

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON NEWSLETTER



Appointment and Swearing-In of Police Chief John Cartledge

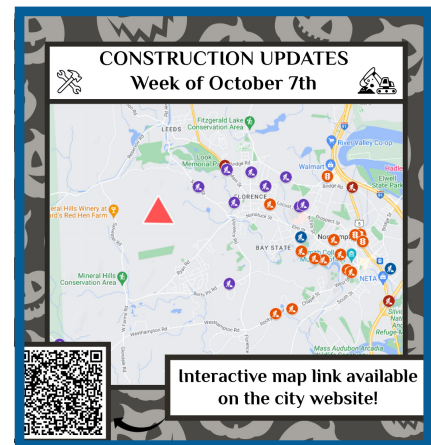
Police Chief John Cartledge was officially sworn in on Wednesday, October 9th, at a ceremony held at the Northampton Senior Center. The event was very well attended, with community members, city officials, and colleagues coming together to show their support. Chief Cartledge's appointment by Mayor Sciarra, and confirmed by the City Council at its October 1st meeting marks a significant moment for Northampton as he steps into this leadership role.

[Read more from the Chief on page 3](#)

Construction Updates

- RRFB posts will be installed along West Street in the coming weeks
- Installation of bounds, curb, driveways, loam, seed, signs and splitter islands at the Bridge Road-Damon Road-King Street-North King Street intersection
- Two manholes installed on Rocky Hill Road
- Drain repair at the intersection of Bancroft Road and Crescent Street is expected to begin in the coming weeks

Visit the city website or check out our [interactive construction map](#) to learn more!



See Page 6 for information on the upcoming election and early voting schedules.



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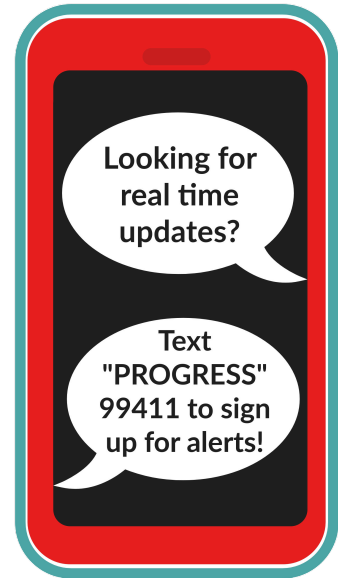
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"POP... Pardon Our Progress" Updates

The POP Alert System is now live. Text "PROGRESS" to 99411 to sign up for alerts.

POP! Pardon Our Progress is an initiative designed to support Main Street businesses and preserve the vibrancy of downtown Northampton during the Picture Main Street project, which begins in Fall 2025, this once-in-a-generation opportunity will transform downtown, creating a safer more accessible space that reflects the best of who we are and who we aspire to be, while also updating critical 100+-year old infrastructure. For more information, visit the Picture Main Street webpage [linked here](#). See Press Release on page 4.



ARPA Updates

In this section, we will highlight a project that has received funding under Northampton's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Community Recovery grant program.

This issue's ARPA spotlight is on the Downtown Northampton Association (DNA). The DNA received multiple ARPA grants including funding to put on events that support local businesses by increasing downtown vibrancy. The most recent event was the Taste of Northampton, held on September 14th, where thousands of locals and visitors gathered downtown to enjoy live music, shop, and, of course, sample dishes from the fantastic restaurants that make Northampton a true culinary destination. The success of this event is a testament to the dedication of the DNA in making downtown a lively and inviting place and the community's enthusiasm for supporting local businesses. A heartfelt thank you to the DNA volunteers and everyone who came out to enjoy the event!



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Board and Committee Vacancies

ARTS COUNCIL - 3 Vacancies

BOARD OF HEALTH - 1 Vacancy

CENTRAL BUSINESS ARCHITECTURE COMMISSION - 1

Vacancy for a building/construction rep.

COUNCIL ON AGING - 1 Vacancy

DISABILITY COMMISSION - 1 Vacancy

HISTORICAL COMMISSION - 1 Vacancy for a WMAIA Nominee

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - 3 Vacancies

PLANNING BOARD - 1 Vacancy for an Associate Member

TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMISSION - 1 Vacancy

TRUST FUND COMMITTEE - 1 Vacancy

WHITING STREET FUND COMMITTEE - 2 Vacancies



Want to get involved?

