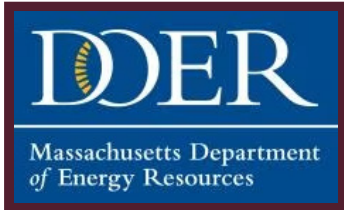


CITY OF NORTHAMPTON NEWSLETTER



Northampton Selected as the Only Western Massachusetts Community in the Commonwealth’s Fossil Fuel Free Building Pilot Program

The City of Northampton has been selected as the 10th and final community in the Commonwealth’s Municipal Fossil Fuel Free Building Demonstration Program, making it the only city in western Massachusetts to participate in this innovative state pilot program. This designation underscores Northampton’s leadership in climate action and sustainable urban planning and recognizes the city’s commitment to a future free of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations.

Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra shared, "Northampton is honored to join the state’s Fossil Fuel Free Demonstration Program, marking a milestone for western Massachusetts in the transition to sustainable building practices. This program builds on our community and the state's commitments to climate action. We are ready to share our experiences and learn alongside other pioneering cities as we all work toward a greener, renewable Commonwealth. I want to thank Governor Healey and her Western Massachusetts Director Kristen Elechko, Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Commissioner Mahony, Senator Jo Comerford, Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, the Northampton City Council, and the many Northampton public officials and city advocates who helped bring us to this moment." Read the full press release, [here](#).

Newsletter Sign-Up



Would you like to receive the City of Northampton's newsletter as soon as it's available? Simply fill out a quick sign-up form, and each issue will be sent straight to your inbox once it's published! Complete the sign-up form, [linked here](#).

See page 3 for information about the city-wide fire ban.



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

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON NEWSLETTER

City Hall Closing Temporarily for Asbestos Abatement

City Hall will be closed beginning December 2nd for a minimum of three weeks to undergo asbestos abatement and insulation installation. During this time, employees from City Hall departments will work remotely or from temporary locations outside of City Hall. If you need to contact a department typically based at City Hall - the Assessor, City Clerk, Auditor,

City Council, Planning & Sustainability, or the Mayor, please contact them via email. Additionally, stay tuned for updates on temporary locations of our departments and where we'll be working remotely across the city!



ARPA Updates

In recognition of World Children's Day on November 20th, this issue will highlight one of the many local organizations that do so much for the health and well-being of our children: the Children's Advocacy Center of Hampshire County (CAC).

CAC provides free, trauma-informed services to survivors of abuse. The City of Northampton is incredibly proud to contribute ARPA funding for building upgrades so they can focus all their time and energy on their mission of helping our children thrive.

Many thanks to CAC for the work they do in our community.



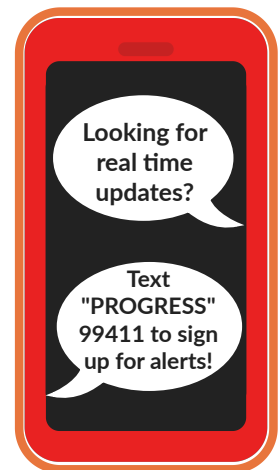
Election Updates/Voting Turnout Numbers

16,598 Northampton residents voted in Tuesday's election, representing 70.8% of Northampton's registered voters. Congratulations to Senator Jo Comerford, Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, and newly elected Registrar of Probate Mark Ames—all residents of Northampton—on their election victories. Want more in depth election data? Click [here!](#)



"POP... Pardon Our Progress" Updates

The POP communication system is live. Text "PROGRESS" to 99411 to receive updates, alerts, & essential information leading up to and during the Picture Main Street project. For more info, visit the Picture Main Street webpage [linked here.](#)



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON NEWSLETTER

Message from Police Chief John Cartledge

"Last Saturday our officers participated in our "Stuff a Cruiser" food drive at Walmart. We're excited to share that all items collected were donated to the Northampton Survival Center. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised 742 pounds of food and \$260 in cash during this event. Repair is ongoing on our parking deck. We have two new student officers that will be attending the next Holyoke Police Academy which begins December 2, 2024. The next Chat with the Chief



will be coming up soon. Once a date and time is confirmed, it will be advertised via social media and our website."

