

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON NEWSLETTER

40 Years of First Night Northampton

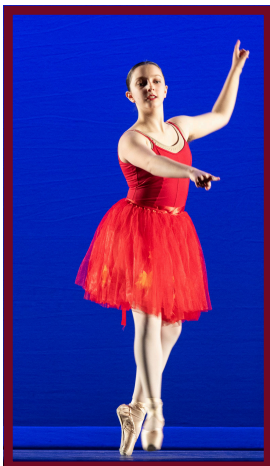
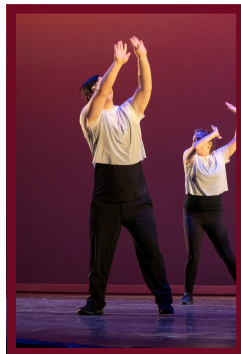


Photo Credit: Paul Griffin

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 5 for information about traffic improvements at Northampton High School.



Mayor's Office

210 Main Street, Northampton
(413) 587 1249
mayor@northamptonma.gov

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City Hall Asbestos Abatement Update

All Star Abatement completed the City Hall abatement project on Friday, December 20, 2024. Central Services, along with the Climate Action and Project Administration Department, has contracted Energia to re-insulate the attic space. Energia is scheduled to be onsite from January 2nd through 8th. Central Services and IT have begun moving the first-floor departments back into City Hall. Once the re-insulation is finished, the second floor will reopen.

Move-In Schedule:

- **Thursday, January 2, 2025:** Auditor's, Assessor's, City Clerk
- **Thursday, January 9, 2025:** Planning & Sustainability
- **Friday, January 10, 2025:** Mayor's Office/License Commission



We sincerely appreciate everyone's patience during this period of displacement and for visiting our temporary locations.

Mayor Swears in Five New Recruits for Northampton Fire/Rescue



On Monday, December 23, 2024, Mayor Sciarra swore in five new probationary firefighter EMTs at the Northampton Fire/Rescue Headquarters. The new recruits — Timothy Clark, Parker Jansen, Philip Pergola, Angelia Rodrigues, and Chad McKenna — began their training on December 16, 2024, under the guidance of Captain Putnam. Their orientation training will conclude on January 20, 2025. Following this, they will continue their training on shift while awaiting available slots at the Massachusetts Fire Academy.

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Message from Police Chief John Cartledge

"Our officers, along with members of other Northampton public safety departments (Fire/Rescue, Dispatch, and DPW) hosted a Public Safety Night at Santa's Trains at Look Park. Our officers helped manage traffic during the Tractor Parade and Holiday Parades in Florence. They also assisted with the First Night celebration and traffic control for the event."




Want to join a city Board or Committee?

Have you ever wanted to get involved in your local municipal government but didn't know how? 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.

Picture Main Street: SAFETY

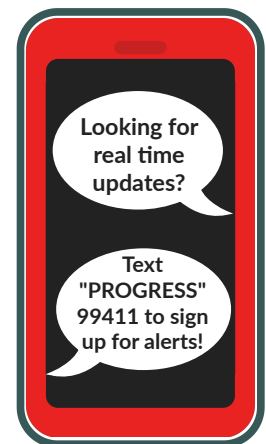


Northampton's Main Street is one of the most dangerous corridors in the Commonwealth. It was ranked fourth among the top 25 high crash roadway segments in the 2013 Pioneer Valley Regional Crash Report. Over 39 months, 150 crashes occurred, averaging 46 per year. Pedestrians and cyclist collisions represented 11% of all crashes, and resulted in one fatality. Nearly 90% of all pedestrian and cyclist crashes resulted in an injury. To learn more about the [safety analysis](#) and why MassDOT is investing \$22 million in this [TIP](#) project, please [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](#).



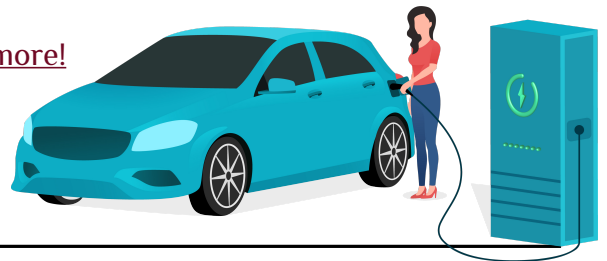
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New Lower Rates for Public EV Chargers in Northampton

Starting January 1, 2025, Northampton’s public Electric Vehicle (EV) charging network changed how it charges for electricity. Since October, the price has been set at \$1.92 per hour, but in response to feedback from charging network users and lower electricity prices, the price changed to \$0.32 per kilowatt hour. This price is designed to enable the city to cover electricity costs and maintain the charging network while passing on savings to users. The original price was based on the rate

Northampton paid for electricity. Since then, the city’s Climate Action and Project Administration (CAPA) department negotiated a contract for lower electricity supply rates. This is reflected in the new EV charging rate, which is 7% lower.

