

# CITY OF NORTHAMPTON NEWSLETTER

## First Night 2025 - 40th Anniversary!

The Northampton Arts Council is delighted to present its 40th annual New Year's Eve celebration and festival of the performing arts on Tuesday, December 31, 2024. First Night Northampton continues to be a unique opportunity to celebrate the vibrancy of our community while sharing time with friends, neighbors, and visitors. At 6:15pm, there will be a fireworks display and at midnight we hope to see you for the "ball-raising"



outside the Hotel Northampton. A bargain-priced button is still the ticket to over 100 arts and entertainment performances throughout the day and night. **NEW THIS YEAR** - You can purchase a button online and pick it up at Cedar Chest before December 31st! First Night Headquarters is at Thornes Marketplace, 150 Main St. 2nd Floor, Northampton. Hours of operation are 10am to 9pm on Tuesday, December 31, 2024. For questions, please email [admin@firstnightnorthampton.org](mailto:admin@firstnightnorthampton.org) or call 413-587-1069. For a schedule, a list of performers, and all other information, please visit [firstnightnorthampton.org](http://firstnightnorthampton.org). First Night 2025 is also seeking volunteers! There are multiple shifts available and volunteers receive a complimentary First Night button and hospitality (hot meal, beverages, bathroom, kitchen) at the private volunteer headquarters when not on duty. Interested in helping out and being a part of the festivities? Fill out the form [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 7 for information on the DHHS "Share the Warmth" Drive



**Mayor's Office**  
210 Main Street, Northampton  
(413) 587 1249  
[mayor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:mayor@northamptonma.gov)



## City Hall Temporarily Closed for Asbestos Abatement

To visit any of the temporary locations listed below during the City Hall closure, please contact the office by phone or email to schedule an appointment.



**Mayor's Office/License Commission - Temporary Location**  
Police Station, 29 Center Street, Northampton  
[mayor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:mayor@northamptonma.gov)  
Ph: 413-587-1249

**Office of the Auditor - Temporary Location**  
Senior Center, Computer Lab/Workshop  
67 Conz Street, Northampton  
[kfisher@northamptonma.gov](mailto:kfisher@northamptonma.gov)  
Ph: 413-587-1205

**Planning & Sustainability - Temporary Location**  
Senior Center, Computer Lab/Workshop  
67 Conz Street, Northampton  
[planning@northamptonma.gov](mailto:planning@northamptonma.gov)  
Ph: 413-587-1266

**City Clerk's Office/Registrars of Voters - Temporary Location**  
Memorial Hall, Central Services Office  
240 Main Street, Suite 3, Northampton  
[cclerk@northamptonma.gov](mailto:cclerk@northamptonma.gov)  
Ph: 413-587-1224

**Office of the Assessor - Temporary Location**  
Memorial Hall, Central Services Office  
240 Main Street, Suite 3, Northampton  
[assessor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:assessor@northamptonma.gov)  
Ph: 413-587-1203

**City Council**  
[lkrutzler@northamptonma.gov](mailto:lkrutzler@northamptonma.gov)  
[citycouncil@northamptonma.gov](mailto:citycouncil@northamptonma.gov)  
Ph: 413-587-1210

## Suzette Creperie comes to Thornes Marketplace

Mayor Sciarra joined Jean-Luc and Evelyn, owners of Suzette Creperie at their ribbon cutting Thursday, December 12th, on the first floor of Thornes Marketplace. They offer sweet and savory crepes (including gluten-free options) and homemade French macarons. Their flagship location is in Worcester. We are very glad that they have chosen Northampton for their second location. Welcome, Suzette Creperie!



### Keep Sidewalks Safe This Winter

As winter settles in and snow begins to fall, please remember to clear your sidewalks within 24 hours of a storm. This helps keep our community safe and ensures sidewalks remain accessible for everyone. For more information, review [City Ordinance §285-17: Removal of Snow and Ice from Sidewalks](#). Thank you for doing your part to keep our city safe and accessible this winter!