Please fill out the application form on the city website at northamptonma.gov/192/Boards-Committees or stop by the Mayor's Office for a paper application.

Message from Chief Cartledge

"I am so grateful for the support from the Mayor's Office, the City Council, Department Heads, the city, co-workers and friends to have been selected as the new Police Chief. Moving ahead, I look forward to several upcoming promotions and positive changes within our department. I also have started a new Community Policing Program called "Chat with the Chief" that occurs monthly at different locations in the city. We will also be having an NPD Movie night on our parking deck and will be sharing that date soon. I also look forward to implementing other new programs that will help develop better relationships between the police and residents of Northampton. We are also interviewing numerous police officer

candidates and hope to have 4-5 in the next Holyoke Police Academy in December. On October 17th, the Holyoke Police Academy will be having its graduation ceremony at the Academy of Music. We have four Student Officers graduating from that academy. Once they graduate, they will be going into our 15-week Field Training Program."

Police Department Updates

Watch the [Northampton Police Department Facebook page](#) for the next Chat with the Chief announcement!

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In The Press

2025 Senior and Veteran Tax Work-Off Program Applications Available

The City of Northampton is now accepting Senior and Veteran Tax Work-Off applications for the 2025 program year. The Senior Tax Work-Off Program is open to seniors age 60 and older who own property in and pay real estate taxes to the City of Northampton. Income limits for the 2024 program follow the Massachusetts Median Income levels. The Veteran Tax Work-Off Program is open to

veterans, (as defined by MGL Chapter 4 §7 clause 43), regardless of income limits, who own property in and pay real estate taxes to the City of Northampton. The program is set to run from January 1, 2025, to October 31, 2025.

[Learn more!](#)



Northampton Awarded a \$25,000 Grant to Support Downtown Construction Mitigation Efforts

The City of Northampton is excited to announce that it has been awarded a \$25,000 grant that will allow the city to hire consultant services through the Massachusetts Downtown Initiative (MDI) Program as part of the FY25 Round of the Community One Stop for Growth. This funding, provided by the Healey-Driscoll Administration, will assist the

POP (Pardon Our Progress) campaign as the Mayor and her partners work to mitigate the impact of construction in downtown Northampton during the Picture Main Street project.

[Learn more!](#)



Northampton Began Charging to Charge

Starting Monday, September 30, 2024, Northampton’s Public Electric Vehicle (EV) charging network began charging for electricity. The price has been set at \$1.92 per hour and is designed to allow the city to break even on providing this service to residents and visitors to Northampton. Providing fee free charging was an incentive to encourage conversion to EV vehicles. The increased use of the charging stations and growing costs proves the use of EV vehicles has increased.

The city is not interested in earning revenue from EV charging stations - this fee is carefully calculated to cover the city’s costs to provide electricity and maintain the charging network.

[Learn more!](#)



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Q&A with Mayor Sciarra

Q: What is happening with the Hotel Bridge?



A: At the October 1st meeting of the City Council, I submitted [24.155 An Order to Reprogram Hotel Bridge Funds for Sidewalk Repair](#). If approved, this order would reroute \$823,631 from the Hotel Bridge project in Leeds to particular areas of city sidewalks that desperately need attention, including a long section in Leeds. The Hotel Bridge was closed by MassDOT over 20 years ago when it was declared structurally unsound.

The Hotel Bridge project, which would make it structurally sound for foot traffic, is near and dear to the hearts of many city residents, and this decision follows an immense effort to restore it to its former glory. The Department of Public Works has spent years attempting to encourage and attract a reasonable bid for the restoration, but the project cost has continuously exceeded the engineers' estimates.

Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., an expert in bridge construction, initially estimated the project cost at about half a million dollars. However, when the project was put out to bid in 2021, the city received just one bid of \$1.95 million because of the project's perceived risks. In response, the DPW conducted further assessments and updated the project details to make it more appealing. Despite these efforts, the 2023 bid yielded a similar response. The DPW bid the project one final time in July of this year, and the lowest bid was \$1.659 million. This bid does not include contingency costs and construction oversight, which can add upwards of 20% to a project.

While the Hotel Bridge is undeniably an important and valuable historic landmark in our city, its complex truss design from the 1880s makes it a challenging project. After so many attempts resulting in astronomically high bids, I have concluded that this project is not feasible or financially viable at this time. The city is committed to working with the neighborhood on beautification efforts to honor the structure.

