

Friday, May 30, 2025

## Mayor's Newton Update

### The White House Is Wrong



The U.S Department of Homeland Security just listed approximately 200 cities and towns, including the City of Newton, as “deliberately and shamefully obstructing the enforcement of federal immigration laws,” “protecting dangerous criminal aliens from facing consequences,” and putting “law enforcement in peril.” The Department of Homeland Security did this under Executive Order 14287 titled “Protecting American Communities from Criminal Aliens.” In that Executive Order, the President of the United States asserts that the cities on his list are violating, obstructing, and defying the enforcement of Federal immigration laws. His Executive Order further declares, “This is a lawless insurrection against the supremacy of Federal law and the Federal Government’s obligation to defend the territorial sovereignty of the United States.”

The White House is wrong.

I uphold the oath I took to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The City of Newton Welcoming City Ordinance is in complete compliance with federal and state law as are the City’s actions.

The Executive Order calls for all Federal agencies to identify appropriate Federal funds, including grants and contracts, for suspension or termination as appropriate and to “pursue all necessary legal remedies and enforcement measures to end these violations and bring such jurisdictions into compliance with the laws of the United States.”

The White House included in the list the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 13 of 14 counties in Massachusetts, and 11 other Massachusetts cities and towns (including Boston and Cambridge). All six New England states are included.

The City of Newton has worked very effectively as a Welcoming City since the City passed our ordinance in February 2017. Since that time, there have been no instances where the City has protected dangerous criminals or obstructed the enforcement of federal immigration laws. Nor will the City of Newton ever do so.

Rather, Newton’s Welcoming City ordinance affirms the City’s commitment to making residents, workers and visitors feel safe and secure regardless of

immigration status.

Under our Welcoming City ordinance, if the City of Newton discovers or receives information that (a) an individual has an outstanding criminal warrant, (b) has a prior conviction for a serious violent felony, (c) is being investigated for terrorism, or (d) if there is a law enforcement or public safety purpose to do so that is not related to the enforcement of civil immigration law, the Newton Police Department may detain or arrest an individual in cooperation with ICE, provided that the arrest or detention is based upon valid Massachusetts arrest authority and upholds Constitutional rights against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Newton’s Welcoming City Ordinance upholds federal and state law by reiterating that the City does not identify, investigate, arrest, detain, or continue to detain a person solely on the belief (a) that the person is not present legally in the United States, (b) that the person has committed a civil immigration violation, or (c) that the person is otherwise deportable.

That the U.S. Department of Homeland Security would target our community with language that incites fear and division and that the White House would withhold funding for our community is legally incorrect, constitutionally wrong, morally compromised, and deeply unsettling.

For your information, federal funding amounts to approximately \$10 million of Newton’s \$623 million operating budget.

As Mayor, I will uphold the Constitution, federal and state laws, keep Newton a safe community for everyone, and uphold the civil rights of all.

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On a related matter, the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General issued useful guidance yesterday for immigrants, residents and communities on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enforcement. The Q&A Guidance includes information on rights, the basic legal framework for ICE actions, and the role of local police departments. You may find the guidance useful; click [here](#) to read it.

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### **This is the Weekend: Expect Major Traffic Delays**

This is the first of two weekends of expected major traffic delays caused by bridge work along the MassPike in Newton near the interchange with I-95.

The work starts tonight, Friday, May 30 at 9:00 p.m. and goes through 5:00 a.m. on Monday morning, June 2. During this time only one lane of traffic in each direction will be open on the MassPike in a section of Newton.

The second weekend of the scheduled bridge work is Friday, June 20 through Monday, June 23.

NEWTON IS THE "GRIDLOCK" EPICENTER. BACKUPS ON THE MASSPIKE ARE EXPECTED TO BE 2 to 3 HOURS, LIKELY SENDING DRIVERS ON ALTERNATIVE ROUTES THROUGH NEWTON TO ATTEMPT AVOIDING THE BACKUPS.

MassDOT expects I-95, the City's main East-West roads (Comm Ave, Route 9, Washington Street, Beacon Street), the main North-South roads, and probably many side roads to have heavy traffic with drivers attempting, or Waze/Google Maps telling them, to bypass the MassPike traffic.

The bridges that are being reconstructed pass over the MBTA commuter rail line, so all MBTA commuter rail and Amtrak Lake Shore Limited trains will be replaced by bus service between these Friday nights and Monday mornings.

The bridge work will create gridlock for drivers trying to get in, out, or around Newton this weekend and again on June 20 - June 23. Plan ahead.

Click [here](#) for more information about the Newton-Weston bridge replacement and rehabilitation project. Click [here](#) to sign up for project updates.

