

DENNIS BIDWELL

CITY COUNCIL ★ WARD 2

www.dennisbidwellcitycouncil.com

May 19, 2017



To neighbors and friends, Ward 2 and elsewhere,

I'm pleased to offer another newsletter with updates on various City government matters. Please read on for information about important budget hearings as the City Council prepares to act on the Mayor's FY2018 \$109 million budget proposal, for an invitation to a Ward 2 gathering of folks interested in Northampton Neighbors (our aging-in-place organization), for news of events to take place during Northampton Public Works Week, and for an update on Northampton's efforts to be designated the first "Blue Community" in the country.

Also, I would like you to know that I have decided to seek re-election as your Ward 2 City Councilor. (Our municipal election will be held November 7, with a preliminary election - if necessary - on September 19.) I have greatly enjoyed my first term serving as your representative on the City Council, and I look forward to digging in on more important issues in the years ahead while continuing to seek the participation of growing numbers of Ward 2 residents in the work of our local government.

For information about my reelection campaign, or to volunteer or make a contribution, please go to my campaign website, www.dennisbidwellcitycouncil.com.

Please read on about these topics:

[May 23 and June 1 public hearings on the Mayor's proposed FY2018 budget](#)
[May 22 Northampton Neighbors gathering for Ward 2](#)
[Northampton Public Works Week, May 21-27: Tour Opportunities](#)
[Northampton as the Country's First Certified "Blue Community"](#)

Sincerely,

Dennis Bidwell

May 23 and June 1 public hearings on the Mayor's proposed FY2018 budget

Last night the Mayor presented to the City Council his proposed \$109,603,190 budget for Fiscal Year 2018. The Council must take two votes on the budget to approve it prior to the start of the new fiscal year on July 1, 2017. The Council is empowered to cut budget line items, but cannot legally increase expenditures.

The Mayor's comprehensive budget proposal is on the City website at

<http://www.northamptonma.gov/737/Budgets>. Also, copies are on view at Forbes Library, at Lilly Library, and at the City Clerk's office in City Hall.

Also, for the first time, the proposed budget, and historic financial data, can be seen in excellent visual form through the data visualization <http://northampton.visgov.com/>

Here is an excerpt from the Mayor's budget message, which serves as an introduction to the budget document:

"The city budget is ultimately more than just a collection of numbers, narratives, bar graphs, and pie charts. It represents our collective priorities, values, and aspirations as a community. This budget expresses our shared commitment to ensuring public safety for our neighborhoods and businesses. This budget expresses our shared commitment to maintaining our public works and infrastructure, including clean, safe drinking water and responsible storm water and flood control management. This budget expresses our shared commitment to outreach and programming for seniors, benefits and housing for veterans, low-cost recreational opportunities for families, access to two outstanding libraries, and public investment in the arts.

This budget expresses our commitment to educating children in rigorous, well-equipped, and inclusive classrooms served by highly-trained administrators, teachers, and support staff. This budget expresses our shared commitment to public health, economic development, sustainable planning, affordable housing, land conservation, information technology, multimodal transportation, shade tree restoration, energy efficiency, and countless other municipal investments large and small that together represent our collective goals for the kind of city we want to live in now and into the future. "

Before the Council votes on the budget, we want to hear from the public. Two Public Hearings have been scheduled for this purpose:

On Tuesday May 23 at 7 pm, in City Council Chambers, City department heads will be available to answer your questions and hear your thoughts on the city's financial plans in a town hall style discussion:

7:00 pm Department of Public Works
7:25 pm Central Services
7:50 pm Fire and Rescue
8:15 pm Police
8:40 pm Northampton Public Schools
9:05 pm Smith Vocational

Can't make the meeting? Watch us live on NCTV. Want to share your thoughts or have a question? Email the City Council at citycouncil@northamptonma.gov. Submit a comment or ask a question. Your comments or questions may be read real-time during the meetings.

On Thursday June 1 at 7:05, in City Council Chambers, a second public hearing will be held at which the City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard regarding the proposed FY 2018 budget.

Anyone having questions, comments or concerns about the Mayor's proposed budget should feel to contact me directly. I will be happy to relay your thoughts at one of the two public hearings above.

May 22 Northampton Neighbors gathering for Ward 2

Sally and Lewis Popper have asked me to extend this invitation:

Dear Ward 2 neighbor,

Northampton Neighbors, with your hosts, Lewis and Sally Popper, would like to invite you to come discuss the future of Northampton Neighbors and our roles as Ward 2 neighbors in making that happen. We hope that we can get to know each other better and begin to form a nucleus of concerned neighbors reaching out to Northampton seniors who need support to live independent, engaged lives at home. We'd also like to identify some activities or interest groups to help us begin forming a community of neighbors who know each other better and have fun together! Bring your ideas and suggestions to help us launch this wonderful concept in our community. With space and office help now available at the Northampton Senior Center we are ready to begin operation with no-fee memberships. Now we just need you to help us make it happen.

When: Monday May 22, 7:30pm

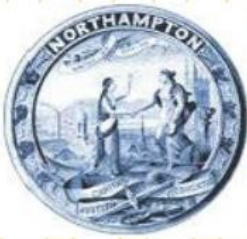
Where: Lewis and Sally Popper's house, 19 Hillside Road (runs between Bancroft and Round Hill). Call 413-727-8016 if you have questions

Please RSVP. Bring any neighbors you know who might be interested. Let us know if you need a ride. And if you are inspired to bring along a dessert please let us know. We will have coffee, decaf, tea and some cold drinks.
Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Lewis and Sally Popper

Northampton Public Works Week, May 21-27: Tour Opportunities

Some of you joined me last fall when DPW Director Donna LeScaleia arranged tours of the City water treatment plant in Haydenville and the aging Wastewater Treatment Plant on Hockanum Road here in Northampton. That has grown in to a series of activities, open to all, scheduled for Northampton Public Works Week:



Northampton Public Works Week

May 21 - 27, 2017



Watershed Walk
May 23 @ 4 PM
Northampton Water Supply Property
Williamsburg, MA
see website for details
northamptonma.gov/DPW



Truck Viewing Event for Kids
DPW Headquarters
125 Locust Street, Northampton
May 24 from 5 PM - 7 PM



Tour the Wastewater Treatment Plant
33 Hockanum Road, Northampton
May 24 @ 9 AM & 6 PM



Tour the Water Treatment Plant
137 Mountain Street, Haydenville
May 25 @ 9 AM & 6 PM

For more information visit
northamptonma.gov/DPW

Northampton as the Country's First Certified "Blue Community"

Related to Public Works Week's celebration of our infrastructure is a resolution that I was pleased to introduce at last night's City Council meeting, "To Have Northampton, MA Become a Blue Community." With leadership coming from Ward 2's Bill Diamond, and the students in the Northampton High School Environmental Club, we have taken the steps necessary to be designated the first "Blue Community" in the United States by the initiators of this global movement, the Council of Canadians and the Blue Planet Project. The Resolution, which passed on first reading last night, notes the following:

- We operate a municipal water treatment and distribution system that meets some of the most stringent water quality requirements in the world;
- We have protected over 12,000 acres of land in the watersheds and over the aquifers of the water supplies of Northampton and adjacent communities;
- We last year passed an ordinance declaring that Northampton's public water resources and infrastructure will never be privatized;
- We are stating our intention that single-use bottled water should no longer be available in municipal facilities and at municipal events;
- We are stating our intention that water bottle filling stations should be installed in municipal facilities and parks whenever and wherever feasible.

On the basis of this, following the Council's second vote on this resolution, I expect that Northampton will become the first United States community to be declared a "Blue Community."

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