[Read more!](#)



ARPA Updates

It's that time of year when the snow is falling and temperatures are dropping. These cold months are hard for our residents who are underhoused or unhoused. In this issue, we're shining a light on Clinical and Support Options (CSO), an organization dedicated to providing housing and essential services for those in our community who need them most.

On December 19 2024,, Mayor Sciarra joined Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus, City Councilors Marianne LaBarge, Stanley Moulton, and Debby Klemer, Easthampton Mayor Nicole LaChapelle, and Joyce Tavon of Mass Housing and Shelter Alliance for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new CSO shelter space in Northampton. Mayor Sciarra is honored to have allocated \$450,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to CSO for the acquisition of this space. The city is proud to be partnering with CSO for the Resilience Hub project, and is additionally working with CSO to support emergency hotel stays on the coldest nights this winter.

Thank you to CSO for the work they are doing in our community! We are incredibly grateful for their dedication to opening this important space!



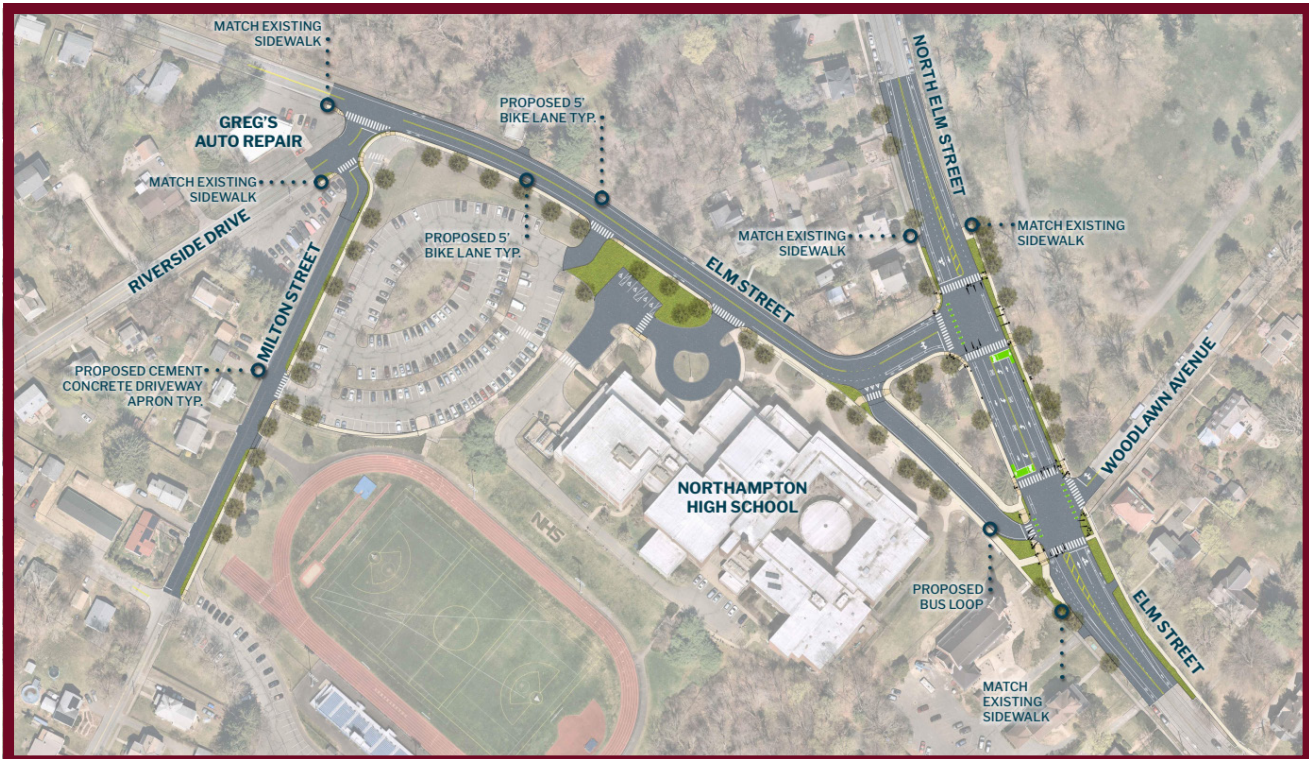
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Q&A with Mayor Sciarra



Q: Is there still a plan to reconfigure the streets in the Northampton High School area?