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### **Breaking Bread as One Community**

*On Wednesday morning, 350 of us gathered at the Mt. Ida Campus of UMass Amherst for the annual Mayor's Community Breakfast. These are my remarks:*

Mayor Teddy Mann and the members of the Harmony Foundation were the wise leaders who started this breakfast 51 years ago. They understood the importance of reaching across our 13 villages, across political ideologies and faith traditions, across union and management, across the city and the schools, across race and ethnicities, to sit with one another and break bread together as one community.

Our world has kept changing over the past 51 years and feels increasingly complicated, divisive and challenging. Uncertainty is enormous. Anxiety is high. Funding is short. Actions from the White House seemingly undermine actions here in the Commonwealth.

And yet, I look out at all of you in this tent this morning, a tent full of people that make our City of 13 villages one community.

Nestled in Newton are three important institutions of higher learning: the University of Massachusetts Amherst at Mt. Ida, Lasell University, and Boston College;

in Waban, we are the home to a leader in health care, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, part of the Mass General Brigham family;

Nobel Laureates in Science and medicine live here as well as residents crucial to the invention of COVID vaccines, and a doctor who led the Centers of Disease

Control; our neighbors are using science in laboratories to end disease, are serving as doctors and nurses to care for us, and teaching in universities and colleges, crucial places of learning and skeptical inquiry, three sectors of the Massachusetts ecosystem under duress;

business, non-profit and union leaders are with us this morning who face staffing challenges, rising costs and uncertainty - exacerbated by tariffs on one day and off the next; they depend on us to shop local, eat local, and support local artists;

here in this tent are Newton educators who strive each school day to support every child so each and every one of them can thrive;

our teams from Older Adult Services and Parks, Recreation and Culture are here, taking a short break as they work to open the Cooper Center for Active Living with community, programs and services for our older adults and, as an age-friendly building, also welcoming people of all ages at night and on weekends;

we are joined by our Health and Human Services, Older Adult Services and Newton Police teams who have their hands extended to the vulnerable among us who face food, financial and housing insecurity or loneliness, depression and anxiety;

as Newton experiences high rainfalls and high winds, extreme heat and extreme weather as our climate changes, staff and volunteers are here today who help residents choose electric cars, heat pumps, insulation and composting;

so, too, are people here this morning who will continue to embrace and support members of the trans community and, with a combination of great pride and huge worry, will gather at City Hall on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. to stand with our LGBTQ+ residents.

As ICE intensifies their actions, so many of us in this tent are dismayed to see Feds in balaclavas with military guns on the news, at times appearing to skirt due process, other times sweeping up so-called collaterals, and consistently spreading fear.

*(Photo: Presenting the Mayor Mann Community Service Award to President and CEO of FamilyAid Larry Seamans for his unwavering dedication, his thoughtfulness and caring, and his enormous positive impact on our community.)*

This morning, we will celebrate a Newtonian, Larry Seamans, who is embracing homeless mothers and children, regardless of where they were born, with warmth, dignity, programs, services and a place to live.

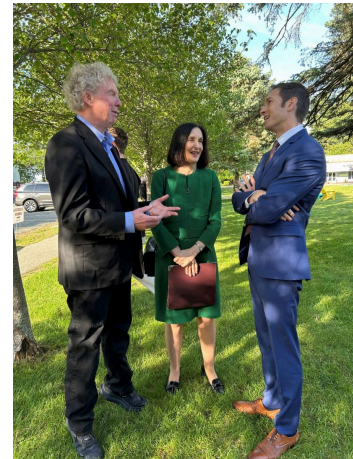




*(Photo: Presenting the Mayor Mann Community Service Award to, from left, Newton Police Lt. Amanda Henrickson, Officer Lauren Keefe, Officer Justin Lau, and K-9 Officer Leo who serve as role models for all of us, treating all members of our diverse community equitably and inclusively.)*

We will also thank Newton police officers – Lt. Amanda Henrickson, Officer Justin Lau, Officer Lauren Keefe, and Canine Officer Leo – who serve our community with love in their hearts and with experience, professionalism and training under their belts.

*(Photo: With Community Breakfast Guest Speakers, Boston Globe Sports Columnist Dan Shaughnessy on the left, and Congressman Jake Auchincloss on the right.)*



We will hear from our neighbor and powerful voice in Congress, Congressman Jake Auchincloss, and from our neighbor who loves this community and someone many read religiously, Boston Globe Sports Columnist Dan Shaughnessy.

All of you, the people here today, are Newton. You are the people binding us together when the tensions in this world are trying to pull us apart.

In a time when it feels easier to retreat into our homes and to mingle solely amongst those who think as we do, we are here together. Our ideologies may differ – liberal or conservative, progressive or traditional – but our humanity does not.

