

MAYOR'S UPDATE
March 25, 2024
Mayor Sean R. Reardon

Rec Center at 59 Low Street:

The City Council's Community Services Committee will discuss the proposed Rec Center at 59 Low Street on April 1st. The first two meetings went very well with lots of thoughtful discussion. This meeting will focus more on funding, and possible tweaks to the current design. We continue to look for funding opportunities for this project and hope to move this proposal forward.

Recreation and Youth Services:

Newburyport Recreation and Youth Services recently won an award. They took home the northeast region's Community Impact Award from the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association. NRYS was recognized for their ability to pivot and continue to grow program even when faced with losing their home back in October 2021.

Whittier School Committee Representative:

We have a new Whittier School Committee Representative for Newburyport. Former Wilmington Superintendent Mary DeLai was chosen from a pool of four very qualified candidates. Mary brings a wide variety of skills to the roll. She most recently worked in the Watertown and Salem Public Schools as an Assistant Superintendent. Mary will replace Former Mayor Donna Holaday on the committee. Thank you to Donna for her service over the last year.

Rolling 5-YR Street and Sidewalk Plan:

DPS is getting ready for a busy spring season. Lots of high traffic streets will be done this year like Noble Street and Johnson Street. We have almost 5 miles of streets in the first two years of the plan. We will not be able to pave State Street this year. National Grid has asked to come in and continue the gas line work this September. We will need to bump State Street until next year.

Community Preservation Committee Projects:

The CPC finalized their recommended projects for CPA funds for this year. I want to thank the CPC for all their hard work vetting the projects. Just under \$1.5M worth of projects in total. Lower Atkinson Common Improvement Project (Safety Project at Pioneer League), Atkinson Common Rock Tower Restoration, Nock Tennis Courts Phase 2, Woodman Park Basketball Court, Central Waterfront Boardwalk Reconstruction Feasibility Study are among the projects that will be brought to the Council for approval.

The Resettlement Partnership (TRP):

The Resettlement Partnership began in 2021 by welcoming forty-two Afghan evacuees to Newburyport MA. TRP aims to work collaboratively and effectively for the resettlement of forcibly displaced persons in Newburyport. This is accomplished through local community organizing in relationship with resettlement partners to create pathways and systemic change for successful resettlement through creative long-term housing solutions. Today myself and the mayor of Amesbury met with the TRP and Cristina Aguilera Sandoval Executive Director for the Office Refugees and Immigrants.

The Partnership consists of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, First Religious Society Unitarian Universalists, Central Congregational Church, West Newbury Congregational Church, the Newburyport YWCA and the New American Association of Massachusetts (NAAM).

Forever Green:

Forever Green Newburyport is a collaborative program to encourage eco-tourism and community sustainability. We will be supporting a variety of local and regional organizations that are already working hard to reduce waste and increase awareness. This campaign will run from late March through end of April 2024. The Mayor's Corner this week will take place at Plantwerks and we will kick off the month long campaign.

Newburyport Community Iftar:

The Human Rights Commission would like to invite the community to join local Muslims and friends at the seventh annual Iftar to celebrate Ramadan. The event will take place Wednesday April 3rd at the Newburyport High School Cafeteria from 6-9pm. All are welcome.

Transgender Day of Visibility

Together with our partners at Newburyport Pride and the First Religious Society, we will be holding a flag raising ceremony and offering a proclamation on Saturday, March 30th in honor of International Transgender Day of Visibility. This Day seeks to raise awareness of issues faced by the transgender community and honor their contributions to society. Thank you to our community partners for their work in organizing this event.

From the Public Library

The Library is in the process of developing their long-range plan. Today, Monday, March 25, is the official launch date for the NPL Community Feedback Surveys. They are launching two surveys. One is geared towards adults (18 yrs. old and above) and the second is for Teens (Grades 6 through 12). They will be collecting survey responses through April 6th. We would appreciate your assistance encouraging your constituents to participate and share this survey. The goal is to get as many responses as possible. The more responses they get will give the Library a more accurate picture of the community.

Feel free to share the links below:

Community Survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/NPLCommSurvey24

Teen Survey (Grades 6-12): www.surveymonkey.com/r/NPLYouthSurvey2024

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