## Message from Police Chief John Cartledge



"Detective Sergeant Corey Robinson has been named the new Captain of Operations, and once a few additional promotions are finalized, we will

hold an official swearing-in ceremony to celebrate. I'm also excited to share that the next 'Chat with the Chief' will take place on Friday, December 20th, at 10am at Tandem Bagel, 1 North Main St., Florence. Additionally, our department has been awarded a Federal Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) grant of \$10,233.00, which will be used for training purposes."



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

## Picture Main Street Project: ACCESSIBILITY

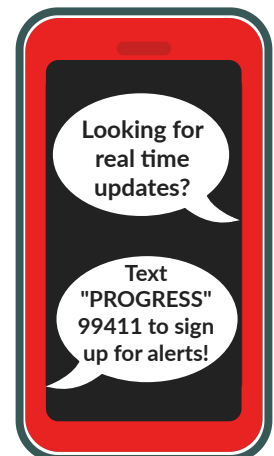
Did you know that one of the core pillars of the Picture Main Street project is addressing accessibility? Main Street currently faces multiple accessibility challenges—narrow and uneven sidewalks, as well as curb ramps and signals that fail to meet national accessibility standards. These issues restrict the mobility and independence of residents and visitors alike. The new design will shorten crosswalks, dedicate separate lanes for different modes of transportation, ensure at least five feet of clear sidewalk space, and increase the number of accessible parking spots.

For specifics on how Picture Main Street will improve accessibility, please visit our [FAQs](#).



## "POP... Pardon Our Progress"

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](#).





## Construction Updates

- A subcontractor will install loam along the Northampton Bikeway this week; the path will remain open during work hours and a police detail will assist with traffic control
- Work is expected to begin next week on the South Main Street Sewer Repair Project
- The contractor will work on punch list items this week for the Smith College Area Pedestrian Improvements



Visit the [city website](#) to learn more!



## Bike Path Ribbon Cutting and Grand Reopening

Despite cold temperatures, approximately 35 community members gathered Monday, December 2nd, to celebrate the much-anticipated re-opening of the bike path after its repaving. Impressively, more than half arrived by bike! After the official remarks, attendees formed a "Bike Bus," escorting JFK students up to Florence. A special shout-out to George Kohout, President of Friends of Northampton Trails (FNT); Jes Slavin, Director of FNT; Ben Jankowski of Pedal People; and Northampton Cycling Club for their invaluable contributions to planning, promotions, and event logistics. Both Mayor Sciarra and DPW Director Donna LaScaleia expressed heartfelt appreciation for the support of FNT, which played a critical role in securing funding and bringing the project to fruition.



# ARPA Update

This issue's ARPA Update is focused on the Northampton Survival Center, which provides fresh, healthy groceries to its clients each week. The Survival Center, recognizing the deep impacts of the pandemic on families in our community, increased their offerings to include curbside pickup, food deliveries to housing locations, and more, to keep everyone as safe as possible. They also purchased more food than in previous years to meet the increase in demand caused by the pandemic and resulting inflation. The city is proud to provide funding to maintain these expanded operations so that the Survival Center can continue to serve community members in need.

As the holidays can be a particularly difficult time for families experiencing food insecurity, we are also delighted to share some information about the ways that everyone can get involved. Even if you don't have the means to donate this year, consider helping out with a few hours of your time.

If you'd like to help the Northampton Survival Center, there are three easy ways to help:

1. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks, from personal shopping to delivering food to local housing sites. Apply online today!

## Volunteer Sign-up

2. Become a Bread & Butter donor to support the Survival Center with a monthly recurring gift that provides the Center with a reliable source of income to feed hungry folks in our area.

## Donate here

3. Donate food and toiletry items. Right now, the items in highest demand are healthy snacks for kids, white rice, and toilet paper. Donations are accepted at the Northampton Survival Center (265 Prospect Street) every Tuesday and Thursday between 12pm & 3pm.





