from Fessenden School who planted flags in Newton Cemetery for Memorial Day weekend. We'll be honoring our service members who gave their lives with ceremonies and a parade.

This Sunday, May 29, at 9:00 a.m. we'll meet at Forte Park (235 California St.) and proceed together to place wreathes in honor of Newton soldiers memorialized at sites across Newton.

Later on Sunday at 3:00 p.m., the Newton Memorial Day Parade returns in person. See the bands, antique cars and military vehicles pass along the route from 457 Walnut Street at Newton North High School, crossing over the Mass Pike, turning onto Watertown Street and ending at Coletti-Magni Park near the corner of Adams Street in Nonantum.

On Memorial Day, Monday, the Wreath Laying Ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m. at the Newton Cemetery, 791 Walnut St., beginning at the first Veteran's gravesite near the front entrance.

Project: Pop-Up is Back

Newton is launching [Project: Pop-Up](#) again this summer thanks to another grant from the Massachusetts Office of Business Development.



We first piloted this groundbreaking storefront incubator initiative a year ago in partnership with the town of Needham. This time we are adding the [Middlesex 3 Coalition](#) with three additional municipalities — Wellesley, Melrose and Burlington — in the mix. Each community will activate a vacant storefront for the summer with a collection of vibrant local brands and businesses.

This opportunity provides a low-risk way for entrepreneurs to test drive the brick and mortar experience. Businesses can apply to pop up for several months at a subsidized rate and have access to a suite of resources to help them succeed. [UpNext](#), a Newton-based startup that cultivates innovative retail opportunities, piloted the initiative with us and is also facilitating this next iteration.

Interested in participating in Project: Pop-Up? Learn more and apply [here](#) and visit Project: Pop-Up's [website](#). The priority application deadline of Tuesday, May 31 is fast approaching but applications will continue to be accepted on a rolling basis, space permitting.

I'm proud to be Mayor of a City that supports the dignity and self-worth of our LGBTQ+ community and proudly flies the Pride flag.

Join me and the Newton Human Rights Commission this Wednesday, June 1, at 6:00 p.m. on the South Lawn of City Hall (1000 Commonwealth Ave.) to raise the Pride flag and honor the Newton South High School Gay Student Alliance.

Our Pride flag will fly for the month of June as a symbol of the spirit of inclusivity, pride, unity and celebration for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer people of our community.

(Photo: Last year's Pride Flag raising at City Hall.)



Moving Forward With Hope

We gathered as a community at the 48th Annual Mayor's Community Breakfast on Wednesday morning. All of us were reeling from news of the tragedy in Texas the day before. These are my remarks:

On April 27th, I joined in a circle of remembrance at the Oak Hill Middle School to honor and celebrate the lives of four youngsters – Steve, Kayla, Greg and Melissa. They died on a school trip 21 years ago when their bus flipped on an icy Canadian highway.

As we finished up, Elaine Alpert, Steve's mom, invited her cousin Ellen Stettner, a cantor, to sing a prayer of healing, the Mi Shebeirach.

The words and the music were powerful that night and I found myself returning to the prayer repeatedly in the days that followed as the refrain of finding the courage to make our lives a blessing and helping those in need of healing had struck a chord.

I invite Cantor DJ Fortine of Hebrew College to sing this beautiful prayer. Follow along with him.

Mi Shebeirach: A Prayer for Healing

Mi shebeirach avoteinu

M'kor hab'racha l'imoteinu

May the source of strength

Who blessed the ones before us

Help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing

And let us say Amen

Mi shebeirach imoteinu

M'kor habrachah l'avoteinu

Bless those in need of healing with r'fuah sh'leimah (with a full recovery)

The renewal of body, the renewal of spirit

And let us say Amen

Songwriters: Debbie Friedman / Drorah Setel

Both I as an individual and, I think, we as a community desperately need right now both the courage to make our lives a blessing as well as the renewal of body and spirit.

We are living in a broken world, full of hurt: persistent inequities, mental health struggles, financial hardships, illness and death from COVID, climate change, and a war in Ukraine.

We're still reeling from the racist shooting in Buffalo and now we have to speak about the unspeakable, at least another 19 children and two fourth grade teacher shot dead inside the Robb Elementary School in Texas.

We need help to find the courage to make our lives a blessing.

