

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON NEWSLETTER

Northampton First Responders Deliver Baby in the Back of an Uber on Pleasant Street with Exceptional Care and Teamwork

In the early morning hours of Saturday, March 8, 2025, members of Northampton Fire/Rescue (NFR), along with officers from the Northampton Police Department (NPD), Massachusetts State Police (MSP), Northampton Public Safety (NPS) Dispatchers, and a helpful Uber driver demonstrated outstanding professionalism and care during an emergency field delivery. NFR personnel responded swiftly and efficiently to the scene, where the unexpected delivery of a baby girl took place in the back of an Uber.

Their calm demeanor, medical expertise, and teamwork led to a successful delivery and immediate care for both mother and child. Their actions exemplify the highest standards of emergency medical response.

In addition to NFR’s remarkable work, the response and professionalism shown by several NPD officers, two MSP troopers, and NPS dispatchers were instrumental in ensuring the safety and support of everyone involved. The dispatchers’ ability to quickly gather critical information and coordinate the multi-agency response played a vital role in the outcome.

Special thanks are also due to the Uber driver, whose cooperation and presence of mind during this extraordinary situation played a key role in facilitating the safe arrival of the newborn.



Mother and baby are reported to be healthy and doing well.

Newsletter Moving to Substack!

The City of Northampton Newsletter will be migrating to Substack moving forward. Subscribers will be automatically moved to the new platform, so there is nothing you need to do. Keep an eye out for our next issue, which will be coming from cityofnorthamptonnewsletter@substack.com!



See page 4 for photos of downtown clean-up efforts by the DPW.



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



IRS Direct File

Tax season is officially open – and there’s a better way to do your taxes this year, thanks to IRS Direct File. This simple, secure, and always FREE tool is available to eligible tax filers in Massachusetts to file both your federal and state tax returns. It’s easy. Just click the link below to see if you are eligible and save time, money, and headaches this tax season.

While not all states have opted in, thanks to dedicated efforts by the leaders in our state, Massachusetts is one of 25 states participating in this initiative in 2025.

How long will it take to file?

- In most cases, Direct File takes less than an hour and many people reported filing in as little as 30 minutes.
- If you can’t finish all at once, you can save your progress and finish your return later.

What if I need help?

- When you use Direct File, you can access dedicated live chat support from IRS staff in English and Spanish. If needed, you can switch to a phone call with a representative for additional support.

[Link here!](#)

Sign-Up for Real Time Updates!



We're making it easy to stay updated on the Picture Main Street project. Sign up to receive real-time updates and essential information as we prepare for and carry out construction. Text "PROGRESS" to 99411 to get notifications straight to your phone. By subscribing, you'll receive key details about road closures, construction schedules, detours, and other critical updates. For more info., visit the [Picture Main Street webpage](#).



2024 Dog Licenses Expire March 31, 2025

Dog licensing for 2025 is now underway in the City Clerk’s Office. While the expiration date for 2024 tags is March 31st, pet owners will have until April 30th to license their dogs without having to pay a late fee. Beginning May 1st, owners are required to pay an additional \$20 per pet on top of licensing fees. Spay or neutered dogs are \$10; unaltered dogs are \$20. A rabies certificate showing rabies are current is required. Proof of spay or neuter is also required.





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Northampton 375th Anniversary Planning Committee

Mayor Sciarra is excited to form the Northampton 375th Anniversary Committee. This committee will play a vital role in spearheading the 2029 celebration, including brainstorming event ideas, planning activities, fundraising, and bringing the community together for this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

If you are interested in participating, in any capacity, please tell us about yourself by completing a brief application, [linked here](#).

DHHS' Youth for Equity Action to Present at the Power of Truths Conference

Youth for Equity Action, an extension of the Department of Health and Human Services will be presenting at the Power of Truths Conference on Friday, April 4th at Bombyx in Florence. The group will facilitate two sessions that center youth voices on issues that affect their health in our community, "Nothing About Us Without Us" and "Healing in a Time of Capitalism". The conference offers a unique opportunity to help build a community dedicated to seeing and understanding the history of racism and resistance, how that history is manifest today, and learning, together, how we can create a free and just future for all Americans. Registration and additional details can be found here: [Power of Truths Conference](#).

Want to Join a City Board or Committee?

Have you ever wanted to get involved in your local government but didn't know how? Check the latest Board & Committee vacancies, [here](#), and fill out the application form on the city website by visiting northamptonma.gov/192/Boards-Committees or stop by the Mayor's Office for a paper application.