Chat with the Chief info is available [here](#).



Want to join a city Board or Committee?

Check the latest vacancies and 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.

Northampton Enacts City-Wide Fire Ban

In response to the unprecedented fire activity across Massachusetts and after a thorough review of current weather and ground conditions, the city has implemented a city-wide temporary ban on outdoor fires, effective immediately and in place until further notice. This measure aligns with the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts' Board of Directors recommendation and guidance from State Fire Marshal Jon Davine and Governor Maura Healey, underscoring the critical importance of heightened fire safety precautions at this time.

[Read more](#)



First Night 2025 Volunteer Opportunity



Celebrate the new year and participate in a beautiful community event simultaneously! First Night is Northampton's biggest party and an important annual fundraiser for the Northampton Arts Council. We need your help to make it happen, and you'll get to enjoy the festivities too!

What's involved? It's a commitment for several hours on Tuesday, December 31, 2024. You will be asked to volunteer for one of two shifts: 11:45am to 6:00pm OR 7:00pm to 11:00pm. We are also seeking a limited number of experienced site managers and volunteers available at 11:00am. If you're interested, please fill out this [form](#).

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON NEWSLETTER

Construction Updates

- The Northampton Bikeway (Mass Central Rail Trail) resurfacing is underway. The contractor is currently working on pavement reclamation, subdrain installation, and granite curbing installation.
- The Smith College Area Pedestrian Improvements project is substantially complete, with the contractor working on punch list items this past week.
- A sewer manhole rehabilitation project on Acrebrook Drive, Beattie Drive, Brierwood Drive, Hospital Road, and the Elks Lodge parking lot will begin in the coming weeks.



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

Mayor Sciarra Presents at MassDOT Moving Together Conference



Mayor Sciarra recently presented at the MassDOT Moving Together Conference, sharing insights on the relaunch of ValleyBike Share. As part of the “Building a Community-Centered DOT” mega session, she joined other experts to discuss how transportation agencies can enhance community engagement and better serve residents. Mayor Sciarra highlighted ValleyBike Share as a successful model for active transportation, helping to connect western Massachusetts communities while supporting eco-friendly mobility. With over 1,000 attendees at the conference, her presentation underscored Northampton’s commitment to innovative, community-focused transit solutions.

Holiday Lighting

After the Northampton Business Improvement District dissolved in 2014, the city committed to funding holiday lighting for Downtown Northampton each year as part of the Downtown Northampton Association’s founding discussions. This year, Mayor Sciarra is proud to continue this tradition with lights that use 90% less energy and cut carbon emissions by 90%. Estimates predict potential savings upwards of \$50,000. Switching to LED lights allows us to cover holiday lighting costs twice over through winter energy savings. This eco-friendly choice by the Climate Action and Project Administration department reflects its commitment to city finances and the environment. Happy Holidays!



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON NEWSLETTER

Q&A with Mayor Sciarra



Q: What is Mutual Aid and How Did it Make a Difference in the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area Fire?

A: Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreements are a collaborative system in which a community can send or request supportive resources during a public safety event or incident. It’s an understanding between nearby fire, police, and public works departments to assist each other during significant emergencies or if additional or specialized equipment is needed. For example, if a fire becomes too large for one department to handle, if a significant public event requires extra police officers, or if multiple incidents happen at once, neighboring departments step in to provide additional personnel, equipment, and resources. This collaboration allows departments to handle larger or simultaneous incidents that would otherwise be beyond their capacity.

The recent brush fire in the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area is an excellent example of the importance of mutual aid. Northampton Fire/Rescue received aerial support from the Massachusetts Air National Guard and the Massachusetts State Police Airwing combined with the tireless efforts of ground crews aiding Northampton Fire/Rescue from Williamsburg, Belchertown, Hadley, Goshen, Pelham, South Hadley District 1 & 2, Granby, Hatfield, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Massachusetts Department of Fire Services. In addition to personnel, neighboring departments brought their ATVs and other equipment to aid the operation in this remote area. This collaborative effort was instrumental in containing the fire, and crews have spent days doing fire suppression and diligently extinguishing thousands of hot spots throughout the affected area. This work will continue to address remaining hot spots and prevent any potential rekindling. The city is extremely grateful for all of the assistance and donations that have been received during this multi-day operation.