We need help to find the courage and strength to build lives of meaning and blessing. For me, this means common sense gun laws. We've done our part in Newton and in the State, now Congress must step up. It also means working purposefully to share our blessings with each other and across our city, continuously striving to strengthen Newton as a community that welcomes all and brings hope to the hopeless.

This morning, the power of community and connection in this tent and across zoom helps me, *and I believe helps us*, find that courage to make our lives a blessing.

For by breaking bread together, we are giving sustenance to Newton as a community of caring.

We are finding the courage to keep going, to move forward in kindness and generosity of spirit with each other and toward our neighbors from different villages, from different backgrounds, from different faith traditions and, here in Newton, with different opinions on just about everything. As the Mi Sheberiach reminds us, we must extend our compassion and prayer for healing not only to those like ourselves, but to *all humankind*.

We need to find the courage to make our lives a blessing.

For we live together. We work together. We always need each other; this interdependence has been especially clear in this time of duress and stress, in this period of change, and in the too many hours of mourning.

I have been buoyed personally and we as a city have been blessed with the courage and caring of the people who have worked so hard to make this a better City and School District. May I ask both our current and any former employees of our City and Schools to stand so we may thank you?

I am also sustained because I know deep in my heart that we are a city filled deep with compassion and so many of us are serving as allies to each other as we stand up, speak out, and address systemically hate and bias and say, “Not in my City; not in Newton.”

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. **Newton Porchfest** returns on Saturday, June 4 from noon to 6:00 p.m. (rain date is Sunday, June 5) with an afternoon of more than 100 free performances on people’s porches, lawns, driveways and yards in Auburndale, Lower Falls and Waban. Enjoy a range of music from Rock and Pop to Blues and Classical as you move from venue to venue. Find a full performance schedule and a map at newton.porchfest.



P.P.S. Learn how to access mental health services in Newton and what to expect when you reach out for support. Staff from Newton’s Health & Human Services Department, Newton Police Department, Samaritans, Riverside Emergency Services,

Families for Depression Awareness, and Newton-Wellesley Hospital will provide information about **mental health crises and how to access services** in Newton will be on hand to provide information during the zoom panel discussion next

Wednesday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m. Click [here](#) to register for the event and visit newtonma.gov/mentalhealthresources for more information.



P.P.P.S. Newton Little League is **honoring Newton's own Jim Corsi** at Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 4, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Albemarle Field. Corsi, who died in January, played Little League ball in Newton before going on to pitch for the Boston Red Sox. The Red Sox are sending Wally and Tessy the Green Monsters to celebrate Corsi's life and

help raise funds for Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

P.P.P.P.S. A reminder that all **gas-powered leaf blowers are prohibited** in the City of Newton between Memorial Day, this Monday, May 30 and Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5. During this period, only one electric or battery-powered leaf blower per lot is allowed to be used, regardless of decibel level. Find more information [here](#).



P.P.P.P.P.S. The **Newton Early Childhood Program (NECP)** is accepting applications for students for the 2022-2023 school year in its new location at 687 Washington Street. Find more information on the program and an application [here](#), and find out about the renovated building at [NECP Building Project](#).

P.P.P.P.P.P.S. Join two multiply-neurodivergent individuals for a discussion on viewing the world through their lens and how embracing the diversity of brain types can help us all better understand and support neurodivergent individuals and build a more inclusive, equitable and vibrant society. (One definition of multiply-neurodivergent is "a person whose neurocognitive functioning diverges from dominant societal norms in multiple ways.") The presentation, "**The Neurodiversity Paradigm: Understanding Kids from the Inside Out and Creating More Inclusive and Equitable School Experiences for Everyone**"



begins at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 2 in person at the Ed Center (100 Walnut

St.), Room 210 and via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85014781525#success>. Thanks go to the PTOs of Franklin, Cabot, Peirce and Countryside Elementary Schools for sponsoring this discussion.



P.P.P.P.P.P.S. Wonderful to partner again with **Newton Open Studios** for a weekend of art at City Hall's War Memorial Auditorium and 1294 Centre Street, as well as homes, studios and yards.



(Top photo, from left, with Ronni Eisenberg, Melanie Henriques, Amos Eisenberg, Vartus Varadian, Mayor Fuller, Emily Sper, Julie Twohig, Zeina Skaff Kahhale. Bottom photo with Newton's Chief Procurement Officer Nick Read, who is also a painter.)