Subscribe to the Newsletter!

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](#).

All Hampton's Read

Forbes and Lilly Libraries invite you to join this year's All Hampton's Read featuring Ross Gay's Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude. Along with the libraries in neighboring communities, a calendar of events has been put together to celebrate the themes of this poetry collection and provide opportunities to explore writing, joy, nature, and much more. Visit:

forbeslibrary.org/events/all-hamptons-read/
for more information!



Downtown Clean-Up Efforts

The below photos highlight the Mayor’s commitment to keeping downtown clean! A big thank you to the DPW for organizing and managing this effort. The cleanup took place along the bike path from Pleasant Street, near the Main Street overpass, and along the trail towards King Street.



ARPA Updates

Last June, the city provided ARPA funding to support an ArtsHub event put on by the Arts Extension Institute titled "Artists' Day of Connection - Fostering Collaboration and Partnerships". The focus of the event was to build community, resiliency, and an equitable creative economy. This event was envisioned in response to the severe impacts of the COVID pandemic on artists and the arts. In order to foster connection, spur creative partnerships, and provide artists with the tools needed to thrive in a post-pandemic environment, the ArtsHub brought on panelists and speakers to share their knowledge and experiences.

The city is proud to support local artists and artistic organizations. Thank you to the Arts Extension Institute for their work putting on this event and for their ongoing support of local artists. Check out the ArtsHub website found [HERE](#) for more events and opportunities.





Tree Planting and Earth Day Activities

The Northampton Rotary Club is working with the Northampton’s Department of Public Works (DPW), the Urban Forestry Commission, the non-profit Tree Northampton, and Northampton Public Schools to organize a tree planting event at JFK Middle School from 9am-12pm on Saturday, April 12, 2025, with Sunday, April 13th as a rain date. Everyone is invited to celebrate by helping plant trees. Sign up to volunteer by contacting bdevlinmn@gmail.com, Barbara Devlin, Day of Service Coordinator for Northampton Rotary Club. Prepare to get dirty; wear long pants and sturdy shoes, and bring work/gardening gloves. Tools and trained planting leaders will be provided. No experience is necessary!



On Friday, April 25, 2025, and Saturday, April 26, 2025, there will be a tree whip giveaway in front of City Hall. All members of the community are welcome to participate. The city will provide free tree whips for residents to plant on private property. More details will be forthcoming.

Northampton Parks and Recreation 2025 Summer Camp

Are you interested in Safety Village, Camp KidZone, Camp Hamp, or Teen Expeditions? Online registration is now open for Northampton's favorite summer camps. Children between the ages of 4 and 14 are invited to join our Parks and Recreation Department for a week, two weeks, or the whole summer! You must sign up by the Thursday before each session begins. Financial aid is available for residents of Northampton, Florence, and Leeds. [Read more!](#)



Community Preservation Committee Applications Public Comment Session

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) invites public comment on eight Community Preservation Act (CPA) applications submitted for review in the second funding round of fiscal year 2025 at a dedicated meeting Wednesday, April 2nd ([agenda linked here](#)). CPA funds are available for projects that include open space protection, historic preservation, affordable housing and outdoor recreation. Nearly 200 Northampton projects have been able to be completed using CPA funds. Please visit the [CPC webpage](#) to see current and past project applications and read more about the CPA in Northampton.



Memorial Hall Repairs and Temporary Office Operations

Emergency basement and exterior repairs at Memorial Hall will begin on Monday, March 31st. During construction, the Veterans Services office will be closed. However, residents can still schedule appointments by calling 413-587-1299.

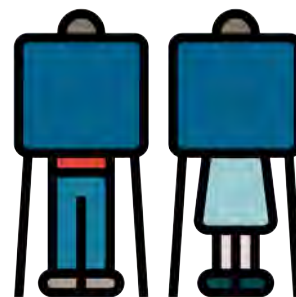


Also beginning on March 31st, the Human Resources Department will temporarily relocate to the Northampton Senior Center (67 Conz St.) for approximately 2 - 3 weeks, subject to change. Staff will remain available during regular business hours (Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm) via phone and email. In-person meetings at the Senior Center will be available by appointment only.