## Q&A with Mayor Sciarra

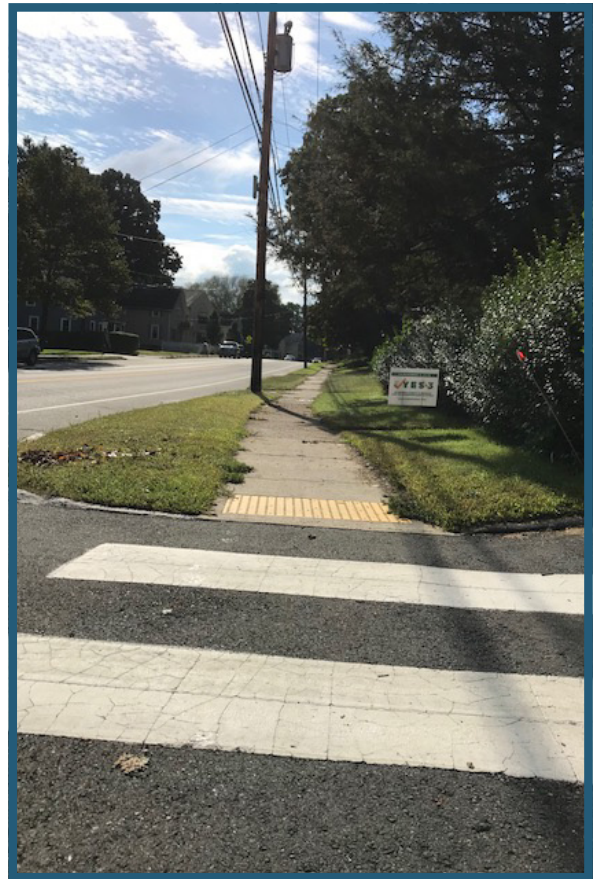
**Q: Now that the city has announced using money for sidewalk repair that had previously been earmarked for the Hotel Bridge in Leeds, will the city decouple sidewalk construction from road construction projects?**



A: Typically, it makes both financial and logistical sense to complete road and sidewalk projects together, as bidding them jointly is fiscally responsible. However, with the repurposed funds from the Hotel Bridge, the DPW is taking a different approach, focusing on a standalone sidewalk repair project. These funds are specifically allocated for sidewalk improvements, as this has been identified as the most efficient and impactful use.

The planned sidewalk repairs include Bedford Terrace, the stretch of sidewalk from Cooley Dickinson Hospital to Northampton High School, and spot repairs in front of Michael's House on State Street, as well as at Village Hill where needed. These locations were chosen based on the city's comprehensive [sidewalk inventory](#) and an analysis of injury and accident reports to identify high-priority areas.

This project is part of the city's commitment to improving pedestrian safety and ensuring accessible walkways for all residents.



### 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.*



## Share The Warmth Drive

As winter approaches and temperatures drop, the Department of Health & Human Services has launched the **Share The Warmth Drive** that will run through **December 20th**. This initiative aims to support individuals in need of warm clothing and shelter during the cold winter months. We are seeking donations of items such as **Tents, Sleeping bags, Boots, Coats, Gloves, Winter hats, Socks, Thermal Wear, Pants, etc.** [Learn more here.](#)

Any donation that can help someone navigate the harsh winter weather is greatly appreciated. Donations can be dropped off at the following locations around the city or you can call 413-587-1214 for assistance:

- Memorial Hall (next to Human Resources), 240 Main St.
- Municipal Building (Main Entrance), 212 Main St. (behind City Hall)
- Forbes Library, 20 West St.
- Northampton Fire Department, 26 Carlon Drive
- Northampton Police Station, 29 Center St.
- Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz St.
- Division of Community Care, 1 Roundhouse Plaza



## City of Northampton's Public Health Nurse Honored with Nursing Award

City of Northampton Public Health Nurse Jennifer Brown was honored by the Massachusetts Health Officers Association with the Sandra Collins Public Health Nursing Award. This award is presented annually to a Public Health Nurse who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to furthering public health initiatives. Jennifer Brown has worked in local Public Health for over 15 years. Throughout her career, Jennifer has exemplified the qualities of a true leader, guiding public health initiatives with a clear vision and a deep dedication to improving the well-being of all community members. Jennifer is a powerful advocate for health equity and is committed to ensuring that every individual, regardless of their socioeconomic status, has access to quality care.

