

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022

## Mayor's Update

### Election Day

Election day is here and the polls are open. I was voter #114 at my polling location in ward 7, precinct 1, this morning, as poll workers were already entering mail-in ballots.

Polls stay open tonight until 8 p.m. so please take this opportunity to make your voice heard. Check your voter status [here](#) and polling location [here](#).

If you requested a mail-in ballot, your best bet is to return that to City Hall today (drop it in the drop box out front by 8 p.m.). You can also mail it, as ballots postmarked today that are received by Saturday, Nov. 12, at 5 p.m. will also be counted.

A huge thank you to everyone involved with running the election today with a special shout out to our poll workers, essential workers for our democracy.

We'll be back later tonight with Newton's results.



**PROTECT YOUR CHILD from RSV**

- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Cover your coughs & sneezes
- Wash your hands often
- Clean & disinfect surfaces
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- Stay home when you're sick

[www.cdc.gov/rsv](http://www.cdc.gov/rsv)

### RSV

Respiratory infections in infants and children have come early this fall and in high numbers across Massachusetts and the country.

Physicians are seeing particularly high numbers of the seasonal viral infection, **respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)**, a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. While most people can recover in a week or two, RSV can be serious, especially for infants and older adults.

The CDC recommends taking precautions to protect infants and children *and* older adults at high risk for severe RSV infection:

- **Wash hands often**
  - [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and help young children do the same. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Washing your hands will help protect you from germs.
- **Keep hands off your face**
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Germs spread this way.
- **Avoid close contact with sick people**
  - Avoid close contact, such as kissing, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who have cold-like symptoms.
- **Cover coughs and sneezes**
  - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your upper shirt sleeve when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the trash afterward.
- **Clean and disinfect surfaces**
  - Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that people frequently touch, such as toys, doorknobs, and mobile devices. When people infected with RSV touch surfaces and objects, they can leave behind germs. Also, when they cough or sneeze, droplets containing germs can land on surfaces and objects.
- **Stay home when sick**
  - If possible, stay home from work, school, and public areas when you are sick. This will help protect others from catching your illness.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics also released a letter to families recommending children receive a flu vaccine as soon as possible and that children 5 and older who have had a primary COVID-19 vaccine more than two months ago receive an updated Covid-19 booster.

Read the letter to families [here](#).

Get more information from the CDC about RSV at [cdc.gov/rsv](https://www.cdc.gov/rsv).

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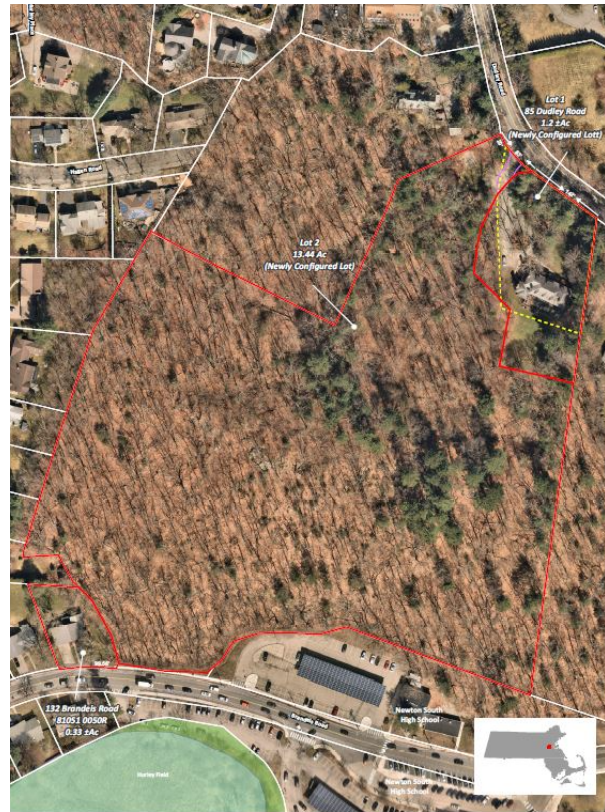
## **Dudley Road Parcels**

The owner of almost 15 acres between Dudley and Brandeis Roads adjacent to Newton South High School has given the City of Newton advance notice of their intent to sell the property. In doing so, they have also offered the City a period of time to exclusively express an interest in acquiring the property at an asking price of \$24 million.