The more we are together, the better the chance we have of forging the harmony to which I know we all aspire.

You know, I love this community. I love Newton.

I am enormously grateful to live here and to serve as your Mayor. I am thankful to all of you for being here and for caring.

The motto today is that a garden's beauty never lies in just one flower. That is so true of our community in Newton.

It is equally true that gardens don't just grow; they must be tended.

And this morning, I ask for your help.

Our City needs people willing to step forward and plant the seeds of understanding and empathy across differences.

We need people who can water the roots of equality so that everyone – everyone – has a chance to blossom.

We need to shine the light on human rights and human dignity, education and reason, global relationships and neighborhood belonging, and due process and the rule of law.

We need people to run for elected office, to volunteer to serve on boards and commissions, and to join a PTO or a community group. We need people who can passionately argue their point with respect instead of rancor, who prune away the divisions amongst us, and till our community's soil understanding that all of us deeply love this place we all call home.

With our community's deep roots that have grown strong over generations, we may be swaying a bit in the turbulent winds of today, but we are still standing strong.

I close with the words of President Abraham Lincoln spoken at a battleground in Gettysburg in 1863, words that I also said two days ago at the Newton Cemetery on Memorial Day as we gathered to honor those who gave their last full measure of devotion to support our Constitution and to remember those who served overseas to uphold democracy, freedom and justice across the globe.

President Lincoln said:

"The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

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### **Older Adults Parking Stickers**

Did you know that Newton residents ages 65 and older are eligible for free parking in the City's municipal parking lots with a valid sticker?

Older Adult Parking Stickers need to be renewed every two years, and the renewal process is now underway. The price is still \$6 and the sticker is valid for 2 years. The current stickers are purple and expire on June 30, 2025.

How do you get a sticker?

You'll need the following information:

- A legible copy of your MA driver's license showing age 65 or older *and* a Newton address.
- A legible copy of your MA car registration.
- A check for \$6 per sticker payable to the City of Newton.

There are three ways to request your sticker.

Our newest option is to use the City's NewGov online permitting system. If you already have an account, visit the online portal and click on "Older Adult Services/OA Parking Sticker." If you haven't used NewGov before, [click here](#) for instructions on how to create an account. (You'll need a photo of your license and registration available to upload.)

Stickers can also be requested by mail by sending your materials to: City of Newton, Older Adult Services, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton MA 02459. Please include your telephone number and/or email so we can contact you when your sticker(s) is ready for pickup, or include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the return of your sticker(s). You'll need to include both a photo of your license and registration as well.

Materials can be dropped off with staff at the Older Adults Services office at 20 Hartford St., Newton Highlands, Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (except holidays). Packets can also be slipped through the building mail slot on the left side of the front entrance 24/7. Sorry: Due to the current volume, we are not offering stickers in person while you wait. You'll have to swing by later to pick up the sticker(s) or provide us with a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the return of your sticker(s).

Questions? Find additional information at the Older Adult Services webpage [here](#).

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## **Gun Violence Awareness Weekend June 6 to 8**

Next Friday, June 6, and through Wear Orange National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend, we honor victims and survivors of gun violence and stand up for a better future.

In the United States, we have more guns than people. People with guns take approximately 120 lives every day with another 200 people shot and wounded

daily in our country.

In Newton, there are 2,962 license to carry permits issued, 140 firearm identification cards and 11 residents licensed to possess a machine gun, according to the Massachusetts Firearms Records Bureau.

Through the month of June, the water in the fountain in front of City Hall will be tinted orange as a call to action to curb the epidemic of gun violence.

Warmly,

Ruthanne



P.S. Looking for a fun afternoon tomorrow, Saturday, May 31? **The West Newton Cinema is celebrating the release of blockbuster movie *Karate Kid: Legends*** with its first lunch and movie event. Reserve your movie tickets and a Venezuelan-inspired takeout sampler box from the new Lavender Café in West Newton. Click [here](#) for more information.

P.P.S. The **Newton Police Department Memorial Ceremony** to honor fallen officers and Annual Scholarship Award Ceremony is this Sunday, June 1 starting at 9:00 a.m. at Police Headquarters, 1321 Washington St., in West Newton Center.



P.P.P.S. Join the Newton Human Rights Commission and I at City Hall on Tuesday, June 3 at 5:30 p.m. to **raise the Pride flag** and support our LGBTQ+ community. This year we will also honor Director of Community Engagement & Inclusion Hattie Kerwin Derrick. The flag raising will be followed by a resource fair and ice cream.