Learn How to Become a Municipal Candidate for Elected City Offices

Biennial municipal elections will be held this fall. Nomination papers for elected positions will be available starting April 2, 2025. The following positions will be on the November ballot:

- Mayor
- At-Large and Ward City Councilors
- At-Large and Ward School Committee Members
- Trustees Under the Will of Charles E. Forbes
- Trustees of Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School
- Community Preservation Committee
- Elector under the Oliver Smith Will



To learn more about these positions and about how to become a candidate for an elected city position, visit the City Clerk’s website [HERE](#).

Reminder!

Annual Street Listing

- Responses to the Annual Street Listing (Census) are due by April 15th. Please bring your response to the drop box at the bottom of the stairs in front of City Hall or return it by mail using the self-addressed envelope included in the mailing. Questions? Contact the [City Clerk's Office](#) for more information.



Spring Amphibian Migration

Spring is here! For amphibians, this means that it's time to emerge from winter retreats and migrate to breeding sites or disperse to new areas. The mating chirp of the spring peeper is one of the ways we know that winter is finally over. The Conservation Commission and Office of Planning and Sustainability have worked to protect the vernal pools, wetlands, and surrounding areas that provide critical breeding habitat for many vertebrate and invertebrate wildlife species.



However, many of these salamanders and frogs will need to cross roadways to get to their destinations. These amphibians are small and move most after dark, so please be cautious driving on rainy nights this spring.



Five Years Later: Honoring Resilience, Remembering Loss, and Building a Healthier Future

The COVID-19 pandemic profoundly impacted millions around the globe. Our community here in Northampton was no exception. March 2025 marks five years since the start of the pandemic.

As of December 2024, there have been a total of 329 deaths in Northampton reported in MAVEN. The toll of long COVID, social challenges, and other health-related impacts of the pandemic are only beginning to be understood. In response to the pandemic, frontline emergency responders, medical personnel, and public health professionals showed extraordinary courage, resilience, and dedication in their fight against the virus. With COVID infections being commonplace now, it is easy to forget just how deeply all of our lives were forever changed by the pandemic.

The first responders, essential workers, and public health professionals fighting against the pandemic five years ago are still steadfast in their mission to make our community a safer place. Although the past five years have marked immeasurable losses, the Northampton Department of Health and Human Services continues to be inspired by our community resilience. We are proud of the strength, compassion, and solidarity that emerged during one of the most challenging times in recent history. As we look to the past and reflect on all that we've endured throughout the pandemic, we strive to honor the legacy of community care that emerged during it as we work towards creating a healthier Northampton each day and for future generations to come.

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National Week of the Young Child April 5-12, 2025

In Northampton, here is how we will celebrate the 2025 National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Week of the Young Child!

Enjoy exciting events indoors and outdoors, all week long! Perfect for young children to explore, play, learn, and make new friends!



Northampton/Hadley Family Connection
WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

April 5-12
[all free]

SATURDAY 4/5	Playdate at Safety Village w/ Northampton Parks + Rec, Fire Department, + more 10 am-12 pm	SUNDAY 4/6	Celebrate Play A2Z Science + Learning 11 am-5 pm
	Winter Market Kids! Grow Food Northampton 10 am-12 pm		Week of the Young Child Artists' Reception Spill the Tea Sis Apothacary 12-3 pm
	Big Mini Art Show Reception Hadley Public Library 10 am-12 pm		Story Walk Zatyryka Park, Hadley All Week
MONDAY 4/7	Family Yoga Karuna Center for Yoga... 9-10 am	TUESDAY 4/8	Storytime and Music Campus School of Smith College 9-10 am
	Playgroup + Mayor's Proclamation Northampton Parents Center 9:30-11:30 am		Playgroup + Pinwheels Northampton Parents Center w/ Children's Advocacy Center 9:30-11:30 am
	Family Music Little Roots (rsvp required) 10:30-11:05 am		Baby Storytime Forbes Library 10-10:30 am
	Circlertime w/ Swansea Northampton Parents Center 11-11:30 am		Hadley Playgroup w/ Amherst College Child Dev. Lab Hadley Library 10 am-12 pm
	Kestrel Family Walk Mount Warner 4-5:30 pm		Farm Tour Hampshire College 3-4:30 pm
	Pajama Storytime Hadley Public Library 6 pm		Early Readers Book Club Forbes Library 4-5 pm

WEDNESDAY 4/9

- Music Together Class** 9:30-10:30 am
Northampton Community Music Center
- Outside Playgroup w/ NPC and Smith College Mind Lab** 9:30-11:30 am
NPC Playgroup at YMCA
- Space Trailer, Face Painting, + More** 3-5 pm
The Community Classroom
- First Aid w/ Wild Med Institute** 5:30-7 pm
Northampton Parents Center