Mutual aid proved critical again when, shortly after wrapping up operations one evening at Fitzgerald Lake, crews on their way home spotted another brush fire along Interstate 91. Thanks to their swift response, additional mutual aid units, and personnel from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation quickly contained the second fire before it could escalate. This coordinated effort showcases how mutual aid partnerships enable rapid resource deployment, prevent larger incidents, and ultimately protect public safety.

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.*

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON NEWSLETTER

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.

[Read more](#)

Enter to win a \$100 Gift Card



Groundbreaking at New Ray Ellerbrook Field Pickleball Courts



On Tuesday, October 29th, the City of Northampton Parks & Recreation Department broke ground on six new pickleball courts at Ray Ellerbrook Field. Funding for these exciting new courts came from the Community Preservation Act and community fundraising. Thank you to the Community Preservation Committee, City Council, and the Friends of Northampton Pickleball for their dedication to this project.

Family History Help at Forbes Library

Are you curious about how to get started on a family tree or use census records to explore the history of your neighborhood or house? Book a one-on-one appointment with genealogist Brian Tabor and learn how to research using genealogy resources such as Ancestry, Heritage Quest and American Ancestors databases. Family History Help is held on the second week of the month:

- Tuesdays, 6pm-7pm
- Wednesdays, 10:30am-12pm

The Hampshire Room for Local History is also open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 10am-2pm for appointments and drop in research.

Family History Help

Second week of each month

- Tuesday, 6-7pm
- Wednesday, 10:30am-12pm

Email for an appointment:
archives@forbeslibrary.org

Hampshire Room
for Local History

Email archives@forbeslibrary.org to book an appointment with Brian.

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON NEWSLETTER

Calendar Updates

Upcoming Events and Notices

Veterans Day Closure

City of Northampton municipal offices will be closed Monday, November 11, 2024, in observance of Veterans Day.

Senior Center Arts Night Out!

Friday, November 8th, the Northampton Senior Center will highlight two local artists as part of Arts Night Out. Nancy Meagher and Eric Payne will have their work on display in the Gallery Hall and the Bistro & Coffee Shop Gallery.

[Read more](#)

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.](#)

City of Northampton: Celebrating 140 Years

Northampton, Massachusetts, was incorporated as a city in 1884, 140 years ago.

Want to learn more about Northampton's history? Click [here!](#)

Vaccine Clinics

Upcoming Clinics for COVID & Flu Vaccines:

- Wed. 11/13, from 2:30-5:50pm @ Amherst Bangs Community Center
- Thur. 11/14, from 11:00am-3pm @ Northampton Elks Club

Click [here](#) to register.

Veterans Day Parade

Join us on Monday, November 11, 2024, for the Veterans Day Parade! Lineup begins at 10:00am at the VFW, 18 Meadow St., with the parade stepping off at 11:00am. The procession will make its way to Trinity Row, Florence, where a brief ceremony will honor our veterans. Vietnam Veteran SSG Russ Warriner will be the guest speaker. All veterans are welcome to participate.



Bag Day - The Bag is Back!

Bag Day is happening on November 23rd, and it's a fantastic way to kick off your holiday shopping. From November 18th to 22nd, between 10am and 3pm, you can pick up a commemorative Bag Day bag at the Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce or the Daily Hampshire Gazette. These bags are your shopping "checklist" for the day, so don't forget to bring them along!

On Bag Day, you can also grab a bag at participating locations or Thornes Marketplace. With your bag in hand, enjoy discounts on merchandise and gift cards at over 70 downtown locations. This event is put on by the Downtown Northampton Association and the Daily Hampshire Gazette.