

# CITY OF NORTHAMPTON NEWSLETTER



## Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

The City of Northampton has been awarded a \$75,000 Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant from the Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Division. This competitive grant will be used to weatherize City Hall and the Academy of Music, helping to reduce energy consumption, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and promote clean energy. The Climate Action & Project Administration (CAPA) Department, in collaboration with Central Services, successfully pursued this funding. "We're thrilled to have secured this grant," said Dr. Ben Weil, Director of CAPA. "Without it, we wouldn't have had the necessary resources to complete the asbestos remediation, air sealing, and insulation of City Hall. Now combined with incentives from Eversource, we can not only finish that project but also address urgent water mitigation issues at the Academy of Music while enhancing its insulation and air sealing."



## "POP... Pardon Our Progress" Updates

The POP communication system is now live. Text "PROGRESS" to 99411 to receive updates, alerts, and essential information leading up to and during the Picture Main Street project.

POP! Pardon Our Progress is an initiative designed to support Main Street businesses and preserve the vibrancy of downtown Northampton during construction. Beginning 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 Page 2 for information about the upcoming Property Tax deadline



Mayor's Office  
210 Main Street, Northampton  
(413) 587 1249  
mayor@northamptonma.gov

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## Property Taxes Due

Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes are due by Friday, November 1st. Your Q2 bill was included in the Q1 mailing which you should have received in July. Contact the Treasurer/Collector's Office for bill information or assistance at 413-587-1293.

## Message from the Assessor



It is the Northampton Assessor's Office reevaluation year. The Public Disclosure portion of the FY2025 Revaluation is from Monday, October 28th through Friday, November 1st. Property owners can present the Assessor's Office with the reasons that they believe the values are incorrect. A link with proposed values will be on the [Assessor's website](#) or taxpayers can come in the office to view their values.

## ARPA Updates

The featured ARPA grant recipient for this issue is Allsport Arena (located at the Three County Fairgrounds). Allsport received funding to purchase flooring and netting for indoor Pickleball courts during the colder months. The courts are available for rentals and drop-in play, as well as occasional learn-to-play clinic offerings. Allsport also hosts weekly Pickleball sessions with All Out Adventures. The city is proud to support this project which provides affordable indoor recreational opportunities for our community.

The court will be open for the season starting October 28th. Open play hours are on Mondays and Wednesdays. Advance registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information and registration links, please see their website: <https://allsportsoccer.com/pickleball/>

Thank you, Allsport, for keeping Pickleball going all winter!



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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](http://northamptonma.gov/192/Boards-Committees) or stop by the Mayor's Office for a paper application.

## Updates from Police Chief John Cartledge

- On October 17th, four new officers graduated from the 3rd Holyoke Recruit Officer Class which was held at the Academy of Music. They are now starting their 15-week Field Training and Evaluation Program.
- I am continuing my new initiative "[Chat with the Chief](#)", where I host monthly sessions at various locations throughout the city.
- The station is currently undergoing construction and repair work on the parking deck to address ongoing leaks.



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## Northampton Residents Invited to Take Survey to Shape Future Health Initiatives

The Northampton Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced the launch of a comprehensive community survey as part of the Healthier Northampton initiative. Healthier Northampton seeks to enhance health outcomes and address the diverse needs of all Northampton residents. The survey is open to all Northampton residents and is expected to take about 12 minutes to complete.

By completing this survey, community members can directly influence the planning and development of future health programs and services.

[Access the survey](#)

[Learn more](#)



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Northampton Department of  
Health & Human Services

## Construction Updates

- Rail Trail closure beginning October 28th.
- Work to repair a sewer on South Main Street is expected to begin in the coming weeks.
- Work to repair a sewer on Washington Avenue is expected to begin in the coming weeks.
- The fencing that has been erected in areas of the city around trees is to protect them during the different phases of utility upgrades and other construction excavations that are within fifty (50) feet of a public shade tree.

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



## Northampton Arts Council Community Input Survey

The Northampton Arts Council has distributed a community input survey to obtain feedback about the community's priorities. If you would like to take part in the survey, please click here.