THURSDAY 4/10

- Infant Hour, Playgroup, + Music Class w/ Carrie Ferguson** 8:30-11:30 am
Northampton Parent Center
- Storytime at the Beneski Museum of Natural History** 10-11 am
Amherst College
- Stories, Songs, + Crafts** 10:30-11:30 am
Hadley Public Library
- Preschool Storytime** 10:30-11:30 am
Forbes Library
- Pathways to Play w/ Parenting Coach Chrissy D'Agostino** 4:45-6 pm
Jackson Street School

FRIDAY 4/11

- Family Playgroup** 9-10 am
Nature and Nurture Preschool
- Drop-in Art + Sensory Play** 9-10 am
Art Always
- Musical Storytime** 10-11 am
High Five Bookstore
- Toddler Storytime** 10:30-11 am
Forbes Library
- Meet Up w/ Your Midwives** 12:30-2:30 pm
Childs Park across from Hospital
- Second Fridays: Seeds, Flowers, and Trees!** 4-7 pm
Smith College Art Museum

SAT. 4/12

- Kestrel Family Walk** 10-11:30 am
Greenberg Family Conservation Area
- Open Play + History of Childhood Pop-up** 2-5 pm
Historic Northampton

April 5-19

Two-Week Gallery Walk:
Children's Art in the Windows of Northampton and Florence Center

event details: bit.ly/WOYC25details detalles del evento: bit.ly/WOYC25detalles





Tapestry Health and Craig’s Doors Partner with DHHS to Expand Harm Reduction with Mosaic Grant

Tapestry Health has been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Mosaic Opioid Recovery Partnership, funded by the MA Department of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Addiction Services and powered by RIZE Massachusetts Foundation. With an additional \$150,000 in matching funds (\$50,000 each) from Amherst, Northampton, and Easthampton, this funding will support expanded, community-led harm reduction initiatives to address the critical needs of individuals and communities affected by substance use and houselessness across Hampshire County. Through this initiative, Tapestry Health’s Harm Reduction program will collaborate with Craig’s Doors to provide coordinated outreach in Amherst, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Easthampton, Granby, Hadley, Hatfield, Huntington, Middlefield, Northampton, Plainfield, Southamton, and Worthington. These communities are part of a formal partnership under the City of Northampton DHHS Public Health Shared Services Collaborative (HPHSSC), which streamlines public health efforts across participating municipalities. This collaboration will enhance support for houseless individuals and those with lived or living experience of substance use, with a focus on rural areas, to increase access to harm reduction resources, healthcare, housing, and transportation services.

Find Your Next Adventure at an Upcoming Volunteer Fair Hosted by the Northampton Senior Center

Volunteer Fair 2025

Thursday, April 10, 2025

1:00 to 3:00 pm

Northampton Senior Center

67 Conz St, Northampton, MA 01060

Find your next Adventure!

- Looking to contribute to your community?
- Ever wonder what volunteering involves?
- Is volunteering for you?

We can help with that!

Each vendor, from this eclectic array of organizations, will be looking for volunteers to fill current needs or may need future volunteers. Drop in and find out what unique volunteering options are waiting for you!

This event is sponsored by The Northampton Senior Center and RSVP of the Pioneer Valley

Are you looking to contribute to your community? On Thursday, April 10th, the Northampton Senior Center will be holding a volunteer fair from 1pm to 3pm. Drop in and find out what unique volunteering options are waiting for you! This event is sponsored by the Northampton Senior Center and RSVP of the Pioneer Valley.

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Celebrate National Public Health Week (April 7-13) with the Department of Health and Human Services

Join the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in celebrating National Public Health Week from April 7th to April 13th. Each April, the American Public Health Association unites communities nationwide to celebrate National Public Health Week, recognizing public health contributions and addressing key health issues. Join us for the 30th anniversary of National Public Health Week to celebrate successes, look ahead to upcoming challenges and create a vision for the future. The following events are open to the public:

- **DHHS Pizza in the Park - April 7th from 3pm to 5pm in Pulaski Park**

Come meet some of the DHHS Team. The Division of Community Care (DCC), Public Health Nurses, Hampshire HOPE, and DART will all be present to talk about services they provide, hand out Narcan along with provide resources related to treatment, recovery, and harm reduction. We are also looking to hear public thoughts on future Narcan training/Nalox Box locations! Please come let us know your thoughts.