With that in mind, I asked DPW Director LaScaleia to identify higher-priority sidewalk repairs that would be an excellent use of this funding. Her selected sidewalks will be informed by our 2017 inventory study, city injury reports, and consultation with the city's Disability Commission.

Want to submit a question?

To submit your question for the Q&A with Mayor Sciarra, please fill out the submission form, [linked here](#). Submitting a question does not guarantee it will be selected for publication.

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2024 Election Notes from the Board of Registrars

The upcoming General Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, includes a Presidential Election, a State General Election and five ballot initiatives. Turnout is expected to be very high. [The Board of Registrars has compiled a list of suggestions](#) to facilitate an efficient election experience for voters and an accurate and speedy tabulation of votes.



Election Information



The State Election will be November 5, 2024. The last day to register to vote OR change your address is October 26, 2024 by 5pm. The last day to request a Vote-By-Mail ballot is October 29, 2024. City Hall Drop Box Hours are from 8:45am - 4:15pm Mon - Fri. The City Hall Drop Box is located by the front steps of City Hall at 210 Main Street.

Questions? Call 587-1224 or visit northamptonma.gov/755/Elections



2024 Early Voting Schedule:

- Early Voting at City Hall, 210 Main St., 2nd Flr
 - Sat. & Sun. 10/19 & 10/20 from 10am-2pm
 - Mon. - Fri. 10/21 - 10/25 from 8:30am-4:30pm
 - Sat. 10/26 from 9am-5pm
 - Sun. 10/27 from 10am-2pm
 - Mon. - Fri. 10/28 - 11/1 from 8:30am-4:30pm
- Designated Parking on Crafts Ave.
Elevator to 2nd Floor Available @ Crafts Ave Entrance



FY25 Municipal Road Safety Grant Program

The City of Northampton Police Department has received \$34,583.26 from the Commonwealth as a part of the FY25 Municipal Road Safety Grant Program. This program utilizes federal grant funds awarded to the Office of Grants and Resources (OGR) by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to reduce roadway crashes, injuries, fatalities, and associated economic losses in Massachusetts.

Bike Path Reconstruction

Exciting news for Northampton! Reconstruction of the Bike Path, from Stop & Shop to Look Park, is set to begin soon and is the first in its 40-year history. The project is supported by a \$500,000 MassTrails grant and improvements will include drainage work and raising the tree canopy, with the aim to complete the work before the asphalt plants close in early December. During construction, the Bike Path will be closed, and a detour will be in place via Route 9.

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Calendar Updates

Upcoming Events and Notices

Indigenous People's Day - City Offices CLOSED

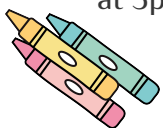
City offices will be CLOSED on Monday, October 14th in observance of Indigenous People's Day. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, October 15th at 8:30am.

Outdoor Dining Ends 10/15

Outdoor downtown is ending for the season on Tuesday, October 15th. Stop by your favorite restaurants to appreciate it before it's gone for the season.

Northampton Chalk Art Festival

The Downtown Northampton Association's Chalk Art Festival will be Friday, October 25 from 8am until 5pm. Artists will be working all day and awards will be handed out at 5pm.



Downtown Trick or Treat!



Downtown business trick-or-treating is happening again! This Downtown Northampton Association event will take place on Halloween, Thursday, October 31, from 3pm - 5pm all throughout downtown.



Pulaski Day Parade

This year's Pulaski Day Parade will be Monday, October 14th! The parade kicks off at 11:30am and will run through downtown Northampton, ending at Pulaski Park.

Funding Proposals Due for Mass Cultural Council

The last day to submit funding proposals through the Northampton Arts Council is Wednesday, October 16th. Learn more [here](#).



COVID and Flu Vaccine Clinic

The last vaccine clinic of 2024 is Tuesday, October 22, from 3:00pm to 5:30pm in Northampton City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street, top floor of the Municipal Building, in back of City Hall. All ages 6 months plus.

[Sign up on the Public Health Nursing page.](#)



Are you or your loved ones homebound? Vaccine Home visits are also available through the Mass DPH and Shared Services Area. Learn more on the [Public Health Nursing Page](#).