The property consists of three parcels – an approximately one-acre

parcel with a home at 85 Dudley Road, a 13 acre parcel of vacant land between Dudley and Brandeis Roads, and a parcel with a residence at 132 Brandeis Road. The majority of the site is zoned for single family residence, which could permit the site to be subdivided into approximately twenty (20) single family house lots of 25,000 sq. ft.

We are exploring the potential for the City to be a part of a joint development proposal for this property. This approach, which has been used successfully here in Newton and elsewhere, may provide us with an opportunity to achieve both some of the City's desired outcomes for the property and at the same time partner with a developer to submit a competitive acquisition offer.



Toward that end, we are issuing an “Expression of Interest” (EOI) for those who might be interested in formulating a partnership plan with the City and make a joint offer for the property. The City's interests, as detailed in the EOI request, prioritizes a development plan which preserves significant open space, includes the provision of affordable housing in excess of the City's requirements and reserves a portion of the property for future school or City recreation facility needs.

Responses to the EOI are due by Dec. 1, 2022. More information on the property offering and the City's EOI can be found on the City's project's webpage [here](#).

Questions about the City's Expression of Interest request? Join the community information meeting on Thursday, Nov. 17 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The zoom link for the meeting is available [here](#).

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*Two chances to talk **Override** this week:*

*Thursday evening, Nov. 10, City and School staff, along with Countryside Principal Beth Herlihy, will host a **Town Hall meeting at Countryside Elementary School, 191 Dedham St. Come for a tour and check out the current conditions of the building***



at 6:30 p.m., and stick around for a discussion starting at 7:00 p.m.



Wednesday morning, Nov. 9, at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom, join Commissioner of Public Buildings Josh Morse, and our Co-Directors of Sustainability Ann Berwick and Bill Ferguson, to talk about what the Override means for the City's efforts on **Sustainability and Climate Resiliency**. Zoom info [here](#).

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## Online Thieves

Online sales are beginning earlier and earlier as the holiday shopping season looms.

Unfortunately, while we are busy looking for that perfect gift, thieves on the Internet are waiting to trick us into sharing personal and billing information which they can then use to steal.

Recently, a nefarious malware operation called Emotet suddenly came alive again, spamming email addresses worldwide. This malware email campaign is using stolen email reply-chains to distribute malicious Excel attachments. Be on the lookout for attached Excel files which also may appear to be zipped and/or password protected. The malware attachments are popping up worldwide with various languages and file names, pretending to be invoices, scans, electronic forms, and other lures.

What are other common online criminal techniques? Check emails to ensure they are from whom they purport to be. Look for clues like poor grammar, bad graphics, or out of the ordinary offers that are too good to be true. When searching online, make sure you are not being redirected to a fake website imitating your preferred destination. Do not be pressured into quickly committing to a sale.

Our IT staff recommends most of all keeping antivirus software up to date.

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*Congratulations to the **Mudhens**  
(all Ward Elementary School  
students), winners of the Little  
League AA Division Fall  
Championship!*



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## Superintendent Search Committee Needs Your Input

The Superintendent Search Committee is asking for input from Newton community members to help select the next Superintendent for the Newton Public Schools (NPS).

The survey linked below is designed to gather views about NPS and our services to students, staff, and families. Survey takers will also be asked for input on the characteristics of our next Superintendent. The survey is open to all members of the Newton community, not just those with current students at NPS. Click the link below to go to the survey which will be open until Monday, Nov. 21.

[Newton Superintendent Search Survey](#)

Please check the [NPS Superintendent Search webpage](#) in the coming days for additional opportunities to provide feedback via in-person and virtual focus groups.

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## Honoring Our Veterans

One hundred and four years ago at 11:00 o'clock on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, the armistice signed between the Allies and Germany went into effect. At the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month on Veterans Day this Friday, Newtonians will pause to honor our military veterans who have served our country.



**NEWTON**  
RUTHANNE FULLER, MAYOR

**VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVANCE**  
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2022

PROGRAM	10:00 AM Donation Drive
Mayor Ruthanne Fuller	11:00 AM Ceremony
Newton Police Chief John Carmichael (Keynote Speaker)	AMERICAN LEGION POST 440 295 California Street Newton, MA
Newton Fire & Police Honor Guard	Donation Drive begins promptly at 10 AM, pauses briefly for the Ceremony promptly at 11 AM and will resume immediately at the conclusion on the raffle.
Presentation and Recognition of Newton Veterans	
Donation Drive Tablet Raffle	

NEWTONMA.GOV/VETERANS

Eighteen-year-old Charles Evans Jenkins of Nonantum enlisted in the Army in early 1918 and served with a machine gun battalion. He fought in some of the war's most important battles, including the Meuse-Argonne offensive. More than a million American Soldiers fought there over 47 days, with more than 26,000 killed in action. When Private Jenkins returned home, he continued his service as an officer in the Newton Police Department.