- **Roots of Resilience - April 8th from 1:30pm to 2:30pm at the DCC Community Space**

Join the DCC in a seed starting workshop for "Climate Action Starts Here" day. Grow Food will be tabling in the space and introduce community members to the farmers market snap incentives program, free mobile market, and other various offerings they provide.

- **COVID Vaccine Clinic - April 9th from 2pm to 4pm at the DHHS Nurses Office**

DHHS Nurses are offering a COVID vaccine clinic to individuals who are immune compromised or 65+ in age.

- **Car Seat Inspections - April 12th from 10am - 2pm at Smith Vocational High School, Lot A**

Join DHHS Inspectors at the community car seat inspection event. They will ensure the car seat has been installed correctly and answer any questions you may have.

Food Drive

DHHS will also be holding a food drive throughout the month of April to support the Northampton Survival Center. Donation boxes will be located at Forbes and Lilly Library, the Senior Center, the YMCA, Northampton Athletic Club, and outside of the DHHS main office. All collected donations will be delivered to the Northampton Survival Center on May 1st. A link to the list of the most requested donations can be found here: [Food Drive Items - Northampton Survival Center](#).



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Northampton Department of
Health & Human Services



Q&A with Mayor Sciarra

Q: Safety Village used to be painted to look like businesses and services in downtown Northampton, giving it a real “village” feel and spreading local pride to our youngest citizens. Any plans to “Picture Safety Village” again?



A: Safety Village is an important part of the Northampton Parks & Recreation Department’s youth programs, offering a summer day camp for children ages 4-6. Safety Village teaches kids about everyday safety, including road and pedestrian awareness and preventative procedures to build their confidence and knowledge.

Recently, Safety Village has been re-sited, which has made it difficult to paint the buildings to resemble businesses as originally planned. However, our dedicated staff at the Parks & Recreation Department are currently exploring options to enhance the village, such as adding signs or hanging murals on each of the buildings. We hope to partner with local businesses interested in sponsoring these designs to represent their storefronts in this meaningful community program.

You can learn more about Safety Village [here](#). In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact our Parks & Recreation Department with any questions or ideas for the beautification of this community resource.



We want to hear from you!

Mayor Sciarra is inviting you to submit questions for possible inclusion in upcoming editions of this newsletter. Whether you’re curious about city projects, local policies, or just have a burning question about how things work in Northampton, we’d love to hear from you!

To submit your question for the Q&A with Mayor Sciarra, simply fill out the submission form linked [here](#). While we may not be able to publish every question, we’ll do our best to address a variety of topics that matter most to our residents.

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Calendar Updates

Upcoming Events and Notices

Inaugural R.I.S.E. Fest

Two days of artistic workshops, panels, performances, and creative connection await area youth April 18th-19th, at the first-ever R.I.S.E. Fest at 33 Hawley. R.I.S.E. (Resilience in Self Expression) Fest is co-founded by Expressive Arts Educator Gina M. Krosoczka and Jarrett J. Krosoczka, a New York Times-bestselling graphic novelist behind 46 published books.



[Read more!](#)

4th Annual Power Of Truths Arts & Education Festival

Join Bombyx, the Northampton Arts Council, and Self-Evident Education from April 4th-5th for a unique opportunity to help build a community dedicated to seeing and understanding the history of racism and resistance, how that history is manifesting today, and learning, together, how to create a free and just future for all Americans.



Day 1 (April 4th) will include workshops, a film screening, and a live performance from the Northampton High School Jazz Band and the Ajanku Brothers.

Day 2 (April 5th) will include workshops, a film screening, a keynote address from MacArthur Fellow & Poet Reginald Dwayne Betts, and the newest edition of "Know the Ledge: Hiphop History Live!"—a theatrical production that combines multimedia storytelling and honest historical exploration. Narrated by Akrobatik, along with performances by Sa-Roc, Dutch ReBelle, Marcia Gomes, Adrienne Mack-Davis, and more, this show harnesses music, dance, visuals, and storytelling to critically explore the histories and legacies of systemic racism in the United States. Registration and additional details can be found here: [Power of Truths Conference](#).

Northampton Youth Cinema Festival

As the Northampton Youth Cinema Festival enters its second consecutive year, the Northampton Arts Council invites all people 21 or younger to submit to the Northampton Youth Cinema Festival FOR FREE!

The deadline for regular submissions is April 1st. To view the eligibility criteria and submit your film, please visit the following link, [here](#).