P.P.P.P.S. Learn some practical strategies for decluttering, organizing, and downsizing at **Personal Organizing 101 for older adults** on Tuesday, June 3 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Hyde Community Center, 90 Lincoln St. RSVP is requested but not required; call 617-796-1675, stop by the Front Desk at 20 Hartford Street, or send your name, telephone number, and email address to [oasprograms@newtonma.gov](mailto:oasprograms@newtonma.gov).

P.P.P.P.P.S. MassWildlife and the Crystal Lake Conservancy will host a **free, family friendly “learn to fish” clinic at Crystal Lake/Levingston Cove** on June

5, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The clinic is open to all ages, not just children. Learn the basics, from setting up a rod, baiting a hook, tying knots, casting, and identifying fish. Equipment as well as tackle and live bait will be provided. The clinic is free, but pre-registration is required; please [sign up here](#).

(Photo: Last year's clinic. Photo by Schuyler Larrabee)



P.P.P.P.P.S. Listen to free live music being played (rain or shine) in yards across Auburndale, Lower Falls, Waban Center and West Newton during **Newton Porchfest** on Saturday, June 7 from noon to 6:00 p.m. Click [here](#) for a map of locations, and a full schedule of times and performers.

P.P.P.P.P.P.S. Gather with Newton Firefighters on Sunday, June 8 to honor members of the Newton Fire Department who passed away over the last year— Robert Rockey, Joseph Capello, Edward Reilly, Paul Leone, Al Ferrera and Nazzareno Cucchi. **Newton Fire Department Memorial Service** begins with a collation at 10:00 a.m. at Fire Station 3, 31 Willow St. The ceremony begins at 10:30 a.m. in front of Fire Headquarters, 1164 Centre Street in Newton Centre.



P.P.P.P.P.P.P.S. The **Society of St. Vincent de Paul**, a charity that has been assisting people in Newton for over 100 years, is holding its semi-annual **Clothing and Book Drive** on Sunday, June 8 from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Look for the Society's truck in the parking lot of Our Lady Help of Christians parish (573 Washington Street, with the lot entrance on Adams Street). Questions? Email the Society at [svdp@sholnewton.org](mailto:svdp@sholnewton.org).

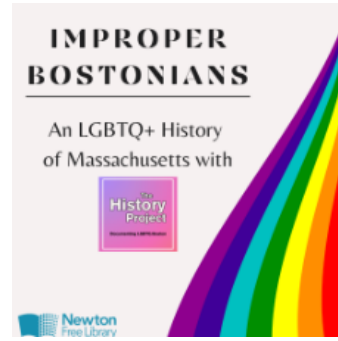


P.P.P.P.P.P.P.P.S. **Newton Highlands Village Day** on Lincoln Street is Sunday, June 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. New this year will be free pony rides from noon to 2:00 p.m. There

will also be free cupcakes, bouncy houses, caricatures, face painting, touch-a-truck, music, booths, and more.

P.P.P.P.P.P.P.P.P.S. **Explore the history of LGBTQ+ people** in Massachusetts with The History Project at a presentation on Tuesday, June 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Newton Free Library, Druker Auditorium, 330 Homer St. Drawing on sources

including court cases, diaries, letters, photographs, videos, oral histories, and more, The History Project will take you through over 400 years of history - all in one hour. Click [here](#) for more information.



P.P.P.P.P.P.P.P.P.S. There's a lot of construction happening around Albemarle, but rest assured that **Newton's Annual Fourth of July Celebration** is a go at Albemarle Field and the Halloran Sports Complex. Residents and visitors can look forward to a full day of festivities, culminating in a spectacular fireworks display starting at 9:10 p.m. The construction at

Albemarle Park is part of a multi-phase park renovation project that have been carefully scheduled so they do not interfere with the Independence Day events.

### Past P.S.s Happening Soon



P.S. **Walk for Independence** and support the Carroll Center for the Blind tomorrow on Saturday, May 31. Choose a 1, 2 or 3-mile walk around the UMass Amherst Mount Ida Campus, 100 Carlson Ave. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., the walk kicks off at

10:00 a.m., and a post walk BBQ and activities are from 11:00 a.m. to noon. Register [here](#).

P.P.S. **Newton Theatre Company** will host a special Monologue Project on Saturday, May 31 to honor the memory of Matt, Valerie, Lyla and Violet Goldstein and share stories, songs, and memories of this wonderful family. The community gathering begins at 6 p.m. and the event is from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hyde Bandshell, 90 Lincoln St. (Please RSVP [here](#) if possible so organizers know how many to expect.)



P.P.P.S. Enjoy performances, trackless trains, ice cream, games and more at the **Annual Nonantum Neighborhood Association Village Day** on Sunday, June 1 from 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Coletti-Magni Park, 399 Watertown Street.

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller | 1000 Commonwealth Avenue | Newton, MA 02459 US

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