A: Yes. The city has engaged the traffic engineering firm Fuss and O’Neill to design corridor improvements on North Elm Street (Route 9) and Elm Street by the Northampton High School. Proposed improvements include creating two signalized intersections (North Elm Street at Elm Street and North Elm Street at Woodlawn Avenue) with pedestrian signals, reopening the bus loop in front of the high school, buffered bike lanes on North Elm Street between Woodlawn Avenue and Elm Street, installing a multiway stop control at the intersection of Milton Street and Ormond Drive, realigning Milton Street to intersect Riverside Drive, and reconstructing concrete sidewalks at various locations. The DPW hopes to bid this project in 2025. Here’s a [link to the FAQ and additional details](#) about the North Elm Street Corridor Improvements Project.



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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Honoring World War II Veterans: Help Us Find Local Heroes

Central Hampshire Veterans Services in Northampton is working on a special in-person event to honor the remaining World War II veterans in our western Massachusetts communities. Tentatively scheduled for May 2025, this event will celebrate the incredible men and women who sacrificed so much to protect freedom and democracy.

However, locating these veterans has become a challenge. Many live with family, are in long-term care facilities, or have quietly stepped away from the public eye. Despite our best efforts, it can be difficult to identify those still with us, and all too often, we don't learn about them until it's too late.

This is where we need your help. We're asking you to share this message with your community—whether through a news story, a community announcement, or simply word of mouth—to help us connect with veterans (or their families/caregivers) who deserve to be part of this occasion.



If you know a living WWII veteran in western Massachusetts, please contact Dan Nye at Central Hampshire Veterans Services. He can be reached at vetadmin@northamptonma.gov or 413-587-1299.

Your support in spreading the word can make all the difference in ensuring these veterans receive the recognition they deserve. Thank you for your continued dedication to our community—we look forward to hearing from you!

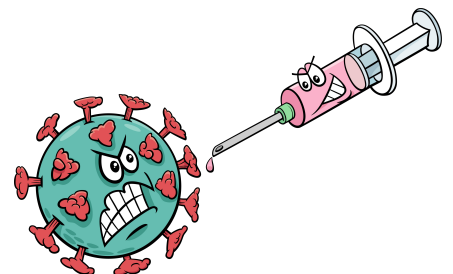
Sincerely,
Central Hampshire Veterans Services

Upcoming Vaccine Clinics

The Northampton Department of Health & Human Services has upcoming Flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinics. For more information or for help [registering](#) for an appointment, call 413-587-1314.

Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 3pm to 5pm
Northampton Council Chambers, 212 Main Street. All ages, 6 mo +

Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 3pm to 5pm
Northampton Council Chambers, 212 Main Street. All ages, 6 mo +



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Calendar Updates

Upcoming Events and Notices

Comcast Hearing

On Tuesday, January 14th, at 6pm, Northampton Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra will hold a public cable license renewal ascertainment at the Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz Street, Northampton. Click the [here](#) to join the public hearing via Zoom. The hearing can also be viewed on Comcast Channel 15.

Ice Art Festival

All day Saturday, January 18th, the Downtown Northampton Association is hosting the Ice Art Festival. Come celebrate the stunning ice sculptures created by talented local artists. Don't miss this display of creativity and skill as downtown is transformed into a winter wonderland. This is a free community event.



Q3 Tax Bills

Quarter three real estate and personal property tax bills were mailed Tuesday, December 31, 2024. Payments are due February 1, 2025.



Arts Night Out Reception

Friday, January 10th, from 5pm to 7pm the Forbes Library will host the first Manna Community Kitchen Art Show in the Reading Room on the first floor, while the Hosmer Gallery on the second floor will showcase photography and paper arts by Mandana Marsh, Eileen Claveloux, and Margaret Humbert-Droz. More info. [linked here](#).

Presentation & Community Forum on Fossil Fuel-Free Ordinance

The City Council Committee on Legislative Matters is hosting a public forum on the fossil fuel-free construction ordinance on Monday, January 6, 2025, from 6pm to 8pm in Council Chambers, 212 Main Street. You can also join the meeting virtually, [here](#).

A brief presentation of the [Fossil Fuel-Free Ordinance](#) (taking effect city-wide January 27, 2025) will be followed by public comment. Panel participants include Benjamin Weil, Climate Action and Project Administration (CAPA) Director and sponsoring City Councilors Rachel Maiore and Alex Jarrett. Please plan your comments for three minutes or less to ensure time for all to speak.