We will hear from keynote speaker Newton Police Chief John Carmichael who served with the Army Military Police Corp before becoming a police dispatcher and police officer.

Join us at 11:00 a.m. at American Legion Nonantum Post 440, 295 California Street, for the ceremony honoring our veterans. We will honor all those throughout our history who raised their arm and took the oath to selflessly, honorably, bravely defend our democracy, defend our freedom, and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Consider supporting our troops with donations of nonperishable food, healthy snacks, drink mixes, or coffee. Cell Phones for Soldiers will also collect used cellphones for our troops.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. With Veterans Day on Friday, trash, recycling, and yard waste **collection will be delayed one day for Friday routes**. If your usual collection day is Friday, please put your waste out to be collected on Saturday.

P.P.S. The City of Newton is partnering with The Village Bank to help green Newton with new **climate change microgrants** to support projects that address climate change. Grants of \$250 to \$1,000 will be available to support local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Interested? Find more information and a project application form [here](#).



P.P.P.S. Did you know that Gov. Baker just designated the Podokesaurus holyokensis,

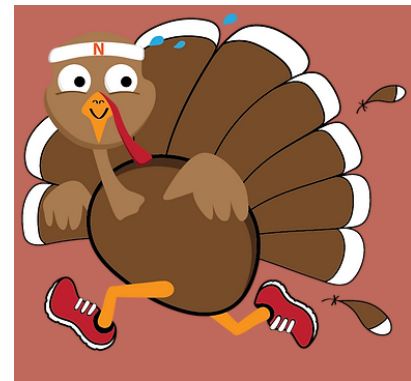


which means "swift-footed lizard of Holyoke," the official state dinosaur? The Children's Room at the Newton Free Library has a full month of activities and interactive displays to celebrate during "**DiNovember**" – walk in the footsteps of dinosaurs, measure your feet against life-sized cutouts, check out the "dino growth chart" to find what species you'd see eye to eye, or enter your best dino roar in the Roaring Contest [here](#). (To the left is the entry of Henry and Jeremiah, my grandsons!)

Find the full list of activities at [newtonfreelibrary.net/dinovember](http://newtonfreelibrary.net/dinovember).

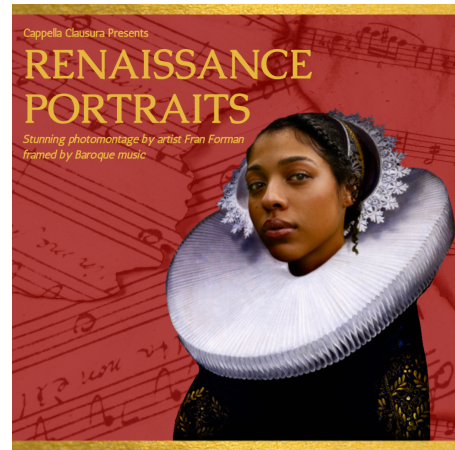


P.P.P.P.S. The **Newton Turkey Trot** is back for its ninth year on Saturday, Nov. 19 raising awareness for youth health and wellness and supporting the Newton Food Pantry and Journey Forward. This year's race will honor Tim O'Brien who died during the race last year. Tim, a founder of the Turkey Trot, a husband, a father, a friend and a youth basketball and soccer coach, was loved by so many in our community. Find more information and registration details at [newtonturkeytrot.org](http://newtonturkeytrot.org).



P.P.P.P.P.S. Ever wonder how eggplants came to grow in New England? Master Gardener Bonnie Power will tell ***The Fascinating Story of Where our Vegetables Came From*** during a virtual, free program sponsored by the Newton Community Farm. Find more information and register at [newtoncommunityfarm.org](http://newtoncommunityfarm.org).

P.P.P.P.P.S. Join Cappella Clausura for the opening of its 2022-2023 season on Saturday and Sunday Nov. 12 and 13 with **music and visual arts from the Renaissance**. Tickets are available at [clausura.org/tickets](http://clausura.org/tickets).



Mayor Ruthanne Fuller | 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459

[Unsubscribe jmulvey@newtonma.gov](mailto:jmulvey@newtonma.gov)

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