## Call For Applicants - Indoor Ventilation Grant Program

Improving the indoor air quality of your business can reduce the risk of exposure to viruses, COVID-19, influenza, and RSV. Healthier air means a thriving environment for your patrons, employees, and families. With the assistance of the Ventilation Task Force, the City of Northampton is pleased to offer grants to business owners for improving indoor air quality. Applicants must be the owner/ operator of a business or venue that serves the general public in the City of Northampton. Applicable facilities include public businesses/ services open to the public who serve vulnerable populations; child/daycare centers; gyms, yoga, or other fitness centers. Eligible applicants may qualify for funding up to \$10,000! **Deadline: January 15, 2025.**

[APPLY HERE](#)



# Calendar Updates

## Upcoming Events and Notices

### Lighted Tractor Parade, Florence

The Florence Civic & Business Association is hosting its 2nd Annual Florence Lighted Tractor Parade on Saturday, December 28, 2024, at 6pm. The parade will start at Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School and make its way to Look Park. Line the streets of Florence and see some creative lighting displays and a unique parade concept!

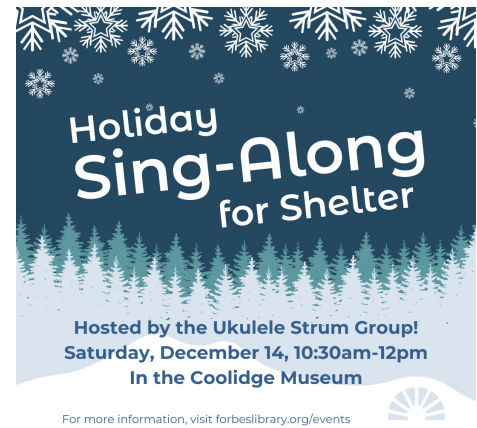


### Holiday Stroll

TODAY, from 5pm to 8pm, the Downtown Northampton Association is hosting a Holiday Stroll on a portion of Main Street from Masonic Street to Crafts Avenue. More details and information can be [found here](#).

### Holiday Sing-Along for Shelter

Hosted by Forbes Library's Ukulele Strum Group! Bring your voice, friends, and optional musical instruments to sing and play along on Saturday, December 14th from 10:30am - 12pm in the Coolidge Museum at Forbes Library, 20 West Street. Chords and lyrics to popular seasonal songs will be projected on a screen for easy reading. Come join in the holiday fun! Donations will be gratefully accepted to benefit the Interfaith Winter Shelter.



### SHOP LOCAL and Enjoy Free Parking!

Enjoy free parking at meters, kiosks, on-street spaces, and off-street lots on the remaining dates listed below. Please note that this offer does not include the E.J. Gare Parking Garage.



Tuesday, December 24th	Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 31st	New Years Eve/First Night

### Santa's Trains and Winter Wonderland Lights Display

Santa's Trains returns to the Garden House at Look Park, celebrating 50 years of holiday magic with the theme: "The Simplicity and Wonder of a Child's Christmas: Celebrating 50 Years of Santa at Look Park." Santa's Trains runs December 12th–15th and 18th–23rd from 4pm to 8pm, with a morning session on December 24th. Additionally, from November 29th through January 1st, experience the Winter Wonderland Lights Display 2024 at Look Park, featuring nearly 50 dazzling holiday displays. For more information visit [lookpark.org/events](http://lookpark.org/events).