Questions? Email [arts@northamptonma.gov](mailto:arts@northamptonma.gov) or call 413-587-1069

[Community Input Survey](#)



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## Q&A with Mayor Sciarra

### Q: Why is the Bike Path Temporarily Closing?



A: The bike path is closing to allow for much-needed reconstruction on the Northampton Bikeway segment of the Mass Central Rail Trail between Bridge Road and State Street. This section of the trail hasn't seen major repairs in over 40 years, and the project includes repaving the 2.5-mile stretch, improving intersections with curbing and sidewalks, adding signage and pavement markings, and performing tree trimming and surface repairs. These updates are aimed at enhancing safety, accessibility, and overall usability for pedestrians and cyclists of all abilities.

I am so glad that after so many years this project is receiving the critical improvements it needs. Made possible in part by a \$500,000 MassTrails Grant, this project will help encourage alternative transportation, reduce traffic congestion, and lower emissions. The trail will be completely closed starting October 28, 2024, while the work is underway, and the closure is expected to last at least 30 days. A detour will be in place during this time, and residents are urged to avoid the area for safety reasons and to allow contractors to complete the improvements as efficiently as possible.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to select alternate routes during this closure. Project updates and a detour route are posted to: [northamptonma.gov/2632/Northampton-Bikeway](http://northamptonma.gov/2632/Northampton-Bikeway)



### 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 413-587-1224 or visit [northamptonma.gov/755/Elections](http://northamptonma.gov/755/Elections)



#### 2024 Early Voting Schedule:

Early Voting at City Hall, 210 Main St., 2nd Flr

- 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



## Dress for Success Western Massachusetts Pop-Up Boutique at Forbes Library

Stop by to shop the Dress for Success Western Massachusetts Pop-Up Boutique on Saturday, November 9th from 10am-3pm at Forbes Library. The purpose of this event is to provide professional clothing to both women and men, helping them feel confident and prepared for job interviews.

Interested in donating items? Dress for Success is collecting new or gently used suits, dresses, pants, blazers, and other business appropriate apparel, shoes, boots, coats, and accessories like handbags and jewelry.

Please ensure that all items donated are freshly dry-cleaned or laundered. The clothing drive will be ongoing until November 1st, with donations accepted in the lobby of Forbes Library.

Additional drop-off locations are located at Northampton City Hall (2nd Floor), Thornes Marketplace, Greenfield Savings Bank (325 King St., Northampton), and Venture Way Collaborative (Hadley).



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## Calendar Updates

### Upcoming Events and Notices

#### Say BOO! To The Flu Vaccine Clinic



The Northampton Department of Health and Human Services is holding its annual Halloween 'Say Boo to the Flu' vaccine clinic, on Saturday, October 26th from 9am-1pm in the gym at Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School, 80 Locust Street.

You can register by calling 413-587-4903, emailing [nurses@northamptonma.gov](mailto:nurses@northamptonma.gov), or clicking [here](#).

#### Senior Tax Work- Off Application Deadline

The deadline to apply for Northampton's Senior and Veteran Tax Work-Off programs is November 15th. [Learn more](#).

#### Downtown Trick or Treat!



Downtown business trick-or-treating is happening again! This Downtown Northampton Association event will take place on Halloween, Thursday, October 31st, from 3pm-5pm throughout downtown. During this time, Mayor Sciarra will be handing out candy in front of City Hall. Be sure to stop by!

#### Rag Shag Parade

[The Florence Rag Shag Parade](#) is the oldest continuously running parade of its kind in the country. Every Halloween, costumed residents gather at Trinity Park as the clock strikes 6pm for step-off. The parade makes its way down Main Street, leading ghouls and goblins to the Florence Civic Center, where a haunted house awaits inside.



#### PVTA Free Fare Begins

The PVTA's Try Transit program, offering free rides without the need for fares or passes, will run from November 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This initiative is funded by \$30 million in Fair Share funds allocated in Governor Maura Healey's latest budget to eliminate transit fares.

ValleyBike presents...

# Bike To Vote

Use code BIKETOVOTE for 2 free rides from October 23rd - election day, November 5th  
\*After 30 minutes, fees apply

drOp mobility

#### ValleyBike to Vote

Use code BIKETOVOTE for 2 free rides from October 23rd to Election Day, November 5th\*. To redeem your code:

- Download the ValleyBike app and create an account
- Add your credit card information
- Click on the three-line icon in the top left corner
- Click on "Coupons & Credits"
- Enter the code: BIKETOVOTE

\*After 30 minutes, fees apply